Thanks, praveen. I’ll take it over from here.

I am going to talk on the topic “How India's efforts towards reducing its plastic footprint have worked so far”. Here are some initiatives taken across the country where municipalities, the state administration and the common public joined hands to tackle the plastic crises at their own level.

1. **Reusables in government offices**

In the year 2016, government offices in Kerala made the switch to ink pens and steel cutlery to ensure articles like plastic water bottles, disposable teacups and plastic carry bags are no longer used across the office premises. The step can be easily emulated across not just government offices but also corporates and private organisations while paving the way for an environment-friendly work culture.

1. **Fishing for plastic waste from water bodies**

The creatures of the sea are sadly paying the price of our indifference and inability to manage waste, and nothing is more disheartening than coming across multiple reports about the carcasses of marine animals on seashores, with plastic waste inside their bellies.

However, there is help. In the following year 2017, As per a brilliant initiative helmed by Kerala’s Suchitwa Mission. In first 10 months since the project was launched, they have managed to recover 25 tons of plastic waste.

1. **Crackdown on plastic usage**

Sikkim is the second smallest state in the country. it became the first Indian state to ban disposable plastic bags in 1998. Thanks to its complete crackdown on plastic, it went on to earn the tag of India’s cleanest state. If state governments work towards making alternative solutions cheaper and accessible to the public, what this tiny state has achieved in 20 years is no distant dream for the rest of the country.

1. **Utilizing plastic for road surfacing**

Thanks to Professor Rajagopalan Vasudevan, he is from Madurai, using plastics for road surfacing is now a reality, and many states are considering to implement this pioneering tactic to manage their plastic waste.

5.**Upcycling plastic for better purposes**

From construction materials to threads and fabrics for the textile industry, many organisations across India have been upcycling plastic for more significant purposes. The malleability of plastic is what made it a household entity almost a century ago, and now, the same property is being used to keep a tab on our wastages.

I pass on to Niranjan who is going to talk on Ways we can reduce plastic pollution.