

NEWS TODAY

BROCHURE LAUNCHED OUTLINING INDIA'S PRIORITIES AS PART OF CAMPAIGN FOR UNSC ELECTED SEAT

- India is contesting for non-permanent member seat at UN Security Council (UNSC), elections for which are scheduled on June 17.
 - If elected, this will be **the eighth time India will occupy a non-permanent UNSC seat**, with its last stint in 2011-2012.
- The brochure outlines **following key priorities for India:**
 - New Opportunities for progress
 - Effective response to international terrorism
 - Reforming multilateral system
 - Comprehensive approach to international peace and security
 - Promoting technology with a human touch as a driver of solutions
- India's **approach will be guided by "Five S's":** Samman (Respect), Samvad (Dialogue), Sahyog (Cooperation), Shanti (Peace), Samriddhi (Prosperity).
- India's overall objective during this tenure will be achievement of N.O.R.M.S: **New Orientation for a Reformed Multilateral System.**
- About UNSC**
 - UNSC is one of the six principal organs of United Nations (UN)**, charged with ensuring international peace and security, accepting new members to UN and approving any changes to its charter
 - The Council is composed of **15 Members (refer infographics)**

UN Security Council members



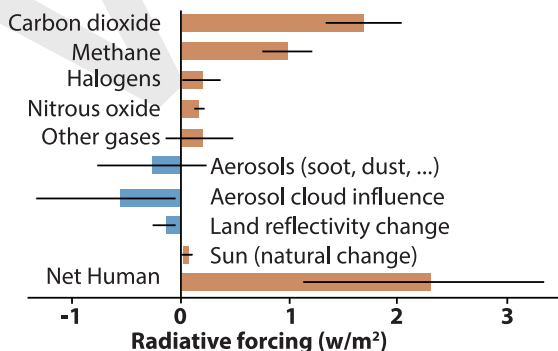
Each year, the General Assembly elects five non-permanent members for a two-year term. The 10 non-permanent seats are distributed on a regional basis.

- 5 from African and Asian States
- 1 from Eastern European States
- 2 from Latin American States
- 2 from Western European and other States

AEROSOL CHARACTERIZATION AND RADIATIVE EFFECTS AT HIGH ALTITUDE SITE IN WESTERN-TRANS HIMALAYAS

- Researchers at **Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES)**, Nainital have found that **Aerosol Radiative Forcing (ARF)** over trans-Himalayas is larger than the global averages.
 - Effect of aerosols on climate** is normally quantified in terms of ARF.
 - ARF is the net change in energy balance of the earth system due to some forced perturbation by anthropogenic aerosols.
- The atmospheric aerosols play a key role in the regional/global climate system through scattering and absorption of incoming solar radiation and by modifying the cloud formations.
 - Also, the transport of **light-absorbing carbonaceous aerosols** and dust from **polluted Indo-Gangetic Plain** and desert areas over the Himalayas constitutes a major climatic issue due to severe impacts on **atmospheric warming** and **glacier retreat**.
- The **Research shows that** monthly-mean ARF of aerosols leads to heating rates of 0.04 to 0.13 degrees Celsius per day.
 - This **heating over Himalayas strengthens the temperature gradient** between land and ocean and modifies the atmospheric circulation and the monsoon rainfall.

PHYSICAL DRIVERS OF CLIMATE CHANGE



- Radiative forcing is a measure of the influence a factor (e.g., greenhouse gaseous, aerosol, cloud, and surface albedo) has in altering the balance of incoming and outgoing energy in the Earth-atmosphere system and is an index of the importance of the factor as a potential climate change mechanism.
- It is expressed in watts per square metre (W/m²)

MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION NOTIFIES DRAFT UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM (UAS) RULES, 2020

- Rules seek to regulate **importing, manufacturing and owning drones**, drone ports, or airports for drones.
- In January 2019, **Drone policy 2.0 was released**, that paved way for wider application of drones, such as delivery of goods beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS).
 - India also has a **'No Permission-No Takeoff' clause for aerial unmanned objects**, which requires permission through Digital Sky Platform to fly drones.
- Key guidelines**
 - Drones can be **sold only to an individual (above 18 years old) or entity** approved by DGCA.
 - Drones should not **carry any payload** except as permitted by DGCA.
 - DGCA has earlier permitted food startups like Zomato and Swiggy to conduct trials for drones BVLOS.
 - Only Nano class drones** (less than 250 grams), will be allowed to operate in India in general,
 - "Qualified remote pilot" will be permitted to operate **heavier drones**.
 - No drone shall operate without **insurance policy**.
 - Businesses operating drones have to be **substantially owned and effectively controlled by Indian nationals**.
- Drones offer **low-cost, safe and quick aerial surveys** for data collection. Use of drones has increased due to a coronavirus lockdown, for purposes like surveillance, disinfection and videography.

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (NHRC) SEEKS SUPREME COURT (SC) INTERVENTION ON MIGRANT CRISIS

- SC admitted NHRC's application for **consideration of implementation of its proposed short term and long term measures** for safeguarding human rights of migrants.
- **Short term measures**
 - > **Collect data of migrant** workers at point of departure and also on arrival.
 - > **Focussed interventions for women:**
 - States to ensure **proper functioning of shelter homes** especially for accommodation of pregnant women, lactating mothers, children, and elderly person.
 - ensure availability of **medical facilities, nutritious food, menstrual hygiene products** etc.
 - > Mission similar to that of **dedicated Vande Bharat Mission** should be started.
 - > Provide fixed compensation to every migrant returning home.
- **Long term measures**
 - > **Insert special provision to Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979** to deal with emergency situations like COVID-19, natural disasters etc.
 - Act was enacted to regulate employment of inter-state migrant workmen and to provide fair and decent conditions of employment etc.
 - > **Provide funds to gram panchayats** to create employment opportunities in home states of migrants.
 - > Maximum benefits be extended to migrant labour as provided under **Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008**.
 - > Creating a nodal agency under Ministry of Labour for resolution of inter-state migrant labour issues.

RBI CREATES PAYMENTS INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT FUND (PIDF)

- PIDF is created to **encourage adoption of Points of Sale (PoS) infrastructure**, both physical and digital modes, in tier-3 to tier-6 centres and north eastern states.
- It aims to **give a push to digital payments** and is **in line with measures proposed by vision document on payment and settlement systems in India 2019-2021**.
 - > Similarly in 2019, **RBI had also proposed to set up an Acceptance Development Fund** which is used to develop card acceptance infrastructure across small towns and cities.
- PIDF will have an **initial corpus of Rs 500 crore, half of which will be contributed by the RBI**. The remaining will come from card issuing banks and card network companies.
 - > To cover operational expenses, the fund will receive contributions from both banks and card network companies.
- PIDF will be **governed through an Advisory Council and managed and administered by RBI**

Classification of centres (tier-wise)	Population (as per 2011 Census)
Tier 1	1, 00,000 and above
Tier 2	50,000 to 99,999
Tier 3	20,000 to 49,999
Tier 4	10,000 to 19,999
Tier 5	5,000 to 9,999
Tier 6	Less than 5000

ALSO IN NEWS

Nagar van (Urban Forests) scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scheme was announced by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change. • It aims to develop 200 Urban Forests across the country in next five years. • It will involve focus on people's participation and collaboration between Forest Department, Municipal bodies, NGOs, Corporates and local citizens. • It will focus to plant trees on land that has been marked as forest lands but do not have any trees. Forest once established will be maintained by State Government.
Healthy and Energy Efficient Buildings Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched by: Energy Efficiency Services Limited in partnership with U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Market Integration and Transformation Program for Energy Efficiency (MAITREE) program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > MAITREE is a part US-India bilateral Partnership between Ministry of Power and USAID aimed at accelerating the adoption of cost-effective energy efficiency within buildings etc. • Initiative will pioneer ways to make workplaces healthier and greener. • It will address challenges of retrofitting existing buildings and air conditioning systems so that they are both healthy and energy efficient.
'#iCommit' initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Power initiated the '#iCommit' campaign, on the occasion of World Environment Day. • It calls upon all stakeholders and individuals to continue moving towards energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainability to create a robust and resilient energy system in the future. • It will be led by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL). • The '#iCommit' initiative is centred around the idea of building an energy resilient future.
Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is an international cross-party group of legislators working towards reform on how democratic countries approach China. • Alliance seeks to help counter risks to global trade, security and human rights due to China's growing influence. • Participating nations include US, Germany, UK, Japan, Australia, Canada, Sweden, Norway, and members of European parliament.
National awareness campaign on Prevention of Human, Animal Mortality on Highways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is launched by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways for generating awareness and education for the masses at large towards reducing or eliminating mortality on the roads. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > India witnesses nearly five lakh road accidents every year, with 1.5 lakh deaths. Target is to bring down these figures by 20 to 25 % by March 2021. • Also, NGOs and social organisations are asked to locate black spots for animals on the roads.

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