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PLASTIC POLLUTION



Why in the news?

- **Prime Minister has called on G-20 nations to work constructively for an effective international legally-binding instrument to end plastic pollution.**



PLASTIC OVERSHOOT DAY

This is the day when the generation of plastic waste exceeds the capacity of waste management, leading to environmental pollution.

July 28th, 2023

- As per the **2023 Plastic Overshoot Day Report** released by Swiss-based research consultancy **Earth Action (EA)**:
- On July 28, 2023, the Earth saw its first Plastic Overshoot Day.
- Overshoot Day is the day when the generation of plastic waste exceeds the capacity of waste management, leading to environmental pollution.
- It is based on the country's **Mismanaged Waste Index (MWI)**, i.e., the mismanaged and total waste ratio.

Plastic Waste In India



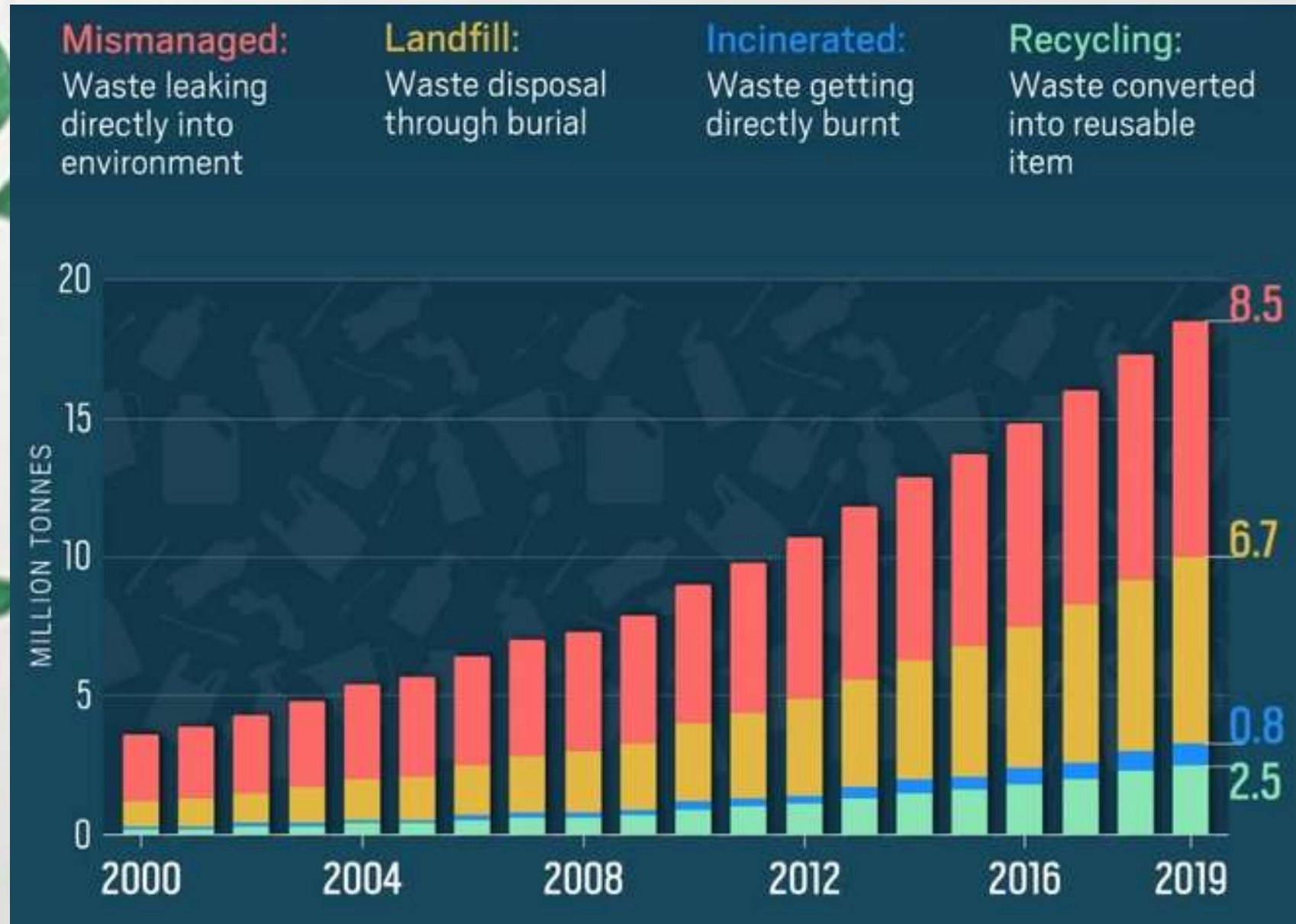
Data Bank

- **3.4 Million tonnes** of plastic waste per year (as per Central Pollution Control Board).
- **12.3%** plastic waste recycled in India (as per Centre for Science and Environment).
- **98.55%** of generated waste being mismanaged in India (as per Earth Action).

India saw its Plastic Overshoot Day on 6th January 2023.

India is among the 12 countries responsible for 52% of the world's mismanaged plastic waste.

PLASTIC WASTE IN INDIA



Current Situation of Plastic Globally

- In 2022, 21 million tonnes (MT) of plastics leaked into the environment globally.
- Under a business-as-usual scenario, plastic usage would increase, resulting in a 50% rise in plastic leakage by 2040.
- This would mean approximately 30 MT of plastic leaking into the environment, with 9 MT entering aquatic environments.



Effects of Plastic Waste in municipal solid waste

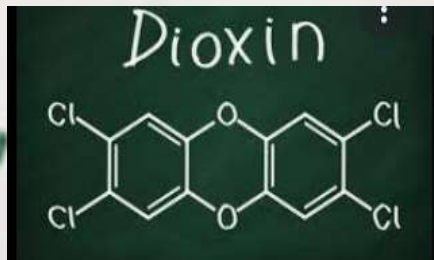
The land gets littered by plastic bag garbage and becomes ugly and unhygienic.

Conventional plastics have been associated with reproductive problems in both humans and wildlife.

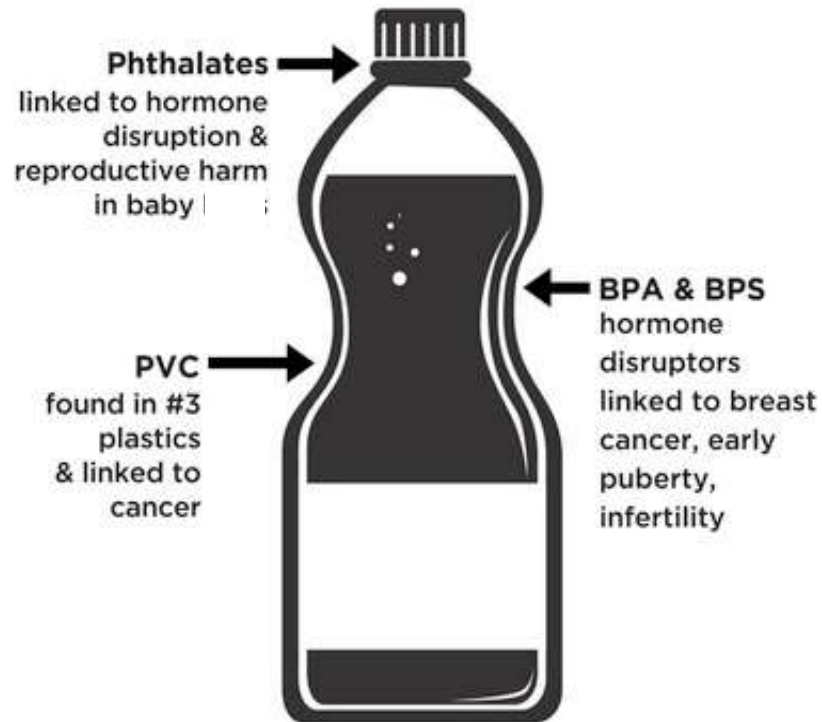
Dioxin (highly carcinogenic and toxic) by-product of the manufacturing process is one of the chemicals believed to be passed on to the nursing infant.

Burning of plastics, especially PVC releases dioxin and also furan into the atmosphere.

Plastics contribute 3.8% of total global greenhouse gas emissions (1.9 GtCO₂-e in 2022).



Toxic Chemicals in Plastics



Impact of Plastic pollution

- **Bisphenols and phthalates** releasing into air from burning of plastics.
- **Micro plastics** entering the marine & human leading to serious ailments.
- **Plastic nets entangles** with the marine lives.
- **Degradation of the earth's land surfaces** due to dangerous chemicals from plastic.



Challenges in Curbing plastic pollution

- **Weak waste management systems:** Lagging to meet the growing needs.
- **Insufficient data and reporting:** as the products are scattered into diverse sectors.
- **Use of Single-Use Plastics** which has short lifespan and widespread use.
- **Poor implementation of policies:** Like **Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021**.
- **Consumer's behaviour:** which are currently aligned with the usage of plastic disposables.
- **Lack of a suitable alternative:** which are either too costly or difficult to produce in mass.



Single-use plastic

Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016

- **Increase the minimum thickness of plastic carry bags from 40 to 50 microns** and stipulate minimum thickness of 50 microns for plastic sheets also to facilitate collection and recycle of plastic waste.



Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016

- To promote the **use of plastic waste for road construction** as per Indian Road Congress guidelines or **energy recovery, or waste to oil**, etc. for gainful utilization of waste
- **Rural areas have been brought in the ambit of these Rules** since plastic has reached rural areas also.
- The first time, the **responsibility of waste generators is being introduced.**



Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2018

Phasing out of Multilayered Plastic (MLP), which are non-recyclable, or non-energy recoverable, or with no alternative use.

Multi-Layer Plastic (MLP) is “any material used for packaging and having at least one layer of plastic as the main ingredient in combination with one or more layers of materials such as paper, paper board, polymeric materials, metalized layers or aluminium foil,



Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2022

- **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for plastic packaging.**
- **Plastic Waste Management Rules 2016 has been amended to fast-track the elimination of single-use plastics and promote alternatives.**

Plastic items completely banned from July 1, 2022

Ear buds with plastic sticks, plastic sticks for balloons, plastic flags, polystyrene (thermocool) for decoration, plates, cups, glasses, cutlery such as forks, spoons, knives, straw, trays, wrapping or packing films, cigarette packets



Plastic bags to be thicker

From September 30 this year, thickness of plastic carry bags has been increased from 50 microns to 75. From December 31, 2022, the thickness will increase to 120 microns

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