



# Phytoremediation: Current Techniques and Futuristic Opportunities

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**Abstract:** Rapid industrialization, current agricultural practices, and other human activities increase the quantity of toxic heavy metals in the atmosphere, which has a significant negative influence on all forms of life, altering their properties. This type of heavy metal pollution is harmful to both the environment and human health. Heavy metal exposure causes nervous system diseases in children by being mutagenic, endocrine disruptive, carcinogenic, and teratogenic. Phytoremediation is also an appropriate approach for the cleanup of water and soil adulteration. Furthermore, it has become increasingly popular. Phytoremediation helps to repair polluted soil and water by extracting and stabilizing polluting heavy metals, a process known as phytoextraction. Phytoremediation has evolved as a practical and successful method for removing a wide spectrum of pollutants in situ in recent years. It is often recognized as a more ecologically friendly alternative to conventional environmental restoration techniques. Significant progress has been made in the remediation of environmental pollutants in recent years. Phytoremediation, despite a number of challenges, is a promising technique with considerable prospective uses. The entire utilization of by-products, as well as the overall economic viability of phytoremediation, will remain the most crucial criteria for global acceptance. The present review looks at the existing status of environmental pollution, as well as the toxicity profiles of crude oil and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), global heavy metal leaks, and remediation technologies and applications. It also highlights the recent scientific developments and also, revises plant-based remediation approaches for damaged terrestrial and aquatic environments.

**Keywords:** PAHs, Heavy metals, Phytoremediation, Microorganisms, Nano-bioremediation

Environmental contaminants are a global problem that impacts both animal and human health. Phytoremediation is a novel approach for detoxifying the environment of hazardous contaminants, and it might be a low-cost, long-term solution for developing countries to improve their economies. It is the technique of reducing the amount of pollutants in the environment or their harmful effects by employing plants and associated soil microbes. Phytoremediation is well-known as a cost-effective environmental restoration method that is a potential alternative to soil-damaging engineering processes (Greipsson 2011). Phytoremediation is frequently employed because of its cost-effectiveness, environmental friendliness, and long-term viability (Emenike et al 2018, Li et al 2020b, Wu et al 2021). Phytoremediation, a green technology, is a method of regulating and conserving the soil medium from heavy metal contamination by using hyperaccumulator plant species (Saxena et al 2020). Plants and microorganisms are used in phytoremediation to remove contaminants from the soil through enzymatic reactions (Greipsson 2011). To clean polluted soils, phytoremediation

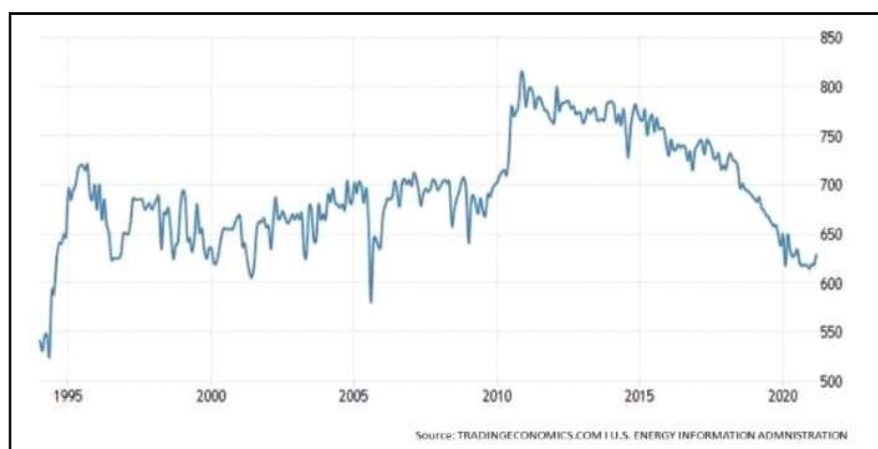
is frequently employed in waste, agricultural, and industry regions (Urionabarrenetxea et al 2021). The primary goal of phytoremediation is to prevent contaminants from migrating into ecosystems (Wang et al 2020). This ecologically friendly and cost-effective technology works well and has a high tolerance for organic and inorganic contaminants. To increase the effectiveness of collecting and eliminating contaminants from contaminated soil, high biomass species such as herbaceous field crops are utilized (Bhardwaj et al 2014). The economic benefits of phytoremediation, such as biomass production and bioenergy generation, can help to boost the national economy. Plants with a high biomass are typically utilized to make wood and paper (Licht 2005). Human health has become more sensitive to hazardous metals as a result of anthropogenic and occupational activities such as industrial operations, current agricultural methods, untreated chemical waste, and municipal waste management (Rai 2019, Shazia Parveen 2021).

**Oil (crude) spills and hydrocarbon contagion:** One of the prime elements, causing long-term antagonistic effects on marine and terrestrial lives are oil spills (Mulani et al 2017).

Oceans carry most of the worldwide oil production henceforth, coastal and marine environs are exposed to accidental oil spills (McGenity et al 2012, US EIA 2014). Hydrocarbon segment has been experiencing radical changes worldwide leading to increased industrial activities (Mandal et al 2011). From 1994 to 2021, India's crude oil output averaged 693.53 BBL/D/1K, with a high of 813 BBL/D/1K in 2010 and a low of 526 BBL/D/1K in 1994. The country produced 613.21 BBL/D/1K crude oil in 2021 (Trading Economics 2021). The main hydrocarbon components of crude oil include saturates, aromatics, resins, and asphaltenes. Saturates are categorized into alkanes (paraffin's) and cycloalkanes (naphthenes) on account of their chemical structures (Margesin and Schinner 2001). The presence of one or more aromatic rings distinguishes aromatic fractions. Because of their persistence, mutagenicity, and toxicity, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons are a major source of concern (Ovalles et al 2012). Polar

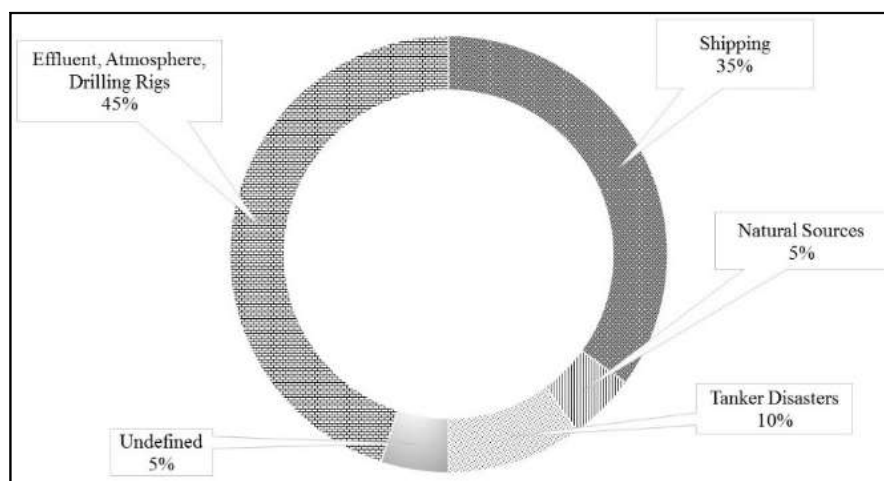
compounds make up resins and asphaltenes. Asphaltenes and resins are expected to make up about 10% of the crude oil content (Gaspar et al 2012).

**Oil contamination: sources and magnitudes:** Natural disasters, oil seepages, incidents with vessels, either collisions or groundings, or from offshore oil platforms, either through human error or due to technical and mechanical faults in oil exploration activities/storage, account for a significant portion of the oil that enters the marine waterways (McKew et al 2007, Mei and Yin 2009, Sheppard et al 2013). Greater threats have been impersonated by marine oil spills, causing widespread damage to the marine coastal environments (Venosa and Zhu 2005). Oil spills will always be a possibility, even of the most advanced technologies in offshore drilling and vessel navigational equipment, necessitating the development of a treatment technique (LaMontagne et al 2004). Prime route-causes of oil spill incidents are given in Figure 2.



Source: www.tradingeconomics; US energy information administration

Fig. 1. Crude oil production in India



Source: World ocean review maribus

Fig. 2. Major route-causes of the oil spill incidents

**Prime oil spill occurrences:** Inland oil spills have garnered less attention than sea oil spills. Freshwater spills, on the other hand, are fairly prevalent (Fingerman and Nagabhushanam 2005).

**Global status:** Oil spills have taken place all over the world and even in India (Table 1). During the Gulf War in 1991, the largest oil spill happened in Kuwait ([www.cleanerseas.com](http://www.cleanerseas.com)). The 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil leak is known as the world's greatest unintentional disaster ([en.wikipedia.org](http://en.wikipedia.org)).

**National status:** In India, there have been around 70 oil spills near the coast (IMO, 2011). The largest oil leak in India was reported in 2017, with an estimated 800 tonnes of oil spilled. Paradip Port incident, 2009 is another occurrence that has been reported (Bhambi 2013).

**Indian hydrocarbon impurity menace:** Developing countries, such as India, should be prepared to deal with oil spills in the future (Bhambi 2013). The National Oil Leak Disaster Contingency Plan was first created in India in 1996 (and updated in 2002) with the goal of preventing oil spill disasters in India's Maritime Zones (Fig. 3). The Indian refining industry has done a fantastic job of establishing itself as a worldwide agency (Indian-petroleum-refining-industry). Indian ports and refineries (Table 2 & 3) are a major shipping corridor of India

**Curative measures:** Catastrophic oil spills and environmental warning have increased public recognition of storage and transportation risks. Therefore, effective therapies to deal with this problem are obligatory ([environmentalpollutioncenters.org](http://environmentalpollutioncenters.org)).

**Remediation methods: conventional:** Traditional remediation methods contain physical removal of

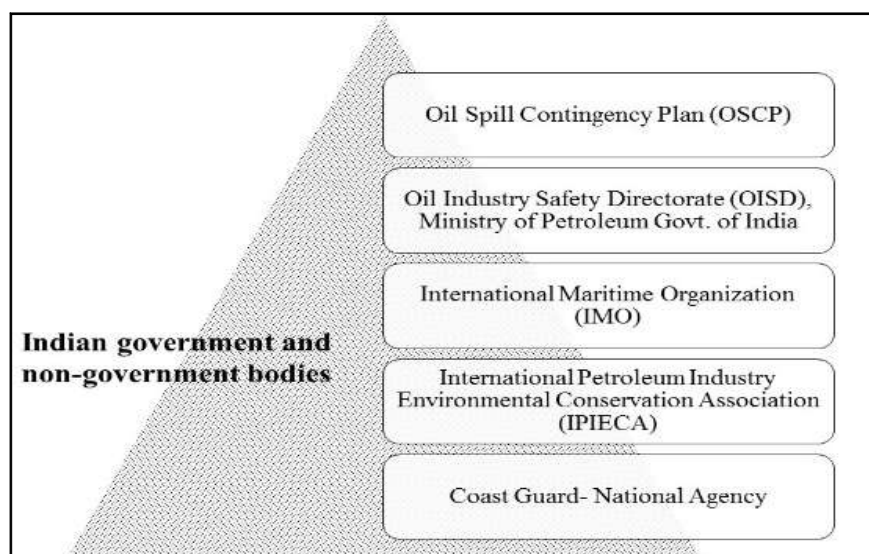
adulterated materials (Table 4). These procedures use chemicals, mainly shoreline cleaners, usually organic solvents with or without surface-active agents ([worldwidescience.org](http://worldwidescience.org)).

**Physical methods:** Physical confinement and mass or free oil recovery is the preferred response option for cleaning up oil spills in freshwater and marinecoastal environments (Fig. 4).

**Chemical methods:** Due to differences in their effectiveness and concerns about their long-term toxicity and environmental impact, chemical methods have not yet been widely used (Fig. 5).

**Biological methods:** Bioremediation is considered an effectual and environment-friendly treatment strategy for polluted shorelines (Nikolopoulou et al 2013). It is cost-effective, has fewer disturbances on site and is more environments friendly (Oh et al 2000). There are 4 different methods for bioremediation (Fig. 6). The demonstration of different limiting factors of bioremediation is being shown in Fig. 7.

**Bioremediation: Available products:** Most of the methods are currently used to clean up a large number of oil spills including biological agents. There are several companies and research institutions all over the world dedicated to the development of new technologies (Fig. 8). These organizations/companies have created and offer a variety of microbial bioremediation products for agricultural, industry, commercial, aquatic pond management, and home use, as shown in Table 5. In India, the Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI) has developed an indigenous bacterium and obtained a consortium of patents, known as Oilzapper.



**Fig. 3.** Indian government and non-government bodies engaged in the monitoring and handling the oil spill disasters

**Table 1.** Major oil spill incidents in India and the world in chronological order

| Spill/Vessel  | Location  | Date of incident | Maximum spilled (in tons) | Route of spill                                     |
|---|---|------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Emerald   | Israel, Mediterranean shoreline                               | 11.02.21         | Unknown                   | Via an attack on an Iranian tanker that went awry, |
| Chevron Richeavy metalond Refinery                              | United States, California, Richeavy metalond                  | 09.02.21         | 1.9                       | Pipeline leak                                      |
| El Palito Refinery  | Venezuela, Golfo Triste                                       | 08.08.20         | 2,700                     | Pipeline leak                                      |
| 2020 Colonial Pipeline gasoline spill                           | United States, North Carolina, Huntersville                   | 08.08.20         | 38,000                    | Pipeline leak                                      |
| 2020 Pointe D'Esny MV Wakashio oil spill                        | Mauritius, Ile Aux Aigrettes and Mahebourg                    | 25.07.20         | 4,300                     | Leakage  |
| Trans-mountain oil spill  | Canada, British Columbia, Abbotsford                          | 14.06.20         | 184.87                    | Leakage  |
| Diesel (Norilsk ) fuel spill                                    | Russia, Norilsk, Krasnoyarsk Krai                             | 29.05.20         | 17,500                    | Leakage  |
| Pumping of sludge from a vessel by Tanker truck                 | New Zealand, Tauranga, Bay of Plenty                          | 30.03.20         | 1.7                       | Accident   |
| T.G. Williams Well No. 1 tank battery                           | United States, Texas, Oakland Creek, Longview                 | 30.03.20         | Unknown                   | Leakage  |
| Greka Energy oil facility                                       | United States, California, Santa Maria                        | 30.03.20         | Unknown                   | Leakage  |
| True Oil pipeline   | United States, North Dakota, Red Wing Creek                   | 27.03.20         | Unknown                   | Pipeline leakage                                   |
| Tanker truck rollover   | United States, California, Santa Maria, Cuyama River          | 21.03.20         | 19.5                      | Break in a pipeline                                |
| Keystone Pipeline 2019 spill                                    | United States, North Dakota, Walsh County, North Dakota       | 29.10.19         | 1,240                     | Leak caused by collision of tankers                |
| Willowton Oil   | South Africa, KwaZulu-Natal, near Pietermaritzburg and Durban | 08.08.19         | Unknown                   | Pipeline leakage                                   |
| Brazil (North East) oil spill (suspected source: NM Bouboulina) | Brazil, 733 km from Paraiba                                   | 29.07.19         | Unknown                   | Pipeline leakage                                   |
| Guarello Island iron ore export terminal diesel spill           | Chile, Guarello Island, Magallanes Region                     | 27.07.19         | 35.4                      | Pipeline leakage                                   |
| MV <i>Chrysanthi</i> S bunkering spill at sea                   | South Africa, Algoa Bay, Port of Ngqura                       | 06.07.19         | 0.4                       | Pipeline leakage                                   |
| MV <i>Solomon Trader</i> fuel oil spill                         | Solomon Islands, Rennell Island                               | 05.02.19         | 80                        | Pipeline leakage                                   |
| SeaRose FPSO production ship spill                              | Canada, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador                 | 16.11.18         | 219                       | Break in a pipeline                                |
| <i>Ulysse-Virginia</i> collision                                | North of Corsica (international waters)                       | 10.10.18         |                           | Pipeline leakage                                   |
| Port Erin diesel spill (source unknown)                         | Isle of Man   | 23.07.18         | Unknown                   | Pipeline break                                     |
| Doon, Iowa derailment   | United States, Lyon County, Iowa                              | 22.06.18         | 520                       | Break in a pipeline                                |
| Sanchi oil tanker collision with CF Crystal                     | East China Sea  | 06.01.18         | 138,000                   | Tanker Collision                                   |
| Keystone Pipeline 2017 spill                                    | United States, Marshall County, South Dakota                  | 16.11.17         | 1,322                     | Pipeline break                                     |
| Delta House floating production platform spill                  | United States, Gulf of Mexico, near Louisiana                 | 11,12.10.17      | 1,280                     | Pipeline break                                     |
| <i>Agia Zoni II</i>   | Greece, Saronic Gulf, Salamis                                 | 10.09.17         | 2,500                     | Pipeline break                                     |
| East River insulating oil spill                                 | United States, New York                                       | 07.05.17         | 101                       | Pipeline break                                     |
| Energy Transfer Partners Dakota Access Pipeline Leak            | United States, North Dakota                                   | 04.04.17         | 0.27                      | Pipeline break                                     |
| Ennore oil spill  | India, Chennai, Ennore Port, India                            | 28.01.17         | 251                       | Collision of Petroleum tanker                      |

Cont...

**Table 1.** Major oil spill incidents in India and the world in chronological order

| Spill/Vessel                   | Location                     | Date of incident | Maximum spilled (in tons) | Route of spill                                    |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Belle Fourche                  | US, North Dakota             | 05.12.16         | 571                       | Pipeline leak                                     |
| Fox Creek                      | Canada, Alberta              | 06.10.16         | 240                       | Pipeline leak                                     |
| BP Clair                       | UK, Shetland, Clair platform | 02.10.16         | 105                       | Leakage   |
| Colonial Pipeline Leak         | US, Alabama                  | 12.09.16         | 1092                      | Pipeline Leak                                     |
| North Battleford               | Canada, North Battleford     | 21.07.16         | 210                       | Pipeline spills                                   |
| ConocoPhillips                 | Canada, Alberta              | 09.06.16         | 323                       | Pipeline leak                                     |
| Union Pacific oil              | US, Oregon, Mosier           | 03.06.16         | 152                       | Train fire  |
| Shell Gulf of Mexico oil spill | US, Louisiana                | 12.05.16         | 316                       | Released from the pipeline                        |
| Refugio oil spills             | US, California               | 19.05.15         | 330                       | Pipeline broke                                    |
| Yellowstone River oil spill    | US, Montana, near Glendive   | 17.01.15         | 160                       | Break in a pipeline                               |
| OT Southern Star, 7            | Bangladesh, Sundarbans       | 09.12.14         | 300                       | Leak caused by collision of tankers               |
| Trans-Israel                   | Israel, Eilat                | 06.12.14         | 4,300                     | Pipeline  |
| Mid-Valley                     | US, Louisiana                | 13.10.14         | 546                       | Pipeline  |
| North Dakota                   | US, North Dakota, Hiland     | 21.03.14         | 110                       | Pipeline spills                                   |
| North Dakota                   | US, North Dakota, Casselton  | 30.12.13         | 1300                      | Train collision                                   |
| North Dakota                   | US, North Dakota, Tioga      | 25.08.13         | 2810                      | Pipeline spills                                   |
| Rayong oil spills              | Thailand, Rayong             | 27.07.13         | 163                       | The oil leak (from a pipeline)                    |
| Napocor Powe Barge 103         | Philippines                  | 08.11.13         | 520                       | Typhoon Haiyan (Cyclone)                          |
| Guarapiche River               | Venezuela, Maturin, Monagas  | 04.02.12         | 41,000                    | Pipeline leakage                                  |
| Nigeria, Bonga Field           | Nigeria                      | 21.12.11         | 5,500                     | Tanker accident                                   |
| <i>TK Bremen</i>               | France, Brittany             | 16.12.11         | 220                       | High winds have beached a cargo ship              |
| Campos Basin                   | Brazil, Campos Basin,        | 07.11.11         | 400                       | Shipping activity                                 |
| <i>Rena</i> oil spills         | New Zealand, Tauranga        | 05.10.11         | 350                       | Grounding of MV <i>Rena</i> on the Astrolabe Reef |
| North Sea oil                  | UK North Sea                 | 10.08.11         | 216                       | Accidents   |
| Bohai Bay oil spill            | China, Bohai Bay             | 04.06.11         | 204                       | Sea Floor Leak                                    |
| Little Buffalo oil spills      | Canada, Alberta              | 29.04.11         | 3800                      | Damage in the rainbow pipeline system             |
| Mumbai-spill                   | India, Mumbai, Arabian Sea   | 21.01.11         | 55                        | Pipeline urban spill                              |
| Mumbai oil spill /             | India, Mumbai, Arabian Sea   | 09.08.10         | 800                       | Collision between Ships                           |
| Xingang Port oil spill         | China, Yellow Sea            | 16.07.10         | 90,000                    | Explosion of two crude oil pipelines              |
| Deepwater Horizon              | The US, Gulf of Mexico       | 20.04.10         | 6,27,000                  | Drilling  |
| Port Arthur oil spills         | US Port Arthur, Texas        | 23.02.10         | 1500                      | Oil tanker accidents                              |

**Source:** List of oil spills, 2021

Many traditional cleaning processes only clean up a portion of an oil spill, whereas current mechanical technologies generally recover more than 10-15% of the oil after a spill. Chemical solutions are more expedient, but they affect the biota in the leaky environment. Due to the

widespread use of petroleum hydrocarbons in factories, these production processes have caused a lot of pollution. Bioremediation has become one of the most promising alternative therapy, but little is known and practiced. In short, these same factors need to be emphasized and corrected.

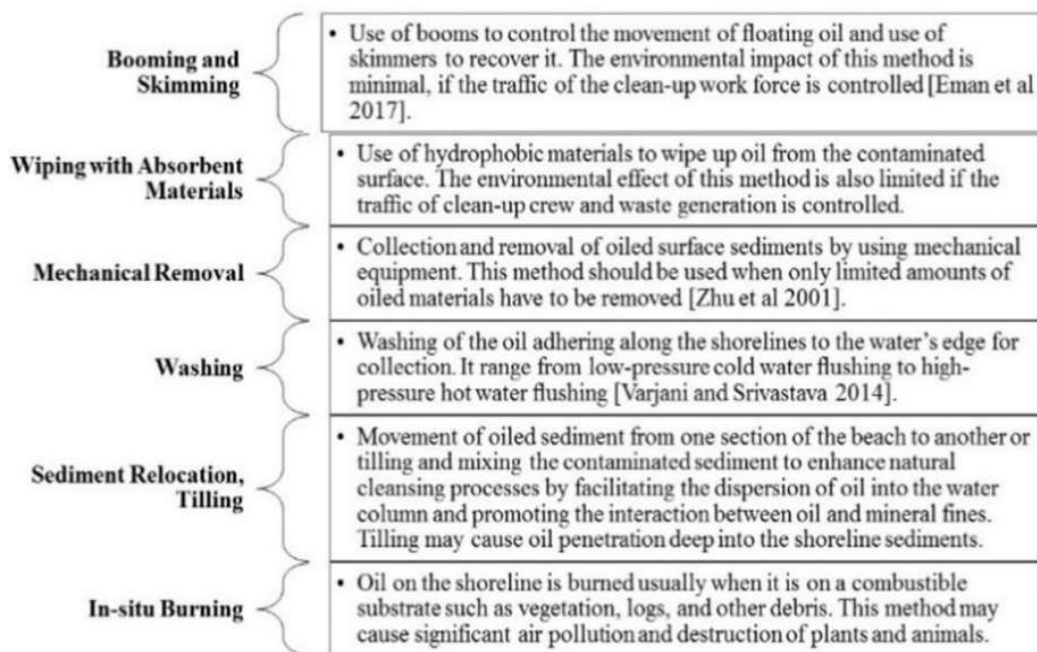


Fig. 4. Commonly used physical methods

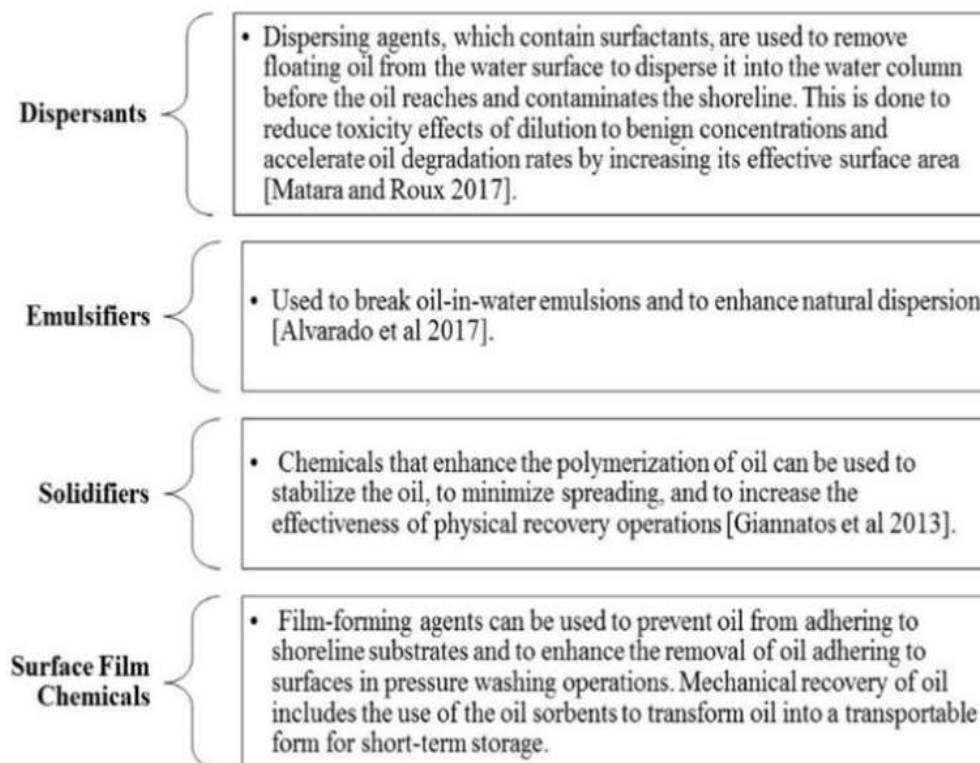


Fig. 5. Commonly used chemical methods

**Scope of diverse corrective methods:** Compared with physical and chemical methods, phytoremediation or bioremediation provides a very practical alternative method for dealing with oil spills. The current idea of developing phytoremediation tools is to evolve a biotechnological tool to effectively manage contaminants, contaminated water, and soil. Phytoremediation applications that achieve commercial utility includes, plant extraction, plant transformation, plant volatilization, plant stimulation, and plant stabilization.

**Mechanistic insights of phytoremediation:** Fast-growing grass species are proposed as an efficient strategy for phytoremediation of PAHs in polluted soils. Trees with broad

**Table 2.** Oil ports transmission in India

| Port name               | State/ territory |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Visakhapatnam Oil Port  | Andhra Pradesh   |
| Bharuch Oil Port        | Gujarat          |
| Jamnagar Oil Port       | Gujarat          |
| Kandla Oil Port         | Gujarat          |
| Uran Oil Jetty          | Gujarat          |
| Mangalore Oil Port      | Karnataka        |
| Kochi Oil Port          | Kerala           |
| Mumbai Oil Port         | Maharashtra      |
| Mumbai Oil Port II      | Maharashtra      |
| Chidambaranar Oil Jetty | Tamil Nadu       |
| Manali Chennai Oil Port | Tamil Nadu       |

Source: Global Energy Observatory, US

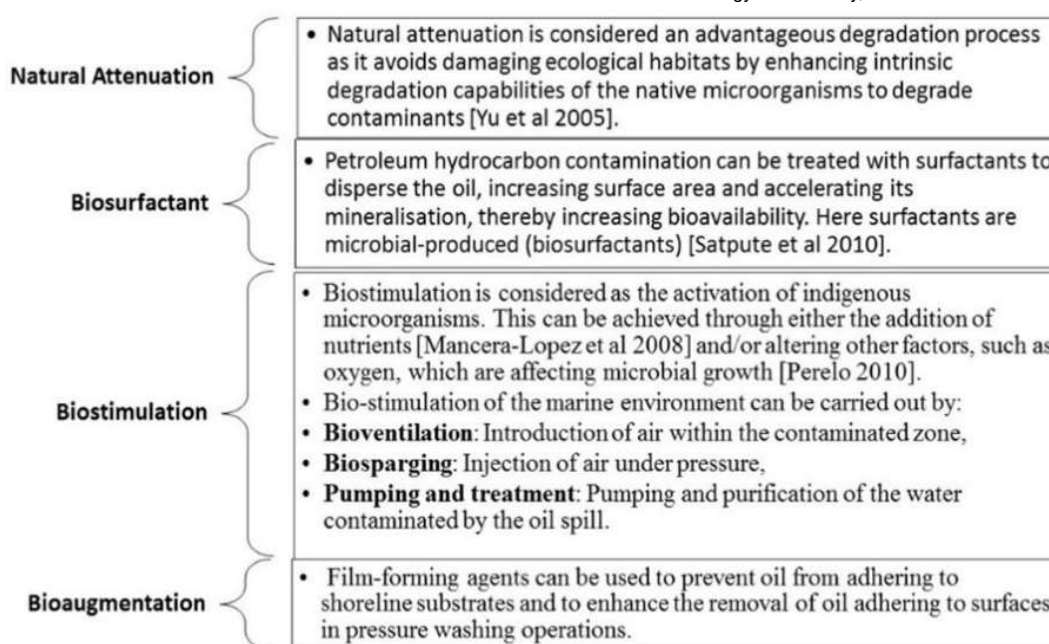


Fig. 6. Commonly used biological methods

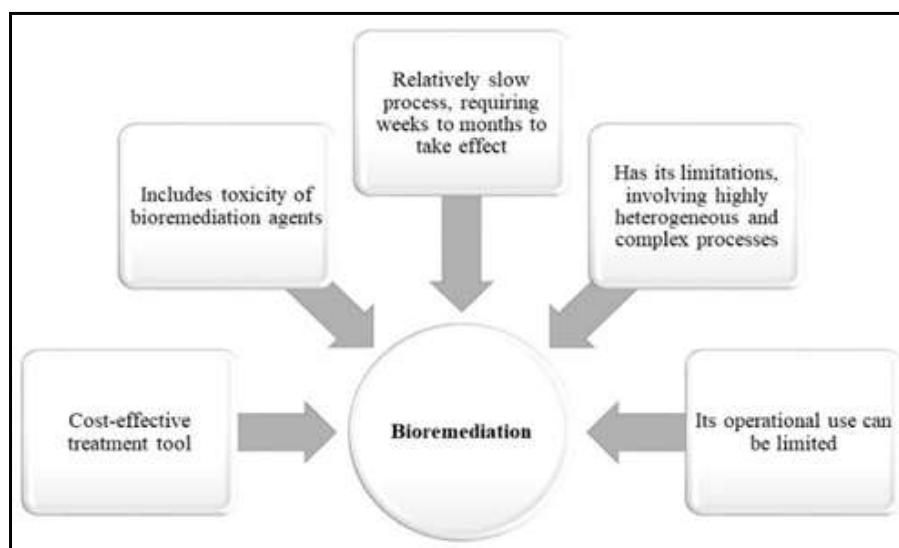


Fig. 7. Limitation factors of bio-remediation

**Table 3.** Indian oil refineries

| Refinery                                      | Oil company                                      | State          | Location       |
|---|--|----------------|----------------|
| Barauni Refinery                              | Indian Oil Corporation Limited                   | Bihar          | Barauni        |
| Gujarat Refinery                              | -do-   | Gujarat        | Koyali         |
| Haldia Refinery                               | -do-   | West Bengal    | Haldia         |
| Mathura Refinery                              | -do-   | Uttar Pradesh  | Mathura        |
| Panipat Refinery                              | -do-   | Haryana        | Panipat        |
| Digboi Refinery                               | -do-   | Assam          | Digboi         |
| Bongaigaon Refinery                           | -do-   | Assam          | Bongaigaon     |
| Guwahati Refinery                             | -do-   | Assam          | Guwahati       |
| Paradip Refinery                              | -do-   | Odisha         | Paradip        |
| HPCL  | Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited          | Maharashtra    | Mumbai         |
| Visakhapatnam Refinery                        | -do-   | Andhra Pradesh | Visakhapatnam  |
| Heavy Metalel                                 | HPCL-Mittal Energy Limited                       | Punjab         | Bathinda       |
| Mumbai Refinery Mahaul                        | Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited             | Maharashtra    | Mumbai         |
| Kochi Refineries                              | -do-   | Kerala         | Kochi          |
| Bina Refinery                                 | Bharat Oman Refineries Limited                   | Madhya Pradesh | Bina           |
| CPCL  | Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited            | Tamil Nadu     | Chennai        |
| Nagapattnam Refinery                          | -do-   | Tamil Nadu     | Nagapattinam   |
| Numaligarh Refinery                           | Bharat Petroleum, Oil India and Govt. of Assam   | Assam          | Numaligarh     |
| Tatipaka Refinery                             | Oil & Natural Gas Corporation                    | Andhra Pradesh | Tatipaka       |
| Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited | ONGC-Mangalore Refineries and Petrochemicals Ltd | Karnataka      | Mangalore      |
| Jamnagar Refinery                             | Reliance Industries Ltd                          | Gujarat        | Jamnagar (DTA) |
| Jamnagar Refinery                             | Reliance Industries Ltd                          | Gujarat        | Jamnagar (SEZ) |
| Essar Refinery                                | Essar Oil Ltd                                    | Gujarat        | Vadinar        |

**Table 4.** Conventional shoreline clean-up options (US, EPA guidelines, 2001)

| Response option categories | Technology examples   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Natural method             | Natural attenuation   |
| Physical method            | Washing, Sediment relocation/Surf-washing, Tilling, Booming, Skimming, Manual removal (Wiping), Mechanical removal, Washing, Sediment relocation/Surf-washing In-situ burning |
| Chemical method            | Surface film chemicals, dispersants, demulsifiers, solidifiers  |

**Table 5.** Available bioremediation products in the market and their application and limitations

| Commercial name of the technologies  | Company                              | Application   | Limitations  |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| Micro clean-One TM                   | Alpha BioSystems, USA                | Biological Hydrocarbon Degreaser                                  | A clean-up level of 600 ppm was achieved just took a week  |
| BioWorld Hydrocarbon Treatment (BHT) | BioWorld Products Inc., USA          | Bioremediation Enhancer   | The product reported as Hazardous  |
| Industrial Class Microbial Blends    | Alabaster Corp., USA                 | Specifically designed for bioremediation of oil spill waste.      | Time durability for bioremediation is 2-6 months.  |
| BP Marine Enercare TM                | BP Oil International Ltd., UK        | Microbiological degradation arises from the contamination of oils | Time durability  |
| UltraMicrobes Facts                  | Oil spill Contaminant Solutions, USA | Oil spill and industrial application                              | Time durability  |
| Petro Clean™                         | Alabaster Corporation, Texas         | Hydrocarbon or fuel spill   | Time durability  |
| Bactus 303HC                         | Sanzyme Ltd. (Unisankyo Ltd)         | Hydrocarbons, Oily Sludge Bioremediation                          | Time durability  |
| SDS-043                              | Halliburton, U.S.A.                  | Degradation of Drilling Fluids                                    | Certain complex hydrocarbon products such as PAHs and heavy tars are not easily removed by biodegradation. |



root systems and high transpiration rates, such as Poplar (*Populus* spp.) and Willow (*Salix* spp.), are good for phytoremediation. Plants immobilise, store, volatilize, and convert these chemicals to varying degrees, depending on the compound, ambient circumstances, and plant genotype. Plants utilize phytoextraction, phytodegradation, phytostabilization, phytovolatilization, and rhizodegradation to assist remediation, as illustrated in Table 6.

**Myco-phytoremediation:** Fungal phytoremediation, also known as myco-remediation, is a type of bioremediation in which fungus use their degradative ability to remove or neutralize hazardous pollutants in soil and water. However, for hydrophobic organic pollutants, the water phase functions

as a nutrition transporter (Kumar et al 2019).

**Fungal phytoremediation: A mechanistic approach:** Fungal phytoremediation processes could be engineered as sequestration and avoidance mechanisms. Biosorption, precipitation, uptake or efflux, and sequestration, all of which reduce metal toxicity, including the formation of compounds for intracellular chelation and further dilution in plant tissues due to plant growth, exclusion from uptake through precipitation, and chelation in the rhizosphere (Danesh et al 2013). Fungal phytoremediation is influenced by plant and fungus species, the strength of their linkages, plant-soil interaction, soil physical and chemical properties, and biophysical features



**Fig. 8.** Worldwide companies and research institutes engaged in developing new technologies

**Table 6.** Phyto-technology mechanisms and significance

| Phytotechnology     | Levels      | Mechanism   | Plant  | Pollutants   |
|---------------------|-------------|---|--|--|
| Phytoextraction     | Whole plant | Hyperaccumulation in plant  | <i>Helianthus annuus</i> and <i>Brassica juncea</i>    | Organic pollutants and metals) Cd, Cr, Co, Pb, Hg, Ni, Ag, Zn) and radionuclides |
| Phytodegradation    | Whole plant | Breakdown and eradication of contaminants   | Algae, poplars, and stonewort                          | Chlorinated solvents, petroleum  |
| Phytovolatilization | Shoot       | Volatilization of contaminants in modified from by leaves through transpiration process | Poplars, alfalfa, and <i>Brassica juncea</i>           | Chlorinated solvents, metals (Se, Hg, and As)                                    |
| Phytostabilization  | Root        | Sorption of contaminants  | Grasses, <i>Brassica juncea</i> , and poplars          | Inorganica (Cd, Cu, Cr, Pb)  |
| Rhizodegradation    | Root        | Decomposition of contaminants by presence of microbes in rhizosphere                    | <i>Agropyron smithii</i> and <i>Bouteloua gracilis</i> | Chlorinated solvents, petroleum products   |

**Source:** Srivastav et al 2019

### Phytoremediation: Role of medicinal and aromatic plants:

Aromatic plants are devoid of the possibility of heavy metal buildup from plant biomass, preventing heavy metals from entering food. Because of its application in soaps, detergents, insect repellents, cosmetics, perfumes, and food processing, essential oil export, like phytoremediation, is a major economic concern (Gupta et al 2013).

### CONCLUSION

For the eco-restoration of contaminated sites, phytoremediation is an emerging eco-sustainable and clean-green approach. Because of its low cost and solar-powered nature, it offers tremendous potential for application in underdeveloped countries. To minimize environmental pollution, toxicity reduction, and for enhancing phytoremediation efficiency, the employability of cheap, eco-friendly, non-toxic, and degradable organic soil amendments is suggested. Although genetic engineering of metal-accumulating plants and associated microbes with desired characteristics could be a highly useful technology for improved phytoremediation, the risks connected with field use must also be considered. Linking energy crops with phytoremediation could be a cost-effective way to increase biofuel/energy production and metal recovery while also providing other eco-environmental benefits; however, quality testing of biofuels produced is strongly recommended. To improve economic returns, it is advised that novel and existing technologies for the post-treatment of contaminated materials be researched and reevaluated. Detailed and long-term field studies are needed in order to document time and cost data for framing recommendations and persuade regulators, decision-makers, and the general public of phytoremediation's low-cost applicability. The use of nanoparticles for environmental applications is fast growing, and their reactivity is substantially boosted for chemical or biologically induced interactions. The efficiency of phytoremediation can also be boosted by using genetically modified plants. Combining phytoremediation and electro-kinetic remediation could be a great way to improve metal mobility in polluted soil and thus enable plant uptake and phytoremediation.

### AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

AB: Conceptualization, funding acquisition, resources; NRD: Supervision, investigation, visualization, validation, writing – review & editing; NS: Data curation, visualization, formal analysis, writing and review – original draft; JS: Data curation, visualization, formal analysis, writing and review – original draft; SM: Data curation, visualization, formal analysis, writing and review – original draft; VA: Project administration, supervision, reviewing and editing.

### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that they have no competing interests in the work they have submitted.

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