

Delhi-NCR generates 5,900 tons of medical waste per annum: ASSOCHAM

'Most of this waste remains untreated, is dumped along with municipal waste'

STAFF REPORTER
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Though lack of proper disposal of hospital trash can pose a serious risk to the health of people and the environment, Delhi-National Capital Region generates over 5,900 tons of medical waste annually – most of which remains untreated and is dumped along with municipal waste.

ASSOCHAM's latest findings state that the Capital alone generates around 2,200 tons of biomedical waste.

The study also looked at Gurugram, Faridabad, Noida and Ghaziabad.

India has seen unprecedented growth in the number of hospitals across the country.

Health risks

Non-treated hospital waste always causes public health risks, including AIDS, Hepatitis B and C, gastroenteric infections, respiratory infections, bloodstream infections, skin infections, effects of radioactive substances and intoxication.

"We have to ensure that waste disposal is done as

Medical waste generated by Delhi-NCR hospitals



Delhi	2,200 tons
Noida/Greater Noida	1,200 tons
Gurugram	1,100 tons
Ghaziabad	800 tons
Faridabad	600 tons
Total	5,900 tons

SOURCE: ASSOCHAM

per policy guidelines framed by the State government," said ASSOCHAM secretary-general D. S. Rawat.

In and around Delhi

Segregation and collection facilities for medical and clinical waste need improvement not only in Delhi-NCR but in cities like Meerut, Loni, Bulandshahr, Ludhiana and Jalandhar, said the paper.

About 65% of hospital waste is non-hazardous and mixing of hazardous trash with general waste leads to contamination.

This leads to risk of infections and diseases in anyone coming in contact with such items.

Waste pickers

"Waste pickers often come in contact with piles of waste, which may have syr-

inges or bandages with blood on them. These are potential sources of infections and diseases. Proper segregation of waste – be it at a healthcare facility or at home – is important to ensure that waste pickers do not face such risks," added the paper.

ASSOCHAM added that centralised biomedical treatment plants should be put up in series as growing economies like India have huge prospects for future healthcare facilities.

No sooner than that happens, the identified cities need to be equipped with disposal facilities to protect public safety, health, environment and ecology from degradation.

"Public expenses on setting up of healthcare facilities in future will grow as the government will have to substantially increase healthcare gross domestic product (GDP) ratio. When that happens, healthcare infrastructure will need multiple channels for providing best of medical health facilities and also require channels for their disposal," noted the paper.

Delhi-NCR generates 5,900 tonnes of medical waste annually: Survey

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With increasing number of healthcare facilities in Delhi, Gurugram, Faridabad, Noida and Ghaziabad, the medical waste generated by them annually is over 5,900 tonnes, a survey showed.

The survey by trade body Assocham pointed out that most of the medical trash remains untreated and dumped with municipal waste and thus causes a serious health and environmental hazard.

"According to the estimates, Delhi and NCR (national capital region) alone annually generate bio-medical waste of about 5,900 tonnes, in which the share of Delhi is roughly around 2,200 tonnes," said the survey.

"NCR consisting of Noida

The survey by trade body Assocham pointed out that most of the medical trash remains untreated and dumped with municipal waste and thus causes a serious health and environmental hazard

and Greater Noida creates 1,200 tonnes of bio-medical waste and Gurugram produces 1,100 tonnes of such waste, while Ghaziabad's share is estimated at around 800 tonnes," it said.

The survey revealed that Faridabad generates 600 tonnes of bio-waste. It said about 65 per cent of the hospital waste is non-hazardous. However, mixing of the hazardous trash with general waste leads to contamination, increasing the risk of infections and diseases

to anyone coming in contact with such items.

"The non-treated hospital waste always causes public health risks, the potential health effects of which include AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome), Hepatitis B and C, gastroenteric infections, respiratory infections, blood stream infections, skin infections, effects of radioactive substances and intoxication," it said.

Assocham said public expense on setting up of healthcare facilities in future would grow as government will have to substantially increase healthcare GDP (gross domestic product) ratio.

"When it happens, healthcare infrastructure will need multiple channels for providing best of medical health facilities but also require channels for their disposal," it said.