



News Analysis (03 Dec, 2019)

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India - Srilanka

Why in News

The newly elected **Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa** visited India from 28th-30th November, 2019.

- The Sri Lankan President played a major role in ending the country's **civil war (1983-2009)**.
- The President's two brothers, Mahinda Rajapaksha and Chamal Rajapaksha, holds the position of the Prime Minister and Agricultural Minister respectively in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka's Civil War

- Sri Lanka has been **mired in ethnic conflict** since the country, formerly known as Ceylon, became independent from British rule in 1948.
- After independence, the Sinhalese majority immediately began to pass laws that discriminated against Tamils (Hindu in religion), particularly the Indian Tamils brought to the island by the British.
- In 1972, the Sinhalese dominated government changed the country's name from Ceylon and made Buddhism the nation's primary religion.
- As ethnic tension grew, in **1976**, the **LTTE or the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam** was formed under the leadership of Velupillai Prabhakaran, and it began to campaign for a Tamil homeland in northern and eastern Sri Lanka, where most of the island's Tamils reside.
- The conflict between the Sri Lankan government and LTTE lasted nearly three decades, **ending in 2009**, when the LTTE forces were finally defeated.
- The war was one of the longest-running civil wars in Asia.

Key Points

- **Issues Discussed:** Strengthening of trade ties, boosting maritime security, addressing concerns of the fishermen, fulfilling aspirations of tamil community in Sri Lanka and to fight against terrorism.
- **Line of Credit**
 - India extended a **\$400 million** line of credit to Sri Lanka to help strengthen its infrastructure and economy.
 - An additional **\$50 million** to help Sri Lanka combat terrorism.
- Sri Lankan President extended an **invitation to the Prime Minister of India to visit Sri Lanka** at a mutually convenient time.

India - Sri Lanka Relations



- **India is Sri Lanka's closest neighbour.** The relationship between the two countries is more than 2,500 years old and both sides have built upon a legacy of intellectual, cultural, religious and linguistic intercourse.
- During the course of the civil war, India supported the right of the Government of Sri Lanka to act against terrorist forces.
- The **Indian Housing Project**, with an initial commitment to build 50,000 houses for those affected by the civil war as well as for the estate workers in the plantation areas, is Government of India (GoI)'s flagship project of developmental assistance to Sri Lanka.
- Given the proximity of the territorial waters of both countries, especially in the Palk Straits and the Gulf of Mannar, incidents of straying of fishermen are common. Both countries have agreed on **certain practical arrangements to deal with the issue of bona fide fishermen** of either side crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line.
- Recently, the **Chennai (India) -Jaffna (Sri Lanka) flight service has resumed** after a gap of 41 years.
 - The flight operations were suspended during the decades old civil war in Sri Lanka.

Source: PIB

COP25 Climate Summit

Why in News

The **25th** edition of the **Conference of the Parties** to the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** or COP25 has begun on December 2 in **Madrid (Spain)**.

Originally, the Summit was scheduled to be held at **Chile (South America)** but violent mass movement across the country made Chile reluctant from hosting the event.

The location of this conference is **rotated every year** in **different regions** of the world. This year it was the **turn of South America** to host the event.

Agenda for COP25

The **prime objective** of the conference is to **complete the rule-book to the 2015 Paris Agreement** that will become **effective in 2020** to **replace the 1997 Kyoto Protocol** (comes to an end in 2020).

The issues like the creation of new **carbon markets**, emission reduction targets, country's individual targets, etc. **remained unresolved** during **COP24 at Katowice (Poland) 2019**. Thus the rulebook under the Paris Agreement could not be finalized.

Kyoto Protocol

- The Kyoto Protocol is an **international agreement** linked to the UNFCCC, which commits its Parties by setting **internationally binding** emission reduction targets.
- The Kyoto Protocol was adopted in Kyoto, Japan, in **1997** and entered into force in **2005**.
- It recognized that developed countries are principally responsible for the current high levels of GHG emissions in the atmosphere as a result of more than 150 years of industrial activity
- The detailed rules for the implementation of the Protocol were adopted at COP-7 in Marrakesh, in 2001, and are referred to as the **Marrakesh Accords**.
- Kyoto Protocol Phase-1 (2005-12) gave the target of cutting down emissions by 5%.
- Phase- 2 (2013-20) gave the target of reducing emissions by at least 18% by the industrialized countries.
- The summit will also discuss about the functioning of international emissions trading systems, compensation for poor countries to deal with rising sea levels and other consequences of climate change.

- It will consider the **annual Emissions Gap Report**, produced by the **UN Environment Programme (UNEP)** and **a series of reports** from the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**.

Both the reports summarise that the goal of keeping average temperatures within 1.5°C from pre-industrial times is **“on the brink of becoming impossible.”** As the **overall emissions** are **still increasing** worldwide.

- The processes and methods of reporting information about climate change would be fixed during the summit. Specifically, the **developing countries** will try to ensure that there are greater **appreciation and recognition** of the **issue of loss and damage** due to climate change.

There is a demand to institute a mechanism to compensate countries that suffer major losses due to climate change-induced events like **cyclones** or floods.

- Efforts to commit to a long-term action plan to fight climate change.
So far, only 71 countries, most of them small emitters, have committed themselves to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

India's Agenda

- India is **unlikely** to announce any **enhanced targets** during the summit.
- India's current efforts are already much more compared to even rich and developed countries. Thus, India will reiterate its stand for **“Common but Differentiated Responsibilities”**.

Developed countries are major contributors to climate change and they are doing proportionately less, especially when it comes to providing finance and technology to the less developed world.

Carbon Market

- A carbon market allows countries, or industries, to earn carbon credits for emission reductions they make in excess of what is required of them.
- These credits can be traded to the highest bidder in exchange for money.
- The buyers of carbon credits can show the emission reductions as their own and use them to meet their own emission reduction targets.
- A carbon market already existed under the 1997 Kyoto Protocol but several countries walked out of the Kyoto Protocol and thus the demand for carbon credits had waned.
- As a result, developing countries like India, China and Brazil had accumulated huge amounts of carbon credits. These credits are now in danger of getting redundant.

Source: TH

Navy Gets its First Woman Pilot

Why in News

Recently, **Sub Lieutenant Shivangi Swaroop** became the **first pilot in the Indian navy** after qualifying as a Dornier pilot.

Earlier in 2018, Bhawana Kanth, Avani Chaturvedi and Mohana Singh became the first women pilots in the **Indian Air Force**.

Dornier aircraft

- It is a **multi-role Short Range Maritime Reconnaissance (SRMR) aircraft**, with **twin engine** manufactured by **Hindustan Aeronautical Ltd. (HAL)**, Kanpur.
- The aircraft can be **used for electronic warfare missions, maritime surveillance, search and rescue and to provide targeting data** to weapon platform.
- It is an important contribution towards indigenous development and self-reliance through **'Make in India'**, with state-of-the-art sensors and equipment including a glass cockpit, advanced surveillance radar, optical sensors and networking features.

Source: PIB
