Adaptation Gap Report 2020: UNEP

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Why in News

Recently, the **United Nations Environment Programme** (UNEP) **Adaptation Gap Report 2020** estimated the annual cost of adaptation to the effects of **climate change** for **developing countries to at least quadruple by 2050.**

> The current cost for these countries is in the range of **USD 70 billion (Rs 5.1 lakh crore) and may rise to USD 140-300 billion in 2030** and **USD 280-500 billion in 2050.**

Key Points

- **Adaptation Cost:**
    - It includes costs of **planning, preparing for, facilitating and implementing adaptation measures.**
    - The ever-increasing **adaptation cost has also outpaced the growth in adaptation finance** and that is the reason for a maintained **Adaptation Finance gap.**
        - **Adaptation Finance:** It refers to the flow of funds to developing countries to help them tide over the damages caused by weather events from climate change.
        - **Adaptation Finance gap:** It is the difference between **Adaptation Cost** and **Adaptation Finance.**
    - Adaptation costs, in actual terms, is **higher in developed countries** but the **burden of adaptation is greater for developing countries** in relation to their gross domestic product.
    - The developing countries, especially in Africa and Asia, which are **least equipped to tackle climate change** will also be the **most impacted by it.**

- **Global Challenges :**
  - **Rising Temperature:** The world is heading for at least a **3°C temperature rise** this century, according to current **Paris Agreement** pledges. Even if we limit global warming to well below 2°C, or even 1.5°C, the **poor countries will suffer.**
  - **The Pandemic:** The **Covid-19 pandemic** has impacted adaptation efforts but its effect is not yet quantified.
  - **Other Challenges:** Last year was not just marked by the pandemic but also by devastating natural calamities like **floods**, **droughts**, **storms**, **forest fires and locust plagues** impacting around 50 million lives globally.
- **Global Adaptation for Climate Change:** Three-quarters of all the countries have adopted at least one climate change adaptation planning instrument and **most developing countries are working on national adaptation plans.**
- **Some of the Indian Initiatives to Fight Climate Change:**
  - India has shifted from **Bharat Stage-IV (BS-IV) to Bharat Stage-VI (BS-VI) emission** norms from 1st April 2020 which was earlier to be adopted by 2024.
  - **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)**:
    - It was launched in **January 2019.**
    - It is a five-year action plan with a tentative target of **20-30% reduction in concentrations of PM10 and PM2.5 by 2024,** with 2017 as the base year.
  - It has distributed more than **360 million LED bulbs** under the **UJALA scheme**, which has led to energy saving of about 47 billion units of electricity per year and **reduction of 38 million tonnes of CO2 per year.**
  - **The Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission:**
    - It was **launched in 2009** with the primary aim of achieving grid parity by 2022 and with coal-based thermal power by 2030.
    - Aims to **increase the share of solar energy in India's energy mix.**
  - **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC):**
    - It was **launched in 2008.**
    - It aims at **creating awareness** among the representatives of the public, different agencies of the government, scientists, industry and the communities on the **threat posed by climate change and the steps to counter it.**

United Nations Environment Programme

- The UNEP is a leading global environmental authority established on 5th june 1972.
- **Functions:** It sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the sustainable development within the **United Nations** system, and serves as an authoritative advocate for global environment protection.

- **Major Reports:** <u>**Emission Gap Report**</u>, Global Environment Outlook, Frontiers, Invest into Healthy Planet.
- **Major Campaigns:** Beat Pollution, UN75, World Environment Day, Wild for Life.
- **Headquarters:** Nairobi, Kenya.

<u>Source: DTE</u>