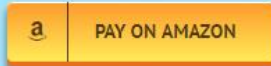


April 16th, 2019 Sample Current Affairs

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1. Nordic countries urge for global agreement on plastics

DAILY NEWS ANALYSIS

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- Isn't ocean plastic a global problem?
- How marine pollution is being caused in India?

GS paper 3 (Conservation)

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DAILY NEWS ANALYSIS

What is the context about?

- In a joint declaration during the Nordic Council 2019 in Iceland, the Nordic ministers for the environment, pushed for a new global agreement on the reduction and prevention of plastic waste and micro plastics discharged into the ocean across the globe.
Isn't ocean plastic a global problem?
 - An estimated 8 million tons of plastic is dumped into the oceans across the world every year.
 - In a recent meeting, they signed a declaration of 11 key commitment, which were sent to the European Union governing bodies, United Nations Environment Program, the G7 and G0.
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DAILY
NEWS
ANALYSIS

● The countries stressed that ocean plastic is a global problem and more concrete measures need to be implemented worldwide in order to make progress.

MARINE POLLUTION IN INDIA:

● India is blessed with a 7,500 km coastline, with over 1200 islands in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the country, endowed with a number of estuaries, coral lagoons and mangroves.

● However, rapid increase in pollution in coastal water is posing a grave danger to the two most important indicators of ocean health i.e., the dissolved oxygen (DO) and microbial concentration level.

DAILY
NEWS
ANALYSIS**How marine pollution is being caused in India?**

● Pollution in oceans can be attributed to untreated waste from industries and domestic sector leading to usage of enormous oxygen present in the oceans, thus affecting the marine life.

River intensifying the situation:

● Out of the ten rivers that drain over 90% of the total plastic debris into the sea globally, there are three flowing through India – the Indus, Ganga and Brahmaputra.

● While the Indus carries the second highest amount of mismanaged plastic debris to the sea, both Brahmaputra and Ganga together carry the sixth highest.

What are the types of marine pollution?



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Eutrophication:

- An excess of chemical nutrients (mainly nitrates and phosphates) in the water leads to eutrophication or nutrient pollution.
 - Eutrophication results in various problems such as decreases the level of oxygen, reduces the quality of water, makes the water inhabitable for marine animals, affects the breeding process within the marine life and increases the primary productivity of the marine ecosystem.
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Acidification:

- Oceans absorb the carbon dioxide from the Earth's atmosphere but, due to increasing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, the oceans are becoming acidic in nature, as a consequence, it leads to acidification of oceans.

Toxins:

- There are persistent toxins such as pesticides, DDT, PCBs, furans, TBT, radioactive waste, phenols, and dioxins that do not get dissolved or disintegrate with the marine ecosystem rapidly.
 - Toxins get accumulated in the tissue cells of the marine animals and lead to bioaccumulation, it hampers the life underwater and sometimes leads to a mutation in aquatic life forms..
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