

World ENVIRONMENT DAY

5TH JUNE 2023

Theme: “Solutions to Plastic Pollution”

Campaign #BeatPlasticPollution

History of World Environment Day

The concept of celebrating World Environment Day was first conceptualized in 1972's United Nations Conference on Human Environment that was held in Stockholm. This became the first big conference where matters of the environment were given huge importance. The United Nations Environment Programme was also created at this conference.

Campaign for World Environment Day, 2023

World Environment Day campaign for 2023 is #BeatPlasticPollution, it aims for global solutions to combat plastic pollution. More than 380 million tons of plastic are produced every year worldwide, half of which is designed to be used only once. Of that, less than 10% is recycled. An estimated 19-23 million tonnes end up in lakes, rivers and seas annually.

Micro-plastics: Tiny plastic particles up to 5mm in diameter- find their way into food, water and air. It is estimated that each person on the planet consumes more than 50,000 plastic particles per year- and many more if inhalation is considered.

Discarded or burnt single-use plastic harms human health and biodiversity and pollutes every ecosystem from mountain tops to the ocean floor. Governments, companies and other stakeholders must scale up and take actions to solve the crisis.

How long does plastic “live” for?

Plastic pollution is any plastic that ends up in the environment- from bottles and bags to less obvious sources like teabags and clothes.

In the past 100 years, humans have produced (and used) a lot of plastic. It's cheap, light and versatile, but all of it eventually ends up in the ground, in the air, and in the sea- which is where marine animals like albatross, dolphins and turtles ingest it.

Plastic can take anywhere from 450-500 years or more to decompose depending on the materials structure and environmental factors such as sunlight exposure.

How does plastic harm the environment?

Plastic sticks around in the environment for ages, threatening wildlife and spreading toxins. Plastic also contributes to global warming. Almost all plastics are made from chemicals that come from the production of planet-warming fuels (gas, oil and even coal).

Our reliance on plastic, therefore, prolongs our demand for these dirty fuels. Burning plastics in incinerators also releases climate-wrecking gases and toxic air pollutants.

Beating climate change means less plastic

In the past decade, humans have produced more disposable plastic than in the entire 20th century. If the gas and oil giants have their way, we'll be creating even more plastic pollution using more petrochemicals- massively increasing plastic's contribution to climate change. We could prevent this waste and emissions by phasing out non-essential plastics from our lives.

Schemes by the Indian Government to protect the Environment

1. Environment Education Programme (EEP) 'Eco club': Environment Education Programme (EEP) was previously known as National Green Corps (NGC). It is a major initiative of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC). This programme is initiated for creating environmental awareness and launched in the year 2001-02. Its objective is to make children understand the importance of environment and environmental problems. It also aims at making at building cadres of young children working towards environmental conservation and sustainable development.

2. National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC): National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) aims to pursue a sustainable development course that meets economic and environmental goals at the same time.

There are eight "National Missions" which form the core of the National Action Plan. They are: National Solar Mission, National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency, National Mission on Sustainable Habitat, National Water Mission, National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Eco-system, National Mission for a Green India, National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture and National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change.

3. National Clean Air Programme: National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) was launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in January 2019. This programme aims to improve air quality in 131 cities (non-attainment cities and Million Plus Cities) in 24 states and Union Territory.

Solutions towards Plastic Pollution

- **Reduce usage of Single-use plastics:** Single-use plastics include plastic bags, PET water bottles, straws, cups, and other plastic products that are used only once and discarded which harms the environment; therefore, it is important to reduce the usage of single-use plastics. Instead, we can use alternative products made from bamboo, sugarcane, maize and areca nut.
- **Shop with Reusable bags:** Using a cloth bag instead of a plastic bag while shopping can save up to 375 million tonnes of solid waste from entering the landfill. Also, one of the best ways to save marine life is by using reusable bags. 100,000 marine animals are killed by plastic bags every year.
- **Recycling plastic into new products:** Recycling can help in reducing the number of 'new' plastics in circulation. At present, only 9% of plastics are being recycled worldwide. Recycling plastics conserves natural resources and protects the ecosystem. It also keeps potential methane-releasing waste out of landfill sites- a vital step in tackling climate change.

• DID YOU KNOW?

The world uses 160,000 plastic bags every second.

Fifty years of celebrating World Environment Day (1973- 2023)



LiFE
Lifestyle for
Environment



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Environment Education Programme
Nagaland Pollution Control Board