



Legal Action on Dharavi Rehab Project | Maharashtra | 25 Apr 2025

Why in News?

A legal notice has been sent to **the Maharashtra government** and **Mumbai Municipal Commissioner**, demanding cancellation of the cabinet decision to hand over **Deonar dumping ground** for the [Dharavi rehab project](#), citing violation of [Central Pollution Control Board \(CPCB\) guidelines](#).

Key Points

- **About Dumping Ground:**
 - The State government has decided to **hand over 124 acres of Deonar dumping ground for the Dharavi Rehabilitation Project (DRP)**.
 - The Mulund dumping ground is also being considered for inclusion in the DRP.
- **Environmental and Legal Concerns:**
 - Mulund-based activist issued a legal notice opposing the decision.
 - He flagged serious environmental risks highlighting that high-rises built on rotting mixed waste at Deonar and Mulund generate [methane](#), which causes 21 times more [global warming](#) than [Carbon Dioxide \(CO₂\)](#).
 - He pointed out that these sites also produce [leachate](#), a **toxic liquid that pollutes groundwater**, making them unsuitable for residential construction.
- **Active Methane-Emitting Site:**
 - The activist emphasized that **Deonar is not a closed landfill**.
 - It remains one of [India's top 22 methane hotspots](#), releasing around 6,202 kg of methane per hour.

Central Pollution Control Board

- CPCB is a statutory organisation which was constituted in September, 1974 under the [Water \(Prevention and Control of Pollution\) Act, 1974](#).
- It was entrusted with the powers and functions under the [Air \(Prevention and Control of Pollution\) Act, 1981](#).
- It serves as a field formation and also provides technical services to the **Ministry of Environment and Forests of the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**.
- Principal Functions of the CPCB, as spelt out in the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
 - to promote cleanliness of streams and wells in different areas of the States by prevention, control and abatement of water pollution.
 - to improve the quality of air and to prevent, control or abate air pollution in the country.

School Registration Portal Launched | Maharashtra | 25 Apr 2025

Why in News?

The **Maharashtra government** launched a portal for private pre-schools to register, aiming to build a **unified database of all pre-schools in the state**.

Key Points

- **About the Portal:**
 - The State government has made pre-school registration voluntary for the time being.
 - A **dedicated Act to regulate pre-primary education** is currently in progress.
 - Until now, **formal education in Maharashtra began at Class 1**, after children turned 6.
 - **Pre-schools** (nursery to senior kindergarten, for ages 3–6) **were not part** of the mainstream system.
- **ECCE under NEP 2020:**
 - The [National Education Policy \(NEP\) 2020](#) includes [Early Childhood Care and Education \(ECCE\)](#) in formal schooling.
 - With Maharashtra implementing NEP in schools, **pre-schools will also be brought into the mainstream**.
 - The school education department has data on government-run [anganwadis](#) and [balwadis](#) (under Women and Child Development Department).
 - However, there is **no formal data on the large number of privately run pre-schools**.

National Education Policy 2020

- **About:**
 - The **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** aims to address India's evolving development needs by overhauling the education system to meet 21st century goals and [Sustainable Development Goal 4 \(SDG4\)](#), while preserving India's cultural heritage.
 - It replaced the **National Policy on Education, 1986**, which was modified in 1992.
- **Salient Features:**
 - **Universal Access:** Focuses on providing access to education from pre-school through secondary levels.
 - **Early Childhood Education:** Transitions from the 10+2 to a 5+3+3+4 system, including children aged 3–6 in the school curriculum with an emphasis on **Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)**.
 - **Multilingualism:** Promotes using mother tongues or regional languages as the medium of instruction up to Grade 5, with options for Sanskrit and other languages. [Indian Sign Language \(ISL\)](#) will be standardised.
 - **Inclusive Education:** Emphasises support for **Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs)**, children with disabilities, and the establishment of "Bal Bhavans."
 - **Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) Enhancement:** Aim to raise the **Gross Enrolment Ratio** from 26.3% to 50% by 2035, adding 3.5 crore new seats.
 - **Research Focus:** Establishes the **National Research Foundation** to enhance research culture and capacity.
 - **Language Preservation:** Supports Indian languages through the **Institute of Translation and Interpretation (ITI)** and strengthens language departments.
 - **Internationalisation:** Encourages international collaborations and the entry of top-ranked foreign universities.
 - For example, in 2023 [UGC](#) released regulations to facilitate foreign universities to set up campuses in India.
 - **Funding:** Targets increasing public investment in education to **6% of GDP**.
 - **PARAKH Assessment Center:** Introduces [PARAKH \(Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development\)](#) for competency-based and holistic assessments.

- **Gender Inclusion Fund:** Establishes a fund to promote gender equality in education and support initiatives for disadvantaged groups.
- **Special Education Zones:** Creates **Special Education Zones** to cater to the needs of disadvantaged regions and groups, reinforcing the commitment to equitable access to quality education.

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