Gadag banks on IEC for ODF sustainability

The district administration of Gadag in Karnataka has organised some unique IEC (Information Education Communication) programmes in all the villages to ensure ODF (open defecation free) sustainability and to make certain that people continue to follow safe sanitation practices. Considerable focus is also given to management of solid and liquid waste.

**Video screening:** Various awareness videos on the importance of cleanliness of surroundings, using toilets, menstrual hygiene management, segregation of waste, etc., have been screened on the main streets of every panchayat.

**Pink Toilet:** A state-of-the-art Pink Toilet, has been built at a girls' high school in Lakkundi village of Gadag Taluka. The toilet which serves as a model has all facilities to cater to the needs of adolescent girls, including an incinerator for disposal of used sanitary napkins.

**Wall Paintings:** Writings on walls at key public spaces throughout the district have raised awareness on proper methods of waste segregation and disposal, disposal of infant faeces and the importance of using a toilet by the entire family.

**Awareness Vehicle:** To raise awareness about the ‘Clean Village Clean Environment’ competition, an IEC vehicle has been used to disseminate
information across the village panchayats. Key sanitation messages on waste management – both solid and liquid and toilet use are carried by the vehicle.

**Pipe compost:** Waste can be easily converted into compost using pipes. The district administration has encouraged households and institutions to adopt this system of composting through demonstrations and pamphlets. Having learnt this, the system is being implemented at all government schools and hostels in the district.

**Solid Waste Management Unit:** The need to segregate waste at source has been conveyed to the village communities in various ways – IPC, demonstrations, etc. To promote the same, buildings for solid waste management have been constructed in all villages. They have facilities for segregation of wet and dry waste. While dry waste is sent for recycling; wet waste is converted into compost.