

The pandemic has increased the generation of both plastic waste and biomedical waste. Both type of wastes are very different from each other and a clear-cut guidelines are required for their safe disposal.

Added problems due to pandemic

↳ collection of waste while maintaining social distance is a challenge specially in case of biomedical waste which has increased from 500gm/bed to 2.5 to 4 kg/bed daily.

↳ lack of PPE and training of waste segregators and collectors and prejudices associated with them has resulted into mishandelling and improper management of waste.

↳ monitoring and supervision gets into backdoor during pandemic.

Policy guidelines needed are

↳ CPCB has issued several guidelines for the disposal of biomedical waste to deal specially with the pandemic, such as :-

↳ using dedicated trolly for waste transportation with dedicated workers specially trained in this regard.

↳ proper labelling of waste related to covid 19.

↳ Quantification and tracking of waste movement with applications like COVID19BWR

↳ Apart from this Biowaste management Rules 2016 amended in 2018 has steps like - pre-segregation of waste into four categories, training and immunisation of workers, etc.

↳ India produces around 25,000 Tonne of plastic waste daily and 40% of those remained uncollected mostly at unorganised sector.

There is a need to augment Extended Producer Responsibility and penalties for those who violate the norms.

↳ An awareness campaign is required through social media so that people better segregate, which is the most challenging part of waste management.

since, all operations are at halt, thanks to pandemic, an extra vigil is required to attain Swachh and Sundar Bharat.