State of India's Environment Report 2023

Why in News?

Recently, **State of India's Environment report 2023** was launched by **Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)** and **DTE (Down to Earth)** magazine, covering an extensive gamut of subject assessments, ranging from climate change, agriculture and industry to water, plastics, forests and biodiversity.

- The report is the annual publication, focusing on **climate change**, migration, health and food systems. It also covers biodiversity, forest and wildlife, energy, industry, habitat, pollution, waste, agriculture and rural development.
- CSE is a public interest research and advocacy organisation based in New Delhi.

What are the Key Highlights of the Report?

- **Encroachment:**
    - Over 30,000 water bodies have been encroached on in the country and India is generating **150,000 tonnes of** Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) **every day** — more than half of which is either **dumped in** landfills **or remains unattended.**
- **Air Pollution:**
    - Four years and 11 months is the **average duration of life lost to** air pollution in India.
    - Rural India is losing **more years due to air pollution-related health issues** than the urban belt.
    - Rural India needs 35 % more community health centers.
- **Environmental Crimes:**
    - Environmental crimes continue unabated — courts need to decide **on 245 cases every day to clear the backlog.**
- **Extreme Weather Events:**
    - Between January and October 2022, India witnessed **extreme weather events** on 271 days.
    - These extreme weather events **claimed over 2,900 lives.**
- **SDGs:**
    - Over the past five years, India's overall global rank in meeting the United Nations-mandated **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** has slipped by nine places — ranking 121 in 2022.
    - India ranks below four south Asian countries — Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Nepal.
        - India is facing challenges in 11 of the 17 SDGs, including SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 3 (good health and wellbeing), SDG 5 (gender equality) and SDG 11 (Sustainable cities).
- **Plastic Waste:**

- While the magnitude of the problem related to Plastic Waste remains gargantuan, a **plethora of policies and urgency** are on the right path.
- Cities are becoming waste-wise, learning to segregate at source, minimise plastics and reuse reprocess waste into wealth.
  - **Agriculture:**
    - In agriculture, strong evidence is emerging of the efficacy of traditional and **regenerative farming** methods.
    - On the issue of forests and biodiversity, losses of forests are a dark truth, but at the same time more and more communities are demanding rights over forests – what is more, these rights are being granted.

What are the Recommendations?

- We need to have a common minimum programme that brings all countries together on the only issues that matter for humanity: how to avert the existential crisis we face today and how to build a just and inclusive world order.
- In fact, the **pandemic treaty** is a welcome development in this direction.

Source: DTE

PDF Refernece URL: https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/state-of-india-s-environment-report-2023