

## General Studies-3; Topic: Conservation

### Rich Nations' Sluggish Climate Actions

#### 1) Introduction

- The Emissions Gap Report 2017 finds that pledges to reduce current emissions are only about one-third of what is needed to prevent catastrophic temperature increases.
- The wealthy nations have failed to deliver on short-term climate commitments
- Under the terms of the UN's climate convention, the action before 2020 falls mainly on wealthy countries historically responsible for the rapid rise of greenhouse gases.
- The US, EU, Canada, Japan and other developed countries have refused to put climate assessments before 2020.

#### 2) Criticism

- Developed countries have not ratified the decision that they had taken five years ago in Doha.
- Wealthy nations still haven't explained how they plan to fulfill their pledge to provide \$100 billion to poorer countries.
- Trust and good faith being eroded by developed nations by moving away from prior agreements and Paris treaty obligations.

#### 3) Concerns / Challenges

- The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said in an alarming report that the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has hit its highest level in 800,000 years.
- With one degree of warming so far, the planet has already seen an increase in drought, deadly heatwaves and superstorms.
- US decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement has made the post-2020 task quite difficult
- The Paris agreement set out principles, but not the details and rules.
- The world's small islands have more to lose from climate change than anywhere else on Earth.
- In many instances, developing countries have not put policies in place to give investors confidence to finance projects
- India also has a large coastline, and anthropogenic climate change and the resultant rise in sea levels will directly affect its citizens.

#### 4) Way Forward

- Developed countries must ensure trust in the process (under Paris Agreement) and follow the previous decisions (under the Kyoto Protocol) to reduce their carbon emissions.
- Acts of developed countries on their pre-2020 commitments are the "foundation upon which climate action should be built after the year 2020".
- The group - Like Minded Developing Countries (LMDC) - also demanded that the developed countries must increase their ambition to reduce their carbon footprints.
- Ratification of the Kyoto Protocol (2013-2020 period) by developed countries to ensure mitigation under the UNFCCC.
- UN secretary general Antonio Guterres has stressed on the need to mobilize the agreed \$100 billion annually for developing countries
- Developing countries should also pledge more mitigation action.

### 5) India's Actions

- India stands on the cusp of an energy revolution.
- Last year the country added 11.3 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy capacity
- Some of India's largest states, including Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are pitching to use renewables to power their growth.
- The Indian Railways is planning a future based on greater energy efficiency.
- Small and medium sized enterprises are championing for a cleaner future
- Khadi handloom sector is looking to replace power looms with solar-run systems.
- Recycled plastic is used in road construction and cement factories, reducing thousands of tonnes in emissions
- These commitments are a testament to India's resolve to be a strong leader on climate action.

### 6) Why should India care?

- Limiting greenhouse gas emissions will interfere India's growth.
- India still relies on coal to generate 59% of its power.
- Over 300 million people in India are still without electricity.
- The outcome of climate negotiations potentially has the power to steer the trajectory of India's development.

### 7) Conclusion

- We must leave for our future generations a climate wherein they can breathe clean air and have a healthy life.

