

Bimonthly Newsletter

BULLETIN

MAHARASHTRA POLLUTION
CONTROL BOARD



OCTOBER 2020



Editorial

I am gladdened to present to the stakeholders MPCB's 5th edition of E-Bulletin. This E-bulletin is an attempt to give you a brief insight into the latest happenings in the field in terms of various initiatives undertaken, awareness programs being carried out by MPCB and also introduce the reader to the breakthrough research which is being done in this field.

The COVID-19 pandemic and escalation of cases have put the world in multi-sectoral crisis which is not only causing health, economical & social impacts but also various environmental impacts. These past few months have seen a lot and was challenging for almost everyone in the world, changing day-to-day life in unprecedented ways and have made us develop a new- normal phases in

life. With this new normal way of working, along with our regular day-to-day business we have also carried out various activities as a response to this pandemic and help society handle the situation in a better way by training & knowledge sharing through publications.

In this edition of the E-Bulletin, we are highlighting initiatives taken by MPCB by as a response to COVID-19 pandemic in order to help our frontline understand risk communications, infection prevention, control on environment sanitation and waste management through a web based ToT module. Also briefing the observations of study conducted to understand the impact of lockdown on different attributes of environment. Also introducing a new dashboard which has been developed for understanding the consent compliance as a part of EoDB. We are also highlighting the events conducted online as in view of pandemic situation, one simply can't



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Member Secretary, MPCB

oversight the global opportunity to focus global attention and action on the vital environmental issue of Ozone depletion on the occasion of World Ozone Day'2020.

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.



Publications

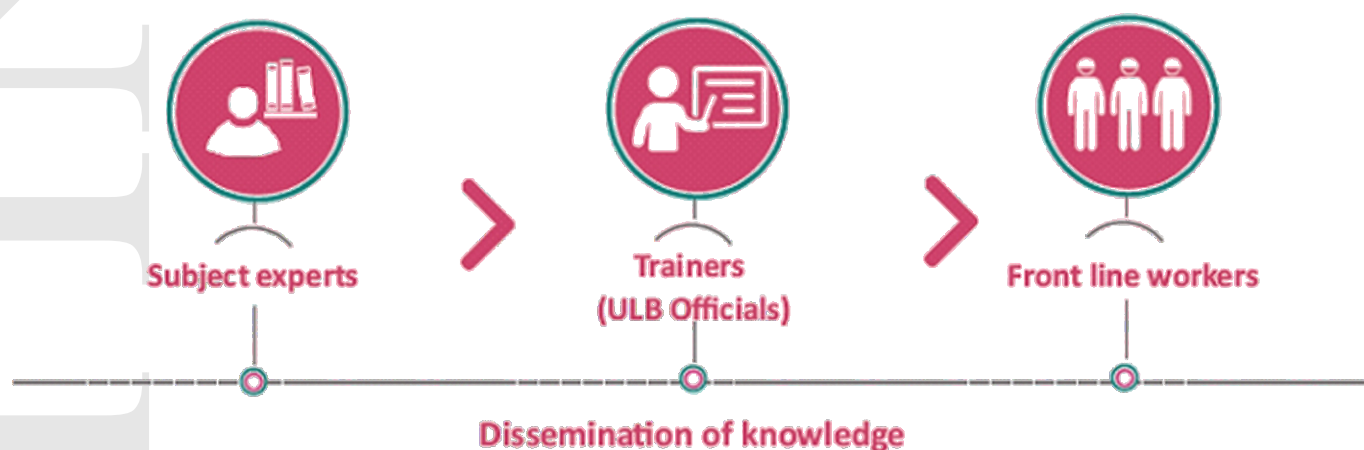
Resource Book (Published, June'2020)

Training on response & preparedness during COVID-19 times (on risk communications and infection prevention, control on environmental sanitation & waste management in cities of Maharashtra)

The brink of the COVID-19 disaster and the ongoing pandemic has hit and shaken the world outrageously. In the backdrop of the ongoing health and economy crisis entire world is also experiencing

multiple social as well as environmental impacts, and this drastic situation calls for the world to fight together against this tiny invisible enemy. With no confirmed vaccine & cure found till date; health, safety & hygiene will now remain the of the top priorities and in view of the demand from various stakeholders, dissemination of training and resources to the frontline health and sanitation workers is most important to strengthen & revamp efficiency of

urban public health system. The provision of safe water supply, sanitation and waste management, services is essential to protect human health during all infectious disease outbreaks, thus it is crucial that the officials involved; shall be well acquainted with appropriate measures for self-precaution and infection prevention and control while dealing with response to COVID-19.



Based on the context Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB), All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIILSG) Mumbai, & United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Mumbai have jointly developed this module of web-based Trainings of Trainers (ToT) as one of the measures in response to COVID-19. The module is intended as web-based ToT for ULB's & healthcare facilities operators to help them identify the risks and hazards involved in the management of services in these times and provide guidance through various subject experts.

To know more please click:

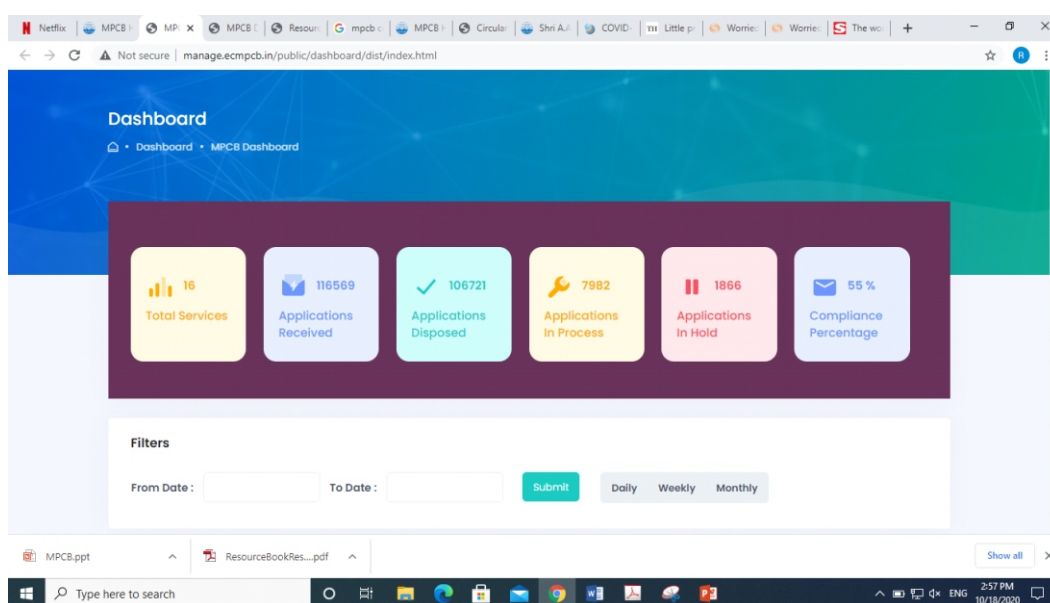
https://mpcb.gov.in/sites/default/files/whats_new/2020-07/ResourceBookResponsetoCOVID19MahAIILSG01072020_0.pdf

With reference to State Reform Action Plan 2020 under Ease of Doing Business it was instructed by DPIIT to publish an online dashboard updated regularly (weekly/fortnightly/monthly) for Consent/registrations/renewals granted under The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Authorization under the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016, Plastic Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011 & E-waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011.

The developed dashboard clearly highlights the number of registrations done and the time taken for approval (Mean/ Median) where public can view act wise & service wise compliance of department and figure out the mean median mode for approval time taken against each service

New Developments

Development of Compliance Dashboard For Public



Click link below for more information:
<http://manage.ecmpcb.in/public/dashboard/dist/index.html>

"Impact Evaluation of COVID-19 Pandemic on Environmental Attributes"

environmental quality. Never before such humongous attempt is made to evaluate impacts on varying time line with multiple determinants & environmental attributes in one go which makes this environmental investigation extremely interesting. Though many of the assumptions & numbers can be debated for accuracy, the idea for this research is to create hope about Indian culture of finding positives in every Act of God.

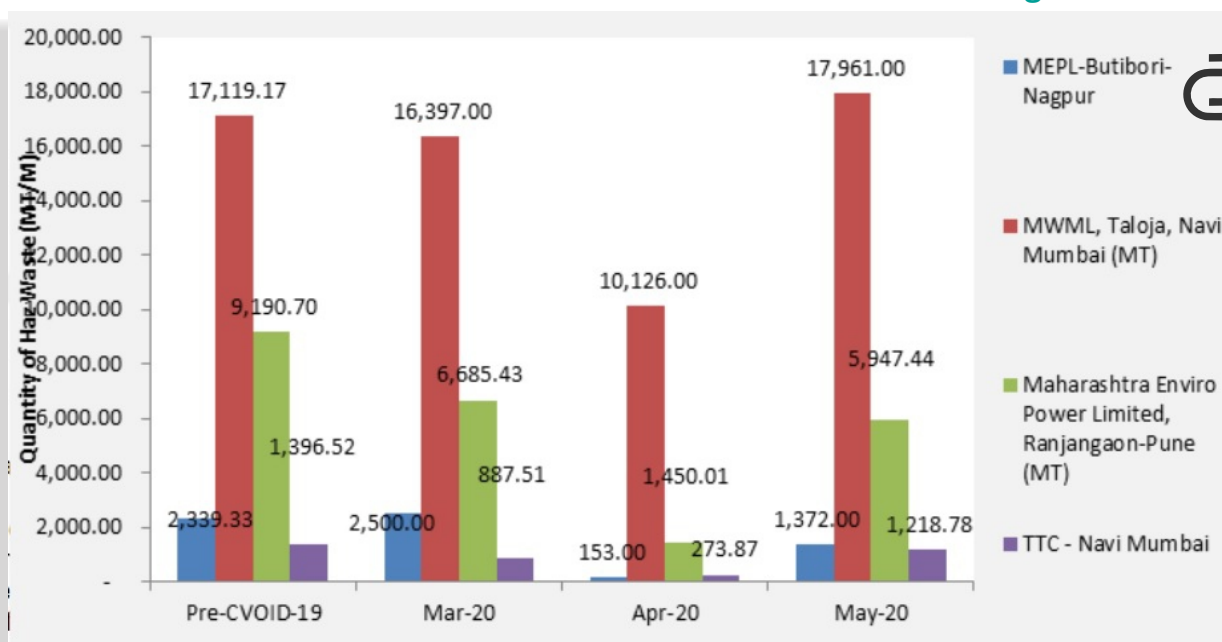
Maharashtra witnessed an improvement in all environmental parameters during the four complete lockdown phases enforced by the COVID-19 pandemic between March 21 and May 31 this year, except for an unprecedented rise in biomedical waste (BMW). Conclusively, Maharashtra State seems to have witnessed the environmental betterment to the tune of about 90-50% emissions load reduction of PM10 whereas 85-60% of gaseous load during L-I to L-IV phases of lockdown translating into approximately 60% concentration improvements averaged across all of the 22 monitored locations. River water quality has improved at more than 84% & 65% for BOD & COD in Tapi, Godavari, west flowing rivers & Nallah basins whereas the other 2 River basins shows improvement at

30% locations. With respect to concentrations of monitored parameters for water quality, ample with evidence from monitored data is available that the lockdown BOD & COD parameters enhanced by 25-75% concentration reduction of organic matter whereas 10-35% increase in DO concentration needless to mention the 50-75% reductions in Nitrates & Fecal Coliforms concentration as compared to the April 2019 data.

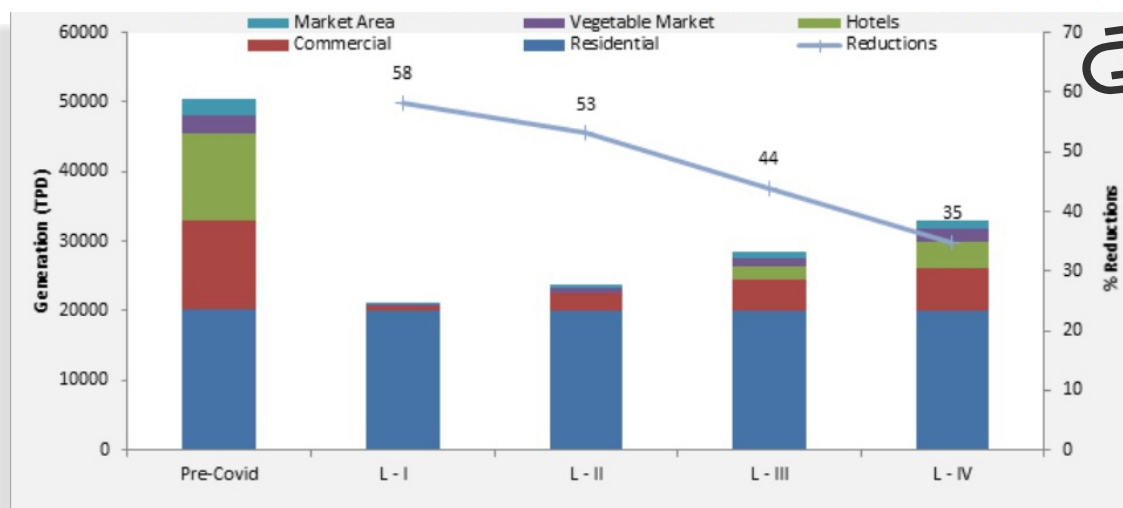
Residential solid waste was the only major contributor towards challenges in SWM in the State whereas the total shutdown of commercial activities & restaurants as well as limited industrial activities augmented with migration though may have varied spatial distribution, have definitely reduced pressures on SWM systems ranging from 58% during L-I to 35% by end of L-IV. The only negative impact of COVID-19 as anticipated is found on the biomedical waste generation with an expected rate of doubling of wastes by end of L-IV.

The outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic caused by the deadly invisible enemy has affected almost every living being across the globe directly or indirectly causing nationwide complete lockdown that indeed posed tremendous opportunity to understand environmental sustainability at its core. MPCB made an attempt to evaluated the impact of this pandemic and global lockdown on different environmental attributes to understand correlation & apportionment of all major activities thought & known to alter

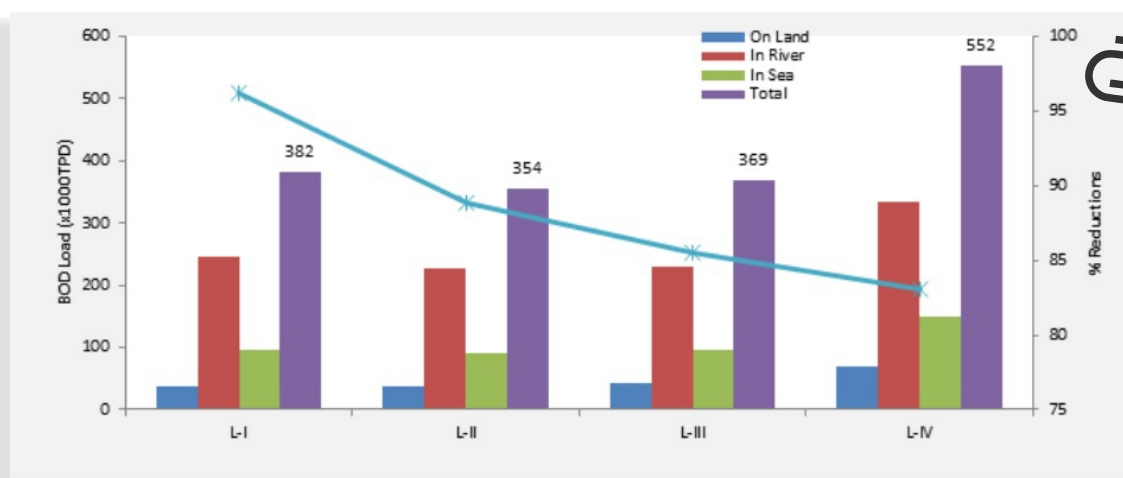
Effect of COVID-19 lockdown on hazardous waste generation



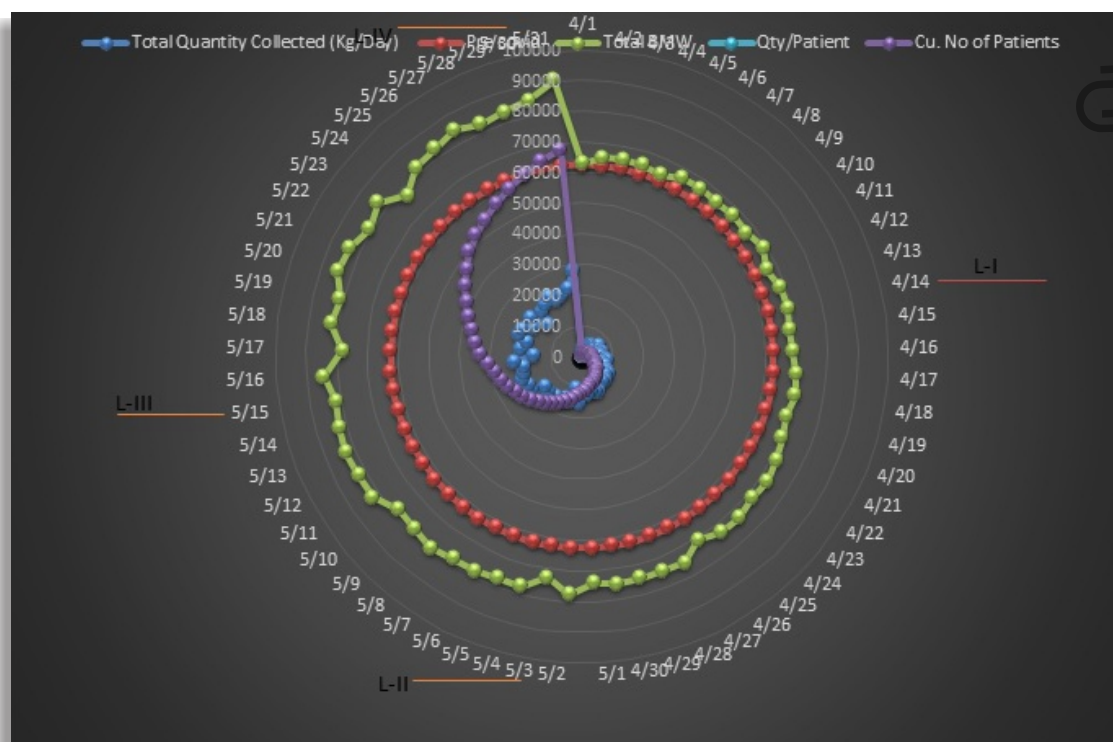
% reduction in waste generation from different Municipal sectors due to lockdown



% reduction in BOD load from disposal of effluent on Land, River & Sea due to shut down of various activities



The only contrary negative impact on environmental attributes whereby the pandemic has massively created huge demand for revisiting system is of biomedical waste management. The increase number of COVID-19 patients reaching almost 70,000 by 31st May of 2020 the BMW generation (in worst case scenario of all patients being hospitalized) to the tune of computed 90.6TPD seems to have almost increased by 45% from the average 62.5TPD quantity (during Pre-COVID-19 times); thereby posing challenge to the managers, transporters as well as facility handlers.



Effect of COVID-19 on biomedical waste generation trends with respect to COVID-19 affected patients

Follow the link to know more:

https://mpcb.gov.in/sites/default/files/whats_new/2020-09/EIACovidFinalReport02092020.pdf

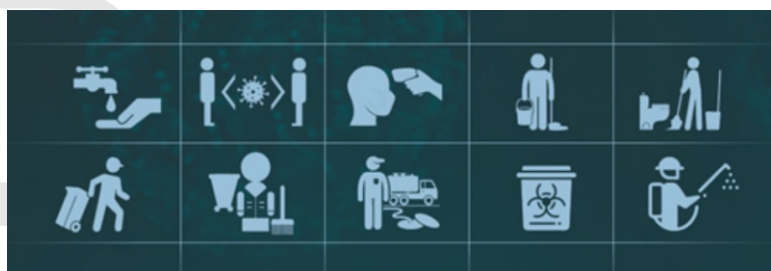


Events

World Ozone Day`2020 : Ozone for Life, 35 years of Life

On the occasion of Ozone Day; Maharashtra Pollution Control Board along with Wotastic Solutions Pvt. Ltd. conducted a half day online webinar. Maharashtra Pollution Control Board being one of the important regulators to provide safe environment, it is imperative that such initiatives are implemented and participation is ensured through such programs to further advance its contribution in global efforts towards protection of environment & sustainable development. The conference aims to sensitize participants & build awareness that could also provide a useful tool towards enhancing the environmental parameter in financial, social and developmental considerations and offer participants a common vision paving way towards a better tomorrow.

MPCB also arranged Painting, Poster and Slogan competition among the school students (age 10-17 years) across Maharashtra to create greater awareness to protect the Ozone Layer considering theme of World Ozone Day 2020 and active participation was ensured. The best 3 entries of Painting, Posters and Slogans received from schools were evaluated and finalized by a Panel of Judges at MPCB & winners of different categories were announced after webinar. Due to COVID-19 Pandemic situation, keeping in mind the safety of students, prizes & certificate were handed to respective Schools through courier for further distribution to winning students. Though more than 100 entries received we have only selected a few and a brief glance at the participation by creative students is represented in the collage;



Source: Resource Book, Response and Preparedness during COVID-19 Times

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