Environment & Ecology · GS - III

The effective management of solid waste is essential for sustainable urbanisation in India. Discuss in the context of Delhi’s waste management initiatives.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 17/10/2026	GS - III	Environment & Ecology

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Solid Waste Management, Urban Sanitation, Municipal Governance, Waste Segregation, Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban, Sustainable Urbanisation, Public Participation.

Model Answer

Introduction

Rapid urbanisation and increasing consumption have led to a rise in solid waste generation in Indian cities. Delhi reportedly generates around 15,000 tonnes of waste daily, making efficient waste management a major challenge.

Main Body

Importance of Effective Waste Management

1. Public health: Proper waste collection reduces the spread of diseases and prevents unhygienic conditions.
2. Environmental protection: Scientific disposal helps control air, soil and water pollution.
3. Clean cities: The deployment of 1,000 mechanical litter pickers, as announced by the Delhi government, can improve street cleanliness and waste collection.
4. Resource recovery: Waste segregation, recycling and composting reduce the burden on landfills.

Challenges and Way Forward

1. Ensure segregation of waste at source into wet, dry and hazardous categories.
2. Strengthen municipal bodies, recycling facilities and scientific waste processing.
3. Promote public awareness and community participation.
4. Enforce the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, and improve monitoring and accountability.

Conclusion

Mechanical litter pickers can improve cleanliness, but long-term solutions require waste reduction, segregation, recycling and scientific disposal. An integrated approach involving government, businesses and citizens is essential for sustainable urban development.

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