Black Carbon Network

Prelims: *Current events of National and International Importance| Environment*

Why in News?

Cambodia, Mexico, and Panama joined the Peer Network on Sectoral Action on Black Carbon at COP31 in Antalya, Türkiye, expanding the alliance to 12 countries.

The **Black Carbon Network** was originally launched by nine countries at **COP30** to coordinate policies, share best practices, and cut soot emissions across key sectors.

Country Commitments & Priorities

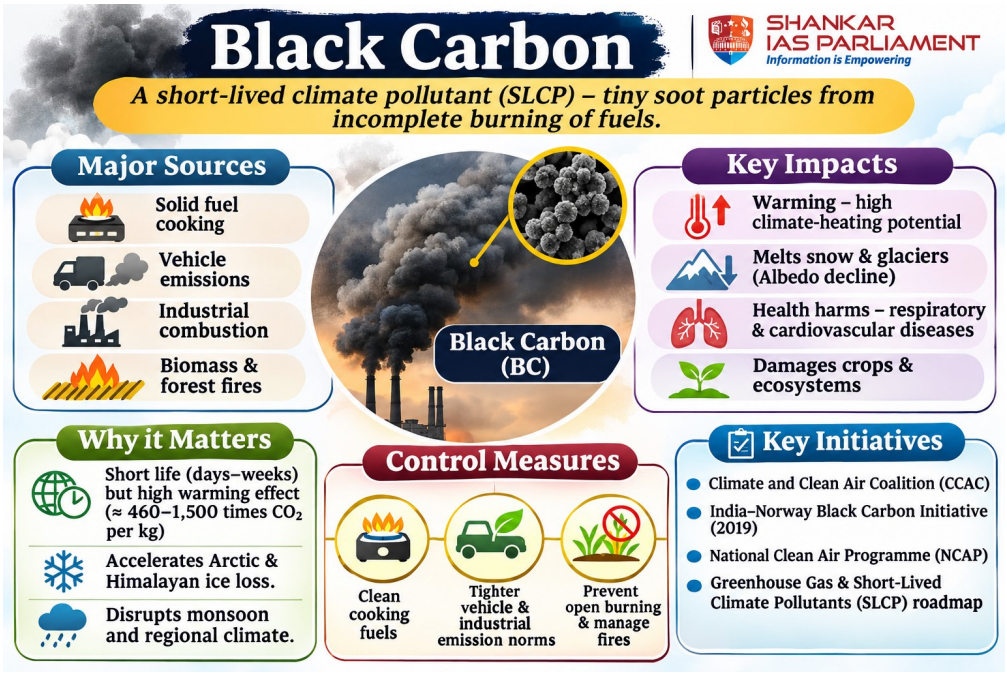
- **Mexico**– Targets a 51% reduction in black carbon emissions by 2030, focusing heavily on transport and cooking as priority areas. It was the first country to include black carbon in its national climate plan.
- **Panama**– Identifies vehicles as its largest source of black carbon—accounting for 85% of emissions—and plans to phase out older, high-polluting trucks and buses while tightening clean vehicle standards.
- **Cambodia**– Joined to exchange policy ideas and strengthen climate resilience against threats like Super El Niño.

Why Black Carbon Matters

- **Climate & Ice Melt**– Black carbon (soot) absorbs sunlight and warms the atmosphere.
- When it settles on snow and ice, it darkens the surface and speeds up melting.
- Targeted cuts to black carbon and ground-level ozone could prevent roughly 0.14°C of warming by 2050.
- **Health Impacts**– As a major component of fine particulate air pollution, black carbon contributes to respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses, including asthma and lung disease.

Broader COP31 Super Pollutant Momentum

- The announcement came alongside broader super pollutant discussions co-organized by the Climate and Clean Air Coalition and partners.
- COP31 also featured US$480 million in announced funding to tackle super pollutants, addressing a historical financing gap where less than 0.5% of development finance (US$824 million in 2023) went toward major black carbon sources.



Reference

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