



Rural Sanitation Strategy: 2019-2029

drishtiias.com/printpdf/rural-sanitation-strategy-2019-2029

Recently, the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) under the Ministry of Jal Shakti has launched the 10-year Rural Sanitation Strategy starting from 2019 up to 2029.

- The strategy has been **prepared by DDWS**, in consultation with the State Governments and other stakeholders.
- It lays down a framework to guide local governments, policy-makers, implementers and other relevant stakeholders in their planning for **Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus** status, where **everyone uses a toilet**, and every village has **access to solid and liquid waste management**.
- The strategy aims to **sustain the behavioral change** regarding sanitation that has been achieved under the **Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen** (SBM-G) and ensure that the **focus is shifted to increasing access to solid and liquid waste management** in the rural areas of the country.
- The 10-year strategy also demands focused intervention through capacity strengthening, IEC (Information, Education, and Communication), organic waste management, plastic waste management, and water management.
- **Public financing** has played an important role in the ODF journey but for the maintenance of toilets and infrastructure, the need is there for innovative models for **sanitation financing**.
 - With regard to waste management elements, there will have to be a **convergence of funds from the Centre, states, Panchayati raj institutions (PRIs)** and alternative sources of financing, **including private funds**.
 - Discussions are still underway on the budget requirement and whether funds will be disbursed via a centrally sponsored scheme or through Finance Commission transfers to PRIs.
 - The strategy highlights the potential collaborations with development partners, civil society and intergovernmental partnerships.

Open Defecation Free (ODF), ODF+, ODF++ Status

- **ODF:** An area can be notified or declared as ODF if at any point of the day, not even a single person is found **defecating in the open**.
- **ODF+:** This status is given if at any point of the day, not a single person is found **defecating and/or urinating in the open**, and all community and public **toilets are functional and well maintained**.
- **ODF++:** This status is given if the area is already ODF+ and the **faecal sludge/septage and sewage** are safely **managed and treated**, with no discharging or dumping of untreated faecal sludge and sewage into the open drains, water bodies or areas.

Background

- India has seen a sanitation revolution in the form of SBM-G that transformed itself into a **Jan Andolan** (a people's movement).
- Since the launch of the **SBM-G** in 2014, over 10 crore toilets have been built in rural areas.

Till now, over 5.9 lakh villages in 699 districts and 37 States/UTs have declared themselves as Open Defecation Free (ODF).

Way Forward

- It is because of the SBM-G that India is now an inspiration, in terms of sanitation for other countries.
- To mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on 2nd October 2019, the Central government is ready to dedicate a Swachh Bharat to India.

To ensure this, the State Governments have been advised to take a note that no one is left behind, and in case any household does not have access to a toilet, they are facilitated to build a toilet on priority.

Source: PIB