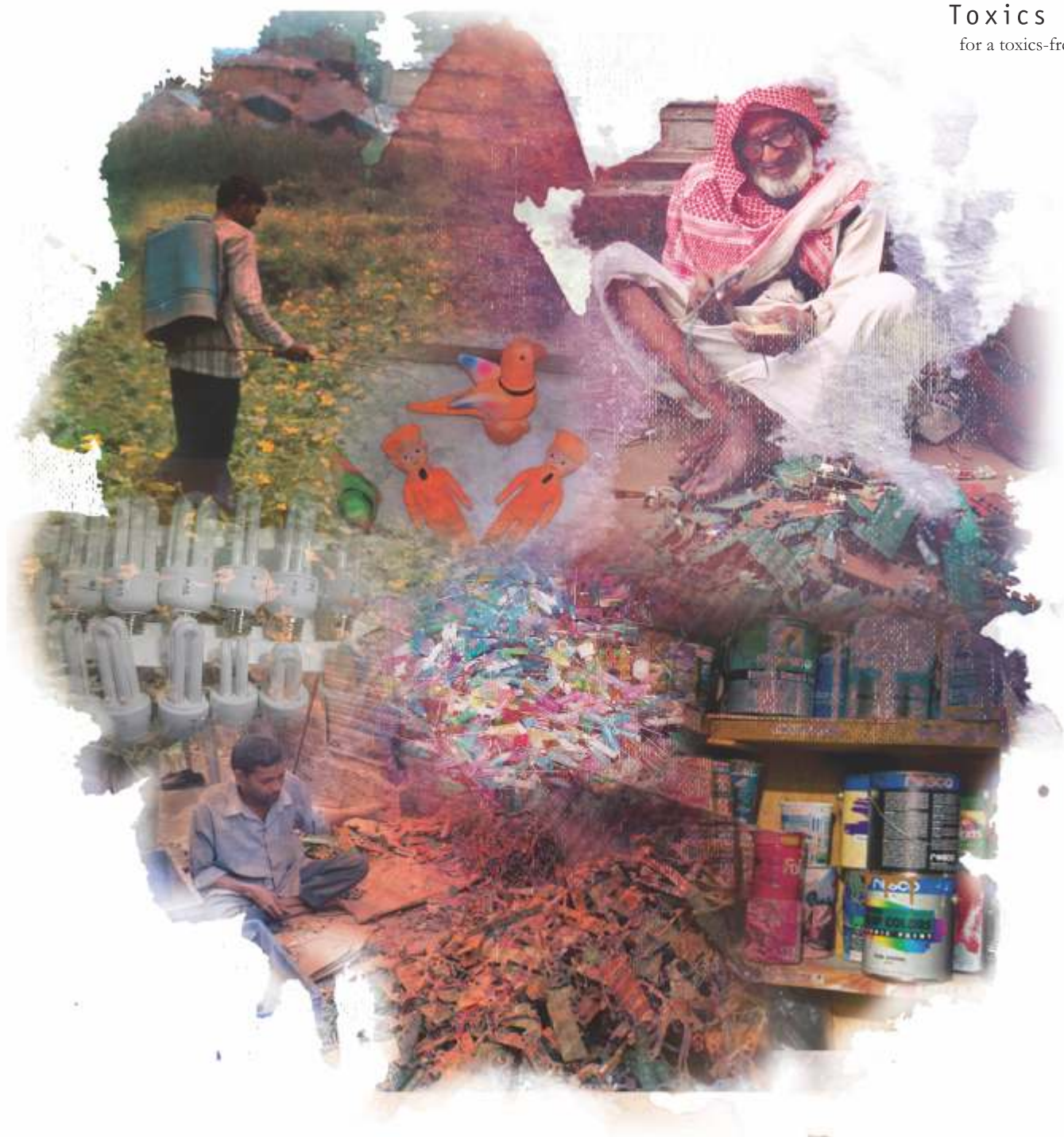




Toxics Link
for a toxics-free world



ANNUAL ²⁰¹⁵⁻¹⁶ REPORT

A toxics free world with environmental justice for all

“

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.

”



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FROM THE DIRECTOR

The year 2015-2016 was a busy year for the team at Toxics Link. It was however, a productive one, which saw many heartening changes in the areas of waste and toxics, currently the primary sectors of our interventions. The area of work is large, multi-sectoral, challenging and relatively less understood in its impact on public health and one which has occupied us for over two decades.

Over the past decade, the often-sidelined issue of waste and its management has found immense interest from all, as new and intensive urbanisations have brought in new concerns about health and cleanliness. The recent Swachh Bharat Mission messages have also given an impetus for public awareness. In 2016, the underlying regulatory framework for almost all major waste streams have been revised to iron out kinks and difficulties which had hampered their effective implementation in the past. Ideas such as composting and bio-methanation of municipal waste which was struggling to find institutional takers in the past have now become mainstream. Hopefully, these will lead to better implementation and towards more sustainable solutions.

It is however, not without its challenges. For example, the side effects of the recent excessive moves to incinerate waste have not been dealt with. These projects led to displacement of waste-pickers and emissions of high concern such as dioxins, furans and heavy metals. They also destroy valuable resource materials which are better off being recycled and reused. Toxics Link, while welcoming all the positive moves for better waste management has also raised concerns about ensuring that only sustainable solutions be implemented.

In areas like bio-medical waste management and e-waste, we continue to raise awareness as well as push industry for fulfilling its legal obligation under Extended Producer's Responsibility (EPR). In hospitals, we kept on our long-standing work to replace the toxic heavy metal mercury from this sector. The lighting sector saw the legal mandate of collection and recycling system for mercury containing lamps through a new legislation, despite stern industry opposition. We hope it will be implemented soon and this will go a long way in protecting public health. We also played a stellar role in working towards lead free paint, which became a national standard in line with international norms. Exposure of children to lead from paints was a major concern. Our current engagement is to make small and tiny scale sector to formulate lead free paints. We conducted new research on chemicals in plastics and baby products, which led to these being regulated.

In keeping with our efforts to think ahead and bring in best practices, we were invited to contribute in several international forums such as the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) process, Stockholm, Basel and Rotterdam Conventions, as well as high level governmental forums and committees. Our international civil society partners such as International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) plays an important role in helping build sector capacity internationally and jointly contribute to international policy discussions.

Toxics Link continued to follow its longstanding approach of working with all stakeholders to protect public health from the impact of toxic chemicals as waste, but with a special commitment towards our most vulnerable populations. We remain persistently steadfast to this objective, generating and providing credible information, new research as well as improve outreach and capacity in a sector which is still largely unaddressed given the scale of its challenge. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our partners, collaborators, advisors, well-wishers and supporters, without whom we would find it impossible to continue.

Ravi Agarwal
Director, Toxics Link

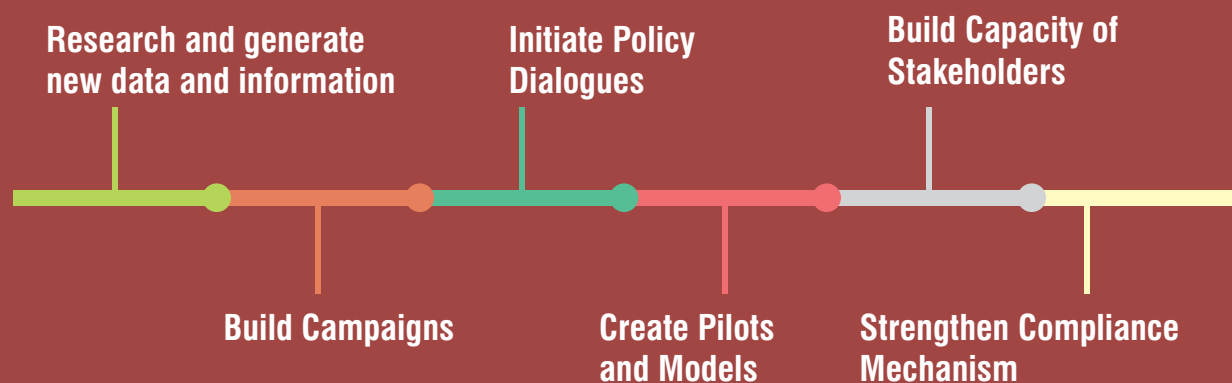
ABOUT US

Toxics Link emerged from a critical need to address knowledge gaps relating to issues of toxicity and waste, 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 mode, Toxics Link took a conscious decision to work in programme mode on subjects relating to 'toxicity' and minimising its human health and environmental impacts. The focus is to involve people in toxicity and waste issues, and to find solutions that are appropriate and safe. Starting from research and lab analysis to influencing policies and facilitating its compliance, all actions 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 toxic pollutants, municipal and hazardous waste management, food safety, etc. This is done using participatory methods and researches to establish facts. These facts are then brought to the public domain by advocacy and campaigning, community level outreach, training and capacity building, information and communication, policy analysis, environment friendly policy designing, programme development, providing solutions platform and influencing change. Thus, Toxics Link's programmes are people driven, need based and implementable.

OUR APPROACH



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'.

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

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.

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

Stringent mercury dosing standards in lamps.

Stringent Dioxins/ Furans standard for waste to energy incineration.

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.

OUR MILESTONES

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

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

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

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

Key agency to push for separate legal framework for e-waste in India, which led to the issuance of the E-Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011 and the notification of E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016. Was instrumental in getting the concept of Extended Producer Responsibility in the Rules.

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

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

Member of Inter-ministerial group on Stockholm Convention on POPs, set up by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

THE YEAR GONE BY

Toxics Link focuses on action research, campaigning, policy advocacy, capacity building, monitoring and facilitating enforcement of rules/guidelines on issues related to chemicals and waste. To meet our objectives and long-term goals, we have divided our initiatives into four interrelated programmes – Chemicals and Health, Clean Industry, Toxics Free Healthcare and Information and Communication. Here's a look into some of the activities and achievements of Toxics Link during the year 2015-2016.



CHEMICALS & HEALTH

Chemicals have become an integral part of our life and are linked to development. In terms of value and production volume, the Indian chemical industry is the third largest producer in Asia and sixth by output in the world. The industry is expected to grow at 11 percent p.a. to the tune of USD 224 billion by 2017. But, 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 about the presence of chemicals and heavy metal in products.

The focus of the Chemicals and Health programme is to create information on the complete life cycle of chemicals and its impacts on human health and environment. Some of the recent engagements of Toxics Link have been Chemicals in Products, Campaign on Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs), Mercury in lamps, Campaign on the phase out of lead from paints, Persistent Organic Pollutants (PoPs) and Pesticides, and Food Safety.

Toxics Link's intervention in these programme areas have largely been to build campaign and awareness, and bring 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 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 to partner organisations and build their capacities on specific issues.

Toxics Link's was invited to be a part of the Experts Group meeting on the elimination of the use of mercury in Chlor Alkali Chemical processes organised by United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) in Vienna. We were the only civil society organisation from India to be invited to this forum because of our knowledge and expertise in the domain. Toxics Link also played a key role in UNEP's research study on Hazardous Waste Assessment Report on safe and environmentally sound ship recycling in Bangladesh. The study was aimed at improving the standards and sustainability of the industry in the country. We played an important role in the emergence of international civil society network in the area of waste and chemicals.



Some key initiatives undertaken during the past year under Chemicals and Health programme are -

LEAD IN PAINTS

Toxics Link has actively focused on the research of heavy metals usage in our daily life and their harmful impacts. The presence of heavy metals in batteries, thermometers, paints, toys, plastics, alloys is widespread, especially lead-based decorative paints that are known to cause several health problems. Scientific evidences have established that children are the most vulnerable population, and lead exposure can cause irreversible damage to their health.

Many developed countries have phased out lead from paints keeping in mind its health impacts on children. Unfortunately, lead is still being added to paints sold in India and neighbouring countries. Toxics Link has been campaigning to phase out lead from paints since 2007, and has been pushing for setting of a national regulation. Our engagement and persistent efforts resulted in the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) issuing a regulation and making it mandatory for all paint manufacturers to restrict lead content up to 90 ppm (internationally accepted standard) in household and decorative paints. This regulation will enable paint manufacturers to shift to lead safe paints, and will also go a long way in safeguarding the health of vulnerable children and mothers.





CAMPAIGN ON ENDOCRINE DISRUPTING CHEMICALS

Endocrine disrupting chemicals(EDCs) are generally known to interfere with hormone action by altering the endocrine system, and adversely impacting human beings and environment.

EDCs have been a global issue and countries across the globe are trying to phase out these

chemicals from products. In India, public information on EDCs is limited although it is one of its biggest market.

Toxics Link has been working on EDCs to enhance public information and achieve desired policy changes. It has done research studies on the presence of Bisphenol A (BPA), an EDC found in baby feeding bottles in India, and numerous personal care products, baby sippy cups, etc.

These studies are first -of -its- kind in the Indian context, and have been able to generate considerable interest of concerned stakeholders, including academicians, doctors, industries, NGOs and public interest groups.



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Million Tones

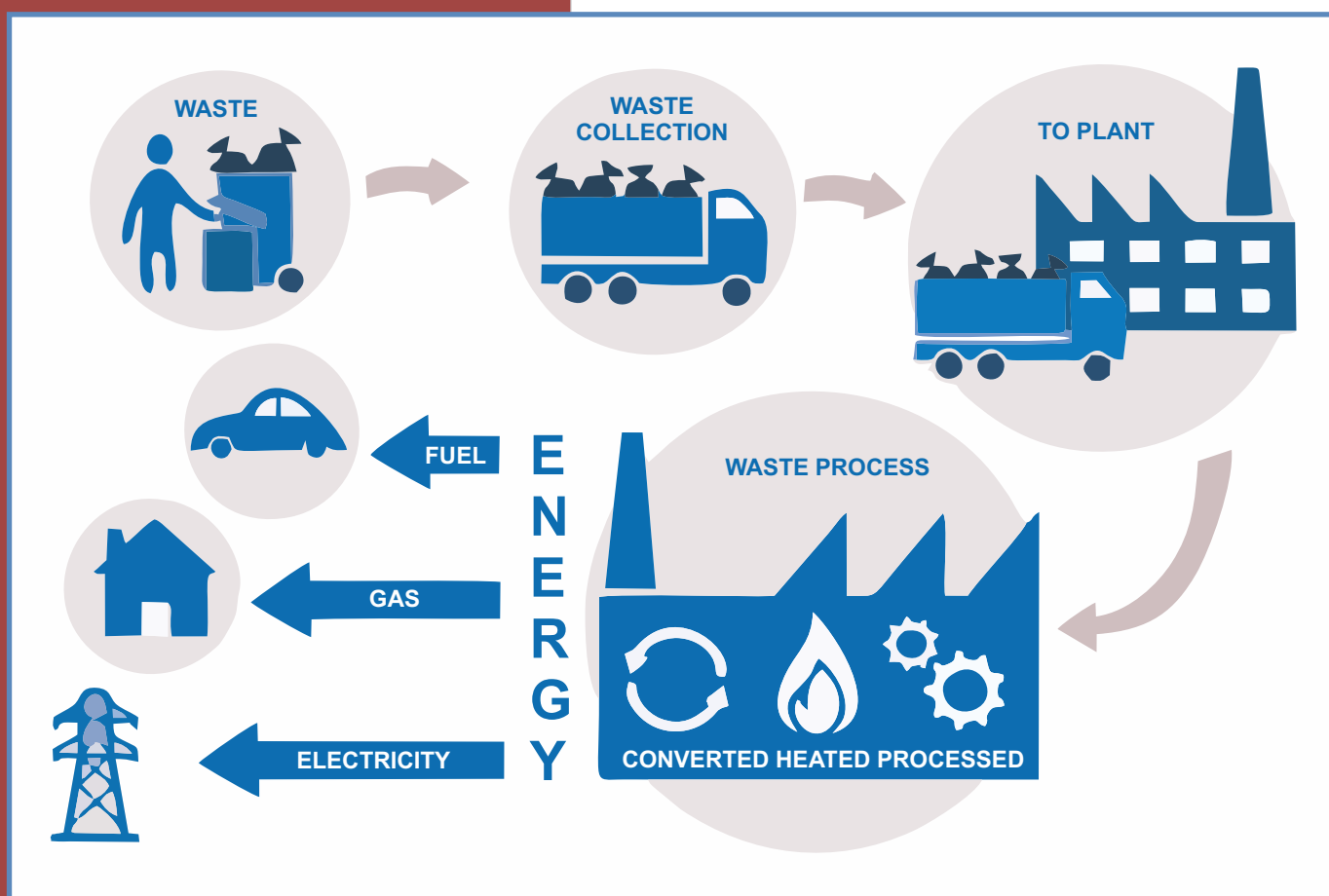
of municipal solid waste is generated by India, and waste-to-energy plants have been considered as one of the alternatives to addressing this waste stream in big cities

WASTE-TO-ENERGY

Waste-to-energy describes a variety of technologies that convert garbage or municipal solid waste into heat, electricity, and fuel by using different processes.

However, release of dioxins and furans into the environment by these plants and their management, recycling of resources and protecting the livelihoods of people in the informal sector are some of the critical issues linked to waste-to-energy plants.

Toxics Link has been developing public information on waste-to-energy plants by conducting workshops, developing a report to draw attention to the issue and raise awareness among policymakers.





MERCURY IN LAMPS

Mercury is extremely harmful to human health and environment. Toxics Link has been engaging with key stakeholders and institutions for the upstream and downstream management of mercury bearing lamps. The organisation had moved an application in the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to develop a system for the sound management of mercury bearing lamps based on the principle of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). Toxics Link played a key role in bringing in change in the new E-Waste (Management) Rules 2016, which now covers mercury bearing lamps and puts the onus on lamp manufacturers for its safe disposal.

The E-Waste Rules state that mercury bearing lamps can also be recycled or sent to Treatment Storage and Disposal Facilities (TSDF). But, TSDF in India are not well equipped to handle mercury bearing waste. We have been engaging with the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to bring out a revised guideline to handle mercury bearing waste in TSDF.

Inclusion of mercury bearing lamps in the E- Waste Rules is a major shift in how the country intends to deal with mercury bearing waste and our commitment to Minamata Convention.

PUBLICATIONS

- National Report : Lead in enamel household paints in India (2015)
- Factsheet: New PoPs - Pentachlorophenol, Chlorinated Naphthalenes, Hexachlorobutadiene
- Flyer: Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs)
- Report: Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs) in Personal Care Products
- Factsheet: Triclosan
- Report: Beware of Toxic Sippy Cups – A Investigative Study on BPA in Sippy Cups
- Bookmark on BPA
- Report: Disrupting Triclosan: A Potential Endocrine Disrupting Chemical Found In Toiletries
- Policy paper on Waste - to - Energy Plants

ACHIEVEMENTS

Some key achievements of the Chemicals and Health programme are as follows:

- Amendment No. 1 to IS 14625 : 2015 'Plastics Feeding Bottles (First Revision)' to phase out BPA from baby feeding bottles.
- Creation of a network with NGOs, scientists and researchers on the issue of EDCs.
- After a petition filed by Toxics Link, MoEF&CC incorporated the downstream management of mercury bearing lamps based on Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) in the revised E-Waste Rules, 2016.
- Standards set for dioxins and furans for emissions in waste- to- energy plants in Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.
- Lead standards for paints – Government has notified mandatory regulation of lead content in household and decorative paints not exceeding 90 ppm.

CLEAN INDUSTRY

Over the past decades, India has seen an unprecedented growth in the industrial and corporate sector. However, this growth has also led to the generation of huge quantities and a wide variety of industrial waste. In addition, many Asian countries, including India are among the largest dumping grounds of recyclable waste adding to the already existing challenges on waste management in the country. Though the Indian government has formulated rules on managing some of these wastes, implementation of the rules, accountability, and legislative enforcement has been minimal.

For the past two decades, Toxics Link has been pushing for effective policies and monitoring mechanisms to catalyse change on ground. This has resulted in new or improved regulatory frameworks, and incorporation of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in some of these frameworks. One of the key areas where the organisation focused this year through active campaigning, various researches, reports and awareness building exercises, was pushing for revision of the E-Waste Rules. This resulted in the government notifying the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016, which will come into effect from October 1, 2016.

The Clean Industry programme has also been doing significant work on issues related to potential environment hotspots and plastic waste management. The team has also initiated work on packaging waste and batteries. Some of the activities carried by the Clean Industry programme during 2015-2016 are as follows:

RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY

Research and advocacy are intrinsically linked. Toxics Link has been using this synergy to influence better government rules and enforcements, help industries manage their waste, and influence international forums to give developed countries an understanding of the Indian scenario, especially their exporting rules on e-waste.

After our earlier effort to identify and document the potential hazardous industrial units that are fast mushrooming in Delhi, we conducted a detailed study in Kolkata – to map the potential hotspots in and around the city. The report documented the practices of chemical handling, waste management, worker safety, etc, by looking at various industrial clusters and residential colonies, where these operations are carried out. This was a first-of-its-kind study in Kolkata that attempted to push relevant stakeholders (regulators, civic authorities and communities) to give serious attention and take immediate action to mitigate the problems caused by hazardous units in cities.





To highlight the issues related to plastic waste management, Toxics Link did a study report on plastic bag usage, restriction and ban in West Bengal. Use of plastic bags below 40 microns is banned in Kolkata, West Bengal. In addition to it, there is a blanket ban on usage of any kind of plastic in government buildings, historical sites and eco-sensitive zones in the state. The study assessed the effectiveness of the existing ban/restriction on the use of plastic bags in Kolkata and adjoining areas, and also brought forth the perception of users. The report was an eye opener for enforcement agencies and policy makers to take note of the existing gaps in the ban and to find sustainable ways for its effective implementation.

Toxics Link also undertook a research study to understand the problems and issues related to packaging waste. The study, which is currently on going, is looking at consumer perception about packaging and has documented the current packaging waste regulations and best practices around the globe. The report and planned campaign is likely to help gather more attention to the concerns of packaging waste, and encourage recycling of this waste stream.

Toxics Link has been campaigning for the upstream and downstream management of e-waste for over a decade. Our 2014 report – 'Time to Reboot' assessed the performance of producers in regard to e-waste compliance and made considerable impact. It forced many producers to improve their take back

mechanisms. To continue building pressure on producers for setting up effective waste management systems, we brought out another report 'Time to Reboot –II'. This report series helped us in pushing brands to improve their efforts towards EPR in e-waste. Their participation and positive reaction to the studies is testimony to the fact that we were successful in our endeavour to improve compliance to e-waste rules by producers.

Toxics Link after having exhausted all possible options, finally knocked on the doors of judiciary for improving compliance to E-Waste Rules. Revision of EPR conditions, especially inclusion of targets for collection of e-waste, and national registry were some of our call to action that were met in the revised Rules. Our inclusion in the core group working on the guidelines was indicative of our expertise being valued at all levels.

Toxics Link continued to bring focus on the issues of cross contamination, especially in Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) plastic recycling. We have also been pushing for inclusion of Brominated Flame Retardants (BFR) contaminated recycling standards in e-waste guidelines. We have collaborated with EMPA (an interdisciplinary Swiss research institute) to conduct discussions related to BFR contamination at various forums. We also continued to investigate the Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) dumping issues and were in constant touch with regulatory agencies to highlight it.

AWARENESS AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Toxics Link has been stressing on the need to bring more accountability, stricter penalty for violation and to create awareness among consumers, producers, recyclers, government departments, etc, on the E-Waste Rules and its implementation across the country. Keeping this in view, we conducted a state-level workshop in collaboration with Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB), who is now working on an action plan for safer management of e-waste in the state.

Toxics Link believes in engaging with youngsters especially students, who are the agents of change in society. To empower them and to drive awareness on the issues linked to e-waste, we conducted awareness programmes in 150 schools across Andhra Pradesh, Goa and Rajasthan. We also continued our efforts towards environment education with support from Microsoft through their 'Create to Inspire' programme.

It facilitated capacity building of teachers and targeted school students in 10 states to raise awareness about e-waste, water, energy, significance of biodiversity, etc. Toxics Link also ran a campaign to educate consumers on concerns related to plastic bag usage.

PUBLICATIONS

Reports

- What India Knows about E-waste; 2016.
- Living Dangerously The Kolkata Hotspots; 2016.
- WEEE Plastic and Brominated Flame Retardants; 2016.
- Kolkata and Environment - Plastic Menace; 2015.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Some key achievements of the work carried by the Clean Industry programme are as follows:

- Issuance of revised E-waste Rules with inclusion of targets and national registry.
- Improvement in the initiatives taken by Producers. Most major Producers initiated take back programme after our Time to Reboot reports.
- Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) waste, which was being sent to India for recycling is now under scanner and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is investigating the matter.
- Notices issued by some State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) against Producers for not implementing the EPR under the E-Waste Rules, 2011.
- State level Inventorisation was initiated by many SPCBs.
- There has been increased awareness among various stakeholders on the issue of E-waste. Various queries throughout the year from schools, students, research scholars, entrepreneurs, corporate, individuals and media did indicate that our efforts to reach out to various audiences have had a positive outcome.
- Potential hotspots in urban centres are becoming an issue of discussion. Our reports are being used by other agencies/people to highlight some local issues.

TOXICS FREE HEALTHCARE

Toxics Link has been actively working to improve compliance of bio- medical 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 philosophy of the Toxics Free Healthcare programme is to minimise use of hazardous chemicals and move to sustainable practices in resource management and waste disposal in the healthcare sector.

Bio-medical waste is generated during diagnosis, treatment or immunisation of human beings or animals, or in research activities. In the past two decades, Toxic Link has picked up many issues and sought national debate and policy on such hazardous wastes, including lead, mercury, pharmaceutical and cytotoxic drugs in the country.

The programme works with government bodies - to bring out policy changes for improved infectious and hazardous waste compliance. Additionally, it facilitates in sensitising health service providers and health care seekers for safe disposal to ensure environment, occupational and patient safety, all of which have become critical areas of concern worldwide.

Last year, we focused upon improving healthcare waste management system in urban and rural hospitals in the country, optimising resource (energy, waste) utilisation and phasing out mercury from the healthcare sector in India. We are working on developing a mercury phase out plan and facilitating in bringing out a national guideline for the management of cytotoxic drugs.

Some of the activities carried by the Toxics Free Healthcare programme during 2015-2016 are as follows:



RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY IN BIO-MEDICAL WASTE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

One of the focus areas of Toxics Link is to bring out policy changes and improve compliance of bio-medical waste management in the country. We conducted baseline surveys and photo documentation in government and private hospitals in one of the districts of Rajasthan to assess their compliance and management of Bio-medical Waste Management Rules. The findings of the study revealed that some interventions could be better compliant to the existing Rules. We have also been working with the state machinery and concerned stakeholders, like the Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board and the state health department to discuss improving waste management practices in the state. We plan to take our work forward and set up model hospitals and training centres in Rajasthan.

Toxics Link has also been advocating for bringing out a mandatory standard for mercury free health instruments. Although mercury free instruments are available in the market, there are no standards set for these products, making it difficult for healthcare facilities. Our constant and persistent effort is to ensure that quality and standard measuring instruments are available to healthcare professionals enabling them to provide good quality service. We have been engaging with the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) and Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), and non-mercury products are also expected to be bought under its ambit once the revised standards come into effect.

Toxics Link was part of the MoEF&CC committee for drafting the Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2016. Many of our suggestions were included in the new Rules notified in 2016, which included – phase out of Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) bags in the healthcare sector, EPR clause for pharmaceutical waste, mention of lead and mercury waste, etc. Phase

out of PVC blood bags is a progressive inclusion that goes a long way in reduction of waste being sent to incinerators.

We have also been advocating for phasing out of mercury from the healthcare sector in India. The dental sector alone accounts for very high usage of mercury based restorative fillings, which is highly toxic in nature. To shift towards alternate restorative materials and completely phase out mercury fillings from the dental sector, We are working with the Dental Council of India (DCI) to make amendments to the current dental curriculum and also include alternative restorative materials at the undergraduate level. The revised version is expected to be notified soon.

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 and Family Welfare (MoHFW) 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 in bringing out a national policy for the management of cytotoxic drugs.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND CAMPAIGN

Toxics Link has also been working towards capacity building of our regional partners. Last year, we partnered with civil society organisations in Uttarakhand and Bihar, and conducted capacity building and training workshops. We also conducted state-level seminars and Training of Trainers (ToT) in both the states, including Rajasthan, to push for effective bio-medical waste management practices and eliminate mercury from the healthcare sector.

We have also been engaging with the Rajasthan government to conduct workshops and create model hospitals to serve as reference point for other healthcare facilities in the state. We were invited as faculty in the training workshops organised by government bodies like- the Department of Health, Delhi; Pollution Control Board, Puducherry; HSMI (HUDCO), etc. Toxics Link is part of the core group created by WHO- IGNOU to revise the Diploma in Bio-medical Waste Management. We are also part of the core group of experts to help develop a course on Occupational and Environmental Health at IGNOU.

The organisation has been pushing for mercury phase out from the healthcare sector for a long time. We conducted awareness workshops and stakeholder consultations to phase out mercury from the dental sector. These workshops brought to the fore the problems faced by dental associations and practitioners, and looked at a long term roadmap to phase down mercury.

PUBLICATIONS

Understanding and simplifying Bio-medical waste management- A training manual for Trainers, (Revised) 2016.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Some of the achievements of the work carried by the Toxics Free Healthcare programme are as follows:

- Our constant engagement with the government and healthcare facilities across the country has resulted in better management of medical waste. Many hospitals across the country have streamlined their bio-medical waste management practices and shifted to mercury free alternatives.
- Our state partner in Bihar, Social Institute for Development of Nation (SIDON) is engaging with media houses to highlight ill-managed waste handling and disposal practices in the state. SIDON has also initiated filing of Right to Information (RTI) applications to extract data from the government facilities to check for gaps and discrepancies.
- Rajasthan is also working towards improving bio-medical waste management practices in the state.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION

The Information and Communication programme at Toxics Link helps create and share credible information on toxins nationally and globally. We use a variety of communication tools – Fact Sheets, Brochures, Research Reports, Posters, Newsletters, Annual Reports etc, to transform research based 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 biennially – 'Quotes from the Earth' since 2004 in New Delhi, to build a pro-environment agenda among public. This year the seventh edition of the film festival will be held on December 2 and December 3, 2016 at India International Centre, New Delhi. The film festival is an attempt to create awareness among general public, and to engage in discussions around the various local and global environmental challenges facing us.

Some of the key highlights and activities carried by the Information and Communication programme in 2015-16 are as follows:

NATIONAL MEDIA WORKSHOP

In order to build and strengthen our partnership with the media, and to facilitate the role media plays in shaping public opinion on the issues of waste, toxic chemicals and their impact on environment and human health, Toxics Link organised a national media workshop in February 2016. The workshop was the beginning of a long term relationship with the media to provide technical clarity to environment reporters/media houses on issues of waste and chemical safety, and be the knowledge hub for credible research and information on developments taking place at national and international levels. Twenty seven journalists from different cities and media houses like DNA, Telegraph, Hindustan Times, Rajasthan Patrika, The Indian Express, Statesman, The Times of India, Mail Today, Navbharat Times, Amar Ujala, and Governance Now, including chairman of The Forum of Environmental Journalists in India (FEJI) attended the workshop.

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. We organised a public lecture titled “Swachh Bharat Mission” in March 2015 at India International Centre, New Delhi. The objective of the Public Lecture was to examine and understand Swacch Bharat mission's progress, implementation issues, challenges and implications on the environment. The key outcomes of the public lecture were made available in our social media channels and our website to generate public discussion on the issue.



WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

To disseminate latest news, research based publications, updates, 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 by people from all over the world. We also regularly receive queries on our website and there has been a considerable increase in Toxic Link's reach. Our website recorded 1.19 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 quarterly newsletter – ‘Toxics Dispatch’. It features opinion on policies, simplified versions of technical research, interviews of eminent personalities/stakeholders, news, and events organised by the organisation.

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 increase in frequency of the newsletter. Our subscribers list has also made an increase of around 2% in the last financial year. Nine ‘Toxics Alert’ have been compiled, uploaded and circulated during the last year.

RESOURCE CENTRE

Toxics Link has an 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 photobank comprising transparencies, slides, digital pictures on all the issues Toxics Link works. A first-hand compilation of questions on issues of environment raised in Parliament sessions are also stocked in the library.



FINANCIALS

The Just Environment Charitable Trust H-2, Jangpura Extension, New Delhi - 14

Balance Sheet As on 31st March, 2016

Previous Year Amount (Rs.)	Liabilities	Current Year Amount (Rs.)	Previous Year Amount (Rs.)	Assets	Previous Year Amount (Rs.)
257,206.90	Corpus Found	257,206.90	1,136,154.30	Fixed Assets (Annexure C)	888,896.60
23,637,624.11	Opening Balance	26,158,873.11	12,100.00	Opening Balance:-	232,100.00
	Income and Expenditure Account			Add:- Additions	-
	Opening Balance		259,357.70	Less: Deletion	247,244.22
2,521,249.00	Add:-		888,896.60	Less:- Depreciations	873,752.39
	Excess of Income Over Expenditure	4,072,951.90			
26,416,080.01		30,489,031.91	7,405.00	Investments	99,517.00
3,136,154.29	Fixed Asset Equilisation Reserve		31,541,835.00	Accrued Interest on FDR's	25,684,812.00
12,100.00	Opening Balance	888,896.59	2,150,835.00	Fixed Deposit - BAnk(FC)	2,994,459.00
1,148,254.29	Add:- Addition to Fixed Assets	232,100.00		Fixed Deposit- Bank(Local)	
259,357.70	Less Depreciation	1,120,996.59		Current Assets & Loan & Advance	
888,896.59		247,244.22		Sundry Advances	
		873,752.38	982,846.80	S. Advances (Annexure D)	874,832.00
3,495,286.00	Current Liabilities		670,300.00	TDS Recoverable (Annexure E)	367,398.00
	Interest on Revolving Funds	915,354.00	1,664,855.00	Amount Receivable	
8,085,834.00	Unutilised Grant (Annexure A)	1,508,444.30	956,435.00	Cash in Bank	
29,948.00	Expenses payable (Annexure B)	84,724.28		Central Bank of India (Annexure F)	2,918,938.48
38,916,045.40	Total	33,871,306.87	53,441.00	Cash in Hand	
				Central in Hand(Annexure G)	57,598.00
			38,916,045.40	Total	33,871,306.87

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to Accounts- Annexure-H

As per our audit report of even date
FOR S N M G & CO.
Chartered Accountants
FRN. 004921N

CA. D.C.GARG
Partner
Membership No: 076117

Place: New Delhi
Date: 20th September, 2016

RAVI AGARWAL
Trustee
CA. ASHOK K. KHETAN
Trustee

For THE JUST ENVIRONMENT CHARITABLE TRUST

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended on 31st March, 2016

Previous Year Amount (Rs.)	Expenditure	Current Year Amount (Rs.)	Previous Year Amount (Rs.)	Income	Previous Year Amount (Rs.)
24,380954.10	To Total Expenditure (Annexure A)	26,473,397.88	13,491,942.00 18,974,844.20	By Opening Unutilised Fund b/f Add:- Received during the year	8,085,834.80 21,601,761.28
			32,466,786.20 8,085,834.80	Less: Unutilised Funds c/f (Annexure A) Less: Grant Refund during the year	29,687,596.08 1,508,444.30 2,594,467.00
			24,380,951.40		25,584,684.78
1,728.00 5,000.00 29,720.00 3,110.00 51,373.00 9,375.00 24,031.00	To TDS Interest To Conveyance To Photostat To Postage To Professional Charges To Mics Expenses To Expenses incurred on Medical assistance	277.00 - - - 41,500.00 18.00 50,921.00	124,604.00 - 25,327.00 2,281,270.00 214,442.00 - -	By Donation By Interest on IT Refund By Interest From Bank (SB A/c) By Interest on FDR's (FC) By Interest on FDR's (Local) By Misc Income	3,709.00 64,212.00 39,382.00 4,731,184.00 214,800.00 1,094.00
2,521,249.00 51,373.00	To Excess of Income Over Exp. transferred to Balance Sheet	4,072,951.90			
27,026,594.40	Total	30,639,065.78	27,026,594.40	Total	30,639,065.78

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to Accounts- Annexure-H

As per our audit report of even date
FOR S N M G & CO.
Chartered Accountants
FRN: 004921N

CA. D.C.GARG
Partner
Membership No: 076117

Place: New Delhi
Date: 20th September, 2016

RAVI AGARWAL
Trustee
CA. ASHOK K. KHETAN
Trustee

For THE JUST ENVIRONMENT CHARITABLE TRUST



TEAM

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, Film Maker

PROGRAMME

Satish Sinha, Associate Director

CLEAN INDUSTRY

Priti Mahesh, Chief Programme Coordinator
Vinod Kumar, Programme Officer
Monalisa Datta, Project Manager (Kolkata Office)

CHEMICALS & HEALTH

Piyush Mohapatra, Sr Programme Coordinator
Dr Prashant Rajankar, Programme Coordinator
Kritika Mathur, Programme Officer

TOXICS FREE HEALTH CARE

Anu Agarwal, Consultant
Tripti Arora, Programme Officer
Lavanya Padhi, Programme Officer

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION

Purna Changkakati, Programme Coordinator
Aastha Elawadhi, Sr Programme Officer
Praveen Sharma, Programme Officer
Amit Kumar, Information & Systems Officer

FINANCE & ACCOUNTS

Pooja Gupta, Finance Manager
Soma Mitra, Accounts Officer

ADMINISTRATION

RS Sharma, Admin Manager
Snigdha Sinha, Logistics Officer
Gajender Pal Singh, Receptionist
Shriram Prasad, Programme Executive
Dinesh Kumar, Driver

THANKYOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

Toxics Link is committed to changing the way we deal with sustainability, waste and toxicity issues.

We thank our innumerable supporters, stakeholders, partners, and well-wishers who help us in many ways. Our main funders – Consumer for Dental Choice, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, 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.

It makes our work possible in raising public awareness, policy level changes, creating safer livelihoods and finding innovative solutions for a safer and sustainable environment.

Producers ignoring duty to handle e-waste, study finds

TR-2014-5
BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN

NEW DELHI: Leading electronic and electrical brands are shirking their responsibility under e-waste rules, the latest Toxics Link study 'Time to Reboot-II' has revealed.

The report, which was released on Tuesday, rated 51 national and multinational electronic producers in India based on their actions and initiatives on e-waste. Of the 51 firms, 17 were found to be showing minimal or no effort towards e-waste management while seven companies scored a zero in the rating system, implying serious non-compliance to e-waste rules - 20. Only three brands were found to have made a good effort to fulfill their responsibility.

NOT USING THE ROSS MISMANAGEMENT

51 producers were rated in 4 blue and green -- with red as

- 18 were in red category (minimal or no effort towards e-waste management)
- 7 producers scored a zero rating
- 15 producers did not have a take-back system
- Help lines of only 11 producers provided e-waste information
- 40 producers did not have personnel who knew about e-waste or could with disposal of old products

Cross MISMANAGEMENT of CFL waste containing mercury, says study

IN DELHI, THE TEAM SURVEYED ABOUT 100 HOUSEHOLDS - 71% FROM MIDDLE INCOME GROUPS, ABOUT 90% USE CFL BECAUSE THEY CONSUME LESS POWER. HOWEVER, 50% OF THOSE SURVEYED ARE UNAWARE THAT CFL CONTAINS MERCURY.

According to a third health survey conducted in 2007, mercury is a neurotoxin that can cause brain and kidney damage, especially in children. It is also a potent carcinogen.

The study found that 50% of the households surveyed were unaware that CFLs contain mercury. The study also found that 71% of the households surveyed use CFLs because they consume less power.

ful waste management system of the Colony, the Joint Secretary noted that the colony is not a self-sufficient household and the colony-appointed collectors, appointed a team and a helper 100 households. The key is waste pickers can't lose their all, she said. The waste pickers are paid 10 per kg to the colony twice a day, Talwar said.

"The few dalao (landfill sites) in the colony were always overflowing with waste. The MCD trucks were a rare sight. But our perseverance paid off. Now the Delhi Waste Management (DWM) trucks take a round of the colony twice a day," Talwar said.

"We were also helped by the Toxics Link NGO, which trained our garbage collectors on composting technique and provided us with the Effective Microbes (EM) solution," she said.

58-year-old Talwar, who looks after waste management and horticulture departments of the RWA, also complains of the en-

NGO gives suggestions for waste management in cities

Three News Network TR-2014-5

महानगर की हवा में घुल रहा है जहर टॉक्सिक लिंक स्टडी की रिपोर्ट में हुआ खुलासा

कोलकाता : महानगर के 17 इलाकों में उपयुक्त प्रदूषण नियंत्रण व्यवस्था नहीं होने के कारण टॉक्सिक की हवा में घुल रहा है। संगठन को टॉक्सिक लिंक स्टडी द्वारा जारी की गई रिपोर्ट 'टोक्सिक लिंक' में यह खुलासा किया गया है। इस इलाकों में धापा, तिलजला, गानिकल्ला, टेंगरा, विक्रमिका गार्डन खोल अन्य नाम शामिल हैं। रिपोर्ट में कहा गया कि जहर इलाकों में उपरोक्त वातावरण को खराब है। यह वातावरण न तो प्रदूषण नियंत्रण करने का कोई उत्साह।

इस कार्य महानगर की हवा में टॉक्सिक की हवा में घुल रहा है।

टोक्सिक लिंक स्टडी की रिपोर्ट में हुआ खुलासा

- टेंगरा जोन में है महानगर के 17 इलाकों
- गानिकल्ला, तिलजला, धापा, टेंगरा व विक्रमिका गार्डन भी टेंगरा जोन में शामिल
- सुप्रीम कोर्ट की मंजूरी के बावजूद लक्षित में चल रहे हैं धापा व विक्रमिका

कोलकाता महानगर की हवा में टॉक्सिक की हवा में घुल रहा है।

and biometanation instead of landfilling all the waste, the brief said. One of the reasons why large-scale composting plants don't work is because adequate markets for compost are not available.

"We started this process of studying waste management about three years ago. The policy brief with eight major recommendations is a result of that," said Satish Sinha, associate director, Toxics Link.

Another recommendation suggests that private waste management is the best work in Delhi despite private having primary contracts, more than primary waste oring done by the

Landfill in Aravallis will make NCR aquifers toxic

Leachate From Defunct Bandhwari Plant Creates Hazard

POISON IN WATER

NORTH DELHI'S GROUNDWATER IS SUFFERING FROM LEACHATE POLLUTION

WHAT IS LEACHATE?

It is a liquid that contains toxic substances that seep out of landfills. It is made up of water, chemicals, and other pollutants.

Why is it dangerous?

A JVA has studied that leachate is a major source of pollution in the NCR. It is a liquid that contains toxic substances that seep out of landfills. It is made up of water, chemicals, and other pollutants.

Health concerns

Leachate can cause a variety of health problems, including cancer, kidney disease, and reproductive problems. It can also cause skin irritation and other health issues.

Centre to enforce tough rules on e-waste

Aim is to ensure that those involved in collecting e-waste do it safely and scientifically

Jaipur: The Environment Ministry has tightened rules by passing the e-waste management and handling rules, 2011. The rules are aimed at ensuring that e-waste is collected and handled in a safe and scientific manner. The rules also provide for the establishment of e-waste management boards in each state and union territory. The boards will be responsible for monitoring the collection and handling of e-waste in their respective areas. The rules also provide for the establishment of e-waste management centres in each state and union territory. The centres will be responsible for the collection and handling of e-waste in their respective areas. The rules also provide for the establishment of e-waste management zones in each state and union territory. The zones will be responsible for the collection and handling of e-waste in their respective areas.

Submit full info on e-waste: NGT to pollution boards

PUNJAB: The National Green Tribunal on Thursday directed State pollution control boards to submit complete information on e-waste generation, collection and its disposal.

The hearing came in the wake of a plea filed by NCO, Toxics Link which claimed that tonnes of second-hand or used goods are being dumped in the country leading to a huge pile-up of e-waste. They contended that the implementation of e-waste Rules is not being followed as envisaged under the law in the country.

The green bench, headed by Justice TS Sathya, said that State pollution control boards are under the obligation to enforce e-waste Rules. It called for complete information regarding the process of inventory of e-waste, authorised collection, centres, number of bulk-consumers and volume of consumption, authorised dismantlers, authorised recyclers and the steps taken for monitoring and handling of e-waste.

The green panel also directed the State pollution control boards to provide complete information regarding total number of districts in each State and Union territory besides the district-wise population. The tribunal had earlier expressed concern over the huge amount of electronic waste piling up in each State which poses serious health and pollution problems.

According to the plea, the petitioners electronic waste is discarded electrical or electronic devices which includes discarded computers, office electronic equipment, entertainment device electronics, mobile phones, television sets and refrigerators.

E-waste Rules, 2011 apply to every producer, consumer or bulk consumer involved in the manufacture, sale, purchase and processing of electronic and electronic equipment or components.

The NGO had sought direction from the Director General of Foreign Trade to submit a report on the export quantity of goods being dumped in the country under the Export Import Policy of India (2013-2014).

The matter has been listed for next hearing on December 3.

Study Identifies 17 High-Risk Zones In City

Jaipur: A study conducted by the Jaipur Municipal Corporation (JMC) has identified 17 high-risk zones in the city. The study was conducted by a team of experts from the JMC and the Jaipur University. The study found that the high-risk zones are located in the areas of the city where there is a high concentration of e-waste. The study also found that the high-risk zones are located in the areas of the city where there is a high concentration of e-waste.

The Green panel also directed the State pollution control boards to provide complete information regarding total number of districts in each State and Union territory besides the district-wise population

The green panel also directed the State pollution control boards to provide complete information regarding total number of districts in each State and Union territory besides the district-wise population.

TOXIC Alarm in Noida Localities

POISON NEAR YOUR HOME

WHAT ARE THE DANGERS?

Mobile phones, laptops, and other electronic devices are becoming a part of our daily lives. However, they also contain toxic substances that can be harmful to our health. These substances can be found in the landfills where these devices are discarded. The landfills are often located in the areas of the city where there is a high concentration of e-waste.

Health concerns

Leachate can cause a variety of health problems, including cancer, kidney disease, and reproductive problems. It can also cause skin irritation and other health issues.

Okhla plant boost irks many

Delhi: The Okhla sewage treatment plant (STP) has been a source of controversy for many years. The plant is located in the Okhla area of Delhi, which is one of the most polluted areas of the city. The plant has been the subject of many protests and demonstrations. The protesters claim that the plant is a source of pollution and that it is harmful to the health of the people living in the area. The protesters also claim that the plant is a source of noise and that it is a source of odour. The protesters have demanded that the government shut down the plant. The government has refused to do so, claiming that the plant is necessary for the city's sewage treatment. The protesters have continued their protests and demonstrations.

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 /toxicslink  /toxicslink  /toxicslink