

## **‘Wrestling with Waste’ campaign launched in Mahasamund**



The district administration of Mahasamund in Chhattisgarh has launched a unique campaign called ‘Kachre se Kusti’ meaning ‘Wrestling with Waste’ to rid the villages of single use plastic (SUP) in keeping with the directive issued by the National Green Tribunal and ensure visual cleanliness.

According to District Coordinator, Mr. Tulsi Ramjay, a shramdaan event took place on Gandhi Jayanthi - October 2, 2021 and will henceforth take place every second Saturday of every month. He believes that the activity should be done each month to clean up the villages.

Under the initiative, each village will allocate one hour on the same date during which the entire community from all villages would simultaneously perform shramdaan or voluntary service to gather waste, particularly plastic and clean up public spaces.

Among the places identified for cleaning are temples, hospitals, primary health centres, anganwadis, schools, market places, panchayat bhavans, administrative offices and other public areas.

Participants in the massive exercise would be district and block officials, panchayat officials including sarpanches and sachivs, school and college students, teachers, health workers, ASHA and Anganwadi workers, SHGs, members of NYK, and others in the community.

The roles of nodal offices from the district, Block and Panchayat have been cleared defined and responsibilities assigned for this initiative.

Notice would be given to the entire community well in advance about the forthcoming shramdaan to ensure maximum participation. Further, the support of all public figures such as MLA and MP and NGOs should be enlisted for the event, ensuring their participation.

The collected waste would be transported to the segregation sheds where the SHGs will segregate the waste into plastic, paper, metal, etc., for appropriate disposal.

A detailed agenda has been prepared for the event and local health officers would be alert and make arrangements to promote covid appropriate behaviour, providing participants with masks, sanitizers, dust bins, banners and ensure that participants are vaccinated and maintain some degree of physical distancing.

The event would be followed by community meetings, with discussions revolving around Swachh Survekshan Grameen (SSG) 2021, ODF Plus components, and slogan writing.