



ENVIS CENTRE, CHANDIGARH

NewsLetter

P a r y a v a r a n - P a t r a

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Chandigarh
State of Environment

EDITORIAL

Introduction

Plastic pollution is currently one of the biggest environmental concerns. Its industrial-scale production began in the 1950s and has been piling up ever since. Much of the plastic we produce is designed to be thrown away after being used only once aka- 'Single-Use Plastic'. As a result, plastic packaging accounts for about half of the plastic waste in the world. This century may thus be tagged as the 'Age of Plastics'.

As per a report released by UN, only 9 percent of all plastics ever produced have been recycled, while 12 percent have been incinerated and a full 79 percent have ended up in landfills, dumps, or the environment. If current consumption patterns and waste management practices continue, then by 2050 there will be around 12 billion tonnes of plastic litter in landfills and the environment.



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Possible Actions to Curb Single-Use Plastics

- Target the most problematic single-use plastics** by conducting a baseline assessment to identify the most problematic single-use plastics, as well as the current causes, extent and impacts of their mismanagement.
- Consider the best actions to tackle the problem** (e.g. Through regulatory, economic, awareness, voluntary actions), given the country's socio-economic standing and considering their appropriateness in addressing the specific problems identified.
- Assess the potential social, economic and environmental impacts** (positive and negative) of the preferred short-listed instruments/actions. How will the poor be affected? What impact will the preferred course of action have on different sectors and industries?
- Identify and engage key stakeholder groups** – retailers, consumers, industry representatives, local government, manufacturers, civil society, environmental groups, tourism associations – to ensure broad buy-in. Evidence-based studies are also necessary to defeat opposition from the plastics industry.



Initiatives Taken by Chandigarh Administration

In order to combat ill effects of plastic on the environment, Notification No. Ed 2019/1648, dated 27/09/2019 is issued by Department of Environment under section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act 1986 that prohibits any person including a shopkeeper, vendor, wholesaler or retailer, trader, hawker or rehriwala etc from manufacture, store, import, sell, transport, supply or use following plastic/thermocool/Styrofoam items from the date of issuance of Notification except the items mentioned at Sr. No. 12 to 18, on which there will be a complete ban from 28.12.2019.





S.No.	Items
1	Single use plastic cutlery (plates, cups, glasses, bowls, forks, knives, spoons, stirrer and straw).
2	Thermocol/Styrofoam cutlery (plates, cups, glasses and bowls etc.).
3	Single use plastic containers (dish, bowl, trays, glasses, lids) less than 250 microns used for packaging/covering of food/liquid items.
4	Plastic (sold in the name of Silver/Aluminium) bag/pouch for packing food items.
5	Drinking water sealed glasses and plastic mineral water pouch.
6	Single-time use (Use and throw) razors.
7	Single-time use (Use and throw) pens
8	Use of thermocol for decoration purpose.
9	Use of plastic material for decoration purpose such as wrapping/packing sheets, frills, garland, confetti, party bloopers, plastic ribbons etc.
10	Non-woven polypropylene bags
11	Polythene/Plastic carry bags with or without handle irrespective of size, shape and colour (excluding bags permissible under Bio-Medical Waste Management Rules, 2016).
12	Industrial packaging (of any kind) less than 50 microns.
13	Single use plastic containers (used for curd, kheer, ice creams etc.) less than 250 microns used for packaging of dairy items.
14	Plastic sachets with packaging capacity of 50 ml/50 gm. and less.
15	Plastic sticks for ear buds, balloons, flags and candies.
16	Plastic refill pouch having quantity less than 500 ml.
17	Straws attached with tetra packs.
18	Multilayered packaging used for food/snacks packing.

However, in view of representations received from various stakeholders, ban on items namely, Plastic refill pouch having quantity less than 500 ml, Straws attached with tetra packs and multilayered packaging used for food/snacks packing has been extended for next 3 months i.e. the ban will be effective from 28.03.2020. While, ban on items namely, Industrial packaging (of any kind) less than 50 microns, Single use plastic containers (used for curd, kheer, ice creams etc.) less than 250 microns used for packaging of dairy items, Plastic sachets used in cosmetics, ketchup and toiletries having quantity of 30 ml and less, Plastic sticks for ear buds, balloons, flags and candies will be effective from 28.12.2019





Plastic Mukht-City Beautiful



To commemorate the theme of “Single Use Plastic free Chandigarh”, Concept of “Swachhta Hi Seva” was spread to elevate awareness regarding banning of single use plastic items where people were sensitized about hazardous effects of plastic towards health and environment.

The idea behind was to aware the masses for which more than 10000 people including the sanitation staff of UT and waste collectors were demonstrated about the deteriorating effects of single use plastic via street plays, rallies and awareness campaigns. A rally of more than 8000 people in Sabzi Mandi Sector -26 was conducted with the aim to stop using polythene carry bags and encourage the use of cloth bags.



A number of activities were organized in the form of Nukkar Nataks (Street plays), poster making competitions and rallies regarding plastic free Chandigarh in schools and colleges.

This mass revolution was launched with a bottoms up approach sensitizing people of all age groups about the need to shun single-use plastic.





Plastic free Schools of Chandigarh



Department of Environment Chandigarh started Single Use Plastic Free Schools Campaign. Under this campaign 64 Schools of UT Chandigarh registered under National Green Corps have declared themselves “Single use Plastic Free”.

Street Plays

With an aim to spread the message of 'Say NO to Single Use Plastic', Department has conducted series of street plays in City as a mass awareness campaign against the use of plastic under the theme “Plastic Mukta Bharat”, so that more and more people can be involved in the initiative.

Public were made aware to discard use of all single use plastic products like polythene bags, plastic cups, plates, small bottles, straws and certain types of sachets, unnecessary packing etc. in line with government policy.



Awareness Video Contests on Single Use Plastic Ban

An awareness video contest engaging students from schools to colleges was conducted wherein every participant was asked to either enact or create a storyline depicting the ill effects of plastic on terrestrial and marine environment. In School Category, First Prize was bagged by the St. Joseph's Sr. Sec. School, Sector 44D, Chandigarh, the second prize was bagged by Govt. Model Middle School, MHC, Manimajra, Chd and the 3rd prize was shared by Shivalik Public School, Sector 41-B, Chd & Govt. Model Sr.Sec. School MHC, Manimajra, Chandigarh. In College category, First Prize was bagged by Post Graduate Govt. College, Sector 46, Chandigarh, the second prize was bagged by Post Graduate Govt. College, Sec-11, Chandigarh and the 3rd prize was bagged by Post Graduate Govt. College, Sec. 46, Chandigarh & MCM DAV College for Women, Sector 36



Awareness Video Campaign

Environment Department prepared an awareness video clip on Single Use Plastic Ban items in Chandigarh. The video is a visual representation on Single use plastic ban and its ill effects. The clip was shared by Hon'ble Administrator and Hon'ble Member of Parliament to their twitter handlers. Further, department has uploaded this video on YouTube and also shared it on other social media platform. Additionally, same was being played at all the cinemas and multiplexes of Chandigarh upto Diwali.



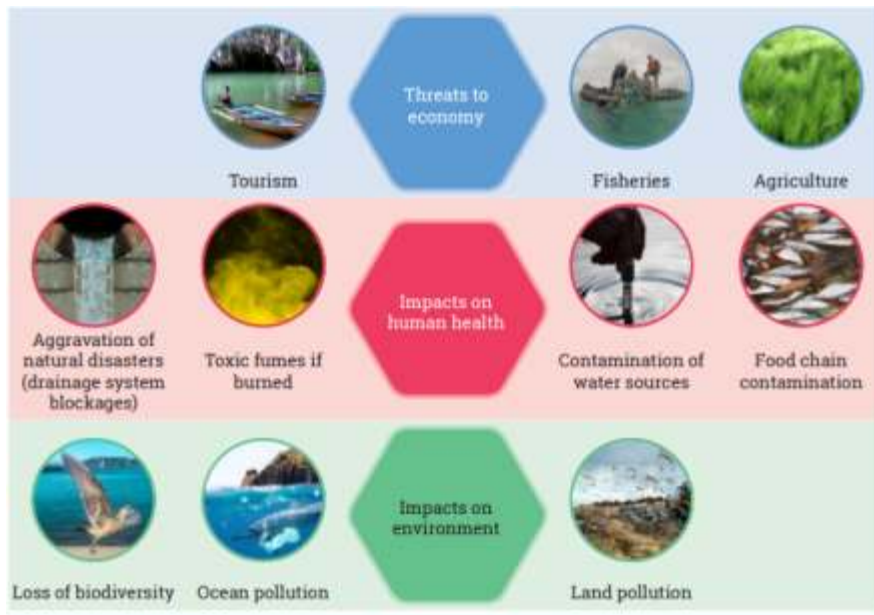
Awareness Workshops

Department had conducted two workshops on 12th Sept and 21st-22nd Sept 2019 with Department of Environment Studies and Department of Community Education & Disability Studies of Punjab university, Chandigarh, respectively . More than 500 students of university participated in two workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to make pupils aware about deteriorating effects of plastic towards Environment.



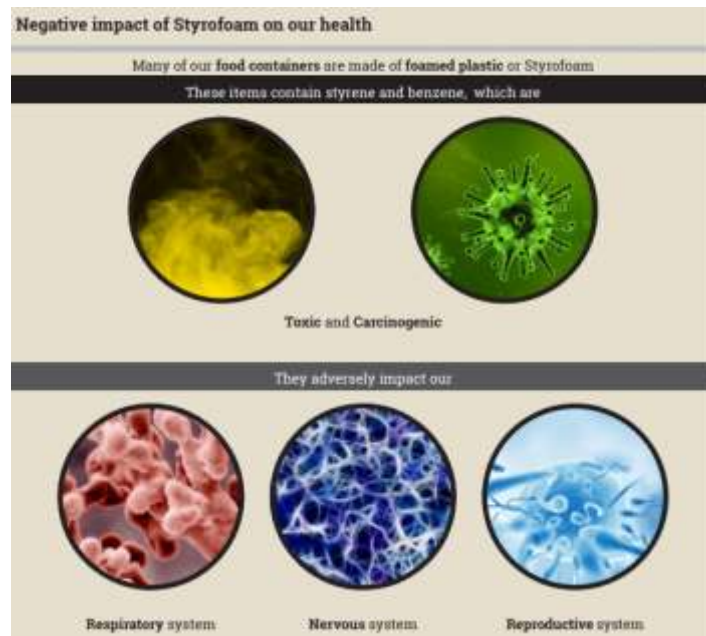


Negative impacts of Plastic Pollution



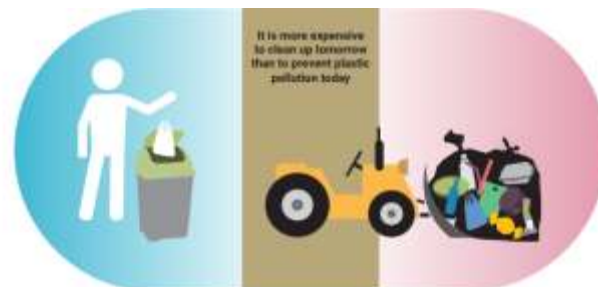
Large amounts of single-use plastics are improperly discarded in dumpsites, in the environment, or burned out of necessity as cooking fuel, especially in countries with inadequate waste management systems and limited public awareness. Only a small percentage is disposed of properly in sanitary landfills, and an even smaller portion is recycled

Styrofoam items contain toxic chemicals such as styrene and benzene. Both are considered carcinogenic and can lead to additional health complications, including adverse effects on the nervous, respiratory and reproductive systems, and possibly on the kidneys and liver. In developing countries with inadequate solid waste management regulations, plastic bag litter can aggravate pandemics. By blocking sewage systems and providing breeding grounds for mosquitoes and other pests, plastic bags can raise the risk of transmission of vector-borne diseases such as malaria.



Strengthen Waste Management

Future costs of removing all single-use plastics accumulating in the environment is estimated as higher than the costs of preventing littering today. Transitioning to more eco-friendly alternatives can be a lengthy process. In the meantime, strengthening circular thinking and waste management systems can successfully help in reducing plastics pollution.



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Waste Management Hierarchy

If current consumption patterns and waste management practices do not improve, by 2050 there will be about 12 billion tons of plastic litter in landfills and the natural environment. In the waste management hierarchy, prevention of waste should always take first priority. To minimize plastic waste generation first of all, improve the state of solid waste collection services, strengthen the recycling industry and ensure safe disposal of waste to controlled landfills.

Plastic- A Part of Everything

Tons of plastic debris is discarded every year, everywhere, polluting lands, rivers, coasts, beaches, and oceans. Thus becoming a part of every component of the environment. Amongst the type of waste in Municipal Solid Waste generated in Chandigarh, plastic constitutes 4.9% of all the waste.

Year	Combustible Waste(Paper & Card Board(%))	(Combustible Waste) Paper(%)	Plastics(%)	Metal(%)	Glass(%)	(Combustible Waste) Textile + Jute Bags	(Combustible Waste) Non PVC Plastic & Other Packing Material
2017	4.4	4.4	4.9	0.3	1.3	3.3	8.2
2018	4.4	4.4	4.9	0.3	1.3	3.3	8.2

Source: MOH, Chandigarh

Individually we are one drop, together we are an ocean! Only collective action can bring a change in making this society healthier, cleaner and plastic free.

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Journey of Plastic Products

To,

Note : While every care has been taken in compilation of the information available for this newsletter. However, readers must make thorough confirmation/enquiries at their own level before acting upon any data/information provided to the readers. Any discrepancy brought in the notice of ENVIS CENTRE, Chandigarh will be highly appreciated.

