

वर्ष वर्धन
r. Farsh Vardhan

भारत सरकार
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST &
CLIMATE CHANGE

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सत्यमेव जयते

Date: 28 February, 2018

As we are aware that 5th June is celebrated every year as World Environment Day. This year, Government of India is hosting the World Environment Day, 2018 at global level in collaboration with UN Environment. The theme for this year is "Plastic Pollution". Hosting this prestigious event is a step towards our commitment to taking on global leadership on addressing all forms of pollution, reducing emissions and investing in sustainable development efforts.

2. World Environment Day has always been a day of special importance to India. The day has been celebrated as rededication of national efforts for sustainable development and mainstreaming environmental concerns in the national developmental agenda

3. Plastic itself is not a problem, littering and unsafe disposal of single-use plastic products, plastic bottles, food containers and packaging materials is causing concern to environment. Plastic garbage/waste that ends up in landfills and oceans take hundreds of years to degrade and gradually releases toxins into the environment. In the age of advanced technology, we cannot live plastic free but we can manage our plastic waste disposal into circular economy and building construction materials and paving roads. The per capita consumption of plastics of India is on the rise and this is the right time for us to plan for the future. Thus, we must realize the concern and do collective efforts to reduce our collective plastic footprint by way of refuse, reduce, reuse and recycle.

4. I would urge you to start the actions in two ways: mass awareness on environmental conservation and theme based activities on 'plastic pollution'. I could bullet here some of the activities that State Government may take up forthwith with their own machinery:

- School/college level afforestation programme
- Mobile exhibition of forests wealth
- Ban of plastic in tourists spots, national parks/wildlife sanctuary/biodiversity parks/tiger reserves
- Public awareness through cultural programmes, nukkad natak, street entertainments, live music concerts
- Special programme for differently abled children
- Involvement of NCC, NSS, Eco-clubs, students in mass awareness campaigns
- Competition on cleanliness drive among municipalities on segregated waste collection so that best municipality could be awarded
- Plastic free beach in coastline state
- Sensitization of rag pickers in plastic segregation
- School/College level networking activities on mass awareness on disposal of plastic
- Replication of best practices and success stories on environmental conservation and plastic recycling
- Mini Marathon
- Cleanliness Drives under Swachch Bharat Mission in municipalities in collaboration with Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- Make litter free selected river stretches

5. I am sure that this opportunity would serve to spread the messages of sustainable use of the plastic items. All campaigns call on the public to help in small ways by changing behaviour and demonstrating through their actions that this is an important issue for them. The aim is to transform habits, practices, standards across the country to dramatically reduce plastic litter and the harm it causes to surroundings.

6. I am convinced that your state would utilize this opportunity to spread the message of better management of plastic waste disposal through various campaigns involving all sections of the society from now till the 5th of June and everybody will be part this programme. It will be our concerted effort to take this message to all cities, towns, villages through different sections of the society across the State and this will significantly enhance the global visibility of India as a leader in sustainability actions.

7. My Ministry will be following up with Minister in-charge of Environment, Chief Secretary, Secretary Forest & Environment, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Resident Commissioner on regular intervals for continuous feedback on this.

8. We would be convening State Environment Ministers' Conference on Plastic Pollution on 4th June, 2018 in New Delhi and inviting Minister in-charge of Environment from your State. You are cordially invited to the plenary function on 5th June, 2018 to be held at New Delhi.

9. Shri Nikunja K. Sundaray, Joint Secretary in this Ministry is the nodal officer for the World Environment Day, 2018 whose contact details are as under:

Shri Nikunja K. Sundaray,
Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,
2nd Floor, Agni Block, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jorbagh Road, New-Delhi-3
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10. Kindly nominate a nodal officer from the State Government so that my Ministry could remain in contact for further developments.

11. Please join hands with us in this important endeavour. I look forward to visible and concrete actions and high level of political commitment from you.

Together, we can succeed.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,



(Dr. Harsh Vardhan)

Shri Siddaramaiah,
Hon'ble Chief Minister,
Government of Karnataka,
3rd Floor, R. No. 323, Vidhan Souda,
Secretariat, Bangalore-560 233.