

Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0

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Context : Large cities have not removed any land in half of their legacy landfill sites since the **Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) Urban 2.0** was introduced; just 38% of the entire amount of deposited waste has been cleaned up to date.

Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM): Overview

Introduction:

- The Government of India launched the **Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)** on **2nd October 2014**, aiming to accelerate efforts towards **universal sanitation coverage and bring a sharper focus on cleanliness**.
- The mission has two components: **SBM-Gramin**, managed by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**, and **SBM-Urban**, overseen by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**.
- The goal was for **all villages, Gram Panchayats, districts, states, and UTs in India** to declare themselves "**open-defecation free**" (ODF) by **2nd October 2019**, marking the **150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's birth**.

Achievements:

- **SBM**, one of the world's largest cleanliness campaigns, has driven significant societal transformation.
- Several states have achieved **100% ODF status** and Individual Household Latrine (IHHL) coverage, improving dignity, especially for women.
- The mission also helps reduce gender disparities by constructing **gender-specific latrines** in public spaces such as schools, roads, and parks.
- This initiative has indirectly boosted girls' school enrollment and raised health standards.

SBM Urban 2.0: Analysis

Overview:

Launched in **2021**, **SBM Urban 2.0** aims to **clear about 2,400 legacy landfill sites across India by 2025-2026**. Legacy waste dumps are sites where solid waste has accumulated over years in an unscientific and uncontrolled manner.

Funding:

Cities seeking funding under **SBM Urban 2.0** must submit action plans to the **MoHUA for bioremediation of legacy landfills** and repurposing cleared land.

Process:

Waste is categorized for conversion into:

- Refuse-derived fuel (RDF) for waste-to-energy plants
- Recycled materials like bio-soil for road construction and construction waste for reuse.

Performance:

Of 69 landfill sites in cities with populations over 1 million, 35 sites—representing 57% of the total waste—are yet to be cleared. Out of 3,354 acres with 1,258 lakh metric tonnes of waste, 1,171 acres and 475 lakh MT have been cleared.

Success Stories:

- **Ahmedabad** cleared **4.3 acres of land**, formerly home to **2.30 lakh tonnes of waste**, and developed an ecological park.
- **Nagpur** cleared **35 acres of land** with 10 lakh metric tonnes of waste, generating refuse-derived fuel and manure for sale. The site is being repurposed for an integrated waste management project.
- **Pune** cleared its **Vanaz landfill** to build a depot for the city's **Metro system**.
- **Lucknow's 72-acre Ghaila landfill**, holding 8 lakh tonnes of waste, was cleared for the development of **Rashtriya Prerna Sthal park**.

Challenges:

Despite significant progress, a large portion of legacy waste remains. **Cities still need to clear 65% of land and remediate 62% of waste at legacy landfill sites**, with under two years remaining for the scheme's completion.

Way Forward:

- Proper planning before starting bioremediation.
- Halting fresh waste dumping at remediation sites.
- Finding alternative sites for fresh waste processing.
- Avoiding the use of fine soil-like material from remediation sites as compost due to possible contamination from heavy metals.

