

India needs New Delhi-size landfills for waste by 2050: ASSOCHAM report

NEW DELHI: With India littering its waste without sufficient treatment, it needs to set aside about 88 sq km of precious land — the size of New Delhi — for landfills by 2050, industry association ASSOCHAM said on Sunday, citing its study.

“Considering that most of the waste in India is dumped without treatment, it would require an estimated 88 square kilometre of precious land to be brought under waste disposal through landfilling by 2050, which is equivalent to the size of area under administration of the New Delhi Municipal Council,” said a joint report of ASSOCHAM and accounting firm PwC.

“This will eventually render the land unfit for any other use for as long as a half century before it can be stabilised for other uses,” said the report ‘Waste Management in India: Shifting Gears’.

With around 50% of India’s population projected to be living in urban areas by 2050, the volume of waste generation will grow by 5% per year.

Thus, the projected waste quantity is 101 million tonnes (MT) a year by 2021, 164 MT a year by 2031, and 436 MT a year by 2050, according to the report.

It said that Tier 1 cities with population ranging from one to five million have been estimated to generate around 80% of the country’s total waste.

The study estimates the current per day per capita waste generation in medium cities at around 300-400gm and for large cities between 400-600gm, and this figure would increase in line with present urbanisation and consumption patterns.

The report noted some issues hampering waste management in India are improper planning, complex institutional set-up, constraints in capacity for waste management and limited funds with urban local bodies.

“Though private sector can play a critical and greater role in waste management in India, there are various issues and bottlenecks on different fronts that have made it challenging to successfully implement projects — policy and regulatory, financing, project conceptualisation and structuring, technology and capacity,” an ASSOCHAM statement said here.

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■ Waste will Need Landfill as Big as Delhi by 2050: Study



NEW DELHI: Owing to poor waste management practices, a staggering 88 sq km of land will have to be dedicated for waste disposal

through landfilling by 2050, nearly equal to the area under the administration of New Delhi Municipal Council, a PwC-Assocham study has revealed. The study has recommended the government to accord industry status to the country's waste management sector to provide it regulatory adherence.

Fake news, myths, confusion prevent steady roll-out

KARAN CHOUDHURY
New Delhi, 25 June

Even till two weeks earlier, Praveen Khandelwal, secretary general of CAIT, a traders body, was trying to convince a group of business people that the goods and services tax (GST) was a reality and would be implemented from July 1.

Fuelled by a steady stream of 'news' on WhatsApp chat groups, the businessmen were convinced they had more time in their hands and had not made any preparations to become compliant with the new tax regime.

Misinformation, fake news and rumours are all on the rise around implementation of GST, even as the countdown clock to the deadline ticks away. From the government not being prepared to implement to news like as many as 10,000 traders might be put behind bars as soon as the new regime is implemented are some of the rumours rife among traders.

"WhatsApp chat groups, of which many of the traders are part of, are on a daily basis getting a steady dose of fake news. A lot of incorrect news is floating around and while on our part we are trying to clear the confusion, a lot of traders are still falling prey to such information. This might cause chaos next month," said Khandelwal.

He says his Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has organised 135 conferences where they have educated at least 150,000 about GST. Even so, CAI believes this would not be enough.

According to experts, as with causing of law and order problems by using 'fake news' to disperse misinformation, WhatsApp chat groups are being used to stop steady implementation of the new tax regime. Various trade and industry bodies say they're trying hard to stop this campaign.

"Yes, such news and rumours are floating around but we have made sure that every member of our association has the correct news and are asking them to educate others. Our 500,000 members have all the relevant information for a steady GST roll-out," said Kumar Rajagopalan, chief executive, Retailers Association of India.

Analysts have in the past six months heard every sort of rumour around GST, some downright ridiculous. They believe the earlier uncertainty on an implementation date might have resulted in delay strategy at small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and the trading community. Due to piecemeal distribution and finalisation of critical pieces and states not having passed their respective SGST laws until recently, they say the results was rumours. And, indication to a major part of business that implementation would be deferred to September 2017 or beyond, causing much of the last-minute turmoil.

"There were rumours such as the government only trying to enforce preparedness by reaffirming the July 1 deadline. Another myth was with regard to a

EXPERT SPEAK

Krishan Arora, partner, Grant Thornton India LLP clears some of the rumours around GST

INCREASED COMPLIANCE BURDEN:

This is true in the case of service providers, due to state-based registration and the monthly return filing requirement, as compared to the current half-yearly return. However, for a large section of manufacturers and traders, the burden is not as much as it seems. GSTR 1, GSTR 2 and GSTR 3 are only break-ups of a single return, with different reporting deadlines, wherein most of the information is auto-populated by the system

Once these filings are matched, there is no further reconciliation or obligation cast upon assesseees. Additionally, the assessment process under GST would also be streamlined, since the data reported is proposed to be matched/reconciled on a real-time basis

ALL PRODUCTS AND SERVICES WOULD BECOME MORE EXPENSIVE:

This was more to do with the trading community and consumers, which only looked at their value added tax (VAT) incidence on final supplies at 5-15 per cent. The overall effective tax rates always had an element of central excise duty of about 12.5 per cent included in the price on which VAT was levied. This does not pose a correct picture and has created a general view that GST would result in price increase and increased tax incidence. It ignores the fact that there would no cascading of taxes in GST; also, eligibility of credits across goods and services would result in a positive impact on the overall pricing of most products

negative impact on closing stock with distributors and retailers in terms of taxes embedded, as also an increase in prices of new stocks which would be purchased under the GST regime due to a consequent increase in taxes, to be ultimately borne by such distributors and retailers and unable to be passed on to end-consumers, due to an already fixed MRP (maximum retail price)," said Krishan Arora, partner, Grant Thornton India.

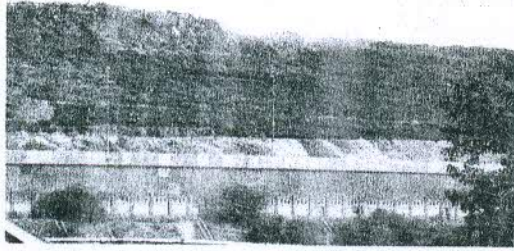
He added this had created much confusion, especially in the pharmaceutical and fast moving consumer goods sectors. And, creation of unnecessary panic on lifting of new stock, as well as encashing on existing stock, with the spread of unnecessary rumour that there would be a shortage of supplies when GST would go live.

Business chambers are urging the government to intervene and educate on GST. "Misinformation is being spread via social media. The government should take necessary steps to allay concerns," said D S Rawat, secretary-general of ASSOCHAM.



...तो कचरा जमा करने को लगेगा दिल्ली जितना रकबा

देश में कचरा प्रबंधन की बदहाली के चलते 2050 तक 88 वर्ग किमी जितने बड़े लैंडफिल यानी कि कचरा भराव क्षेत्र की जरूरत होगी। यह क्षेत्र नई दिल्ली के क्षेत्रफल के बराबर होगा। यह दावा पीडब्ल्यूसी-एसोचैम ने अपनी ताजा रिपोर्ट में किया है। रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक 2050 तक देश की आधी आबादी शहरों में बसर करेगी जिसके चलते यहां से सालाना पांच फीसद अधिक कचरा निकलेगा।



बड़े शहरों की बड़ी हिस्सेदारी

देश के कुल कचरे में से 80 फीसद कचरा बड़े शहरों से निकलता है, जिनकी आबादी 1 लाख से 50 लाख के बीच है। बड़े शहरों में प्रति व्यक्ति कचरा उत्पादन 400-600 ग्राम है, जबकि मझोले शहरों में 300-400 ग्राम है।

कचरा प्रबंधन में पीछे

देश में सालाना 6.2 करोड़ टन कचरा निकालता है, जिसमें से सिर्फ 4.3 करोड़ टन एकत्र किया जाता है। इसमें से 1.19 करोड़ टन कचरे को शोधित या रिसाइकिल किया जाता है, बाकि 3.1 करोड़ टन को लैंडफिल में डाल दिया जाता है। कचरा प्रबंधन की अपर्याप्त योजनाओं और फंड की कमी के चलते देश में कचरे का सही निस्तारण नहीं हो पाता है।

कचरे में बढ़ोतरी

- 10.1 करोड़ टन : 2021 में संभावित
- 16.4 करोड़ टन : 2031 में
- 43.6 करोड़ टन : 2050 में

पर्यावरण को नुकसान

कचरे के खराब प्रबंधन से शहरी इलाकों में हवा, पानी और मिट्टी प्रदूषित होते हैं, जिनका लोगों के स्वास्थ्य पर भी बुरा प्रभाव पड़ता है और देश की अर्थव्यवस्था भी प्रभावित होती है।



88 वर्ग किमी : 2050 तक इस क्षेत्रफल के लैंडफिल की दरकार

50 फीसद : 2050 तक शहरों में बसने वाली आबादी

5 फीसद : सालाना इतना ज्यादा कचरा निकलेगा

इनसे सीखें

स्वीडन दुनिया का एकलौता ऐसा देश है जो कचरे से बिजली बनाता है। इसके चलते स्वीडन से कचरा खत्म हो चुका है। बिजली उत्पादन करने के लिए वह अन्य देशों से कचरा आयात करता है। 2011 के बाद से स्वीडन में कभी भी एक फीसद से ज्यादा कचरा लैंडफिल में नहीं डाला गया।

