



EIACP

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Editorial

Plastic is everywhere, from packaging and clothing to electronics and medical devices. While its versatility and durability have revolutionized industries, these qualities make plastic a persistent pollutant. Over 8 million tons of plastic end up in the oceans yearly, forming floating garbage patches and sinking to the seafloor, where it can remain for centuries.

Plastic pollution has emerged as one of the most pressing environmental issues of the 21st century, posing a severe threat to marine life, ecosystems, and human well-being. With over 400 million tons of plastic produced each year, and a significant portion of it designed for single use, our planet is being overwhelmed by waste that often ends up in rivers, oceans, and even the most remote corners of the Earth.

Marine animals, including turtles, seabirds, and fish, frequently mistake plastic for food or become entangled in it, leading to injury and death. As plastic waste breaks down into microplastics, it infiltrates the food chain, impacting biodiversity and potentially affecting human health. Addressing this crisis requires coordinated action across all levels of society. Individuals can play a key role by adopting sustainable habits such as using reusable bags, bottles, and containers, avoiding products with excessive plastic packaging, and supporting brands that prioritize eco-friendly practices. At the same time, governments and businesses must implement stronger policies to limit plastic production, invest in advanced recycling technologies, and promote innovative alternatives like biodegradable materials. Education and awareness are equally vital, empowering communities to make informed choices and advocate for a cleaner, greener future. We must recognize our collective responsibility and take bold, consistent steps toward ending plastic pollution, not only to preserve the natural world but to ensure a healthy planet for future generations.

This issue highlights that Plastic pollution is more than just an environmental issue. It is a socio-economic and health concern. Ending plastic pollution won't happen overnight, but sustained, collective effort can turn the tide. This World Environment Day, let's reaffirm our commitment to a cleaner, greener planet not just for ourselves, but for future generations. By choosing sustainable practices today, we can shape a world where nature and humanity thrive in harmony.





Beat Plastic Pollution:

Why the fight isn't over yet!

Rongsenben Longkumer

Junior Scientific Assistant

Nagaland Pollution Control Board

This year's World Environment Day theme echoes an urgent and familiar call: Ending Plastic Pollution globally. The repetition of this theme is not a coincidence but is a desperate alarm, a reminder that we have not done enough. The Republic of Korea will host World Environment Day 2025, focusing on ending plastic pollution globally in a continued effort to contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). According to the Plastic Overshoot Day Report, 2024, the plastic waste generated worldwide is 220 million tons per year and as per an OECD Report, globally only 9% of plastic waste is recycled, while 19% incinerated, 50% in the sanitary landfills and the remaining 22% is disposed in uncontrolled dumpsites. India generates approximately 41 Lakhs TPA (tons per annum) of plastic waste. As per the 2021 Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) reports, per capita plastic waste generation has almost doubled over the last five years. The statistics are alarming, and it is imperative to note that waste-generated data does not include the rural areas and, therefore, is underestimated. 13% out of the total plastic waste generated in India is recycled and as per the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP)'s country-wise plastic data, it was revealed that India mismanages more than 80% of its plastic waste whereby it is dumped in uncontrolled dumpsites, burned or disposed into the drains from where it flows into the major water bodies.

In an effort to address the growing issue of plastic waste management in the country, India's ban on identified single-use plastics came into force with effect from 1st of July, 2022, under the aegis of Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, aimed at curbing pollution and promoting eco-friendly alternatives. The CPCB is mandated to monitor compliance, enforce the ban, and impose penalties on violators, which are to be implemented by the States through the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs). However, while progress has been made, challenges remain.

THE GLOBAL STANCE ON PLASTIC POLLUTION

Plastic pollution is a major transnational environmental issue, posing significant risks to the ecosystem, human health, and economy. Plastic has infiltrated every aspect of our lives; from marine ecosystems to the highest peak of Mount Everest, from human placenta to even the human brain tissues. Plastic pollution is considered to cause a global environmental disaster that puts communities and livelihoods at risk, resulting

in a wide range of hidden costs for the economy.

Following the UNEP's fifth Environment Assembly in March 2022, 175 UN member states adopted a resolution to develop an internationally legally binding instrument to address plastic pollution by 2024 through coordinated action on a global scale. The resolution aims to develop a global treaty addressing plastic's full life cycle—from production to disposal. Launched in late 2022, negotiations are set to conclude by end of 2025 at the Second part of the fifth session for the Global Plastic Treaty. UNEP and the member states recognizes that the rewards of fixing plastic pollution are multifaceted; cleaner oceans and lands, lessened public

health hazards, greener ecosystems and stronger economies through adoption of circular economy. The UNEP reaffirms General Assembly Resolution of 2015 where the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted and also the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 1992. Prior to the aforementioned resolutions, the global consensus on addressing the issues of pollution has been highlighted, recognized and reaffirmed in multiple key global efforts which can be traced way back to the 1972 Stockholm Conference. These efforts set the stage for the ongoing Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee (INC) process which is currently in process and witnessing an impasse on several contentious issues.

INDIA'S EFFORT IN TACKLING PLASTIC POLLUTION

India understands its responsibility in tackling the challenge of plastic pollution and has banned 19 identified single-use plastic items based on the criteria of high littering potential and low utility. In order to address the issue and phase out single-use plastics, CPCB issued a Comprehensive Action Plan on February 1, 2022 to all the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and the Pollution Control Committees (PCCs). In order to streamline the curb of plastic pollution, single-use plastics have been banned which ranges from items like plastic sticks used for ear buds, balloons, flags, candies, ice-cream, to plastic cutleries, wrapping or packing films used in sweet boxes, invitation cards and cigarette packets. Additionally, polystyrene (thermocool) used for decoration and plastic or PVC banners less than 100 microns were also identified.

As per the PWM Rules, 2016, there is a complete ban on sachets using plastic material used for storing, packing or selling gutkha, tobacco, and pan masala. Following the amendment of the existing rules in 2021, the manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale, and use of carry bags made of virgin or recycled plastic less than seventy-five microns has been banned with effect from 30th September, 2021. Currently, the permissible thickness for plastic bags has increased and prohibition is applied to carry bags less than 120 microns with effect from December 31, 2022. India through the Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rules, 2016, has put in place the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regime introduced in the year 2022 on plastic packaging.

BAN OF SUPS IN NAGALAND

Following directives from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), a ban on single-use plastics (SUPs) was implemented in Nagaland starting in 2022. The District Task Force (DTF), in collaboration with the State Pollution Control Board, undertook various measures to ensure stakeholder compliance and mitigate the environmental impacts of plastic pollution. These initiatives included awareness programs, workshops, capacity-building initiatives, and enforcement drives. However, several challenges hinder effective enforcement, including resistance from producers, shifting consumer behavior, insufficient manpower, and a shortage of trained personnel to monitor and enforce compliance.

Challenges remain in preventing the influx of prohibited plastic items into the state, primarily due to insufficient enforcement capacity and low public awareness. The persistent demand for banned plastics fuels their widespread availability in the market, further complicating compliance efforts for regulatory authorities. Despite the prohibition of single-use plastics being enforced with penalties of up to ₹10,000 for repeat offenses, many vendors continue to use banned items, opting to pay fines rather than risk losing customers. Vendors argue that refusing to provide plastic bags leads to declining sales, as customers often refuse to purchase goods without them, significantly impacting their businesses.

Despite existing challenges, there has been a noticeable increase in the availability of alternatives to single-use plastics. Furthermore, thicker-micron plastic bags, biodegradable bioplastics, and certified compostable plastics have been introduced as viable substitutes.

BANS ALONE ARE NOT ENOUGH

The success of the ban and its enforcement is mixed. Through the enforcement, there has been increased awareness, promotion of innovation in the production of sustainable alternatives, and streamlining the EPR mechanism has led to the establishment of plastic recycling plants in the country. Behavioral changes have been encouraged in various sectors, whereby the food delivery agencies have also made significant efforts by substituting plastic carry bags with sustainable packaging alternatives like paper bags. The introduction of alternatives to single-use plastics in

the market, clubbed with awareness generation by concerned Governmental and Non-Governmental stakeholders, has been instrumental in enforcing the ban on SUPs.

Streamlining EPR still remains a challenge. Aligning the entire nation to EPR scheme is recognized to be a herculean task. The amount of plastic waste generated in India is not accurately measured as there exists a quite significant number of informal sectors that manage the plastic waste, and in the case of data projection by the

states, rural areas are not accounted. Additionally, in an overpopulated country like India, the collective participation of all stakeholders comes as a challenge. Alongside monitoring, enforcement, awareness generation, and control require compliance from all stakeholders.

About 50-60% of the waste is managed

by the informal sectors, which are not recognized or formalized. This sector has the potential to be included in the system to aid in collection, sorting, processing, storing, and trading waste materials in the recycling value chain. Formalizing this sector will aid in the circular economy model and also reduce the economic burden of urban local bodies.

REIMAGINING 'BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION'

The fight against plastic pollution must evolve beyond bans and penalties. While enforcement remains crucial, lasting change requires innovation, systemic shifts, and inclusive participation. The theme of 'Ending Plastic Pollution Globally' must focus on circular economy solutions, scalable alternatives, and behavioral transformation. One inspiring example comes from Kerala, where the 'Clean Kerala Company' has revolutionized plastic waste management by integrating informal waste pickers into the formal economy. The state incentivizes waste collection through reverse vending machines, promotes cloth bag initiatives, and establishes material recovery facilities (MRFs). By formalizing the informal sector, Kerala not only improved waste management systems but also created green jobs, proving that inclusivity is key to sustainability. Innovation helps build the gap between policy and practice, and therefore start-ups and initiatives aiding in addressing the issues of plastic pollution must be incentivized and recognized.

Strict enforcement fails without voluntary compliance, and compliance remains weak without consistent enforcement. Nagaland's struggle with vendor non-compliance due to consumers' demand highlights this paradox. The fight against plastic pollution requires a cultural and behavioral shift where sustainability is not seen as a regulatory burden but as a shared civic duty. As consumers, we wield immense power through simple acts of refusal. Rejecting plastic items marks the crucial first step in driving change. Carrying cloth bags and baskets seem like a small individual action, but when communities, these conscious choices create collective impact. What appears as a minor personal habit transforms into a significant movement when embraced by many, proving that lasting environmental change begins with everyday decisions.



Series of World Environment Day Celebration 2025:

World Environment Day is celebrated annually on 5th June to encourage worldwide awareness and action to protect the environment. It also aims to spread awareness around environmental issues like climate change, pollution, deforestation, and biodiversity loss. The theme for World Environment Day 2025 is “Ending Plastic Pollution Globally”. Plastic pollution has reached critical levels globally, with millions of tons of plastic waste entering the oceans, rivers, and landscapes yearly. This year's theme calls for urgent and unified action to eliminate plastic pollution, focusing on cleanup efforts and reducing plastic production, promoting sustainable alternatives, and shifting societal behaviors. As per the action plan shared by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, the activities conducted by EIACP PC Hub Nagaland from 29.05.2025 to 05.06.2025 are as follows:

In the series of Celebration of World Environment Day 2025, EIACP PC Hub Staff along with staff of Nagaland Pollution Control Board, put up two banners highlighting the theme of World Environment Day in alignment with one of the 7 Mission LiFE theme, i.e., Single Use Plastic Reduced, at the entrance of NPCB Office on 29th May 2025, to create awareness.



In the series of Celebration of World Environment Day 2025, EIACP PC Hub Nagaland organized a Plogging activity with the staff of Nagaland Pollution Control Board at Nagaland Zoological Park, Rangapahar, Chumoukedima district on 30th May 2025. While collecting the waste, many single-use Plastics such as sweet & food wrappers, plastic straws etc, were found. Altogether, 19 staff members participated in the event.



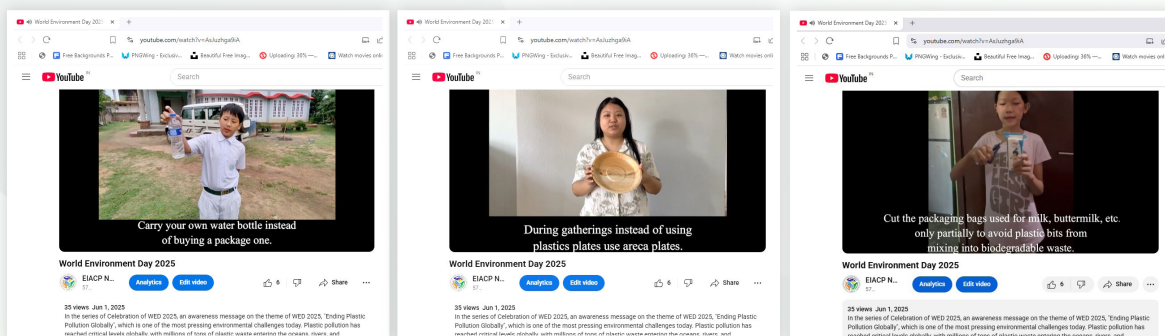


In the series of Celebration of World Environment Day 2025, EIACP PC Hub, Nagaland Pollution Control Board, organized a Tree Plantation Drive at Government Middle School, Bade, Chümoukedima district on 31st May 2025. Ms. Khriehunuo Rutsa, Programme Officer EIACP, gave a short speech highlighting the World Environment Day theme, 'Ending Plastic Pollution Globally', which was followed by the planting of 35 Tree saplings around the school compound. A banner with a list of Banned Single Use Items & their alternatives was also pasted on the school premises. Altogether 45 students and 8 teachers attended the programme.



In the series of Celebration of World Environment Day 2025, as an awareness message on the theme “Ending Plastic Pollution Globally” focusing on the Mission LiFE theme on Single-Use Plastic reduction, is created among the stakeholders on 1st June 2025 through video clippings.

Link to the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AsJuzhga9iA>

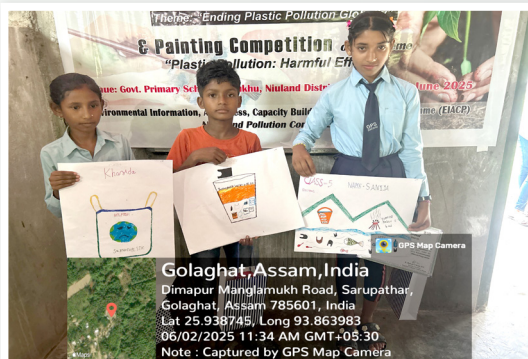


In the series of Celebration of World Environment Day 2025, EIACP PC Hub, Nagaland Pollution Control Board, organized a Tree Plantation Drive and Painting Competition on the theme, “Plastic Pollution: Harmful Effects” at Government Primary School, Zuvukhu, Niuland district on 2nd June 2025. Ms. Khriehunuo Rutsa, Programme Officer EIACP, gave a short speech highlighting the World Environment Day theme, ‘Ending Plastic Pollution Globally’, and also on the banned Single Use Plastic and their alternatives. The programme was then followed by the planting of 20 Tree saplings around the school compound. A banner with a list of Banned Single Use Items & their alternatives was also pasted on the school premises, and a pamphlet on World Environment Day 2025 was also distributed to the students. Altogether 43 students and 4 teachers attended the programme.

THE WINNERS OF THE PAINTING COMPETITION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

FIRST:	Saniya	Class 5	CONSOLATION:	Arshaf Ali	Class 3
SECOND:	Amir Ali	Class 4		Mozida	Class 4
				Ruksana	Class 5
THIRD:	Khazida	Class 1		Shah Alom	Class 2
				Jhulmoni	Class 2





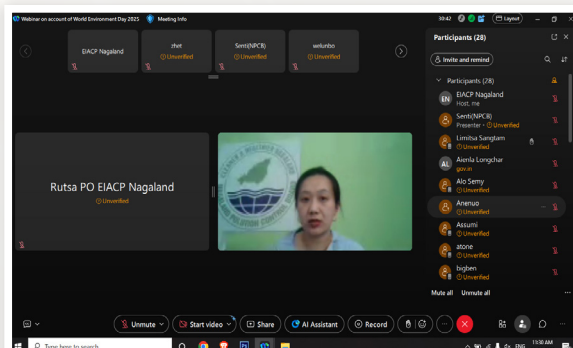
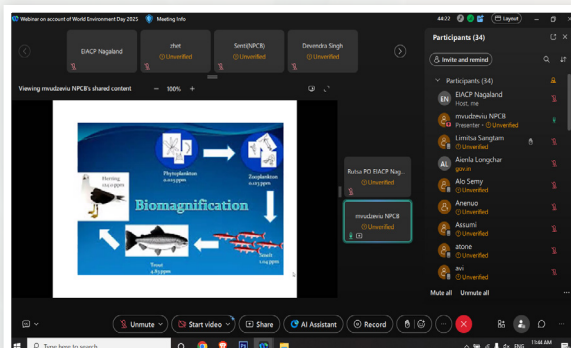
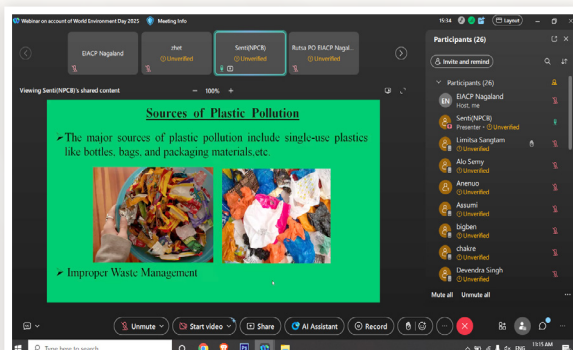
In the series of Celebration of World Environment Day 2025, EIACP PC Hub, Nagaland Pollution Control Board, organized a Painting Competition on the theme, “Ending Plastic Pollution Globally” at Christina Memorial Higher Secondary School, Aoyimti, Chümoukedima district on 3rd June 2025. Ms. Khriehunuo Rutsa, Programme Officer EIACP, gave a PowerPoint presentation on World Environment Day, highlighting the World Environment Day theme and the effects of plastic waste and the uses of recycled materials, and also on the banned Single Use Plastic and their alternatives. The programme was followed by a Painting Competition, where 30 students from classes 5 to 10 participated. A banner with a list of Banned Single Use Items & their alternatives was also pasted on the school premises. Altogether 670 students from classes 1 to 12 and 20 teachers attended the programme.

THE WINNERS OF THE PAINTING COMPETITION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

FIRST:	Tolenla	Class 9	CONSOLATION:	
SECOND:	Akinali Swu	Class 6	Minikivi H Zhimo	Class 10
THIRD:	Lipavi Shohe	Class 9	Nandani Mahato	Class 9



In the series of Celebration of World Environment Day 2025, EIACP PC Hub, Nagaland Pollution Control Board, organized a Webinar on 4th June 2025. The Programme was Hosted by Ms. Khriehunuo Rutsa, Programme Officer EIACP. The Resource person, Ms. Sentinaro Angami, Senior Scientific Assistant, NPCB gave a PowerPoint presentation on “Microplastics”, followed by a presentation on “Marine Debris Treatment & Biomagnification” by Mrs. Mvudzeviu Shuya, Scientist 'B', NPCB. The webinar was attended by 35 participants.



In the series of Celebration of World Environment Day 2025, EIACP PC Hub, Nagaland Pollution Control Board, organised an Awareness programme and Model Making Competition on the theme, “Waste to Wealth” at Dimapur Government College, Dimapur district on 5th June 2025. Ms. Khriehunuo Rutsa, Programme Officer EIACP, gave a PowerPoint presentation on World Environment Day, highlighting the World Environment Day theme and the effects of plastic waste, the uses of recycled materials, and also on the banned Single Use Plastic and their alternatives. Ms. Rongsenben Longkumer, Junior Scientific Assistant, NPCB, gave a presentation on Mission LiFE, where she focused more on the Mission LiFE theme on “Single Use Plastic Reduced”. The programme was chaired by Mrs. Selina Walling, HoD, Department of Environmental Science. The welcome address was delivered by Mrs. Khezale Hesso, Vice Principal, Dimapur Government College and the vote of thanks was given by Dr. Hannah Tai, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology.

The programme was followed by a Model Making Competition, where the students showcased their model made from plastic waste. A total of 13 teams (3 people per team)

participated in the model-making competition. A banner with a list of Banned Single Use Items & their alternatives was also pasted on the College premises. Altogether 150 students and 3 teaching faculty members attended the programme.

The winners of the Model Making Competition are as follows:

First = Team 5 (Dept. of English)	Ms. Lucy Keppen, Ms. Nzani Ovung & Ms. Lhaineichoi
Second = Team 7 (Dept. of Philosophy)	Ms. Akhumla T, Ms. Arila R & Ms. Y Toshela
Third = Team 6 (Dept. of Sociology)	Mr. Toto, Mr. Tudensang & Ms. Irawangle
Third = Team 9 (Dept. of Education)	Ms. Imtiwala Ozukum, Mr. Charles Yanthan & Ms. Thungchobeni Lily Ezung





All queries and feedback regarding this newsletter can be sent to:

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