

3. Climate Talks Ends without any Deals

Prelims Level: Climate change and its Impacts

Mains Level: GS-III Conservation, Environmental Pollution and Degradation, Environmental Impact Assessment.

Why in News?

- The last longer international climate talks ended with major polluters resisting calls to ramp up efforts to keep global warming in control.

About the News:

- The major polluters resisted calls to ramp up efforts to keep global warming at bay and negotiators postponed the regulation of global carbon markets until next year.
- In the end, delegates from almost 200 nations endorsed a declaration to help poor countries that are suffering the effects of climate change, although they didn't allocate any new funds to do so.
- The final declaration called on the "urgent need" to cut planet-heating greenhouse gases in line with the goals of the landmark 2015 Paris climate change accord.
- This has fallen far short of promising to enhance countries' pledges to cut planet-heating greenhouse gases next year, which developing countries and environmentalists had lobbied the delegates to achieve.
- The Paris accord established the common goal of avoiding a temperature increase of more than 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) by the end of the century.
- So far, the world is on course for a 3- to 4-degree Celsius rise, with potentially dramatic consequences for many countries, including rising sea levels and fiercer storms.
- Negotiators in Madrid left some of the thorniest issues for the next climate summit in Glasgow in a year, including the liability for damages caused by rising temperatures that developing countries were insisting on which was resisted mainly by the United States.

Effects due to Climate Change:

- The **High-Income Countries** are also affected due to changes in global climate, where their damage is Predominantly Economical.
- Countries like Germany and Japan, the face of industrialized nations, face heat wave and droughts.
- The **Low-Income and Middle-Income Countries** face both economic and human loss.

- These countries are more vulnerable as they do not have finance to adapt or infrastructure to mitigate the damages caused by the climate extremities.
- The **Climate Risk Index** has another set of ranking for the period 1999-2018 — which is based on average values over a twenty-year period.
- In the 1999 to 2018 period Puerto Rico is the most vulnerable followed by Myanmar, Haiti, Philippines and Pakistan.

What are the concerns for India?

- 10% of India's wildlife is threatened with extinction.
- Agricultural bio-diversity has seen significant decline, in some regions the loss is severe, with loss of around 90% of the bio-diversity.
- Around half of the available water bodies are heavily polluted and they are neither potable nor can be used for agricultural purposes.
- More than 2/3rd of the land has been degraded to the level of sub-optimal productivity.
- The air pollution is growing, with more cities facing higher levels of pollution.
- Electronic and chemical wastes that are produced are far against our capacity to recycle or even manage.

