

Recommendations are invited for the Convenor of Ganga Swachhata Manch

The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has decided to set up a Ganga Swachhata Manch (GSM), an informal forum to encourage the sharing of experiences and to mobilize the public support for Ganga Gram Swachhata Programme (Please see the attached Note).

You are requested to recommend names of one or two suitable non-government persons as Convenor or the GSM on or before November 9, 2017, with the bio-data of the person/s recommended and a 200 words note on why you are recommending her/him. The recommendations may be e-mailed to vinaytiwari@kpmg.com

A Search Committee constituted for the purpose will then decide the convenor. The Decision of the Ministry shall be final in this matter.

Note on Ganga Swachhata Manch

Introduction

All villages on the banks of Ganga River have been declared open defecation free (ODF) under the 'Namami Gange' initiative and the same was announced at the Ganga Gram Sammelan, held in Allahabad on 12th August 2017.

Ganga Gram is a joint initiative of Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation and the Ministry of Water Resources under which the focus will be on better cleanliness and infrastructure facilities such as solid and liquid waste management, rejuvenation of ponds and water sources, water conservation projects, organic farming and convergence with other government departments and projects. To implement the initiative, 24 Adarsh "Ganga Grams" are to be developed in 5 states. Among these 24 ODF villages, 3 villages are in Uttarakhand, 10 in Uttar Pradesh, 4 in Bihar, 5 in Jharkhand and 2 villages are in West Bengal.

Background

In order to strengthen the Ganga Gram Swachhata Programme, the Hon'ble Minister has directed to setting up of an informal forum for citizens to engage with each other towards swachhata of villages along the Ganga River. Since all the Ganga bank villages have now been declared as ODF and next step is to have effective Solid and Liquid Waste Management interventions along with other improvements with the financial support from MoWR. Forum to be created would encourage the sharing of experiences and could potentially also mobilize public support for the Ganga Gram Swachhata Programme.

The name of the forum should be Ganga Swachhata Manch (GSM).

Overview of GSM

GSM will be a forum of Individuals, academicians, NGOs and voluntary organizations who feel dedicated to river Ganga and come forward to express their views, suggestions and offer their services for the cause of swachhata in Ganga villages. GSM will promote Multi-stakeholder coalition engagement and learning on a national canvas, with focus on villages on the bank of River Ganga in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal through support for advocacy, networking efforts and learning events.

This is expected to ensure enhancing the momentum of discourse on issues in Ganga villages, ensure wider attention to successful approaches towards SLWM intervention and public participation followed by integrated approach delineated in the guidelines of Ganga Grams.

Anyone can join Ganga Swachhata Manch from NGOs working on sanitation and hygiene issues in the Ganga states and districts to common persons interested in Ganga Swachhata, Institutions (social institutions / research institutions etc.) to students including Individuals having concern on promoting sanitation and hygiene in Ganga villages.

Scope of work for the proposed GSM

- Consensus and mass education on sanitation and hygiene usage in the villages of Ganga River.
- Mass mobilization and community based approaches for effectiveness and usage of sanitation facilities
- State level advocacy on community & PRI engagement process in resource planning, mobilization, monitoring and policy reforms.
- Knowledge, information and resources sharing among Ganga states to help them extend the services or facilitate linkages at village level.

Composition of GSM

A non-governmental person would be nominated as a convenor of GSM. Her/his services would be availed based on having sound experience in advocacy, networking and contribution towards cleaning of Ganga. No salary / perks would be provided to her/ him except travel and stay expenses during GSM meetings.