



Marine Plastic Litter through Clean up Drive near Ganga River in Prayagraj

DA and UN Environment Programme have collaborated to promote countermeasures to reduce marine plastic pollution. Under this initiative, Clean Up Drives were conducted in the city of Prayagraj on 12 March 2020 at a waste hotspot – below new Yamuna Bridge in Arail area. It helped in checking the quantity and types of plastic waste that goes into the river Ganga. This data will be further used to develop a scope of work for plastic waste value chain initiatives for its appropriate disposal in the city.

The drive was conducted for around five hours. It included the following activities consecutively– demarcation of the selected area, first hand weighing of the collection bags, collection of all types of dry waste from the demarcated area, weighting of the collected mixed waste and first hand segregation of the mixed waste into plastic waste and other waste. The segregated plastic waste was then weighed to identify the total percentage of plastic waste from the total collected waste from the demarcated area.

Second part of the drive included second hand segregation of plastic waste in to various types of plastic. Each segregated type of plastic waste was weighed separately and number of plastic pieces were counted and documented. The final part of the drive ended with an appropriate loading of collected segregated waste into Municipal waste collection vans and sending it to the Municipal collection center for disposal.

More than 70 volunteers were mobilised at the cleanup drive, including Ragpickers, *SwachchhataGrahis*, and volunteers from local NGO SWARG. The drive was conducted under supervision of personnel from National Productivity Council. The total area covered during the drive was 9,275 sqft and 342 kg of total waste was collected. 35% of total collected waste (122 kg) was plastic waste such as polythene bags less than 50 micron category), milk packets, pharmaceutical wrappers, spice packets, injections, canes, plastic cement bags.