

# WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE; 2018



Eastern Regional Directorate  
Kolkata



## OVERVIEW:

World Environment Day is the UN's most important day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the protection of our environment. Since it began in 1974, it has grown to become a global platform for public outreach that is widely celebrated in over 100 countries.

Above all, World Environment Day is the "people's day" for doing something to take care of the Earth. That "something" can be focused locally, nationally or globally; it can be a solo action or involve a crowd. Everyone is free to choose.

Each World Environment Day is organized around a theme that focuses attention on a particularly pressing environmental concern. The theme for 2018 is “**Beat Plastic Pollution**”.

The theme invites everyone to consider how they can make changes in their everyday lives to reduce the heavy burden of plastic pollution on our natural places, our wildlife - and their own health. While plastic has many valuable uses, we have become over-reliant on single-use or disposable plastic - with severe environmental consequences.

World Environment Day has a different global host country, where the official celebrations take place. The focus on the host country helps highlight the environmental challenges it faces, and supports the effort to address them. This year's host is India.



## **INTRODUCTION:**

The **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)**, statutory organisation, was constituted in September, 1974 under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. Further, CPCB was entrusted with the powers and functions under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

As per the policy decision of the Government of India, the CPCB, delegated its powers and functions from time to time under Section 4, Sub Section 4 of The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Section 6 of The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 with respect to various Union Territories to respective Pollution Control Committees under the administrative control of the local Administration.

It serves as a field formation and also provides technical services to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) of the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Principal Functions of the CPCB, as spelt out in the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, (i) to promote cleanliness of streams and wells in different areas of the States by prevention, control and abatement of water pollution, and (ii) to improve the quality of air and to prevent, control or abate air pollution in the country.

CPCB has its head office in New Delhi, with six Regional Directorate (Lucknow, Kolkata, Vadodara, Bengaluru, Bhopal & Shillong) and one Project Office at Agra.

## **CELEBRATION OF WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY:**

Regional Directorate Kolkata celebrated World Environment Day on the theme of “Beat Plastic Pollution” throughout the month by holding drawing competition among school students, awareness program in school, cleaning program at River Ganga ghat, awareness program of avoiding any kind of plastic as well as PET bottle for drinking purpose of our officials, cleanliness drive surrounding our office premises, tree plantation and lectures by eminent scientists.



**WORK DONE BY RD – KOLKATA ON CELEBRATION OF WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY [5<sup>TH</sup> MAY – 5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE; 2018]**

<b>SNo.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Work Description</b>
1	07.05.2018	Awareness program & Pledge taken for avoiding plastic material in our office
2	08.05.2018	Decision made, PET bottle for drinking purpose has been condemned & procurement of Glass Bottle for all staff
3	09.05.2018	Glass Bottle distributed among all staff
4	16.05.2018	Drawing competition on “Beat Plastic Pollution” among school students
5	21.05.2018	Awareness program on Plastic Pollution among Teachers & students in Sakhawat Memorial Girls School, Kolkata
6	24.05.2018	Special cleanliness drive surrounding our office building
7	26.05.2018	Cleanliness drive taken at River Ganga ghat in Chandernagore, WB with WBPCB and Chandernagore Municipal Corporation
8	29.05.2018 – 05.06.2018	Participated in the Paryavaran Mela 2018 held at Audrey House, Ranchi – Jharkhand, organised by Yugantar Bharati and Nature Foundation & aware people about WED theme
9	04.06.2018	Preparation of short film on “Beat Plastic Pollution” made by RD-Kolkata and share it on social media
10	05.06.2018	Experts from Jadavpur University, Kolkata delivered lectures on Beat Plastic Pollution & Plastic Waste Management in our office
11	05.06.2018	Tree plantation program
12	05.06.2018	Prize distribution program for winning students & Conclude the program
13.	05.06.2018	Presentation by RD-Kolkata on ‘Beat Plastic Pollution’ at Institution of Engineers





- **Pledge Bestowed by RD-Kolkata :**

RD-Kolkata bestowed pledge to all officials of Regional Director Kolkata to make our office as 'Plastic Free Zone' although we know that the plastic has many valuable uses, we have become over reliant on single-use or disposable plastic – with severe environmental consequences. Around the world, 1 million plastic drinking bottles are purchased *every minute*. Every year we use up to 5 trillion disposable plastic bags. In total, 50 per cent of the plastic we use is single use.

Nearly one third of the plastic packaging we use escapes collection systems, which means that it ends up clogging our city streets and polluting our natural environment. Every year, up to 13 million tons of plastic leak into our oceans, where it smothers coral reefs and threatens vulnerable marine wildlife. The plastic that ends up in the oceans can circle the Earth four times in a single year, and it can persist for up to 1,000 years before it fully disintegrates.

Plastic also makes its way into our water supply – and thus into our bodies. Scientists still aren't sure, but plastics contain a number of chemicals, many of which are toxic or disrupt hormones. Plastics can also serve as a magnet for other pollutants, including dioxins, metals and pesticides.



- **Free from Plastic Drinking Bottles in office:**

Plastic bottles are hugely popular these days for their convenience and perceived purity, as portrayed by effective marketing strategies. But according to the Natural Resources Defence Council (NRDC), consumers should not assume that bottled water is any more pure or safe than tap water. Reusing plastic drinking bottles is not recommended, as it increases the likelihood of impurities due to the introduction of bacteria and the potential leaching of plastic compounds into the water.

Polyethylene terephthalate or PET plastics (No. 1) are most commonly used for disposable plastic water bottles. High-density polyethylene, or HDPE (No. 2); low-density polyethylene, or LDPE (No. 4); and polypropylene (No. 5) are also used for drinking containers, though less frequently. PVC (No. 3) and styrene (No. 6) are sometimes used for food and beverage containers but are generally considered unsafe for this purpose. No. 7 plastics are a mix of different plastics and generally contain bisphenol A (BPA), which is under much scrutiny for its potential health risks.

PET and BPA plastics are the most common types of containers for water and other drinks. Both PET plastics and BPA plastics have been shown to leach over time. PET plastics tend to leach when exposed to realistic though extreme conditions, such as exposure to sunlight, heat and storage time.



- **Promoting Glass Bottle & Metal Bin:**

Glass Bottles are considered the safest alternative to plastic bottles. A glass water bottle is simply a reusable water bottle made of glass. Glass water bottles will not leach any harmful chemicals into your beverage, or leave behind any odd odours or flavours, like some other types of reusable water bottles can. It will leave your water with a fresh, crisp, clean flavour; just as water should be. Therefore all plastic bottles were removed from office and in place of them glass bottles were introduced along with Metal Bin instead of plastic bin.



- **Drawing Competition:**

In an effort to create public cognizance on the hazards of plastic usage, the CPCB, Kolkata is staging a pan-India drawing contest. In this ongoing month-long event, sixty students out of ten different schools have been invited to participate.







The competition themed: “Beat Plastic Pollution”, witnessed a display of diverse imagination and artistic dexterity. Each participant with their rendition of the theme drew the applause of the organizers and judges, alike on May 16 at our office premises.



Eminent artists Sri. Chayan Roy from Indian College of Arts & Draftsmanship and Smt. Swapna Sen from Government College of Arts & Draftsmanship, the evaluators of the contest were highly appreciative of this initiative and appealed to our Member Secretary over Video Conferencing to make this event an annual affair.







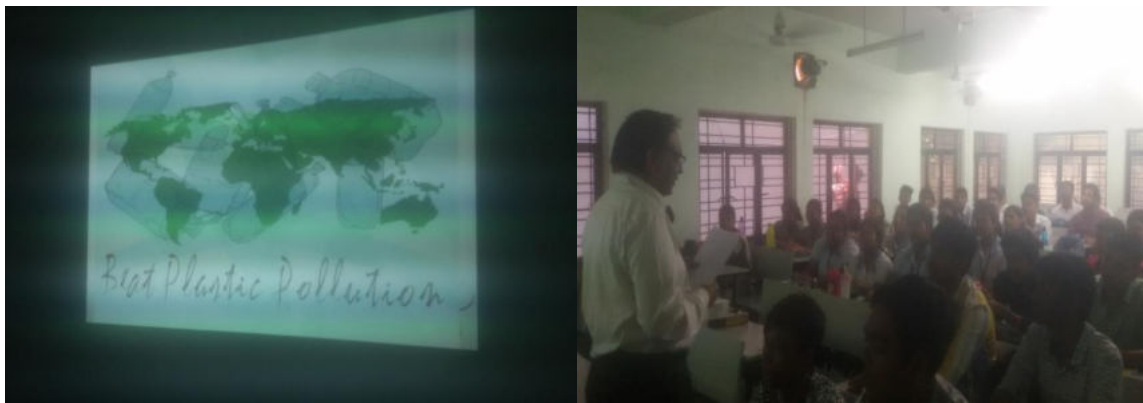
As the day came to a close, acknowledged all the students by “participation certificates”.

A short message has been delivered to all students that “Wherever possible we should avoid plastic, especially those which cannot be recycled” and pointing out that deterring from using plastic is the “collective responsibility” of the society.



- **Awareness Program in School:**

On 21<sup>st</sup> May; 2018 an awareness program on “Beat Plastic Pollution” was arranged in Sakhawat Memorial Government Girls’ High School, Kolkata. RD-Kolkata delivered important messages to all school students and teachers like “Wherever possible we should avoid plastic, especially those which cannot be recycled”, and pointed out that deterring from using plastic is the “collective responsibility” of the society.



Children were motivated to follow “IF YOU CAN’T REUSE IT, REFUSE IT” to Beat ‘Plastic Pollution’ from our mother earth for a plastic free environment for future generation.



- **Special Cleanliness Drives Surrounding Our Office Building:**

As our office situated in a market complex, so many trespassers, customers, visitors are moving in daily basis. On 24<sup>th</sup> May 2018 we took special cleanliness drives surrounding our office. Posters were displayed for awareness of people to beat plastic pollution.



All the people in and around Kasba New Market support our special cleanliness drive as well as took pledge that they will also take initiative to beat plastic pollution during the campaign in their area and society.

**IF YOU CAN'T REUSE IT, REFUSE IT ! BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION !!**





- **Cleanliness Drive on R. Ganga Ghat:**

A special cleanliness drive on River Ganga ghat in Chandernagore Municipal Corporation (CMC) area was carried out with WBPCB and CMC, Hooghly on 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2018 for prevention and control of plastic pollution.

There, discussion were held and general public was asked not to use the “single use plastic” which is below 50 micron, anymore, as it cannot be recycled and it may cause various problems to our daily life due to plastic pollution of water bodies. The public was also pursued not to litter plastic and not to throw plastic in water bodies.



In presence of CPCB & WBPCB officials, Chandernagore Municipal Corporation (CMC) declared this river bank (Ghat) as ‘Plastic Free Zone’.





- **Paryavaran Mela 2018 at Ranchi in Jharkhand:**

Yugantar Bharati, a NGO & Nature Foundation was organized an exclusive Environmental Conclave & Paryavaran Mela from 29<sup>th</sup> May to 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2018. The idea behind this activity is to showcase the different dimensions of environment, minimization of adverse impacts on it due to various economic and anthropogenic activities, its protection and conservation at Audrey Hose Complex, Ranchi in Jharkhand.

Chief Patron of this mela is Sri. Saryu Roy, Honb'le Minister of GOJ and patrons were Padma Shree Prof. (Dr.) S E Hasnain, Padma Shree Prof. (Dr.) R K Sinha, Padma Shree Ashok Bhagat, Sri. Rajendra Singh, Sri. M C Mehta & Dr. Kailash Chandra.

Sh. S.P.Singh Parihar (IAS), Chairman Central Pollution Control Board was invited as chief guest to deliver keynote address on "Beat Plastic Pollution". The mela was inaugurated by Hon'ble Governor of Jharkhand Smt. Draupadi Murmu. State Environment Minister also visited the CPCB stall at mela.





There were more than 30 stalls from different sectors like TATA Steel, RSV, CPCB, MoEF&CC, ZSI and Dept. of Forests – Govt. of Jharkhand etc.

Every day RD-Kolkata team participated in environment related various programs which have been discussed on main podium. As well as, we have aware visitors, students & teachers about the “Plastic Pollution” as the theme of this Environment Day 2018 during their visits to our stall.



On World Environment Day 2018, the Environment Fair has been concluded and awarded us with a Memento & Certificate.

- **Short Film On “Beat Plastic Pollution” Made By RD-Kolkata And Share It On Social Media:**

A short film “Plasti City Lighter” on ‘Beat Plastic Pollution’ made by CPCB, RD – Kolkata and was uploaded in ‘YouTube’ (URL: <https://youtu.be/RCFeRyIKgoE>) on 04.06.2018 and the same was displayed on 05.06.2016 in the office and also in the Institute of Engineers. The short film was circulated to all concern officials in SPCBs and other organisation under ERD through WhatsApp messaging system and uploaded as success story in SPCB Sayojon. The copy of the same was gifted to Chairman, West Bengal Pollution Control Board. West Bengal Pollution Control Board showed this short film in their World Environment Day celebration program organised by West Bengal Government.



- **Lectures on Beat Plastic Pollution:**

Lecture by Prof. (Dr.) Sadhan Kumar Ghosh, Jadavpur University

Prof. Ghosh an eminent expert in the field of waste management delivered a lecture on the eve of 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2018, World Environment Day, celebrated at CPCB, ERD-Kolkata. His lecture emphasized on plastic waste management strategies. He elaborated the rules for waste management and why plastic waste management Rule should be practiced and adopted in harmony with other waste management rules like Bio medical waste , Solid waste, Municipal waste etc.

He represented national scenario for plastic waste management with relevant data. He argued on government initiatives and put some light on newly



enacted plastic waste management Rule, 2016. He appreciated government initiative like Swachh Survekshan survey, which aims to monitor the progress of the Swachh Bharat Mission, launched by Honb'le Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2014 to make India clean and open-defecation free by 2019. He gave example of Indore city, winner of last Swachh Survekshan survey. He discussed in detail about his idea for effective implementation of Plastic waste management rule. He insisted on decentralized initiatives along with steps adopted by government. He considered proper waste management could only be done if segregation started at source such as individual household. He proposed every household should at least contain two bins for segregation, one for dry waste like plastic bags, wrappers, bottles etc and other for wet waste or compostable waste which could be disposed to municipal hand cart. In his opinion, it is better to deliver these dry plastic wastes to the 'Kawariwalas' (those who purchased unused junks from household and send them to recyclers) rather disposing to municipal hand cart where absolutely no segregation practiced. 'Kawariwalas' sell waste to recyclers and in this way ensure proper channelization of waste. As no segregation done for compostable and non-compostable waste, which leads to the low calorific value of overall waste stream. He considered dumping could not provide any proper solution to the problem. He also highlighted the role of rag pickers although they are working in unorganized sector but their valuable contribution towards waste segregation is noteworthy. He proposed to work on their authorization and licensing so that waste utilization could be enumerated and streamlined. He mentioned about 'Gated community' waste management policy. 'Gated community' such as housing society, schools, hospital etc should be bound to practice waste segregation and management. He gave example of one housing society in South Kolkata where lady members of the society formed a community and started collection and segregation. With the aid of a composter designed by Jadavpur University and supervised by Prof Ghosh, they started producing compost which is used for gardening in the society and now they are planning to sale excess compost to the adjoining communities.







Prof. Ghosh emphasised that waste is wealth and provided information on AFR (alternative Fuel and Raw material) and RDF (Refuse derived fuel). He explained how cement kilns are using them in the process. He mentioned about ACC cement that started collaboration with Jadavpur University in this regard. His idea for waste management encompasses centralized efforts, government willingness integrated with decentralized initiatives.

Lecture by Prof. (Dr.) Jayashree Roy, Jadavpur University

Prof. J Roy, known for her work in climate change and environmental economics, delivered an informative lecture in this occasion. She pointed out that we are shifting from unidirectional economy from circular economy. She explained how unidirectional economy leads to waste generation where as in circular economy nothing gets rejected rather recycled back.



She explained plastic pollution in the light of economics and social aspects. She appealed to change our approach and try hard to reduce individual environmental foot print by dint of wise use and preventing wastage. She emphasized that plastic is now indispensable part of our daily life, until and



otherwise we practice dematerialization then use of plastic will only soar up. She proposed that municipal bodies should charge for waste collection, segregation and management then only people will react if proper service is not provided. In present scenario, the tax collected for waste management is not adequate and she appealed for more government intervention in this regard.

- **Tree Plantation Program:**

Tree Plantation drives combat many environmental issues like pollution control, deforestation, erosion of soil, desertification in semi-arid areas, global warming and hence enhancing the beauty and balance of the environment. Trees absorb harmful gases and emit oxygen resulting in increase in oxygen supply for our good health.



Tree plantation on the occasion of world environment day was organised in office premises by RD-Kolkata.



Plantation of useful trees was done by the Experts and officials of ERD Kolkata.



- **Prize Distribution for Winning Students & Concluded the Program:**

One 'Special Child Mind' & three students from each group [Gr. A – (Class V-VII), Gr. B – (Class VIII-X) and Gr. C – (Class XI-XII)] has been awarded by Certificate & Memento.







Finally session was concluded with vote of thanks by Mr. R C Saxena, RD, Kolkata thanked both speakers for their informative and motivating lectures and conveyed good wishes to children. RD, Kolkata concluded with the message that we should at least practice Reduce, Recycle, Reuse and Refuse the plastic which can not be recycled to combat the plastic pollution.





- **Presentation by RD-Kolkata on ‘Beat Plastic Pollution’ at Institution of Engineers:**

RD-Kolkata addressed the members of Institution of Engineers and delivered presentation on “Beat Plastic Pollution”. He elaborated the severity of plastic pollution along with preventive measures. It was pointed out by RD-Kolkata that to combat the problem of plastic pollution, 3 R policy (Reuse, Reduce, Recycle) should be extended to 4Rs and the 4th R should be Refuse if you can not reuse it.



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