

INDIA-NORWAY MARINE POLLUTION INITIATIVE - ENVIRONMENT

NEWS: The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) is leading a study in Agra as part of the India-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative (INMPI) to tackle plastic pollution and enhance waste management practices.

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

India-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative (INMPI)

- The **INMPI** is a **bilateral initiative** jointly undertaken by **India and Norway** to tackle **marine pollution**, particularly the growing threat from **plastic waste** in oceans.
- The initiative is an important pillar under the **India-Norway Ocean Dialogue**, which



was established in **2019** to enhance maritime cooperation between the two nations.

Background and Institutional Framework

- In **January 2019**, both countries signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to **strengthen cooperation on ocean affairs**, including pollution control, sustainable marine economy, and ecosystem protection.
- Following this, in **February 2019**, a **Letter of Intent (LoI)** was signed between the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)** of India and the **Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, officially launching the **India-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative**.

Key Objectives of INMPI

1. Combating Marine Pollution

- Target the **reduction of marine pollutants**, especially **plastic debris, toxic chemicals, and microplastics**, which are degrading marine habitats and biodiversity.
- Address the **direct and indirect sources** of marine pollution, including riverine discharges and coastal waste mismanagement.

2. Promoting a Circular Economy Approach

- Encourage the transition towards a **circular economy**, focusing on **reuse, recycling, and recovery** of materials.
- Promote **sustainable waste management systems**, especially in urban coastal regions, to prevent waste from entering the marine ecosystem.

3. Sustainable Use of Ocean Resources

- Support initiatives to ensure the **long-term sustainability of marine resources**, balancing **economic growth** with **environmental protection**.
- Focus on **marine biodiversity conservation**, responsible fisheries, and **blue economy practices**.

Status of Global Plastic Pollution

- **Plastic Pollution** refers to the **accumulation of plastic products in the environment**, which leads to adverse effects on **wildlife, aquatic systems, and human health**.
- Plastic pollution includes:
 - **Single-use plastics** (e.g., bags, bottles, packaging)
 - **Microplastics** (tiny plastic particles that infiltrate food chains)
 - **Non-biodegradable polymers** that persist for centuries
- Since the **1950s**, the world has produced **over 8.3 billion tonnes of plastic**, of which **less than 10% has been recycled**.
- Each year, an estimated **11 million tonnes of plastic waste** enter the oceans, creating grave threats to **marine species, coral reefs, and ocean health**.

Plastic Pollution in India

- India generates approximately **3.5 million tonnes of plastic waste every year**, and this number continues to rise due to **urbanisation and consumerism**.

- Of this total waste, only about **30% is effectively recycled**, leaving a large volume that ends up in **landfills, water bodies, and the sea**.
- Major Indian cities like **Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru** are the highest contributors to plastic pollution due to high **population density** and **urban waste generation**.
- **Inadequate waste segregation**, low recycling infrastructure, and poor enforcement of **plastic use regulations** are key challenges faced by India.

Source: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/waste/indianorway-collaboration-to-check-aquatic-pollution-has-helped-agra-improve-waste-circularity>