



Norwegian Embassy  
New Delhi



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SRM  
INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY  
Dedicated to the University of 21st Century



## Title: Reducing Plastic and Chemical Waste in the Marine Environment

Date: 8th February 2024      Time: 1400 - 1530 IST

Venue: Juniper Hall, India Habitat Centre

### (i) Problem statement and state of play

Plastic and chemical pollution are global problems that continue to pose serious obstacles and hazards to the environment, and human health, and therefore, hinder achieving sustainable development goals, particularly in developing countries. Many challenges related to chemical pollution are closely linked to marine litter and microplastics, as plastics often harbor chemical additives and contaminants, making them carriers for toxic chemicals like persistent organic pollutants (POPs). POPs are a group of chemicals of particular concern, due to their toxic properties, resistance to degradation, and potential to bioaccumulate and be transported long-range.

As per estimates, India ranks 12<sup>th</sup> globally in the annual release of plastic waste into the oceans, ranging between 90,000 and 240,000 tonnes. The primary sources of this marine litter are on land; for instance, data provided by the Indian government shows that 60 major Indian towns produce almost 15,000 tonnes of plastic waste daily. India had the second-largest ocean plastic volume in 2021 among Asian countries at around 130 thousand tons. While such estimations exist, there are still significant knowledge gaps on marine litter, origin, and fate. Addressing these challenges necessitates science-based approaches to effectively manage plastic waste and POPs, thereby safeguarding the natural environment from the detrimental impacts of such pollution.

### (ii) Objectives of the thematic track

- Sharing and building knowledge and capacities to tackle plastic and chemical pollution and its associated social, economic, and environmental impacts
- Identify opportunities associated with reducing plastic and chemical waste in the marine environment

- Opportunities for strengthening collaborations and alliances
- Build a robust knowledge-based research foundation for policy relevance.

(iii) Questions -

- How can robust science-based policy support the reduction of plastic and chemical pollution?
- How can lessons from the global research landscape be applicable in the Indian context?
- In which ways can India best contribute to the global efforts on plastic and chemical pollution management?

#### **About the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS)**

The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) is the annual flagship Track II initiative organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). Instituted in 2001, the Summit series has a legacy of over two decades for making 'sustainable development' a globally shared goal. The only independently convened international Summit on sustainable development and environment, based in the Global South, WSDS strives to provide long-term solutions for the benefit of global communities by assembling the world's most enlightened leaders and thinkers on a single platform. The 23rd edition of the annual flagship event of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)—the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS)—will be held from 7-9 February 2024 in New Delhi. The Summit deliberations will focus on the umbrella theme: Leadership for Sustainable Development and Climate Justice.