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Initiatives Launched on G20 EMM

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Why in News

Recently, the **G20 Environment Ministers Meeting** (EMM) has taken place under the **Presidency of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**.

- Global **initiatives to reduce Land Degradation and Coral Reef Programme** and two **documents on climate change**, related to managing emissions and climate change adaptations under the G20 in 2020, have been launched.
- **G20 EMM, 2019** saw an agreement on adopting a new implementation framework for actions to tackle the issue of **marine plastic waste** on a global scale.

Key Points

- **Global Initiative on Reducing Land Degradation:**
 - It aims to strengthen the implementation of existing frameworks to **prevent, halt, and reverse land degradation** within G20 member states.
The **Scientific Conceptual Framework for Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN)**, developed by the **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification** (UNCCD), provides a scientific foundation for understanding, implementing and monitoring land degradation.
 - Globally, it aims to take into account possible implications on the achievement of **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG-13: Climate Action, SDG-14: Life below Water, SDG-15: Life on Land)** and adhere to the principle of doing no harm.

- **Global Coral Reef Research and Development Accelerator Platform:**
 - It is an innovative action-oriented initiative aimed at **creating a global research and development programme to advance research, innovation and capacity building** in all facets of coral reef conservation, restoration and adaptation.
 - It will **strengthen ongoing efforts and commitments** made to enhance coral reefs conservation and stop their further degradation.
 - Limiting global average temperature and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase, in line with the **Paris Agreement**, **provides the only chance for the survival of coral reefs globally.**
- **India's Stand:**
 - India intends to take measures to enhance **coral reef conservation** under the **National Coastal Mission Programme**.
 - The proposed mission under the **National Action Plan on Climate Change** (NAPCC) will address the impact of climate change on coastal and marine ecosystems.
 - It will include all phases of the **Integrated Coastal Zone Management** (ICZM) Project.
 - India has also put **efforts towards achieving land degradation neutrality** and towards the attainment of global goals of climate change mitigation and adaptation.
 - The Indian government sees schemes such as the **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, Soil Health Card Scheme** and **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana** as tools to tackle the problem of land degradation.
 - India is committed to working with G20 nations for a better world and is taking adequate action to meet the **Paris Agreement** and its climate commitments.
 - It was emphasised that **equity, common but differentiated responsibilities, finance and technology partnerships** are the key pillars to tackle the problem of climate change.

Paris Agreement

- It was adopted by **195 parties at the UN climate conference "COP 21"** held in **Paris** in **2015** with an aim to **reduce the hazardous greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.**
- **Objective:** To prevent an increase in global average temperature and keep it well below 2 degrees Celsius.
- It emphasised that **global GHG emissions must fall 45% by 2030** and reach **net zero by 2050** to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.
- 19 members of the G20, **except the USA which has pulled out of it**, have voiced their commitment to the full implementation of the deal.

G20

- It is an **informal group of 19 countries and the European Union (EU)**, with representatives of the **International Monetary Fund** and the **World Bank**.
- **Headquarters:** It operates as a forum and not as an organisation. Therefore, it does not have any permanent secretariat or management and administrative structure.
- **Members:** Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the USA, and the EU.

Source: PIB