



## World Sustainable Development Summit 2022

**For Prelims:** World Sustainable Development Summit, Indian Initiatives Related to Sustainable Developments and Climate Change, Bonn Challenge, IUCN, CDRI.

**For Mains:** Inclusive Growth, Environmental Pollution & Degradation, Conservation, World Sustainable Development Summit, Indian Initiatives Related to Sustainable Developments and Climate Change

### Why in News?

Recently, the Prime Minister addressed the [The Energy and Resources Institute's](#) (TERI) [World Sustainable Development Summit](#).

### What is the World Sustainable Development Summit?

- **About:**
  - The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) is the **annual flagship event of TERI**. It was **earlier known as Delhi Sustainable Development Summit. Instituted in 200.**
  - It **is the only Summit on global issues, taking place in the developing world.**
- **Objective:**
  - It has been **conceptualized as a single platform to accelerate action towards sustainable development and climate change.**
  - It aims **to bring together global leaders and thinkers in the fields of sustainable development, energy and environment** sectors on a common platform.

### What is TERI?

- TERI is a **non-profit research institute.**
- It **conducts research work in the fields of energy, environment and sustainable development** for India and the Global South.
- It was **established in 1974** as Tata Energy Research Institute and renamed to The Energy Resources Institute in 2003.

### What was India's Stand at the Summit?

- **Equitable Energy Access:**
  - India has **fulfilled its commitments by ensuring that equitable energy access to the poor remains a cornerstone** of its environmental policy.
  - These included initiatives such as 90 million households getting access to clean cooking fuel under the [Ujjwala Yojana scheme](#).
  - And farmers being encouraged to set up solar panels under the [PM-KUSUM scheme](#)

where farmers could use and sell surplus power to the grid, which would promote sustainability and equity.

▪ **Reducing Emissions:**

- Discussed the **LED bulbs distribution scheme (UJALA)** that has been running for over seven years that had reportedly **saved close to 220 billion units of electricity** and **prevented 180 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions** per year.
- The **National Hydrogen Mission** aims to tap into '**green hydrogen**' and it was up to the academic and research institutes such as TERI to come up with scalable solutions.

▪ **Ramsar Sites:**

- Mentioned international recognition for India's efforts by the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** and India now having 49 **Ramsar sites** (wetlands) spread over more than 1 million hectares.
  - India is a **megadiverse country**. With **2.4% of the world's land area**, India accounts for nearly **8% of the world's species**.

▪ **Restoration of Degraded Land:**

- **Restoring degraded land** has been one of the main focus areas since 2015 and more than **11.5 million hectares have been restored**.
- India is **on track to achieve the national commitment of Land Degradation Neutrality** under the **Bonn Challenge**.
- India firmly believes in fulfilling all its commitments made under the **UNFCCC**. India also raised its ambitions during **CoP-26 at Glasgow**.
  - For example, India announced that **it will reach carbon neutrality by 2070** by 2030.

▪ **Coordinated Actions:**

- Sustainability requires **coordinated action for the global commons**. India's efforts have recognised this inter-dependence.
  - Through the **International Solar Alliance**, India's aim is **"One Sun, One World, One Grid"**.
- The **world must work towards ensuring availability of clean energy** from a world-wide grid everywhere at all times. This is the **"whole of the world" approach** that India's values stand for.
- It also urged countries to act on the basis of globally agreed rules taking into account the principles of equity and **Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities** (acting on climate change based on national circumstances).
  - The **Paris Agreement** goals cannot be reached unless equity is implemented by all countries staying within their fair share of the global carbon budget.

▪ **Infrastructure for Resilient Island States:**

- The **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (C.D.R.I.)**, aims to build strong infrastructure in areas prone to frequent natural disasters.
- On the side-lines of CoP-26, India also launched an initiative called **"Infrastructure for Resilient Island States"**.
  - The Island Developing States are the most vulnerable and hence need urgent protection.

▪ **Launched LIFE - Lifestyle For Environment Initiative:**

- LIFE is about making lifestyle choices to improve our planet. LIFE **will be a coalition of like-minded people across the world** who will promote sustainable lifestyles.
- They will be called 3Ps - **Pro Planet People**. This global movement is the Coalition for LIFE.

## What is Sustainable Development and Climate Change?

▪ **Sustainable Development:**

- Sustainable development is **development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs**.
- This most widely accepted definition of Sustainable Development was given by the **Brundtland Commission in its report 'Our Common Future' (1987)**.
  - **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** are a global effort that has one major objective — achieving a better future for all.

▪ **Climate Change:**

- It is a **long-term change in the average weather patterns** that have come to define Earth's local, regional and global climates.
- Climate data records provide evidence of climate change key indicators, such as global land and ocean temperature increases, [rising sea levels](#), ice loss at Earth's poles and in mountain glaciers, frequency and severity changes in extreme weather such as [hurricanes](#), [heatwaves](#), [wildfires](#), [droughts](#), [floods](#) and precipitation, and cloud and vegetation cover changes, to name but a few.

[Source: TH](#)

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