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The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

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CONTEXT: Breach of 1.5 degree Celsius threshold now 'unavoidable'

Emissions Scenario

- Global GHG Emissions: 58.4 gigatonnes of CO₂ equivalent in 2025
 - Fossil Fuel Emissions rising
- G20 except African Union: ~76%
- New NDCs cut global emissions only 5–8% below 2025 by 2030, 11–15% by 2035, 20–27% by 2040
 - Lowest 1.5°C overshoot requires ~18% / ~45% / ~69%

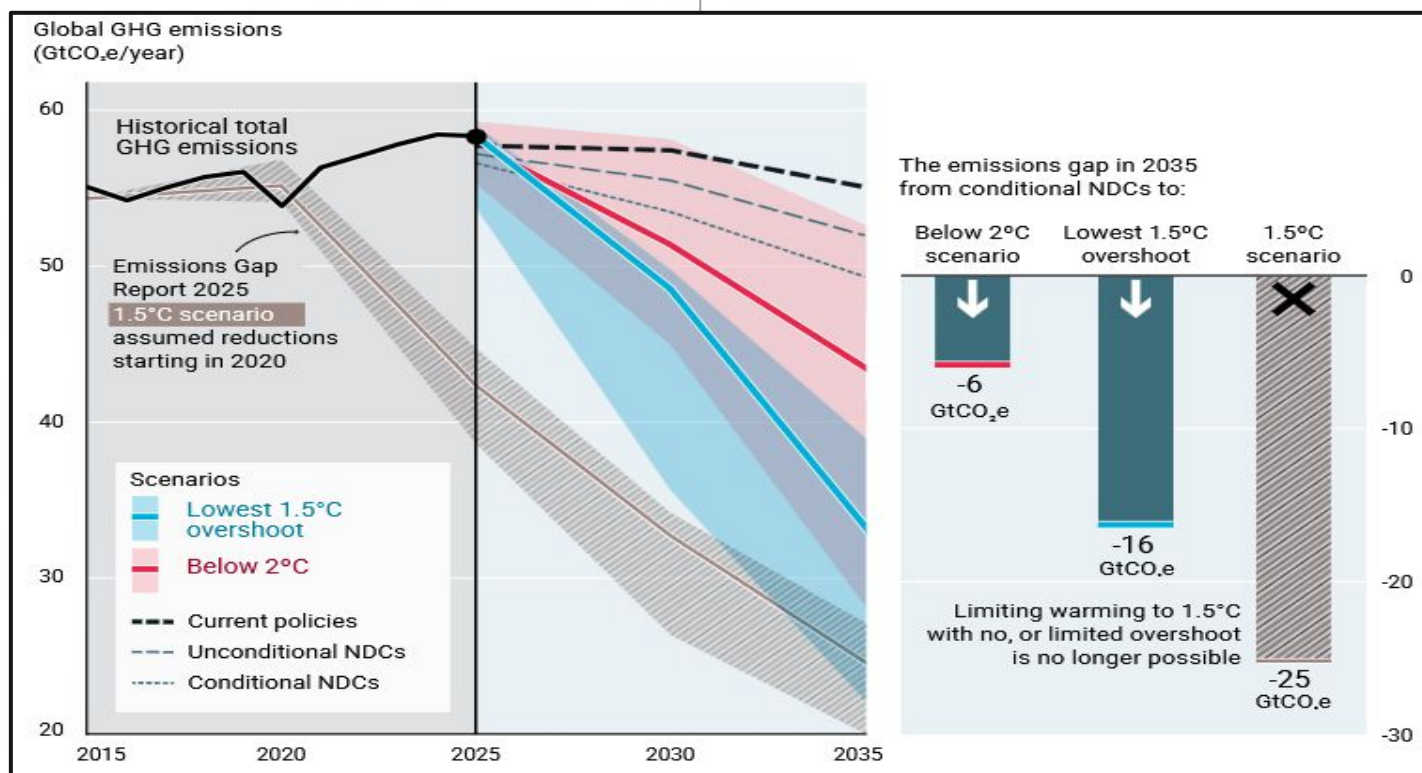
Temperature projections

- New NDCs since last year: near-zero impact
- Pledge scenario : 66% chance this century
 - Current policies: 2.8°C; 1.4–4.5°C
 - Unconditional NDCs: 2.7°C; 1.5–4.1°C
 - Conditional NDCs: 2.6°C; 1.5–3.9°C

- Conditional NDCs + all net-zero pledges: 2.1°C; 1.6–2.9°C

First Global Stocktake

- GST agreed: tripling RE capacity; doubling annual energy-efficiency improvement by 2030; transition away from fossil fuels; accelerate zero/low-emission tech; cut non-CO₂ emissions; halt/reverse deforestation/forest degradation
- Progress since Paris 2015:
 - Global RE capacity grew 3x faster than 2015 policy scenarios
 - Solar PV build-out 7x faster
- GST action areas insufficient
- Fossil-fuel transition lagging
- Current policies: coal peaks before 2030
- Deforestation by 2030?
- COP 31 Presidency proposal: global electrification 35% by 2035



CONTEXT: Breach of 1.5 degree Celsius threshold now 'unavoidable'

What works in climate policy

- Reduced emissions; but speed/scaling
 - Successes concentrated in specific sectors/countries
- Electricity sector: 9% reductions vs no-policy baseline
- Studies focus on pricing
 - Regulation, standards, public investment, subsidies unassessed
- Bridge evidence gap via:
 - Evaluation of new policies from outset – baselines/data access before implementation
 - Report achieved reductions for cross-country comparison/learning
 - Fund Evaluation capacity in Global South

Learnings for India

Case Study 1: EU ETS

- **Starting Low, Reaching High**
 - Free Permits
 - Industrial lobbying, state resistance
 - Stakeholder coalition
 - So Positive policy feedback loops
 - Expanded sectoral scope, shift to auctioning
- **Evidence**
 - Significant reductions without detrimental impacts on output, employment, or financial performance

- Clean technology adoption
 - i. Surge in low-carbon patenting
- No significant carbon leakage

Case Study 2: Industrial Decarbonization and Policy Sequencing in China

- **Drivers:** C goals (peak CO₂ before 2030, carbon neutrality before 2060), energy security, urban pollution, heavy-industry overcapacity
- **Stage 1 – Administrative Command-and-Control Targets (2006–2012)**
 - *Conglomerate Leakage*
- **Stage 2 – Regional and National Carbon Pricing (2013–2025)**
 - Monitoring, reporting, and verification
 - Cut emissions by **~17%** via efficiency upgrades and fuel switching
- **Stage 3 – Green Industrial Policy**
 - Local govts subsidies, tax breaks, land discounts to scale solar manufacturing

Case Study 3: RE Expansion via De-Risking in Morocco

- 2014: Morocco imported >97% energy
- RE capacity from 14.9% in 2009
 - to 45.5% in 2025
 - ~21% of electricity demand
 - But rapid economic, transport, industrial growth



CONTEXT: Breach of 1.5 degree Celsius threshold now 'unavoidable'

• Institutional & De-Risking Architecture

- No carbon pricing or feed-in tariffs
- Ended state electricity monopoly
- Moroccan Agency for Sustainable Energy: plan, tender, co-invest
- PPP auctions backed by long-term state Power Purchase Agreements

Challenges in Reduction

Economic and Financial Barriers

- Massive capital requirements
- Opaque corporate supply chains
- Persistent fossil fuel subsidies
- The developing-world funding gap

Sector-Specific and Technological

Bottlenecks

- Hard-to-abate industries
- Agricultural and land-use emissions
- Heavy transport limitations
- Grid intermittency and storage

Political, Social, and Geopolitical Hurdles

- Energy poverty prioritization
- Disproportionate consumption and inequity
- Short-term political cycles
- Critical mineral dependencies

Infrastructure & Implementation Roadblocks

- Transmission grid bottlenecks
- The massive retrofitting backlog
- The green workforce deficit

Carbon Removal & Technological Immaturity

- CCUS scalability and high failure rates
- Direct Air Capture energy drain

Regulatory & Institutional Fragmentation

- Absence of a unified global carbon price
- Greenwashing and junk offsets

Other factors

- Behavioral & Societal Inertia
 - Fast fashion and hyper-consumption
 - Dietary transition resistance
- Climate Feedbacks & Natural Limits
 - Degrading natural carbon sinks

Steps taken by India

National Climate Pledges & Overarching

Targets

- Net-Zero by 2070
- Emissions Intensity Reduction
- Non-Fossil Capacity Milestone

Renewable Energy Scaling

- National Solar Mission Expansion
- Domestic Solar Manufacturing
- Decentralized Generation

Green Hydrogen & Alternative Fuels

- National Green Hydrogen Mission
- Production and Abatement Targets
- The SIGHT Programme

Transportation & Electric Mobility

- PM E-DRIVE Scheme
- Structural Tax Disincentives for ICE
- Charging Infrastructure Deployment



CONTEXT: Breach of 1.5 degree Celsius threshold now 'unavoidable'

- Indian Railways 2030 Net-Zero execution
- Accelerated E20 Milestone
 - a. Upward Revision for 2030

Carbon Markets & Industrial

Decarbonization

- Carbon Credit Trading Scheme
- Mandatory GHG intensity targets
- Financial penalization for shortfalls
- MSME green transition roadmap

Power Generation & Grid Transformation

- Draft National Electricity Policy 2026 mandates
- 100% ash utilization rule
- Accelerated storage deployment

Energy Efficiency & Finance

- UJALA Scheme
- PAT (Perform, Achieve, and Trade) Scheme
- Sovereign Green Bonds

Suggestions for Emission Control

Corporate Governance & Operational Shifts

- High-Efficiency Building Standards
- Internal Climate Task Forces
- Digital Infrastructure

Supply Chain & Procurement Mechanisms

- Low-Carbon Procurement
- Standardize Carbon Data Exchange

Market-Based & Regulatory Policies

- Emissions Trading Systems
- Deploy Border Carbon Adjustments

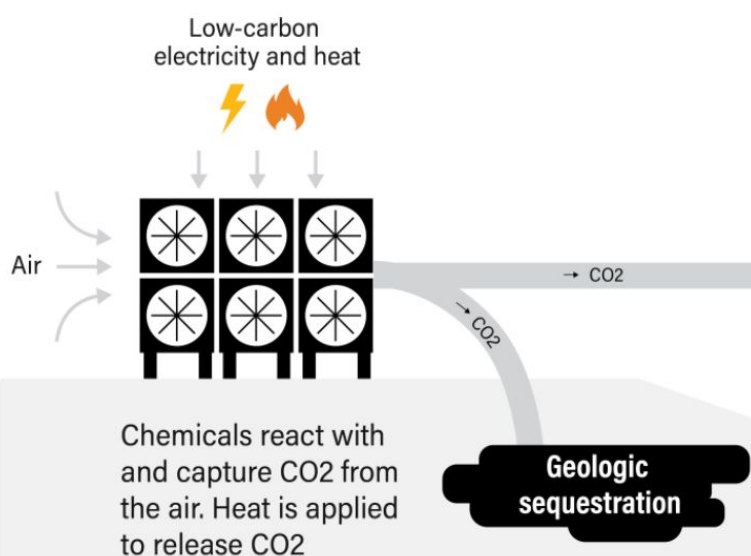
- Establish Fixed Carbon Taxes
- Regulate Aviation Offsets (CORSIA)

Infrastructure & Technological Transitions

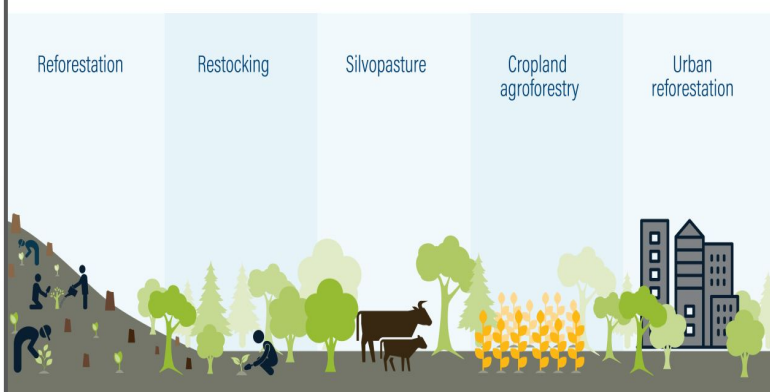
- Modular Construction
- Fleet Electrification
- Transition to Green Hydrogen

Suggestions for Carbon Removal

Direct air capture technology

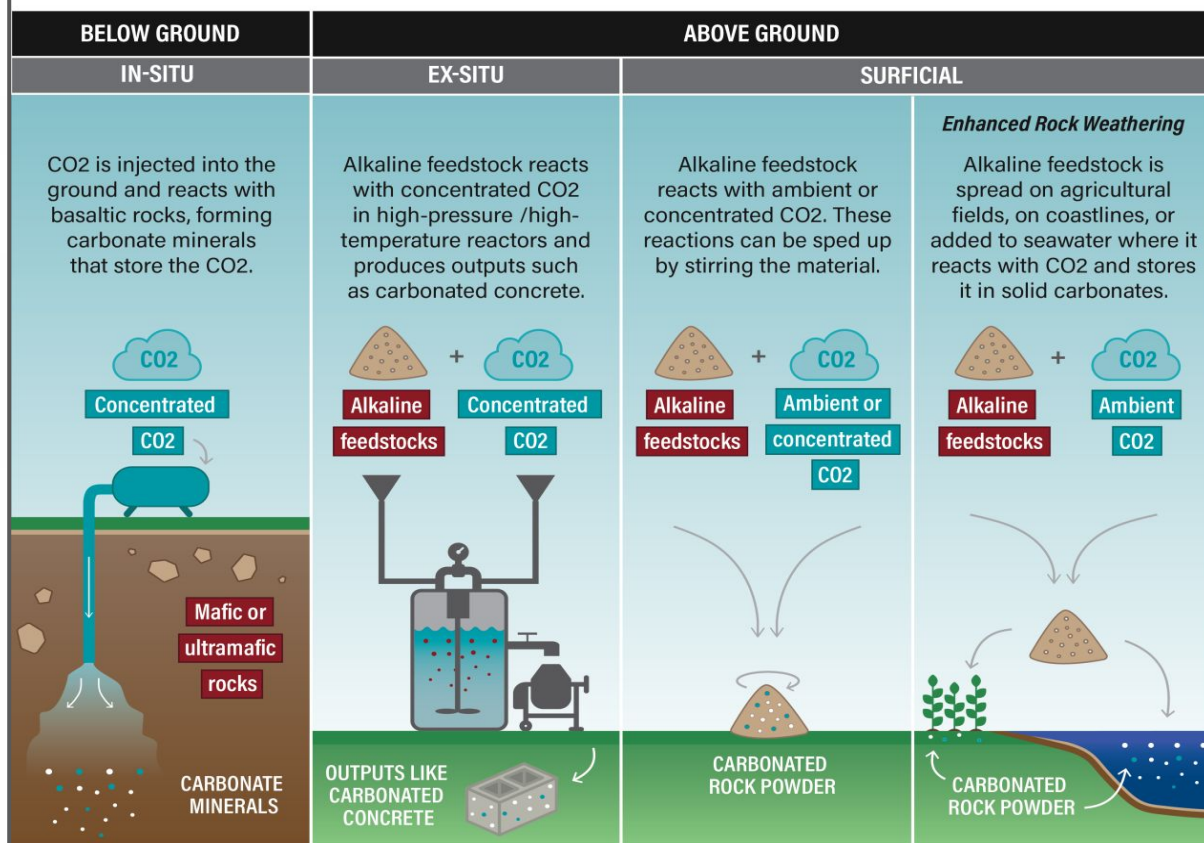


Tree Restoration Approaches for Carbon Removal

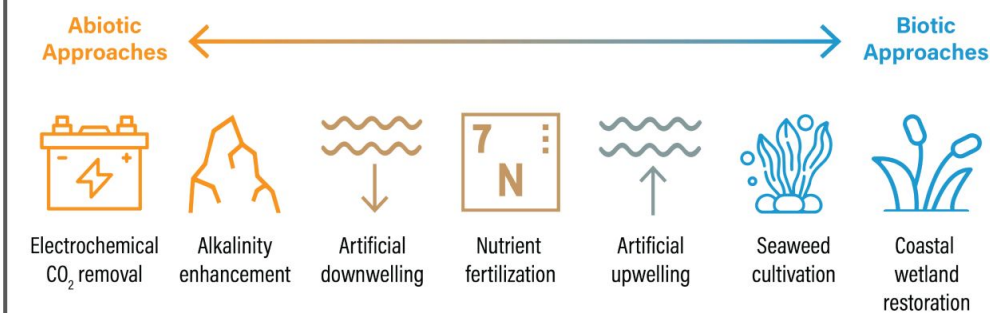


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Types of carbon mineralization approaches



General types of ocean CDR approaches



Mains Practice Question

Despite global commitments to climate action, reducing GHG emissions remains a major challenge due to developmental imperatives, geopolitical tensions and continued dependence on fossil fuels. Discuss the challenges in reducing global GHG emissions. What are the steps taken by India to address the issue, and suggest measures to strengthen global climate action. (15 marks, 250 words)



CONTEXT: Doubling bilateral trade by 2030

Significance

1. Geopolitical Significance

- Elevation to Strategic Partnership
- Pivot to Central and Eastern Europe
- Influence within the European Union
 - 6th largest EU economy
- Gateway to Regional Sub-Groupings
 - Visegrad Group (V4), Bucharest Nine (B9), Three Seas Initiative (3SI)
- India-Poland Parliamentary Friendship Group
- Convergence on Global Governance
 - International order & UNSC reforms

2. Geostrategic & Security Significance

- NATO's Eastern Flank Anchor
- Strategic Autonomy
- De-Risking from China
- Defence Modernization & Diversification
 - 2003 Defence Cooperation MoU
 - 2024-2028 Action Plan
- Counter-Terrorism & Legal Security
 - Extradition Treaty (2003)
 - MLAT in Criminal Matters (2022)
- Humanitarian & Crisis Evacuation Hub
 - Operation Ganga (2022)

3. Geoeconomic & Commercial Significance

- Largest CEE Economic Partner
 - Bilateral trade from \$1.95 billion (2013) to \$6.36 billion (2025)
- Favorable Trade Balance
- India-EU FTA Catalyst
 - Eliminates 9.5% to 12% EU customs duty on Indian textiles and apparel
- Pharmaceutical Market
- Manufacturing Springboard into the EU
 - >\$3 billion Indian FDI
 - cost-effective production base

- Inbound Polish Capital & Tech

4. Digital Significance

- Near-Shoring Hub for Indian IT
- Collaborative R&D in 5G, AI, telecom equipment manufacturing
- Fintech & Cyber Security to integrate digital payment systems
- Complementary Engineering Capabilities
 - Engineering goods 21% of bilateral trade

5. Green Transition

- Green Hydrogen Export Market
- Poland's GreenEvo (Green Technology Accelerator) programme
- Green Mobility JVs

6. Cultural, Soft Power & Diaspora

- WWII Historical Goodwill ("Good Maharaja" Legacy)
- Shared Military Heritage: Battle of Monte Cassino (1944)
- Yoga & AYUSH Commercialization
 - AYUSH wellness clinics
- Diaspora: ~30,000

Challenges

Geopolitical

- Historical neglect
- Russia-Ukraine stance
- Implementation gaps

Trade & Economic Barriers

- Non-Tariff Barriers
- Customs disadvantages in textiles

Sector-Specific & Investment Challenges

- Pharmaceutical market compliance requirements
- Ayurveda regulatory constraints



CONTEXT: Doubling bilateral trade by 2030

Suggestions

Geopolitical & Diplomatic Synergies

- Leverage Poland's EU Leadership
- Coordinate on Ukraine Reconstruction
- Institutionalize Indo-Pacific Cooperation
- UNSC & Global Governance

Defense & Security Collaboration

- Sign Foundational Pacts
- Soviet-Era Equipment Overhaul
- Co-production of Asymmetric Warfare Tech

Maritime, Aviation & Infra

- Integrate with Sagarmala Project
 - Europe's largest ship design offices; builds advanced LNG & electric vessels
- Aviation Hub Synergy: Poland's ambitious Solidarity Transport Hub
- Industrial Corridor Investments

Green Transition, Tech

- Green Hydrogen Joint R&D
- Dedicated Investment Fast-Track
- Agri-Food Technology Transfer
- Startup & Fintech Corridors

Mains Practice Question

India–Poland relations have gained renewed strategic significance amid changing geopolitical alignments in Europe and India's growing engagement with Central and Eastern Europe. Discuss the significance of India–Poland relations, the challenges in ties, and suggest measures to strengthen bilateral cooperation.

(15 marks, 250 words)



Newspaper : The Hindu Page Number : 15

Festivals to boost textile sales but China imports a concern

Textile Sector

- 4% of global trade in textiles and apparel
- 2% GDP
- CAGR - 28%
- Textile export share in overall exports - 11%
- Employment - 45 million
- Export - US\$ 45 Bn - FY 2021-22
- Silk - 2nd producer, 95% of all hand-woven cloth
- Cultural heritage and Identity - Traditional textile techniques, designs, and motifs

Govt Initiatives

- Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector (**SAMARTH**)

- Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (**ATUFS**) - credit linked Capital Investment Subsidy (**CIS**)
- **National Technical Textile Mission**
- **PLI Scheme** - promote production of MMF apparel, MMF Fabrics and Technical Textiles, attract investment
- **PM-MITRA**: setting up of 7 PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel Parks with world class infrastructure
- **Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks** - infrastructure facilities for setting up of textile units.
- **Integrated Processing Development Scheme** - meet environmental standards, support new Common Effluent Treatment Plants
- **ICARE Jute** - certified seeds at discounted prices, retting technologies under water-restrictive conditions



Venezuelan Oil Import



SYLLABUS : PRELIMS : Current Events of National and International Importance

Newspaper : Indian Express **Page Number : 17**

US push on Venezuelan oil

- US itself buys Russian diesel
- India diversifying energy sourcing
- RIL world's largest single-location refining complex at Jamnagar
 - can process extremely heavy Venezuelan crude
 - Venezuela will rapidly increase heavy crude production
 - i. Massive oil reserves; minuscule production
- For India: purchases mainly commercial — price, quality, payment, supply reliability
 - Third-largest oil importer
 - India already top destination for Venezuelan oil outside US
 - Russia is largest crude source

Techno-commercial limits

- Room for Venezuelan crude to grow
 - But unlikely suitable for large chunk of India's refining capacity
 - Venezuela flagship Merey grade
 - i. Extremely heavy, highly sulphurous
- Even RIL technical capability ≠ unlimited purchases as 2 major challenges:
 - Refining capacity: RIL share: 74.3%

- Price competitiveness
 - i. Merey discount ~\$25/bbl to Brent
 - ii. Freight to India's west coast: ~\$35/bbl
 - iii. Discount effectively becomes landed premium
 - iv. Vessels smaller than VLCCs hardly economical
- Already increased Venezuelan purchases since WA crisis
 - 200,000 bpd in September
- West Asia oil supplies gradually returning, also heavier Iraqi crude

Not a substitute for Russian oil

- Rubio pitch: US geopolitical priorities + India search for alternative supplies
- But hefty Russian volumes
 - After Ukraine war February 2022
 - West shunned Russian crude; Moscow offered discounts
 - September: India imported 1.9 mn bpd Russian crude
 - >35% of India's total oil imports for September
 - i. July: >50%
- Russia's Urals more suited to Indian refining infra
 - Commercial terms differ



Venezuelan Oil Import



SYLLABUS : PRELIMS : Current Events of National and International Importance

Newspaper : Indian Express **Page Number : 17**

- Crude diversification wider: >40 supplying countries
 - Top 5 suppliers massive chunk
 - So draw distinction between importing more Venezuelan crude and moving away from Russian
 - Preventing price shock immediate priority
 - Waiver ahead of US midterm elections
- Rubio: US sees India as strategic ally; close to signing trade deal
- So India must secure clear terms on:
 - supply reliability
 - investment obligations
 - pricing
 - duration of American demand



SYLLABUS : PRELIMS : Indian Polity and Governance–Constitution, Political System
Newspaper : Indian Express **Page Number : 6**

When is Parliament convened?

- Article 85
 - prorogation and dissolution
- No fixed schedule
 - President must summon the Houses to meet at least once within six months
- No fixed number of sessions
 - 3 sessions typically held each calendar year
- Attempt to finalise a fixed calendar
 - in 1955
 - General Purpose Committee of LS recommended:
 - i. Budget Session between February and May
 - ii. Monsoon Session from July to September
 - iii. Winter Session from November to December
 - Cabinet also agreed but never implemented
- Current status
 - Budget Session is usually the longest.
 - End of January to April-end
 - i. A recess for PSCs to consider the budget
 - Monsoon Session July to August
 - Winter Session November to December

When is a 'special session' conducted?

- 'special session' not explicitly mentioned in the Constitution or in the rulebooks of LS/RS
 - No specific guidelines on how or when
- Article 352
 - refers to a special sitting of the House
 - Clause added through 44th CAA
- Historical precedent
 - First on the eve of Independence in 1947 to mark the transfer of power
 - 1962 during the Indo-China war
 - i. Winter Session advanced to discuss the Chinese aggression
 - 1992, a midnight session
 - i. 50th anniversary of the Quit India Movement
 - August 1997, a six-day special session
 - i. commemorate 50 years of Independence



Loss and Damage Fund



SYLLABUS : PRELIMS : General issues on Environmental ecology

Newspaper : Indian Express **Page Number : 19**

Loss and Damage Fund

- Negative consequences that arise from the unavoidable risks of CC
 - Sea levels, heatwaves, desertification, ocean acidification, extreme events, species extinction, crop failures
- Established at 2022 UNFCCC Conference (COP27) in Egypt
 - Financial support to regions suffering
 - Both economic and non-economic losses caused by CC
- Developing countries, particularly small island states face the greatest threats
- \$820 million promised for the fund
 - US contributed \$17.5 million

- Overseen by a Governing Board
 - Determines how resources are disbursed
 - World Bank serving as the interim trustee hosting the fund for 4 years

The United Nations climate convention's Fund for responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD) has set aside \$21.6 million for Nepal towards addressing the damage from the Bhotekoshi floods that ravaged the



SYLLABUS : PRELIMS : History of India

Newspaper : The Hindu **Page Number :** News

Thirukkural

- authored by the poet-philosopher Thiruvalluvar
- Seminal work of ancient Tamil literature and philosophy
- Composed between 300 BCE and 500 BCE
- Translates to “sacred verses” or “sacred couplets” in English
 - 1,330 stanzas or couplets
 - Each of seven words called “kurals”
 - 133 chapters, each containing 10 couplets
- Divided into three books
- The Book of Virtue (Dharma)
 - Deals with morality (aram) and values of an individual
 - 38 chapters
- The Book of Polity
 - regarding materialism (porul) and socio-economic values
 - 70 chapters
- The Book of Love
 - teachings of love (inbam)
 - 25 chapters

Themes of Thirukkural

- moral conduct
- realities of human life
- Thiruvalluvar discouraged divisions based on religion, caste, creed, and race
 - morality and kindness
 - life devoid of morality leads to misery, as dominated by jealousy, greed, wrath, and harshness
- The concept of God, delineated in the very first chapter titled Kadavul Vazhthu (The Praise of God)
 - God is “pure intelligence” and omniscient, and embodies wisdom, compassion, morality, and love



Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the classical text Thirukkural:

1. It is authored by the poet-philosopher Thiruvalluvar and is a seminal work of ancient Tamil literature.
2. The text is divided into three books dealing respectively with virtue (aram), polity/materialism (porul), and love (inbam).
3. The text explicitly encourages and reinforces rigid social divisions based on religion, caste, creed, and race.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Q2. Consider the following statements:

1. The First Global Stocktake agreed to triple renewable energy capacity and double the annual rate of energy-efficiency improvement by 2030.
2. The Emissions Gap Report notes that new Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) submitted since last year have had a near-zero impact on overall temperature projections.
3. Under current climate policies, global warming is projected to reach approximately 1.4°C by the end of the century.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Q3. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Reliance Industries Limited's Jamnagar refinery complex is uniquely suited to process extremely heavy and sulfurous Venezuelan crude like the flagship Merey grade.

Statement-II: Venezuelan crude oil can easily and fully substitute Russian crude oil supplies in India's overall refining basket without any techno-commercial or economic constraints.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

Answer: c

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding parliamentary sessions in India:

1. Article 85 of the Constitution empowers the President to summon, prorogue, or dissolve the Houses of Parliament.
2. The term "Special Session" of Parliament is explicitly defined and detailed under the rulebooks of both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.
3. The Constitution mandates that six months shall not intervene between Parliament's last sitting in one session and the date appointed for its first sitting in the next session.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All three
- d) None

Answer: b

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD):

1. The FRLD was established at the UNFCCC Conference (COP27) held in 2022.
2. The World Bank serves as the interim trustee hosting the fund for a period of four years.
3. The fund recently earmarked money for Nepal to address damages from the Bhotekoshi floods, marking the first time the fund allocated money to a specific country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All Three
- d) None

Answer: c





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