



New Pledges at CoP26 Summit

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Why in News

Recently, leaders at the **CoP26 global climate conference in Glasgow** have pledged to **stop deforestation** by the end of the decade and slash emissions of **methane** to help slow **climate change**.

Earlier, India announced that it will reach **carbon neutrality by 2070 as part of a five-point action plan** that included reducing emissions to 50% by 2030.

Key Points

Methane Pledge:

- The **European Union (EU)** and the US have launched a landmark **pledge to slash emissions of the powerful greenhouse gas methane**, a commitment that could prevent 0.2 degrees Celsius of global warming.
- The alliance's members will seek to lower global emissions of methane - the second-largest contributor to climate change after carbon dioxide - by 30% below 2020 levels by 2030.
- Besides the EU and the US, **more than 103 countries have signed up so far**, including major methane emitters like Nigeria and Pakistan.
 - The **Global Methane Pledge** (US), first announced in September 2021, now covers emissions from two-thirds of the global economy.
 - **China, Russia and India - have not signed up**, while Australia has said it will not back the pledge.

Methane: A Concern

- Methane is more **short-lived in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide but 80 times more potent** in warming the earth.
- Humanity has also boosted the **greenhouse gases** in the atmosphere by hacking away at the forests that absorb roughly 30% of carbon dioxide emissions, according to the nonprofit **World Resources Institute**.

- Human sources of methane include landfills, oil and natural gas systems, agricultural activities, coal mining, wastewater treatment, and certain industrial processes.
- **Deforestation Pledge:**
 - More than **100 national leaders pledged to halt and reverse deforestation and land degradation** by the end of the decade, underpinned by USD 19 billion in public and private funds to invest in protecting and restoring forests.

In 2020, the **world lost 258,000 sq km of forest** — an area larger than the United Kingdom, according to WRI's Global Forest Watch.
 - The agreement vastly expands a commitment made by 40 countries as part of the 2014 **New York Declaration of Forests, and promises more resources.**
- **Call for Climate Finance:**
 - India noted that **climate finance** cannot continue at the levels decided in 2009 (100 billion USD), and emphasised that it **should be at least USD 1 trillion to meet the goals of addressing climate change.**
 - India underlined the unity and strength of **Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDC)** as fundamental in the **UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)** negotiations.

To **preserve the interest of the Global South in the fight against climate change**, India **highlighted that recognition of the current challenges** being faced by developing countries required intensified multilateral cooperation, not intensified global economic and geopolitical competition and trade wars.
 - India requested the LMDC members to join hands with India to support the global initiatives it has pioneered, including the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**, **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)** and the **Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT)**.
- **Infrastructure for Resilient Island States:**
 - India launched this initiative as **a part of the CDRI** that would **focus on building capacity**, having pilot projects, especially in small island developing states.
 - Small Island Developing States or SIDS face the biggest threat from climate change, India's space agency **ISRO** will build a special data window for them to provide them timely information about cyclones, coral-reef monitoring, coast-line monitoring etc. through satellite.

- **One Sun One World One Grid Group (OSOWOG) Launched:**
 - It is an **initiative by India and the United Kingdom** to tap solar energy and have it travel seamlessly across borders.
 - It includes a group of governments called the **Green Grids Initiative (GGI) - One Sun One World One Grid group.**
 - The aim of GGI is to help achieve the pace and scale of reforms to infrastructure and market structures needed to underpin the global energy transition.
 - It **has the potential to be a modern engineering marvel, and a catalyst for greatly expanding renewable electricity generation, and effectively mitigating climate change** in the next decade.
 - According to the ISA's concept note on OSOWOG, the global solar grid **will be implemented in three phases.**
 - In the first phase, the **'Indian Grid' will interconnect with the Middle East, South Asia and Southeast Asia grids** to share solar and other renewable energy resources for meeting electricity needs, including during peak demand.
 - It will **then be interconnected with the African power pools** in the second phase.
 - The **third phase would cover global interconnection** of the power transmission grid to achieve the OSOWOG's vision.

Source: TH