

NEWS TODAY

GLOBAL NITROUS OXIDE (N₂O) BUDGET RELEASED BY GLOBAL CARBON PROJECT (GCP)

• **GCP, jointly with the International Nitrogen Initiative (INI), have created a new activity** and international consortium of scientists to establish and improve global N₂O budget, trends and variability.

➢ N₂O is a **long-lived greenhouse gas (GHG) and an ozone-depleting substance**, with an atmospheric lifetime of 116±9 years.

➢ It is the **third most important GHG**, leading human-driven climate change, after carbon dioxide and methane.

Key highlights

• N₂O is **accumulating at an increasing rate**, with 10% greater global emissions in 2016 than in 1980s.

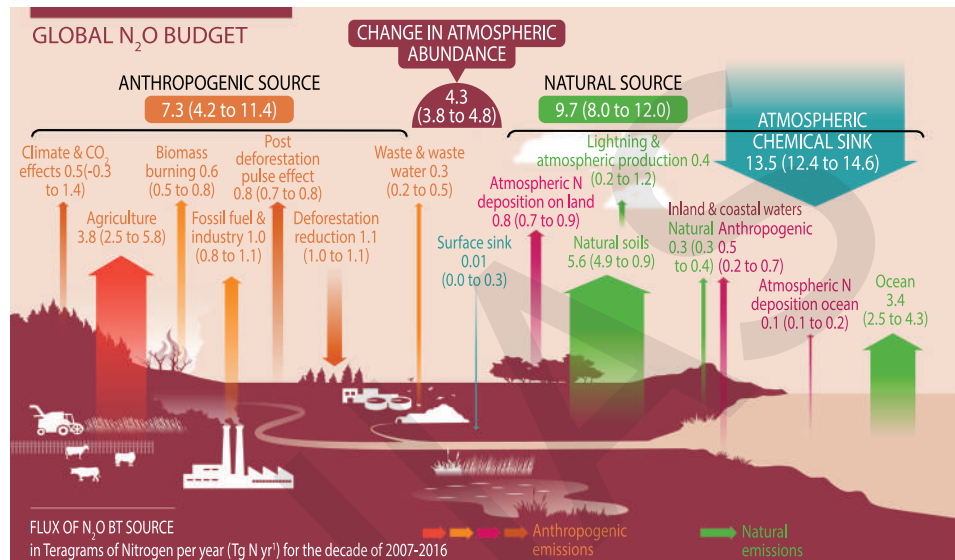
➢ **Dominant cause of increase is use of Nitrogen fertilizers** in agriculture, including organic fertilizers from manure produced by livestock.

• **Agricultural production** contributed almost **70% to global anthropogenic N₂O emission** (2007-2016).

➢ Emissions from agriculture are **dominated by East Asia, Europe, South Asia, and North America**, which are associated largely with use of synthetic nitrogen fertilizer.

• **Highest growth rates in emissions come from emerging economies**, particularly Brazil, China, and India, where there have been large increases in crop production and livestock numbers.

• **Emissions from Europe have decreased** over the past two decades through policies to limit excess of fertilizer applications.



GOVERNMENT'S RS 40,000 CRORE BET ON CLEANER COAL

• Government has put a **Rs 40,000 crore for new technologies** to decarbonise India's vast reserves of coal.

• In one such initiative **to find cleaner use for coal**, Coal India Ltd. is in the process of setting up projects **to make methanol, or methyl alcohol, from coal using CTL (coal-to-liquid) technology**.

• CTL technology, also called Coal liquefaction, is the process of making a liquid fuel from coal.

➢ Methanol is produced using **Indirect coal liquefaction process**.

➢ In this process, first **coal is gasified with steam and oxygen to produce a synthesis gas (syngas)** and then syngas is converted into a range of hydrocarbon fuels such as gasoline and methanol.

➢ **syngas** is a gas mixture of hydrogen (H₂), carbon monoxide (CO) and some carbon dioxide (CO₂).

• **Methanol** is a clear liquid chemical that is water soluble and readily biodegradable and is the simplest member of a group of organic chemicals called alcohols.

• Clean coal technologies are a **new generation of advanced coal utilization processes** that are designed to enhance both the efficiency and the environmental acceptability of coal extraction, preparation, and use.

➢ E.g. **Carbon capture and storage, Coal Gasification, Flue-gas separation etc.**

RTI ACT CRIPPLED BY RISING BACKLOG

• Marking 15th anniversary of **Right to Information Act 2005 (RTI)**, a report card was released on performance of RTI by Centre for Equity Studies and others.

• It raised **following concerns** with respect to RTI.

➢ More than 2.2 lakh cases are pending at the Central and State Information Commissions.

➢ **Large number of vacancies** in information commission office

➢ **Failure to promptly appoint commissioners** to Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and State Information Commissioner (SICs).

➢ CICs, ICs **failed to impose adequate penalties**.

➢ **Little compensation for loss** to information seekers.

• **About RTI**

➢ RTI **mandates timely response to 'citizen' requests for government information**.

➢ In normal course, **information to an applicant shall be supplied within 30 days** from the receipt of application by the public authority. If information sought concerns the life or liberty of a person, it **shall be supplied within 48 hours**.

➢ Public authorities under the Act include all **authorities and bodies under the union government, state government or local bodies** and civil societies substantially funded, directly or indirectly, by the public funds.

8 INDIAN BEACHES AWARDED INTERNATIONAL 'BLUE FLAG' CERTIFICATION

• **Eight beaches** are Shivrajpur (Gujarat), Ghoghla (Daman & Diu), Kasarkod and Padubidri (Karnataka), Kappad (Kerala), Rushikonda (Andhra Pradesh), Golden beach (Odisha) and Radhanagar beach (Andaman and Nicobar).

• **Blue Flag beach is an Eco-tourism model** to provide to the tourists/beach goers clean and hygienic bathing water, facilities/amenities, safe and healthy environment and sustainable development of the area.

• Certification is **accorded by Denmark based Foundation for Environment Education**.

• It is based on **33 criteria in four major heads**: Environmental Education and Information, Bathing Water Quality, Environment Management and Conservation and Safety and Services in the beaches.

• Earlier, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change **launched India's own eco-label BEAMS (Beach Environment & Aesthetics Management Services)** under its ICZM (Integrated Coastal Zone Management) project.

➢ Objective of BEAMS is to **abate pollution in coastal waters, promote sustainable development of beach facilities, protect & conserve coastal ecosystems & natural resources etc.**

➢ ICZM is to promote sustainable development & management of coastal zones.

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (MHA) ISSUES ADVISORY TO STATES FOR ENSURING MANDATORY ACTION BY POLICE

- MHA directed to ensure that police follow **Standard Operating Procedure** in crimes against women.
- **Key directions include:**
 - **Compulsory registration of FIR or a 'Zero FIR'** in case of cognisable offences including sexual assault.
 - Zero FIR is the type of **FIR which can be filed in any Police station** irrespective of any kind of jurisdictional area.
 - Victim shall be **examined by a registered medical practitioner under consent within 24 hours** from the time of receiving the information relating to the commission of such offence.
 - **Completion of investigation** in rape cases within two months.
 - **Statement, written or verbal, by a person who is dead shall be treated as relevant fact** when the statement is made by a person as to cause of his death.
 - Adhere to guidelines issued by Directorate of Forensic Science Services **for collection, preservation and transportation of forensic evidence in sexual assault cases.**
 - **Use of National Database on Sexual Offenders** for identifying and tracking repeat sexual offenders.
 - Using **Sexual Assault Evidence Collection (SAEC) Kits**, in every case of sexual assault reported.

ALSO IN NEWS

<p>Compensatory Afforestation (CA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To clear its CA backlog, Uttarakhand is mulling a plantation drive in Uttar Pradesh's Bundelkhand region and parts of Rajasthan. • States with over 75% forest cover, looking to divert forest land for non-forestry projects, can carry out CA in other states. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ CA is done against the transfer of forest land for non-forestry purposes like the development of dams, mining and the construction of industries or roads. ➤ CA has been provisioned by Forest Conservation Act, 1980.
<p>Madrid Principles for conflict settlement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a basic principle for a peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (between Armenia and the Armenians) transmitted at the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Ministerial Council, Madrid in 2007. • OSCE is the world's largest security-oriented intergovernmental organization. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It has 57 members encompassing three continents - North America, Europe and Asia. India is not a member.
<p>Gujarat State Fertilizers and Chemicals India Ltd launched indigenous variety of calcium nitrate and boronated calcium nitrate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calcium nitrate and boronated calcium nitrate is being manufactured for the first time in India. Till now, it was imported from other countries. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Calcium nitrate is used as a water-soluble fertilizer in agriculture, in wastewater treatment and to increase the strength of cement concrete. • Boronated calcium nitrate is vital for the growth, physical strength, flowering fertilization and fruit set of the plants.
<p>PRAAPTI (Payment Ratification and Analysis in Power procurement for bringing Transparency in Invoicing of generators)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As per PRAAPTI portal, Power producers' total dues owed by discoms rose by 37% year-on-year in August 2020, reflecting stress in the sector. • PRAAPTI App and web portal has been developed by Ministry of Power to bring transparency in power purchase transactions between Gencos and Discoms. • PRAAPTI will also enable consumers to evaluate financial performance of their Discoms in terms of payments being made to Gencos.
<p>Jayaprakash Narayan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He was an Indian Freedom fighter, theorist, socialist and political leader. • He was founding member of the Congress Socialist Party, formed in 1934, within the Congress Party. • In 1948 he, together with most of the Congress Socialists, left the Congress Party and in 1952 formed the Praja Socialist Party. • In mid-1970s, he called for total revolution against the then central government.
<p>Nanaji Deshmukh</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chandikadas Amritrao Deshmukh also known as Nanaji Deshmukh was a social reformer and politician. He worked in the fields of education, health, and rural self-reliance. • He set up the Chitrakoot Gramodaya Vishwavidyalaya in Madhya Pradesh, which is considered the country's first rural university. • He was inspired by freedom fighter Lokmanya Tilak and his thoughts on nationalism. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In 2019, he was awarded the 'Bharat Ratna' posthumously.
<p>Garba -folk dance of Gujarat</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The word "Garbo" has originated from Sanskrit word "Garbhdeep", means an earthen pot with circular holes. • It is linked with the worship of "Shakti" – performed during Navratri & during weddings. • Either a lamp (Garba Deep) or an image of Goddess Durga is placed in middle of concentric rings. • In this, people dance around the centre clapping their hands to the beats of the Dhol.

8468022022, 9019066066

www.visionias.in



DELHI



LUCKNOW



JAIPUR



HYDERABAD



PUNE



AHMEDABAD



CHANDIGARH



/c/VisionIASdelhi



/Vision_IAS



/visionias_upsc



/VisionIAS_UPSC