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INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 1

PM PRANAM SCHEME

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy & Agriculture)

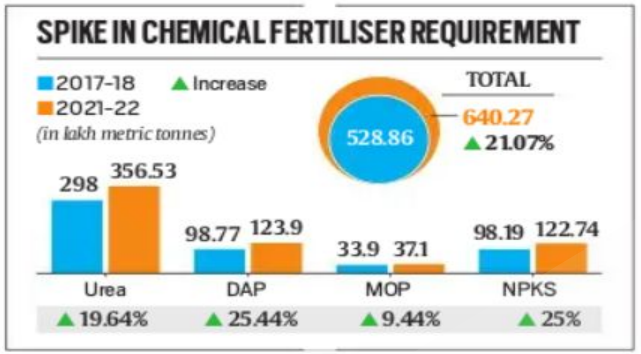
To curb use of chemical fertilisers, Govt to give nod to PM PRANAM

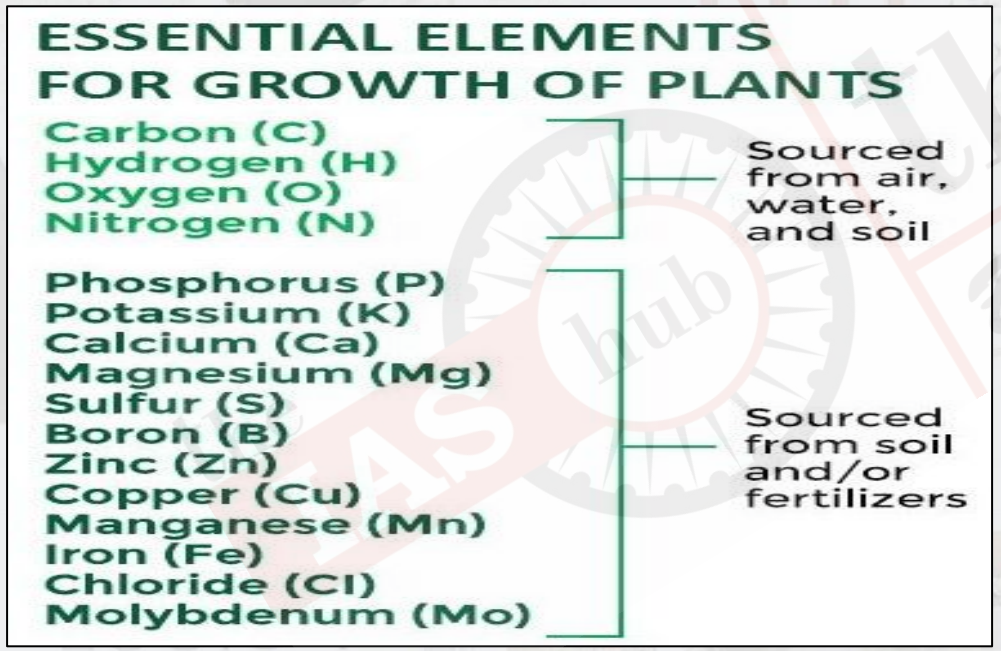
HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18

THE UNION government intends to launch a scheme — named PM PRANAM — to reduce the use of chemical fertilisers by incentivising states, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

The proposed scheme, short for PM Promotion of Alternate Nutrients for Agriculture Management Yojana, also aims

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4





Context: The Union government intends to launch a scheme - named PM PRANAM - to reduce the use of chemical fertilisers by incentivising states.

Usage of fertilisers in India

- India is the second-largest user of fertilizer in the world, after China.
- In the past ten years, India consumed 500 LMT of fertiliser annually.
- The Center's planned allocation for fertiliser subsidies is expected to increase by 62% to Rs. 1.3 lakh crore in FY21.
- Due to the greater expense of non-urea (MoP, DAP, complex) cultivars, many farmers choose to use more urea than is actually required.
- To lower urea usage, the government has taken a number of actions.
    - To stop urea from being illegally diverted for non-agricultural applications, neem-coated urea was introduced.
    - It increased the promotion of organic and low-cost farming.
- India imported 20.33 million tonnes of fertiliser during 2018–19 and 2020–21, up nearly 8% from 18.84 million tonnes.
- More than one-fourth of the urea needed in FY21 was imported.
- India, the world's largest urea importer, is a significant purchaser of the diammonium phosphate (DAP) required to feed its massive agriculture sector, which employs roughly 60% of the labour force and contributes 15% to the nation's $15 trillion economy.
- **Subsidy on Urea:** The Center provides fertiliser producers with urea subsidies based on the cost of production at each plant. The producers are obligated to sell the fertiliser at the government-established Maximum Retail Price (MRP).
- **Non-Urea Fertilizer Subsidy**: The firms decontrol or fix the MRPs of non-urea fertilisers. To guarantee that these nutrients are priced at "appropriate levels," the Center, however, provides a flat per-tonne subsidy.
    - Examples of non-urea fertilisers are muriate of potash and di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) (MOP).
- The Nutrient Based Subsidy Scheme regulates all fertilisers that are not urea-based.

INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 8

AMBEDKAR CIRCUIT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Art & Culture)

TOURISM MINISTERS MEET IN DHARAMSHALA

Special tourist train for 'Ambedkar Circuit': Reddy

DIVYA A
DHARAMSHALA, SEPTEMBER 18

UNION TOURISM and Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy on Sunday announced a special tourist train to cover the "Ambedkar Circuit".

Inaugurating a three-day conference of state tourism ministers in Dharamshala, Reddy said, "As many as 3,000 special railway coaches have been reserved for the promotion of tourism circuits. Like the Ramayana and Buddhist Circuits, a special train will be run on the Ambedkar Circuit."

In June, a special train was run on the Ramayana Circuit, which covered prominent places associated with the life of Lord Ram, including Ayodhya and Janakpur in Nepal. Officials said this will become a regular feature, especially close to the 2024 opening of the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

Speaking to the media on the sidelines of the Dharamshala event, Reddy said the Tourism Ministry has drawn up an action plan for various circuits under its Swadesh Darshan scheme. Proposed in 2016, the Ambedkar Circuit covers Madhya Pradesh's Mhow, Ambedkar's birthplace; Nagpur, where he converted to Buddhism; the residence in Delhi where he lived during his last years; and Dadar in Maharashtra, where his body was cremated.

The three-day tourism ministers' conclave will discuss issues related to the tourism sector, including attracting foreign tourists, increasing domestic tourism, comprehensive development of tourist destinations, and the promotion of indigenous activities in the domestic sector. There is also a special focus on eco-tourism, green tourism, medical tourism and wildlife tourism.



These are among the places covered in the circuit

Reddy said the government is focused on responsible and sustainable tourism, and the National Tourism Policy, which will form the blueprint for these areas, will be out before the next Budget session. Green tourism and digital tourism will be the government's key focus areas over the next decade, as per the new policy.

The policy document also identified factors that hamper the growth of the tourism sector in the country, which include "perceptions related to safety and security", and weak engagement between the Centre and the states. Steps will be taken to address these issues, officials from the tourism ministry said.

At the conclave, there were also deliberations on how the tourism sector has taken a hit due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the steps that need to be taken to get back to pre-pandemic levels. Reddy said that in terms of domestic tourism, the Himalayan states were doing well after the pandemic.

To attract foreign tourists, the government had last year announced 5 lakh free e-visas on a first-come-first-served basis. However, Reddy told The Indian Express that this limit has not yet been exhausted since foreign tourist arrivals were hit in the wake of Omicron wave earlier this year. The e-visa facility has now been extended to the nationals of 160 countries.

The writer is in Dharamshala at the invitation of the Ministry of Tourism

Context: Union Tourism and Culture Minister announced a special tourist train to cover the "Ambedkar Circuit".



Ambedkar Circuit

- Prime Minister coined the term "Panchteerth" in remembrance of Dr. Amedbkar birthplace.
- The Government dedicated Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in December 2017.
- The Indian Government has set up Panchteerath in the memory of Dr BR Ambedkar.
- Panchteerath include :
  - Janam Bhoomi – Birthplace
  - Sikhsha Bhoomi - Place of Education
  - Deeksha Bhoomi - Place of adoption to Buddhism
  - Mahaparinivaran Bhoomi - Place of Demise
  - Chaitya Bhoomi - Cremation place

LIVEMINT Page 1

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT TRUSTS (INVITS)

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

NHAI plans InvITs to raise ₹10,000 cr

By Subhash Narayan
subhash.narayan@livemint.com

State-owned National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) plans to raise close to ₹10,000 crore from the capital market through infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs), two officials familiar with the development said.

The first of the InvITs may open around Diwali to raise ₹3,000-4,000 crore for the operation and maintenance of completed roads and highways, they said, seeking anonymity.

An additional ₹5,000-6,000 crore worth of highways are expected to be moved to InvITs by December, paving the way for subsequent market offers to offer retail investors a chance to invest in the highway development programme, one of two officials said, adding that a part of the ₹10,000 crore fundraising may spill over to the next year.

InvITs raise money from the public to invest in infrastructure projects such as roads and



The first of the InvITs may open around Diwali to raise ₹3,000-4,000 crore HT

ports and, in return, offer dividends to unitholders. The new initiative is expected to deepen the asset monetization market in the roads sector. So far, all road sector InvITs are private trusts.

Only institutional investors such as insurance companies and pension funds had participated in the first InvIT round of NHAI in October last year.

The officials said NHAI had already sought approval from

TURN TO PAGE 6

Context: State-owned National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) plans to raise close to ₹10,000 crore from the capital market through infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs).

Infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs)

- Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) are investment instruments that work like mutual funds and are regulated by SEBI.
- Typically, such a vehicle is designed to pool money (small sums) from several investors to be invested in income-generating assets.
- InvITs are mostly structured as trusts, and an independent trustee holds assets on behalf of unitholders.
- InvITs could be set up for sectors defined under the infrastructure as per RBI guidelines.
- So far, developers engaged in the road, power transmission, gas pipelines and tower transmission have formed InvIT.
- A REIT/InvIT is established as a trust settled by the sponsor under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882 and the trust deed registered in India under the Registration Act, 1908. Also, a Certificate of Registration as REITs and InvITs needs to be obtained from SEBI.
- There are various parties involved in REITs and InvITs, such as a sponsor, trustee, and investment manager.
- Distributions by REITs and InvITs are based on Net distributable cash flows (NDCF), unlike companies where dividends are based on profits.
- These distributions are declared and made at least once every six months for publicly offered REITs and InvITs and once a year for privately placed InvITs.
- Investors receive periodic pay-outs of a minimum of 90 per cent of NDCF.
- However, unlike mutual funds, both InvITs and REITs also have characteristics of a business enterprise.
- While REITs and InvITs raise debt through a trustee and an investment manager, they are also actively involved in projects to maximize returns to shareholders.

LIVEMINT

Page 4

RBI MONETARY POLICY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Ex-RBI Guv bats for maintaining hawkish stance on interest rates

PTI
feedback@livemint.com

Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor C. Rangarajan advocated maintaining the ongoing hawkish stance by the RBI to tame inflation and expected that the rupee will strengthen with resumption of capital inflow. India has to clock an 8-9% year-on-year growth for the next five years to achieve the target of a $5 trillion economy, he said.

Rangarajan said he would be happy if the country's economic growth reaches 7% in the current fiscal.

"The current policy stance should continue. Developed countries are also hiking rates steeply. I expect more rate hikes," Rangarajan said at the Samar Kanti Paul Memorial Lecture at the Ramkrishna Mission Institute of Culture on Saturday evening. He, however, did not elaborate on the quantum.



C. Rangarajan, former RBI governor. MINT

RBI has maintained a hawkish stance with rate hikes to tame inflation.

The 90-year-old economist said there was a sharp fall in rupee value against the US dollar to ₹79-80 with the outflow of capital. "With the inflow of capital, the rupee's value is expected to strengthen but will not reach the pre-covid levels," he said. There was an inflow of ₹22,000 crore from foreign portfolio investors in August 2022, after months of selling.

Rangarajan stressed on the need to raise the investment rate to 33%, which has slipped to 27-28%, to achieve a higher growth rate.

Context: Former RBI Governor advocated maintaining the ongoing hawkish stance by the Reserve Bank of India to tame inflation and expected that the rupee will strengthen with resumption of capital inflow.

RBI monetary policy: Key terms

- **Accommodative stance**
  - An accommodative stance means the central bank is prepared to expand the money supply to boost economic growth.
  - The central bank, during an accommodative policy period, is willing to cut the interest rates. A rate hike is ruled out.
  - The central bank typically adopts an accommodative policy when growth needs policy support and inflation is not the immediate concern.
- **Neutral stance**
  - A 'neutral stance' suggests that the central bank can either cut rate or increase rate.
  - This stance is typically adopted when the policy priority is equal on both inflation and growth.
  - During neutral policy, the central bank doesn't commit to hike rates or cut.
  - The interest rate can move to either sides depending on incoming data.
- **Hawkish stance**
  - A hawkish stance indicates that the central bank's top priority is to keep the inflation low.
  - During such a phase, the central bank is willing to hike interest rates to curb money supply and thus reduce the demand.
  - A hawkish policy also indicates tight monetary policy.
  - A rate cut is nearly certain during such a period. When the central bank increases rates or 'tighten' the monetary policy, banks too increase their rate of interest on loans to end borrowers which, in turn, curbs demand in the financial system.
- **Calibrated tightening**
  - The central bank uses often is calibrated tightening.
  - Calibrated tightening means during the current rate cycle, a cut in the repo rate is off the table. But, the rate hike will happen in a calibrated manner.
  - This means the central bank may not go for a rate increase in every policy meeting but the overall policy stance is tilted towards a rate hike.
  - This can happen outside the policy meetings as well if the situation warrants.

THE HINDU Page 13

SCHEDULED TRIBES OF CHHATTISGARH

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Social Justice)

Sawar, Sawara and Saunra: one and the same tribe now

With the Union Cabinet approving spelling variations for 11 tribes in the State, the decades-long struggle has drawn to an end

SHUBHOMOY SIKDAR
RAIPUR

Soon after he got a government job as a teacher in Bastar in 2010, Shivprasad Bhoi, now 39, was asked to get his Scheduled Tribe certificate attested. What he then presumed to be a simple exercise turned out to be a nightmare. A spelling variation in the name of his tribe, Sawar, eventually resulted in his dismissal from service 15 months later. He did not get paid for his services during the period and has not found another job ever since.

"Not having my ST certificate turned out to be a huge impediment. Seeking help from government officials and Ministers proved futile. I kept insisting I was from the Sawar tribe, but the spelling variation meant nothing could be done. I was left with no choice but to return to farming," Mr. Bhoi says.

Last week, the Union Cabinet approved the inclusion of spelling variations for 11 tribes on the list of Scheduled Tribes of Chhattisgarh and 'Sawar' or 'Sawara' was one of those. According to Shammi Abidi, Commissioner, Scheduled Tribe Development Department, and Director, Tribal Research and Training Institute (TRTI), the decision will benefit nearly one lakh people across Chhattisgarh.



The ruling Congress in Chhattisgarh and its main challenger, the BJP, are both claiming credit for the latest approval.

Mr. Bhoi is still hoping for retrospective relief when the note gets parliamentary approval and presidential assent but admits that the chances are slim. However, he is relieved that many others from these tribes may not meet the same fate as his.

A long process

The ruling Congress in Chhattisgarh and its main challenger, the BJP, are both claiming credit for the latest approval. However, it came through a long process fraught with challenges, say community leaders and others who have worked closely with these tribes over the past decade and a half.

"The system is such that the burden of proof lies with the applicant who wants a certificate issued or attested. Most miss out because they are illiterate and did not know what was entered in the documents they had been issued or had inherited from their parents. Some families didn't even keep the documents. In certain cases, the pronunciation changed the entire word. For example, if a teacher misheard something at the time of admission or the sub-divisional magistrate got the spelling wrong at the time of issuance, it just stuck," says G.M. Jha, a former Deputy Director at the TRTI headquartered in Nawa Raipur.

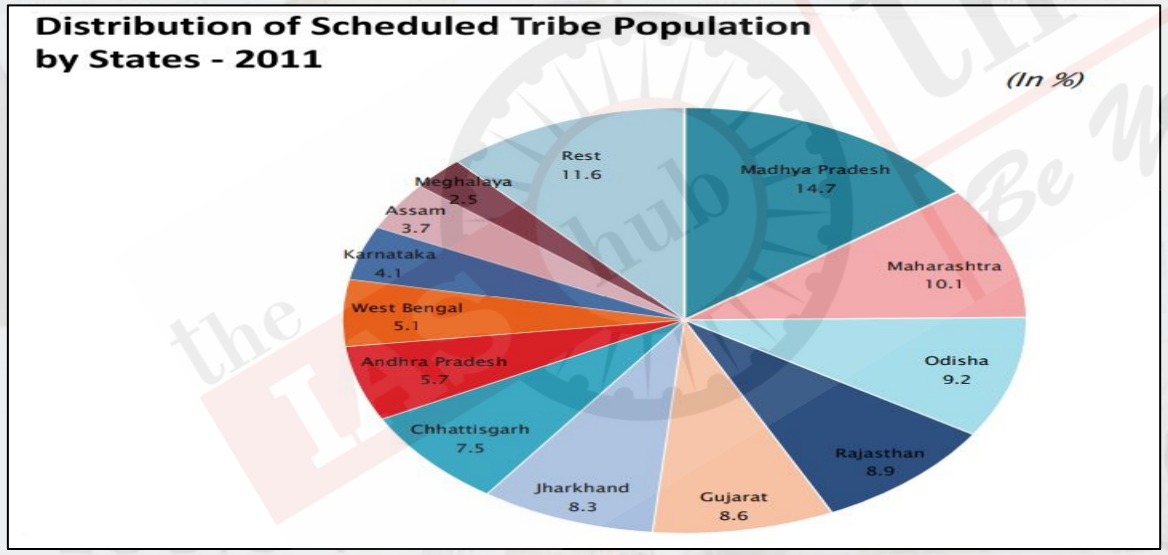
P.L. Sidar, president, Chhattisgarh Sawar Sawara Samaj Sangh and and one of the key figures of this campaign for inclusion of synonyms, explains: "Saunra and Saonra have been approved as synonyms of Sawar and Sawara. We are a tribe that is native to the eastern districts such as Raigarh or Mahasamund and we had better exposure due to education because of our lands falling on important train and bus routes. There are nearly 3 lakh Sawaras and we are numerically the second-largest group after Gonds. However, we are the ones most affected."

Mr. Sidar said all such communities endured countless "trials and tribulations" for over a decade and a half.

He explains how a "non-issue" turned into a big stumbling block due to officials' lack of understanding and indifference. "Articles 342 (1) and (2) of the Constitution give clear direction on who is deemed to be an ST and who can be included. However, around 2004, the then director of the TRTI issued a book that wrongly interpreted a Supreme Court order and the terms 'synonym' and 'synonymous' in it. This then became a reference point for officials across districts and they started rejecting applications with spelling variations that stemmed from phonetic variations. Often, the poor and illiterate tribals would have no recourse against outright rejection or intense scrutiny even if their case was genuine. They would abandon the pursuit altogether," says Mr. Sidar.

Uday Pando, the regional president of Sarva Vishesh Pichhdi Janjati Samaj Chhattisgarh Pradesh, adds that community leaders started recognising this problem in the mid-2000s and approached the State Scheduled Tribes Commission, the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes and regularly interacted with Ministers and MPs to highlight it.

Mr. Pando hails from the Pando tribe that is native to the Sarguja region and is among the 11 whose spelling variations had been listed by the Centre recently. However, the rectification was not easy as there were no clear guidelines for anthropological and ethnographic studies until 2013, adds Mr. Sidar.



Context: With the Union Cabinet approving spelling variations for 11 tribes in the State, the decades-long struggle has drawn to an end.

Scheduled Tribes of Chhattisgarh

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister has agreed to include 12 communities of Chhattisgarh in the Scheduled Tribes. They are as follows:
  - Bhuinya as a synonym for BhariaBhumia
  - Reformation of the English version of the name Bhuyan Bharia as Bharia without any change.
  - Pondh (Pond)
  - Dhanuhar as a synonym for Dhanwar, Dhanuwar
  - Gadwa
  - Gond with Gondh
  - Kond with Kondh
  - Kodhaku with Kodaku
  - Nagesia, farmer as a synonym for Nagasia
  - Refinement of Dhangad
- The Union Cabinet approved the inclusion of spelling variations for 11 tribes on the list of Scheduled Tribes of Chhattisgarh and 'Sawar' or 'Sawara' was one of those.
- Articles 342 (1) and (2) of the Constitution give clear direction on who is deemed to be an ST and who can be included.
- Around 2004, the then director of the Tribal Research and Training Institute (TRTI) issued a book that wrongly interpreted a Supreme Court order and the terms 'synonym' and 'synonymous' in it.
- This then became a reference point for officials across districts and they started rejecting applications with spelling variations that stemmed from phonetic variations. Often, the poor and illiterate tribals would have no recourse against outright rejection or intense scrutiny even if their case was genuine.
- They would abandon the pursuit altogether.

THE HINDU Page 16

EARTHQUAKE IN TAIWAN: PLACES IN NEWS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Geography)

Powerful earthquake strikes Taiwan

People trapped as three-storey building collapses; part of a passenger train derails

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TAIPEI

A strong earthquake shook much of Taiwan on Sunday, toppling a three-story building and temporarily trapping four people inside, stranding about 400 tourists on a mountainside, and knocking part of a passenger train off its tracks.

The magnitude 6.8 quake was the largest among dozens that have rattled the island's southeastern coast since Saturday evening, when a 6.4 quake struck the same area. There were no immediate reports of serious injuries.

Most of the damage appeared to be north of the epicentre, which Taiwan's Central Weather Bureau said was in the town of Chishang at the relatively shallow depth of 7 km.

The three-story building, which had a 7-11 convenience store on the ground floor and residences on the upper ones, collapsed in nearby Yuli town, the island's Central News Agency said.



Joint effort: Firefighters moving a person during a rescue operation at the site of a collapsed building in Yuli. ▪ AFP

The 70-year-old owner of the building and his wife were rescued first, but it took longer to get to a 39-year-old woman and her 5-year-old daughter.

A photo released by the Hualien city government showed the girl lying on a blanket and being handed down a metal ladder from the top of the debris by helmeted rescue workers in orange uniforms.

The top two stories of the building were left sprawled across a small street and onto the other side, with electricity wires pulled down by the fallen structure.

More than 7,000 households were reported without power in Yuli, and water pipes were also damaged.

Also in Yuli, a landslide trapped nearly 400 tourists on a mountain famous for the orange day lilies.

Debris from a falling canopy on a platform at Dongli station in Fuli town hit a passing train, derailing six bogies, the Central News Agency said.



Context: A strong earthquake shook much of Taiwan.

Earthquake

- An earthquake (also known as a quake, tremor or temblor) is the shaking of the surface of the Earth resulting from a sudden release of energy in the Earth's lithosphere that creates seismic waves.
- The energy from an earthquake travels through Earth in vibrations called seismic waves.
- Earthquakes can range in intensity, from those that are so weak that they cannot be felt, to those violent enough to propel objects and people into the air and wreak destruction across entire cities.
- The seismic activity of an area is the frequency, type, and size of earthquakes experienced over a particular time period.
- The seismicity at a particular location in the Earth is the average rate of seismic energy release per unit volume. The word tremor is also used for non-earthquake seismic rumbling.

Earthquake in Taiwan: Places in news

- Town of Chishang: Taiwan's Central Weather Bureau
- Yuli town: Taiwan's Central News Agency
- Hualien City: It is a county-administered city and the county seat of Hualien County, Taiwan.

TIMES OF INDIA

Page 5

VULTURE CONSERVATION

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

Vulture count in Raigad shows decline: Report

Umesh K Parida

Navi Mumbai: The vulture count in Raigad shows a decline in its numbers from 347 in March 2021 to 249 in March 2022 as per the data released by Society of Eco-Endangered Species Conservation and Protection or Seescap, a non-governmental organization into its conservation.

Cyclones, climate change, Covid lockdown, affected food supply, etc are the reasons. However, Seescap expects the vulture count to go up to around 300 in its November 2022 count as juveniles inside the nest will be noticed.

Residential vultures - Indian Long Billed vultures and White Rumped vultures as well as migratory Himalayan Griffon vultures, Eurasian Griffon vultures, Cinerious vultures and King vultures are noticed in Raigad district. Seescap has observed decline in vulture population in the last 30 years in Raigad. Its intervention had increased their numbers to about 350.



Count is expected to go up by Nov as juveniles inside nests will be noticed

Seescap have reported a 34 per cent decline in White Rumped vultures in Shrivardhan and Mhasla talukas and 18 per cent in Long Billed vultures in Mahad, Kolad, Wakan and Sudhagad areas. The Nisarga cyclone hit their nest in June 2020 followed by Tauktae cyclone in May 2021.

White rumped vulture numbers and their nests show a decline in Shrivardhan, Chirgaon in Mhasla while Long billed vulture are reported reduction in Nanemachi -Mahad, Sarasgad fort area Sudhagad Pail and Vagheri village. A complete wipe out was reported in Surgad around Kolad, Wakan phata area. "The overall numbers were 347 in February 2021 which declined to 249 in March 2021. Cyclones, residence area selection, falling of tall trees due to natural calamities, mass cutting of tall trees, lack of food supply, etc have contributed to their declining numbers," said Premsagar Mistri, chief, Seescap.

"In 2022 the juvenile count is expected to rise for White Rumped vultures by 36 plus and Long Billed vultures by 14 plus. So the total population would be around 300. The next vulture count is slated in November 2022," added Mistri.

Vulture conservation

- The MoEFCC released the Action Plan for Vulture Conservation 2006 with the DCGI banning the veterinary use of diclofenac in the same year and the decline of the vulture population being arrested by 2011.
- The Central Zoo Authority (CZA) and Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) also established the Vulture Conservation Breeding Programme, which has been successful and had three critically-endangered species bred in captivity for the first time.
- The ministry has now also launched conservation plans for the red-headed and Egyptian vultures, with breeding programmes for both.
- The Vulture Safe Zone programme is being implemented at eight different places in the country where there were extant populations of vultures, including two in Uttar Pradesh.
- Attempts are made to secure the population of vulture by ensuring the minimum use of Diclofenac and an area is declared a Vulture Safe Zone only when no toxic drugs are found in undercover pharmacy and cattle carcass surveys, for two consecutive years, and the vulture populations are stable and not declining.

Context: The vulture count in Raigad shows a decline in its numbers from 347 in March 2021 to 249 in March 2022 as per the data released by Society of Eco-Endangered Species Conservation and Protection or Seescap, a non-governmental organization into its conservation.

Vultures in India

- A total of nine species of vultures are found in India.
- Out of these six species are resident (white–rumped vulture, Indian vulture, slender-billed vulture, red-headed vulture, bearded vulture and Egyptian vulture) and three species are migratory (cinereous vulture, griffon vulture and Himalayan vulture).
- Between the 1990s and 2007, numbers of three presently critically-endangered species - the Oriental white-backed, long-billed and slender-billed vultures - crashed massively with 99 per cent of the species having been wiped out.
- The number of red-headed vultures, also critically-endangered now, declined by 91% while the Egyptian vultures by 80%.
- The Egyptian vulture is listed as 'endangered' while the Himalayan, bearded and cinereous vultures are 'near threatened'.
- The crash in vulture populations came into limelight in the mid-90s, and in 2004 the cause of the crash was established as diclofenac - a veterinary nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) used to treat pain and inflammatory diseases such as gout - in carcasses that vultures would feed off.

DOWN TO EARTH

Sept 19

NITROGEN DIOXIDE POLLUTION

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

POLLUTION

'Nitrogen dioxide pollution is a growing issue for south Asian cities'

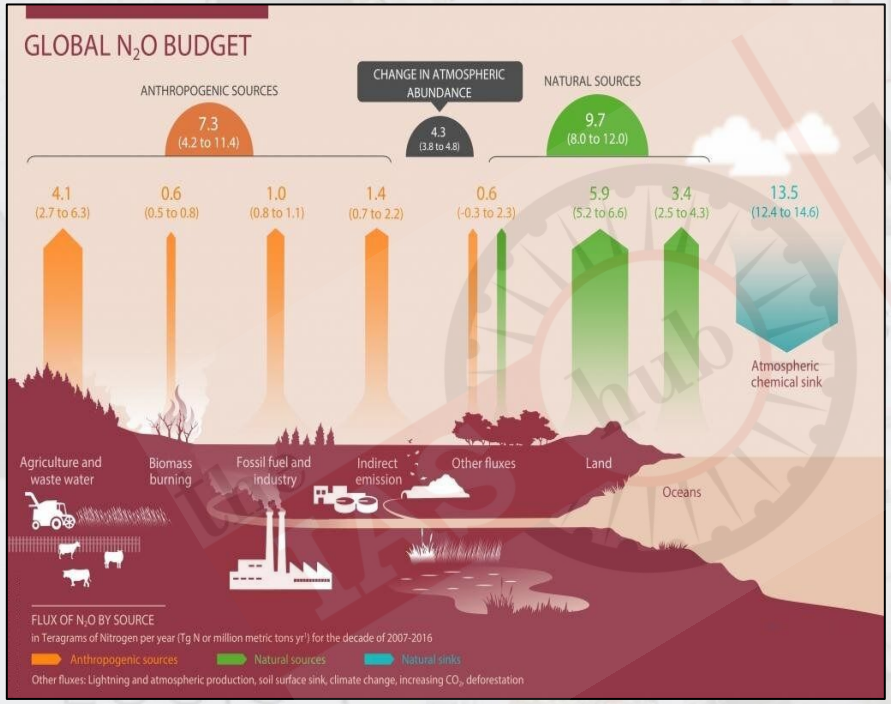
Part 1: Health Effects Institute researcher Pallavi Pant speaks about air pollution challenges faced by south Asian cities

NEXT NEWS >

By Jayanta Basu

Published: Friday 16 September 2022





Context: A recent global study identified Delhi as the highest polluted city globally, followed by Kolkata among the most populous 103 cities out of 7,200.

Key points

- Nitrogen dioxide gas is generated mainly from vehicular combustion, which is a major problem for several big and industrialised cities.
- Waste burning, vehicular pollution, power plants and industries are big concerns for cities like Kolkata or Delhi.
- Construction activity is also a major source of fine particulate pollution.
- Brick kilns are major polluters in cities of Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal.

Nitrogen dioxide

- Nitrogen dioxide, or NO2, is a gaseous air pollutant composed of nitrogen and oxygen and is one of a group of related gases called nitrogen oxides, or NOx.
- Nitrous oxide (N2O) is a greenhouse gas.
- It has the third-highest concentration, after CO2 and methane (CH4), in Earth's atmosphere among GHGs responsible for global warming.
- NO2 forms when fossil fuels such as coal, oil, gas or diesel are burned at high temperatures.
- NO2 and other nitrogen oxides in the outdoor air contribute to particle pollution and to the chemical reactions that make ozone.
- It is one of six widespread air pollutants that have national air quality standards to limit them in the outdoor air.
- NO2 can also form indoors when fossil fuels like wood or natural gas are burned.
- Cars, trucks, and buses are the largest sources of emissions, followed by power plants, diesel-powered heavy construction equipment and other movable engines, and industrial boilers.

PIB

Sept 19

JIMEX 2022

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - International Relations)

JAPAN- INDIA MARITIME EXERCISE 2022 CONCLUDES

Posted On: 18 SEP 2022 3:03PM by PIB Delhi

The sixth edition of the Japan India Maritime Exercise 2022, JIMEX 22 hosted by the Indian Navy concluded in the Bay of Bengal with the two sides bidding farewell to each other with a customary steam past on 17 Sep 22.

Sixth edition of Japan-India Maritime Exercise 2022 (JIMEX 22)

- Concluded in the Bay of Bengal.
- The Indian Navy is being represented by three indigenously designed and built warships;
  - Sahyadri, a multi-purpose stealth frigate and
  - Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvettes Kadmatt and Kavaratti.
- Japan is represented by Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) ships Izumo, a Helicopter Carrier, and Takanami, a Guided Missile Destroyer.
- JIMEX 22 witnessed some of the most complex exercises undertaken jointly by the two navies.
- Both sides engaged in advanced level anti-submarine warfare, weapon firings and Air Defence exercises.
- Shipborne helicopters, fighter aircraft and submarines also participated in the exercise.
- IN and JMSDF ships replenished each other at sea under the agreement on Reciprocal Provision for Supply and Services (RPSS).
- The exercise, which marked the tenth anniversary of JIMEX since its inception in 2012, consolidated the mutual understanding and interoperability between the two navies.

PIB

Sept 19

GLOBAL CLEAN ENERGY ACTION FORUM

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh is leading the Joint Indian Ministerial Delegation of Power, New and Renewable Energy and Science and Technology to America to take part in Global Clean Energy Action Forum

Context: to participate in Global Clean Energy Action Forum and also to interact with eminent academicians as well as Indian diaspora.

- The coveted joint convening of the Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM13) and Mission Innovation (MI-7) will take place from 21st to 23rd September at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, United States of America.

Clean Energy Ministerial

- The Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) brings together a community of the world's largest and leading countries, companies, and international experts to achieve one mission - accelerate clean energy transitions.
- The CEM is an international clean energy leadership platform, a convening platform, an action platform, and an acceleration platform.
- The current 29 members of the CEM account for 90% of the world's clean power and 80% of global clean energy investments, and the vast majority of public R&D in clean energy technologies.
- This forum encourages partnerships and collaboration between the private sector, public sector, non-governmental organizations and brings together many leading international experts and energy organisations to collaborate and fast track the implementation of clean energy solutions.
- The CEM is currently the only regular meeting of energy ministers focused exclusively on clean energy, with the hosting of the Ministerial meetings changing every year among the CEM member governments.
- CEM engagement is coordinated by an independent multilateral Secretariat housed at the International Energy Agency in Paris since 2016.

Mission Innovation (MI)

- The Mission Innovation (MI) is a global initiative of 22 countries and the European Commission (on behalf of the European Union) catalyzing investment in research, development and demonstration to make clean energy affordable, attractive and accessible for all.
- Mission Innovation was launched during 21st Conference of the Parties (COP 21) in November 2015, in presence of Hon'ble Prime Minister, India along with world leaders.
- India is an active and founding member of Mission Innovation.
- Department of Biotechnology (DBT) is the nodal agency for coordinating national efforts in clean energy RD&D and implementing various activities in close collaboration with Department of Science and Technology (DST) and other line ministries.

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