



## Waste Management Initiatives

**For Prelims:** [Extended Producer Responsibility](#), Plastic Packaging, [E-waste](#), Battery Waste, Bio-medical Waste, [Swachh Bharat Mission](#), Bio-remediation, Waste Management Rules

**For Mains:** Waste Management Initiatives and Rules, Government Policies & Interventions

[Source: PIB](#)

### Why in News?

In a recent written reply in the [Rajya Sabha](#), the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change highlighted the significant steps taken to tackle [waste management in the country](#).

### What are the Highlighted Initiatives Related to Waste Management?

- **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Mechanism:**
  - [EPR](#) is a policy approach in waste management that makes producers **responsible for the entire lifecycle of their products**, including their collection, recycling, and disposal.
    - It aims to reduce the **environmental impact of products** by shifting the financial and physical burden of waste management from governments and taxpayers to producers.
  - In 2022, EPR initiatives utilizing market mechanisms were implemented for [plastic packaging](#), [E-waste](#), battery waste, and [used oil](#). This strategic move is anticipated to stimulate growth in the waste management sector.
- **Waste Processing Capacity:**
  - Out of the approximately **1.5 lakh metric tons per day (MT/D) waste generated in urban areas, around 76% is processed**.
  - Since 2014, there has been a notable increase in the capacity for processing various types of waste, including solid waste, hazardous waste, bio-medical waste, E-waste, plastic waste, and construction and demolition waste.
  - Solid waste processing capacity has seen an increase of around 1.05 lakh MT/D in the last eight years, particularly under the [Swachh Bharat Mission \(Urban\)](#).
- **Swachh Bharat Mission for Solid Waste Management:**
  - Central assistance is provided under **Swachh Bharat Mission for solid waste management** including plastic waste management in urban and rural areas, as per scheme guidelines.
    - The Central Government launched [Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0 \(SBM-U 2.0\)](#) in 2021 with the overall vision of creating **"Garbage Free Cities"**, which would involve achieving the target that all Urban Local Bodies will become at least **3-star certified (as per Star Rating Protocol for Garbage Free Cities)** covering door to door collection, source segregation, and scientific processing of municipal solid waste.
    - The mission focuses on source segregation, reducing single-use plastic, managing waste from construction-and-demolition activities, and bio-remediation of legacy

waste dump sites.

- Under **Swachh Bharat Mission - Grameen Phase II**, the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation has issued operational guidelines to the States and Union Territories which include **solid waste management activities at the village level**.
- **Waste Management Rules and Guidelines:**
  - The **Ministry, under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**, has implemented various waste management rules and guidelines to ensure environmentally sound practices. These include:
    - **Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.**
    - **Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016.**
    - **Bio-medical Waste Management Rules, 2016.**
    - **Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2016.**
    - **Hazardous and other wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016.**
    - **E-waste Management Rules, 2022.**
    - **Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022.**
    - Guidelines have also been issued on environmentally sound waste management.
      - Guidelines have been developed for the levy of **environmental damages /environmental compensation charges** based upon the polluter pays principle, for hazardous waste, E-waste, and plastic waste.

## Note

- The 'polluter pays' principle is the commonly accepted practice that those who produce pollution should bear the costs of managing it to prevent damage to human health or the environment.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

### Prelims

**Q. As per the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 in India, which one of the following statements is correct? (2019)**

- (a) Waste generator has to segregate waste into five categories.
- (b) The Rules are applicable to notified urban local bodies, notified towns and all industrial townships only.
- (c) The Rules provide for exact and elaborate criteria for the identification of sites for landfills and waste processing facilities.
- (d) It is mandatory on the part of the waste generator that the waste generated in one district cannot be moved to another district.

**Ans: (c)**