



La Excellence
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Content

S.No	Topic	Page No
1	Facing the climate emergency	2

Title	Facing the climate emergency
Syllabus	General Studies-III - Environment - Climate Change
Issue	Climate change
LaEx Notes	

Context: So, far, climate change policies are being formulated in a political manner. This needs to undergo a change for better fighting the challenge of climate change

Highlights

1. According to a recent paper published, it has been found out that poorer countries suffer more because of climate change rather than rich countries. Example: India's GDP growth penalty between 1961 and 2010 is in the order of 31% for the period, whereas Norway gained about 34% on a per capita basis.
2. Some of the issues associated with the climate change fight:

- In India, the idea of fighting climate change is restricted to few institutions rather than a mass movement.
- It has also been observed that there has been collusion between elite corporations and governments to use climate change as an opportunity to make more money.
- Arctic discourse is no longer about the conservation of biodiversity but rather in exploiting natural resources present in the country
- Climate change projects which are implemented through donation from foreign agencies have not been implemented effectively. Corruption is the major reason for it.
- In the garb of climate change policies, policies are being formulated in a centralized manner. Example: amendments made to the Indian Forest Act

1. What could be done?

- There has been a large scale movement at the ground level by common people to force governments to take action on climate change. Example: Greta Thunberg, a school student who has drawn the attention of the world to climate change. Such mass movement should be encouraged
- Governments across the globe can declare a climate emergency like the one did in UK parliament

Takeaway point: Small fixes by the government and institutions can no longer help to fight climate change; rather we need major overhaul of our lifestyles and patterns of consumption which is led by mass participation of people from

across the globe

Previous Questions

# Previous UPSC Question	Year	Marks
1 'Climate Change' is a global problem. How India will be affected by climate change? How Himalayan and coastal states of India will be affected by climate change?	2017	15
2 'Climate Change' is a global problem. How India will be affected by climate change? How Himalayan and coastal states of India will be affected by climate change?	2016	13
3 Examine the cause and the extent of 'desertification' in India and suggest remedial measures. (250 words) 15 marks	2012	
4 "The Indian independence movement was a mass-based movement the encompassed various sections of society. It also underwent the process of constant ideological evolution." Critically examine. (250 words) 15 marks	2012	