

JJM

Q1: *How is the government ensuring that the piped water reaching rural households remains safe and clean?*

A1: The government has introduced a comprehensive water quality monitoring system that includes regular testing of water sources and delivery points. This involves collecting water samples twice a month for chemical and bacteriological analysis, with results being shared transparently with the community. Modern portable testing devices and digital systems are also being used for quicker, more accurate monitoring.

Q2: *What role do local communities play in maintaining water quality in villages?*

A2: Villagers, especially Gram Panchayats, are actively involved in sharing water testing results, displaying information publicly, and encouraging household-level testing in schools and Anganwadis. Community members are also engaged in awareness campaigns about the importance of keeping water sources clean and participating in water testing activities.

Q3: *Have there been technological advancements in water testing in villages?*

A3: Yes. The deployment of portable digital water quality testing devices allows community workers and volunteers to perform quick tests on-site. These devices can share data directly with the monitoring authorities, reducing manual errors and ensuring more real-time surveillance of water safety.

Q4: *What measures are being taken when water contamination is detected in villages?*

A4: When contamination is found, authorities are expected to undertake remedial measures such as disinfecting water sources and installing chlorination systems. The handbook emphasizes fixing chlorine doses accurately to prevent over or under-dosing, thus ensuring the water remains safe to drink.

Q5: *How frequently is water quality being monitored in these rural piped schemes?*

A5: According to recent reports, water testing occurs at least twice a month at both the source level and delivery points within the village. This regular testing helps catch contamination early and maintain high standards of water safety.

Q6: *How transparent is the process of water quality monitoring in villages?*

A6: Transparency is a key focus. Test results are displayed on public notice boards near Panchayat offices or community centers. Additionally, information is shared via SMS alerts to local officials, ensuring communities are promptly informed about water safety status.

Q7: *Are there training programs to build capacity among village-level workers and residents?*

A7: Yes, regular training sessions are conducted for field test kit (FTK) users, school teachers, and community volunteers. This capacity building helps ensure that more people can participate in water testing, understand the results, and take timely remedial actions.

Q8: *Overall, what progress has been made in ensuring safe drinking water through piped schemes in rural areas?*

A8: Significant strides have been made: the establishment of routine testing protocols, community participation, use of digital monitoring tools, and prompt remedial actions in case of contamination. These efforts collectively contribute to ensuring that rural households receive safe, clean drinking water as envisioned by the Jal Jeevan Mission.

Q1: *Why is water quality testing important for our village?*

A1: Water quality testing ensures that the water we drink is safe and free from harmful chemicals and germs. It helps prevent diseases like diarrhea and cholera. Regular testing keeps our water safe and healthy for everyone.

Q2: *Who is responsible for checking our village water and making sure it is clean?*

A2: The Gram Panchayat and local water departments are responsible for testing and sharing water quality results. They also encourage us to participate in testing and improving water safety. The community itself also plays a role by staying informed and vigilant.

Q3: *How can we, as villagers, help in checking our water quality?*

A3: Villagers, especially students and women, can learn to use simple water testing kits called FTKs. They can help collect samples from different sources and report results. This way, everyone can be assured that the water is safe.

Q4: *What should we do if the water in our village is found contaminated?*

A4: If tests show contamination, local authorities should take remedial steps like disinfecting water sources or installing chlorination systems. As villagers, we should also prevent pollution of water sources and keep our surroundings clean.

Q5: *How often should our village water be tested?*

A5: Water should be tested regularly—at least once a month—to ensure it remains safe. Testing at both the source and the tap points helps catch problems early and keeps everyone healthy.

Q6: *Can we see the water quality test results?*

A6: Yes! The results should be displayed publicly near the Panchayat building or community center. This transparency helps us trust that our water is safe, and we can raise concerns if needed.

Q7: *What role does technology play in maintaining our village water quality?*

A7: Modern portable testing devices and digital systems help quickly detect contamination and share results with authorities. This makes monitoring more accurate and faster, ensuring clean water reaches every home.

Q8: *Why is community awareness important for safe drinking water?*

A8: When everyone understands the importance of clean water, they're more likely to keep water sources clean, report issues promptly, and follow safe practices. Community awareness leads to healthier lives for all of us.

Q9: *How does the SWSM (State Water & Sanitation Mission) help in making sure that our drinking water is safe, and can I contact them if I have concerns?*

A9: The SWSM plays a crucial role in ensuring that safe drinking water reaches all villages like yours. They are responsible for planning, coordinating, and overseeing water quality monitoring across the state. This includes setting standards for testing, organizing regular water quality checks, making sure laboratories and testing teams are functioning well, and reacting quickly when contamination is found. They also work to raise awareness about water safety and support local authorities to take necessary remedial actions.

As a village resident, you can definitely reach out to them if you have concerns about water quality. Usually, the SWSM communicates through district or village level government officials, like the Gram Panchayat or the local health department. To contact them directly, you can:

- Visit your local Panchayat office and ask about water quality issues. They typically coordinate with the SWSM.

- Check if there are notice boards displaying contact numbers or information related to water quality monitoring.
- Reach out to your district water department; they coordinate with the SWSM for water testing and quality assurance.
- Use the official government helpline or mobile apps related to Jal Jeevan Mission or water services, where you can report issues directly.

Remember, your concerns are important, and local officials are there to help connect your village's issues to the higher authorities like the SWSM so that quick action can be taken.

Q11: *How does the DWSM (District Water & Sanitation Mission) help in ensuring safe drinking water in our village, and can I get in touch with them if I have concerns?*

A11: The DWSM is a key organization at the district level responsible for implementing water supply and sanitation programs, including monitoring water quality. They organize regular review meetings with health and water departments, oversee water quality testing, and coordinate remedial actions if contamination is found. They ensure that laboratories are equipped, tests are done properly, and appropriate measures are taken swiftly when hazards are detected in the water supply.

As a village resident, you can contact your district authorities—such as the District Water Supply Department, Public Health Department, or the local Panchayat—that coordinate with the DWSM. To do so:

- **Visit your District Collector or Deputy Collector's Office** and ask about water quality issues.
- **Speak with local Panchayat officials or village water committee members;** they can escalate your concerns to the district level.
- **Check if your district has a health or water quality helpline,** or access government portals for contact details.
- **Attend local Gram Sabha meetings** where water issues are discussed, and raise your concerns directly.

Your questions and experiences can be shared with local officials, who will then coordinate with the DWSM to take necessary actions. Remember, these officials are there to ensure safe drinking water for all, including your village.

Q1: *What is the current status of water quality testing across our villages, and are we meeting the recommended testing frequencies?*

A1: While many villages are conducting bi-monthly tests at source and delivery points, there are gaps in coverage and consistency in some areas. Strengthening compliance and ensuring that all villages adhere to the minimum testing schedule is vital to timely detection of contamination.

Q2: *How effective is our data sharing and transparency mechanism in communicating water quality information to communities?*

A2: Although results are displayed on notice boards and shared via SMS, the reach and understanding of this information vary. Assessing community engagement and literacy levels is necessary to improve communication strategies and foster trust.

Q3: *Are we utilizing technological tools optimally to enable real-time monitoring and data analysis?*

A3: Digital water quality devices are being deployed, but their full integration with centralized data systems remains limited in some regions. Upgrading infrastructure to enable seamless data sharing and analysis is crucial for prompt decision-making.

Q4: *What is the adequacy of capacity building among village-level staff and community volunteers responsible for water testing?*

A4: While periodic training is conducted, gaps exist in skill levels, especially among new personnel. Developing continuous training modules and refresher courses will ensure data accuracy and foster accountability.

Q5: *How effective are our remedial mechanisms when contamination is detected?*

A5: Remedial actions such as chlorination are often initiated after detection, but delays occur due to procedural bottlenecks and resource constraints. Strengthening the response framework, including clear protocols and sufficient resources, is necessary to ensure prompt action.

Q6: *Are we adequately monitoring the performance and maintenance of water treatment infrastructure, including chlorination systems?*

A6: While some districts have NABL-accredited labs for proper monitoring, others lack proper oversight. Regular audits and maintenance schedules should be institutionalized to prevent system failures and ensure continuous water safety.

Q7: *What mechanisms are in place to evaluate the overall impact of our water quality monitoring program on health outcomes?*

A7: Currently, data linkage between water quality and disease incidence is limited. Establishing integrated surveillance systems will help assess effectiveness, identify problem areas, and prioritize resource allocation.

Q8: *How can policies be adapted to address emerging challenges such as contamination surges or climate-related impacts?*

A8: Formulating flexible, adaptive strategies—like mobile testing units or emergency chlorination protocols—and building resilient infrastructure are essential steps toward sustainable water safety management in evolving conditions.

Q1: What is the main goal of this Water Quality Monitoring & Management framework?

A: Its main goal is to ensure that everyone gets safe and clean drinking water by regularly checking water quality, preventing contamination, and taking quick actions when problems are found.

Q2: Who is responsible for checking water quality in rural areas?

A: Local authorities like the Gram Panchayat, district departments (like RWS and PHED), and specialized laboratories work together to test water quality and address issues.

Q3: How often should water be tested?

A: The handbook suggests regular testing, with more frequent tests in areas prone to pollution or outbreaks of waterborne diseases. It specifies testing parameters and frequency to ensure safety.

Q4: What are the key parameters or qualities of water that need to be checked?

A: Water is checked for bacteria, chemicals, pH levels, and other contaminants that can cause illness or make water unsafe.

Q5: How do authorities test water quality?

A: They collect water samples from different points—like the source, main pipes, and household tanks—and test these using standardized methods, either in laboratories or using portable testing devices.

Q6: What is the role of portable digital testing devices?

A: These devices allow quick, accurate testing of water on the spot, and they send data directly to a system, making monitoring faster and more reliable.

Q7: How is data about water quality shared with authorities and communities?

A: Results are recorded and shared through official systems, reports, and platforms like the WQMIS or online dashboards, so everyone stays informed.

Q8: What actions are taken if water is found to be contaminated?

A: If contamination is detected, authorities initiate remedial measures like chlorination (adding safe levels of chlorine), fixing leaks, or repairing pipelines to improve quality.

Q9: Why is chlorination important?

A: Chlorination is a cost-effective way to disinfect water, killing germs that cause diseases and ensuring water remains safe throughout the distribution network.

Q10: How do community members participate in ensuring water safety?

A: Communities are encouraged to get involved in regular cleaning of water tanks, report issues, and stay informed about water quality through campaigns and local meetings.

Q11: How do global organizations like WHO or the UN benefit from this framework?

A: They use these guidelines to support countries in establishing safe water systems, monitor progress worldwide, and develop policies that ensure safe drinking water for all.

Q12: What are the challenges faced by these agencies in implementing water quality monitoring?

A: They face issues like limited laboratory capacity, insufficient training, inconsistent data collection, and delays in detecting and responding to contamination.

Q13: How does digital technology improve water quality monitoring?

A: Digital tools allow real-time data collection, easy sharing of results, quicker responses, and better tracking of water safety over time.

Q14: Why is training and capacity building important?

A: Proper training ensures that local officials and technicians correctly test water, understand results, and take proper actions to keep water safe.

Q15: What can international agencies do to support the framework?

A: They can provide technical guidance, funding, training, and help increase laboratory capacity to strengthen water safety programs globally.

Q1: What is IoT, and how can it help in monitoring village water quality?

A: IoT (Internet of Things) refers to using smart devices connected to the internet that can automatically collect and share data. In villages, IoT devices can constantly monitor water quality and send alerts if there's a problem, helping keep water safe.

Q2: Why do we need IoT for water quality monitoring in villages?

A: Traditional testing methods are manual, slow, and sometimes infrequent. IoT devices can provide real-time, continuous data, so issues like contamination are detected early, reducing health risks and enabling quick action.

Q3: What are the benefits of using IoT in village water systems?

A: Benefits include faster detection of contamination, fewer manual tests, better data accuracy, timely alerts for authorities, improved decision-making, and enhanced safety for communities.

Q4: How does IoT improve the response time when water is contaminated?

A: IoT sensors detect contamination immediately and send alerts to local authorities or even residents, so they can act quickly—like chlorinating water or repairing pipes—before many people get sick.

Q5: Do villagers and local officials need special skills to use IoT-based water monitoring?

A: Initially, some training is needed, but IoT devices are designed to be user-friendly. Once set up, they operate automatically, reducing the need for manual testing and simplifying oversight.

Q6: What kind of data do IoT devices provide?

A: They measure parameters like bacteria levels, chemical contamination, pH, and other indicators of water safety, providing continuous updates to a central system.

Q7: How do IoT devices communicate the data?

A: They send data over the internet—via Wi-Fi, cellular networks, or communication satellites—to a centralized dashboard that authorities can access anytime.

Q8: Can IoT devices alert villagers directly?

A: Yes, some systems can send messages or alerts directly to villagers' mobile phones or community screens, informing them of water safety issues immediately.

Q9: Is implementing IoT costly for villages?

A: Initially, there are costs for devices and setup, but in the long run, IoT reduces the need for frequent manual tests, saves resources, and prevents health costs, making it cost-effective.

Q10: How does IoT help in proactive water safety management?

A: Instead of waiting for water to become visibly contaminated or for medical cases to appear, IoT provides early warnings, enabling village officials to take preventive actions before problems escalate.

Q11: Is IoT technology reliable in rural areas with poor connectivity?

A: Advances in IoT technology include offline data storage and multiple communication options, so even with poor connectivity, devices can store data and transmit it when connection improves.

Q12: How does IoT support nationwide or government water safety programs?

A: IoT creates a real-time data network that helps collecting accurate information across regions, supports policy making, and improves resource allocation for water safety programs.

Q13: What are the main challenges in adopting IoT for village water monitoring?

A: Challenges include initial costs, connectivity issues, maintenance of devices, and training local officials, but these can be addressed with government support and community involvement.

Q14: How can villages start using IoT in water quality management?

A: They can collaborate with government agencies and tech providers to set up affordable IoT sensors, training volunteers and officials, and establishing a system to respond promptly to alerts.

Water Quality Tests: Safe and Harmful Levels — FAQs for Residents

1. What does pH mean, and what is safe value for it?

Answer: pH measures how acidic or alkaline the water is. Drinking water should have a pH between 6.5 and 8.5. Outside this range, water may taste strange or cause health issues.

2. What is Aluminum, and when is it harmful?

Answer: Aluminum can be present naturally or from pollution. Safe levels are usually below 0.2 mg per liter. Higher levels might cause health problems over long-term exposure.

3. Is Barium dangerous in drinking water?

Answer: Yes. Barium above 1 mg per liter can cause health issues like muscle weakness or stomach problems. Safe water should have Barium below this level.

4. What about Boron?

Answer: Boron is safe below 1 mg per liter. Higher levels may cause reproductive health issues if consumed over time.

5. When is Cadmium dangerous?

Answer: Cadmium above 0.003 mg per liter can harm kidneys and bones. Drinking water should have Cadmium below this limit.

6. What is Calcium's role in water?

Answer: Calcium is essential for bones but high levels (above 200 mg per liter) can cause hardness and scale buildup.

7. Why is Chloride tested?

Answer: Chloride makes water salty. Safe levels are below 250 mg per liter. Excessive chloride affects taste and may cause dehydration.

8. What does Water Color indicate?

Answer: Clear water is safe. Dark color indicates contamination or high mineral content; water with color should be tested further.

9. What does Conductivity tell us?

Answer: Conductivity shows how many minerals are in water. Very high conductivity indicates high mineral content, which may be unsafe.

10. Is Copper in water harmful?

Answer: Copper up to 2 mg per liter is safe. Higher concentrations might cause stomach upset or liver damage.

11. What does E. coli indicate?

Answer: Presence of E. coli bacteria means water is contaminated with fecal matter and unsafe to drink. Water should be free of E. coli.

12. When is Fluoride dangerous?

Answer: Fluoride above 1.5 mg per liter can cause dental fluorosis or bone issues. Water should have fluoride below this level.

13. What is Free Residual Chlorine?

Answer: This is the chlorine left in water after treatment. It protects water from bacteria; safe levels are typically 0.2–0.5 mg per liter.

14. When is Iron in water a problem?

Answer: Iron up to 0.3 mg per liter is safe. Higher amounts cause staining and taste issues but are usually not harmful.

15. Is Lead harmful in water?

Answer: Yes. Lead above 0.01 mg per liter can damage brain development, especially in children. Water should be lead-free or below this level.

16. What about Magnesium and Manganese?

Answer: Magnesium and manganese are safe below 50 mg/l and 0.1 mg/l respectively. Excessive amounts may cause taste or staining issues.

17. When is Mercury dangerous?

Answer: Mercury above 0.001 mg per liter can be very harmful, affecting nerves and kidneys.

18. What is Nitrate, and why is it tested?

Answer: Nitrate above 50 mg per liter can cause health problems, especially in infants, leading to a condition called “blue baby syndrome.”

19. Are Selenium, Silver, Zinc, and other metals harmful?

Answer: These must be within safe limits (e.g., Selenium below 0.01 mg/l). Excess can cause health issues.

20. What does Total Hardness mean?

Answer: It measures minerals like calcium and magnesium. Hard water (above 200 mg/l as CaCO₃) can cause scaling but isn't usually harmful.

21. What is Turbidity?

Answer: It measures how cloudy the water is. Safe drinking water should be clear or have turbidity below 5 NTU. Cloudy water may have microbes or dirt.

22. What is TDS (Total Dissolved Solids)?

Answer: TDS shows total minerals and salts. Safe levels are below 500 mg/l. Higher levels can affect taste and cause health issues.

23. Why is Total Alkalinity tested?

Answer: It shows the water's ability to neutralize acids. Very high or low alkalinity can cause taste issues and corrosion.

24. What are Total Coliforms and why are they important?

Answer: These bacteria indicate possible contamination. The water should be free of coliform bacteria to be safe.

25. Why test Turbidity and Suspended Solids?

Answer: These bacteria and dirt trapped in solids can cause illness. Water should be clear and free from suspended particles.

26. What is Uranium in water?

Answer: Uranium above 30 µg/l can be harmful, especially to kidneys. Safe levels are below this.

Summary:

- **Safe water** generally should have chemical levels within permissible limits, be free of harmful bacteria like E. coli, and be clear and colorless.
- **Unsafe water** may contain contaminated bacteria, high levels of chemicals, or pollutants that can cause illnesses or long-term health issues.

Always check with your local water testing reports and ensure that water quality is within safe limits to protect your health!

SBM

Q: What should we do with vegetable peels, leftover food, and cow dung at home or on the farm?

A: All these are biodegradable waste, and they can be composted to make excellent organic manure for your crops or kitchen gardens. Some villages now have community compost pits where waste is processed safely. This also reduces flies and diseases.

Q1: What constitutes solid biodegradable waste in a rural context?

A1: Solid biodegradable waste includes food scraps, crop residues, cow dung, kitchen waste, and other organic materials that naturally decompose over time.

Q2: How should households segregate solid waste before disposal?

A2: Households should maintain separate containers for biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste. Biodegradable waste should be collected in compost-friendly containers or sent to community compost pits.

Q3: What are the benefits of composting biodegradable waste in a village setting?

A3: Composting reduces environmental pollution, minimizes landfill usage, and produces organic manure that enhances soil fertility, thereby benefiting local agriculture.

Q4: Who is responsible for managing solid waste at the community level?

A4: The Gram Panchayat, along with SHGs and village volunteers, is responsible for establishing composting systems, collection centers, and awareness programs for solid waste management.

Q5: Are there any government schemes to support solid waste management in villages?

A5: Yes. The SBM-G Phase II provides financial and technical assistance for setting up compost units, capacity-building programs, and monitoring of solid waste systems at the village level.

Q: Wastewater from washing clothes, utensils, or bathing flows around our houses. Is there a better way?

A: Yes. This wastewater, called greywater, should be managed properly. Your village can build soak pits, drainage systems, or kitchen garden filters. Farmers can even reuse this water in non-edible crop areas. Proper LWM reduces mosquito breeding and improves hygiene.

Q1: What is meant by liquid waste in a rural environment?

A1: Liquid waste primarily includes greywater from household activities such as washing, bathing, and cooking, along with runoff from farms and rainwater.

Q2: Why is it important to manage liquid waste in villages?

A2: Improper disposal of liquid waste leads to water stagnation, mosquito breeding, and waterborne diseases. Effective LWM supports public health and protects groundwater.

Q3: What are common methods used for liquid waste treatment in villages?

A3: Methods include soak pits, drainage channels, kitchen garden filtration, and decentralized wastewater treatment units. These are cost-effective and easy to maintain.

Q4: Who is responsible for maintaining LWM infrastructure?

A4: The Panchayat, in coordination with the village water and sanitation committee (VWSC), is responsible for construction, operation, and maintenance of LWM structures.

Q5: Are women's groups involved in liquid waste awareness and management?

A5: Yes. Women's Self-Help Groups often take leadership in promoting safe water use, educating households on LWM, and managing small-scale filtration or reuse systems.

Q: We've already stopped open defecation in our village. Why is the government still talking about ODF-S?

A: ODF-S means making sure we continue using toilets and keep our surroundings clean permanently. Sometimes after achieving ODF, people go back to old habits. ODF-S ensures we don't slip back. It also includes clean public toilets, awareness for children, and regular maintenance.

Q1: What does "Sustaining ODF Status" mean for a village that has already declared itself open defecation free?

A1: Sustaining ODF Status refers to the continued and consistent use of toilets by all members of the community, along with proper maintenance of sanitation infrastructure to ensure that open defecation does not recur.

Q2: Why is it important to focus on behavioral change even after achieving ODF status?

A2: Behavioral change is essential to maintaining long-term hygiene practices. Without it, there is a risk of individuals reverting to open defecation, especially during farming hours, festivals, or travel.

Q3: *How can the Panchayat ensure that ODF practices are maintained?*

A3: *The Panchayat can conduct regular awareness campaigns, inspections, and provide incentives for toilet maintenance. Engaging school children and SHGs in monitoring efforts also promotes collective responsibility.*

Q4: *What role do school children and women play in sustaining ODF status?*

A4: *School children serve as agents of change by promoting hygienic practices at home. Women often lead family sanitation decisions and participate in self-help groups, making them vital to community mobilization.*

Q5: *What are the indicators used to verify the sustainability of ODF status in a village?*

A5: *Key indicators include 100% usage of toilets, absence of open defecation sites, functioning drainage and waste systems, and community-led sanitation behavior without external enforcement.*

Q: Who can declare resolution like Open Defecation Free (ODF) village or ODF Plus village or ODF Plus Model village?

A: Gram Panchayat.

Q: Plastic is everywhere—from packaging to fertilizers. How do we manage plastic waste properly?

A: First, reduce single-use plastic—like thin carry bags or wrappers. Collect used plastic separately. Your Panchayat can tie up with recyclers or kabadiwalas to dispose of it safely. Some villages have plastic collection drives or send it to district Plastic Waste Processing Units.

Q1: Why is plastic waste management critical in rural areas?

A1: Plastic waste, especially single-use plastic, does not decompose and often clogs drainage systems, harms livestock, and pollutes agricultural land, thereby affecting human and environmental health.

Q2: What practices should villagers adopt to manage plastic waste effectively?

A2: Villagers should segregate plastic waste, avoid single-use plastic items, reuse available plastic responsibly, and participate in collection drives initiated by the Panchayat or SHGs.

Q3: How can plastic waste be disposed of responsibly in villages?

A3: It can be collected and sent to authorized plastic waste processing or recycling units, many of which are now operational under district-level SBM programs.

Q4: Is there a role for school children and youth in plastic waste awareness?

A4: Yes, students and local youth can participate in “Plastic Free Village” campaigns, create informative materials, and help monitor usage patterns in households and marketplaces.

Q5: Are there penalties for improper disposal or burning of plastic waste?

A5: Yes. Many Panchayats have instituted local rules under SBM-G discouraging open burning of plastic, with warnings or fines for non-compliance to ensure environmental protection.

Q: What happens to the waste collected in septic tanks or pit latrines? Who cleans them, and how often?

A: This waste is called faecal sludge, and it should be removed every 3-5 years safely. Many districts now have trained desludging operators with machines to clean pits hygienically. Your Gram Panchayat should coordinate such services, ensuring the waste is safely treated and not dumped in open land or rivers.

Q1: What does faecal sludge management involve?

A1: FSM refers to the safe collection, transport, treatment, and disposal or reuse of human waste from pit latrines, septic tanks, and toilets not connected to sewage systems.

Q2: Why is FSM necessary in rural areas?

A2: Without proper FSM, untreated human waste can contaminate soil, drinking water sources, and spread infectious diseases, posing a severe health risk to communities.

Q3: How frequently should septic tanks or pit latrines be cleaned?

A3: It is recommended that pits or tanks be desludged every 3 to 5 years, depending on household size and usage. Early emptying helps prevent overflows and contamination.

Q4: Who carries out the desludging process in villages?

A4: Trained sanitation workers or service providers, often coordinated by the Panchayat or district administration, carry out safe desludging using appropriate equipment.

Q5: What happens to the sludge after removal?

A5: The sludge is transported to a treatment facility, composting site, or drying bed where it is processed for safe disposal or turned into organic fertilizer if properly treated.

Q: I've heard of GOBARdhan. How is cow dung turned into income under this scheme?

A: GOBARdhan promotes converting cow dung and other organic waste into biogas or bio-CNG. This gas can be used for cooking, lighting, or sold to companies. The leftover slurry is rich manure. Some villages have community biogas plants, and farmers earn extra income by selling dung.

Q1: What is the main objective of the GOBARdhan scheme?

A1: GOBARdhan aims to convert cattle dung and other organic waste into biogas and organic manure, promoting a circular economy and improving rural sanitation and livelihoods.

Q2: How does GOBARdhan benefit farmers?

A2: Farmers can use biogas as a clean fuel for cooking or machinery and apply the byproduct (slurry) as an effective natural fertilizer, reducing dependence on chemical inputs.

Q3: What kind of infrastructure is needed for a biogas unit?

A3: A biogas unit typically requires a digester tank, inlet and outlet chambers, a gas collection system, and access to regular input such as dung and organic waste.

Q4: Can women be involved in the GOBARdhan program?

A4: Yes. Women, especially those in SHGs, can manage small-scale biogas units, use slurry for kitchen gardening, and even operate as entrepreneurs in dung collection and slurry marketing.

Q5: How can a village access government assistance under GOBARdhan?

A5: The village can submit a proposal through the Panchayat to the district administration. Financial and technical support is available under SBM-G Phase II and converging schemes like NRLM or MNRE.

Q6. Who can I get in touch with, in case a village has concerns about the FSTP establishment in the village?

A6: You may contact the **Block Development Officer (BDO), District Sanitation Officer, or District SBM Coordinator** for project details or to raise concerns.

Q: How does a panchayat or district administration hires sanitation workers?

A: Through **job announcements** at Panchayat meetings or notice boards. Interested individuals apply, and selection is done by the **Panchayat or sanitation committee**, often in coordination with district officials.

Q: How does a panchayat or district administration hires service providers?

A: The Panchayat or district issues a **request for proposal (RFP)** or **invites bids**. Registered sanitation agencies or NGOs are selected based on experience and cost.

Q: How can a village get assistance in hiring and training of sanitation workers?

A: The Panchayat can request support from **District SBM Cell, Rural Development Department**, or NGOs under SBM Phase II. Training may also be offered by **Block Resource Centres (BRCs)**.

Q: What are the SWM assets in a village?

A: SWM assets include **compost pits, waste collection bins, segregation sheds, waste transport vehicles**, and **vermi-composting units**.

Q: What are the community assets in a village?

A: These include **village roads, drainage systems, toilets, drinking water tanks, community biogas units, waste processing units**, and **public toilets**.

Q: What does Waste collection and segregation sheds do?

A: These sheds serve as centers where **village waste is collected, sorted (wet/dry/plastic), stored**, and sent for recycling, composting, or disposal.

Q: Who operates Waste collection and segregation sheds?

A: They are operated by **trained sanitation workers, self-help groups (SHGs), or service providers**, under the supervision of the **Gram Panchayat or VWSC**.

Q: How does a village constitute a village water and sanitation committee (VWSC)?

A: The **Gram Sabha** nominates members representing various groups (women, farmers, youth). The Panchayat approves and registers it as a subcommittee to oversee water and sanitation works.

Q: Can a village share its plastic waste with other villages?

A: Yes. Nearby villages may collaborate to **collect and transport plastic waste** to a **common processing facility** as per district SBM planning for cluster-based waste management.

Q: What is IHHL and how does it help me?

A: IHHL stands for Individual Household Latrine. It helps you build a toilet in your house, improving hygiene, health, and sanitation for your family.

Q: How can I apply for an IHHL scheme?

A: You can apply online through the official Swachh Bharat Mission portal by filling out an application form and submitting necessary documents.

Q: What documents do I need to furnish when applying?

A: You need to provide proof of identity (Aadhaar card), proof of address, and bank passbook details for bank account verification.

Q: Do I need to get my Aadhaar verified?

A: Yes, Aadhaar verification is mandatory to ensure your identity matches the application details.

Q: How do I start the application process?

A: First, visit the official website or SBM portal, select the 'Application Form for IHHL,' and fill in your village, household, and personal details.

Q: What is the role of the local authority or government officer in this process?

A: The local authority reviews your application, approves or rejects it, and assigns a surveyor or Doot to visit your house.

Q: Who visits my house for the face authentication and other checks?

A: A surveyor or Swachhata Doot, authorized by the government, visits your home to verify details and take photographs for geo-tagging.

Q: How long does it take for my application to be approved?

A: The approval process usually takes about 15 to 30 days, depending on the workload and verification process.

Q: Can I check the status of my application?

A: Yes, you can track your application status online through the portal or by using the application number provided after submission.

Q: What is geo-tagging and why is it important?

A: Geo-tagging involves taking GPS-enabled photographs of the constructed toilet, which helps authorities verify construction and progress.

Q: Do I need to provide any physical documents after applying?

A: No, most of the process is digital, but you should keep your Aadhaar, bank passbook, and other documents handy in case they are needed for verification.

Q: How does the scheme help me financially?

A: Once approved and verified, you receive an incentive amount directly into your bank account to help build the toilet.

Q: Who ultimately approves my application at the district or block level?

A: The district or block authorities, based on the verification and documents, approve your application.

Q: Will someone come to my house to verify my details?

A: Yes, a government surveyor or Swachhata Doot will visit your house for verification, face authentication, and geo-tagging.

Q: What are the steps I need to follow after my toilet is built?

A: After construction, the surveyor will geo-tag the toilet with photographs, which completes the approval process.

Q: How are inspections and verifications done?

A: The surveyor inspects your house, verifies your documents, takes photographs, and geotags the toilet.

Q: What happens if my application is rejected?

A: You will be notified of the rejection, and you can apply again or clarify issues if needed.

Q: Can I apply for IHHL if I already have a toilet I built on my own?

A: If the toilet has been built as per scheme guidelines and approved, you might be eligible for incentives.

Q: Do I need to visit any government office to complete the process?

A: Most of the process is online, but sometimes a visit to the local Gram Panchayat or designated office is required if documents need verification.

Q: How secure is my data during this application process?

A: The system is designed to keep your personal and banking information secure and confidential.

Q: What is the importance of bank details in this scheme?

A: Bank details are necessary to transfer the incentive directly into your account once your toilet is verified and approved.

Q: How will I know if my bank account details are registered correctly?

A: You can verify your bank details in the application status or during the submission process, ensuring they match your passbook.

Q: What do I do if I do not have an Aadhaar card?

A: Aadhaar is generally mandatory for this scheme. You should get your Aadhaar card before applying, or consult local officials for guidance.

Q: How many days after geo-tagging will I get my incentive?

A: Incentives are usually transferred within a few weeks after successful geo-tagging and approval.

Q: Will I receive any physical receipt or document after application?

A: A confirmation SMS is provided on the mobile number registered at the time of application submission, but physical documents are generally not issued.

Q: How can I ensure my application gets approved quickly?

A: Properly submit accurate documents, ensure all details are correct, and be available for surveyor visits.

Q: What if I face technical issues while applying online?

A: You can contact local government officials or call the helpdesk mentioned on the portal for assistance.

Q: Is there any cost involved in applying for IHHL?

A: No, the scheme is government-funded, and there are no charges for applying or building the toilet.

Q: What are the benefits of geo-tagging my toilet?

A: Geo-tagging helps in monitoring, verification, and ensures that the incentive reaches the right beneficiary without any manual intervention.

Q: What is the importance of completing this scheme for my village?

A: It improves sanitation, reduces health issues, and promotes a clean and hygienic environment for everyone.

Q: What is Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2025?

A: It's a big cleanliness survey to check and rank how clean villages, districts, and states are in India.

Q: Why is this survey being done?

A: To see how well villages maintain toilets, manage waste, and stay free from open defecation.

Q: Who is doing this survey?

A: The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen.

Q: How long will this survey run?

A: It is planned for 2025 but part of a mission running till 2026.

Q: Who decides which villages are checked?

A: Villages are chosen by a fair sampling method based on the number of households.

Q: Will every village be surveyed?

A: No, only sample villages—about 21,000 villages across India.

Q: How many houses are checked in each village?

A: Around 16 houses in each selected village.

Q: What do they check in my house?

A: They check if you have a safe toilet, how you manage waste and wastewater, and whether your surroundings are clean.

Q: Will public places be checked too?

A: Yes! Schools, Anganwadi centres, health centres, panchayat offices, markets, and temples are checked for cleanliness.

Q: Who will come to check all this?

A: Special survey teams with an app that tracks their visit.

Q: What is ODF Plus?

A: It means chosen villages not only stop open defecation but also manage all waste properly.

Q: What is solid waste management?

A: Collecting and disposing garbage like plastic and kitchen waste safely.

Q: What is liquid waste management?

A: Safe disposal of dirty water and wastewater from homes.

Q: What is greywater?

A: It's used water from bathing, washing clothes or dishes.

Q: What is a Swachhata Green Leaf Rating?

A: A rating given to places like hotels or resorts if they follow good sanitation practices.

Q: Can villagers give feedback too?

A: Yes! Villagers can tell their views to survey teams or through a special mobile app.

Q: What feedback can a village resident give?

A: How clean your village is, how waste is managed, changes in cleanliness, and your satisfaction.

Q: Is my feedback important?

A: Yes! It helps decide the final cleanliness score of the village.

Q: Can everyone use the mobile app?

A: Yes! It's free to download for all villagers.

Q: How will people know about the survey and app?

A: Through posters, meetings, radio, social media, and local announcements.

Q: Will villages get prizes?

A: Top villages and districts may get recognition and awards.

Q: Why is ranking important?

A: It encourages villages to compete and do better in cleanliness.

Q: How many points are there in total?

A: A village's cleanliness is scored out of 1000 points.

Q: Who sees these rankings?

A: Government officials, villagers, and the whole country.

Q: What happens if my village does well?

A: It becomes an example for others and can get more support for new facilities.

Q: What is a Plastic Waste Management Unit?

A: A place where plastic waste is collected and processed.

Q: What is a GOBARdhan Plant?

A: A plant that makes biogas and compost from cow dung and other bio-waste.

Q: What is a Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant?

A: A plant where waste from toilets is treated safely.

Q: Can we see our village's cleanliness score?

A: Yes, it will be shared publicly through the SSG portal and announcements.

Q: How can we keep our village's score high?

A: By using toilets, not littering, treating waste properly, and helping each other keep the village clean.

Has the survey team got any name?

A: The survey team doesn't have a special name like a brand, but they are officially called **field assessors** or **SSG 2025 survey teams**. They work under the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) and use a special app (called CAPI) to collect cleanliness data in the villages.

Q: Where can I download this mobile app?

A: Villagers can download the **Citizen Feedback Mobile Application** for SSG 2025 from the **Google Play Store** on their mobile phones. It will be promoted through posters, hoardings, social media, government websites, and local announcements.

Q: Where can a village resident see the village's cleanliness score?

A: The final cleanliness scores and rankings of villages, districts, and states will be made public through:

- The official **SSG 2025 Portal**: <http://ssg2025.in>
 - Government announcements at village meetings or Gram Sabha
 - Posters and public displays by Panchayats
 - And sometimes through local newspapers or community notice boards.
-

Q: What is the main goal of Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2025?

A: To systematically assess, verify and rank India's villages, districts, and States/UTs on sanitation performance (ODF Plus, waste management, and hygiene), to drive competition and guide policy implementation under SBM-G Phase II.

Q: How is SSG 2025 different from urban Swachh Survekshan?

A: SSG 2025 focuses exclusively on rural India, using a unique sampling framework suited to villages, household realities, and decentralized waste management systems.

Q: How many villages and households are included in the survey?

A: 21,000 villages covering 3,36,000 households, plus over 1 lakh public places and thousands of waste management facilities.

Q: What sampling method is used?

A: Multi-stage stratified random sampling without replacement, ensuring representation across small, medium, and large villages.

Q: Which tools are used for data collection?

A: A specially designed **CAPI (Computer-Assisted Personal Interview) application** with geofencing and logic checks, plus a Citizen Feedback Mobile App.

Q: Which sanitation parameters are evaluated?

A: Service-level progress (self-reported & verified), direct observations at households, villages, public places, waste treatment plants, and citizen feedback.

Q: How are service-level progress data verified?

A: Through desktop verification of evidence on the SBM-G IMIS portal and structured field observations.

Q: Does SSG 2025 include waste segregation and plastic waste management?

A: Yes, it specifically assesses household and village-level segregation, plastic waste units (PWMUs), and forward linkages for recycling.

Q: Is greywater management covered?

A: Yes, the survey checks household soak pits, village drainage, and safe discharge systems.

Q: Are faecal sludge management (FSM) practices assessed?

A: Yes, the survey evaluates toilet containment, sludge collection and treatment plants (FSTPs/STPs), and safe disposal.

Q: How is citizen voice captured?

A: Through one-on-one field interviews and a mobile app where residents can share feedback on ODF status, waste management, and overall satisfaction.

Q: How is behavioural change monitored?

A: IEC activities, VWSC functioning, Swachhagrahi engagement, and capacity-building sessions are verified during the survey.

Q: Who coordinates SSG 2025?

A: The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), with State Water & Sanitation Missions (SWSM) and local PRI institutions as implementing partners.

Q: Which community-level structures are critical for success?

A: Village Water & Sanitation Committees (VWSCs), Swachhagrahis, and Gram Panchayats.

Q: How are results used by local governments?

A: Rankings motivate competition, help target weaker areas, and guide resource allocation for infrastructure and training.

Q: How can SSG 2025 data inform SDG tracking?

A: It provides granular, verified data for SDG 6.2 (safe sanitation for all) and related targets on waste and water safety in rural India.

Q: Can international agencies access the data?

A: Yes — final reports, district rankings, and aggregated findings are published on the **SSG 2025 Portal** and can be shared for research and global reporting.

Q: How can development partners contribute?

A: By supporting capacity building, innovative waste treatment technologies, social behaviour change campaigns, and impact studies.

Q: Will SSG continue beyond 2025?

A: Yes, it is part of SBM-G Phase II running till 2026, with possible future rounds to ensure sustainability.

Q: How does India plan to use SSG outcomes for policy evolution?

A: To refine guidelines, allocate funds effectively, adopt innovative waste solutions, and sustain ODF Plus status nationwide.

Q: What are VWSC (Village Water & Sanitation Committees)?

A: VWSCs are **small groups formed in each village**, working under the Gram Panchayat (village council). They act as a local planning and monitoring body for water supply and sanitation.

Q: What does VWSC do?

Q: What are the duties of a VWSC?

1. Prepare village-level plans for drinking water and sanitation (like building soak pits, community toilets, drains).
 2. Mobilize the community to use toilets and maintain cleanliness.
 3. Oversee operation & maintenance of village water supply and sanitation systems.
 4. Help with training and awareness activities.
-

Q: What is the role of VWSCs in view of SSG 2025?

A: The presence and functioning of VWSCs are checked and scored to ensure villages have active community leadership for Swachhata.

Q: What are Swachhagrahis?

A: The word means '**cleanliness motivators**'. They are local volunteers or community workers selected to spread awareness about hygiene, toilets, waste segregation, and stopping open defecation.

Q: Who can be a Swachhagrahi?

A: They are often women or local workers like:

- ASHA workers (health volunteers)
- Anganwadi workers

- Teachers
 - Youth group members
 - Any motivated villager
-

Q: What do Swachhagrahis do?

Q: What are the duties of Swachhagrahis?

A: Trained Swachhagrahis are local volunteers who motivate villagers to use toilets, keep surroundings clean, segregate waste, and adopt safe sanitation practices. Their presence ensures continuous community engagement and behaviour change.

- Educate households about using toilets and keeping surroundings clean.
 - Help in village cleanliness drives.
 - Report issues to Panchayats or Block offices.
-

Q: What is the role of Swachhagrahis in view of SSG 2025?

A: In SSG 2025, the number of villages having active Swachhagrahis directly influences the village's cleanliness score and ranking performance.

Q: What is Grampanchayat?

A: **Gram Panchayat** is the **official elected village council**, the lowest unit of local government in rural India.

Q: What does Gram Panchayat do?

Q: What are the duties of Gram Panchayats?

A: Approve and implement sanitation and water supply projects.

- Pass resolutions declaring villages Open Defecation Free (ODF) or ODF Plus.
 - Manage community assets like public toilets, drainage, waste collection points.
 - Mobilize funds from government schemes and ensure proper use.
-

Q: What is the role of Gram Panchayat in view of SSG 2025?

A: In **SSG 2025**, Gram Panchayats must upload clear Gram Sabha Resolutions and videos as proof that the entire village meets **ODF Plus standards**—meaning toilets are used, waste is managed properly, and hygiene is maintained. This verified evidence helps determine rankings and ensures genuine, sustainable cleanliness on the ground.

VWSC = Small committee for planning & monitoring
Swachhagrahi = Motivator or guide for behaviour change
Gram Panchayat = Elected village government body in charge

Ministry Related

Q: When did the Ministry of Jal Shakti incorporated?

A: The Ministry of Jal Shakti was formed on May 27, 2019.

Q: Who is the minister of the Ministry of Jal Shakti?

A: Shri C R Patil.

Q: Who is the minister of state for the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti?

A: Shri V. Somanna.

Q: Who is the secretary of the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation?

A: The Secretary of the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation is **Shri Ashok K. K. Meena**.

Q: Who is the Additional Secretary & Mission Director of the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation?

A: The Additional Secretary & Mission Director of the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation is **Shri Kamal Kishore Soan**.

Q: Who is the joint secretary of the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation?

A: The joint secretary of the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation is **Ms. Swati Meena Naik**.

Q: Who is the deputy secretary at the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation for JJM III?

A: Shri Arun Kumar Kembhavi.

Q: Who is the deputy secretary at the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation for JJM V?

A: Shri Umesh Kumar Bhardwaj

Q: Who is the deputy secretary at the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation for JJM VI?

A: Shri Yogendra Kumar Singh

Q: Which ministry is managing operations of Swachh Bharat Mission?

A: The Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, under aegis of Ministry of Jal Shakti manages the operations of the Swachh Bharat Mission.

Q: What campaigns are organized by MoJS to conserve water, spread awareness

A: The Ministry organizes campaigns such as the 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan', 'Water Conservation Campaigns', and awareness drives during World Water Day to promote water conservation and sustainable usage.

Q: When did JJM launch?

A: The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) was launched on August 15, 2019

Q: When did WQMIS launch?

A: The Water Quality Monitoring Information System (WQMIS) was launched in 2019 to monitor water quality across India.

Q: Which ministry is managing operations of Jal Jeevan Mission?

A: Ministry of Jal Shakti

Q: Who is/are the Mission Director(s) for JJM?

A: Shri Kamal Kishore Soan.

Q: Who is/are the Mission Director(s) of SBM?

Q: Who is the mission director for Swachh Bharat Mission?

A: Shri Kamal Kishore Soan.

Q: What type of web applications & mobile applications are available under the hood of JJM?

A: The major digital applications of Jal Jeevan Mission are the following:

- JJM-IMIS
 - JJM Dashboard
 - JJM HGJ (Web & Mobile apps)
 - WQMIS
 - JJM Web API, etc.
-

Q: When did SBM launch?

A: The Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) was officially launched on October 2, 2014, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Rajghat in New Delhi.

Q: Which government agency is handling web applications & mobile applications of JJM?

A: National Informatics Centre (NIC): Supports the development of digital platforms for JJM.

Q: Which government agency is handling web applications & mobile applications of SBM?

A: National Informatics Centre (NIC): Supports the development of digital platforms for SBM.

Q: What type of web applications & mobile applications are available under the hood of SBM?

A: The major digital applications of Jal Jeevan Mission are the following:

- SBM-IMIS
- SBM Dashboard
- IHHL (Web & Mobile apps)
- GOBARdhan (Web application), etc.