

①
11 May

Current Affairs - Sir Fareed. Ass # 1

Topic :- Politics of Climate Change

1. Net zero is not the real zero.

o What is net zero?

→ In COP 26, held in 2021 in Glasgow, the main goal was to secure global net zero by 2050 and keep a maximum of 1.5 degrees of global warming within reach.

→ Net zero means that total emissions are equal to or less than the emissions removed from the environment.

o Problem: (a climate scientist)

→ An article co-authored by Robert Watson in April 2021 called "net zero" a "dangerous trap" set by governments and corporations and a blank cheque for continued burning of fossil fuels and acceleration of habitat destruction.

→ It focuses on offsets, rather than carbon emission reductions.

What is Real zero?

→ Real zero means stopping emissions before they reach the atmosphere.

Solution

→ Companies should stop emissions from being produced before they enter the atmosphere.

→ Commit to meeting the designated net zero goals mandated by the Paris Agreement.

→ Using effective 'Renewable Energy' as a substitute such as wind, solar etc.

→ Removal of CO_2 from the atmosphere by mass tree planting and using high tech devices to capture CO_2 from the air.

→ Reduce burning of fossil fuels.

o Organizations, companies and governments must commit themselves to working together and do their best to keep the planet in a condition that will allow all life to thrive.

2. Loss and Damages Fund

- In 2022, the 27th United Nations Climate Change Conference known as COP27 was held in Sharm el Shaikh, Egypt.
- COP27 President Sameh Shoukry announced the Sharm el Shaikh Adaptation Agenda, enhancing resilience for people living in the most climate vulnerable communities, by 2030.
- The result of the COP27 was a breakthrough agreement on new "Loss and Damages Fund"
- What is the Loss and Damages Fund?
It is a climate finance agreement to provide funding for the loss and damage associated with the catastrophic effects of climate change in developing countries.
- "It is an important step towards justice"
- said the UN Secretary General.

→ Climate policies in Pakistan

D Plantation:

- Pakistan's forest covers about 5.45% of land area with about 80% area falling in semi-arid ^{region}.
- In 2017, National Forest Policy (NFP) was approved by the Government of Pakistan.
- This policy provided the sustainability of forests by making mass level afforestations.
- Efforts such as Ten Billion Tree Tsunami (TBTTP) were approved in 2019 in which 3.29 billion trees were planted/regenerated throughout the period of (2019-2023).
- (TBTTP) is an extension of Billion Tree Afforestation Project (BTAP) that was implemented in KPK in 2014.
- Following are the main sections in which policies are made by government :-
 - a. Awareness Raising
 - b. Research and Education
 - c. Reforms in Governance

- d. Enhancing Adaptive Capacity
- e. Forest Management
- f. Arresting Soil Erosion
- g. Reducing Forest Fires, disease outbreaks etc.

② Clean Energy Projects

- At the UN Climate Ambition Summit 2020, the PM Shehbaz Sharif declared that 60% of all energy produced in Pakistan will be "clean and through renewable resources, 30% of all country's passenger and heavy-duty vehicles will be electric vehicles and that Pakistan will not pursue imported coal power plants".
- The PM launched country's first ever "Green Eurobond" by WAPDA on 3rd June, 2021 for financing environmentally friendly energy projects and enhance clean energy share in the country.
- Following are the few policy measures approved by the government :-
 - a. Give preferential status to the development and promotion of hydropower generation as well as Alternate and Renewable Energy resources.
 - b. Promote futuristic building designs with solar panels for energy self-sufficiency.
 - c. Explore the possibility of obtaining (PFBC) Pressurized - Fluidized-Bed-Combustion and (NZET) Near-Zero Emission Technology.

③ The Foreign Policy of Pakistan is driven by financial support for Pakistan.

- At COP27 held in 2022, negotiators led by Pakistan as chair of G77, produced an accord to set up a fund for loss and damage - a controversial issue which had never been on a formal agenda at a COP summit until this year.
- PM Shehbaz Sharif called the recent floods that ravaged Pakistan a manmade disaster and observed that Loss and Damage needed to be part of the core agenda of COP27 conference to meet the pressing humanitarian needs of those trapped in a crisis of public financing fuelled by debt, and yet to fund climate disasters on their own.
- Pakistan's government has claimed to have shifted its foreign policy from geo-strategic to geo-economics - Raza Raza (loop.ecpr.eu)