



For a Toxic-Free World

Toxics Link's 2016–2017 Annual Report

A toxics-free world with environmental justice for all

Message from the Director



Ravi Agarwal Director, Toxics Link

With about 25 years in the field, Toxics Link has played a persistent and crucial role in carving out the area of toxics and waste in India. It has through it's research based approach managed to bring in new information on areas which are largely not known in the general public, and which require both generating and disseminating important public health information on the toxics around us. We believe that by doing so, we can impact positively not only people's health, help change products and processes, but also inform public policy in these areas. The year 2016-2017 has been another successful one in this direction. There are achievements we can cite.

In the case of mercury, for example, we worked for significant reduction in the use of mercury amalgam fillings in major institutions like the Indian Armed Forces, Indian Railways, a few teaching hospitals and selected dental clinic chains in the country. Many private dental clinic chains like Clove Dental and My Dentist have declared themselves mercury free. Importantly new quality standards issued by Bureau of India Standards (BIS) for aneroid sphygmomanometers and digital thermometers will help health care providers to choose high quality substitutes to mercury instruments.

Our non-stop and ongoing work on bio medical has provided us a keen insight into this sector in India. Besides the ongoing work, we were able to provide significant inputs to the revised Bio-Medical Waste Rules in 2016. WHO identified us as the organization to carry out assessment of bio-medical waste management in 11 countries of the Southeast Asia region. Similarly, in the area of e waste management, we saw the issuance of guidelines under the E-waste Rules, 2016 which had significant and practical improvement. We contributed towards this.

We are always keen to open up emerging areas of work in the fastemerging field of toxics. Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs) are one such class of chemicals, which are found in many everyday products, or as chemicals used at home, and impact health through long term chronic exposures. Toxics Link has taken a lead. We developed a national platform to share information on EDCs, which was further strengthened through our recent research on EDCs. Our report on sippy cups has led to a major policy overhaul. The Government of India extended the purview of the Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Food (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Amendment Act, 2003 beyond baby feeding bottles by including other drinking accessories like sippy cups, teats, spouts and straws.

One of our proudest moments was when Government of India issued a regulation to restrict lead in paints for the household and decorative paints, and the present standard of lead in paints is 90 ppm. This has been our campaign for over 15 years and its impact on children's health will be felt for long. In December 2016 we also organized an Environmental film festival in partnership with the India International Centre spread and screened films spread over two days which was extremely well attended and appreciated.

We continue to work with our partners both nationally as well as internationally. We participate in important campaigns to help river ecologies in India. In particular our work with our regional partners is important since we share a similar developmental dynamic with them. We have always believed that this is the way forward, where we are part of a larger network of change. In the same spirit, we dialogue with all stakeholder, both private sector as well as public. Change is key, and for that we are a catalyst. For change to succeed it has to be adopted by all.

Finally, but very importantly, we would like to thank all our supporters, and funders. They have not only reposed their faith in us, but also hold us to exacting standards.

A toxics free future benefits everyone but benefits the most vulnerable most. It is more specifically for them that we continue to strive in the coming year as well.

About US

We are a group of people working together for environmental justice and freedom from toxins. We have taken it upon ourselves to collect and share information about the sources and dangers of poisons in our environment and bodies, as well as about clean and sustainable alternatives for India and the rest of the world.

Toxics Link emerged from a critical need to address knowledge gaps relating to issues of toxicity and waste, and their impact on the environment and human health, especially on vulnerable and marginalised citizens. The organisation came into existence in 1994 with a desire and ambition to work towards influencing and advocating policy that addressed this growing concern in the country. In the years that have followed, the organisation has been instrumental in impacting various environmental policies, standards and other government instructions to improve environment management in the country. Toxics Link is currently headquartered in New Delhi, the Indian capital, and has a nodal office in Kolkata. Unlike many non-profit organisations that work on a project-to-project basis, Toxics Link works in a programme mode on subjects relating to 'toxicity' and how it can be minimised. The key focus is to involve people in toxicity and waste issues, and to find solutions which are appropriate and safe. Starting from research and lab work to influencing policies and facilitating compliance, each subject relating to environment, toxicity and solutions is a programme by itself.

Programmes are initiated with a need and situation analysis, bringing out issues and concerns on toxics, pollutants, municipal and hazardous waste management, food safety, etc. This is done using participatory methods and state-of-the-art research techniques to establish facts. These facts are then brought to the public domain by advocacy and campaigning, community-level outreach, training and capacity building, information communication technology, policy analysis, environment friendly policy designing, programme development, providing a platform for solutions and influencing change. Thus, Toxics Link's programmes are people driven, need based and implementable.

Toxics-related information is brought to the public domain through a qualified team of experts and staff, who undertake exhaustive research studies based on scientific testing and standard research tools, undertake the challenges of policy advocacy and provide their expertise in an endeavour to build capacities of stakeholders around such issues for better compliance on the ground.

While the operational area of Toxics Link is the entire country, it is also part of international forums as a change maker. It has a network of over 5,000 members from different streams from across the nation. In the coming years, Toxics Link plans to expand activities by including measures, solutions and frameworks for ensuring producer responsibility and compliance, leveraging corporate social responsibility for minimising risk from toxics for a safer environment, and influencing society at large to be more responsible, aware and participative.

Toxics Link is a non-government organisation registered under the Societies Act of 1860 in the year 1996 in New Delhi. The founder director of the organisation is Ravi Agarwal, an environmentalist of international repute. The Board of Directors include Ravi Agarwal, Sanjay Parikh (Sr Advocate, Supreme Court of India), Ashok Khetan (Sr Chartered Accountant, Khetan and Company), Krishnendu Bose (Founder, Earth Care Productions) and Nanni Singh (Social Activist). Satish Sinha is an Associate Director at Toxics Link and is a well-known environmentalist.



Our Milestones

Since 1996, Toxics Link's research, policy advocacy, and awareness raising initiatives have notably led to



Issuance of Rules on Lead in Paints, notified in 2016 by Government of India makes mandatory 90 parts per million (ppm) standard for lead levels in paints. Toxics Link's persistent efforts resulted in major manufacturers shifting production to lead safe paints with 'no added lead'.



Stringent mercury dosing standards in lamps



Work on heavy metal contamination in vegetables led to the formation of a National Group to evaluate vegetable contamination, formed under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change



Toxics Link was part of the Rules drafting body of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and has contributed to all waste rules in the country.



Our work with unorganised sector engaged in informal waste management has led to their inclusion in waste management Rules in the country



Toxics Link contributed significantly in formulating and drafting of the World Health Organisation's mercury policy.



for a toxics-free world



New national standard of No BPA in baby feeding bottles and sippy cups making it safer for children (4)

Stringent Dioxins/ Furans standard for waste to energy incineration. Toxics Link's contribution

Toxics Link's contribution towards setting standards for heavy metal standards for toys in children.



Key agency to push for separate legal framework for e-waste in India, which led to the issuance of the E-waste Rules, 2011. Was instrumental in getting the concept of Extended Producer Responsibility in the Rules



End-of-life mercury bearing lamps brought under the provision of E- Waste Rules through a court intervention of Toxics Link



Played a critical role in the declaration of Delhi Ridge as a Reserve Forest.



Member of the National Committee on Immunization waste under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

The Year Gone by

Toxics Link primarily focuses on action research, campaigning, policy advocacy, capacity building, monitoring and facilitating enforcement of rules/ guidelines on issues related to chemicals and waste. In order to be focused in meeting its objectives and long-term goals, the organisation divides its initiatives into four interrelated programmes: toxics-free healthcare, chemicals and health, clean industry and information, and communication. Here is the journey of some of the activities and achievements of Toxics Link during the year 2016–2017.



Satish Sinha Toxics Link

As we step back and think of the year gone by ,it is filled with a sense of satisfaction and of accomplishment and the team members can justifiably sit back and j bask in the glory of having been involved in changing some status quo on environmental situations and discourses. The team at the beginning of the year had formulated very well defined objectives and goals to achieve and worked with extreme precision and focus to meeting the goals.

The range of our engagement was also highly diverse and broad spanning from a very scientific research on contamination of plastic material to hosting of environmental film festival. While scientific studies conducted on plastics with Brominated Flame retardants helped push the agenda on safer recycling and changed the conversation on circular economy, and clearly integrating toxicity into it, and throwing up multiple challenges on regulatory and technological innovations. Our persistent engagement on issues of E waste was further deepened with our report titled " What India Knows about E waste" clearly illustrating the level of understanding among stakeholders on E waste. It was also interesting to bring together many scientists and researchers on a group of chemicals catergorised as Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals and play such a pivotal role in furthering research and generation of new data and simplifying this complex chemical issue in form of a report for common understanding of larger public. All our reports on EDC have been very well received by both the scientific community and citizens and this ability of Toxics Link to be able to present complex scientific information in a simplified language for understanding of general public has been very widely respected and acknowledged. It has been on many occasions that people interact with me during meetings and conferences and repose this faith and acknowledgement in person which is an extremely humbling experience.

Our reports and overall engagement on the issue have only added to our credibility and the constant encouragement we have been receiving from all stakeholders. With success and recognition the expectation of society are also heightened hence the pressure to constantly maintain high standards.

We do look forward to the year ahead with great enthusiasm and changing the environmental norms for better.

Toxics-Free Healthcare

Bio-medical waste emanates during diagnosis, treatment or immunisation of human beings or animals or in research activities. Even though it constitutes only 15–20% of the total waste generated in hospitals, the list of potential harm that it can cause is endless. The problems mainly arise due to the improper segregation and mixing of hospital waste with municipal waste.

Toxic Link's endeavour is to create systems for safe handling and disposal of Bio-medical waste, which includes infectious as well as hazardous waste such as lead, mercury, and pharmaceutical and cytotoxic drugs. The approach of the programme is to minimise use of hazardous chemicals and move to sustainable practices in resource management and waste disposal in the healthcare sector.

From more than two decades, Toxics Link has been actively working on improving compliance of biomedical waste management in the country. We have been engaging with all stakeholders (health service providers, healthcare seekers, regulatory authorities, etc) and undertaking policy advocacy initiatives. The programme works with government bodies to bring out policy changes for improved infectious and hazardous waste compliance.

In 2017 we continued to work on improvement of healthcare waste management and the phasing out of mercury from healthcare sector. To eradicate mercury from the dental sector, we have partnered with World Alliance for Mercury Free Dentistry, a global coalition of CSO. We are also working towards facilitating a national guideline for the management of cytotoxic drugs. Toxics Link was identified as a lead consultant by the World Health Organization (WHO) to study and finalise a report on the current status of bio-medical waste management practices in the Southeast Asian region.





15–20% of the total waste generated in hospitals potentially harmful

Rules on bio-medical waste were revised last year and it includes many of our suggestions. Being a part of the expert group, we pushed for some of the concerns of healthcare facilities and got them addressed in the rules. The Bio-Medical Waste Management (BMWM) Rules, along with better management solutions, have also come up with a monitoring strategy. The rules have designated roles and responsibilities of all the stakeholders, increasing accountabilities and thus prompting more compliance.

Some of the key highlights of the activities carried by the Toxics-Free Healthcare Programme during 2016– 2017 are as follows:

Research and Advocacy on Bio-Medical Waste Management Practices

Toxics Link collaborated with the state health department and the Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board (RSPCB) for conducting training workshops, including knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) assessment in the seven divisions of Rajasthan on medical waste as well as mercury management. KAP assessment gave the baseline information regarding the current practices of bio-medical waste management in the state and major issues were identified. The regional workshops were vital in training health care facility staff by imparting the knowledge and implementation strategies of healthcare waste management as per Biomedical Waste management rules 2016. The workshops were able to train nearly 420 people and aims to get the knowledge percolated till their bottom level staff.

The organization also conducted a survey in the healthcare facilities in six districts of Rajasthan for analysing the compliance of BMWM rules as well as mercury management. A total 55 facilities, which included district hospitals, community healthcare centres, primary healthcare centres and sub-centres, were covered. The survey examined the groundlevel situation and the gaps that are present in the system so that appropriate action is initiated by the government to fill the gaps.

Mercury being a major issue of concern and the dental sector being one of the key areas of mercury usage, Toxics Link has engaged itself in phasing down its usage in this sector. Since pregnant and lactating mothers and children below the age of 15 are more vulnerable to this exposure, we are working with the Ministry of Health to bring a policy banning the use of mercury for them in any form. In order to phase down mercury from the dental sector, we are working with World Alliance of Mercury Free Dentistry. We are also in conversation with many state Indian Dental Associations (IDAs) and Dental Council of India to sensitise them about the issue and bring about a change in the dental curriculum so that use of dental amalgam can be eliminated altogether.

Toxics Link also conducted a secondary literature review on pharmaceutical waste and a draft report





is being prepared. The report entails information on pharmaceutical waste, its sources, its impacts on environment, and case studies from India and around the world. It emphasises on the policy framework in India and other countries and charts out all the stakeholders. This report will be helpful in understanding the extent of pollution in the country and will pinpoint the areas of intervention.

Cytotoxic drug, commonly used in cancer treatment, is gaining popularity in India, owing to the huge increase in the number of cancer patients in the country. These drugs kill the actively growing body cells, a property which makes them useful to kill cancer cells. But. in the process, normal body cells also die. Studies have shown that exposure to these drugs have both direct and indirect impacts on the people handling these drugs, especially people working in hospitals. Developed countries have strict guidelines for the management and handling of cytotoxic drugs, but India has no such guideline that will prevent occupational and environmental exposure to these drugs. Toxics Link is working towards facilitating a national-level policy to manage the usage of cytotoxic drugs with important stakeholders, including the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). We have collaborated with Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), who are facilitating the formulation of a national policy for the management of cytotoxic drugs.

The team has been continuously working towards bringing state-level phase out orders of mercury on the healthcare instruments, and this year we engaged with the state of Rajasthan to phase out its mercury healthcare instruments. We are hopeful that the government will soon take the required step.

Capacity Building and Campaign

Capacity Building, one of the important aspects of biomedical waste management, has continuously been taken up by us. Our engagement with state authorities in Rajasthan and extensive training workshops has helped in capacity building of different stakeholders. These programmes were very well received and will lead to a better implementation in the state.

- Toxics Link conducted meetings and interactions with state regulatory bodies on the issue of biomedical waste and mercury management.
- Seven workshops were conducted in Rajasthan, which raised awareness on healthcare facilities and common bio-medical waste treatment facilities based on the new rules (BMW Management, 2016). These workshops guided stakeholders on the creation of an implementation strategy for their hospitals and also raised awareness on mercury hazards.
- Toxics Link acts as a knowledge source and participates in various forums to raise the capacity of various stakeholders.
- Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and the WHO South-East Asia Regional Office (SEARO) are revising the module for their six-month diploma course on hospital waste management. Toxics Link has written three blocks and edited four blocks for the course.
- Toxics Link is a part of seven district-level monitoring committees of Delhi and the West Bengal state-level advisory committee. Inspections are being conducted by the team in various hospitals of Delhi. This will help understand the grass-roots level situation in the state, and such frequent monitoring sessions will lead to better implementation.

Publications

Poster on Segregation of bio-medical waste, WHO Report- Report on health-care waste management status in countries of the South-East Asia Region, Dental Posters for awareness of general population and for vulnerable population in specific.

Major Achievements

- Significant reduction in the use of mercury amalgam fillings in major institutions like the Indian Armed Forces, Indian Railways, few teaching hospitals and select dental clinic chains in the country.
- Private dental clinic chains like Clove Dental and My Dentist have declared themselves mercury free.
- New quality standards by Bureau of India Standards (BIS) for Aneroid Sphygmomanometers and digital thermometers.
- Government of India revises the Bio-Medical Waste Rules in 2016, with significant contribution from Toxics Link.
- Report on assessment of bio-medical waste management in 11 countries of the Southeast Asia region for WHO.

Clean Industry

Most of the Waste Rules got revised in March 2016, making this year very crucial. There was not just a need to push the regulatory agencies for proper guidelines and better implementation but also a need to create awareness about the changes in the waste framework in the country. The year saw us involved in consultations with various stakeholders, especially with the government, to bring in proper implementation measures and also work towards strengthening the capacity of regulatory agencies.

Apart from the Waste Rules, the team also carried on their work on packaging waste and batteries and started looking at chemical use in the dry-cleaning industry. Some of the key highlights of the activities carried by the Clean Industry Programme during 2016– 2017 are as follows:

a) Research and Policy Initiatives

- Toxics Link did a detailed study on packaging waste, documenting the current packaging materials used, disposal practices and recycling of certain materials. The study also focused on understanding the public perception on packaging. The report, which is currently under finalisation, will focus on bringing in voluntary and mandatory EPR norms for managing this waste. The report is also trying to focus on working at the design stage to reduce the amount of such waste created.
- Toxics Link has undertaken a research study to understand and assess exposure from perchloroethylene (PERC) used in the dry-cleaning industry. The study focuses on the current usage of the chemical in this industry as well as chemical remnants in dry-cleaned clothes. The lab results gave indication of high PERC remains. Since in the initial study, we had a limited sample size, the study was expanded and more samples were included in the final report.
- Toxics Link did a study to assess the current public awareness levels on e-waste, which could help in designing specific toolkits and materials for the



target audience.

- Toxics Link was part of the technical committee on framing the implementation guidelines under the new Rules of 2016. The committee was crucial as it was meant to define lifespans and thus contribute to target setting. We actively participated and contributed in the committee and most of our suggestions were taken on board.
- Toxics Link, with support from Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology (EMPA) and Sustainable Recycling Industries (SRI) did a study to document the current practices in plastic waste management of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE). This was used to push regulatory agencies to formulate guidelines on managing contaminated plastics. We also initiated a study to assess the use of brominated

flame retardants (BFRs) in plastics used in automobiles and foam.

- Toxics Link participated in various forums focusing on circular economy and resource efficiency to bring in our perspective and share our experiences.
- There have been attempts by the industry to dilute the rules, and Toxics Link is continuing its campaign to enforce the current rules.

b) Capacity Building and Campaign

 A regional workshop was organised along with Karnataka Pollution Control Board to build capacity of the SPCB officials who will be responsible for monitoring the rules at the ground level. The workshop was attended by officials from the state of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telengana and Kerala, as well as municipalities and civil society organisations.

- We were part of several other training programs being organised by other agencies, including training of SPCBs on inventorisation of e-waste, building capacity of auditors, and training of municipal authorities on plastic and e-waste.
- Toxics Link is collaborating with other stakeholders to create awareness and capacity-building modules for informal sector e-waste workers.

Publications



What India knows about e-waste, 2016

A report to assess awareness levels



Living Dangerously Kolkata Hotspots, 2016

A report to map the probable hotspots in the city of Joy



WEEE Plastic and Brominated Flame Retardants, 2016

Documentation of the current processes and practices related to recycling and disposal of WEEE plastics in Delhi

Major Achievements

Some of the key impacts of the work carried by the Clean Industry Programme are as follows:

- Issuance of guidelines under the E-waste Rules, 2016
- Action by authorities to stop EEE import by agencies with no EPR authorisation
- Producers applying for EPR authorisation
- Some initiatives for forming producer responsibility organsiations (PROs) in e-waste management
- Projects initiated to set up systems and processes on e-waste management in the country by different stakeholders
- Training and capacity-building programmes on waste being conducted across the country
- Action taken by authorities and courts to close down illegal recycling processes in Moradabad
- Kolkata report on polluting hotspots in the city, triggering discussion among relevant stakeholders

Chemicals and Health

Chemicals have become an integral part of our life; therefore there is a need to manage these chemicals to minimise their adverse impacts on health and environment. Chemicals usage is highly unregulated in India. Many chemicals that are banned in developed countries continue to be used here. There is very little awareness among people on the impact of chemicals and heavy metals in products. Our key objective is to collect data and information for mainstreaming the sound management of chemicals into national development policies and plans.

The focus of the Chemicals and Health Programme is to create information on the complete lifecycle of chemicals and their impacts on human health and environment. Some of the recent engagements of Toxics Link have been on chemicals in products, campaigns on endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs), mercury in lamps, campaigns on the phasing out of lead from paints, persistent organic pollutants (pops) and pesticides, and food safety.

Toxics Link's interventions in these programme areas have largely been through building campaigns and generating awareness, and bringing significant policy changes at the regional, national and international levels. Toxics Link is the South Asian hub of the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN), and it catalyses efforts of civil society organisations to drive some key issues on chemicals in the region. It also plays an important role in disseminating knowledge and information among partner organisations and building their capacities on specific issues.

Some key initiatives undertaken during the past year under the Chemicals and Health Programme are as follows:

Campaign on Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs)

Toxics Link continued its work on EDCs and is building upon the campaign to phase out Bisphenol A (BPA) from various products. Toxics Link developed a research report on BPA presence in teethers, considering the children's health. The report was shared in the public domain. Further Toxics Link undertook another study on BPA in thermal paper in collaboration with Banaras Hindu University, a premier institution in the country. Toxics Link also built partnerships with the premier research institutions like National Institute of Research in Reproductive Health and Madras University to carry out the campaign on EDCs.



Persistent Organic Pollutants

Persistent organic pollutant (POPs) is another important area where Toxics Link has created information, taking into consideration the Eighth Session of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention (COP 8), and is engaging with policymakers for better decision-making. The organisation also carried out a survey involving farmers, research scientists and traders in six states in India. The survey found that though Dicofol is still being used in some parts of India, the overall analysis shows that there is a drastic reduction in its use in India.

Mercury in Lamps

Toxics Link played a key role in the inclusion of mercury-bearing lamps under Extended Producer

Responsibility (EPR) in the E-waste Rules of the Government of India. However, it was challenged by the lighting industries in the Delhi High Court. Toxics Link intervened in the matter and the honorable court accepted Toxics Link as party in the matter. Toxics Link made a submission in the court in support of the Government of India notification.

Publications



Fact sheet on Naphthalene mothballs a health hazards



Report on BPA in teether: An Indian perspective

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Fact sheet on new POPs

Major Achievements

- Toxics Link developed a national platform to share information on EDCs, which has been further strengthened through our recent engagements on EDCs.
- Toxics Link's report on sippy cups has lead to a major policy overhaul. The Government of India extended the purview of the Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Food (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Amendment Act, 2003 beyond baby feeding bottles by including other drinking accessories like sippy cups, teats, spouts and straws.
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, has issued a regulation to restrict lead in paints for the household and decorative paints, and the present standard of lead in paints is 90 ppm.

Information and Communication

The Information and Communication Programme at Toxics Link helps create and share credible information on toxins globally. We use a variety of communication tools such as fact sheets, brochures, research reports, posters, newsletters and annual reports to transform researchbased knowledge into simpler media products to create awareness, initiate discussions among stakeholders and build public opinion. Toxics Link has been organising an environmental film festival 'Quotes from the Earth' biennially since 2004 in New Delhi. The seventh edition of the film festival was held on 2–3 December 2016 at India International Centre, New Delhi. The film festival is an attempt to create awareness among the general public, and to engage in discussions around the various local and global environmental challenges facing us.

Some of the key highlights and activities of the Information and Communication Programme in 2016–2017 are as follows:

Film Festival 'Quotes From The Earth'

In order to build a pro-environment agenda among the stakeholders including the general public, Toxics Link with India International Centre (IIC) has been organising a film festival called 'Quotes from the Earth' every two years since 2004. Last year, Toxics Link received funding from the Embassy of Switzerland to organise the seventh edition of the film festival. A total of 17 films by renowned filmmakers like Markus Imhoof, Mahesh Mathai, Dr Bijukumar Damodaran, Krishnendu Bose, Nandan Saxena and Kavita Behl on themes of biodiversity, climate change, waste management and toxic chemicals were screened. Besides, selected videos of school students on plastics were also screened. The two-day festival saw an overwhelming response and was attended by over 350 people,



including school children, environment-conscious people, activists, researchers and youngsters, who are agents of change in the country. The Chief Guest of the ceremony Dr Ajay Mathur, Director General, TERI, along with Daniel Ziegerer, Director of Cooperation and Counsellor, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Embassy of Switzerland, graced the occasion.

Public Lecture

Toxics Link regularly organises public lectures on different environmental issues. It provides a platform to initiate a public debate and generate awareness on topical developmental and environmental issues. The objective of the public lecture iss to examine and understand progress of key environmental issues, its implementation, challenges and implications on the environment. The key outcomes of the public lectures were made available through our social media channels and our website to generate public discussion.



Website and Social Media

To disseminate latest news, research-based publications, updates, and event roundups on national and global issues related to toxins, Toxics Link uses its website and social media as tools to communicate to a wider audience. Our website and social media channels (Facebook and Twitter) serve as a regular and reliable source of information on many environmental issues. Latest news and reports are posted on our social media channels regularly. Our website is also a major source of information on toxicity in India and is regularly visited people from all over the world. We regularly receive queries on our website, and there has been a considerable increase in Toxics Link's reach. Our website recorded one lakh hits during the last financial year.

Newsletters: Toxics Dispatch and Toxics Alert

To create accessible and integrated information on pertinent environmental issues, and for a wider dissemination of environmental news, reports, updates and policies (national and global), Toxics Link brings out a guarterly newsletter Toxics Dispatch, comprising opinion on policies, simplified versions of technical research, interviews of eminent personalities/ stakeholders, news and events organised by us. We also publish a monthly e-newsletter Toxics Alert, a compilation of significant national and international news and feature stories to keep readers updated on environmental issues. Both these newsletters are aimed at increasing knowledge and understanding on issues related to toxicity and waste among our various stakeholders, including common people. The newsletters have received good response from our readers, including greater participation of stakeholders and understanding on environmental issues. There has been a demand for increasing the frequency of the newsletter. Our subscribers list has also made an increase of around 2% in the last financial year. Ten issues of Toxics Alert were compiled, uploaded and circulated during the last year.

Campaign on Lead (pb) in Paints

Toxics Link initiated the campaign to phase out lead from decorative paints in 2007, and our recent studies have shown a decline in the levels of lead content in paints in the Indian market. Toxics Link's active campaigning and information exchange through meetings and discussions have strengthened the advocacy with the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) to formulate lead standards for paints in India. It resulted in the BIS notifying the standards for paints in 2013.



The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change have also considered this as an important issue, and have issued a draft notification to regulate lead content in household and decorative paints. The organisation has been actively campaigning on this issue and as a part of the programme, several activities were conducted during the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action (ILPPWA) in October 2016. School awareness programmes were organised in Delhi on the issues of lead, its applications and harmful effects. The organisation also conducted a national schoollevel poster competition on lead (in paints) and its hazards. A mass awareness programme was initiated by the team in association with Reliance Broadcast Network Limited (92.7: Big FM) via radio jingles in the metropolitan cities of Kolkata, Bhopal, Chandigarh, Baroda and Hyderabad. During the Week of Action, a social media campaign was also run on various social media platforms and a press release was made, which received immense coverage in both print and online media. All these initiatives were very well received by school children and the general public, helping spread awareness about the issue. Several queries like safe lead levels, the right kind of paints to be used and how to know the lead level in blood by the general public on this issue has been received, indicating that the campaign received wide appreciation and has led to a positive impact.

Resource Centre

Toxics Link has an automated in-house library that helps in sharing knowledge among the readers drawn from a variety of backgrounds-researchers, academicians, experts, civil society professionals, among others—who play a vital role in shaping public opinion and influencing policy change. The library houses a collection of around 520 documentary films from India and abroad, over 4,900 books and research-based reports; books, magazines and periodicals are added from time to time. It also maintains a large database of our stakeholders: a photo bank comprising transparencies, slides and digital photographs on all the issues Toxics Link works on. A first-hand compilation of questions on issues of environment raised in Parliament sessions are also stocked in the library. The resource centre is open to all; visitors from different civil society organisations, university students and other non-profit organisation come here to gather information on various issues related to health and environment. The organisation continues to add more of these knowledge products every year to build its archive on new interventions happening in the health and environment sector.

Thank you to our supporters!

Toxics Link is committed to changing the way we deal with sustainability, waste and toxicity issues. We thank our innumerable supporters who help us in many ways and make it possible for us to continue working on raising public awareness, policy-level changes, creating safer livelihoods and finding innovative solutions for a safer and sustainable environment. We thank our main funders Consumer for Dental Choice, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Embassy of Switzerland, International PoPs Elimination Network (IPEN), NGO Shipbreaking Platform, Sofies SA, Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC), Institute of South Asian Studies, Cividep India, and Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action for their support.

Leadership

Board of Directors

Ravi Agarwal, Founder – Director

Sanjay Parikh, *Sr Advocate, Supreme Court*

Ashok Khetan Sr Chartered Accountant, Khetan and Company Nanni Singh, Social Activist

Krishnendu Bose Filmaker

Satish Sinha Associate Director

Chemicals and Health

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Toxics Free Health Care

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Finance and Accounts

Pooja Gupta Finance Manager **Soma Mitra** Accounts Officer

Administration

RS Sharma Admin Manager

Snigdha Sinha Logistics Officer

Gajender Pal Singh Receptionist **Shriram** Programme Assistant

Dinesh Kumar Driver

Balance Sheet

Balance Sheet As on 31st March 2017

		-	-		
Previous Year Amount (Rs.)	Liabilities	Current Year Amount (Rs.)	Previous Year Amount (Rs.)	Assets	Current Year Amount (Rs.)
	Corpus Fund			Fixed Assets (Annexure C)	
2,57,206.90	Opening Balance	2,57,206.90	8,88,696.60	Opening Balance :-	8,73,752.39
			2,32,100.00	Add:- Additions	49,888.00
2,61,58.873.11	Income and Expenditure Account	3,02.31,825.01	I	Less: Deletion	I
	Opening Balance		2,47,244.22	Less Depreciations	2,04,039.09
40,72,951.90	Add:- Excess of Income Over Expenditure	24,09,351.18	8,73,752.39		7,19 601.30
				Investments	
3,04,89,031.91	Fixed Asset Equilisation Reserve	3,28,90,383.09	91,788.00	Accrued Interes: on FDR's (FC)	I
	Opening Balance	8,73,752.38	7,729.00	Accrued Interest en FDR, (Local)	3,646.00
8.88.896.59	Add:- Additon to Fixed Assets	29.888.00	2,56,84.812.00	Fixed Deposit- Bank (FC)	2,76,05,643.00
2.32,180.00			29,94.459.00	Fixed Deposit- Bank(Local)	39,81,048.00
11,20,996.59	Less Depreciation	9,23,640.38		Current Accede 8 1 and 8 Advances Sundary Advances	
2,47,244.22		2,04,39.09	00 660 12 0	Culterit Assets & Loan & Auvances Junury Auvances	1E 0.1 668 00
8,73,752.38	Current Liabilities	9,16,146.00	6,74,032.00 3,67,398.00	TDS Recoverable (Annexure E)	6,68,394.00
9,15,354.00	Interest on Revolving Funds			Cash in Bank	
15,08,444.30	Unutilised Gral (Annexure A)	16,05,329.30	29,16,933.48	Central Bank of India (Annexure F)	15,97,773.38
	Expenses payable (Annenire 8)	64,767.00		Cash In Hand	
84,724.28			57,598.00	Cash in Hand (Annexure G)	33,555.00
3 38,71,306.87	Total	3,62,04,228.68	3,38,71,306.87	Total	3,62,04,228.68

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to Accounts- Annexure -H As per our audit report of even date

s per our addit report of o

For SNMG & CO.

Chartered Accountants FRN. 001921N

CA. DC.GARD Partner Memberships No.: 076117 Place: New Delhi Date : 9th September, 2017 Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended on 31st March, 2017

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to Accounts- Annexure -H As per our audit report of even date For SNMG & CO. Chartered Accountants FRN. 001921N

For THE JUST ENVIRONMENT CHARITABLE TRUST

RAVI AGARVAL CA. ASHOK. KHETAN

Trustee

Trustee

CA. DC.GARD Partner Memberships No.: 076117 Place: New Delhi Date : 9th September, 2017