



प्रो. श्यामा रथ
सचिव

Prof. Shyama Rath
Secretary



विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग
University Grants Commission
(शिक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
(Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)

File No.: 1-1/2026 (Solid Waste Management)

06 श्रावण, 1948/ 28th July, 2026

Subject: Promotion of Solid Waste Management and implementation of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026 in Higher Educational Institutions – reg.

आदरणीय महोदया/महोदय,

As you are aware, sustainable management of solid waste is fundamental to environmental protection, resource conservation and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs), as centres of learning, research, innovation and community engagement, play a pivotal role in fostering environmental consciousness, promoting sustainable lifestyles and inculcating responsible waste management practices among students and the community.

In this regard, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has received a communication from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) regarding the implementation of the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026 and the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its Order dated 25 May 2026 in Civil Appeal No. 6174 of 2023 (Bhopal Municipal Corporation vs. Dr. Subhash C. Pandey & Others). The communication draws attention to Rule 33 of the SWM Rules, 2026, which envisages appropriate inclusion of solid waste management in educational curricula and emphasizes the need to promote awareness and responsible waste management practices through education.

Recognizing the importance of environmental education and sustainable development, UGC has undertaken several initiatives to facilitate the integration of environmental sustainability and solid waste management into higher education.

1. UGC Guidelines and Curriculum Framework for Environment Education at the Undergraduate Level (2023)

The UGC Guidelines and Curriculum Framework for Environment Education at the Undergraduate Level (2023) provide a comprehensive framework for integrating environmental sustainability, including solid waste management, into undergraduate education. The Framework includes:

- Unit III – **Environmental Issues:** Municipal solid waste and hazardous waste as major environmental challenges.
- Unit V – **Environmental Pollution and Health:** Soil pollution, solid waste and hazardous waste, and their impacts on environmental quality and human health.
- Unit VII – **Environmental Management:** Principles of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle (3Rs) for sustainable resource utilization.
- Unit IX – **Case Studies and Field Work:** Experiential learning through campus environmental management activities, including solid waste disposal, sanitation, sewage treatment and other sustainability initiatives.

HEIs are encouraged to utilize these Guidelines while designing or revising curricula, multidisciplinary courses, value-added courses, field-based learning and community engagement activities to appropriately integrate concepts relating to solid waste management and environmental sustainability.

UGC Guidelines and Curriculum Framework for Environment Education (2023):

<https://share.google/zPjJT0Jxum8chDnA>

2. UGC SWAYAM MOOCs

To strengthen awareness and capacity building in this domain, UGC has developed the following SWAYAM MOOCs:

- (i) **Solid and Hazardous Waste Management (40 Modules) Offering Institution:** Central University of Punjab **Course Link:** https://onlinecourses.swayam2.ac.in/e-learning/preview/cec26_bt02
- (ii) **Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) Offering Institution:** Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal

The course includes a dedicated component on solid waste management with emphasis on responsible consumption, waste minimization, circular economy and sustainable lifestyles.

Course Duration: 21 August 2026 – 30 October 2026

Last Date for Enrolment: 31 August 2026

Course Link: https://onlinecourses.swayam2.ac.in/e-learning/preview/ugc26_ge19

HEIs are encouraged to promote enrolment of students, faculty members and staff in these MOOCs to enhance awareness and build competencies in sustainable waste management.

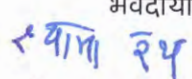
UGC Advises Higher Educational Institutions to:

1. Register as **Bulk Waste Generators (BWGs)**, wherever applicable, on the **Centralised Portal for Registration of Bulk Waste Generators (BWGs)** developed by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) under the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, and ensure compliance with the provisions of the Rules and the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.
2. Integrate appropriate concepts relating to solid waste management into curricula by leveraging the UGC **Guidelines and Curriculum Framework for Environment Education at the Undergraduate Level (2023)**.
3. Encourage students, faculty members and staff to enrol in the above- mentioned SWAYAM MOOCs.
4. Organize awareness and outreach activities such as seminars, workshops, expert lectures, campaigns, competitions, cleanliness drives and community engagement programmes to promote responsible waste management practices.
5. Promote research, innovation and experiential learning in the areas of solid waste management, circular economy and resource efficiency.
6. Strengthen institutional mechanisms and adopt sustainable campus practices for environmentally sound management of solid waste in accordance with the applicable statutory provisions.

BWG Registration Portal: <https://swm.cpcb.gov.in>

UGC solicits the active cooperation of all Higher Educational Institutions in promoting sustainable solid waste management and creating environmentally responsible campuses.

सादर,

भवदीया,

(Shyama Rath)

To:

1. The Vice-Chancellors of all Universities.
2. The Principals of all Colleges/Institutions affiliated to universities.
3. The Principal Secretaries, Departments of Higher Education of all States and Union Territories.