



Mathura-Vrindavan Carbon Neutral Target 2041

Why in News?

Recently, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has announced that Mathura-Vrindavan is aiming to become a **“net zero carbon emission”** tourist destination by 2041.

- This will be **the first such carbon neutral master plan** for a tourist destination in India.

What are the Major Announcements regarding the Target?

- **About Announcement:**
 - **Tourist vehicles will be banned** from the entire Braj region, which includes famous pilgrim centres such as Vrindavan and Krishna Janmabhoomi.
 - Only **electric vehicles** used as public transport will be allowed into the area.
 - All **252 water bodies and 24 forests** in the area will also be **revived**.
 - The plan divides the entire region into four clusters, each containing two of the eight key cities.
 - “The idea is to form small circuits called **‘Parikrama Paths’** which the pilgrim can undertake either on foot or using electric vehicles.
 - In case they want to travel from one destination to another they can avail **electric mini-buses**.
- **Mathura-Vrindavan’s Cultural Significance:**
 - Mathura, situated **on the bank of river Yamuna**, is the **abode of Lord Krishna** and it has a great religious sanctity among the Hindus.
 - It also has **one of the oldest historical records**.
 - It is mentioned in **the epic Ramayan**. It is on record that Mathura was one of the **capitals of Kushan King Kanishka(130AD)**.
 - Some of the **famous temples** are Bankey Bihari Temple, Govind Dev Temple, Rangaji Temple, Dwarikadhish Temple and the ISKCON Temple.

What is Net Zero Carbon Emission?

- It is referred to as **carbon neutrality**, which **does not mean that a country/state would bring down its emissions to zero**.
 - Rather, it is a state in which a country’s/state’s emissions are **compensated by the absorption and removal of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere**.
- Further, absorption of the emissions can be increased by **creating more carbon sinks** such as forests.
 - While the removal of gases from the atmosphere requires futuristic technologies such as carbon capture and storage.
- More than 70 countries have promised to become **Net Zero** by the middle of the century **i.e., by 2050**.
- India has promised to cut its emissions to net zero by 2070 at the **conference of parties-26(COP) summit**.

PM MAKES FIVE PLEDGES

- 1 India will increase its non-fossil energy capacity to 500GW by 2030
- 2 India will meet 50% of its energy requirements from renewable energy by 2030
- 3 India will reduce the total projected carbon emissions by one billion tonnes from now to 2030
- 4 By 2030, India will reduce the carbon intensity of its economy by 45% (from a previous target of 35%)
- 5 By 2070, India will achieve the target of net zero

WHAT IS NET ZERO?

Net zero refers to a balance where emissions of greenhouse gases are offset by the absorption of an equivalent amount from the atmosphere. Experts see net zero targets as a critical measure to successfully tackle climate change and its devastating consequences

PLEDGES BY TOP THREE EMITTERS

-  **CHINA:** Beijing announced no new pledges on Monday. It previously pledged net zero by 2060.
-  **UNITED STATES:** The US touted domestic legislation to spend \$555bn to boost renewable power and electric vehicles. It has pledged net zero by 2050.
-  **INDIA:** The country's economy will become carbon neutral by the year 2070

UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q. The term 'Intended Nationally Determined Contributions' is sometimes seen in the news in the context of (2016)

- (a) pledges made by the European countries to rehabilitate refugees from the war-affected Middle East
- (b) plan of action outlined by the countries of the world to combat climate change
- (c) capital contributed by the member countries in the establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- (d) plan of action outlined by the countries of the world regarding Sustainable Development Goals

Ans: (b)

Exp:

- Intended Nationally Determined Contributions is the term used under the UNFCCC for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in all countries that signed the Paris Agreement.
- At COP 21 countries across the globe publicly outlined the actions they intended to take under the international agreement. The contributions are in the direction to achieve the long-term goal of the Paris Agreement; "to hold the increase in global average temperature to well below 2°C to pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C, and to achieve net zero emissions in the second half of this century."
- Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

Mains

Q. Describe the major outcomes of the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). What are the commitments made by India in this conference? (2021)

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