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## Lifestyle for the Environment (LiFE) Movement

### Why in Newspapers?

Recently the Union Minister of Energy and New & Renewable Energy launched the Energy Campaign for Lifestyle for the Environment (LiFE) to create awareness about the basic concept of Agni Tattva – an element that is synonymous with energy and It is one of the five elements of Panchmahabhuta. The Panchamahabhutas include Earth, Water, Fire, Air and Space (Akash).

### Quick Issue?

- It will provide a platform for subject experts to deliberate on their learning's and experiences and find solutions for a sustainable future for all.
- It will cover a range of important topics focusing on health, transportation, consumption and production, safety, environment and spirituality.

### Historical Background?

- The idea of LiFE was introduced by India during the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow in the year 2021.
- The idea promotes an environmentally conscious lifestyle that focuses on 'careful and deliberate use' rather than 'discreet and wasteful consumption'.
- With the launch of this mission the prevailing "use and dispose" economy governed by discretionary and destructive consumption will be replaced by a circular economy, defined by conscious and deliberate consumption.
- It seeks to leverage the power of social networks to influence social norms related to climate.
- The mission plans to build and nurture a global network of individuals, named 'Pro-Planet People' (P3).
- P3 will have a shared commitment to adopt and promote an eco-friendly lifestyle.
- Through the P3 community, the mission seeks to create an ecosystem that will strengthen and enable eco-friendly behaviours to be self-cantered.

### Other Key Facts?

#### Other Related Initiatives

- National Afforestation Programme: It focuses on restoration and afforestation of degraded forests around forests.
- National Mission for Green India: It is under the National Action Plan on Climate Change and aims to improve and increase tree cover as a climate adaptation and mitigation strategy.
- National Biodiversity Action Plan: It has been launched to implement policies to reduce the rates of degradation, fragmentation and loss of natural habitats.
- Rural Livelihood Schemes:- The recognition of natural resources intrinsically linked to rural livelihoods is also reflected in flagship schemes like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA) and National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM).



- India's forest cover is expanding and so is the population of lions, tigers, leopards, elephants and rhinos. The total forest area is 21.71% of the total geographical area in the year 2021, as compared to 21.67% in 2019 and 21.54% in 2017.
- India's commitment to reach 40% of installed power capacity from non-fossil fuel based sources has been achieved 9 years ahead of schedule.
- **Ethanol Blending Target:** - The target of 10% ethanol blending in petrol has been achieved 5 months before the target of November 2022. This is a big achievement, as the blending is hardly 1.5% in 2013-14 and in 2019-20 was 5%.
- The Government of India is also paying a lot of attention to renewable energy.
- The country's installed renewable energy (RE) capacity as on November 30, 2021 is 150.54 GW (solar: 48.55 GW, wind: 40.03 GW, small hydro: 4.83, bio-power: 10.62, large hydro: 46.51 GW), while its nuclear energy based installed power capacity is 6.78 GW.
- India is the fourth largest wind power country in the world.

### Likely Question Asked In Preliminary Exam

**Que. In what context is the term nationally determined intended contribution sometimes seen in the news?**

- (a) Pledge made by European countries to resettle refugees from the war-torn Middle East
- (b) Action plan outlined by the countries of the world to combat climate change.
- (c) Capital contributed by member countries in setting up the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.
- (d) Action plan outlined by the countries of the world regarding the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Answer: (b) Action plan outlined by the countries of the world to combat climate change**

INDORE

## Quad Group

### Why in Newspapers?

The Foreign Ministers of the Quad (India, the US, Australia and Japan) met on the virtual platform of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to sign the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) partnership.

### Quick Issue?

- Under HADR, member countries will coordinate their disaster response operations in the Indo-Pacific region with other national and international agencies, private NGOs.

### Historical Background?

- Quad - is a group of India, America, Australia and Japan. All four nations, being democracies, share a common ground and also support the common interest of uninterrupted maritime trade and security.
- It aims to ensure and support a "free, clear and prosperous" Indo-Pacific region.
- The idea of Quad was first mooted by the Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe in the year 2007. However, the idea did not develop further, as Australia distanced itself from China's pressure on Australia.
- Finally, in the year 2017, India, Australia, America and Japan came together to form this "quadrilateral" alliance.
- Maritime regions are much more important to China than engaging in opportunistic land grabbing efforts in the Himalayas.
- A major part of the Chinese trade takes place through Indian sea routes which pass through sea posts.
- In the event of any Chinese aggression on the borders, India could potentially disrupt Chinese trade in cooperation with the Quad countries.
- Unlike the continental region where India is facing a 'nutcracker-like situation' due to China-Pakistan collusion, the maritime domain is open to India for alliances, formation, rule-setting and other forms of strategic exploration.
- There is increasing interest among the great powers in the maritime domain especially with the advent of the concept of 'Indo-Pacific'. For example, several European countries have recently released their Indo-Pacific strategies.

### **Other Key Facts?**

#### Quad related issues

- **Undefined Vision:** The Quad remains a mechanism without a defined strategic mission, despite the potential for cooperation.
- **Maritime dominance:** The full focus on the Indo-Pacific makes the Quad part of an ocean rather than a land-based grouping, raising the question of whether this cooperation extends to the Asia-Pacific and Eurasian regions.
- **Opposing India's coalition system:** The fact that India is the only member against the treaty alliance system has slowed progress towards a strong quadrilateral engagement.

