Manipur declares 5 villages as ODF Plus

Famous for its scenic landscapes, the north-eastern State of Manipur recently declared five villages as Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus. They were so declared by the villages themselves through a resolution passed during a Gram Sabha on 15th August 2020.

The five villages that were declared ODF Plus are Longchai, Phayeng, Shakok, S. Molnom and Upper Komkeirap. All these villages have fulfilled the parameters of:

- 100 per cent usage of individual household latrines and one Community Sanitary Complex (CSC) per village
- Proper management of solid and liquid waste, particularly plastic
- No littering within the village premises

Mr Rajkumar Somio, State Coordinator, Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G), explains how the State intends to monitor the ODF Plus status of the villages, ensuring that it would remain so.

“Member Secretary of the District Water and Sanitation Mission (DWSM) or the Executive Engineer of the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED), and their teams will have a periodic review meeting along with the Chairman or Secretary of the Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC); PRI Members, local club members, among others. The proceedings will thereafter be intimated to the State level implementing agency,” he said.
As many as 2,551 villages are yet to become ODF Plus.

Over the last few weeks, the state officials held lengthy discussions with the village heads about the importance of ODF Plus and sustaining the same. Here are some of the reactions of those village leaders:

- A clean mind, a clean heart and a clean home will lead to a clean village.
- We should always use recyclable products.
- Picking up litter is our responsibility – not someone else’s
- Recycling is easy with a little effort
- We should avoid plastic as much as we can. It will heal our earth and heal our future
- Segregation of waste is vital
- We must go green – there is no Planet B
- The earth is a fine place that is worth fighting for
- A step towards cleanliness is a step towards a healthy life