

how new military technology sums up the global balance of power and its utility in the Pak-Afghan frontier region in the war against terrorism.

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# Plastic pollution: big threat to environment

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**P**lastic pollution has become a major threat to our environment in today's times and it is likely to make things worse in the times to come. Plastic pollution is the accumulation of plastic objects (e.g., plastic bottles, polythene carry bags, disposables and much more) in the Earth's environment that adversely affects wildlife and humans.

Plastics that act as pollutants are categorized into micro, meso, or macro debris, based on its size. Plastics are inexpensive and durable, and as a result levels of plastic production by humans are high. Plastic is one of the most widely used substances when it comes to production of containers, bags, furniture and various other things. This is because it is economical and can easily be moulded into different forms. However, the chemical structure of most plastics renders them resistant to many natural processes of degradation and as a result they are slow to degrade. Together, these two factors have led to a high amount of plastic pollution in the environment.

As of 2018, about 380 million tons of plastic are produced worldwide each year. From the 1950s up to 2018, an estimated 6.3 billion tons of plastic have been produced worldwide, of which an estimated 9% have been recycled and another 12% have been incinerated. This large amount of plastic waste enters the environment. Some researchers suggest that by 2050 there could be more plastic than fish in the oceans by weight.

Researchers say that plastic will contribute greenhouse gases in the equivalent of 850 million tons of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) to the atmosphere. In the current trend, annual emissions will grow to 1.34 billion tons by 2030. By 2050, plastic could emit 56 billion tons of greenhouse gas emissions, as much as 14% of the earth's remaining carbon budget. By 2100 it will emit 260 billion tons, more than half of the carbon budget. These are emissions from production, incineration, incineration, but there are also effects on phytoplankton.

The increasing use of plastic goods has increased the plastic waste which is a cause of plastic pollution. Plastic waste which is non-biodegradable, plastic does not get dis-

posed in soil or water. It remains in the environment for hundreds of years and adds to the land, water and air pollution.

Plastic bags and other items made from plastic break into tiny particles that make their way into the soil or enter the water bodies thereby contributing to plastic pollution. Plastic waste is entering the water bodies such as rivers, seas and even oceans and is polluting water severely. This water is then supplied at places. No matter how much filtering is done to clean this water, it can never get back to its pure form and thus has negative repercussions on people's health.

Large amount of plastic wastes is dumped in landfills. Wind carries plastic bags and other small plastic particles from one place to another thereby affecting major areas. Plastic particles release harmful chemicals that deposit in the soil and rain its quality. It impacts the growth of the plants. Besides, waste lying on the land breeds mosquitoes and other insects that are carriers of various serious illnesses.

It is time the government of various countries must take strict measures to fight plastic pollution. The government of many countries have put a ban on the use of plastic bags as they contribute to the maximum amount of plastic pollution. However, in some countries such as India, this ban has not been implemented well. The government of India has made some great steps to stop the use of plastic bags. This should involve putting a ban on the production of plastic bags as well as enforcing those found using these.

With the intention that the number of factories manufacturing plastic is increasing worldwide, the government must not allow the establishment of any new plastic manufacturing units in the nearby areas. It should also be kept in mind that the production of plastic should be kept under strict supervision. The most important to stop now is the plastic waste environment. This can be done by way of having an and radio advertisements, and boards and social media. This should help people understand the seriousness of the issue and how their contribution can make a difference. Plastic bags which are mostly used for grocery shopping can easily be replaced by reusable ones. Packaged drinking water comes in plastic bottles and glasses. These waste bottles and glasses can be

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