

Waste Management in India is overseen by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change. In India, rules regarding the management of waste are based on the ideas of “sustainable development,” “precaution,” and “polluter pays.”

These principles require cities and businesses to act responsibly and take care of the environment, fixing any harm they cause. Because of economic growth, the amount of waste has increased, so there are laws to regulate how waste is handled under the Environment Protection Act of 1986.

Facts and Figures for Waste Management in India

- India produces 62 million tonnes of waste annually, with 70% collected, and only 12 million tonnes treated, while 31 million tonnes end up in landfills.
- The generation of municipal solid waste is expected to rise to 165 million tonnes by 2030 due to changing consumption patterns and rapid economic growth.

Challenges Faced in Waste Management

India faces challenges in managing waste. The informal sector plays a significant role in extracting value from waste, but many challenges remain.

- **Rapid urbanization:** Urban areas with 377 million people generate about 62 million tons of solid waste every year. However, only 43 million tons are collected, and the rest ends up untreated or in landfills.
- E-waste is also a growing concern, with projections showing a substantial increase in e-waste generation.
- **Lack of adequate garbage collection infrastructure**, with only 21 million garbage collectors compared to China’s 700 million.
- **Sorting recyclable materials** is also a problem, as only about 30% of waste is properly sorted, leading valuable materials like aluminum and plastics to end up in landfills instead of being recycled.