Sri A Revanth Reddy
Hon'ble Chief Minister and Minister MA&UD

TELANGANA URBAN BYTES

TELANGANA RISING
CURE - PURE - RARE

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COVER STORY

From Complaints to Collaboration: The Growing Role of Citizen Participation

The relationship between citizens and municipalities is undergoing a significant transformation. Traditionally, citizen engagement was largely limited to reporting grievances and seeking solutions to civic issues such as sanitation, street lighting, roads, and water supply. While grievance redressal remains an essential function of urban governance, cities today are increasingly recognizing citizens as active partners in shaping the future of their communities.

As urban challenges become more complex, local governments are moving towards participatory governance models that encourage meaningful citizen involvement in planning, implementation, and monitoring of municipal initiatives. Public consultations, stakeholder meetings, community outreach programmes, and digital engagement platforms are creating opportunities for residents to contribute their ideas, voice their concerns, and participate in decision-making processes.

Citizen participation offers multiple benefits. It helps municipalities better understand local needs and priorities, improves transparency and accountability, and strengthens public trust in governance systems. More importantly, solutions developed with community involvement are often more practical, sustainable, and widely accepted. Whether it is improving neighbourhood infrastructure, developing public spaces, promoting waste segregation, enhancing road safety, or advancing environmental initiatives, citizen inputs can significantly enrich the planning process.

Technology has further strengthened this partnership. Mobile applications, online grievance portals, social media platforms, and digital surveys now enable real-time communication between citizens and municipal authorities. These tools have transformed engagement from a periodic activity into a continuous dialogue.

The future of urban development lies not only in stronger institutions and better infrastructure but also in stronger community participation. Cities thrive when citizens move beyond being service recipients and become stakeholders in urban transformation. By fostering a culture of collaboration, municipalities can build more inclusive, responsive, and resilient cities and cities that are shaped by the aspirations and collective efforts of the people they serve.

FROM CDMA'S DESK

Dear Readers,

Civil contractors are not merely executors of works; they are key partners in shaping the quality, durability, and sustainability of urban infrastructure. As municipalities enter a phase of accelerated development through the Urban Challenge Fund (UCF) and other transformative initiatives, the responsibility placed upon contractors has never been greater.

Recognizing this critical role, the Government has initiated a two-day residential Capacity Building Programme for civil contractors. The objective is clear , to strengthen technical knowledge, enhance adherence to quality and safety standards, and foster a deeper understanding of project delivery expectations. Timely execution, accountability, and excellence in workmanship are essential for translating public investments into tangible improvements in citizens' lives.

The future of our urban development agenda depends not only on funding and planning, but equally on the commitment and competence of those who build our cities.

Happy Reading!

Sincerely,

Dr. T.K. Sreedevi IAS

BIO-MINING : RECLAIMING URBAN LAND FROM LEGACY WASTE

Across India's urban landscape, towering garbage dumps that accumulated over decades have become one of the most visible environmental challenges confronting cities. These "legacy waste" sites, formed through years of unscientific dumping, occupy thousands of acres of valuable urban land, contaminate groundwater, generate methane emissions, and pose serious public health risks. In response, bio-mining has emerged as a critical intervention under the Swachh Bharat Mission to scientifically remediate these dumpsites and restore urban environments.

Bio-mining refers to the scientific excavation, segregation, processing, and recovery of old municipal solid waste using mechanical and biological methods. Through trommel screening, segregation, compost recovery, recycling, and safe disposal of inert material, accumulated waste is processed and land is reclaimed for productive public use.

India currently faces one of the largest legacy waste remediation challenges in the world. According to Government of India data, the country had nearly 2,108 lakh metric tonnes of legacy waste accumulated across urban dumpsites. Of this, approximately 1,775 lakh metric tonnes nearly 66 percent had already been remediated by 2025 under various initiatives of the Swachh Bharat Mission.

The scale of transformation is significant. More than 9,390.31 acres of urban land have reportedly been reclaimed through remediation activities. These reclaimed lands are being converted into green zones, sanitation infrastructure, public spaces, transfer stations, and urban utility facilities.

Under the Government of India's **"Lakshya Zero Dumpsite"** initiative, remediation activities are presently underway at more than 1,400 dumpsites across the country. The programme focuses particularly on high-impact dumpsites that collectively account for nearly 80 percent of India's remaining legacy waste burden.

INDIA AT A GLANCE (Latest Data)

LEGACY WASTE IDENTIFIED
2,708 lakh tonnes
(As on March 2025)

LEGACY WASTE REMEDIATED
1,775 lakh tonnes
(58% of total)

LAND RECLAIMED THROUGH BIO-MINING
9,390 ACRES
(As on March 2025)

BIO-MINING PROJECTS
FROM ~120 IN 2020 TO **2480+** IN 2025

INVESTMENT UNDER SBM-U 2.0 (2021-26)
1,48,940 CRORE
(central Assistance)

Despite these advances, the challenge remains substantial. Studies indicate that India's legacy waste burden still extends across thousands of hectares, with urban local bodies continuing to face pressure from increasing municipal solid waste generation. Estimates suggest that India may generate nearly 165 million tonnes of municipal solid waste annually by 2030 if scientific waste processing systems are not strengthened.

TELANGANA SCENARIO

TELANGANA AT A GLANCE

- Urban Local Bodies are implementing scientific Solid Waste Management in line with SBM-U 2.0 and MSW Rules.
- Multiple bio-mining projects are underway across major ULBs to clear legacy waste and reclaim land.
- Reclaimed land will be utilized for greenery, sanitation infrastructure, waste processing facilities and public utility spaces.
- Initiative supports cleaner cities, improved public health and sustainable urban growth.

IMPACT IN TELANGANA (Indicative as on May 2025)

LEGACY WASTE BEING ADDRESSED
131+ major dumpsites

38.46 Lakh MT
Legacy waste addressed

LEGACY WASTE BEING REMEDIATED
27.70+ lakh tonnes (Completed)

LAND RECLAIMED

372 Acres
(Ongoing & Planned)

TOTAL VALUE OF LAND RECLAIMED
262 cr.

across cities and towns

Rapid urbanization and increasing waste generation have made scientific waste management a major priority in Telangana. As part of garbage-free city initiatives, bio-mining and legacy waste remediation activities have been initiated across 123 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), reflecting one of the state's largest coordinated sanitation efforts.

The Jawaharnagar dumpsite serving GHMC remains Telangana's biggest waste management challenge. Hyderabad generates nearly 8,000 tonnes of municipal waste daily, with large quantities historically dumped at Jawaharnagar over the past two decades.

To address these issues, GHMC and the Government of Telangana are implementing bio-mining, scientific capping, waste-to-energy projects, landfill rehabilitation, and expansion of waste processing infrastructure. Several municipalities across the state have also initiated localized legacy waste remediation measures to strengthen scientific urban waste management systems.

However, experts emphasize that bio-mining alone cannot permanently solve urban waste challenges unless accompanied by sustained source segregation, scientific processing of fresh waste, decentralized waste management systems, and strong public participation. Without proper daily waste processing systems, new legacy waste can continue to accumulate even after old dumpsites are cleared.

As Indian cities continue their transition toward scientific and sustainable waste management, bio-mining stands out as a transformative intervention capable of converting decades-old environmental liabilities into opportunities for ecological restoration, urban renewal, and improved quality of life. The success of this effort will ultimately depend on sustained institutional commitment, citizen participation, and long-term investments in scientific waste management infrastructure.


BEFORE: DUMP SITE at Vikarabad


AFTER: GREEN SPACE at Vikarabad

FROM DUMP SITES TO DEVELOPED LANDSCAPES, BIO MINING IS NOT JUST ABOUT WASTE BUT IT IS ABOUT RECLAIMING OUR LAND, OUR ENVIRONMENT AND OUR FUTURE

GIVING RESOURCES A SECOND LIFE: THE IMPACT OF RRR CENTRES

Khammam Municipal Corporation has set up two RRR Centres (Wards 53 & 46) operated by the ULB. Citizens donate reusable items like clothes, books, and bottles, which are sorted and redistributed to the needy. The initiative promotes reuse, reduces waste, and encourages community participation.

Under the Swachh Bharat Mission, Khammam Municipal Corporation has established two permanent RRR Centres to strengthen sustainable waste management practices. Located at Ward No. 53 (New Municipal Corporation Office) and Ward No. 46 (Government Hospital), these centres serve as dedicated spaces for citizens to contribute reusable materials. Residents are encouraged to donate items such as books, clothes, shoes, plastic bottles, and glass items in good condition. The collected materials are systematically sorted and redistributed to economically weaker sections, ensuring they are put to meaningful use. This initiative not only reduces waste generation but also promotes a culture of reuse, community support, and responsible citizen participation.

RRR CENTER IN KHAMMAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Residential training program for civil contractors doing civil works in ULB'S at ESCI

DAY 1

CLASS ROOM SESSION AT ESCI HYDERABAD

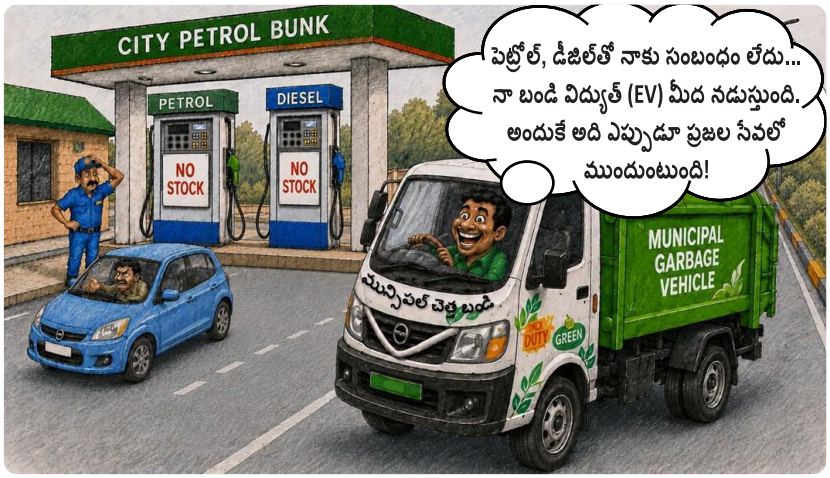
FIELD EXPOSURE VISIT TO AMRUT PARK

DAY 2

FIELD EXPOSURE VISIT TO ELSR IN SIDDIPET

FIELD EXPOSURE VISIT TO DURGAM CHERUVU

The Civic Sketch



" పెట్రోల్, డీజిల్‌పై ఆధారాన్ని తగ్గిస్తూ... నిరంతర నగర సేవల కోసం ఈవీ వాహనాలను స్వీకరిస్తున్న మున్సిపాలిటీలు."

The first batch of the Civil Contractors Capacity Building Programme was conducted as a two-day residential training at ESCI, Hyderabad. The programme covered quality control, construction safety, project planning, documentation, labour welfare, and environmental management through expert-led sessions. Participants also gained practical exposure through field visits to Durgam Cheruvu and key urban infrastructure facilities in Siddipet, including an STP, ELSR, and AMRUT Park, strengthening their understanding of quality urban infrastructure delivery.

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