

Three-Day 8th Regional 3R Forum In Asia And The Pacific Started In Indore On Tuesday, Which Saw 300 Delegates From 41 Countries & 106 Indian Cities Discuss Ways To Promote 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' In Industry, Service & Agriculture Sectors

## MOVING TOWARDS ZERO WASTE SOCIETY

### 'Govt working on ODF, waste mgmt'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Indore:** On spot disposal and reduction in waste generation can be helpful in achieving the goal of zero waste society in 3R (Reduce, Reuse & Recycle) way, participants of the first plenary session of 8th Regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific agreed.

"Converting waste into valuable or usable items can help in achieving zero waste society goal," said VK Jindal, joint secretary, Union ministry of housing and urban Affairs, in his opening address on Tuesday. Jindal spoke about how Indian cities are moving towards achieving zero waste society goals. He said that waste to compost, waste to energy, plastic in road construction and construction and demolition waste management are the major components of Swachh Bharat Mission. "ODF and cent per cent scientific waste management are two major areas on which Indian government has been working on," he said.

"This system would be helpful in achieving the 3R goals. It has been successful in India so far, and other coun-

tries across the globe should also adopt this," he said. Taking the Swachh initiative forward, the government has recently announced to give star ratings to local urban bodies.

The session was also addressed by principal secretary, Madhya Pradesh government Vivek Aggarwal. He spoke about how state government divided towns of the state into 26 clusters three years ago. "Clustering of urban local bodies is for integrated solid waste management goal," he said. Vaughan Levitzke, chief executive, Green Industries South Australia said that circular economy can be considered

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as the basis for moving towards zero waste society. He claimed that this model, which works on generating revenue through garbage collection and disposal, has created over 25000 new jobs in South Australia.

"We are trying to increase capacity to do more in circular economy index. We have been working very hard in this direction," he said. The session ended with a penal discussion and queries from participants.



Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan with the delegates during the inauguration of 8th 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific organized at Brilliant Convention Center on Tuesday

## 50% of India grappling with water shortage

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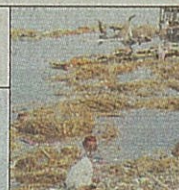
**Indore:** "Lack of proper water treatment solution is a major problem for increasing contamination in fresh water bodies," said VK Chourasia, adviser Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organization, Union ministry of housing and urban affairs on Tuesday.

Chourasia was speaking on promoting reuse of water during 8th Regional 3R Forum.

### TACKLING WATER WOES

> 50% population of the country faces water scarcity

> Person getting less than 1700 cubic litre water/year is said to face water scarcity



> Dealing with lack of availability of fresh water resources

> Impact of industrialization and urbanization

"We need to focus on finding ways to promote reuse of water as 50 per cent of the country's population is already facing

water scarcity," he said, adding that unequal distribution of water is one of the reasons behind water scarcity in the coun-

try. Prof C Vishwanathan of Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand said that SDGs are the only solution to solve issues related to water security. He said that a circular water economy system should be introduced with inclusion of rain water harvesting and connected with good old practices. Fresh water resources are facing contamination related issues. The situation is worsening with industrialization and urbanization. "Un-

treated wastewater leads to both groundwater and soil contamination," he said.

Yuji Hirose, senior environment expert, ministry of environment, Japan, in his address spoke on decentralized bacterial waste water treatment measures to purify contaminated water. "Purpose of Johkasou, decentralized bacterial wastewater treatment, is an evaluation system and our govt also gives subsidies for its installation," he said.



Japan's state environment minister Tadahiko Ito explained the Japanese waste avoidance concept of Mottainai and said that his nation is working towards