

Swachh Shakti 2017

From the get go, Swachh Bharat Mission was conceptualized and promoted as a people's movement, with involvement of all sectors of the society. Bringing together all stakeholders, creates an opportunity for collective vision, and collective understanding of the key elements of the Swachh Bharat Mission programme.

Over 1.6 lakh villages and over 100 districts have already been declared Open Defecation Free (ODF). Women across the country have championed the cause of a Swachh Bharat at the grassroots and have played a leading role in the progress made so far.

The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation is, therefore, organizing a mass event on the occasion of International Women's Day in the august presence of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi. The event will take place on March 8th, 2017 and will honour about 6000 women Swachhagrahi Sarpanches from ODF Gram Panchayats across the country. The venue of the event is Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar, and Gujarat. The list of attendees also includes senior dignitaries - Chief Minister of Gujarat, Minister and Minister of State, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation and Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

The Swachh Shakti event was envisaged as a seven day event – beginning with the launch of “Swachh Shakti Saptah 2017” by Hon'ble Minister, Drinking Water and Sanitation, Shri. Narendra Singh Tomar, Government of India & Cabinet Minister of Development & Panchayats, Haryana, Shri. Om Prakash Dhankar. This is followed by several events felicitating Women Leaders and Swachhta Champions in different parts of the country culminating in Swachh Shakti 2017 on March 8th, 2017 at Gujarat.

The objectives of the event are to (i) honour women Sarpanches, grassroots champions, and other Swachhagrahis who have played a pivotal role in making their villages Open Defecation Free (ODF) (ii) bring to light, from women's perspective, various aspects of sanitation, poverty alleviation, skill India, digital India, housing, and Beti Bachao/ Beti Padhao (iii) appraise the women sarpanches of the various development innovations in Gujarat such as (i) Dairy Development (ii) Water Conservation (WASMO model, drip irrigation) (iii) Self Help Groups (iv) Food Processing (v) E-Gram / Digital Gram (vi) Khadi and (v) Agriculture Produce Markets.

The event also aims to (i) Be a reminder to all the participants and dignitaries of their commitment to Swachh Bharat Mission (ii) Facilitate inter-ministerial capacity building as it pertains to SBM action plan, technologies, behavior change etc. (iii) Encourage support to the felicitated GPs to ensure ODF sustainability (v) Propagate successful ideas and foster leadership among poor performing districts and (vi) Encourage a similar event at the State level for Gram Panchayats to enable cross-learning