



EDITORIAL

The entire world is facing economic crisis due the existing health pandemic caused through uncontrolled widespread community transfer of Corona Virus Dieses (COVID-19). Various estimates have been put forth by authentic agencies for economic burden of such pandemic in India as estimated to be about 9 Lakh Crores (news agencies reporting through FICCI communications) till the time the latest lockdown announced by our Hon'ble Prime Minister till the 17th of May. Even after the interim relaxation targeted to revive economy and survival of the downtrodden, it would take at least 3-6 months to bring life to normal and probably an year to recover economic slowdown so affected by this pandemic. Many say that this is nature's balancing act is being witnessed by the world due to over exploitation of resources & crossing carrying capacity due to excessive anthropogenic activities. Nevertheless, there has been always the debate of sustainability in terms of environmental carrying capacity & anthropogenic activities including industrialization overtaking environmental care which by itself defeats the very cause of human existence as many would believe. The debate has been more so prominent with the latest reports being flagged with clearer skies, visible mountains from distant places not seen in past 100 years or so, locating wild animals on deserted roads, improved air quality and environmental conditions & so on.

In this edition of the E-Bulletin, we are highlighting initiatives taken by MPCB by developing different guidelines in order to partly handle this pandemic by handling, treatment and safe disposal of Biomedical waste generated during treatment, diagnosis and quarantine of patients confirmed or suspected to have the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19). Also a new dashboard has been developed for maintaining records of BMW data during COVID-19. We have also monitored Air quality during this lockdown period and a real-time comparative qualitative analysis has been published for data collected till date and shall be continued which shall provide a unique opportunity to study processes and implications of policy changes to reduce air pollution in future. We hope these Bulletin's have been beneficial & we also welcome suggestion from the readers regarding future topics, invite guest articles from the readers to put in the forthcoming issues of the e-bulletin.



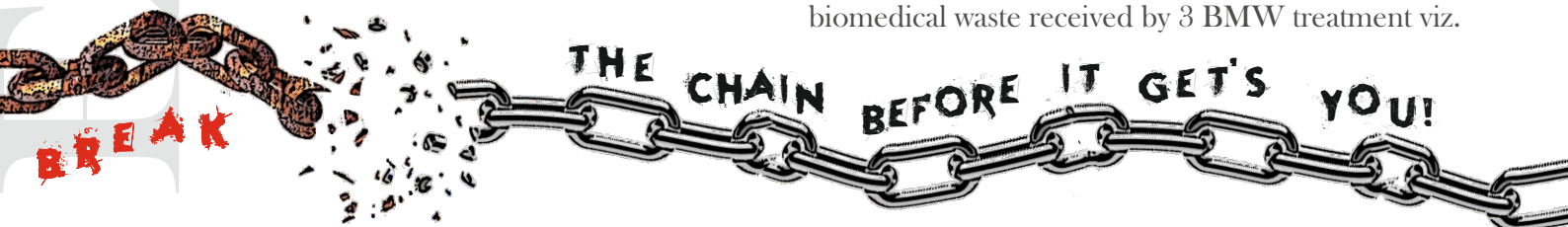
Shri E. Ravendiran, (IAS)
Member Secretary, MPCB

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Development of Separate Bio Medical Waste Dashboard for COVID-19 data:

In this pandemic scenario it is a necessity for MPCB officers to track the Bio-Medical Waste disposed at every Common Bio-Medical facilities all over Maharashtra so that all necessary precautions and decisions can be taken by authorities accordingly. To achieve the same MPCB has developed an application where Common Facilities submits information of COVID-19 BMW Receipt, Treatment & Disposal & General Bio medical waste information (Other than COVID-19) on a daily basis. And with respect to the details submitted MPCB officials can export reports and take necessary decisions accordingly.

In line with this, in month of March'2020, total 719.31Kg biomedical waste received by 3 BMW treatment viz.



Mansai Biomedical Waste Ent. Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai Waste Management Ltd, & Water Grace Products. Figure below graphically represents daily quantity of BWM received at these facilities

महाराष्ट्र प्रदूषण नियंत्रण मंडळ Industries

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Format for submission of Daily Record of COVID-19 BMW reception, transportation & Disposal

Sub-Regional Office:

BMW CTF Name: BMW CTF Address:

Submission Date:

1. Information of COVID-19 BMW Receipt, Treatment & Disposal

Name of Hospital: Address of Hospital: Taluka: District:

Others:

Total No of Beds: Beds Reserved for COVID-19 Patients: Quantity Collected (Kg/Day):

2. General Bio medical waste information (Other than COVID 19)

District	Date of Collection	Date of Receipt	No. of Yellow bags	Weight of Yellow bags in Kg	No. of Red bags	Weight of Red bags in Kg	No. of Blue bags	Weight of Blue bags in Kg	No. of White bags	Weight of White bags in Kg	Total Weight in Kg	Action
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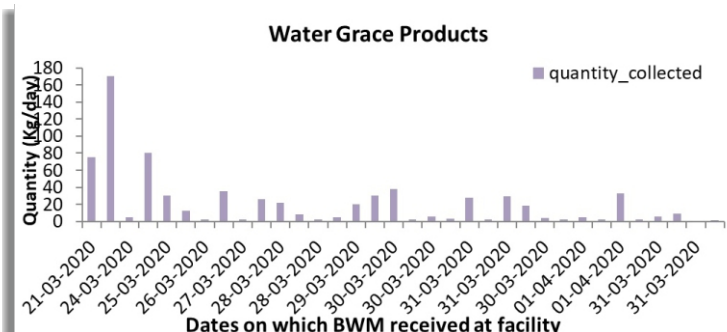
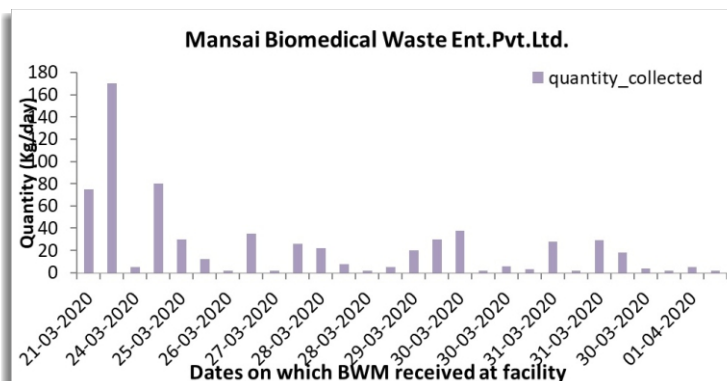
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INFORMATION

Extension of validity of Consent to Establish (CTE) & Consent to Operate (CTO)

-Consequent to outbreak of Corona virus (COVID-19) and declaration of lockdown situation, it is important that critical and essential activities such as Hospital, Pharmaceutical units, Biomedical waste management facilities, Municipal waste management facilities, Hazardous waste management facilities, Common Effluent Treatment Facilities, Power plants, Steel plants, Mines, Milk processing units, Food processing units are operate uninterruptedly, so that essential goods and services are available.

In view of the prevailing COVID-19 situation, the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board deems it necessary that all industries having Consent /Authorization validity till 30 April 2020 and have applied/shall apply before 31 May 2020 will be extended till 30 September 2020 as

an interim measure. Now, therefore, the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board in the public interest decided that valid Consents/Authorization to establish or operate of all establishments which have expired or will expire by 30 April 2020 and who have already applied for renewal or shall apply before 31 May 2020, shall stand extended to 30th September 2020, subject to the same terms and conditions as per earlier Consents/Authorization and also subject to any specific directions that may have issued in respect of any establishment, provided that any subsequent amendment shall be considered as per the provision in force at that time. This circular comes into effect from the date of issue and is applicable for all the industries/ establishments.

The copy of circular is available at;

http://www.mpcb.gov.in/sites/default/files/standing_orders/consentvalidity28042020.pdf

MAHARASHTRA POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

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Kalpataru Point, 2nd - 4th Floor
Opp. Cine Planet Cinema,
Near Sion Circle, Sion (E)
Mumbai-400 022.

No. MPCB/AST/Circular/TB-200428-FTS-0002

Date: 28/04/2020

Circular

Sub: Extension of validity of Consent to Establish (CTE) & Consent to Operate (CTO).

- Ref:**
1. GOI Order No.40-3/2020-DM-1(A) dated 24th March 2020.
 2. GOM notification dated DMU/2020/CR.92/DisM-I, Dated 25th March 2020.
 3. E- mail from President, NAREDCO, Maharashtra dtd. 21/04/2020.
 4. Board circular No PCB/AST/Circular/TB-200331-FTS-0001 dtd. 31/03/2020.



ARTICLE

"District Environmental Plans"

As directed by Hon ble National Green Tribunal vide order dated 26/09/2019 in O.A. No. 360 of 2018 filed by Shree Nath Sharma Vs Union of India and Others; the Department of Environment in respective States / Uts should collect district plans to prepare State Environment Plan, which shall be monitored by respective Chief Secretaries of State/UT by 15/12/2019. In compliance to above directions, MPCB has prepared District Environment Plans (DEP) that covers all aspects of the said order which include introduction of the district, Waste management plan, water quality management plan, Air quality Management, Mining Activity Management Plan, Noise Pollution Control Action Plan etc. The DEPs are prepared for 36 districts which includes 384 Urban Local Bodies. Further, in line with same MPCB has prepared Environment Plan for Maharashtra State and the same is available on MPCB's website.



IMPACT ON AIR POLLUTION DUE TO LOCKDOWN

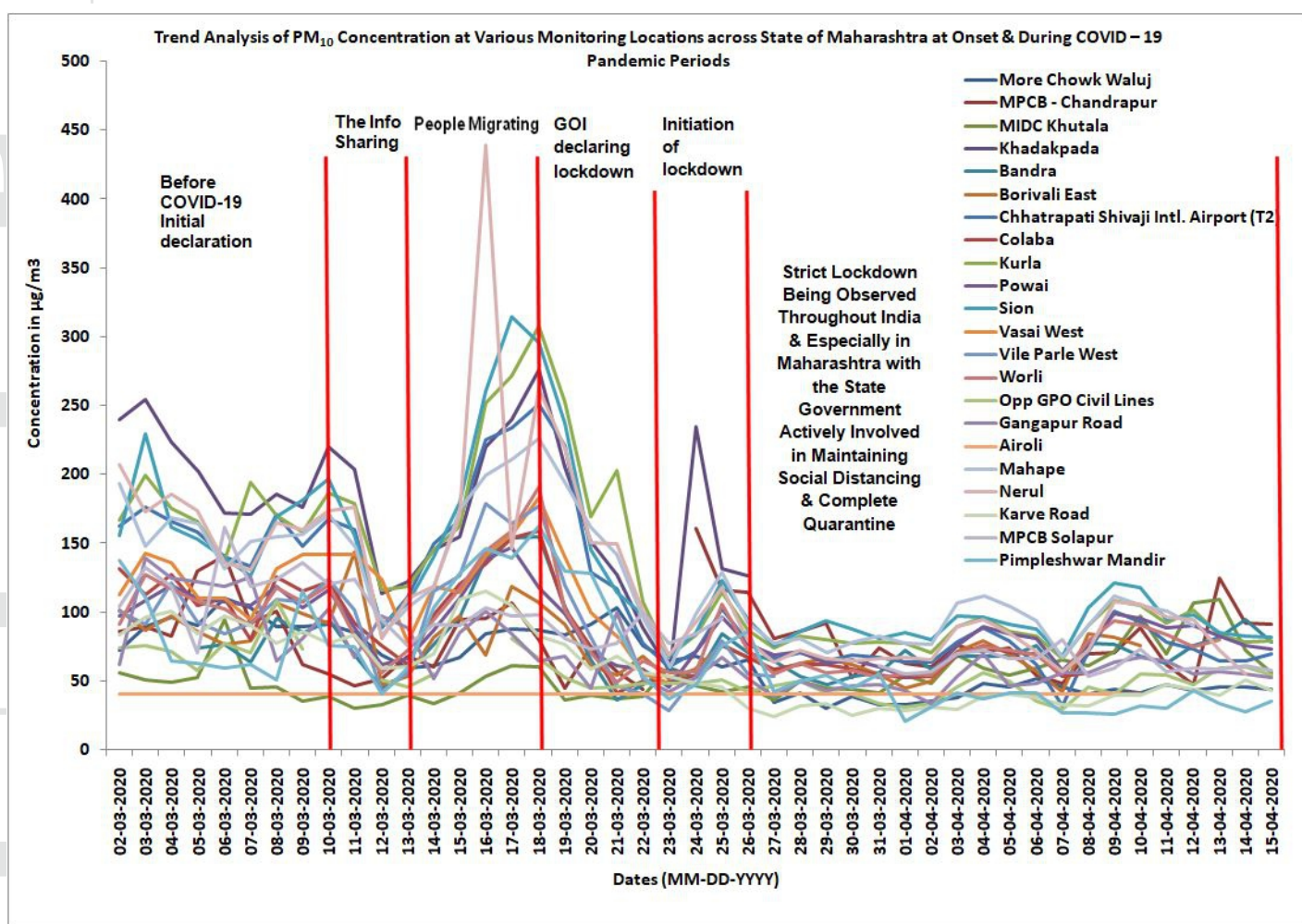
In battle against the COVID-19 pandemic, nation-wide lockdown was declared by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. In Maharashtra state, the lockdown was imposed from 22nd March by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Mr.Uddhav Thackrey. As a result of the strict restrictions on travelling and closure of non-essential activities including various industries, air quality improvement has been noted in many towns and cities across the state. Despite the severe impacts of lockdown on people's social life, global mobility and economy, there are reports that lockdown has temporarily improved environmental conditions and significant changes has been noticed in many cities across the world.

Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) has network of total twenty two continuous ambient air quality monitoring stations (CAAQMS) across the state. There are ten stations in Mumbai, three in Navi Mumbai, two in Chandrapur and one station each at Aurangabad, Kalyan, Nagpur, Nashik, Pune, Solapur and Thane.

Air quality data generated from these stations is studied by MPCB and analysis has been made with respect to Air Quality Index (AQI) and prominent pollutants such as PM10, NOx and SO2 for the six phases. The six phases being as follows:

- 1) Before COVID-19 Initial declaration (1st March to 10th March)
- 2) Information Sharing (10th March to 13th March)
- 3) People Migrating (13th March to 18th March)
- 4) GOI declaring lockdown (18th March to 22nd March)
- 5) Initiation of lockdown (22nd March to 26th March)
- 6) Strict Lockdown Being Observed Throughout India & Especially in Maharashtra with the State Government Actively Involved in Maintaining Social Distancing & Complete Quarantine (26th March to 15th April)

Analysis of Air Quality Data in Terms of Specific Pollutants is also carried out for PM₁₀ for Pre-Lockdown and Lockdown periods in twenty-two CAAQMS of Maharashtra which is represented in following Figures.



By trend analysis it is clearly depicted that there is considerable decrease in concentration of these pollutants during the lockdown phase.



OTHER INITIATIVES BY MPCB TO FIGHT AGAINST PANDEMIC OF COVID-19

- Member Secretary, MPCB had a Video conference on 16.03.2020 with all 29 CTF operators and officers of MPCB to review the preparedness of State for scientific management of COVID Waste in compliance of Bio-Medical Waste Management Rules, 2016
- MPCB on 18.03.2020 shared "Guidelines for collection, transportation and disposal of suspected COVID-19 waste" for various types of establishments:

- I. Guidelines for Bio Medical Waste Treatment facilities
- II. Guidelines for Healthcare Establishment and Pathology / R&D laboratories handling COVID-19 cases
- III. Guidelines for HCEs not handling COVID-19 cases and General Public / Large Establishments (Airports, Railway Stations, Bus Stands, Malls, Theatres, Banquet Halls, Industries, IT Centre etc.)
- IV. Guidelines for Self-Quarantined COVID-19 suspects

- Advisory from Swachh Bharat Mission, MoHUA, GOI for COVID-19 MSW management during Lockdown period. MPCB through UDD On 4th April, 2020 to ensure proper "Segregation and safe management of BMW and MSW generated at Quarantined Homes and Containment areas"
- Continued supervision & monitoring, compiling data in an online format, use of electronic/digital manifest system to track & log COVID-19 by creating necessary software, to extent viable. MPCB is monitoring daily COVID waste Collection by CTF operators w.e.f. 30th March. 2020.
- MPCB created Awareness through Webinars, New in Print and TV. Participated and played lead role in IFAT India webinar on COVID-19: Medical Waste Management on 17.04.2020 and 29.04.2020
- Interacted with Print Media on status of Bio-Medical Waste management in Maharashtra and published the periodical updates.
- PPEs: Waste handlers and operators at BMW CTFs are provided PPEs, Sanitisers and Disinfectants and trained for PPE donning and doffing as per CDC guidelines.
- Adopted "Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package: Insurance Scheme for Health Workers Fighting COVID-19" for Health care workers.
- Proposed to develop training of trainers (ToT) module with UNICEF, Mumbai for Sanitation, Hygiene and BMW management at COVID hospitals and Quarantine camps and Sanitary workers at ULBs and extend web-based training to HCWs, Sanitary workers and Waste Handlers.
- Proposed to consider extending Support for PPEs, Sanitizers and Disinfectants to CTFs from UNIDO Project funds.



MPCB Participated and played lead role in IFAT India webinar on COVID-19: Medical Waste Management on 17.04.2020 and 29.04.2020 (Bottom Left Corner - Dr. Amar Supate, Principal Scientific Officer, MPCB)



MPCB also actively participated in webinar on Impact of COVID-19 on Urban Development - How Cities are tackling the Pandemic by AIILSG, Mumbai and Messe Muenchen India as part of an on- going virtual event under IFAT India.



JOIN HANDS WITH THE GOVERNMENT TO FIGHT COVID-19

Government of Maharashtra is taking all necessary steps to ensure that we are prepared well to face the challenge and threat posed by the growing pandemic of the Corona Virus (COVID-19). With active support of the people of Maharashtra, we have been able to contain the spread of the Virus in our State. The most important factor in preventing the spread of the Virus locally is to empower the citizens with the right information and taking

precautions as per the advisories being issued by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

In order to involve the community in the fight against the Virus, we would want you to share your ideas and suggestions to help fight Coronavirus. These can include innovative and best practices regarding hygiene, Hand washing, social distancing and preventing spread of rumours and being prepared rather than panicking.

You can also share your Ideas & Suggestions to help fight Coronavirus : Visit MPCB Website <http://mpcb.gov.in/>



**PREVENTIONS
TO BE TAKEN**

**KEEP CALM AND
STAY VIGILANT**

CONTACT

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