

NEWS TODAY

MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS CELEBRATED 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF URBAN MISSION

Scheme	About the scheme	Key Initiative taken and Achievements
Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) (PMAY-U)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide pucca house to all eligible beneficiaries of Urban India by 2022 with the vision of 'Housing for All'. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employment for approximately 1.65 Cr citizens has been generated Credit Link Subsidy Scheme for interest subvention on home loans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than 10 lakh beneficiaries belonging to EWS, LIG & MIG has been brought under CLSS. National Urban Housing Fund had been created to ensure regular flow of funds for implementation of PMAY(U).
Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide basic civic amenities like water supply, sewerage, urban transport, parks as to improve the quality of life for all especially the poor and the disadvantaged. It spans across 500 cities, covering more than 60% of urban population. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helped cities to undertake a set of reforms aimed at strengthening capacities of city level institutions for effective governance and citizen service delivery. Online Building Permission System (OBPS), implemented as a digital transformation-based reform is aimed at reducing the overall time taken for approvals of building plans, while ensuring a seamless process. In order to promote energy efficiency across the Indian cities, 76 lakh streetlights replaced with energy efficient LED streetlights.
Smart Cities Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote cities that provide core infrastructure and give a decent quality of life to its citizens, a clean and sustainable environment and application of 'Smart' solutions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated Command and Control Centres (ICCC) developed under the Smart Cities Mission have helped cities in their fight against COVID. The Urban Learning Internship Program (TULIP) have helped to engage fresh graduates as interns in ULBs and Smart City SPVs. Smart Cities Mission is supporting interested cities in raising finance through Municipal Bonds.

MoEFCC RELEASES UNIFORM FRAMEWORK FOR EXTENDED PRODUCERS RESPONSIBILITY (EPR)

Earlier in 2016, **Plastic Waste Management Rules(PWMR) 2016** were notified which mandates:

- Responsibilities of Local Bodies, gram panchayats, retailers and street vendors to manage plastic waste.
- Role of Waste generators and new provisions like the **provision of EPR.**

⇒ EPR means **responsibility of a producer for the environmentally sound management of the product** until the end of its life.

In this context, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has released **guideline document for uniform EPR framework** under PWMR:

- Three different models** to be adopted by manufacturers, importers and brand owners to handle waste.

⇒ **Fee based model:** Producers will contribute to **EPR corpus fund** at the central level based on generation of plastic waste.

⇒ **Producer Responsibility Organisations(PRO) model:** PRO will be established which will manage waste on behalf of producers.

⇒ **Plastic credit model:** Producer will ensure that an equivalent amount of packaging waste has been recovered and recycled to meet their obligation.

- Single national registry to enlist all stakeholders** for improving monitoring and bringing transparency.

- Penalties on producers** if they fail to meet their targeted collection.

- Monitoring of EPR by **Central Pollution Control Board.**

MOUNTAIN OF WASTE

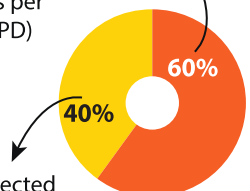
Status of domestically generated plastic waste in India

Plastic waste generation- **25,940** tonnes per day (TPD)

Plastic waste collection - **15,564** TPD

Uncollected plastic waste: **10,376** TPD

(1 tonne = 1,000 Kg)



SEABED 2030 PROJECT MAPPED ONE FIFTH OF THE WORLD'S OCEAN FLOOR

Seabed 2030 Project is coordinating efforts to **complete the mapping of the entire ocean floor by 2030.**

- It was launched at United Nations Ocean Conference in June 2017 and is aligned with the **UN's SDG 14 to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources.**

- It is a collaboration between **Japan's non-profit Nippon Foundation** and **General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO).**

⇒ GEBCO is the **only intergovernmental organisation** with a mandate to map the entire ocean floor.

⇒ **Bathymetry** is the measurement of the shape and depth of the ocean floor.

Expected benefits of sea floor mapping

- Understanding natural phenomena** like ocean circulation, tides, and biological hotspots.

- Provides **inputs for navigation, exploration for oil and gas projects**, building offshore wind turbines, fishing resources etc.

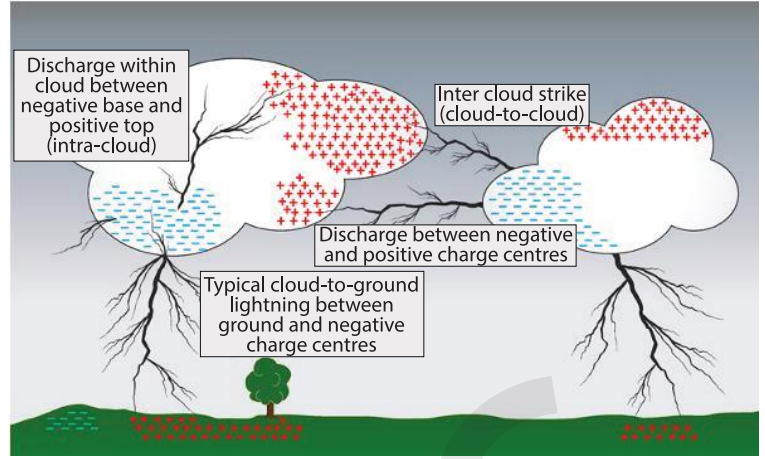
- In **disaster management** e.g. forecasting tsunamis.

- Better **understanding of climate change**, as floor features including canyons and underwater volcanoes influence vertical mixing of ocean water, ocean currents, sea-level rise.

- Empower the **world to make policy decisions**, use the ocean sustainability and undertake scientific research.

LIGHTNING KILLS 83 IN BIHAR, 24 IN UTTAR PRADESH IN SINGLE DAY

- Lightning is a **weather-related Natural Disaster of very rapid and massive discharge of electricity** in the atmosphere, some of which is directed towards the Earth's surface.
 - These discharges are **generated in giant moisture-bearing clouds** that are 10-12 km tall.
- Lightning is formed by collisions between **ice crystals moving up and coming down** in large clouds which **trigger the release of electrons** and a chain reaction.
 - This results in top layer of cloud getting positively charged, and middle layer getting negatively charged with **huge electrical potential difference (PD)** between two layers.
 - Due to this PD, a electric current is formed. (**refer infographics**)
 - As Earth is a **good conductor of electricity, about 15%-20% of the current gets directed towards Earth** causing damage to life and property on Earth.










- In 2018, **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** has issued **guidelines on lightning**, asking states to prepare action plan. Some suggestions include:
 - Mapping lightning-affected zones** based on data of deaths and data of lightning incidence.
 - Effective Early Warning System, inter-agency coordination and communication**, capacity building and training etc.

ALSO IN NEWS

<p>Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) Scheme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently, Centre has notified norms for import of 5 lakh tonnes of maize at a concessional customs duty of 15 %, under TRQ scheme. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TRQs are established under trade agreements between countries. TRQ Scheme allows a set quantity of specific products to be imported at a low or zero rate of duty. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under this scheme, Government allows import of four products: maize (corn); "milk and cream in powder, granules"; crude sunflower seed or safflower oil and refined rape, colza or mustard oil.
<p>Govt to scrap vehicles Bulk Data Sharing Policy and Procedure (BDSPP)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy was introduced in 2019 which allowed organisations and researchers to buy bulk data pertaining to vehicle registrations on an annual basis. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was considered to help in service improvements and wider benefits to citizens & Government. However, now decision has been taken to scrap the policy, considering privacy concerns and potential misuse of personal details of the vehicle owners and driving licence holders. Presently, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways collects and holds data as part of issuance of Vehicle Registration Certificates and Driver Licence.
<p>Coccolithophores</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These are single-celled algae living in the upper layers of the world's oceans. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They calcify marine phytoplankton that produces up to 40% of open ocean calcium carbonate and responsible for 20% of the global net marine primary productivity. In the process they help in removing carbon dioxide from atmosphere and ocean. A recent study has found that increase in algae known as diatoms has decreased in calcium carbonate concentration in Southern Indian Ocean which will affect the growth of coccolithophores.
<p>High ozone pollution</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to an analysis by Centre for Science and Environment, while particulate matter and nitrous oxide levels fell during the lockdown, ozone increased in several cities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was based on Central Pollution Control Board data from 22 cities in 15 States in lockdown days. Ozone is not directly emitted by any source but is formed by photochemical reactions between oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and other volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and gases in the air under the influence of sunlight and heat.
<p>70 years to Korean War</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On June 25, 1950, North Korean troops invaded South Korea in a bid to reunite the two countries which were divided along the 38th parallel. It was fought for three-years between North Korea (backed by Soviet Union and China) and South Korea (US led United Nations forces). In 1953, North Korea, China, and US signed an armistice agreement, however South Korea objected to the continued division of Korea and did not agree to the armistice or sign a formal peace treaty.
<p>Navigating the New Normal Campaign</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is behaviour change campaign launched by NITI Aayog, in partnership with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and others. It focusses on COVID-safe behaviours, like wearing masks, practising hand hygiene and social distancing during the 'Unlock' phase of the ongoing pandemic.

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