Environment Improvement Drive in Patparganj Industrial Estate, Delhi

Flagging-off Month-long Drive on the Occasion of the World Environment Day, 5th June 2019
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Overview of the Event

On the eve of the World Environment Day 2019 (June 05, 2019), representatives from the Delhi State Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (DSIIDC), Patparganj FIE Entrepreneurs Association (PFEA) and industries flagged-off a month-long Environment Improvement Drive in the Patparganj Industrial Estate in Delhi. The Environment Improvement Drive was conceptualised by GIZ under the Sustainable and Environment-friendly Industrial Production II project of the Indo German Development Cooperation.

The Patparganj Industrial Estate was planned, laid and commissioned by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) in the year 2000, and handed over to the Department of Industries. It is situated in East Delhi District of the National Capital Territory of Delhi, India. The industrial estate is spread over an area of 52.61 Ha (130 Acres) encompassing 600 medium and small-scale industries (MSME). Out of these, 175 are printing and packaging industries, 80 are light machinery manufacturing units, 50 automobile units, 50 plastic products manufacture units, 40 electronic goods manufacture units, 25 cables & wires units, 20 surgical products units and the remaining 100 are garment and home furnishing units.

PFEA has a good track record of initiating and carrying out cleaning and greening drives in the Patparganj Industrial Estate. In June-July 2016, through an environment improvement drive a dump site of wastes in the Patparganj Industrial Estate was transformed into a beautiful park (1.26 acre) in less than 3 months. (Refer: http://seip.urban-industrial.in/content/e62771/e64483/e64794/e64799/). In continuation of the successfully conducted environment improvement drive taken up in June/July 2016 in the Patparganj Industrial Estate in New Delhi, PFEA conducted another cleaning drive on 15th October 2016. In this drive nearly 500 tons of garbage and waste dumps were removed.

Partners to the Clean-up and Plantation Drive (World Environment Day 2019)

Patparganj FIE Entrepreneurs Association (PFEA):

The Patparganj FIE Entrepreneurs Association (PFEA) PFEA is an association of industries in Patparganj Industrial Estate. About 360 industries are members of the association. PFEA identified an area in the industrial estate which was becoming a dump yard of wastes. They desired to convert this waste dumping area into a green space and initiated the one-month long cleaning and plantation drive on the World Environment Day 2019. They encouraged the industries to come forward for voluntary action and support.

Delhi State Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (DSIIDC):

The Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (DSIIDC), established in 1971, reports directly to the Delhi Government and is responsible for major development projects in the city. DSIIDC is the owner of the Patparganj Industrial Estate. The representatives from DSIIDC participated in the World Environment Day 2019 event and appreciated the initiative taken by PFEA for cleaning and making the industrial estate greener.

GIZ:

GIZ (German Technical Cooperation agency of the German Development Cooperation) conceptualised the clean-up and plantation drive and initiated discussions with DSIIDC, PFEA and industries. GIZ facilitated PFEA in flagging off the one-month long Environment Drive.
Activities Taken Up

The month-long environmental improvement drive was taken up with several objectives.

- Spread awareness amongst industrialists on the need for protecting environment.
- Promote collective and voluntary action by industries for addressing environmental issues.
- Clean-up the identified area for preventing air and water pollution from the waste dumps and loose soil.
- Undertake plantation to help in cleaning air and improving micro-climate.

The activities taken up included preparatory activities, flagging-off ceremony for the one-month environment drive, followed by signing of pledge for environment protection, sramadaan for clean-up and tree plantation. Details are given below.

Preparatory activities:

a) Identification of an area for clean-up and plantation activity.

b) Cleaning up of the identified area through sramadaan (voluntary action).

c) Preparation of area/land for plantation activities.

d) Procurement of saplings for plantation.

e) Mobilisation of participation from various stakeholders, planning of activities.

Details are given below.

a) Identification of area for clean-up and plantation activity

PFEA and GIZ together identified the deserted and abandoned area through an initial survey. The identified location for converting into green space is shown encircled in picture 1. The major problem was that it was gradually becoming a dumpsite. The area has no fencing or boundary and watering any plantation taken up has been a big problem due to water scarcity.

GIZ and PFEA went around the industrial estate and identified the area to be taken up for clean-up and plantation.

![Picture 1: Area identified for the plantation activity](image-url)
b) Sramadaan for clean-up

Cleanliness activity was taken up by PFEA, GIZ and other participants to clean up the waste dump along the boundary of the estate. Participants divided themselves into group of 3-4 and did their sramadaan for making the estate clean by collecting the dry plastic waste. Waste collected (approx. 20 kg) was disposed-off at municipal corporation waste collection facility in the industrial estate.
c) **Preparation of the identified area/land for plantation activities**

PFEA took the responsibility for tilling the surface to make it suitable for plantation activities.

Picture 4: Tilling operation being carried out by Backhoe Loader to make surface suitable for plantation.
d) **Procurement of saplings for plantation**

The Horticulture Department of DSIIDC supported the plantation drive by providing 100 number of trees of two types: *Alstonia Scholaris* and *Ficus vires* (Pilkhan) for plantation in the Patparganj Industrial Estate keeping in view the conditions of the soil. The plants selected are known for air purification and are known for their medicinal properties. With ability to withstand harsh climate with very less maintenance, these plants were selected as best suited for the site.

![Alastonia plant](image6)

![Pilkhan plant](image7)

**Picture 6: Alastonia plant**  
**Picture 7: Pilkhan plant**

e) **Mobilisation of participation from various stakeholders, planning of activities**

GIZ initiated the discussion with DSIIDC and PFEA to contribute towards environment through voluntary actions such as cleaning and greening of the industrial estate. GIZ coordinated and supported PFEA in flagging off the one-month long Environment Drive by pledge ceremony, cleaning and plantation activities. PFEA invited their member industries to participate for making the industrial area clean and green.
• **Flagging off ceremony**

The flagging off ceremony took place from 17:30 to 19:00 hrs. on the eve of the World Environment Day 2019. Mr. Sharat Kumar, Superintendent Engineer Environment, DSIIDC, Mr. S. N. Mittal, President, PFEA, Mr. Sanjay Gaur, Patron, PFEA were present during the ceremony.

Mr. Ashish Kumar, Technical Advisor, GIZ welcomed participants from the industries and gave an overview of the World Environment Day along with highlighting its importance. He also shared the potential of voluntary and participatory actions for dealing with complex environmental issues/pollution. Mr. Mittal welcomed the PFEA members and encouraged them to take the responsibility of improving environment and contributing to make the Patparganj Industrial Estate cleaner and greener. He also emphasised on the commitment of PFEA for voluntary/participatory actions and pollution control (viz. air, water, and noise) in the industrial estate. He conveyed that the drive would continue for a month for making the estate cleaner and greener. Mr. Sharath Kumar from DSIIDC said that environment improvement actions must be continued and shouldn’t be one-time affair. He further added that it was everyone’s responsibility to contribute to our environment and make it pollution free. Mr Gaur for PFEA had reminded the industries of their responsibilities and highlighted the actions to be taken by them to deal with all types of pollution in the industrial estate. He said that the industries must imbibe responsible behaviour and must be proactive for environment protection. PFEA announced that the storm water drainage and sewage network in the industrial estate will also be cleaned during the month-long environment drive period.

![Picture 8: Mr Sharat Kumar, DSIIDC addressing the participants](image-1)

• **Signing of pledge for environment protection**

Signing of a pledge by the participants took place highlighting their individual commitments to make greener and cleaner environment. Pledges taken by the participants included, “Save the earth, plant more trees”; “No to plastic in everything”; “Shall do best to protect Environment”; “Less Plastic, More Plants way to nurture mother earth” etc.

![Signing of pledge for environment protection](image-2)
- **Tree plantation**

DSIIDC took the responsibility of providing 100 plants from its Horticulture Department. Representatives from DSIIDC, PFEA, industries and GIZ planted trees. All the members of the PFEA agreed to give their voluntary and participatory response for development of green space. 100 trees were planted at the chosen location in the Patparganj Industrial Estate on June 5, 2019 on the occasion of the World Environment Day 2019. PFEA has started watering and maintaining the plants. More trees will be planted in the coming weeks/months. Also, provision has been made for rainwater harvesting within this plantation area.
Picture 3: Plantation activities (100 trees planted)

Picture 11: Watering and maintenance of plants taken up by PFEA
Post Launch of the Event - drain cleaning, watering and manuring of plants

After the launch of the WED event on June 5, 2019, watering and manuring of the plants and cleaning up of the clogged drains continued.

Pic 12: Cleaning up of clogged drains in the Patparganj Industrial Estate in June 2019

Pic 13 (a): Manuring of the plants
Highlights of the Event

- PFEA successfully flagged-off a month-long Environment Improvement Drive in the Patparganj Industrial Estate in Delhi.
- PFEA and its member industries have voluntarily taken the responsibility to transform the identified deserted and abandoned area into a green space.
- Participants overwhelmingly took pledges for environment protection.
- 100 trees were planted by the more than 50 representatives from DSIIDC, PFEA, industries and GIZ with a goal to improve the air quality situation and reduce water pollution as well as to make the industrial area greener and beautiful. *Alstonia Scholaris* (The Devil's Tree) and *Ficus Viren* (Pilkhan) are known air purifier plants and are known for their medicinal properties.
- PFEA announced that their storm water drainage and sewage network will be cleaned during the month-long environment drive period.
- Voluntary and participatory actions taken by PFEA to make their industrial area clean and green can set an example and be a role model for other industrial parks and management.
- PFEA has started watering and maintaining the plants. More trees will be planted in the coming weeks/months. Also, provision has been made for rainwater harvesting within this plantation area.
Conclusion

The month-long environmental improvement drive provided once again the impact of Collective Action/Voluntary Action towards addressing environmental issues. The drive was useful in spreading awareness amongst industrialists on the need for protecting environment. The collective action demonstrated once again how one other polluted area of the Patparganj industrial estate could be put onto improvement path within a very short time. Once an idea was formalised for cleaning and greening the selected spot in the industrial estate, the support of various stakeholders fell in place one after the other making the whole event a success.

There is a very high potential for promoting Collective Action/Voluntary Action in the cities and industrial estates across the country for addressing environmental issues.
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