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MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



MK Yadav Sir

Table of Contents

1. UNSC Reform
2. Gender Budgeting
3. International Criminal Court
4. iDEX Initiative
5. Joint Call to Action for Forests
6. Rastriya Vigyan Puraskar
7. Women's Reservation Bill
8. Nagorno-Karabakh Region
9. Climate Action Tracker
10. Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

BUSINESS STANDARD Page 5

UNSC REFORM

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Internation relations)

'Reform or rupture': UN chief on UNSC

Biden asks world to stand with Ukraine

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
19 September

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Tuesday gave a clarion call to reform the UN Security Council "in line with the world of today" and based on equity, telling leaders that the 15-nation body reflects the political and economic realities of 1945 and risks becoming part of the problem instead of solving it.

"Our world is becoming unhinged. Geopolitical tensions are rising. Global challenges are mounting. And we seem incapable of coming together to respond," Guterres told world leaders in his address to the 78th session of the UN General Assembly here.

Addressing the world from the iconic green podium in the UNGA hall, Guterres said the world confronts a host of existential threats — from the climate crisis to disruptive technologies — and "we do so at a time of chaotic transition.

He emphasised that a multipolar world needs strong and effective multilateral institutions, yet global governance is stuck in time.

"Look no further than the United Nations Security Council and the Bretton Woods system. They reflect the political and economic realities of 1945 when many countries in this Assembly Hall were still under colonial domination. The world has changed. Our institutions have not," he said.

The UN chief underscored that "we cannot effectively address problems as they are if institutions don't reflect the world as it is. Instead of solving problems, they risk becoming part of the problem." He asserted that it is high time to renew multilateral institutions based on 21st century economic and political realities — rooted in equity, solidarity and universality — anchored in the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law.

"That means reforming the Security Council in line with the world of today," he said.

"It means redesigning the international financial architecture so that it becomes truly universal and serves as a global safety net for developing countries in trouble," Guterres said.

"I have no illusions. Reforms are a question of power. I know there are many competing interests and agendas. But the alternative to reform is not the status quo. The alternative to reform is further fragmentation. It's reform or rupture," he said.

US President Joe Biden also appealed to the world leaders to stand with Ukraine against Russian invaders, hoping Republicans in Congress will also take notice.

THE ABSENTEES

Besides US President Joe Biden, leaders of the rest of permanent UNSC members — France, the UK, China and Russia — will not make the trip



EMMANUEL MACRON
France President



RISHI SUNAK
UK Prime Minister



XI JINPING
China President



VLADIMIR PUTIN
Russia President

Context: United Nations Secretary (UNSC)-General Antonio Guterres recently gave a **clarion call to reform the UN Security Council** "in line with the world of today" and based on equity, telling leaders that the 15-nation body reflects the political and economic realities of 1945 and risks becoming part of the problem instead of solving it.

United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

- **About:** It is one of the **six principal organs** of the United Nations (UN).
- **Formation:** By the UN Charter in 1945.
- **Objective:** Primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.
- **Members:** 15 (5 permanent + 10 non-permanent members).
- **Headquarter:** New York, USA.
- **UNSC Presidency:** Held by each of the 15 members in turn **for one month**, based on English alphabetical order.
  - **Eligibility for presidency:** Both permanent and non-permanent members are eligible for the UNSC presidency.
  - **India as a non-permanent member:** 8 times. The latest membership was for the year 2021-22.

UNSC Reform: Meaning

- **The aim for UNSC reforms encompasses:** Reform in categories of membership (permanent, non-permanent)➔**Question of the veto** held by the five permanent members➔Regional representation➔Size of an enlarged Council and its working methods➔Relationship between UNSC & UNGA etc.

Need of UNSC Refrom:

- **To make it effective, authoritative, and better** able to serve all the member states and people of the world.
- **To reflect present geopolitical realities.**
- **Democratic deficit**: Ensuring representation of large number of developing nations.
- **Non representative:** Regions like far East Asia, South America, Africa have no representation in the permanent membership.
- **Misuse of veto power:** The veto is not a right, but rather a privilege unfairly used according to their national interests.

ECONOMIC TIMES Page 1

GENDER BUDGETING

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Economy)

Gender Budgeting Revamp On Cards to Better Log Spends on Women Schemes

Ex-ante gender budgeting, linking expenditure with outcomes proposed

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New Delhi: India is considering a major change in the annual budget to better capture spending on gender equality and women's empowerment. This will entail a revamp in the gender budget statement that's part of the annual exercise.

The focus is likely to be on ex-ante gender budgeting, based on forecasts, while linking the spending with outcomes under various heads to make it more impactful. This comes amid the introduction of the women's reservation bill aimed at increasing female representation in the legislature.

A panel set up by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) and headed by Dakshita Das, former bureaucrat and National Housing Bank managing director, suggested a number of changes in its report submitted in August. It has suggested the government consider a gender budget statement (GBS) comprising cross-sectoral allocations for women across thematic areas.

Finmin, MoWCD to Hold Discussions Soon ▸▸ 11



Context: India is considering a major change in the annual budget **to better capture spending on gender equality and women's empowerment.** This will entail a revamp in the **gender budget** statement that's part of the annual exercise.

Gender Budgeting

- **About:** According to the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD), gender budgeting is a **tool to achieve gender mainstreaming** incorporating a gender perspective and sensitivity at all levels so as to ensure that the benefits of development reach women as much as men.
- **Aim:** Finding out whether women and men can access the same opportunities equally.
- **Adoption:** The Government of India had adopted Gender Budgeting in 2005-06. The government publishes a **Gender Budget Statement** (GBS) every year along with the **Union Budget.**
- **Benefits**: Promotes gender equality, improved resource allocation, better targeting, economic growth, political empowerment, reduces gender-based violence, accountability and transparency etc.



LIVEMINT Sept 19

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – International Relations)

International Criminal Court reports cybersecurity breach

The International Criminal Court (ICC) on Tuesday disclosed a hacking incident, a breach at one of the world's most high profile international institutions. The ICC said it had detected unusual activity on its computer network at the end of last week, prompting a response that was still ongoing.

A spokesperson declined to comment on how serious the hack was, whether it has been fully resolved, or who might be behind it. "Immediate measures were adopted to respond to this cybersecurity incident and to mitigate its impact," the ICC said. The ICC is the permanent war crimes tribunal in The Hague, established in 2002 to try war crimes and crimes against humanity. Prosecutors at the court are currently conducting 17 investigations into situations in Ukraine, Uganda, Venezuela, Afghanistan and the Philippines, among others. In March the court made headlines when it issued an arrest warrant for Russian president Vladimir Putin on suspicion of illegally deporting children from Ukraine. The Kremlin rejects the accusations and the court's jurisdiction. REUTERS



The ICC is the permanent war crimes tribunal in The Hague, established in 2002. REUTERS

Context: The International Criminal Court (ICC) recently **disclosed a hacking incident**, a breach at one of the world's most high profile international institutions.

International Criminal Court (ICC):

- **Establishment: In 2002** pursuant to the multilateral **Rome Statute.**
- **Headquarter:** The Hague, Netherlands.
- **About:** It is the **first and only** permanent international court with jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for the **international crimes** like - genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression.
- **Members:** 123 countries. Countries like – India, China and Pakistan have **not signed** the treaty and not a party.
- **Jurisdiction:** The ICC's jurisdiction is **limited only** to **natural persons** (unlike the **International Court of Justice,** which hears disputes between states) with minimum age of the alleged perpetrator should be 18 years at the time of the commission of the crime.
- **Relation with UN:** The ICC is **not part of the UN**. The Rome Statute was negotiated within the UN; however, it created an **independent judicial body** distinct from the UN.

Difference with International Court of Justice (ICJ):

- **Established:** In 1945 under the UN Charter.
- **Headquarter**: Hague, Netherlands.
- **Function**: To settle legal disputes **between states** and to provide advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by UN bodies and specialized agencies. Every year the Court submits a report on its activities to the United Nations General Assembly.
- **Composition:** The Court is composed of **15 judges** elected by the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council (UNSC).
  - Judges are elected for a **9 years term** and **can be re-elected.** Elections are staggered, with **5 judges elected every 3 years** to ensure continuity within the court.

PIB

Sept 19

iDEX INITIATIVE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – International Relations)

A US delegation interacts with iDEX team at IIT Delhi; iDEX winners & defence innovation start-ups showcase cutting-edge dual-use technologies

Context: The US delegation, led by Under Secretary (Research & Engineering), met a team of **Innovations for Defence Excellence-Defence Innovation Organisation (iDEX-DIO)** under Ministry of Defence at IIT Delhi explaining how the initiative is revolutionising the defence innovation ecosystem in India.

iDEX Initiaitve

- **About:** The Government announced a **central sector scheme** named as Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) **for 5 years** from 2021-22 to 2025-26.
  - It was launched under the Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO) under the Ministry of Defence
- **Objective:** To foster innovation and technology development and to provide financial support to nearly 300 Start-ups/MSMEs/individual innovators and about 20 Partner Incubators through Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO).

India-U.S. Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X) initiative

- **About:** It is an event conducted in Washington DC in June 2023.
- **Conducted by:** iDEX, in partnership with US Department of Defence.
- **Objective:** To expand the strategic technology partnership and defence industrial cooperation between the start-up ecosystems, businesses and academic institutions.
- **It includes:** The collaboration agenda under the Defence Innovation Bridge includes launch of Joint Challenges, Innovation Partnership Program, Academia partnership, Joint Innovation Fund, establishing of Testing & Certification facilities in India etc.

DTE Sept 19

JOINT CALL TO ACTION FOR FORESTS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3– Env & Eco)

‘Green should be the colour of the future’: Global bodies launch campaign to protect forests

Joint Call to Action for Forests to highlight need for increased action, political commitment to implement forest solutions in pursuit of SDGs

Context: The **Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF),** recently launched the **Joint Call to Action for Forests towards 2030**.

Joint Call to Action for Forests

- **Aim:** To highlight the need for increased action and political commitment to implement forest solutions in pursuit of the United Nations-mandated Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).
- **It has four focal areas:** Implementation and action; data, science and innovation; finance for forests; and communication and awareness-raising.

Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)

- **About:** It is a partnership of 16 global organisations chaired by the **United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).**
- **Working:** Challenges and opportunities have been identified in protecting, restoring and sustainably managing forests, and action and ambition are needed.
  - The CPF members committed to “reinforcing action to strengthen efforts at all levels to fully unlock the contributions of forests to sustainable development and achieve our joint vision for forests towards 2030”.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

- **About:** It is a specialised agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
- **Formation:** 16th October, 1945.
- **Headquarter:** Rome (Italy).
- **Goal:** To achieve food security for all and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives.
- **Members:** 195 members - 194 countries and the European union
- **World Food Day:** Celebrated every year on 16th October.

THE HINDU

Sept 19

RASTRIYA VIGYAN PURASKAR

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2– Government Initiatives/Governance)

Centre floats new science awards

The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar to have three Vigyan Ratna, 25 Vigyan Shri, 25 Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar and three Vigyan Team awards; the winners will be announced every year on May 11, which is National Technology Day

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Nearly a year after deciding to cut the number of prizes annually awarded by its Ministries, the Union government is set to institute the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar – 56 prizes to felicitate scientists, technologists and innovators. Akin to the prestigious Padma awards, these awards will not include any cash component; instead, they will likely bestow a certificate and a medallion on the awardee, sources told *The Hindu*.

According to the proposal seen by *The Hindu*, which is yet to be made public, the RVP will comprise three Vigyan Ratna, 25 Vigyan Shri, 25 Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar and three Vigyan Team awards.

Multidisciplinary prizes

These prizes will be awarded annually for physics, chemistry, biological sciences, mathematics and computer science, earth science, medicine, engineering science, agricultural science, environmental science, technology and innovation, atomic energy, space science and technology, and a 13th category, simply called "others".

"It may be ensured that each domain may be represented. Adequate representation of women may also be ensured," said the proposal forwarded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) to the Union Home Ministry.

The 56 proposed awards are a stark reduction from the almost 300 science prizes that used to be given by Union Ministries.

In their previous avatar, the prizes also had a significant cash component. The Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (SSB) awards, given by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) since 1958, now includes ₹5 lakh per winner, as well as a salary perk.

In fact, the government announced the names of 12 winners of the SSB awards just last week, after a year's delay. The National Technology Awards, given to teams by the Technology Development Board (a DST entity), also include cash prizes worth ₹25 lakh.



Fresh outline: The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar prizes will felicitate scientists, technologists and innovators. ISTOCKPHOTO

The new awards will also be open to persons of Indian origin (PIOs), though a maximum of one such may be awarded the Vigyan Ratna, while three PIOs each can be selected for the Vigyan Shri and the VY-SSB.

However, PIOs will not be eligible for the Vigyan Team awards.

The Vigyan Ratna awards shall be for "lifetime contributions along with excellence made in any field of science", the Vigyan Shri for "distinguished contribution to any field", and the SSB for "exceptional contribution by young scientists". The team awards shall be for three or more researchers who have made an "exceptional contribution as a team".

There are no age limits for any prizes except the SSB, for which recipients must be 45 years or younger.

Starting in 2024

The awards will be announced annually on May 11, which is National Technology Day, and will be awarded on National Space Day, August 23. These are the days on which India successfully conducted its second nuclear test in 1998, and then catapulted the Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander on the moon this year.

The RVP awards, which will commence from 2024, will be given by the President or the Vice President, according to the proposal.

A committee will be constituted every year, comprising the Secretaries of six Science Ministries, up to four presidents of science and engineering academies, and six distinguished scientists and technologists from various fields.

The CSIR will coordinate the administration of the awards process for two years, after which it will be taken over by the proposed National Research Foundation.

Context: Nearly a year after the Union Government decided to cut the number of prizes annually awarded by its science-affiliated Ministries, it has instituted **the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP) -** 56 prizes to felicitate scientists, technologists and innovators.

Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP)

- **About**: Similar to the prestigious Padma awards, these awards will not include any cash component; instead, they will likely bestow only a certificate and medallion on the awardee.
- **It will comprise:** 3 Vigyan Ratna awards, as well as 25 Vigyan Shri, 25 Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, and 3 Vigyan Team awards.
- **Frequency of award:** Annually.
- **Categories covered:** Total 13.
  - It will include - physics, chemistry, biological sciences, mathematics and computer science, earth science, medicine, engineering science, agricultural science, environmental science, technology and innovation, atomic energy, space science and technology, and a 13th category, simply called 'Others'.
- **Open to PIOs:** The RVP will also be open to **persons of Indian origin (PIOs),** but with some exemptions.
- **It will start from**: May 11, 2024, which is National Technology Day, and will be awarded on National Space Day, August 23.
- **Criticism:** The RVP awards are a major truncation of the nearly 300 awards that were given by scientific Ministries, though most of these were internal awards.

FINANCIAL EXPRESS

Page 1

WOMEN'S RESERVATION BILL

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Polity)

Women's Bill tabled

LIZ MATHEW, VIKAS PATHAK & APURVA VISHWANATH
New Delhi, September 19

EXPLAINER

India's long wait for the Women's Reservation Bill ■ PAGE 7

IN A MOVE set to have a wide impact on Indian electoral politics, the Narendra Modi government on Tuesday introduced the 128th Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2023, to bring in 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and all state Legislative Assemblies. The Bill extends the quota to seats that are reserved for SC/STs.

Calling himself "the chosen one for empowering and strengthening women", Prime Minister Modi urged the five-day special session of Parliament — that met in the new building on Tuesday — to pass the Bill, dubbed by the government as the 'Narishakti Vandan Adhiniyam', unanimously.

The reservation for women, however, will kick in only after the completion of the delimitation exercise based on the first Census that will be conducted after the passage of the Bill. This puts off its date to around 2029.

The Bill mandates women's reservation for a period of 15 years from the commencement of the Act, with Parliament empowered to extend it further.

Rotation of seats reserved for women will happen only after subsequent delimitation exercises, to be determined by Parliament by law.

Continued on Page 9

TELLING NUMBERS

Highest percentage of women in parliaments of democracies

Currently — without reservation — 14.4% of Lok Sabha MPs are women. Here's how this number compares with the lower (or single) House of democracies on the top 10 of the women's representation list. Only major countries — and prominent democracies — have been listed.

Countries	Seats	Women	Percentage
India	543	78	14.4
Mexico	500	250	50.0
New Zealand	120	60	50.0
Sweden	349	162	46.4
Norway	169	78	46.2
Finland	200	92	46.0
South Africa	398	181	45.5
Argentina	257	115	44.8
Spain	350	155	44.3
Denmark	179	78	43.6
Belgium	150	64	42.7

Other prominent countries on the list: Australia (38.4%); France (37.8%); Germany (35.1%); United Kingdom (34.6%); Canada (30.7%); United States (28.8%); Pakistan (20.5%); Brazil (17.5%); Japan (10.3%)

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU); latest available data

Context: The government recently brought The Constitution (128th Amendment) Bill, 2023 to provide 33 % reservation to women in Lok Sabha and state Legislative Assemblies.

Women's Reservation Bill 2023 [The Constitution (One Hundred Twenty-Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2023]

Key features of the Bill

- **Reservation for women:** The Bill reserves, as nearly as may be, one-third of all seats for women in Lok Sabha, state legislative assemblies, and the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi.
    - This will also apply to the seats reserved for SCs and STs in Lok Sabha and states legislatures.
- **Commencement of reservation**: The reservation will be effective after the census conducted after the commencement of this Bill has been published.
    - Based on the census, delimitation will be undertaken to reserve seats for women.
    - The reservation will be provided for a period of 15 years. However, it shall continue till such date as determined by a law made by Parliament.
- **Rotation of seats:** Seats reserved for women will be rotated after each delimitation, as determined by a law made by Parliament.

INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 12

NAGORNO-KARABAKH REGION

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – International Relations)

Azerbaijan launches military operation in Nagorno-Karabakh

ASSOCIATED PRESS
YEREVAN (ARMENIA), SEPTEMBER 19

AZERBAIJAN'S FORCES rained artillery fire on Armenian positions in Nagorno-Karabakh Tuesday, and local officials reported that five civilians were killed and scores wounded in shelling around the breakaway region's capital. Authorities in Azerbaijan accused the other side of killing a civilian.

Ethnic Armenian authorities in the Caucasus Mountains region urged Azerbaijan to sit down for talks, but Azerbaijan's presidential administration said the "anti-terrorist operation" will continue until "illegal Armenian military formations" surrender and the separatist government of Nagorno-Karabakh dismantles itself.

The reports raised concerns that a full-scale war in the region could resume between Azerbaijan and Armenia, which have faced off for more than three decades in a conflict over the mountainous territory. The most recent heavy fighting there occurred for six weeks in 2020.

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry announced the start of the operation hours after four soldiers and two civilians died in land mine explosions in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The ministry said front-line positions and military assets of Armenia's armed forces were being "incapacitated using high-precision weapons", and that only legitimate military targets were attacked. Armenia's Foreign Ministry denied its weapons or troops were in Nagorno-Karabakh and called reported sabotage and land mines in the region "a lie"

Although Azerbaijan said the operation was limited to military targets, the Defense Ministry said "humanitarian corridors" had been created to evacuate the population.

Thomas de Waal, a senior fellow at the Carnegie Europe think tank, said the military operation could be part of a plan by Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev to get ethnic Armenians to leave the area.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova denied Tuesday that Russia was told in advance of Azerbaijan's intention to mount the operation, saying its peacekeepers in the region were notified only "a few minutes" before it began.



People run as gunfire and blasts are heard in Stepanakert in Nagorno-Karabakh on Tuesday. *Reuters*

EXPLAINED

Russia fails to keep the peace

RUSSIA BROKERED a cease-fire after the last war in the region in 2020, in which Azerbaijan regained control of swathes of Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding regions. Moscow deployed over 2,000 peacekeepers to guard a lifeline road connecting the territory to Armenia. But in recent months, amid increasing tensions with Russia over its closeness to the West, Armenia has accused Moscow of failing to fulfil its role as guarantor of security in the region.

US begins talks

THE US is engaging in diplomatic outreach after Azerbaijan launched "anti-terrorist activities". US Secretary of State Antony Blinken will likely to get involved in diplomatic engagement soon.

Kremlin's appeal

THE KREMLIN called for calm in the Nagorno-Karabakh region, saying Baku and Yerevan should sit down to talks to resolve the conflict.

500 evacuated

RUSSIA'S DEFENCE ministry said that its peacekeepers had evacuated 500 civilians from dangerous parts of Nagorno-Karabakh.

France to step in

FRENCH PRESIDENT Emmanuel Macron told Armenia PM Nikol Pashinyan in a phone call that he will call for an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council.

Backing for Baku

TURKEY backs Azerbaijan's steps to preserve its territorial integrity, President Tayyip Erdogan said on Tuesday.

– REUTERS

Nagorno-Karabakh region



Context: Azerbaijan has launched what it called "anti-terrorist activities" in the breakaway **region of Nagorno-Karabakh**, stressing that the offensive would only target military structures.

Nagorno-Karabakh Region

- **About:** It is a disputed territory between **Azerbaijan and Armenia**, internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan. Although most of it has been governed by the **unrecognised Republic of Artsakh** (also known as the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR]) since the first **Nagorno-Karabakh War (1988-94).**
  - It is a landlocked region in the **South Caucasus**, within the **mountainous range of Karabakh**, lying between Lower Karabakh and Syunik, and covering the southeastern range of the Lesser Caucasus mountains.

Azerbaijan: It is a **transcontinental country** located at the boundary of **Eastern Europe and Western Asia.** It is a part of the South Caucasus region.

- **Bordered by:** Caspian Sea to the east, Russia (Republic of Dagestan) to the north, Georgia to the northwest, Armenia and Turkey to the west, and Iran to the south.
- **Capital:** Baku and is the largest city.

Armenia: It is a landlocked country located in the Armenian Highlands of Western Asia. It is a part of the Caucasus region.

- **Bordered by:** Turkey to the west, Georgia to the north, the Lachin corridor (under a Russian peacekeeping force) and Azerbaijan to the east, and Iran and the Azerbaijani exclave of Nakhchivan to the south.
- **Capital:** Yerevan, and is the largest city and the financial centre.

HINDUSTAN TIMES

Page 2

CLIMATE ACTION TRACKER

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Env & Eco)

World not on track to decarbonise: Report

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NEW DELHI: None of the countries are on track to decarbonizing their power sectors, a key step for meeting net zero commitments by mid-century, a new report by Climate Action Tracker has said.

India and China, the report said, have 1.5°C compatible levels of fossil power now, but the two economies need to develop their long-term phase-out strategies.

India is adding more coal capacity when it should be phasing down all coal, the report said, highlighting an overall "mixed picture". The renewable energy sector in India is booming, but not fast enough.

China, too, is adding more coal and has a mixed picture when it comes to renewable energy, CAT, an independent scientific project that tracks government climate action and is supported by the Federal Government of Germany via the International Climate Initiative, said on Tuesday.

Reacting to the CAT's findings, the Union environment ministry said: "The analysis is based on Country targets announced from time to time, it does take into account the broader regime of climate policies and commitments. The government has been implementing various schemes and programs, both in terms of mitigation and adaptation. This aspect has totally been ignored. The concept of fair share and cumulative historical responsibility of developed nations to bring to the Earth to a warming of 1.1 has totally been ignored."

"India is doing far more than its fair share to combat climate change. Developed countries have consumed more than 80% of the global carbon budget (since 1850) for limiting average temperature rise to 1.5 degree Celsius by 2100, leaving countries like India with very little carbon space for the future. India's annual emissions are well below the three leading emitters — China, the US and the EU — and its per capita emissions are much below the world average," the response said. "India is home to 17% of the global population but accounts for only 4% of global carbon emissions from 1850 until 2019. Developed nations with the same percentage of population account for nearly 60% of carbon emissions."

The report said, "The broad strokes of a Paris-aligned road map are clear — we need to roughly halve emissions by 2030, achieve net zero emissions by 2050 and net zero greenhouse gas emissions soon after."

Context: **Climate Action Tracker**, an **independent scientific analysis** that tracks government climate action and measures it against Paris Agreement goals, has updated its rating system and published it recently.

Climate Action Tracker

- **About:** It is an independent research group with the aim of monitoring government action to achieve their reduction of greenhouse gas emissions with regard to international agreements.
  - It is tracking climate action in 32 countries responsible for over 80% of global emissions.
- **Key highlights of the report:**
  - **World scenario:** Only Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Morocco, Nepal and United Kingdom have been rated as "almost sufficient" and only Gambia is "sufficient" or 1.5 degree compatible.
    - ✓ USA, which used to be rated as "critically insufficient", is now "insufficient" as per the new rating system.
  - **India's efforts:** India's nationally determined contribution (NDC), which was rated as 2 degrees compatible or "almost sufficient" by the Climate Action Tracker until last month, has now rated India as "highly insufficient" in its action and policies on climate change.

India's NDC has three main elements: Emissions intensity target of 33%–35% below 2005 levels; electric power capacity target of 40% installed capacity from non-fossil-based energy resources by 2030); and creating a carbon sink of 2.5–3 GtCO2e through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.

DTE Sept 19

ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR)

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Helath)

New OECD report highlights importance of One Health action to tackle AMR

One in every five infections in OECD and EU/EEA countries are due to organisms resistant to antimicrobials

Context: A new report providing fresh evidence on the health and economic costs of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) was released by the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).**

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)

- **Meaning:** AMR in a person occurs when **micro-organism (bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites)** change over time and no longer respond to medicines designed to inhibit or kill them.
  - It makes infections harder to treat and increasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness and death.
  - These micro-organisms are often known as **"superbugs".**
  - It is a global public health issue, leading to **a silent pandemic** due to the overuse and misuse of antibiotics in different sectors.
- **Prevalence:** AMR was directly responsible for as many as **1.27 million deaths globally in 2019** according to the Lancet report.
  - The World Health Organisation (WHO) even declared antimicrobial resistance to be **one among the top 10 global public health threats** facing humanity.
  - In India, there is one of the highest rates of resistance to antimicrobial agents used both in humans and animals.

Key highlights of the report

- **Based on:** Statistics from OECD, European Union (EU) and European Economic Area (EEA) countries and Group of 20 (G20) countries.
- Without a strong **One Health action plan**, AMR levels will continue to be unacceptably high and may lead to thousands of deaths every year in the OECD and EU/EEA and G20 countries. This could result in extended hospitalisations and thus, increased pressure on healthcare systems.
- The total consumption of antibiotics in humans has been increasing for the last two decades. Resistance to third line antibiotics could double in 2035 than it was in 2005.

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