



Tourists bring a wave of trash to beaches

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Tourists bring a wave of trash to beaches-Bulk of plastic litter is from tourism and fishing, and Gopalpur is the worst hit: study

- In addition to air and water pollution, India can now add one more category to its pollution worries: beach pollution.

Cause and Effect

- Tourism and fishing are the biggest culprits, contributing most of the plastic litter on beaches, according to a study by the National Centre of Coastal Research (NCCR).
- The NCCR conducted a qualitative analysis of the litter on six different beaches on the eastern and western coasts, found that plastic litter from tourism alone accounted for 40%-96% of all beach litter.
- Also, the proportion of biomedical litter was high in urban areas.

Areas of Analysis

- At Chennai's Elliot's Beach, Gopalpur in Odisha, Fort Kochi Beach, Karnataka's Karwar beach, Visakhapatnam's R.K. Beach, and Andaman Island's Rangachang beach the analysis was conducted.
- The study looked at tonnes of litter across these six beaches on September 15, 2018, the International Coastal Cleanup Day.

Action Plan

- India need a national marine litter policy to control and manage waste on land and prevent its entry into the marine environment.
- India needed to start blue-flagging its beaches.
- The 'blue flag' is a globally recognised eco-label awarded to beaches and marinas that adhere to strict environmental and safety norms.