

Indore - The Cleanest City in India




Indrayan Ray

Student, B.Sc. 3rd Year
Department of Environmental Science
Asutosh College
indrayan.ray@gmail.com

Land pollution in India is one of the most menacing issues that threatens the stability of the ecological diversity in the urban landscape and has several adverse effects on the health and lives of human beings. Urbanization plays a major role in this gradual land degradation and soil contamination. Urbanization can result in the generation of enormous quantities of waste, which includes Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) and all sorts of hazardous waste. Improper disposal of waste can lead to land pollution and contamination of soil and groundwater. Some of the major urban processes contributing to soil pollution in India are the indiscriminate use of xenobiotic chemicals as well as the disposal of liquid and solid wastes in an unsafe manner. There has been rapid growth in industry and service sectors, and as a result, urbanization has seen a phenomenal increase in India with a consequent rise in solid and liquid wastes. The per capita generation and nature of such urban wastes are highly related to the level of economic activities in the country. Due to insufficient treatment facilities for



Source: Indore is the cleanest town in India

 OpinionExpress.In | New Delhi | By
Opinion Express | October 02, 2022

these wastes, urbanization has been found polluting residential land, and agricultural lands considerably, particularly land owned by lower- and middle-income families. This ineffective system of improper waste disposal and insufficient waste treatment has led to the urban towns and cities in the country being one of the most polluted areas in the world.

Indore goes against the norm, and has rightfully earned the title of "the cleanest city in India". It is an educational hub and the commercial capital of the state of Madhya Pradesh. It is situated on the Malwa Plateau. Indore generates about 1,029 tons (392.4 grams per person per day). This displays the excellent efficiency



of the local government and residents when it comes to reducing the generation of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) and all forms of hazardous waste. The city, which was already famous for its cotton handloom industry, magnificent palaces, delicious food, and beautiful bangles, has rightfully earned the “5-star garbage-free city” title. Indore has also been ranked the cleanest city in India in Swachh Survekshan Surveys since 2017. This is a testament to the determination of the residents to reduce the generation of all forms of domestic waste and commercial waste and to ensure the proper management, treatment, and disposal of waste.

Open defecation is a colossal social issue in India, as many low-income households lack proper toilets and sanitation facilities. It is a glaring social problem that plagues both rural and urban societies. Indore is not only Open Defecation Free but has also earned the first Water-Plus Certification in the country. One might ask- how did Indore achieve this level of cleanliness? Since the year 2015, the city has brought about systematic changes in the methods it uses to dispose of garbage and waste. Regularly, segregation of waste occurs, followed by a door-to-door collection of waste is practiced throughout the city. There are zero waste wards present in the city, where

its residents practice homecomposting and treat most of the locally generated wet waste in situ.

Most dry waste is transported to a material recovery facility, where it is first segregated and then sent for recycling. The wet waste not treated on-site, goes to a central composting facility. A part of the wet waste is also turned into Bio-CNG, which is used as fuel for transport. Bio-CNG is the purified form of natural gas. Bio-CNG is similar to the commercially available natural gas (Calorific Value: ~52000 KJ/Kg) in its composition and energy potential. The biggest advantage of this particular fuel derived from waste is that its combustion releases significantly lesser amounts of pollutants. Indore has Asia’s largest Bio-CNG plant, which generates fuel from city waste. The plant is located in Devguradiya village on the outskirts of the city.

The modern-day Indore stands as a shining example of organized waste management and the best quality of hygiene in India. This has been achieved due to the participation of the local government and the residents of the beautiful city. There is a significant level of awareness amongst the local population about the dangers of improper waste management and unsanitary conditions, something that is lacking



among the populations of many other cities in India. The efforts Indore has made in successfully achieving door-to-door waste collection, source segregation of waste, Open Defecation Free (ODF) status, and progress in achieving ODF ++ status are commendable.

Other metropolitan cities, smaller cities, and towns in India should strive to achieve the same levels of sanitary conditions as Indore. They must try

their best to implement a proper and effective waste management and disposal system, which will involve the participation of both the government and the residents. Making these cities and towns open defecation-free should be one of the biggest priorities of their local governments. If every other city in India could at least make such an effort then a good amount of progress can be made when it comes to pollution and sanitation in the country.

References:-

NuGreen Energy. (n.d.). BIO-CNG. NuGreen Energy. Retrieved May 27, 2024, from <https://nugreenenergy.in/bio-cng.php>

DTE Staff. (2022, January 11). The cleanest cities of India: Indore tops the chart. Down To Earth. <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/video>

[/waste/the-cleanest-cities-of-india-indore-tops-the-chart-81067](https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/governance/swachh-survekshan-2020-indore-is-the-cleanest-city-4th-time-in-a-row-72940)

Shagun. (2020, August 20). Swachh Survekshan 2020: Indore is the cleanest city 4th time in a row. Down To Earth. <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/governance/swachh-survekshan-2020-indore-is-the-cleanest-city-4th-time-in-a-row-72940>

