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ENVIS HUB, Nagaland

**CENTRE FOR STATE
ENVIRONMENT RELATED
ISSUES**

**NAGALAND POLLUTION
CONTROL BOARD**



**ENVIS (Environmental
Information System)
is a project of
the Ministry of
Environment,
Forest & Climate
Change
Govt. of India**

Editorial

Environmental cleanliness is a fundamental principle of preventing disease and infections whether it is in the setting of a home, an office, an institution, a hospital or on the roads and streets. Disease causing agents thrive on dirt, waste, litter and garbage and therefore maintaining a clean environment is the key to good health.

The amount of garbage that is piling up as a result of human activities has significantly increased over the past few decades with humans becoming increasingly dependent on non-biodegradable materials such as plastic. Plastic waste has time and again been discussed on many platforms and information about the negative impacts of its use has been disseminated to a significant extent. However it is evident from records and the present state of affairs when it comes to generation of waste, that there is huge difference in the amount of plastic waste generated and the amount which is recycled or reused and that, more drastic steps need to be taken to control it.

Swachhta Hi Seva, a call by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri. Narendra Modi for community participation to tackle the problem of waste management specifically focusing on plastic waste as the theme for the year 2019 has thus been a welcome initiative. It aims at eliminating single use plastics in the entire country.

Such initiatives focused on mass participation in tackling one of the major problems of a developing country like India has immense potential due to the fact that in addition to massive cleaning of waste during the programme, it has also managed to carry forward the message of managing one's waste responsibly. Of all the objectives that this initiative has managed to achieve, one of the most significant is that it has managed to make the public aware.

The present issue highlights the importance of awareness programmes for bringing about changes in the society with regard to better waste management and the implementation of initiatives such as Swachhta Hi Seva and Swachhta Action Plan in the state of Nagaland.

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The Menace of Single Use Plastics:

Single-Use plastics as the name itself suggests are those which are used only once before they are thrown away or recycled. These items includes essential things which are used on a daily basis like plastic carry bags, straws, coffee stirrers, packaged water bottles and most food packaging. The properties that have made plastic popular, like its light weight, water impermeability, and long life are the same reasons that make its disposal difficult. The fact that it is inexpensive has also contributed to its rampant use.



Due to their light weight, plastic items can travel great distances by the wind alone, having a far greater reach of contamination than their size would indicate. Just the manufacturing process of plastic is a huge source of pollution to the environment. This material involves the usage of a large amount of fossil fuels, namely crude oil, for creation and transportation. Animals also mistake single use plastic as food and can choke or become fatally ill from toxins as well as from other chemicals it soaks up.

Plastic products can also ensnare wildlife and end their lives by immobilizing or strangling them. According to the United Nations, at least 800 species worldwide are affected by marine debris, and as much as 80% of that litter is plastic. It is estimated that up to 13 million metric tons of plastic ends up in the ocean each year—the equivalent of a rubbish or garbage truck load's worth every minute. Fish, seabirds, sea turtles, and marine mammals can become entangled in or ingest plastic debris, causing suffocation, starvation, and drowning. Humans are not immune to this threat: While plastics are estimated to take up to hundreds of years to fully decompose, some of them break down much quicker into tiny particles, which in turn end up in the seafood we eat. Time and again, there have been reports of plastic choking marine animals or plastic debris being found inside their dead bodies. According to the Centre for Biological Diversity, fish consume thousands of tons of plastic annually, the components of which ultimately reach human beings on consumption of sea food. Birth defects, cancer, and endocrine disruption are some of the health issues associated with the consumption of such contaminated food.

Single use plastic does not biodegrade, instead it breaks down into smaller particles and continues to remain in and contaminate the environment. According to the United Nations Environment Report 2018, around the world, one million plastic drinking bottles are purchased every minute, while up to 5 trillion single-use plastic bags are used worldwide every year. In total, half of all plastic produced is designed to be used only once — and then thrown away. Researchers estimate that more than 8.3 billion tonnes of plastic has been produced since the early 1950s. About 60% of that plastic has ended up in either a landfill or the natural environment.

Since the 1950s, the rate of plastic production has grown faster than that of any other material. We've also seen a shift away from the production of durable plastic, and towards plastics that are meant to be thrown away after a single use. More than 99% of plastics are produced from chemicals derived from oil, natural gas and coal — all of which are dirty, non-renewable resources. Only 9% of all plastic waste ever produced has been recycled. About 12% has been incinerated, while the rest 79% has accumulated

in landfills, dumps or the natural environment.

The use of single use plastic needs to be eliminated and more drastic steps need to be taken to manage the already accumulated plastic that are present in the environment. While recycling is a big part of keeping our environment safe and clean, reducing consumption is more impactful.

Waste Segregation and Its Importance:

Section 4 (1) (a) of the Solid Waste Management Rules 2016 requires that, “Every waste generator shall segregate and store the waste generated by them in three separate streams namely bio-degradable, non bio-degradable and domestic hazardous waste in suitable bins and hand over segregated waste to authorized waste pickers or waste collectors as per the direction or notification by local authorities from time to time. Section 4 (2) also states that “No waste generator shall throw, burn or bury the solid waste generated by him on streets, open public spaces outside his premises or in the drain or water bodies.”

Mixing all types of waste becomes a huge problem for authorities even if there is an efficient system of collection and hence there is a need to sensitize citizens about proper segregation of waste for effective management, handling and disposal of waste. Segregated waste is cheaper and easier to dispose of because it does not require as much manual or mechanical sorting as mixed waste. One of the main problems that contribute to unsatisfactory management of waste in our country is the absence of waste segregation at the source of generation of waste. Even the latest technology of recycling or the most scientific methods of waste handling cannot function satisfactorily without proper segregation of waste. It may hence be considered as the most important step in the entire process of waste management and handling.

Proper segregation of waste at the source will ensure that each type of waste can easily and efficiently be subjected to proper methods of recycling, treatment or disposal. Segregated waste is also often cheaper to dispose of because it does not require as much manual or mechanical sorting as mixed waste. Effective segregation of waste also means that less waste will go to landfill sites, which is better for the environment. It is also important to segregate waste for public health. In particular, hazardous wastes can cause long term health problems, so it is very important that they are disposed of correctly and safely and not mixed with the normal waste.

The Need for Awareness and Community Participation:

Steps for environmental protection and the maintenance of a healthy and green environment have better outcomes when the public is well informed about the ill-effects of such practices which lead to environmental degradation. Awareness is the first step in developing an environment friendly attitude. It will help people in understanding the fragile state of our environment and the need to preserve it for future generations. Environmental awareness fosters a sense of connection to the natural world, promotes sustainable development and encourages conservation of irreplaceable natural resources and vulnerable plant and animal species. Environmental awareness also serves as an educational tool, helping people around the world understand the economic, aesthetic and biological importance of preserving resources and reducing or eliminating the harmful impacts of man-made alterations and identify remedial solutions for the damage that has already been done.

Effective implementation of any programme requires the active participation of all stakeholders and therefore Community Participation is a key component in bringing effective change when it comes to environmental awareness and conservation. Through Community Participation, citizens can motivate

one another in coming together for conserving and preserving the environment that they live in. It can contribute towards awareness building and attitudinal and lifestyle changes and build commitment also creating pride and ownership of a particular project or programme.

Swachhta Hi Seva 2019

Swachhta Hi Seva 2019 was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Mathura on September 11, 2019 on the theme '**plastic waste awareness and management**'. The campaign launch was jointly organized by Animal Husbandry and Dairy and Drinking Water and Sanitation department of the central government along with the state government of Uttar Pradesh.

The *Swachhta Hi Seva* initiative was envisaged to be a massive nationwide awareness and mobilization campaign on *Swachhta* and was organized from September 11 till October 2, 2019. The campaign also involved a nationwide *shramdaan* for plastic waste collection and segregation on October 2 with the collected waste to be recycled and effectively disposed before October 27, 2019, the occasion of Diwali, the festival of lights.

The Prime Minister urged all citizens to rid their house, offices and work spaces from single-use plastic. He drew people's attention to the hazardous effects of single-use plastic on the environment and the health of animals and aquatic life. He appealed to people to use cloth or jute bags while going out shopping and use metal or earthen glasses for serving water in offices. The Prime Minister also asked people to collect all plastic waste from their surroundings at an identified place and ensure its proper disposal with the support of the local administration.



Implementation of *Swachhta Hi Seva* Initiative in Nagaland:



Kiphire District

Medziphema, Dimapur District





Aghunato, Zunheboto District



Angikaar March, Jalukie, Peren District



Pfutsero Town, Phek District



Tsemingyu, Kohima District



DC Mokokechung Shri. Rajesh Soundararajan addressing the public during the launch of Massive Plastic Shramdaan on 2nd October 2019

Swachhta Action Plan

Swachhta Action Plan of Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change is aimed at raising awareness on the following core areas which are under the mandate of the Ministry and would play a pivotal role in comprehensive realization of Swachh Bharat whose notion was conceived by the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi.

- Air Pollution
- Water Pollution
- Waste Management
- Environmental Conservation

Implementation Plan:

The Swachhta Action Plan is implemented by the Ministry designated State Nodal Agencies in States/UTs. The action plan has been prepared with a monthly target for spreading awareness and is to cover issues such as environment conservation, water pollution and waste management.

Implementation of Swachhta Action Plan in Nagaland:

The designated State Nodal Agency for implementation of Swachhta Action Plan in the state of Nagaland is the Nagaland Pollution Control Board. During September- November, programmes under the initiative were carried out in three districts of Nagaland – Dimapur, Kohima and Peren by collaborating with Eco Clubs, Youth Organizations & Student bodies in the respective districts and focusing on a particular district in a particular month.

Location : Dimapur District

Campaign Dates : 10th – 20th Sep 2019

Participants : Eco Clubs of Dimapur District

In Dimapur, the initiative covered Eco Club schools registered under the National Green Corps programme and cleanliness drives were conducted in and around the school campuses and locality. The activities during the campaign involved clearing up of litter and cleaning of toilets etc. Students were briefed about the impacts of improper waste disposal on human health and the environment and the importance of waste segregation.





Swachhta Hi Seva Campaign, Dimapur District



Location : Kohima Town
Campaign Dates : 21st Sept – 19th Oct 2019
Participating Organization : Angami Students Union & Peraciezie Youth Organization

Football is a much loved sport in the North East and Nagaland is no exception. NSF Martyr's Trophy is the most popular football tournament in the state of Nagaland which is organized annually by the Angami Students Union in memory of two student activists Kekuojalie Sachu and Vikhozo Yhoshu who died during a demonstration in the year 1986. The 20th NSF Martyr's Memorial Trophy was held from September 21- October 19, 2019 at Khuochiezhie, Kohima. 63 teams from the states of Nagaland and Manipur participated for the coveted Champion's title which carried a cash reward of Rs. 2 lakh.

In sync with the nation-wide campaign against the use of single use plastics, an initiative was taken up by the functionaries of the Angami Students Union along with the working committee of the tournament to organize the tournament in an environment friendly manner and players and spectators were discouraged to use any form of plastic including packaged drinking water. As such, drinking water dispensers were set up in collaboration with the Kohima Municipal Council and the Kohima Smart City Development Corporation Ltd. for re-filling of re-usable water bottles.

During the month-long event, the Nagaland Pollution Control Board, along with the organizers of the tournament initiated the Swachhta Hi Seva Campaign to spread awareness among the players and the stadium packed spectators. Banners and Signs were put up in strategic locations inside the stadium for awareness while clean ups were done at the end of each day of the tournament by engaging volunteers for the process.

Another activity in line with the objectives of the Swachhta Hi Seva initiative in Kohima Town was conducted by the youth organization of Peraciezie colony in collaboration with the Nagaland Pollution Control Board. Cleanliness drives were conducted in and around Peraciezie locality were initiated and involved not only the youth but the residents of the colony as well.



Swachhta Hi Seva Campaign at Kohima Town

Location : Jakhama, Kohima District
Campaign Dates : 7th – 15th Oct 2019
Participating Organization : Southern Angami Youth organization & Schools under Jakhama Sub-Division

An initiative for installation of dustbins in 20 locations along National Highway -02 starting from Phesama Check Gate to Khuzama Check Gate was conducted by the Nagaland Pollution Control Board in collaboration with Southern Angami Youth Organization under the supervision of the SDO Civil, Jakhama. An awareness programme was also conducted for schools located under Jakhama Sub-division wherein 17 government schools participated. Dustbins were also distributed to all 17 schools for proper waste management in and around the school campuses.



Distribution of Dustbins during Swachhta Hi Seva Campaign at Jakhama Sub-Division

Location : Peren (Peren Town, Tening Town & Jalukie Town)
Participating Organization : Zeliangrong Students Union
Campaign Dates : 04th – 09th November 2019

Under this initiative, awareness programmes were held in collaboration with the Zeliangrong Students Union in Peren District to spread awareness on anti-littering. On the first day, a seminar was held at Peren Town wherein approximately 700 people participated. Officials from the Nagaland Pollution Control Board attended the programme and an introduction to the Swachhta Action Plan was briefed by Shri. Limitsa Sangtam, Information Officer, ENVIS Hub. The resource person for the programme was Shri. Rahul Mali SDO (IAS) and a speech was also delivered by Shri. Moa Sangtam, ADC Peren.

Along with cleanliness drives, poster campaigns were also organized in three towns of Peren district – Jalukie Town, Tening Town and Peren Town. Thirty posters were distributed to each town with a banner, chart papers and sketch pens were also distributed to schools and Eco Clubs were requested to make sketches and paste in their respective schools for spreading of awareness.



Anti-Litter Campaign at Peren District

ENVIS Hub Activities:

Awareness Programme Held:

Sessions for environmental awareness were taken up by officials of ENVIS hub Nagaland during the Army Attachment camp for NCC Cadets from 19th Sept-03rd October 2019 held at Zakhama Military Station, Kohima District. Altogether, a total of around 100 cadets and officers were present at the camp and were sensitized on the importance of environmental conservation and various issues on environmental pollution with respect to the state of Nagaland during the programme.



*Officials of ENVIS HUB Nagaland with Officers and Cadets
at Zakhama Military Station Kohima District, Nagaland.*

Reaching Out/Networking Activities:

The annual plan of activities for ENVIS Hub Nagaland includes Reaching-out/Networking activities and as such, an interaction/exposure trip was organized for the ENVIS team. The ENVIS team of ENVIS Hub Nagaland visited the ENVIS Resource Partner in Sikkim, a theme-based centre on Eco Tourism hosted by the Sikkim State Council of Science & Technology and the Sikkim State ENVIS Centre on Environment and related issues hosted by the Department of Forest, Environment & Wildlife Management, Sikkim during 14th -16th October 2019.

Visit to ENVIS RP (Eco-Tourism), Department of Science & Technology, Gangtok, Sikkim:

The ENVIS Resource Partner in Sikkim is a theme based centre on Ecotourism funded and headed by the Ministry of Environment & Climate Change and is functioning under the Sikkim State Council of Science & Technology, Government of Sikkim, Deorali, Gangtok. Sikkim, being a biodiversity hotspot and with the Government promoting Ecotourism in the state, along with its mission of converting Sikkim to an Organic State, the Centre is dedicated towards assimilation of data on Ecotourism and building a repository of data on Ecotourism, Responsible Tourism and Sustainable Living, among other things for the whole of the country and Dissemination and Promotion of its Data and Theme.

The ENVIS team of Nagaland ENVIS Hub was received by Mr. Dorji Thinlay Bhutia, Director, Sikkim State Council of Science & Technology and the Coordinator of the ENVIS Resource Partner. Thereafter, short presentation on the Green Skill Development Programme on Eco Tourism conducted by the ENVIS Resource Partner in collaboration with the Sikkim State ENVIS Hub was given by Mr. Prabhakar Gurung, Senior Programme Officer of the ENVIS RP. During the presentation, the official briefed the team about the various topics covered under the course, the number and background of the participants, the challenges faced during the course and the employment status after the completion of the course.

The presentation was then followed by a detailed discussion and interaction with Mr. Prabhakar Gurung, Sr. Programme Officer and Mr. Niraj Sharma, Information Officer of the ENVIS RP regarding the following topics:

1. Activities of the ENVIS RP
2. Responsibility of officials under ENVIS RP
3. Collection of materials, sources & publication of ENVIS Newsletters
4. Maintenance and entry of data in ENVIS website
5. Implementation of NES GRIDSS
6. Implementation of GSDP



*With officials of ENVIS RP
on Ecotourism, Sikkim*



*Interactive Sessions with
ENVIS RP Officials*

Visit to Sikkim State ENVIS Hub, Department of Forest, Environment & Wildlife Management, Gangtok, Sikkim & Sikkim State Pollution Control Board.

The Sikkim State ENVIS Hub is a State Government Centre functioning under Forests, Environment and Wildlife Management Department, Government of Sikkim, Gangtok. The subject area assigned to the ENVIS Hub is on status of environment and related issues. The Sikkim State ENVIS Hub was chosen as the Best ENVIS Hub in the entire country by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change during 2014-15.

About the Visit:

The ENVIS Team of Nagaland ENVIS Hub was received by Mr. Rajen Pradhan, Senior Programme Officer, Sikkim State ENVIS Hub and his team of officials under the Sikkim State ENVIS Hub. A very detailed and informative discussion was undertaken with the Sr. Programme Officer briefing the Nagaland ENVIS Team about the following topics:

1. Activities of Sikkim State ENVIS Hub
2. Responsibilities of officials under ENVIS Hub
3. Collection of materials, sources, content & publication of ENVIS Newsletters
4. Implementation of NES GRIDSS
5. Implementation of GSDP
6. ISBEID Data Entry
7. Maintenance of files, knowledge products and resource materials.
8. Data collection and maintenance of ENVIS website

The discussion session was followed by a tour of Sikkim State ENVIS cell, the ENVIS library and the Sikkim Forest Secretariat along with a short interaction with Mr. B. B. Gurung, Director (Planning/ Environment & Soil Conservation) & ENVIS Coordinator.



*Interactive Sessions with
ENVIS Hub Officials*



*With officials of
Sikkim State ENVIS Hub*

The Nagaland ENVIS Team also visited the Quality Control Laboratory under the Department of Forest, Environment & Wildlife Management where the team was introduced to various high-tech instruments used for analysis of food samples and the procedures involved in the analysis. This was then followed by a visit to the Sikkim State Pollution Control Board quarters and ended with a short interaction with the Member Secretary of the Sikkim State Pollution Control Board.



*Officials of ENVIS Hub, Nagaland with Member Secretary and officers of Sikkim
State Pollution Control Board*

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