

Press Note
World Environment Day 2025 Celebration at IET Lucknow

On the occasion of *World Environment Day 2025*, the IEEE Student Branch STB62961 and IETE Lucknow Centre jointly organized an awareness event at the Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET), Lucknow. The theme for this year is “*End Plastic Pollution*”, emphasizing global action to combat one of the most pressing environmental challenges.

The event was inaugurated by Prof. Vineet Kansal, Director, IET Lucknow, who stressed the importance of institutional efforts in environmental conservation. Prof. Subodh Wairya, Head of the ECE Department, highlighted how technology and sustainable innovation can be merged for eco-friendly outcomes. Prof. Neelam Srivastava, IETE Vice Chair and IEEE Branch Counselor, and Dr. Arun Kumar Singh, Chairman, IETE Lucknow Centre, shared their views on interdisciplinary collaboration to address environmental degradation.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Pradeep Kumar, Assistant Professor, IET Lucknow, who presented a comprehensive talk on the global plastic crisis. He shared startling statistics, noting that over **400 million tons of plastic waste** are produced annually, with **less than 10% being recycled**. A notable case study discussed involved a successful plastic ban initiative in Sikkim, which drastically reduced plastic usage through strict regulation and community involvement. Dr. Kumar also illustrated how microplastics have infiltrated our food and water systems, posing serious health and ecological risks.

The event was attended by IEEE and IETE members, students, research scholars, and faculty members. An interactive discussion followed, focusing on actionable steps like promoting reusable materials, strict waste segregation, plastic audits on campus, and policy advocacy.

The event concluded with a pledge to reduce single-use plastics and promote sustainable practices within the institute and beyond, reaffirming the role of educational institutions in environmental stewardship.

World Environment Day Celebrated at IET Lucknow by IEEE Student Branch and IETE Lucknow

The IEEE Student Branch at IET Lucknow and IETE Lucknow jointly celebrated *World Environment Day* at IET Lucknow. This year, World Environment Day is being observed with the theme **#BeatPlasticPollution**.

To manage plastic pollution, the Ministry of Environment has notified the *Plastic Waste Management Rules 2016*, which were subsequently amended in the years 2018, 2022, 2023, and 2024. Under these rules, compliance with *Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)* provisions has been made mandatory for institutions generating plastic waste such as producers, importers, and brand owners. As part of this initiative, **10.3 million tonnes of plastic waste have been safely disposed of by December 2024**.

Efforts for plastic management are being undertaken under the *Swachh Bharat Mission* in both rural and urban areas. The *Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)* has outlined the use of various technologies for plastic waste management, such as its use in road construction, oil production, fuel for cement kilns, and recycling. The government has also enforced a ban on **single-use plastic items** through a regulation dated *12 August 2021*.

Although work is being done at multiple levels in society for plastic management, a permanent solution to this growing problem requires **strict implementation of regulations** and spreading **public awareness** about the harmful effects of plastic and methods for its management.

On this occasion, **Prof. Vineet Kansal**, Director of the institute, emphasized to students the importance of **plastic recycling and reuse**. A special **tree plantation drive** titled "*One Tree in Mother's Name*" was conducted with the participation of teachers and students.

The keynote speaker, **Dr. Pradeep Kumar**, raised awareness about the harmful impacts of plastic use and stressed the need for widespread awareness campaigns. **Dr. Arun Kumar** highlighted the role of every citizen in protecting **water, land, and atmosphere**. **Prof. Neelam Srivastava** expressed concern about how **aquatic life and domestic animals** are affected by plastic waste and appreciated the efforts of **small-scale industries** working in plastic waste management.

On this occasion, **Prof. Subodh Wairya** welcomed the guests and presented them with **Tulsi (Holy Basil) plants** as a token of appreciation.