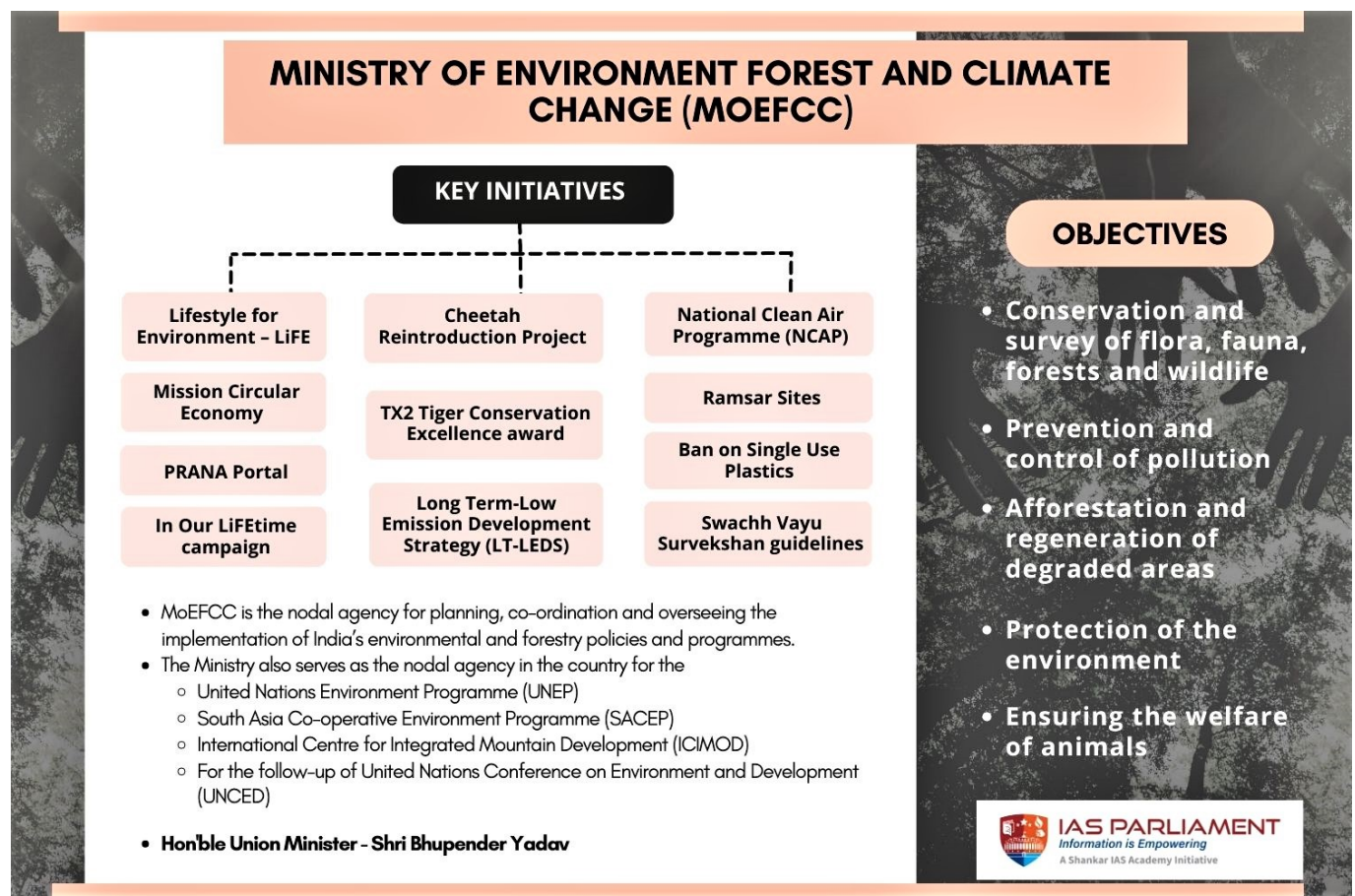




Year End Review: Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change - Part-1

Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)

- MoEFCC is the nodal agency for planning, co-ordination and overseeing the implementation of India's environmental and forestry policies and programmes.



KEY INITIATIVES OF MoEFCC

1. Lifestyle for Environment - LiFE

- The concept of Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) was introduced by Indian Prime Minister during **UNFCCC - Conference of Parties (COP25)** at **Glasgow** in **2021**.
- LiFE is an international mass movement to protect and preserve the environment by replacing the prevalent 'use-and-dispose' economy with a circular economy.
- Approach of LiFE Campaign**

- **Focus on individual behaviours** - Make life a mass movement (Jan Andolan) by focusing on behaviours and attitudes of individuals and communities
- **Co-create globally** - Crowdsourcing scalable ideas from the best minds of the world
- **Leverage local cultures** - Leverage climate-friendly social norms, beliefs and daily household practices of different cultures
- **Pro-planet people** - LiFE plans to leverage the strength of social networks to influence social norms surrounding climate

Prime Minister Narendra Modi at COP26 Glasgow Summit

Panchamrit

- India will reach its non-fossil energy capacity to 500 GW by 2030.
- India will meet 50 percent of its energy requirements from renewable energy by 2030.
- India will reduce the total projected carbon emissions by one billion tonnes from now onwards till 2030.
- By 2030, India will reduce the carbon intensity of its economy by less than 45 percent.
- By the year 2070, India will achieve the target of Net Zero.

2. Long Term-Low Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS)

- At the 27th UN COP27 in Egypt's Sharm el-Sheikh, India submitted the long-term low emission development strategy to the UNFCCC.
- The Paris Agreement of the UNFCCC states that all parties should strive to formulate long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies, taking into account their common but differentiated responsibilities.
- **India's LT-LEDS** - India's LT-LEDS was launched to transition to a low emissions pathway.
- The LT-LEDS has been prepared in the framework of India's right to an equitable and fair share of the global carbon budget.
- **Objectives** - The strategy focuses on
 - Rational utilisation of national resources with due regard to energy security
 - Increased use of biofuels, especially ethanol blending in petrol
 - Maximizing the use of green hydrogen fuel to drive the low carbon development of the transport sector
 - Expanding its nuclear power capacity by at least three-fold in the next decade
- **Significance** - The LT-LEDS aims to go beyond India's nationally determined contributions (NDC) and builds on **India's Panchamrit (five nectar elements) pledges** at COP26 of the UNFCCC.
- It is in consonance with India's five-decade journey to being **carbon neutral by 2070** - a commitment made by India at COP 26.

- India's LT-LEDS rests on 7 key transitions to low-carbon development pathways - electricity systems, transport systems, urbanization, industrial systems, CO2 removal, forestry, economic and financial aspects of low carbon development.

India's Updated NDCs

- Achieving **50%** of India's cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil sources by 2030
- Reducing emission intensity of GDP by **45%** below 2005 levels by 2030
- Creation of additional carbon sink of **2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO2** equivalent through additional forest and tree cover

3. In Our LiFetime campaign

- **National Museum of Natural History (NMNH)**, under the MoEFCC and **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, jointly launched "In Our LiFetime" campaign at COP 27.
- **Aim** - To encourage youth between the ages of 18 to 23 years to become message bearers of sustainable lifestyles.
- It tends to foster responsible consumption patterns and influence the lifestyle choices of the younger generations to make them Pro-Planet-People.

4. Promoting Circular Economy - Waste-to-Wealth

- **Significance** - The Waste-to-Wealth Mission or Mission Circular Economy is bound to create new business models and employment opportunities, thereby integrating the informal sector.
- It will result in moving away from mindless consumption to mindful utilisation and will help achieve the vision of Mission LiFE - Lifestyle for Environment.
- **Efforts** - The country is emphasising on Mission Circular Economy through policies and promoting projects such as
 - Plastic Waste Management Rules
 - e-Waste Management Rules
 - Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules
 - Metals Recycling Policy, etc.
- To expedite the transition of the country from a linear to a circular economy, 11 committees have been formed for 11 focus areas such as scrap metal, Li-ion batteries, electronic wastes, etc.
- The Indian Railways has set a target of becoming **net zero carbon emitter by 2030**.
- Regulations on market based Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) principle have been notified for 4 categories of wastes - plastic packaging waste, battery waste, e-waste and waste tyre.

5. National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)

- The National Clean Air Program (NCAP) was launched in 2019 to address air pollution in around 122 cities.
- These cities are referred to as non-attainment cities (NACs) as they did not meet the national ambient air quality standards (**NAAQS**) for 2011-15 under the National Air

Quality Monitoring Program (**NAMP**).

- The NCAP has set a target of reducing key air pollutants PM10 and PM2.5 by **20-30% in 2024** taking 2017 as the base year.
- An overall improvement in ambient air quality has been observed in 95 cities during 2021-22 as compared to 2017.
- MoEF&CC has launched "**PRANA**", a portal for monitoring implementation of NCA
- The **Swachh Vayu Survekshan** guidelines for ranking of cities under NCAP has been issued to cities.

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)

Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act empowers Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to set standards for the quality of air.

Current NAAQS were notified by CPCB in the year 2009.

Pollutants covered under NAAQS are

1. Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂)
2. Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)
3. PM 10, PM 2.5
4. Ozone (O₃)
5. Lead (Pb)
6. Carbon Monoxide (CO)
7. Ammonia (NH₃)
8. Benzene (C₆H₆)
9. Benzo(a)Pyrene (BaP)
10. Arsenic(As)
11. Nickel (Ni)

National Air Quality Index (AQI)

NAQI, launched by CPCB, is a number used to communicate to the public how polluted the air currently is or how polluted it is forecasted to become.

The air quality is classified into 6 colour coded grades.

These pollutants are

1. Ground-level Ozone or O₃
2. PM 2.5 and PM 10
3. Carbon Monoxide or CO
4. Sulphur Dioxide or SO₂ and
5. Nitrogen Dioxide or NO₂
6. Ammonia or NH₃

To know about Part-2, click [here](#)

Reference

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