

The Coalition of Coastal Cities to Combat Marine Litter

April 21, 2023

In news— Delhi-based non-profit Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has launched a coalition of coastal cities to fight marine litter pollution across India.

Problem of marine litter-

- **About 80 per cent of marine litter comes from land-based mismanagement of solid waste** that reaches the ocean bed through various land-to-sea pathways.
- **The remaining 20 per cent is contributed by coastal settlements**, according to global research estimates.
- **Plastic accounts for 90 per cent of all the waste** that ends up in the marine ecosystem.
- Of the 460 million tonnes (MT) of global plastic production, nearly 353 MT comes back as plastic waste 8 MT (2.26 per cent) of which is leaked into the marine ecosystem, Narain pointed out.
- **The extent of the litter in South Asian seas is a matter of particular concern. Estimates indicates that about 15,434 tonnes of plastic waste is leaked into South Asian seas everyday**, accounting for a colossal 5.6 MT of plastic waste a year.
- **In India, the estimated extent of marine litter is about 0.98 metric tonnes of trash per km stretch of the coastline**, with a concentration of 0.012 kg per square metre.
- Tributaries of major Indian rivers carry around 15-20 per cent of plastic waste into the marine environment.
- One of the key challenges faced by the global marine ecosystem is abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear

(ALDFG).

- A large part of ALDFG is lost in deep seas, making it difficult to recover. India loses 15,276 tonnes of gillnets.

Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)-

- It is a public interest research and advocacy organisation based in New Delhi.
- CSE researches into, lobbies for and communicates the urgency of development that is both sustainable and equitable.
- Its efforts are specifically designed to create awareness about problems and propose sustainable solutions.
- Research at CSE often consists of in-depth learning about an environmental problem and then finding answers in accordance with CSE's core values.

CSE's efforts are built around five broad programmes:

1. Communication for Awareness.
2. Research and Advocacy.
3. Education and Training.
4. Knowledge Portal.
5. Pollution Monitoring