

[Report]
Visit to Waste Segregation Plant, Zakhira

Introduction:

On 29th January 2026, our school organized an educational visit to CHINTAN's Waste Segregation Plant in Zakhira, West Delhi. CHINTAN, an organization partnered with Coca-Cola and KPMG, works towards waste management, hyper-segregation, and environmental sustainability. The visit aimed to educate us about waste segregation, recycling, and its role in reducing landfill waste. We left the school at 10:00 AM and returned by 1:20 PM.

Observations from the Visit:

During the visit, we learned about the importance of waste segregation in minimizing landfill waste and reducing environmental pollution. Here are some key insights:

1. Waste Generation & Segregation

- India generates 62 million tons of waste daily, with Delhi alone producing 1.1 crore (11 million) kilograms per day.
- Waste is classified into dry waste, wet waste, and e-waste, and proper segregation can reduce landfill burden and methane emissions.
- CHINTAN's facility processes 4,800 kg of dry waste daily, mitigating waste effectively.

2. Sustainability Initiatives & Recycling Process

- The plant collects around 10 tons of waste daily for recycling and composting .
- Waste collection follows a three-step process:
Collection → Baling (using a baling machine) → Sending to recyclers .
- A portion of plastic waste is sent to a unit in Uttar Pradesh , where it is repurposed into fabric.
- Glass waste is disposed of by melting under high temperatures and remodeling into new objects.
- 700 kg of wet waste is received daily and composted by women waste pickers.
- Manual composting takes 35-40 days and is more efficient than chemical-based composting.

3. Health & Safety Measures for Workers

- Workers receive tetanus injections every four months to prevent infections from sharp waste like glass pieces and rusty pins .
- The working conditions are challenging , with long hours in a foul-smelling environment, emphasizing the need for better waste management at the source .

4. Awareness & Individual Responsibility

- The 7 R's of sustainability were emphasized: Reuse, Reduce, Recycle, Rot, Repurpose, Refuse, Rethink.
- Key takeaways include:
 - Say no to plastic and opt for tote bags.
 - Compost wet waste instead of sending it to landfills.

- Empower women waste pickers who play a crucial role in waste management.
- Support the "Landfill Reduce Karo" project by minimizing waste production.
- Participate in Pick My Trash (PMT), an initiative collecting waste from households.
- Make three promises:
 1. Avoid plastic use.
 2. Reduce food, toys, and other wastes.
 3. Prevent waste from reaching landfills unnecessarily.

Conclusion:

The visit to CHINTAN's waste segregation plant was an eye-opening experience. It made us aware of the impact of waste on the environment and the urgent need to adopt sustainable practices. The dedication of the workers in waste management was truly inspiring. Moving forward, it is essential for all of us to be more responsible in segregating waste at the source, reducing plastic use, and actively participating in sustainability efforts.
