

DDWS celebrates World Toilet Day 2020



Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti observed World Toilet Day 2020 with a *Sarpanch Samvad* – a virtual dialogue with Sarpanchs of ODF Plus villages; and a Puruskar Samaroh - distribution of awards to top 20 districts for overall performance in SBM-G.

The event was held at the national capital's Ashoka Hotel at 12 PM on November 19, 2020, while States and Districts were connected virtually through webcasting and YouTube.

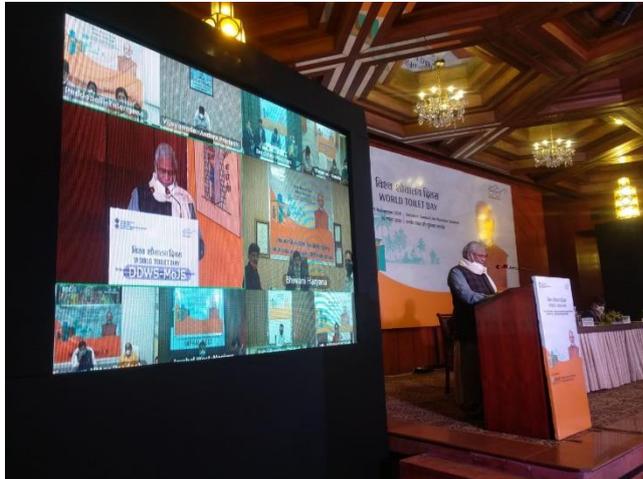
World Toilet Day is celebrated every year to raise awareness about the importance of having access to safe and hygienic toilets and the overall relevance of sanitation.

In his address, **Union Minister Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** said that the SBM-G has transformed rural India by manifesting into a Jan Andolan for sanitation under the guidance and leadership of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, achieving Open Defecation Free (ODF) rural India milestone in mission mode, in a span of five years.



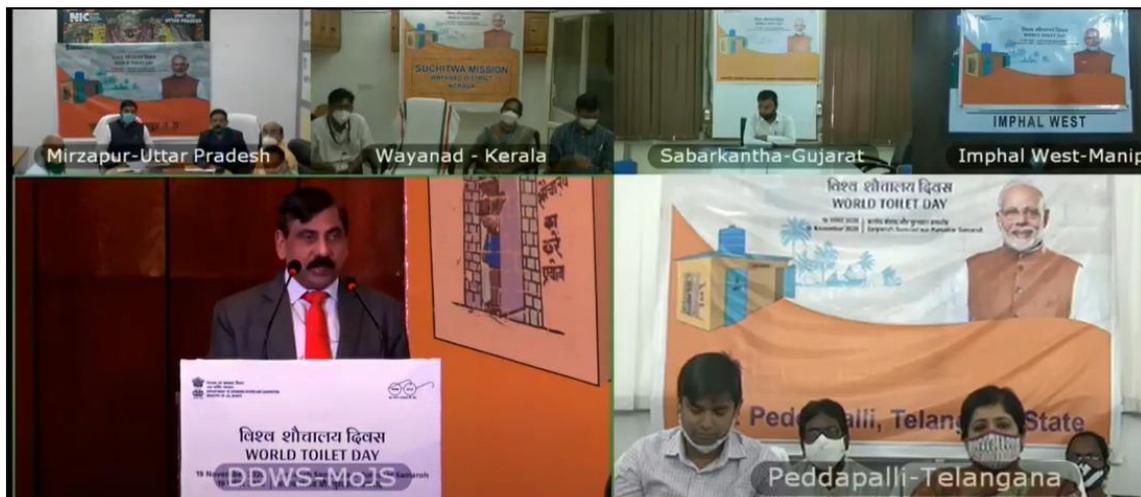
Taking forward the extraordinary success, Phase 2 of the SBM (G) has been launched early this year, which focuses on ODF sustainability and Solid and Liquid Waste Management

(SLWM) aiming at comprehensive cleanliness in villages. He stressed on the importance of access to safe sanitation facilities in terms of social, economic and health benefits to rural community members especially the vulnerable and marginalized community. Shri Shekhawat said that the awards being given today are recognition of worthy contributions made by community members for boosting the People's movement.



Speaking on the occasion **Minister of State Shri Rattan Lal Kataria** applauded the efforts of all stakeholders associated with SBM for making it a remarkable journey and the world's largest behaviour change programme. He congratulated the awardees for making significant contribution in improving sanitation and cleanliness standards in their villages and urged everyone to continue working with same spirit in

SBM Phase 2 as well which focuses on the bigger goal of ODF Plus.



Shri U P Singh, Secretary, DDWS, Ministry of Jal Shakti complimented all the states' SBMG teams for making significant contribution in Phase 1 of SBM-G and stressed that goals outlined under Phase 2 are more important for sustaining toilet usage and comprehensive cleanliness. He stressed on the resolve and commitment to attain ODF Plus status for all the villages in mission mode under Phase 2. At the same time, he pointed out the challenge to sustain the Phase 1 gains.

ODF Plus Film Screening: A film titled - 5 Mantras to achieve 'Sampoorn Swachhata' (ODF-Plus) was screened during the event. Its message called upon people to contribute to building a Swachh and Swasth Bharat through ensuring ODF Sustainability, Solid Waste Management, Liquid Waste Management, GOBAR-Dhan and Information, Education and Communication (IEC).

Sarpanch Samvad: The Union Minister had a virtual interaction with nine Sarpanches (mentioned below) from ODF Plus Gram Panchayats where Sarpanches shared their key activities such as SLWM, people' participation and ODF Sustainability. They also shared their inspiring success stories.

SI	Name of Sarpanch	Village	District	State	No. of ODF Plus villages in the State
1	Smt. Savitri Chettri	Kitam Manpur GPU	South Sikkim	Sikkim	11
2	Smt. Meena Devi	Bhainsru Kalan	Rohtak	Haryana	131
3	Smt. Rama Thapa	Rampur Bhauwala, Sahaspur	Dehradun	Uttarakhand	7
4	Shri Vikram Singh	Kamru	Kinnaur	Himachal Pradesh	7
5	Smt. Gadge Meenakshi	Mukhra-K	Adilabad	Telangana	22
6	Shri Akhilesh Kumar Singh	Bhaidpur Block ninety-six GP	Mirzapur	Uttar Pradesh	
7	Mr. Angom Gojendro	Phayeng	Imphal West	Manipur	5
8	Shri Alpitbhai Nayi	Hadiyol	Sabarkantha	Gujarat	5
9	Mrs. Geeta Mahananda	Risama	Durg	Chhattisgarh	71

Puruskar Samaroh: The 20 awardee districts were - West Godavari and East Godavari (Andhra Pradesh), Siang (Arunachal Pradesh), Kanker and Bemetara (Chhattisgarh); Vadodara and Rajkot (Gujarat); Bhiwana and Rewari (Haryana); Ernakulam and Wayanad (Kerala); Kolhapur and Nashik (Maharashtra); Kolasib and Serchhip (Mioram); Moga and Fatehgarh Sahib (Punjab); Siddipet and Peddapalli (Telangana); and Cooch Behar (West Bengal).

In his closing remarks, Mr. Arun Baroka, Additional Secretary, DDWS, highlighted the significance of World Toilet Day and the importance of using toilets on a regular basis, especially during COVID-19.

Congratulating everyone for their unwavering commitment towards the Swachh Bharat Mission, he extended his special regards to all stakeholders and grassroots functionaries involved in this mission.

“I am confident that we will rally towards ‘Sampoorn Swachhata’ with equal vigour and commitment in Phase 2 of the Swachh Bharat Mission,” he added.

Global observance of WTD: World Toilet Day is a United Nations observance that celebrates toilets and raises awareness of the 4.2 billion people living without access to safely managed sanitation. It is about taking action to tackle the global sanitation crisis and achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030.

The theme for World Toilet Day 2020 is Sustainable Sanitation and Climate Change. Clearly, climate change is getting worse. Flood, drought and rising sea levels are threatening sanitation systems – from toilets to septic tanks to treatment plants. Everyone must have sustainable sanitation that can withstand climate change and keep communities healthy and functioning. Sustainable sanitation systems also reuse waste to safely boost agriculture and reduce and capture emissions for greener energy.