

World Environment Day 2018: "Beat Plastic Pollution"

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World Environment Day (WED) is the leading annual event for affirmative environmental action and takes place every year in 5th June. This year World Environment Day is held on Tuesday (5th June) to create environmental awareness day, declared by the United Nations. It is also called 'Eco Day' or 'Environment Day'. The aim of the day is to raise awareness of the environment and specific environmental issues. World Environment Day (WED) was established in 1972 but first held in 1974, which shows that concern about

the environment goes back several decades at least. 143 countries take part in World Environment Day, and the day focuses on environmental concerns ranging from pollution to global warming and sustainable food production to protection of wildlife. Every year there is a new main focus for WED. The theme of this year (2018) 'Beat Plastic Pollution', and the press and media are already gearing up for this by reporting on events and efforts to reduce plastic pollution. India is the global host for this year to celebrate World Environment Day by which the world is coming together to combat single-use plastic pollution. Mentionable that India is emerging as a leader, given it has one of the highest recycling rates in the world. By hosting World Environment Day 2018, the Indian government is accelerating its leadership on an issue of tremendous magnitude. Plastic, the wonder material that we use for everything and which pollutes our environment, is perhaps the most harmful of trash dumped by mariners and sea-goers in sea because it does not readily break down in nature. In-fact, the plastic that goes over the side today may still be around in hundreds of years to foul up the fishing gear, boat propellers, and beaches of future generations. Unthinking disposal of plastic can have terrible consequences. A plastic bag looks like a tasty jellyfish to an indiscriminate feeder like the sea turtle, but plastic is indigestible. It can choke, block the intestines of, or cause infection in those animals that consume it. According to the Centre for Marine Conservation, over 25,000 pieces of fishing line were collected from U.S. beaches during the 1996 annual beach clean-up and at least 40% of all animal entanglements reported during the clean-ups involved fishing line. Every day, more and more plastic is accumulating in our oceans. Recreational boaters are not the only group that improperly disposes off plastic refuse at sea. Plastics also enter the marine environment from sewage outfalls, merchant shipping, commercial fishing operations, and beachgoers. Almost 80 per cent of the 8.3 billion metric tonnes of plastic produced over the past 70 years has been discarded into landfill or the environment, including the ocean. The plastic thrown away since the 1950s will eventually form a layer sedimentary rock detectable by future generations. If we see the the plastic pollution facts, we observe that a) every year the world uses 500 billion plastic bags, b) each year, at least 8 million tonnes of plastic end up in the oceans, the equivalent of a full garbage truck every minute, c) in the last decade, we produced more plastic than in the whole last century, d) 50 per cent of the plastic we use is single-use or disposable, e) we buy 1 million plastic bottles every minute and f)

plastic makes up 10% of all of the waste we generate. As the world's population increases, so does the amount of garbage that people produce. On-the-go lifestyles require easily disposable products, such as soda cans or bottles of water, but the accumulation of these products has led to increasing amounts of plastic pollution around the world. As plastic is composed of major toxic pollutants, it has the potential to cause great harm to the environment in the form of air, water and land pollution. Plastic pollution is when plastic has gathered in an area and has begun to negatively impact the natural environment and create problems for plants, wildlife and even human population. Often this includes killing plant life and posing dangers to local animals. Plastic is an incredibly useful material, but it is also made from toxic compounds known to cause illness, and because it is meant for durability, it is not biodegradable. World Environment Day is used to celebrate on the 5th June to make the people to get aware about the Environment and it's effects on the daily life of the people. There are lots of activities which are done by the people in the Environment to develop some things for the welfare of the people. Environment is a natural thing where people live and do lot of activities for their own welfare and benefit. People are used to damage and also save the Environment resources by which people are affected due to various bad as well as good effects of the Environment. People are more reluctant today to save the environment for their future and also for the young generations. Environment makes the people to do lot of things and fulfil it in a great manner. There are lots of problems while people have to face when they damage the environment. It is necessary for the people to save the Environment in order to focus on the developmental activities in the country. It is quite good for the people to protect the environment for the better effects on the daily life of the people. Mahatma Gandhi said, "Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need, but not every man's greed". By 2050, if current consumption and production patterns remain the same and with a rising population expected to reach 9.6 billion, we will need three planets to sustain our way of life. As such, living well within planetary boundaries with limited resources giving up our greedy lifestyle will be the most promising strategy for ensuring a healthy and sustainable future for our next generation.