Progress of Swachh Bharat

What is the issue?

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The Swachh Bharat Mission has laid the foundations for a faster pace of change

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What is the progress of Swachh Bharat Mission?

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- The implementation is happening at the State, district and block levels in a faster pace.
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- The last three years have seen an increase from 42 per cent to 65.02 per cent in national sanitation coverage.
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- Five states, 149 districts and 2.08 lakh villages have already been declared Open Defecation Free (ODF).
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- Nearly 22 per cent of the cities and towns have been declared ODF.
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- 50 per cent of the urban wards have achieved 100 per cent door-to-door solid waste collection.
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- The number of schools with separate toilet facilities for girls has increased from 0.4 million (37 per cent) to almost one million (91 per cent).
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How ODF is measured?

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- It was made clear by the ministries concerned that progress will be tracked and evaluated only on ODF basis.

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- This policy shift led to ODF Monitoring Committees (or Nigrani Samitis) being formed at the village level, reflecting the community ownership of SBM.
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- Several sectoral experts are members of the Empowered Working Group (EWG), which is responsible for examining the survey methodology and setting protocols on ODF.
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- The monitoring committees' key tasks were not to count the number of toilets but to ensure that no individual from the village resorts to open defecation.
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- Anecdotal information and feedback from NGOs and others in the field suggests good progress on this front.
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Whether SBM is Successful or not?

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- Sanitation, in a diverse country like India, encompasses a number of factors which are important determinants for the success of the mission.
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- It has a direct relationship to caste, creed, religion and gender.
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- A successful sanitation programme needs to address such factors, which makes achievement of safe sanitation a very complex exercise.
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- Additionally, India has a large number of disabled people whose needs require customised solutions.
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- Despite these challenges, there is a marked improvement in sanitation coverage since the launch of SBM.
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Source: Indian Express

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