

Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention

The Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention was organised by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation to mark the beginning of the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi.

Overview of the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention (MGISC)

The Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention (MGISC) is first of its kind sanitation convention. It is a four-day international conference that would bring together Sanitation Ministers and other leaders in WASH (the collective term for Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) from around the world. It is being organized by the Government of India's Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) or Clean India Mission, the world's largest sanitation programme.

The rural sanitation coverage has significantly improved from 39% in October 2014, at the start of Swachh Bharat Mission, to 85% (latest figure). The success of the Clean India Mission will undoubtedly have a significant impact on the global achievement of SDG 6.2 i.e, achieving access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations by the year 2030.

The Convention aimed to share sanitation success stories and lessons from the participating countries and will culminate with the launch of the Mahatma's 150th birth year celebrations in India, as SBM enters its final year of implementation. The Convention included a field visit, plenary sessions, and technical sessions.

In a bid for eliminating the need for manual scavenging, the Central Government had launched a challenge calling cities, companies, research institutes, innovators, and NGOs to propose technology and business solutions to clean urban sewers and septic tanks without human entry. The challenge will be part of the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention.