



REGIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

क्षेत्रीय प्राकृतिक विज्ञान संग्रहालय
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A threat to nature

Few agencies working in documentation of wildlife and nature have indicated that plastic is killing animals more than human by hunting. Plastic pollution is now deemed to be biggest threat for marine life caused by human and likely to eradicate several marine species every day. Plastic debris are accumulating globally through wind and ocean currents, coastline geography, urban areas, and trade routes.

Controlling measures

Mass awareness is the biggest factor which may change the scenario. People across the globe are coming together now and refusing use of plastic. Numerous NGO's at state, national and international level are working at their best to make the people understand to refuse, reduce and recycle the plastic. Various educational institutes across the globe have taken initiative to reduce the plastic pollution and where students are coming together in this mission.

Substitutes

Using eco-friendly and biodegradable substitutes of plastic are the key and solution to all problems. Bakeys Foods Private Limited is a company which has invented edible cutlery made of a mixture of sorghum, rice and wheat flours which may replace plastic cutlery and one of the biggest plastic issue. Use of bioplastic, or biopolymer, called liquid wood is a promising product which look, feel and act just like plastic but is biodegradable and should be encouraged worldwide.

How you may help

You may use reusable and biodegradable bag for day to day marketing purpose and glass or steel bottle for carrying water. Say no to plastic lunch boxes, straws, chewing gums, plastic wrapped candies, plastic lighters etc. Don't throw garbage in plastic bags. Segregate biodegradable and non biodegradable and dispose properly. Read more about plastic pollution because knowing more may lead to real solutions.



**BEAT PLASTIC
 POLLUTION**

Introduction

The word **plastic** derives from the Greek (*plastikos*) meaning "capable of being shaped or moulded". *Hevea brasiliensis* which is also known as rubber tree is one of the very first sources of materials of plastic nature. Plastic is used from households to space missions. Every part of life and corner of the planet is now touched by plastic.

Usage of plastics

Plastics are the perfect material for use in packaging goods and accounts for the largest usage of plastics worldwide. Making of containers, bottles, drums, trays, boxes, cups and vending packaging, baby products etc. are other major uses of plastics.



Plastic Industry

Millions of people are directly or indirectly involved with this industry in the fields ranging from manufacturing to selling of plastic products. Plastic products have replaced most of the domestic conventional assets in past two decades. Last estimated production of plastic in 2013 was 299 Megaton which is increasing day by day.



Impact on land

Plastic is one of the important factor which reduces fertility of soil and inhibit various cycles on land. Plastic fragments reduce growth of decomposers in the land resulting delayed decomposition of biomass. Micro plastic fragments in the cultivating fields clog the roots of plants resulting low yield of crops.

Impact on Air

It is understood commonly that plastic doesn't affect air much which is actually not true. Burning of plastic waste and production of harmful gases at dumpsites is a major pollution factor in the neighbourhood of cities. Microfragments of degrading plastic travel through air and reaches to other areas which are still untouched and making air quality poor.

Impact on Water

Plastic is one of the largest pollutants transported by water. Tens of thousands of whales, birds, seals and turtles are killed every year due to plastic bag litter in the marine environment as they often mistake plastic bags for food such as jellyfish. Plastic bags, once ingested, cannot be digested or passed by an animal so it stays in the gut. Microfragments present in waters are now being traced in boold of fishes which is now reaching to human in form of food. This may cause blood cancer and renal failure.