

# **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan**

**Swachh Bharat Abhiyan** abbreviated as SBA or SBM for is a national campaign by the Government of India, covering 4,041 statutory cities and towns, to clean the streets, roads and infrastructure of the country.

The campaign was officially launched on 2 October 2014 at Rajghat, New Delhi, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It is India's biggest ever cleanliness drive and 3 million government employees and school and college students of India participated in this event.

## **Background**

With effect from 1 April 1999, the Government of India restructured the Comprehensive Rural Sanitation Programme and launched the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) which was later (on 1 April 2012) renamed *Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan* (NBA).

On 2 October 2014, Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi launched the *Swachh Bharat* Mission, which aims to eradicate open defecation by 2019, thus restructuring the *Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan*. *Swachh Bharat Abhiyan* is a national campaign, covering 4,041 statutory cities and towns.

## **Toilets**

The government is aiming to achieve an Open-Defecation Free (ODF) India by 2 October 2019, the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, by constructing 12 crore toilets in rural India, at a projected cost of ₹1.96 lakh crore (US\$29 billion). Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke of the need for toilets in his 2014 Independence Day speech stating,

Has it ever pained us that our mothers and sisters have to defecate in open? Poor womenfolk of the village wait for the night; until darkness descends, they can't go out to defecate. What bodily torture they must be feeling, how many diseases that act might engender. Can't we just make arrangements for toilets for the dignity of our mothers and sisters?

— *Narendra Modi*

Modi also spoke of the need for toilets in schools during the campaign for 2014 Jammu and Kashmir state elections stating,

When the girl student reaches the age where she realises this *lack of female toilets in the school* she leaves her education midway. As they leave their education midway they remain uneducated. Our daughters must also get equal chance to quality education. After 60 years of independence there should have been separate toilets for girl students in every school. But for the past 60 years they could not provide separate toilets to girls and as result the female students had to leave their education midway.

— *Narendra Modi*

As of May 2015, 14 companies including Tata Consulting Services, Mahindra Group and Rotary International have pledged to construct 3,195 new toilets. As of the same month, 71 Public Sector Undertakings in India supported the construction of 86,781 new toilets.

## **Finance**

BSE contributes ₹1.01 crore(US\$150,000) to Swachh Bharat Kosh

The programme has also received funding and technical support from the World Bank, corporations as part of corporate social responsibility initiatives, and by state governments under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyanschemes. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan is expected to cost

over ₹620 billion (US\$9.2 billion). The government provides an incentive of ₹12,000 (US\$180) for each toilet constructed by a BPL family.<sup>[10]</sup> Total fund mobilised under *Swachh Bharat Kosh*(SBK) as on 31 January 2016 stood at ₹3.69 billion (US\$55 million). An amount of ₹90 billion (US\$1.3 billion) was allocated for the mission in 2016 Union budget of India.

Government and the World Bank signed a US\$1.5 billion loan agreement on 30 March 2016 for the *Swachh Bharat Mission* to support India's universal sanitation initiative. The World Bank will also provide a parallel \$25 million technical assistance to build the capacity of select states in implementing community-led behavioural change programmes targeting social norms to help ensure widespread usage of toilets by rural households.

## **Performance**

Between April 2014 and January 2015, 31.83 lakh toilets were built. Karnataka led all States in construction of toilets under the programme. As of August 2015, 80 lakh toilets have been constructed under the program. As of 18 March 2016, 10 districts in India were ODF.

## **Plans**

The Ministry of Railways is planning to have the facility of cleaning on demand, clean bed-rolls from automatic laundries, bio-toilets, dustbins in all non-AC coaches. The Centre may use its Digital India project in conjunction with the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan to have solar-powered trash cans like in many US cities which send alerts to sanitation crew once they are full.

Government has appointed PWD with the responsibility to dispose off waste of Government offices.