

**BRS COP 2025 Side Event on “Management of Persistent Organic Pollutants in India: Findings of India NIP Update Project” on 01 May 2025, 6.15-7.45 PM;
Geneva International Conference Centre, Geneva**



The Stockholm Convention is an international treaty ratified by 187 countries. The objective of the convention is protection of human health and environment from the adverse effects of persistent organic pollutants (POPs). The Government of India (GoI) signed the Stockholm Convention (SC) on POPs in May 2002 and ratified it on 13th January 2006. The Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC) is the focal point of the convention. CSIR-NEERI was nominated by MoEFCC as

Stockholm Convention Regional Centre (SCRC) in 2010, which was accepted by Conference of Parties meeting, (COP-4) held in Geneva in 2011. Since then, CSIR-NEERI actively work in close collaboration with international agencies such as UNEP, UNDP, WHO, UNIDO, etc, on several projects in the field of Chemicals and waste. CSIR-NEERI is also providing technical assistance to MoEFCC and CPCB in matters related to Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm (BRS), and Minamata Conventions.

Currently, CSIR-NEERI is implementing a GEF-funded project viz. “Review and update of national implementation plan on POPs”. This project is taken up by India to fulfil the country’s obligation to the Stockholm Convention. As per the mandate of the Convention, parties are mandated to take appropriate measures to minimize the release of POPs or phase out hazardous chemicals from production, use, import/export etc. Also, it is crucial to manage POPs containing waste such as end-of-life vehicles, plastics, E-waste etc in an environmentally sound manner to minimize the release of unintentionally produced POPs such as dioxins and furans. To disseminate the findings/insights of the project to a wider global audience, CSIR-NEERI, in association with MoEFCC, Dept. of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Govt of India, CPCB, CSIR-NIIST, CSIR-IITR and HIL India Ltd., organised a side-event on 01 May 2025 on the sidelines of COP 2025 meetings in Geneva.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Amit Raj, Director, MoEFCC and Dr S Venkat Mohan, Director, CSIR-NEERI welcomed the participants and addressed the participants about the various research activities taken up by NEERI to provide policy support to Govt of India. Mr Amit Raj, in his opening remarks, spoke on the various regulatory and policy decisions taken by the Gol for the implementation of the conventions. He congratulated CSIR-NEERI for organising such a side event for the first time by India. Er Bharat Sharma, Member Secretary, CPCB spoke on the implementation of several waste management rules in India, such as Municipal solid waste, Plastic waste, Construction and demolition waste, Hazardous waste, E-waste, End-of life vehicles management, and Battery waste management rules. To minimize hazardous chemicals and GHG emissions, and maximize material recovery and reuse circular economy principles have been incorporated in these rules.

Dr Rajendra Tappar, HIL India Ltd spoke on the alternatives to DDT for disease vector control. India stopped using DDT for malaria control since 2024, and switched

over to safe and environmentally friendly neem based and sustainable alternative approaches. This is a remarkable milestone in the implementation of the Stockholm Convention in India. Dr A Ramesh Kumar, CSIR-NEERI spoke on some of the hazardous additives present in single use plastics which are not required for SUPs due to its short life span. He emphasized the need for policy change and the requirement for standard for the additives used in plastics. Dr K P Prathish, CSIR-NIIST in his presentation showed considerable reduction in the dioxins and furans emissions due to the improvement in the waste management, co-processing of hazardous waste, and the efforts taken due to the implementation of “Swachh Bharat Mission”.

The event was attended by 50 participants from various countries in person and over 60 participants online and was moderated by Dr A Ramesh Kumar. The event was organised with the generous support of UNEP.