

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION FOR GOA ECO-MISSION

June 27, 2023
Asadha 6, 1945

GSPCB jointly with the European Union & Resources Efficiency Initiatives (EU-REI) and GIZ, India conducted half-day consultative workshop to launch initiatives being undertaken jointly with the GSPCB in the field of Circular Economy and Resources Efficiency. The said event was inaugurated by Mr. Nilesh Cabral, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, PWD and Judiciary in the presence of Shri. Naresh Pal Gangwar, Additional Secretary, MoEF; CC, Govt. of India, New Delhi, Mr. Rahula Kumar, Co-Head Institutional and Government Banking, Yes Bank Ltd., Mr. Mahesh Patil, Chairman, GSPCB.

During the event, Chief Guest also launched Digital Platform of the Yes Bank for the GSPCB. In addition, QR-code based app – 'Zeeloop' was also launched which is primarily aimed in creating self-motivated initiatives towards reducing littering of plastic especially along tourist-centric beach areas. This project is implemented by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ-India) with their implementation partners Landbell Green Forest Solutions (LGFS) and Innovative Waste Aid & Management Pvt. Ltd., Goa (YIMBY). The Zeeloop app will also support an ongoing project, under the EU-REI programme being implemented by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), on reducing marine litter through strengthening the collection-mechanism of discarded fishnets in remote fishing villages of the State. These initiatives will aid in linking the objective of banning Single Use Plastic (SUP), being implemented pan-India. While launching the app, Shri Nilesh Cabral said, "This is a great initiative for reducing the littering of plastic waste and discarded fishing nets from our beaches, thus protecting marine ecosystem and promoting sustainable tourism. He also announced that his Government is proposing to bring out the legislation w.r.t Deposit Refund System (DRS) component to bring in behavioural change among general public through reward mechanism and address the concept of waste management initiatives," Shri Mahesh Patil, Chairperson GSPCB said "We are

looking at reaching out to citizens and tourists for preventing littering of plastic packaging through this app. Also, as discarded fishing nets are posing huge ecological threats, we are promoting an effective collection mechanism of these nets from the fishing communities.”

Dr. Ashwini Pai Panandiker, Fellow, TERI, Goa during her concluding remarks after the panel discussion wherein Ms. Meher Kaur, Environment policy and Resource Efficiency Advisor, GIZ (EU-REI) said that collective action to address the issue of marine plastic litter is of utmost importance.

Government alone can not mandate it, businesses alone cannot shift to it and people alone can not opt for it. This resonates with India’s G-20 principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam which means One Earth, One Family and One Future. The consultation was well attended by participants representing various stakeholder groups who participated actively through question / answer (Q & A session) sessions and clarified their doubts towards its effective on-site implementation such waste management initiative through public participatory approach.

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