




MOST IMPORTANT TOPICS

1. OIL SPILL  GS-3, GS-1, PRELIMS, INTERVIEW
2. E-CIGARETTES  GS-3, PRELIMS
3. SOUTHEAST ASIA OPIUM SURVEY 2023  GS-1, INTERVIEW, GS-3
4. INDIRA GANDHI PEACE PRIZE  PRELIMS, INTERVIEW

OIL SPILL



CONTEXT

- As per Indian Coast Guard, **Oil spill** originating from **Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd** refinery has spread across **20 square kilometres** into the sea.
- It has been over 10 days since the spill was reported, and its impact has affected hundreds of families whose **livelihoods** depend on the **coastal habitat, biodiversity** and aquatic life.



ABOUT

- An **oil spill** is the **release** of a **liquid petroleum hydrocarbon** into the **environment**, especially the **marine ecosystem**, due to human activity, and is a form of **pollution**.
- Oil spills can occur in various ways, such as **releases** of **crude oil** from tankers, offshore platforms, drilling rigs, and wells.

CAUSE OF OIL SPILL IN CHENNAI

- The **oil spill** in Chennai in December 2023 was caused by **inadequate stormwater management** at the Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL) premises, which led to **overflowing** of **oil mixed water** amid last week's **floods** triggered by **Cyclone Michaung**.

IMPACTS OF OIL SPILL

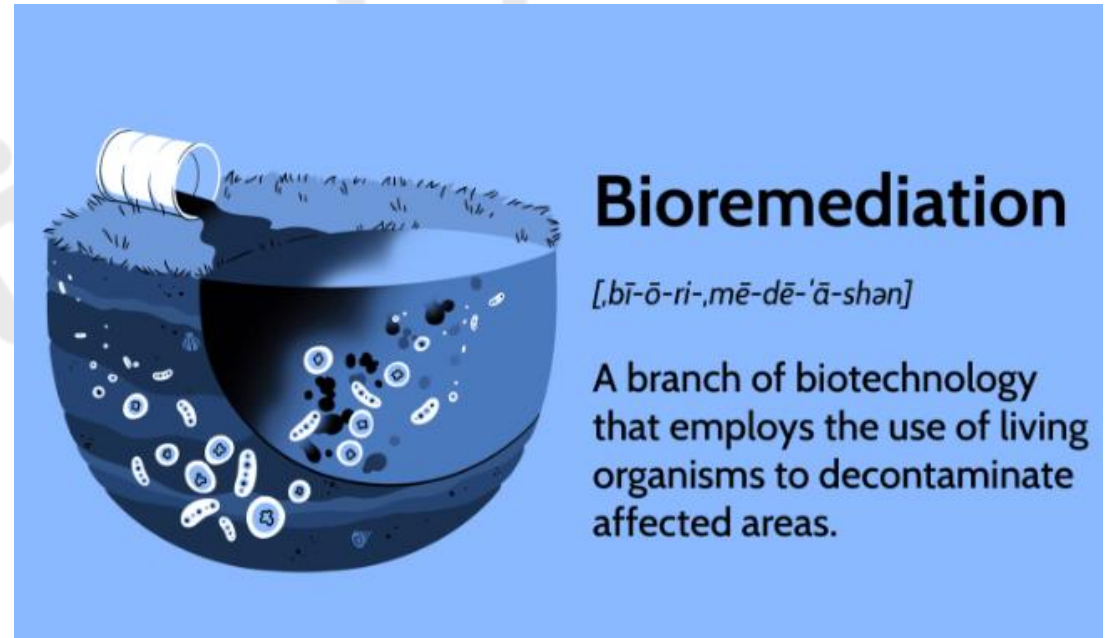
- It can cause **health problems** like **heart damage**, **immune system** effects, headache due to strong odour, skin irritation etc.
- Oil spills have significant **environmental** and **economic impacts** too. They can affect the level of **dissolved oxygen** in the **water** and harm many forms of **aquatic life**.

- It can obstruct **passage** of **sunlight** into sea, thereby destroying photosynthesising **phytoplankton**.

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REMEDIAL OPERATIONS

- **Bioremediation** is one of the most effective methods in addressing the **oil spill** and has a positive impact on the **environment**, as concluded by **National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT)**.



STEPS TAKEN FOR PREVENTING OIL SPILLS

➤ India

National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan by **Indian Coast Guard**.

Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 has provision of Prevention and Containment of Pollution of sea by oil.

➤ Global

International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) and **Prevention of Pollution of marine environment from Ships** (MARPOL).

India is party to **both conventions**.

- Multi-angle Imaging SpectroRadiometer (MISR) instrument on NASA's Terra spacecraft was used to measure changes in vegetation along the coastline to assess the impact of oil spills on swamps, bayous, and beaches.

E-CIGARETTES



CONTENT

- The **World Health Organization** (WHO) has called for urgent action to **protect children** and prevent the **uptake** of **e-cigarettes**.



Thursday, 14 December 2023

Urgent action needed to protect children and prevent the uptake of e-cigarettes

<https://www.who.int/news/item/14-12-2023-urgent-action-needed-to-protect-children-and-prevent-the-uptake-of-e-cigarettes/>

14 December 2023 - Urgent action is needed to control e-cigarettes to protect children, as well as non-smokers and minimize health harms to the population. E-cigarettes as consumer products are not shown to be effective for quitting tobacco use at the population level. Instead, alarming evidence has emerged on adverse population health effects.

ABOUT

- **E-cigarettes** or electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), are **tobacco products** that have been sold in the **USA** for about a decade.
- They are **battery-operated devices** that allow users to inhale an **aerosol** containing **nicotine** or other chemicals.

CONCERNING ISSUE

- **E-cigarettes** are the most commonly used **tobacco products** among kids and studies consistently show that **young people** who use e-cigarettes are almost three times more likely to start smoking cigarettes.

IMPACTS OF E-CIGARETTES

- E-cigarettes with nicotine are highly addictive.
- It can generate toxic substances that can cause cancer and increase the risk of heart and lung disorders.
- It can negatively affects fetal development and brain development.

RECOMMENDATIONS BY WHO

- The **WHO** has recommended that **countries** take urgent measures to prevent the uptake of **e-cigarettes** and **counter nicotine addiction**, including banning all flavors, limiting the concentration and quality of nicotine, and taxing e-cigarettes.

LEGISLATIONS IN INDIA REGARDING E-CIGARETTES

- In India, **e-cigarettes** were banned in **2019** under the **Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Act**, which came into force in September 2019.
- The ban **prohibits** the **production, manufacture, import, export**, transport, sale, distribution, storage, and advertisement of **e-cigarettes**.

- Despite these penalties, e-cigarettes are reported to be widely available across various sources, including tobacconists, general stores, and online providers.
- There is currently **no law** addressing the **use of e-cigarettes in indoor public places, workplaces, and public transport** in India, so the use of e-cigarettes is allowed in these areas

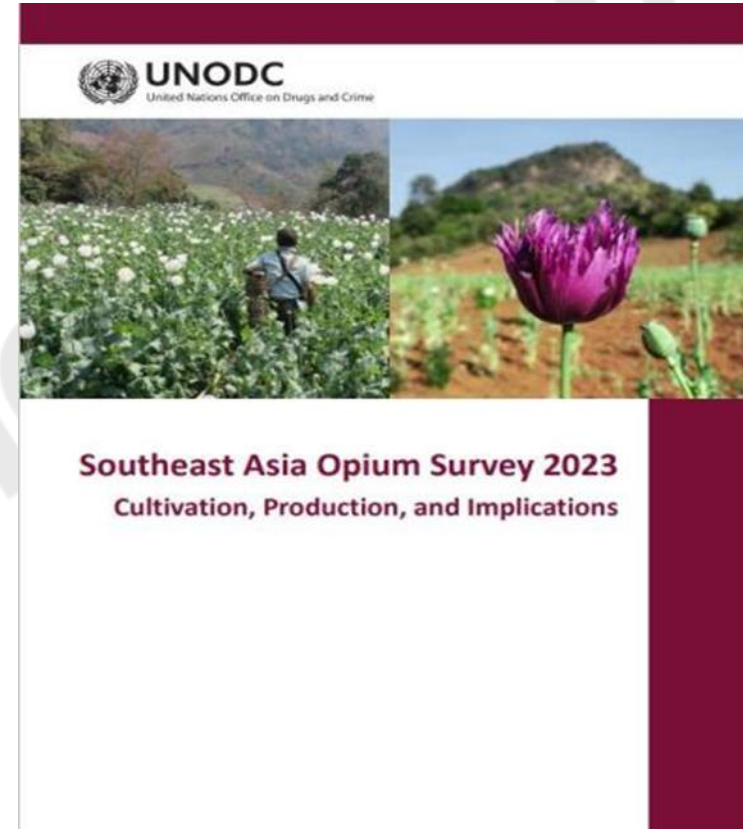
SOUTHEAST ASIA OPIUM SURVEY 2023



Southeast Asia Opium Survey 2023
Cultivation, Production, and Implications

CONTEXT

- The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) released a report “Southeast Asia Opium Survey 2023: Cultivation, Production and Implications”.



KEY FINDINGS

- **Myanmar** has become the top global producer of opium in 2023, overtaking **Afghanistan**.
- Afghanistan's opium production has sharply **declined** due to the Taliban's efforts to eliminate **illegal drug cultivation**.
- The rise in opium cultivation in Southeast Asia is linked to **poverty**, **poor government services**, **economic hardships**, and **regional instability**.

MYANMAR'S OPIUM PRODUCTION SURGE: CAUSES

- Its location in the **Golden Triangle**
- A lack of effective governance in border areas, where **ethnic minority militias**, some involved in the **drug trade**, operate with **relative autonomy**.
- **Economic difficulties**, including **limited market access**, poor state infrastructure, and **high inflation**, influencing farmers to cultivate more opium.

THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE

- This region encompasses areas within Myanmar, Laos, and Thailand.



THE GOLDEN CRESCENT

- This area covers parts of **Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan.**
- It stands as a major global center for the cultivation and distribution of opium.



IMPACTS ON INDIA

- **Crime Growth:** Enhanced drug trade fuels organized crime and violence.
- **Law Enforcement Stress:** Rising opium production strains law enforcement resources.
- **Health Risks:** Increased heroin production leads to higher addiction and disease risks.

- **Terrorist Funding:** Drug profits may finance terrorism, threatening national security.
- **Healthcare Strain:** Rising drug abuse overwhelms treatment facilities, impacting care.

UNODC

- The UNODC was established in **1997**.
- Its purpose is to assist the UN in addressing issues related to:
 - Illicit drug trafficking and abuse
 - Crime prevention and criminal justice
 - International terrorism
 - Political corruption
- The headquarters of the UNODC is in **Vienna, Austria**.

INDIRA GANDHI PEACE PRIZE



CONTEXT

➤ **Daniel Barenboim**, a renowned classical pianist, and **Ali Abu Awwad**, a prominent **peace activist** has been jointly awarded the **2023 Indira Gandhi Prize** for their efforts in fostering a **non-violent resolution** of the **Israel-Palestine conflict**.



IMPACT

- Their work emphasizes **the role of dialogue, culture, and people's participation** in resolving conflicts peacefully.
- They have been instrumental in bringing together youth from Israel, Palestine, and other Arab and North-African countries.

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