

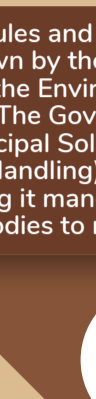
BACKGROUND

The Deonar landfill in Mumbai caught fire which lasted for days causing severe hardships for the locals.

LAND FILLS AND URBAN SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

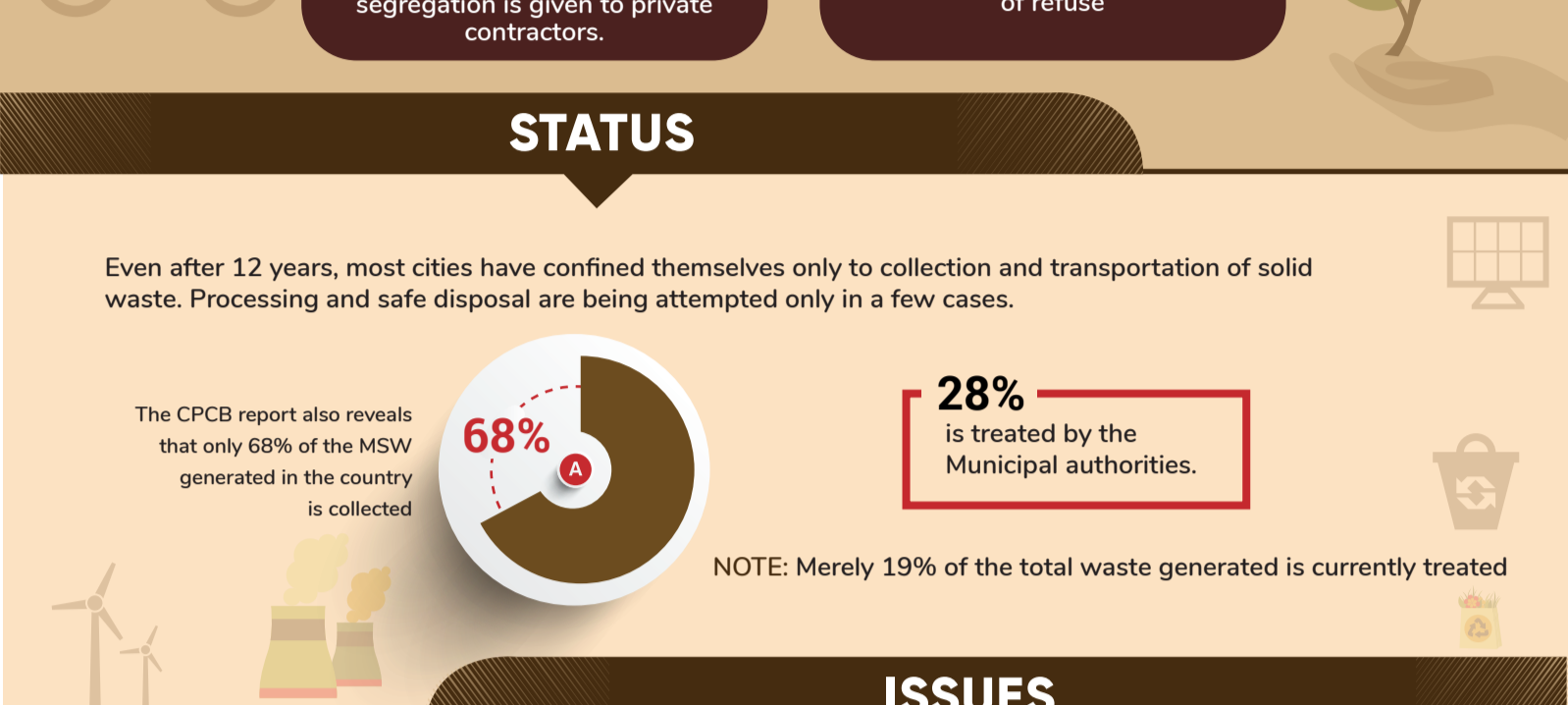


There are many categories of MSW (Municipal Solid Waste) such as food waste, rubbish, commercial waste, institutional waste, street sweeping waste, industrial waste, construction and demolition waste, and sanitation waste.



As per World Bank urban solid waste management is the process of collecting, treating and disposing of solid wastes generated by all urban population groups in an environmentally and socially satisfactory manner using the most economical means available.

MANAGEMENT OF SOLID WASTE IN INDIA



STATUS

Even after 12 years, most cities have confined themselves only to collection and transportation of solid waste. Processing and safe disposal are being attempted only in a few cases.



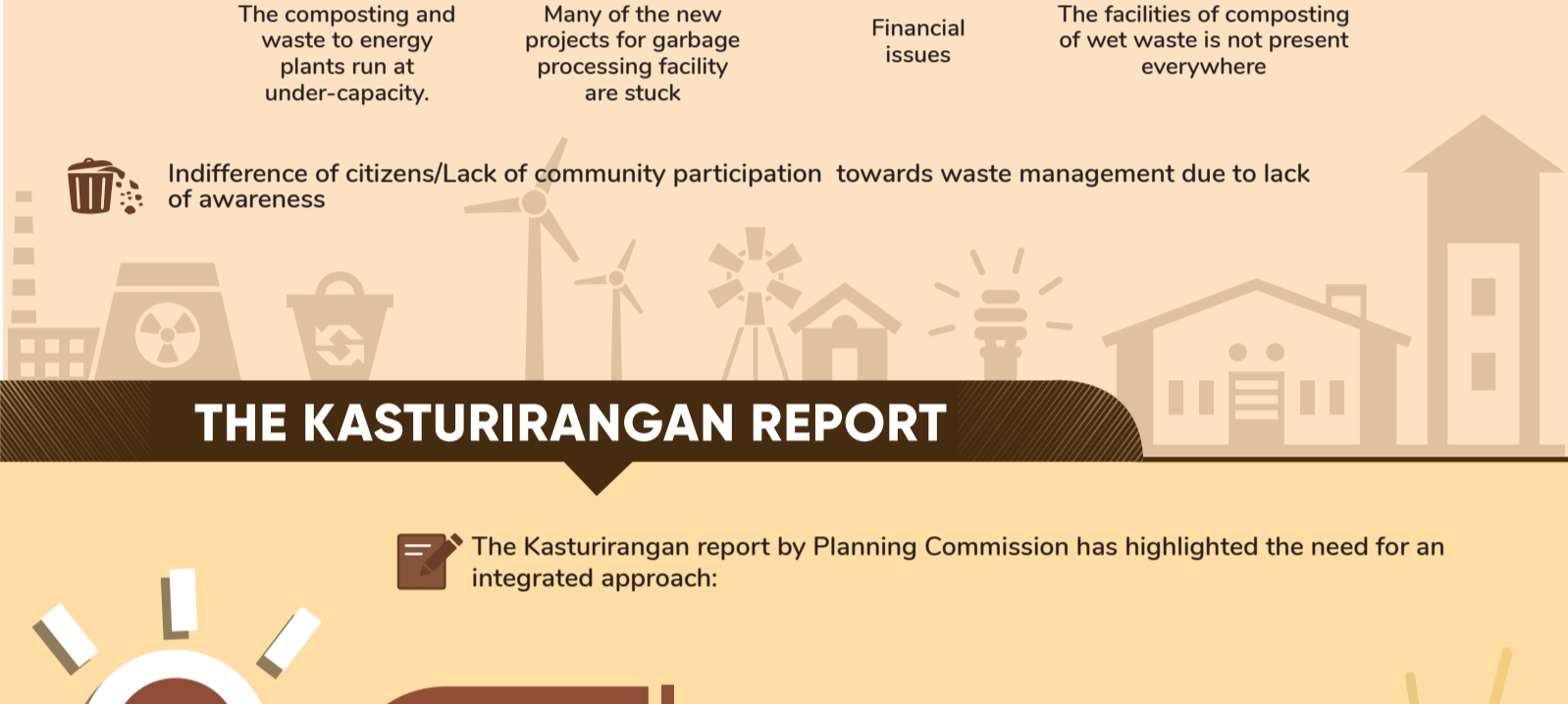
28% is treated by the Municipal authorities.

NOTE: Merely 19% of the total waste generated is currently treated

ISSUES

SEGREGATION IS NOT DONE AT SOURCE AND UNORGANIZED SEGREGATION FACILITY: Ideally more than 50% of the waste could be segregated and composted at the starting stage. After recycling the left over only 10-15% should be left for dumping at the landfills. However, this is not done so in Indian cities.

ISSUES WITH LANDFILL MANAGEMENT

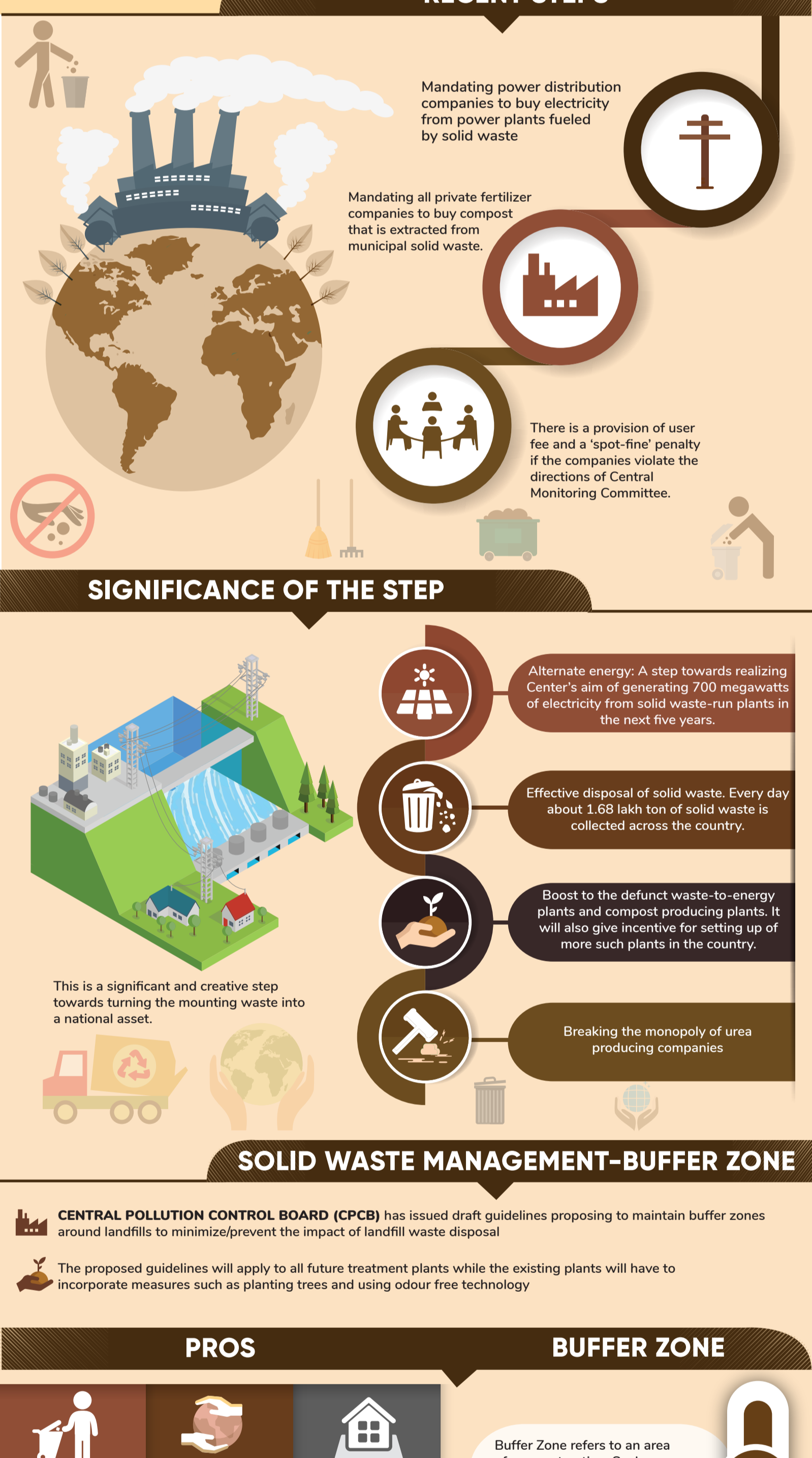


PROCESSING FACILITY

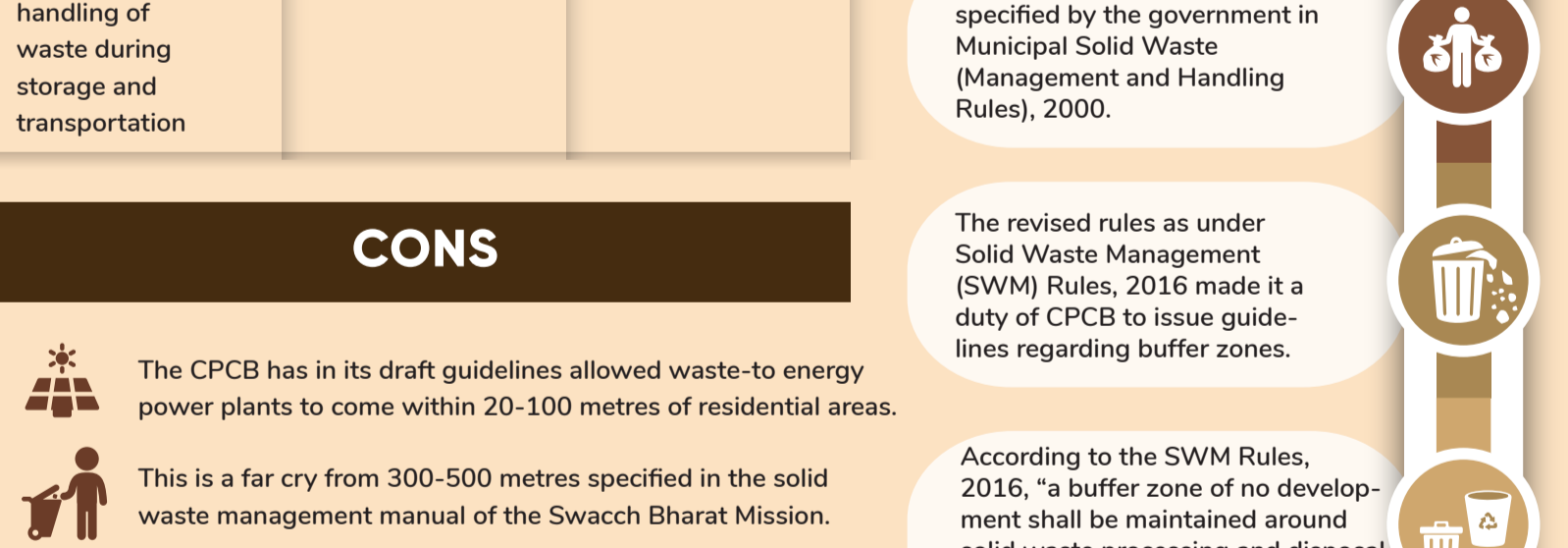


THE KASTURIRANGAN REPORT

The Kasturirangan report by Planning Commission has highlighted the need for an integrated approach:

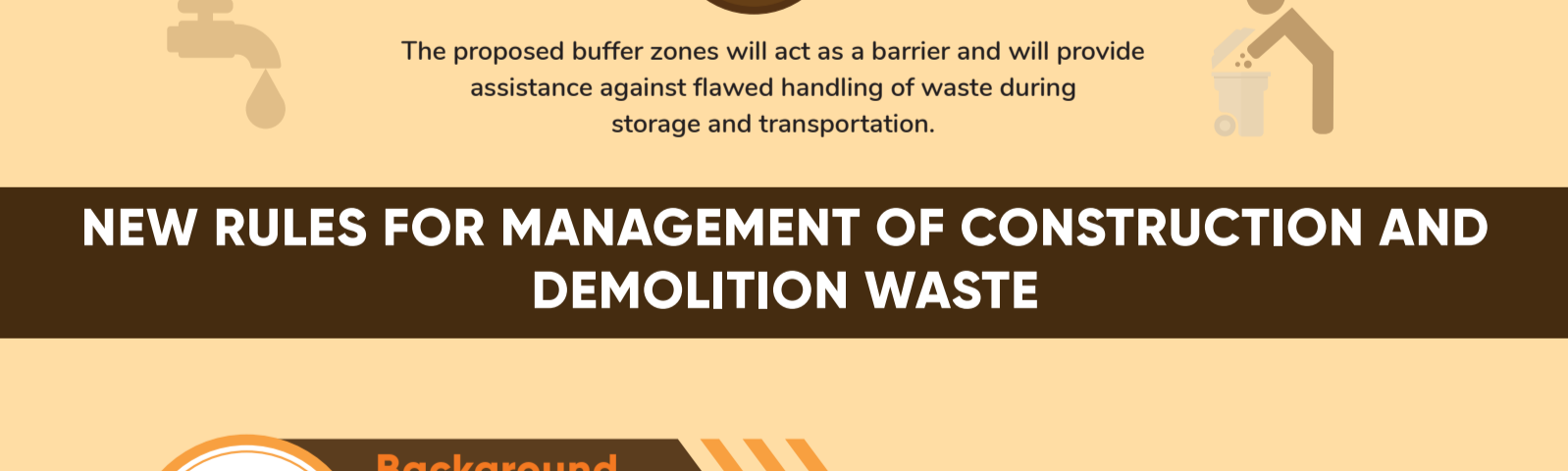


RECENT STEPS



SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STEP

This is a significant and creative step towards turning the waste into a national asset.



SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT-BUFFER ZONE

CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD (CPCB) has issued draft guidelines proposing to maintain buffer zones around landfills to minimize/prevent the impact of landfill waste disposal

The proposed guidelines will apply to all future treatment plants while the existing plants will have to incorporate measures such as planting trees and using odour free technology

PROS

The proposed buffer zones will act as a barrier and will provide assistance against flawed handling of waste during storage and transportation

It will help protect the surrounding environment against negative impacts of the landfill.

It will promote responsible land management and conservation practices.

Buffer Zone refers to an area of no construction. Such an area is designated in order to segregate two regions (for environmental protection)

The term buffer zone was first specified by the government in Municipal Solid Waste (Management and Handling Rules), 2000.

The revised rules as under Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2016 made it a duty of CPCB to issue guidelines regarding buffer zones.

According to the SWM Rules, 2016, "a buffer zone of no development shall be maintained around solid waste processing and disposal facility, exceeding five tonnes per day of installed capacity."

CONS

The CPCB has in its draft guidelines allowed waste-to-energy power plants to come within 20-100 metres of residential areas.

This is a far cry from 300-500 metres specified in the solid waste management manual of the Swachh Bharat Mission.

Unlike previously, the draft guidelines mention "incineration" as one of the methods of waste disposal.

SIGNIFICANCE

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It will promote responsible land management and conservation practices.

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NEW RULES FOR MANAGEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION WASTE



Background

The Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2016 notified by the environment ministry aim at creating a process to recover, recycle and reuse this waste.

NEED

530 million tonnes of construction and demolition waste is generated in India annually.

Construction activity is one of the main reasons for high air pollution in Indian cities.

Currently, managed under the existing solid municipal waste management rules which are inadequate. Thus, it is not managed properly.

NOTABLE POINTS

Responsibility upon local authorities

- Permission for construction and demotion only after a complete waste management plan is presented to local authorities
- To keep a check on those who dispose waste illegally.

Responsibility upon large-scale generators: they will have to pay relevant charges for collection, transportation, processing and disposal, as notified by the concerned authorities

Emphasis on reuse

- Mandatory for local authorities to utilize 10-20% of construction and demolition waste in municipal and government contracts to lay drain covers etc.

CHALLENGES

The main challenge is with respect to proper implementation of the rules

Appropriate training is needed for contractors and officials before enforcing the clause.

Appropriate resources, financial and human power, needs to be allocated to local authorities

This will also require scaling up of capacity-building and recycling infrastructure

