

## **2.3 Current practice of waste disposal**

**Types of Waste in India**

**Waste Management Processes in India**

**Current Plight of Waste Management in India**



### 2.3 Current practice of waste disposal

The latest waste management policy in India is the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, launched in 2014. It focuses on ensuring a clean and green India by addressing waste management as one of its core components. Under this initiative, the government aims to:

1. **Waste Segregation:** Encourage the segregation of waste into biodegradable and non-biodegradable categories at the source.
2. **Waste Collection and Transportation:** Establish efficient waste collection and transportation systems to ensure the safe disposal of waste.
3. **Waste Treatment and Recycling:** Promote the treatment and recycling of waste to reduce the burden on landfills.

#### Types of Waste in India

Waste in India can be categorized into various types:

1. **Municipal Solid Waste (MSW):** This includes everyday household waste, such as kitchen waste, paper, plastics, and glass.
2. **E-Waste:** Electronic waste, including discarded electronics like smartphones, laptops, and appliances.
3. **Biomedical Waste:** Medical waste generated by healthcare facilities, including hospitals, clinics, and laboratories.
4. **Industrial Waste:** Waste generated by industries and manufacturing units, often hazardous in nature.

#### Waste Management Processes in India

India employs several waste management processes to manage the diverse types of waste:

1. **Waste Segregation:** As per the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, households are encouraged to segregate waste into wet (biodegradable) and dry (non-biodegradable) categories.
2. **Collection and Transportation:** Waste is collected from homes, businesses, and industries and transported to waste processing facilities.

3. **Waste Processing and Recycling:** Waste processing facilities separate recyclable materials, compost organic waste, and dispose of hazardous waste safely.
4. **Waste-to-Energy (WtE):** Some waste is incinerated to generate electricity, reducing the burden on landfills.

### **Current Plight of Waste Management in India**

While India has made significant strides in waste management, it still faces numerous challenges:

1. **Inadequate Infrastructure:** Many cities lack the necessary infrastructure for waste collection and disposal. *Example:* The overflowing garbage bins and piles of uncollected waste in cities like Mumbai and Delhi illustrate this issue.
2. **Lack of Awareness:** Despite awareness campaigns, many citizens still do not segregate waste at the source, making recycling and proper disposal difficult. *Example:* The indiscriminate dumping of waste in water bodies like the Yamuna River showcases this problem.
3. **Limited Recycling:** Recycling rates in India remain low due to limited recycling facilities and a lack of incentives for recycling. *Example:* The growing mountains of e-waste, with only a fraction being recycled, demonstrate the scale of this issue.
4. **Informal Waste Sector:** A significant portion of waste management is carried out by informal waste pickers who work in unsafe conditions and are often marginalized. *Example:* The struggles of waste pickers in places like Bengaluru highlight the need for better working conditions and recognition.