

Circular Initiative

Nallamala Ranges are endowed with rich Biodiversity and a complex Ecosystem, which is typically a tropical dry, and moist deciduous forest. It is spread over a vast area and is well known for its religious tourism. Pilgrims regularly visit these temples and other shrines for divine blessings and enjoy the ride in the core area of the Nagarjunasagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve (NSTR).

There has been constant effort by the concerned authorities to maintain cleanliness and greenery in the region. However, in recent times, it has been observed that the efforts on conservation are challenged by the irresponsible behavior of the floating population i.e. the tourists and pilgrims.

Plastics such as PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate) Bottles, MLP (Multi-Layer Polythene) Covers, LDPE (Low-Density Polyethylene) covers and Liquor Bottles, etc. are being littered on the road/roadside while they pass through the reserve.

This leads to various problems affecting the behaviour and health of wild animals and reduction in the growth of flora in the region.

As a solution to this issue, Anubhuti Welfare Foundation introduced a **Plastic Pickers initiative**, which gave employment to the local community and effective collection of plastic waste. However, the disposal of this plastic waste was still a problem, it was being burnt or disposed of unscientifically.

To avoid this we introduced a novel concept of **Standardization of Collection, Segregation, and Disposal/ Recycling of Plastics and Liquor Bottles**. It was initiated on June 5th, 2021, at Sunnipenta, Srisailem.

The launch date is significant as that day is celebrated as World Environment Day.

The methodological implementation of this concept goes as follows -

1. Collection of plastics
2. Segregation of plastics
3. Baling of segregated materials
4. Transportation to the notified recycling centres
5. Recycling
6. Transformed into new products

Expected outcomes of the project :

- Nagarjunasagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve (NSTR) will be a Plastic-Free Zone.
- Prevents animals from consuming plastic litter or other wastes.
- Helps avoid Man- Animal Conflict.
- Generating Employment for locals.

So far, we have transported 350 kgs of plastics to authorized recyclers through Anubhuti's Swachhata Kendras to recycling units. Some amount of this plastic waste was collected before the start of the project.