



Our mother Earth has bestowed upon us a great many things. We are duty-bound to maintain our nature and the environment

surrounding it enriched and conserved. This is a great way to exhibit our gratefulness towards her. We are entrusted with a common responsibility not only to put the natural resources to proper use but also to plant and nurture trees, wild and aquatic life.

**HON. SHRI. DEVENDRA FADNAVIS,**  
Chief Minister, Maharashtra



Global warming has become a common cause of anxiety for the entire world. It is now the call of time to dedicate ourselves to meet this challenge

by making a committed endeavour. These endeavours shall lay the foundation of our confidence that we shall alleviate this crisis through proper management of green environment. It shall also require to provide a positive support of efforts to the public movement rising for pollution control and a rich environment.

**HON. SHRI. RAMDAS KADAM,**  
Minister for Environment



We must believe that even the smallest of efforts in the direction of environment conservation goes a long way towards a revolutionary change. Small

deeds such as avoiding wastage of energy and water on domestic level are grand tools in our hands to protect our environment. Moreover, these things are quite easy to adopt. All it requires is our constant and ironclad determination. Let us resolve to turn the object of creating a green environment our ambition and make our planet enriched again.

**HON. SHRI. PRAVEEN POTE-PATIL,**  
Minister of State for Environment



On the occasion of World Environment Day ceremony programme releasing the Marathi book Titled 'Plastic Bandi Che Shivdhanushya' by Chief Minister Hon. Shri. Devendra Fadnavis, Hon. Shri. Aditya Thackeray (Yuva Sena Chief), Minister for Environment Hon. Shri. Ramdas Kadam, Minister of State for Environment Hon. Shri. Pravin Pote Patil, Hon. Shri. Sudhir Shrivastava (Chairman, M.P.C.B.), Hon. Shri. Anil Diggikar (Principal Secretary, Environment), Hon. Shri. E. Ravendiran (Member-Secretary, M.P.C.B.), Mrs. Jyoti Thackeray

## Steps to ensure clean, green, pollution-free Maharashtra

■ E Ravendiran, IAS

### Ease of Doing Business

The Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has introduced the online application system:

The online portal has been put into operation. This allows online application and payment without the need for a physical touch point for document submission and verification. The proponent will get information about their application status through email and SMS. There is also provision to make the payment online through E-Payment Gateway, RTGS and NEFT. The Proponent can download their consent document from the portal, and can also view their documents, visit report, instruction letter online. This services has been integrated with Government of Maharashtra's MAITRI portal.

### Reduction in time for processing to expedite disposal/ grant of Consent and Authorization:

MPCB has shortened the time limit from 120 days to 60 days for processing of consent application:

SRO level	:	Disposal time is 30 days
RO & HOD level	:	Disposal time is 45 days
CC/CAC level	:	Disposal time is 60 days

### Scheme of Auto-Renewal of Consent based on self-certification for Red, Orange & Green Category industries.

Earlier, Board vide Office Order dated 30/01/2012 has implemented auto-renewal policy for all Categories of industries coming under purview of CAC/CC only. It was thought the work load about consent management can be further substantially reduced by extending the scheme of auto-renewal for all the remaining Red, Orange & Green Category of industries. Accordingly, decided to implement Auto-Renewal Policy for all categories of industries i.e. Red, Orange & Green Category industries.

### Green category: simplified consent form:

The eight pages Consent application form has been simplified and reduced to two pages

### Uniform Integrated Enforcement Policy:

In order to further facilitate transparency, integration



of post-consent application cycle, filing of complaints, damages, severity, penalties, remediation costs, etc. Maharashtra is the first State to publish and implement an Enforcement Policy through MPCB. The simplified consent management process is anchored by Uniform Integrated Enforcement Policy for Consent Management and supported by "ec-MPCB" web portal and randomized risk-based inspections methodology. Not only the policy simplifies inspection & sampling needs but it also enables entrepreneurs to lower scrutiny period of such application from 120 to 60 days (speedy), empowers industries through provision of appeals against non-grant of consent, eases self-certification for renewal and finally online grant of consent with minimum period of 5 years for Red category and 6 years for Orange/Green category of industries thereby resulting in immense resource optimization at both the ends of MPCB as well as industry.

### Grant of Renewal of Consent to Operate for

### a minimum of 5 years for Large/ Medium scale and a minimum of 3 years for Small scale industries, excluding sugar industries:

Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has decided to do this to ease the process, to have a uniform approach and thereby avoid frequent repetition of Consent renewal application after its expiry. The Consent granting Authority shall renew Consent to Operate of Large/ Medium scale of Red category industries for the minimum period of Five Years and for the minimum period of Six Years of Large/ Medium scale of Orange & Green category industries. In case of Small scale Red & Green category industries, renewal of Consent to Operate shall be granted for the minimum period of Three Years and for Small scale Orange category industries a minimum period of Four Years shall be taken into consideration so as to ease the levying of the Consent fees as per the prevailing Circulars. This will help the officers of the Board to have enough time to concentrate more on monitoring and pursuing compliance of various conditions imposed in the consent.

### Randomized risk-based inspection:

The field staff of MPCB Board is mandated for periodical collection of samples from polluting industries in general and high pollution potential industries in particular. Limited manpower available with the Board and discretionary sampling of industries has posed limitations on effective performance of pollution control from polluting activities in the state and to address the increased risk to the environment due to polluting industries MPCB has targeted large and medium scale industries classified as Red and Orange category industries for visit and sampling. Also the main objective include is to identify wilful defaulter through surprise visits which will be pursued for suitable legal actions.

Earlier, to ensure the transparency and strong monitoring mechanism of the Field Officers performance, Board has introduced "Randomized Risk Based Inspection & Sampling" through software based tool for selection of industries based on pollution potential. This

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We are all aware that the problem of pollution has become very grave. We need to vigorously push our efforts to reduce fertility and population growth, to reduce the excessive use of finite natural resources and to ensure that the final prices of all goods and services fully incorporate the cost of associated pollution control. We also need close coordination between government and non-government agencies, especially social and educational institutions. The willing participation of common citizens, especially students is a must so that we succeed in overcoming this problem.

**HON. SHRI. SUDHIR SHRIVASTAVA**  
Chairman, M.P.C.B.



It is imperative on our part to strive for a balanced environment by envisaging a rich nature and green earth. The school-going children of today are fulfilling the need of a medium which constantly remains active in the areas of nature, green environment, protection of natural resources, and their conservation. They have the greatest potential to take public awareness to all corners of society. Since they are the foundation of a powerful nation of tomorrow, it is absolutely necessary to awaken understanding of the onus shouldered by them. Because this is what is going to become the ultimate foundation of environment change.

**HON. SHRI. ANIL DIGGIKAR**  
Principal Secretary, Environment



The constantly changing climate and challenges of environment are serious issues. However, human can rise to these challenges by dint of their positive actions. Students of schools and colleges on one hand and knowledgeable citizens on the other can bring together an insistent force for protection of environment. We still have time. Proper management of resources and continuing people oriented awareness movements has already sounded the conch for environment change.

**HON. E. RAVENDIRAN,**  
Member-Secretary, M.P.C.B.

## Measures to combat air pollution

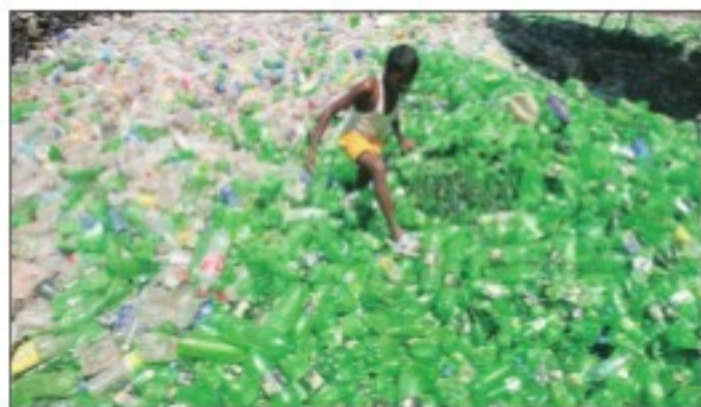
### Indoor Air Pollution

Today, air pollution has emerged as a global public health problem and is identified as a major environmental health hazard by agencies such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and governments around the world. An increase in concentration of both gaseous and solid pollutants is among the largest health risk in the world. On this background, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has declared Air Pollution as the theme for this year's World Environment Day to be celebrated through out the world on 5th June 2019. Lot of attention and discussions and deliberations regarding air pollution mostly focus upon the pollution in our surroundings outside the houses we live in. This article is an attempt to highlight the health hazards associated with exposure to several hundred unseen pollutants that fill up the air inside our home and still we don't notice or feel their existence. Indoor air pollution is the degradation of air qual-

ity inside the house, by harmful chemicals and other materials; it can be up to 10 times worse than outdoor air pollution. This is because contained areas enable potential pollutants to build up more than open spaces. Statistics suggest that in developing countries like India, health impacts of indoor air pollution far outweigh those of outdoor air pollution. Indoor air pollution from solid fuels accounted for 3.5 million deaths and 4.5% global daily-adjusted life year (DALY) in 2010; it also accounted for 16% particulate matter pollution. Though there is a decrease in household air pollution from solid fuels in south-east Asia, still it ranked third among risk factors in the report of the Global Burden of Disease.

### Sources of Indoor Air Pollution in India

The principal sources of indoor air pollution are: Combustion, building material, and bioaerosols. While radon, asbestos, pesticides, heavy metals, volatile organic matter, and environmental tobacco smoke are considered major indoor pollutants in



developed countries, the combustion products of biomass fuels contribute most to indoor air pollution in developing nations. In India, out of 0.2 billion people using fuel for cooking; 49% use firewood; 8.9% cow dung cake; 1.5% coal, lignite, or charcoal; 2.9% kerosene; 28.6% liquefied petroleum gas (LPG); 0.1% electricity; 0.4% biogas; and 0.5% any other means.

The incomplete combustion products of biomass fuels include suspended particulate matter, carbon

monoxide, polyaromatic hydrocarbons, polyorganic matter, formaldehyde, etc., which have adverse effects on health. The combustion of coal results in production of oxides of sulfur, arsenic, and fluorine. Pollutants such as aldehydes, volatile, and semi-volatile organic compounds are produced from resins, waxes, polishing materials, cosmetics, and binders. Lastly, biological pollutants like dust mites, molds, pollen, and infectious agents produced in stagnant water, mattresses, carpets, and humidifiers too pollute indoor air.

### Effects of Indoor Air Pollution on Health

The ill-effects of indoor air pollution result in about 2 million premature deaths per year, wherein 44% are due to pneumonia, 54% from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and 2% from lung cancer. The most affected groups are women and younger children, as they spend maximum time at home. The morbidities associated with indoor air pollution are respiratory illnesses, viz., acute respi-

ratory tract infection and COPD, poor perinatal outcomes like low birth weight and still birth, cancer of nasopharynx, larynx, lung, and leukemia. The harmful health effects of formaldehyde range from being an acute irritant, reducing vital capacity, causing bronchitis, to being a carcinogen causing leukemia and lung cancer. There are few studies done so far to show the effect of wood smoke on cardiovascular health.

The indoor air pollutants have potential health effects. The particulates cause respiratory infections, chronic bronchitis, COPD, and also lead to exacerbation of COPD. Sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide cause wheezing and exacerbation of asthma. In addition to this, nitrogen dioxide causes respiratory infections and deteriorates lung functions. Sulfur dioxide has an additional etiological role in exacerbation of COPD and cardiovascular disease. The risk

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