THE INSTITUTE OF
Company Secretaries of India
भारतीय कम्पनी सचिव संस्थान
IN PURSUIT OF PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE
Statutory body under an Act of Parliament
(Under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Corporate Affairs)

Vision
"To be a global leader in promoting good corporate governance"

Motto
सत्यं वद। धर्मं चर। speak the truth, pursue righteousness

Mission
"To develop high calibre professionals facilitating good corporate governance"

ESG CATALYST

Where Sustainability Meets Innovation

AN ICSI initiative towards building awareness in the ESG landscape with the professional fraternity.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LAW IN INDIA

The present way of living is creating more trash than our planet can handle, putting both nature and people at risk. Every year, about 11.2 billion tonnes of garbage is collected globally and nationally. The landscape of Solid Waste Management in India has undergone a transformative shift, moving from the foundational 2016 regulations to the more stringent and digitally-driven Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026 which will be enforceable from April 01, 2026. The legal framework on Solid Waste Management is built upon the constitutional mandate under Article 51A(g), which casts a duty on every citizen to protect the natural environment. In the contemporary context, the law no longer views waste as a disposal burden but as a resource within a "Circular Economy".

Key Highlights:

- **Segregation at Source:** The cornerstone of the current law is the mandatory segregation of waste at the point of generation. The SWM Rules, 2026 strictly enforce a four-stream separation process. Generators ranging from households to large commercial complexes must sort waste into wet, dry, sanitary, and special care categories.
- **Bulk Waste Generators (BWGs):** For entities producing more than 100 kg of waste daily or occupying large built-up areas. The law mandates that these entities take "*in-situ*" responsibility, meaning they must process their biodegradable waste on-site through composting or bio-methanation. For non-biodegradable waste, they are required to engage with authorized recyclers. This shift effectively decentralizes waste management, moving the heavy lifting away from overstrained municipal bodies and onto the entities creating the most waste.
- **Digitalisation:** To combat the historical lack of data, the SWM Rules, 2026 also provide for the development of a Centralised Online Portal to track all stages of solid waste management, including waste generation, collection, transportation, processing and disposal, as well as biomining and bioremediation of legacy waste dump sites.
- **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR):** EPR forces manufacturers of products like plastic packaging and electronics to be financially and physically responsible for the end-of-life disposal of their products. This legal "cradle-to-grave" approach ensures that the cost of pollution is internalized by the producer rather than the taxpayer.
- **Polluter Pays Principle:** Under the "Polluter Pays" principle, the Central and State Pollution Control Boards have the authority to levy heavy financial penalties on local bodies or private entities that fail to meet processing targets.

In essence, Solid Waste Management Law in India is evolving into a sophisticated blend of environmental science and digital governance. By prioritizing segregation, mandating industrial use of waste-derived fuels, and enforcing strict financial penalties, the legal framework seeks to eliminate the concept of a "dumping ground" entirely. The success of this law now rests on the bridge between legislative intent and grassroots compliance.

The detailed rules can be accessed at: https://static.pib.gov.in/WriteReadData/specificdocs/documents/2026/jan/doc2026129773501.pdf

ESG NEWS

China's 2026–2030 Plan Boosts Clean Energy While Loosening Emissions Targets

China has released the draft outline of its 15th Five-Year Plan, defining its economic and energy agenda for 2026–2030. The plan highlights a major scale-up of renewable power, grid modernization, and emerging technologies including hydrogen and nuclear fusion. However, it avoids setting firm emissions-reduction commitments or accelerating the phaseout of coal.

A key climate target in the plan is a 17% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP from 2026 to 2030. The updated carbon intensity metric now includes industrial emissions in addition to energy-related ones. Despite a cautious stance on fossil fuels, the plan strongly supports clean energy industries as engines of economic growth and technological competitiveness. Nuclear power will continue expanding at coastal locations, with capacity projected to reach 110GW by 2030, compared with 62GW in 2025. Hydrogen also receives major attention. The government plans to integrate hydrogen into industrial processes, transportation fuels, and energy systems to reduce dependence on oil and gas while enhancing energy security.

The new policy frameworks aim to curb emissions in heavy industry and transport. Overall, China's new five year plan underscores the central tension in its climate strategy: it continues rapidly expanding the world's largest clean energy system while preserving flexibility for fossil fuels during the transition.

https://esgnews.com/chinas-2026-2030-plan-boosts-clean-energy-while-loosening-emissions-targets/

South Korea Moves Toward Mandatory ISSB-Aligned Climate Disclosures For Large KOSPI Firms

The Korean Financial Services Commission (FSC) has opened a public consultation on a national roadmap that would require major listed companies to publish mandatory sustainability reports. This plan aims to align Korea's disclosure practices with global standards set by the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB). The consultation follows the release of Korea's new sustainability reporting standards by the Korean Sustainability Standards Board (KSSB). These include KSSB 1: General Requirements for Sustainability-related Financial Disclosures and KSSB 2: Climate-related Disclosures, both of which closely mirror the ISSB's IFRS S1 and IFRS S2 frameworks. The roadmap further outlines plan for verification and enforcement of sustainability reports, with third party assurance remaining voluntary during the initial rollout. For investors and multinational companies operating in Korea, the roadmap marks an important step toward aligning the country's ESG disclosure landscape with international norms.

Korea's phased strategy acknowledges both the size of its industrial sector and the complexity of supply chains in industries. For Korean companies, the roadmap signals a fundamental shift in governance expectations, elevating climate disclosure to the same level of importance as financial transparency.

https://esgnews.com/south-korea-moves-toward-mandatory-issb-aligned-climate-disclosures-for-large-kospi-firms/

Peru Approves $3.4 Billion Trapiche Copper Project Environmental Study

Peru's environmental certification authority has approved the environmental impact study for Buenaventura's planned Trapiche copper project, clearing a major regulatory hurdle for the $3.4 billion development in the country's mineral-rich Apurímac region. The approval, by Peru's environmental certification office SENACE, allows one of the country's largest mining companies to advance preparations for a project expected to become a cornerstone of its future copper portfolio. For Buenaventura, the Trapiche project represents a major strategic pivot toward copper, a metal increasingly central to the global energy transition.

The company, traditionally known for its gold and silver operations across Peru, has identified Trapiche as one of its most significant future growth assets.

https://esgnews.com/peru-approves-3-4-billion-trapiche-copper-project-environmental-study/

UK Launches Net Zero Carbon Buildings Standard to Define Credible Climate Claims Across Property Sector

A new cross industry framework defining what qualifies as a truly net zero carbon building has officially launched in the UK, giving the property sector its first unified benchmark for validating climate related claims. The UK Net Zero Carbon Buildings Standard introduces a comprehensive methodology for evaluating both operational emissions and embodied carbon throughout a building's entire lifecycle. The assessments draw on established international lifecycle standards and measure emissions from raw material extraction all the way to demolition and end of life disposal. Sector specific requirements apply to residential, commercial, healthcare, education, heritage buildings, and data centres. Operational performance is assessed using indicators like energy use intensity and operational carbon output. Embodied carbon calculations rely on validated environmental product declarations and lifecycle assessment methods aligned with ISO and European standards.

https://esgnews.com/uk-launches-net-zero-carbon-buildings-standard-to-define-credible-climate-claims-across-property-sector/

PARTNERING IN ESG

ENVIRONMENTAL

Convert non-recyclable waste into energy to reduce pollution

SOCIAL

Engage and support informal waste workers to ensure social equity and better, safe working conditions

GOVERNANCE

Use third-party verification to prove regulatory compliance for hazardous material management

JOIN THE ESG MOVEMENT

Delete old emails to reduce carbon footprint of data storage

Dispose of electronics, batteries, and chemicals at designated hazardous waste collection sites

Eliminate phantom power consumption

Share in your ESG Centric inputs via email at ***esgsb@icsi.edu.***