



GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES/ POLICIES/ SCHEMES ON WASTE MANAGEMENT IN INDIA AND KERALA

JEFIN JOSE, ANJALI KRISHNA M V, PRABHA SUSAN PHILIP*

College of Agriculture (Kerala Agricultural University), Vellanikkara, Thrissur, Kerala, India

*Corresponding Author, E-mail: prabha0825@gmail.com

Before dealing waste management, one should understand what is a 'Waste'? Waste can often be defined as "anything that doesn't create value" (BSR, 2010). For a common man's sense, waste is something that they find have no further or future use/value. The tendency of disposing waste in the most economic or easiest way would lead to unscientific waste generation and associated problems to people as well as the environment. Waste management initiatives include a set of actions to plan and execute activities that are needed to efficiently organise, reduce and reuse waste along with promoting scientific waste disposal. Different countries have different strategies and programs to manage their waste efficiently.

In India, the centre and different state governments have implemented a number of programmes and policies to efficiently manage the huge quantity of waste generated every day in the country, at source. The basic principle adopted in any waste management system is Refuse, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle (4R). The Government of India initiative *Swachh Bharat mission* launched in the year 2014 in collaboration with the state governments and union territories, with a vision of making India clean, could make a positive impact in the waste management scenario of the country. Waste management in India

falls under the purview of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is the statutory organisation under MoEF&CC for monitoring various activities related to air, water and environmental pollution in the country and it also co-ordinates activities of State Pollution Control Boards (SPCB).

INITIATIVES/SCHEMES/POLICIES FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT BY INDIA GOVERNMENT

According to the CPCB Annual Report 2021-22, solid waste generation in India is 170,339 metric tonnes per day. Besides, the agricultural waste generation is more than 350 million tons per year. The ever-increasing trend of waste generation in almost all sectors has led the Indian government to come up with various policies and programmes over the years for efficient management of waste. This paper focus on few such policies which is operational in the country and state level.

Solid Waste Management Bill, 2024: It is the latest initiatives by the GOI. The bill was introduced in Lok Sabha recently to give provision for the segregation and recycling of municipal solid waste, use of recyclable waste in waste energy plants for the generation of



energy, and transportation of non-recyclable waste into landfills. The rule when comes into force is expected to have more emphasis on duties of waste generators and on guidelines on usage of waste for economic activities.

Swachh Bharat Mission: The Government of India initiated the *Swachh Bharat mission* on 2nd October, 2014, on the occasion of the 150th birthday of Mahatma Gandhi with the aim of making the country clean and free from defecation through building 100 million toilets at a projected cost of 1.96 lakh crore in rural India by 2019. The programme implemented in two phases i.e., elimination of open defecation and improving the solid and liquid waste management. Sulabh International, the pioneer organisation founded by Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak was the partner for the construction of toilets. They built over 1.6 million household toilets and as an appreciation for its efforts for improving the sanitation conditions in

India and emancipating the manual scavengers Sulabh International was awarded with the Gandhi peace prize for 2016. The Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0) initiated in the year 2021 is a modified form of the existing programme, with an aim to make all cities in the country garbage free by 2026.

Swachh Survekshan: It is the annual cleanliness survey introduced by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in 2016, with a goal of encouraging large-scale citizen participation, to raise awareness among all segments of society, to work together to make cities and town better place to live. The scheme aimed to monitor the progress of Swachh Bharat Mission in urban India enabled a healthy competition among various Indian cities since cities were ranked based on various aspects as shown in Figure 1. Indore city of Madhya Pradesh ranked first among the urban cities since 2017.

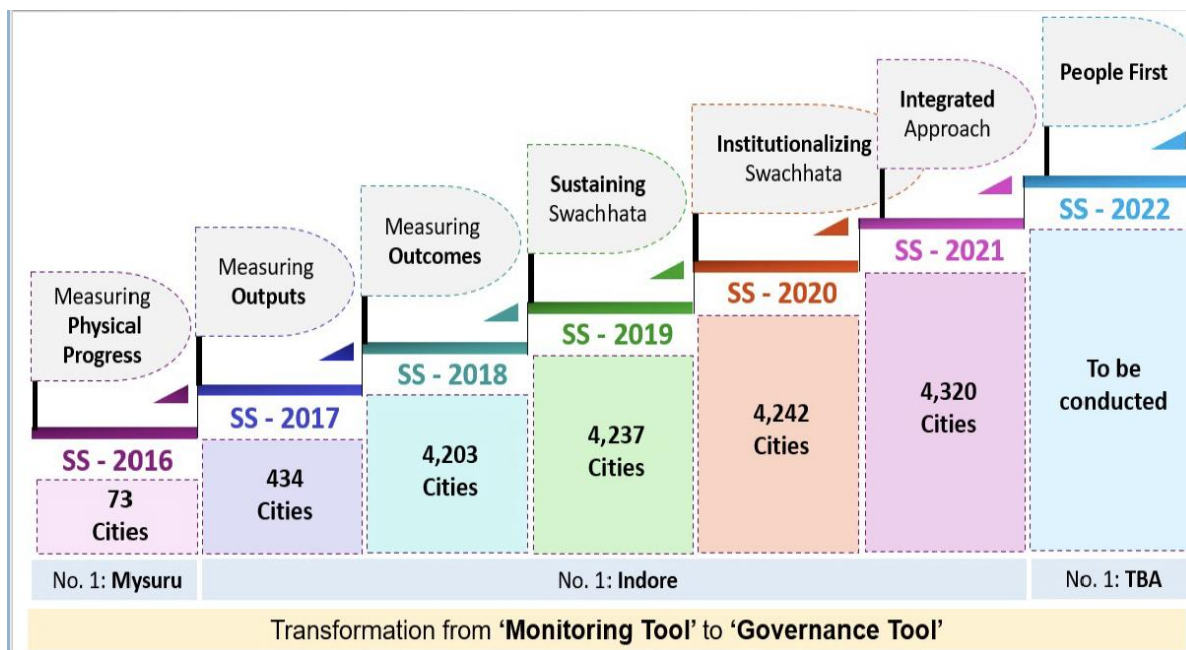


Figure 1. Format of ranking of cities in the Swachh Survekshan Report (Source: <https://sbmurban.org/swachh-survekshan>)

Swachhata App and Swachhata Helpline: Swachhata App is a mobile/web application launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, GOI, on 6th August, 2016, where one can file complaints regarding waste dumping, overflowing dustbins etc. so as to enable quick action to resolve the issue. Since the app can be used only by those who have enough working knowledge in computers/smartphones and applications, Government of India initiated Swachhata helpline where

waste related issues can be resolved through a phone call to the four-digit helpline number '1969'.

Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016: A set of rules formulated by the MoEF&CC in order to regulate generation of waste. The rules emphasize aspects like source segregation, waste processing and its scientific disposal. It also encourages reuse of waste in energy projects as well as recycling. These rules act as a



guideline for the urban local bodies of the country for the proper waste management within their jurisdictions.

Ganga Action Plan: The mission launched in 1986 to reduce the pollution and improve water quality of the Ganga River through wastewater treatment, solid waste management and public awareness campaigns to make people more aware about the matter concerning their part in polluting the river and influence of industries in making it one of the most polluted rivers. Though the plan has resulted a marginal increase in the dissolved oxygen (DO) level of the river water, the project was discontinued at a later stage due to the lack of fund to setup adequate sewage infrastructure, lack of stringent control regulations and lack of community participation.

INITIATIVES FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT BY GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Waste generation scenario in the Kerala state is more or less similar to that of India. Solid waste management have remained as one of the most troubling and debated issue in the state due to the rapid urbanisation process. The Integrated Rural Technology Centre, a research, development and training centre established in 1987 under the *Kerala Sasthra Sahithya Parishad* (KSSP) in the Palakkad district, is the provider of technical support to local self-governments of the State for developing waste management technologies. Also, the Government of Kerala initiated many schemes like Suchitwa Mission in keeping the state neat and tidy.

Suchitwa Mission: It is the Technical Support Group under the local self-government department for waste management. Launched in April 2008, the mission aims to promote proper collection, segregation and disposal of waste throughout the state. The mission was formed by integrating 'Kerala Total Sanitation & Health Mission' and 'Clean Kerala Mission', acts as a nodal agency for implementing activities under the Swachh Bharat Mission in the state. Kudumbasree, the woman Self Help Groups in the state plays a pivotal role in carrying out the activities of waste collection and segregation.

Haritha Keralam Mission: The mission launched by Government of Kerala on 8th December 2016 under the 'Nava Kerala Mission' aim to address the major

socio-economic development challenges of the state through new development perspectives and prospective planning. It is an umbrella mission which integrates the components of organic farming, water resource management, waste management etc. This mission has a herculean objective of addressing the issues of piling waste and already managed to complete 2457 green schemes of the state. Its major activities include bringing 100% doorstep collection of household wastes and implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility. *Haritha Karma Sena* project is a part of this mission which aims to empower local women in leading waste management efforts of the State.

Green Protocol: This consist of a set of measures to reduce waste with primary aim to promote the use of reusable instead of disposables. Green protocol initiated under the *Suchitwa Mission* was first tried in the 35th National Games organized at the Green Field Stadium of the capital city Thiruvananthapuram, in the year 2015. The success of this effort motivated the government to implement the same in other big organized in the city such as *Attukal Pongala*, school youth festivals and national school athletic meets etc. Now a days, green protocol has become a part of every event organized by institutions, universities and offices throughout the state to keep Kerala clean and green.

Kerala State Waste Management Project: The project aided by the World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank was initiated in the year 2023, in order to strengthen the institutional & service delivery system for solid waste management in Kerala. It is a part of the government campaign *Malinya Mukhta Navakeralam* (litter-free Kerala campaign). The project aims to make the 93 urban local bodies of the state self-sufficient in the collection and treatment of garbage. For this project, a sum amount of Rs. 2400 crore was funded and special grants were distributed to various municipalities so as to strengthen the decentralised waste management and ensure proper disposal of inorganic waste.

CONCLUSION

In a scenario of increasing waste generation in India as well as many of its 28 states and 8 union territories, the Indian waste management sector needs a revolutionary



transformation to make it more efficient. This is possible only through framing stringent policies, technological interventions and proper monitoring mechanism. Waste management would be hassle-free only if each and every member of the society get motivated to reduce waste generation. This would complement the efforts of government agencies to make a clean and better India.

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