

# NEWS TODAY

## GLOBAL METHANE BUDGET (GMB) BY GLOBAL CARBON PROJECT (GCP) RELEASED

GCP is an international research programme that aims to develop a complete picture of the global carbon cycle.

### Key findings

**Global annual methane emission:** In 2017, it was around 9% higher than 2000-06 average.

> By the end of 2019, **concentration of methane in atmosphere reached around 1875 parts per billion (ppb)**, more than two-and-a-half times pre-industrial levels.

**Contribution in Increase: Agriculture and waste contributed (60%) and fossil fuels (40%)**

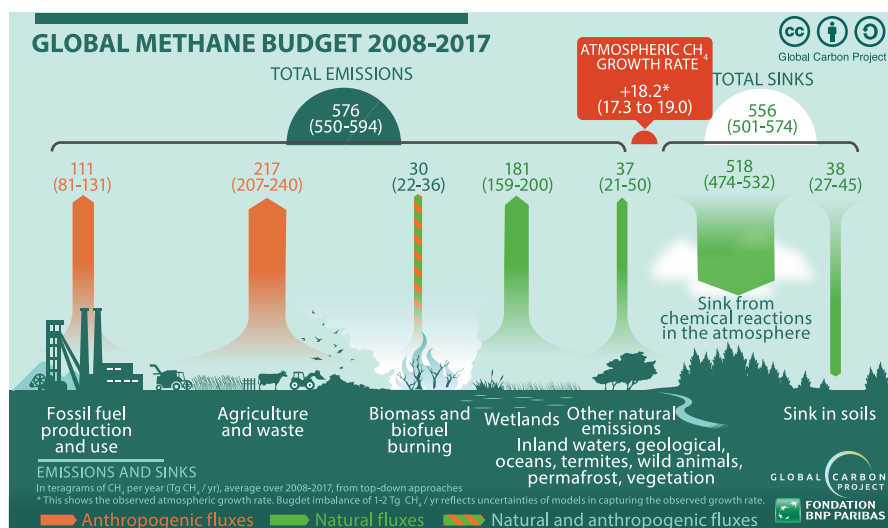
> There is slight decrease estimated for biomass and biofuel burning.

**Area with largest increase:** Africa and the Middle East, China, and South Asia and Oceania.

**Methane sinks** have also increased.

### About Methane

- Methane is a **potent greenhouse gas (84-86 times stronger than CO2 over 20 years)** and the second biggest contributor to human-caused global warming after CO2.
- Methane **stays in the atmosphere for an average of nine years** and it is typically destroyed through chemical reactions that produce CO2 and water.
  - > A relatively small portion is also consumed by bacteria in soils.
- Methane mitigation offers rapid climate benefits** and economic, health and agricultural co-benefits that are highly complementary to CO2 mitigation.



## PROVISIONS OF CONTEMPT OF COURTS ACT 1971 (CCA) CHALLENGED IN SC

- Petitioners contended that section 2(c)(i) of CCA is violative of freedom of speech under Article 19 of the Constitution and effectively gags discourse on matters of public importance.
  - > section 2(c)(i) of CCA, which criminalises publication of any matter that could scandalise or lower the authority of courts

### Contempt of Court (CoC)

- CoC aims to protect court from tendentious attacks that lower its authority, defame its public image, and make the public lose faith in its impartiality.
  - > CoC is one of the "reasonable restrictions" listed under Article 19(2), on the fundamental right.
- Article 129 conferred on the Supreme Court the power to punish contempt of itself. Article 215 conferred a corresponding power on High Courts. CCA gives statutory backing to CoC.
- CoC may be civil or criminal.
  - > **Civil contempt:** when someone wilfully disobeys a court order, or wilfully breaches an undertaking given to court.
  - > **Criminal contempt:** words, written or spoken, signs and actions that scandalises or lowers the authority of a court; prejudices or interferes with any judicial proceeding and interferes with or obstructs the administration of justice.

## GREEN CORRIDORS TO SLASH LOGISTICS COST

- "Green corridors" is an EU concept introduced in 2007 that aims at developing integrated, efficient and environmentally friendly transportation of freight between major hubs.
- Commerce and Industry Ministry has identified 8 sectors** including textiles, leather, agriculture, gems & jewellery where transportation and warehousing issues will be resolved as part of a mega plan **to reduce logistics costs to 10% of GDP from 13-14% now.**
- Proposed measures include** introduction of e-tolling, electronic document flow, rationalisation of checkpoints and digital verification at all check points to decrease time for trucks.
  - > This will aim to speed up truck movement to an average of 500km per day from 350km daily at present and cut the logistics cost.
- Currently, in India, the logistics cost as a percentage of its GDP stands at 14%.** This cost is high compared to the US (9.5%), Germany (8%) and Japan (11%).
- A national law on the logistics is in the work that will promote multi-modal transport along with simplified regulations.
  - > It will help India to move into top 30 in World bank's Logistics Performance Index from 44th rank in 2018.

## RENEWED DEMANDS FOR CREATION OF AUTONOMOUS DISTRICT COUNCILS (ADCs) IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH

- There is renewed demand for creation of ADCs in Arunachal Pradesh – **Mon Autonomous Region (MAR) in the west and Patkai Autonomous Council (PAC) in the east** under the provisions of the 6th Schedule of the Constitution.
- Constitution provides for **creation of ADCs under 6th Schedule for administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura.**
  - > Tribal areas in these states have been constituted **as autonomous districts to be governed by ADCs.** But they do not fall outside the executive authority of the state concerned.
  - > **Governor is empowered to organise and re-organise** the autonomous districts.
  - > The **Acts of Parliament or the state legislature do not apply to autonomous districts** and autonomous regions or apply with specified modifications and exceptions
- Arunachal Pradesh has not been given similar constitutional benefit. Therefore, creation of MAR and PAC may require constitutional amendment.
- Earlier State assembly had passed two resolutions in 2004 and 2007 for creation of PAC.** It was then forwarded to the Centre for approval which is still pending.
  - > In 2014, Centre had constituted a four-member high-level committee to deliberate upon the same.

# ACTIONS OF RAJASTHAN GOVERNOR IN FOCUS

- Recent controversy in Rajasthan around Governor's refusal to summon a session as desired by Council of Ministers has brought in light certain issues-
  - > **Governor's power to summon an Assembly session** - SC in 2016 ruled that **governor has no discretion in the matter of summoning the house under Article 174** if chief minister enjoys majority in the house and, therefore, is bound to act on the advice of the cabinet.
  - > **Governor's power to set an agenda for the session**-Rajasthan Governor demanded to know the purpose of calling the session. However, Cabinet is not bound to state the agenda for the session to governor. Agenda is decided by the Business Advisory Committee presided over by the Speaker.
  - > **Rajasthan Governor's insistence on 21-day notice for the session** - Rule of 21-day notice (later changed to 15 days) for session was first set by the Lok Sabha and adapted by State legislatures. This used to be notice period for questions. However, there have been instances where sessions have been convened at shorter notice. Further, experts have also argued that this matter is not in governor's domain.

## ALSO IN NEWS

<p><b>Khadi Agarbatti Aatmanirbhar Mission</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Union Minister for MSME has approved this programme which aims at creating employment for unemployed and migrant workers while increasing domestic Agarbatti production.</li> <li>Scheme is <b>designed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) on PPP mode.</b></li> <li>KVIC will provide Automatic Agarbatti making machines and powder mixing machines to artisans through successful private Agarbatti manufacturers who will sign the agreement as business partners.</li> <li>KVIC will provide <b>25% subsidy on the cost of the machines</b> and recover remaining 75% of the cost from artisans in monthly installments.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Four more States/UTs linked with One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New states/UTs are Jammu &amp; Kashmir, Manipur, Nagaland and Uttarakhand. With this, now a <b>total of 24 States/UTs are connected under ONORC.</b></li> <li>ONORC aims to ensure the <b>delivery of food security entitlements</b> to all beneficiaries covered <b>under the National Food Security Act, 2013</b>, irrespective of their physical location anywhere in the country.</li> </ul>
<p><b>PAN-India 1000 Genome sequencing of SARS- CoV-2 completed successfully</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Genome sequencing</b> is figuring out order of DNA nucleotides, or bases, in a genome that make up an organism's DNA.</li> <li><b>Department of Biotechnology</b> had launched this project in May this year.</li> <li>Sequence data will soon be released in <b>Global Initiative on Sharing All Influenza Data (GISAID)</b> for use by researchers across the Globe.</li> <li>This will improve our understanding on how virus is spreading, helping to interrupt transmission chains, prevent new cases of infection, and provide impetus to research on intervention measures.</li> </ul>
<p><b>COVID-19 Biorepositories</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government dedicated to the nation the largest network of <b>five dedicated COVID-19 Biorepositories established by Department of Biotechnology.</b></li> <li>These are at Translational Health Science and Technology Institute Faridabad, Institute of Life Science Bhubaneswar, Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences New Delhi, National Centre for Cell Science Pune and Institute for Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine Bangalore.</li> <li><b>Main purpose of biorepositories are archival of inactivated virus and clinical samples</b>, including naso-orpharyngeal swabs, stool, urine, saliva, serum, plasma, PBMC and Serum.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>UAE's first nuclear reactor</b> at the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant has achieved first <b>criticality - a sustained fission chain reaction</b> and successfully started up.</li> <li>The plant is located on the <b>Persian Gulf coast</b> west of Abu Dhabi. When fully operational, its four reactors have the capacity to generate 5,600 megawatts of electricity.</li> <li>UAE is the <b>first country in the Arab world</b>, and the 33rd nation globally, to develop a civil nuclear power programme.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Dhole (Asiatic Wild Dog)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Karnataka, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh rank high in the conservation of the endangered dhole, according to a study.</li> <li>Dholes play an important role as <b>apex predators</b> in forest ecosystems. Besides the tiger, dhole is the only large carnivore in India that is under the <b>IUCN's 'endangered' category.</b></li> <li>Dhole is found in a wide variety of habitat types, including deciduous and evergreen forests and alpine steppe. India perhaps supports the highest number of dholes in the world.</li> </ul>

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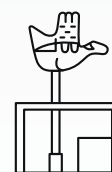
**HYDERABAD**



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