

Jaisalmer ensures sanitation for all



As the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) enters its second phase of implementation, the district administration of Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, is ensuring that no one is left behind and has initiated a special drive to identify any household which may have been left out in the first phase whether due to the households being new or that they belong to a floating population; and to support the construction of toilets for such households.

This is in keeping with the directive issued by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), advising all the States to reconfirm that there are no rural households that still do not have access to a toilet, and provide the necessary support to any such identified households to build individual household toilets in order to ensure that no one is left behind under the programme.



The Union Cabinet has approved Phase II of the Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen SBM-(G) till 2024-25, with the objective of achieving an Open Defecation Free Plus (ODF Plus) India, which includes ODF sustainability and Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM). Work towards ensuring that no one is left behind and everyone uses a toilet will continue simultaneously.

Jaisalmer was declared ODF on 2nd October 2017 after constructing 63078 individual household toilets. This was a feat in itself, given that sanitation coverage of the district was just about 37.72% in 2012. Now the district administration is keen to fill the gap; ensuring that all homes have access to sanitation.

According to CEO-Zila Parishad, Mr. Om Prakash, intensive surveys by Swachhagrahis (front line workers) and Gram Panchayat personnel and random inspection by district level officers including DM, CEO and BDOs was carried out to find gaps. Further, people were motivated to ensure regular usage of their toilets and to keep their surroundings neat and tidy, the CEO said.

Additionally, a total of 140 community toilets are being built in bus stands, religions places and public places. Of these, 81 have been completed while the remaining 59 will be completed by April 2020. The community toilets which will be maintained by the Gram Panchayats are free for use. Separate for men and women, each community sanitary complex houses two toilets, 2 bathrooms and two urinals.

