

ENVIRONMENTAL BURDEN DUE TO TOBACCO PRODUCT WASTE IN INDIA

Objectives

The study was carried out to assess the environmental burden in terms of plastic, paper, foil and filter waste, posed by the use of 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 from January to April 2022. More than 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 filters used in the products, 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 India - 28.6%
Current Cigarette smokers in India - 4.0%
Current Bidi smokers in India - 7.7%
Current SLT users in India - 21.4%

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



Plastic waste produced by tobacco use is equivalent to 77 million standard plastic buckets

2.2 million trees are cut annually to be used for Paper packaging, with waste equivalent to the weight of 119 million notebooks



Key Findings

Total Annual Plastic Waste

- Cigarettes - 2,038.42 tonnes
- Bidis - 7,418.81 tonnes
- Smokeless Tobacco - 64,043.43 tonnes.
- Total annual plastic waste - **73,500.66 tonnes.**

Total Annual Paper Waste

- Cigarettes - 31,419.10 tonnes.
- Bidis - 6,311.63 tonnes.
- Smokeless Tobacco - 51,671.40 tonnes.
- Total annual paper waste - **89,402.13 tonnes.**

Total Annual Foil Waste

- Total annual foil waste (Cigarettes) - **6,073.47 tonnes**

Total Annual Filter Waste

- Cigarettes - 1,315.16 tonnes.
- Bidis - 39.07 tonnes.
- Total annual filter waste - **1,354.23 tonnes**

Total annual waste produced by all tobacco products in the country

Cigarettes - 40,846 tonnes
Bidi - 13,770 tonnes
Smokeless Tobacco - 115,715 tonnes
Total - 1,70,331 tonnes

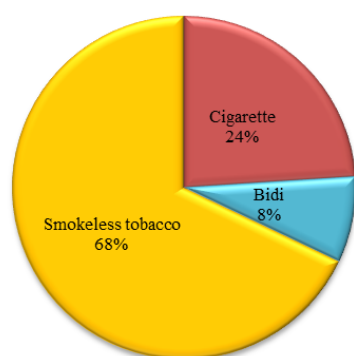


Filter waste produced is equivalent to 9 million standard adult sized t-Shirts

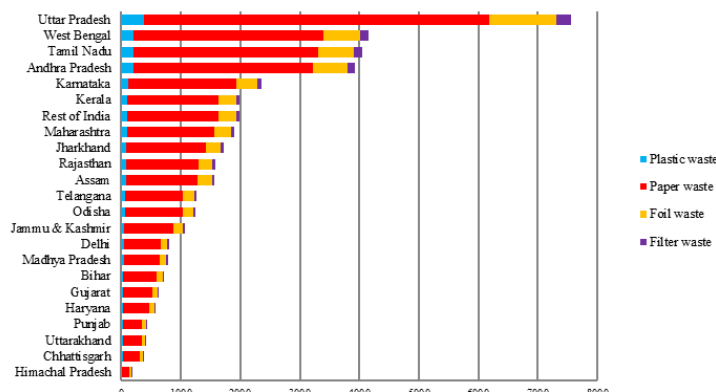
33 Boeing 747 aircrafts can be made of the aluminium waste produced annually



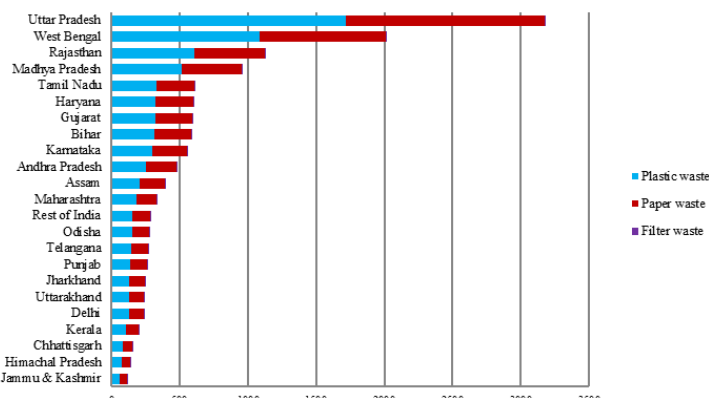
Contribution of different tobacco types to the overall tobacco waste (in %)



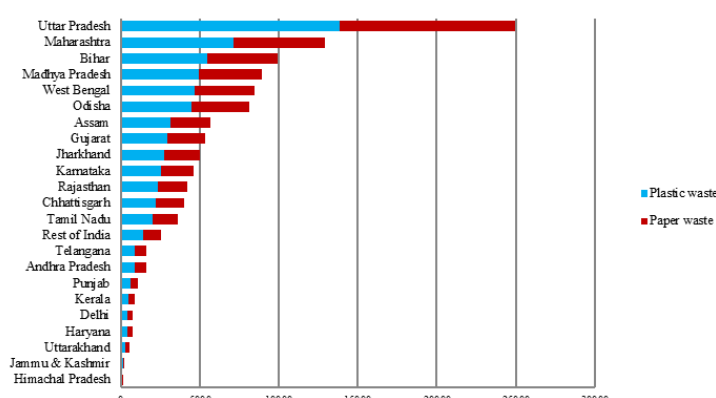
Distribution of annual waste by different components of cigarette (in tonnes)



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.

For full report visit the link below or the scan the QR Code:

<https://hccn.in/rctprj/index.html>

