

ENVIRONMENTAL BURDEN DUE TO TOBACCO PRODUCT WASTE



Objectives

The study was carried out to assess the environment burden in terms of plastic, paper, foil and filter waste, posed by various smoked and smokeless tobacco products at National and State levels.

Methodology

A cross-sectional survey was conducted in 33 districts of 17 states and UTs across the country. After exclusion of duplicates, 200 unique tobacco products including 70 cigarette brands, 94 bidi brands and 58 smokeless tobacco brands were procured from across the country to ensure representation and generalizability from all the geographic regions of the country. Gross weight and segregated weights of the plastic, paper, foil and filter content were taken from the procured samples and were correlated with the data from GATS-2 survey to arrive at the final results.

Prevalence of Tobacco Use

Current tobacco users in Kerala - 12.7%
Current Cigarette smokers in Kerala- 6.7%
Current Bidi smokers in Kerala- 3.8%
Current SLT users in Kerala- 5.4%

*Source: Global Adult Tobacco Survey II: India 2016-17 Report



Plastic waste produced by tobacco use is equivalent to 30 lakh standard plastic buckets

59084 trees are cut annually to be used for Paper packaging, with waste equivalent to the weight of 32 lakh notebooks



Key Findings

Total Annual Plastic Waste

- Cigarettes - 149.75 tonnes
- Bidis - 88.31 tonnes
- Smokeless Tobacco - 501.73 tonnes.
- Total annual plastic waste - **739.79 tonnes.**

Total Annual Paper Waste

- Cigarettes - 1475.25 tonnes.
- Bidis - 61.69 tonnes.
- Smokeless Tobacco - 398.27 tonnes.
- Total annual paper waste - **1935.21 tonnes.**

Total Annual Foil Waste

- Total annual foil waste (Cigarettes) - **249.30 tonnes**

Total Annual Filter Waste

- Cigarettes - 125.70 tonnes.
- Bidis - 3 tonnes.
- Total annual filter waste - **128.70 tonnes**

Total annual waste by all tobacco products in Kerala

Cigarettes - 2000 tonnes
Bidi - 153 tonnes
Smokeless Tobacco - 900 tonnes
Total - 3053tonnes

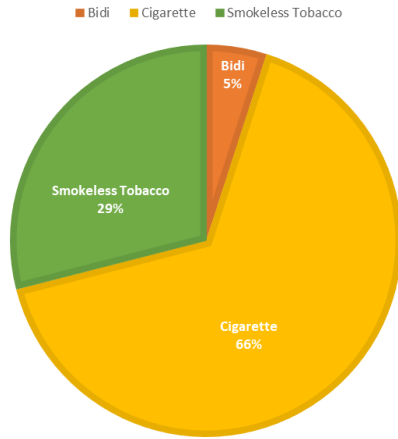


Filter waste produced is equivalent to 3 lakh 58 thousand standard adult sized t-Shirts

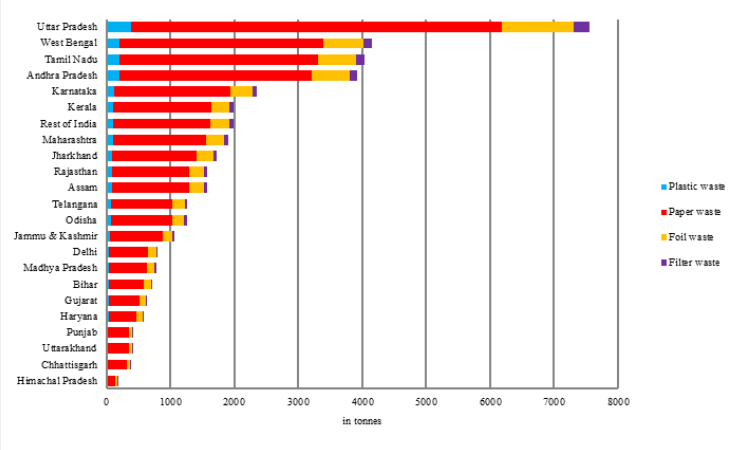


1 Boeing 747 aircrafts can be made of the aluminium waste produced annually

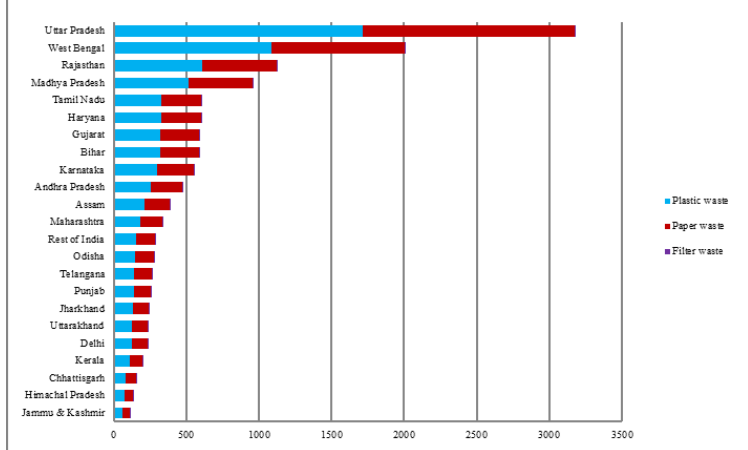
Contribution Of Different Tobacco Types To The Overall Tobacco Waste (In %)



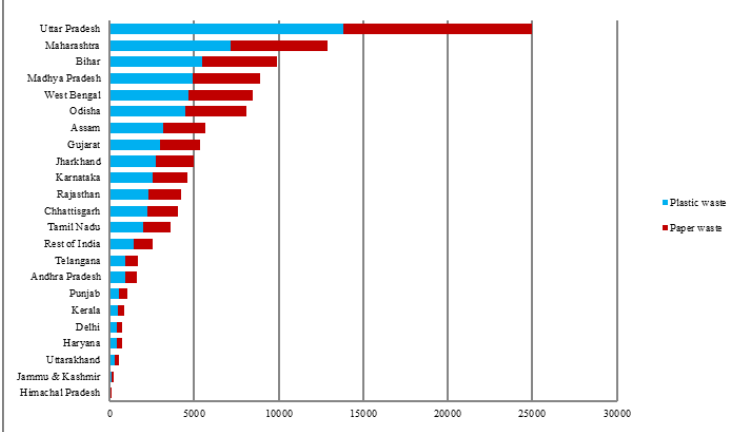
Distribution of annual waste by different components of cigarette (in tonnes)



Distribution of annual waste by different components of bidi (in tonnes)



Distribution of annual waste by different components of smokeless tobacco (in tonnes)



Recommendations

- Tobacco product wastes are diverse in nature. A comprehensive policy deterrent and a financial levy to be borne by the manufactures are needed.
- Sensitization of stakeholders for effective implementation of existing regulations for tobacco waste management is needed to reduce its environmental impact.
- Tobacco companies and their shareholders must take full responsibility to reduce the environmental burden of their products and comply with environmental laws.
- The violation of existing environmental laws and policies related to solid wastes/packaging should be strictly monitored, reported and implemented to ensure compliance.
- Given the irreversible impact of plastics on the environment and the human body, the unnecessary plastic waste generated from the tobacco products need stronger and urgent policy implementation.