



# Legal Action on Dharavi Rehab Project

## 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 (CO<sub>2</sub>)**.
  - 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.

