



## A robust friendship



### Context:

1. India and Russia have to navigate a complex geopolitical landscape while deepening ties. It also follows years of growing proximity between New Delhi and Washington, a potential irritant to Moscow.
2. Simultaneously, the China factor has been steadily pulling the India-Russia bilateral tango in all the wrong directions.
3. While Russia relies on cordial ties with China to stabilise its interests in an unstable Afghanistan post the U.S.'s exit, New Delhi and Beijing have scarcely seen eye-to-eye on border tensions and geo-political rivalry across the Asia region.

Notwithstanding these reasons for possible strategic dissonance, India and Russia reaffirmed the strength of their abiding deep, multi-decade ties, building further confidence in each other through substantive defence agreements.

1. Moscow has agreed on a 10-year military-technical plan that includes technology transfer to India.
2. And trade received a fillip through an agreement for India to produce more than 600,000 Kalashnikov assault rifles.
3. For India's part, despite resistance from Washington through its Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act, New Delhi will proceed with purchasing the S-400 missile defence system from Moscow.



The challenges against maintaining this momentum in bilateral exchanges are multidimensional.

1. First, and most imminently, the pandemic has periodically crippled the growth of both economies and the threats to public health remain despite considerable progress with vaccinations.
2. Second, Russia-U.S. ties are showing signs of fraying yet again, this time over U.S. warning that Russia will face “economy-jarring sanctions” if it seeks to occupy Ukraine.
3. India has so far held firm to its mantra of ‘strategic autonomy’ in a multipolar world, but South Block will have to work hard to manage the tightrope act between Moscow and Washington.
4. Third, India and China have numerous potential flashpoints that could send ties into a spiral again.

**INTERNATIONAL NORTH-SOUTH TRANSPORT CORRIDOR: ENHANCING CONNECTIVITY**

- 7200 kms long
- Land & Sea-based multi-modal transport corridor
- Founded by India, Russia & Iran
- Came into force in 2002
- Connects the Indian Ocean & the Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea via Iran



## PROJECTS BOOSTING #INDIARUSSIA BILATERAL TRADE

Operationalization of the  
'Green Corridor' project

2 Implementation of the International  
North- South Transport Corridor

3 Free Trade Agreement between  
India and the Eurasian  
Economic Union





## Being free of old waste

The Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 guidelines have an important dimension focused on solid waste management

UNION  
BUDGET  
2021-22

## 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

### Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) 2.0 guidelines

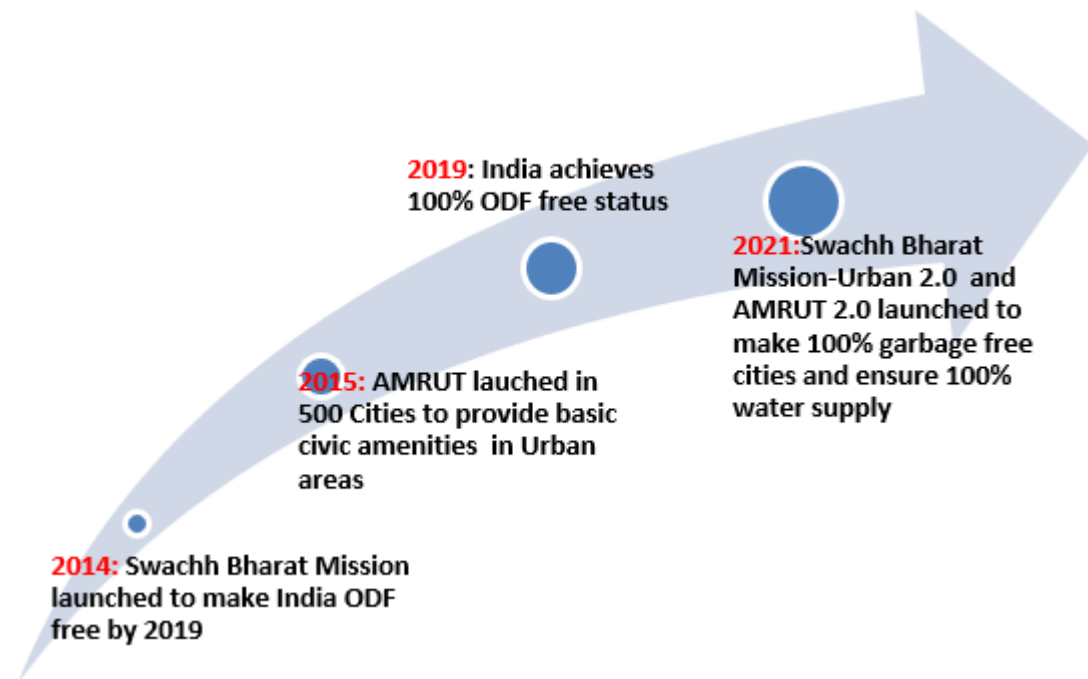
1. The recently released Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) 2.0 guidelines continue to take forward the aims of the SBM launched in 2014, but add an important dimension focused on solid waste management.
2. This goes beyond the efficient collection and transportation of waste and brings focus on processing all types of waste like plastic, construction and demolition waste, as well as providing budgetary support for remediating old waste disposed in all dumpsites across 4,372 cities in India before March 2023.
3. Its components include source segregation; a door-to-door collection of waste; separate transportation of different types of wastes; the processing of wet waste, dry waste, and construction and demolition waste.



4. This mission commits to providing financial assistance to set up fresh waste processing facilities and bioremediation projects across all the ULBs.
5. It will also provide financial assistance to to set up construction and demolition waste processing facilities.

### Challenges faced earlier:

1. The process of setting up waste processing facilities was delayed due to lack of funding and techno process knowledge, and delayed approvals.
2. This resulted in unprocessed waste being dumped in several sites, which needs to be processed through bioremediation before space can be created for new waste processing plants.

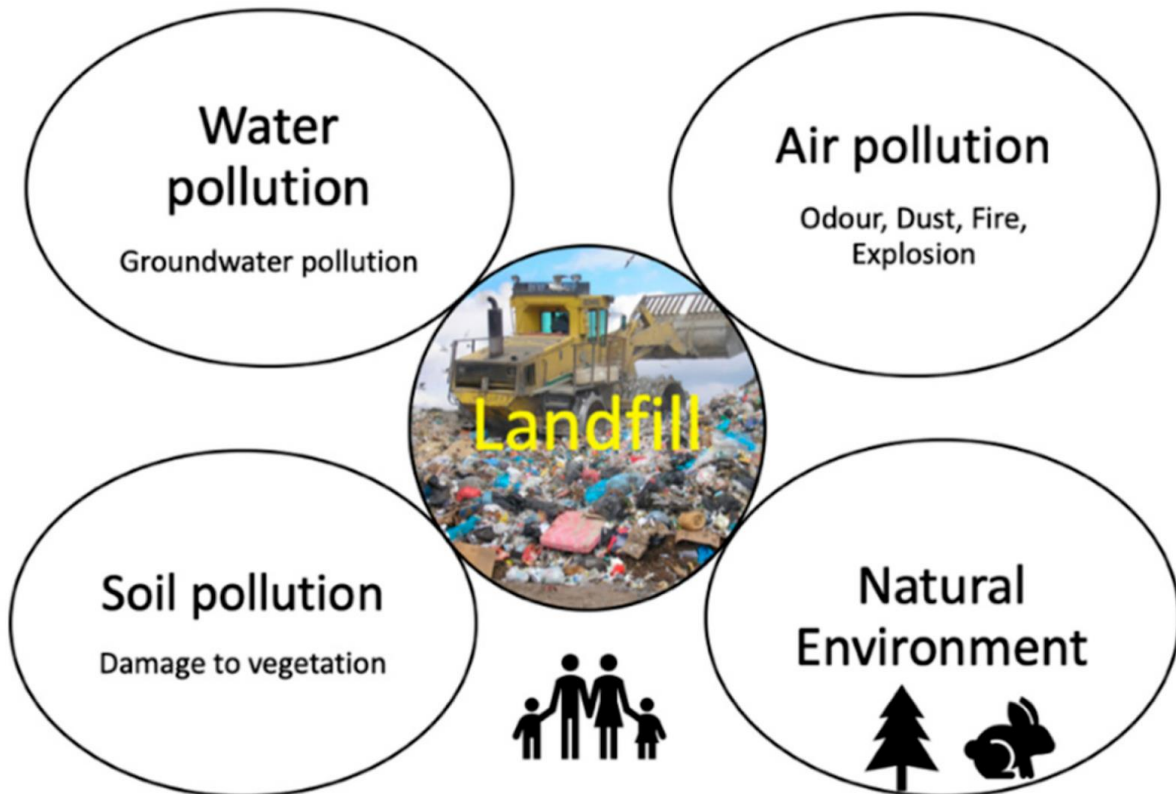


### Bioremediation of legacy dumpsites:

1. Bioremediation of old waste is the process of dismantling old waste heaps, sieving the material to recover bio earth (enriched soil) and refuse-derived fuel which can be used as heating material in cement kilns.
2. As per the SBM 2.0 guidelines, the total quantity of waste generated by urban areas in India is about 1.32 lakh tonnes daily. This adds up to 4.8 crore tonnes per annum. Of this only about 25% is being processed; the rest is disposed of in landfills every year.



3. Given that the waste dumpsites have been operational since the early 2000s, more than 72 crore tonnes of waste need to be processed. This is where SBM 2.0 could be an important intervention.



### Opportunity:

1. The transformation of waste disposal sites to processing sites is likely to produce 72 lakh tonnes of organic compost per annum from 4.8 crore tonnes of waste generated across all ULBs in the country.
2. Organic compost recovered from the wet waste, which is 60% of the total waste, can be used to enrich the soil quality and can meet about 10-12% of the country's fertilizer demand.
3. That will reduce the amount of chemical fertilizer imported and save about ₹2,600 crores of subsidy paid by the government.

