

भारत सरकार/GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

रेल मंत्रालय /MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

रेलवे बोर्ड/(RAILWAY BOARD)

No. 2023/EnHM/10/03/WED

Dated: 10.05.2023

The General Managers,
All Indian Railways/Production Units,
Director General, RDSO, NAIR,
Directors/All Central Training Institutes.

Sub: Observance of World Environment Day-2023.

5th June is globally observed as World Environment Day every year with the aim to raise awareness on Environment and specific environmental issues. The theme for World Environment Day-2023 will focus on solutions to plastic pollution under the campaign '*BeatPlasticPollution*' launched by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

2 The world is being swamped by plastic. More than 400 million tonnes of plastic is produced every year, half of which is designed to be used only once and less than 10 per cent is recycled. Today, plastic clogs our landfills, leaches into the ocean and is combusted into toxic smoke, making it one of the gravest threats to the planet. Not only that, what is less known is that microplastics find their way into the food we eat, the water we drink and even the air we breathe. Many plastic products contain hazardous additives, which may pose a threat to our health. In order to control plastic pollution over Indian Railways, Railway Board has been issuing guidelines time to time on plastic waste management, single use plastic ban, and availability & promotion of alternatives to banned single-use plastic items etc.

3. All Units of Indian Railways should observe World Environment Day Programme on 5th June, 2023 in an appropriate and befitting manner by highlighting the achievements of Indian Railways and future initiatives and programmes in the field of Environment. Besides other initiatives, campaigns involving Scouts/NCC and other social groups to create awareness towards plastic pollution and its solutions should also be organized at major railway stations, work places and colonies.

4. Interaction with media on the achievements of Railways regarding Single Use Plastic ban and road map for environmental sustainability can be highlighted to give wide publicity. Social media campaign, by joining the UNEP's hashtag *BeatPlasticPollution*, may also be launched on various social media platforms to make people aware of the efforts made by Railways to reduce plastic pollution.

(Shailendra Singh)
Executive Director/ME (EnHM & Proj.)
Railway Board

Copy to: Secretary/RB, for kind information & necessary action for celebration of World Environment Day in Rail Bhawan please.