

TERI Organizes World Wetlands Day (WWD) Event at Navi Mumbai in collaboration with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC), and National Service Scheme (NSS)

On the occasion of WWD 2020, TERI organized a half day event on 2nd February, at Veer Savarkar Udyan, Sagar Vihar; Vashi that had the backdrop of the mangroves and Flamingoes. The event was part of the 'Rethink Plastic' campaign being implemented in Mumbai as part of UNEP's 'Counter measures project'.

Shri. Annasaheb Misal, IAS, Hon'ble commissioner, NMMC, was the Chief Guest for the event. Over 300 people including citizens, officials from UNEP, NMMC and TERI, students as well as NSS volunteers participated in the event. Key highlights of the event are:

- TERI has specially created Google forms and Rethink Plastic App to take pledge, perception survey and register the contribution of saplings raised in waste plastic bottles. QR codes and links of the same were displayed, keeping in mind the tech savvy young participants and the motto of saving paper. The campaign has received more than 700 responses to the Perception survey; more than 1000 individuals have taken the pledge against single use plastic and commitment for over 600 saplings has been received.
- TERI has committed to develop a Braille book on the theme of the campaign and the draft was handed over to a representative of Helen Keller Institute for deaf and deaf blind, Navi Mumbai.
- 150 saplings raised in waste plastic bottles were handed over to Helen Keller Institute for Deaf and Deaf blind (100), and Mr. Shripad Lele (50). They shall nurture the saplings at institutional and individual levels respectively; and later use it for afforestation.
- 5 individuals carrying out exemplary action toward environmental betterment were felicitated
- Volunteers drafted Roadmap to tackle plastic pollution in Maharashtra by the year 2030.
- A panel discussion was organized to obtain insights from experts and youngsters on the issue of 'Plastic Pollution'. Outcomes of these interactions shall be included in the policy recommendation that will be submitted to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra to develop a roadmap against plastic pollution in the state.
- Cleanup of mangroves: volunteers collected over 100 kg of plastic and handed it over to NMMC for disposal. This was highly appreciated by the Hon'ble Commissioner, NMMC.
- The TERI team made a collage using waste plastic material
- 10 Volunteers used old bottle caps to display the message 'Save Oceans'
- 40 Volunteers participated in rangoli making, poster making and warli painting on the theme 'Save Wetlands from Plastic Litter'
- Ms. Neeta Karnik of 'Aapli Pishvi' initiative displayed the cloth carry bags made by her team of women volunteers, using old clothes like sarees and dupattas.
- 25 volunteers planted saplings of native trees in waste plastic bottles.
- Healthy snacks- Millet Idlis and fruit salad were served, in line with TERI's promotion of healthy food for nutrition security.



Picture 1 : Dignitaries on the dais (Left to Right): Dr. Anjali Parasnis, Associate Director, TERI, Western Regional Center, Ms. Shaila Sam, Communications and Media Specialist, UNEP, Mr. Lovish Ahuja, Vice President, Governmental Affairs, India- TOMRA, Ms. Saloni Goel, Consultant, Plastic Pollution, UNEP, Mr. G.S. Gill (IAS) Distinguished Advisor, TERI Western Regional Center, Shri. Annasaheb Misal, IAS, Hon'ble Commissioner, NMMC, and Mr. J.S. Saharia, Former Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra



Picture 2 Hon'ble Commissioner **Shri. Annasaheb Misal** planted a sapling of native tree species in waste plastic bottle (Left) and unveiling of the waste plastic collage made by TERI team (Right)



Picture 3: Hon'ble Commissioner, NMCM handing over the draft of Braille Book on 'Plastic Pollution' to representatives from the Helen Keller Institute for Deaf and Deafblind, Navi Mumbai



Picture 4: Representatives from Helen Keller Institute of Deaf and Deafblind, Navi Mumbai and NSS volunteers displaying the 'Save Oceans Message' made using bottle caps



Picture 5: NSS Volunteers participating in the cleanup activity



Picture 6 Hon'ble Commissioner, NMMC felicitating Ms. Neeta Karnik for "Aapli Pishvi" Initiative



Picture 7: Messages on wetland conservation through Traditional Rangoli Art



Picture 8: Participants taking Pledge against Single use Plastic



Picture 9: Panel Discussion between the NSS volunteers and experts



Picture 10: Group photo of participants