



Green News



LiFE
Lifestyle for Environment

West Bengal Pollution Control Board

Minister distributes smokeless chullahs in Goalpokher, Uttar Dinajpur

An awareness programme was organised by the WB-PCB under theme Mission LiFE in Goalpokher on 28 and 29 February 2024, where smokeless chullahs were also distributed to the local people. The event was graced by Md. Ghulam Rabbani, Hon'ble Minister in charge, Department of Environment, GoWB and Dr. Kalyan Rudra Chairman, WBPCB. Back in the days, when conventional wood or coal burning chullahs or stoves were used in majority by rural and sub-urban households for cooking purposes, the smoke and the pollution were the cause of numerous



Md Ghulam Rabbani and Dr. Kalyan Rudra handing over the smokeless chullah to one of the beneficiary.

health hazards in women working in those kitchens for long hours. These strenuous conditions caused detrimental health conditions in them and their household in general. These smokeless chullahs will provide an ingenious way in tackling this issue in rural and suburban villages today. The West Bengal Pollution Control Board has been tirelessly working to spread as much awareness about these Chullahs all across the state to facilitate eco-friendly cooking alongside healthy lifestyles in rural, sub-urban as well as urban areas of West Bengal.

WBPCB launches Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station (CAAQMS) in Asansol

The National Green Tribunal has ordered 6 cities in West Bengal to submit their clean air action plans to the air quality monitoring committee (AQM). The cities are Howrah, Barrackpore, Haldia, Asansol, Raniganj and Durgapur. These action plans are being prepared within the broader framework of the national clean air program (NCAP). The NCAP has set its target on 20%-30% reduction in particulate matter by 2024. A Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station (CAAQMS) was inaugurated on 2 February 2024 at Asansol in the presence of Dr. Kalyan Rudra, Chairman, West Bengal Pollution Control Board, Mr. S Ponnambalam, DM, Paschim Bardhaman, Mr. Sunil Kr Chaudhury, IPS, Commissioner of Police, Asansol-Durgapur Commissionerate, Ms. Mayuri Vasu, Special Secretary, UD & MA, Mr. Abdul Kalam Azad, Commissioner, Durgapur Municipal Corporation. The continuous ambient air quality monitoring station (CAAQMS) is spread across 6×3.5 meters and the system is equipped with advance cloud connected CCTV and smoke detectors. Dr. Kalyan Rudra conveyed that this station is the future of air quality management in Asansol.



Mr. S Ponnambalam, DM, Paschim Bardhaman, Dr. Kalyan Rudra, Chairman, WBPCB and Ms. Mayuri Vasu, Special Secretary, UDMA at the inauguration.

Editorial



Once again, I am presenting the latest 3rd issue of GREEN NEWS for the month of March, comprising some significant activities of the WBPCB during the period. This issue highlights upon inauguration of a Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station (CAAQMS) by the State Board to tackle air pollution hazards in Asansol, which is a non-attainment city followed by yet another Workshop cum Model Exhibition on Mission LiFE themes in Goalpokher, where the students showed their excellence in theme-based model preparation as well as demonstration of the same. It is to be mentioned that the State Board has undertaken several steps to fight against air pollution, which is one of the most significant threats to environment and human health. As part of this, the WBPCB has installed the technologically advanced Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station (CAAQMS) equipped with cloud connected CCTV and smoke detector in Asansol in or-

der to provide more accuracy in detecting air pollution parameters under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India. We've significantly ramped up our infrastructure by installing more CAAQMS units, increasing the count from 14 to an impressive 22. These analyser-based installations allow us to gather precise data on air quality parameters, enhancing our ability to monitor and combat air pollution effectively. In addition to expanding our CAAQMS network, we've also deployed over 200 sensor-based Air Quality Monitoring Systems and Ambient Noise Monitoring Systems, along with display boards. This comprehensive approach ensures that we can monitor air quality and noise pollution levels across a wider geographical area, providing valuable insights to both policymakers and the public. I strongly believe that, it will not only create awareness among the people about the air pollution status of the area but also encourage them to bring small changes in their lifestyle to improve air quality following Mission LiFE theme of adopting Sustainable Healthy Lifestyle. Through

the Paribesh app, we've successfully engaged with over 10,000 users, empowering them with real-time access to environmental data, pollution alerts, and educational resources. By leveraging technology and digital platforms, we're not only increasing awareness about environmental issues but also encouraging active participation in efforts to protect our planet's health. I am happy to share that, the West Bengal Pollution Control Board is continuously taking up various initiatives to promote as well as encourage people to bring about some significant changes in their daily life activities as per seven different themes of Mission LiFE Programme through distribution of LPG, gas-iron to the local eateries and iron-vendors in order to prevent use of conventional fuel which causes severe air pollution, action against stubble burning, implementation of Bio-shield pilot project to prevent transboundary air pollution etc. On behalf of the WBPCB, I commit to serve sincerely for a better and healthier environment to live across the State in the coming days.

**Dr. Rajesh Kumar, IPS,
Member Secretary**

Theme Mission LiFE will reduce air pollution by ninety percent: Dr. Kalyan Rudra

Smokeless chullah were distributed among the people in a program organized by the WBPCB at Sampriti Hall, Asansol. According to Dr. Kalyan Rudra, Chairman, West Bengal Pollution Control Board, crores of families depend on solid fuel for cooking purposes, which has been the reason for lakhs of deaths in our country. The smokeless chullahs has the potential to reduce around 1.2 tonnes of carbon emissions per household while being fuel efficient upto 35-40%. These smokeless chullahs will reduce air pollution upto 90 %. The initial cost of the pilot project will be borne by the WBPCB using funds from the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) and Environmental Compensation (EC) reserves.



Dr. Kalyan Rudra and Mr. Sunil Kr Chaudhury handing over the Smokeless Chullah to the beneficiary.

Smokeless chullah brings mission into life in Asansol

The WBPCB under its Mission LiFE programme distributed smokeless chullahs to the people of Asansol on 2 February 2024. Around 4.3 million people die annually from air borne diseases caused by pollution from wood or coal chullahs. The pollutants from these Chullahs cause an array of diseases and have been known to be carcinogenic. The West Bengal Pollution Control Board has introduced smokeless chullahs to combat this situation. These Chullahs or stoves are not only fuel efficient but are also eco-friendly. Dr. Kalyan Rudra, Chairman, WBPCB, Mr. Sunil Kr. Chaudhary, IPS, Commissioner of Police, Asansol Durgapur Commissionerate, Ms. Mayuri Vasu, Special Secretary, UD & MA, Mr. Abdul Kalam Azad, Commissioner, Durgapur Municipal Corporation graced the occasion.



Ms. Mayuri Vasu, IAS, Special Secretary, UD & MA, Mr. Sunil Kr Chaudhury, IPS, CP, Asansol and Durgapur Police Commissionerate, Dr. Kalyan Rudra, Chairman, WBPCB and Mr. Subrata Ghosh, OSD, WBPCB at the venue.

Report on All India Cycling Tour for promotion of Mission LiFE: Felicitation of Mr. V. Varte

Mr. Vanlallawmzuala Varte, from Aizawl, Mizoram is an Environment activist. He embarked upon an 'All-India Cycling Tour' entitled 'Ride to Free Air' since 25 January, 2024 under the sponsorship of Mizoram Pollution Control Board. The main purpose of this tour is to create awareness on Mission LiFE and encourage the use of bicycles as an environment- friendly mode of transportation among the citizens of India promoting

environmental awareness through promotion of Mission LiFE themes amongst people of this country. He also conveyed best wishes for his future journey as well as safe return at home. Mr. Varte shared his valuable experience about different places, incidents, meeting different people, their ideas about environment during his journey so far covering the States of Assam, Tripura, Bihar, Jharkhand etc. Shri Subrata Ghosh, officer



Welcoming of Mr. V. Varte at Paribesh Bhawan, Kolkata



Students and teachers with Mr. V. Varte at Paribesh Bhawan,

adoption of healthy lifestyle for better environment. On the way of his expedition, Mr. Varte reached Kolkata on 22 February, 2024 evening. On his arrival here, the officials of the West Bengal Pollution Control Board along with some school students and teachers welcomed him cordially through a brief programme on 23 February, 2024 at the Conference Room of Paribesh Bhawan, Kolkata. Dr. Rajesh Kumar, IPS, Member Secretary, WBPCB congratulated him for his noble initiative of spreading

on Special Duty, Shri Debasish Sarkar, Chief Engineer, Shri Swarup Kr. Mondal, Chief Engineer and other officials of the State Board graced the programme. Some campaign materials including jute bags, T-shirt, caps etc. and Green News, January, 2024 issue (newsletter) were presented to Mr. Varte on behalf of the State Board. The Students of AIWC Buniadi Vidyapith Girls' High School and Lee Collins High school (HS) were present in the programme with great enthusiasm.

Chemical Fertilizers: The Hidden Danger

Mission LiFE theme - 'Waste Reduced'

Due to the growing population across the world, there is an increase in production of crops. As a result the use of fertilizers is indispensable. Though chemical fertilizers increase crop production, its long term use is terrifying. Excessive use of chemical fertilizers harden the soil, decrease fertility, pollute air and water bringing hazards to human health and environment. Whereas chemical-free organic manure is safe to use which will allow time for microbial activity to break down the organic materials in the fertilizers. The students of Burnpur Subhaspally Vidyaniketan Girls' High School explained the benefits of vermicompost during the Workshop cum Model Exhibition on Mission LiFE organized by the WBPCB. They hammered how vermicompost helps the environment by reducing the need for chemical fertilizers and decreasing the amount of waste going to landfills.



The students of Burnpur Subhaspally Vidyaniketan Girl's High School with their model.

Vermicompost production is trending up worldwide and it is finding increasing use throughout the globe.



Dr. Kalyan Rudra and Mr. Sunil Kr Chaudhury handing over the Smokeless Chullah to the beneficiary.



Mr. Subrata Ghosh, Dr. Kalyan Rudra, Ms. Mayuri Vasu with the Newsletter of the WBPCB.



1. Dr. Kalyan Rudra giving away the 1st Prize to Burnpur Riverside School
2. Dr. Kalyan Rudra and Ms. Mayuri Vasu giving away the 2nd Prize to Bahula Sasi Smriti High School
3. Dr. Kalyan Rudra and Ms. Mayuri Vasu giving away the 3rd Prize to B.B College, Asansol.

Organic Pads: New Step towards better sustainability, 'SUP Reduced'

Sanitary Pads made with 100% natural products like hemp, wood pulp, bamboo pulp or cotton are known as organic pads. Organic pads are much better than the regular pads that constitute plastic, other polymers, and toxic chemical additives. The students of BB College while showcasing their model on organic pads in the Workshop cum Model Exhibition on Mission LiFE organized by the WBPCB demonstrated how in regular pads cotton is treated with bleach and as well as chlorine to give it that super-white color and to control odor, how harsh fragrances are used. These harmful chemicals are prone to be absorbed by the body. In fact, the organic

pads are prepared in organic methods by using organic cotton that is grown with organic pesticides or without any pesticides. Organic pads are also free of artificial fragrances. According to the WHO, dioxins (used in regular pads) can also cause hormonal issues, affect immune system, developmental problems and reproductive issues such as endometriosis, painful periods and even infertility. When products with dioxins are used, the absorbent tissues of the body can introduce these hazardous chemicals into the bloodstream. Fragrances and other chemicals in standard pads and tampons can also cause irritation and hormone disruption.



The Students of B.B College, Asansol, with their model

Solar cars play a leading role in the ecological transition: 'Energy saved'



The students of Burnpur Riverside School with their model on theme Mission LiFE

Vehicles running on fuel releases harmful gases into the air, which is a curse for the environment. Solar vehicles represent a promising solution to reduce emissions, combat climate change, and transition to a more sustainable future. In a Workshop cum Model Exhibition on Mission LiFE organized by the West Bengal Pollution Control Board on 2nd day of February, 2024 in Asansol, the students of Burnpur Riverside School showcased a brilliant idea of using solar energy to run a car. The students explained how solar cars harness energy from the sun and convert it into electricity. This electricity runs the car's motor. Solar cars use photovoltaic cells to convert sunlight into energy. Photovoltaic cells are the components in solar panels that convert the sun's energy into electricity. Renewable energies, such as solar energy, play a leading role in the ecological transition to a more sustainable and environment-friendly world and in the automotive industry. Solar cars are an alternative with many advantages for achieving sustainable and 100% ecological mobility.



Students of Shantinagar Vidyamandir with their model on Mission LiFE.



The students of Channa Jr High School with their model on Mission LiFE.

Rural lifestyle and environment will improve in near future: Md Ghulam Rabbani

In an awareness programme, held at Goalpokher, Uttar Dinajpur, the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge, Department of Environment, Md Ghulam Rabbani spoke about the women working in the kitchen in rural areas. He said, these women were susceptible to toxic and unhealthy smoke on a daily basis which further deteriorates their health. The Hon'ble minister proudly spoke about the use of "smokeless chullah". The West Bengal Pollution Control Board and other institutions helped in innovating this technology and the state government has been able to provide this smokeless chullah in places like Howrah, Asansol and Baruipur. There has been reports of its successful deployment and meticulous use in those regions. 1500 smokeless chullahs were distributed in Goalpokher with the help of the WBPCB. Also

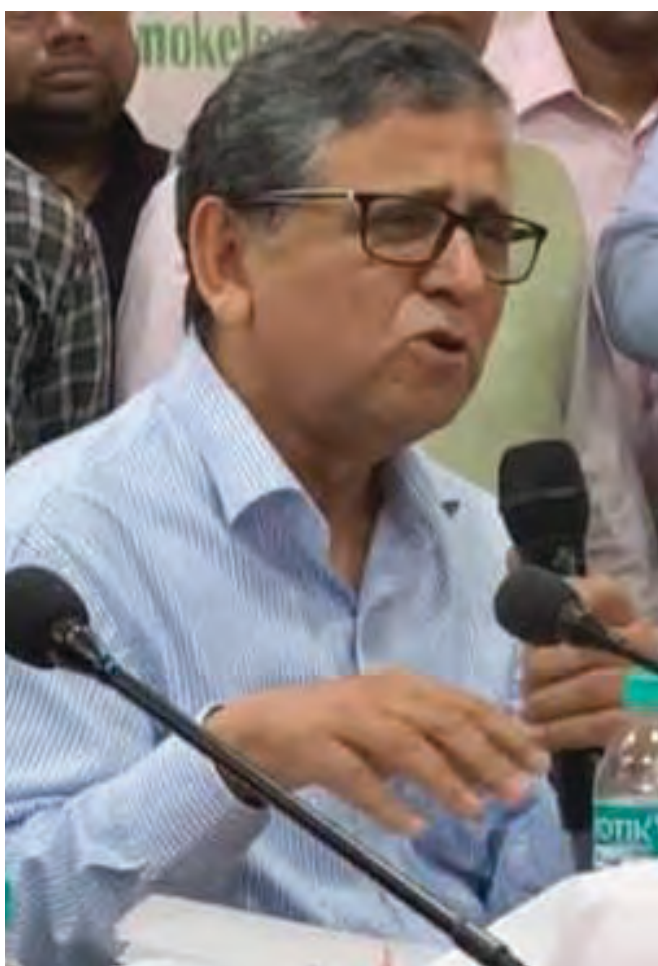


Md Ghulam Rabbani delivering his speech at Goalpokher.

efforts have been made by the local block administration in installing a 6 screen HD LED board to provide real time Air Quality data, noise levels and change in temperature.

Conventional cooking practices in rural India, harmful: Dr. Kalyan Rudra

The WBPCB organized an Environment Education Programme on Mission LiFE on 28 and 29 February 2024 at Goalpokher -1, Uttar Dinajpur. Dr Kalyan Rudra, Chairman WBPCB shared his thoughts on the present calamities that the WBPCB is tackling in the district. According to Dr. Rudra there has been a harmful issue of conventional cooking practices in rural India for a very long period. The old school traditional stoves were less efficient in heat, took more time in cooking and produced a considerable amount of smoke that was more than enough to cause health hazards in women's working in these kitchens for a long tireless hours. The WBPCB on 29 February provided 7-9 of such villages with 1500 units of smokeless chullahs. He also mentioned how the dry dust in most areas of the district is an issue that was needed to be addressed. Simply by planting trees along will reduce dry dust and also it will attract avian fauna to this region enriching the ecosystem.



Dr. Kalyan Rudra delivering his speech at Goalpokher.

Dr. Rudra has been very optimistic and he expects everyone along with the administration to come forward towards a better future that has been a primary aim of Mission LiFE.



The students of Gopalpur Uttarpara Jr High School with their model.



Students of Amlajorah High School with their model "Electric Energy Saving" on theme Mission LiFE



The students of Ayodhya High School with their model on theme Mission LiFE.



Students of Durgapur Project Township Boys High School with their model.

Environmental pollution with emphasis on air, soil, water and noise pollution

Industrial activities, vehicular emissions, and agricultural practices contribute to air pollution, compromising air quality and posing health risks to residents. Similarly, contamination of water sources due to improper waste disposal and agricultural runoff threatens water quality, impacting both human health and aquatic ecosystems. Soil pollution, resulting from chemical fertilizers and pesticides, affects soil fertility and biodiversity. Additionally, noise pollution from traffic, industrial operations, and construction activities disturbs the peace and well-being of communities. Addressing these pollution issues requires concerted efforts from government agencies, industries, and local communities to implement effective pollution control measures, promote sustainable practices, and raise awareness about the importance of environmental conservation. By addressing pollution concerns, West Bengal can strive towards a cleaner, healthier and more sustainable environment for its residents.



The students of Goalpokher Lodhan High School with their displayed model



Md Ghulam Rabbani and Dr. Kalyan Rudra giving away the 1st Prize to Monibhita High School.



Md Ghulam Rabbani and Dr. Kalyan Rudra giving away the 2nd Prize to Abdulpur High School.



Md Ghulam Rabbani and Dr. Kalyan Rudra giving away the 3rd Prize to Dharampur High School.

Rainwater harvesting in water scarce areas: theme 'Water saved'

The benefits of rainwater harvesting are widely recognized. Rainwater harvesting allows water to be collected and stored for various purposes, including irrigation, household use and replenishing groundwater reserves. By implementing rainwater harvesting systems, water can be conserved and utilized efficiently, reducing dependence on external water sources. Additionally, the environmental impact of rainwater harvesting is significant,



Students of Monibhita High School with their model on Mission LiFE

as it helps to mitigate the effects of water scarcity and alleviate pressure on municipal water supplies. Furthermore, rainwater harvesting promotes sustainability by harnessing a natural resource and reducing runoff, which can contribute to soil erosion and pollution. Overall, the benefits of rainwater harvesting are manifold and underscore the importance of adopting passive measures to conserve water resources.

Harnessing solar and wind energy for a bright future: 'Energy saved'

In rural Bengal, the benefits of solar and wind energy are widely acknowledged. Solar panels and wind turbines are installed to harness renewable energy sources, providing electricity to remote areas. By utilizing these technologies, rural communities are empowered to access clean and sustainable energy, reducing reliance on traditional fossil fuels. The passive adoption of solar and wind energy contributes to environmental conservation by minimizing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating climate change impacts.



Students of Abdulpur High School with their model on Mission LiFE

Furthermore, the installation of solar and wind power infrastructure creates employment opportunities and stimulates economic growth in rural regions. The scalability and adaptability of solar and wind energy systems make them suitable for addressing the energy needs of diverse communities in Bengal. Overall, the passive integration of solar and wind energy in rural Bengal fosters resilience, and self-sufficiency, ultimately enhancing the quality of life for rural residents.

Reuse of old newspapers : ‘SUP Reduced’

The recycling and reuse of old newspapers in making reusable paper bags is a widely recognized practice. Old newspapers can be collected and processed to create recycled paper, which is then fashioned into durable and eco-friendly bags. These bags are designed to be reusable, offering a sustainable alternative to single-use plastic bags. By repurposing old newspapers in this manner, valuable resources are conserved, reducing the need for virgin materials. Furthermore, the passive use of recycled paper bags contributes to waste reduction and environmental conservation efforts. These bags can be utilized for various purposes, including shopping, carrying groceries, or packaging items. The passive adoption of re-



Students of Dharampur High School with the newspaper bags that they had exhibited under theme Mission LiFE

cycled paper bags promotes awareness of sustainable living practices and encourages individuals to make environmentally conscious choices. Overall, the recycling and reuse of old newspapers in making reusable paper bags exemplifies the importance of repurposing materials to minimize waste and foster a greener, more sustainable future

How to avoid stubble burning?



The students of Uday Chandra Vidyapith with their model

As the agricultural season transitions in West Bengal, the specter of stubble burning looms large. This practice which is common in many parts of India has been contributing significantly to air pollution and poses severe health risks. To mitigate this issue, proactive measures are imperative. Firstly, promoting alternative methods of crop residue management such as mulching, composting, or using it for animal fodder can significantly reduce the need for stubble burning. Government subsidies or incen-

tives could encourage farmers to adopt these eco-friendly practices. Secondly, raising awareness among farmers about the detrimental effects of stubble burning is crucial. Educational campaigns highlighting the environmental degradation and health hazards have fostered a sense of responsibility towards sustainable farming practices. Moreover, investing in agricultural machinery like straw balers and happy seeders, which help in managing crop residue effectively without burning, can be beneficial.

Sensor loaded water tanks for avoiding overflowing of water: ‘Water Saved’

The use of sensors in household water tanks to avoid overflowing of water can be recognized as a crucial measure for efficient water management. These sensors are installed in water tanks to monitor water levels continuously. When the water level reaches a certain threshold, the sensors trigger a signal of potential overfilling and automatically shuts down the motor to avoid any water wastage. Similarly, if the water level drops below a specified level, the sensor detects it and initiates an automatic refilling signal. By utilizing these techniques, the risk of overfilling water tanks and potential water wastage is significantly reduced. Additionally, ongoing monitoring of water levels ensures that adequate water supply is maintained, preventing shortages and promoting efficient water use. Overall, the use of such sensors in water tanks is also a cost effective and reliable method for optimizing water management, conserving resources, and promoting sustainability.



The students and teachers of Raiganj Coronation High School with their model

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