

“ Our Government is committed to transforming Himachal Pradesh into a **Green Energy State** by March 31, 2026.

<<<  
**Sh. Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu**  
Hon'ble Chief Minister,  
Himachal Pradesh



**first  
Issue**

**HEAD OFFICE BUILDING SHIMLA**

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER – HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

MARCH, 2024



# ecologic update

*Inaugural issue*



## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

**Sh Onkar Chand Sharma (IAS),  
Chairman,  
HP State Pollution Control Board**

I came to learn about the initiative of a newsletter being brought out on quarterly basis. It gives me immense pleasure to extend my warmest greetings to PCB newsletter team for bringing out an inaugural edition of our organization's newsletter during March 2024.

On February 14, 2024, I assumed the charge of the 40<sup>th</sup> Chairman of the State Pollution Control Board, and I view this initiative as exceptionally innovative. This newsletter will serve as a testament to our commitment to transparency, communication, and community building within our organization.

In today's fast-paced world, effective communication is of paramount importance. Through this newsletter, we aim to provide a platform for sharing important updates, insightful articles, success stories, and upcoming events. It will serve as a vital channel for disseminating information and fostering collaboration.

My best wishes to the PCB Team!



## MEMBER SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

**Sh Anil Joshi (IFS)  
Member Secretary,  
HP State Pollution Control Board**

It is with great pleasure and excitement that I extend my warmest greetings to my newsletter team, who brought out this inaugural newsletter within a short span of time. As the Member Secretary of the State Board, I am honored to have the opportunity to lead such a talented and dedicated team.

The month March 2024 marks the inauguration of our organization's newsletter—a platform that will serve as a conduit for communication, collaboration, and celebration of our collective achievements. Through this newsletter, we will not only share updates and milestones but also cultivate a sense of togetherness and belonging among all members of our organization.

At the State Board, we are driven by a shared vision: *“Committed to keep Himachal Pradesh Pollution free through appropriate Environmentally Compatible Management Practices”*.

In pursuit of above, I encourage the Team to actively engage with the newsletter.

## The State wins “स्वच्छ वायु सर्वेक्षण 2023 Award”



The Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India conferred “Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan 2023 Award” to Parwanoo and Kala Amb towns of the State for achieving first and second ranks respectively at national level under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in the Category-3 towns having less than 3 lakhs of population.

The cash award of Rs. 35.00 lakhs and 25.00 lakhs for both these towns respectively were presented by Sh. Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh and Sh. Bhupendra Yadav, Hon'ble Union Minister, Environment Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India on Swachh Vayu Divas on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023 held at Madhya Pradesh. Sh. Anil Joshi (IFS), Member Secretary, Himachal Pradesh State Pollution Control Board has received the award on behalf of the State.



## HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD – AN INTRODUCTION

The H.P. State Pollution Control Board (HPSPCB) has forged a distinguished path in environmental governance, characterized by unwavering dedication and notable achievements. Since its inception on 26<sup>th</sup> November 1974 in accordance with the provision of Water Act 1974, it has navigated through legislative milestones like the Air Act (1981) and the Environment (Protection) Act (1986), which fortified its role in safeguarding environmental resources. Despite encountering challenges, HPSPCB has emerged as a frontrunner in transparency, as recognized by the Center for Science and Environment (CSE) for its public disclosure practices. Operating through a network of 12 regional offices and 5 regional labs having workforce of about 400 experts across various domains including technical, scientific, administrative and legal fields, it oversees a diverse range of over 25,000 industrial units and Health Care Facilities, with a particular emphasis on the robust pharmaceutical sector in the state. The enactment of the National Green Tribunal Act in 2010 introduced additional layers of scrutiny, yet HPSPCB has consistently met and exceeded expectations, demonstrating its effectiveness in environmental regulation. Through collaborative endeavours with various state departments such as Jal Shakti Vibhag, Department of Industries, Urban Development, and Rural Development Department, HPSPCB has spearheaded transformative initiatives that have positively impacted the lives of the state's inhabitants. Notably, besides playing a key role in formulating environmentally sound policies in the state, it has championed innovative waste management practices and provided vital support for solid waste and sewage treatment projects. With the impetus provided by the Government and enshrined vision of a Green Energy State by 31st March 2026, it is beyond any reasonable doubt that the State Board shall be the propelling engine which will fuel the dream of clean and more sustainable future of the hill people and will ever keep standing tall and Green !.

Collaborative efforts with the concerned Jal Shakti Vibhag HP have led to continuous monitoring of water quality, resulting in an overall enhancement of water quality status. Notably, significant improvements were witnessed in polluted river stretches and one stretch namely Beas got excluded from the list.

### Recapping the Year Gone By

**Anil Joshi, Member Secretary, HPSPCB**

Over the past year, the PCB HP team has diligently pursued the enhancement of regulatory processes, infrastructure, and manpower, adopting a proactive stance towards addressing diverse issues extending beyond mere administrative realms. The team has prioritized active engagement with stakeholders, particularly industry partners, ensuring timely support in acquiring regulatory approvals. Special emphasis has been placed on conducting numerous field visits, including exposure visits beyond state borders, and inspections of industrial facilities to enforce compliance with environmental standards. The integration of new IT tools has notably augmented operational efficiency. Moreover, the establishment of an additional Regional Office in Hamirpur in March 2024 has significantly broadened our operational footprint.

Recognizing the pivotal role of laboratories in monitoring and regulating pollution, concerted efforts have been directed towards enhancing their capabilities to meet national standards. Notably, our Regional Laboratories in Paonta Sahib and Shimla received NABL accreditations in June and August 2023, respectively.

We also take immense pride in receiving the "Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan Award 2023" under the National Clean Air Program (NCAP) sponsored by MOEFCC, GOI, clinching 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> prizes (Category-3, population less than 3 lakhs) for Parwanoo and Kala Amb, respectively, as National Clear Air cities.

An Ideation Hackathon 2023 involving over 200 colleges across the state was orchestrated at Shimla on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023. The event, graced by Sh. Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, revolved around the theme "Waste to Wonder," with prizes worth three lakhs awarded to deserving winners.



### Editorial...



*In the serene laps of Himachal's verdant hills, whispers of the wind carry tales of ecological harmony. Yet, amidst the grandeur, shadows of pollution loom. Rivers, once pristine, now bear traces of waste. During last year, nature's fury unleashed, Torrential rains triggered landslides, homes were crushed in several parts of the State. However, this Devbhoomi rallied, resilience was showcased.*

*As custodians of this natural haven called Himachal Pradesh, we stand at a crossroads, where choices shape destiny. Let our actions echo through the valleys, reverberating with a pledge to preserve, protect, and cherish. Through the **ecologic update**, we strive to keep you updated, keep our content engaging, relevant, and valuable to our subscribers & stakeholders to encourage them to continue opening and reading our newsletter.*

**Shashi Shekhar, Scientific Officer**  
masshppcb@gmail.com

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Throughout the year, the board executed successful initiatives such as stakeholder meetings, collection drives awareness campaigns and continuous monitoring activities focused on managing solid waste, e-waste, plastic waste, and bio-waste.

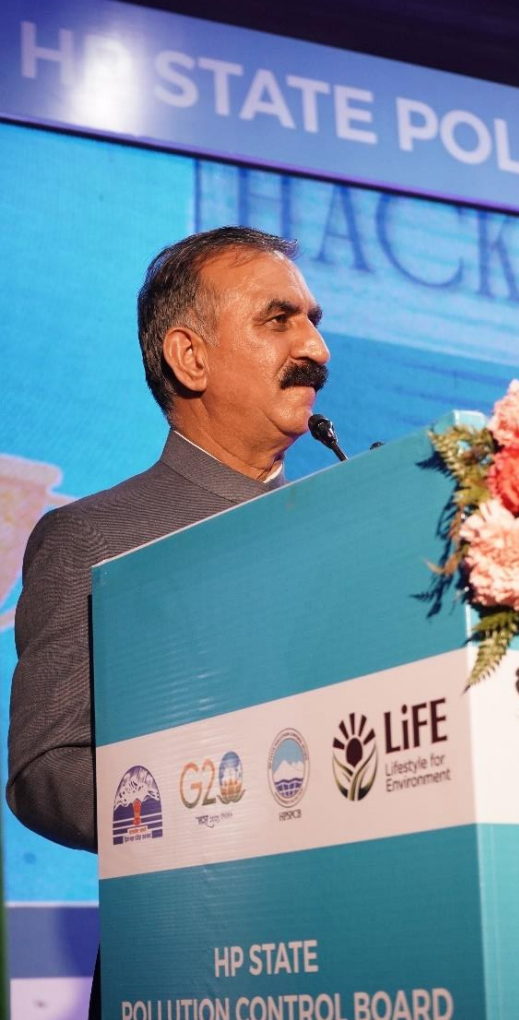


memory >>>

# Enviro Ideation Hackathon 2023 – a glimpse

*The Himachal Pradesh State Pollution Control Board organized the first-ever State Level "Enviro-Ideation Hackathon 2023" on the occasion of World Environment Day on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023. Sh. Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Himachal Pradesh was the Chief Guest on the occasion. The month-long hackathon competition began with registration and submission on May 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023, and culminated on June 5<sup>th</sup> 2023.*

**Contributed by: Shashi Shekhar, Scientific Officer, HPSPCB**



*Sh. Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Himachal Pradesh graced the occasion as the Chief Guest*



The Himachal Pradesh State Pollution Control Board organized the first-ever State Level "Enviro-Ideation Hackathon 2023" on the occasion of World Environment Day on 5th June 2023. Sh. Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Himachal Pradesh was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Sh. Sanjay Gupta, the then Chairman, Himachal Pradesh Pollution Control Board inaugurated the daylong event by lighting the lamp. Following which presentation of shortlisted candidates were held. Sh. Anil Joshi (IFS), the Member Secretary, HP State Pollution Control Board welcomed Hon'ble Chief Minister Himachal Pradesh. The hackathon was conducted under the aegis of Mission LiFE campaign, which focuses on environmental conservation & climate change.

Sh. Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Himachal Pradesh presided over the valedictory session of the event and distributed prizes and cash awards to the winners of the State level competition. Hon'ble Chief Minister, Himachal Pradesh was accompanied by Sh. Harish Janartha, Hon'ble MLA, Shimla Urban, Sh. Surender Chauhan, Mayor, Shimla, Sh. Gokul Butail, Principal Advisor IT to the Hon'ble CM, Sh. Aditya Negi, IAS, DC Shimla, Sh. Sanjeev Kumar Gandhi, IPS, SP Shimla and Deputy Mayor, Shimla. The month-long hackathon competition began with registration and submission on May 15th, 2023, and concluded on May 25th, 2023. An internal committee of experts shortlisted 11 candidates on May 27th, 2023, who then presented their ideas through Power Point presentations on May 30th, 2023. Five finalists were selected from the shortlisted participants to present their ideas before an external panel of four distinguished experts on June 5th, 2023.

The hackathon revolved around the theme of "Waste to Wonder," with participants submitting their ideas under four sub-themes: Solid Waste, Plastic Waste, E-waste, and Construction and Demolition Waste. Five finalists were selected from the shortlisted participants to present their ideas before an external panel.

In this event, Pragun Jaswal, & Jubair Ahmed Sofi, from Jawahar Lal Nehru Govt. Engineering College Sundernagar won the "First Himachal Pradesh Enviro-Ideation Hackathon -2023". They were awarded with a cash prize of Rs. 1.00 lakh. Sh. O Sadish and Miss Priyanka from College of Forestry, Nauni Solan won the runner up prize. They were awarded with a cash prize of Rs. 75,000/-. Third prize winner was Ms Kritika Sharma from Himachal Pradesh University. She received a cash prize of Rs. 50,000/-. Mohit, Manish and Sujana from NIT Hamirpur won the 4<sup>th</sup> prize of Rs. 30,000/- and Shreya from NIT Hamirpur won the 5<sup>th</sup> prize of Rs. 20,000/-. Team ranked at 6<sup>th</sup> won cash prize of Rs. 10,000/-, and teams ranked at 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> were also presented with cash prize of Rs. 5,000/- each along with certificates.

In addition to this, an exhibition of school students on waste to wonder theme was also organized, in which Monal Public Sr. Sec. School, Sanjauli won the first prize. They were awarded with a cash prize Rs. 20,000/-. Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Portmore won the second prize of Rs. 15,000/- and Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Tutikandi won the third prize of Rs. 10,000/-. Additionally, all top-ranked teams were presented with trophies and certificates in recognition of their outstanding contributions. Furthermore, we put on records the assistances provided by our industry partners namely *Morepan Laboratories, Adani Cement, Ruchira Papers, Premier Alcobev, Prime Steel Industries, Aditya Birla Ultratech and Modulous Cosmetics.*

# Air matters!

Contributed by: Atul Parmar, Env. Engineer, HPSPCB

The author contemplates that right information, right data and rightful interventions have become indispensable for maintaining air quality. He highlights the approach and the work done by the State Board and assesses ground monitored air quality across Bilaspur and Mandi Districts

## How air matters?

As the particulate matter in the ambient air is being understood more purposefully, it is now being comprehended by one and all that – “Air Matters”, Air Quality does matter. Human kind has always known the importance of clean air, but now we understand that what matter is in the Air is what matters! One would not require putting forth a compelling argument as to how air pollution affects our lifestyles. To put across the poignant point, it would be apt to acknowledge that air pollution is already taking hold of our entire civilization in an unprecedented manner.

The ever-expanding scope of anthropogenic activities has led to enhanced stress on the limited resource pool, be it air or water. It would not require any subject matter expert to infer that we would probably be breaching the point of no return when it comes to hazards of Air Pollution if immediate & definite steps are not taken. The disaster in the recent monsoon season is a conspicuous testimony of the times to come.

## Hon’ble NGT directions

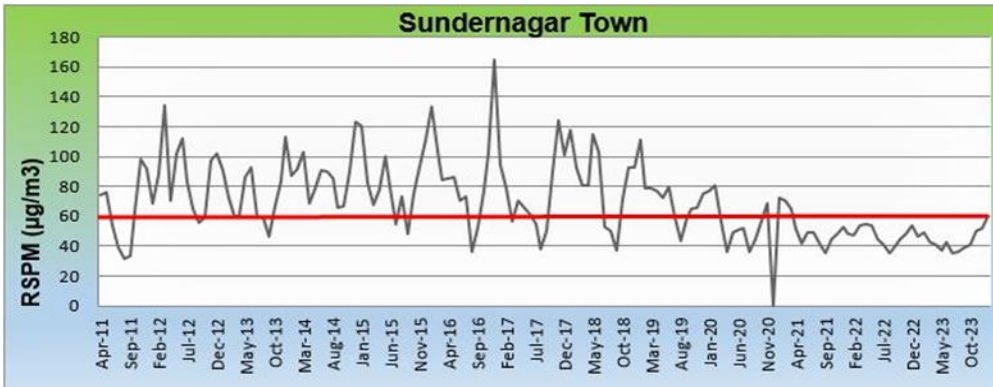
The air quality data of Sundernagar town is much noteworthy. (Graph – 1). In year 2018 and the Hon’ble National Green Tribunal in a landmark case titled as “News item published in The Times of India” Authored by Sh. Vishwa Mohan Titled "NCAP with multiple timelines to clean air in 102 cities to be released round August 15" in O.A No. 681/2018 ordered the constitution of an Air Quality Monitoring Committee at the State Level and formulation of action plan for each Non-Attainment City/Town.

It is important to note 07 Towns of the State find their name in the list of 131 non-attainment towns in the country. Since the air quality of Sundernagar Town exceeded the National Ambient Air Quality Standards w.r.t. PM-10 parameter therefore it was included in the list of 122 (later 131) such cities in the country.

## Interventions by the State Board

The efforts by the State Board to maintain the air quality of the area has been a relentless spade work at cutting edge level. The National Awards bagged by the State for improvement in Air Quality of Sundernagar, Parwanoo & Kala Amb towns are a substantiation of the commendable work done by the stakeholders. Talking about the Regional Office Mandi and Bilaspur of the State Board, it was indispensable to have a data of the air quality of this area before any action plan could be chalked out. Two manual air quality monitoring stations are being operated in Sundernagar town which give us a comprehensive data of the air quality of more than a decade and a half. Two additional stations have been operationalized at Bilaspur and Mandi towns. Lately it was felt to have air quality data of all major towns in both the districts. The Regional Office took this initiative and gathered data of Air Quality of all major towns in two districts. A series of initiatives were undertaken vehemently by all stakeholder departments which most prominently included identification of sources of fugitive dust as PM-10 was the parameter of concern. The task was chalked out and the officers of the District Level Committee were on the job day in day out trying to beat the matter in the air.

Graph -1 PM10 trend of Sundernagar town



S.N	Locations in District Bilaspur	PM-10 * (ug/m <sup>3</sup> )
1	Berthin Town	24.00
2	Bharari Town	41.00
3	Ghumarwin (MC Office)	32.00
4	Namhol Town	69.00
5	Auhar (Near SBI Auhar)	59.00
6	Swarghat Town	60.00
7	Shri Naina Devi Ji Town	83.00
	* Based on at least one-time monitoring.	

S.N	Locations in District Mandi	PM-10 * (ug/m <sup>3</sup> )
1	Jogindernagar Town	37.00
2	Padhar Town	26.00
3	Sarkaghat Town	44.70
4	Baldwara Town	87.88
5	Ner Chowk Town	44.70
6	Karsog Town	72.73
7	Aut Town	53.03
8	Pandoh Town	14.01

Table-2 PM 10 concentration at various locations in Mandi and Bilaspur Districts



\* Based on the readings taken in the year 2022  
 \* Based on at least one-time monitoring. (PM-10 Particulate Matter)  
 PM-10 to be limited to 100 ug/m<sup>3</sup> (24 hourly Average) to conform to National Ambient Air Quality Standards-2009



## Rigorous awareness campaigns

This was followed by a rigorous campaign for public information disbursement regarding hazards of air pollution in schools and colleges etc. Hoardings were put in public places like bus stands, public places and HRTC buses. Source Apportionment Study and Carrying Capacity studies were carried out by the State Board through institutes of repute like IIT Kanpur.

## Outcome

The outcome of the campaign has been phenomenal. The desired results have been achieved for the time being. The PM-10 is now maintaining itself well below the annual average of 60 ug/m<sup>3</sup>. This endorses the exceptional work done by all stakeholders. The team at Regional Office at Bilaspur and Mandi deserve a pat on the back. However, the challenge still remains with us all - maintain what we have achieved and improve hereinafter. After all, we all have realized that “Air Matters”.



*Greening the Future: Sh. Anil Joshi, Member Secretary and Sh. Atul Parmar, Regional Officer lead the Plantation Campaign at ACC Barmana, alongside plant officials, in the fight against air pollution*



*Stakeholder Capacity Building Workshop JNGEC Sundernagar*

## RO Mandi & Bilaspur celebrates World Wetland Day 2024

The Regional Office Bilaspur & Mandi of the State Board celebrated World Wetland Day on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 in collaboration with NP Rewalsar and a local NGO – DAG (Development Action Group). Informative signboards were installed near the Notified National Wetland i.e. Rewalsar Lake, and another significant wetland, Kunt Bhayog Lake, situated in Mandi District (HP).



*Sh. Atul Parmar, Regional Officer leads the World Wetland Day 2024 Celebration at Rewalsar Lake, a Notified Wetland*





# Him-GRIH qualifies for next round of Skoch award

Contributed by: Chandan Singh, Environment Engineer, HPSPCB



*HimGRIH is an initiative of the State Board, which aims to promote sustainable practices by the hoteliers and so far over 400 hotel units are on board since its inception.*

## Inauguration

On 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 the Hon'ble the then Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh launched Him-GRIH (Himachal Pradesh Green Star Rating Initiatives for Hotels) of the State Pollution Control board in an event at Mandi.

Green Rating of Hotels is an attempt to recognize tourism units that are committed to conserve and protect Himachal Pradesh's environment, by awarding them with 3 to 5 stars as per their green initiatives. The rating of green or eco hotels is undertaken by assessing whether a hotel is integrated into the environment without damaging it.

## Rating of Green initiates

Besides, the weightage is given to the hotels, which help in the sustainable growth of tourism, besides contributing to the progress of the local community. The program, through its partners and based on self-certification, shall verify that the hotel unit meets environmental best practices and demonstrates a strong commitment to waste management, recycling, waste minimization, resource conservation, and energy efficiency.

With the global emphasis on sustainability and combating climate change, Green Rating system creates a major opportunity to position the hospitality sector experience as a unique guest's takeaway in a low-impact way.

The Him-GRIH shall tap opportunities for reduction in waste, emissions, discharge and energy, thus reducing costs and increase occupancy of the environmentally conscious traveler, whose numbers are increasing by the day.

Also, Him-GRIH shall create awareness amongst guests and stakeholders about the emissions and its impact on environment. The hotel unit will be awarded certification of being a "Green Rated Hotel" by the State Pollution Control Board in their endeavor based on their self-certification.

## Website interface

The units with HIM-GRIH green star rating shall be promoted by the Board through HIM-GRIH website, mobile application, social media, other media etc. It will make the owners & management of these units more aware about the measures that can be taken to make their unit environment friendly & encourage them to take these initiatives. HIM-GRIH shall acknowledge these efforts taken by them. The Hotel units can apply for the Green-Star Rating on the website

<https://himgrih.in/>

*As on date, total 415 hotel units all over the State have been awarded Him-GRIH Green Star Rating.*

*Him-GRIH Initiative was launched on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at Mandi, HP.*

*Former Member Secretary of the State Pollution Control Board, Sh. Apoorv Devgan (IAS), spearheaded the conceptualization and execution of this initiative.*





# HPSPCB Chairman flags off a mobile e-waste collection van

Sh. Sanjay Gupta (IAS), the then Chairman of the HP State Pollution Control Board, inaugurated the "e-waste collection drive" with the flag-off of a mobile van on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2024 at the Board's headquarter at New Shimla.



collaboration with M/s Karo Sambhav, an organization committed to enabling circular economy in India conducted an E-Waste Awareness-cum-Collection drive from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> February



M/s Karo Sambhav spearheaded this initiative, employing a combination of collection centers, door-to-door pickups, and consumer engagements to ensure effective e-waste management. Their advanced e-waste dismantling unit and material recovery facility have played a crucial role in this endeavor, facilitating responsible disposal and recycling practices.

To heighten awareness surrounding the crucial need for responsible e-waste disposal & scientific recycling, the Himachal Pradesh State Pollution Control Board, in

2024 in Shimla (as per the route plan below), and from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024 in Solan. The e-waste collection and awareness campaign in Shimla catalyzed a notable increase in awareness among residents. Approximately two tonnes of e-waste were collected, gathered from various areas across the city.

## newspapers



### ई-कचरा संग्रह अभियान के लिए मोबाइल वैन को दिखाई हरी झंडी

राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड के अध्यक्ष संजय गुप्ता ने शनिवार को न्यू शिमला स्थित बोर्ड मुख्यालय में एक मोबाइल वैन को हरी झंडी दिखाकर ई-कचरा संग्रह अभियान का शुभारंभ किया। मोबाइल वैन शिमला में घूमती और विभिन्न स्थानों से ई-कचरा एकत्र करेगी। ई-कचरा निपटान और वैज्ञानिक री-साइक्लिंग को महत्वपूर्ण आवश्यकता के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाने को बोर्ड ने भारत में स्कूल अर्थव्यवस्था को सहज करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध संयोजन में सफल करी संजय के सहयोग से शिमला में तीन से पांच फरवरी तक और सोलन में छह से आठ फरवरी तक जागरूकता सह संग्रह अभियान को शुरुआत कर रहा है।



बोर्ड अध्यक्ष संजय गुप्ता ने अतिथित ई-कचरा निपटान के हार्दिक भावों के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाने में सौभाग्य को महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका पर जोर दिया।

ई-कचरा संग्रह अभियान के लिए मोबाइल वैन को राज्या प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड के अध्यक्ष संजय गुप्ता व संयोजक संजय अग्रवाल ने हरी झंडी दिखा कराना करते हुए

## TABLE-1 E-WASTE COLLECTION ROUTE PLAN

Mega Collection Drive Route Plan - Shimla		
	Date	Route Plan
Day 1	03-02-2024	Start from SPCB Office to New Shimla, Kasumpti, Panthaghati
Day 2	04-02-2024	Sanjauli, Dhalli, Chota Shimla, navbahar, khalini, kanlog, tuti Kandi
Day 3	05-02-2024	Totu, Summerhill, Boileauganj, Jatough
Mega Collection Drive Route Plan - Solan		
	Date	Route Plan
Day 1	06-02-2024	Start from Municipal Corporation Office, Solan to Chambaghat, Kandaghat, Kotlanala, Rabon and Deonghat
Day 2	07-02-2024	Dharampur, Kumarhathi
Day 3	08-02-2024	Darlaghat, Arki, Kunihar

### ‘ई-कचरा संग्रह अभियान’ का हुआ उद्घाटन

राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड अध्यक्ष संजय गुप्ता ने मोबाइल वैन को दिखाई हरी झंडी



शिमला (जम्मम न्यूज)। जम्मियर ई-कचरा निपटान और वैज्ञानिक रीसाइक्लिंग की महत्वपूर्ण आवश्यकता के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाने के लिए, हिमाचल प्रदेश राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड ने भारत में स्कूल अर्थव्यवस्था को सहज करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध संयोजन में सफल करी संजय के सहयोग से शिमला में 3 से 5 फरवरी 2024 तक और सोलन में 6 से 8 फरवरी 2024 तक जागरूकता-सह संग्रह अभियान को शुरुआत कर रहा है। हिमाचल प्रदेश राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड के अध्यक्ष संजय गुप्ता (आईएएस) ने 3 फरवरी 2024 को न्यू शिमला स्थित बोर्ड के मुख्यालय में एक मोबाइल वैन को हरी झंडी दिखाकर 'ई-कचरा संग्रह अभियान' का उद्घाटन किया।

मोबाइल वैन शिमला में घूमती। संग्रह वैन ने अनुचित ई-कचरा निपटान के हार्दिक भावों के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाने में सौभाग्य को महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका पर जोर दिया और उसे राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड के अभियान में सक्रिय रूप से शामिल होने का आग्रह किया। उन्होंने इस महत्वपूर्ण पहल के प्रभाव को बढ़ाने, उनके सहयोग के लिए मेसर्स को संभव को धन्यवाद दिया। हिमाचल प्रदेश राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड के सदस्य सचिव अजित जोशी (आईएएस) ने परबंहरण की रक्षा के लिए सामूहिक प्रयास पर जोर देते हुए शिमला और सोलन के नागरिकों को गुण से अनुचित ई-कचरा निपटान में सक्रिय रूप से भाग लेने के लिए अपील की। उन्होंने कहा कि वे अपना ई-कचरा मोबाइल वैन में जमा करके या कानन करके इस अभियान में सक्रिय रूप से भाग लें। उद्घाटन में राज्य बोर्ड के वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों जैसे डॉ. मनोज चौहान, मुख्य वैज्ञानिक अधिकारी, अनुशासन शाखा-संयुक्त, निवारक, चंदन सिंह, पर्यावरण अभियंता, विनोद गौतम, सहायक निबंधक, जयिंदर शेरवा, वैज्ञानिक अधिकारी, और मेसर्स कारो संजय के प्रतिनिधि जितेंद्र भादवा, ई-कचरा विशेषज्ञ और पिमा, धरन, प्रकल्प-व्यवसायिक गठबंधन व भागीदारी मौजूद रहे।



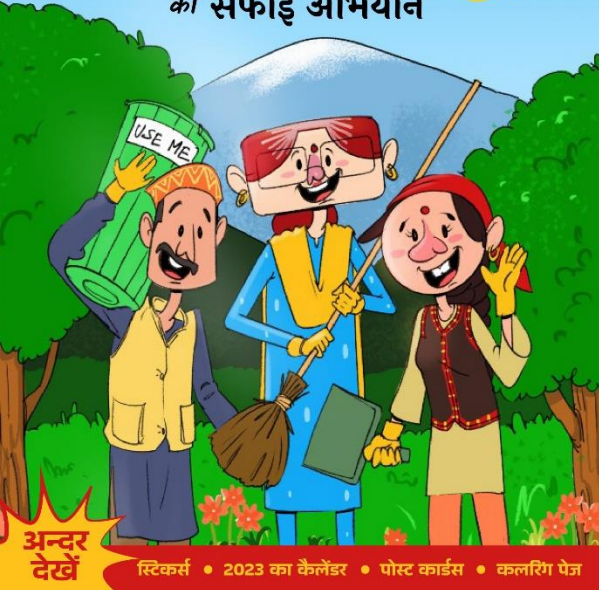
Addressing press about the e-waste awareness and collection drive on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2024





हिमाचल प्रदेश राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड  
प्रस्तुत करता है

# वार्ड मेम्बर मीनू का सफाई अभियान



स्टिकर्स • 2023 का कैलेंडर • पोस्ट कार्ड्स • कलरिंग पेज

# Ward member meenu qualifies for next round of Skoch award

Contributed by: Shashi Shekhar, Scientific Officer, HPSPCB

The comic booklet serves as an innovative method to educate over 8 lakhs of enrolled school-children of Himachal Pradesh about the pressing issue of solid waste management.

## Genesis

The concept of 'Ward Member Meenu ka Safai Abhiyan' was ignited by a moment of inspiration, as is often the case with impactful ideas. The first proposal shaped during Jan' 22.

Recognizing that imposing fines or enforcement measures alone were insufficient to address environmental degradation, the emphasis was placed on fostering awareness. The State Board aimed to engage the general public, particularly children in schools, not through traditional methods like brochures or lectures, but through something more engaging. We envisioned a mascot that would resonate with youngsters, akin to popular figures like Chacha Chaudhary or Shaktimaan. Thus, the idea of our mascot, "Ward Member Meenu", was born, along with a collection of nine short stories presented in the form of a comic book—a format loved by people of all ages.

## Children-centric awareness approach

The State Board decided to access masses by connecting children in schools and not by way of brochures, pamphlets or lectures on waste management but through a means which would captivate their interest.

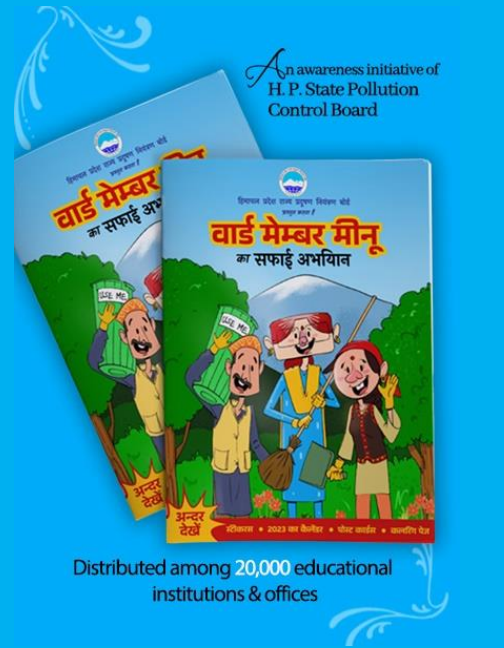
Approximately 20,000 booklets were distributed to 18,145 schools throughout Himachal Pradesh, reaching out to over 8,00,000 school children across the state. Additionally, an extensive social media campaign was initiated on platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, covering the entirety of the state.

The comic book is a collection of 09 short stories which highlights:

- Why cleanliness is important?
- What is door to door collection of waste and why it is a challenge in hilly terrain?
- Importance of source segregation.
- Sanitary Waste Management.
- Banned single use plastic items.
- HP Plastic Buy Back Policy.
- E-Waste Management.
- Non-Woven carry bags.
- How to file complaint.

Digital version may be accessed on

<https://hppcb.nic.in/comics/samples/magazine/comics.html>



Sh. Apoorv Devgan (IAS) former Member Secretary of the State Board played pivotal role in conceptualization & execution of this initiative

Ward Member Meenu initiative wins "SKOCH Order-of-Merit Semi-Final Award" on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024 >>>





# Polluted river stretches: an overview

Contributed by: Lalit Kumar, Env. Engineer & Deepak Dogra AEE, HPSPCB



In 2018, the State of Himachal Pradesh had 7 stretches of polluted rivers. By 2022, there were 9 polluted stretches. It is argued that the CPCB delineated three smaller stretches (i.e. Bald, Ratta and Shikri) from two existing larger polluted river stretches (Sirsa & Pabbar), thereby contributing to the increase from 7 to 9 river stretches. However, BOD levels recorded has shown a decline at most of the locations due to implementation of action plans prepared.

Hon'ble NGT passed the directions to all the States/UTs in OA No. 673/2018 titled "More river stretches are now critically polluted: CPCB" to prepare action plan for bringing all the polluted river stretches to be fit at least for bathing purposes (i.e. BOD < 3 mg/L and FC < 500 MPN/100 ml)"

Nine Polluted River Stretches of Himachal Pradesh are Ashwini Khad (Solan), Balad (Baddi), Sirsa (Baddi), Sukhna (Parwanoo), Ratta (Nalagarh), Markanda (Kala Amb), Pabbar (Rohru), Giri (Solan) and Shikri Khad (Rohru)

## Background

The deteriorating water quality of rivers and other aquatic resources is a major global concern today. The Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 was enacted in India 50 years back to maintain the wholesomeness of water resources by evaluating the water quality of these bodies on regular basis and take appropriate measures to improve their water quality.

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) has set up a network of monitoring stations on various water bodies across the country to assess water quality under National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP/MINARS).

## Monitoring network in HP

There are 243 monitoring stations set up by CPCB under National Water Quality Monitoring Program (NWMP) in the State of HP. In addition to this, HPSPCB has set up 128 monitoring stations under State Water Quality Monitoring Programme and lot more under RRC and EMP of various HEPs. CPCB started process of identifying Polluted River Stretches (PRS) in 2009 and various reports were published in 2009, 2015, 2018 and 2022. In 2009, 150 PRS were identified on 121 rivers. In 2015, 302 PRS were identified on 275 rivers.

In 2018, 351 PRS on 323 rivers and in 2022, 311 PRS have been identified by CPCB.

## Criteria for Classification of Polluted River Stretches

CPCB has kept BOD parameter of Primary Water Quality Criteria for outdoor Bathing i.e. > 3 mg/L as a base for identification of Polluted River Stretches.

There were 7 Polluted River Stretches in State of Himachal Pradesh in 2018. However, this number increased to 9 in 2022. Also, one river stretch i.e. River Beas (Priority-V) has been removed from the list of PRS.

## Current Status of PRS in HP

Action Plans have been prepared by the State Government for all the Polluted River Stretches. These action plans are under

implementation at present. The comparison of water quality of polluted river stretches in 2018, 2022 and end of 2023 has been tabulated in Table-3

From the comparison, it can be observed that one River Stretch i.e. Beas (Priority-V) has been removed from the list of Polluted River Stretches. Further, priority of PRS "Markanda" has been reduced from Priority -II to Priority-V. In addition to this, Priority of three Polluted River Stretches (i.e. Sukhna, Giri and Pabbar) have remain unchanged. However, two Polluted River Stretches (i.e. River Sirsa and River Ashwani) have moved from Priority - III & V to Priority -I. (Continued on next page).

## ▼▼▼ Polluted river stretches in HP

Table-3: Status of Polluted River Stretches (2018, 2022 and 2023)

Name of Polluted River Stretches	2018		2022		Dec, 2023
	BOD Level	Priority Status	BOD Level	Priority Status	BOD Level
Sukhna (Sukhna to Parwanoo)	54	I	72.0	I	2.2
Markanda (Kala Amb to Narayanpur)	3.2 - 24	II	4.0	V	1.6
Sirsa (Baddi-Nalagarh)	8 - 16	III	40.0	I	16
Ashwani (Along Yashwant Nagar & Matholi To Bhog)	3.2	V	80.0	I	9.5
Beas (Kullu to Dehragopipur)	6.0	V	Delisted		
Giri (Along Sainj)	4.4 - 6.0	V	4.8	V	1.8
Pabbar (Along Rohru)	3.6 - 4.0	V	4.6	V	BDL
New additions to Polluted River Stretches in 2023					
Name of Polluted River Stretches	2018		2022		Dec, 2023
	BOD Level	Priority Status	BOD Level	Priority Status	BOD Level
Bald (Along Baddi)	---	---	40	I	0.2
Ratta (Along Nalagarh)	---	---	8.0	IV	2.1
Shikri Khad (Along Rohru)	---	---	4.6	V	BDL



Moreover, three new Polluted River Stretches have been introduced i.e. Bald (Priority-I), Ratta (Priority-IV) and Shikri Khad (Priority-V). It is pertinent to mention here that 2022 assessment report of CPCB is based upon the water quality data of year 2019 & 2021. Action Plan for Polluted River Stretches were prepared in the year 2018-19 which were approved by CPCB in for Priority-I, Priority-II river stretch areas on dated 25.02.2019 and Priority-III on 22.05.2020.

Some long-term action points are currently being implemented, but the visible impact of these interventions on water quality is yet to be observed.

For Instance, the main Pollution load in Ashwani River (in District Shimla) is because of partial treated domestic sewage from the outlet of common STPs at Lalpani, Malyana and Dhalli, which were operating above their capacities.

Now, two of these STPs have been upgraded from Activated Sludge Process (ASP) to Sequential Batch Reactor (SBR) along with their capacity enhancement. As these STPs have been upgraded in October, 2023, results of same have not been incorporated in report of CPCB, yet. A significant improvement has been observed in the water quality of Ashwani River downstream these STPs post up-gradation.

Further, the three new stretches i.e. Bald, Ratta and Shikri Khad are not actual rivers but are drains/smaller tributaries of existing Polluted River Stretches.

For Instance, Shikri Khad (Small tributary of River Pabbar) has been declared as Polluted River Stretch because of the reason that BOD was observed as 4.6 mg/L on 22-06-2019 and 4.0 mg/L on 27.07.2019. Now, river Pabbar has also been declared as a Polluted River Stretch because of the same reason i.e. Shikri Khad having BOD more than 3.0 mg/L on two instances (22-06-2019 and 27.07.2019). Similarly, Bald and Ratta are just two drains meeting in River Sirsa. Action Plan has already been prepared for Sirsa in 2018-19 (including Bald & Ratta). Ideally, it should have been a single stretch, instead of three stretches.

Further, from above stated comparative results of BOD for the month of December, 2023 (in Table-2) it can be observed that there is considerable improvement in the water quality of various rivers across all the polluted river stretches.

The action plan for rejuvenation of these rivers are under implementation and their progress is reviewed on regular interval by Deputy Commissioners of concerned Districts with all the stakeholders at district level and Additional Chief Secretary (Environment) at State Level. 80% of works as proposed in action plan have been completed and remaining work is likely to be completed by 2025. The action plan once completed will help in rejuvenation of these Rivers and will contribute towards State's commitment of clean and pristine environment.



*Sh. Prabodh Saxena (IAS), Chief Secretary, Himachal Pradesh reviewing the progress of NGT matters pertaining to polluted river stretches*

### **Chief Secretary reviews the progress of Hon'ble NGT O.A. No. 673 /2018**

A meeting was held on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2023, under the Chairmanship of Sh. Prabodh Saxena, Chief Secretary to the Government of Himachal Pradesh in compliance to directions issued by Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in matter O.A. No. 673 /2018 & Central Monitoring Committee. Keeping in view of the directions of Hon'ble NGT and Central Monitoring Committee in the matter, the State formulated an action plan for the rivers have been proposed to be categorized as polluted river stretches Priority-I. which was reviewed and approved by the Chief Secretary to GoHP.

Further, the Chief Secretary issued further directions to the relevant departments to ensure the implementation of the action plans approved for rejuvenation of Ashwani Khad, Sirsa, Bald, and Sukhna Nallah. The Baddi, Barotiwala, Nalagarh Development Authority (BBNDA), in collaboration with the concerned departments, was instructed to conduct a comprehensive 15-day campaign against unauthorized tankers involved in the illegal discharge of sewage into the Sirsa and Bald rivers.

The BBNDA was tasked with submitting a proposal for the construction of Bio-remediation/phyto-remediation in the river Sirsa catchment. They were also mandated to ensure funding through Corporate Environment Responsibility. Additionally, the Jal Shakti Vibhag (JSV) was directed to pursue funding matters for the construction of STPs.



*Cleanliness drive conducted by the State Board during 2022 under Polluted river stretch of Ashwani Khad*





# Biomedical waste management in “Pangi Valley”, Chamba

Contributed by: Sanjeev Sharma, Sr. Scientific Officer, HPSPCB

*The Pangi Valley, situated in one of the most remote regions of the State, poses significant challenges for effective biomedical waste management. Despite the geographical isolation and difficult terrain, the author records considerable improvements in BMW management practices*

## Regulatory requirement

Biomedical waste management is crucial in safeguarding the health of healthcare facility (HCF) staff, waste handlers, community members, and others involved in its handling. Compliance with the Biomedical Waste Rules, 2016, and subsequent amendments is essential to ensure proper handling and disposal of biomedical waste. This is vital not only for protecting human health but also for preventing environmental contamination from infectious waste.

## Bio-Medical Waste

Biomedical Waste is any waste, which is generated during the diagnosis, treatment or immunization of human beings or animals or research activities pertaining thereto or in the production or testing of biological or in health camps. The Health Care Facilities generates many types of waste which are categorized broadly as solid waste, plastic waste, e- waste, construction and demolition waste, battery waste, hazardous waste and most important biomedical waste.

## What WHO says?

As per classification given by World Health Organization (WHO), nearly 85% of waste generated by the hospitals is general waste like solid waste, plastic waste etc. and about **15% of waste is biomedical waste.**

This 15 % waste require special attention and management due to its infectious and hazardous nature. Biomedical waste management is the process of segregation, collection, storage, treatment, transport and disposal and other safety measures taken by health care facilities safeguard the community and the environment from being contaminated with infectious waste. The State Pollution Control Board is the prescribed authority under the said rules to implement the rules effectively in the State.

## Location of Pangi Valley

The present study area covers “Pangi Valley”, which is one of the remotest areas of Himachal Pradesh falling in District Chamba and the administrative head quarter of Pangi Valley is Killar. There is a separate administration at Killar under the control of Resident Commissioner. The valley has a population of 18,868 with density of about 12 person/Km<sup>2</sup> spread in 1601 Km<sup>2</sup> area. Pangi Valley remains cut off from the rest of the world most of the time in a year.

## Issues in Biomedical Waste Management in the Valley

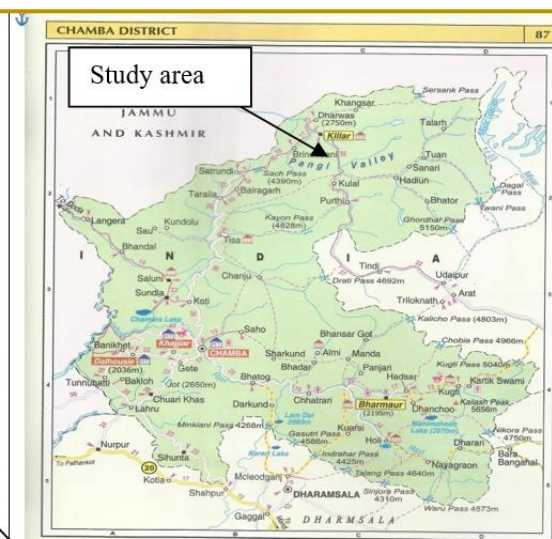
The State Pollution Control Board initiated a phased monitoring for effective Biomedical Waste management in District Chamba. However, implementing the provisions of the Biomedical Waste Rules, 2016 in the Pangi valley presented significant challenges for the Regional Laboratory in Dharamshala due to several reasons:

- Lack of Authorization:** None of the Healthcare Facilities (HCFs) in Pangi valley had obtained authorization from the State Board under the Biomedical Waste Rules, 2016. The valley comprises 53 HCFs, including 25 Allopathic HCFs under BMO Killar, of which 2 are bedded (CH Killar with 50 beds and PHC Pruthi with 6 beds) and 23 are non-bedded. Among the non-bedded HCFs, 5 are non-functional. Additionally, there are 7 HCFs under SDAMO Pangi and 21 HCFs under the Deputy Director of Animal Husbandry.
- Lack of Inspection:** There has been no visit or inspection of any of the HCFs in the valley for many years, indicating a significant gap in oversight and compliance monitoring.

## Location of Pangi valley



Administrative Map of Himachal Pradesh



Administrative Map of District Chamba, Himachal Pradesh



## Issues ....

- c) Absence of Training: No training has been provided to the HCFs operating in the Pangri Valley regarding the proper management of biomedical waste, further exacerbating the challenges in compliance with regulations and safe waste disposal practices.
- d) Despite correspondence with the controlling offices of the HCFs to ensure compliance, no action was taken by the HCFs in response to communication from the Regional Laboratory, Dharamshala.
- e) There was a significant lack of awareness among doctors, staff, and helpers at healthcare facilities regarding the proper management of biomedical waste. Addressing this issue has required diligent efforts at the forefront of healthcare management.

### Action Taken to improve the Biomedical Waste Management in the Valley

1. Initially an online Training on Biomedical Waste Management was conducted by the Regional Laboratory, Dharamshala during March, 2022 and apprised all concerned to comply with the provisions of the Biomedical Waste Management Rules, 2016 as well as orders passed by Hon'ble NGT, during the training, discussion and question answer session, it was observed that the effectiveness of the Biomedical Waste Management was poor in the valley as no training on Biomedical Waste Management Rules, 2016 was imparted in past to the HCFs falling in the valley. During the online training, HCFs were asked to act for ensuring compliance to the said rules and to seek any clarification through WhatsApp/telephone, the HCFs during training ensured to take steps to manage their biomedical waste as per rules.
2. Non-compliances by the HCFs in Pangri Valley was regularly brought in the notice of the Deputy Commissioner, Chamba during the review meeting on District Environment Plan and accordingly Chief Medical Officer, District Ayurvedic Officer, Deputy Director, Animal Husbandry were directed in the meeting to ensure compliance in the HCF falling in their jurisdiction in the valley.
3. The authorized officers of the Regional Laboratory, Dharamshala planned 1<sup>st</sup> visit to the valley in June, 2022 and after intimating the Deputy Commissioner, Chamba as well as to the Member Secretary, PCB Shimla and took following action:
  - a) Imparted training on Biomedical Waste Rules, 2016 and management of Biomedical Waste in the valley to Allopathy, Ayurvedic or Veterinary HCFs under one roof and cleared the doubts in the mind of the doctors, pharmacists etc.
  - b) It was noticed that there is lack of funds with the HCFs and all the HCFs do not have the deep burial pits for the disposal of the biomedical waste in the valley as the approach road to the valley is not metaled, hence the HCFs are not easily accessible by CBWTF. A cluster-based approach for disposal of Biomedical Waste was formulated for the non-bedded HCFs by sharing the available pits and transportation/ disposal of biomedical waste only after treatment/disinfection to the nearest center where pits are available to comply with the provisions of the rules
  - c) Conducted inspection of all HCFs in valley and interacted with concern staff proper handling biomedical waste.
  - d) Authorized 46 HCFs out of 48 functional HCFs in valley after verifying compliance.
4. The officers of the Regional Laboratory, Dharamshala took 2<sup>nd</sup> visit to the valley in September, 2023 and took following action:
  - a) 25 number of HCFs inspected.
  - b) Awareness lecture on environment delivered in two Government Senior Secondary School in Pangri Valley.
  - c) Awareness on Single Use Plastic (SUP) conducted and violators were penalizing on spot.



*Dr. Sanjeev Sharma, SSO imparting training to health care facility staff*

- d) Vehicle of CBWTF operated by M/s Suraksha Bio sanitizer, Dughriari, Kangra was also directed to accompany the officer to Pangri Valley and first time in the valley, the stored disinfected biomedical waste covered under Red, White and Blue category of biomedical waste was got collected.

### Outcome

In view of continuous follow up through telephone, WhatsApp, inspection and other mode with the doctors, pharmacists, staff etc. following was achieved in last two year.

- a) Improvement in Awareness level on Biomedical Waste Management in the staff of HCFs.
- b) Proper segregation as well as disinfection of Biomedical Waste practiced.
- c) Sharing of deep burial pits on cluster basis for disposal of biomedical waste started.
- d) Record of biomedical waste generation maintained.
- e) 46 HCFs out of 48 functional HCFs in the valley obtained authorization under BMW Management Rules, 2016.
- f) Bedded HCFs having less than 10 beds obtained Consent under Water Act, 1974.
- g) Biomedical Waste Stored after disinfection was got collected through CBWTF despite of difficult and un-metaled approach road to the valley. About 950 kg of stored biomedical waste covered under Red, blue and white category of the rules was got lifted first time from HCFs in Pangri Valley.

Images (below) depicting the training program and capacity-building



# Training and workshop

The State Board got several of our employees to undergo training and capacity building across the country over the past year. Table-4 indicates the details

Table-4: Training & Capacity Building Workshops for officers/officials

Sr. No.	Training & Workshop Name	Name of Institute organizing Training	Training Schedule for the period	Venue of Training	Nominated Officer(s) /Officials of the State Board
1.	Recruitment Rules, Rosters & services	National Academy of Human Resource Development	16.11.2022to 19.11.20222	Jim Corbett National Park, Uttarakhand	Sh. Vinod Kumar Gautam Assistant Controller, HPSPCB, Head Office Shimla
2.	Citizen Centre Governance through "SEVOTTAM" RT development on ELT	Centre for Science and Environment, 41 Tughlakabad Institutional Area, New Delhi	10.09.2023 to 23.09.2023	Chhattisgarh, Academy of Administration, Raipur	Sh. Vikas Gupta, the then Joint Controller
3.	Developing air quality management plan for industrial areas	Center for Science and Environment, Industrial Pollution, New Delhi	10.10.2023 to 13.10.2023	AAE Training Institute, Nimli, Alwar, Rajasthan	1. Sh. Anil Kumar, AEE 2. Sh. Mohit Bharti, JEE 3. Sh. Punesh Kumar, JEE
4.	Challenges of the Geological Hazards	Revenue Deptt. (DMC)	05.10.2023 to 06.10.2023	Hotel Peterhoff, Shimla	Sh. Lalit Kumar, EE
5.	Call for nomination onsite training on Development air quality mgt. plan for industrial area	Onsite training	10.10.2023 to 13.10.2023	Alwar Rajasthan	2. Sh. Mohit Bharti, JEE 3. Sh. Punesh Kumar, JEE
6.	Biomonitoring of Surface water bodies using benthic macro-invertebrates	Bio-science Lab. CPCB	December 2023	East Nagar, Delhi	1. Smt. Promila Sharma, SO 2. Sh. Manjeet Sharma, SO
	Construction & Demolition Waste Mgt. and dust Mgt.	Center for Science and Environment	11.12.2023 to 15.12.2023	41, Tughlakabad, Institutional Area, New Delhi	1. Sh. Akhil Kumar, JEE 2. Sh. Sahil Choudhary, JEE
8.	Advance Instruments Analytical Tech. & Analysis of Metals and Pesticides in Water Samples	National institute Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu	03.01.2024 to 05.01.2024	National institute Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu	1. Dr. Amit Pathania, SO 2. Sh. Dharmender Kumar, JSO
9.	Tools for Pollution management in Small and Medium scale industries	41Tughlakabad Institutional Area Delhi	16.01.2024 to 19.01.2024	Nimli, (near Alwar) Tijara, Rajasthan	1. Sh. Dheeraj Sharma, JEE 2. Sh. Rajneesh Chaudhary, JEE
10.	Management of Biomedical waste as per Bio- Medical Management Rules, 2016	ESCI, Hyderabad	16.01.2024 to 17.01.2024	ESCI, Hyderabad, Gachibowli, Old Bombay Road	1. Sh. Ajay Kumar, JSO, RL Dharamshala 2. Sh. Sanjeev Kumar Rongta, JSO, HQ Shimla 3. Sh. Kamal Kant, JSO, RL Shimla
11.	Circular Economy-Goal of Hazardous waste management units	ESCI, Hyderabad	22.02.2024 to 23.02.2024	ESCI, Hyderabad, Gachibowli, Old Bombay Road	1. Dr. Hitender Sharma, SSO, RL Paonta Sahib
12.	Water Quality Monitoring (Surface, Ground, Waste water effluents) Quality Assurance	IIT Jammu	22.02.2024 to 24.02.2024	Chemical Engineering Department, IIT Jammu, Nagrota	1. Sh. Om Prakash, JEE, HPSPCB, RO Kullu
13.	Laboratory Management System Awareness and Internal Audit (as per ISO/IEC 17025:2017 & NABL requirements)	Central Institute of petrochemicals Engineering and Technology	29 .01.2024 to 01.02.2024	CIPET, Lucknow	1. Sh. Ramakant Awasthi, SO, CL, Parwanoo 2. Smt. Promila Sharma, SO, RL Sunder Nagar 3. Smt. Satvinder Kaur, SO, RL, Dharamshala 4. Sh. Ajay Kumar, JSO, RL, Dharamshala 5. Sh. Sunil Kumar Rana, SO, RL, Una.
14.	Management of Electronic Waste through EPR regime under E- Waste Management Rules, 2022	CMET, Hyderabad	Jan-Feb 2024 (02 days)	CMET, IDA Phase-III, HCL Post, Cherlapally, Hyderabad	1. Sh. Pradeep Moudgil, AEE, Regional Officer, Parwanoo 2. Sh. Pawan Kumar, AEE, Regional Office Baddi
43	Training workshop on "Green Infrastructure"	Central Academy for State Forest Service	21.02.2024 to 23.02.2024.	Dehradun, Uttarakhand	1. Sh. Pawan Sharma, AEE, Regional Office, Bilaspur 2. Sh. Abhay Gupta, AEE, Regional office, Baddi
45	Circular Breakthroughs-Tackling Challenge in Li-ion Battery Recycling		15.02.2024	Sreepriya Sridharan Karo Sambhav's Webinar	1. Sh. Chandan Kumar, Environmental Engineer, HQ Shimla 2. Sh. Sanjeev Kumar Rongta, JSO, HQ Shimla



# Waste Warriors... building trust with action

*Waste Warriors is a non-governmental organization which undertakes waste collection, waste management consultancy, event waste management, and other related projects in Dehradun, Dharamshala and several other places...*



*DC Kangra inaugurating a pilot project on matka composting initiated by Block Development Officer (BDO) & District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) to promote home composting in rural Dharamshala*

## Transforming Tradition at a Century-Old Fair – Renuka Ji

The 100-year old Renuka Ji International Fair 2023 in Himachal Pradesh attracts not only 5 lakh pilgrims over a span of 15 days, but also the waste that is generated as a result. This year, officials from local government bodies, the forest department, Renuka Ji Vikas Board, etc., vowed to make the experience unique. And it truly was a sustainable affair. For the first time in history, there was an attempt to provide an effective solid waste management solution for this fair. “Until now, waste seemed like an untamable problem. But working with Waste Warriors, we have realized that with the right systems, motivations and team effort, it is possible. We have learnt now how to manage our waste and look forward to next year.” said a proud Rajnesh Kumar, Sub-Divisional Magistrate. By engaging more than 800 vendors through 210 segregation trainings and 19 stakeholder workshops before the event and providing awareness materials targeting the pilgrims, the local stakeholders were empowered with the right tools to prepare for a green fair.

Contributed by  
**Waste Warrior team**  
based at Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh

Waste Warriors takes a proactive role in strengthening governance by emphasizing capacity building and fostering collaborative relationships with government stakeholders. Our approach involves imparting expertise in waste management strategies, equipping officials with the tools to formulate and implement impactful regulations. The government, recognizing the urgency of effective waste management, is prioritizing this issue through our partnership. Together, we facilitate transparent decision-making processes that align with environmental objectives.

## Project Untrash Himalayas

Project Untrash Himalayas, where women of a self-help group in Dharamshala upcycled textile waste to divert it from the landfill and give it a new life, has concluded after six months. Out of the total 2,449 kg of clothes collected, 1,800 kg textile waste was processed to make 1,661 sustainable clothing products. We have successfully installed three drop-off points at high footfall areas for regular inflow of waste clothes.





## Highlights

In rural Dharamshala, a pilot project on at-home matka composting was initiated by Block Development Officer & District Rural Development Agency which will be replicated across Himachal Pradesh.

Panchayats Sokani Da Kot and Narwana Khas have issued No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for two new lands for constructing Material Recovery Facilities.

After the leveling work for our Bir MRF, the layout has received approval, and partial funds for its construction have been sanctioned by the District Commissioner (DC).

In Bir, three new art pieces named High Hopes Swing, Flying Carpet Bench and Eco-Warrior Griffon, made completely out of waste material were installed. The process took place in collaboration with Special Area Development Authority (SADA) and Gram Panchayat where raw materials and monetary support was provided and approved by them.

In Barwala Panchayat, Dharamshala, a local entrepreneur has initiated fortnightly door-to-door waste collection. This has helped reduce the panchayat's operations cost and increased operational efficiencies.



*Waste Warriors has done extensive work in the area of waste collection and waste management. Since they were registered in 2012, Waste Warriors has collected and processed tonnes of waste from Bhagsunag and Triund.*

## Project Bala

*Through multiple workshops on sustainable menstruation, we have been able to sensitize 497 menstruators across Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, while simultaneously breaking the taboos attached to periods. We have also launched an engaging toolkit on the same to spread awareness among young girls and women on the benefits of sustainable alternatives. ...*



*Ms. Priya Rani, the CEO of Cantt Board Kasauli with Warrior Deepak (right) at a significant stakeholder's event, deepens her understanding of*





Significant stakeholders like the CEO of Cantt Board Kasauli, Block Development Officer (BDO) of Dharampur, and panchayat officials attended our awareness sessions to understand challenges & solutions in waste management.

Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) were signed with Kasauli Garkhal, Garkhal Sanawar, and Gulhari for implementing a waste management system in these panchayats.

We held a stakeholder meeting at Palchan Gram Sabha, Manali with officials including the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) and Asst. Conservator of Forests (ACF) to enhance trust and local cooperation.

We executed shutter repair work for a waste bank in Garkhal Kasauli Panchayat for a seamless, sustainable waste management system.

In Dharamshala, efforts yielded a collection of 1,713 kilograms of used-beverage cartons (UBCs) from aggregators, safai saathis, and the formal collection system.



▲▲ Raj Kumar, an MRF ecopreneur in becoming, is glad the new changes in the facility are not only increasing efficiency in operations but also providing a balanced work schedule for his workers.

## MRF Dharamshala

This investment will further enhance the MRF's waste processing productivity and contribute to our ongoing efforts towards more efficient waste management in the region.

In this quarter, we recycled 85,800 kgs of waste— thanks to an infrastructure that enabled it.

Through measures like imposing fines, rejecting mixed waste, and eliminating underground bins in 13 wards of Dharamshala, there has been a significant increase of inward waste quantum at our Material Recovery Facility. The shredder, a key component in our waste processing system, has been delivered to the MRF and is awaiting installation,” says Shashank Prabhu, a Warrior who oversees the MRF.



*Eco-Warrior, a Himalayan Griffon Vulture, is made with 8kg woven multi-layered plastic, 10kg PET plastic, metal and fishnet in Bir by artist Manveer.*

<<< Success story



# Closing the loop with EPR: circular economy in plastic waste in Himachal Pradesh

Contributed by: Chandan Singh, Env. Engineer & Sahil Chaudhury, JEE, HPSPCB

Himachal Pradesh is taking a producer-centric approach to manage plastic waste through Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

## Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) regime

Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) regime is under implementation in Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, according to which it is the responsibility of Producers, Importers and Brand-owners to ensure processing of their plastic packaging waste through recycling, re-use or end of life disposal (such as co-processing/Waste-to-energy/Plastic-to-oil/roadmaking/industrial-composting).

In order to streamline implementation process of EPR, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, in its fourth Amendment to the Plastic Waste Management Rules dated February 16, 2022, notified 'Guidelines on Extended Producer Responsibility for Plastic Packaging' in the Schedule II of the Rules. As per these guidelines, Producers, Importers and Brand Owners (PIBOs) shall have to register through the online centralized portal developed by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

## How Himachal is implementing EPR

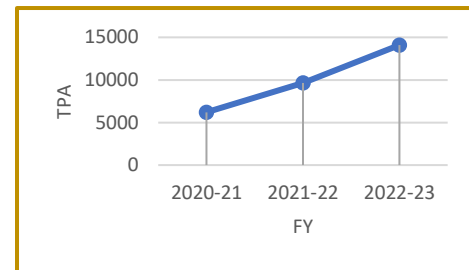
Himachal Pradesh is adopting a producer-centered strategy to address plastic waste by implementing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) with thorough engagement with stakeholders. The model will make producers, importers, and brand owners (PIBOs) responsible for the plastic waste generated by their products while supporting the municipal authorities who are engaged in collection and transportation of the waste. While EPR promotes accountability, challenges include ensuring PIBO participation and establishing a robust collection network across the state.



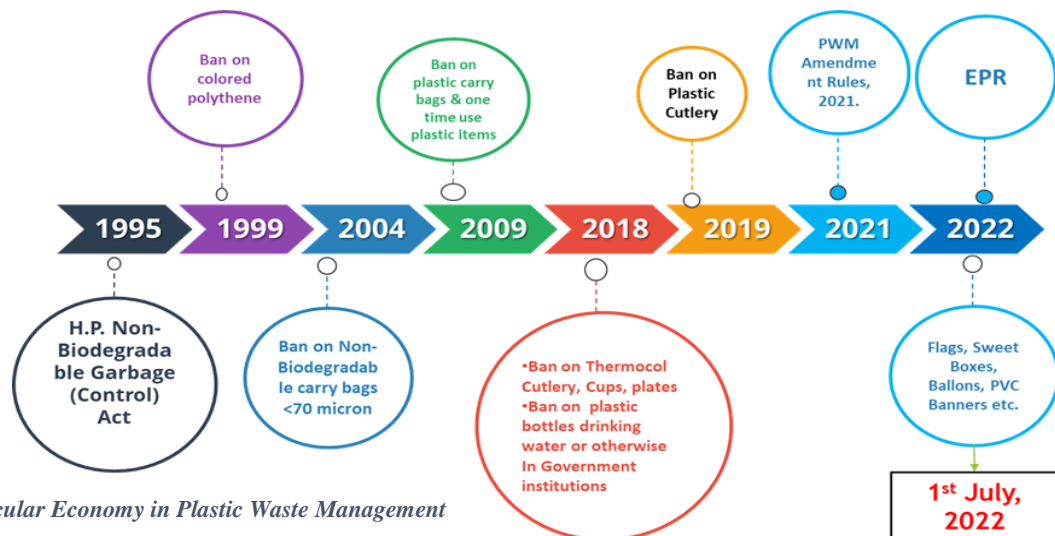
▲▲ A meeting was conducted on 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2023 wherein directions were issued to PIBOs/ Waste Management Agencies (WMAs) and PWPs for ensuring the fulfilment of EPR.

## Himachal leader in plastic waste management

Himachal Pradesh has been a leader in the combat against single use plastic items. The government has enforced ban on various plastic items like carry bags, cutlery, and thermocol plates and has come a long way since 1995.



Graph-2 Status of the plastic waste in State





## Challenges in effective implementation in Himachal Pradesh

Collection typically involves municipal authorities gathering plastic waste. However, a major hurdle remains - ensuring complete compliance with proper collection, especially in remote areas. This leads to plastic littering the fragile Himalayan ecosystem, highlighting the ongoing challenge of effective plastic waste management in the State.

### Buy Back policy

On 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2019 Himachal Pradesh State Govt. notified a policy regarding Buy-back of Non-recyclable and Single Use Plastic Waste including plastic bags in HP from registered rag-pickers and households providing minimum support price of ₹75 per kilogram. As per the policy, the plastic waste, so collected, is sent for end use such as road construction, cement industries for co-processing.

**Government of Himachal Pradesh**  
Department of Environment, Science & Technology

**BUY BACK OF NON-RECYCLABLE & SINGLE USE PLASTIC**

"A Minimum Support Price scheme for households and registered rag pickers of Himachal Pradesh"

**@ ₹75/- per kilogram**

Households/ registered rag pickers can deposit:

- All packaging material (plastic) of items such as bread, cakes, biscuit, cookies, namkeen, kurkure, chips/ wafers, candies, mattresses, cloth, cheese puffs, ice cream, ice cream candies, noodles, cereals/cornflakes/breakfast cereals coated with sugar, confectionary items.
- Clean and dry packaging, pouches/packets of liquids such as milk, oil, shampoo, hand wash liquid soap, curd, butter, milk, juice etc.

This can be deposited at designated collection centres of Urban Local Bodies in the State

Scheme is effective w.e.f. **2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2019**

Following items are not covered and will not be purchased under the scheme:

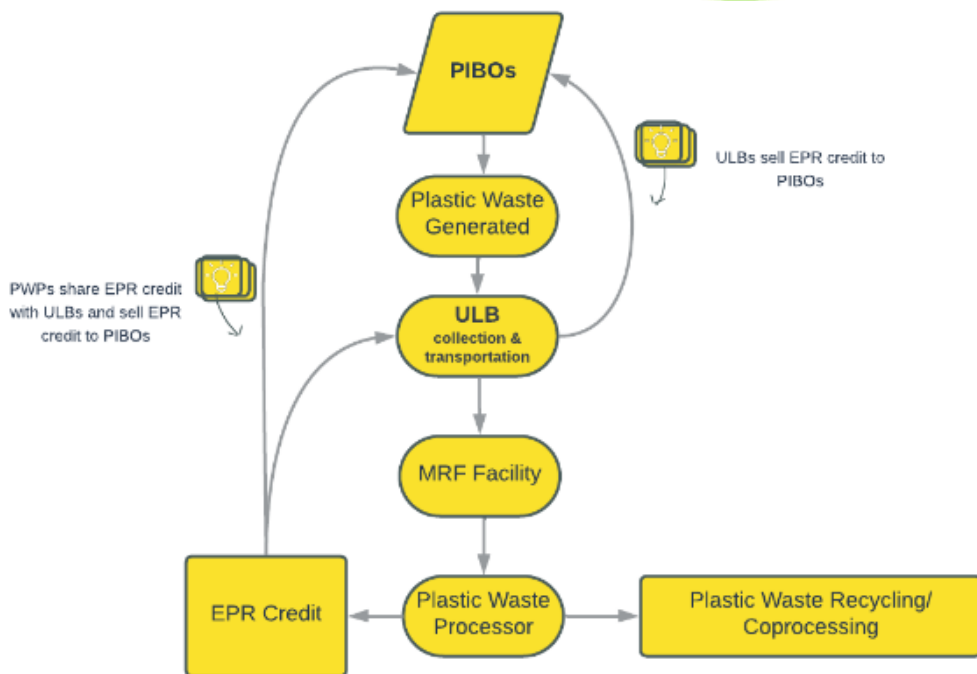
- Heavy plastic waste items such as plastic furniture & fixture, kitchen ware, toys, electronic, electrical waste.
- PET bottles, medicine/ mineral water bottles, buckets, mugs, biomedical waste bottles, plastic dibbas, plastic crockery, jar, tiffin, toilet utility waste items.
- Any other items which is recyclable.

Scheme is applicable within the jurisdiction of Himachal Pradesh

Financial Years	Quantity of Plastic Waste Collected in kg
2019-20	29,723.00
2020-21	1,00,936.00
2021-22	85,769.00
2022-23	50312.6
2023-24 (upto Dec, 2023)	20902.10

Table - 6 Registration of PIBOs and PWP in Himachal Pradesh in mission mode

Category	Registration Issued
Brand Owner	9
Producer	109
Importer	61
Plastic Waste Processor	38



## State Govt bans purchase of petrol and diesel vehicles in Government Offices since January 1, 2024

All government offices have been prohibited from purchasing petrol or diesel vehicles since January 1, 2024.

To promote e-vehicles, it has also been decided to develop six highways as green corridors, and work is being done in this direction. In addition, a 50 percent subsidy will be provided for the purchase of an electric vehicle in the state. Sh. Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Himachal Pradesh emphasized the State government's unwavering commitment to fostering sustainability in transportation operations. By embracing electric vehicles, Himachal Pradesh is taking concrete steps to curb air pollution, reduce its carbon footprints and positively impact public health.

H. P. State Pollution Control Board included one e-vehicle in its fleet recently

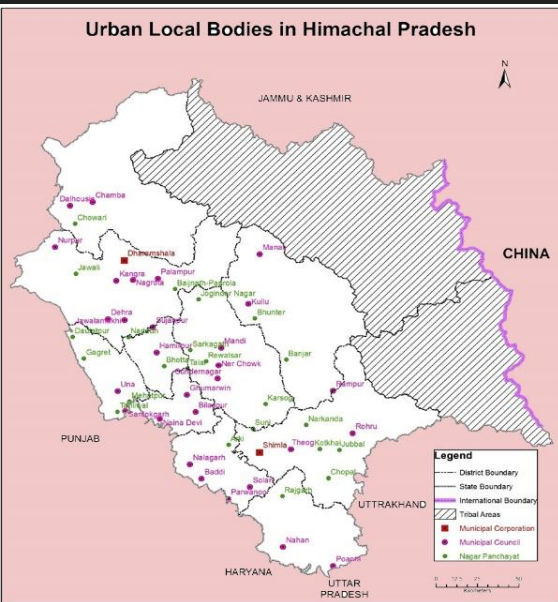


# Addressing solid waste problems of Manali cluster

Contributed by: Pradeep Moudgil, Asstt. Env. Engineer, HPSPCB



The Chairman HPSPCB, reviewing the progress of ongoing activities of the State Board.



\* 4 New ULBs constituted during last 3 years

The author investigates current status of M/s NextGen Chemicals operated Waste to Energy plant located at MC Manali Rangri SWM Site and its future sustainability.

- Installation of trommel, shredder and bailing machines;
- Up scaling mass awareness and meeting with Administration, truck union, cement plant and informal sectors for sustainable waste processing;
- Provide weigh bridge and documenting records along with monitoring the RDF value for sustainable & regular disposal to cement plant.

## Execution

- Segregation of waste, facility area development for waste and disposal of only high calorific value waste to cement plant;
- Operating the machinery, including the trommel, shredder, and bailer, once a sufficient amount of segregated waste has been collected. Subsequently, carefully blending the wet waste in appropriate proportions to render it suitable for co-processing at a cement plant;
- Efficient transportation of RDF waste to the cement plant, ensuring accumulation and processing of sufficient waste before dispatching, thereby facilitating swift and cost-effective disposal;
- Effective advocacy for the adoption of RDF (Refuse Derived Fuel) as a sustainable alternative to traditional fuels within the cement industry

## Benefits to environment, health, economy and society

- Minimizing the littering of waste along waterbodies i.e. River Beas;
- Restricting contamination of water body by the leaching of wet waste from the various hot spot;
- Reduction in Open burning of solid waste;
- Cement plant has consumed more than 1% RDF as alternate fuel.

## Current status of Manali (Rangri) SWM Site

- Total Site space - 1.2 Bigha;
- Acquired for plant's machinery - 0.4 Bigha
- Rest space covered with existing legacy; waste of 40,000 MT (in year 2021, a tender has been awarded for clearance of legacy waste);
- No source segregation points are available for sorting/segregation;
- Facility planned only the needs from Manali whereas mixed are arriving Kullu and sometimes also from Lahaul and Spiti.

## Existing techniques & Status

- Sorting by hand;
- Conventional composting methods;
- Spreading awareness and educating those in the informal or unorganized sector;
- Constraints on available space for waste processing facilities;
- Lack of inventory for waste flow;
- Absence of essential machinery such as trommels, along with inadequate infrastructure like sheds, nearness to riverbank.

## Rightful approach adopted

- Training imparted to the staff for waste characterization;
- Channelized the waste movement;
- Install the shredder to shred RDF and to make it suitable for co-processing in cement plant;

## Onkar Chand Sharma (IAS) joins as the Chairman of the State Board

Sh. Onkar Chand Sharma, a 1994 batch IAS officer, joined as the 40<sup>th</sup> Chairman of Himachal Pradesh State Pollution Control Board on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Additionally, he is holding the position of Additional Chief Secretary, Tribal Development, Revenue, and Jal Shakti Vibhag, along with his role as Financial Commissioner for Revenue. His illustrious career is marked by a series of significant appointments within the government of Himachal Pradesh. He commenced his academic journey at GHS Tundi, District Chamba, Himachal Pradesh where he received his early education. Subsequently, he pursued pre-engineering at DAV College Kangra, followed by earning his B. Tech degree from JNTU Hyderabad. Additionally, he was awarded a fellowship from LSE UK, further enriching his educational experience.

“

Protecting the environment is not a choice, it's a responsibility. Pollution control isn't just an option, it's our obligation to safeguard the future.”



# NABL accreditations HPSPCB labs



Sh. Anil Joshi, Member Secretary H. P. State Pollution Control Board along with the team Regional Laboratory Shimla

To provide the international recognition to the State Board laboratories, the State Board had decided to follow the ISO/IEC 17025 standard and obtain accreditation from the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL). This accreditation is to increase the technical competence, impartiality and consistence operation of State Board laboratories and helps to enhance credibility of testing and better control on operation of laboratories. The main objectives to obtain NABL accreditation is to ensure quality control by using calibrated instrument, certified reference material, participating in proficiency testing programs, enhancing technical and scientific skills, competence of personnel by providing proper testing facilities and trainings, improving the environmental condition of testing and other infrastructure in the laboratory, adherence to the time schedule for the testing of the samples.



Dr. Hitender Sharma Lab in charge Regional Laboratory Paonta Sahib along with the NABL experts and team members



The Regional Laboratory Paonta Sahib under the leadership of Dr. Hitender Sharma and Regional Laboratory Shimla under the leadership of Dr. Praveen Sharma got accreditation from National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories in a record time by following the ISO/IEC 17025 standard. Both the laboratories accomplished the requirements of the standard document and cross over the comprehensive onsite assessment of NABL. The Regional Laboratory Paonta Sahib has got accreditation for 21 parameters viz. pH, COD, BOD, TSS, Oil & Grease, Conductivity, Sulfate, Phosphate, Chloride, Dissolved Oxygen, Total Hardness, Chromium Hexavalent, Sulphide, Cadmium, Iron,

Total Chromium, Lead, Copper, Manganese, Nickel, Zinc in Waste Water stream under Environment & Pollution scope on 22-06-2023 for two years.

The Regional Laboratory Shimla has got accreditation for 13 parameters viz. pH, COD, BOD, TSS, Oil & Grease, Cadmium, Iron, Total Chromium, Lead, Copper, Manganese, Nickel, Zinc in Waste Water and 13 parameters viz pH, COD, BOD, Conductivity, Sulfate, Phosphate, Chloride, Total Dissolved Solids, Total Hardness, Magnesium Hardness, Calcium Hardness, Calcium as Ca, Magnesium as Mg in Surface Water under Environment & Pollution scope on 25-08-2023 for two years.

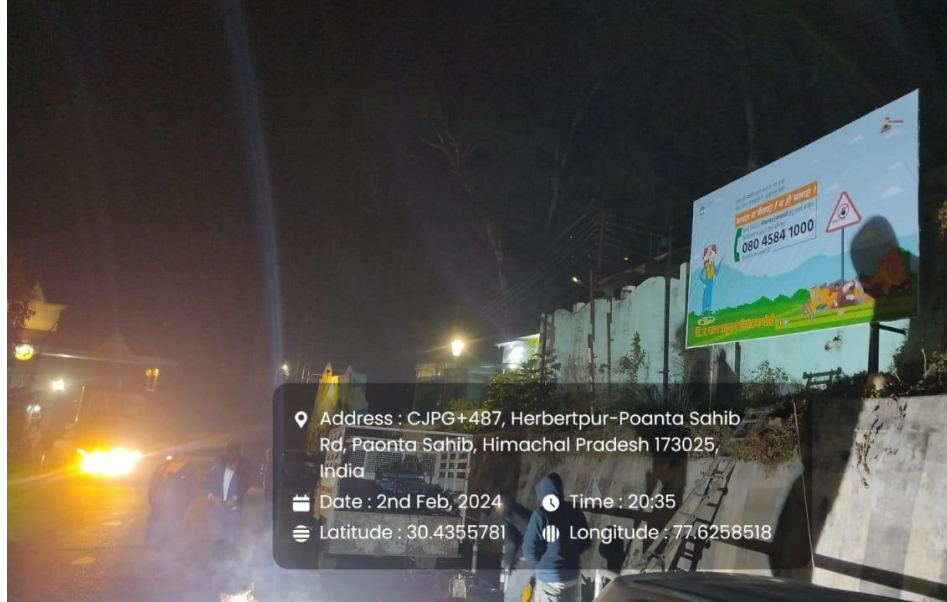




# Hoardings installed in compliance to the direction of Hon'ble High Court

In accordance with the directions from the Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh in OA 2369 of 2018 *Suleman vs Union of India*, the State Board has commenced the installation of hoardings at over 70 locations throughout the state, each measuring 15ft x 8ft. The Hon'ble Court instructed that these hoardings should address the issue of waste littering across the state in order to deter such behavior.

Furthermore, the State Board has erected hoardings at an additional 8 locations as part of the Mission LiFE campaign initiated by the Government of India. These installations are situated in Shimla, Paonta Sahib, Parwanoo, Chamba, Hamirpur, Mandi, Dharamshala, and Chamba.



⬆️ Hoardings installed at about 78 places across the State



*Hoarding displayed before Head Office Building at New Shimla*



⬆️ Hoarding displayed on the Bypass near Gaindamall BCS Shimla



*Hoarding displayed before Head Office Building at New Shimla*



## Member Secretary chairs an EPR meeting at Baddi

Sh. Anil Joshi, Member Secretary chaired an EPR meeting with industries at Vardhman Textile Baddi on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and following decisions were taken:

- a) All the entities who have yet not applied for the EPR registration shall submit the case within 1 month. For any query, the units shall approach Regional Offices between 4:00-5:00 PM.
- b) PIBOs and WMAs were directed to explore the registered PWWs in the State of Himachal Pradesh as the PWWs are working on very minimal capacity and it will be more economical to process the waste within State rather than transporting to other State. HPSPCB shall upload the detail of the registered PWWs in State at its website so that PIBOs can coordinate with the PWWs in the State for their EPR fulfilment.
- c) Recycler shall submit the detail of the quantity of plastic waste processed to HPSPCB on quarterly basis.
- d) All PIBOs shall submit the detail of the plastic waste generated from their product in the State of Himachal Pradesh and PIBOs were directed that they shall collaborate with the Urban Local Bodies & Gram Panchayats through waste management agencies and work out modalities of effective collection, segregation, and processing of plastic waste through registered plastic waste processors in the State. The detailed report in this regard shall be submitted to HPSPCB within 1 month.
- e) WMAs were directed to submit a consolidated detail such as a) List of PIBOs on behalf of which they fulfil the EPR targets in Himachal Pradesh b) detail of the plastic waste collection in the Himachal Pradesh (the detail shall include the contact info, agreement with ULBs/ Vendor/ Aggregator, storage facilities in HP) c) detail of the disposal of the plastic waste. The detail shall be provided for FY 2022-23 and 23-24 within 15 days.



Sh. Anil Joshi, Member Secretary, HPSPCB chairing an EPR meeting at Vardhman Textile Unit Baddi along with Chief Environmental Engineer cum Regional Officer Baddi



- f) All the registered PWWs were directed to tie up with ULBs/ WMAs for the processing of post-consumer waste and start generating the EPR certificate on the centralized portal of CPCB and also ensure the submission of Annual Report on portal.
- g) All PIBOs working in the State of H.P. shall submit progress of EPR compliance through online portal, not through offline mode.
- h) Rural Development Department shall to provide the detail of the Gram Panchayats wherein the plastic management units are being established, within 15 days



Sh. Onkar Chand Sharma, Additional Chief Secretary (Tribal Development, Revenue, Jal Shakti Vibhag) & Chairman H.P. State Pollution Control Board chairing a monthly review meeting on Solid Waste Management



Sh. Onkar Chand Sharma, Additional Chief Secretary (Jal Shakti Vibhag) chaired a monthly review meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024 regarding Solid Waste Management in compliance to the directions of Hon'ble NGT order in OA 606/ 2018.

The meeting was also attended by Sh. Anil Joshi, Member Secretary HP State Pollution Control Board in addition to the officers of Jal Shakti Vibhag.



# Field level awareness...

There are 12 Regional Offices and two Sub-Regional Offices of the State Board located at Baddi, Parwanoo, Rampur, Bilaspur, Dharamshala, Kullu, Paonta Sahib, Shimla, Una, Hamirpur, Mandi & Chamba. In addition, there are one Central Laboratory and five Regional Laboratories located at CL Parwanoo, RL Paonta Sahib, RL Shimla, RL Sundernagar, RL Daramshala and RL Una



## Regional Office Paonta Officiates a meeting

A meeting was organized by the Forest Department (Wildlife Division) Sri Renukaji-Dadahu with the different stakeholder departments on dated 01.02.2024. In this meeting representatives of different departments including State Pollution Control Board, local Panchayat and resident of local area were present. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss about how to conserve the Sri Renukaji wetland, its eco-system and to promote eco-tourism in the area and the participation of different departments and local panchayats. In this meeting it was decided to form an Eco-development committee at Sri Renukaji area for the sustainable development of the wetland area. It was further discussed to make Sri Renukaji lake a plastic free zone. Different stakeholder departments and representatives of local Panchayat and local people were requested to collectively make efforts for the conservation of the natural heritage of Sri Renukaji lake.



## District Environment Plan (DEP) meeting at Paonta Sahib

The Regional Office in Paonta Sahib convened a district-level meeting on 08.02.2024 to address various environmental issues in district Sirmaur, including those related to Water Quality, Air Quality, and Solid Waste Management, in connection with OA No. 360 (District Environment Plan) and several matters before the Hon'ble NGT. The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Commissioner, Sirmaur and held in Nahan, with participation from various departments.

The Deputy Commissioner, Sirmaur issued directives to departments authorized under the HP Non-Biodegradable Act, 1995, emphasizing strict compliance with the ban on Single-Use Plastics (SUP) in the district. Additionally, local bodies and the Rural Department were instructed to ensure the segregation, collection, and disposal of solid waste within their respective areas, along with the prompt development of necessary facilities. Furthermore, specific directives were given to the District Industries Center (DIC) Sirmaur, the Block Development Officer (BDO) Nahan, and the Jal Shakti Vibhag (JSV) Nahan to initiate the requisite actions regarding the installation of a Combined Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) cum Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) in Kala Amb and to submit compliance reports accordingly.

An awareness drive on E- Waste and its management was also conducted by Regional Office Paonta Sahib in Govt Girl Sr Secondary School Paonta Sahib.

## district level meeting







▲▲▲ Sh. Jatin Lal (IAS), District Commissioner Una chairing a meeting on District Environment Plan

## District Environment Plan meeting at Una

On February 14, 2024, the Regional Office Una convened a District Level meeting to address various critical issues including OA No. 360 (District Environment Plan) and several matters concerning Water Quality, Air Quality, and Solid Waste Management within the district. Chaired by Sh. Jatin Lal, District Commissioner Una, the meeting was attended by representatives from various key departments including urban local bodies, Public Works Department (PWD), Jal Shakti Vibhag (JSV), Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC), and Health Department, among others.

During the session, directions were issued to all Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) to expedite the establishment of Solid Waste Treatment Facilities within their respective jurisdictions. The Rural Department was tasked with formulating an integrated action plan for solid waste management in villages across the district.

Furthermore, the Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department (HPPWD) was instructed to initiate the construction of a sample road utilizing waste plastic materials, with plans to procure plastic waste from ULBs. These directions have been communicated to all relevant stakeholders with an emphasis on timely compliance to address the pressing environmental concerns within the district.



▲▲▲ Sh. Mukesh Repaswal (IAS), Deputy Commissioner, Chamba chairing a meeting on District Environment Plan

## DC Chamba chairs a DEP meeting

A review meeting of the District Environmental Plan (DEP) was convened by the Regional Office Chamba on the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024, presided over by the esteemed Deputy Commissioner of Chamba, in accordance with the directions of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) as per O.A. no. 360/2018 and O.A. no. 180/2021 regarding the Biomedical Waste Management Rules.

During this meeting, a comprehensive discussion took place on various issues raised by stakeholders from the Chamba district. The progress report from the previous meeting was also presented, highlighting advancements in all thematic areas concerning Solid Waste Management, Domestic Wastewater Management, Plastic Waste Management, Single-Use Plastic, Biomedical Waste Management, and other pertinent aspects of DEP.

Towards the conclusion of the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner of Chamba issued directions to all DEP stakeholders and committees to promptly address the issues discussed and ensure compliance without further delay.

## Regional Lab Paonta organises workshop

The Regional Laboratory organized a comprehensive workshop and training session on the implementation of the Biomedical Waste Management Rules of 2016. This session was specifically designed for Veterinary Officers, Veterinary Pharmacists, and staff members from Veterinary Hospitals and dispensaries located in the Paonta Sahib, Nahan, and Shillai Sub-Divisions. The training took place on three separate dates: February 2nd, February 7th, and February 16th, 2024. Additionally, all participants were thoroughly briefed on the prohibition of single-use plastic (SUP) during the workshop.







Sh Anil Joshi, Member Secretary, HPSPCB Chairing an EPR meeting at Kala Amb

## EPR initiatives undertaken in Kala Amb

A district level meeting was convened on March 1st, 2024, at Kala Amb, District Sirmour under the chairmanship of Sh. Anil Joshi (IFS), the Member Secretary of the Himachal Pradesh State Pollution Control Board. Attendees included producers, importers, brand owners, waste management agencies, and representatives from the Urban Development Department. The meeting focused on discussions regarding the fulfilment of Extended Producer Responsibility under the Plastic Waste Management Rules 2016 for District Sirmour. Several participants also attended the meeting remotely via online platform.

### <<< EPR meeting

## Ram Swaroop lab assistant retires

Sh. Ram Swaroop, who has dutifully served as a Laboratory Assistant at the Regional Laboratory Shimla since 1997, officially bid farewell to his role at the Himachal Pradesh State Pollution Control Board on February 29th, 2024. Throughout his extensive tenure, he demonstrated unwavering dedication and diligence in his responsibilities. Despite encountering various challenges, he consistently fulfilled his duties at the NAMP stations in Shimla. Dr. Manoj Chauhan, Chief Scientific Officer, praised Sh. Ram Swaroop's commitment as a valuable employee of the State Board. He presented mementos and gifts in recognition of Sh. Swaroop's dedication, noting his prioritization of office duties over personal matters. Sh. Shashi Shekhar, Welfare Officer of the HP State Pollution Control Board, warmly welcomed Sh. Ram Swaroop and his family members on the occasion of his retirement, along with other board employees. Other senior attendees were Smt. Anuradha Sharma, Joint Contoller (F&A), and Mr. Jatinder Gupta, Senior Law Officer, among others. The entire staff expressed deep gratitude for Sh. Swaroop's invaluable contributions and extended heartfelt wishes for a joyful and fulfilling post-retirement life."

## सोलन-सिरमौर

शिमला, राधिका, 2 मार्च, 2024

# प्लास्टिक अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन नियम पर बांटी जानकारी

कालाअंब में पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय ने लगाई वर्कशॉप, प्लास्टिक पैकेजिंग औद्योगिक इकाइयों ने लिया भाग

दिव्य हिमाचल व्यू-नाहन

प्लास्टिक अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन नियम 2016 के तहत विस्तारित उत्पादित जिम्मेदारी की पूर्ति के संबंध में सूत्रधार को कालाअंब में सदस्य सचिव एचपीएसपीसीबी की अध्यक्षता में निर्माता आगतक, ग्रैंड मालिकों, अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन एजेंसियों और शहरी विकास विभाग के साथ एक बैठक आयोजित की गई। बैठक में प्लास्टिक पैकेजिंग के उत्पादन एवं उपयोग में लगे औद्योगिक इकाइयों को संबोधित किया गया। इस अवसर पर हिमाचल राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड ने प्लास्टिक

अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन नियम 2016 और पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय द्वारा निर्धारित विस्तारित उत्पादक जिम्मेदारियों के बारे में अवगत कराया। इसके अलावा इस बात पर जोर दिया गया कि

कबाड़ी बालों जैसी अनधिकृत संस्थाओं से न जुड़ें और यह सुनिश्चित करें कि राज्य में प्लास्टिक अपशिष्ट रिसाइक्लर के साथ जुड़कर हिमाचल प्रदेश में उत्पन्न कचरे के इंपीआर लक्ष्यों को राज्य के भीतर ही पूरा किया जाए। इसके अलावा यह अवगत कराया गया कि राज्य शहरी स्थानीय निकायों को पंजीकृत कर रत है जो प्लास्टिक अपशिष्ट पुनर्चक्रणकर्ताओं के साथ सम्बंध करेंगे और पुनर्चक्रणकर्ताओं द्वारा बेचे गए इंपीआर प्रमाण पत्र का हिस्सा प्राप्त करेंगे जो प्रमाणपत्र में एक सफ़्त इकाइयों को निर्देश दिया कि वह

हरिपुरथार कालेज में रैली निकालकर सड़क सुरक्षा पर जगया अलख जाहन। हरिपुरथार कालेज में सड़क सुरक्षा क्लब द्वारा करवरी भाई के अगुआई में सड़क सुरक्षा माह के उपलब्ध पर विभिन्न गतिविधियों का कार्यक्रम संचालित हो गया। इस अवसर पर सड़क सुरक्षा की ओर से विद्यार्थियों तथा जन संधारण को जागरूक करने हेतु इस माह के भीतर विद्यार्थियों द्वारा पोस्टर मेकिंग तथा हरिपुरथार क्षेत्र में एक जागरूकता रैली भी निकाली गई। विद्यार्थियों द्वारा इस माह में टैफिक प्रवर्तनी सौरी। अनिलान गतिविधियों में भाग लेकर सड़क सुरक्षा के संदर्भ में उचित जानकारी भी प्राप्त की गई। इस माह की गतिविधियों में राजकीय महाविद्यालय हरिपुरथार कार्यकारी प्रायंट था, रजिंद तोमर सहित सहायक आचार्य कमलेंद, करण मोहित, रोहित शर्मा, वर्ष रानी, हिमंटी टाकुर, रीना शर्मा, पूषापी तथा डा. सरिता टाकुर उपस्थित रहे।





meeting >>>

## RO Mandi & Bilaspur celebrates World Wetland Day

The Regional Office Bilaspur conducted a capacity-building workshop on January 3, 2024, at the NTPC Coal Dam Project. The workshop aimed to educate plant management about the essential compliance requirements of environmental laws, as outlined in various provisions of rules and orders from the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal and the Government of Himachal Pradesh.



## RO Kullu conducts meeting with HPPWD officials

meeting >>>

The Regional Office, Kullu, in collaboration with HPPWD, Division Manali, organized an awareness camp on February 29, 2024, at Katrain in Circuit House, Manali, aimed at addressing the issue of illegal muck dumping during road and highway construction. The event was attended by HPPWD officials and contractors. Participants were educated about the C&D Waste Management Rules, 2016, and the C&D Waste Management Policy of HP State, emphasizing the adverse effects of illegal muck dumping in water bodies and promoting scientific management and disposal of muck generated during road construction. Information regarding various environmental laws and the imposition of environmental compensation by the Hon'ble NGT in case of violations was also shared. Additionally, a meeting of the District Level Committee, in reference to O.A. No 603/2019, was convened by the Regional Office, Kullu, chaired by the Additional District Magistrate, Kullu, on the same day. Stakeholder departments and NHAI contractors participated. The ADM, Kullu, directed NHAI, HPPWD, Mining, ULBs, and the Forest Department to take necessary actions and ensure compliance.



**NEWSLETTER TEAM:** Team constituted to bring out quarterly newsletter of the State Board includes Dr. Sanjeev Sharma, SSO; Sh. Chandan Singh EE; Sh. Lalit Kumar, EE; Sh. Atul Parmar EE; Sh. Shashi Shekhar, SO cum Editor; Dr. Pravin Sharma, SO; Sh. Pawan Sharma, DBA; Sh. Abhishek Sharma, DEO and Sh. Ajay Bhogal, Programmer.



## Awareness activity at Shimla

The Regional Office and Regional Laboratory Shimla of the H. P. State Pollution Control Board, in collaboration with Bank of Baroda, Awaaj Foundation, M/s 21st Century Enviro Engineers Pvt. Ltd., M/s Elephant Energy, and M/s Hotel Chadwick View, orchestrated a cleanliness campaign. The campaign, under the theme "Chhotti Pahal Bada Badlav," aimed to promote cleanliness around tourist spots in the Shimla area. Approximately 50 individuals participated in the initiative, jointly tackling the removal of garbage. In total, about 400kg of mixed solid waste was gathered and subsequently dispatched to M/s Elephant Energy, Bhariyal, for proper and scientific disposal.



Combined cleanliness drive under the theme "Chhotti Pahal Bada Badlav,"



## Exhibition & technology demonstration at Shivaratri Fair Mandi

The Regional Office Mandi and Bilaspur, along with the Regional Laboratory Sundernagar had set up an exhibition stall at the International Shivaratri Fair in Mandi during Maha-shivaratri 2024. Over the past two years, the themes were centered around e-waste and domestic hazardous waste.

However, this year's focus is on the Ban on Single-Use Plastics (SUP) and combating air pollution. Visitors were educated about the diverse initiatives undertaken by the State Board through informative banners, IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) materials, and audio-visual presentations displayed on LED screens. In an effort to minimize paper usage, all visitors were provided with IEC materials digitally via WhatsApp, with no physical printouts or handouts distributed. Additionally, visitors were encouraged to connect with the State Board through its social media channels for ongoing interaction and engagement.



Exhibition at Shivaratri Fair Mandi during 9-15 March, 2024





# DON'T LITTER !

Littering in our mountains not only spoils their natural beauty but also harms delicate ecosystems. Each piece of trash disrupts the balance, threatening wildlife and polluting water sources. Mountains serve as vital watersheds, providing freshwater to millions, but litter can contaminate these precious resources. Additionally, debris like plastics can take hundreds of years to decompose, further damaging the environment.

Responsible waste disposal is essential to preserve these pristine landscapes for future generations. Let's cherish our mountains by carrying out what we bring in and spreading awareness to ensure their protection, safeguarding their majesty and ecological integrity.

Call  
our 24x7 toll free  
Helpline Number  
**08045841000**  
for speedy grievance redressal  
related to pollution



**HPSPCB**

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

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