

National Policy Workshop Webinar Series

On

Countermeasures for Riverine and Marine Plastic Litter in India

12 -22 May 2020

*Session 6: Scenarios to counter plastics litter in river and marine environment by overcoming barriers and identifying enabling measures and shaping roadmap and strategy ahead*

**STRATEGIES TO FIGHT PLASTIC TRASH -**  
Formulating a sound National Policy and robustly implementing it

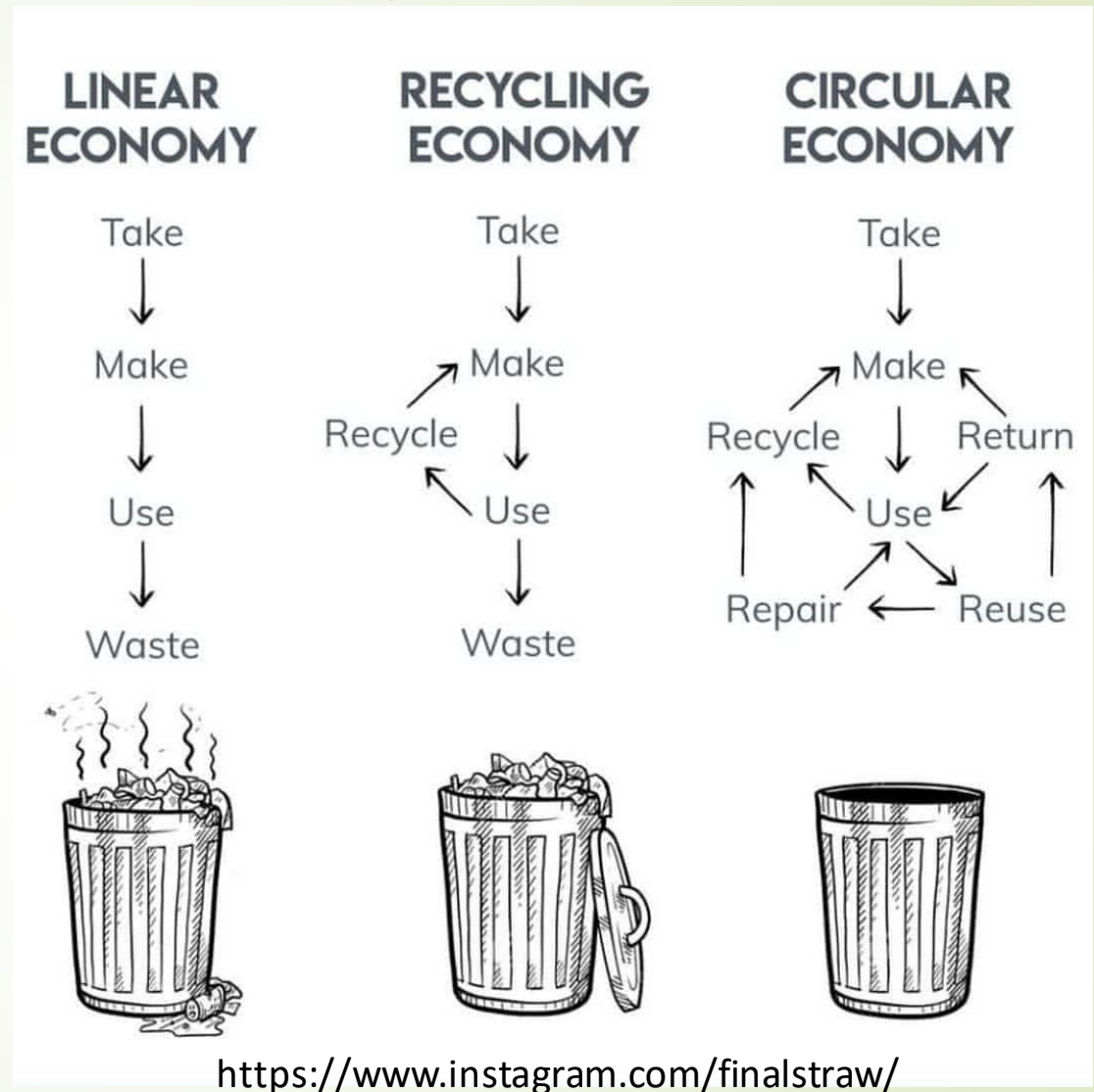
K. Venkatarama Sharma  
National Centre for Coastal Research, Chennai



# Lack of a Marine Litter Policy in India

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- “There are decades where nothing happens and there are weeks when decades happen.” – V.I. LENIN
- No legal mechanisms/framework, institutional framework & policies specifically for riverine & marine litter management, even though there are umbrella legislation for marine pollution control & prevention
- Multitude of agencies: ICG, MoC, MoEF&CC, MoES, Niti Aayog, MoWR, MoHUD, MoRTH, MoS, MoT, MEA, DoF, CPCB, State Maritime Bodies, ULBs



# The problem and the steps we need

- A policy needs to be framed to control and manage the litter at the land boundary as it is impossible to remove the litter once it enters the marine environment
- A well coordinated sound National Policy needs to be formulated by involving all concerned stakeholders – Govt, industry, NGOs, people
- With a clear roadmap of the milestones that have to be met the policy needs to be robustly implemented to achieve the Zero Plastic goal



<https://sas.org.uk/>



# Chronology of events towards a policy

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- ▶ September 2007: Regional Review Report on Marine Litter and the Framework Document for Management of Marine Litter in the Region by consultant, Dr. V. Sampath
- ▶ March 2010: Blue Flag Beach Conservation Programme introduced to the South Asian Seas Region
- ▶ July 2017: Maharashtra Maritime Board presents Action Plan on Marine Litter at the G20 Summit in Hamburg
- ▶ April 2018: Draft Regional Marine Litter Action Plan prepared based on the National Status Reports
- ▶ November 2019: Regional Marine Litter Action Plan for South Asia is finalised

STRATEGIES TO FIGHT PLASTIC TRASH – Formulating a sound National Policy and robustly implementing it

Maharashtra Maritime Board-  
Action Plan on Marine Litter



**TOWARDS LITTER FREE  
INDIAN OCEAN**

Summary of the Regional Marine Litter  
Action Plan for SAS Region

‘Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter’



# Challenges that are typical

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- Many countries do not have in place a national marine litter policy
- There are action plans though that attempt to mitigate the problem
- Worldwide inputs of marine litter into oceans are increasing despite international, regional and national efforts
- Essentially this is due to lack of binding international legal instruments, lack of implementation & enforcement of existing regulations & standards and due to lack of awareness among main stakeholders



# Reality check

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- Recycling efforts aren't making much of a dent in the ever-increasing production and sales of single-use plastic; of the 8.3 billion tons of plastic produced between 1950 and 2015, only 9% has been recycled
- Nor is most plastic really being recycled. Most of it — indeed, the vast amount of all the disposable plastic ever produced — that was produced is still with us in some form: buried in landfills
- Switch to eco-alternatives like jute, hemp, coir, cloth, paper, wood and other such materials to avoid another invisible disaster of micro-plastics
- Indian railways did shift to serving tea all across stations in India in mud clay teacups while Air India flights used wooden cutlery in place of SUP; Fiji goes back to barter system in post-COVID era; e-commerce ban on SUP
- If there is a will there is a way: innovation has to make bioplastic viable as source of virgin plastics

What can we do together?

ORGANISE A COMMUNITY  
BEACH CLEAN

HOLD MARINE LITTER  
WORKSHOPS

RECYCLE OUR  
COMMUNITY WASTE

TEACH OUR CHILDREN  
ABOUT REDUCING LITTER



Centre for Environment  
Fisheries & Aquaculture  
Science

# What do other countries do?

- ▶ Till recently developed countries exported their plastic trash problem to us
- ▶ India banned imports of solid plastic waste in March 2019 nearly a year after China did so
- ▶ Awareness that BAU cannot be sustained any longer and the world is switching to a circular economy to deal with the plastic waste problem
- ▶ Vanuatu has world's first diaper ban, S.Korea global leader in recycling, Bali says "Bye Bye Plastic Bags", ecotourism in ASEAN, Africa leads the world in plastic bag bans

Country	Strategy
Europe	EU Action Plan for Circular Economy and European Strategy on Plastics
Scotland	National Marine Plan underpins the Marine Strategy Framework Directive
Japan	Osaka Blue Ocean Vision aims to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter to ZERO by 2050
ASEAN	Regional Knowledge Centre on Marine Plastic Debris



# The China story

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- In 2013 China erected the “Green Fence” - a policy that set a hard restriction on the amount of contamination that plastics can contain
- China announced what is perhaps the boldest action of all in the year 2018
- It will stop the production and sale of all single-use plastic bags & straws and other utensils in major cities by the end of 2018
- And it will work to cut all disposable plastic by 2025, except for bioplastic that can be composted
- Even if the country doesn't reach its goal of zero plastic; getting even halfway there would be remarkable





# Way forward is to build sensible strategy

- ▶ Assist States to better understand the environmental concerns of their regions and work collaboratively to address them;
- ▶ Build the capacity of existing institutions (or, if appropriate, developing the capacity through new institutional arrangements) to utilize a more comprehensive and integrated approach for addressing key plastic-related environmental concerns;
- ▶ Implement measures that address the priority environmental and water resources (rivers, sea) concerns, utilizing full range of technical, economic, financial, regulatory, and institutional measures needed to operationalize sustainable development strategy (SDG- 14: Life under water) for riverine and marine waters
- ▶ Sikkim was first to ban disposable plastic bags in 1998, and is also among the first to target SUP bottles. In 2016, it banned the use of packaged drinking water in government offices and government events. Also it banned the use of Styrofoam and thermocol disposable plates and cutlery
- ▶ Single use plastic bans are now proclaimed in TN, Maharashtra, Telangana, HP, UP, Karnataka, Bihar and others
- ▶ Kannur district becomes plastic-free in just 5 months!

# The Maharashtra policy example

- Maharashtra generates nearly 27,000 ton solid waste/day
- Most of it is deposited into the creeks & nallas
- This waste flows downstream and is dispersed onto the local beaches and open waters affecting sites like Versova, Juhu Beach and Mahim Bay
- MMB uses the UNEP Global Framework for Prevention and Management of Marine Debris
- To reduce the amount of sea based sources of marine litter - it will reduce amount and impact of sea-based sources of marine debris including solid waste, lost cargo, ALDFG, & abandoned vessels introduced into the sea under Goal B, and reduce amount & impact of accumulated marine debris on shorelines, in benthic habitats, & in pelagic waters under Goal C

## Institutions and source(s)

MPCB: land-based

BMC: land-based

Dist. collectors: land-based

MIDC: land-based

Water resource dept: land/sea

Fisheries dept: sea-based

MPT: sea-based

MMB: sea-based

# Summing up strategies to fight plastic trash

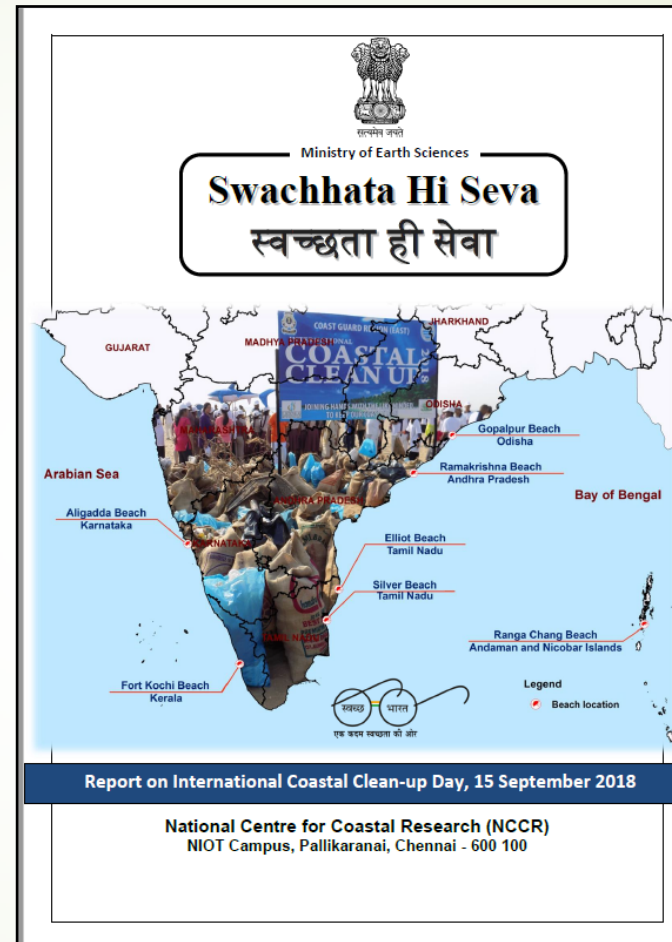
- ▶ National Marine Litter Monitoring Programme incorporating the strategies for development of a regional, web-based database on marine litter, stakeholder/community participation, assessment of the economic impacts of marine litter, impacts of marine litter on wildlife & ecosystems; and improvement of the common knowledge base
- ▶ Education & Outreach Strategies incorporating voluntary beach clean ups, introduction of information & educational programmes, development & dissemination of outreach materials, etc
- ▶ Solid Waste Management Strategies incorporating strategies for developing specialised marine litter waste management systems, improving/expanding waste management strategies, recycling, reuse and waste diversion
- ▶ Institutional Frameworks & Stakeholder Involvement
- ▶ Legislation, Policies & Enforcement, etc
- ▶ Culminate in a riverine & marine litter management policy for the nation



# A whole new world of possibilities beckon!



- ▶ The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India received the UN Champions of the Earth Award for the year 2018 for India's extensive efforts to beat plastic pollution including an ambitious pledge to eliminate all single-use plastic in the country by the year 2022



**PLASTIC  
FREE JULY**

<https://plasticfreejuly.org/>



<https://primevideo.com/>

**Thank You for investing in the dream of  
plastic-free India**

<https://twitter.com/centrecoastal>