0

The Kigali Agreement

DEAL TO CURB USE OF HFCs

WHY IT WAS NEEDED

→ HFCs, climate-damaging refrigerants, are used in airconditioning, refrigeration, foams and aerosols as replacement for many ozone-depleting substances (ODS)

→ ODS are being phased out under the Montreal Protocol (MP) of 1987

➔ Phasing out ODS is important to protect the stratospheric ozone layer

→ Stratospheric ozone layer filters out harmful ultraviolet radiation, which is associated with increased prevalence of skin cancer and cataracts

➔ HFC is not ODS, but its global warming potential is thousands of times that of carbon dioxide

→ So, the global community wanted the use of HFCs also to be curbed under MP

➔ Agreement in Kigali is meant to amend the MP to bring the HFCs' phase-down within its ambit

197 Parties (196 countries plus EU) agreed to the deal in Kigali, Rwanda

WHAT IS AGREED

➔ Agreed to an amendment to include HFCs' phase-down under MP (Unlike Paris Agreement, MP is legally binding)

→ It will come into force from Jan 1, 2019

→ Creates three categories of countries with different schedules and timetables for reduction

Developed countries led by the US, Japan and West European nations.

2 Developing countries like China, South Africa, Brazil among others.

Developing countries like India, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan among others.

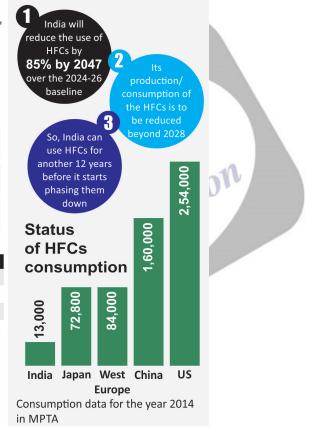
HFCs' PHASE DOWN SCHEDULES Category Baseline Freezing Max % reduction

1	2011-13	2019	85% by 2036
2	2020-22	2024	80% by 2045
3	2024-26	2028	85% by 2047

➔ Freezing year is the year when use of HFCs will peak before being rapidly scaled down and finally phased out altogether

→ Baseline years are the years for which the average production/consumption quantity of HFCs is taken as the upper limit—so it serves as a level

Implication for India as per the agreed schedule



PDF Refernece URL: https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/the-kigali-agreement