November - 24

TNPSC BITS

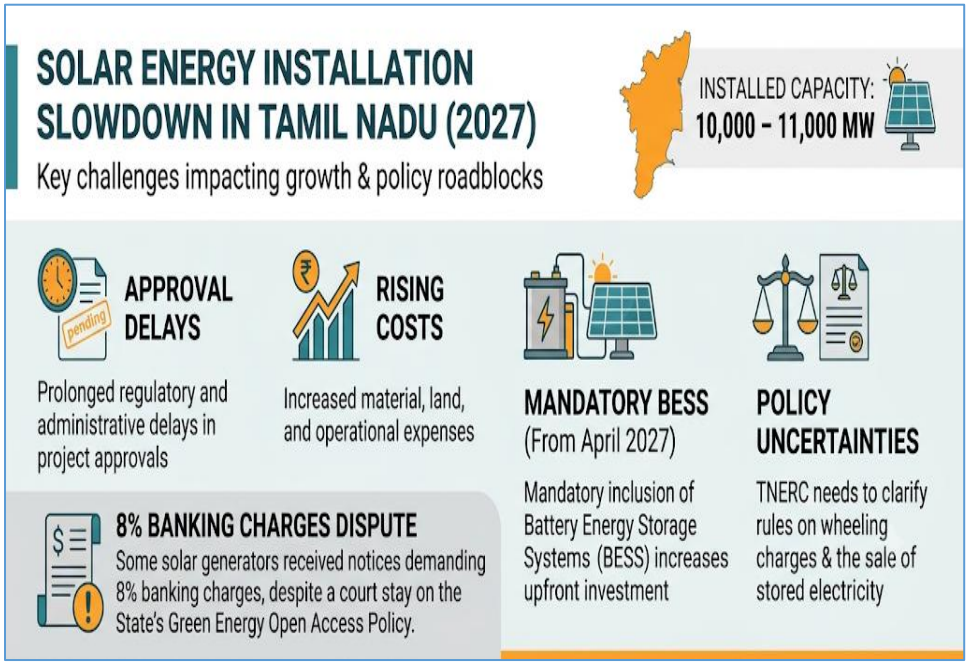
- Prime Minister of India inaugurated COSMOS-Mysuru Planetarium, India's first LED dome planetarium, in Mysuru, Karnataka.
- The Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications, organised the First All India Conference on Official Language 2026 at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi.
  - The conference aimed to promote the progressive use of Hindi (Rajbhasha) in official communication and government administration.
- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) introduced a four-tier motor insurance structure for private cars and two-wheelers, effective 15 December 2026, following a Supreme Court directive.
  - The four components are third-party liability, legal liability towards occupants or pillion riders, personal accident cover and own-damage cover.
- The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) launched the Network Anubhav Platform to monitor and display telecom network performance across India.
- The Ministry of Railways received the PM Surya Ghar Excellence Award 2026 from Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan in New Delhi for securing first place in the category "Maximum Buildings Solarized by Central Ministries/Departments.
  - The PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, launched in February 2024, aims to install rooftop solar systems in one crore households and provide eligible households with up to 300 units of electricity per month.
- World Toilet Day is observed annually on 19 November to raise awareness about the importance of safe sanitation, promote access to toilets for all, and highlight the link between sanitation, public health and gender equality.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "Safe toilets. Equal futures."
- Women's Entrepreneurship Day is observed annually on 19 November to celebrate, support and empower women entrepreneurs worldwide.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Solar Energy Installation Slowdown

- Tamil Nadu may see a slowdown in new solar energy installations in 2027 due to approval delays, rising costs and policy-related issues.
- Tamil Nadu has an installed solar energy capacity of around 10,000–11,000 MW (Megawatts).

- Delays in project approvals, rising costs and the mandatory inclusion of BESS (Battery Energy Storage System) from April 2027 may slow down new installations.



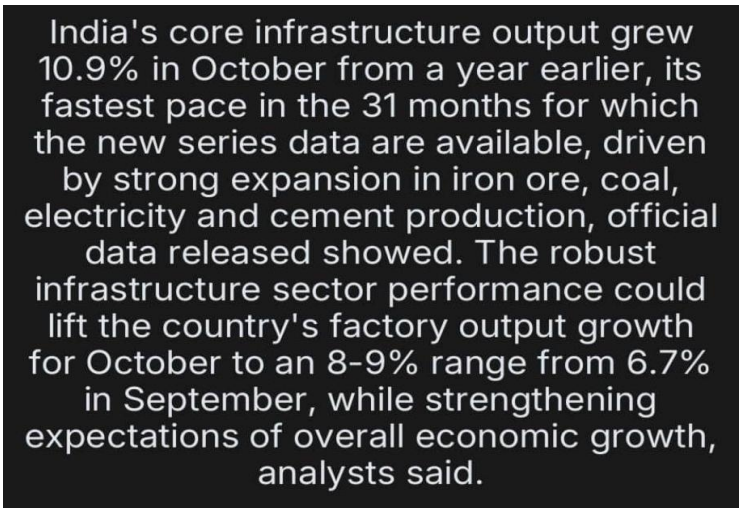
- The TNERC (Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission) needs to clarify provisions of the State's BESS policy, including rules on wheeling charges and the sale of stored electricity.
- Some solar energy generators received notices demanding 8% banking charges, despite the court staying the State's Green Energy Open Access Policy.
- The single window system for obtaining approvals is not functioning effectively, finer details based on the recently-announced Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Policy should be notified by the Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission, and costs are escalating.
- From April next year, it is mandatory for all new projects to have BESS, and this will push the costs up.
- The single window approval system is functioning effectively for solar energy projects that come as a part of foreign direct investments.
- The others require multiple approvals, starting right from the rural local body heads.
- These lead to delays, pushing up the costs.
- While the BESS policy is a welcome move, the Tamil Nadu Green Energy Corporation should ensure that stored solar energy is evacuated within 24 hours, so that the generator can store freshly generated energy the next day.

- More sub-stations and solutions for right of way challenges to lay lines on lands belonging to various government departments are among the other issues faced by investors that threaten to slow down solar energy projects.

NATIONAL NEWS

India's Infrastructure Output Growth

- India's nine core industries recorded 10.9% growth in October 2026, the highest in 31 months.
- The nine core industries are coal, crude oil, natural gas, petroleum refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement, electricity and iron ore.
- Iron ore recorded the highest growth at 26.4%, followed by coal (23.1%), electricity (21.6%) and cement (15.4%).
- Six sectors recorded growth, while fertilisers, natural gas and crude oil registered contractions.
- These nine industries account for around 40% of the IIP (Index of Industrial Production).
- The revised ICI (Index of Core Industries) uses 2022–23 as its base year, replacing 2011–12, and includes iron ore as the ninth sector.



National HPV Vaccination Campaign

- India administered more than 1 crore (10 million) HPV vaccine doses by November 21, 2026, within nine months of launching the National HPV Vaccination Campaign in February 2026.

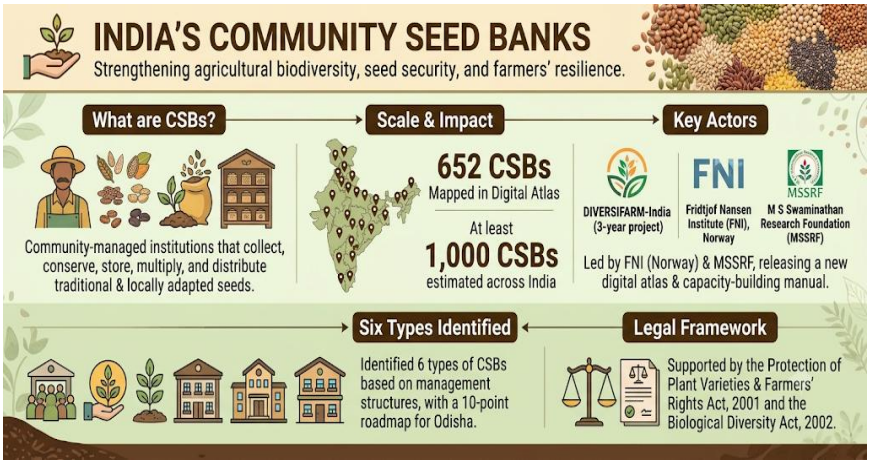
- The campaign was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in February 2026 and provides free, voluntary, single-dose vaccination to 14-year-old girls with parental consent.
- The campaign aims to prevent cervical cancer, which is mainly caused by persistent infection with high-risk Human Papillomavirus (HPV) types.
- Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar achieved 100% of their identified target population.
- U-WIN (Universal Immunization Programme – WIN) digital platform supports beneficiary tracking, real-time monitoring, appointment booking and digital vaccination certificates.
- CERVAVAC, developed by the Serum Institute of India with support from the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), is India's quadrivalent HPV vaccine targeting types 6, 11, 16 and 18.

India has administered over one crore HPV vaccine doses in less than nine months under its National HPV Vaccination Campaign, achieving nearly 87% coverage of the identified target population. Launched by PM Modi in February 2026, the campaign provides free, voluntary single-dose HPV vaccination to 14-year-old girls at government health facilities.

India's Community Seed Banks

- DIVERSIFARM-India released a digital atlas mapping 652 Community Seed Banks (CSBs) and a capacity-building manual at a national seminar held in New Delhi.
- Community Seed Banks (CSBs) are community-managed institutions that collect, conserve, store, multiply and distribute traditional and locally adapted seeds among farmers, preserving agricultural biodiversity and ensuring seed availability.
- The survey estimates that India has at least 1,000 CSBs, which help conserve traditional seeds and strengthen farmers' resilience.

- DIVERSIFARM-India is a three-year project led by the Fridtjof Nansen Institute (FNI), Norway, and the M S Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF).
- The study identified six types of CSBs based on management structures and prepared a 10-point roadmap for strengthening them in Odisha.
- The project examined the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001, and the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, as important legal frameworks for supporting CSBs.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India-Japan Strategic Partnership



- India and Japan unveiled a joint commemorative logo with the tagline "Shared Horizons" on 19 November 2026, marking the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations in 2027, celebrated as the India-Japan Year of Shared Horizons.

- India and Japan established diplomatic relations on 28 April 1952, following the entry into force of the Treaty of Peace.
- The logo features Indian ornamental patterns in 7, Japan's rising sun and Seigaiha waves in 5, a diya with the sun as its flame, two flowing ribbons symbolising a shared horizon, and a lotus representing India.
- Business Connect-75 will strengthen business links between Indian business clusters and Japanese regional banks and enterprises.
- MIRAI-VIGYAN-75 will promote cooperation in science, technology and innovation, including the LUPEX (Lunar Polar Exploration) Mission.
- Empower Regional Linkage-75 will strengthen partnerships between Indian states and Japanese prefectures.

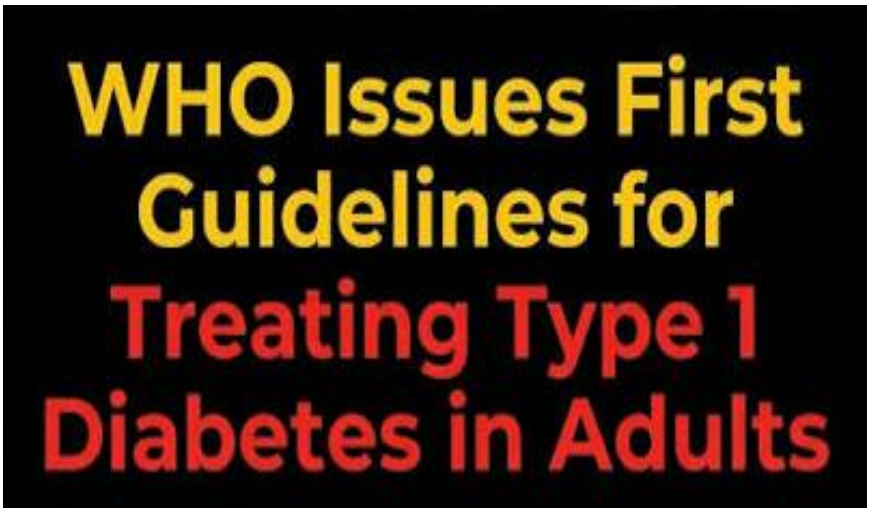
India-Portugal Strategic Partnership



- India and Portugal reviewed their bilateral relations during the 6th India-Portugal Foreign Office Consultations held in New Delhi on 20 November 2026 and agreed to finalise a Five-Year Roadmap for 2027–2032.
- Both countries discussed cooperation in trade, investment, defence, renewable energy, agriculture, science and technology, digital technologies, education and tourism.
- They agreed to speed up negotiations on pending bilateral agreements and work towards their early signing.
- Both sides welcomed the conclusion of negotiations on the India-European Union (EU) Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

- They exchanged views on developments in the Indo-Pacific and West Asia and agreed to continue cooperation in multilateral forums, including the United Nations.

WHO Diabetes Guidelines 2026

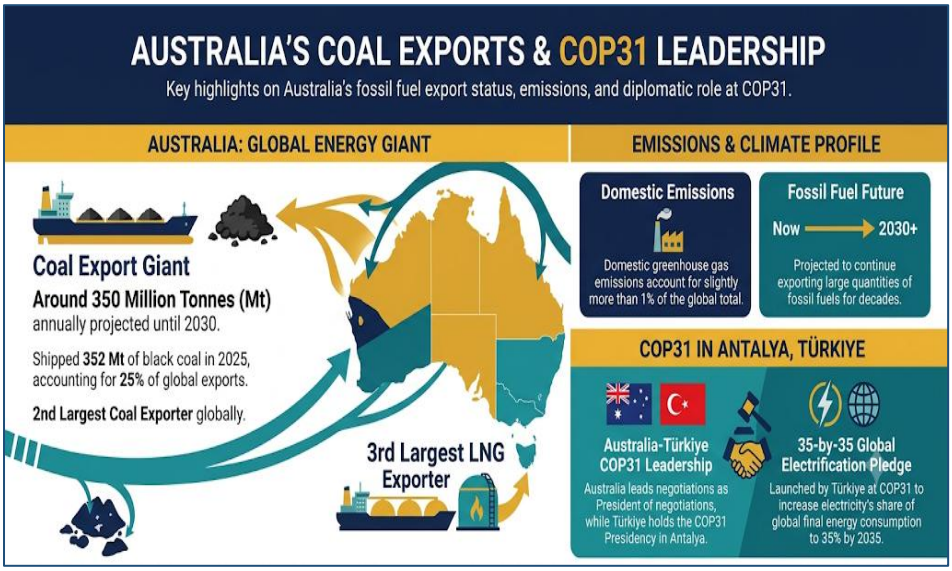


- The World Health Organization (WHO) issued its first-ever guidelines for the diagnosis and management of Type 1 diabetes in adults on 14 November 2026, marking World Diabetes Day.
- Type 1 diabetes is a lifelong condition in which the pancreas produces little or no insulin, making patients dependent on daily insulin treatment to survive.
- Around 9.5 million people were living with Type 1 diabetes worldwide in 2025, with 500,000 new cases diagnosed that year.
- The WHO recommends multiple daily insulin injections and regular blood glucose monitoring through blood tests, finger-prick tests or Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) devices.
- The WHO aims to ensure access to affordable insulin treatment and blood glucose self-monitoring for all people with Type 1 diabetes by 2030.

Australia's coal exports

- Australia is projected to continue exporting large quantities of fossil fuels for decades, with coal exports remaining at around 350 million tonnes (Mt) annually until 2030.
- Australia is the world's second-largest coal exporter.
- Australia is also the world's third-largest LNG exporter.

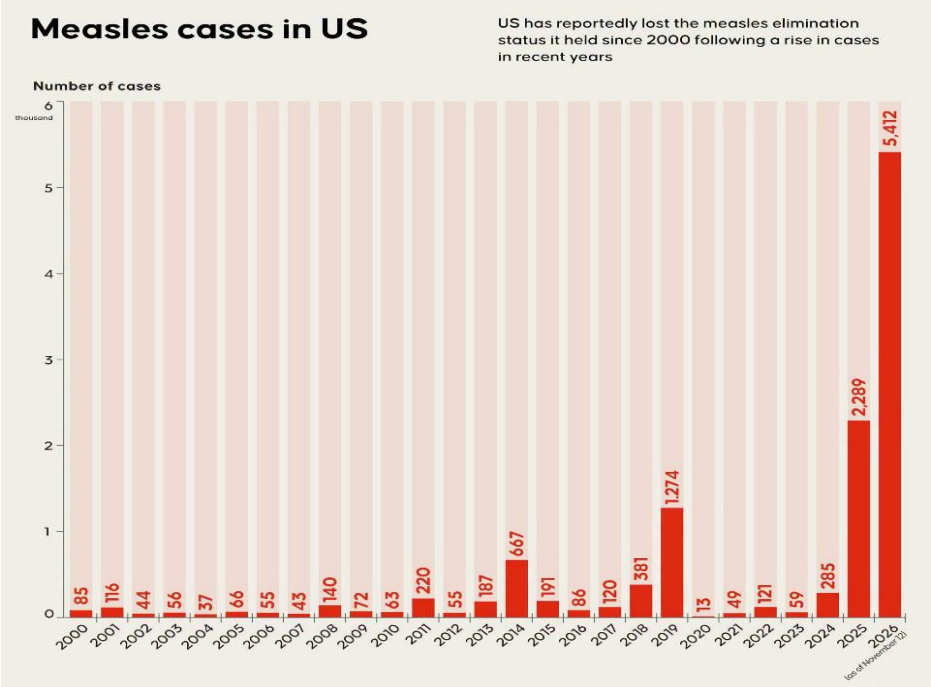
- Australia shipped 352 Mt of black coal in 2025, accounting for 25 per cent of global exports.
- Its domestic greenhouse gas emissions account for slightly more than 1 per cent of the global total.
- Australia leads negotiations at COP31 in Antalya, Türkiye.
- Türkiye holds the COP presidency, while Australia serves as president of negotiations.
- The 35-by-35 Global Electrification Pledge, launched by Türkiye at COP31, aims to increase electricity's share of global final energy consumption to 35 per cent by 2035.



Measles-free status

- US loses measles elimination status after 26 years amid record case numbers.
- PAHO (Pan American Health Organization), a group within the World Health Organization, revoked the US's measles-elimination.
- PAHO also revoked measles elimination status for Mexico and Bolivia on the same day, following Canada's loss of status in late 2025.
- India is among the top countries globally for reported measles cases (ranking behind countries like Bangladesh and Indonesia).
- As per the World Health Organization (WHO) definition, measles is a highly contagious viral disease, which affects mostly children.
- It is transmitted via droplets from the nose, mouth or throat of infected persons.
- Measles is one of the most contagious viruses in the world.

- One infected person can spread it to 12 to 18 unprotected people.
- According to the WHO, community-wide vaccination is the most effective way to prevent measles.
- All children should be vaccinated against measles.



ECONOMY NEWS

India's electronics exports in 2025-26

- India's electronic goods exports increased by 44 per cent to USD 31.97 billion during April–September of FY 2026-27.
- It is compared with USD 22.20 billion in the corresponding period of the previous financial year.
- While smartphones continued to be the largest component of India's electronics export basket, non-smartphone electronics recorded faster growth.
- Smartphone exports rose 35.8 per cent, increasing from USD 13.38 billion in April–September FY 2025-26 to USD 18.17 billion in the first half of FY 2026-27.
- However, their share in total electronic goods exports declined from 60.3 per cent to 56.8 per cent as other electronics segments expanded at a faster pace.
- It is indicating a gradual diversification of exports into components, printed circuit boards, communication equipment, memory products and storage devices.

- Singapore was the leading destination for the of parts and accessories exports, accounting for USD 1.87 billion, followed by China at USD 111.5 million.
- The export figures indicate that India's electronics trade is expanding beyond smartphones, with components, printed circuit boards, communication equipment, memory integrated circuits and storage devices contributing increasingly to overall growth.
- Although smartphones remained the largest export category, the faster expansion of non-smartphone electronics increased their share of total exports to 43.2 per cent during April–September FY 2026-27.
- The rise in shipments across these product categories, alongside growing exports to markets such as Singapore, China, Hong Kong and Malaysia, points to a broader range of electronics products contributing to India's export performance.

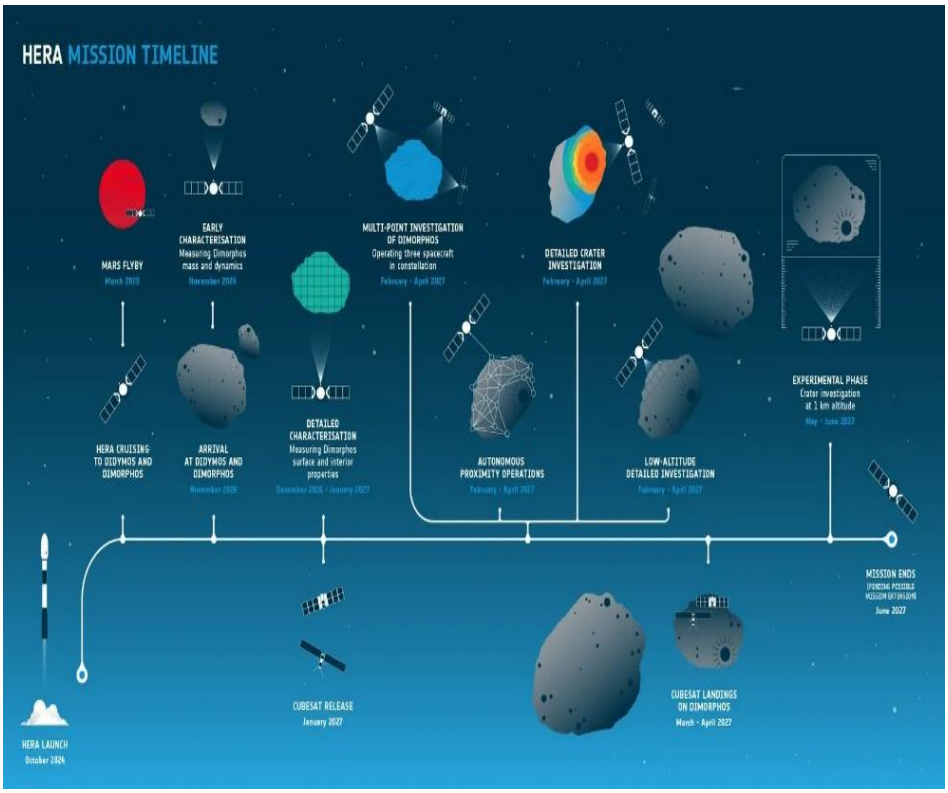


SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Hera Asteroid Mission

- The European Space Agency's (ESA) Hera spacecraft reached the Didymos binary asteroid system in November 2026 to study the impact site of NASA's Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART).
- Hera will examine Dimorphos, the smaller asteroid that was struck by NASA's DART spacecraft on 26 September 2022.
- The DART mission changed Dimorphos's orbit around Didymos by 33 minutes, demonstrating the kinetic-impact method of asteroid deflection.

- Hera will measure Dimorphos's mass, map its surface and study its internal structure.
- The mission uses two CubeSats, Milani and Juventas, to study surface composition and internal structure.

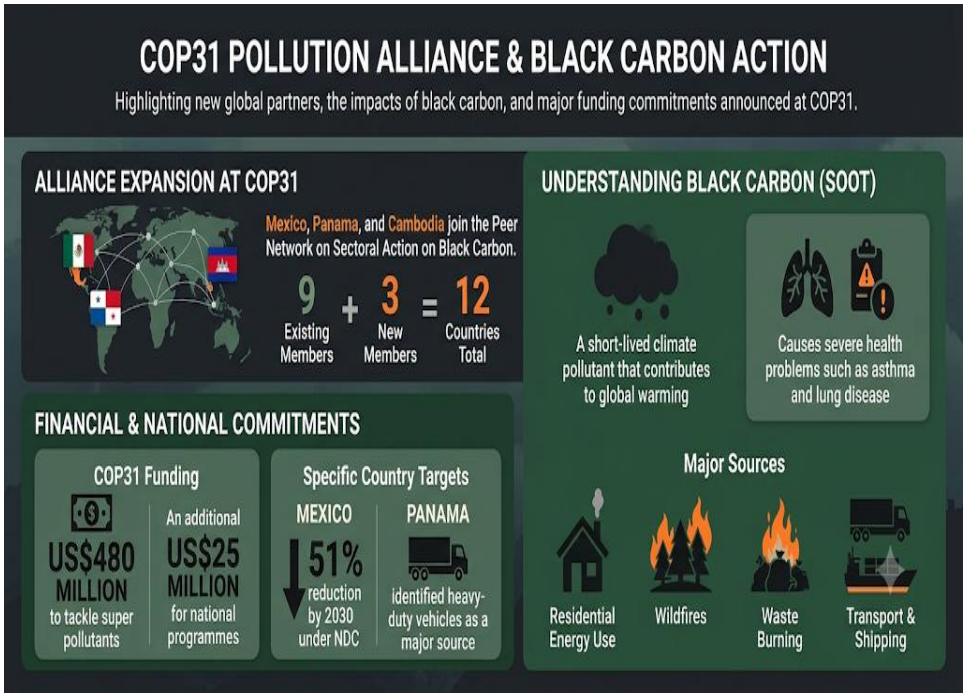


ENVIRONMENT NEWS

COP31 Pollution Alliance

- Mexico, Panama and Cambodia joined the Peer Network on Sectoral Action on Black Carbon during COP31.
- The three countries joined nine existing members, taking the Network's membership to 12 countries.
- Black carbon, also called soot, is a short-lived climate pollutant that contributes to global warming and causes health problems such as asthma and lung disease.
- Major sources include residential energy use, wildfires, waste burning, transport and shipping.
- Mexico aims to reduce black carbon emissions by 51% by 2030 under its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC); Panama identified heavy-duty vehicles as a major source.

- At COP31, US$480 million was announced to tackle super pollutants, along with an additional US$25 million for national programmes.



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