

India can develop the next phase of rural sanitation by shifting its core focus from initial toilet construction to long-term operation, advanced waste processing, and community-led asset management under frameworks like Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen.

The upcoming roadmap requires robust structural upgrades, technological interventions, and behavioral persistence across villages and fast-growing peri-urban clusters.

Key Focus Areas for the Next Phase

Operation and Maintenance (O&M): Prioritize regular upkeep, retrofitting, and repairs of existing Individual Household Latrines (IHHLs) and Community Sanitary Complexes (CSCs) rather than building new standalone infrastructure from scratch.

Faecal Sludge Management (FSM): Authorize and fund the purchase of dedicated desludging vehicles at the village panchayat level to prevent septic tank overflows and untreated runoff into local water bodies.

Decentralized Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SWM/LWM): Scale up community

compost pits, micro-composting centers, and plastic waste management units in convergence with the 15th Finance Commission and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).

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Small Nallah and Rivulet Treatment: Implement low-cost, nature-based wastewater filtration and drainage interception models for small rivulets flowing into major rural river ecosystems.

Waste-to-Wealth Integration: Expand the GOBARdhan Scheme to convert cattle dung and wet organic waste into compressed biogas and organic fertilizers, creating local micro-enterprises for Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

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Implementation Strategies

Strategy PillarCore Action ItemPrimary

Stakeholder / ConvergenceInfrastructure

UpgradesProcure desludging machinery and

build co-treatment linkagesGram Panchayats &

Urban Local Bodies Grassroots Mobilization

Weekly youth-led cleanliness drives and school

education Students, Youth Clubs, & SHGsDigital

AccountabilityTransparent monitoring
dashboards and monthly ward.

