

WHAT LESSON DOES PLASTIC MAN TEACH US ABOUT SAVING THE ENVIRONMENT?

~ Sahithya Balakrishnan
Hindustan Institute of Technology and Science, Chennai

Modou Fall, a 52-year-old citizen of Dakar and president of the “Sénégal Propre”, an association that fights against using plastic waste, has been interested in environmental issues since 2005. One day, he decided to tell the public about the dangers of plastic waste. He believes that despite being banned in 2020, the real threats of single-use plastic products have not been realized by the world. Seeing the invasion of plastic waste in Senegal, he is determined to spread awareness.

DID YOU KNOW?

India too has a plastic man.

Rajgopalan Vasudeven, a 73-year-old Madurai-based retired chemistry professor, came up with the concept of repurposing plastic waste to create long-lasting roads. He was named as one of the 73 recipients of the Padma Shri, the government's fourth highest civilian honour.



Called the “Plastic Man”, Fall wears a costume made of plastic bags that drags to the ground and a note attached to his chest, which reads “no plastic bag”. In local markets and public gatherings, he collects plastic bags from people. In return, he hands them a paper bag to use instead.

Seeing the efforts of Plastic Man, it is easy to see that every small step we take towards a cleaner environment will contribute to a pollution-free future. So let us learn from Modou Fall, by stopping the use of plastic waste and stating the use of eco-friendly alternatives.

The Plastic Man is actively and eagerly working to make his hometown a clean place. He does so by raising awareness about the harm that plastic waste does to the environment. He helps educate the masses by conducting awareness campaigns and teaching Senegalese to transform tires into gardening materials.



**Invest
In
Bamboo
Toothbrush**