



## Faecal Sludge and Septage Management

**For Prelims:** Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM), NITI Aayog, Swachh Survekshan, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) and National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

**For Mains:** Issues and challenges involved in India's waste Management system and related steps taken

### Why in News

According to the [NITI Aayog](#) report **Faecal sludge and septage management in urban areas, Service and business models, by 2021** more than 700 cities / towns are in various stages of **Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM)** implementation.

### Key Points

- **Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM):**
  - **About:**
    - India has **recognized the gaps in sanitation coverage** and embarked purposefully to address them, becoming one of the first countries to announce a national policy on FSSM in 2017.
    - FSSM **prioritizes human excreta management**, a waste stream with the highest potential for spreading diseases.
    - It is a **low-cost and easily scalable sanitation solution** that focuses on safe collection, transportation, treatment, and reuse of human waste.
    - As a result, FSSM promises a means to achieve the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDG\)](#) target 6.2 of **adequate and inclusive sanitation** for all in a time bound manner.
  - **Related Initiatives:**
    - India has **continued to show its commitment towards FSSM** through the launch of [Open Defecation-Free \(ODF\) + and ODF++ protocols](#), an emphasis on FSSM in [Swachh Survekshan](#), as well as financial allocations for FSSM across [Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation \(AMRUT\)](#) and [National Mission for Clean Ganga \(NMCG\)](#) missions.
- **Capacity of India's Sewage Treatment Plants:**
  - According to the latest report of the [Central Pollution Control Board \(CPCB\)](#), **Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs)** in India are able to treat a little more than a third of the sewage generated per day.
  - India generated **72,368 MLD (million litres per day)** whereas the installed capacity of STPs was 31,841 MLD (43.9%).
  - **5 states and Union Territories (UT)** - Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Karnataka - **account for 60% of the total installed treatment capacity** of the country.
- **Issues with Solid Waste Management:**
  - Absence of segregation of waste at source.
  - Lack of funds for waste management at Urban Local Bodies (ULB).

- Lack of technical expertise and appropriate institutional arrangement.
- Unwillingness of ULBs to introduce proper collection, segregation, transportation and treatment/disposal systems.
- Indifference of citizens towards waste management due to lack of awareness.
- Lack of community participation towards waste management and hygienic conditions.

## Way Forward

- **Utilising FSSM Alliance:** The National Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (NFSSM) Alliance has played a catalytic role in the **FSSM sector in India** so far and serves as a ready resource and platform for state and city officials.
- To ensure long term sustainability and quality implementation, **states and cities must undertake capacity building, quality assurance and quality control, and monitoring.** Moreover, it is critical that states take steps to institutionalize
- Keeping the **most vulnerable and underserved, women and urban poor at the center of this effort**, states and cities **must move quickly to introduce innovative solutions.**
- With that, **India can become an exemplar to the world** for not only ending open defecation, but also for safely managed holistic sanitation.

**Source: DTE**

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/faecal-sludge-and-septage-management>