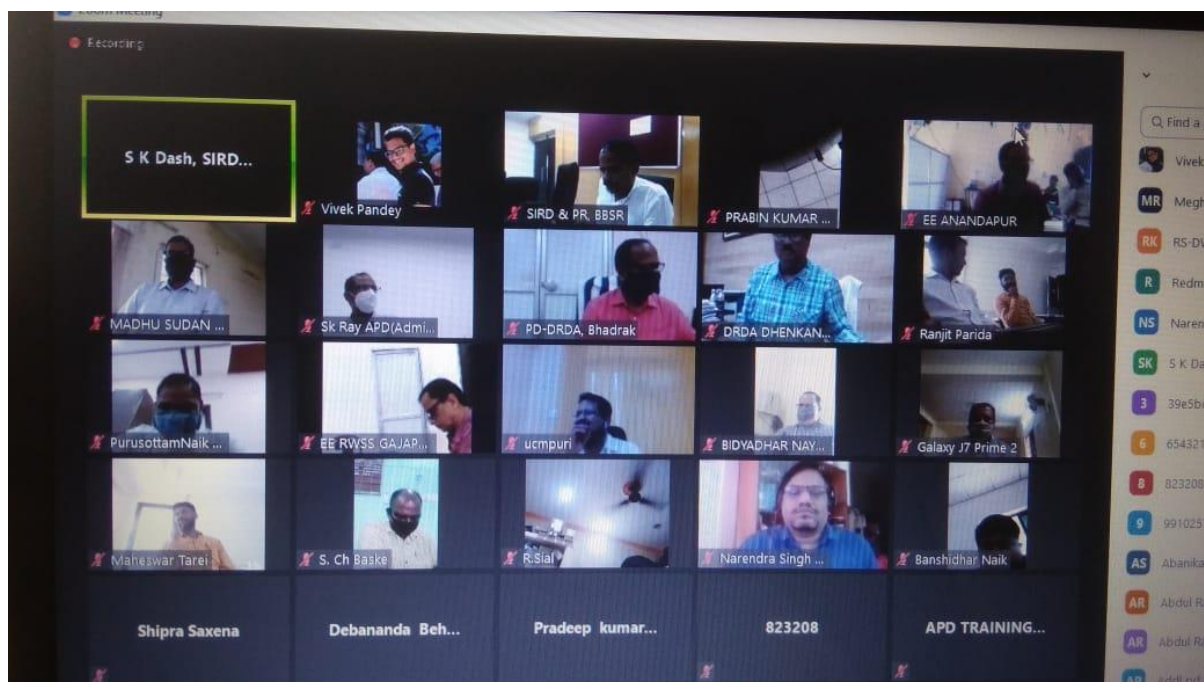


Odisha conducts webinar on Sujal & Swachh Gaon



As many as 272 district level officials attended a webinar cum orientation on Sujal and Swachh Gaon, conducted from Bhubaneswar, Odisha on 19th October 2020. Similar webinars will be held over the next three days for around 2000 Block level officials of all the 314 Blocks of State.

The state level training was organised for all the districts in Odisha with the joint collaboration of the Department of Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water (PR&DW), the State Institute for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (SIRD & PR) and UNICEF Odisha.

Among the participants of the training that was coordinated by SIRD and subject experts and facilitated by UNICEF were – Project Directors of District Rural Development Agency, Admin cum Nodal Officers of SBM-G; Additional Project Directors of Training; District Sanitation Consultants (SBM-G); District Panchayat Officers; Coordinators of MGNREGA and Executive Engineers of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation and other officials.

According to the Course Coordinator, Mr. Ambuja Bisoi (IEC Consultant – SIRD&PR), the objectives of the webinar were to familiarise participants with the:

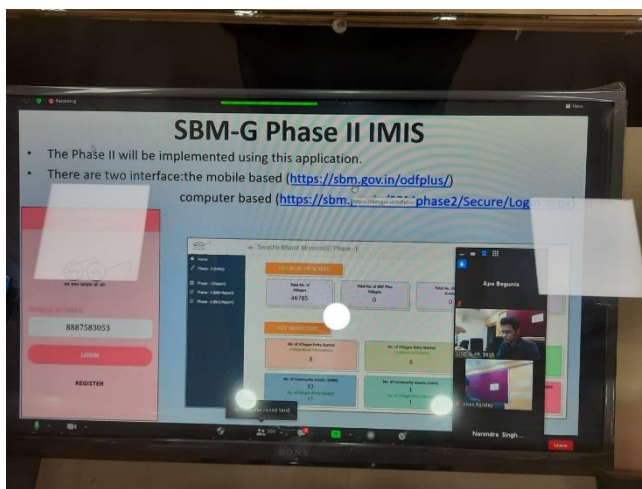
- Situation of water and sanitation in the State
- Government guidelines of Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G) Phase II
- Role of Gram Panchayats in developing a Sujal and Swachh Gaon

While Mr. R.P. Patil (Director - SIRD&PR), Mr. B. Parameswaran (Director PR&DW), Mr. Subash Das (Joint Secretary – PR&DW) and Ms. Shipra Saxena (WASH Specialist – UNICEF)

gave an introduction, background of the training and set the context to the webinar; Mr. Narendra Singh Chouhan (PO WASH – UNICEF) spoke about the water and sanitation situation in Odisha and Mr. Gautam Patanaik (State Consultant, Water) dwelt on the Sujal Gaon and the Jal Jeevan Mission.

The afternoon sessions were on: Swachh Gaon – ODF Sustainability by Mr. Sankuli Biswal (State Capacity Building Consultant, WASH); Swachh Gaon – ODF Plus by Mr. Yogendra Singh (State Consultant, Sanitation); IMIS for SBMG-II by Mr. Vivek Pandey (State Consultant, WASH) followed by open discussions and Q&A.

The closing remarks and way forward were given by Mr. Saroj Kumar Dash (JD – SIRD&PR); Ms. Amita Patra (Assistant Director – SIRD&PR) and Ms. Shipra Saxena (WASH Specialist).



The webinar is in line with the capacity strengthening initiative launched by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Government of India to ensure sustainability of Open Defecation Free (ODF) status and taking up of the ODF Plus agenda along with improved access to safe and secure water supply through Jal Jeevan Mission.

The main objective is to build capacity of Sarpanchs and Panchayat secretaries to plan and implement appropriate strategies for becoming a Sujal and Swachh Gaon.