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Resources we use must be paid for : Expert

Shashwat Gupta Ray

If you want a clean environment, it must be paid for, says Deepak Kantawala

Paud Road : Putting the onus of environment conservation on the society, a veteran environment expert has said that people should be charged for the consumption of natural resources to ensure a clean world.

“There are no free lunches in this world. If you want a clean environment, then it must be paid for Environment protection is an effort by the whole society. Law and enforcement is a very small part of it. The major part is played by attitudinal change,” engineer and environment consultant Deepak Kantawala told the Herald.

Kantawala was in the city to attend the just-concluded Indo-Italian International conference on Green and Clean Environment organized by the MAEER’s MIT College of Engineering, Pune.

“All resources that we use must be paid at their original value. We cannot price them too low and expect people to start conserving. While the administration spends around Rs. 23 to deliver clean water with good pressure to the people, the end-users are paying around only Rs 3 per cubic metre, and Rs. 40-45 per cubic metre to get tanker water,” he said.

Citing the example of the United States, Kantawala said that water supply there is run by private sector and they charge a reasonably high sum for supplying it. “The government and the pollution control boards alone won’t help the cause of environment conservation,” he said.

He has worked on environment conservation projects in India and abroad as a consultant to various World Bank missions on Industrial Pollution Control, Industrial Pollution Prevention and Hazardous Waste Management projects from 1992-1999.