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Emission Gap Report by UNEP

Why in News

Recently, the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** released '**Emissions Gap Report**', according to which **India is the fourth-largest emitter** of Green House Gases (GHGs).

Key Points

- The world will fail to meet the **1.5°C temperature goal** of the **Paris Agreement** unless global greenhouse gas emissions fall by 7.6 per cent each year.
- The **top four emitters (China, USA, EU and India)** contributed to over **55% of the total emissions** over the last decade, **excluding emissions from land-use change** such as deforestation.
 - The rankings would change if land-use change emissions were included, with Brazil likely to be the largest emitter.
- Sectors that are the largest emitters-
Energy>Industry>Forestry>Transport>Agriculture>Building.
- **India** is among a small group of countries that are on their **way to achieve their self-declared climate targets** under the Paris Agreement. However, the emissions largely depend on the growth of the economy of the country.

Emissions Gap Report

- It is a **flagship report from UNEP** and it assesses the gap between anticipated emissions in 2030 and levels consistent with the 1.5°C and 2°C targets of the Paris Agreement.

- Every year, the report features ways to bridge the gap. This year, the report looked at the **potential of the energy transition** – particularly in the **power, transport and buildings sectors** – and efficiency in the use of materials such as iron steel and cement.
- It considers different scenarios, from no new climate policies since 2005 to full implementation of all national commitments under the Paris Agreement.
- It provides the latest assessment of scientific studies on current and estimated future Green House Gases (GHGs) emissions and compares these with the emission levels permissible for the world to progress on a least-cost pathway to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement.

India's Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) to be achieved primarily, by 2030

- To reduce the emissions intensity of the GDP by about a third.
- A total of 40% of the installed capacity for electricity will be from non-fossil fuel sources.
- India also promised an additional carbon sink (a means to absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere) of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent through additional **forest and tree cover** by the year 2030.

Source: IE

Starred Questions In Parliamentary Proceedings

Why in News

The ongoing Winter Session of 17th Lok Sabha has taken all the **20 starred questions** for the **first time since 1972**.

- The **previous record** was created during the **5th Lok Sabha (1972) when 14 starred questions were answered**.
In the **5th Lok Sabha (1972)**, the number of starred questions was **fixed at 20 per Question Hour**. Similarly, for the **Rajya Sabha**, the number is **fixed at 15**.
- Members of Parliament have a right to ask questions which is one of the devices available to them to seek information on matters of public importance.
- The Question Hour is one such mechanism in which the members ask questions on varied aspects of administration and governmental activity.

Question Hour

- The **first hour of every parliamentary sitting** is termed as Question hour.
- It is mentioned in the **Rules of Procedure** of the House.

- During this time, the members ask questions and the ministers usually give answers.
- The questions are of **three types**, namely,
 - **Starred questions:**
 - These are distinguished by an **asterisk**.
 - It requires an **oral answer** and hence **supplementary questions** can **follow**.
 - The list of these questions is printed in **green** colour.
 - **Unstarred questions:**
 - It requires a **written answer** and hence, supplementary questions **cannot** follow.
 - The list of these questions is printed in **white** colour.
 - **Short notice questions:**
 - The matters of **public importance and of urgent character** are considered under this type of questions.
 - It is asked by giving a **notice of less than ten days**.
 - It is answered **orally**.
 - The list of these questions is printed in **light pink** colour.
- In addition to the ministers, the **questions** can also be asked to the **private members**.

Question to private members:

- These questions are mentioned under **Rule 40 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha**.
- A question may be addressed to a private member if the subject matter of the question relates to some bill, resolution for which that member is responsible.
- The list of these questions is printed in **yellow** colour.

Source:IE

NuGen Mobility Summit 2019

Why in News

- The three day NuGen Mobility Summit is being held at Manesar in Haryana. It is organised by the **International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT)**.
- It is the **largest automotive technology event** in the country so far.
- The **theme** of the event revolves around **e-mobility** and **hydrogen mobility** to ensure green, safe and affordable mobility.

- The **objective** of the summit is to share new ideas, global experiences, innovations and future technology trends for faster adoption and development of advanced automotive technologies for a smarter and greener future.
- The event also emphasizes over importance of **combining agricultural sector with the automobile sector.**

Increased agricultural production of non-edible oil can be used for manufacturing of **biodiesel**, which in turn helps to **reduce dependency on fossil fuels.**

International Centre for Automotive Technology

- International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) is a division of NATRIP Implementation Society (NATIS) under the Department of Heavy Industries.
 - **National Automotive Testing and R&D Infrastructure Project (NATRIP)** is the largest and most significant initiative in the automotive sector which comprises of representatives from the Government of India, a number of State Governments and Indian Automotive Industry.
 - It aims to create a state of the art testing, validation and R&D infrastructure in the country.
- ICAT provides services for testing, validation, design of all categories of vehicles.
- It also intends to assist the automotive industry in adopting cutting edge technologies in vehicle evaluation and component development to ensure reliability, durability and compliance to the current and future regulations in new generation mobility solutions.

Source:PIB

Exercise Mitra Shakti

Why in News

The **7th edition** of **India-Sri Lanka joint military training exercise Mitra Shakti- 2019** is scheduled to be conducted in Pune from 01 - 14 December 2019.



- The exercise aims to build and promote **positive relations between armies of India and Sri Lanka for counter-insurgency & counter-terrorism operations in the urban and rural environment** under **United Nations** mandate.
- The joint exercise also aims for incorporating the current dynamics of United Nations peacekeeping operations through practical & comprehensive discussions and tactical exercises.

Source: PIB

New Snake Species Found in Arunachal Pradesh

Why in News

Recently, a new species of **non-venomous burrowing snake**, named **Trachischium apteii** has been found in the forested area of the **Tally Valley Wildlife Sanctuary** near the town of **Ziro in Arunachal Pradesh**.

It belongs to a group of **fossorial (adapted to digging) snakes** that live mostly **underground**, and **surface mainly during or after a heavy monsoon shower**.



Source: TH
