One of the places where it is most essential to maintain cleanliness is the toilet. We generally do so in our private toilets; the problems arise in toilets which thousands of people use. In public places like bus stands, railway stations, schools, colleges, theatres, beaches and parks, sometimes the toilets are so badly maintained that one shudders to use them. It is a common sight to see people defecating and urinating in open spaces. This is extremely unhygienic, and leads to the spread of diseases.

In cities and towns today, we have the flush toilets or water closets (WC) (as they were called earlier.) There are western style toilets, which are elevated with a seat on the top, and can be closed with a lid when not in use. In the Indian style toilet, the bowl is embedded in the floor and a person has to squat while using it. Both these types of toilets can be flushed with water and are easy to maintain. The waste is carried to municipal drains or to septic tanks, where is carried to municipal drains or to septic tanks, where it is treated. In some places, the flush system may not be in place, and water may have to be poured down the bowl.

Whatever be the type of toilet, it must be kept clean. Disinfectants should be used regularly. Defecating in public places or in the open should be discouraged. In many cities we have Sulabh Shouchalaya.