***CLEAN INDIA!!! GREEN INDIA***

***By Utsav***

***New Delhi:*** *Sanitation has always been key issue for developing nations like India. With population of around 26 million people India is suffering from extreme defecate. Such overwhelming majority of those without access to sanitation facilities poses a formidable obstacle in the development of the nations. In this backdrop, Prime Minister Narendra Modi started a clean drive as Swachh Bharat Abhiyan on 2nd October 2014 at Rajghat in New Delhi. The ambitious programme aims to make the streets, roads and infrastructure clean thoroughly.*

*Census highlighted a glaring data on lack of toilets and insanitary infrastructure. This mission launched with an estimated cost around Rs 62,009 crore. Launching the mission, Prime Minister had nominated nine famous personalities for the campaign. They joined the campaign and nominated nine more people. Thus, the momentum has been built with people from all walks of life joining it. Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh and Kerala are the three states that have been declared open defecation free this year. As per government data, as of December 16, over 58% of Indian households have become open defecation free. According to the union ministry of drinking water and sanitation, Haryana, Uttrakhand, Gujarat and Punjab will achieve the open defecation free status by March 31, 2019.*

*Through people have started to pitch in to help spread the message of ‘Cleanliness is next to Godliness’; we still have miles to go. The government needs to work on the entire sanitation value chai including water supply, safe disposal and treatment of waste, and maintenance of infrastructure. At this juncture, every countryman should take a pledge that he/she will contribute towards making India clean in the true sense of the term.*