

## Online test on ODF Plus for Swachhagrahis of Tamil Nadu



On November 30, 2020, Tamil Nadu conducted an online test for its Swachhagrahis on ODF Plus that comprises of sustaining ODF Plus status of villages, construction and maintenance of community sanitary complexes where needed, effective management of solid and liquid waste and visual cleanliness of villages.

The online test was conducted through NIC Chennai for as many as 12,068 Swachhagrahis that had registered on the Thooimai Mobile App. Currently, details of 13300 Swachhagrahis have been updated on the IMIS of the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti.

According to Mr. G. Lakshmipathy, Additional Director, Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Tamil Nadu, questions for the test were taken from the Tamil Nadu Handbook on Sanitation, in addition to latest topics such as hygiene and sanitation during COVID-19, safety protocols, etc.

“Passing the test is a pre-condition for carrying out ODF Plus awareness activities assigned through the Mobile App from December 1, 2020 onwards,” Mr. Lakshmipathy said, adding that of the 10,740 Swachhagrahis who attended the test 9,340 (87%) qualified with at least 50 out of 100 marks with a majority of them scoring over 70 per cent.

Further, Swachhagrahis qualified in the test are entitled to incentives for those approved activities, verified at District level.

The response to the online test and good marks secured are an indication of the State’s sustained capacity building activities during the last one year.

The State SBM-G team intends to make full use of the trained and qualified manpower (going by test results) in ODF PLUS as well as IPC (interpersonal communication) activities, to their fullest potential.

**Handbook on Sanitation:** Earlier, the State Administration has provided each of their Swachhagrahis a specially designed Handbook on Sanitation. The comprehensive booklet was developed consisting of all information related to toilet construction and maintenance, health and nutrition, menstrual hygiene management, and solid and liquid waste management.

**Thooimai Mobile App:** Intensive and sustained Inter-Personal Communication (IPC) activities by Swachhagrahis have helped in achieving ODF (open defecation free) status under Phase I of Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G). In Phase II of SBM-G, to give a major thrust to ODF Plus activities, the 'Thooimai Thamizhagam' Mobile Application was developed in collaboration with National Informatics Centre (NIC), Chennai.

The App has enabled the real-time tracking and monitoring of ODF Plus activities performed by Swachhagrahis and it is used as a tool for evaluating the performance of Districts and Blocks.