Fall in India's CO2 Emissions

Why in News

According to an analysis published in **'Carbon Brief', Carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions in India are set to grow at their slowest in the year 2019, which is a rise of only** 2% from the year 2018. The 2% rate is a lower rate than any annual increase since 2001.

- As per the **International Energy Emissions Agency, 2018 report:**
  - India's per capita emissions were about 40% of the global average.
  - The emissions contributed 7% to the global carbon dioxide burden.
  - The U.S., the largest emitter, contributed 14%.
- Carbon Brief is a site that tracks emission and carbon dioxide trends.

Reasons

- **Economic slowdown** in the country.
  - Oil demand growth slowed to 2.6% in the first eight months of 2019, compared with 4.6% in 2018, and 5% on average over the past 10 years.
  - Use of **petcoke** (an oil refining byproduct) continues to fall after an import ban was put in place.
    - India banned the import of petcoke for use as a fuel in 2018.
    - Thus, import of petcoke is allowed for only cement, lime kiln, calcium carbide and gasification industries, when used as the feedstock or in the manufacturing process.
  - **Demand for naphtha –** a lighter fraction of refined crude oil used in the chemical industry – fell too, likely due to slower growth in petrochemicals.

- **Slowdown** in the expansion of **coal-fired electricity generation** and **surge** in **renewable power** generation.
    - Due to rapid growth in renewable generation, the share of coal in meeting the electricity demand has decreased.
    - In the first six months of 2019, wind, solar and hydro met 70% of the increase in electricity demand.

Benefits

- This fall will help India in achieving its **renewable energy targets.**

  The targets of India's **Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs)** include:
    - To reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 33 to 35% by 2030 from 2005 levels.
    - To achieve about 40% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel based energy resources by 2030.
- Slower growth in coal-based power generation will **benefit the country's air quality efforts,** as essentially all coal-fired power plants in India lack pollution controls which are necessary in countries like China and the European Union.

Source: TH