

## Press Note

The Valedictory function of the month long programme and activities organized by the Forest Extension & Publicity Division of the Department of Environment and Forests in connection with the celebration of the World Environment Day was held at the Auditorium of Mini Zoo, Haddo. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) cum Chief Wildlife Warden and Principal Secretary (Tribal Welfare) Shri D. M. Shukla, IFS, was the Chief Guest on the occasion. At the outset Shri Diganta Gogoi, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests (R&WP) welcomed the gathering and presented detailed report on the programme and activities organized by the FE&P Division alongwith other forest division of the Department of Environment of Forests and the Department of Science and Technology throughout the territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands in connection with the celebration of World Environment Day-2018 with the theme “Plastic Pollution” as a step forward in containing & controlling the use of plastics.

The prizes for all the events/competitions organized during the month long celebration of World Environment Day were distributed by the Chief Guest among the participants of the events.

Speaking on the occasion the Chief Guest congratulated the prize winners for having supported and disseminated the message among masses on the theme of “Plastic Pollution” by their active participation in the events conducted. Further he emphasized that in order to maintain a quality life, the environment has to be protected from various ill effects. Andaman & Nicobar Islands having gifted with pristine biodiversity, tropical rain forest also is an internationally acclaimed hotspot of biodiversity that provides us a safe haven to live in a pollution free environment for which every individual in the Island must have commitment to safeguard these islands from all forms of pollution. He expressed his sincere gratitude to the parents for making their children aware of the environmental challenges and concerns that is being faced globally and inculcating suitable mitigation measures for containing all forms of pollution in the young minds. It was also elucidated that the Andaman & Nicobar Administration is taking all possible effects to mitigate all forms of pollution specifically plastics in order to keep the islands more cleaner and greener. He exhorted the need to conserve, preserve and protect the sources of water, forests, wildlife, marine life and existing varieties of ecosystem keeping in view the increased influx of tourists in order to maintain balance in catering the needs of the local inhabitants and tourists without disturbing the ecology of this island.

Concluding the address, the Chief Guest expressed deep concern on the increased use of plastic and its associated by products in this islands and it was reaffirmed that the resources of this island be properly and sustainably used so that it remains in posterity.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Shri Ayyub Hassan, Divisional Forest Officer, FE&P Division.

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