UT households now need 4 dustbins as civic body brings new segregation rules

Waste to be separated at source into dry, wet, hazardous and sanitary categories

Hina Rohtaki
Chandigarh, July 13

EVERY HOUSEHOLD in Chandigarh will now have to keep four separate dustbins instead of the earlier two as the Municipal Corporation (MC) Chandigarh has made four-way segregation of waste mandatory to improve recycling and scientific disposal of garbage. After a week-long awareness campaign, the civic body will begin issuing challans from July 20 to residents who fail to comply.

The revised system requires waste to be segregated at source into dry, wet, hazardous and sanitary categories before it is handed over to sanitation workers.

Civic officials said the earlier two-bin system had become inadequate as hazardous household waste and sanitary waste were often mixed with regular garbage, creating health and environmental risks while also reducing the amount of recyclable material that could be recovered.

Under the new system, a blue bin will be used for dry waste such as paper, plastic, metal, glass, wood, clothes, thermocol and rubber. A green bin will be meant for wet waste including cooked and uncooked food, fruit and vegetable peels, tea leaves and other kitchen waste.

A black bin will now be used exclusively for domestic hazardous waste such as paints, batteries, tube lights, syringes, insecticides, old mobile phones and other electronic waste. A red bin has been designated for sanitary waste including sanitary napkins, diapers, bandages and blood-contaminated material.

"As per the latest directions, keeping four dustbins in every house has been made mandatory. Residents must segregate their waste into the prescribed categories before handing it over to sanitation workers. We are conducting an awareness campaign for one week. Challan action will start from next week against those who fail to comply," Inspector Davinder Rohilla from the Medical Officer of Health Wing of the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation, said.

The corporation will begin issuing challans from July 20 to residents who fail to comply with new waste management rules

The civic body has aligned the revised system with the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026 under which waste must be segregated at source to ensure separate collection, transportation and processing of different categories of waste.

Officials said the move is aimed at ensuring hazardous and sanitary waste does not contaminate recyclable or biodegradable waste streams. Proper segregation at the household level will improve recycling efficiency, enable scientific treatment of hazardous waste and reduce the volume of mixed waste reaching the city's dumping ground.

The civic body has already launched a week-long awareness campaign, distributing pamphlets and educating residents, Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) and commercial establishments about the new segregation norms. Sanitation workers have also been instructed to sensitise households during door-to-door garbage collection.

The four-bin system marks a significant shift from Chandigarh's earlier waste management model.

Over the past few years, the Municipal Corporation had promoted segregation through two bins — green for wet waste and blue for dry waste — along with awareness campaigns and door-to-door outreach. However, officials said the growing volume of domestic hazardous and sanitary waste made it necessary to introduce separate bins for these categories to strengthen waste processing and environmental protection.

With enforcement set to begin from July 20, civic officials have appealed to residents to adopt the new system during the awareness period and ensure that every household keeps all four bins ready before the challan drive begins.

'Is the segregation done at the dump site as well?' ask residents

While many residents support waste segregation at source, several questioned whether the exercise would be meaningful unless waste continues to be segregated after collection.

"Just one point — is the segregation done at the dump site as well? I haven't seen it happening at the dump site. What's the use if there is no segregation at Dadu Majra?" asked city resident Sumeet Gill.

Another resident, Mohit Gupta, said segregation at the household level would only be effective if the civic body's processing infrastructure functions efficiently.

PROTEST AGAINST INDIA-US TRADE DEAL

Farmers take out bike rally, hit out at Centre

Express News Service
Mohali, July 13

THOUSANDS OF farmers under the banner of the Bharatiya Kisan Union (Rajewal) took out a bike and car rally on Monday, stretching from Nature Park in Mohali's Phase-8 to the Sector-34 Exhibition Ground in Chandigarh. The rally saw participation from all 23 districts of Punjab and aimed at pressing the government on long-pending demands that have been left unattended for years.

The parade comprised over 500 motorcycles, cars, and jeeps. During the rally, the Chandigarh and Mohali police enforced tight security, diverting traffic in several major areas. Some schools also declared a holiday as a precautionary measure.

'Free trade deal will sink Indian farming'

Addressing the rally, BKU (Rajewal) president Balbir Singh Rajewal said, "Our single biggest demand today is the outright rejection of the proposed India-US Free Trade Agreement. If this deal goes through, India's small and marginal farmers will simply not be able to compete with their heavily subsidised counterparts in America and other nations. Our agriculture,

During the a rally on Monday. JASBIR MALHI

dairy, poultry, and every allied sector will be decimated."

Raising concerns over Punjab's deteriorating water quality, state secretary Rajewal said, "Uranium, lead, and heavy metals are increasingly being detected in Punjab's groundwater. If this is not addressed urgently, every household will soon have a cancer patient. As per a recent Indian Council of Medical Research report, Punjab is already losing 68 people to cancer every single day."

'Politicians busy while farmers suffer'

State secretary of BKU Rajewal Parmdeep Singh Baidwan accused political parties of playing petty politics while ignoring the real issues confronting the people. He alleged that the proposed trade pact, land acquisition policies, and decisions concerning natural resources were all stacked against the farming community. "Make no mistake we will continue to resist these anti-farmer moves with all our might," he added.

Following the rally, the farmers submitted two separate memorandums one addressed to the Prime Minister through the Punjab Governor on national-level demands, and another to the Punjab Chief Minister highlighting state-level issues, seeking immediate intervention on both fronts.

PGIMER to dedicate Rs 1,200-crore healthcare expansion during PM's visit

Kanishka Rawat
Chandigarh, July 13

WITH PATIENT numbers continuing to rise, the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) is set to significantly expand its healthcare infrastructure with projects worth nearly Rs 1,200 crore that will be dedicated to the nation during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit on July 17.

Addressing a media briefing on Monday, PGIMER Director Prof Vivek Lal said the growing patient rush reflected the faith people across north India have in the institute rather than a burden on its services.

"The increase in rush is good. It shows the faith people have in this hospital," Lal said, adding that PGIMER's response has been to expand infrastructure rather than limit patient intake.

The Prime Minister will inaugurate the 300-bed Advanced Mother and Child Centre (AMCC), built at a cost of Rs 505 crore, and the 300-bed Advanced Neurosciences Centre (ANC). He will also lay the foundation stone of a 150-bed Critical Care Hospital Block, estimated to cost Rs 244 crore, under the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission.

PGI Director Vivek Lal addresses the media on Monday.
KAMLESHWAR SINGH

Calling the projects "a defining milestone in PGIMER's journey towards healthcare excellence", Lal said they would strengthen patient care, medical education, research and emergency preparedness while helping the institute meet the growing demand for specialised treatment across north India.

The Advanced Mother and Child Centre has been designed as an integrated facility for maternal and neonatal healthcare, with advanced neonatal intensive care units, modular operation theatres and specialised services for high-risk pregnancies. It is expected to handle over 6,000 high-risk deliveries annually.

The Advanced Neurosciences Centre will house neurology, neurosurgery, neuroradiology, neuroanaesthesia, neurocritical care and rehabilitation services under one roof. Equipped with 61 intensive care beds, modular operation theatres and advanced diagnostic facilities, it is expected to improve treatment for patients with stroke, brain and spinal disorders, and other complex neurological conditions.

The author is an intern at The Indian Express

Storm alert: Don't park under trees, avoid electric poles, says civic body

Chandigarh: The Municipal Corporation (MC) Chandigarh on Monday issued a public advisory urging residents to take precautionary measures to prevent accidents and damage to life and property after the Meteorological Department predicts torrential rainfall and stormy conditions over the coming days.

The MC has urged people not to park vehicles under old, overgrown or heavy trees, warning that strong winds and rain could cause branches or entire trees to fall. Citizens have also been asked not to stand or seek shelter under trees, especially those that appear weak or structurally unstable.

The MC also urged residents to avoid unnecessary travel or walking along tree-lined roads during periods of heavy rain and storms.

Officials said limiting movement during severe weather could significantly reduce the risk of injuries and accidents from falling branches or uprooted trees. ENS

Panchkula: Spl court awards man 20 yrs in jail for raping minor

Accused sexually assaulting a 16-year-old girl, who later became pregnant

Express News Service
Panchkula, July 13

A FAST Track Special Court (FTSC) convicted a 30-year-old man under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and sentenced him to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment in for sexually assaulting a 16-year-old girl, who later became pregnant in Panchkula on Monday.

The Court of Additional Sessions Judge Manish Dua, imposed a fine of Rs 50,000, to be paid to the victim as compensation. The accused Santosh Kumar was found guilty under Section 6 of the POCSO Act after considering the medical evidence, the victim's statement and the police investigation.

As per Prosecution, the case came to light on March 22, 2022, when the minor was admitted to the Civil Hospital in Sector 6 after suffering a severe stomach pain. Medical examination and the medico-legal case (MLC) revealed that she was about two months pregnant.

The matter was subsequently reported to the Sector 20 Police Station. A legal aid counsel and a member of the Child Welfare Committee counselled the girl before her mother lodged a formal complaint.

According to the complaint, Santosh Kumar, a resident of Haripur, Sector 4, Panchkula, originally from Bihar, lived in the victim's neighbourhood. He allegedly established physical relations with the minor on the false promise of marrying her.

Police arrested the accused on March 23, 2022, after conducting a preliminary investigation and inspecting the spot. During the investigation, police found that Kumar had previously been booked in a 2018 case registered at the same police station under Section 395 of the Indian Penal Code and the Arms Act.

During the Trial, the defense counsel argued that the accused had been falsely implicated in the case.

The Court however convicted Kumar under Section 6 of the POCSO Act and sentenced him to 20 years rigorous imprisonment.