

**No. M-21012/18/2024-TECH**  
**Government of India,**  
**Cabinet Secretariat**  
**National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention**

1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Rashtrapati Bhavan,  
New Delhi, dated 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2026

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

**Subject: Call for nomination for a Training Course for OPCW Member States on Sampling in a Highly Contaminated Environment in Czystochowa, Poland from 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2026 -regarding.**

The undersigned is directed to forward herewith a copy of the TS Note No. S/2492/2026 Dated 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2026, received from Technical Secretariat, Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), seeking nominations for the aforesaid training.

2. The training will provide expert knowledge and skills for up to 20 individual responsible for conducting sampling of chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals I highly contaminated environments as the result of a chemical attack or an incident involving toxic chemicals.

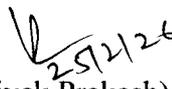
3. In view of above, nomination of suitable, qualified and experienced officer(s) of appropriate level, fulfilling eligibility criteria along with relevant documents as per the above TS note may be sent to this Office latest by **13<sup>th</sup> March, 2026** through the National Authority – CWC online portal – OPCW Training Management System (<https://nacwc.gov.in/tms>) with strict adherence to the “Revised Guidelines for OPCW sponsored events” issued and hosted on the National Authority – CWC website.

4. The Head of the concerned Department/Organization may also certify that the applicant is clear from vigilance angle and no departmental proceeding against the nominee is contemplated or inquired into. Further, it may also please be ensured that nominated individuals have good command of English, both written and oral.

5. Applicant(s) who have already participated in the similar previous programme(s) may not be considered for the course. After attending the course, nominated individuals shall be expected to make a report and a brief presentation to the National Authority.

6. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

**Encl: As above**

  
(Vivek Prakash)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

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**Email:** us-nacwc@gov.in

To,

1. The Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman, DRDO, DRDO Bhawan, Rajaji Marg, New Delhi – 110011.
2. The Director General, Directorate General, National Disaster Response Force, Ministry of Home Affairs, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, NDCC-II Building, Jai Singh Road, new Delhi.
3. The Director, Defence Research & Development Establishment (DRDE), Jhansi Road,

Gwalior -474002, Madhya Pradesh.

4. The Director General, Directorate General-Fire Services, Civil Defense & Home Guards, Ministry of Home affairs, Government of Indian, East Block-7, Level-7, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-110066
5. The Director, Institute of Nuclear Medicine & Allied Sciences, DRDO, New Delhi ([director.inmas@gov.in](mailto:director.inmas@gov.in))
6. The Director, Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology (IPFT), HSIDC, Sector-20, Udyog Vihar, Opposite Ambience Mall, Gurugram – 122016.
7. Colonel PP (Concepts & Training), Directorate General of Perspective Planning (CBRN), General Staff Branch, IHQ of Ministry of Defence (MoD), (Army), Room No.-123, 'A' Wing, Sena Bhawan, New Delhi- 110011
8. The Joint Secretary (IS-I), Internal Security-I Division, North Block, Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi- 110001.
9. The Joint Secretary (training) & CVO, Department of Defence, Ministry of Defence, South Block, Central Secretariat, Rajpath Marg, New Delhi- 110011.
10. The Director, Head of Department, Special Protection Group, Cabinet Secretariat, 9 Lok Kalyan Marg, SPG, New Delhi- 110001.
11. The Director General, National Security Guard, HQ NSG, Mehramnagar, Palam, New Delhi- 110037.
12. The Joint Secretary (Disaster Management), Hall 'B', 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, NDCC-II Building, Jai Singh Road, New Delhi.
13. The Joint Secretary, International Cooperation, Ministry of Defence, Room No. 1098, South Block, 110001.
14. All Concerned.



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S/2492/2026  
19 February 2026  
ENGLISH only

**NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT****CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR A TRAINING COURSE FOR OPCW MEMBER STATES ON SAMPLING IN A HIGHLY CONTAMINATED ENVIRONMENT  
CZĘSTOCHOWA, POLAND  
18 – 22 MAY 2026**

1. The Technical Secretariat of the OPCW (the Secretariat) wishes to invite States Parties to nominate participants for an international training course on sampling in a highly contaminated environment, which will take place from 18 to 22 May 2026 in Częstochowa, Poland.
2. Jointly organised by the Government of Poland and the Secretariat, the course will provide expert knowledge and skills for up to 20 individuals responsible for conducting sampling of chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals in highly contaminated environments as the result of a chemical attack or an incident involving toxic chemicals.
3. OPCW Member States that do not yet have sampling capabilities are especially encouraged to nominate participants. Given the objectives of the course and its technical nature, applicants should have a solid technical background in chemistry and the management of hazardous chemical substances. Applicants are expected to be familiar with the principles of first response, including sampling and chemical emergency management. Ideally, participants should have completed the full training cycle for first responders held by the OPCW in any previous year.
4. Participants must also be qualified and experienced in using and wearing a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). Personal protective equipment (PPE) will be worn for several hours each day, and participants must therefore be physically fit and able to wear such equipment for extended periods and in varying weather conditions. Previous practical experience in military, first response, or civil protection is desirable.
5. All participants must have a solid command of English, both oral and written, as all activities during the course will be conducted in English and no interpretation services of any kind will be available.
6. Applications will be carefully screened on the basis of the criteria specified in paragraphs 3 to 5 above, and in line with the objectives of the course and the applicants' stated area of expertise. The Secretariat strongly encourages States Parties and National Authorities to seek, support, and endorse applications from qualified women candidates.



7. The Secretariat expects to be able to sponsor a limited number of participants from States Parties. For sponsored participants, it will cover the costs of travel, accommodation, airport transfers, meals, and medical insurance, and will provide a limited subsistence allowance to cover sundry expenses.
8. When making travel arrangements for sponsored participants, the Secretariat will seek the most economical options. In order for the Secretariat to keep costs as low as reasonably practicable, participants are expected to arrive no earlier than Sunday, 17 May 2026 and to depart no later than Saturday, 23 May 2026. The Secretariat will not cover expenses unrelated to the course or resulting from unauthorised changes to travel arrangements. Once the Secretariat has purchased their tickets, sponsored participants will be responsible for making sure they participate in the course. In the event of any unforeseen circumstances, participants should immediately contact the focal points responsible for the course (see paragraph 13 below for contact details).
9. Participants are requested to obtain all necessary visas, including transit visas, before travelling to Poland.
10. Further details regarding logistics and other course-related information will be communicated to all confirmed participants at a later date.
11. Interested applicants are invited to register their nominations online **no later than 20 March 2026**. The registration link is accessible via the OPCW event management system (<https://eventus.opcw.org>). Please note that all questions marked with an asterisk (\*) in the online registration system must be answered in order for the nomination to be received, and for the candidate to be considered for this event. Endorsement by the candidates' respective National Authority is a prerequisite for consideration in the selection process, and must also be completed **no later than 20 March 2026**.
12. Only selected participants with an OPCW acceptance letter will be able to participate in this course. Candidates who have been selected to participate will be contacted no later than two weeks after the submission deadline.
13. The provisional programme for this training course is included as the Annex to this Note, and further details will be issued directly to the selected participants at a later date. Any questions may be addressed to the focal points for this training within the OPCW Assistance and Protection Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division: Ms Toko Okazaki (Email: [toko.okazaki@opcw.org](mailto:toko.okazaki@opcw.org)) and Ms Fildza Setiabudi (Email: [fildza.setiabudi@opcw.org](mailto:fildza.setiabudi@opcw.org)).

Annex: Provisional Programme

**Annex**

**TRAINING COURSE FOR OPCW MEMBER STATES ON SAMPLING  
IN A HIGHLY CONTAMINATED ENVIRONMENT  
CZĘSTOCHOWA, POLAND  
18 – 22 MAY 2026**

**PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
<b>Sunday, 17 May 2026</b>	
	Arrival in Częstochowa, Poland (pickup at Katowice International Airport)
<b>Monday, 18 May 2026</b>	
<b>Environmental Sampling – Theory</b>	
08:00	Participants meet in front of the hotel reception
08:10 – 08:30	Welcome remarks
08:30 – 08:45	Photograph
08:45 – 09:20	Presentation: Overview of the OPCW and Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention
09:20 – 10:00	Presentation: Overview of chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals
10:00 – 10:15	<i>Coffee / tea break</i>
10:15 – 11:00	Presentation: Overview of sampling – general rules, hazards, equipment, procedures, chain of custody (quality system documents, requirements, and procedures)
11:05 – 12:25	Presentation: Analysis procedures
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 13:50	Presentation: Occupational health
13:55 – 14:40	Presentation: Environmental sampling, theory, practice, and mission preparedness
14:45 – 15:30	Presentation: Collection of liquid, air, and soil samples
15:30 – 15:45	<i>Coffee / tea break</i>
15:45 – 16:45	Presentation: Explosives as a sample (threats, sensitivity, toxicity).
16:50 – 17:50	Presentation: Taking samples in emergency situations (principles of preparing and introducing samples with analytical devices used directly in the field)
<b>Tuesday, 19 May 2026</b>	
<b>Personal Protective Equipment</b>	
08:30 – 09:30	Presentation: PPE overview
09:30 – 10:30	Refresher session: PPE
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee / tea break</i>
11:00 – 12:30	Practical session: Operation of SCBAs and level A suits (respiratory protection, capabilities and limitations, inspection, donning and doffing, seal checking, normal use, emergency procedures)
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
13:30 – 15:30	Practical session: Group 1: Practical show-treats from chemical substances during sampling; group 2: Substance analysis (methods and handling)
16:00	Sightseeing of the Jasna Gora Monastery
18:30	Icebreaker dinner
<b>Wednesday, 20 May 2026</b>	
<b>Decontamination</b>	
08:30 – 10:30	Presentation: Decontamination overview
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee / tea break</i>
11:00 – 12:30	Presentation: Sample, human, and hybrid decontamination
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 15:00	Sample collection practice (in PPE)
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Coffee / tea break</i>
15:30 – 17:00	Sample collection practice (in PPE & SCBA, face piece off)
17:00 – 17:30	Summary of the day
<b>Thursday, 21 May 2026</b>	
<b>Reconnaissance and Sampling</b>	
08:00 – 09:00	Presentation: Reconnaissance procedures
09:05 – 09:50	Presentation: Chemical reconnaissance
10:05 – 12:30	Presentation and practice (individual): Identification of hazards and sampling of chemicals with PPE
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 17:00	Presentation and practice (team): Identification of hazards and sampling of chemicals with PPE
<b>Friday, 22 May 2026</b>	
<b>Mission Day (Reconnaissance, Sampling, Sample Decontamination)</b>	
08:00 – 13:00	Practice and evaluation: Team fire scenario (small real fire exercise to evaluate team coordination, safety approach, and sample collection)
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:00	Feedback from participants
15:00 – 15:15	<i>Coffee / tea break</i>
15:15 – 15:45	Discussion of results (OPCW–Central School of the State Fire Service)
15:45 – 16:00	Course evaluation (trainees return evaluation forms to OPCW officials)
16:00 – 16:20	Presentation of certificates
16:20 – 16:45	Closing remarks (OPCW–Central School of the State Fire Service)
<b>Saturday, 23 May 2026</b>	
	Departure