



Star Rating Protocol of Garbage Free Cities

For Prelims: Swachh Bharat Mission, Swachhta Survekshan, Solid Waste Management, Garbage Free Cities.

For Mains: Star rating protocol in Improving Cleanliness and its significance, Garbage in India.

Why in News

On the eve of [Good Governance Day](#) (25th December), the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched the '**Star Rating Protocol of Garbage Free Cities- Toolkit 2022**.'

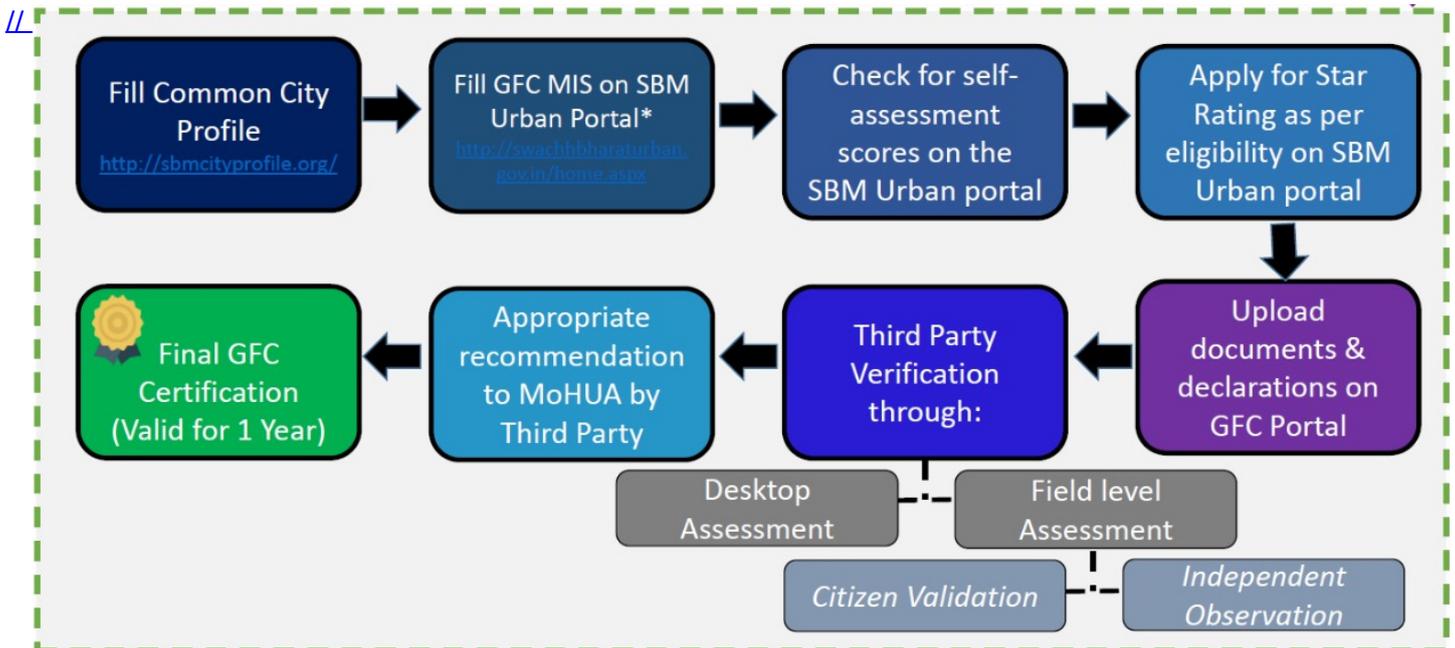
- It is the most important governance tool of waste management - the **Star Rating Protocol for Garbage Free Cities**.
- In the revised protocol the **entire process of applying for certification has been simplified** and made completely digital, paperless.
- And **new components** pertaining to Information, Education & Communication (IEC) , capacity building, revenue from sale of waste by-products **have been added** to encourage cities to build an ecosystem **to strengthen waste management systems**.

Key Points

- **About:**
 - The Star Rating Protocol was launched by the MoHUA in **2018** to **institutionalise a mechanism for cities to achieve Garbage Free status**, and to motivate cities **to achieve higher degrees of sustainable cleanliness**.
 - In the recently concluded certification exercise for Garbage Free Cities nearly 50% of **ULBs(Urban Local Bodies) (2,238 cities)** participated in the certification exercise, of which a total of 299 cities have been certified.
 - 9 cities have been rated as **5-star**, 143 cities rated as **3-star** and 147 cities as **1-star**.
 - In October 2021, [Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0](#) was launched, to create "**Garbage Free Cities**" (**GFC**), thereby placing India on a new trajectory of growth towards an ecosystem of holistic sanitation and waste management.
 - It is one of the various initiatives which intends to make [Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban \(SBM-U\)](#) a successful project.
- **Based On:**
 - It is based on 12 parameters which follow a **SMART framework - Single metric, Measurable, Achievable, Rigorous verification mechanism and Targeted towards outcomes**.
 - The star rating conditions have been designed in a way to enable **cities to gradually evolve into a model (7-star) city**, with progressive improvements in their overall cleanliness.
 - It is a comprehensive framework that assesses cities across 23 different components of [Solid Waste Management \(SWM\)](#) and is graded based on overall marks received.

▪ **Procedure:**

- The Star Rating is supported by self-assessment and self-verification for achieving a certain star rating. It also **ensures the involvement of citizen groups for a transparent system of self-declaration.**
- Further, the self-declaration is further verified through an independent third party agency appointed by MoHUA.



▪ **Significance:**

- The performance of cities under the Star Rating Protocol is **crucial as it carries significant weightage for their final assessment in Swachh Survekshan.**
 - Swachh Survekshan is the **annual urban cleanliness survey** conducted by the government.
- It also ensures **certain minimum standards of sanitation** through a set of prerequisites defined in the framework.
- Since the rating is conducted at a city level, it **makes the process easier to implement and helps the cities incrementally improve** their overall cleanliness.
- The rating protocol is **an outcome-based tool that helps MoHUA and other stakeholders to evaluate cities** on the basis of this single rating.

Garbage in India

▪ **About:**

- India generates the **highest amount of waste** in the world (as of January 2020, 147,613 metric tonnes (MT) of solid waste is generated per day) — that’s more than even China. But the **per person waste generated by both India and China** at present is a small fraction of that by developed countries.
- The per capita waste generation in Indian cities ranges from 200 grams to 600 grams per day. Only **about 75-80% of the municipal waste gets collected** and only **22-28 % of this waste is processed** and treated.
- It is estimated that by 2050, India’s waste generation **will double** whereas growth in China’s waste generation will be much slower.

▪ **Related Initiatives:**

- [Open Defecation Free \(ODF\) Plus status.](#)
- [Swachh Bharat Mission.](#)
- [Solid Waste Management \(SWM\) Rules 2016.](#)
- [CSIR-CMERI’s Municipal Solid Waste Processing Facility.](#)

Source: PIB

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