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DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO OVERSHOOT CARBON EMISSIONS GOAL

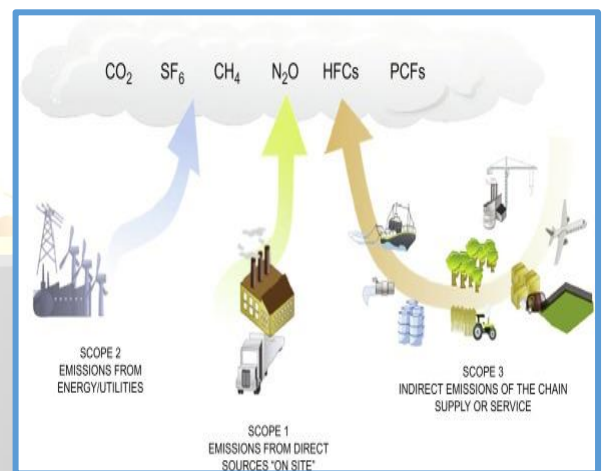
SOURCE: [THE HINDU](#)

WHY IN NEWS?

A recent study conducted by the Delhi-based think tank Council for Energy Environment and Water (CEEW) reveals that developed countries, responsible for a significant portion of global carbon emissions, are on track to emit **38% more carbon by 2030 than what they've committed to.**

GLOBAL CARBON EMISSION

- It refers to the **release of carbon dioxide gas into the Earth's atmosphere** on a worldwide scale.
- These emissions are primarily a **result of human activities, such as burning fossil fuels (coal, oil, and natural gas), deforestation, and industrial processes.**
- Carbon emissions are a major **contributor to the greenhouse effect**, leading to global warming and climate change.
- These emissions are **measured in metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e)** and are a critical factor in the ongoing **global effort to mitigate climate change.**
- Countries and organizations **track and report their carbon emissions** as part of **climate agreements and commitments to reduce their carbon footprint and limit global temperature rise.**



HISTORICAL COMMITMENTS AND NET ZERO GOALS

- **Carbon Neutrality Explained:**
 - ✓ It's often called **carbon neutrality**, and it **doesn't mean completely eliminating emissions.**
 - ✓ Instead, it's a state where a country's emissions are **balanced by removing greenhouse gases** from the atmosphere.
 - ✓ To enhance this balance, **countries can create more carbon sinks, like forests.**
 - ✓ Advanced technologies, such as **carbon capture and storage**, are needed to remove gases from the atmosphere.
- **Global Net Zero Commitments:**
 - ✓ Over **70 countries** have committed to **achieving net-zero emissions by 2050**, meaning they'll balance their emissions with removal efforts.
- **India's Emission Reduction Pledge:**
 - ✓ India has pledged to **reach net-zero emissions by 2070**, as announced at the Conference of **Parties-26 (COP26) summit.**
 - ✓ This means **India aims to balance its emissions by that year.**
- **Major Contributors to Emission Overshoot:**
 - ✓ The CEEW study **identifies that 83% of this overshoot** is primarily attributed to the actions of the **United States, Russia, and the European Union.**



SHORTCOMINGS IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES' NDCS

➤ **2030 Projections Falling Short**

- ✓ CEEW study reveals that **NDCs of developed countries are not meeting the global reduction target.**
- ✓ **The global goal is to cut emissions to 43% below 2019 levels to prevent a temperature rise beyond 1.5 degrees Celsius.**
- ✓ However, the CEEW study indicates that, based on their **current emissions trajectories, their reductions are likely to amount to only 11% by 2030.**
- ✓ Developed countries collectively commit to **achieving only a 36% reduction in emissions.**
- ✓ This shortfall in their commitments may have **significant implications for global climate goals and efforts to curb temperature rise.**

Missing targets

Developed countries are projected to emit 38% more carbon in 2030 than they have committed to

Party	2030 NDC target	Projected 2030 reduction
U.S.	50%	22%
Russia	70%	48%
Japan	46%	45%
U.K. and Northern Ireland	68%	56%
Canada	40%	30%
EU	55%	44%
Norway	55%	57%
Kazakhstan	15%	14%

■ Japan and Kazakhstan are set to miss their target by one percentage point



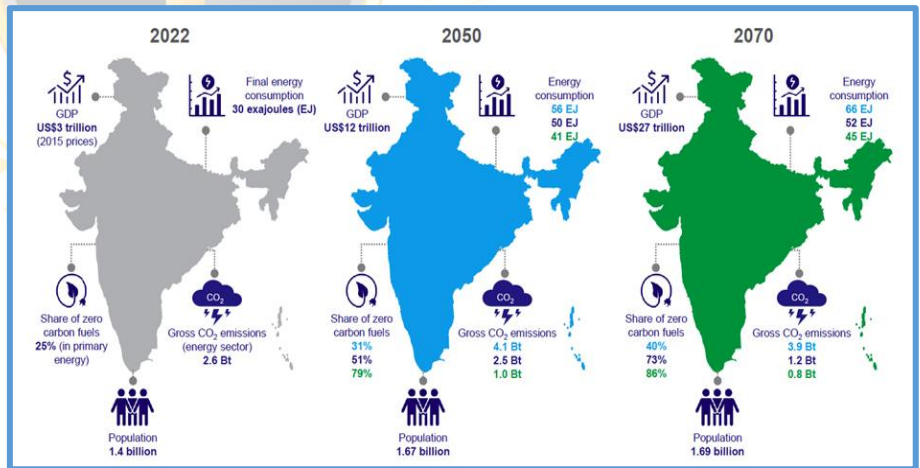
➤ **Lack of Progress in Meeting 2030 Targets**

- ✓ With the exception of **Belarus and Norway, most developed countries are not on track to meet their 2030 emission reduction targets.**
- ✓ **Japan and Kazakhstan are the closest but are still expected to fall short by just one percentage point.**

INDIA'S STEPS TOWARDS NET-ZERO EMISSIONS BY 2070

➤ **Renewable Energy Targets:**

- ✓ **Increasing renewable energy goals:** India's targets have grown from **175 GW by 2022 (Paris Agreement) to 500 GW by 2030 (COP26).**
- ✓ **Non-fossil energy focus:** India aims for **50% of its power capacity to be from non-fossil sources by 2030, up from 40%.**



➤ **NDC Goals (Nationally Determined Contributions):**

- ✓ **Sustainable living promotion:** Encouraging a sustainable lifestyle through a '**LIFE**' (Lifestyle for Environment) movement.
- ✓ **Cleaner development path:** Commitment to cleaner, climate-friendly development.
- ✓ **Emissions reduction:** Aiming to **cut emissions intensity of GDP by 45% by 2030** compared to 2005.
- ✓ **Non-fossil energy:** Targeting **50% of electric power capacity from non-fossil sources by 2030** facilitated by **technology transfer and international finance**, including support from the **Green Climate Fund (GCF).**
- ✓ **Carbon sink creation:** Ambition to **increase forests and trees to absorb 2.5-3 billion tonnes of CO₂ by 2030.**



- ✓ **Climate adaptation:** Increased investments in **climate-vulnerable sectors** including agriculture, water resources, the **Himalayan region, coastal regions, health, and disaster management.**
- ✓ **Fund mobilization:** Seeking funds, domestic and international, to **bridge resource gaps.**
- ✓ **Climate tech development:** Building **domestic capacity** and promoting international collaboration for **cutting-edge climate technology.**

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE TO REDUCE EMISSION IN INDIA

<i>Initiative</i>	<i>Objective</i>
<i>Bharat Stage-IV (BS-IV) to Bharat Stage-VI (BS-VI) emission norms</i>	Transitioning to cleaner and more stringent vehicle emission standards , reducing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.
<i>UJALA scheme</i>	Promoting energy-efficient LED lighting , leading to reduced electricity consumption and emissions.
<i>International Solar Alliance</i>	Fostering solar energy adoption on a global scale to combat climate change and reduce emissions.
<i>National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)</i>	Implementing a comprehensive strategy to mitigate and adapt to climate change , thus reducing emissions.
<i>Ethanol Blending in India by 2025</i>	Increasing the use of ethanol-blended fuels to reduce emissions from the transportation sector and decrease reliance on fossil fuels.

WAY FORWARD

- **Expectations at COP-28**
 - ✓ The **upcoming 28th Conference of Parties (COP-28)** under the **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change**, set to be held in **Dubai**, will require participating nations to account for their **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**, **outlining their commitments to reducing emissions.**

Global Carbon Budget and India's Position:

- **Regional Emission Contribution:**
 - ✓ The **IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report (AR6)** notes that **Southern Asia, including India**, is responsible for **only about 4% of historical cumulative net anthropogenic emissions between 1850 and 2019.**
 - ✓ Despite this, the **region houses nearly 24% of the global population.**
- **India's Emission Approach:**
 - ✓ India acknowledges that its **current per capita emissions will rise to meet developmental needs**, guided by the principle of **Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC)** and **National Circumstances.**
- **Participation in IPCC Conferences:**
 - ✓ The Government of India **actively participates in IPCC conferences** and sessions, **sending delegations to engage in discussions** on climate change and emission-related matters.
 - ✓ Most recently, India sent a **delegation to the 59th Session of IPCC held in Nairobi, Kenya, in July 2023.**
- **India's Position on Global Carbon Emissions:**

2023 UN Climate Change Conference

The 2023 UN Climate Change Conference will convene from **30 November to 12 December 2023** in **Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE)**. It will comprise:

- ✚ The 28th meeting of the **Conference of the Parties (COP 28)**;
- ✚ The **fifth meeting of the COP** serving as the Meeting of the **Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 5)**;
- ✚ the **18th meeting of the COP** serving as the Meeting of the **Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 18)**;
- ✚ the **59th meeting of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 59)**; and
- ✚ the **59th meeting of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 59)**.



- ✓ Despite being **home to a substantial portion of the world's population**, India emphasizes its **historically low contribution to cumulative emissions**.
- ✓ India's **approach to emissions aligns with development needs**, while **adhering to international principles** of responsibility and capability differentiation.
- ✓ The **nation's active participation in international climate conferences** demonstrates its commitment to addressing **global climate challenges** and finding **solutions collaboratively**.

Prelims Specific

<i>Carbon Pricing Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
<i>Carbon Tax</i>	Domestic tax on emissions, discouraging fossil fuel use , and funding clean energy or consumer protection (e.g., Korea, Singapore).
<i>Emissions Trading System (ETS)</i>	Allows trading of emissions allowances ; entities exceeding limits buy from those with surplus (e.g., EU, China).
<i>Import Tariff on Carbon Content</i>	Tax on imported goods linked to their emissions , discouraging high-emission product imports (e.g., proposed by the EU).
<i>Carbon Offsets</i>	Voluntary funding of emission-reduction projects , like reforestation or renewable energy, to offset a buyer's emissions.
<i>Carbon Footprint</i>	Measure of total greenhouse gas emissions from individuals , organizations, events, or products during their lifecycle . Used for environmental impact assessment.





ROLE OF SPEAKER IN IN INDIA'S PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM

SOURCE: [THE HINDU](#)

WHY IN NEWS?

- The **Chief Justice of India** expressed **dismay over the Maharashtra Assembly Speaker's** inaction regarding pending disqualification petitions of members since July 2022.
- The Speaker's failure to act impartially and promptly raised concerns about the functioning of this important institution.

CONSTITUTIONALITY OF THE SPEAKER IN INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM

- **Article 93:**
 - ✓ Article 93 **deals with the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha** (House of the People), which is the lower house of the Parliament.
 - ✓ It provides the **constitutional framework for their election and removal.**
- **Article 178:**
 - ✓ **Article 178 pertains to the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly** in the States.
 - ✓ It outlines the **process for their election and removal.**
- **Article 85:**
 - ✓ Article 85 relates **to the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha** (Council of States), the upper house of the Parliament.
 - ✓ It **specifies the procedure for the election and removal** of the Deputy Chairman.
- **Tenth Schedule of the Indian Constitution:**
 - ✓ The Tenth Schedule, often referred to as the "**Anti-Defection Law**," **contains provisions related to the disqualification of members of Parliament and State Legislatures for defection.**
 - ✓ The **Speaker plays a critical role in deciding disqualification cases** under this schedule.

ELECTION AN POWER OF SPEAKER

- **Election of Speaker:**
 - ✓ **No specific** qualifications.
 - ✓ Elected by a **simple majority.**
 - ✓ Typically, a **ruling party member.**
 - ✓ The Prime Minister (**Chief Minister in case of State Assembly**) or **Parliamentary Affairs Minister proposes the candidate.**
 - ✓ **Unconventional choices** sometimes.
- **Powers of Speaker:**
 - ✓ Presides over **Lok Sabha/Assembly.**
 - ✓ Maintains order and discipline.
 - ✓ **Casts a tie-breaking vote** if needed.
 - ✓ Interprets rules.
 - ✓ Disciplines members for unruly behaviour.
 - ✓ Can **disqualify MPs/MLAs under the Tenth Schedule.**
 - ✓ Issues warrants and reprimands.
 - ✓ Controls parliamentary procedures.
 - ✓ **Certifies Money Bills.**
 - ✓ **Nominates committee chairpersons.**
 - ✓ **Final decisions** on House-related matters.
- **Administrative Role:**



- ✓ Head of Lok Sabha/ Assembly Secretariat.
- ✓ **Supreme authority over staff and security.**
- ✓ **Approves changes to Parliament House and Estate.**
- ✓ Conveys House decisions to external parties.
- ✓ **Decides how House proceedings are published.**

ROLE OF SPEAKER IN INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM

- **Historical Perspective on the Speaker:**
 - ✓ The concept of the **Speaker's role originated in medieval Britain** when the **House of Commons** required a **spokesperson in dealings with the King.**
 - ✓ Over time, the Speaker transformed into an **impartial Chairman of the House of Commons**, responsible for **safeguarding the rights and privileges of the House**, its committees, and members.
- **Speaker's Responsibilities in India:**
 - ✓ **Presiding over Lok Sabha:** The Speaker chairs Lok Sabha sessions, ensuring orderly and respectful debates.
 - ✓ **Rule Enforcement:** The Speaker can rule **on points of order** and enforce parliamentary rules.
 - ✓ **Spokesperson for Lok Sabha:** Represents Lok Sabha in **public and international events.**
 - ✓ **Impartiality:** Expected to be **neutral, treating all Lok Sabha members fairly.**
 - ✓ **Transparency and Accountability:** **Ensures open and transparent Lok Sabha** proceedings for public access.
 - ✓ **Legislative Role:** **Assigns bills to committees**, determines their **order, and certifies final texts** for Presidential assent.
 - ✓ **Interparliamentary Relations:** Represents Lok Sabha in interactions with other parliamentary bodies.

RECENT CONFLICTS AND CHALLENGES REGARDING SPEAKER'S AUTHORITY

- **Use of Suspension Powers:**
 - ✓ There have been instances of using suspension powers against members, often seen as biased against opposition members.
 - ✓ Swift suspension of the leader of the Congress party in the Lok Sabha and other cases highlighted potential misuse of these provisions.
- **Challenges to the Disqualification Process:**
 - ✓ The authority to decide on disqualifications of members under the Tenth Schedule is vested in the Speaker.
 - ✓ This process has been criticized for being influenced by political considerations, impacting the stability of elected governments.
- **Use of Discretion:**
 - ✓ There have been instances where the Speaker has been accused of using his discretion in an arbitrary or biased manner.
 - ✓ This can lead to perceptions of unfairness or lack of transparency in the decision-making process.
 - ✓ Example: *Kihoto Hollohan v. Zachilhu and Others (1992)*: The Supreme Court held that the Speaker must act impartially and without bias while disqualifying a member.
 - ✓ Further, the decision of the Speaker is under judicial review.
- The Speaker's authority to **refer Bills to Parliamentary Standing Committees** is essential, but **significant Bills requiring detailed scrutiny are not consistently referred** to these committees.



WAYS TO ENHANCE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SPEAKER'S OFFICE

"Once a speaker, always a speaker"

The section "Once a Speaker, always a Speaker" emphasizes the **need for impartiality and the adoption of practices to instill confidence in the office of the Speaker.**

➤ **Taking Inspiration from International Practices:**

- ✓ **Comparative Insights with British Practices:** Emulate the **UK's tradition of requiring the Speaker to resign from their political party upon election to maintain impartiality.**
- ✓ **Canadian Oversight Model:** Borrow from **Canada's practice of giving the Speaker the authority to call ministers to answer questions** and investigate public concerns, thus increasing the Speaker's oversight of the executive branch.

➤ **Legal Calls for Reform:**

- ✓ Legal challenges have been made, suggesting the need to amend the Constitution and establish an independent tribunal to decide on defections, a move aimed at promoting impartiality.

➤ **The Need for Fairness, Impartiality, and Transparency:**

- ✓ The Speaker's role in the Lok Sabha is **essential and esteemed**, but it can **face criticism and controversy.**
- ✓ Therefore, it's crucial for the Speaker to **ensure fairness, impartiality, and transparency while performing their duties.**





Prelims Specific

UPSC PYQs

Prelims

Q) Consider the following statements: **(2018)**

1. The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly shall vacate his/her office if he/she ceases to be a member of the Assembly.
 2. Whenever the Legislative Assembly is dissolved, the Speaker shall vacate his/her office immediately.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q) Consider the following statements: **(2017)**

1. In the election for Lok Sabha or State Assembly, the winning candidate must get at least 50 percent of the votes polled, to be declared elected.
 2. According to the provisions laid down in the Constitution of India, in Lok Sabha, the Speaker's post goes to the majority party and the Deputy Speaker's to the Opposition.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q) Regarding the office of the Lok Sabha Speaker, consider the following statements: **(2012)**

1. He/She holds the office during the pleasure of the President.
 2. He/She need not be a member of the House at the time of his/her election but has to become a member of the House within six months from the date of his/ her election.
 3. If he/she intends to resign, the letter of his/her resignation has to be addressed to the Deputy Speaker.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3
- (d) None

Mains

Q) "Once a speaker, Always a speaker"! Do you think the practice should be adopted to impart objectivity to the office of the Speaker of Lok Sabha? What could be its implications for the robust functioning of parliamentary business in India. (2020)



PRELIMS POINTERS:

<p>NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR)</p>	<p>WHY IN NEWS? NASA-ISRO radar satellite to offer detailed insights into forests and wetlands.</p> <p>ABOUT NISAR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ NISAR: A joint <u>NASA-ISRO LEO observatory</u>, an SUV-size satellite weighing 2,800 kg. ❖ Dual-Frequency Radar: Equipped with <u>L-band and S-band synthetic aperture radar instruments</u>. ❖ Radar Innovations: <u>First satellite to use both L-band and S-band radar frequencies for Earth surface monitoring</u>. ❖ Weather-Resilient: Synthetic aperture radar <u>penetrates clouds and operates day and night, regardless of weather</u>. ❖ Contributions: NASA provides L-band radar, GPS, data storage, and subsystem. ISRO supplies S-band radar, GSLV launch system, and spacecraft. ❖ Antenna Reflector: Features a 39-foot gold-plated wire mesh antenna reflector for radar signal focus. ❖ Mission Goals: <u>Measure changes in Earth's ecosystem, dynamic surfaces, ice masses, biomass, natural hazards, sea level rise, and groundwater</u>. ❖ Observation Cycle: NISAR observes Earth's land and ice-covered areas globally with 12-day regularity on ascending and descending passes.
<p>NEANDERTHALS</p>	<p>WHY IN NEWS? A comparison of the genomes of a Neanderthal who lived 120,000 years ago in Siberia with those from modern humans in sub-Saharan Africa has revealed insight into the migratory and interbreeding history of both species.</p> <p>ABOUT NEANDERTHALS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Neanderthals: Closest known human relatives who interbred with Homo sapiens. ❖ <u>Inhabited Europe and parts of Asia from around 400,000 to 40,000 years ago</u>. ❖ Evidence suggests Neanderthals and modern humans split over 500,000 years ago. ❖ Coexisted with modern humans before going extinct. ❖ Genetic Legacy: <u>Neanderthal genes persist in modern human DNA</u>. ❖ Physical Traits: Unique skull features, large middle face, angled cheekbones, and a big nose for adapting to cold, dry air. ❖ Skills and Tools: Proficient in tool-making, fire control, shelter construction, clothing production, hunting, and both animal and plant-based diets. ❖ Rituals: Evidence of intentional burials, sometimes marked with offerings like flowers.
<p>EARTHQUAKE SWARM</p>	<p>WHY IN NEWS? seismic swarm has hit the Reykjanes peninsula in southwest Iceland with more than 5,500 small earthquakes in the last three days.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Earthquake Swarm: A sequence of numerous low-intensity earthquakes, sometimes numbering in the thousands, occurring over weeks in active geothermal regions. ❖ Swarm Causes: These sequences result from the gradual release of seismic energy within the Earth from specific points. ❖ Fluid Movement: In volcanic settings, fluid, such as magma or geothermal fluids, can trigger these earthquakes as they move through cracks and faults. ❖ Active Volcanism: Magma movement can also cause swarms, with earthquakes occurring near the leading edge of magma-filled cracks or alongside.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Slow-Slip Events: Similar to slow-motion earthquakes, slow-slip events involve gradual fault movement over weeks to years, often observed in areas like the Hikurangi subduction zone.
REFERENCE FUELS	<p>WHY IN NEWS? India has initiated the production of specialized "reference" petrol and diesel, making it part of a select group of nations that manufacture these highly specialized fuels used for automobile testing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Introduction of India's First Reference Fuel: The <u>Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)</u> introduced India's inaugural gasoline and diesel Reference Fuel (RF), marking a significant milestone.❖ Definition of Reference Fuels: <u>Reference fuels are meticulously formulated and standardized hydrocarbon blends specifically designed for research and testing purposes within the automotive and fuels sector.</u>❖ Stringent Compliance with Regulations: These "reference" petrol and diesel variants strictly adhere to government-imposed regulations, encompassing critical parameters like cetane number, flash point, viscosity, sulphur and water content, hydrogen purity, and acid number.

