

# Introduction

- may be solid, liquid or gaseous forms
- constantly being generated and entering into the systems through direct or indirect sources.
- primarily produced in industrial manufacturing processes, chemical laboratories and transportation through water channels

- domestic wastes are also parallel source of these wastes.
- hospitals and nursing services and Nuclear industries.
- potential threat for the environment
- in the past that have resulted in disaster for the Human health happening due to mishandling of the waste materials.
- low concentration (ppb or ppt level) can also be damaging for the ecosystem and proper care must be taken for.

## **What are Hazardous wastes?**

As per USEPA (US Environmental Protection Agency), 2009, a waste is categorized as hazardous waste when it shows a substantial as well as potential threat to the environment. This definition for the hazardous wastes is a broader and looser definition of these substances (USEPA, 2009). According to the RCRA (Resources Conservation and Recovery Act), 1976, 'solid wastes' includes any discarded material irrespective of solid, liquid or gaseous state (RCRA, 1976).

## **Health Impacts:**

- **neurotoxic (damaging the nervous system)**
- **carcinogenic (cancer causing)**
- **mutagenic (changing or mutating the DNA or RNA structures)**