

SSG – India’s largest sanitation survey is back



The Minister of State, Jal Shakti Ministry, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel launched the Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2021 (SSG) under Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G) Phase -II, at an event organized by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) on September 9, 2021.

DDWS is undertaking the Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2021 countrywide to support acceleration of ODF Plus interventions and increase momentum for improving ODF Sustainability as well as Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) activities across the villages in the country. DDWS had commissioned Swachh Survekshan Grameen (SSG) on two occasions earlier in 2018 and 2019.

The Minister of State also launched the SSG 2021 Protocol Document, Dashboard and Mobile App for citizens.

The event was attended by Shri Pankaj Kumar, Secretary, Jal Shakti Ministry, Shri Arun Baroka, Additional Secretary, DDWS, other DDWS officials, media persons and virtually by senior SBM-G officials from States/UTs.

Speaking at the event, the Minister said that the feedback findings of the survey by a third-party agency will help bridge the gaps by identifying challenges on the ground and working with all states.

“As swachhata is an eternal journey, Phase II of SBM-G aims at achieving the goal of comprehensive cleanliness or *Sampoorna Swachhata*,” the Minister added.

Shri Patel also pointed out that the 75th anniversary celebration of India’s Independence or Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav has started this year with the symbolic Dandi Yatra. He further

said that the initiative of undertaking SSG during Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav is a very significant step with states being the biggest stakeholders in the process.



Also speaking on the occasion, Shri Pankaj Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti said that the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi gave a clarion call for Swachh Bharat in 2014 and a national behaviour change movement was launched whose two primary yardsticks were transparency and people's participation (Jan Bhagidari). Following these yardsticks, the programme succeeded in achieving its goal of ensuring access to safe sanitation to all in rural India. The survey will also help in overcoming the challenges due to the Covid pandemic and achieving ODF Plus status for all villages soon.

In his welcome address, Shri Arun Baroka, Additional Secretary, DDWS, Ministry of Jal Shakti said that the past experiences of SSG had shown that it fosters a very healthy competition between districts and States to improve their rankings. The Surveskshan provides a great opportunity to give the necessary momentum to ODF Plus activities especially due to the unexpected slowdown due to covid pandemic over last few months. One of the country's largest such survey with around 17,475 villages, it not only gives huge publicity to the

programme and ODF Plus goals, but at the same time engages districts and states in enhancing their reputation in sanitation, overall cleanliness, and waste management.

The SSG 2021 mobile App will be made available in major local Indian languages. The survey will be well monitored and complimented with frequent field visits. A detailed presentation on SSG protocol and survey implementation was also made at the launch.



As part of Swachh Survekshan Grameen, 17,475 villages in 698 Districts across the country will be covered. Further, as many as 87,250 public places namely schools, anganwadis, public health centres, haat/bazaars/religious places in these villages will be visited for the survey. Also, around 1,74,750 Households will be interviewed for their feedback on SBM related issues. In this regard, citizens will be mobilised to provide feedback on sanitation related issues online using an application developed for the purpose.

The weights to different elements of the SSG 2021 are as below:

- Direct Observation of sanitation at public places -30%
- Citizen's Feedback, including feedback from common citizens, key influencers at the village level and from citizens online using a mobile App -35%
- Service Level Progress on sanitation related parameters -35%