

Background:

We are living in a world where everyone is using chemicals in some form or the other in all spheres of life. Knowingly or unknowingly, we use chemicals in multiple forms which can range from simple things like cosmetics, crayons, inks, preserved foods, plastic containers, batteries, mosquito repellents, etc which are part of our daily lives to more complex things like fertilisers, pesticides, bulk chemicals, cement, electrical equipment, metallurgical compounds, dyes, bleaches etc. Whether in households or industries, chemicals have become indispensable in our day to day lives and there is hardly any industrial process, which does not involve the use of chemicals in any form. Sadly, even then the ignorance about sound management of chemicals still prevails worldwide and most of the world population is totally unaware of the fact that just a mere fraction of the 1,30,000 chemicals and other substances traded in the market are properly assessed, labelled and tracked. Articles of daily use which appear to be absolutely harmless are sometimes manufactured by using such chemicals which have the potential to cause long lasting and irreparable damage to human health and the environment. Unfortunately, the use of such substances is increasing day by day in the modern urbanised environment.

West Bengal is one of the largest states in Eastern India with major cities like Kolkata, Durgapur, Haldia, etc serving as major industrial hubs. Along with other industries, it also has a significant number of chemical industries operating within the State, which generate huge quantity of chemical and hazardous wastes. These industries are scattered over all the districts of West Bengal, which makes their regulation by the State a herculean task. The industries operating in the State are importing as well as manufacturing a wide array of inorganic and synthetic organic chemicals and as a natural consequence, generating a large amount of hazardous and chemical wastes. Although West Bengal doesn't come in the list of top hazardous waste generating states, there were 1044 waste generating units in the state which generated 1,26,563 Metric tonne of hazardous wastes in the year 2017-18. Most of these industries are clustered around the districts of Howrah, Kolkata, North 24Pdns and South 24Pdns. The total quantity of hazardous wastes imported by West Bengal in 2017-18 was at 23,385.4 Metric Tonne by industries operating in the districts of Hoogly, Howrah and East Midnapore. The State of West Bengal has one Common Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facility

(CHWTSDF) located at Purba Srikishnapur, Haldia that caters to all units in the State which started its operation in the year 2006.

The hazardous nature of the chemicals and wastes generated and the sheer magnitude of the chemical industry flourishing in West Bengal call for an efficient management system of these chemicals and hazardous wastes, keeping in mind the threat they pose, to the health and safety of the people and the environment. The entire life cycle of the chemicals commencing right from the point of imports or manufacture to the point of their sound disposal needs to be studied and tracked thoroughly. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is the nodal Ministry which coordinates with other important Ministries and bodies in this regard. The Hazardous Management Division of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is the nodal agency that is responsible for the management of hazardous substances. It is also the coordinating body for the five multilateral agreements to which India is a party namely; the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste and their disposal; Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedure for certain Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade; Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants; the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.

The Environment (Protection) Act 1986 is the umbrella legislation and the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals and Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules form the existing legislative framework in India for sound management of hazardous chemicals and wastes. The State also has the obligation to abide by the multilateral agreements to which it is a signatory. Despite all the efforts made by the concerned authorities at their respective levels, the state of management of chemicals and chemical wastes in India is still a matter of serious concern. The State of West Bengal too is not an exception in this regard. The lack of awareness, trained personnel, feasible alternatives, finances, reluctance and wilful negligence on the part of industrial units and the complexities involved in the process of management and disposal of hazardous chemicals and wastes are major hindrances in the path of sound management of hazardous chemicals and wastes in the state. Several industrial units refrain from adhering to the laws and regulations and store, manage and dispose of the hazardous chemicals and wastes in an improper manner. The CHWTSDF at

Haldia also does not receive satisfactory amount of hazardous wastes from the industrial units in comparison to its authorised capacity and the magnitude of the chemical industry in the State.

In the light of the above factors, the WB National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata, as the eastern regional partner of NLSIU, Bangalore, has undertaken a major research project sponsored by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on Chemical and Hazardous Waste Management. The research team of the project has conducted a study of current position and has come out with its findings. Based on the findings of the research, a training and dissemination workshop is being organised to train the participants in the better handling and management of chemical and hazardous wastes as well as to receive inputs from different administrators, scholars, industrialists and experts in this field. The primary objective of the workshop is to highlight the existing challenges in management of chemical and hazardous wastes in West Bengal and to find out a workable solution for ensuring the highest level of protection to the health and safety of people and the environment.

Major Themes of the Workshop:

- International conventions and instruments on management of chemical and hazardous wastes: Implementation in India
- Legal and regulatory framework for management of chemical and hazardous wastes India
- Import and export of chemical and hazardous wastes: Norms and compliances
- Storage, transport and disposal of chemical and hazardous wastes in West Bengal
- Management of batteries and battery wastes: A special reference to West Bengal
- Duties of occupiers and operators of TSDF in efficient disposal of chemical and hazardous wastes
- Role of the State in regulating the chemical and hazardous industries in West Bengal
- Chemical and hazardous wastes management: More inclusive role of Pollution Control Boards
- Chemical and hazardous wastes management and public awareness in West Bengal

Call for Papers:

Those who are interested in presenting a paper on any of the above themes must send an abstract of 600 words along with a brief biographical note (not more than 200 words) on or before 20 May 2020. Preference would be given to those papers that incorporate empirical study on the major themes of the workshop, which help in training different stakeholders involved in the management of chemical and hazardous substances. The acceptance of paper for presentation would be informed by 30 May 2020. Upon acceptance, a full length paper of 4,000 - 6,000 words must be sent by 5 July 2020. If the full length paper is not submitted before the last date, authors will not be allowed to present the paper in the Workshop. Submission of the full length paper would be presumed as unconditional consent of the author/s for its possible use in the preparation of research report by the organisers. Submission of abstracts and full length papers must be made through e-mail to Mr. Atul Alexander at atulalexander100@nujs.edu. All submissions must be made in Microsoft Word.

Target Audience:

Since the workshop is focusing on the chemical and hazardous waste management, the following stakeholders in this field would be immensely benefitted:

- Policy makers
- Members and officers of pollution control boards
- Representatives from chemical and hazardous industries
- Importers and exporters of chemicals
- Representatives from waste disposal facilities
- Academicians and students

Participants' Registration:

There is no registration fee for the Workshop. However, the participation to the Workshop is limited to 60 participants (excluding the paper presenters). All interested participants must register by sending a mail to Ms. Dulung Sengupta at dulungsengupta@gmail.com. Registration would be done on first-come first-served basis until the seats are filled.

Please note that the organizers are not in a position to provide accommodation to any participant or paper presenter. Though we can provide a list of accommodation available near the University, we take no responsibility regarding the booking, quality or any other aspect relating to accommodation.

Last date for submission of Abstract: 20 May 2020
Last date for submission of Full Paper: 5 July 2020
E-mail id for Submissions: atulalexander100@nujs.edu
E-mail id for Registration by Participants: dulungsengupta@gmail.com
Contact Number: 033-23357379 / 0765 (extn 1180)
8017135236
Workshop Date: 17 & 18 July 2020
Workshop Venue: The WB National University of Juridical Sciences
12, LB Block, Sec III, Salt Lake, Kolkata - 700098

* Note: Certificate would be issued to only those participants who attend all sessions.

Workshop Coordinator

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