

**BEAT  
PLASTIC  
POLLUTION**



**WORLD  
ENVIRONMENT  
DAY**

## THE HIMALAYAN CLEANUP

*Our  
Mountains  
deserve better*

The Himalayan  
Cleanup was organised across the 12  
mountain states on a single day  
**May 26, 2018.**

It was anchored by  
Integrated Mountain Initiative in  
collaboration with the  
Zero Waste Himalaya Group

It aimed to bring the issue of waste  
in the mountains to the forefront,  
and also to understand what is in our  
waste through a waste and brand  
audit.

A uniform guideline was followed,  
through support and participation of  
various Government, Non  
Government Organisations and  
individuals, who took the lead in  
their own areas.







# GANGTOK WORKSHOP ON WASTE

**ENVISIONING  
SUSTAINABLE  
WASTE  
MANAGEMENT  
PATHWAYS  
FOR THE INDIAN  
HIMALAYAN  
REGION  
MAY 11 -12,  
2018  
SIKKIM**

**OVER 100 PARTICIPANTS**

- ➔ Government Representatives
- ➔ NGOs and Civil Societies
- ➔ Academia ➔ Individuals

## KEY OUTCOMES / COMMITMENTS

- Local and regional policies**
- Extended producer responsibility**
- Promote segregation – Awareness**
- No to single use plastics**
- Reduce the use of multi-layered plastic**
- Link with State Visions and SDGs**
- Make a zero waste alliance**

### WHERE WE ARE !

**Mountain states mostly transferring the waste from one point to the other and not treating.**

**Informal linkages to recycling.**

**Challenges of collection in mountainous terrain as well as rural spread.**

### ISSUES DISCUSSED

Policies & Practices

Talking Zero Waste

Building Solidarity

Himalayan Cleanup Planning





# THE HIMALAYAN CLEANUP

A JOURNEY TOWARDS ZERO WASTE!

Collect and  
Cleanup  
.....

Analyse the waste  
.....

Reflect  
Question  
.....

Individual lifestyles and local  
systems towards sustainability

Who is responsible?

WASTE  
AUDIT

BRAND  
AUDIT

*Who's polluting our mountains?  
Who's clogging our drains??*

*What's in our  
trash?  
How much?*



→ Improve management systems and  
local/regional policies

→ Extended producer responsibility



# THE HIMALAYAN CLEANUP JOURNEY ACROSS THE 12 MOUNTAIN STATES

200+  
organisations

250+  
events

15000+  
Volunteers



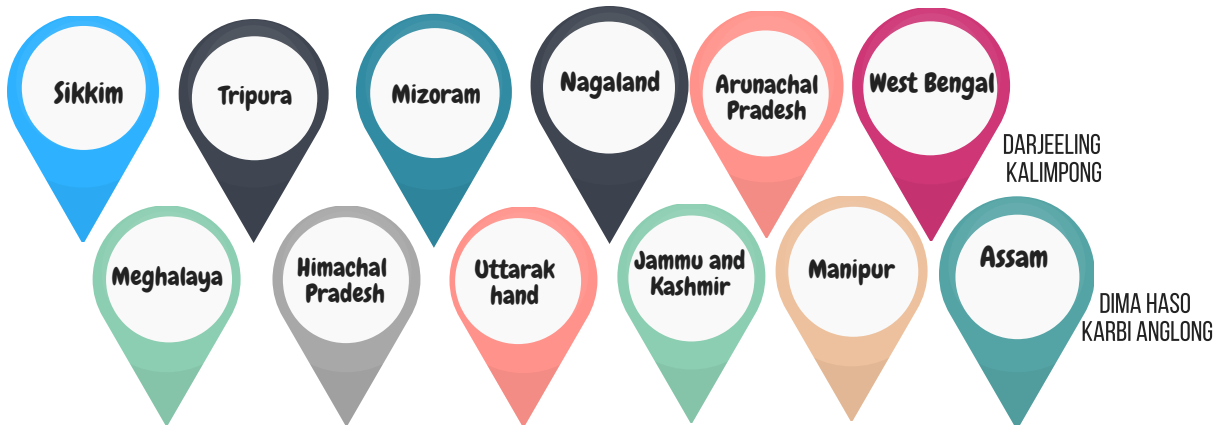
## CLEANUP DETAILS

Site selection influenced the waste that got collected.

For remote locations, disposal was a major issue, which brought to light the everyday challenges of these areas

The Cleanup tried linking to recycling chains and then used the existing system to dispose waste collected.

It was organised as a zero waste event by consciously not adding to the waste pile through use of local unpackaged food, drinking water in reusable bottles and no single use disposable utensils.





# WASTE AUDIT

## WHAT'S IN OUR TRASH?

Information represents data from 92 cleanup sites.

Waste collection was a 1 - 2 hour exercise, which was followed by 2 -3 hours of waste audit.

Volume and weight were not well documented so is not represented here

By number, 97 % of waste collected was PLASTIC

### THE TOP 5!

MULTILAYERED PLASTICS	SINGLE USE PLASTIC	PET BOTTLES	OTHER PLASTIC ITEMS	TETRA PAK
58.3%	14.44%	9.4%	8.87%	3.36%



# PET

# BOTTLES

# 45577

This constituted a large portion of the trash recovered. Soda/ water/ Aerated drinks

Bottles of packaged drinking water were maximum in number- Both local and International brands

Apart from bottles, plastic caps and plastic labels were also recovered in considerable numbers.

“ We became aware of the kind of waste that is produced by the choices that we make on a daily basis. From buying a fruiti instead of buying mango to buying a bisleri bottle instead of taking our own bottle around. ”

- Mohit Negi, Uttarakhand



# MULTILAYERED

# PLASTICS

# 288256

THE MOST COMMONLY FOUND PLASTIC, WHICH HAS NO SOLUTION

Tiny single wrappers of toffees, chewing gum and gutkas the most difficult to recover

Diversity of products and brands - Local and International

“ Even though, I am generally aware of the scale of plastic pollution the amount of multilayered plastics we collected was shocking and unimaginable. It has made me reflect on my lifestyle choices and my actions that contribute to this problem. Also changes in policies and the way companies package their products is the need of the hour. ”

- Janani Pradhan, Sikkim





# TETRAPAK

## 17602

Large volume of juice packs and milk

Plastic straw attached with most small packets

Plastic lid on larger juice packets, which did not have straws.

“ This gathering of volunteers has displayed that there are people concerned about plastic pollution even in our place. And, locally we can together work in the future for our town and district. ”

Ms. Amen, Nagaland



# SINGLE USE PLASTICS

## 70000

Mainly paper cups and styrofoam items

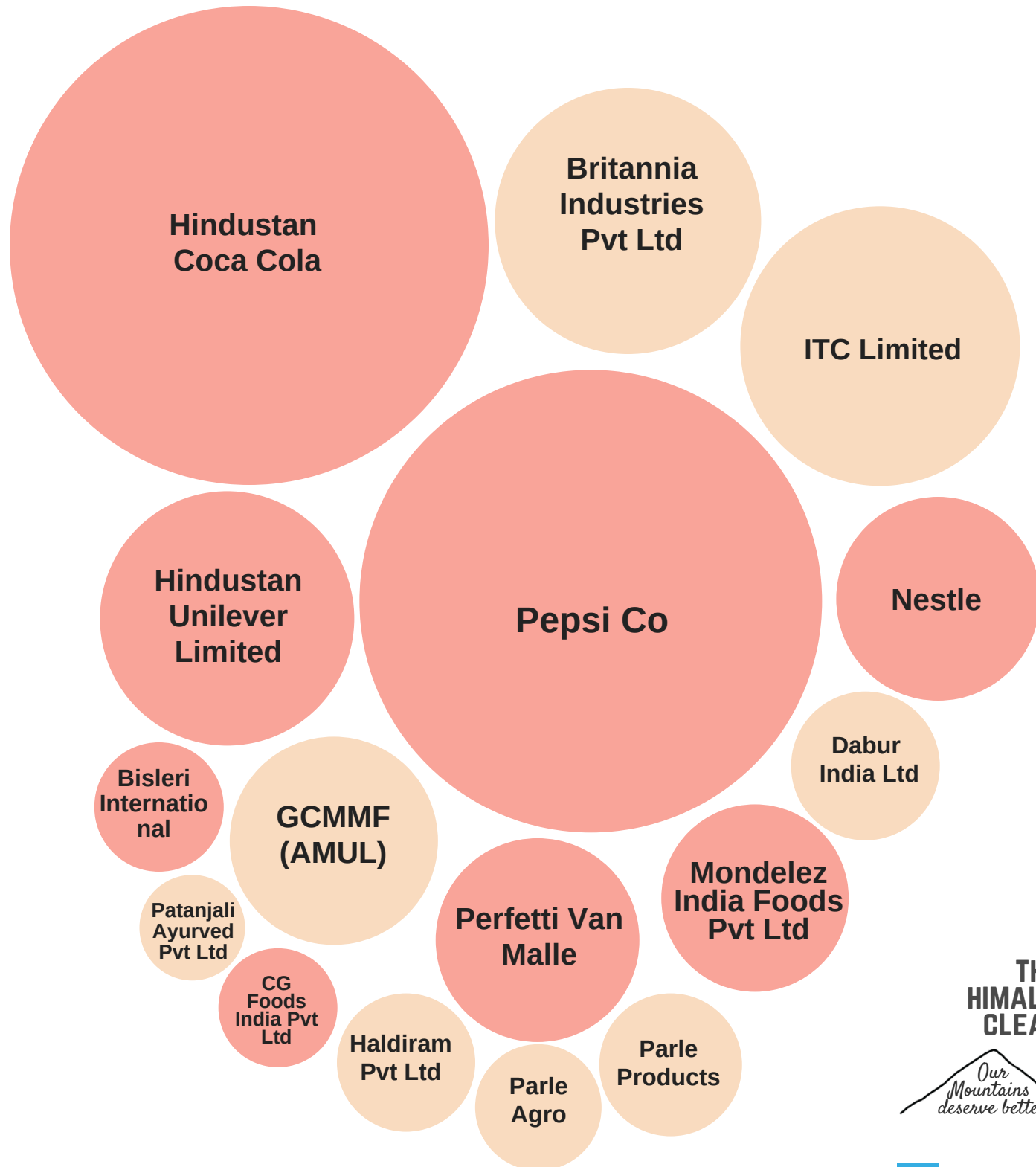
Plastic spoons, utensils and straws also recovered in great numbers

“ Not only did THC assess the type of waste being generated with the main brands responsible but also, for the first time, a platform has been created to bring together all the crazy people across India who believe that India can be clean someday soon, with our collective efforts! ”

- Minakshi Pandey, Himachal Pradesh

# BRAND AUDIT RESULTS!!!

WHO'S POLLUTING OUR MOUNTAINS? IS YOUR FAVORITE BRAND ON THE LIST?



\*These are the top 15 brands

● Multinational ● Indian



# OUR MOUNTAINS DESERVE BETTER

Policies to stop single use plastic and multilayered plastic in the mountains

Extended producer responsibility, especially for Multilayered Plastic, PET bottles and Tetrapak

No incineration of waste in the sacred and ecologically sensitive Himalaya

Tourism and Defense integrated in waste management systems.

Special resource support to the mountain states needed considering the challenges of geography and connectivity

“The Himalayan Cleanup Team gratefully acknowledges the support extended by the countless volunteers, anchors and supporters of the campaign, across the 12 mountain states. We shall remain connected and forever proud of our mountains.”



ZeroWaste  
HIMALAYA