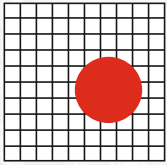


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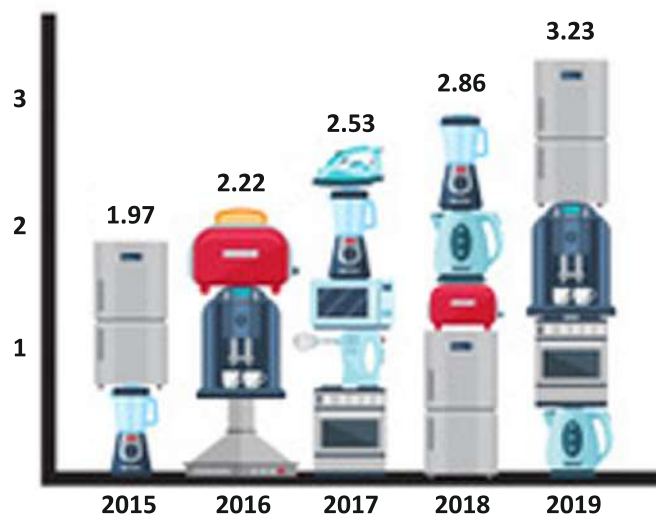


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*Year wise E-Waste generation
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Sakuntala, Editor & Publisher

Structuring of the waste management sector will play an integral role in forming the \$5 trillion economy

India generates an estimated 960 million tonnes of waste a year. On this subject, India is once again a land of contradictions. It has countless illegal dump sites and waste incineration in the street on the one hand and high-tech solutions on the other. The concept of "circular economy," which refers to a system that is restorative and regenerative by design, involves eradicating the 'end-of-life' of any material and redesigning the consumption and manufacturing systems to create a regenerative ecosystem.

But the recycling rate is low for solid waste. The Central Pollution Control Board reports that about 70% of this waste is disposed of in landfills, many of which are illegal and unregulated and subsequently endanger drinking water. The size of the India Waste Management Market is estimated at USD 12.90 billion in 2024

and is expected to reach USD 17.30 billion by 2029, growing at a CAGR of 6.10% during the forecast period (2024-2029). About 62 million tonnes of municipal solid waste are generated in India every year. By 2030, this figure is expected to nearly triple to 165 million tonnes and by 2045, it will reach a staggering 450 million tonnes.

The Indian waste management market is experiencing growth due to high population density and increased industrial activity, resulting in significant amounts of both hazardous and non-hazardous waste.

While the circular economy concept is relatively new to India, it's gaining prominence rapidly. The Indian waste management industry holds immense potential, with only 30% of the 75% recyclable waste currently being recycled. Inadequate policies for waste collection, disposal, and recycling, coupled with inefficient infrastructure, contribute to the poor state of waste management in the country.

Numerous startups are emerging with innovative waste management ideas and methods for converting waste into valuable resources. However, effectively addressing the challenges in this industry requires a substantial amount of knowledge. Integrating waste collectors into India's waste management system more effectively is therefore still one of the major challenges facing the country today. Without these people, waste disposal and recycling would collapse in many cities. For instance, the Mumbai district of Dharavi, the second-largest slum in Asia, has been able to establish itself as one of India's key recycling sites. **Every year, about 15,000 micro-entrepreneurs recycle waste there valued at about one million dollars. In the process, they create jobs for some 250,000 people, as waste collectors, dealers and day labourers.**

Increasing population and rapid urbanization have led to a substantial rise in waste generation, necessitating efficient and sustainable waste management practices. Owing to swift urbanization, economic growth, and heightened urban consumption rates, India ranks among the world's top 10 countries in generating municipal solid waste (MSW).

According to a report by the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), India generates over 62 million tonnes (MT) of waste annually. Merely 43 MT of the total waste generated is collected, with 12 MT being treated before disposal, leaving the remaining 31 MT discarded in waste yards.

The Indian Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) projects that annual waste generation in India will escalate to 165 MT by 2030. Concurrently, hazardous, plastic, e-waste, and bio-medical waste generation are anticipated to increase proportionately.

Plastic consumption in India has markedly risen over the past five years, consequently elevating its waste output. The country produces 3.4 million tonnes of plastic waste annually, with only 30 percent of it being recycled.

Plastics, e-waste, and battery recycling are expected to collectively reach a market size worth \$20 billion by 2030. We believe that the recycling sector is at an inflection point owing to the rising focus on sustainability and the regulatory push. Businesses are realising that being sustainable is the right thing to do and it also improves their perceived value among all stakeholders, with customers increasingly choosing brands based on their sustainability credentials and investors doubling down on their ESG mandates.

Sakuntala Chanda

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