TOXICS DISPATCH

A newsletter from Toxics Link

Number 52 | October 2018

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY

Toxics Link
for a toxics-free world

# BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION- WILL WE SUCCEED?

According to the head of UN Environment Erik Solheim, "Plastic isn't the problem. It's what we do with it." This year the World Environment day was marked with the theme "Beat plastic pollution". Plastic once upon a time considered as a golden material has now become a global menace and one of the major sources of waste problem in the world. As per statistics 8.3 billion metric tons of plastic has been produced since it was introduced and incidentally the amount of plastic produced in a year is roughly the same as the entire weight of humanity. Technically all the plastics which are produced remain in the environment and only a tiny fraction of those are being incinerated which has also been creating another set of problems. The most important question which arises is that where do the plastics finally end up? The answer is most of the plastics are choking up the rivers, lakes, land and oceans.

## PLASTIC POSING ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH HAZARDS

The chemical nature of plastics renders them resistance to natural degradation and thus they remain in the environment for a very long period of time. It is estimated that a foam plastic cup will take 50 years, a plastic beverage holder will take 400 years, a disposable nappy will take 450 years, and a fishing line will take 600 years to degrade. Thus considering the amount of plastics which are being used in day to day life one can imagine the estimated time that will be needed for degradation of all the plastics which are being released into the environment. Further, toxic additives used in plastics during the production process multiply the pollution associated with plastic. According to a survey conducted by the University of Gothenburg, about one-third of the tested plastic products

## IN THIS ISSUE

# EDITORIAL

October marks the beginning of festivities and it was around this time four years back the Prime Minister launched " Clean India" campaign attempting to end open defecation and improving waste management in cities. The results so far have been mixed but impressive specially on building toilets while the issue of urban waste management is still fraught with many challenges. Most cities and smaller towns continue to struggle with issues of waste management and used polythene bags littered across streets and villages visibly represent big piece of the problem. Several states have launched multiple initiatives to deal with menace of plastic but with limited success. In an effort to deal with this issue of plastics in waste, India along with UN Environment also hosted World Environment Day on 5th June the theme being" Beat the Plastics".

Plastics today have almost become synonymous with ocean pollution with large floating islands of plastic being discovered in different oceans across the globe. It is today recognized as the single largest contributor to ocean pollution with serious impacts on marine life. In India too we recognize plastics as the single most unmanageable material in the waste stream specially plastics that are discarded after single use since it has little material value for it to be retrieved and recycled.

Plastics is perhaps one of the most versatile materials due to its properties and increasing possibilities of its usages while its biggest drawback being its non degradable characteristic and its ability to persist in environment for over 1000 years. Per capita consumption of plastic is relatively mush lesser as compared to many of the developed economies thus providing scope for increased production and consumption but no effort towards managing waste. Globally too the industry continues to push for higher production and increased consumption patterns with no responsibility for its sound management making plastics villain of the environmental discourse. Unfortunately only about 10% of the plastics waste generated is recycled annually resulting in huge accumulation of plastic waste on the planet which continues to take up valuable spaces in landfills and eventually landing up in oceans. China perhaps understood this crisis of plastic waste and has recently placed an embargo on import of any plastic waste thus adding to the criticality of managing this waste since the world has limited recycling capacity. In most conversations around plastics we tend to ignore or omit another important aspect of chemical toxicity associated with plastic since chemicals such as lead, phthalates , Bpa cadmium , dyes are important ingredients in plastic production many of these additives are known for adverse human health impacts.

Interestingly the Indian population has been comfortable with the use of plastics specially single use plastics and we do witness the growth in generation of plastic waste with no added capacity or mechanism to handle this waste. Several state governments have banned the use of single use plastics the efficacy of which only time will tell. The most stringent ban has been recently imposed by state of Maharashtra and important to note that this ban has been widely appreciated by common citizens and the only murmur of protest was heard from the industry signaling clearly that people were not sympathetic towards this material and would not hesitate to pressurize the governments to bring this under further control. In most conversation one realizes that plastic bags are considered as a nuisance by large number of citizens and would support multiple actions to reduce its usage. This is also evident from the earlier material ban imposed on plastic pouches for gutka. The industry needs to recognize this fact and make serious efforts owning responsibility towards material recovery and waste management since most of the recycling is currently happening in informal sector with most rudimentary process using basic technology and no effort from the industry in reversing or changing the status quo. The choice of appropriate technology and scale of operation will be key inputs driving change and highly desirable efforts by the industry. The solutions have to very specific to individual resin core of plastic and the effort has to be driven towards recycling and upcycling large percentage of plastic waste generated in the country, it would also require the industry and the government to come together and support efforts in reducing the production of single use plastics.

I would urge all to seriously consider reducing plastic use in their daily life specially single use plastics. Let us all pledge that this festive season we will make a shift to plastic free celebrations.

**Satish Sinha,**
Associate Director, Toxics Link

released toxic substances, including 5 out of 13 products intended for children. There are many additives which are also known as endocrine-disrupting chemicals and can have an adverse impact on human health, animals and marine life. Thus considering all these aspects into consideration, undoubtedly plastic has posed a serious threat to the environment and human health. There are various forms of plastics that act as pollutants and are categorized into micro-, meso-, or macro debris, based on size.

## PLASTICS IN THE OCEAN

The ocean and the marine ecosystem are the most impacted due to plastic pollution. Since the ocean is downstream, plastic finally ends up in it causing unprecedented damage to the ocean. It has been estimated that 8 million tons of plastic waste enter the world's oceans each year.

The first oceanographic study released on the world's oceans has estimated that at least 5.25 trillion individual plastic particles weighing roughly 244,000 tonnes (269,000 tons) were floating on or near the surface. The report also stated that floating plastic waste has been shown to accumulate in five subtropical gyres that cover 40 percent of the world's oceans. The studies have also found that plastic pollution in the ocean can kill all kinds of species, including small zooplankton, large cetaceans, most seabirds, and all marine turtles, readily ingesting plastic bits and trash items such as cigarette lighters, plastic bags, and bottle caps. Further in the ocean plastics degrade to their most dangerous form called "micro-plastics", which is not only impacting the marine ecosystem but also making its way to the human food chain. There are also studies which have established the fact that micro-plastics from the ocean are contaminating the salts we eat.

## GLOBAL OUTLOOK TO BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION.

Plastic pollution is now a global crisis and to combat the problem there is a need of a multifarious approach involving all the stakeholders. The UN environment has released the first of its kind report during the World Environment Day 2018 and asked the global community to step up efforts by proposing a certain tangible action plan to beat plastic pollution.

Some of the steps which have been recommended to get rid of plastic pollution are to

improve waste management, promote eco-friendly alternatives, educate consumers, enable voluntary reduction strategies and successfully implement bans or levies on the use and sale of single-use plastics. Further the UN has also underlined the importance of the need for broader cooperation from business and private sector stakeholders, offering a roadmap for upstream solutions, including extended producer responsibility and incentives for adoption of a more circular economy approach to plastic production and consumption.

### INDIA AND PLASTIC POLLUTION

India a growing economy and has witnessed unprecedented use of plastic since the last decade. As per the Central Pollution Control Board, India generates about 15,000 tones of plastic waste every day, of which about 40% remains uncollected. About 70% of plastic packaging products become "waste" in a short span of time. Though the per capita use of plastic is very low in India the disposal of plastic waste has emerged as a great challenge for the country. The Indian government has notified new Plastic Waste Rules -2016 and some of the state governments have taken initiatives in this regard; however implementation of the regulations is key to achieve the desired level of success. As India was the global host of 2018 World Environment Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi vowed to take action to beat plastic pollution and announced ban on single use of plastics from 2022. This is an important step forward demonstrating India's commitment to beat plastic pollution.

Finally the world community has to come forward and rally behind the UN environment efforts to get rid of plastic pollution which is critical to save mother earth. Steps need to be initiated at the local level based on the principle of "Act locally and think globally". Perhaps this is the only way left out for us to beat plastic pollution lest it's too late.

**Piyush Mohapatra**
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## FEATURES

# HOW SAFE IS OUR FOOD?

Public Lecture • 26th July, 2018
India International Centre, New Delhi

### INTRODUCTION

Food is a dire necessity in everyone's life as it gives us energy and nutrients which play a major role in our growth and development. However, it is important that the food is nutritious, healthy and safe. But in the present context, the question arises as to how safe is our food?

The purpose of the public lecture titled 'How safe is our food?' organized by Toxics Link at India International Centre, New Delhi, was to discuss the serious issue of food safety, its detrimental effects on our health & well-being and the need to raise awareness on the impact of excessive unhygienic and toxic food. It also tried to examine the existing rules & regulations and the role of enforcing agencies in proper implementation of food safety laws. The speakers were: Mohd. Amir, Technical Officer, FSSAI; Kajal Debnath, DGM, Head of Regulatory Affairs, Mother Dairy Pvt Ltd and Ashim Sanyal, COO of Consumer VOICE. Mr Satish Sinha, Associate Director at Toxics Link, moderated the discussion.

### PUBLIC LECTURE SESSION

Mr. Satish Sinha while setting the agenda of the lecture highlighted the fact that the food that comes to our plate goes through a huge process from how it is grown, stored, transported, processed

and finally cooked & eaten. So it has got a huge process in between and at any point of time it can tend to get unsafe. In this context Toxics Link's public Lecture was an attempt to shed light on the complexities related to 'What is safe food and what do we understand about safe food'.

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Mohd. Amir began his lecture by describing what FSSAI does in a nutshell and his role within the organisation. Mohd. Amir added that he is heading the scientific panel on antibiotics and pesticide residues in FSSAI.

Following is a summary of what he spoke during the lecture:

- FSSAI's responsibility is to ensure safe and wholesome food for the public. Exports are not under the purview of FSSAI.
- In FSSAI there are 16 scientific panels which cover pesticides, antibiotics, contaminants, heavy metals, GM foods etc.
- Pesticides and antibiotics are used on branded foods only. It's difficult for FSSAI to control these branded foods. It fixes maximum residue levels (MRLs) based on the data which is received by Ministry of Agriculture.

**Mohd. Amir**
*Technical Officer, FSSAI*

Mr. Kajal Debnath began his lecture by citing the new steps and regulations happening on food safety and how FSSAI has been instrumental in observing food safety norms. Here is a gist of the points Mr. Debnath raised during the lecture.

- WHO did a survey in 2015 and data shows that 40pc of the world's population is having food-borne illnesses.
- Food safety is a very paramount case and so changes in India have also happened dynamically. There was The

Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and a law of Fruit Products Order, Meat Food Products Order, Vanaspati product order and so on.

- The food industry is very fragmented. India's food market is a 360 billion dollar one. Only 10-20pc of the products are getting processed, thus making it safe.
- By the FSSAI Act of 2006 it has been mandated to deliver safe and wholesome food to consumers. FSSAI as a food authority has various directives, and licensing & registration has been one of the regulations. Also there are product standards. Industry has been following those norms and FSSAI has been revisiting those regulations and raising them to international standards.

**Kajal Debnath**
*DGM, Head of Regulatory Affairs, Mother Dairy Pvt Ltd.*

After Mr. Kajal Debnath, the last speaker for the evening was Aseem Sanyal who is the COO of CONSUMER VOICE, a renowned non-profit Organization operating in over 22 states and Union Territories across India. Mr Sanyal started off by saying that food safety is not an isolated subject and what is safe food is a million dollar question. Following is the crux of the points that he discussed:

- Food safety comes hand-in-hand with other by-products, processes and factors that make food safety a subject of major micro-study. We will have to take into account various factors like climate, social, cultural behaviour, the crop pattern, the legislation or regulation and the effectiveness of standards. Whatever standards are being developed is independent of any influence-they are derived from the brains of knowledgeable people.
- Today food safety is more in the hands of the consumers. Most of the regulations control the environment and the food safety aspects thoroughly but not in totality. The consumer actually has to choose the right products.
- The latest campaign of FSSAI is called thoda kam-eat right. The campaign is designed to control 3 main elements of food supposed to be harmful to our body-salt, sugar, fat.
- Adding to the problem are non-communicable diseases (NCDs). NCDs are diseases occurring because of our laziness as individuals. So today the world is struggling and India has become part of it as a latest WHO report indicates that salt, sugar and trans-fats are the major critical elements that need to be controlled by 2022.

**Ashim Sanyal,**
*Chief Operating Officer, Consumer Voice*

**Ipsita Baishya** *ipsita@toxicslink.org*

## SUSTAINABILITY AND NGOs

Sustainability is often confused with Corporate Social Responsibility or looked upon exclusively through an environmental lens. But in reality CSR happens to be only a part of sustainability definition. Sustainability, in its broader sense is rightful allocation of resources (natural and economical) to fulfil present day's needs and also save enough for future needs without compromising on the development aspect. It is governed by 4 factors viz. Social, economical, environmental and time factor. The very idea is to attain a balance amongst the governing factors so that all round development is made possible in the present time and future potential for growth and development is also taken care off.

Sustainability plays an important role for the long term growth and success of any company, program or nation. The concept of sustainability and sustainable development becomes even more critical for a fast developing nation like India as larger population of India is dependent on the agrarian economy and is vulnerable to the adverse climate effects. With economic development and infrastructural development taking the centre stage, it becomes quintessential to consider the sustainability aspect of any activity that the nation takes up for its upliftment. Hence if we the people are to have sustainable development the government has an important role to play in it. To accomplish this government must take initiative in formulating strategies, policies and programs that are conducive to the concept of "Precautionary Principle". A major pre requisite for sustainable development in any sector is to have adaptive ability for the constantly changing needs & challenges and to be proactive in addressing those concerns.

Sustainability of any strategy, policy or program can only be achieved by creating a shared understanding amongst the people who are involved in it either from the governance side or from the beneficiary side. Also creating an enabling environment and addressing the gaps in the system on regular basis along with the proper resource allocation to each aspect would help the program to sustain longer and function more efficiently which in turn would propel us in the direction of the goal with which the programme was started. Hence, not only creating a system is important but its proper functioning and the repair mechanism also play pivotal role in overall success or failure.

Coming to the NGO sector, due to their non profit status, they are not hindered by the short term financial objectives and hence can contribute to the long standing causes like climate change and international ban on mercury. Also NGOs enjoy greater degree of public trust and can be very useful in addressing the issues that have impact on the society. With more and more NGOs focusing their energy on the government and inter-governmental processes they can act as a catalyst for bringing out the changes in the common practices. NGOs can also help by engaging private corporations around their sustainability initiatives. This will not only help in developing more cost-effective and impactful corporate sustainability programs but will also develop a sense of social and environmental responsibility in the corporate sector.

While some NGOs are research driven and look to engage with decision makers others tend to work as watch dogs and provide the critical details on current scenario. It would be interesting to see the collaboration MNCs and NGOs in terms of values and resources as this will open the doors for endless opportunities for business innovation with meaningful social impact and hence a better tomorrow.

**Dr Kavita Yadav**
*kavita@toxicslink.org*

## HEALTH MINISTRY BANS OVER-THE-COUNTER SALE OF 14 STEROID CREAMS

*Source: New Indian Express, New Delhi, April 8, 2018*

The government has banned over the counter sale of 14 skin creams and ointments containing steroids that were being extensively marketed for skin conditions like pigmentation, itching, and inflammation.

The move comes following a sustained campaign by dermatologists across the country who had been demanding ban on manufacture and sale of steroid based ointments by the Union ministry of health and family welfare.

These creams can now be purchased only after showing doctor's prescription.

Officials in the health ministry said that a notification has been issued by bringing the 14 drugs under the Schedule H of the Drugs and Cosmetic Rules, 1945 following the recommendations of the Drug and Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) under the Drug Controller General of India.

In November last year, a group of eminent dermatologists in the country had written to the Centre and the drug regulatory authority demanding a ban on manufacturing and sale of such lotions saying that they are "hazardous" and leading to a fungal epidemic in India.

"India is facing a unique epidemic of difficult to treat superficial fungal infections," the letter by the Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists, and Leprologists had said. A similar letter had been shot by the International League of Dermatological Societies supporting the demand put forth by Indian dermatologists.

*Read more at: http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2018/apr/08/health-ministry-bans-over-the-counter-sale-of-14-steroid-creams-1798739.html*

## WORLD'S FIRST MICROFACTORY TO HELP TACKLE E-WASTE HAZARD

*Source: The Hindu, New Delhi, April 10, 2018*

An Indian-origin scientist in Australia has launched the world's first microfactory that can transform the components from electronic waste items such as smartphones and laptops into valuable materials for re-use.

According to Veena Sahajwalla, a professor at the University of New South Wales, the e-waste microfactory has the potential to reduce the rapidly growing problem of vast amounts of electronic waste causing environmental harm and going into landfill. It can also turn many types of consumer waste such as glass, plastic and timber into commercial materials and products, she said.

Green manufacturing

For instance, from e-waste, computer circuit boards can be transformed into valuable metal alloys such as copper and tin while glass and plastic from e-devices can be converted into micromaterials used in industrial grade ceramics and plastic filaments for 3D printing.

"Our e-waste microfactory and another under development for other consumer waste types offer a cost-effective solution to one of the greatest environmental challenges of our age," said Ms. Sahajwalla, who earned her B.Tech degree in metallurgical engineering from IIT Kanpur in 1986.

"Using our green manufacturing technologies, these microfactories can transform waste where it is stockpiled and created, enabling local businesses and communities to not only tackle local waste problems but to develop a commercial opportunity from the valuable materials that are created," she said. Ms. Sahajwalla said microfactories present a solution to burning and burying waste items.

The modular microfactories can operate on a site as small as 50 square metres and can be located wherever waste may be stockpiled.

*Read more at:http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/worlds-first-microfactory-to-help-tackle-e-waste-hazard/article23483787.ece*

## HEAVY FINE PROPOSED FOR DUMPING WASTE IN OPEN

*Source: The Tribune, Jalandhar, May 16, 2018*

To ensure compliance with the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, and for effective management of solid waste in the state, the Local Bodies Department has proposed a heavy fine for dumping waste in the public area in the newly drafted Punjab Model Solid Waste (Management) and Cleanliness and Sanitation Bylaws, 2018. According to the new proposed draft, a person can be fined from Rs 500 to Rs 5,000 for violating the rules. Even disposal of cow dung in the public area will also invite a penalty of Rs 5,000.

The Local Bodies Department has asked the civic bodies to provide suggestions and comments on the draft in the next 30 days following which it will be notified.

While informing more, Dr Sri Krishan, assistant health officer, MC, said as per the new rules, the department would appoint nuisance detectors who would check the violation of the solid waste management rules in their respective areas.

"Even though the Solid Waste Management Act was notified in 2015, it was not implemented in full spirit till date due to lack of support from the public. Despite holding a number of awareness programmes, people have refused to comply with the provisions. However, the heavy fine proposed in the new rules will surely stop people from littering in the open," said Dr Krishan.

He said it was also proposed that if someone breached these bylaws, cases could be filed as per the Environment Protection Act, 1986.

Major fine proposed

*A fine of Rs 2, 000 as per the Act will be imposed on those who will be found pasting posters, writing on walls, diminishing beauty of historically significant buildings/ property and public squares. If the violators spit and throw waste on roads from vehicles, he or she will be fined Rs 250.

*If the shopkeeper throws blood, bones, feather, skin, egg shells and the other remains of dead animals/ birds in front of a butcher's shop, he will have to pay a fine of Rs 2,000.

*If hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, medical stores and laboratories litter roads, public places, pathways and footpath (non-hazardous), they will have to pay a fine of Rs 2,000.

*If someone burns waste, the offender will have to pay a fine of Rs 5,000 and the same is done in case of bulk waste at dumping sites or at secondary waste collection points or other, the fine is Rs 20,000.

*Read more at: http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/jalandhar/heavy-fine-proposed-for-dumping-waste-in-open/590588.html*

## THAILAND IS THE NEW DUMPING GROUND FOR WORLD'S HIGH-TECH TRASH

*Source: Thomson Reuters, May 30, 2018*

BANGKOK: Thailand is a new dumping ground for scrap electronics from around the world, say police and environmentalists, the latest country to feel the impact of China's crackdown on imports of high-tech trash.

Police at Laem Chabang port, south of Bangkok, showed on Tuesday seven shipping containers each packed with about 22 tonnes of discarded electronics, including crushed game consoles, computer boards and bags of scrap materials.

Electronic refuse, or e-waste, is turning up from Hong Kong, Singapore and Japan, police said, some of it imported by companies without the required permits.

"This ... shows that electronic waste from every corner of the world is flowing into Thailand," Deputy Police Chief Wirachai Songmetta said as he showed the containers to the media.

While "e-waste" - defined as any device with an electric cord or battery - can be "mined" for valuable metals such as gold, silver and copper, it can include hazardous material such as lead, mercury and cadmium.

Police said they filed charges against three recycling and waste processing companies in Thailand. Anyone found guilty could be jailed for up to 10 years.

"The companies that we have filed charges against don't have a quota to import even a single ton of electronic waste," Wirachai said.

China imposed a ban on overseas trash last year, telling the World Trade Organization (WTO) that it would stop accepting imports on 24 types of foreign waste, leading some to fear that the waste could end up in neighbouring countries.

*Read more at: https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/thailand-is-the-new-dumping-ground-for-worlds-high-tech-trash-report-1859873*

## NOW, 'MUCK SPECIAL' TRAINS OPERATE DAILY TO COLLECT GARBAGE

*Source: Free press Journal, Mumbai, Jun 19, 2018*

As the amount of garbage being dumped along the suburban train tracks in and around Mumbai is on the rise, the railway administration is running the 'muck special' trains on a daily basis.

Earlier, the 'muck special' trains, tasked with the collection of garbage lying along the tracks, used to be operated only occasionally, officials said.

According to the officials, while the Central Railway runs four 'muck special' trains between CSMT and Kalyan stations, the Western Railway runs five such trains between Churchgate and Virar stations. The special trains are operated in the wee hours, when the passenger train operations are shut.

In the last fiscal (between April 2017-March 2018), the CR disposed of 94,000 cubic metres of garbage, while the WR has disposed of 75,000 cubic metres garbage ever since it launched the monsoon preparation work in April this year.

General Manager of Central Railway, D K Sharma, without naming the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), said that the prime responsibility of curbing the dumping of garbage lies with the local civic body, which he said was not carrying out its work up to the mark.

"The garbage is dumped by the authorised or unauthorised units dwelling along side the tracks, which is posing a challenge before us. No one needs to tell whose responsibility it is. Its our collective responsibility to keep our surroundings clean. But we are doing our job and running four muck special trains everyday," Sharma said.

*Read more: http://www.freepressjournal.in/mumbai/now-muck-special-trains-operate-daily-to-collect-garbage/1299886*

## INDIA AMONG TOP 5 NATIONS IN E-WASTE GENERATION: REPORT

*Source: Economic Times, New Delhi, June 5, 2018*

India is among the top five e-waste generating countries in the world besides China, the US, Japan and Germany, according to a report.

Among states, Maharashtra contributes the largest e-waste of 19.8 per cent but recycles only about 47,810 tonne per annum (TPA), the report released by Assocham and NEC today said ahead of the Environment Day on June 5.

Tamil Nadu with e-waste contribution of 13 per cent recycled about 52,427 TPA; Uttar Pradesh (10.1 per cent) recycles about 86,130 TPA; West Bengal (9.8 per cent), Delhi (9.5 per cent ), Karnataka (8.9 per cent), Gujarat (8.8 per cent) and Madhya Pradesh 7.6 per cent.

*Read more at:https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/india-among-top-5-nations-in-e-waste-generation-report/articleshow/64449280.cms*

# RESOURCES


## ENDOCRINE DISRUPTOR: REVIEW OF INDIAN RESEARCH

This document is intended to collect information on some of the Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs) which includes the usages of these EDCs in consumer products, its human and environmental health impacts based on the research studies carried out in Indian context and general information from secondary sources (worldwide). This document will help to spread awareness among the consumers, encourage researchers to carry out more research and bring new information in public domain and for policymakers this document will help to take appropriate actions to bring / modify regulation and sound management of these EDCs to save public and environmental health.

This compendium has attempted to capture most published research work on EDC from India thus providing a snapshot into the range of research undertaken and capturing a rich diversity of data which can be put to multiple use.

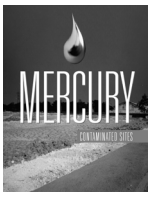

## MICROPLASTIC FACTSHEET

Next time when you clean your face with that scrub or facewash, do think twice, as you might be contributing to dwindling fish population! In a new study, 'Eco Personal Care Product, Microplastics in Cosmetics', Toxics Link has found that many cosmetics available in Indian shelves contain microplastics or microbeads.

Toxics Link carried out the study to investigate presence of microbeads in personal care and cosmetic products (PCCP) available and sold in India. Microbeads, generally smaller than 1 mm in size, are added to personal care products for various functions such as exfoliation and for its abrasive property.

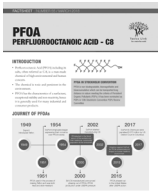

## NONYLPHENOL FACTSHEET

A factsheet on Nonylphenol is released by Toxics Link which presents its impact on human health and the environment. It also explains the source of exposure and the global restrictions on its use.



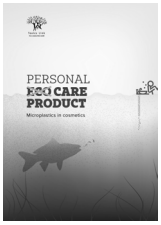

## MERCURY CONTAMINATED SITES REPORT

The objective of the report is to identify the mercury contaminated industrial sites in India. It also discusses the issues of mercury contaminated sites in India and the other issues related to mercury.




## PFOA FACTSHEET

Toxics Link released a factsheet on PFOA, often referred as C-8, a man-made chemical of high health and environmental concern. The factsheet represents the journey of PFOA since 1949 to 2017 along with its productions and applications. It also shows the harmful impacts of PFOA on human health and the environment.




## PERSONAL ECO CARE PRODUCTS- MICROPLASTICS IN COSMETICS

'Personal Eco Care Products- Microplastics in cosmetics' a report on the presence of microplastics in personal care products, is released by Toxics Link.

A report, on the presence of microplastics in beauty products, named 'Personal Eco Care- Microplastics in cosmetics', is released by Toxics Link.

## TRAVELING FILM FESTIVAL- "QUOTES FROM THE EARTH"

Along with the biennial "Quotes from the Earth", Toxics Link also organises travelling film festival at cities, towns and remote locations of our country. The purpose is to provide a platform for local residents/institutes to connect their surrounding issues with that of larger global environmental concerns, to further enhance awareness and strengthen the policy advocacy initiatives at all levels. The travelling film festival is organised with support of local civil society organisations or schools or any other environment based institution. If you are interested in organising "Quotes from the Earth" in your area, please write to us or call us at our office numbers.

## PHASING OUT BPA!

It's almost impossible to find a product that does not have synthetic chemical added into it, and one of them is the commonly used baby feeding bottle containing the chemical BPA in it. BPA or Bisphenol-A found in baby feeding bottles play the role of Endocrine Disruptive Chemicals (EDCs) that are capable of harming infants and newborn babies. Many countries have banned it as a precautionary measure. Toxics Link has been campaigning against the chemical and released a lab tested report titled "Bottles can Be Toxic" that received considerable attention from all stakeholders including the media. The report was also discussed during winter session of the Indian Parliament. Currently, we are having dialogues with Bureau of Indian Standards to completely phase out BPA from India. Join us in our campaign against BPA.

## TOXICS LINK LIBRARY-A TREASURE HOUSE OF KNOWLEDGE

The library of Toxics Link houses a variety of books, magazines and reports which are well-stocked, classified and indexed, for the benefit of the readers. One can also get the entire collection of around 520 documentary films from around the world on various issues concerning environment. It has over 4900 books and research based reports; and new books, magazines and periodicals are added from time to time. One can also find media coverage on environment that are updated on a regular basis. Besides, the library also has stock of parliament questions that are raised on the research based studies on environment done by Toxics Link. The readers can find all the studies done by Toxics Link on its website.

## TOXICS ALERT (E-NEWS)

**An environment news bulletin**

Visit: http://enews.toxicslink.org/, for our monthly e-newsletter on environment related news, articles, policy interventions, events on toxicity and its management. You can also subscribe to receive its update via e-mail.

Edited by: Ruby Rani

## KEEP YOUR HOSPITALS CLEAN & GREEN WITH TOXICS LINK

The Clean & Green Hospitals (CGH), an initiative of Toxics Link, in association with STENUM Asia Sustainable Development Society, is aimed at supporting and facilitating health care facilities in the country to provide environmentally sustainable healthcare to the masses. It also offers handholding support for hospitals to implement its suggestions which includes capacity building of internal resources. Besides, CGH has an array of training and awareness materials meant at aiding the process of greening the hospital. Please write to us or call us to get detail information about the support that we provide.

Toxics Link
for a toxics-free world

## STAY CONNECTED

For more information materials, invitations and updates on environmental issues please write to us at info@toxicslink.org

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