

Shramdaan, Rath Yatras, Samvads mark inauguration of SHS 2021



As a part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, a countrywide celebration to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Indian Independence, the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti inaugurated Swachhata Hi Seva 2021 on 15th September 2021 at NEDFI Convention Centre in Guwahati, Assam.

Swachhata Hi Seva is being held from 15th September to 2nd October 2021 across India.

This year will see a series of activities such as 'Satyagrah se Swachhagrah Rath Yatra', 'Shramdaan', 'Swachhata Jagriti Yatra' (Rallies), 'Award and Recognition of Swachhata Champions', Samvad with Gram Panchayats, etc., culminating on 2nd October 2021 with the celebration of Swachh Bharat Diwas.

Swachhata Hi Seva, an initiative of the Swachh Bharat Mission, aims to generate greater public participation reinforcing the concept of sanitation as everyone's business. This year SHS aims to encourage people to understand the importance of a clean environment and inculcate the practice of a systematic management of solid and liquid waste.

The campaign will require participation from each stakeholder of the mission at every level starting from state to district to Gram Panchayat, villages, community to individual level to involve and work together to make every village ODF Plus.

Among the dignitaries that participated at the event were: Sri Ranjeet Kumar Dass, Minister PHE and P&RD Department, Government of Assam; Sri Sayedin Abbasi, Additional CS, PHED, Government of Assam; Sri Hiranya Bora, Deputy Director General, DWSS, Government of

India; Sri Akash Deep, Commissioner and Secretary PHED cum MD SBM-G, Government of Assam.

During his welcome address by Sri Akash Deep, elaborated on the objectives of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, SHS, Swachh Survekshan and Swachh Bharat Diwas.



Also speaking on the occasion, Sri Hiranya Bora said, “The success of any mission depends on sustaining it and ultimately achieving the desired objectives. Swachh Bharat Mission has been able to do that. The mission transformed into a *Jan Andolan* as people started to become aware about the importance of sanitation and hygiene. He urged the people of Assam to participate and give their honest feedback in the survey and help support the state.

Commenting on the development and initiatives in the State, Sri, Ranjeet Kumar Dass said, “Swachh Bharat Mission has been working for the betterment of the society by raising people’s standard of living through sanitation, hygiene and safe water leading to economic upliftment and better health.

In the villages of Assam, Swachhata Hi Seva has been a part of the culture and everyday life. But due to urbanization this practice was seen to be fading away. With the initiation of Swachh Bharat Mission the wave of cleanliness and hygiene has once again come back and has turned into a Jan Andolan. To create massive awareness on ODF plus we have planned for a lot of activities under the Swachhata Hi Seva campaign. I appeal to everyone to come forward and support this,” he added.

The inauguration was followed by flagging off the “Satyagrah se Swachhagrah Rath Yatra” which will travel across all districts of Assam to create awareness about ODF sustainability and proper segregation, collection, and disposal of both solid and liquid waste. A Shramdaan activity was also conducted as part of the launch event at Tatimara, by DWSC Kamrup

(Metro). The activity included waste collection and transportation and laying of foundation of soak pits for grey water management in a nearby locality.