

**03 – 11 – 2021**

**News: G20 Summit & Climate Change**

- In the recently **concluded G20 summit**, the leaders made a commitment to reach **carbon neutrality by or around mid-century**.
- They **have adopted the Rome Declaration** .

**Highlights of Rome Declaration**

- **Restricting Aid to Coal Based Plants:** It included a **pledge to halt financing of overseas coal-fired power generation by the end of this year (2021)**.
- **PPP Model of Finance Mobilisation:** **Public-Private Partnerships (PPP)** are the **only way to achieve the trillions of dollars in annual investment needed to transition to clean, sustainable energy sources** that will mitigate the warming of global temperatures.

**Declaration by India**

- **Addressing Vaccine Inequality:** Underlining the need to address vaccine inequity across the world, **India is ready to produce over 5 billion vaccine doses by the end of next year (2022)**.
- India also emphasised on vaccine research, manufacturing and innovation.

- **One Earth One Health:** The vision of “**One Earth One Health**”, or the need for a collaborative approach in the international domain in the fight against the pandemic.
- **Resilient Global Supply Chains:** India **highlighted the need for resilient global supply chains** and invited G-20 countries to make India their partner in economic recovery and supply chain diversification.
- **Support for Global Minimum Tax:** **India also lauded the G-20’s decision to come up with a 15-percent minimum corporate tax** to make the global financial architecture “more just and fair”.
- **Welcoming Indo-Pacific Strategy:** India welcomed the European Union’s Indo-Pacific strategy and French leadership in it.

Basic details about G 20 has been included in 01 – 11 – 2021 notes. Have a look through it.

**News:** Supreme Court on SC/ST Act

- Recently, **in a judgement, the Supreme Court has observed that the apex court and high courts have the power to quash criminal cases filed under various ‘special statutes’ including the SC/ST Act.**

# Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act, 2018

- Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act, 2018 has **amended the original act of 1989**.
- It **added Section 18A** to the original Act.
- It **delineates specific crimes against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as atrocities and describes strategies and prescribes punishments** to counter these acts.
- It **identifies what acts constitute “atrocities” and all offences listed in the Act are cognizable**. The police can arrest the offender without a warrant and start an investigation into the case without taking any orders from the court.
- The Act **calls upon all the states to convert an existing sessions court in each district into a Special Court to try cases registered under it** and provides for the appointment of Public Prosecutors/Special Public Prosecutors for conducting cases in special courts.
- It **creates provisions for states to declare areas with high levels of caste violence to be “atrocities-prone”** and to appoint qualified officers to monitor and maintain law and order.

- It provides for the punishment for wilful neglect of duties by non-SC/ST public servants.
- It is implemented by the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, which are provided due central assistance.

Section 18A states that

- For the Prevention of Atrocities Act, the preliminary enquiry shall not be required for registration of a First Information Report against any person.
- The provision of section 438 (pre-arrest bail) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) shall not apply to a case under the Act, notwithstanding any judgment or order or direction of any Court.

#### **Situations on Quashing Cases under ‘Special Statutes’:**

- When the court is satisfied that the offence in question, although covered under the SC/ST Act, is primarily private or civil in nature or when this offence has not been committed on account of the victim’s caste or where the continuation of legal proceedings would constitute an abuse of process of law.
- When considering a prayer for quashing on the basis of a compromise / settlement between the two parties, the court is satisfied that the underlying

objective of the SC/ST Act would not be contravened if the crime goes unpunished.

**News:** IREDA launches 'Whistle Blower' portal

## **Whistle Blowers Portal**

- Recently, **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA)**, a PSU under the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) launched a **'Whistle-blower Portal'**, as a part of 'Vigilance Awareness Week 2021'.
- Through this portal, **IREDA employees can raise concerns related to fraud, corruption, abuse of power** etc.
- The portal has been developed by IT Team of the company.
- Whistle-blower portal is a **part of a IREDA's "zero tolerance" of corruption.** Reiterating the Good and Clean Governance policy of the company.

**News:** World leaders pledge to save forests, cut methane emissions

## Global Methane Pledge (GMP)

- Global Methane Pledge (GMP) is an **US-EU led effort to cut methane emissions by a third by the end of this decade.**
- The pact between the **US and the EU sets a target of cutting at least 30% from global methane emissions, based on 2020 levels, by 2030.**
- The Global Methane Pledge (GMP), which was **adopted in UNFCCC Cop 26 (Glasgow), now covers emissions from nearly two-thirds of the global economy.**
- Among the **signatories is Brazil** –one of the five biggest emitters of methane, which is generated in cows' digestive systems, in landfill waste and in oil and gas production.
- Three others –China, Russia and India –have not signed up. Australia has said it will not back the pledge.

### Methane Gas

- Methane is the simplest **hydrocarbon, consisting of one carbon atom and four hydrogen atoms (CH<sub>4</sub>).**
- It is **flammable**, and is **used as a fuel** worldwide.

- Methane is a **powerful greenhouse gas**.
- Approximately **40% of methane emitted is from natural sources and about 60% comes from human-influenced sources**, including livestock farming, rice agriculture, biomass burning and so forth.

## **Impact**

- **More Global Warming Potential:** It is nearly **80-85 times more potent than carbon dioxide** in terms of its global warming capacity.
- This makes it a critical target for reducing global warming more quickly while simultaneously working to reduce other greenhouse gases.
- **Promotes Generation of Tropospheric Ozone:** Increasing emissions are driving a **rise in tropospheric ozone air pollution**, which causes more than one million premature deaths annually.

## **Global Methane Initiative (GMI)**

- Global Methane Initiative (GMI) is an **international public-private partnership focused on reducing barriers to the recovery and use of methane as a clean energy source**.

- GMI provides technical support to deploy methane-to-energy projects around the world that enable Partner Countries to launch methane recovery and use projects.
- India is a partner country.

## Infrastructure for Resilient Island States

- Infrastructure for Resilient Island States, is an initiative launched by India, at UNFCCC CoP 26.
- Infrastructure for Resilient Island States is an ambitious initiative for developing the infrastructure of small island nations.
- The new initiative is the result of cooperation between India, the UK and Australia and included the participation of leaders of small island nations Fiji, Jamaica and Mauritius.
- India's space agency ISRO will build a special data window for them to provide them timely information about cyclones, coral-reef monitoring, coast-line monitoring etc. through satellite.
- The IRIS initiative is a part of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient infrastructure that would focus on building capacity, having pilot projects, especially in small island developing states.



# International Coalition for Disaster Resilient

## Infrastructure (CDRI)

- The International Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI) was launched on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019 at the UN General Assembly.
- It intends to bring the Head of States to generate commitments for combating the effects of climate change and resulting disasters and will provide the high-level.
- Objective of ICDRI is to promote research and knowledge sharing in the fields of infrastructure risk management, standards, financing, and recovery mechanisms.

### Members

- Afghanistan, Australia, Bhutan, Fiji, Germany, Italy, India, Japan, Mauritius, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom and United States.
- The CDRI is the second major coalition launched by India outside of the UN, the first being the International Solar Alliance. Both of them are seen as India's attempts to obtain a global leadership role in climate change matters.
- Infrastructure for Resilient Island States, launched at CoP 26 to UNFCCC, is under the aegis of CDRI.

## **Alliance of Small and Island States (AOSIS)**

- Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) is an intergovernmental **organization of low-lying coastal and small island countries.**
- AOSIS was established in 1990, ahead of the Second World Climate Conference. Its **headquarters is located in New York.**
- The main purpose of the alliance is **to consolidate the voices of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to address global warming.**
- These island countries are **particularly vulnerable to climate change** and its related effects on the ocean, including sea level rise, coastal erosion and saltwater intrusion.
- The **members are among the nations least responsible for climate change, having contributed less than one percent to the world's greenhouse gas emissions.**
- These states advocate for international policy and mechanisms for addressing the inequity of climate impacts.

**News:** Announcement of One Sun, One World, One Grid

## **One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG) initiative**

- One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG) initiative was **proposed by India in the First Assembly of International Solar Alliance (ISA) to set up a framework for facilitating global cooperation which aims at building a global ecosystem of interconnected renewable energy resources** that can be easily shared.
- The initiative was jointly launched by India and UK. The declaration has been endorsed by more than 80 countries.
- Parent Body of the initiative will be the **Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**.
- Objective of OSOWOG is to **build global consensus about sharing solar resources among more than 140 countries of West Asia and South-East Asia**.
- The concept of OSOWOG is what the British have called a green grid.
- The vision is '**The Sun Never Sets**' and is a constant at some geographical location, globally, at any given point of time.
- This grid shall be interconnected with the African power pools also at the later stage.
- It has been taken up under the technical assistance program of the **World Bank**.

- India would generate 40% of power from non-fossil fuels by 2030 and has called for connecting solar energy supply across borders giving the mantra of 'One World One Sun One Grid'.
- The proposed integration would lead to reduced project costs, higher efficiencies and increased asset utilization for all the participating entities.
- This plan will require only incremental investment because it will not require a parallel grid infrastructure due to working with existing grids.
- It will help all the participating entities in attracting investments in renewable energy sources as well as utilizing skills, technology and finances.
- Resulting economic benefits would positively impact poverty alleviation and support in mitigating water, sanitation, food and other socio-economic challenges.
- It will allow national renewable energy management centers in India to grow as regional and global management centers.
- The project will be implemented in 3 phases: Firstly in Asia, followed by connecting with Africa and the last by the entire world.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) had developed an application that could compute the potential solar energy at any point on earth and help decide if it would be suitable for solar energy installations.

- A Ministerial Steering Group will work towards accelerating the making of large solar power stations and wind farms in the best locations, linked together by continental scale grids crossing national borders.
- The Ministerial Steering Group includes France, India, the United Kingdom and the United States, and will also have representatives from Africa, the Gulf, Latin America and Southeast Asia.
- Germany will also be the attendee as an observer.