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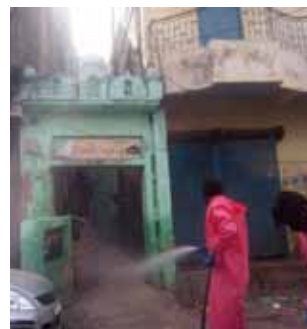
# Swachhata Sandesh

A monthly newsletter of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India



**Star Rating**  
**GARBAGE FREE CITIES**  
**RESULTS ANNOUNCED**







# editorial

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To accelerate the efforts to achieve universal sanitation coverage and to put focus on sanitation, the Government of India launched the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U). The issue of urban sanitation was brought to the forefront of the Central Government's development agenda. Today, the importance of sanitation effective solid waste management has been brought to the front and centre, due to the COVID 19 crisis. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has been promoting scientific Solid Waste Management (SWM) especially from quarantined households. Sanitation workers who are at the frontlines of this fight against the pandemic are amongst the most vulnerable due to the nature of their work. MoHUA has regarded the health of sanitation workers as their topmost priority. To supplement this, the Ministry has released multiple guidelines and advisories to be followed by each state and local government as well as by contractors employing sanitation and faecal waste management workers.

Several states and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) have come up with their own digital solutions to control the spread of the virus and constantly monitor the situation. The Swachhata App has been modified in order to enable citizens to get their COVID related complaints rectified by their respective ULBs. The District Administration of Jalandhar has launched an app via Alluzo and a WhatsApp based service to order essential services which are available on government prices. This enables people to order groceries and food items which are ultimately delivered at their doorstep.

Indore has turned to drones to sanitize the crowded areas of the city. Indore Municipal

Corporation (IMC) has deployed two drones from private companies to sprinkle chemicals in such areas. Within its limited resources, Dungarpur in Rajasthan has done exceptional work in containing the spread of the virus. Since the commencement of the lockdown, regular cleanliness and sanitization drives have also been organized by the City Council. These include the spraying of Sodium Hypochlorite and bleaching powder via SMKTs. Several states and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) have come forward with initiatives to feed and shelter the needful. Numerous NGOs have also volunteered to provide their services in the making and distribution of food packets. All ULBs of Allapuzha have started Community Kitchens for the distribution of food amongst migrant labourers and other underprivileged communities. Sikh volunteers are preparing food in their community kitchen to distribute it among the needy at Bangla Sahib Gurudwara in the National Capital.

This newsletter brings forth such stories from different cities in India and showcases the progress of SBM, highlighting the champions and ambassadors of change. It also serves as a vehicle for promoting ground level practices. It advocates the spreading of knowledge to and from sources who are interested in making India clean and litter free.

The Newsletter is available on the Mission website (<http://swachhbharaturban.gov.in>) and can be downloaded for further dissemination. The newsletter is an outcome of collective efforts made by states and cities. We thank them for their contribution and welcome suggestions for the forthcoming issues.

**Editorial Team, Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)**



# Sadhguru's Wisdom for Swachhata Warriors

MoHUA organizes webinar with Isha Foundation to cope up with difficult times

The COVID 19 pandemic has brought before us unforeseen challenges in the last few months. To help individuals and organisations cope during these difficult times, MoHUA collaborated with Isha Foundation, a volunteer based non-profit organization founded by Sadhguru, Shi Jaggi Vasudev for an hour long webinar titled 'With Sadhguru in Challenging Times: Interaction with Swachhata Warriors'. Organized on 8 May 2020, the webinar featured insights from Sadhguru, and interactions with District Collectors/ Municipal Commissioners from Ujjain, Surat, East Delhi Municipal Corporation, Agra and Madurai. The session dedicated to the frontline COVID champions – the Safai Karmacharis, was moderated by Shri Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary, MoHUA and saw the spiritual Guru also respond to a set of questions posed by sanitation workers.

Responding to a question on how to combat the negativity due to the COVID crisis, Shri Sadhguru said, "We must remember that we have a limited amount of time on this earth. What is important is the

profoundness of the experience that we gain and the impact we create during this life". Elaborating further he said, "It is the first time in this country that people are appreciating the commitment of sanitation and other frontline workers and their role in nation building. It is important to keep this momentum of positivity going – we must remember that is not the sanitation worker's business to keep the country clean, it is, in fact, our business to keep our nation clean and be active and responsible citizens".

Along with answering the questions posed by ULB representatives and sanitation workers, Shri Sadhguru highlighted the importance of motivating the Swachhata Warriors along with ensuring the availability of adequate personal protective equipment and uniforms for sanitation workers to allay their fears and provide them with a sense of confidence while on the job. He further added, "Sanitation, needless to say, is a big challenge. Along with the segregation and processing of wet and dry waste,



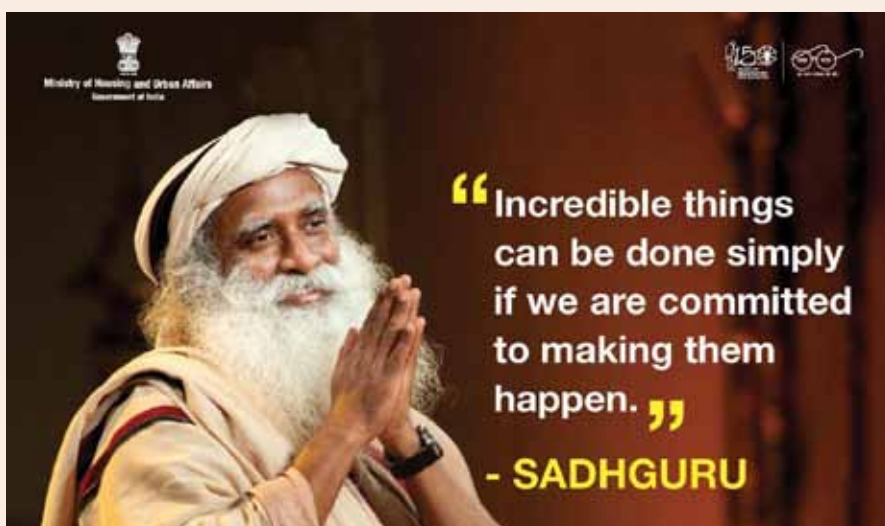
the treatment of waste from industries and discharge of sewage from domestic industries also need to be paid attention to. Besides, dry waste segregation needs to be incentivized in some ways in order to encourage citizens to take it up with more enthusiasm".

The session was attended by a wide range of stakeholders across 4300+ Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) across India which included Municipal Commissioners, Chief Executive Officers, political representatives such as Mayors along with health workers, sanitation workers, self-help group members, and all frontline COVID champions.

Shri Sadhguru signed off by saying that there is a Swachhata Warrior in each of us. "The broom is not the tool that will clean India. It is the active participation of citizens that will play a crucial role in keeping our towns and cities clean".

*The recorded version of the webinar is available on YouTube:*

- English: [isha.co/MoHUAwithSadhguru](https://isha.co/MoHUAwithSadhguru)
- Hindi: [isha.co/MoHUAwithSadhguruinHindi](https://isha.co/MoHUAwithSadhguruinHindi)



# Strict Sanitization Measures

## Go Hand in Hand With Empathy

*For the Needy in Ghaziabad*  
During **COVID** Crisis



Believed to be founded by in 1740 by Ghazi-ud-din, who served as Minister of the Moghul Emperor Ahmadshah and Alamgir II, Ghaziabad was earlier known by the name of Ghaziuddinnagar. Today, while many may not be aware of the city's history, there is no doubt that the city has become a prominent name in India's urban map owing to the prosperous and progressive lifestyle and infrastructure that it affords to its citizens. Today, we take a look at how the Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam is also setting an example in tackling the COVID crisis, under the able leadership of its Municipal Commissioner, Mr. Dinesh Chandra Singh.

### Sanitization of Public Areas

Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam (GNN) has taken mammoth steps since the beginning of the lockdown itself to ensure sanitization of all public places. With the help of 5 high power spray machines, 5 water sprinkler machines, 10 small automatic spray machines and 100 manual hand spray machines, frontline workers of GNN, under the personal supervision of

Mr. Chandra himself, are busy sanitizing all public areas such as vegetable and fruit stalls, banks, parks, etc with a solution of water and sodium hypochlorite across all 100 wards. Several teams have been formed in all zones to supervise the sanitization effort, manned by Sanitation Inspectors. The GNN has pressed into service at least 535 vehicles for its sanitization efforts. A toll free number of the GNN has been issued which can be contacted by the public for COVID-19. The helpline takes care of sanitation, water supply issues and is manned by senior officials starting from 7 am till 10 pm. The helpline no is 18001803012 with the Municipal Commissioner himself monitoring the situation on an hourly basis. In fact, 13 out of the 15 hotspots areas which have been sealed are being sanitized not just once



but twice with the help of fire extinguishers. Simultaneously, attention is being paid to regular fogging, cleaning of drains and proper waste collection by the authorities. This shows the dedication of GNN officials who are leaving no stone unturned to ensure the safety of its citizens.

### Helping the needy and vulnerable

While sanitization of public places is one part of the story, it is the story of humanity and empathy for the needy and vulnerable that comes through most strongly in Ghaziabad's story. Two big and two small community kitchens are constantly in service churning out fresh and nutritious meals twice a day for over 6000 people comprising the homeless and the migrant workers.

On the appeal of Mr. Chandra





to the staff to come out to donate for the noble cause and set an example, officials and employees of GNN pooled in Rs 3 lakhs that was donated to Chief Minister's Disaster Relief Fund to help in the fight against corona. Mr.

Chandra has further appealed to all his citizens and civil society organizations to come forward and meet the needs of not just the disadvantaged but that of the voiceless and vulnerable stray birds and animals on the

roads. Waking the talk, the Commissioner himself stepped out on the roads to feed stray dogs. Setting an example in compassion, the Commissioner also announced that GNN would felicitate all those who undertook the task of feeding stray dogs and other animals in their respective areas.

This call by the Commissioner has been responded to with equal enthusiasm by the citizens of Ghaziabad. People have come forward to also donate in cash and kind for the upkeep of cows. In fact, a group of animal lovers have come forward to donate a whopping amount of INR.1,00,000 to a cow shelter which has been put to good use by purchasing 40 quintals of jaggery for the cows.

The adage "Lead by example" perhaps best sums up Ghaziabad's inspirational journey during this difficult time. The Commissioner, together with his staff, citizens and civil society organizations has displayed not just courage but kindness when it comes to responding to the needs of all sections of society. Social distancing may be the norm now, but that does not deter this army from undertaking their social duties.



# MUCH AWAITED RESULTS OF *Star Rating* GARBAGE FREE CITIES ANNOUNCED

6 Cities rated 5 Star, 65 cities rated 3 Star and 70 cities rated 1 Star

The much awaited results of the Star Rating Protocol of Garbage Free Cities was announced by Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Honourable Minister of State (I/C) for Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) on 19 May 2020 at the National Media Centre in New Delhi. **For the assessment year 2019-2020, a total of six cities have been certified as 5-Star (Ambikapur, Rajkot, Surat, Mysuru, Indore and Navi Mumbai), 65 cities as 3-Star and 70 cities as 1-Star.** The Star Rating Protocol was launched by the Ministry in January 2018 to institutionalize a mechanism for cities to achieve Garbage Free status, and to motivate cities to achieve higher degrees of cleanliness.

Announcing the results, the Honourable Minister said, “Five years ago, we introduced Swachh Survekshan (SS), the annual cleanliness survey for urban India that has proven immensely successful when it comes to

improving urban cleanliness through a spirit of healthy competition. However, since it is a ranking system, several of our cities, despite doing exceptionally well, were not being recognized enough. The Ministry, therefore, devised the Star Rating Protocol for Garbage Free Cities- a comprehensive framework similar to our examination systems where every city must achieve a certain standard across 24 different components of solid waste management (SWM) and is graded based on overall marks received. Our aim is to institutionalize



as well as bring consistency and transparency when it comes to SWM. This certification is not only an acknowledgement of the clean status of Urban Local Bodies and strengthened SWM systems but also a mark of trust and reliability akin to universally known standards.”

In the recent phase of Star Rating Assessment, 1435 cities applied. During the assessments, 1.19 crore citizen feedbacks and over 10 lakh geo-tagged pictures were collected and 5175 solid waste processing plants were visited by 1210 field assessors. While 698 cities cleared the desktop assessment, 141 cities have been certified with Star Rating during field assessment. The low number of certifications signifies the rigorous and robust certification mechanism of the protocol.

Congratulations to all the winners! Going forward, the Ministry aims to make all cities at least 3-Star Garbage free certified.





# SEWAGE FREE SARASWATI

## Efforts of Indore Municipal Corporation Turns 2kms stretch of Sarawati River 100% Sewage Free

Once popularly known as the urban heritage of Indore, the River Kahn and its tributary, Saraswati began choking on effluents with the rapid industrial boom in the 70s, rising population and mounting settlements near the riverfront. This resulted in the direct dumping of household waste and open defecation. But due to the efforts of Indore Municipal Commission under the efforts of its former Commissioner, Asheesh Singh, **a two-kilometre stretch of Sarswati river flowing through Indore has been made 100 per cent sewage free by treating inflow from 28 sewage lines through a fully functional Sewage Treatment Plant (STP)!**

“What makes this river cleanup model unique is its capacity to recycle eight MLD (millions of litre per day) of sewage into clean water. We constructed the STP inside the city to make greywater our asset. Apart from environmental and health benefits, this project is also helping us conserve water. The recycled water is used to fill up other dry water bodies and water 250 gardens. Presence of fish inside Saraswati river is our validation for success,” Shri Singh informed.

To achieve this feat, IMC adopted a slew of measures such as rigorous mapping of sewage outfalls, restricting encroachments, rehabilitation of houses on the



river bank and around-the-clock civil construction activity. The primary challenge IMC grappled with was the wear and tear of the three primary sewage pipeline lines that meet the STP located outside the city. A similar problem was observed with the Kahn river as well. So, IMC came up with a plan in 2018 to restore both the rivers (a total of 23 kilometres stretch) by installing decentralised STPs. The plan was to install six STPs with a cumulative capacity to treat 65 MLD of sewage from 434 locations across the city, “Majority of the civil construction work is completed. Of the six STPs, one is fully operational and others will be post the lockdown period.

Ideally, the sewage enters an STP for treatment which is then directed into a river. This process prevents river pollution and groundwater contamination. However, Saraswati was polluted due to damage or lack of sewage lines. So, mapping the sewage outfalls was the first step IMC took. Once, the spots were identified, they were geotagged to lay new

pipelines and connect it to STP.

The next task was to find places to install the STPs inside the city which also involved the tough decision of rehabilitating around 250 households. Alongside tapping the outfalls, IMC worked on the rectification of primary lines and de-weeding the two rivers with the help of earth excavators. To maintain water quality, IMC also created artificial floating islands with the help of a private firm. The islands also improve the Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) level of the water. BOD is the unit for testing the amount of oxygen in the water. The BOD level should be less than 10 ppm (parts per million). If the BOD level is high then the river is heavily polluted and as per our recent test, the Saraswati’s level is eight as against 70 or 80,” mentions Shri Singh. The IMC has also constructed fountains in regular intervals across the 2 km stretch to beautify it further.

In such times of despair, inspiring news like this is indeed welcome!

*With inputs from IMC*

*Story Reference: The Better India*



# Swachh Snippets

## A BALM FOR TIRED FEET: CITIZENS OF BHOPAL DONATE OLD SHOES FOR MIGRANT WORKERS

With the lockdown in force, several migrant workers across different parts of the country have been trying to make their way home. While Urban Local Bodies across India have been working relentlessly to support this group by providing adequate food and shelter, many are left without necessities such as shoes and slippers as they make the journey towards home.

This came to the notice of the citizens of Bhopal and the Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC). Members of prominent Resident Welfare Associations in the city



along with NGOs and Swachh Bharat Ambassadors of Bhopal got together and the result was a whopping 4,000 pairs of used shoes that were collected in a single day and made available in several check posts of the city to be distributed to labourers as they passed by. Additional help came in the form of 400 new pair of shoes donated by a local footwear company. The shoe collection drive was complemented with the collection and distribution of other essential goods such as biscuits, water bottles, masks, umbrellas, towels and caps.

## SWACHHATA DIDIS OF AMBIKAPUR LEND SUPPORT TO FIGHT AGAINST COVID

The importance of sanitation and effective solid waste management has been brought to the forefront now due to the COVID crisis. In fact, it would not be an exaggeration to say that the present situation could have been much worse had it not been for the critical part that SBM-U has played in the last five years to ensure a high degree of cleanliness and sanitation

in urban areas.

A case in point is the Ambikapur Solid Liquid Waste Management (SLRM) Model run by the Swachhata Didis which is well known across the country today. These women are hard at work to ensure that the door-to-door waste collection does not get affected due to the crisis. Shashi Sinha, one of the Swachhata Didis and a Centre In-Charge came up with



the idea of building a lab in the SLRM centre to make a “WHO Standard” hand sanitizer which could be used by all 500 sanitation workers without any shortage whatsoever. To ensure standardization of quality, she consulted Corporation officers, Bio tech scientist & pharmacists. Along with this, to take care of the shortage of masks and gloves, Shashi also took the initiative of installing sewing machines in the centre itself. The Swachhata Didis, led by Shashi, have once again come forward for the cause of Swachhata and Swasthata.



# Swachh News

## SAFAI KARMACHARIS GO BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY DURING COVID PANDEMIC ONSANITIZATION DUTY, SAFAI KARMACHARIS SPREAD AWARENESS ON COVID IN AMBALA

From door-to-door garbage collection to sanitising streets, roads and public places, clearing garbage bins, collecting and disposing medical

waste as well as that generated by Covid-positive or suspected patients, sanitation workers are playing a vital role in the coordinated action plan to contain the pandemic. Besides sanitation duties, these workers also spread public awareness about social distancing and wearing of masks at public places. "As soon as we spot someone without a mask, we appeal to them to wear one and maintain social distancing when they are out to shop," said Sanjeev Kumar, a door-to-door

garbage collection supervisor. Chameli Devi and Baldevi, door-to-door garbage collectors, said local residents were also extending their full support and cooperation in maintaining cleanliness.

Read More: <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/haryana/on-sanitisation-duty-they-spread-awareness-too-in-ambala-81765>



## SANITATION WORKERS DON KIN'S ROLE AND PERFORM LAST RITES OF COVID-19 VICTIMS IN INDIA

Amid the coronavirus crisis in India, sanitation workers in Madhya Pradesh's Indore district are not only doing their cleaning job in hospitals, but have also come forward to perform the last rites of COVID-19 victims whose family members are unable to bid them a final adieu.

In the wake of guidelines to check the spread of coronavirus, only a few family members of the victims are being allowed to attend the last rites. At such a difficult time, the sanitation workers are helping these families by performing the last rites of the deceased.

Read More: <https://gulfnews.com/world/asia/india/sanitation-workers-don-kins-role-and-perform-last-rites-of-covid-19-victims-in-india-1.1588574916680>

## 34 YEAR OLD CLEANLINESS WORKER BECOMES FIRST PLASMA DONOR IN MADURAI



A 34-year-old cleanliness worker at Government Rajaji Hospital, Madurai who recovered from COVID-19 last month, has become the first plasma donor in Madurai for convalescent plasma therapy clinical trial.

The worker, who was the first cleanliness worker in South Tamil Nadu to test positive for COVID-19, said, "I was told by the hospital that my plasma could potentially help COVID-19 patients recover. I agreed to donate as I could help save at least two lives. Because, I know what ordeal one would face due to the disease."

Read More: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/tamil-nadu/2020/may/14/cleanliness-worker-first-plasma-donor-in-madurai-2143267.html>



# SBM-U Mission Progress

## Solid Waste Management



100% Door-to-Door  
Collection

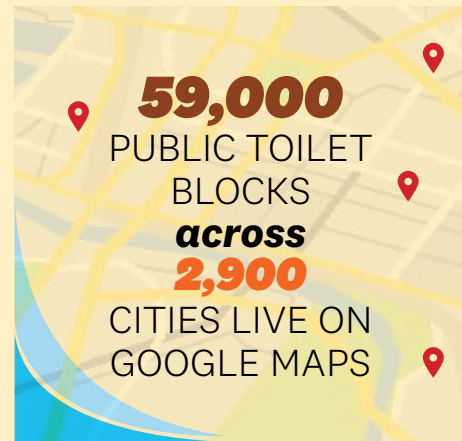
**81,535 wards**  
(96.4%)



Waste  
Processing

**65%**

**Total wards - 84,517**



## Sanitation



ULBs  
declared ODF

**4,324**

ODF Declared  
States/UTs

**35\***

ULBs declared  
ODF+

**1,306**

ULBs declared  
ODF++

**489**

**Total ULBs - 4,372**

\*Except 52 ULBs of West Bengal

## Total Individual Household Latrines Constructed



**66.37**  
**lakh**

**>100%**

## Total Community/ Public



**6.23**  
**lakh**

**>100%**

## Star Rating for Garbage Free Cities

**Cities**  
1 Star Rating

**70**

**79**

**cities**  
3 Star Rating

**Cities**  
5 Star Rating

**6**



आवासन और शहरी कार्य मंत्रालय  
भारत सरकार



कहीं  
**भूलें** तो नहीं

कि शॉपिंग जाते समय घर से ही  
जूट या कपड़े का बैग लेकर जाना है!