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Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban to Include Elimination of Public Urination

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The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has issued new norms for declaring town and cities wanting to be declared ODF+ (Open Defecation Free Plus) and ODF++ (Open Defecation Free Plus Plus) under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) ODF+ and ODF++ protocol. Now, for the first time, SBM (Urban) will include the elimination of public urination in its agenda.

Norms under ODF

No visible faeces found in the environment

Every household as well as public/community institutions using safe technology option for disposal of faeces.

Norms under ODF+

- At any point in a day, not a single person should be defecating and/or urinating in open.
- All community and public toilets should be properly maintained and cleaned.

Norms under ODF++

- It includes proper treatment and management of faecal sludge/septage and sewage is safely managed and treated.
- There should be no discharge or dumping of untreated faecal sludge/septage and sewage in drains, water bodies or open areas.

Why only in Urban Areas?

In the case of urban areas, the problem is not one of usage, but of availability. People are forced to do it because of the lack of clean toilets. There is a need for cleanliness, accessibility and visibility.

Concerns

Public urination, especially by men, is almost entirely a behaviour change issue. Even men who have access to toilets use the roads as a public urinal.

Other initiatives

Swachh Manch web portal

- The Swachh Manch is a web-based platform, which aims to bring together every stakeholder contributing to the Swachh Bharat Mission under a common platform.
- The platform will allow stakeholders to create/invite/participate in volunteering opportunities around neighbourhoods.
- The Swachh Manch will also be integrated with the existing Swachhata App to act as a citizens' grievance redressal platform.

Swachh Survekshan 2019

- Swachh Survekshan is a ranking exercise taken up by the Government of India to assess rural and urban areas for their levels of cleanliness and active implementation of Swachhata mission initiatives in a timely and innovative manner.
- Swachh Survekshan-Urban is conducted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- Swachh Survekshan –Rural is conducted by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) had conducted 'Swachh Survekshan-2016' survey for the rating of 73 cities in January 2016.
- 'Swachh Survekshan-2017' conducted in January-February 2017 ranking 434 cities. The recently concluded Swachh Survekshan 2018 ranked 4,203 Cities
- Some of the interesting insights gleaned from Swachh Survekshan 2018 included the following:
 - 79% of residents find their area cleaner than last year.
 - 73,875 waste-pickers provided a formal livelihood.
 - In 137 cities, > 60% of the bulk garbage generators are doing on-site composting.