



## Assessing the Progress of Paris Agreement - Climate Change

### What is the issue?

\n\n

\n

- The 24th Conference of the Parties (COP-24) meeting to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is held in Katowice, Poland.

\n

- With this, it is essential to assess the progress of countries in terms of Paris Agreement (PA) commitments made in 2015.

\n

\n\n

### How is the global warming scenario?

\n\n

\n

- Average global temperatures have crossed a degree Celsius above preindustrial levels.

\n

- Such concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere (410 ppm) has never been seen by humans before.

\n

- Resultantly, today's children are inheriting an earth that is out of control and heading to be 3-4° C warmer by the end of the century.

\n

- Perpetual growth is not viable for any species.

\n

- Business-as-usual policies with high consumption by the rich are driving the destruction of ecosystems and mass extinction of species.

\n

- The "sixth extinction", massive destruction of species on earth is ongoing.

\n

- In this context, the [1.5 Degree Report](#), a special publication, was recently

released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

\n

- It calls for far-reaching, speedy transformative changes by countries in order to stay below 1.5° C.

\n

- It emphasises on immediate and drastic drop in GHG emissions through technology and lifestyles, and on mitigation and adaptation.

\n

\n\n

## **What was the outcome of the Paris conference?**

\n\n

\n

- The Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) were planned ahead of the Paris COP-21.

\n

- Under this, each country described the actions it would take and the levels to which GHG emissions would be reduced (mitigation).

\n

- Countries also described what they would do to improve their capacity to live in a warmer world (adaptation).

\n

- The extent to which these goals required support in the form of finance or technology transfer was also mentioned.

\n

- The Paris Agreement (PA) was ratified rapidly and went into force within a year (in November 2016).

\n

- The Katowice meeting's objective is to set guidelines, or agree on a rulebook, to implement pledges made by countries at the Paris Climate Conference in 2015.

\n

\n\n

## **What are the concerns with PA progress?**

\n\n

\n

- **Finance** - There has been little, if any, progress on finance, technology transfer and capacity development.

\n

- Article 9 of the PA calls for financial support from developed countries that is significantly derived from public funds.

\n

\n\n

\n

- This was expected to result in at least \$100 billion per year to address mitigation and adaptation needs of developing countries.
- Article 9.5 requires developed countries to communicate their levels of support, including pledges of additional finance.
- Even a rough estimate of financial needs for implementing all the NDCs puts it at \$4.4 trillion.
- But the Climate Funds Update of 2018 notes that multilateral funds pledged until 2017 are less than \$30 billion.
- There have also been charges of double counting and counting of development aid levelled against developed countries.
- **Response** - While the U.S. and its current policies are much to blame for the situation, other developed countries are not doing that much better.
- Australia and France have had political turmoil due to their climate policies even while experiencing severe weather events.
- Europe is still heavily reliant on coal and European Union emissions were stable in 2014-2016.
- The U.K. has been relying on fuel from fracking.

\n\n

## How does the future look?

\n\n

\n

- The implementation of the activities for the PA formally begins in 2020 and concludes in 2030.
- The world is currently in the Doha Amendment period, or the second phase of the Kyoto Protocol, which has not been ratified.
- In a couple of years after the start of the PA implementation, there will be review on progress and decisions on more stringent targets for the future.

- \n
- This renewed commitment towards the future means that countries have to trust each other.
- \n
- So fulfilling obligations is a foundation of future ambition and action.
- \n

\n\n

## **What is required?**

\n\n

- \n
- What is required for India is credible, accurate and verifiable numbers on the climate flows expected from developed countries.
- \n
- Such reliable flow will encourage and persuade all countries that commitments made will be fulfilled.
- \n
- There also has to be a general agreement on how to estimate adaptation.
- \n
- Countries with high emissions should alter their lifestyles considerably, for the transformational change that 1.5 Degree Report calls for.
- \n

\n\n

- \n
- As extreme events are on the rise, the separate stream referred to as “loss and damage” needs attention.
- \n
- This is a provision for support to poor countries experiencing economic and non-economic losses and destruction from climate change events.
- \n
- There has not been much progress on this issue by the task force set up to advance it, which also needs to be addressed at Katowice.
- \n

\n\n

\n\n

**Source: The Hindu**

\n



# IAS PARLIAMENT

*Information is Empowering*

A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative