

## **SBM-U 2.0 and AMRUT 2.0**

### **Why in news?**

Prime Minister has announced the second phase of Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U) and Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) with a fresh promise to make India's cities clean.

### **What is the state of affairs of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) in India?**

- Urban India alone generates nearly 0.15 million tonnes per day of MSW, with per capita generation ranging between 0.30-0.45 kg per day.
- Of the 62 million tonnes of waste generated annually in India only 68 per cent is collected, of which only 28 per cent is treated by municipal corporations.
- Lower recycling in India is attributed to reasons such as lack of social awareness, socio-political hindrances, inefficient segregation and lack of appropriate infrastructure and technology.
- The informal sector is often not officially approved or recognised besides the fact that they potentially contribute to waste recycling practices of cities.

### **What is the second phase of scheme about?**

- SBM-U 2.0 aims to make Indian cities **garbage free** and all urban local bodies (ULBs) **open defecation free**.
- It will focus on source segregation of solid waste, utilising the principles of 3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle), scientific processing of municipal solid waste and remediation of legacy dumpsites.
- The scheme has an outlay of Rs. 1.41 lakh crore.
- It focuses to transition to a **circular economy** that treats solid and liquid waste as a resource.
- It also aims 100% tap water supply in about 4,700 urban local bodies and sewerage and septage in 500 AMRUT cities.



### **What are the concerns of the scheme?**

- The current model of issuing mega contracts to big corporations 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, SBM-U 2.0 cannot keep pace with the tide of waste in a growing economy.
- On sanitation, many of the toilets are without water and are unusable.

### **How to address these concerns?**

- State and municipal governments, which do the heavy lifting on waste and sanitation issues, should work to increase **community ownership** of the system.
- The high ambition of achieving 100% tap water supply in 500 AMRUT cities depends crucially on making good public rental housing accessible to millions of people.

**Source: The Hindu, Down to Earth**

