Gandagi Mukt Bharat in Mulugu District

Shramdaan, collection of single use plastics (SUP), plantation drives, among others, marked the weeklong behaviour change campaign – Gandagi Mukt Bharat, held in the villages of Mulugu District of Telangana from 8th to 15th August 2020.

According to district officials, ODF (open defecation free) sustainability was top priority as team members were motivated to internalize Mission ODF Plus and take ownership of the programme. ODF Plus includes sustaining ODF status, solid and liquid waste management, prominent IEC messaging on safe sanitation practices and maintaining visual cleanliness of villages.

The campaign was launched by the District Collector, Mr. S. Krishna Adithya when he engaged with all Mandal level officers and public representatives during a teleconference. He briefed them on the activities scheduled throughout the week, with a view to making the villages clean and green.

He advised all officials to strictly maintain COVID-19 safety protocols in all their activities.

**Day 1** began with meetings in all Gram Panchayats under the chairmanship of the respective Sarpanchs, Mandal level officials and other PRI members. The agenda of the meeting featured the measures to be taken to sustain ODF status and steps to achieve ODF Plus.

Collection of Single Use Plastic items for appropriate disposal by all members of the community characterized **Day 2** of the campaign. At the end of the exercise around 16 quintals of SUP was collected and stored in collection units.
On **Day 3**, large scale shramdaan was carried out in all public institutions, health centres, Gram Panchayat offices and Anganwadi centres.

IEC Messages on safe sanitation practices were painted on walls on **Day 4** to sensitize the community on ODF Plus and build awareness about the importance of hygiene and sanitation during COVID-19 pandemic and the need to plant more trees.

A mega plantation drive was launched by Additional Collector (LB) on **Day 5**, in the presence of all district officials, Mandal Staff, Sarpanchs, Ward members, youth, students, etc. It was followed by shramdaan and cleaning and whitewashing of Government buildings.

On **Day 6, 7 and 8** even though it was raining heavily, shramdaan and cleanliness activities were carried out in different parts of the district.