



# Virtual Climate Action Ministerial

## Why in News

Recently, the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the virtual Ministerial on Climate Action was organised to advance discussions on implementation of the [Paris Agreement](#) under the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change \(UNFCCC\)](#).

## Key Points

### ▪ The Ministerial:

- It was **co-chaired by** European Union, China and Canada.
- The participating countries **exchanged their views on how they are aligning economic recovery plans amid [Covid-19](#), with the Paris Agreement.**
- India highlighted that **developed country parties have not fulfilled their promise for extending financial and technological support to developing countries** as envisaged under UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement.
  - India hopes that in the remaining 5 months of 2020, the promised amount will be mobilized and delivered, for further strengthening climate actions in developing countries.
  - The developed countries had promised to provide USD 1 trillion by 2020.

### ▪ India's Efforts in Combating Climate Change:

- India has **provided 80 million LPG connections** under the [Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana \(PMUY\)](#) in rural areas, providing the people with clean cooking fuel and a healthy environment.
- It has **distributed more than 360 million LED bulbs** under the [UJALA scheme](#), which has led to energy saving of about 47 billion units of electricity per year and reduction of 38 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year.
- India has also **shifted from [Bharat Stage-IV \(BS-IV\) to Bharat Stage-VI \(BS-VI\) emission norms](#)** from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 which was earlier to be adopted by 2024.
- It **had levied a coal cess** as part of one of the most explicit green initiatives.
- Under [Smart Cities Mission](#), **Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework 2019 has been launched** which intends to provide a clear roadmap for cities and urban India towards combating climate change through adoption of both mitigation and adaptation measures.

### ▪ Achievements of India in Combating Climate Change:

- India has **achieved a reduction of 21% in emission intensity of its [Gross Domestic Product \(GDP\)](#) between 2005 and 2014**, thereby on its way to achieving its voluntary target under its **Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC)**.
  - India had pledged to cut emission intensity of its GDP by 33-35% by 2030 below 2005 levels.
- Its **renewable energy installed capacity has increased** by 226% in the last 5 years and stands more than 87 gigawatts (GW).

- India has a target of installing 175 GW of renewable power capacity by 2022 under its INDC.
- The **share of non-fossil sources** in installed capacity of electricity generation **increased** from 30.5% in March 2015 to 37.7% in May 2020.
  - It has further announced the aspirational target of increasing its renewable energy capacity to 450 GW.
  - India has pledged to increase the share of non-fossil fuels-based electricity to 40% by 2030 under INDC.
- India's total forest and tree cover is 8,07,276 sq. km. which is 24.56% of the total geographical area of the country.
  - India has agreed to enhance its forest cover which will absorb 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> by 2030.

## Paris Agreement- COP 21

- Conference of Parties (COP) 21, also known as the **Paris Climate Conference** is a landmark environmental accord that was adopted in 2015 to address climate change and its negative impacts.
- It aims to **reduce global greenhouse gas emissions** in an effort **to limit the global temperature increase in this century to well below 2°C** above pre industrial levels, while pursuing means to limit the increase to 1.5°C.
- Countries have **promised to try to bring global emissions down from peak levels as soon as possible.**
  - However, the USA has withdrawn from the agreement.
- The deal includes **loss and damage**, a mechanism for addressing the financial losses vulnerable countries face from climate impacts such as extreme weather.
- **Raising money to help developing countries adapt to climate change and transition to clean energy** was an important point in the agreement.
  - This part of the deal has been made **non-legally binding on developed countries.**
- Before the conference started, more than 180 countries had submitted pledges to cut their carbon emissions (**Intended Nationally Determined Contributions, or INDCs**). The **INDCs were recognized under the agreement**, but are not legally binding.

## Way Forward

- India has to make a huge effort to achieve its target of 175 GW of renewable power capacity by 2022. It is way behind its target.
- The funding commitment made by developed countries has become more important due to the economic challenge posed by Covid-19 pandemic.

**Source: PIB**