

Government of India
Ministry of Jal Shakti
Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation

Subject: Monthly summary for the month of June, 2019 in respect of Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation

PM letter to Sarpanches on Water Conservaton

The Hon'ble Prime Minister wrote personal letters to each of the Gram Pradhans/Sarpanches (village chiefs) requesting them to conserve rainwater during the ongoing monsoon. The letters, signed by the PM, were hand-delivered to each of them through respective District Magistrates and Collectors in the districts. The Pradhans across the country convened meetings of their Gram Sabha (village assembly) on 22nd June 2019, wherein these letters were read out, and the participants then offered shramdaan for water conservation.

Conference of State Ministers of Water Resources, NRDWP and SBM-G

A Conference of State Ministers and Secretaries in-charge of Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation was held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 11th June, 2019 and was chaired by Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Hon'ble Minister, Jal Shakti. The Minister held a comprehensive review of the progress made so far in implementation of the National Drinking Water Supply Programme (NRDWP) and the SBM (G), and States shared innovative best practices and the way forward for water and sanitation. More than 150 people including 25 State Ministers participated in the Conference.

Jal Shakti Abhiyan 2019

A meeting of all Chief Secretaries and District Collectors of 256 selected districts with 1592 water stressed blocks through video conferencing was taken by Cabinet Secretary on 27th June, 2019 to appraise them of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA). This was followed by his meeting with all the senior officers of concerned Ministries and the officers appointed as Central Nodal Officers (CNOs), Block Nodal Officers (BNOs) and Technical Officers (TOs), organized at Vigyan Bhawan on the same day. Presentations were made by the Secretaries of the concerned Ministries/ Departments and officers briefed them about the campaign.

Swachh Mahotsav 2019

The Swachh Mahotsav 2019 - a campaign to celebrate the successes of the Swachh Bharat Mission and honour the stakeholders who were instrumental in making it happen, was launched by Hon'ble Minister(Jal Shakti), Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on 24th June 2019 in New Delhi. The Mahotsav will culminate on 2nd October 2019, the 150th birth year anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Over 20,000 awards would be given to acknowledge the contributions of people from different walks of life under the Swachh Mahotsav campaign.

The campaign would be marked by intensive information, education and communication activities at district, state and the national level in order to celebrate Swachhata.

The Swachh Mahotsav logo and a book by the Minister namely 'Showcasing Swachh Bharat Mission: When print media told the Swachh Bharat Story' were also launched at the event. Winners of Swachh Sundar Shauchalaya contest were recognized by the Minister on this occasion. While speaking at the launch of the Mahotsav, Hon'ble Minister also stressed the need to launch a huge jan andolan for water conservation along lines of the Swachh Bharat Mission. The event was attended by State Secretaries, Mission Directors, District Collectors, Sarpanches, Swachhagrahis and the winners of the Swachh Sundar Shauchalaya Contest.

Release of Studies to assess the environmental impact and communication footprint of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)

Union Minister for Environment and Forests Shri Prakash Javadekar and Union Minister for Jal Shakti Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat jointly released the findings of two Independent Third Party studies commissioned by UNICEF and the Bill and Melinda Gates, to assess the environmental impact and communication footprint of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) respectively, on 5th June, 2019 on World Environment Day.

Under the "Environmental impact of the Swachh Bharat Mission on Water, Soil, and Food" by UNICEF, groundwater samples were collected and studied from ODF and non-ODF villages of Odisha, Bihar and West Bengal. The study found that, in terms of faecal contamination, non-ODF villages were, on average 11.25 times more likely to have their groundwater sources contaminated (12.7 times more from contaminants traceable to humans alone)

The "Assessment of the reach and value of IEC activities under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)" conducted by Dalberg, supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, estimated that the SBM mobilized a spend equivalent worth INR 22,000 to 26,000 crores in monetary and non-monetary IEC activities, and that an average person living in rural India was exposed to between 2,500-3,300 SBM related messages over the last five years.

Launch of Swachh Bharat Summer Internship at Jodhpur

Swachh Bharat Summer Internship was launched by Hon'ble Minister for Jal Shakti at Jodhpur on 22nd June, 2019. The internship — a 50 Hours of Swachhata commitment by the youth — from 10th June to 31st July 2019 is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. The initiative will give an opportunity to youth from National Service Scheme (NSS), Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and National Cadet Corps (NCC) to develop their skills and orientation for sanitation-related work and become a part of the Swachh Bharat jan andolan. SBSI has been taken up for the second consecutive year as part of the Swachh Bharat Mission.

Shramdaan, Jan Samvad Narwa Village at Jodhpur

The Hon'ble Minister for Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, kicked off the water conservation Shramdaan in Jodhpur in Rajasthan on 22nd June, and also held a Jan Samvad with villagers and Swachh Bharat Summer Interns. He also inaugurated a rainwater harvesting unit at Narwa village, and did shramdaan for retrofitting of toilets and construction of Compost pits in the district. Addressing the sarpanches of nearby Panchayats and a large gathering of villagers, Shri Shekhawat stressed upon the need for water conservation, while reiterating the message of the Prime Minister's letter. He reaffirmed the Union Government's commitment to providing drinking water to all households in the country.

Additional monitoring of water and sanitation

A workshop on ODF Plus and water was organized in Bangalore from 6th to 8th June 2019. Senior officers from states attended this workshop and discussions were held on advancing Solid and Liquid Waste Management and moving from ODF to ODF Plus. A field visit was also organized where Secretary, DoDWS saw local piped water supply schemes and groundwater recharge structures.

A field visit to Bihar was organized on 18th June 2019 where a team from the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation including Secretary, DoDWS visited three districts — Patna, Banka and Bihar, to see local piped water supply schemes along with source sustainability measures.

Video Conference with Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary -In-charge of Rural Sanitation in the States of Telangana and Bihar and all DMs of Telangana was organized on 10th June, 2019 at 11.30 AM at New Delhi to review progress under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin).

Another Video Conference with CS/Principal Secretary -In-charge of Rural Sanitation in the State of Odisha and all DMs of Odisha was organized on 25th June, 2019, New Delhi to review progress under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin).
