

Methane

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Methane Latest News

A new study in NatureFood has found that India's rice fields now rank among world's top methane hotspots.

About Methane

- It is a **hydrocarbon** that is a primary component of natural gas.
- It is a **potent greenhouse gas**, responsible for about 30% of the global temperature rise since the **Industrial Revolution**.
- It is the primary component of natural gas and a **byproduct of fossil fuel exploration**.
- It is 86 times more **efficient at trapping heat** over a 20-year-period than carbon dioxide.
- **Major Sources:** The three major anthropogenic sources of methane emissions are **agriculture, energy, and waste sectors**.

Characteristics of Methane

- It is a **colourless, odourless, and highly flammable gas**, also known as marsh gas.

- It remains in the atmosphere for a shorter period — about 12 years — than carbon dioxide,
- It **traps far more heat in the near term**, making it a key driver of short-term climate change, contributing 28 times more to global warming than carbon dioxide for every tonne.

Source: TH

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