# Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026

***Prelims:*** *Current events of national and international importance*

## Why in News?

*Recently, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026, which will come into effect from 1 April 2026.*

- The new Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026 integrates *principles of Circular Economy and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).*
- It broadens the scope of responsibilities, increases linkages for reuse of waste as fuel in boilers, cement kilns, to promote circular economy, and introduces clear penalties for non-compliance.
- **Amendment to -** The SWM Rules, 2016.
- **Formulated under -** The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- **Objective –** Promote sustainable and efficient waste management, reduce burden on urban bodies, and ***enforce the 'Polluter Pays' principle.***
- **Key Features –**

| Components | Provisions |
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| **Segregation** | • **Mandatory at source** - Wet, dry, sanitary, and special care waste.<br>• **Wet waste** - Composted or processed through bio-methanation.<br>• **Dry waste** - Sent to Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) for sorting and recycling.<br>• **Sanitary waste** - Securely wrapped and stored separately.<br>• **Special care waste** - Collected by authorized agencies or deposited at designated centres. |

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| **Bulk Waste Generators (BWG)** | • They are entities generating ≥100 kg/day, consuming ≥40,000 litres/day water, or having floor area ≥20,000 $m^2$.<br>• Includes government departments, local bodies, PSUs, institutions, commercial establishments, and residential societies.<br>• Levy of user fees on waste generators as per local bye-laws. |
| **Extended BWG Responsibility (EBWGR)** | • BWGs are accountable for the solid waste generated by them.<br>• Required to process wet waste on-site wherever feasible.<br>• Can obtain EBWGR certificate if on-site processing is not possible.<br>• ***Bulk waste generators contribute ~30% of total solid waste***, making this responsibility critical. |
| **Land Allocation & Buffer Zones** | • Graded criteria for development around solid waste processing/disposal facilities.<br>• Buffer zone mandatory for facilities with capacity >5 tonnes/day.<br>• CPCB issues the guidelines for buffer size and permissible activities. |
| **Online Monitoring** | • *Centralized online portal* to track waste generation, collection, transport, processing, disposal, biomining, and bioremediation of legacy dumpsites.<br>• Registration and authorization of waste processing facilities online.<br>• Reports and audits submitted online. |
| **Local Bodies & MRFs** | • Local bodies handle collection, segregation, and transport in coordination with MRFs.<br>• MRFs are recognized as sorting facilities and deposition points for e-waste, special care waste, sanitary waste, etc.<br>• Focus on peri-urban rural areas; encouraged to generate carbon credits. |
| **Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF)** | • RDF are produced by the shredding/dehydrating of municipal solid waste with high calorific value.<br>• They are mainly non-recyclable plastic, paper, and textiles.<br>• Industrial units (cement, waste-to-energy) must replace conventional solid fuel with RDF.<br>• Fuel substitution is expected to increase from 5% to 15% over six years. |

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| **Landfilling & Legacy Waste** | • Landfills restricted to non-recyclable, non-energy recoverable waste and inert material.<br>• Higher landfill fees will be incurred for sending unsegregated waste.<br>• Annual audits by SPCBs, monitored by District Collectors.<br>• Mapping, assessment, biomining, and bioremediation of legacy dumpsites with quarterly reporting online. |
| **Hilly Areas & Islands** | • Levy user fees on tourists to regulate tourist inflow based on capacity.<br>• Designated collection points for non-biodegradable waste.<br>• Local populations encouraged to hand over waste; hotels/restaurants process wet waste locally. |
| **Implementation Committees** | • Central and State-level committees established for effective implementation.<br>• State-level committee chaired by Chief Secretary or Head of UT Administration.<br>• Committees recommend measures to CPCB for compliance and monitoring. |

## References


1. PIB | Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026
2. IE | Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026



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