



## UNFCCC - COP23 at Bonn

### What is the issue?

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- The 23rd conference of the UNFCCC (UN Framework Convention on Climate Change) is under way in Bonn.

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- This faces the challenge of giving practical form to the provisions of the Paris Agreement of 2015.

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### What is the status of the agreement?

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- 169 countries have ratified the Paris accord and there is tremendous support for greener developmental initiatives.

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- A steady progress in the growth of renewable energy sources has already set it.

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- This is being aided by the increasing economical viability of renewable & improvements in energy storage technologies.

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- The Agreement has also envisioned raising a \$100 billion corpus from 1<sup>st</sup> world countries for funding green projects by 2020.

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- The highly industrialised 1<sup>st</sup> world countries have pledged stronger caps under the Paris Agreement.

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- Also, China, which currently leads in GHG emissions, and firmly endorses the pact to reduce the risk of climate change.

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## **What has been USA's position?**

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  - Trump administration in the US has announced that it will withdraw from the pact.
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  - While the actual withdrawal can happen only by 2020, the U.S. action has already reversed the overall momentum.
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  - It also negates President Obama's legacy of regulations designed to reduce America's GHG emissions, especially from the use of coal.

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## **What are the dangers?**

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  - Extreme weather phenomena, loss of agriculture, water stress and harm to human health, pose a threat to millions around the world.
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  - For some countries and other small island-states, the future is deeply worrying because of the fear of expected rise in sea levels.
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  - Also, the recent 'Emissions Gap Report' from the UN underscores the mismatch between what is promised and what is needed.
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  - Voluntary pledges made by countries fall short of the amount of cuts that needed to reign in temperature rise below 2 degrees.
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  - Considering all these, the Bonn meet must heed the 2015 targets, despite reversals from the US.

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## **What is India's status?**

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  - Commitments have been made to lowering the emission intensity of GDP by 33-35% by 2030 from the 2005 level.

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- Notably, India has been awarded among the highest levels of multilateral climate funding at \$745 million since 2013.

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- While securing funds is essential, ensuring that States acquire the capacity to absorb such assistance efficiently is also needed.

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- India's emphasis on a giant renewable energy programmes like National Solar Mission - NSM has won global acclaim.

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- More focus is needed for embracing green technologies across the spectrum of activity, including buildings and transport.

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**Source: The Hindu**

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