



**Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2023**

**Venue: Dr R K Pachauri Conference Hall, India Habitat Centre.**

**Format: Hybrid mode**

India announced 'Beat Plastic Pollution' theme during the 2018 World Environment Day indicating the commitment towards reducing plastic usage and waste. The Australian government is supporting India in some key initiatives taken up by Indian institutions towards a circular plastic economy.

The India Australia Industrial and Research Collaboration for Reducing Plastic Waste funded by Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) is an initiative in this direction. Six organizations from the two countries, CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI), Developmental Alternatives (DA) and The energy and Resources Institute (TERI) from India and University of New South Wales (UNSW), University of Technology Sydney (UTS) and CSIRO from Australia have come together with the ambition to enable innovation across the plastic supply chain through research and industry collaboration to achieve a circular plastics economy.

This collaboration prepares the foundation for a circular economy transition by identifying the size of the issue and creating a roadmap, co-developed with industry and government stakeholders, to drive change in plastics supply chains and to demonstrate innovation on the ground in a series of demonstration projects. The three-year research exercise lays a foundation through metric and data development, technological interventions across different stages of the value chain, identification of opportunities across different sectors and among different stakeholders like policy, industry and community. The final aim is to create a roadmap, by engaging industry and government stakeholders to drive change in the plastic circular economy. The aim was to bring out a comprehensive guidebook for dealing with the plastic value chain for policy makers in India for their strategic decisions nationally and while negotiating the upcoming Global Plastics Treaty.

With view of this a thematic track **"Transition towards Circular Economy in the Plastic Sector"** was organized at the **World Sustainable Development Summit, WSDS-2023 on 23rd February 2023** at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

Mr. Souvik Bhattacharya, Associate Director of TERI gave the welcome address and invite all the dignitaries followed by a presentation on roadmap towards plastic reduction in India as a result of India Australia collaboration from 2019 was given by Dr. Heinz Schandl, Senior Principal Scientist, Project Lead, CSIRO Australia

The event had the special address by Dr. Atul Vaidya, Director CSIR-NEERI, Nagpur who highlighted the scientific and technical aspects of plastic recycling technologies and strategies to achieve plastic circular economy.

Dr. Ashok Khosla, Chairman DA, also gave a special address where he emphasised on the social impact of the plastic ecosystem and its impact on plastic collection system and its material flow.

A key note address was given by Honourable secretary, MoEFCC, Ms. Leena Nandan.

Dr. Prashant Gargava, Member Secretary, CPCB also delivered the Theme address on the event. This was followed by a panel discussion moderated by Dr. Rita Dhodapkar, Science secretary, CSIR-NEERI, featured following in-person speakers.

1. Mr. Mahesh Patil, Chairman, Goa state pollution control board.
2. M. Abdul Kader, Director, CIPET, Ahmedabad.
3. Dr. Monique Retamal, Research Director, ISF-UTS.
4. Mr. Amit Lahoti, Asia Ball Beverage Packaging.
5. Dr. Medha Tadpatrikar, Rudra Env. Solutions.

Post lunch, a roundtable discussion chaired by Dr. Atul Vaidya, Director, CSIR-NEERI was held where all the dignitaries and the stakeholders have participated. The key speakers were:

1. Dr. Heinz Schandl, Senior Principal Scientist, CSIRO
2. Mr. Perses Billimoria, Founder and CEO, Earthsoul India Pvt Ltd and Cobra Beer
3. Mr. Amit Lahoti, Senior Commercial Director and GM-Asia, Ball Beverage Packaging
4. Capt. Satyendra Vaidya, Adviser, Shakti Plastics Industry
5. Ms. Ekta Narain, Co-founder, Recykal
6. Mr Aman Grover, Senior Manager, ReCity
7. Dr Lalit Sharma, Technical Expert, GIZ
8. Mr. Ranjit Singh, Global COO and Managing Director, Polyplex Corp Ltd
9. Mr. Vishesh Gupta, Chairperson, Bharat Soka Gakkal
10. Mr Nitin Gupta, Vice President, Capgemini INVENT- India

The session ended with a vote of thanks by Mr. Souvik Bhattacharya, TERI.