

Press Release

Madras High Court Launches “Single Use plastic free High Court” initiative

Hon'ble Thiru. Justice T. Raja, Acting Chief Justice, High Court of Madras launched the initiative of making the Madras High Court free from single use plastic. Participating in a function organized on this occasion on 10th November, 2022 at the High Court premises, he launched the programme with the installation of five cloth vending machines viz. “Manjapai Vending Machines” to dispense cloth bags within the premises of High Court of Madras. He also inaugurated the installation of two Reverse Vending Machines. Reverse Vending Machines recycle plastic bottles by shredding them into fine fiber which are then used to make fabric for T-shirts and other clothing material.

On this occasion, the Acting Chief Justice, High Court of Madras highlighted ill effects of plastic on the planet. He cited several examples where researchers have proved that micro-plastics have entered our food, thereby risking well being of humans and animals. He also mentioned that several countries around the world have realized the huge danger posed by throwaway plastic and have begun work to control the plastic menace. Further highlighting that in Tamil Nadu, generations of people have been using Manjapai as a way of life, he exhorted people to readopt eco friendly lifestyle as was the norm in the past.

The acting Chief Justice highlighted that it was a matter of great pride for the iconic Madras High Court to take the lead in the country by setting an example towards the plastic free campus initiative. He urged Law Officers to take efforts to make all District Courts in Tamil Nadu free from single use plastic items.

Thiru.R. Shunmugasundaram, Advocate General of Tamil Nadu while welcoming the gathering highlighted that the plastic pollution had become an insurmountable challenge and that it cannot be handled by a single institution or a person. He called for collective efforts towards complete elimination of single use plastic items.

Tmt.Supriya Sahu,I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Environment, Climate Change and Forests Department highlighted that Meendum Manjapai initiative was aimed to become a people's movement. She

mentioned that more than 90,000 awareness programmes have been organized in the last one year by District Collectors and other departments through schools and colleges, Panchayats etc. Government had come out with the "Green School Scheme" wherein 25 schools are to be selected in collaboration with the Education Department to make school campuses free from plastic and making them energy efficient with several green interventions. She mentioned that around 30 Manjapai vending machines were ready to be installed in various places in the State.

Tmt.Jayanthi,I.F.S., Chairperson, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board mentioned that it was a befitting tribute to the historical Madras High Court complex to have embarked on a journey towards plastic free campus. She highlighted that the ongoing Conference of Parties (CoP27) at Egypt is also focused on preventing plastic pollution. She informed that the Government of Tamil Nadu had initiated Green Champion Awards under which last year 90 people were selected from various districts in Tamil Nadu

Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Environment, Climate Change & Forests Department

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