



## Movement For Raising Voice Against Wasteful Consumption

*This editorial is based on “[Climate and Us | A movement that puts a spotlight on West's wasteful consumption](#)” which was published in *The Hindustan Times* on 08/06/2022. It talks about the initiative taken by India to highlight the wasteful consumption of the western countries and also provides solutions to India's problems related to climate change.*

**For prelims:** Global lifestyle movement, climate equity monitor, carbon colonialism.

**For mains:** Highlighting the disparity between developed and developing countries and tackling the issues around it.

The **Global lifestyle movement** is launched by India to highlight consumption patterns and highlight **historical responsibility, per-capita CO2 emissions** holistically. It is administered by [NITI Ayog](#) along with various individuals & international organizations.

### What are the Objectives of Global Lifestyle Movement?

- It will initiate a global call for **inviting ideas** and **suggestions from academics, universities, and research institutions** on an **environment-conscious lifestyle**, which can also persuade individuals, communities, and organizations to change their way of living.
- These include **behavioral-change** solutions aimed at individuals, households, and communities on **water, transport, food, electricity, recycling, and reuse**.
- It will **leverage the strength of social media networks** to further influence local societal solutions regarding the climate crisis.
- Ideas are also invited on **innovative solutions** that promote wider adoption of traditional, climate-friendly practices and/or create livelihood options for communities that may lose their jobs with a shift towards climate-friendly production.
- The focus would be on following any **international, national, and/or local best practices that can be feasibly scaled up for driving behavioral change related to climate action**.

### Why do We Need Such Type of Movement?

- During the drafting of the **Glasgow pact text of [COP 26 Glasgow climate conference](#)**, there was a **clash between developed and developing countries** on the issue of -
  - **Historical Responsibility:** It tries to address the historical emissions created by the developed world since the inception of the industrial revolution,
  - **Carbon Colonialism:** According to the **Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDC including India & China)** developed countries are performing “carbon colonialism”.
    - This means rather than following the principle of **CBDR(Common But Differentiated Responsibility towards climate change)** developed countries are **pushing developing countries to announce immediate net-zero targets**

**or lopsided conversations about achieving the 1.5-degree global temperature target while entirely ignoring the development needs of a large part of the world.**

- Recently, at the [Stockholm +50 conference](#) which was to **commemorate 50 years of the landmark Stockholm conference, a statement of key recommendations also misses out on the issue of consumption and wasteful exploitations.**
  - Due to this, there is a **lack of accountability** for historical consumption patterns.

## What is CBDR?

- Common but differentiated responsibility (sometimes with the addition of the phrase 'and respective capacities') is a **principle of international law** which means that **different countries have different capabilities and responsibilities** to address cross-border environmental issues such as climate change. It balances:
  - The need for all states to take **individual responsibility for environmental destruction and its mitigation.**
  - The recognition that **states aren't equally responsible for the problem nor equally capable of responding to it.**

## What are Annex 1 and Non-annex 1 countries?

- **Annex I** Parties include the industrialized countries that were members of the [OECD \(Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development\)](#) in 1992, plus countries with economies in transition (the EIT Parties), including the Russian Federation, the Baltic States, and several Central and Eastern European States.
- **Non-Annex I** Parties are mostly **developing countries**. Certain groups of developing countries are recognized as being **especially vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change**, including **countries with low-lying coastal areas and those prone to desertification and drought.**
- Others **least developed countries(LDC)** (countries that rely heavily on income from fossil fuel production and commerce) feel more **vulnerable to the potential economic impacts of climate change response measures**. The climate change Convention emphasizes activities that promise to answer the **special needs and concerns of these vulnerable countries, such as investment, insurance and technology transfer.**

## What are the various disparities highlighted by India?

- There is an enormous gap in **per capita emissions and resource consumption**
- According to [Climate Equity Monitor](#), an **online dashboard for assessing equity in climate action put together by MS Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF)**. the per capita emissions of countries are as follows-
  - **Australia - 22tco2eq per person (CO2 emissions (metric tons per capita))**
  - **the US - 20.2 tco2eq per person**
  - **India - 2.4 tco2eq per person**
  - **Brazil - 5.3 tco2eq per person**
- It shows the **US and other developed countries had the highest per capita electricity consumption in 2019,**
- **Climate Equity Monitor(CEM)** also has an **interactive map** of the global [carbon budget](#) with the categorization of countries based on **how much of the global budget they have already exhausted.**
- Also, most of the **annex 1 countries** have **consumed more than their fair share and are in debt** while **non-annex 1 countries** have credit for not yet consuming their share.
- This shows a **lack of decision-making or unwillingness to take action** and **policy paralysis** among **developed countries.**

## What could be the Way Forward?

- The movement is backed by big names like **LiFE**, [United Nations](#), **World Resources Institute**, **Centre for Social and Behavior Change (CSBC)** and **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)**, **Lord Nicholas Stern**, **Chair of the Grantham Research Institute**; **Prof Cass Sunstein**, the **Robert Walmsley University Professor at Harvard**; **Inger Andersen**, [UNEP Global Head](#); **David Malpass**, [World Bank](#), who hold a big influence on the individuals as well as various communities and societies, it would help in increasing the engagement with the masses.
- There is a need to **highlight the disparities and drive change** with **innovative solutions**
- Movement should also be an **opportunity to highlight and address inequities within India**,
  - As **71% of Indians cannot afford a healthy diet** according to an analysis by the [Centre for Science and Environment](#).
  - It suggests that the **diet of an average Indian does not contain enough fruits, vegetables, legumes, nuts, and whole grains**;
  - **Access to clean water and the environment also remains elusive in most parts of the country.**
- **Need to address the well-being and livelihoods of millions of poor people in India.**
- It should also **focus on a just transition of coal-dependent states which may soon undergo a major transition in industry and jobs.**

### ***Drishti Mains Question***

Highlight the issues raised by the India-led global lifestyle movement and according to you what could be the solutions to these problems?

## **UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)**

**Q) The 'Common Carbon Metric', supported by UNEP, has been developed for (2021)**

- (a) assessing the carbon footprint of building operations around the world
- (b) enabling commercial fanning entities around the world to enter carbon emission trading
- (c) enabling governments to assess the overall carbon footprint caused by their countries
- (d) assessing the overall carbon foot-print caused by the use of fossil fuels by the world in a unit of time

**Ans: (a)**