



CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Zonal Office (South)

Nisarga Bhavan, Thimmaiah Road
Shivanagar, Bengaluru - 560 010

**Mass Awareness programme on celebration of “Eco - Green
Deepavali” in a School**

Deepavali or Diwali is a religious festival and one of the most common festivals of India. It is celebrated for 05 days in the North India and 03 days in South India. It always falls on October or November month every year. Deepavali is known as a festival of Light, where light symbolizes knowledge, Lord and removes darkness that symbolizes ignorance. During this festival people light their houses with lots of little oil lamps or electrical lights, perform pooja at home, offices and in the temples for prosperity, the gifts and best wishes are exchanged among friends, relatives and neighbors and festive meals are prepared. The main attraction of Deepavali is the “Fireworks”, where every age group people like the most of this festival. Fireworks contain chemicals such as potassium nitrates, potassium chlorate, potassium perchlorate, charcoal, sulfur, manganese, sodium oxalate, aluminum and iron dust powder, strontium nitrate, and barium nitrate, etc. These firecrackers when burnt can release various gaseous and particulate air pollutants and toxic metals to significant quantity and degrades the air quality as a whole and results in health effects.

The main aim of this mass awareness programme is to create awareness about the harmful effects of the fireworks on human health and the Environment. To minimize damage to the environment, the CPCB, Zonal Office, Bengaluru promoted the

celebration of Deepavali festival in Eco-friendly / Eco-Green way to school children and also among general public that festivals have to be celebrated in keeping with spirit of ecological sustainment in line with healthy tradition.

To organize the Mass Awareness programme in a School on Eco - green Deepavali for the year 2014-15, a School named Angel High School near the Office was selected to organize the event. The program was conducted for the High School Students studying from Class 8th to 10th Standard. The programme was organized on October 17, 2014, time and programme Schedule of the event is attached as Annexure 01.

This event was coordinated by Mrs. Poornima B M, Scientist "B" and Ms. Sowmya D, Scientist "C" and Mr. K. Karunagaran, STS, Mr. I. A. Kadar, Sr. Technician, Mr. R. Mahendra Kumar, P. S, Mrs. Mary Alexander, P.S. and Project students were actively involved in the programme. On October 17, 2014 the programme was started around 10:30 am in the Angel High School premises, the Chairman and Principal Mr. Madhusudan, the Head Mistress Mrs. Lakshmi, the high school Teachers and the Students were assembled in the hall. The programme was started with the welcome speech by Mrs. Poornima B M, Scientist "B", she also delivered the speech about the festival of Deepavali, the composition and the effects of fireworks on the Human health and the environment, the fireworks and the child labor and how to celebrate the festival in Eco-green manner. It was also stressed about the importance of "*Swachh Bharat Mission*" to the teachers and to the students to upkeep the premises neat and hygienic.

Then Mr. K. Karunagaran, STS delivered the speech about the CPCB to the students, its activity and the regulations was explained to them. Afterwards the speech competition was organized for the students on "*celebration of Eco-friendly Deepavali*" and 12 students were actively participated in the competition. The competition was judged by Ms. Sowmya, Scientist "C", Mrs. Mary Alexander, P.S, Mr. Mahendra Kumar, P. S. and the supervisor of the school. Among 12 students 03 students were

selected for the best speech and also 02 conciliation prizes were selected by the judges. The chairman of the school was requested to distribute the prizes to the children.

Mr. K. Karunagaran, STS briefed on Ambient Air Quality Monitoring instrument, RDS to students and Mr. I. A. Kadar, Sr. Technician briefed about the Noise Monitoring instrument. On behalf of CPCB, Zonal Office Bengaluru, the Memento was given to the school.

The pledge **“we will celebrate Deepavali in eco-friendly manner and will not burn a single cracker so that the Air and the Environment will still remain clean and livable even after the festival free of smoke and smog”** we also pledge **“to keep our home and school clean and neat”** we also pledge **“to make our school plastic free zone”**. In addition we spread this message among our friends, neighbors and relatives were administered by Mrs. Poornima B. M, Scientist **“B”** to the teachers and students of the School.

At last the sweets were distributed to students, and the programme was ended with the Vote of Thanks by Mr. Mahendra Kumar, P. S.

On 21stOctober 2014, an awareness programme on occasion of Deepavali was organized in the Zonal Office. The importance of celebration of eco friendly festival was highlighted/discussed through a self-educative PPT (copy at Annexure). The advantages of celebration of Eco-Deepavali festival were highlighted in the presentation made by Smt. Anjana Kumari, Sc C. All staff consented and pledged that no Fire Crackers will be burnt and the festival will be celebrated in an environment friendly manner.







