



**BRIEF ON KHUSHI PARISARA APPEALS TO
HONORABLE MINISTER OF RDPR
MR. PRIYANK KHARGE**

It's patently witnessed that the environmental disasters are growing and expanding everywhere, especially at rural areas.

Following our knowledge, there is not a single Environmental Engineer at RDPR, a qualified officer to recover and reverse the environmental damages produced by the current vast mismanagement of wastes. Neither at the central decision positions nor at decentralized qualified guidance.

The cracks due to the inaction, negligence of officers and representatives, sanctioned by lack of follow up, monitoring and penalties, along the lack of waste management facilities, ensued a large-scale illegal waste dumping and burning, posing significant environmental and civic health risks for communities, violating the fundamental right of citizens to live in a pollution-free environment.

And thus, the quite poor (or non-existent) enforcement of Environmental Rules (namely the Waste ones) by the governing bodies responsible for it, is increasing the environmental impacts generally faced by all of us, but more accurately suffered by the rural communities – fully deprived of the basic infrastructures for Wastes management – but fully ravaged by SUPs.

A sanitary exclusion and stable inequity responsible for grave health issues is therefore generated by the unavoidable practice of waste burning and dumping, contributing, consistently, for the escalating local and widespread pollution. At the coast, the rural communities utilise their surroundings – sea, shorelines, estuaries, mangroves, dunes, creeks, sand dunes, mud flats, salt marshes – as common dumping places for all kinds of waste.

Since long Khushi Parisara requested information available on the District-wise number of Gram Panchayats with full, partial or nil Solid Waste Management facilities, along with District plans/strategies related to sanitary landfills, to guide further our approach, but unfortunately it was not provided so far.

Thus, we consider by now that to tackle the large quantities of legacy waste remaining everywhere, particularly on coastal sensitive ecological zones, the liable authorities must submit an appropriate plan of action for clearing all the legacy waste areas under their jurisdiction, along with the timelines for completion of the plan.

We, people, we understand that

- the right to live in a clean and pollution-free environment is part of the fundamental right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution, for which the protection and preservation of the environment is vital
- the State shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wild life of the country, following Article 48A
- citizens have the duty to protect and improve the natural environment
- industrial growth and economic progress must not harm the environment
- pollution is caused by a chain of activities whose source is patently identified, mainly through the **massive mismanagement of all wastes**, among which the ineffective and obstructed implementation of environmental rules, the lack of monitoring their compliance, the lack of public servants' awareness and interest on their duties towards **environment, are some among them.**

We, people, we request

- Priority to be given to strengthen institutional capacity through adequate resources and strong skill development of environmental authorities rather than allocating financial resources to private industries
- Consistent, persistent, urgent and extremely skilled environmental governance at rural level

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<https://www.khushiparisara.in/>

