

Ministers From 70 Nations to be Taken on Gandhi Trail

Swachh Bharat (Grameen) 7.43 Cr toilets built since Oct 2, 2014

Oct 2, 2014		Present status
38.70%	ODF Coverage	85.16%
47,101	ODF Villages	384,455
5	ODF Districts	391
0	ODF States/UTs	17



Illustration: ANIRBAN BORA

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the 150th anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi at a first-of-its-kind International Sanitation Convention named after him, where ministers from over 70 countries will be invited and taken on a 'Gandhi Trail' in Gujarat.

The function, named as 'Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention' will be held in Delhi from September 29 to October 2, with the PM addressing the convention on the birth anniversary of

Gandhi with sanitation ministers of 70 to 80 countries in attendance.

The government will use the occasion to "showcase its performance" and "success story" in the Swachh Bharat programme in the past four years, which was launched on October 2, 2014, and have a face-to-face dialogue with the world leaders to share their experiences on sanitation programmes, officials said.

The foreign ministers from countries in Europe, the US, least developed countries and BRICS coming here for the convention, will also be taken for a day's tour to Gujarat to places associated

with the Mahatma such as Shantiniketan, Porbandar and Yerwada in Maharashtra, officials explained.

"This will also signal the launch of the government's 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi," a senior official said.

The Foreign Ministry will coordinate this mega exercise along with the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation and an event management firm is being hired for the convention. The convention will be held at the Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra from September 29 to October 1, and at the Taj Palace hotel on October 2.