



Compensation to Climate Change

For Prelims: Greenhouse Gas, emissions gap report for 2022, Paris goals

For Mains: Greenhouse Gas, Paris Agreement, Net Zero, Climate Change and Conservation

Why in News?

At the G-20 summit in Bali, **rich nations including the U.S, Japan, and Canada have pledged USD 20 billion to wean Indonesia off coal** and reach **carbon neutrality** by 2050.

What is the Importance of Compensation?

- Between 1900 and now, **developed countries have benefited from industrial development**, which also led to [Greenhouse Gas \(GHG\) emissions](#).
 - Data from the Global Carbon Project shows that between 1751 and 2017, 47% of the CO₂ emissions came from the U.S. and the EU-28. In total, just 29 countries.
- Developing countries **were relatively late in starting out** on economic development.
 - They may be **contributing to emissions now**, but that is a weak reason to ask them to stop economic development.
 - **For Example:** A farmer in rural Africa can claim that his country has not added to emissions historically, but because of the U.S. or Russia's industrialisation, his agriculture yields are declining. Or an urban worker in South America has to work, without choice, in unforgiving heat wave conditions caused by the developed world's emissions of the past.

What are the Consequences of the State of Emission?

- **Emissions attributable to the U.S. over 1990-2014 caused losses** that are concentrated around 1-2% of per capita GDP across nations in South America, Africa, and South and Southeast Asia, where temperature changes have likely impacted labour productivity and agricultural yields.
 - But emissions may have also helped a few countries, such as those in Northern Europe and Canada.
- Moody's Analytics estimates that by the **middle of the century, Canada would see a rise in GDP of 0.3% as warmer climates** spur agriculture and labour productivity.
- According to the UN Environment Programme's annual [emissions gap report for 2022](#), **the international community is falling far short of the [Paris goals](#)**, with no credible pathway to 1.5°C in place.

Where about India's Emissions?

- According to the '**Emissions Gap Report 2022**', **India is among the top seven emitters** (others being China, the EU-27, Indonesia, Brazil, the Russian Federation and the U.S.).
 - These seven, plus international transport, accounted for 55% of global GHG emissions in 2020.
 - Collectively, [G-20 members](#) are responsible for 75% of global GHG emissions.

- **Some GHG emissions are unavoidable.** In the context of India's population, **its emissions are far lesser per head, than for others.**
 - **World average per capita GHG emissions were 6.3 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent (tCO₂e) in 2020.**
 - The U.S. is way above this level at 14, followed by 13 in the Russian Federation and 9.7 in China. India remains far below the world average at 2.4.

What are the Related Steps by India?

- India announced that it will reach **carbon neutrality by 2070.**
- India has also **committed to generate 500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030**, bringing down emission intensity of **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**, as well as raising **forest cover.**
- In last year's coal agreement, India drafted the language.
 - It was **changed from "phase-out" to "phase-down" of coal.**
 - It **reflects the country's ground realities of large energy requirements**, met predominantly by thermal power, to spur economic development.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Q. With reference to the Agreement at the UNFCCC Meeting in Paris in 2015, which of the following statements is/are correct? (2016)

1. The Agreement was signed by all the member countries of the UN and it will go into effect in 2017.
2. The Agreement aims to limit greenhouse gas emissions so that the rise in average global temperature by the end of this century does not exceed 2°C or even 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.
3. Developed countries acknowledged their historical responsibility in global warming and committed to donate USD 1000 billion a year from 2020 to help developing countries to cope with climate change.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (b)

Exp:

- The Paris Agreement was adopted in December 2015 at COP21 in Paris, France by the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- The Agreement aims to limit the greenhouse gas emissions so that the rise in average global temperature by the end of this century does not exceed 2°C or even 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Paris Agreement entered into force on 4 November 2016, thirty days after the date on which at least 55 Parties to the Convention accounting in total for at least an estimated 55 % of the total global greenhouse gas emissions had deposited their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession with the depositary. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Additionally, the agreement aims to strengthen the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change, in line with their own national objectives.
- The Paris Agreement requires all Parties to put forward their best efforts through Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and to strengthen these efforts in the years ahead. This includes requirement that all Parties report regularly on their emissions and on their implementation efforts.
- There will also be a global stocktake every 5 years to assess the collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the Agreement and to inform further individual actions by the Parties.
- Through the Cancun Agreements in 2010 developed country Parties committed to a goal of mobilizing jointly USD 100 billion per year by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries.

- Further, they also agreed that prior to 2025 the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement shall set a new collective quantified goal from a floor of USD 100 billion per year. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

[Source: TH](#)

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