

In Hardoi, 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.

1. Progress of CSCs in Hardoi (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 Ahirori and Sandila, 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.
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3. Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Arrangements

Hardoi 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.