Global Handwashing in MP creates a History................An Exemplary Achievement by CARD

Highlighting the need for cleanliness to ensure beauty and progress of a place, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the ‘Swachh Bharat’ campaign by wielding a broom in Bhopal. He urged people to devote at least two hours in a week towards cleanliness and also administered an oath in this regard to the people, and government officials and employees. Mass Campaign to promote Safe Water, Safe Sanitation, improved Hygiene as well as inculcate the habit of hand washing amongst its citizens in the state was spear-headed by Panchayat and Rural Development Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh.

MPWASH provided support to P & RD at state level. CARD in partnership with WaterAid coordinated Swachh MP Abhiyan. The campaign launched on 15th August and culminated on 19th November World Toilet Day. The highlight of the campaign was to mobilise 2 million children of Government Primary and Middle Schools and Anganwadis to promote hand washing practices and on 15th October 2014 celebration of GHWD was organized leading to break the Guinness World Record. In Madhya Pradesh, over 40,000 teachers, 20,000 witnesses and equal number of videographers recorded the process at multiple locations across the state.

The first Global Handwashing Day had taken place on October 15, 2008, the date appointed by UN General Assembly in accordance with year 2008 as the International Year of Sanitation. “Ever
since, it is celebrated every year on the same day to raise awareness of washing hands using soap as a key approach in prevention of diseases like diarrhea and acute respiratory infections.”.

Guinness Book of World Records has recognized the record created on world hand washing day in Madhya Pradesh on October 15, 2014. Information about the record set by Madhya Pradesh is displayed on official website of Guinness Book. Soon a certificate in this regard will be handed over to the state as a function, a government release said.

According to Guinness Book, 12,76,425 students created a new world record through simultaneous hand washing at programmes held at 13,196 places across the 51 districts of the state. It was organized by Panchayat and Rural Development Departments.

Earlier record was held jointly by Argentina, Peru and Mexico where 7,40,870 people had created this record by simultaneous handwashing at different places on October 14, 2011.