

Good morning, respected judges and friends.

When we see garbage piling up on our streets or unkindness all around us, we often think — **"Why should I care, if nobody else does?"**

But let me tell you about a man from Kottayam, right here in Kerala, named **N. S. Rajappan**.

Though he is 75 years old and paralysed below the waist and cannot walk, every single day he rowed his small boat into the Vembanad Lake and pulled out plastic bottles with his bare hands.

He had no money, no team, and no government order — **only one pair of hands and one big heart.**

And slowly, that one man's quiet effort cleaned the waters and inspired *thousands* of young people across India to protect nature.

This, my friends, is the **Ripple Effect** — when you drop one small stone of goodness, the ripples spread far and wide.

So never think, *"I am just a child, what can I do?"*

Pick up one wrapper, plant one tree, speak one kind word — and *be that single ripple.*

Because one candle can light a thousand others — and **one person, truly, can make a difference.**

Thank you.