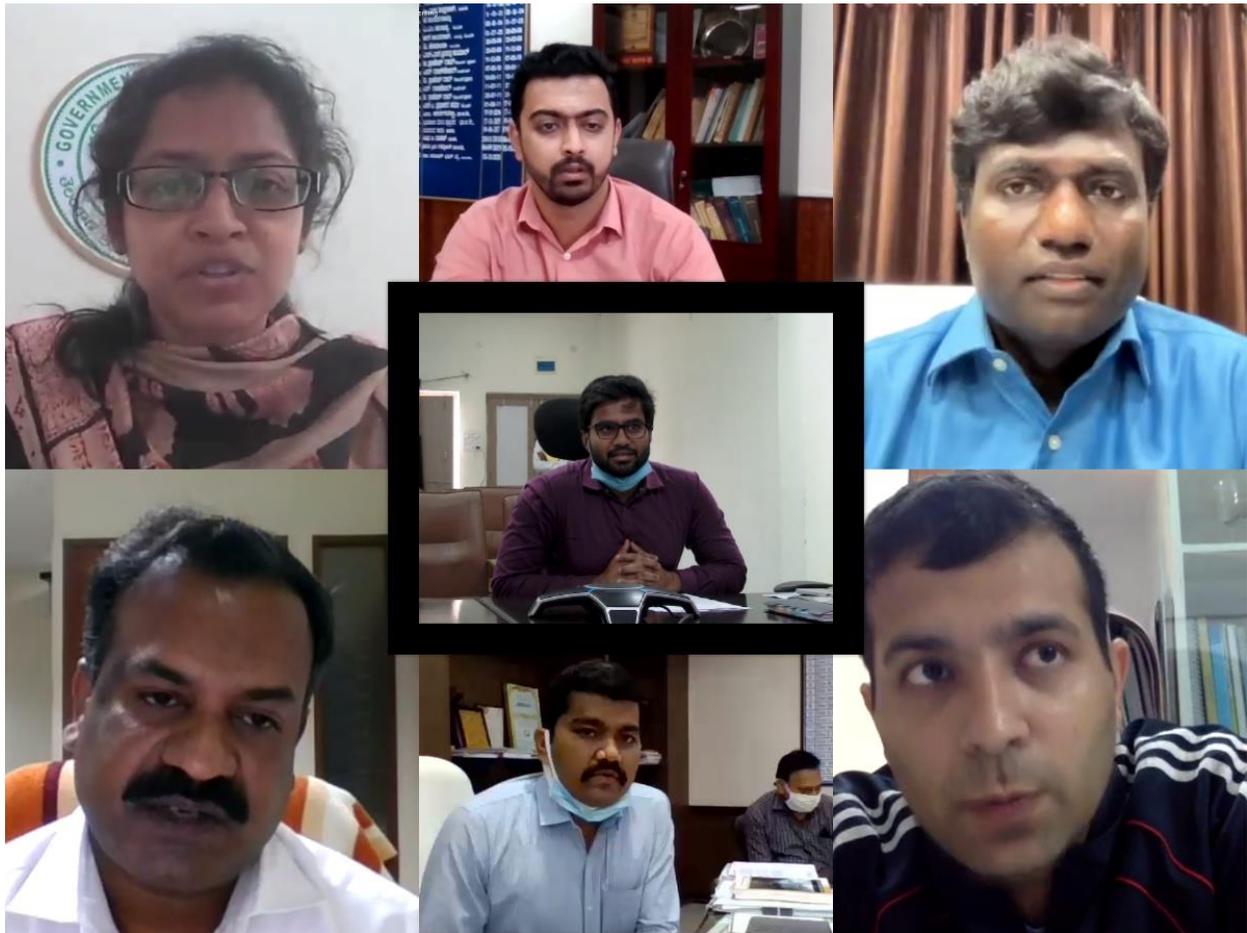


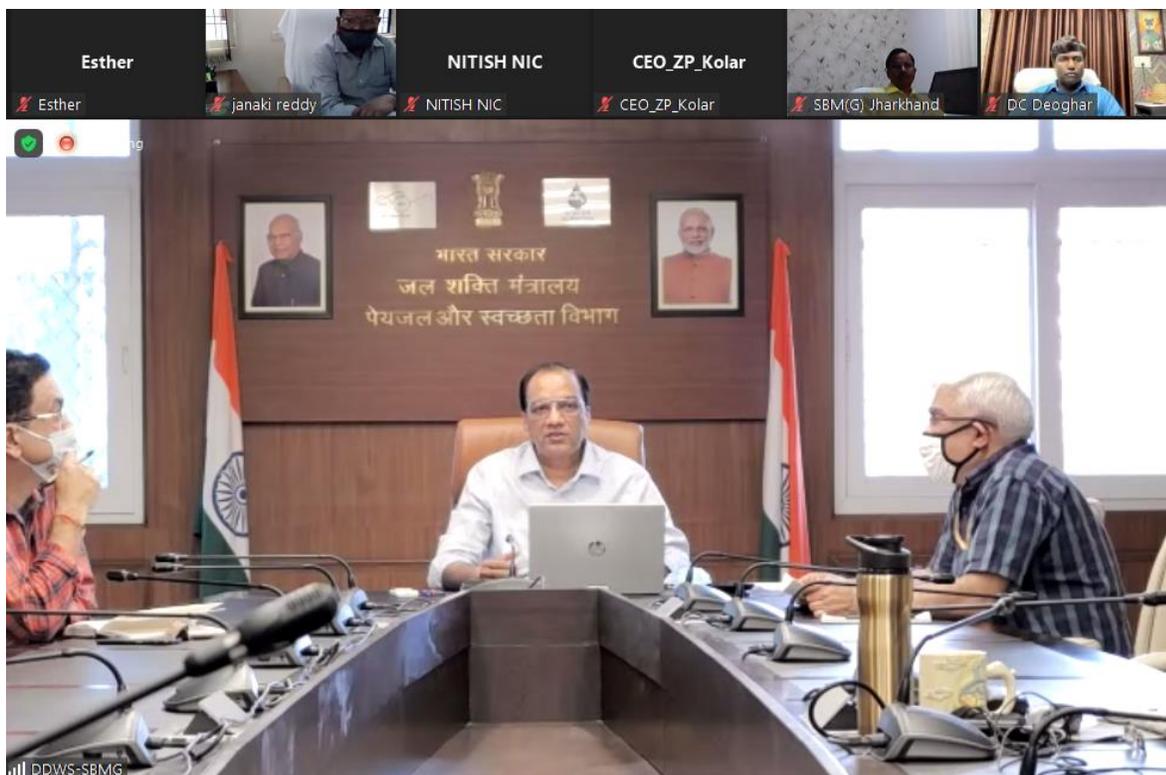
## District Collectors commit to making their districts ODF Plus



With a view to making their districts ODF Plus, District Collectors from various States have launched a slew of initiatives that include innovative activities, strengthening capacities and motivating the community to contribute to sustaining ODF status and managing solid and liquid waste - to bring about visual cleanliness to their villages.

This was discussed during the Collector Samvad held on August 27, 2021. Organised by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, the virtual meeting was held under the Chairmanship of the Additional Secretary, DDWS, Mr. Arun Baroka.

Mr. Baroka welcomed the participants to the experience sharing on a national platform, the 18<sup>th</sup> in the Samvad series; reiterating that the sessions have been an effective tool for exchange and sharing of learning experiences that would enable the districts to move forward towards converting the country into an ODF plus country.



The Samvad saw the participation of the following District Collectors:



**Shri Manjunath Bajantri District Collector, Deogarh Jharkhand:**

The district administration has enlisted the support of the 90,000 girls and women in the age group of 14-24 from the 850 Thejasvini Clubs, each comprising of 100-120 members; to ensure ODF sustainability. The collector has been virtually interacting with them on a weekly basis each Wednesday at 5 PM, seeking their assistance to ascertain the existence of toilets, their usage, maintenance, and those that needed repairs. During such meetings, covid care is also talked about. On 15<sup>th</sup> August 2021, star performers in this were recognized and appreciated.

The temple town of Deogarh has also been making consistent efforts to eliminate the use of plastic by promoting the use of Dona patar (leaf plates). The initiative which aims to put an end to the use of thermocol has enhanced livelihoods and curbed the use of plastics.

Solid and liquid waste management has commenced in 10 revenue villages in a decentralized manner, its strength being the SHG women who have been engaged in promoting construction of soak pits, kitchen gardening, and effective management of dry and wet waste.

**Ms. Pausumi Basu District Collector, Vikarabad Telangana:** The relatively new agricultural district of Vikarabad, that was formed in 2016 and has a large migratory population is situated close to Hyderabad. While pulses, fruits and vegetables are cultivated, the district is also home

to a few cement factories. The district generates huge amounts of agricultural and animal waste that need to be converted into compost, and soak pits do not work well in the district owing to the nature of soil that contains impervious rock.



The district administration has been working to create an enabling environment by motivating the Panchayat bodies to engage in sanitation and greenery. While 100% of households have toilets, their usage is sometimes a challenge. In this regard, the Statewide Palle Pragathi drive has improved awareness on source segregation, hygiene, sanitation, and toilet usage.

All 566 GPs in the district have solid waste sheds, complete with vermi compost beds and platforms and compartments from waste segregation. 100% of solid waste is collected using the tractors provided to each GP. SHGs that assist with this activity meet once a month for discussions on personal and community hygiene.

Lately, with the support of SHGs, low-cost sanitary pad vending machines have been installed in 50 GPs where sanitary pads are sold at a nominal rate. Efforts are also being made for soak pit revival and a target has been set for clearing of dump yards. Effective segregation of waste, composting and recycling can contribute to zero waste at the dump yards. Village leaders are availing of CSR support from the cement industries in all waste related activities.



**Karnati Varun Reddy, Additional Collector (Local Bodies),**

**Asifabad Telangana:** Having completed construction of toilets in Phase I of SBM-G, the focus now is on new households that need toilets. Population in the district is predominantly from the tribal community and Phase II of SBM-G has initially been taken up in 35 tribal villages which will be made into model villages. Significantly there is not much solid or plastic waste generated in them as

the communities are accustomed to keeping their surroundings clean and take care of the plantations around them.

In SLWM, focus is on construction of magic soak pits in all IHHLs, community soak pits near handpump areas, segregation sheds for composting and segregation of dry waste. The district administration has employed 70 sanitation workers and systems are in place for collection of waste from all households at 7 AM each morning. Composting is currently done in 220 villages and the first batch of vermi compost will be ready for harvesting in September 2021.

As far as institutions are concerned, 70% of them have functional toilets, as also the Mandal headquarters which have community toilets. Guidelines have been prepared for plastic waste and single use plastics have been banned.



**Shri Yogesh Kumbhejkar CEO, Nagpur**

**Maharashtra:** Nagpur is a peri urban district with 768 GPs and more than 16 lakh families living in the villages that are spread across an area of 10000 sq.kms. To apprise people of the ODF Plus programme, the CEO for the past two weeks has been traveling to the villages to hold discussions with the Gram Sevaks, and to learn of their understanding of ODF Plus. Given that Phase II requires more explanation and technical

inputs than Phase I of SBM-G, he informs them of the various elements of Phase II, pointing out that the interventions would differ from village to village based on their terrain.

Owing to covid-19, Gram Sabhas were not permitted for more than a year. The situation has changed now, and people are allowed to meet, following covid safety protocols. These meetings provide a platform for discussions on ODF sustainability, community sanitary complexes, and solid and liquid waste management. On August 15, 2021, 8 villages in the district were declared ODF Plus.

Regarding SLWM activities, villages on the riverbanks have been taken on priority and their DPRs have been made. NGOs will support activities and be allotted villages for SLWM work. Work for community toilets is ongoing and their locations have been identified near bazaars, bus stands and places where many people congregate.



**Shri Prateek Jain Additional Collector, Rangareddy,**

**Telangana:** Given that it is neighbouring Hyderabad, Rangareddy district has several urban characteristics. More than 50% of GPs have underground drainage. For the remaining villages, the district administration is organizing the construction of magic soak pits to take care of liquid waste. All this is being promoted by the statewide development programme called Palle Pragathi in which there is a lot of emphasis on

sanitation which has promoted better health and less spread of infectious diseases.

The district administration has constructed dump yards in all the GPs in saturation mode, complete with segregation sheds and compost pits. All dry and wet waste is picked up by the salaried waste collectors who have been equipped with tractors with compartmented trolleys that have been provided to every GP.

Nagar Deepikas or women SHGs have been allotted incentives to nudge people and inform them about the importance of segregation of waste at source, warning of penalty for those violating the norms. Further, model villages have been identified and in collaboration with ITC,

UNICEF and others, waste ventures will be initiated, to bring about change in behaviour of residents and the floating population.



**Shri N. M. Nagraj CEO, Kolar Karnataka:** Having constructed more than 5000 toilets for ODF sustainability, ensuring that no one is left behind, the district administration is making all efforts to ensure usage and functionality, complemented by IEC activities to sustain behaviour change. As many as 112 community sanitary complexes have been constructed in religious places, government offices, bus stands, market areas and their O&M is being managed well. Schools and anganwadis have adequate toilets with water supply.

Waste collection has been organized in all 156 GPs and in each GP 3-5 acres of land has been identified for sheds, and vehicles provided for the activity. Besides, each household has been given 2 bins each for wet and dry waste. To promote effective segregation at source, IEC activities are regularly organized with the help of SHGs who visit all homes to inform them of the best practices they should adopt. Swachhata Sheniwar is observed when people engage in shramdan to clean up their villages.

Individual soak pits are being constructed in all homes and when space is inadequate, community soak pits are constructed for a group of homes. Land has been identified for setting up a faecal sludge management and a DPR made. All efforts are being made to make villages clean.



**Shri Naveen Bhat Y CEO, Udupi Karnataka:** 100 per cent of the households were provided with IHHLs during Phase I and for this year an additional 1000 IHHLs are planned for new HHs. In Phase II, 130 of the 155 GPs have in place SLWM sheds. The management of these sheds has been assigned to the women SHGs. Significantly, 6 of the SHGs have women drivers who manage the entire operation. The advantage of allocating the SLWM duties to the

women of the same villages is that there is a higher degree of cooperation and prompt payment of user fees, while the SHG women feel a greater sense of motivation to keep their villages clean. This activity has become a revenue neutral model.

Udupi is the first in the State to start a pilot of the Material Recovery Facility. Spread across a sprawling space of 10,000 square feet, the unit has been set up at a cost of Rs. 2.5 crore with the appointment of 29 labourers. The unsegregated dry waste of 49 GPs is collected here and put on a conveyor belt that can promptly segregate 25 different types of waste. Meanwhile,

plastic is shredded and sent for road construction and non-recyclable waste to vendors. In this way, SWM has become an economic activity.

Given that the homes are sparsely located, most of them have soak pits and the treated water is used for their kitchen gardens. In the pipeline are plans to set up a faecal sludge management plan which is scheduled to be inaugurated on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2021.