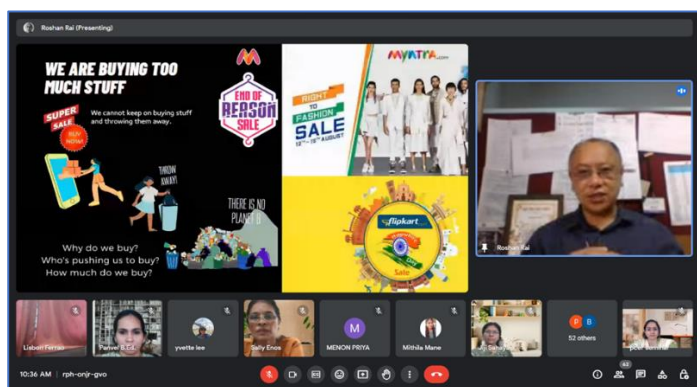


Environmental Re-engineering: Mitigating Plastic Pollution

A Report

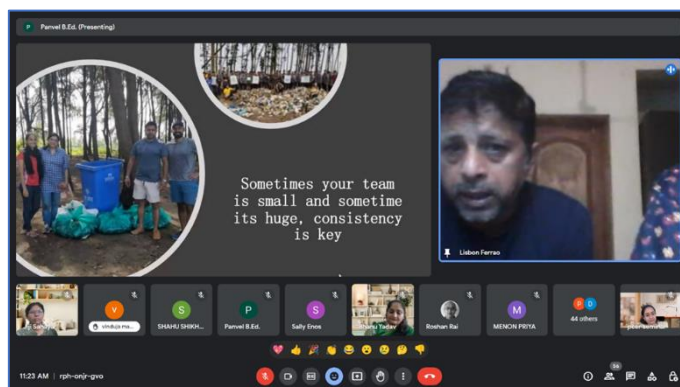


The National Conference on “**Environmental Re-engineering: Mitigating Plastic Pollution**” was held on 14th October 2023 at MES’ Pillai College of Education and Research, New Panvel. The conference brought together environmental experts, practitioners, educators, and students to deliberate on one of the most pressing environmental issues — plastic waste. Organized in collaboration with the Soroptimist Welfare Association (SIBC), the event aimed to explore systemic and sustainable strategies to combat plastic pollution. The inaugural session set the tone for the day, highlighting the urgency of rethinking plastic use and fostering innovative and community-based solutions.



The first keynote address was delivered by **Dr. Roshan Rai**, an environmentalist known for his sustainable waste management initiatives. Speaking on “*Closing the Plastic Tap*,” he emphasized the importance of addressing the root causes of plastic pollution. His presentation called for systemic changes, policy interventions, and community-driven approaches that prioritize circular economies and long-term sustainability.

The second keynote speaker, **Mr. Lisbon Ferrao**, an environmental conservationist widely recognized for his beach cleanup missions, spoke on “*The Urgent Need to Mitigate Plastics*.” He showcased compelling examples of grassroots activism and emphasized how individual and collective efforts can lead to significant environmental change. His talk inspired participants to take ownership and responsibility for the plastic crisis.



Key highlights included:

- **Student-led research presentations** on topics such as upcycling, recycling innovations, plastic-free campus initiatives, and the role of education in sustainability.
- **Interactive discussions** that encouraged knowledge exchange across generations and disciplines.
- **Emphasis on collaboration** between institutions, communities, and policymakers to create lasting impact.

Outcome:

The conference successfully fostered awareness, dialogue, and commitment to action against plastic pollution. It provided a platform for students to contribute to environmental discourse and showcased how academic

institutions can drive change. The valedictory session reinforced the importance of collective responsibility and highlighted the need for continued research and practical implementation of sustainable practices. The event concluded with a shared resolve to adopt environmentally responsible behaviours, promote innovative solutions, and build a future where environmental stewardship is a way of life.

