

## No clean sweep

Transforming urban India calls for community-based moves towards a circular economy.

### New Phases: 2.0

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2. That urban India is unable to match cities in Vietnam that has a comparable per capita income is a telling commentary on a lack of urban management capacities in spite of the Swachh Bharat programme enjoying tremendous support.
3. SBM-U 2.0, with a ₹1.41-lakh crore outlay, aims to focus on garbage-free cities and urban grey and black water management in places not covered by AMRUT.
4. The issue of capability and governance underscores the challenge — of being able to process only about one lakh tonnes of solid waste per day against 1.4 lakh tonnes generated — to transition to a circular economy that treats solid and liquid waste as a resource.

THE HINDU

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Transforming urban India calls for community-based moves towards a circular economy

Seven years after launching his government's marquee programme, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced the second phase of Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U) and the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), with a fresh promise to make India's cities clean. For all the attention it has received, the goal of scientific waste management and full sanitation that Mahatma Gandhi emphasised even a century ago remains largely aspirational today, and the recent lament of Principal Economic Adviser Sanjeev Sanyal on dirty, dysfunctional cities drives home the point. That urban India, in his view, is unable to match cities in Vietnam that has a comparable per capita income is a telling commentary on a lack of urban management capacities in spite of the Swachh Bharat programme enjoying tremendous support. SBM-U 2.0, with a ₹1.41-lakh crore outlay, aims to focus on garbage-free cities and urban grey and black water management in places not covered by AMRUT. In its first phase, the Mission had an outstanding balance of ₹3,532 crore, since the total allocation was ₹4,652 crore while cumulative releases came to ₹1,090 crore. The issue of capability and governance underscores the challenge — of being able to process only about one lakh tonnes of solid waste per day against 1.4 lakh tonnes generated — to transition to a circular economy that treats solid and liquid waste as a resource.

Raising community involvement in resource recovery, which the rules governing municipal, plastic and electronic waste provide for, calls for a partnership that gives a tangible incentive to households. The current model of issuing mega contracts to big corporations — as opposed to decentralised community-level operations for instance — has left segregation of waste at source a non-starter. In the absence of a scaling up of operations, which can provide large-scale employment, and creation of matching facilities for material recovery, SBM-U 2.0 cannot keep pace with the tide of waste in a growing economy. On sanitation, the impressive claim of exceeding the targets for household, community and public toilets thus far obscures the reality that without water connections, many of them are unusable, and in public places, left in decrepitude. State and municipal governments, which do the heavy lifting on waste and sanitation issues, should work to increase community ownership of the system. As things stand, it is a long road to Open Defecation Free plus (ODF+) status for urban India, since that requires no recorded case of open defecation and for all public toilets to be maintained and functioning. Equally, the high ambition of achieving 100% tap water supply in about 4,700 urban local bodies and sewerage and septage in 500 AMRUT cities depends crucially on making at least good public rental housing accessible to millions of people.

## AMRUT 1.0 Key Features

**ATAL MISSION FOR REJUVENATION AND URBAN TRANSFORMATION**

**Key Features**

- Water Supply
- Pedestrian, non-motorized and public transport facilities, parking spaces
- Sewerage facilities and Septage management
- Creating and upgrading green spaces, parks and recreation centres
- Storm Water drains to reduce flooding

**SWACHH BHARAT, SWASTH BHARAT**

- The Urban Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 will be implemented with a total financial allocation of ₹1,41,678 crore over a period of 5 years from 2021-2026.
- The main interventions envisaged under the scheme are:
  1. Complete faecal sludge management and waste water treatment,
  2. Source segregation of garbage,
  3. Reduction in single-use plastic,
  4. Reduction in air pollution by effectively managing waste from construction-and-demolition activities and
  5. Bio-remediation of all legacy dump sites.



## Community involvement is Key

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2. The current model of issuing mega contracts to big corporations — as opposed to decentralised community-level operations for instance — has left segregation of waste at source a non-starter.
3. In the absence of a scaling up of operations, which can provide large-scale employment and the creation of matching facilities for material recovery, SBM-U 2.0 cannot keep pace with the tide of waste in a growing economy.
4. On sanitation, the impressive claim of exceeding the targets for household, community and public toilets thus far obscures the reality that without water connections, many of them are unusable, and in public places, left in decrepitude.
5. State and municipal governments, which do the heavy lifting on waste and sanitation issues, should work to increase community ownership of the system.

## ODF plus and Tap Water

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## About Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0

1. SBM-U 2.0 envisions to make all cities 'Garbage Free' and ensure grey and black water management in all cities other than those covered under AMRUT, make all urban local bodies as ODF+ and those with a population of less than 1 lakh as ODF++, thereby achieving the vision of safe sanitation in urban areas.
2. The Mission will focus on source segregation of solid waste, utilizing the principles of 3Rs (Reduce, reuse, recycle), scientific processing of all types of municipal solid waste and remediation of legacy dumpsites for effective solid waste management.





## About AMRUT 2.0

1. AMRUT 2.0 aims to provide 100% coverage of water supply to all households in around 4,700 urban local bodies by providing about 2.68 crore tap connections and 100% coverage of sewerage and septage in 500 AMRUT cities by providing around 2.64 crore sewer/ septage connections, which will benefit more than 10.5 crore people in urban areas.
2. AMRUT 2.0 will adopt the principles of circular economy and promote conservation and rejuvenation of surface and groundwater bodies.
3. The Mission will promote data-led governance in water management and Technology Sub-Mission to leverage the latest global technologies and skills.
4. 'Pey Jal Survekshan' will be conducted to promote progressive competition among cities.

## Impact of SBM-U and AMRUT

1. SBM-U and AMRUT have contributed significantly to improve the urban landscape during the last seven years.
2. The two flagship Missions have augmented the capacity to deliver basic services of water supply and sanitation to the citizens.
3. Swachhta has become a Jan Andolan today.
4. All urban local bodies have been declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) and 70% of solid waste is being scientifically processed now.
5. AMRUT has been ensuring water security by adding 1.1 crore household water tap connections and 85 lakh sewer connections, thus benefiting more than 4 crore people.

02.10.2021

Saturday



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PM Narendra Modi's remark

## at launch of **Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0** and **AMRUT 2.0**

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"Goal of 'Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0' **is to make the cities completely free of garbage**"

"Country's target in the next phase of Mission AMRUT is **'Improving sewage and septic management, making our cities water-safe cities and ensuring that no sewage drains anywhere in our rivers'**"

"In the journey of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and AMRUT Mission, **there is a mission, there is respect, there is dignity, there is the ambition of a country and there is also unmatched love for the motherland**"



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PM Narendra Modi's remark

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**"Babasaheb Ambedekar believed in urban development as a great means of removing inequality.....The next phase of Swachh Bharat Mission and Mission Amrit is an important step towards fulfilling the dreams of Babasaheb"**



**"Cleanliness is a great campaign for everyone, every day, every fortnight, every year, generation after generation. Cleanliness is a lifestyle, cleanliness is a life mantra"**

**"In 2014, less than 20 per cent of the waste was processed. Today we are processing about 70 per cent of daily waste. Now, we have to take it to 100%"**

**"PM Svanidhi Yojana has come as a new ray of hope for street vendors and hawkers"**