पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग
जल शक्ति मंत्रालय
भारत सरकार

स्वच्छ भारत
एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

Swachhata Chronicles Transformative Tales from India

Vol:2

Cleanliness campaign is a journey,
which will go on continuously.
After getting rid of open defecation,
the responsibility has increased now.
After ODF, the country is now working
on the goal of ODF plus.
Now we have to improve the
management of waste,
be it in a city or a village.
We have to speed up the work of
making wealth out of waste.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

8th August 2020

Swachhata Chronicles Transformative Tales from India

Vol:2

Ms. Vini Mahajan
Secretary (DDWS)

Message

The Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen (SBM-G) stands as a transformative people's movement, reaching every corner of India and reshaping behaviors. Spearheaded by the Prime Minister, this flagship program has not only achieved the monumental task of making all districts ODF but has also become a household name. The collective support of state and district machinery, panchayat leaders, NGOs, and communities has been instrumental in realizing the health and well-being goals, embodying the spirit of a Swachh and Swasth Bharat.

SBM-G aligns with the UN Sustainable Development Goal 6.2, focusing on equitable sanitation and hygiene access for all by 2030. The program's emphasis on marginalized individuals, women, and vulnerable populations has led to significant economic, environmental, and health impacts, contributing to women's empowerment. Iconic campaigns like Sujlam and Retrofit to Twin Pit Abhiyan have played a crucial role in managing greywater and retrofitting existing toilets, showcasing the program's versatility and impact.

As we approach the final stretch of the campaign, the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation's efforts are amplified by development partners and the corporate sector. Their support in technical expertise, awareness generation, and infrastructure development is pivotal for SBM-G's success. This forward encapsulates not just statistics but narratives from the field, breathing life into the commitment to Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH). It reflects a journey into the heart of communities where impactful change continues to unfold, illustrating that our work is about crafting narratives of transformation beyond achieving goals.

This compilation, the Volume 2 of the Swachhata Chronicles, serves as a living testament to our dedication to rural sanitation and environmental sustainability. It captures the resonance of our actions, echoing the grand vision of Prime Minister Modi Ji and Gandhiji's Sampooran Swachata principles in the lives of those we serve. Let this book be a testament to the remarkable journey of SBM-G, showcasing how it transcends goals and becomes a beacon of transformation in the fabric of our communities.

Message

Shri Jitendra Srivastava
JS & MD (SBM-G)

Since 2014, the Government of India has been actively combatting sanitation challenges through the Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen (SBM-G), with the aim of eradicating open defecation and ensuring sanitation access for all households and institutions. Efforts have consistently promoted rural cleanliness, empowering village communities to establish effective systems for managing solid and liquid waste, and striving towards Sampoorna Swachhata.

Over the past year, SBM-G has made remarkable progress, supported by the Government of India and the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), accessing funds from SBM-G, the 15th Finance Commission, and MGNREGA. An especially notable initiative is the GOBARdhan Scheme, emphasizing the safe management of cattle, agricultural, and organic waste to produce clean fuel and organic manure, thereby enhancing environmental sanitation and reducing vector-borne diseases. This initiative underscores the government's commitment to waste-to-wealth models and clean energy.

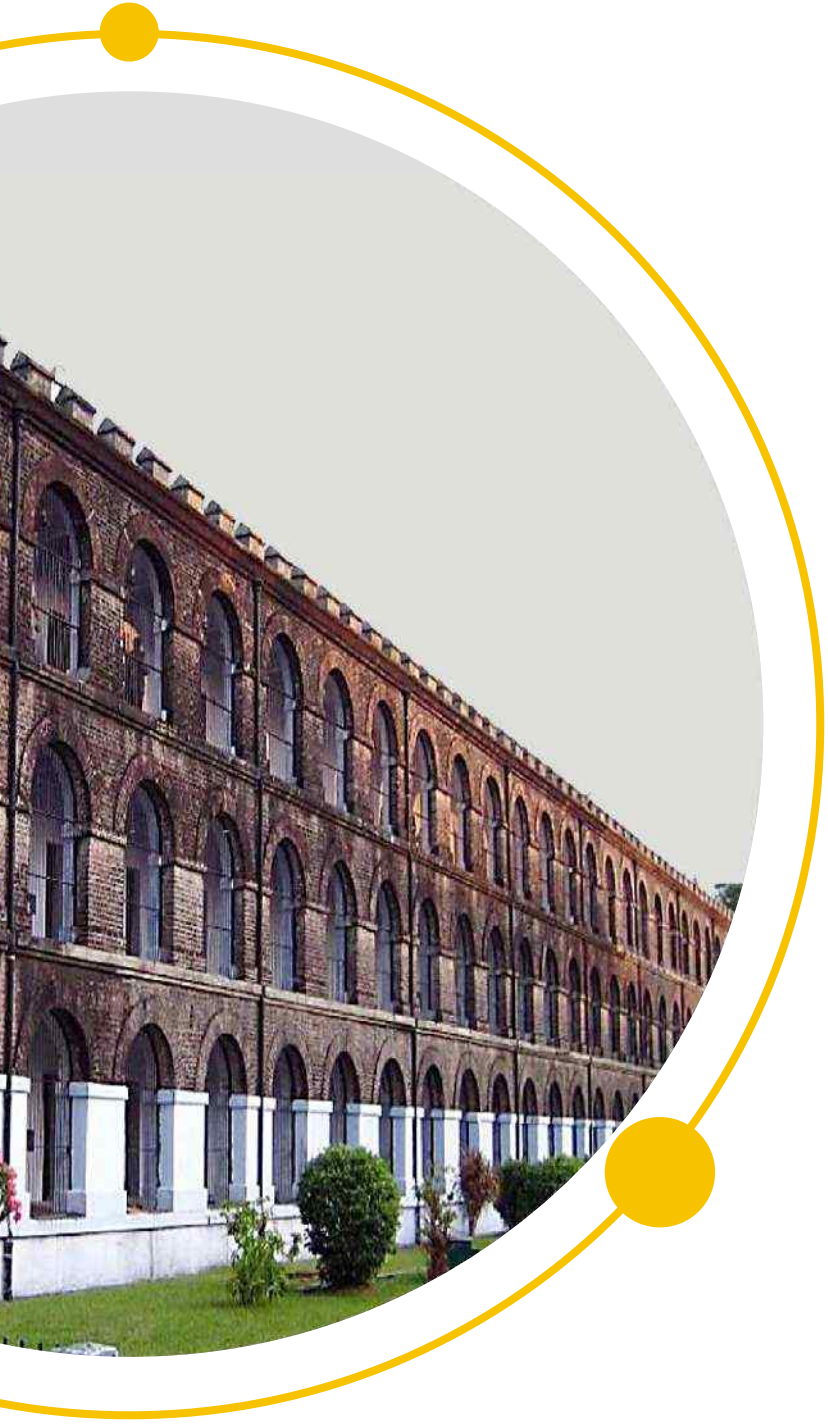
SBM-G's impact on rural India's cleanliness is evident, showcasing the attainability of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Swachhata Chronicles Volume 2 serves as a testament to the ongoing efforts, providing insights into the journey's milestones. As the campaign nears its objectives, forging effective partnerships among stakeholders at all levels is crucial, transforming SBM-G into a people's movement. The Rural WASH Partners' Forum (RWPF) acts as valuable allies to the program, aiding in the implementation of ODF Plus activities and setting up ODF Plus assets. Their support is expected to expedite activities and bring about sustainable change in matters related to hygiene and sanitation, contributing to the country's pursuit of a clean and healthy India.


(S.B.M-G) Drass 2017-2018
SWACHH BHARAT MISSION
GRAMEEN

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

CONTENTS



The state has 3 districts

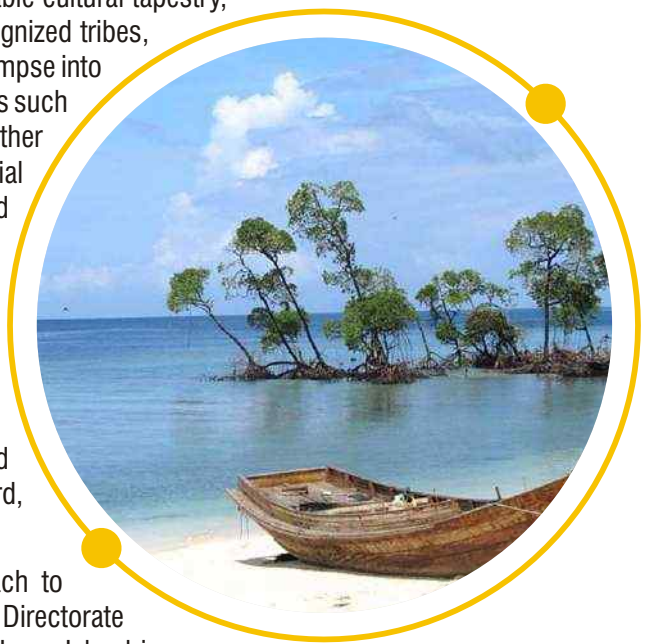
Principal lanuage is Hindi and English

Andaman & Nicobar

ANDAMAN & NICOBAR

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands, an archipelago in the Bay of Bengal, stand as a unique jewel in the Indian Ocean, offering a captivating blend of natural beauty and rich biodiversity. Comprising a total of 572 islands, this Union Territory of India holds a distinct allure for both nature enthusiasts and adventure seekers. The islands are known for their pristine white-sand beaches, crystal-clear turquoise waters, and lush tropical forests, creating a paradise for those seeking tranquility amid breathtaking landscapes.

Beyond its scenic splendor, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands boast a remarkable cultural tapestry, reflecting the diverse heritage of its indigenous communities. Home to six recognized tribes, including the Great Andamanese, Onge, and Nicobarese, the islands provide a glimpse into the indigenous way of life. The vibrant marine life, coupled with historical remnants such as the Cellular Jail in Port Blair, further adds depth to the islands' narrative. Whether exploring the underwater wonders through diving, delving into the islands' colonial past, or simply relishing the untouched beauty of its landscapes, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands offer an immersive and enchanting experience for all who venture to this tropical haven.



Andaman & Nicobar ‘s Long Island: A Beacon of Sanitation Excellence

In the pristine archipelago of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) has not only become a mass movement but a testament to the seamless fusion of guidelines with progress. Long Island, nestled in the North and Middle Andaman district, emerges as an island steadfastly moving forward, embodying the ODF Plus model.

Long Island, devoid of proper road networks, showcases a holistic approach to sanitation led by the Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Directorate of RD, PRIs & ULBs, A&N Administration, and Gram Panchayat Long Island. Long Island is a testament of the transition from ODF to ODF Plus and the journey ahead on ODF Plus Model. The Island's journey towards ODF plus status involves behavioral change, spearheaded by dedicated Swachhagrahis and the adoption and uptake of technology for FSM and SLWM management and meticulous community-driven efforts, making it a beacon for other regions.

Long Island’s dedication extends beyond individual household toilets to integrated solutions like construction of Community Sanitary Complexes (CSC) at strategic locations, followed up by intensive IEC campaigns for the uptake. Recognized for their excellence, these CSC contribute to the ODF Plus status and cater to both locals and visitors.

The Islands not only focuses on individual sanitation but also enables the construction of institutional toilets at schools, health centers, and anganwadi centres, coupled with Information, Education, Communication (IEC) messages,

underlining the importance of sanitation in daily life. The CSCs and the institutional toilets cater to the residents, public and tourists, aligning with the island's vision for comprehensive sanitation coverage. Mass awareness campaigns in schools, fairs and festivals ensure widespread coverage, coupled with dynamic IEC messages across all platforms. This multi-faceted approach ensures sustained progress towards ODF Plus.

Efficient Solid Waste Management and progressive Grey Water Management mark a commitment to environmental sustainability. The islands, propelled by SBM-G phase II, showcase responsible waste disposal practices. Long Island practices efficient Solid Waste Management, involving regular collection, segregation, and recycling. Sanitary workers, supported by community involvement, maintain cleanliness, and awareness campaigns emphasize user fees for sanitation services. The island addresses Grey Water Management by redirecting wastewater for sustainable use. Cost-effective options and drainage systems ensure environmentally conscious disposal.

Andaman & Nicobar Islands, having conquered ODF status, strides forward with determination, embracing the ODF Plus model. In this journey, Long Island stands as a testament to the islands' collective vision, illustrating that progress in sanitation is a perpetual evolution towards a cleaner, more advanced future.

Zero Waste Island Transformation: Swaraj Dweep's Success Story

Background: Swaraj Dweep, (Havelock) is one of the favorite tourist destinations of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands blessed with the famous sea beaches of Radhanagar, Kalapathar and Elephanta. It is situated 57 Km northeast of Port Blair town with an area of slightly more than 100 sq/km. It houses about 5000 people that includes locals and migrant

population. There are two Panchayats Govindnagar and Shyamnagar in this Island that cover the five villages. The island comes under revenue jurisdiction of the South Andaman District. The district, renowned for its pristine beaches and tourism allure, faced waste accumulation issues. The surge in tourism, particularly from hotels and restaurants, intensified the problem. To combat this, the implementation of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Rural Areas Solid Waste Management Bye Laws, 2019 became a turning point.

Key Initiatives:In pursuit of SBM-G's commitments, Swaraj Dweep embraced a comprehensive waste management strategy that involved meticulous garbage collection, source segregation, and creative initiatives to address challenges posed by the booming tourism industry.

Some of the key activities that made this possible were effective source segregation, that enforced mandatory source segregation of waste into wet, dry, and aluminium categories by every waste generator (including hotels, resorts, and individual households). Extensive behavioural campaigns involving the public, tourists, and stakeholders were undertaken that led to significant waste reduction.

Strict measures, including fines and seizures, were imposed on the sale and storage of single-use plastics. The island ensured regular beach clean-ups engaging the public, NGOs, and tourist stakeholders, fostering a sense of community involvement and responsibility. The door-to-door waste collection was outsourced to the local Self-Help Groups (SHGs), generating income for the Panchayat and empowering women.

Some of the achievements of this has been ensuring successful source segregation, under which the GPs receive segregated waste and thereby ensure effective recycling. The user fee charged from households and commercial establishments, along with the outsourcing model, contribute to the panchayat's income, leading to financial sustainability:

Innovative Solutions: The operationalization of the Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) Cluster and Introduction of a bailing machine facilitated efficient waste processing. The bailing machine enabled on-island plastic waste bailing that is transported to recyclers through the government ferries. The state administration also provided freight exemption for Government-owned vessels, streamlining dry waste transport. More than 100 Tons of dry waste was bailed out within the course of a year. Swaraj Dweep's recycling partnership, where they collaborated with a recycler, and the Gram Panchayat received compensation for dry waste, promotes sustainability. The island's commitment to waste management persisted during the challenging times of the Covid-19, emphasising the community's resilience.

With these concerted efforts, Swaraj Dweep is on track to become a Zero Waste Island, emphasising the ongoing need for stakeholder support and collaboration for sustained success.

The state has 26 districts

Principal language is Telugu

Andhra Pradesh

ANDHRA PRADESH

Andhra Pradesh, located in southeastern India, is a diverse state renowned for its rich cultural heritage, historical significance, and vibrant traditions. With a population exceeding 50 million, the state capital is Amaravati, which is a planned city designed to serve as the new administrative and legislative capital. The region boasts a unique blend of ancient archaeological sites, including the historic city of Vijayawada and the Buddhist stupa at Amaravati, reflecting its historical prominence.

Economically, Andhra Pradesh is a major player in the country, contributing significantly to agriculture, industry, and information technology sectors. The state is known for its extensive coastline along the Bay of Bengal, fostering fisheries and trade. Additionally, Andhra Pradesh is at the forefront of renewable energy initiatives, with ambitious plans for solar and wind power projects. As the state continues to undergo infrastructural developments, it remains a dynamic and evolving entity, poised for further growth and cultural resilience.

Soil Biotechnology for Sustainable Water Management in Serivelpuru, Andhra Pradesh

In Serivelpuru, a village nestled in Gudivada Mandal of Krishna District in Andhra Pradesh, a promising initiative has been making strides in sustainable water management through Soil-Biotechnology (SBT) over the last year. This is being spearheaded by the collaborative efforts of Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Department (RWS&S) of Government of Andhra Pradesh, Swachhandhra Corporation, GoAP, the support of Vijayavahini Charitable Foundation (VCF) and Tata Trusts (TT). This pilot SBT system has a 30 KLD capacity and the technology provider is the Vision Earth Care Limited, Mumbai.

Serivelpuru village is home to 247 houses with a population of 908 and 247 functional household tap connections. SBT offers a practical solution to address water scarcity by treating and recycling 100% of greywater. This, in turn, reduces the village's reliance on freshwater sources and through this pilot there are positi ve changes in water usage and management among the villagers.

SBT mimics nature by using soil to purify water. It is a technology that uses little energy and integrates with the natural cycles of the environment. While SBT may not produce drinking water, it does create an evergreen factory that treats the grey water to produce clean water for construction and agriculture. It also price and space efficient maintenance in terms of power and labour. The success of this SBT project is attributed to the synergy between stakeholders. The innovative approach ensures grey treated water derived from SBT isn't merely conserved; it serves a dual purpose addressing the concern of water scarcity and contributing to sustainable agricultural practices.

In conclusion, the Soil-Bio-Technology initiative in Serivelpuru is a testament to the positive impact that collaborative efforts can have on local water management. This model is in the process of getting replicated in the Laxmipuram village in Chodavaram block, Anakapalle district with support of VCF and TT, where SBT system with a capacity of 30 KLD is under construction.

These pilots showcase the potential for sustainable change in water-scarce regions as they focus on practical solutions and a modest approach to reporting.

Andhra Pradesh's Jupudi Village: A Green Triumph in Resource Management

In the heart of NTR District, Jupudi village became the canvas for an innovative pilot resource management project in June 2023. Along the village drain, near the Model School, a vibrant tapestry of canna, napier grass, and raw banana emerged, heralding a natural approach to greywater treatment.

As the project flourishes, the credit goes to the dedicated Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in Jupudi who continue to nurture and sustain this environmental initiative, with the guidance from the Panchayat.

The napier grass, a key player in the project, not only aids in the natural treatment of greywater but also serves as valuable fodder for local cattle, creating a sustainable cycle of benefit. Diversifying the impact, the introduction of ivy gourd plantations has not only enriched the landscape but has also become a financial boon for the SHGs, exemplifying the intersection of environmental stewardship and economic empowerment.

The success story extends beyond aesthetics; rigorous lab tests on the ivy gourd ensured that nutrient levels are well-maintained within acceptable limits, affirming the efficacy of this eco-friendly endeavor.

Buoyed by this triumph, the state is now set to scale up this model, envisioning its replication in atleast 5 GPs of each district. A state level workshop was conducted with all the district officials on 6th January 2024 for orientation of concerned officials on this model. This pilot site has been visited by officials from the Panchayat Raj Department and Ministry of Rural Development.

This green transformation in Jupudi serves as a beacon, illuminating the path towards a harmonious blend of environmental consciousness and community prosperity.

The state has 35 districts

Principal language is Assamese

Assam

ASSAM

Assam, a northeastern state in India, boasts a captivating blend of diverse landscapes, vibrant cultures, and a storied history. Situated alongside the majestic Brahmaputra River, the region is characterized by lush tea gardens, dense forests, and renowned wildlife sanctuaries such as Kaziranga National Park, known for its one-horned Indian rhinoceros population. Demographically, Assam is home to a mosaic of communities, including the Assamese, Bodo, and Bengali, each contributing to the state's cultural richness. Additionally, the presence of various tribal groups further adds to the tapestry, creating a unique and dynamic social fabric.

In the realm of best practices, fostering inclusivity and celebrating Assam's cultural diversity emerges as a key strategy. Embracing the distinct traditions and languages of the state's populace can serve as a catalyst for community engagement and cooperation. Such inclusivity not only preserves the cultural heritage but also lays a foundation for collaborative development initiatives, promoting a harmonious environment that resonates with the spirit of Assam.

Assam's Biswanth District Enhancing Menstrual Hygiene Management in Schools

Introduction:Addressing the critical issue of menstrual hygiene management in schools is imperative for promoting the well-being and education of female students. Recognizing the challenges faced by young girls, the Biswanath district has implemented a commendable initiative involving the installation of Vending Machines and Incinerators in girls' toilet blocks. This intervention aimed to reduce school dropout rates and absenteeism among female students.

Girls often encounter difficulties managing their menstrual cycles, leading to disruptions in their education. The unpredictability of the menstrual cycle and the lack of preparedness contribute to girls struggling to concentrate on their studies. The absence of an extra pad in their bags becomes a significant hurdle, forcing them to seek help from friends or miss out on valuable study time. This monthly struggle impacts the overall educational experience for countless girls.

Vending Machines: A Practical Solution: To address this issue, the installation of Vending Machines in girls' toilet blocks proved to be an effective solution. These machines allowed girls to independently access sanitary pads by inserting a nominal 5-rupee coin. This discreet process empowers girls to manage their menstrual hygiene without the need to inform others, fostering a sense of privacy and independence. Ensuring easy access to sanitary products contributes to a conducive learning environment for female students.

Incinerators: Emphasizing the importance of timely pad changes is crucial for maintaining menstrual hygiene. Girls were educated on the health implications of using a pad for more than 3-4 hours. Unfortunately, the lack of proper disposal facilities in schools often leads to unhygienic practices, such as blocking toilets with soiled pads. To address this, the installation of Incinerators within the toilet blocks is crucial. Incinerators in toilet blocks provide a discreet and hygienic method for disposal, minimizing environmental impact and promoting healthier practices.

Incinerators provided a discreet and hygienic method for disposing of soiled pads. Electrically operated, these incinerators ensure a clean and odor-free process, leaving behind only a small amount of ash. This innovative solution not only promoted proper disposal practices but also contributes to a healthier and more comfortable environment for female students.

Biswanath PHE Division's Proactive Initiative:

The proactive approach taken by the Biswanath PHE Division was commendable in this endevour. In-depth Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) efforts were conducted with GP Presidents and Secretaries to garner support for installing Vending Machines and Incinerators in schools. As a result, 20 sets of these machines have been successfully installed in 19 schools and one college, with a total expenditure of Rs. 16,21,886 from the grant.

Beyond the installation of machines, the Biswanath PHE Division conducted training sessions on how to use the equipment. Additionally, awareness programs on Menstrual Hygiene Management were organized to educate female students about the importance of maintaining proper hygiene during menstruation. This comprehensive approach ensures not only the provision of necessary facilities but also empowers girls with knowledge and awareness.

The initiative undertaken by the Biswanath district serves as a model for promoting menstrual hygiene management in schools. By addressing the practical challenges faced by female students, this intervention contributes to a more inclusive and supportive educational environment. The success of this program highlights the importance of proactive measures in ensuring the well-being and educational advancement of all students, regardless of gender.

Transforming School Waste Management: The Success of Pipe Composting

In an innovative approach to manage biodegradable waste from Mid Day Meals, schools have found a sustainable solution in Pipe Composting. This method not only addresses waste disposal efficiently but also turns it into an educational opportunity for students.

Simplified Process with Profound Impact: The core of Pipe Composting involves installing two PVC pipes vertically into the ground. These pipes, measuring 6–8 inches in diameter and 1.25 meters in length, serve dual purposes. One pipe is sealed with a PVC end cap and remains unused initially, while the other is designated for the disposal of biodegradable waste such as leftover food, fruit peels, and agricultural remnants. The addition of cow dung to the waste material accelerates the decomposition process, transforming waste into compost within 2-3 months. This method stands out for its simplicity, requiring minimal space and offering a hands-on learning experience about ecological cycles.

Key Benefits and Educational Advantages:

- Efficiency and Environmental Stewardship: Pipe Composting quickly converts waste into manure, showcasing an eco-friendly waste management solution.
- Cleanliness and Hygiene: By keeping the school premises clean and reducing odor and fly attraction, it promotes a healthier learning environment.
- Space Efficiency: Its compact design makes it especially suitable for schools with limited outdoor areas.
- Sustainability and Reusability: The system allows for the continuous use of the same pipes, emphasizing sustainable practices.
- Learning in Action: Students engage directly with the process, gaining insights into decomposition, the role of microorganisms, and the importance of recycling organic waste.

Rollout and Community Engagement: The Biswanath PHE Division has spearheaded the adoption of Pipe Composting in 10 schools, demonstrating its viability and benefits. Through awareness meetings involving students, teachers, and cooks, the program ensures everyone plays a part in its success. This collective effort not only enhances waste management but also instills a sense of responsibility towards the environment among the younger generation.

Moving Forward: For Pipe Composting to continue its success, ongoing monitoring and periodic training sessions are essential. This ensures that the process remains efficient and that new members of the school community are equally informed and engaged. As a result, Pipe Composting is more than just a waste management strategy; it's a step towards nurturing environmentally conscious minds.

The state has 38 districts

Principal language is Hindi

Bihar

BIHAR

Bihar, located in the eastern part of India, boasts a rich historical and cultural tapestry. Its capital city, Patna, stands as a vibrant hub of heritage and modernity. Patna, situated on the southern bank of the Ganges River, is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. With a blend of ancient landmarks like the Patna Museum and the Golghar granary, alongside contemporary developments, the city mirrors Bihar's dynamic essence.

Bihar, with a population exceeding 120 million, is a melting pot of diverse communities. The primary language spoken is Hindi, reflecting the linguistic diversity of the state. Known for its significant role in India's history, Bihar has been the birthplace of various influential figures, including Emperor Ashoka and the iconic mathematician Aryabhata. Today, Bihar stands at the crossroads of tradition and progress, with a burgeoning youth population contributing to its economic growth and cultural vibrancy.

Pioneering Universal Sanitation through Innovative Solutions in Bihar

In the quest for achieving universal sanitation coverage and addressing the challenges of retrofitting, operation, maintenance, and cleaning of toilets, Bihar has pioneered an innovative and community-centric approach – the Toilet Clinic initiative with the support of UNICEF. This transformative intervention serves as a 'One Stop Solution Centre,' strategically positioned at the block level, providing quality and affordable solutions for toilet-related concerns.

The primary objective of the Toilet Clinic initiative is to serve as a comprehensive solution centre, offering a range of services related to the retrofitting, operation, maintenance, and cleaning of toilets at a low cost. By providing a centralized hub for retrofitting materials, trained masons, and sanitation janitors, the initiative aims to make toilet retrofitting accessible, affordable, and of high quality. The ultimate goal is to contribute to improved sanitation practices, individual and community health, and environmental sustainability.

Key Features:

The Toilet Clinic initiative operates on a community-based model, establishing clinics at the block level to ensure widespread accessibility. The key components of the process include:

- Comprehensive Solution Centre: The Toilet Clinic serves as a one-stop solution center, addressing all aspects of toilet-related challenges. It provides retrofitting materials, modern cleaning equipment, and skilled manpower under a single roof.
- Affordable Rates: Fixed rates are established for retrofitting services and materials, including sand, cement, pans, pipes, etc. These rates are designed to ensure affordability while maintaining the quality of services. Households are charged only for the materials consumed, with specific service charges.
- Accessible Services: The accessibility of Toilet Clinic services is a priority. Individuals can avail services by directly calling the clinic or by reaching out to the sanitation janitors or masons associated with the clinic. The retrofitting materials are delivered to the doorstep, simplifying the process for the beneficiaries.

- Business Model: The Toilet Clinic operates as a business model in collaboration with UNICEF That ensures the sustainability and scalability of the initiative, allowing it to be replicated in multiple districts.

Benefits to Society:

The Toilet Clinic intervention in Bihar brings about a multitude of benefits to society, addressing critical issues related to sanitation and retrofitting:

Quality Retrofitting: The availability of standardized retrofitting materials and trained masons ensures that the retrofitting process adheres to quality standards. This, in turn, contributes to the longevity and efficiency of toilets.

Affordability: Fixed rates for services and materials make toilet retrofitting an affordable option for households. The transparent pricing model ensures that individuals are charged only for the resources consumed, promoting financial inclusivity.

Environmental Sustainability: The initiative incorporates modern cleaning equipment, promoting environmentally friendly sanitation practices. The proper disposal and management of waste contribute to environmental sustainability and cleanliness.

Job Creation: The establishment of Toilet Clinics generates employment opportunities for sanitation janitors and masons. This not only addresses unemployment concerns but also fosters skill development within the community.

This initiative in Bihar stands as a beacon of innovation and community-driven change in the sanitation landscape. By addressing the multifaceted challenges related to toilet retrofitting, operation, maintenance, and cleaning, the initiative contributes significantly to the Swachh Bharat Mission's goals. The initiative has been rolled out in eight districts, namely Muzaffarpur, Sheohar, Darbhanga, Gaya, Sitamarhi, Katihar and Madhubani. The geographical reach ensure diverse communities to benefit from this transformative intervention.

Bihar's Supaul District Pioneering Efforts in Plastic Waste Management

In the heart of Bihar, Supaul district emerges as a beacon of success in the realm of Plastic Waste Management. With an unwavering commitment to environmental sustainability, the district has orchestrated a transformative process through five strategically positioned Plastic Waste Management Units (PWMUs).

These units, a product of meticulous planning and community engagement have been placed SBM- G- Phase II and they have ushered in a cleaner, greener, and economically vibrant era for Supaul. The blocks of Basantpur, Chhatapur, Kishanpur, Pipra, and Supaul are at the forefront of this green revolution, as PWMU have been set up as part of a comprehensive waste management strategy.

The journey commenced with orientation sessions for Block Development Officers and Coordinators, aligning them with the mission's objectives. These officers then identified suitable locations, obtained necessary approvals, and

meticulously prepared Detailed Project Reports (DPRs). Following scrutiny and approval by the District Water and Sanitation Committee, funds were channeled to the designated blocks, enabling the procurement of essential machines—Dust Remover, Shredding, and Compressing—catalyzing efficient plastic waste management.

The Block Project Management Unit (BPMU) played a pivotal role in establishing connections with Gram Panchayats, Nagar Panchayats, and local vendors, ensuring a steady supply of diverse plastics as raw materials. The inauguration of the first PWMU in Basantpur block set a precedent for subsequent units across the district. These ceremonies, graced by the Sub-Divisional Officer and Block Development Officer, underscored Supaul's commitment to tackling plastic waste at its source.

The impact of PWMUs extends beyond mere revenue generation, transforming the landscape of plastic waste management. Before their establishment, Gram Panchayats struggled to secure fair prices for plastic waste, often selling to local scrap dealers. PWMUs now guarantee fair prices for all types of plastics, fostering a sustainable and revenue-generating plastic waste management model. The inclusion of Self-help Groups (SHGs) and CLFs (Jeevika) in PWMUs further ensures sustainability and revenue generation.


प्रभात खबर

सुपौल प्रभात

राहत. प्लास्टिक अपशिष्ट प्रसंस्करण इकाई की स्थापना व संचालन का दिखने लगा असर

सरकार को 2,07,158 रुपये मिला राजस्व

जिले में 33 हजार 541 किलो बेचा गया प्लास्टिक

The success in Basantpur caught the attention of the District Magistrate, who commended the Block Development Officer for substantial revenue achievements through PWMU Basantpur. This success story is emblematic of how strategic planning, community engagement, and innovative solutions can create a cleaner, greener, and economically vibrant environment.

State-wide, these impactful endeavors have left an indelible mark:

- SHG Groups/CLFs (Jeevika) are actively engaged in six districts, fortifying a sustainable and revenue-generating plastic waste management model.
- A colossal 600 tons of plastic waste have been processed.
- Sales of 350 tons of plastic waste have not only generated revenue but have also contributed to sustainable bitumen road construction.
- An impressive revenue of Rs 38 Lakh stands as a testament to the success of Supaul's plastic waste management model.

The state has 33 districts

Principal language is Hindi

Chhattisgarh

CHHATTISGARH

Chhattisgarh, nestled in the heart of India, boasts a rich tapestry of history and culture that has shaped its vibrant identity. Formed in the year 2000, the state emerged as a distinct entity from Madhya Pradesh, carrying with it a legacy that traces back to ancient times. With archaeological evidence revealing traces of prehistoric human activities, Chhattisgarh has been witness to the rise and fall of various dynasties, including the Mauryas, Satavahanas, and the powerful Kalachuris.In terms of demographics, Chhattisgarh is characterized by a diverse population, comprising various ethnic groups, languages, and traditions. The state's demographic mosaic reflects the harmonious coexistence of different communities, contributing to its cultural richness. The predominantly tribal population, alongside various other communities, adds a unique dimension to Chhattisgarh's social fabric. As the state strides forward into the future, acknowledging and respecting this diversity becomes integral to fostering an inclusive and dynamic environment for development and progress.

Transforming Plastic Waste Management in Bastar through regular monitoring and measurability: A Community-Led Success

In the remote tribal city of Agdalpur, Bastar, Chhattisgarh, a groundbreaking initiative is underway to address waste management challenges through the "Rural & Urban Landscape Free of Dry & Plastic Waste" project,led by the Centre for Environment Education (CEE) and funded by HDFC Bank. It is a collaborative effort involving the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), Shrishti Waste Management Services Pvt. Ltd., and the local community, particularly women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs) institutionalized as Solid Liquid Resource Management (SLRM) units.

The initiative focuses on introducing sustainable solutions for plastic waste management in both rural and peri-urban areas across 114 villages and 71 Gram Panchayats (GPs) in Bastar. Women SHG members play a pivotal role in the project, addressing challenges such as waste collection, segregation, transportation, and disposal.

The project has achieved significant milestones, with a plastic waste collection system established in 29 panchayats involving women SHGs. In 30 panchayats, 100% household waste segregation has been achieved. Notably, SHG members are earning Rs. 500-1000 per day from waste segregation, and a commendable 3 tons of dry waste are collected daily, totaling 157 tons from March to August 2023.

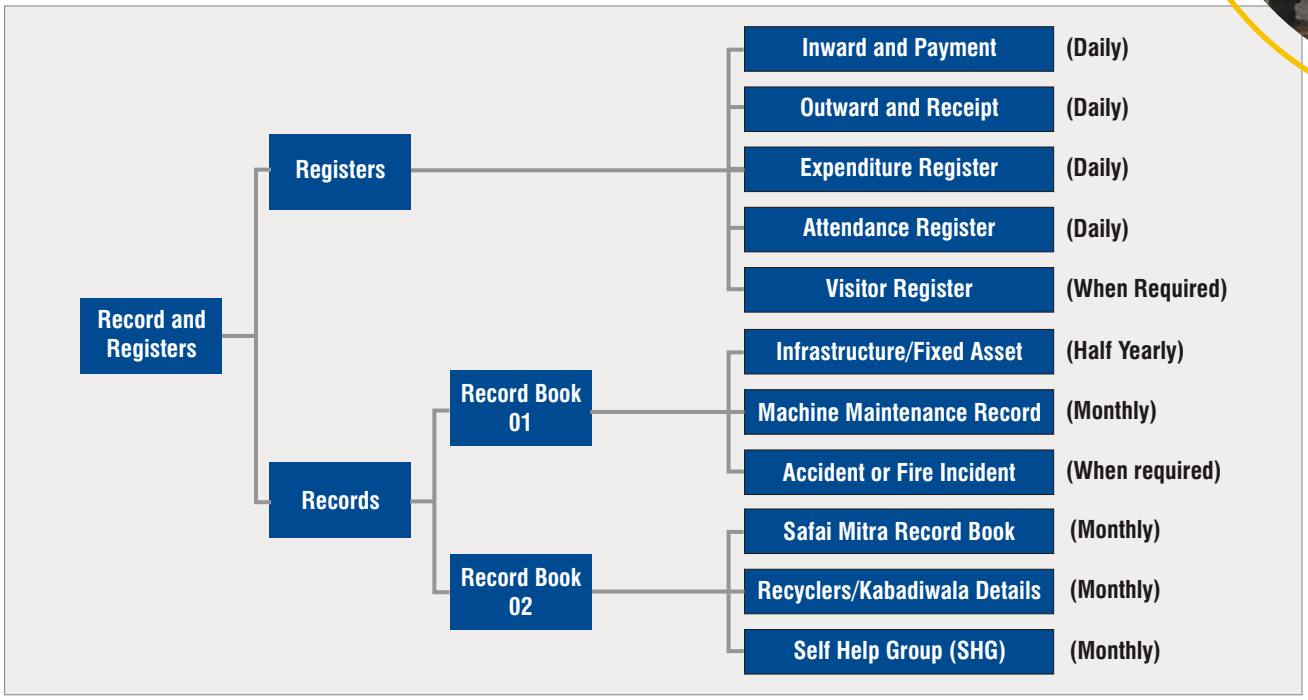
Informal safai-mitras are linked with Material Recovery Facility (MRF) centers, saving Rs. 200-300 per day. The initiative successfully links Kabadiwalas, Bulk Waste Generators, and Recyclers, thereby improving livelihoods and contributing to a better circular economy approach.

The project has empowered 14 SHG members dedicated to waste sorting and cleaning. Community involvement is integral to the development process, facilitated through regular meetings and joint decision-making.

The success of the project lies in the implementation of easy-to-understand, simple systems for data recording at various levels, ensuring transparency and traceability. Well-defined Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and

systematic protocols contribute to accountability and operational efficiency, creating a replicable model for effective waste management.

The initiative emphasizes the importance of effective reporting and monitoring for tracking progress and identifying areas of improvement. Transparency and accountability build trust with the community and stakeholders, fostering long-term engagement. Within this framework as shown in Figure below the reporting mechanism adheres to a stringent methodology aimed at meticulously scrutinizing the progress of more than 25 different project activities. The inbuilt-feedback mechanisms allows for effectiveness and the engagement and buy-in from all stakeholders including implementation partners, village SHGs, Panchayats, MRF staff, aids in ensuring the documentation is updated at the MRF at the village level and at the MRF centres.



The project in Bastar exemplifies a successful model of community-led plastic waste management, blending simplicity with efficiency. Transparent monitoring systems, empowered women SHGs, and active community involvement have not only transformed waste management but also created sustainable livelihoods. The impact on local businesses, improved working conditions for waste collectors, and community engagement showcase the potential for replicating such initiatives.

The state has 2 districts

Principal language are Konkani, Marathi and English

Goa

GOA

Nestled along the southwestern coast of India, Goa is a small but culturally vibrant state renowned for its stunning beaches, rich history, and unique blend of Indian and Portuguese influences. With a history dating back to ancient times, Goa was a prominent center of trade and maritime activities, attracting various dynasties, including the Mauryas and the Chalukyas. However, it was the Portuguese who left an indelible mark on the region, establishing colonial rule in the 16th century. The historic architecture, evident in churches like the Basilica of Bom Jesus and forts such as Aguada, stands as a testament to this colonial legacy. In 1961, Goa was liberated from Portuguese rule, becoming a part of independent India.

In the contemporary context, Goa has evolved into a sought-after tourist destination, attracting visitors from around the globe with its golden beaches, vibrant nightlife, and unique cultural festivals. The state is not only known for its scenic beauty but also for its rich biodiversity and wildlife sanctuaries. Additionally, Goa has become a hub for art and literature, hosting numerous festivals that celebrate creativity and diversity. While the tourism industry flourishes, efforts are being made to preserve Goa's ecological balance and cultural heritage, ensuring a sustainable future for this picturesque coastal paradise

Championing Sustainability in Nagoa, Goa: An Exemplary Waste Management Model

Situated in the heart of Goa, the Village Panchayat of Nagoa stands as a remarkable example of community-driven waste management initiatives. With a population of approximately 3,500 residents, this quaint village grappled with a significant challenge due to its proximity to an industrial estate, leading to an additional 7,000+ migrant population and a surge in waste generation.

Acknowledging the severity of the situation, the Village Panchayat of Nagoa embarked on a transformative journey to combat the waste management crisis. Over the course of two years, they implemented a comprehensive plan that not only alleviated the waste problem but also established a sustainable model worthy of emulation.

Commencing with a meticulous survey of every household in the village, documenting details and quantities of daily waste generation, the Panchayat identified a suitable location for independent waste management through collaboration between the communidade of Nagoa and the Government of Goa.

Equipping themselves for effective waste management, the Panchayat explored various processes and machinery. Funding emerged as a critical aspect of this initiative, prompting proactive efforts from the Village Panchayat to seek support from various government departments and agencies. Successfully securing funds through schemes such as Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) and Swyampurnav Goa became instrumental.

Presently, the impact of their efforts include:

- **A well managed collection and treatment of a diverse range of waste, that include thermocol to biomedical waste**
- **A well equipped panchayat that handles around one tonne of plastic and dry waste, consistently.**
- **Streamlined treatment of almost one tonne of wet waste every alternate day**
- **The waste management plant sustains itself through electricity generated by the biogas plant.**
- **The Panchayat responsibly manages the slurry produced during waste processing.**
- **The initiative extends to agriculture, as the Panchayat utilises organic waste to cultivate paddy fields, overseen by a dedicated Agricultural Committee.**
- **Employment opportunities have been created, with 8 individuals contributing to waste management and receiving wages funded by the Panchayat.**

Moving forward, the village panchayat aims to augment its sustainability efforts by establishing a paddy boiler on the waste management site, producing rice through the biogas plant.

The success of Nagoa's waste management model is attributed to unwavering support from various stakeholders, including national and state leadership who have played a pivotal role in making Nagoa an Atmanirbhar Gram Panchayat.

The Village Panchayat of Nagoa stands tall as a beacon of sustainable waste management, demonstrating the positive outcomes achievable through community-driven initiatives and government support. Their commitment to cleanliness, environmental responsibility, and economic empowerment sets an admirable example for villages across the nation.

Symbiosis of Innovation and Sustainability: Chicalim's Woow Plant Transforms Waste into Wealth

In the pursuit of a greener future, the Village Panchayat of Chicalim presents this transformative initiative encapsulating the essence of waste management, sustainability, and economic viability. Village Panchayat Chicalim, with approximately 28,000 residents and 11 ward members, has implemented an innovative waste management system - the Woow Plant.

Door-to-Door Waste Collection System:The Panchayat has engaged a contractor for a comprehensive door-to-door waste collection system, ensuring effective segregation of waste at its source. The collected waste is categorized into Wet, Dry, and Household Hazardous waste.

5TPD Biogas Plant: The cornerstone of this sustainable paradigm is the 5TPD Biogas Plant, a testament to innovation with a financial investment of 1.8 crores, the Biogas Plant processes 5000 kgs of wet organic waste daily. It generates approximately 300 cubic meters of biogas, producing 250 to 300 units of electricity per day. The excess liquid slurry is utilized in existing Treatment Plants or as organic manure. This surplus energy not only sustains the WOOW Plant but also contributes to the local grid.

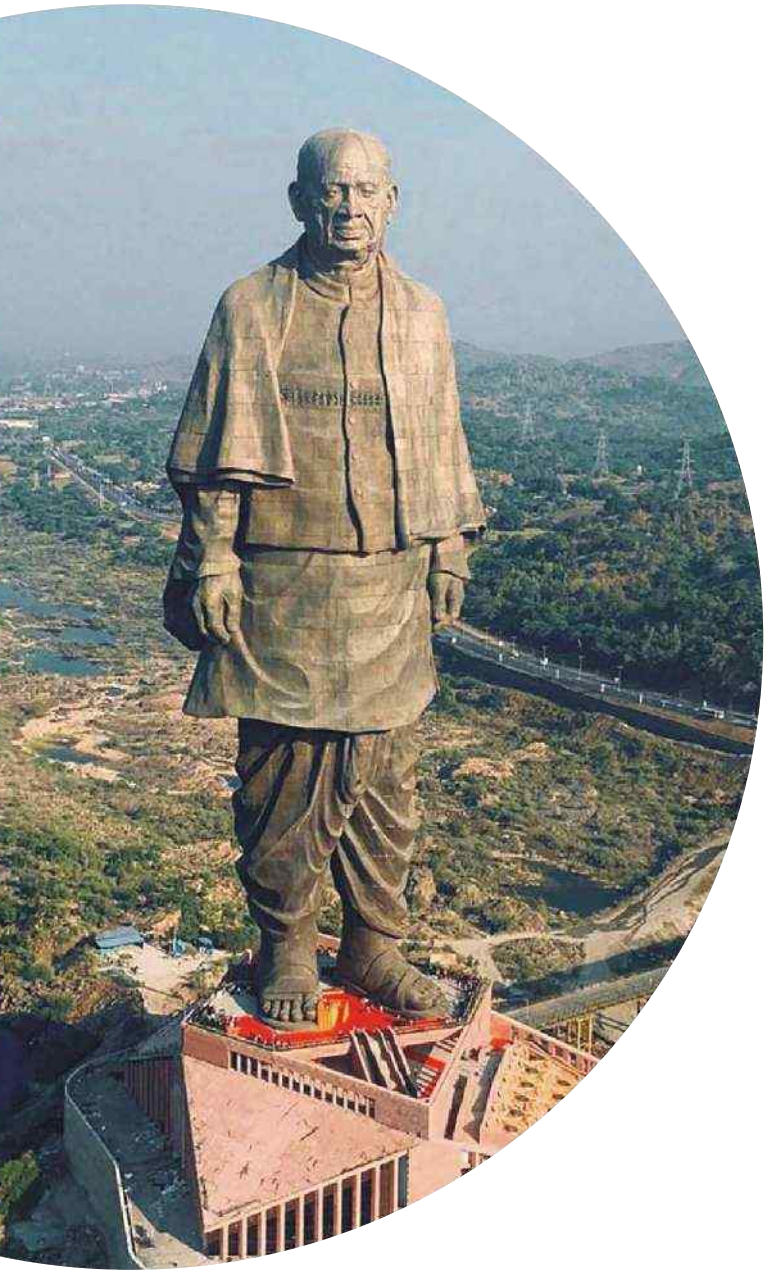
Material Recovery Facility & PMU: A judicious investment of 52 lakhs in a 150 sqm Material Recovery Facility (MRF) and a 200 sqm Plastic Management Unit (PMU) ensures efficient waste sorting and recycling. The Facility Receives 4 tons of dry waste every day and recyclables fraction is almost 25-30 %. The recyclables and the RDF is 100% documented and the non-recyclable waste is further baled and sent weekly to the Cement Factory. This generates a monthly revenue of Rs 100,000 from recyclables and Rs 200,000 from bulk waste management.

30 KLD STP & 40 KLD FSTP: Chicalim's commitment extends to liquid waste management through a 30 KLD Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) and a 40 KLD Faecal

Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP) at a cost of 115 lakhs. Not only does this initiative address the sewage disposal needs of the community, but it also contributes 55,000 liters per day of reusable water to the local Joggers Park, thereby fostering groundwater conservation.

Financial Viability and Sustainability Model: The Panchayat's commitment to financial prudence is evident in the Sustainability Model. With an Operations and Maintenance cost of 5 lakhs per month, Tanker Service Revenue of 2 lakhs, Bulk waste fees collection contributing 2 lakhs, and Recyclables sales generating 1 lakh, the WOOW Plant stands as a self-sustaining entity. The Panchayat achieves a total monthly saving of 1,50,000, including 54,000 on energy bills and 1,80,000 on water tankers. This contributes to recovering 50% of the costs incurred for FSTP & STP.

Conclusion: The Panchayat plans to extend the Biogas Plant and implement an Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP), showcasing its commitment to sustainable waste management. Incorporating the WOOW Plant into the State Best Practice Document serves not only as recognition of Chicalim's commitment to sustainability but also as an inspiration for other communities. This showcase highlights the potential for waste management initiatives to be environmentally responsible, economically viable, and socially impactful.



The state has 13 districts

Principal language is Gujarati

Gujarat

GUJARAT

Nestled in the western corner of India, Gujarat stands as a testament to a harmonious blend of tradition and progress. Rich in cultural diversity, this vibrant state boasts a tapestry woven with historical significance, architectural marvels, and a thriving economy. From the bustling markets of Ahmedabad to the tranquil shores of Dwarka, Gujarat encapsulates a myriad of experiences. Home to the birthplace of Mahatma Gandhi, the state reverberates with echoes of India's struggle for independence. As the sun sets over the vibrant landscapes, Gujarat's resilience and innovation shine through in sectors ranging from industry to sustainable initiatives, defining its distinctive character on the canvas of the nation.

Gujarat's Waste Management Symphony:

A Symbiotic Rhythm of Gram Panchayats and Urban Development Authorities.

In Gujarat, a seamless waste management story unfolds through collaboration between Gram Panchayats (GPs) and Urban Development Authorities (UDAs). GPs take pride in their door-to-door solid waste collection efforts, while UDAs play a crucial role in transporting the collected waste to designated dumping sites.

This synergy extends to a special initiative where 517 villages within a 5 km radius of 8 Municipal Corporations join hands with UDAs for door-to-door waste collection. Gram Panchayats diligently collect the waste, and Municipal Corporations take charge of processing it in their Recovery/Processing centers. The Urban Development Authorities then step in to facilitate the transportation of waste from villages to the Corporation's processing sites, ensuring a comprehensive and efficient waste management system.

This narrative takes an innovative turn as a collaborative initiative emerges. The crucial link of transportation from villages to the Corporation's processing sites is seamlessly handled by the Urban Development Authorities, culminating in a comprehensive and sustainable waste management system.

The state has 22 districts

Principal language is Hindi

Haryana

HARYANA

Haryana, situated in the northern part of India, is a vibrant state where tradition meets modernity. It is surrounded by several states and the national capital, Delhi, making it a pivotal region in terms of geography and economy. With a population exceeding 25 million, Haryana embodies a diverse cultural fabric, celebrated through its myriad festivals and rich folklore. The state's historical significance is deep-rooted, being the backdrop for the epic Mahabharata, with Kurukshetra symbolizing its ancient heritage. Chandigarh, the capital, epitomizes urban planning and architectural brilliance, reflecting Haryana's progressive nature.

Economically, Haryana is a powerhouse, with agriculture forming its economic backbone, complemented by a booming industrial sector in cities like Gurgaon and Faridabad. It has made commendable strides in renewable energy, aiming for sustainability. The state's infrastructural development, including enhanced connectivity and urban projects, underscores its commitment to progress. As part of the Swacch Bharat Mission, Haryana has adopted significant initiatives in cleanliness and sanitation, showcasing its dedication to a cleaner, greener future.

Haryana stands as a testament to India's diversity, cultural richness, and developmental aspirations. Its journey from a historically significant region to a modern economic hub, coupled with its commitment to renewable energy and sustainable development, positions it as a model state in India's growth narrative.

Transforming Dulheri A Model of Community Led Cleanliness and Sustainability

In the serene backdrop of Bhiwani District Dulheri Gram Panchayat emerged as a beacon of hope and innovation thanks to the determined efforts of its youth and the visionary leadership of Shri Pawan Saini About three years ago the inception of the Yuva Swachhata Evam Jan Seva Samiti marked the beginning of a transformative journey towards environmental stewardship and community engagement in solid waste management Recognized in the Mann Ki Baat program by the Hon ble Prime Minister Dulheri s initiative has set a precedent for villages across the nation

The challenge was daunting with Dulheri grappling with the consequences of unmanaged waste However the formation of the Samiti brought a new dawn With a mission to clean the village and manage waste sustainably the initiative saw the daily collection of waste from 754 households starting at the crack of dawn This effort was bolstered by around 60 dedicated youth who not only assisted in the waste collection but also ensured the streets of Dulheri were clean and welcoming

The transformation was not immediate Changing long standing habits and perspectives on waste required persistent effort and engagement Through awareness campaigns and hands on involvement the Samiti gradually fostered a culture of cleanliness and environmental responsibility among the villagers Their success is a testament to the power of community action leadership and the collective will to create a better environment for future generations

Today Dulheri stands as a shining example of what can be achieved when a community unites for a common cause The journey of Dulheri is more than just about cleanliness it s a story of empowerment resilience and the indomitable spirit of youth making a tangible difference As Dulheri continues to explore future avenues like waste to energy projects it remains a source of inspiration urging communities across India to embark on their own journeys towards sustainability and cleanliness Let Dulheri s story be a call to action a reminder that change starts with us and together we can make a lasting impact on our world

The Bhiwani Nehween Project A Tale of Water Rejuvenation and Innovation

In the Bhiwani District a ground breaking initiative known as the Nehween Grey Water Management Project has set a precedent for sustainable water management The project emerged in response to a critical challenge the groundwater levels in the region had declined to more than 20 feet below the surface signaling an urgent need for innovative solutions to conserve and replenish this vital resource

The Nehween Project introduced a comprehensive five step filtration system designed to treat grey water which is wastewater generated from domestic activities excluding toilet waste The core of this system involved the construction of chamber tanks equipped with iron grills to capture solid waste ensuring that the subsequent stages of treatment dealt only with liquid waste These tanks became the first line of defense against water contamination

As the grey water moved through the system it was directed through small chambers where bend pipes played a crucial role in segregating solid and floating particles from the water This meticulous process allowed for the effective removal of contaminants before the water reached the next critical phase of filtration

The innovation of the project shone brightly with the introduction of honeycomb pits strategically designed with stones filling half of the pit while the other half remained empty This arrangement facilitated a natural filtering process where the stones helped in further purifying the grey water This method exemplified a practical approach to water treatment leveraging simple yet effective engineering solutions to address complex environmental challenges

Regular maintenance including the removal of sludge from the chamber tanks every 7 to 14 days ensured the system s efficiency and longevity As a result of these concerted efforts the project successfully managed and disposed of over 219 000 00 Kilo Liters of grey water in the district marking a significant achievement in the region s environmental conservation efforts

The Nehween Grey Water Management Project stands as a testament to the power of community driven initiatives in tackling environmental issues By adopting a practical and scalable solution Bhiwani has not only addressed its immediate water challenges but also provided a model that can inspire similar actions elsewhere This initiative underscores the importance of innovative thinking and local action in the global quest for sustainability making it a noteworthy contribution to the field of environmental best practices

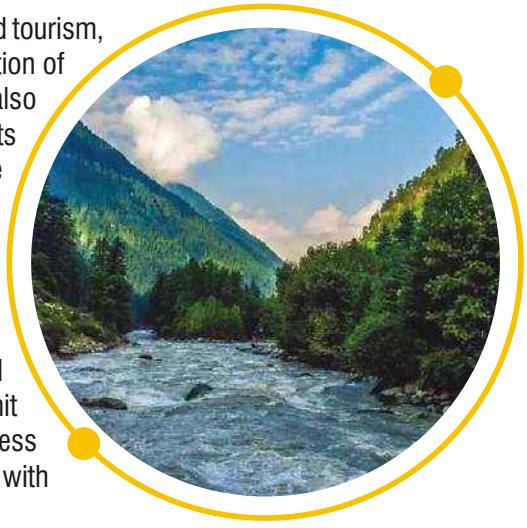
The state has 12 districts

Principal language are Punjabi, Dogri, Kangri and Kinnauri

Himachal Pradesh

HIMACHAL PRADESH

Himachal Pradesh, cradled in the Western Himalayas, is a realm where the tranquility of nature meets ancient traditions. This state, with its diverse borders touching Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand, and the Tibet Autonomous Region, boasts a stunning mosaic of landscapes and a rich cultural heritage. Home to around 7 million people, its allure lies in its majestic mountains, verdant forests, and meandering rivers, making it a haven for tourists and a testament to India's natural splendor. The culture of Himachal Pradesh, celebrated through vibrant festivals like Kullu Dussehra, Losar, and Shivratri, and traditional arts, such as dance and intricate handicrafts, mirrors the deep spiritual and cultural fabric of the Himachali people.



Economically, the state thrives on agriculture, particularly in the cultivation of apples and pears, and tourism, propelled by its picturesque beauty and welcoming communities. The capital, Shimla, is a reflection of colonial elegance and modern governance, maintaining its historical charm. Himachal Pradesh is also at the forefront of hydropower, utilizing its river networks for renewable energy, contributing to its economic resilience and environmental sustainability. The state embodies the essence of the Swacch Bharat Mission through its dedication to cleanliness, conservation, and eco-friendly tourism, showcasing a commitment to preserving its natural and cultural legacy while fostering sustainable development.

Ajouli's Transformation: Leading the Way in Sustainable Waste Management

Ajouli Village, nestled in District Una, has set a precedent in environmental responsibility and community-driven waste management. The initiation of the Primary Waste Management Unit (PWMU) in 2022 catalyzed a remarkable transformation, positioning Ajouli as a leader in cleanliness within the state. The deployment of house-to-house waste collection, facilitated by two individuals with rickshaw carts, marked the beginning of a new era in waste handling.

The true success of Ajouli's approach lies in its ability to instill a culture of segregation at the source, engaging every household in the village. This shift towards proactive participation in waste management has not only streamlined processes but also fostered a strong sense of community ownership over environmental preservation.

Recognition of Ajouli's efforts came through prestigious awards, including the Nirmal Gram Award in 2013 and a top position in the Kangra Division under the Maharishi Balmiki Purskar Yojna. Additionally, the Department of Public Relations honored the village with a financial award of Rs 1,00,000 for its exemplary sanitation work.

Investment in essential infrastructure and machinery has been a cornerstone of Ajouli's waste management strategy, with total expenditures reaching Rs 39,37,150. This investment covered the construction of a solid waste shed, the procurement of composters and an incinerator, and the addition of e-rickshaws for waste collection. These assets have significantly enhanced the village's capacity to manage waste efficiently and sustainably.

In rewriting its narrative, Ajouli Village has not only achieved environmental sustainability but has also illuminated a path for others to follow. The village’s journey underscores the power of collective action and the profound impact of

integrating sustainable practices into daily life. Ajouli's story is a testament to the belief that small steps can lead to significant environmental victories, inspiring communities far and wide to embrace the ethos of sustainable living.

Kanaid Village: A Paradigm of Cleanliness and Sustainable Living

In the verdant landscapes of District Mandi, the Gram Panchayat of Kanaid stands as a testament to environmental stewardship and community resilience. Achieving the status of an ODF Plus Model GP, Kanaid has meticulously woven sustainability into the fabric of its daily life, setting a benchmark for villages across the nation.

Central to Kanaid's success is the universal adoption of Individual Household Latrine (IHHL) facilities, with the phased construction of twin pit toilets ensuring sustainable sanitation solutions for every household. This initiative not only underscores the village's commitment to ending open defecation but also highlights a proactive approach to environmental health.

In an innovative stride towards waste management, Kanaid has established segregation sheds for plastic and non-plastic waste materials. This segregation at the source facilitates the recycling process, as waste materials find new life through local Kabadiwalas. This cycle of reuse and recycling not only reduces environmental impact but also promotes a circular economy within the community.

The village's Community Service Centers (CSCs) exemplify functional infrastructure, equipped with water facilities and managed collaboratively by the Panchayat and community self-help groups (SHGs). This partnership ensures the seamless operation of community services, fostering a sense of ownership and collective responsibility among the villagers.

A cornerstone of Kanaid's environmental initiative is its comprehensive Grey Water Management system. The construction of soak pits in all houses addresses the challenge of greywater disposal, preventing waterlogging and contamination, and contributing to the replenishment of groundwater levels.

Kanaid's efforts were recognized at the highest levels when it was awarded first place in the State-level cleanest GP competition. This accolade not only celebrates Kanaid's achievements but also serves as a beacon of inspiration for other communities striving towards cleanliness and sustainability.

The financial blueprint behind Kanaid's transformation reveals a strategic allocation of resources: the construction of a Segregation Shed was funded through a blend of Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G) funds and the 15th Finance Commission grants, totaling Rs. 0.81 lakh. Retrofitting of toilets and the implementation of drainage systems with soak pits were realized with an investment of Rs. 16.96 lakh, a testament to the village's commitment to leveraging government schemes and local funds for sustainable development.

Kanaid Village's journey from a conventional rural setting to a model of sanitation and environmental sustainability is a narrative of vision, commitment, and collaborative effort. As this story unfolds in the pages of best practice documents, it stands as a compelling blueprint for transformation, urging communities everywhere to embark on their journey towards a cleaner, greener future.

The state has 24 districts

Principal language are Kashmiri, Dogri, Urdu, Hindi, English

Jharkhand

JHARKHAND

Jharkhand, situated in eastern India, is a state that seamlessly blends natural wonders with a rich cultural heritage. Known for its vast mineral resources and dense forests, Jharkhand is a haven for those seeking both adventure and tranquility. The capital city, Ranchi, stands as a testament to the state's dynamic development, surrounded by hills and adorned with lakes.

Diverse tribal communities, such as the Santhals and Munda, contribute to Jharkhand's vibrant cultural tapestry, evident in their traditional dances, music, and arts. The state's rustic charm is complemented by the picturesque Betla National Park, home to diverse flora and fauna, offering a unique blend of biodiversity and adventure. With its unique blend of tradition and progress, Jharkhand invites visitors to explore its cultural heritage and natural splendors, promising an enriching experience that resonates with the spirit of the land.

Jharkhand's West Singhbhum: A Tale of Progress, Challenges, and the E- Grievance Revolution

West Singhbhum, the largest district in Jharkhand, unfolds a story of resilience and progress amidst its challenging landscape. West Singhbhum faces logistical concerns as it is situated 3 hours away from the district headquarters, Manoharpur Block. The terrain is difficult as it comprises 46.6% forest cover and hilly landscapes, that hinder administrative accessibility. The district grapples with the remnants of Naxal activity, impeding the swift execution of developmental schemes. The district has a tribal population of 67% and raising awareness among this demographic proves to be a significant challenge. Even with the challenges, the district has made significant progress on the journey of SBM-G-Phase II

ODF+ Status: A commendable 85% of villages in the district are on the path to achieving ODF+ status. This success is attributed to dedicated awareness programs, that have involved traditional leaders. The district currently has 29 model villages b) 22 rising villages c) 1364 aspiring villages

The district was also nominated for the Swachh Sarvekshan, 2023. The district has achieved 100% sanitation coverage, Nimdih Panchayat is recognized for its NADEP composting units and menstrual hygiene incinerators.

Community led activities: Some of the community led activities led by Ms Sumitra Deogam, Mukhiya of Nimdih, spearheaded movements like 'Chuppi Todo Swasth Raho' and 'Swachhata Pakhwada'.

GOBARDHAN: A case study of Tamarbandh Village showcases the successful utilisation of cow dung for biogas production, benefiting 15 families. Villagers operate the plant, transitioning from firewood-based to healthier, smoke-free biogas-based cooking.


Say No
to PLASTIC
प्लास्टिक हटाओ
जीवन बचाओ


PUBLIC HELP CELL
जन सहायता कोषांग
पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा
Piramal Foundation
PUBLIC
HELP
CELL
Piramal Foundation

MHM Incinerators:186 units have been installed for hygienic disposal of sanitary napkins, covering all Kasturba Residential schools. The district conducts dedicated workshops for accelerating construction through convergence of various funds and assistance.

PWM Units: Waste segregation is promoted at the village level, managing plastic waste in Matkobera and Baliaposi Panchayat through PWM units.

IEC Activities: Swachhata drives and pledges in Putida village, Khuntpani block, led by Mukhiya and Jal Sahiyas, resulted in the village achieving model status.

Jan Sahayata Koshang: A district-level e-governance initiative was initiated in 2019, during the pandemic. The intention of this portal was to help all individuals to share their grievances online and receive timely grievance redressal (within 7 days). This online platform also enabled individuals and residents from the district to express concerns online, eliminating the need to wait long hours during the janta darbar. Noteworthy statistics: 155 allocated grievances, 18 resolved, 4398 closed, and 0 rejected applications, reflecting the efficacy of the system.

In conclusion, West Singhbhum's journey exemplifies the power of community-driven initiatives, innovative waste management, and the transformative impact of e-governance on grievance resolution. As the district overcomes challenges, its progress becomes an encouragement for other regions facing similar obstacles.

The state has 20 districts

Principal language are Kashmiri, Dogri, Urdu, Hindi, English

Jammu & Kashmir

JAMMU & KASHMIR

Jammu and Kashmir, nestled at the northern tip of India, stands as a testament to nature's splendor and a melting pot of diverse cultures and traditions. This region, with its spectacular landscapes ranging from the lush valleys of Kashmir to the stark beauty of Ladakh, encapsulates a unique blend of religious and ethnic diversity. Its strategic location bordering Pakistan and China adds to its rich historical and geopolitical narrative. The local populace, a tapestry of various ethnicities and religions, celebrates an array of festivals and customs, highlighting the region's cultural richness and communal harmony. Agriculture, particularly the cultivation of high-value crops like saffron and apples, alongside the production of world-renowned handicrafts such as Pashmina shawls and intricate carpets, forms the economic bedrock of the region.

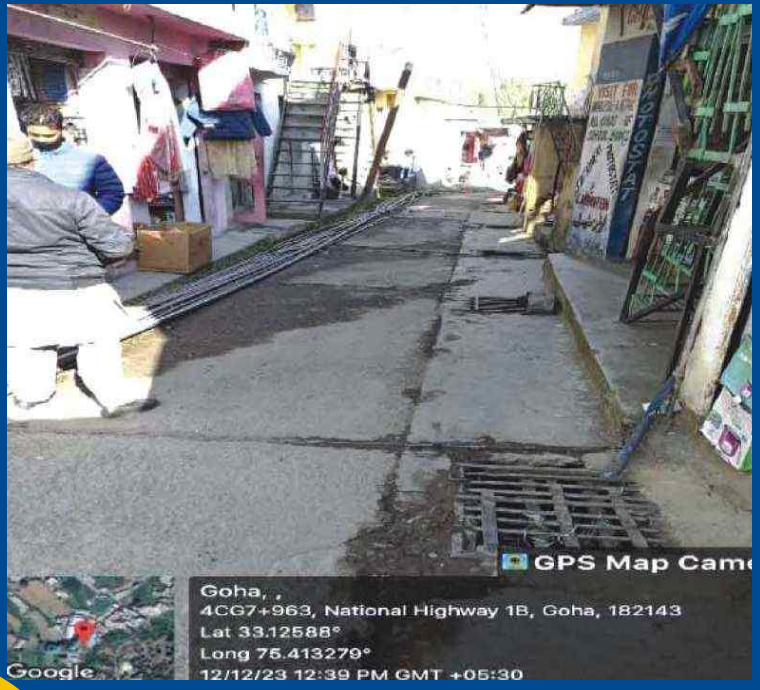
Tourism, driven by iconic destinations like Srinagar, Gulmarg, and Leh, plays a pivotal role in Jammu and Kashmir's economy, attracting visitors from across the globe to its scenic vistas and cultural landmarks. The serene Dal Lake, historic Mughal Gardens, and the majestic Himalayas are emblematic of its natural allure. Initiatives towards sustainable development and renewable energy, particularly solar and hydroelectric power, reflect the region's commitment to environmental conservation. These efforts, coupled with infrastructural advancements to enhance connectivity, underscore Jammu and Kashmir's journey towards embracing modernity while preserving its environmental and cultural heritage, making it a beacon of beauty and resilience.

A Shade of Change: The Pink Revolution in Rural Sanitation

In the serene yet dynamic landscape of Kathua district in Jammu and Kashmir, a revolution blooms, not in loud protests or digital campaigns, but in the quiet dignity of pink. The Directorate of Rural Sanitation, Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, spearheaded a movement that transcends mere infrastructure—it's a stride towards empowerment, dignity, and health. The construction of Pink Toilets, under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G) guidelines, is a narrative of thoughtful consideration for the needs of women and girls in rural settings, particularly addressing the challenges faced during menstrual periods.

The journey began with meticulous planning and a vision to foster accessibility to sanitation facilities, thereby ensuring regular school attendance among adolescent girls. These Pink Toilets, adorned in their eponymous color, stand as beacons of safety, privacy, and comfort exclusively for females. Equipped with sanitary pad dispensers, incinerators, running water, and more, they symbolize a dedicated space for women's needs. The selection of locations was a collaborative effort, ensuring the community's involvement and securing necessary resources to bring this vision to life. The impact was immediate and profound—improved attendance, reduced health risks, and an empowered female population ready to lead and inspire. The Pink Toilet initiative is not just about constructing facilities; it's about constructing futures, championing gender equity, and nurturing community development, making it a cornerstone of societal progress in Jammu and Kashmir.


DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEV. & PANCHAYATI RA
BLOCK-MARH
T.FLORA NAGBA
"PINK IS NO A COLOUR - IT S...
A CULT RE TO ME."
ONLY FO LADIES

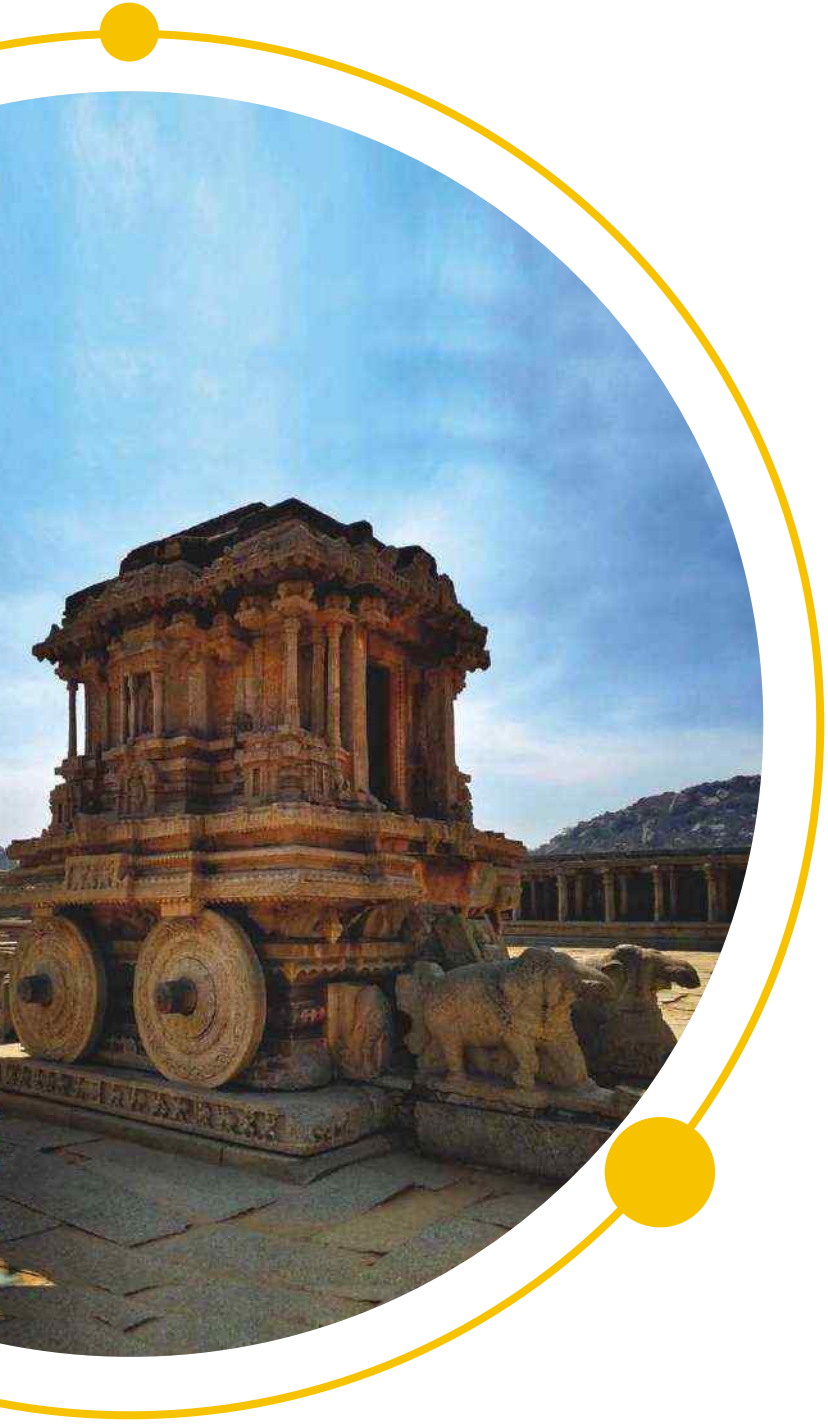

GPS Map Came
Goha, ,
4CG7+963, National Highway 1B, Goha, 182143
Lat 33.12588°
Long 75.413279°
12/12/23 12:39 PM GMT +05:30
Google

Green Steps in Budgam: Reinventing Waste Management

In the heart of Pethmakahama Block, District Budgam, a paradigm shift in solid waste management unfolds, setting a precedent for sustainability and community involvement. This narrative isn't just about disposing of waste efficiently; it's a story of meticulous planning, community engagement, and a relentless pursuit of improvement that transforms the mundane task of waste collection into a model of environmental stewardship. The waste management team, a group of dedicated individuals well-versed in the local topography, has turned route optimization and strategic planning into an art form, ensuring every doorstep in their jurisdiction is part of a cleaner tomorrow.

The essence of this transformation lies not only in the mechanics of collection but in the dynamics of teamwork, communication, and safety protocols that prioritize both the well-being of the team members and the community. By facing oncoming traffic in areas devoid of pavements and ensuring constant communication, they weave safety into the fabric of their daily routine. But the true magic happens in the interaction with the community—educational initiatives that encourage residents to segregate waste, fostering a collective responsibility towards a cleaner environment.

This ongoing dialogue between the waste management team and the community has cultivated a fertile ground for continuous improvement, making Pethmakahama Block a beacon of hope and a testament to the power of community-driven change in the realm of environmental sustainability.



The state has 31 districts

Principal language is Kannada

Karnataka

KARNATAKA

Karnataka, nestled in the southwestern part of India, is a vibrant tapestry of natural landscapes, historical richness, and technological innovation. Bordered by the Arabian Sea and several other states, it boasts a varied geography that includes serene beaches, lush forests of the Western Ghats, and bustling urban centers like Bengaluru, recognized globally as India's Silicon Valley. This diversity extends to its culture and people, where traditional festivals like Dasara in Mysore and the Hampi Utsav celebrate the state's historical and cultural heritage. Karnataka's linguistic diversity is anchored by Kannada, enriching its social fabric with a blend of customs and traditions from its sizeable population.

Economically, Karnataka is a juggernaut, led by its thriving IT industry, robust manufacturing sector, and significant contributions to agriculture, notably its coffee plantations in Kodagu. Bengaluru, as the epicenter of technology and innovation, propels the state's economy forward, complemented by efforts in renewable energy to ensure sustainable growth. The state's dedication to preserving its natural and historical sites, alongside infrastructural advancements, underscores a commitment to balancing progress with environmental and cultural conservation. Karnataka's unique combination of ancient heritage and modern dynamism positions it as a distinctive entity within India's mosaic, driving the nation's journey towards a harmonious blend of tradition and modernity.

PARIHARA: Pioneering Grievance Redressal in Rural Karnataka

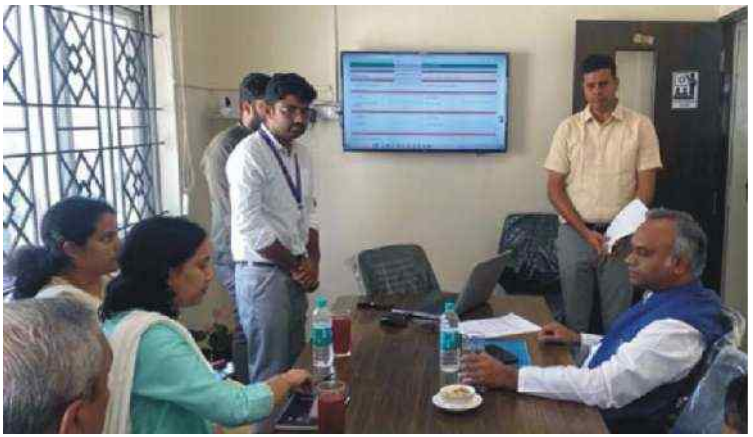
The Genesis of PARIHARA

Launched in March 2020 by the Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department (RDWSD) of Karnataka, the PARIHARA initiative emerged as a beacon of innovation in addressing the grievances of rural communities. This digital leap, rooted in the department's office in Bengaluru and later transitioning to a more centralized location near Nagarbhavi in November 2023, revolutionized the way grievances were handled, moving away from the traditional, sluggish postal communications to a real-time, efficient call center model.

Historically, rural residents faced significant barriers in lodging complaints, often deterred by the cumbersome process and prolonged response times. PARIHARA introduced a paradigm shift, offering multiple platforms—ranging from a dedicated helpline to social media channels—for grievance registration. This multifaceted approach ensured that every complaint was acknowledged with a unique number, simplifying tracking and follow-up processes.

Operational Excellence:The PARIHARA Call Center, operational daily from 6 am to 10 pm across two shifts, is staffed by a team of 10 call executives, a team leader, and a coordinator. This robust structure supports the helpline's mission to serve rural communities efficiently, managing an impressive average of 200 calls daily and registering approximately 900 complaints each month. To date, over 30,000 complaints have been successfully lodged, with a remarkable resolution rate showcasing the initiative's commitment to swift and effective service.

Adapting to Challenges: The initial challenge of handling the sheer volume of incoming calls with a limited staff led to a strategic expansion of the call center's operational hours and workforce. This adaptation not only increased the call



center's capacity but also extended its reach, ensuring that residents could access support well beyond traditional working hours.

Technology and Collaboration at the Core: A significant factor in PARIHARA's success is its technological backbone, supported by partnerships with Meru Info Solutions for infrastructure and KMDS for the development and maintenance of the PARIHARA portal. This synergy between governmental vision and technological expertise has enabled a seamless grievance redressal process, reinforcing the government's commitment to service excellence and accountability.

Aligned with the goals of the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM-G) and Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), PARIHARA has played a pivotal role in promoting sanitation and water management in rural Karnataka. The initiative's success in addressing grievances related to drinking water and sanitation has contributed significantly to Karnataka's strides towards achieving ODF Plus status, underscoring the critical role of efficient grievance redressal systems in advancing public health and hygiene.

Sustainability and Future Directions: PARIHARA stands as a testament to the transformative power of digital solutions in governance, particularly in enhancing the responsiveness and effectiveness of public services. With a solid foundation and a forward-looking approach, the initiative is poised for sustained impact, serving as a scalable model for other regions aiming to enhance rural grievance redressal mechanisms.

The journey of PARIHARA from its inception to becoming a cornerstone of Karnataka's rural governance model illuminates the path for innovative public service solutions. By prioritizing accessibility, efficiency, and stakeholder engagement, PARIHARA has not only addressed the immediate needs of the rural populace but has also laid the groundwork for a more inclusive, responsive, and sustainable governance framework.

Enhancing Sustainability through Innovation: The Nitte Gram Panchayat MRF Initiative

In the serene backdrop of Karkala, within the dynamic Udupi district of Karnataka, a groundbreaking project emerges, transforming the landscape of solid waste management. Spearheaded by the Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department of the Karnataka Government and meticulously overseen by the Zilla Panchayat Udupi, the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) at Nitte Gram Panchayat is a beacon of environmental innovation. Supported by the technical expertise of Saahas Zero Waste Pvt Ltd and the operational prowess of Mangala Resource Management Pvt Ltd, this

initiative seamlessly integrates 41 Gram Panchayats across Karkala, Udupi, Kaup, and Hebri into a cohesive waste management system.

The core of this initiative is the MRF center, crafted to process an impressive 10 tonnes of waste per day. It's a hub of activity where around 30 staff members, including sorters, balers, and administrative personnel, work in harmony. They ensure the efficient collection, segregation, and processing of waste, directing recyclables to proper channels and non-recyclables to cement factories for co-processing, thereby minimizing environmental impact.

However, the path to realization was paved with challenges, from securing suitable land to mobilizing the necessary funds amounting to Rs.300.10 lakh. Convincing Gram Panchayats to transition to this centralized system required significant effort and persuasion. The project's funding strategy was a tapestry of innovation, weaving together Rs.250 lakhs from the Swachh Bharat Mission (G) with additional funds from various government schemes and local contributions, showcasing a model of collaborative financing and stakeholder engagement.

This initiative has significantly increased waste collection rates from 1-2 tons to 4-5 tons daily, reducing waste dumping and littering. It has also transitioned from a negative to a revenue-neutral revenue model, enhancing public awareness about waste segregation and disposal. The MRF initiative has overcome the challenge of selling waste in the absence of local recyclers by aggregating waste for bulk sales at higher rates, thereby also addressing the logistical challenges of waste baling and disposal.

Looking forward, the initiative plans to extend its impact by constructing Plastic Waste Management Units, aiming to include 144 Gram Panchayats in the region. This expansion underscores the project's commitment to scaling up its successful model, demonstrating a sustainable path forward for waste management.

The Nitte Gram Panchayat MRF initiative embodies the essence of collaborative effort, technological innovation, and community participation. It stands as a testament to what can be achieved when government bodies, private organizations, and communities unite towards a common goal of environmental sustainability. This model not only enhances waste management practices but also sets a precedent for similar endeavors nationwide, marking a significant stride towards a cleaner, greener future.

The state has 14 districts

Principal language is Malayalam

Kerala

KERALA

Kerala, known as "God's Own Country," offers a captivating mix of natural beauty and cultural richness, making it a unique jewel in India's crown. The state's diverse geography spans serene backwaters, pristine beaches, and the lush Western Ghats, creating a picturesque setting that draws visitors from around the globe. Kerala's cultural landscape is just as varied, with traditional arts like Kathakali and Kalaripayattu, and festivals such as Onam and Vishu, reflecting the state's deep-rooted heritage. The Malayalam language enriches Kerala's literary and artistic expressions, adding to its vibrant cultural tapestry.

Economically, Kerala's approach prioritizes social welfare, education, and healthcare, contributing to its high human development indices. The economy is supported by remittances, robust tourism, and exports of tea, spices, and rubber. Kerala's commitment to sustainable development and ecotourism is evident in its efforts to preserve natural landscapes and biodiversity. With initiatives in renewable energy and conservation, Kerala exemplifies how environmental stewardship can coexist with cultural preservation and economic growth, setting a benchmark for balanced development in India.

The Renaissance of Adimaly: A Beacon for Sustainable Living

In the heart of Idukki's rolling hills, Adimaly Gram Panchayat's landscape was marred by unchecked waste, deterring its essence as a tourist haven and threatening the vitality of the Deviyar River. Recognizing the urgency, the Madhyamam Media Mission catalyzed a paradigm shift, not through critique but through constructive action, by initiating a seminar in collaboration with the District Suchitwa Mission. This pivotal moment in 2016 marked the inception of the 'Green Adimaly, Clean Deviyar' initiative, heralding a comprehensive approach to waste management.

The campaign was multifaceted, focusing on raising awareness, enforcing plastic bans, and instigating source-level waste segregation. Innovatively, WhatsApp groups were established for community surveillance, bolstered by incentives for reporting illegal dumping. Legislative measures mandated new constructions to incorporate waste management solutions, ensuring environmental considerations were ingrained in development plans.

The panchayat's strategies bore fruit, notably with the vigorous enforcement of single-use plastic bans and the subsidization of composting devices for households, promoting grassroots-level waste management. Community composting units and recycling facilities further exemplified Adimaly's commitment to sustainability, setting a precedent for waste management in the region.

Adimaly's transformation is a testament to the power of collective resolve and innovative governance in overcoming environmental challenges. By marrying traditional wisdom with modern technology, Adimaly has not only safeguarded its natural beauty but also become a model of sustainability, inspiring other communities to embark on their journey toward environmental stewardship.

Aryad's Eco-Revolution: A Model for Sustainable Waste Management

In the heart of Alappuzha district, Aryad Block emerges as a pioneering community in environmental stewardship, transforming its approach to waste management into a sustainable and replicable model. Spanning 6.87 square kilometers and home to 30,983 residents across 18 wards, Aryad has meticulously woven the ethos of sustainability into its fabric since the formation of Harithakarmasena on 1st November 2017. This determined group of 33 members, having undergone extensive training at the LSGD, Block, and Kudumbashree District Mission levels, has become the linchpin in Aryad's waste management strategy. Their efforts focus on servicing 7,855 households and 317 shops, fostering a community-wide commitment to environmental responsibility.

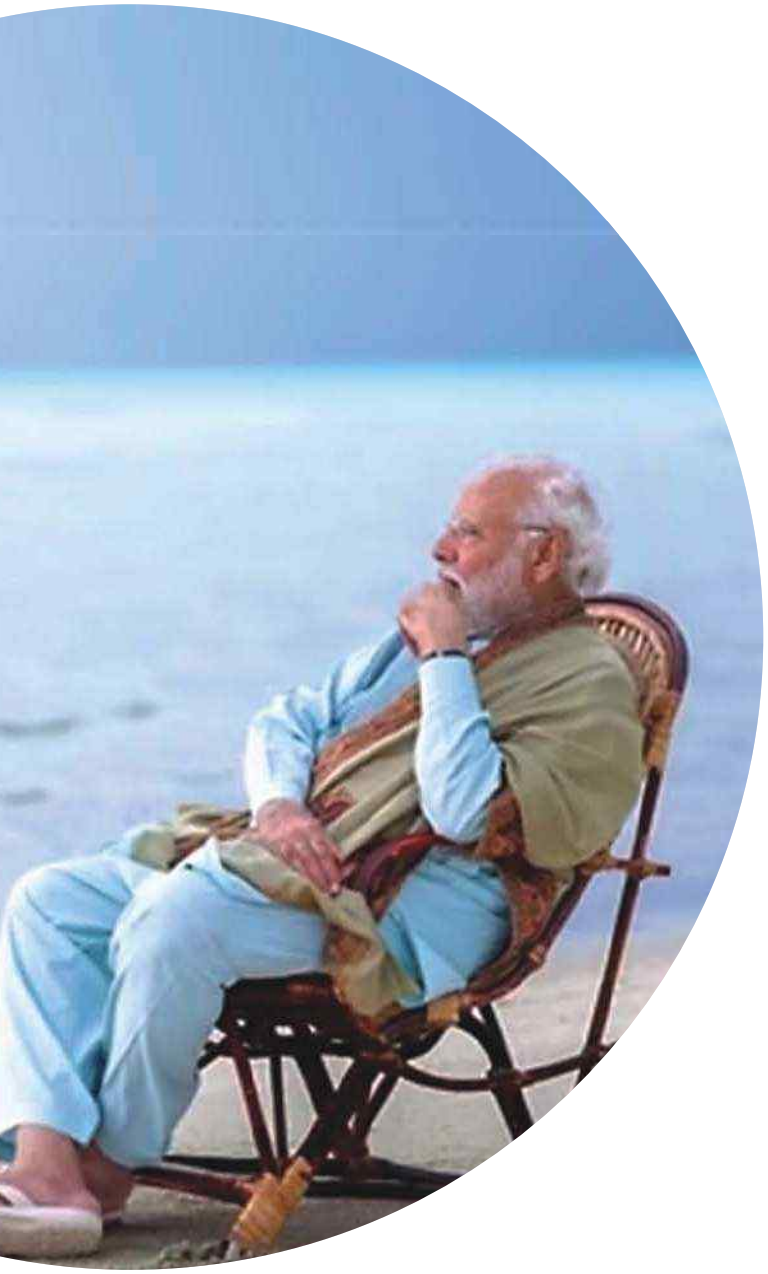
Financial Sustainability and Community Engagement: Central to Aryad's success is its innovative financial model, which encourages community participation through a nominal user fee of Rs. 50 per household and Rs. 100 for shops and establishments per month. This initiative not only cultivates a sense of ownership among residents but also generates a steady income to sustain the project, with monthly collections ranging from Rs. 376,000 to Rs. 386,450. Additional revenue streams from the sale of waste contribute Rs. 40,000 monthly, ensuring economic viability.

Innovative Waste Management Practices

Aryad's strategy encompasses comprehensive waste collection, transportation, segregation, and marketing, highlighted by the establishment of a shredding unit for plastic waste processing. Funded by Panchayat's Plan fund and the Suchitwa mission, this unit exemplifies Aryad's commitment to tackling plastic pollution by converting waste into valuable resources for road tarring, in collaboration with LSGD and PWD.The Haritha Mithram Mobile app marks a technological leap in Aryad's waste management efforts. By providing households and shops with QR-coded metal bins, the app simplifies waste collection, enabling Haritha Sena members to efficiently track and manage waste pickup. This system not only enhances operational efficiency but also fosters transparency and accountability within the community.

Best Practices and Community Impact: Aryad's approach is distinguished by its emphasis on best practices, including the active involvement of Harithakarmasena members in tax collection and the distribution of fertilizers and seedlings, raising awareness about waste segregation and composting. The introduction of the Haritha Mithram app and QR-coded bins represents a significant advancement in leveraging technology for environmental management.Despite facing challenges such as user fee collection and handling of non-collectable wastes, Aryad's journey offers valuable lessons in community engagement, financial modeling, and the integration of technology in environmental sustainability.

Aryad's journey from a conventional to an innovative waste management system is a testament to the power of community engagement, strategic planning, and technological innovation in creating sustainable ecosystems. As Aryad continues to evolve and refine its practices, it stands as a beacon of hope and a model for communities worldwide, demonstrating that sustainable waste management is not only possible but also beneficial for both the environment and the community at large.



The state has 1 district

Principal language is Malayalam

Lakshadweep

LAKSHADWEEP

Lakshadweep, India's smallest Union Territory, is an archipelago consisting of 36 islands, located off the southwestern coast of India in the Arabian Sea. This tropical paradise is renowned for its pristine beauty, characterized by white sandy beaches, crystal-clear turquoise waters, vibrant coral reefs, and lush coconut palms. The islands are not just a visual treat but also a haven for a diverse range of marine life, making them a popular destination for snorkeling, scuba diving, and water sports enthusiasts. Despite its geographical isolation, Lakshadweep maintains a unique cultural identity, with the majority of its population practicing Islam and speaking Malayalam and Mahl, which reflects the historical and cultural ties with the nearby Malabar Coast.

The economy of Lakshadweep is primarily based on agriculture, with coconut cultivation being the mainstay, alongside fishing which plays a crucial role in the livelihood of the islanders. Tourism, though regulated to protect the fragile ecosystem, contributes significantly to the local economy, offering a sustainable model that balances development with conservation. The islands' commitment to preserving their natural and cultural heritage is evident in the strict environmental regulations and the promotion of eco-friendly tourism practices. Despite its small size, Lakshadweep offers a unique glimpse into the beauty and challenges of island life, showcasing how communities can thrive while remaining committed to environmental stewardship and cultural preservation.

Lakshadweep's Journey to ODF and ODF+ Status

In a commendable stride towards environmental and public health improvement, the Union Territory of Lakshadweep achieved a significant milestone by being declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) on 7th July 2022 and subsequently reaching the ODF+ status on 12th November 2022. This achievement marks a pivotal moment in Lakshadweep's commitment to sanitation and hygiene, showcasing a collective effort to elevate living standards across its serene archipelago.

The journey to this accomplishment was marked by the active participation of all Gram Panchayats within the district, embodying a unified approach to eradicate open defecation. Through organized public events and gram sabha meetings, the community pledged to adopt and uphold sanitation practices, underscoring the initiative with a spirit of cooperation and dedication.

The path to ODF and ODF+ status involved rigorous verification processes and baseline surveys, ensuring compliance with the stringent criteria for sanitation excellence. The collective pledge taken by villages, coupled with the verification of sanitation practices, laid the groundwork for this notable achievement.

Following the diligent efforts of the community and the UTLA, Lakshadweep was not only recognized as an ODF district but also celebrated the declaration of achieving ODF+ status, highlighting the implementation of sustainable sanitation practices across all villages. This recognition was further solidified as each village attained the ODF plus model category in the IMIS portal of SBM(G) Phase-II, showcasing Lakshadweep's model of sanitation excellence.


Swachhata
Hi Seva
15 September-2October 2023
Garbage Free India
SWACHHATA MASS CLEANIN
AGATTI ISLAND LAKSHADWEEP

Lakshadweep's attainment of the ODF Certificate is a testament to the territory's unwavering commitment to improving public health and protecting the environment. It stands as a beacon of progress, inspiring other regions to embark on their own journeys towards sanitation and hygiene excellence. Lakshadweep's story is a reflection of what can be achieved with collective effort, determination, and a vision for a healthier, cleaner future.

Lakshadweep's Stride Towards a Cleaner Future

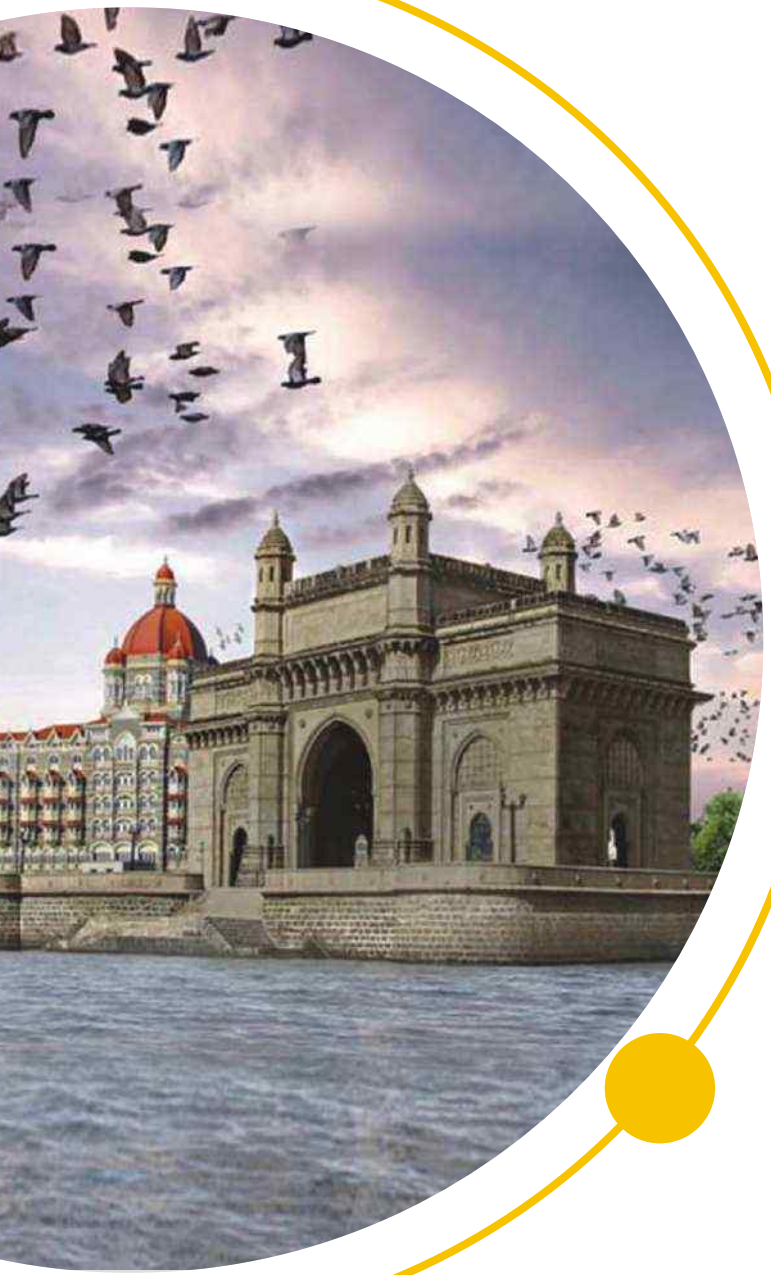
In Lakshadweep, an archipelago known for its idyllic beauty, a significant environmental initiative has been set in motion to address waste management across its islands. Recognizing the urgent need for sustainable practices, the local authorities embarked on a mission to ensure that the 11,574 households spread across this tropical paradise were equipped with waste bins for segregating dry and wet waste right from their homes.

To streamline the collection and disposal of segregated waste, the Panchayats introduced a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, facilitating door-to-door collection across all villages. This initiative marked a pivotal shift towards more efficient waste management, ensuring that the collected waste was then packed and transported to the mainland for recycling. The effort aimed not only at keeping the islands clean but also at minimizing the environmental footprint by recycling waste.

Leading by example, Kavaratti, Agatti, and Kadmat took the initiative to the next level by implementing packing and transportation mechanisms for solid and plastic waste, setting a benchmark for the other islands. The ongoing efforts in these islands showcase a commitment to environmental stewardship, with plans underway to extend these practices to the rest of the archipelago.

Moreover, the Mission Director of SBM(G) Lakshadweep has directed all Village Dweep Panchayats to conduct monthly 'shramadhan' cleaning activities. This initiative encourages the full participation of local stakeholders, fostering a sense of community and shared responsibility towards maintaining the islands' pristine condition.

Lakshadweep's journey towards waste management and environmental sustainability is a testament to the collective will of its residents and authorities. By adopting practical and innovative solutions, the islands are making strides towards a cleaner, greener future, ensuring that Lakshadweep remains a jewel of the Indian Ocean, cherished by its inhabitants and visitors alike.



The state has 36 districts

Principal language is Marathi

Maharashtra

MAHARASHTRA

Maharashtra, one of India's largest and most populous states, serves as a dynamic blend of tradition, modernity, and natural diversity. Located in the western part of the country, it is bordered by the Arabian Sea to the west and surrounded by Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Karnataka, and Goa. Maharashtra is a tapestry of vibrant cultures, languages, and traditions, with Marathi being the dominant language spoken by the local population. The state is renowned for its rich history, epitomized by majestic forts, ancient caves, and cultural festivals like Ganesh Chaturthi, which draw visitors and devotees from across the globe. Its capital, Mumbai, known as the financial capital of India, is a bustling metropolis famed for its skyscrapers, Bollywood film industry, and bustling markets.

The state's diverse geography encompasses everything from the pristine beaches along its coastline to the rugged hills of the Western Ghats, offering a plethora of natural attractions and wildlife. Maharashtra's economy is one of the strongest in the country, with a robust industrial sector, extensive agricultural lands, and a leading IT industry. It has also made significant strides in renewable energy, contributing to its sustainable development goals. The state's infrastructural development, including world-class roads, ports, and airports, facilitates not only economic growth but also enhances connectivity and accessibility. Maharashtra's blend of historical richness, cultural vibrancy, economic dynamism, and natural beauty makes it a microcosm of India's diversity and development, showcasing the potential for harmonious growth amidst diversity.

Parule Bazar's Triumph in Sustainability: A Model Village in Sindhudurg

Parule Bazar, a picturesque village nestled in the Vegarla taluka of Sindhudurg district, Maharashtra, has emerged as a paradigm of environmental sustainability and community participation. This gram panchayat, flanked by the endless sea on one side and the Sindhudurg airstrip on the other, houses 574 families, summing up to a population of 2233. Since its establishment in 1947, Parule Bazar has been a recipient of numerous accolades at the Central, State, and District levels, particularly during the Amrit Mahotsav year of Independence, highlighting its exemplary achievements in community-driven initiatives.

The village's journey towards environmental stewardship is marked by significant milestones. It has been honored with prestigious awards like the Nirmal Gram Award, the Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Empowerment Mission, and the Yashwant Panchayati Raj Award, accumulating approximately Rs 1.50 crore in awards. This financial boon has been strategically reinvested into the village's infrastructure, leading to the digitalization of schools and Anganwadi centers and ensuring gender-specific sanitation facilities, complete with menstrual hygiene management solutions.

A notable initiative to curb single-use plastic usage saw the introduction of an automatic cloth bag-making machine, promoting sustainable alternatives within the local market. The village's dedication to sanitation extends to every household, with individual toilets and public facilities for migrant families constructed, showcasing a comprehensive

पुढारी

एकाच दिवशी चार लाख सॅनिटरी पॅडचे वाटप

जि. प. चा 'वाण स्वच्छतेचे' उपक्रम

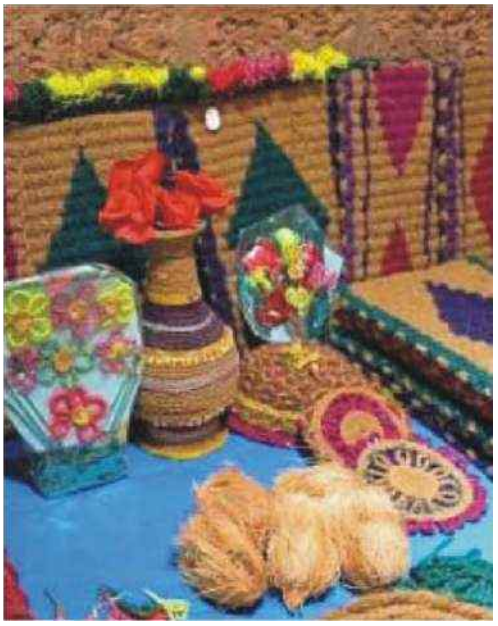
embrace of the Swachh Bharat Mission's ideals. Moreover, Parule Bazar has taken significant strides in waste management. Through the establishment of compost pits managed by women's Self Help Groups (SHGs), organic waste is now transformed into compost for local plantations. The village has also ventured into the coir industry, creating employment opportunities by converting waste from arecanut and coconut groves into marketable products.

Water management is another area where Parule Bazar shines. Implementing the Jal Jeevan Mission, the village guarantees a clean and regular water supply to every household, evidenced by the installation of water meters and the villagers' admirable commitment to paying their water bills in full. The gram panchayat's initiative for wastewater management recycles water for horticultural use, alongside building concrete and earthen dams to enhance water conservation efforts.

The regular collection of garbage from households and the strategic placement of dustbins ensure that Parule Bazar maintains its cleanliness and visual appeal. These efforts, driven by the Sarpanch's leadership and robust community participation, have rightfully earned Parule Bazar the status of a model village in Sindhudurg district. Parule Bazar stands as a testament to what can be achieved when a community comes together to champion sustainability and environmental consciousness.

Sindhudurg's Utkarsha Program: Pioneering Menstrual Waste Management

In the verdant landscapes of Maharashtra, Sindhudurg district has emerged as a beacon of progressive change, particularly in the realm of menstrual waste management. Under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural), Sindhudurg proudly became the first ODF Plus district in Maharashtra, with the Zilla Parishad spearheading the 'Utkarsha' program. This initiative, led by the Chief Executive Officer of the Zilla Parishad, aimed at fostering self-reliance and promoting personal hygiene among teenagers from 6th to 12th grades, marking a significant step forward in addressing menstrual cycle management.



The Utkarsha program, named and announced by Utkarsh Kishore and Vikas Sindhudurg, expanded its reach to include out-of-school teenagers, reflecting a comprehensive approach to menstrual health. With concerted efforts, the program saw the convergence of various departments including Women and Child Welfare, District Rural Development, Education, and Health. A commendable achievement of this initiative was the health check-up of 41,595 adolescent girls, identifying and providing medical support to those with low hemoglobin levels.

Central to Utkarsha's success was the widespread dissemination of information on menstrual management through educational films, workshops, and training sessions, aimed at dispelling myths and instilling knowledge about menstrual hygiene. The program facilitated the opening of bank accounts and insurance for teenagers, and the Education Department integrated menstrual cycle education into the curriculum at primary and secondary levels.

A notable innovation was the selection of a female teacher from every school to lead menstrual health education, supported by 800 master trainers trained by UNICEF. The initiative also focused on infrastructural improvements, establishing changing rooms in schools and installing sanitary pad vending machines in educational institutions and gram panchayat premises. Moreover, the campaign distributed over 402,242 sanitary napkins to 66,707 women, significantly increasing menstrual hygiene awareness.

The Utkarsha campaign's first phase culminated in a survey of approximately 1 lakh women and adolescent girls, revealing a heightened awareness and use of sanitary pads among rural communities. Motivated by these achievements, the district committee is now embarking on the second phase of Utkarsha, with an enhanced focus on sanitary waste management and disposal awareness at Anganwadi centers, schools, and healthcare facilities.

Sindhudurg's Utkarsha program stands as a testament to the district's commitment to menstrual waste management, exemplifying a holistic and multifaceted approach to enhancing menstrual hygiene and environmental sustainability under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural).

The state has 16 districts

Principal language is Manipuri

Manipur

MANIPUR

Manipur, nestled in the Eastern Himalayas of Northeast India, is a state distinguished by its ethereal landscapes and rich cultural heritage. Surrounded by Nagaland, Mizoram, Assam, and Myanmar, its secluded location has fostered a unique blend of cultures, including the Meitei, tribal communities, and other ethnic groups, each enriching the state's mosaic of traditions. Manipur is globally recognized for its classical dance, Manipuri, and as the cradle of modern polo. The state's vibrant history and traditions, alongside festivals and the iconic all-women's market, Ima Keithel, reflect a society that celebrates diversity, artistry, and female empowerment.

The economy of Manipur is predominantly agrarian, with handloom and handicraft sectors notable for their exquisite craftsmanship. Natural attractions like the Loktak Lake and lush landscapes hold vast eco-tourism and adventure tourism potential. Despite its challenges, Manipur is advancing in infrastructure, aiming to bolster connectivity and economic growth while preserving its environmental and cultural assets. This approach underscores Manipur's endeavor to harmonize its ancient traditions with modern development, illustrating the state's dynamic spirit and the rich tapestry of India's northeastern region.

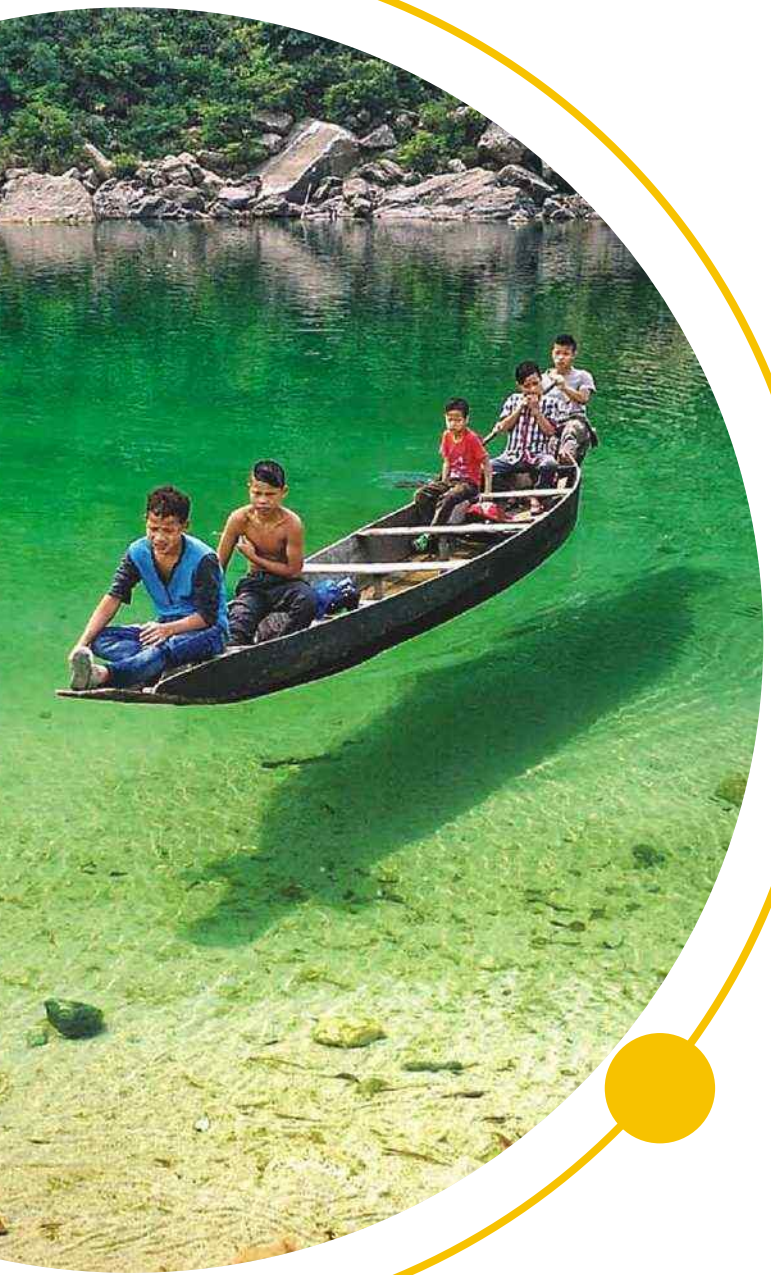
Phayeng Village's Journey to Carbon Positivity

Phayeng, a village in the Imphal West District of Manipur, is encircled by lush hillocks and enriched by diverse fruit trees, illustrating a picturesque setting where nature thrives alongside human habitation. This village has garnered attention not just for its scenic beauty but for its exemplary commitment to environmental sustainability, earning the title of India's first carbon-positive settlement.

Leadership in Phayeng, particularly from the Pradhan, has been instrumental in embedding a culture of cleanliness that spans generations. The village organizes bi-monthly cleanliness drives that see active participation from all age groups, including young children starting from Class I. This practice has helped instill a deep-rooted sense of responsibility towards maintaining cleanliness and preserving the natural environment.

Over the last decade, Phayeng's collaboration with the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) has catalyzed significant infrastructural developments. These include the construction of well-maintained roads that enhance connectivity, access to clean drinking water for all households, and the installation of an efficient drainage system to promote hygiene and prevent water-borne diseases. A standout feature of Phayeng's approach to sanitation is the universal installation of hygienic toilets in every household, ensuring the health and well-being of the community. Additionally, the village has adopted rigorous waste management practices, with a focus on segregating bio-degradable from non-biodegradable waste. This segregation is facilitated by a dedicated Solid Waste Management Plant, which plays a critical role in Phayeng's waste management strategy.

The concerted efforts in waste management, along with the village's commitment to maintaining cleanliness and enhancing green cover, have been pivotal in achieving carbon positivity. This distinction not only reflects Phayeng's environmental achievements but also sets a benchmark for other communities aiming for sustainability.Phayeng's story is a testament to the power of community engagement, effective leadership, and collaborative efforts with government bodies in achieving remarkable environmental goals. The village's journey offers valuable insights into how traditional practices, when aligned with modern environmental strategies, can lead to sustainable living and a healthier planet.



The state has 12 districts

Principal language is Khasi, Garo with English

Meghalaya

MEGHALAYA

Meghalaya, the "abode of clouds" in Northeast India, captivates with its breathtaking landscapes, from lush hills and dense forests to the remarkable Nohkalikai Falls, one of India's tallest waterfalls. Its unique living root bridges, crafted by the Khasi and Jaintia peoples, showcase an ancient tradition of bioengineering, harmonizing human existence with nature. The state's rich cultural fabric is woven from the traditions of its major tribes—the Khasi, Garo, and Jaintia—each celebrating a matrilineal society, vibrant festivals, and a deep connection to music and nature, reflecting a distinct way of life that has flourished in this region.

Agriculture dominates Meghalaya's economy, leveraging the abundant rainfall to support rain-fed farming and horticulture, making it a key player in the state's sustenance and economic structure. Additionally, its natural beauty and cultural richness fuel a growing tourism sector, drawing visitors for eco-tourism and adventure sports, while community-led conservation efforts underscore a commitment to sustainable development. Meghalaya exemplifies how economic growth and environmental preservation can coexist, offering insights into sustainable living practices rooted in traditional knowledge and respect for the natural world, making it a unique gem in India's diverse landscape.

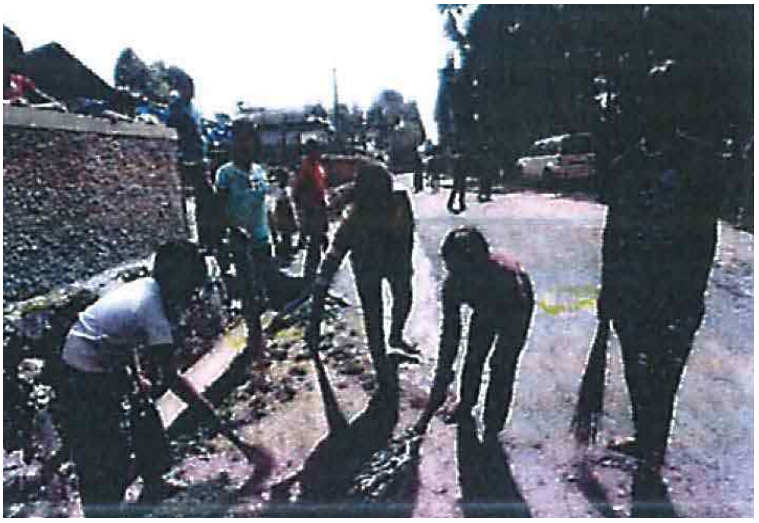
Umthli Village: A Beacon of Cleanliness in Meghalaya

Nestled in the East Khasi Hills District of Meghalaya, Umthli Village stands as a testament to the community's commitment to environmental stewardship and sanitation. Home to approximately 303 households and a population of 1697 people from the Khasi Tribe, this village has harmoniously blended traditional livelihoods like farming and vegetation with modern sustainability practices.

Umthli Village has earned the reputation of being exceptionally clean, a distinction deeply rooted in the local culture. The innate practice of maintaining cleanliness in one’s surroundings has been pivotal in achieving this status. The village’s journey towards becoming an Open Defecation Free (ODF) Village marks a significant milestone in its commitment to sanitation. In 2015-16, under the Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin, Meghalaya, Umthli was sanctioned the construction of 161 Individual Household Latrines (IHHL) at the cost of Rs 12,000 per IHHL. This initiative culminated in the village being declared ODF on 29th December 2017.

Although not officially declared an ODF Plus village, Umthli embodies the criteria through its sustained cleanliness, effective solid and liquid waste management, and visually clean environment. The village is characterized by its litter and liquid waste-free ambiance, with waste baskets strategically placed along roadsides and footpaths. Additionally, well-constructed side drains and stormwater drains, funded by MNREGA, further enhance the village's sanitation infrastructure.

A key to maintaining this level of cleanliness is the weekly cleaning routine organized by the Village Durbar's Executive Committee. Every Saturday, residents come together for an hour starting at 7 am to clean the village, a practice overseen by the local women's organization. This initiative sees broad participation from the community, including children, who are taught the importance of minimal waste littering and the proper disposal of waste.



The success of Umthli Village's cleanliness and sanitation efforts can be attributed to the integrity and leadership of the Village Durbar and the Headman. Their ability to inspire voluntary participation among the villagers has been crucial in maintaining and enhancing the village's status as a model of cleanliness and sustainability.

Umthli Village not only stands as a beacon of cleanliness in Meghalaya but also serves as an inspiring example for communities nationwide, showcasing the power of collective action and cultural values in achieving environmental and sanitation goals.

Nongthymmai Lumthangding Village: A Journey Towards Sustainable Sanitation

Nestled in the East Khasi Hills District of Meghalaya, Nongthymmai Lumthangding Village is a vibrant community with 370 households and a population of 1950, primarily belonging to the Khasi Tribe. Agriculture forms the backbone of the village's economy, supplemented by work under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) among other activities.

In a significant step towards sanitation and hygiene, Nongthymmai Lumthangding embraced the Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin, Meghalaya. The village was sanctioned the construction of 46 Individual Household Latrines (IHHL) at Rs 12,000 per IHHL during 2014-15. This initiative was pivotal in transforming the village into an Open Defecation Free (ODF) community, a status officially declared on 29th December 2017.

The village's journey didn't stop at achieving ODF status. In 2018-19, it received sanctions for Solid and Liquid Waste

Management (SLWM) works. Despite initial resistance from a few households skeptical about the viability of proposed SLWM models, the village leadership undertook rigorous awareness and capacity-building programmes. These efforts were aimed at addressing concerns and fostering a collective commitment to environmental sustainability. A village meeting held on 1st July 2022 marked a turning point, with a resolution passed to complete all pending SLWM works in a timely manner. Today, Nongthymmai Lumthangding is on the cusp of becoming an Open Defecation Free Plus (ODF Plus) village setting a benchmark for neighboring communities.

Cleanliness is a deeply ingrained value in Nongthymmai Lumthangding, with every household taking pride in maintaining their backyards and surroundings. The Village Durbar organizes regular cleaning drives, witnessing enthusiastic participation from the community. This collective effort underscores the village's commitment to maintaining its cleanliness and natural beauty.

Additionally, Nongthymmai Lumthangding has been recognized as a Certified Har Ghar Jal Village, highlighting its achievements in providing clean water to every household. The village's progress towards attaining ODF Plus status will further elevate it as a model of integrated water and sanitation management.

Nongthymmai Lumthangding Village exemplifies how traditional values, when combined with modern sanitation initiatives, can lead to a sustainable and healthy living environment. As it moves towards ODF Plus status from the current ODF plus aspiring, the village stands as a testament to the power of community engagement, leadership, and the unwavering pursuit of environmental stewardship.

The state has 12 districts

Principal language is Khasi, Garo with English

Mizoram

MIZORAM

Mizoram, in the southern reaches of Northeast India, offers a landscape of lush hills, deep valleys, and rich bamboo forests, embodying the essence of its name, "Land of the Hill People." This state, bordered by other Indian states and neighboring countries, showcases a mosaic of cultural and ethnic diversity, primarily defined by the Mizo people. Their vibrant traditions, languages, and festivals, such as Chapchar Kut and Mim Kut, celebrate the community's deep connection to music, dance, and the natural world, crafting a unique cultural identity that is both rich and diverse.

The state's economy leans heavily on agriculture and forestry, with traditional jhum cultivation giving way to more sustainable practices. Mizoram's abundant bamboo resources fuel both the economy and ecological conservation efforts, supporting a growing bamboo industry. Meanwhile, its untouched natural beauty and cultural richness present untapped potential for tourism development. Mizoram's journey towards sustainable development emphasizes ecological preservation and cultural integrity, showcasing a model of balanced growth that respects both cultural heritage and the natural environment in India's northeastern region.

Transforming Maite Village through SBM-G Initiative

Situated in the Saitual District, 35km from its district capital, Maite village is a vibrant community of around 230 households and 1,260 residents. Before SBM-G, Maite was much like many other remote villages, with limited progress in terms of cleanliness and waste management. However, the arrival of SBM-G initiatives marked a significant turning point in the village's developmental journey, bringing about substantial improvements across the board. The collaboration between the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) of Saitual District and the officials of Maite Village has been instrumental in enhancing the well-being of its people. A notable achievement of this partnership was the installation of a comprehensive pipeline network for grey water management in every home, significantly boosting the village's sanitation infrastructure. Further embracing sustainable waste management practices, the villagers learned to efficiently separate decomposable from non-decomposable wastes. This was facilitated by the introduction of community compost pits and segregation sets, fostering a culture of environmental responsibility within the community.

The Waste and Sanitation (WATSAN) committee played a crucial role in mobilizing the village towards better waste management. By encouraging every family to contribute financially, the village was able to hire a garbage truck for the regular collection of waste from strategically placed sanitary points.

Marking a milestone in its sanitation journey, Maite was declared an Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus village on the 26th of October, 2023. This achievement was not just about eliminating open defecation but also about establishing a solid foundation for solid and liquid waste management. Maite now prides itself on having multiple community compost pits, soak pits, and segregation sheds, which were previously nonexistent.

The transformation of Maite into an ODF Plus village under the SBM-G initiative is a story of remarkable progress and collective effort. It serves as an inspiring example of how targeted governmental programs, combined with community engagement and effective leadership, can significantly improve rural sanitation and hygiene. Maite's journey from minimal development to becoming a model of cleanliness and waste management stands as a beacon of hope for similar communities striving for sustainable sanitation solutions.

The state has 55 districts

Principal language is Hindi

Madhya Pradesh

MADHYA PRADESH

Madhya Pradesh, often referred to as the heart of India, is a state that boasts a rich tapestry of history, culture, and natural beauty. Located in the central part of the country, it is surrounded by five other states, making it a pivotal geographical and cultural hub. The state is renowned for its diverse landscapes, which range from dense forests and scenic river valleys to rugged hills and vast plateaus. Madhya Pradesh's natural splendor is complemented by its wildlife sanctuaries and national parks, such as Bandhavgarh, Kanha, and Pench, which are among the best places in India to see tigers in their natural habitat.

The cultural heritage of Madhya Pradesh is equally captivating, with a history that stretches back to ancient times. The state is home to the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Khajuraho, with its exquisite temple sculptures, and the Buddhist monuments at Sanchi. The vibrant traditions of the local tribes, such as the Gonds and Bhils, add to the state's cultural diversity, celebrated through festivals, art, and music. Madhya Pradesh's economy is multifaceted, with agriculture playing a significant role, alongside industries like mining, manufacturing, and textiles. The state is also making strides in tourism, leveraging its historical sites, natural beauty, and cultural richness to attract visitors from across the globe. Madhya Pradesh's blend of ancient heritage and natural wonders, coupled with its commitment to conservation and sustainable development, makes it a unique and fascinating part of India's mosaic.

Transforming Waste into Wealth: FSTP Kalibilod's Journey

In the heart of Madhya Pradesh, the Feacal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP) in Kalibilod, Indore district, emerges as a beacon of sustainable innovation. This initiative, a collaboration between the State Swachh Bharat Mission and WaterAid, has revolutionized faecal sludge management in rural areas. Spanning 0.3 acres and designed to serve a population of 45,870, the FSTP in Kalibilod not only addresses sanitation challenges but has also morphed into a profitable venture for the local Gram Panchayat.

Overcoming Challenges with Smart Solutions: The journey to success was met with its fair share of challenges, notably the high fees charged by private desludging operators. The Gram Panchayat's strategic response—acquiring its own desludging vehicle—turned the tide. This pivotal move slashed operational costs and laid the groundwork for the plant's financial sustainability. Charging reasonable fees for septic tank desludging and introducing a jetting system for clearing choked sewer lines further cemented the FSTP's role as a vital community asset.

Innovative Revenue Streams: Beyond basic services, the Gram Panchayat ventured into aquaculture by introducing fish culture in the FSTP's polishing pond. This ingenious approach not only adds a revenue stream but exemplifies a sustainable use of treated water, contributing positively to the local economy and environmental conservation.

The ambition didn't stop there. The FSTP is now on the brink of commercializing its manure, pending thorough testing and certification by government authorities. This step towards product commercialization highlights the project's commitment to a circular economy, turning waste treatment by-products into marketable goods.

Empowering the Community The transformation of the FSTP Kalibilod into a thriving business model is a tale of community empowerment and sustainable development. This initiative has inspired other regions by demonstrating the potential of sanitation projects to generate revenue, thereby reinvesting in local sanitation infrastructure and expanding the model's reach.

FSTP Kalibilod stands as a testament to how strategic planning, community engagement, and innovative thinking can transform sanitation challenges into economic opportunities. This project not only enhances the well-being of the Kalibilod community but also serves as a model for waste-to-wealth initiatives nationwide, proving that with the right approach, waste can indeed be transformed into wealth.

Comic for Change: A Creative Leap in Sanitation Awareness in Madhya Pradesh

In the heart of India, Madhya Pradesh has embarked on an innovative journey to bolster sanitation and hygiene awareness through a unique initiative called "Comic for Change." This collaborative effort between the State Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin II (SBMG-II) and UNICEF in Bhopal district harnesses the power of comics to foster dialogue on health, hygiene, and environmental conservation.

Background and Implementation: Madhya Pradesh, striving to meet the goals of SBMG-II, has seen remarkable success, achieving 90% of its target for Open Defecation Free (ODF) plus villages. Recognizing the importance of Social Behaviour Communication in sustaining these achievements, "Comic for Change" was born. The initiative involved training girls from a management college as master trainers, who then led interventions at the village level, particularly in Nipaniya Sukha Gram Panchayat.

The "Comics for Change" (C4C) campaign is grounded in Bandura's social learning model, emphasizing the influence of observing and imitating positive behaviors. Through a three-day workshop, stakeholders including students, teachers, and community members, come together to create comics that address local sanitation and hygiene issues. This method proved to be an accessible and engaging way to discuss topics such as solid and liquid waste management, water conservation, and menstrual hygiene management.

Engagement and Outcomes: The campaign successfully trained over 150 students as master trainers, who then facilitated workshops for around 700 school children from five villages. These workshops not only educated the participants on various environmental themes but also equipped them with the skills to create impactful comics. The resulting comics, filled with local narratives and humor, were displayed across the community, sparking discussions and raising awareness on critical sanitation issues.

The success of "Comic for Change" has set the stage for broader engagement, with the campaign extending to fine arts colleges and integrating various art forms under the "Art for Change" initiative. This expansion aims to continue leveraging local talents and creativity to foster community-wide dialogue and action on sanitation and environmental sustainability.

"Comic for Change" stands as a testament to Madhya Pradesh's innovative approach to achieving sanitation goals. By turning waste management and hygiene practices into engaging comic narratives, the initiative has made significant strides in community education and empowerment. It symbolizes a promising path forward, where creativity and local engagement can lead to lasting behavioral change and improved public health outcomes.

The state has 16 districts

Principal language is English and Nagamese

Nagaland

NAGALAND

Nagaland, nestled in the northeastern region of India, is a captivating state with a rich tapestry of culture, tradition, and natural beauty. Known for its vibrant indigenous communities, Nagaland is home to various Naga tribes, each contributing to the state's diverse heritage. The capital city, Kohima, serves as a cultural hub, encapsulating the essence of Naga traditions through its festivals, arts, and crafts.

Draped in lush greenery, Nagaland's picturesque landscapes include rolling hills, dense forests, and cascading waterfalls, creating a stunning backdrop for its unique cultural mosaic. The state's cuisine, featuring delectable Naga delicacies, adds a flavorful dimension to the overall experience. As Nagaland continues to preserve its distinct identity, visitors are welcomed with warmth and openness, offering a glimpse into a world where tradition and modernity coexist harmoniously.

Khonoma's Triumph: Journey to ODF Plus Excellence

In the hills of Nagaland, 20km from Kohima, Khonoma village, once a stronghold against British colonialism, stands as a testament to resilience. With roots tracing back over 500 years, this Naga Angami Tribe settlement has evolved into a beacon of cleanliness and sustainability.

ODF Plus Milestone: From achieving Open Defecation Free (ODF) status in 2018 to pursuing ODF Plus, Khonoma is on the cusp of another milestone. The village's commitment to sanitation and hygiene is unwavering, reflected in its 3511 residents spread across 795 households.

Asia's First Green Village: In 2005, Khonoma made history by becoming Asia's first Green Village. Today, it sustains its green legacy, radiating a clean and pleasing environment.

Conservation and Transformation: Khonoma has seamlessly integrated solid waste management, with dustbins dotting streets and a meticulous drainage system channeling wastewater to the riverside, showcasing a commitment to conservation.

Students Union: Guardians of Cleanliness: The Khonoma Students Union takes centre stage, conducting monthly social work to maintain total sanitation. They oversee public and individual toilets, ensuring daily usage, waste segregation, and organizing cleanliness competitions.

Plastic-Free Paradise: In recent years, the Village Council banned Single Use Plastic, transforming Khonoma into a landscape covered in broad greenery and vibrant flowers—a testament to a community's dedication to preserving its pristine surroundings.

Khonoma's story isn't just about resisting colonial rule; it's a narrative of evolution and excellence, where each resident is a guardian of their village's legacy.


WELCOME


NAGALAND

Harmony in Hygiene: Lower GailiNamdi's Odyssey Towards Sustainable Sanitation

In the verdant hills of Nagaland's Peren district lies Lower GailiNamdi village, where a story of community resilience and commitment to cleanliness unfolds. Once grappling with the challenges of open defecation, this village of 155 households embarked on a transformative journey towards ODF status in 2017-2018. But their quest for sanitation excellence didn't stop there; it was just the beginning.

Fuelled by a collective desire for progress, the villagers of Lower GailiNamdi immersed themselves in a flurry of activities aimed at elevating their sanitation standards to new heights. Through lively workshops and engaging seminars, they delved deep into the nuances of Solid and Liquid Waste Management, painting vibrant hoarding boards and murals to spread the message of cleanliness far and wide.

With each passing day, the village evolved, weaving innovative solutions into their daily lives. From the establishment of clean toilet facilities in the local primary school to the meticulous management of biodegradable waste at the household level, Lower GailiNamdi became a beacon of sustainable practices. Greywater flowed seamlessly into kitchen gardens, nurturing lush vegetation, while twin pit technology revolutionized faecal sludge management, paving the way for a cleaner, healthier environment.

But the village's commitment didn't end there. With unwavering determination, they tackled the menace of plastic waste head-on, organizing awareness campaigns and monthly cleaning drives to rid their surroundings of litter. As the village council rallied its residents to uphold their promise of cleanliness, Lower GailiNamdi emerged as a shining example of community-driven change. With every dustbin placed on the roadside and every traditional well meticulously maintained, the villagers of Lower GailiNamdi showcased their unwavering dedication to harmony in hygiene, inspiring neighboring communities to follow suit. And so, amidst the serene hills of Nagaland, Lower GailiNamdi's odyssey towards sustainable sanitation continues, a testament to the power of collective action and the promise of a brighter, cleaner future for all.

The state has 30 districts

Principal language is Odia

Odisha

ODISHA

Odisha, situated on India's eastern coast, is a vibrant blend of natural wonders and cultural richness. With its borders touching West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Andhra Pradesh, and a vast coastline along the Bay of Bengal, the state boasts diverse landscapes from pristine beaches and serene lakes to lush forests and the majestic Eastern Ghats. Noteworthy for its biodiversity, Odisha is home to several wildlife sanctuaries and national parks, such as Bhitarkanika and Simlipal, making it a sanctuary for nature and wildlife enthusiasts. The state's fertile plains and river valleys further enrich its natural diversity, supporting a variety of flora and fauna.

Odisha's cultural heritage is profound, hosting ancient traditions and architectural marvels, including the Sun Temple at Konark, a testament to the state's historical architectural excellence. The traditional dance form, Odissi, represents one of India's classical dance heritages, embodying the state's artistic spirit. Festivals like the Rath Yatra in Puri highlight Odisha's spiritual and cultural vibrancy, attracting global attention. The economy, while rooted in agriculture, also embraces industry, mining, and a rich tradition of handicrafts, showcasing the local artisans' skills. Odisha's dedication to conserving its natural and cultural treasures, combined with its pursuit of sustainable development, makes it a distinctive region within India, offering a rich tapestry of experiences that weave together its environmental beauty and cultural legacy.

"Aama Sundargarh, Swachh Sundargarh": Empowering Women and Revitalizing the Environment

In the scenic district of Sundargarh, Odisha, a remarkable initiative titled "Aama Sundargarh, Swachh Sundargarh" has emerged as a testament to the synergy between women empowerment and environmental conservation. This initiative, a collaborative effort spearheaded by the Sundargarh district administration alongside UNICEF and supported by the 15th Finance Commission, District Mineral Fund, and RURBAN, aligns with the goals of Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G) Phase II. It marks a significant stride towards developing an integrated model for managing solid waste, including plastic waste, in the rural and peri-urban sectors of Sundargarh.

Strategic Development and Implementation: Initially launched as a pilot across 251 villages in 52 Gram Panchayats (GPs) of 17 blocks, the project expanded to cover all 279 GPs by March 2022. This expansion aimed to establish a scientific, self-sustainable waste management model that not only promotes cleanliness but also empowers Self-Help Group (SHG) members by generating revenue.

The initiative sought to reduce the use of single-use plastics, manage plastic waste effectively, and instill the practice of the "4 Rs of Waste Management" – Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle – at the household level. Key objectives included providing technical support, establishing collection and storage centers, promoting local entrepreneurs for waste minimization, ensuring social security, and fostering sustainable waste management practices.

A Thoughtful Approach to Sustainability: The success of "Aama Sundargarh, Swachh Sundargarh" hinged on meticulous

planning and execution. Households were trained to segregate waste into dry and wet categories, fostering a culture of segregation at the source. Awareness campaigns highlighted the detrimental effects of single-use plastics, while Swachhta Sathis played a pivotal role in collecting and transporting waste to the segregation shed in each GP. This initiative also established forward linkages with local recyclers and industries, ensuring the efficient use of collected plastic waste.

Achievements and Community Impact: The initiative has profoundly impacted Sundargarh, benefiting over 3.63 lakh households and 5031 Schools and Anganwadi Centres. It has established a comprehensive waste management model from source segregation to district-level processing, significantly reducing carbon emissions and improving community health and cleanliness. Additionally, the project has provided livelihood opportunities for approximately 557 Swachhta Sathis.

Overcoming Challenges and Looking Forward: While implementing this pioneering project in rural Odisha presented challenges, particularly in changing social and behavioral attitudes towards waste management, its women-led entrepreneurship model offers a scalable and replicable framework. The initiative's success in integrating various government schemes and fostering a self-sustainable business model in a government setup speaks to its potential for future replication.

"Aama Sundargarh, Swachh Sundargarh" stands as a beacon of innovative governance, where environmental rejuvenation and women's empowerment converge. This initiative not only addresses the pressing issue of waste management but also sets a precedent for sustainable development through community engagement and empowerment.

Rural-Urban Convergence: A Pioneering Approach to Faecal Sludge Management in Odisha

Odisha has taken a groundbreaking step in addressing the environmental and health challenges posed by inadequate faecal sludge management (FSM) through the innovative Rural-Urban Convergence approach. This initiative, supported by UNICEF, brings together the Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water (PR&DW) Department and the Housing & Urban Development (H&UD) Department in a formal agreement to leverage urban infrastructure for the benefit of rural sanitation needs.

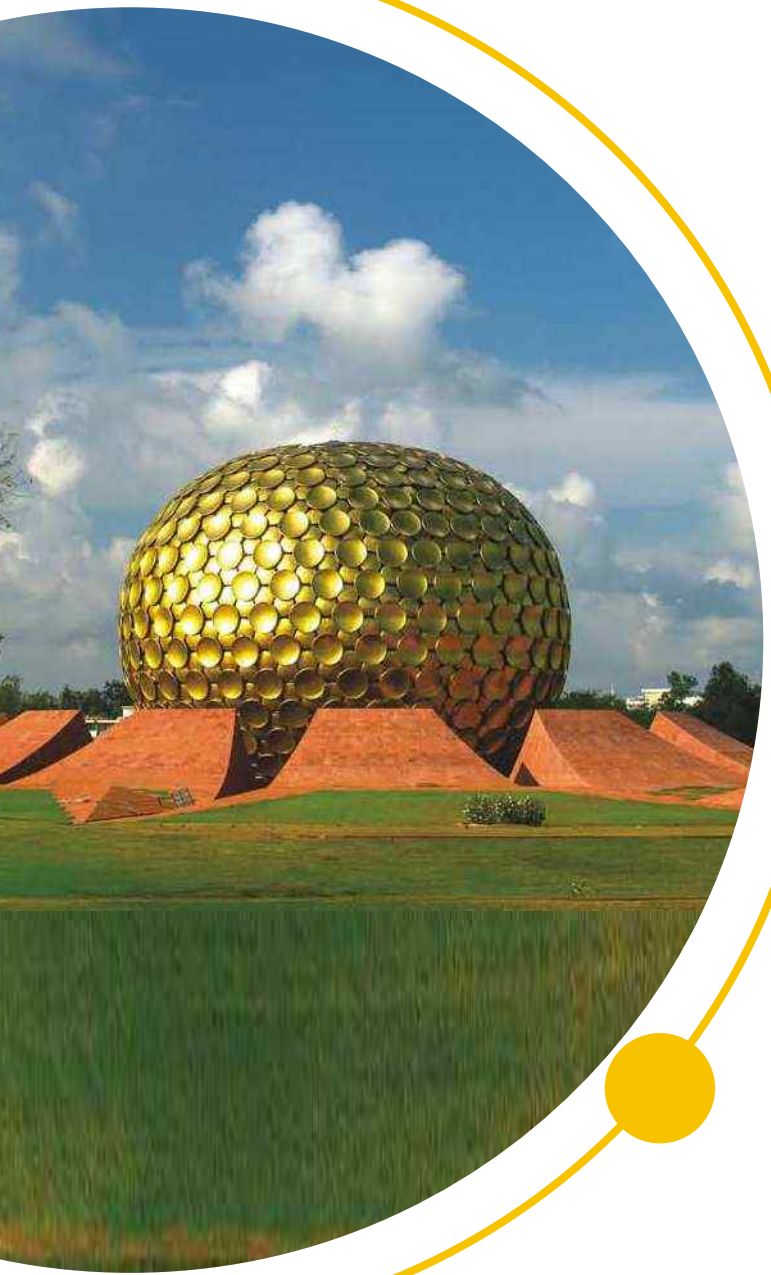
A Trailblazing Start in Dhenkanal: The journey began in 2019 in Dhenkanal municipality, marking a significant milestone as the first smaller town in India to extend its 27 KLD gravity-based Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP) services to neighboring Gram Panchayats (GPs). This pilot project laid the foundation for a statewide expansion, where GPs within a 20km radius of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) were systematically integrated with urban FSTPs.

Strategic Expansion and Institutional Strengthening: In May 2021, the convergence received a further boost with joint directives issued by the PR&DW and H&UD Departments. The initiative saw the augmentation of treatment capacities in urban FSTPs and the provision of additional cesspool vehicles for rural areas, utilizing Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBMG) funds tailored to the needs of individual ULBs. To ensure effective governance, state-level and district-level steering committees were established, fostering a robust institutional framework for FSM in Odisha.

Community Involvement and Capacity Building: A noteworthy aspect of this model is the management and operation of FSTPs by local Self-Help Groups (SHGs) or Area Level Federations (ALFs), inclusive of transgender community members. These groups receive specialized training for the operation and maintenance of FSTPs and cesspool vehicles, promoting community ownership and empowerment. Additionally, a 24×7 call center facilitates the efficient scheduling of desludging services, complemented by intensive Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaigns to raise awareness among the rural populace.

Widespread Impact and Recognition: The initiative's success is reflected in the extensive coverage of FSM services across 3,552 GPs, benefiting over 47 lakh households—nearly 56% of the State's rural households. With 106 operational FSTPs across 115 ULBs and more than 70 FSTPs processing faecal sludge from rural areas, the project not only enhances the utilization of urban FSTPs but also significantly reduces faecal contamination in the environment.Beyond its environmental impact, the Rural-Urban convergence model stands out for empowering women and transgender groups who lead the FSTP operations. This approach not only addresses sanitation challenges but also promotes gender inclusivity and social equity in FSM.

Odisha's Rural-Urban Convergence model for FSM has garnered attention nationwide, with exposure visits and learning-cum-exposure trips organized for government officials and stakeholders from other states and union territories. This initiative serves as a beacon of innovation and collaboration, showcasing how strategic partnerships and community engagement can revolutionize sanitation services and contribute to a healthier, cleaner environment.



The state has 4 districts

Principal language is Tamil, English, Malayalam, Telugu and French

Puducherry

PUDUCHERRY

Puducherry, a Union Territory on India's southeastern coast, offers an enchanting mix of French colonial legacy and traditional Indian culture. Its French Quarter, with charming colonial villas, tree-lined streets, and trendy boutiques, stands as a testament to its historical past, while the Tamil influence adds to its vibrant cultural fabric. The territory, though comprising four distinct enclaves—Puducherry, Karaikal, Yanam, and Mahe— is best known for its coastal town of Puducherry, where the spiritual and architectural heritage draws visitors from around the world.

At the heart of Puducherry's spiritual life is the Sri Aurobindo Ashram, alongside Auroville, an international community dedicated to peace and human unity. These places not only attract those seeking spiritual growth but also contribute to the territory's tourism-driven economy. Alongside tourism, education and information technology are pivotal to Puducherry's economic landscape. Despite its modest size, Puducherry's unique blend of French colonial charm, spiritual centers, and beaches make it a distinct and cherished part of India's diverse cultural and geographic tapestry.

Pioneering Green Energy: The GOBAR-dhan Biogas Initiative in Puducherry

In the vibrant community of Bahour Commune Panchayat, Puducherry, a groundbreaking project under the GOBAR-dhan scheme is transforming organic waste into valuable biogas, marking a significant step towards sustainable energy solutions and village cleanliness. Launched by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, New Delhi, in April 2018, the GOBAR-dhan scheme aims to enhance rural sanitation and provide economic benefits to rural households by converting cattle dung and agricultural waste into biogas and slurry.

A Sustainable Solution at Kuruvinatham Village: Implemented by the Renewable Energy Agency Puducherry (REAP), this initiative saw the establishment of a 25M^3 organic food waste biogas plant at the backside of Rajiv Gandhi Government Community Marriage Hall in Kuruvinatham village. With an investment of Rs. 23 lakhs, the plant stands as a testament to the region's commitment to embracing renewable energy sources. Upon physical inspection, the plant was found to be fully functional, with all components installed as per the specifications, showcasing the project's success in achieving its operational goals.

Transforming Waste into Wealth: The biogas plant ingeniously utilizes daily waste from the community hall, local hotels, and markets, processing approximately 250Kg of organic material daily. This efficient system generates around 14Kg of biogas, equivalent to the energy content of one LPG cylinder, thus offering substantial savings of Rs.1000/- per day. This innovative approach not only addresses waste management challenges but also provides a renewable source of energy, capable of catering to the cooking needs of 200-300 people during functions held at the community hall.

A Model of Eco-friendly Innovation: The GOBAR-dhan project in Bahour Commune Panchayat exemplifies how traditional waste can be transformed into a valuable resource, promoting environmental sustainability while also contributing to the economic well-being of the community. This initiative serves as an inspiring model for other regions, demonstrating the potential of biogas technology in achieving energy independence, reducing reliance on fossil fuels, and fostering a cleaner, greener future.

Revitalising Manamedu Village: The Community Soak Pit Solution

In Manamedu Village, the challenge of managing grey water had long been a pressing issue. Without a proper disposal system, grey water from households would flow into open drains, ending up on open grounds or in water bodies. This not only contaminated surface water but also created breeding grounds for mosquitoes, posing serious health risks to the village's population of 2,625 people.

Recognizing the urgent need for a sustainable liquid waste management solution, the village took a significant step forward by constructing a Community Soak Pit. This initiative was not just about addressing an environmental issue; it was about safeguarding the health and well-being of the entire community.

The Transformation Begins: With a budget of Rs. 1.55 lakhs, a soak pit measuring 6.46m x 2.96m was meticulously designed to intercept sullage water from the village drains. The water first passed through an inspection chamber, allowing solid particles to settle. What made this soak pit stand out was its filtration process, which utilized metal stone, red gravel, charcoal, and filling sand to treat the water effectively. The treated water was then released into a local pond, marking a full cycle of sustainable water management.

A New Dawn for Manamedu Village: The impact of the Community Soak Pit on Manamedu Village has been profound. The once prevalent issues of contaminated and polluted wastewater stagnation have vanished, leaving behind clean, odorless surroundings. The project not only filtered and recharged grey water into the ground but also contributed to raising the existing groundwater table, compared to previous conditions.

Today, Manamedu Village stands as a beacon of environmental stewardship, demonstrating how targeted, community-led interventions can make a substantial difference. The successful implementation of the Community Soak Pit has not only revitalized the village's environment but has also enhanced the quality of life for its residents, providing a model of sustainable water management for other communities to follow.

The state has 23 districts

Principal language is Punjabi

Punjab

PUNJAB

Punjab, located in the northern part of India, is a state synonymous with vibrant culture, rich historical heritage, and agricultural prosperity. Known as the "Land of Five Rivers," Punjab's fertile plains have played a crucial role in its status as the "Granary of India," contributing significantly to the nation's food security. The state shares its borders with Pakistan to the west, Jammu and Kashmir to the north, Himachal Pradesh to the northeast, Haryana to the south and southeast, and Rajasthan to the southwest, making it a region of strategic importance and cultural confluence.

The cultural fabric of Punjab is woven with the threads of diversity, tradition, and spirited festivity. It is the birthplace of Sikhism, with the Golden Temple in Amritsar embodying the spiritual heart of the Sikh faith and attracting pilgrims from all over the world. Punjab's festivals, such as Baisakhi, Lohri, and Maghi, are celebrated with great fervor, showcasing the state's rich cultural and agricultural traditions. The state's economy is not only anchored in agriculture but also sees significant contributions from manufacturing, textiles, and information technology. Punjab's vibrant music, dance forms like Bhangra and Giddha, and sumptuous cuisine further add to its distinct identity. With its blend of historical significance, cultural richness, and economic vitality, Punjab stands as a testament to the enduring spirit and diversity of India's northern frontier.

Madan Heri Village: A Leap Towards Sustainable Waste Management

Madan Heri, a village in Kharar Tehsil, SAS Nagar district, with a population of 1100, has made significant strides in addressing its waste management challenges. Previously marred by improper waste disposal practices, the village's transformation began with the initiative to overhaul its waste management system, recognizing the pressing need to combat pollution and health hazards associated with indiscriminate dumping of both biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste.

Strategic Shift in Waste Management: The turning point for Madan Heri was the adoption of a comprehensive waste management strategy, fueled by government schemes like the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005, Finance Commission, and Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen). A pivotal step was the construction of a 3-pit Solid Waste Management Plant in September 2020, funded by MGNREGA at a cost of 3 lac, marking a shift towards systematic waste segregation and processing.

Community Engagement and Infrastructure Development: Key to the project's success was engaging the community through awareness sessions, emphasizing the importance of waste segregation. The distribution of blue and green dustbins to each household facilitated this process, allowing for the separate collection of wet and dry waste. The initiative also saw the introduction of a dedicated waste collector vehicle, enhancing the efficiency of waste collection and management.

Impact and Sustainability: The waste management plant not only addressed the immediate environmental concerns but also laid the foundation for sustainable practices in the village. The compost produced from organic waste has become a valuable resource for agriculture, while recyclable materials are sold, generating additional income. The project has

fostered a sense of ownership among the villagers, with households contributing a monthly service charge for the upkeep of the plant, ensuring its long-term viability.

A Model for Rural Sustainability: Madan Heri's journey from grappling with waste management issues to becoming a model of sustainability exemplifies the impact of community-led initiatives supported by effective leadership and government backing. The village now stands as a beacon of environmental stewardship, showcasing a scalable and replicable model for rural communities facing similar challenges.

Hiro Kalan's Waters Reborn: A Liquid Waste Management Triumph

In the serene village of Hiro Kalan, located in the Mansa district of Punjab, a revolutionary project has redefined the essence of community-driven environmental stewardship. Spearheaded by the progressive Sarpanch Smt Jasveer Kaur, the village embarked on an ambitious liquid waste management project, turning a pressing environmental challenge into a source of communal pride and employment. This initiative, notable for its comprehensive planning and execution, has rejuvenated the village's water bodies, transforming them from pollution sources into assets of communal value.

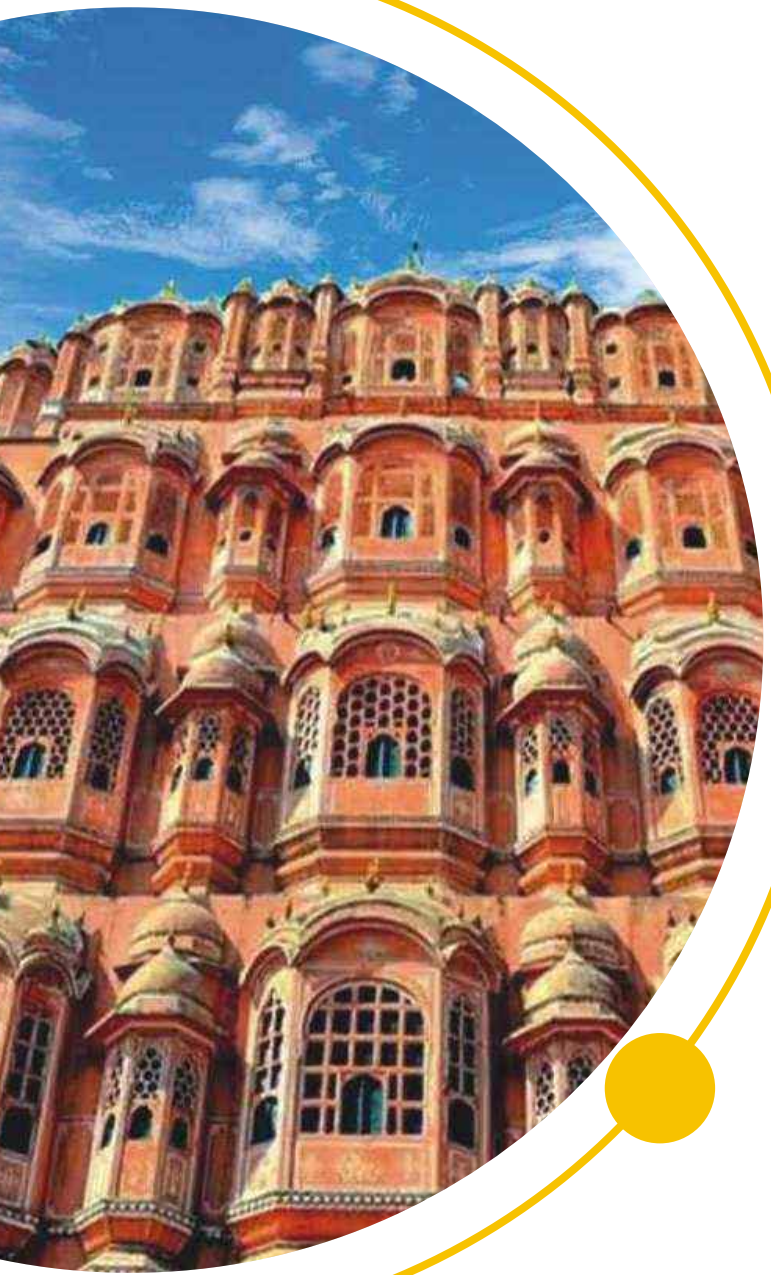
A Village United by Spirit and Action: Famed for its spiritual values centered around Sh. Baba Bagha Singh Gurudwara Sahib, Hiro Kalan is a community where every villager contributes with love and affection to collective gatherings. However, the village faced a significant challenge as untreated grey water led to health hazards and marred the village's beauty. Recognizing the urgency, the community, led by its Gram Panchayat, vowed to tackle this through a liquid waste management solution.

The Path to Sustainable Change: After months of meticulous planning, community engagement, and securing permissions, the project kicked off in March 2021. By January 2022, the wastewater treatment plant, funded through a convergence of central and state schemes totaling Rs. 28.18 lacs, became operational. This collaborative funding model included contributions from MGNREGA, Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen), and the 15th Finance Commission, showcasing a successful partnership across government verticals.

Innovative Design for Maximum Impact: The plant's design features a series of treatment chambers and tanks, including a screening chamber, digestion tank, skimming tank, stabilization tank, and an oxidation pond-cum-storage pond. Spanning an area of 1392.94 Sqm, it treats 160,680 litres of wastewater daily, ensuring no pollutants return to the village's waterways. The treated water, rich in nutrients, finds a second life in irrigating the village's fields, showcasing an exemplary model of the Thapar model technology in action.

Community and Environmental Benefits: The project has not only restored the environmental health of Hiro Kalan but also bolstered the village's social fabric. The establishment of a maintenance committee and the employment of a dedicated sanitation worker ensure the project's long-term sustainability, with the Gram Panchayat setting aside annual funds for its upkeep. Moreover, the area around the water treatment site has become a gathering place for villagers and visitors, enhancing the village's aesthetic appeal and communal pride.

A Model for Future Generations: Hiro Kalan's liquid waste management project stands as a beacon of how visionary leadership, community engagement, and innovative engineering can collectively address environmental challenges. It has not only improved the quality of life for its residents but also set a precedent for sustainable rural development, making Hiro Kalan a proud model for villages across Punjab and beyond.



The state has 50 districts

Principal language is Hindi, Marwari and Urdu

Rajasthan

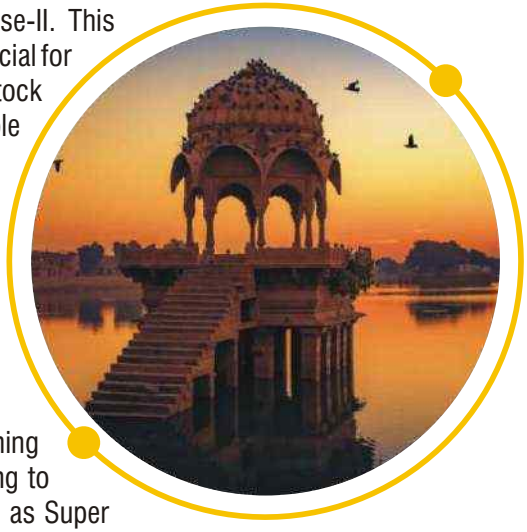
RAJASTHAN

Rajasthan, India's largest state by area, is a land steeped in history and culture, located in the northwestern part of the country. Bordered by Punjab to the north, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to the northeast, Madhya Pradesh to the southeast, Gujarat to the southwest, and Pakistan to the west, Rajasthan is known for its striking desert landscape, majestic forts, and opulent palaces. Its name, which means "Land of Kings," reflects its rich royal heritage, evident in its architectural wonders and historical sites that dot the state, from the fairy-tale palaces of Udaipur to the formidable forts of Jodhpur and the iconic Hawa Mahal in Jaipur.

Rajasthan's culture is a vibrant tapestry of music, dance, art, and cuisine, capturing the spirit of its people and their traditions. The state is famous for its folk music and dance, including the lively Ghoomar dance and the soulful sounds of Rajasthani folk songs. Festivals like the Pushkar Camel Fair and the Desert Festival of Jaisalmer are significant cultural events that draw visitors from across the globe, showcasing the state's rich cultural fabric. The economy of Rajasthan is diverse, with tourism playing a crucial role alongside agriculture, mining, and crafts. Textiles, jewelry, and handicrafts from Rajasthan are highly prized for their quality and craftsmanship. With its stunning landscapes, rich history, and vibrant culture, Rajasthan embodies the quintessence of India's royal past and the enduring allure of its desert beauty.

The Success of Composting Convergence in Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan

In the rustic landscapes of Rajasthan, the Sawai Madhopur district has emerged as a beacon of innovation in managing biodegradable waste, aligning with the objectives of Swachh Bharat Mission, Phase-II. This success story unfolds in a region where kitchen, garden, and agricultural waste management is crucial for both health and environmental integrity. While villagers traditionally repurpose wet waste as livestock feed, the challenge of managing leftover waste prompted a groundbreaking initiative for sustainable disposal and utilization.



Crafting a Sustainable Solution: The initiative began with a critical observation: leftover wet waste, if unattended, leads to health hazards and environmental pollution, including waterborne diseases through contamination of water bodies. Addressing this, the CEO of Sawai Madhopur, alongside the SBMG team, envisioned a model that not only manages this waste but transforms it into a resource. The strategy involved converging efforts with the Agricultural Department, leveraging their expertise to enhance compost production from wet waste using NADEP compost pits.

Building Bridges with Agriculture: The collaboration with the Agriculture Department marked a turning point. Agriculture supervisors were tasked with overseeing compost production, offering training to ensure quality and efficiency. This partnership ensured that the compost produced, now known as Super Compost, benefits the agricultural sector directly. Compost pits, strategically located near farms, encouraged farmers to contribute their cattle waste and other biodegradable materials, transforming potential waste into valuable manure for their fields.

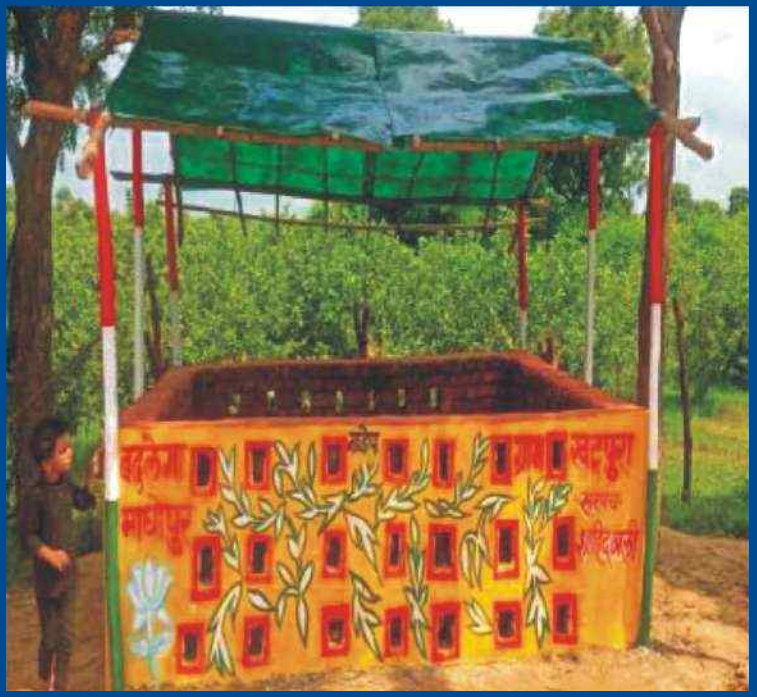

पत्रिका

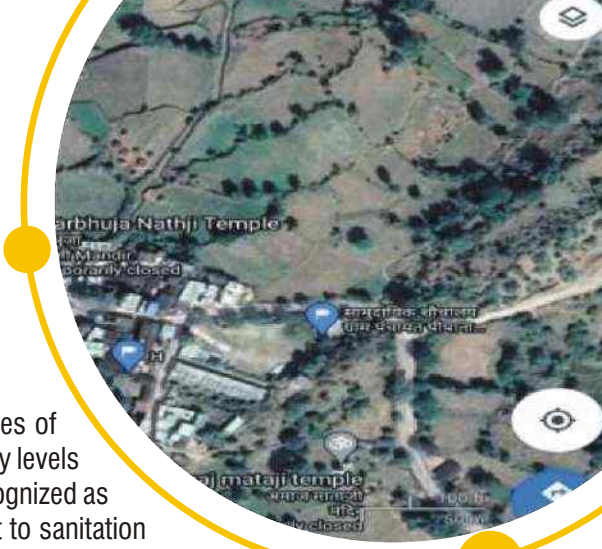
जिला परिषद सीईओ ने 200 नाडेपों की लिखी जानी

नाडेपो से किसानों को मिलेगी गुणवत्तापूर्ण खाद

Empowering Farmers, Enriching Soil: This convergence model has not only streamlined wet waste management but has also revitalised agricultural practices in Sawai Madhopur. Farmers trained in composting techniques now witness improved yields, attributing their success to the nutrient-rich Super Compost. Moreover, this initiative has reduced farmers' reliance on artificial fertilisers, promoting eco-friendly farming practices.

A Model of Community Engagement and Sustainability: The Sawai Madhopur composting convergence story has captured the attention of local media and inspired other districts to consider similar innovative approaches. This project stands as a testament to the power of community involvement and inter-departmental cooperation in achieving sustainability goals. By turning waste into wealth, Sawai Madhopur sets a precedent for effective waste management and environmental stewardship, demonstrating that convergence is not just a strategy but a pathway to a greener future.





Rajsamand's Digital Leap: Mapping Toilets for a Cleaner Future

In the heart of Rajasthan lies Rajsamand, a district that has not only embraced the objectives of Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) Phase-I by constructing toilets at both individual and community levels but has also taken a significant step forward in its sanitation journey under SBM Phase-II. Recognized as the second Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus district in Rajasthan, Rajsamand's commitment to sanitation and health has set a benchmark for others to follow.

Challenges on the Path to Sanitation: Despite the widespread construction of toilets, Rajsamand faced a persistent challenge: the prevalence of open urination and defecation, especially in public places bustling with people, including markets, bus stands, and community centers. This not only posed health risks but also contributed to environmental contamination and created an unwelcoming atmosphere for residents and visitors alike.

Innovative Solutions through Technology: Under the visionary leadership of CEO Nimisha Gupta and the dedicated efforts of the Rajsamand SBMG Team, a groundbreaking solution emerged: "Toilets on the Map." This initiative leveraged technology to address the issue of toilet accessibility by marking and tagging every public toilet and community sanitary complex on Google Maps. This simple yet effective innovation allows anyone to find nearby toilet facilities with just a few taps on their smartphone, using phrases like “Toilet nearby [Name of Panchayat]” or “Toilet near me.”

The Impact of Toilets on the Map: "Toilets on the Map" transformed Rajsamand into a district where open urination and defecation are things of the past. Both locals and tourists now benefit from easy access to clean and hygienic toilets, significantly improving the district's sanitation standards and overall public health. This initiative has not only enhanced Rajsamand's cleanliness but has also bolstered its reputation as a welcoming and environmentally conscious destination.

A Model for Replication: The success of "Toilets on the Map" in Rajsamand is a testament to the power of innovative thinking and the effective use of technology in solving complex public health challenges. This initiative serves as an inspiring model for other districts striving for cleanliness and sanitation, showcasing that with the right approach, achieving a clean and green Gram Panchayat under SBM Phase-II is within reach. Rajsamand's journey from confronting sanitation challenges to becoming a beacon of cleanliness and health innovation marks a significant milestone in India's quest for sustainable sanitation solutions.

जिला परिषद सीईओ निमिषा गुप्ता का नवाचार

एक क्लिक में पता चलेगा शौचालय कितनी दूर है

सामुदायिक शौचालयों एवं मॉडल आईईसी शौचालयों की लोकेशन गुगल मैप पर डालने का काम जारी

निमिषा गुप्ता

शौचालय ढूंढने में दिक्कत नहीं होगी

The state has 4 districts

Principal language is English, Nepali, Sikkimese (Bhutia) and Lepcha

Sikkim

SIKKIM

Sikkim, nestled in the Eastern Himalayas, stands as a testament to breathtaking natural beauty, rich biodiversity, and a vibrant blend of cultures. As India's least populous and second smallest state, it shares its borders with Bhutan, Nepal, West Bengal, and Tibet, boasting diverse landscapes from lush woodlands to the majestic peaks of Kangchenjunga, the world's third-highest mountain. This geographical diversity complements the cultural richness of Sikkim, where Buddhist and Hindu traditions coalesce, mirrored in the state's festivals, monasteries, and temples.

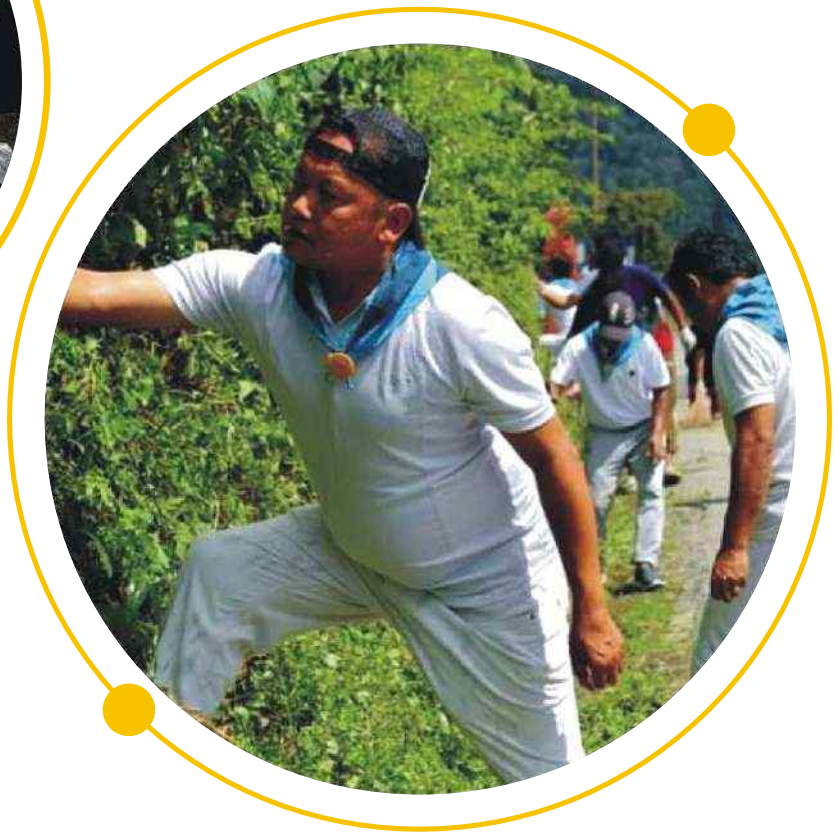
The state's diverse ethnic communities, including the Bhutias, Lepchas, and Nepalis, enrich its cultural tapestry. Sikkim's dedication to environmental conservation is highlighted by its recognition as India's first organic state, reflecting a commitment to sustainable farming and ecological preservation. Tourism, fueled by the allure of its untouched natural beauty and spiritual heritage, alongside organic farming, drives the state's economy. Sikkim exemplifies a model of sustainable living, prioritizing environmental stewardship and cultural harmony, making it a unique destination within the diverse landscape of India.

Sikkim's Trailblazing Journey to Zero Waste: The Success of Yuksom and Lingtam-Phadamchen

In the picturesque state of Sikkim, two villages, Yuksom in Gyalshing District and Lingtam-Phadamchen in Pakyong District, have become exemplars of effective waste management, embodying the goals of Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G) Phase-II. These villages have not only achieved Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus status but have also set a benchmark in managing biodegradable waste and pioneering zero-waste initiatives.

Yuksom: Gateway to Sustainable Waste Management: Yuksom, known as the gateway to Kanchenjunga National Park, faced significant challenges due to the influx of tourists leaving behind large amounts of waste. The establishment of a Resource Recovery Centre (RRC) under SBM-G became a turning point. By segregating waste at source and converting biodegradable waste into vermi-compost, Yuksom demonstrated a self-sustaining model of waste management. Innovative practices, such as detailed collection schedules and fines for unsegregated waste, have encouraged community participation and ensured the minimization of waste sent to landfills. This eco-friendly approach has enhanced the village's attractiveness as a major tourism destination while preserving its natural beauty.

Lingtam-Phadamchen: A Vision of Zero Waste: Lingtam-Phadamchen, a village with a profound connection to nature, bordering China, recognized the need for sustainable Solid Waste Management (SWM) amidst growing concerns over wildlife conflict and environmental degradation. The village's proactive measures, including the setup of a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) and the implementation of a user charge system for waste collection, highlight a community-driven approach to waste management. The formation of Swachhata Sahayogi, a team of local women dedicated to maintaining the MRF, underscores the empowerment aspect of the project. Moreover, initiatives like the Garbage Mela 2023 and educational campaigns on waste segregation have fostered a strong sense of environmental stewardship among villagers.



Convergence for Sustainability: The success stories of Yuksom and Lingtam-Phadamchen are rooted in community engagement, innovative solutions, and strategic convergence of funds from various government schemes. These villages have effectively leveraged resources from MGNREGA, Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen), and the 15th Finance Commission, showcasing a collaborative model for environmental conservation and sustainable development.

The transformative journey of these Sikkimese villages from facing waste management challenges to becoming models of sustainability has inspired neighboring communities and districts. Their success is a testament to the potential of rural areas in leading the way toward a cleaner, greener future through innovative waste management practices. Sikkim's approach, emphasizing community participation, government support, and environmental conservation, offers valuable insights for replicating similar successes across India and beyond, making it a beacon of hope for sustainable rural development.

The state has 38 districts

Principal language is Tamil

Tamil Nadu

TAMIL NADU

Tamil Nadu, nestled at the southern tip of India, is a vibrant blend of ancient culture, architectural marvels, and economic dynamism. Surrounded by Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and the Bay of Bengal, it features a diverse landscape from its long coastline to its historic Dravidian-style temples, like the iconic Meenakshi Amman Temple in Madurai and Brihadeeswarar Temple in Thanjavur. These temples not only showcase architectural grandeur but also serve as key cultural and spiritual centers.

The state's culture is steeped in rich traditions of literature, music, and dance, with Bharatanatyam, a classical dance form, originating here. Tamil, one of the oldest living languages, forms the backbone of Tamil Nadu's literary and cultural heritage. Economically, the state is a powerhouse, leading in sectors such as manufacturing, IT, and agriculture, with Chennai emerging as a major hub for the automotive industry. Tamil Nadu's focus on renewable energy, education, and healthcare highlights its approach towards sustainable development. This harmonious blend of ancient heritage and modern progress marks Tamil Nadu as a unique example of India's cultural and economic vibrancy.

Transforming Waste Management in Tamil Nadu: A Categorised Approach for Sustainable Villages

In Tamil Nadu, a revolutionary approach to solid waste management has been implemented, categorizing village panchayats into three distinct groups to address their specific environmental needs and capacities. This initiative showcases a commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship across the state's diverse landscapes.

Category A: Rural Villages Embrace Sustainability: Villages classified under Category A are characterized by their rural nature. Residents are encouraged to compost wet waste within their households or premises, turning organic refuse into valuable soil amendments. For dry waste, the village employs Thooimai Kaavalars, who conduct door-to-door collection twice a week, based on a schedule determined by the Panchayat Council. These villages are also equipped with segregation and storage sheds for waste management, enhancing their capacity to maintain cleanliness and environmental health.

Category B: Peri-Urban Panchayats - A Daily Commitment to Cleanliness: Peri-urban panchayats in Category B deal with both wet and dry waste through daily door-to-door collection by Thooimai Kaavalars. This reflects the higher waste generation rates and the need for more rigorous waste management practices in areas that straddle the rural-urban divide. Additionally, these panchayats are tasked with establishing Material Collection Centers (MCC) and Material Recovery Facilities (MRF), crucial infrastructure for recycling and waste reduction.

Category C: Adapting to Challenges in Densely Populated Rural Areas: Category C includes villages of rural nature that, due to their large population or other specific challenges, require a more intensive approach to waste management. Like in Category B, Thooimai Kaavalars collect both wet and dry waste daily. The focus is on maintaining existing waste management facilities and, where necessary, setting up segregation and storage sheds to ensure effective waste segregation and storage, critical for environmental sustainability.

A Unified Effort Towards a Cleaner Future: This structured and categorized approach to solid waste management in Tamil Nadu not only addresses the immediate needs of waste disposal and recycling but also fosters a culture of environmental responsibility among its residents. By tailoring waste management practices to the unique characteristics of each village category, Tamil Nadu sets a precedent for sustainable living, ensuring that its natural beauty and resources are preserved for future generations. Through the diligent efforts of Thooimai Kaavalars and the support of the local communities, Tamil Nadu is on a path towards a cleaner, greener future.

Grey Water Management: A Blueprint for Sustainability

In the realm of environmental sustainability, the state has embraced an innovative approach to managing grey water, marking a significant step towards water conservation and reuse. This initiative is detailed through the implementation of individual and community seepage units, alongside the development of Horizontal Subsurface Flow Constructed Wetlands, each tailored to meet the needs of various community sizes and soil types.

Individual Seepage Units: A Cornerstone for Households: For individual households looking to manage grey water effectively, the state has introduced seepage units, designed to be both cost-effective and efficient. Priced at Rs. 8,200 per unit, these systems include:

- **A utensil washing platform,**
- **A Nahani trap,**
- **A connecting pipe,**
- **An oil & grease trap chamber,**
- **A seepage pit with a cover,**
- **A granular envelope for enhanced filtration.**

These components work in tandem to ensure that grey water from kitchens and bathrooms is properly filtered and safely reintegrated into the ground, reducing both water wastage and the risk of soil contamination.

Community Seepage Units: Collaborative Effort for Enhanced Impact: Recognizing the varied needs of its diverse population, the state has also rolled out community seepage units, aimed at clusters of houses. These units are designed to serve:

- Four houses at a cost of Rs. 13,000 per unit,
- Three houses at a cost of Rs. 11,000 per unit,
- Two houses at a cost of Rs. 9,000 per unit.

Mirroring the individual seepage units in terms of components, these community systems are adapted to handle larger volumes of grey water, facilitating a collective approach to water management and sustainability.

Horizontal Subsurface Flow Constructed Wetlands: Nature-Inspired Water Treatment: At the forefront of innovative water management are the Horizontal Subsurface Flow Constructed Wetlands. These systems, inspired by natural processes, are engineered to treat grey water through:

- A screening process,
- A grit chamber or anaerobic baffle reactor,
- A basin or filter bed filled with substrate/filler materials,
- An efficient inlet/outlet arrangement.

With costs varying based on capacity—ranging from Rs. 2,00,750 for a 5 KLD system to Rs. 3,76,750 for a 20 KLD system—these wetlands represent a scalable solution to water treatment, combining effectiveness with environmental stewardship.

Through the strategic implementation of individual and community seepage units, alongside the adoption of constructed wetlands, the state not only addresses the immediate challenge of grey water management but also sets a precedent for sustainable living. This blueprint underlines a commitment to innovation, collaboration, and environmental responsibility, paving the way for a future where every drop of water is valued and conserved.

The state has 33 districts

Principal language is Telugu

Telangana

TELANGANA

Telangana, India's youngest state, was formed in June 2014, carving out a distinct identity from the southeastern part of Andhra Pradesh. Situated in the heart of the Deccan Plateau, it shares its borders with Maharashtra, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, and the central Indian state of Odisha. Telangana is characterized by its diverse landscapes, ranging from dense forests and beautiful lakes to rugged hills and fertile plains. The state's capital, Hyderabad, is a bustling metropolis that seamlessly blends historical richness with modern technological advancement, epitomized by its iconic Charminar and the global IT hub in HITEC City.

Telangana's culture is a rich tapestry of historical traditions, festivals, cuisine, and art forms, reflecting the influences of various dynasties that ruled the region, including the Kakatiyas, the Qutb Shahis, and the Nizams. The state celebrates a variety of festivals unique to its cultural heritage, such as Bathukamma, a floral festival that symbolizes the beauty of nature and womanhood, and Bonalu, dedicated to the goddess Mahakali. Telangana's economy is robust, driven by sectors such as information technology, agriculture, and manufacturing. The state has made significant strides in irrigation and welfare schemes, aiming for inclusive growth and development. With its vibrant culture, historical landmarks, and dynamic economy, Telangana stands as a testament to the rich cultural mosaic and developmental aspirations of India's southern region.

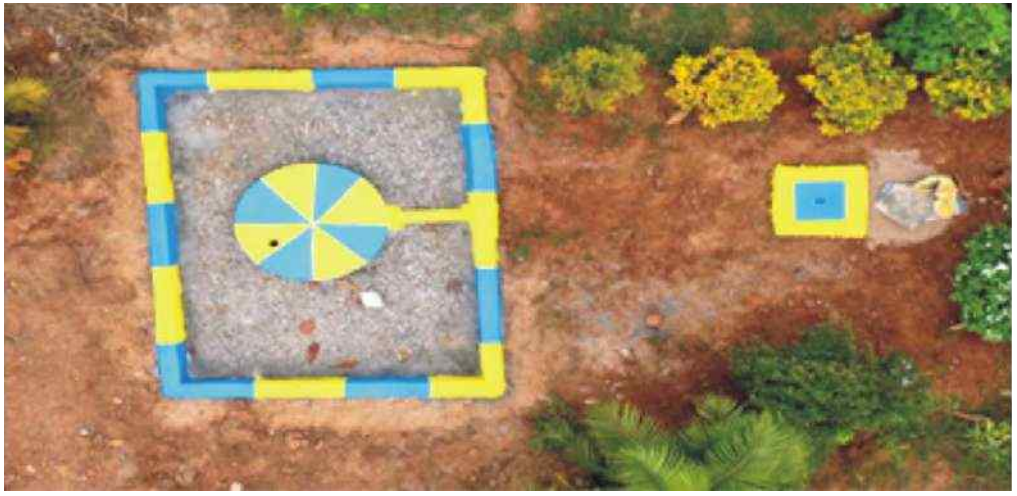
Siddannapet GP: A Beacon of Progress in Rural Sanitation and Sustainability

In the Siddannapet Gram Panchayat (GP) of Nanganoor Mandal, Siddipet District, Telangana State, a remarkable transformation story unfolds, showcasing the power of community action and sustainable practices. With a population of 1,970 people residing in 10 wards of a single village, Siddannapet embarked on an ambitious journey towards achieving exemplary standards in sanitation, solid waste management, and grey water management.

The foundation of this transformation was laid with the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM-G) Phase-I, where 370 toilets were constructed across the village, ensuring almost universal access to sanitation. This initiative was complemented by the establishment of functional twin pit toilets in all four local institutions, including gender-specific facilities in GP buildings and schools, marking a significant stride towards inclusivity and public health.

Progressing to SBM(G) Phase-II, the GP achieved ODF (Open Defecation Free) Sustainability with the addition of 4 new households, culminating in all 374 households having access to functional toilets. A notable innovation was the linkage of 58 septic tank toilets with soak pits to the Siddipet FSTP (Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant), demonstrating a forward-thinking approach to waste management and sanitation.


PUBLIC TOILETS.

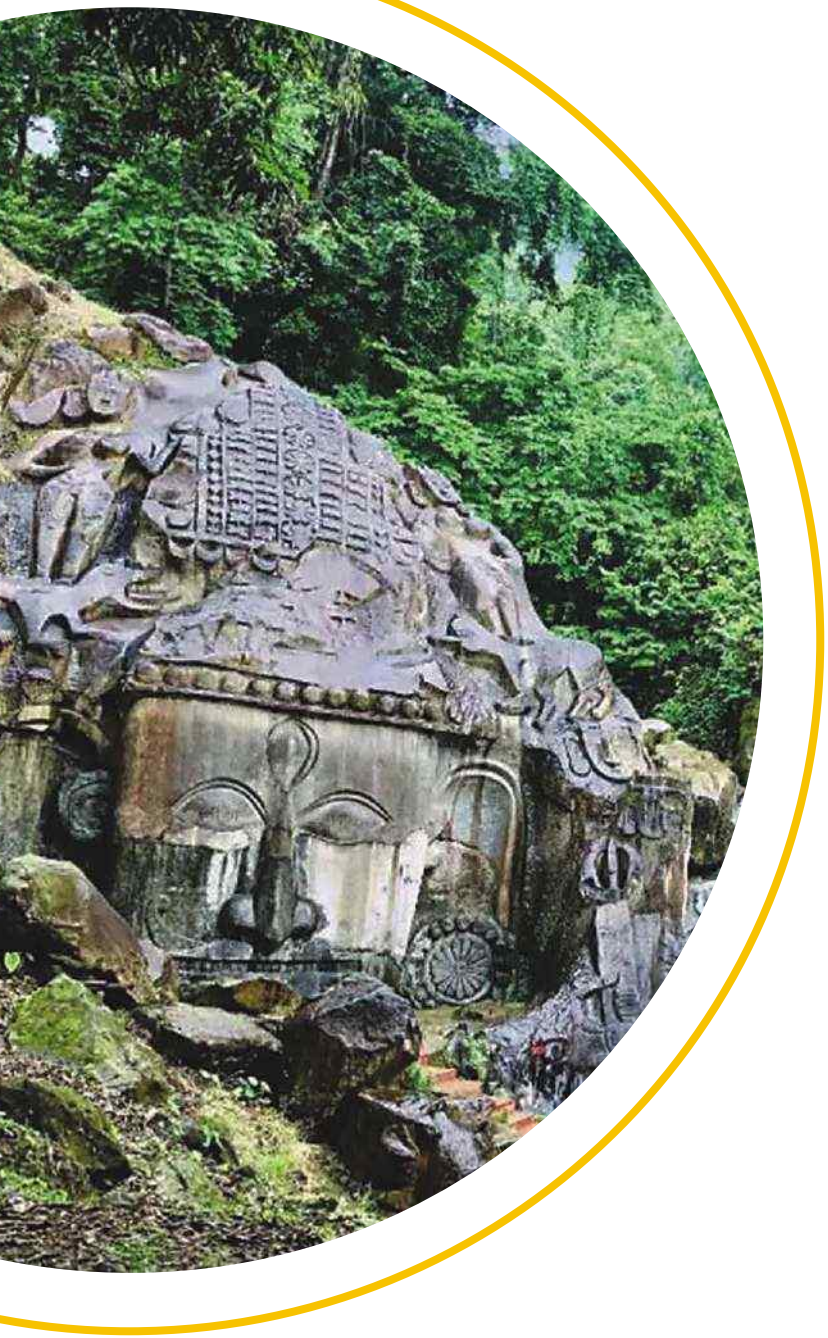


Solid Waste Management in Siddannapet took a leap forward with the introduction of a tractor and trolley system for efficient waste collection, alongside a segregation shed and community compost pits for organic waste conversion. The distribution of 748 dust bins to households and additional bins in institutions and public spaces facilitated meticulous source segregation. The GP's tie-up with Siddipet Municipality for plastic waste further exemplified its commitment to environmental sustainability.

The GP's strides in Grey Water Management were equally commendable, with all 374 households equipped with facilities to manage grey water. The majority adopted individual magic pits/soak pits, while 8 households integrated kitchen gardens, showcasing an innovative reuse of greywater. Additionally, community soak pits at institutions and strategic locations ensured a holistic approach to water management.

Capacity building and IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) / BCC (Behaviour Change Communication) Development played a pivotal role in sustaining these achievements. Training provided to 8 village level functionaries and public representatives empowered local governance. The launch of 12 wall paintings and 100 wall writings on ODF and ODF Plus components, coupled with a short film on ODF-Plus components, significantly enhanced community awareness and engagement.

Siddannapet GP's journey is a testament to what can be achieved when a community comes together, supported by innovative policies and a shared vision for a healthier, more sustainable future. This story not only highlights the successes but also serves as a model for other rural areas aiming to embark on a similar path towards environmental sustainability and improved public health.



The state has 8 districts

Principal language is Bengali and Kokborok

Tripura

TRIPURA

Tripura, in India's northeastern corner, offers a unique blend of history, culture, and natural landscapes. Surrounded by Bangladesh and the Indian states of Assam and Mizoram, it features a rich cultural mix of Indian and Bengali traditions, influenced by its diverse ethnic communities, including the Tripuri and Bengali peoples. The state's natural beauty is marked by rolling hills, lush valleys, and dense forests, appealing to nature and adventure enthusiasts alike.

Historical sites like the Ujjayanta Palace and the ancient rock-cut carvings of Unakoti highlight Tripura's storied past. With an economy rooted in agriculture, Tripura is also known for its thriving handloom and handicraft sectors, reflecting the artisanal skill of its population. Despite its modest size, Tripura's dedication to preserving its environmental and cultural assets, combined with its development efforts, underscores its significance within the vibrant mosaic of India.

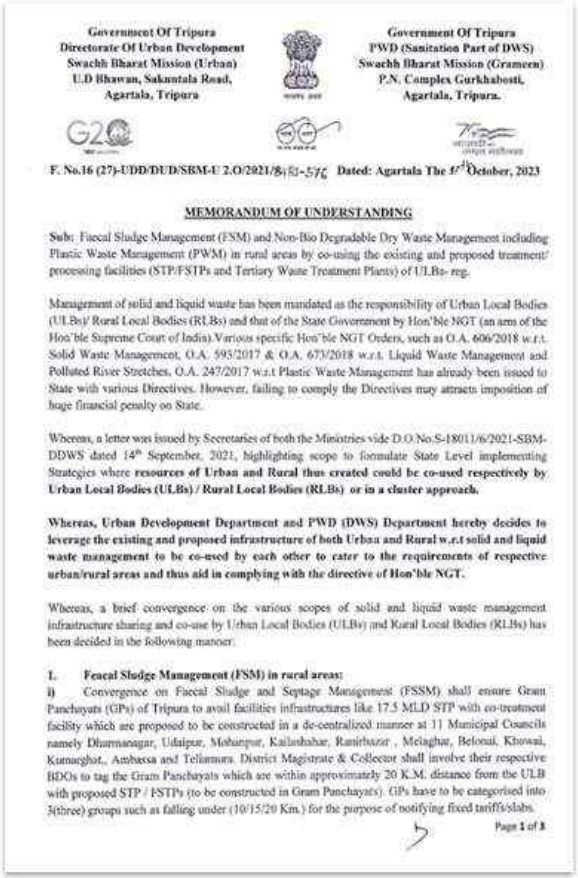
Innovative Convergence for Waste Management in Tripura: A Memorandum of Understanding

In a landmark initiative, the Government of Tripura has taken a significant step towards addressing the challenges of waste management by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Directorate of Urban Development and the PWD (Sanitation Part of DWS), under the auspices of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban and Grameen). Dated 17th October 2023, this agreement outlines a collaborative framework for the management of faecal sludge and non-biodegradable dry waste, including plastic waste, in both urban and rural areas of Tripura.

Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) in Rural Areas: This agreement facilitates the use of existing and proposed sewage treatment plants (STPs) and faecal sludge treatment plants (FSTPs) by rural households within a 20 km radius. These facilities, to be established in decentralized locations across 11 Municipal Councils, will offer services to Gram Panchayats (GPs) categorized into three groups based on their proximity (10/15/20 Km) to the treatment facilities. Rural households equipped with single pits or septic tanks are encouraged to utilize these services, with charges fixed by the District Magistrate and Collector and disseminated through extensive IEC activities.

Non-Biodegradable Dry Waste Management including Plastic Waste Management (PWM) in Rural Areas: The MoU also addresses the transportation and processing of segregated dry waste from rural to urban areas, assigning specific Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) the responsibility for the disposal of such waste. GPs are tasked with ensuring the transportation of only segregated dry waste to the tertiary waste treatment plants of their tagged ULBs, with costs borne by the GPs themselves. This initiative aims to enhance efficiency in waste management and recycling processes, adhering to the relevant environmental rules and regulations.

Implementation and Oversight:The District Magistrate & Collectors play a pivotal role in the planning, execution, and monitoring of these waste management activities, ensuring compliance with the directives of the Hon'ble NGT and relevant environmental acts. The MoU mandates the tagging of all GPs within a 20 km radius to their respective waste management facilities by 18th October 2023, underscoring the urgency and commitment of the state to this cause.



Government Of Tripura
Directorate Of Urban Development
Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)
U.D Bhawan, Sakuntala Road,
Agartala, Tripura

Government Of Tripura
PWD (Sanitation Part of DWS)
Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)
P.N. Complex Gurkhabosti,
Agartala, Tripura.

F. No.16 (27)-UDD/DUD/SBM-U 2.O/2021/8,51-576 Dated: Agartala The 1st October, 2023

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Sub: Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) and Non-Bio Degradable Dry Waste Management including Plastic Waste Management (PWM) in rural areas by co-using the existing and proposed treatment/ processing facilities (STP/FSTPs and Tertiary Waste Treatment Plants) of ULBs- reg.

Management of solid and liquid waste has been mandated as the responsibility of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)/ Rural Local Bodies (RLBs) and that of the State Government by Hon'ble NGT (an arm of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India).Various specific Hon'ble NGT Orders, such as O.A. 606/2018 w.r.t. Solid Waste Management, O.A. 593/2017 & O.A. 673/2018 w.r.t. Liquid Waste Management and Polluted River Stretches, O.A. 247/2017 w.r.t Plastic Waste Management has already been issued to State with various Directives. However, failing to comply the Directives may attracts imposition of huge financial penalty on State.

Whereas, a letter was issued by Secretaries of both the Ministries vide D.O.No.S-18011/6/2021-SBM-DDWS dated 14th September, 2021, highlighting scope to formulate State Level implementing Strategies where **resources of Urban and Rural thus created could be co-used respectively by Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) / Rural Local Bodies (RLBs) or in a cluster approach.**

Whereas, Urban Development Department and PWD (DWS) Department hereby decides to leverage the existing and proposed infrastructure of both Urban and Rural w.r.t solid and liquid waste management to be co-used by each other to cater to the requirements of respective urban/rural areas and thus aid in complying with the directive of Hon'ble NGT.

Whereas, a brief convergence on the various scopes of solid and liquid waste management infrastructure sharing and co-use by Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and Rural Local Bodies (RLBs) has been decided in the following manner:

1. **Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) in rural areas:**

i) Convergence on Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM) shall ensure Gram Panchayats (GPs) of Tripura to avail facilities infrastructures like 17.5 MLD STP with co-treatment facility which are proposed to be constructed in a de-centralized manner at 11 Municipal Councils namely Dharmanagar, Udaipur, Mohanpur, Kailashahar, Ranirbazar , Melaghar, Belonia, Khowai, Kumarghat., Ambassa and Teliamura. District Magistrate & Collector shall involve their respective BDOs to tag the Gram Panchayats which are within approximately 20 K.M. distance from the ULB with proposed STP / FSTPs (to be constructed in Gram Panchayats). GPs have to be categorised into 3(three) groups such as falling under (10/15/20 Km.) for the purpose of notifying fixed tariffs/slabs.

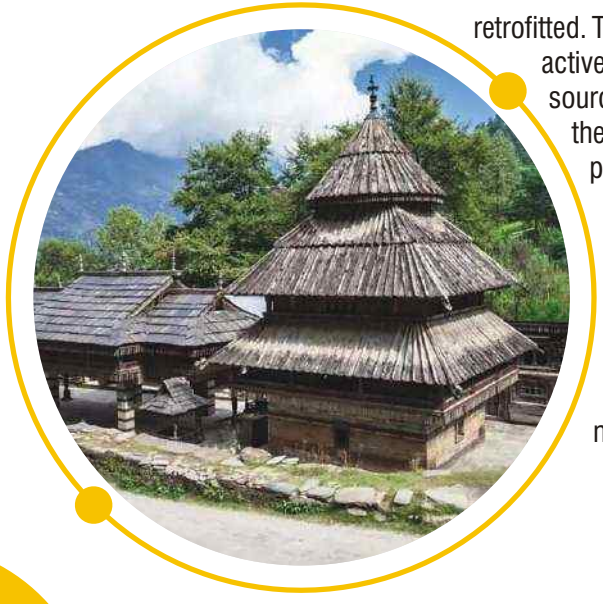
Page 1 of 3

This MoU represents a holistic approach to waste management in Tripura, leveraging the synergies between urban and rural infrastructures to achieve sustainable waste management solutions. It underscores the state's dedication to environmental sustainability and public health, setting a precedent for other states to follow in the quest for cleaner and greener communities.

Charting a Course for Sanitation Excellence: The Twin Pit Revolution

In the verdant heartlands of our state, a remarkable journey of transformation and resilience unfolded with the launch of the Retrofit to Twin Pit Abhiyan in September 2022. Prompted by an advisory from the DDWS, MoJS, GoI, the state set out on an ambitious mission to elevate its sanitation infrastructure, focusing on the conversion of single pit toilets to the more efficient and hygienic twin pit model. This initiative represented a pivotal shift towards sustainable sanitation practices, aiming to significantly impact public health and environmental well-being across rural communities.

Overcoming Obstacles with Determined Innovation: The initial phase of the campaign faced considerable challenges. Despite the zeal and continuous efforts of the teams on the ground, only 20,693 out of 3,81,361 single pit toilets had been successfully retrofitted. The project grappled with various hurdles, including the reluctance of masons to work on active toilets, a constrained retrofitting budget of Rs. 5,000 per toilet, and limited funding sources available under the 15th Finance Commission. Yet, far from being discouraged, these challenges spurred a strategic reevaluation and a targeted approach to ensure the program's success.

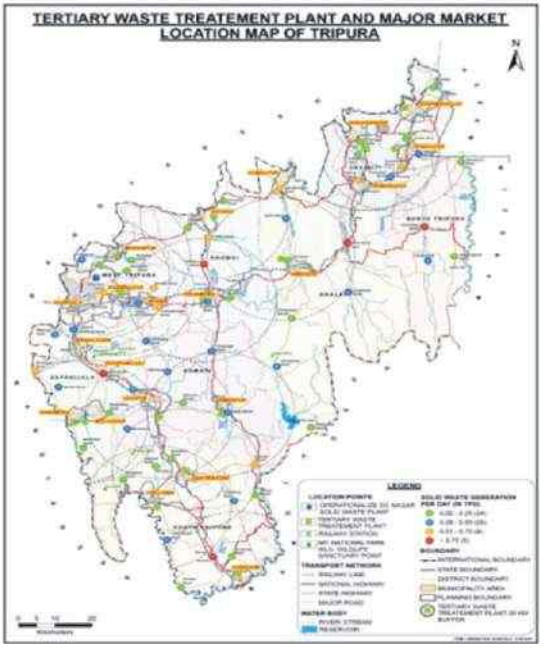


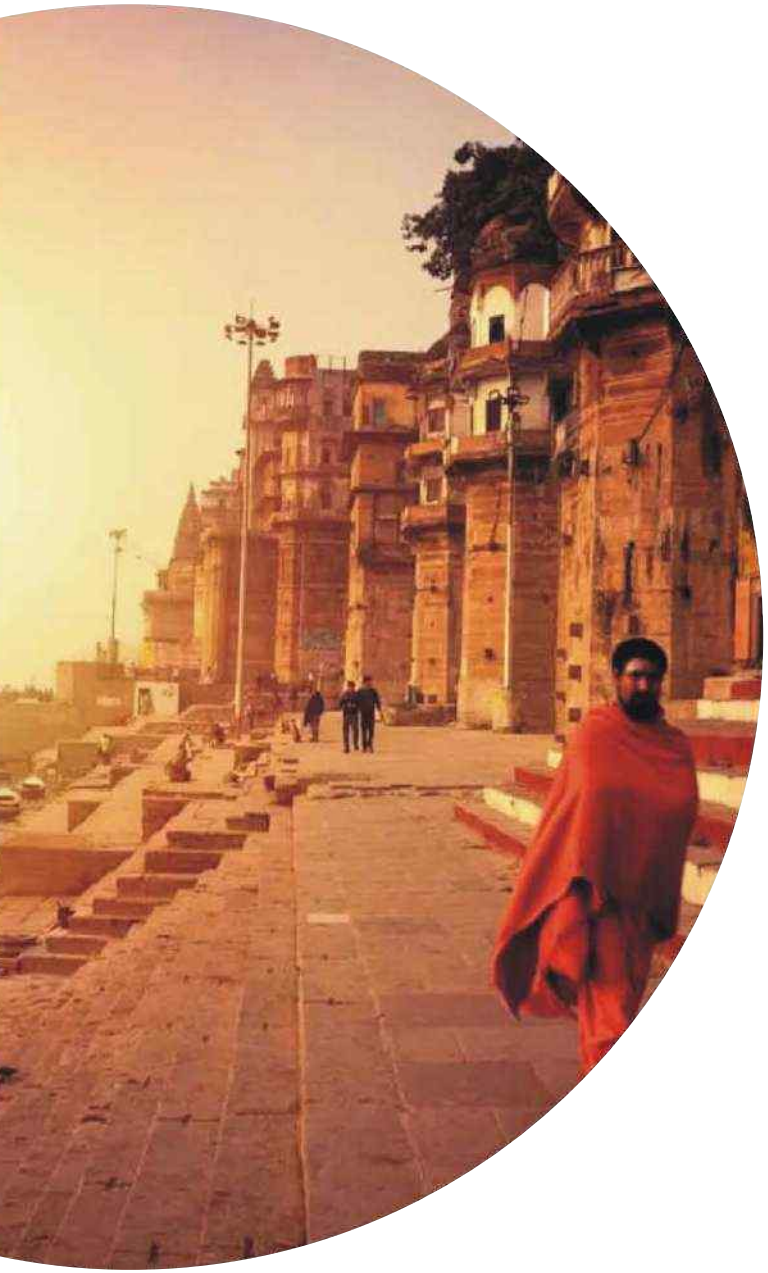
A Strategic Survey Sparks a New Target: Recognizing the need for a more focused intervention, the state conducted a comprehensive survey to pinpoint toilets that urgently required retrofitting within the next three years. This survey meticulously gathered data on the typology of existing sanitation facilities, emphasizing the condition and construction specifics of septic tanks. A significant criterion was established: septic tanks without full cementation were reclassified as single pit toilets, necessitating immediate attention.

Further, the survey assessed the volume of the pits and the number of users per toilet, employing a standard calculation to determine the required pit capacity per person per year. This detailed analysis not only highlighted the immediate retrofitting needs but also provided insights into the longevity of the current sanitation facilities. Additionally, the accessibility of households for potential desludging interventions was evaluated, considering the width of approach roads.

Embarking on a Renewed Mission: Armed with this invaluable data, the state identified 61,006 toilets as immediate candidates for retrofitting, setting a new, realistic target for the Panchayat Department to seek approval from the State Government. This recalibrated approach underscored the state's commitment to not just meet but exceed sanitation standards, ensuring the health and hygiene of its rural populace.

The Twin Pit Revolution: A Beacon of Sustainable Sanitation: This practise of the Twin Pit Revolution is a testament to the power of strategic planning, community engagement, and adaptive problem-solving. It showcases the state's dedication to improving sanitation infrastructure, marking a significant step towards achieving environmental sustainability and public health goals. As the campaign gains momentum, it serves as a model of best practices in rural sanitation, inspiring similar initiatives nationwide and forging a path toward a cleaner, healthier future for all rural communities.





The state has 75 districts

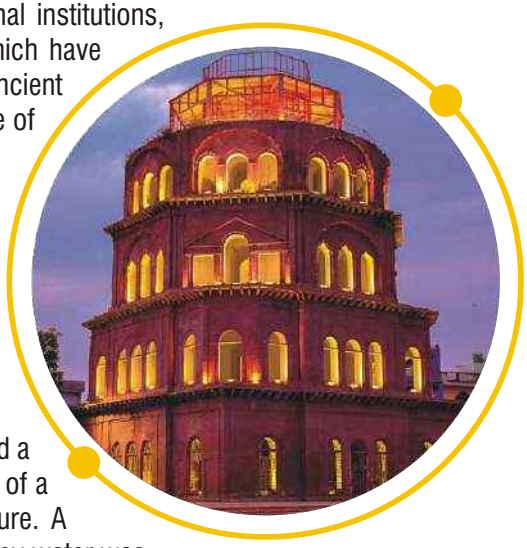
Principal language is Hindi

Uttar Pradesh

UTTAR PRADESH

Uttar Pradesh, located in the northern part of India, stands as a testament to the country's historical richness and cultural diversity. As the most populous state, it shares its borders with Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Madhya Pradesh, and has an international boundary with Nepal to the north. The state is home to the iconic River Ganges, which not only sustains millions of lives but also holds immense spiritual significance. Uttar Pradesh is a cradle of Indian civilization and religion, hosting a myriad of historical and religious sites, including the majestic Taj Mahal in Agra, the sacred city of Varanasi, and the birthplace of Lord Rama in Ayodhya.

The cultural fabric of Uttar Pradesh is woven with various threads of traditions, languages, and festivals. It is renowned for its rich tapestry of music, dance, and arts, such as the classical Hindustani music and Kathak dance. The state's economy is multifaceted, with agriculture playing a crucial role, alongside significant contributions from industries such as textiles, sugar, and information technology. Uttar Pradesh also takes pride in its educational institutions, including ancient universities like Aligarh Muslim University and Banaras Hindu University, which have contributed significantly to the intellectual and cultural development of India. With its blend of ancient heritage, religious significance, and modern dynamism, Uttar Pradesh encapsulates the essence of India's complex and diverse identity.



Grey Water Management in Katra: A Sustainable Sanitation Success Story

Katra Gram Panchayat in Shrawasti district, Uttar Pradesh, emerged as a leader in sustainable sanitation by implementing an innovative grey water management system under Swachh Bharat Mission - Gramin (SBM-G) Phase II. This initiative aimed to tackle the challenge of grey water, a byproduct of household and community activities that, if not managed properly, can lead to environmental and health issues.

The Challenge: Katra, a village with a deep historical significance and a population of 5,884, faced a significant challenge in managing the large volumes of grey water produced daily. The presence of a famous shrine attracts numerous tourists, adding pressure on the local sanitation infrastructure. A specific problem was identified in Majra Vansh Gaupal Purva, a densely populated area where grey water was contaminating a nearby pond, posing risks to public health and the environment.

Innovative Solution: With guidance from the Chief Development Officer of Shravasti and support from UNICEF, Katra Gram Panchayat developed a grey water treatment facility comprising an adopted settler and a Constructed Wetland (CW) at a cost of Rs. 5.5 lakhs. The system operates in stages:

First Stage: Greywater passes through a three-step screening to remove particles, followed by a silt trap.

Second Stage: Water flows through a two-chamber settler into the CW, where it's filtered through layers of media and collected in a pond, enhancing oxygenation.

Final Stage: Natural treatment plants on the CW's surface help absorb pathogens, further purifying the water.

This system transformed the contaminated pond into a cleaner water body, reducing BOD from 95 to 35 mg/liter and COD from 210 to 145. It stands as a testament to the potential of innovative, community-led initiatives in improving environmental health and sustainability.

Katra's approach to grey water management showcases how traditional challenges can be overcome through collaboration, innovation, and the implementation of sustainable technologies, setting a precedent for other Gram Panchayats facing similar challenges.

Transforming Rural Energy: Itarra GP's Community Biogas Plant

In the serene locale of Itarra Gram Panchayat, nestled within Kanpur Nagar District of Uttar Pradesh, a pioneering project has come to life, embodying the spirit of sustainable development and communal welfare. The inauguration of a Community Biogas Plant, as part of the GOBARdhan initiative under the Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G) Phase-II, marks a significant stride towards addressing the dual challenges of waste management and fuel scarcity in rural areas.

The Catalyst for Change: A populace of 7,026 stands to benefit from this eco-friendly venture, which aims to repurpose organic waste into a source of clean energy. With a robust capacity of 45 cubic meters, the biogas plant is designed to meet the cooking needs of the community while also producing nutrient-rich slurry for agricultural use.

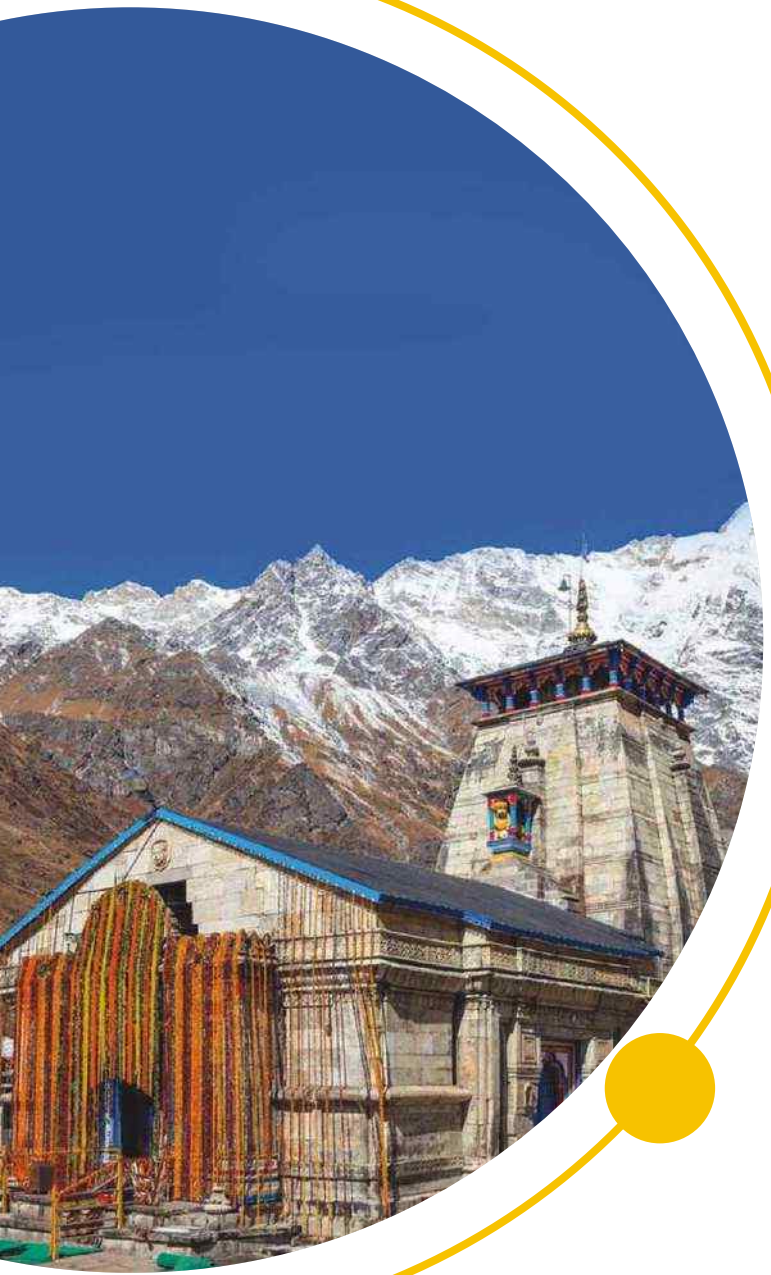
Symbiotic Supply: The primary feedstock for the plant is cow dung, sourced from a local Goshala housing 105 cattle. Additionally, the engagement of 10 village families in supplying cow dung underscores the project's community-driven approach. This synergy not only ensures a steady supply of raw material but also fosters a sense of ownership and participation among the villagers.

Financial Framework and Operational Dynamics: Constructed at an estimated cost of Rs.24.51 lakh, the plant's financial model is as innovative as its environmental implications. After an initial three-month period of free gas supply, a nominal fee of Rs. 250 per household per month is levied, creating a sustainable revenue stream for maintenance and caretaker wages.

Envisioned Impact: The immediate effect of the biogas plant's operation is palpable among 25 vulnerable families who have transitioned from traditional firewood to biogas, heralding a new era of clean cooking methods. This shift not only alleviates the drudgery associated with firewood collection but significantly mitigates health risks due to indoor air pollution.

A Testament to Sustainability: The Itarra Gram Panchayat's biogas plant is more than just an infrastructure project; it's a beacon of hope for sustainable rural development. By transforming waste into wealth and fostering environmental stewardship, this initiative exemplifies how rural India is paving the way towards a greener, more sustainable future.

As the community embarks on this journey of transformation, the echoes of change resonate far and wide, inspiring similar endeavors across the nation and reinforcing the belief in the power of collective action and sustainable innovation.



The state has 13 districts

Principal language is Garhwali and Kumauni

Uttarakhand

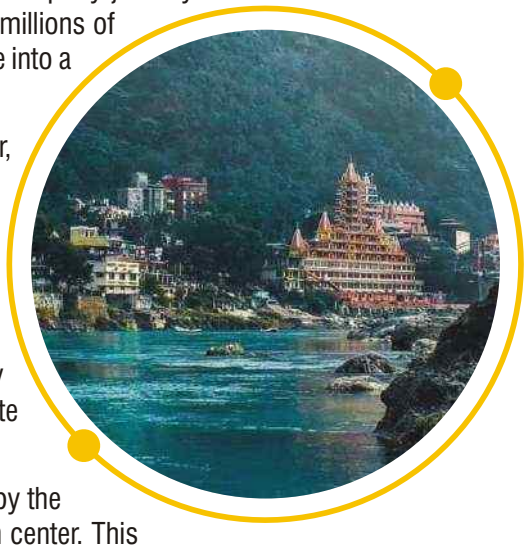
UTTARAKHAND

Uttarakhand, nestled in the northern part of India, is a state renowned for its stunning natural beauty, spiritual significance, and rich cultural heritage. Formed in 2000 from the hills of Uttar Pradesh, it is bordered by Tibet to the north, Nepal to the east, and the Indian states of Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. Known as the "Land of the Gods," Uttarakhand's landscape is dotted with ancient temples, rivers, and mountains, making it a major center for pilgrimage and yoga studies. The state is home to the Char Dham Yatra, comprising four sacred sites: Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, and Badrinath, attracting millions of devotees annually.

Uttarakhand's diverse ecosystem ranges from snow-capped Himalayan peaks to verdant valleys and forests, offering a haven for trekkers, nature lovers, and adventure enthusiasts. The state is also a hotspot for biodiversity, with several national parks and wildlife sanctuaries, including the famous Jim Corbett National Park. Economically, Uttarakhand has a mixed economy with agriculture, tourism, and manufacturing playing pivotal roles. The state's emphasis on sustainable tourism and conservation efforts highlights its commitment to preserving its natural and cultural assets. With its serene landscapes, spiritual ambiance, and vibrant traditions, Uttarakhand presents a unique blend of nature's splendor and cultural depth, reflecting the tranquil yet dynamic spirit of India's Himalayan region.

Toli Gram Panchayat's Triumph: Pioneering Solid Waste Management Near Neelkanth Mahadev Temple

In the verdant lap of Pauri district, Uttarakhand, the Toli Gram Panchayat has embarked on an exemplary journey towards environmental sustainability. Facing the daunting task of managing waste generated by millions of pilgrims visiting the sacred Neelkanth Mahadev temple, this initiative has turned a critical challenge into a success story of community participation and environmental stewardship.



The Challenge: Each year, the Kanvad Yatra draws devotees in vast numbers to the Neelkanth Mandir, nestled 32 kms from Rishikesh. The aftermath of this spiritual congregation was a mounting crisis of plastic bottles, food waste, and other refuse, tarnishing the natural and serene ambiance of Toli and surrounding Gram Panchayats (GPs).

Collaborative Planning for Sustainable Solutions: Recognizing the urgent need for action, the district's Swachh Bharat mission-Grameen (SWAJAL) office, local panchayat members, community, and shop owners rallied together. A Detailed Project Report (DPR) was meticulously prepared for Toli, Maral, and Kothar GPs, laying the groundwork for a comprehensive Solid Waste Management (SWM) system.

The Strategy: Integrated Waste Management: Land Allocation and Infrastructure: A critical move by the District Magistrate of Pauri provided one hectare for a waste management shed and segregation center. This facility became the cornerstone of the initiative, designed to tackle both bio-degradable and non-biodegradable waste effectively.

Community Involvement and Training: The project engaged local Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to manufacture cloth bags,

reducing the dependency on polythene bags. Shopkeepers were provided with dustbins for source segregation, a simple yet impactful step towards minimizing waste. Operational Excellence and Sustainability: Compost pits within the segregation center transformed organic waste into valuable compost, while non-biodegradable waste found new life through recycling efforts. A specially formed committee oversaw operations, maintenance, and the collection of user charges, ensuring the project's financial and operational viability.

Achievements and Ongoing Impact: Today, the SWM unit is a beacon of efficient waste management. Regular collection of user charges from shopkeepers and a monthly contribution from the temple committee support the initiative's sustainability. The involvement of the Zila Panchayat of Pauri Garhwal provides additional manpower for sanitation efforts, exemplifying a model of cooperative governance and community engagement.

A Model for Future Generations: The Toli GP's SWM project near Neelkanth Mahadev temple stands as a testament to the power of collective action in the face of environmental challenges. By turning waste into wealth and fostering a culture of sustainability, this initiative not only preserves the sanctity of a revered pilgrimage site but also serves as an inspiring blueprint for similar endeavors across the nation and beyond.

Birpur's Greywater Solution: Protecting the Bhagirathi River

Birpur Gram Panchayat in Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand, has set a new standard in environmental stewardship by addressing its greywater challenge. Under the Namami Gange programme, the community turned a critical pollution issue into a success story, showcasing a commitment to the health of the Bhagirathi River and its residents.

Swift Action for Clean Water

Challenge: Overflowing greywater from 425 households threatened the river's purity, causing health risks.

Solution: A 2017 initiative led to the repair of drains and construction of two leach pits, preventing greywater from reaching the river.

Innovations in Waste Management

Infrastructure Upgrades: Essential repairs and the introduction of iron meshes at community drains curtailed solid waste entry. Leach pits, with sub-chambers and stone pitching, ensured efficient filtration.

Community Engagement: A safety wall and strategic placement of treatment units (15 meters from the river) coupled with connecting 225 households to these systems, underscored the project's comprehensive approach.

Effective Outcomes: A 2018 inspection by a state-level committee confirmed the elimination of greywater discharge into the Bhagirathi, significantly enhancing the area's cleanliness and reducing health hazards.

Birpur Gram Panchayat's initiative not only revitalizes the Bhagirathi River but also serves as a beacon for sustainable water management practices, demonstrating the powerful impact of community involvement and innovative solutions in environmental preservation.

Bagi Village's Journey to ODF Plus Model Status: A Namami Gange Success Story

In the serene landscapes of Pauri Garhwal district, Uttarakhand, Bagi village in Kinsur Gram Panchayat stands as a testament to community resilience and environmental stewardship. Selected as a Namami Gange Village in 2016, Bagi transformed from a village grappling with open defecation and waste management issues into a model of sanitation and cleanliness, achieving ODF Plus Model status in January 2022.

Overcoming Sanitation Challenges: Pre-Intervention Scenario: Prior to the intervention, the absence of toilets in most households led to widespread open defecation. The lack of solid and liquid waste management systems resulted in pollution of water bodies and visible waste in public spaces.

Community Mobilization: A pivotal general meeting under the District Magistrate's chairmanship, supported by district-level officials and the Swajal team, laid the groundwork. A baseline survey identified sanitation needs and gaps, leading to a collaborative three-tier action plan.

Phased Implementation for Lasting Change: Phase I - Achieving ODF Status: The first phase saw the construction of 31 individual toilets, providing 100% toilet access to households and marking the village Open Defecation Free (ODF).

Phase II - Solid and Liquid Waste Management: The subsequent phase focused on establishing solid and liquid waste management infrastructure. This included 57 individual and 2 community dustbins, a village-level segregation centre, and 8 individual compost pits, propelling the village to ODF Plus status.

Innovative Solutions for Greywater Management: To tackle monsoon-related greywater stagnation, a closed drainage channel directed wastewater to a community soak pit, effectively preventing water stagnation and protecting the Ganga River from pollution.

Sustained Commitment and Community Engagement: Bagi's transformation is underpinned by the continuous commitment of Panchayat representatives and the community. Regular awareness sessions ensure the long-term sustainability of the sanitation facilities and the ODF Plus Model status. Situated 70 km from the district headquarters and near Vyas Chatti, Bagi is now a symbol of cleanliness and environmental responsibility, showcasing the power of collective action in overcoming sanitation challenges and protecting the revered Ganga River.

WEST BENGAL

In the eastern reaches of India lies West Bengal, a state characterized by its diverse landscapes, rich historical tapestry, and vibrant cultural mosaic. Flanked by the formidable Himalayas in the north and the Bay of Bengal in the south, West Bengal's terrain encompasses everything from verdant forests to fertile plains. The meandering Hooghly River, a lifeline of the region, has borne witness to centuries of trade, cultural exchange, and significant historical events.

Steeped in history, West Bengal has been a crucible of civilizations, hosting ancient kingdoms and medieval empires. Kolkata, its capital, formerly known as Calcutta, stands as a testament to the colonial era, showcasing remnants of British influence in its architecture and urban layout. Beyond the bustling urban centers, the state unfolds a captivating narrative of its past, making West Bengal a captivating chapter in India's historical and cultural chronicles.

Empowering Communities: A Success Story of Sustainable Solid Waste Management in Kamalabari-I Gram Panchayat, Uttar Dinajpur, West Bengal.

In the heart of Uttar Dinajpur, Kamalabari-I Gram Panchayat exemplifies the triumph of community-driven solid waste management. Since its establishment in 2017, the program has not only transformed waste disposal but also become a beacon of inspiration for neighboring districts.

Kamalabari-I Gram Panchayat, situated in the Raiganj block, covers an area of 2.26 sq. km and houses a population of 14,500 with a literacy rate of 62.08%. The Panchayat, classified as peri-urban, consists of 8 villages and 1 housing society. In 2017, a Solid Waste Management (SWM) unit was inaugurated, marking a significant step towards sustainable waste practices.

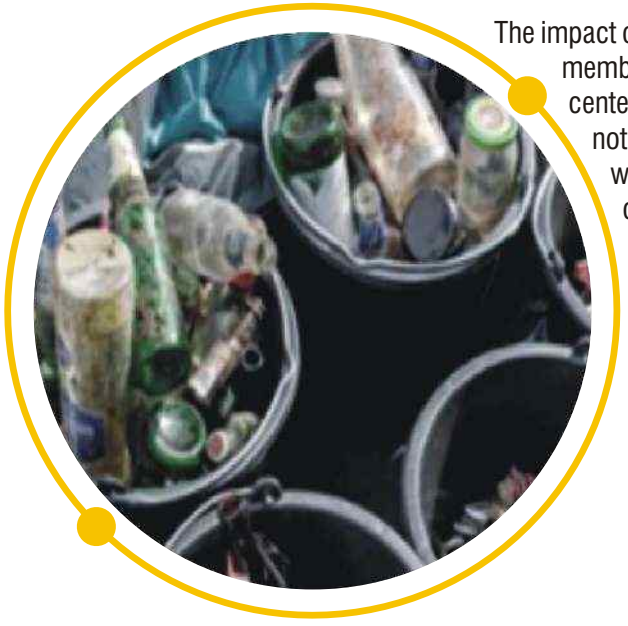
The initiation was accompanied by an extensive Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaign involving leaflet distribution, community gatherings (Para baithak), wall writings, and miking. Villagers were sensitized on the importance of SWM, household segregation, and the need for user contributions.

Household segregation was made efficient with the distribution of two segregation bins per household. Waste collectors regularly educated villagers on source segregation, leading to the daily collection of 800-900 kg of biodegradable waste. A definite route plan for waste collection, supported by seven e-carts, ensured timely transportation to the Central Processing Unit (CPU).

At the CPU, bio-degradable waste was transformed into 600 kg of vermi compost monthly. This organic gold was then sold to the Agriculture & Horticulture department, local nurseries, and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) at Rs. 12 per kg, contributing to the financial sustainability of the unit.

Non-biodegradable waste, collected alternately from markets and weekly from households (3500-4000 kg), was segregated into 16 categories. The segregated waste found new life through sale to aggregators, aligning with the unit's commitment to environmental responsibility.

Financially, the unit operated with a monthly expenditure of Rs. 75,000. Monthly honorariums for the supervisor and worker were Rs. 9,234 and Rs. 6,162, respectively. The service charges ranged from Rs. 50 for households to Rs. 3,500 for markets and hotels. The unit boasted a profit of Rs. 6,000 in the last year, with revenue generation increasing annually - Rs. 2,60,000 (1st year), Rs. 4,50,000 (2nd year), Rs. 7,20,000 (3rd year), and currently at Rs. 9,06,000.



The impact of this SWM unit extended beyond waste management. Eleven Self-Help Group (SHG) members found employment and ventured into goat rearing. The unit became a training center for neighboring districts, providing valuable insights. Kamalabari-I Gram Panchayat not only saved on Operation and Maintenance (OSR) costs for drain cleaning but also witnessed an increased use of organic manure, benefiting local vegetable and marigold cultivation.

This success story of Kamalabari-I Gram Panchayat stands tall as a testament to community-driven initiatives in sustainable waste management, serving as a model for replication across the state.


स्वच्छ भारत
मिशन- ग्रामीण


Swachh Bharat Mission
Grameen
(SBM-G) Phase II
Soak pit


DOME
INLET
MIXING TANK
मिक्सिंग टैंक


Welcome to
ODF Plus Village

For SBM-G IEC material

@swachhbharat

@SBMGramin

@SwachhBharatMissionGramin

@swachh_bharat

@swachhbharatgrameen