



MP to Dispose Toxic Waste

Why in News?

Recently, **the Madhya Pradesh government** has started disposing of 337 tonnes of [toxic waste](#) from **Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) in Bhopal**, [40 years after the Bhopal gas tragedy](#). They plan to **transport the waste to Pithampur** in Dhar district.

Key Points

- **Supervised Packing and Stacking:**
 - The factory administration is packing and stacking the waste under the supervision of [the Central Pollution Control Board \(CPCB\)](#) and **Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board (MPPCB)**.
 - **Specially trained workers are involved** in the packing and loading process, taking necessary precautions.
 - Twelve specially-designed airtight containers are being used for the waste.
- **Short Worker Shifts:**
 - Workers are operating in 30-45 minute shifts instead of regular 8-9 hour shifts to **minimize exposure to the toxic waste**.
 - A 250-kilometer [green corridor](#) has been prepared **to facilitate the safe transportation of waste** from Bhopal to Pithampur.
- **Trial Run and Safety Assurances:**
 - **In 2015**, 10 tonnes of the **waste were incinerated in Pithampur under scientific supervision**, with results submitted to the [High Court](#) showing no harmful effects.
 - **Safety measures include** landfill sites with two-layer membranes to prevent contamination and a four-layer air filtration system.

The Bhopal Gas Tragedy

- The Bhopal gas tragedy occurred on 2-3 December 1984, when [methyl isocyanate gas](#) leaked, **killing 5,479 people**.
- **More than five lakh people suffered long-term health impacts**, and multiple cases related to the tragedy are still pending in courts.

IMPACT OF GAS EXPOSURE

➤ **Younger population** born after gas leak equally vulnerable



➤ **Those between 31 and 60** (which includes those born after the gas leak of 1984) account for 80% of the suffering



➤ **59%** Gas affected women suffered illnesses

Those under 40 years of age and exposed to gas leak, were diagnosed with twice as many illness as the non-gas leak exposed

• Illness includes **cardiac, cancer, respiratory, kidney, TB, typhoid** and among others



• Twice as many 'gas affected' are dying of **cancers, respiratory illnesses** -- compared with normal population



• **Kidney failure** rate is 3 times, compared with non-gas affected



Key Demands

➤ To set up a system of registration of deaths of people with direct or indirect exposure

➤ **Over 5,000 gas victims are cancer patients.** Review of the work of the Population Based Cancer Registry in Bhopal that claims that there is no association between gas exposure and cancer

➤ Review the system of health-care in place for gas victims

➤ Urgently review drug utilization in the care of gas exposed persons to **avoid kidney damage**

