



## Developing a Climate Consciousness

### What is the issue?

\n\n

\n

- Climate change has the potential to massively disrupt and reshape lives.
- Hence, vulnerable populations should be made aware of the potential risks and how to cope with them.

\n

\n\n

### What are the risks involved?

\n\n

\n

- There are several alarming predictions about the increasing erratic nature of world's weather systems in the future due to climate change.
- UN Sustainable Goals Report (SGR), 2018 notes that climate change is among the key factors in rising hunger and human displacement.
- World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that climate change will cause an additional 2.5 lakh deaths per year between 2030 and 2050.
- It has been predicted that climate change will enhance the prevalence of decreases like malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and heat stress.
- Particularly, the vulnerability of low-income groups in developing countries like India is very high, which is also accentuated by its tropical location.
- Notably, World Bank (WB) projects that climate change could cost India 2.8% of its GDP, and diminish living standards for nearly half of the

population.

\n

- But despite these severe risks, the vulnerable population has little awareness of them, with little knowledge of the changing weather patterns.

\n

\n\n

## **What is the current situational awareness?**

\n\n

\n

- Several initiatives have been implemented to create awareness about climate change and about how to mitigate it and adapt to it.

\n

- In 1991, Supreme Court (SC) directed the Central government and all State governments to provide compulsory environmental education to all students.

\n

- Further, the court had directed “corporate organisations, research and education institutes, NGOs” to create awareness on the same.

\n

- The vision is to inculcate the concept of environmental sustainability and drive home the message for judicious use of food, water, nutrition and health.

\n

- However, despite these efforts, and the reach of the court’s order, climate change seems to find low salience in everyday lives and conversations.

\n

- Further, most of the country’s plans for vulnerable populations are towards poverty alleviation, enhancing access to education, sanitation, and healthcare.

\n

- With climate change emerging as an imminent challenge of a massive proportion, it deserves its due attention.

\n

\n\n

## **What is the way forward?**

\n\n

\n

- At present, climate change is not specifically mentioned as a domain

permissible under “Corporate Social Responsibility” (CSR) mandate.

\n

- While work in this area can be taken up as part of environmental sustainability, a more specific mention will help it gather more attention.

\n

- This way, more corporate organisations may be roped in to create awareness, mitigation and resilience-building.

\n

- Scaling up current initiatives of the corporate and social sectors to regional or national levels would be an early, albeit challenging, solution.

\n

- Similarly, the film industry, book writers, and gaming companies could design their products with an appeal in this regard.

\n

\n\n

\n\n

**Source: The Hindu**

\n



**IAS PARLIAMENT**

*Information is Empowering*

A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative