

Minutes of the meeting convened by Principal Secretary, LSGD on 27.03.2026 regarding the implementation of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026

List of participants:

1. Sri.Suraj Shaji IAS, Director (Urban), LSGD
2. Smt.Apurva Tripathi IAS, Director (Rural), LSGD
3. Dr.Binu Francis IAS, Executive Director, Suchitwa Mission.
4. Smt.Nandana S. Pillai KAS, Under Secretary, LSGD
5. Sri.Sreekala S., Chairperson, KSPCB.
6. Sri.Muhammed Huwaiz M, Joint Director, WM Cell, LSGD
7. Sri.Noushad A., Deputy Director (WM Cell), LSGD
8. Smt.Ganga R.S., Director (SWM), Suchitwa Mission.
9. Sri.Sureshkumar, MD, CKCL
10. Smt. Beena S. Kumar, Assistant Director, KSWMP.
11. Sri.P.Kesavan Nair, Consultant, PMC to KSWMP.
12. Smt.Dhanya R. Kumar, Deputy Director, O/o the Director of General Education.
13. Smt.Bincy B.S., Environmental Engineer, KSPCB.
14. Smt.Rema Devi S., Environmental Engineer, KSPCB.
15. Sri.Ravikrishnan, Campaign Co-ordinator, Waste Management Secretariat.
16. Smt.Anjali Rajagopal, Project Assistant, Legal Resource Centre, KILA.

The meeting commenced at 11:30 AM in the chamber of Principal Secretary, LSGD on 27.03.2026.

The Principal Secretary, LSGD briefed the attendees regarding the purpose of the meeting. She explained that the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 has been superseded by the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026. As per order dated 19.02.2026 in Civil Appeal No. 6174/2023, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has issued comprehensive directions for the effective implementation of the new rules. Subsequently, a circular was issued by LSGD (Circular No.WM1/50/2026/LSGD dated 22.03.2026)

to ensure compliance with the Hon'ble Supreme Court directions. The Rules are to be brought into full effect from April 1, 2026 and the present meeting has been convened to discuss the modalities of implementation.

Given the numerous changes, new requirements, and stakeholder responsibilities introduced under the new Rules, it is essential to develop a preliminary understanding of the key provisions among the concerned Government agencies. Accordingly, a presentation was made on the salient features of the new rules and expectations from LSGD.

DECISIONS:

1. For wide stakeholder discussions regarding SWM Rules 2026, a workshop shall be conducted (tentatively by the second week of April) with the participation of the Principal Directorate LSGD, Suchitwa Mission, KILA, KSWMP, KSPCB, CKCL, Information Kerala Mission, and Kudumbashree. The objectives of the workshop are to (i) develop action plan with defined timelines for implementation of the SWM Rules 2026, (ii) develop plans for broader dissemination of Rules, (iii) discuss and assign responsibilities to stakeholders in relation to implementation and enforcement of Rules. LSGD shall issue necessary directions regarding the conduct of the workshop.

(Action: LSGD (WM))

2. Responsibilities for each stakeholder participating in the above mentioned workshop shall be assigned based on their respective areas of work, enabling focused review of specific portions of the Rules.

(Action: Waste Management Secretariat LSGD)

3. Workshops shall also be conducted at the district level with District Administration, stakeholder government departments, agencies and local body representatives for the prompt implementation of rules at district level.

(Action : Executive Director, Suchitwa Mission)

4. Under SWM Rules 2026, there is a notable shift in responsibilities,

with planning and monitoring functions assigned to District Panchayats. Since this is not aligned with Kerala's decentralised waste management model, the appropriate allocation of these duties should be deliberated.

(Action: Principal Director LSGD, Executive Director Suchitwa Mission)

5. Suchitwa Mission shall act as the lead agency for coordinating all activities and entities related to implementation of the new Rules.

(Action: Executive Director, Suchitwa Mission)

6. A new State Solid Waste Management Policy and Strategy shall be prepared addressing the gaps in the previous State Solid Waste Management Policy, 2018 and incorporating the provisions of the SWM Rules, 2026.

(Action: Executive Director Suchitwa Mission, Project Director KSWMP, LSGD (WM))

7. A new model SWM bye-law for all local bodies shall be drafted aligning with the provisions of the SWM Rules, 2026.

(Action: Principal Director, LSGD)

8. Regarding mandatory four-stream segregation and revised duties of individuals, households and bulk waste generators, the necessary IEC campaigns shall be conducted at the field level through digital media, visual media as well as through residents associations, Haritha Karma Sena members, celebrities and influencers as brand ambassadors.

(Action: Executive Director, Suchitwa Mission)

9. The State Level Implementation Committee as mentioned under the Rules shall be constituted immediately, for the monitoring of implementation of the rules.

(Action: LSGD (WM))

10. A comprehensive database shall be created by identifying all Bulk Waste Generators based on the new criteria prescribed under the SWM Rules, 2026.

(Action: Executive Director, Suchitwa Mission; Principal Director, LSGD)

11. The duties of Bulk Waste Generators under the SWM Rules, 2026 shall be communicated to all BWGs situated in the jurisdiction of each Local Self Government Institutions, along with a copy of the Supreme Court order dated 19.02.2026.

(Action: Principal Director LSGD)

12. Points in the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026 that do not align with the decentralisation model in the Kerala context shall be identified, flagged, and submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, based on the feedback from workshops that will be arranged.

(Action: LSGD (WM), Waste Management Secretariat LSGD)

TINKU BISWAL
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY