APPEAL

The Swachh Bharat Mission was launched on 2nd October, 2014 to fulfill the vision of a cleaner India by 2nd October, 2019 as a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary. The Mission is a concerted approach and one of the biggest ever drives to accelerate efforts towards achieving universal sanitation coverage, improving cleanliness and eliminating open defecation in the country. As part of the Mission, Ministry of Mines will be observing Swachhata Pakhwada from 16th to 31st December, 2017.

The mining sector although does not directly look after public premises has an important role in keeping the environment clean and safe during and after mining. These responsibilities are statutorily mandated, through mine closure and SDF. However, our responsibilities are not to be limited to the mandatory requirements to be discharged routinely. We have a responsibility to the population living around the mines. As much as we keep our township and residential areas neat and clean we have to endeavor to keep areas surrounding the mines neat and clean on our own volition. One of the key activities of the Mission is to make our habitations open defecation free. One or two villages around the vicinity of the mines can be adopted for making it ODF.

I, hereby, appeal to all the public and private sector mining companies to join in the effort to make this mission their own by adopting as many villages/towns as possible in their vicinity so that the goal of a clean India could be achieved. I request the private mining companies to provide the adopted villages/towns with proper sanitation infrastructure so that open defecation is a thing of the past. I hope everyone will rise to the occasion and ensure that the dream of a clean India is attained during the mission period.

(Arun Kumar)