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Green AI Approach for Intelligent Waste Collection and Optimization

Ms.Archana Suryakant Ghiware

Assistant Professor

Kaveri College of Arts, Science& Commerce, Pune

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Abstract

Rapid urban expansion and increasing population density have intensified the challenges associated with municipal solid waste management. Conventional waste collection practices, which depend on fixed schedules and manual supervision, often lead to inefficient resource allocation, delayed collection, overflowing bins, and environmental degradation. To address these limitations, this study presents a Smart Waste Management System that integrates Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Internet of Things (IoT).

The proposed framework employs IoT-enabled smart bins fitted with sensors to continuously monitor parameters such as waste level, weight, and surrounding environmental conditions. The collected data is transmitted to a cloud-based platform for processing and analysis. Machine learning algorithms analyse real-time data to predict bin fill status, optimize collection routes, and estimate future waste generation trends. Additionally, image-based classification methods can be utilized to facilitate automatic segregation of biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste.

The integration of AI-driven analytics with real-time IoT monitoring enhances operational efficiency, reduces fuel consumption, minimizes collection time, and prevents bin overflow. The system contributes to improved urban sanitation, cost reduction, and environmentally sustainable waste management. Overall, the proposed approach supports smart city initiatives and aligns with sustainable development objectives by promoting data-driven and eco-friendly waste management practices.

Keyword: Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Sensor

Introduction:

Machine Learning (ML)

Machine Learning (ML) is a branch of artificial intelligence that enables computers to learn from data and make decisions or predictions without being explicitly programmed. It improves system performance over time by identifying patterns and adapting based on experience.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to a collection of advanced technologies that enable computers to simulate human intelligence. AI systems can learn, reason, analyze data, and perform complex tasks that traditionally required human intervention. Applications of AI include smart waste management systems, automation, predictive analytics, and intelligent decision-making support.

Internet of Things (IoT)

The Internet of Things (IoT) is a network of interconnected physical devices embedded with sensors, software, and communication technologies. These devices collect and exchange data over the internet, enabling real-time monitoring, automation, and improved operational efficiency across various domains.

Smart Waste Management

Smart Waste Management is a technology-driven approach that integrates IoT sensors, GPS tracking, artificial intelligence, and data analytics to optimize waste collection, transportation, and disposal processes.

It enables real-time monitoring of bin fill levels, reduces operational costs, minimizes carbon emissions caused by unnecessary vehicle trips, and enhances overall sustainability. This system transforms traditional waste management from a reactive model into a proactive, data-driven framework.

Things to Necessary to make effective smart waste management with AI & IOT

Smart Bin → Microcontroller → Communication Module → Cloud → AI Engine → Route Optimization → Dashboard

Smart Bin used to collect real time data like Fill level detection, Load capacity measurement, Detect harmful gases, Bin identification.

It uses Microcontroller for smart bin so for this we use Arduino, Raspberry Pi,ESP32

Communication Module which is used for Transmits data to central server Wi-Fi (ESP8266/ESP32),GSM/GPRS (SIM800L), LoRa WAN, NB-IoT.

Cloud Storage & Data Management for this we use Stores and manages real-time & historical data.

AI & Machine Learning Engine used for Provides intelligence to the system.Route Optimization System used for Determines shortest and fuel-efficient path.Monitoring Dashboard for Visualizes data for authorities.

Urbanization has significantly increased the volume and complexity of municipal solid waste worldwide. To address this challenge, many global cities have adopted intelligent waste management systems that integrate Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), and data analytics. Cities such as Barcelona, San Francisco, Singapore, Seoul, Amsterdam, Melbourne, Baltimore, and Songdo have demonstrated how technology-driven waste systems can improve efficiency, reduce environmental impact, and enhance transparency.

In India, smart waste management initiatives are emerging in cities including Chennai and Madurai (Tamil Nadu), Varanasi, Visakhapatnam, and Basirhat. Among these, Chennai and Madurai provide two distinct yet complementary models of AI-driven waste governance.

The Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) has implemented an AI-based waste management system, particularly in North Chennai, covering both residential and commercial zones and serving approximately 2.1 million residents. Chennai uses predictive analytics to estimate waste generation patterns. This enables authorities to schedule collections more efficiently and allocate resources based on anticipated demand. Garbage bins equipped with fill-level sensors continuously monitor waste accumulation. This prevents overflow by triggering alerts when bins approach capacity. Waste collection vehicles are fitted with GPS devices to monitor movement in real time. Route optimization algorithms improve fuel efficiency and reduce operational delays. Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) systems are used to track bins and improve accountability in collection processes. The deployment of electric vehicles for waste collection helps lower carbon emissions, contributing to environmental sustainability.

Residents can report issues using mobile applications and QR code boards placed in public spaces. This ensures community involvement and quick grievance redressal. Chennai promotes waste segregation and recycling through dedicated centres that process recoverable materials.

A 24×7 Command and Control Centre, planned in the Royapuram zone, is designed to oversee operations through integrated digital dashboards.

The Madurai Municipal Corporation has adopted a surveillance-oriented AI waste management model that focuses primarily on monitoring and enforcement. Approximately 60 AI-powered cameras have been installed across high-risk zones, including bus stands, marketplaces, roads near the Vaigai River, and areas around the Meenakshi Amman Temple.

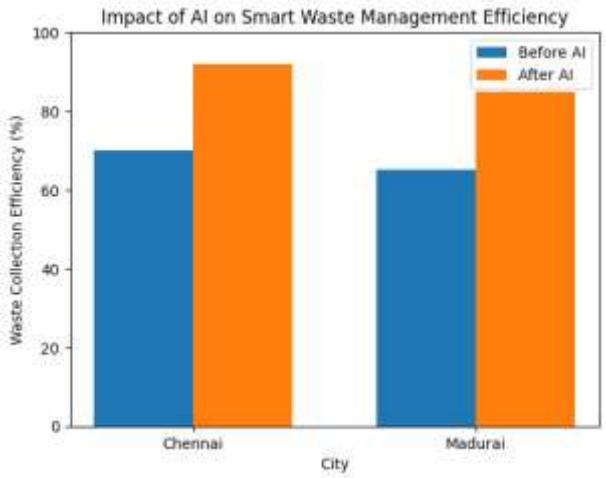
Using Machine Learning and Computer Vision technologies, the system identifies: Overflowing garbage bins, Illegal dumping activities

When violations are detected, automated SMS and mobile app notifications are sent to sanitation workers, supervisors, and monitoring authorities. All surveillance data is processed centrally through the ICCC to ensure rapid response and coordinated action.

Camera footage is used to identify violators. Fines are imposed, which not only generate revenue but also act as a deterrent against illegal dumping.

The both city use a smart waste management but there smart waste management technology are different

Aspect / Technology	**Chennai**	**Madurai**
Primary Focus	Data-driven waste collection efficiency	Overflow & illegal dumping detection
Core Technology Stack	IoT + AI Analytics + GPS + Cloud	AI Computer Vision + IoT + Central Monitoring
Sensors Used	Ultrasonic + Weight + RFID	*Mainly surveillance cameras*
Data Acquisition	Real-time sensor data from bins	Video frames from AI cameras
Predictive Models	Regression / Time-series forecasting	Deep learning for image/video classification
Collection Optimization	AI + GPS route planning	GPS monitoring without advanced routing
Monitoring Tools	IoT dashboards with bin statuses	AI surveillance dashboards
Vehicle Tracking	GPS trackers on all collection vehicles	GPS tracking on trucks integrated with ICCC
Alert Systems	Sensor trigger alerts to system	Camera event alerts (overflow/illegal dumping)
Data Sources	Structured (sensor data streams)	Unstructured (video/image data)



Pune is one of India's fastest-growing urban centers, and with rapid urbanization comes a significant challenge in municipal solid waste management. Despite having structured systems, the city is currently facing several issues: Pune City illegal dumping areas Wanawadi's canal-side road,Mula-Mutha riverbed,riverbed at Nandhwe, Kondhwa,Keshav Nagar areaNIBM Road etc.

Since Pune currently struggles with illegal dumping, inconsistent collection, and sanitation issues, adopting tested smart solutions from Chennai and Madurai would likely produce measurable improvements in efficiency, cleanliness, and responsiveness-especially in data-driven planning, enforcement, and real-time monitoring.

Pune's waste management challenges are multi-dimensional, involving operational gaps, infrastructure shortfalls, weak enforcement, and citizens' behaviour issues. While door-to-door collection systems exist, their effectiveness is hindered by irregular service, insufficient vehicle resources, and persistent open dumping and burning practices. Bridging these gaps requires strengthened infrastructure, better enforcement of regulations, awareness campaigns, and greater civic participation. If we use Chennai &Madhurai Smart waste management Model in Pune city how it will effective in all aspect like Overflow Reduction, illegal dumping, collection efficiency, Response Time.

When we compare with other Key aspect it will give a great benefit. If we selectively apply Chennai and Madurai model as per the area but for Pune Chennai Model suits better because

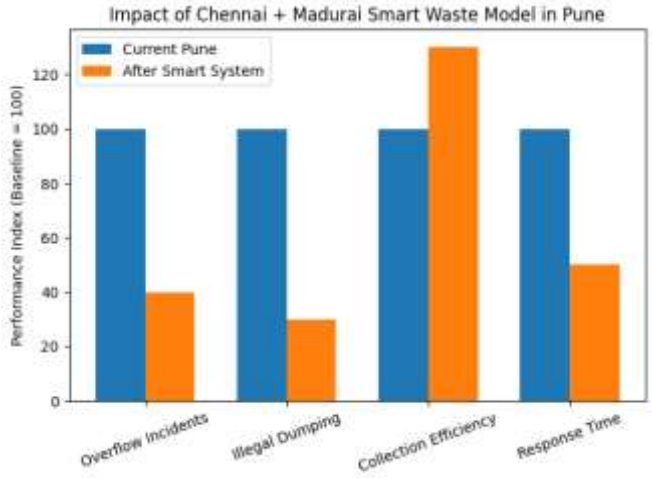
AI-based waste prediction: Helps forecast waste generation in high-density areas like Pimpri-Chinchwad and central Pune.
IoT-enabled smart bins: Prevents overflow in busy markets and residential complexes.
GPS-based route optimization: Reduces fuel consumption and improves efficiency in traffic-heavy zones.
RFID tracking & digital dashboards: Improves transparency and monitoring of contractors.
Battery-operated vehicles: Reduces pollution, important for Pune's air quality concerns.
Resource Recovery Centres (RRCs): Supports segregation and recycling, which Pune already promotes through SWaCH and waste-picker cooperatives.

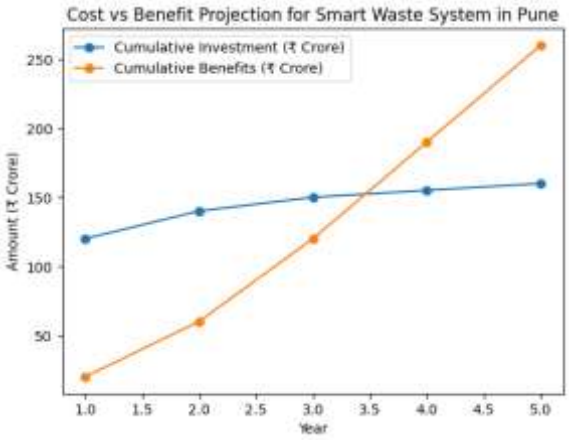
Madhurai Model is effective for: Riverbank dumping (like Mula-Mutha River areas),Chronic black spots, Market areas with repeated violations.

Pune requires a comprehensive, predictive, and infrastructure-driven smart waste system, making the Chennai model more suitable. The Madurai model can be integrated as a supporting enforcement mechanism, but it should not be the primary approach.

Overflow incidents could reduce by ~60%
Illegal dumping could reduce by ~70%

Collection efficiency could improve by ~30%
Response time could improve by ~50%





Conclusion

The Green AI-based Smart Waste Management system demonstrates how the integration of AI, IoT, and data analytics can transform traditional waste collection into an efficient, predictive, and sustainable urban service. By combining real-time sensor monitoring, route optimization, and intelligent decision-making, the system reduces overflow, improves collection efficiency, and minimizes environmental impact.

For Pune, the Chennai model provides a strong foundation due to its predictive and infrastructure-driven approach, while the Madurai model can support enforcement in high-risk dumping areas. Together, these approaches offer a practical, scalable solution for achieving cleaner, smarter, and more sustainable urban waste management.

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Authors:Tejashree Kadus ,Pawankumar NirmalKartikee Kulkarni ,MIT Academy of Engineering

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Jamil Abedalrahim Jamil Alsayaydeh* | Rex Bacarra | Adam Wong Yoon Khang | NoorayisahbeBt Mohd Yaacob | Safarudin Gazali Herawan
Corresponding Author Email: jamil@utem.edu.my
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Katharina Ebner University of Hagen katharina.ebner @fernuni-hagen.de
Christian Anschütz University of Hagen christian.anschuetz @fernuni-hagen.de
Stefan Smolnik University of Hagen stefan.smolnik @fernuni-hagen.de

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Suprava Ranjan Laha
Department of Computer Science & Engineering, Siksha 'O' Anusandhan University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India
Binod Kumar Pattanayak
Department of Computer Science & Engineering, Siksha 'O' Anusandhan University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India
SaumendraPattnaik
Department of Computer Science & Engineering, Siksha 'O' Anusandhan University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India
Saurav Kumar
Department of Computer Science & Engineering, Indian Institute of Information Technology, Guwahati DOI https://doi.org/10.17762/ijritcc.v11i9.8370

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Authors : K Sivapriya, Dr.N.Mohanapriya, Sneha.P, Subhashini, S.Haripriya, S.R.Siamala.J
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