

CLIMATE CHANGE AND NET ZERO CARBON EMISSIONS

Context:

'Leaders' Climate Summit is going to be held on April 22-23. It is being organised by the United States. Prior to the summit there are demands and speculations whether India should announce a 'net-zero' emissions target, and by when.

Background:

_____ The 1.5°C report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) called for net zero global carbon emission by 2050. This may require developed countries reaching the target prior to 2050 as they have consumed a disproportionate share of the carbon space and thus providing a window to the developing countries to fulfil the goal of development and reduced emissions.

What India needs to do?

Taking the modest steps in the direction of decarbonising is not going to be viable in the near future, Or announcing an Indian 2050 net-zero commitment risks taking on a much heavier burden of decarbonisation on India and might act as a hurdle in the path of development.

Thus India should opt for the middle path which includes:

- Focussing on concrete, near-term sectoral transformations by aggressive adoption of technologies that are within our reach.
- Try to avoid high carbon lock-ins.
- It can be achieved by focusing on sectoral low-carbon development pathways that combine competitiveness, job-creation, distributional justice and low pollution in key sectors where India is already changing rapidly. Keeping in mind the objective of achieving net-zero emission as a long term target.

Sectors that can be decarbonised:

- **Power sector**
 - Electricity sector is the single largest source of emissions i.e. it contributes about 40% of India's greenhouse gas emissions.
 - Decarbonising the power sector would allow India to undertake transformational changes in urbanisation and industrial development.
 - for instance: not just expanding the use of electricity for transport but also by integrating electric systems into urban planning.
 - So far India's concentration has been expansion of renewable electricity. But now it's needed to shift gears to a comprehensive re-imagination of electricity and its role in our economy and society.
 - We need to limit the expansion of coal based electricity capacity
- **Ceiling for coal power**

- India needs to pledge that it will not grow its coal-fired power capacity beyond what is already announced, and reach peak coal electricity capacity by 2030.
- And making coal based power as more cleaner and greener.
- A low-carbon electricity future can be realised by addressing existing problems of the sector which includes the poor finances and management of distribution companies, which requires deep changes and overcoming entrenched interests.

OFFENSIVE ONLINE CONTENT

Delhi high court in its judgement on a petition by a woman who claimed that her photographs and images which were not obscene or offensive in themselves, were taken from her Facebook and Instagram accounts without her consent, and were uploaded on a pornographic website with derogatory captions added to them, says “**The Internet never sleeps and the Internet never forgets**”

Guidelines given by the court:

- The government must issue a direction to the website/ online platform on which the offending content is hosted to remove such content forthwith within 24 hours of the receipt of the court order.
- A direction must also be issued to the website or online platform containing the offending to preserve all information and associated records relating to the offending content for a minimum period of 180 days for use in an investigation.

Stand of social Media platforms:

- Google had stated that it had no objections or reservation in removing access to the offending content as may be directed by the court.
- Facebook, which also owns Instagram, submitted that it had a robust privacy policy.

INDIA-CHINA BORDER ISSUES:

News: India’s Envoy to China said “Maintaining peace at the border is the essential basis to take forward India’s ties with Beijing

Issue:

- Talks between military commanders of both the countries appear to remain deadlocked over carrying forward disengagement in the **Gogra and Hot Springs areas**.
- China’s state media on Monday also stated that the chinese Army (PLA) has deployed an advanced long-range rocket launcher to the Himalayas.
- This is the first time that China has acknowledged any deployment of weapons on the Indian Border.

MAOISTS/ LEFT WING EXTREMISM

News:

On April 3rd, in an encounter between security forces and the Maoists in Sukma, Chattisgarh 22 security personnel were killed. A security personnel was captured and released on the precondition that the government will nominate a team of mediators. However, they released the personnel to show the world that they are compassionate and humane.

Tactics:

- **Spread of misinformation:** They generally spread misinformation about the numbers of Maoists on the ground in a village as well as their location.
- **Guerilla warfare:** They hide in the ambushes and use them as a shield to attack the security personnel.

Government Lapses:

- **Old communication equipment:** Government's communication equipment has not greatly improved over the years.