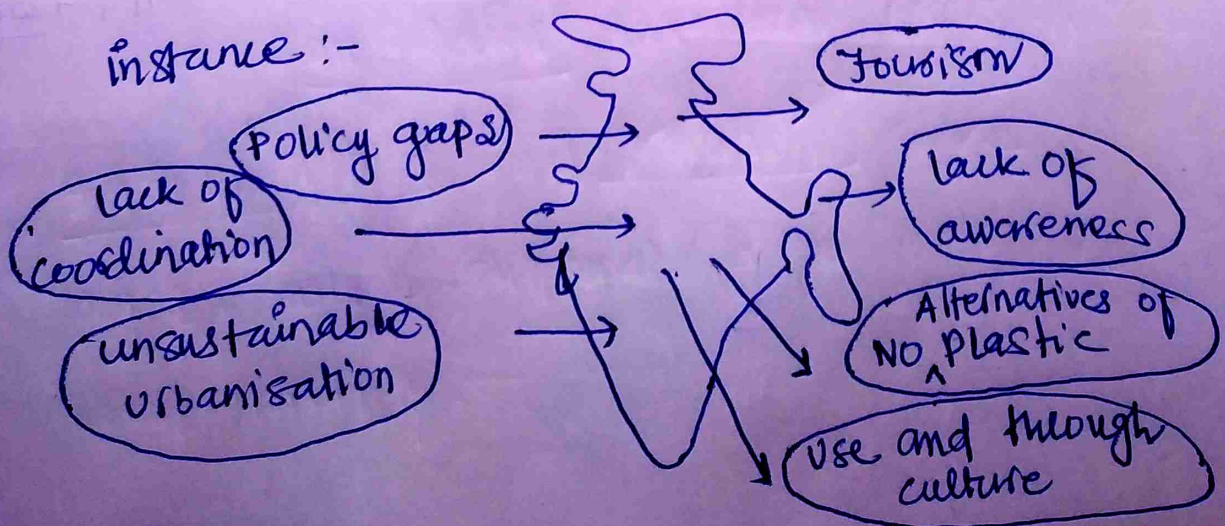


A recent publication of World Heritage Outlook by IUCN, raised concerns about rising pollution due to human intervention in western Ghats:

And according to a report by The Himalayan Region (THR) 90% of the collected travellers constitutes single use plastic like - water bottles, biscuit packs and cutka packs.

These plastic pollution in the form of micro plastic or macro plastic can pose an ecological threat to entire region, such as wild life extinction, diseases, toxic sewage etc.

Scientists highlighted several causes for the accumulation of plastic waste for instance:-



And to overcome plastic problem several initiatives have been taken such as

- (i) National mission for sustaining Himalayan ecosystem under National climate Action plan to maintain the Himalayan ecosystem.
- (ii) Plastic waste management Rules 2016, under EPA 1986, to implement Extended Producer Responsibility and fixing plastic thickness above 50 micron.
- (iii) Banning single use plastic in mission mode.

However, mountainous region need to be addressed specifically because of their uniqueness and challenges like

- sensitivity
- negligence
- primitive people (ST)
- Tough terrain

Way forward

- ① Niti Ayogs report on sustaining Himalayas suggested to develop
- ① 'Himalayan Authority' for better coordination between states and ratings

based upon solid waste management.

(ii) Eco-Tourism - Tourism satellite Account as suggested under sustainable tourism report to map states, based upon tourism revenue and fixing their responsibility.

→ Along with Alternatives like Jute Bags, local material and Awareness generation are needed.

(iii) Finance - It can be arranged from funds like Ecological fiscal transfer by Finance commission, campa fund or green climate facility, taxes.

(iv) Global cooperation - since mountains like Himalaya has multi-country reach, institutions like BIMSTEC or BBIN can be utilised for cooperation.

mountains have been part of Indian culture and tradition since ages, whose sustainability is everyone's responsibility.