

## TERI and State Bank of Hyderabad conclude waste management initiative ‘Back-to-Earth’ for Delhi schools

**New Delhi, 8 August, 2015:** TERI and State Bank of Hyderabad today organised a valedictory programme to mark the conclusion of their joint project on waste management titled ‘Back-to-Earth’. Through planned education and outreach programmes the project helped to generate understanding and support for waste management issues across Delhi. The project has so far impacted more than 3,000 children in seven schools across Delhi.

The participating schools in this programme are: Kendriya Vidyalaya, Shalimar Bagh; Air Force Bal Bharati, Lodi Road; Sardar Patel Vidyalaya, Lodi Estate; Shyama Prasad Vidyalaya, Lodi Estate; Sarodaya Co-Ed. Vidyalaya, Vasant Vihar; Govt. CoEd Senior Secondary School, Mayur Vihar; Fr. Agnel School, Gautam Nagar.

Inaugurating the programme, Padmashree Shovana Narayan, the Chief Guest said “While we talk about waste management and Back to Earth, it is “us” who create the problem. We litter and dirty the place we call our “matribhumi” but when we go out to western countries, we follow rules and regulation regarding littering. To manage waste, we all need to change our habits.” She also spoke about the loss of wildlife, increasing acidic content in the river Ganga, and undertook a pledge, along with the audience, to resolve waste management.

Delivering the thematic address, Dr Suneel Pandey, Director, TERI, said "the growing toxicity in the environment and contamination of water bodies are the result of improper waste management. It is very evident that we need proper recycling methods, organized disposal, and greater awareness to tackle the problem. In the present times Delhi is stated to be competing with Beijing in being number one in pollution. A race we could avoid winning.”

In his keynote address, Mr Ajay Kumar Sareen, DGM, State Bank of Hyderabad (SBH), said “The bank has been sensitive towards environment issues and has implemented various measures to safeguard it, like introduction of green and paperless banking to save the environment. I am sure this programme has made the required impact in the lives of the children and motivated them to undertake conscious decisions to help preserve the environment.”

Initiated in October 2014, ‘Back-to-Earth’ engaged children into creative thinking and helped them develop competence in waste management, through various innovative educational and outreach components like books, educational kits, learning material, brainstorming sessions and practical experience. This programme enabled to strengthen the knowledge on waste management and the importance of 4Rs (Refuse Reuse Reduce Recycle) among the children and make them aware on the need to take the necessary actions to conserve the environment. The programme was introduced and launched in three phases in the selected seven schools for the children aged between 8 to 14 years. In the concluding phase, the students were evaluated and acknowledged for their performance.

As part of the programme, the participating schools were also awarded in acknowledgment for their efforts in driving the programme to ensure a positive impact on the environment.

Based on the outcome of this pilot project, SBH and TERI hope to extend the ambit of this programme by introducing it in other areas and engaging on various other pressing issues on environment in the forthcoming years.

**ABOUT TERI:**

TERI is an independent, not-for-profit research institute focused on energy, environment, and sustainable development and devoted to efficient and sustainable use of natural resources. Since its inception in 1974, TERI has emerged as an institution of excellence for its path-breaking research, and is a global brand widely respected by political leaders, policy makers, corporate entities as well as the civil society at large.

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