

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 TN - 20.0%
Current Cigarette smokers in TN - 6.3%
Current Bidi smokers in TN - 5.4%
Current SLT users in TN - 10.6%

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

Key Findings

Total Annual Plastic Waste

- Cigarettes - 201.81 tonnes
- Bidis - 326.76 tonnes
- Smokeless Tobacco - 1,988.32 tonnes.
- Total annual plastic waste - **2,516.89 tonnes.**

Total Annual Paper Waste

- Cigarettes - 3,107.49 tonnes.
- Bidis - 278.09 tonnes.
- Smokeless Tobacco - 1,604.21 tonnes.
- Total annual paper waste - **1,882.31 tonnes.**

Total Annual Foil Waste

- Total annual foil waste (Cigarettes) - **600.86 tonnes**

Total Annual Filter Waste

- Cigarettes – 129.67 tonnes.
- Bidis – 1.74 tonnes.
- Total annual filter waste - **131.41 tonnes**



Plastic waste produced by tobacco use is equivalent to 2516890 standard plastic buckets

46529 trees are cut annually to be used for Paper packaging, with waste equivalent to the weight of 2516797 notebooks



Total annual waste by all tobacco products in Tamil Nadu

Cigarettes – 4039.83 tonnes
Bidi – 606.59 tonnes
Smokeless Tobacco - 3592.54 tonnes
Total – 8,238.953772 tonnes



Filter waste produced is equivalent to 873479 standard adult sized t-Shirts

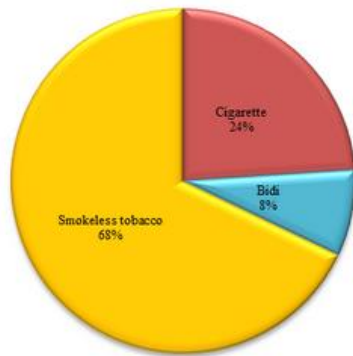


3 Boeing aircrafts can be made of the foil waste produced annually

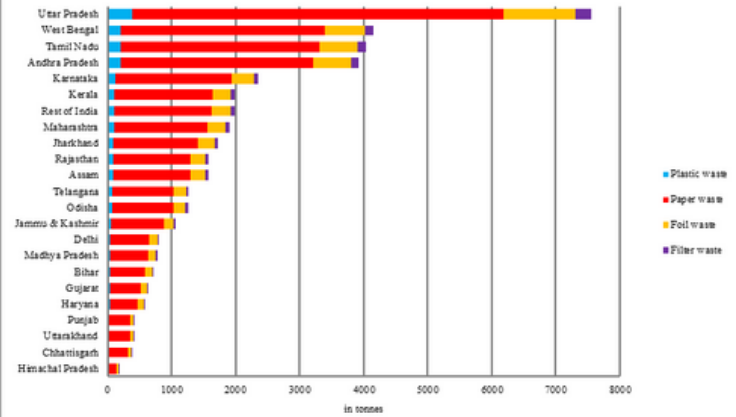
Total waste produced from tobacco use is equal to the weight of **100 Statues of Unity**



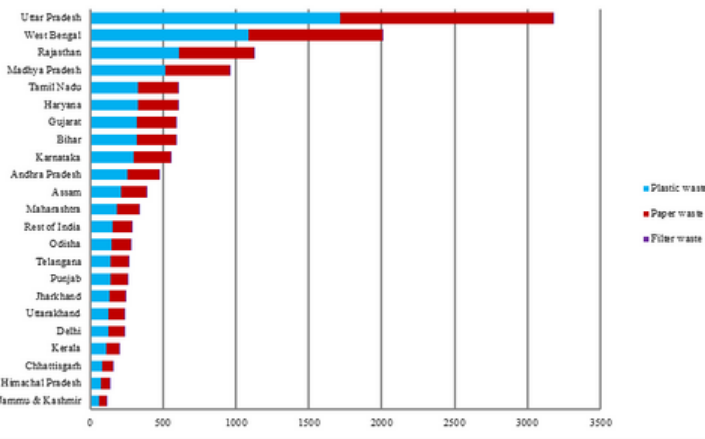
Contribution of different tobacco types to the overall tobacco waste (in %)



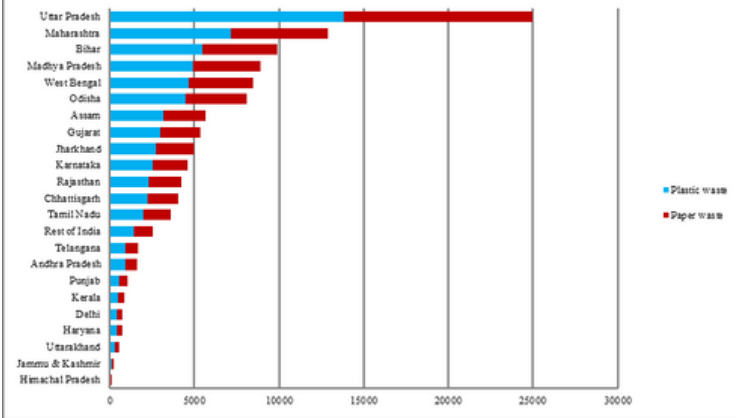
Distribution of annual waste by different components of cigarette (in tonnes)



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 is needed, that is borne by the manufacturers.
- Given the enormous cost incurred for cleaning of the tobacco product wastes (TPWs), greater sensitization of stakeholders for effective implementation of existing regulations and adopting stronger norms to reduce its environmental impact is need of the hour.
- No tobacco product fully complies with environmental laws. Tobacco companies and their shareholders must take full responsibility to reduce the environmental burden of their products.
- The violations of the existing environmental laws and policies related to solid wastes/packaging should be strictly monitored, reported and regulated to ensure compliance therewith
- Given the irreversible impact of plastics on the environment and the human body, the unnecessary plastic waste generated from the tobacco products, is needs stronger and urgent policy shift for its effective elimination.