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** - Crowdsource 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 climat

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 consonant 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.

To know about Part-2, click here

Reference

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