



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

No:WM1/50/2026/LSGD
Local Self Government (WM) Department
Thiruvananthapuram,
Dated:15-04-2026

CIRCULAR

Sub: LSGD - SWM Rules, 2026 - Order dated 19.02.2026 of Hon'ble Supreme Court in Civil Appeal No. 6174 of 2023 - Instructions issued - Reg.

Ref: (1) Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026.

(2) Order dated 19.02.2026 of Hon'ble Supreme Court in Civil appeal No. 6174 of 2023

(3) Circular No. WM1/50/2026/LSGD dated 22.03.2026.

(4) Order No. 11/11/2026-HSM dated 25.03.2026 of Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, Government of India.

(5) GO(Rt) No.851/2026/LSGD dated 02.04.2026.

The Central Government has notified the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 in supersession to the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.

(2) The Hon'ble Supreme Court had issued comprehensive directions to all States / Union Territories, local bodies and concerned Central Ministries for effective implementation of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026 as per order referred 2nd above.

(3) As per Circular referred as 3rd above, detailed directions have been issued for the effective implementation of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026 across the state of Kerala.

(4) As per order referred 4th above, the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, Government of India under powers vested by Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, has also issued directions for time-bound implementation of the provisions of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026.

(5) In the above circumstances, in adherence to the aforementioned orders, the following directions are issued for immediate compliance:

- i. Secretaries of all local bodies must ensure that adequate Solid Waste Management (SWM) facilities including MCFs & RRFs are established and operational in their jurisdiction.
- ii. The infrastructural audits of SWM facilities must be undertaken by all District Collectors with support from District Joint Directors, LSGD.
- iii. District-level performance review of operational & non-functional SWM facilities and SWM projects requiring land-related/other NOCs shall be conducted by all District Collectors periodically (at least once in a quarter), based on reports submitted in this regard by District Joint Directors, LSGD.
- iv. The District Collectors must communicate the identified problems not resolvable at the district level and the steps taken by the stakeholders to the Chief Secretary in a time-bound manner.
- v. District Collectors shall ensure the urban-rural convergence of sanitary landfills and common waste processing plants.
- vi. To ensure that no open dumping or burning of waste occurs at the Gram Panchayat/Block level, solid waste action plans shall be formulated through coordinated intervention of the District Planning Committees.
- vii. Local bodies shall email photographic evidence alongside their compliance reports to the offices of the District Collector to verify actual progress in waste removal and infrastructure readiness.

viii. Every local body must ensure that 100% compliance to the SWM Rules, 2026 will be achieved by **15th May, 2026**.

(6) The District Collectors shall also oversee the establishment, execution and handling of Municipal Solid Waste by the Corporations / Municipalities / Grama Panchayats within their jurisdiction and the non-compliance report by any of the local bodies / areas shall be communicated to the Local Self Government Department.

(7) The Executive Director, Suchitwa Mission must ensure that any technical assistance required for implementation of the above is rendered through respective District Mission Offices.

(8) A three-tier enforcement mechanism for violations is also prescribed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Civil appeal No. 6174 of 2023 as per order referred 2nd above: immediate fines for initial non-compliance; criminal prosecution for continued disregard; and extension of liability to officials who neglect their statutory oversight duties.

TINKU BISWAL
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

To:

The Principal Director, Local Self Government Department.
Executive Director, Suchitwa Mission.
The Member Secretary, Kerala State Pollution Control Board.
All District Collectors.
The Executive Director, Suchitwa Mission.
Secretaries of all Local Self Government Department Institutions

(through PD, LSGD)

The Executive Director, Information Kerala Mission.

The Director, I&PR (Web & New Media) Department.

Stock File / Office copy.

Forwarded / By order,

Section Officer.