

In Lakhimpur Kheri, the construction and maintenance of Community Sanitary Complexes (CSCs)—now often referred to under SBM(G) Phase II as Community Managed Sanitation Complexes (CMSCs)—have shifted from mere brick-and-mortar projects to "community-managed utilities."

Since 2020, the district has focused on ensuring that no one is left behind, particularly in crowded areas or for landless households.

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## 1. Progress of CSCs in Lakhimpur Kheri (2020–2026)

Lakhimpur Kheri has a massive rural landscape where CSCs serve as a critical safety net.

- **Target Saturation:** The district aimed to provide at least one CSC in every Gram Panchayat (GP) with over 100 households. As of early 2026, over 1164 CSC units have been constructed.
  - **Inclusion Focus:** New designs in the district dedicated Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) corners for women and adolescent girls.
  - **Site Selection:** Priority was given to SC/ST habitations, forest-fringe communities, and transit points (markets/bus stands) where floating populations are high.
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## 2. Challenges to Functionality

Ensuring a CSC stays "functional" after the inaugural ribbon-cutting is the primary hurdle in the district:

- **Water Scarcity in Summer:** In certain blocks like Mohammadi and Pasgawan, maintaining 24/7 running water for flushing and handwashing remains difficult during dry months.
  - **Electricity Reliability:** Many CSCs struggle with power for water pumps. While solar pumps are a solution, their maintenance (theft or battery life) is a recurring issue.
  - **Diffusion of Responsibility:** Because the facility is "everyone's," it often becomes "no one's." Without a designated caretaker, hygiene levels can drop rapidly, leading to abandonment.
  - **The "Terai" Factor:** In flood-prone areas (Palia, Nighasan), pits often fill with groundwater during the monsoon, rendering the toilets unusable for months.
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## 3. Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Arrangements

Lakhimpur Kheri has pioneered a Three-Tier O&M Model to ensure the facilities do not become "white elephants."

### A. The "Care Taker" Model (SHG-Led)

The district administration has mandated that the O&M of CSCs be handed over to Women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs) under the State Rural Livelihood Mission (SRLM).

- Payment: Caretakers receive a monthly honorarium (typically ₹6,000–₹9,000) funded through the GP's 15th Finance Commission "Tied Grants."
- Revenue: In some high-traffic areas (markets), a "Pay & Use" nominal fee is charged to outsiders to cover cleaning supplies.

### B. The "Swachhata Mart" Model

Innovative GPs have attached small "Swachhata Marts" (shops selling soap, detergent, or snacks) to the CSC building.

- Mechanism: The shopkeeper is given the space for free or low rent in exchange for keeping the CSC clean and functional.

### C. Institutional Convergence

Resource	Responsible Body
Water & Electricity Bills	Gram Panchayat (from 15th FC Grants)
Major Repairs	Block Development Office (Minor works by GP)
Daily Cleaning	Appointed Safai Karmi or SHG member

## 4. Way Forward for 100% Functionality

To reach the "Model Village" status across the district, the following steps are being prioritized:

1. Solarization: Retrofitting all CSCs with solar panels and overhead tanks to decouple functionality from the erratic power grid.
2. Digital Monitoring: Mandatory monthly reporting by the *Gram Pradhan* via the SBM-G App, including time-stamped photos of the interior cleanliness.
3. Greywater Integration: Connecting CSC outlets to community soak pits or "Magic Pits" to ensure no stagnant water pools around the facility.
4. Behavioral Reinforcement: Utilizing *Swachhagrahis* (volunteers) to conduct "Nukkad Nataks" near CSCs to encourage proper usage and discourage vandalism.