

Himachal

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Laws to save environ must be practical: CS

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Tribune News Service

Shimla, September 24

The laws and rules for protection and conservation of environment should be pragmatic and implementable and total ban on activities being carried out legally can be counter-productive, Chief Secretary Srikant Baldi today said.

Inaugurating the two-day regional workshop on “Reporting from Global Hotspot” organised jointly by Centre for Science and Environment, Down to Earth Magazine and Press Club, Shimla, Baldi said that the Town and Country Planning department and State Pollution Control Board have been issuing directions and guidelines for protection of environment and checking pollution but total ban on any activity is not desirable and could lead to spurt in illegal activities.

He said that environment conservation was a social and community responsibility and role of media as facilitator is very important.

He asserted that the state government had taken several initiatives like banning use of polythene and plastic and also disposable cutlery and introduction of e-vehicles on all local routes to check pollution, adding that pollution affected food and water. Fruit and vegetables contain pesticides, insecticides and fungicides, injurious for health and contaminated water causes water-borne diseases.

The government has taken a major initiative to introduce “Zero budget natural farming”, which besides being a low-cost process is environment friendly, he said, hoping that in case the model is adopted by other states, the problem of emission of green house gases by conventional and organic farming can be solved.

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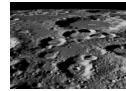
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