

ENVIRONMENT

CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT 2023



In Context: The absence of China, the United States, and India at the Climate Ambition Summit (CAS) held as part of the United Nations General Assembly is notable due to the significant role these countries play in global greenhouse gas emissions.

Details

- ✓ **Global Emissions Significance:** China, the U.S., and India are among the top three emitters of greenhouse gases globally, collectively responsible for approximately 42% of global emissions. Their actions and commitments are crucial in the efforts to combat climate change.
- ✓ **Purpose of the Summit:** The CAS was organized by the United Nations to showcase leaders who have credible actions, policies, and plans to address climate change and to uphold the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius as outlined in the Paris Agreement.
- ✓ **Limited Participation:** Despite the summit's importance, only representatives from 34 states and seven institutions were given speaking slots on the day of the event. Notably, India's neighboring countries like Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Pakistan were included as speakers, along with other emerging economies.
- ✓ **Criteria for Participation:** Countries seeking speaking slots at the summit were expected to present updated pre-2030 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), net-zero targets, energy transition plans, fossil fuel phase-out plans, renewable energy targets, Green Climate Fund pledges, and adaptation and resilience plans. This indicates a high bar for participation.
- ✓ **Future Commitments:** All main emitters, including the G-20 nations, were encouraged to commit to presenting more ambitious economy-wide NDCs with absolute emissions cuts and covering all greenhouse gases by 2025.
- ✓ **India's Climate Pledges:** India updated its climate pledges in 2022, aiming to reduce emissions intensity by 45% from 2005 levels by 2030. The government also committed to sourcing 50% of its electric power from renewable, non-fossil fuel sources and increasing carbon sinks through afforestation.

About the Summit

- ✓ The Climate Ambition Summit held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 20 September 2023 aimed to address the urgent need for climate action in response to the latest scientific assessment by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Urgency of Climate Action

- ✓ The IPCC's latest scientific assessment emphasized the pressing need for immediate and substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.
- ✓ The climate crisis has already caused extensive damage, and emissions remain at record levels.
- ✓ To limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and prevent the worst impacts, rapid and ambitious action is required.

Climate Justice and Equity

- ✓ The summit acknowledged that populations least responsible for the climate crisis are suffering the most from its impacts.

- ✓ This issue of climate justice and equity calls for immediate assistance and support from governments and international financial institutions to help vulnerable communities adapt and recover from climate-related loss and damage.

Multisectoral Participation

- ✓ The summit aimed to accelerate climate action by bringing together governments, businesses, financial institutions, local authorities, and civil society.
- ✓ It recognized the need for collective global will to transition to a renewable-energy-based, climate-resilient global economy.

Three Acceleration Tracks: The summit operated on three interrelated acceleration tracks: Ambition, Credibility, and Implementation.

✓ **Ambition:**

- Government leaders, especially major emitters, were expected to present updated pre-2030 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and net-zero targets.
- They were also encouraged to commit to energy transition plans with no new coal, oil, and gas projects, phase-out plans for fossil fuels, and more ambitious renewable energy targets.
- The Green Climate Fund pledges and economy-wide plans on adaptation and resilience were part of the agenda.
- Importantly, all main emitters and G20 governments were urged to commit to presenting more ambitious economy-wide NDCs with absolute emissions cuts by 2025.

✓ **Credibility:**

- Leaders of businesses, cities, regions, and financial institutions were expected to align their transition plans with a UN-backed credibility standard outlined in the "Integrity Matters" report.
- This standard called for net-zero pledges that are fully aligned with the 1.5°C target.
- It included specific requirements such as 2025 and 2030 targets, addressing scope 3 emissions, phasing out fossil fuels, achieving real emissions cuts without offsets, and advocating for science-based climate action.

✓ **Implementation:**

- Leaders from various sectors were tasked with presenting existing or emerging implementation partnerships focused on decarbonizing high-emitting sectors like energy, shipping, aviation, steel, and cement.
- Additionally, partnerships addressing climate justice issues, such as reforming the international financial system and improving early warning systems for adaptation and loss and damage, were discussed.

Conclusion: The absence of these major emitters from the summit reflects the complexities and challenges in achieving a coordinated global response to climate change. It underscores the importance of ongoing diplomatic efforts to engage these nations in addressing the climate crisis and aligning their actions with the Paris Agreement's goals. Climate Ambition Summit was a critical political milestone in demonstrating global commitment to addressing the climate crisis. It aimed to catalyze ambitious action across multiple sectors, promote credibility in climate pledges, and drive the implementation of solutions to decarbonize high-emitting sectors and achieve climate justice.

PRELIM FACTS

1. 'Promotion of Tribal Products for the North East Region 2.0' scheme

In Context: The Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs' Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED) will commence phase 2 of the 'Promotion of Tribal Products for the North East Region' (PTP-NER 2.0) scheme from September 21st to November 10th, 2023.

Concerning the 'Promotion of Tribal Products for the North East Region 2.0' scheme:

- ✓ The Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched this Central Sector initiative.
- ✓ Vision: To improve livelihood prospects for tribal craftsmen by increasing efficiency in tribal product sourcing, logistics, and marketing.
- ✓ Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, and Sikkim would be the first to benefit from it.
- ✓ It will be deployed in two stages:
- ✓ The scheme's first phase encompassed eight states and 38 districts. Teams from TRIFED and the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation (NEHHDC) organized 64 Tribal Artisans Empanelment Melas (TAeM).

- ✓ The TRIFED teams will cover 29 districts in the scheme's Second Phase.
- ✓ North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation (NEHHDC), India Post under the Department of Posts, and other North Eastern State Government Departments/Agencies are implementing partners.
- ✓ In order to accomplish the scheme's objectives, India Post will provide logistical support.

2. Truenat Test:

In Context: The Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) has given Kerala permission to utilize the Truenat test to detect Nipah.

About TrueNat:

- ✓ TrueNat is a portable, chip-based, battery-powered gadget developed by Molbio Diagnostics Private Limited of Goa. It is a low-cost and portable version of the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test.
- ✓ It was designed to detect tuberculosis (TB) in one hour. TrueNat has been authorized by the World Health Organization for the detection of tuberculosis.
- ✓ TrueNat has also been approved by the ICMR for the diagnosis of infectious disorders such as Covid and Hepatitis, among others.

Nipah TrueNat and Biosafety Levels (BSL)

- ✓ TrueNat for Nipah can be performed at hospitals with BSL 2 level labs.
- ✓ Biosafety levels (BSL) are used in laboratories to establish the protective measures required to protect personnel, the environment, and the general public.
- ✓ BSL-1, BSL-2, BSL-3, and BSL-4 are the four biosafety levels, with BSL-4 being the greatest (maximum) level of confinement.

ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research)

- ✓ It is India's highest body for the formulation, coordination, and promotion of biomedical research.
- ✓ **Background:** The Indian Research Fund Association (IRFA) was established in 1911 by the Government of India to support and coordinate medical research in the country. In 1949, it was renamed the ICMR.
- ✓ **Governance:** The Union Health Minister presides over the council's governing body. A scientific advisory council comprised of notable professionals in several biomedical areas advises it on scientific and technological problems.
- ✓ **Funding:** The Government of India funds the ICMR through the Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- ✓ The organization founded the Clinical Trials Registry - India, India's national clinical trial registry, in 2007.

3. NUAKHAI

In Context: On the auspicious occasion of Nuakhai, India's Prime Minister recently greeted the people.

About:

- ✓ Nuakhai is also known as Nuakhai Parab or Nuakhai Bhetghat. In Chhattisgarh, it is also known as Navakhai Parv.
- ✓ Nuakhai is an agricultural festival celebrated primarily by tribals and Hindus in Western Odisha. It is also celebrated in the neighboring areas of Simdega in Jharkhand, where Western Odisha culture is very prevalent.
- ✓ Nuakhai is observed to welcome the season's new rice. Because nua means new and khai means food, the term implies that the farmers had recently harvested rice.
- ✓ It is celebrated on panchami tithi (the fifth day) of the lunar fortnight of Bhadrpada (August-September), the day after Ganesh Chaturthi.
- ✓ History: Nuakhai is of relatively recent origin, deriving from Pralambana yajna (which entails cutting the first harvest and reverently presenting it to the mother deity). The event, in its current form, dates back to the reign of the first Chauhan King Ramai Deva of Patnagarh in west Odisha.

Celebrations:

- ✓ This event has nine sets of ceremonies that begin in Behrana and end in Juhar Bhet.
- ✓ Beheren - This is the announcement of the meeting date to be determined. Nuakhai - This famous rite involves eating the new crop after offering it to the deity, followed by dancing and singing.
- ✓ Juhar bhet - It bestows favors on the elderly and distributes presents to them.

4. RAFFLESIA



In Context: The Rafflesia flower, renowned as the world's largest flower, is facing an escalating threat of extinction, as highlighted in recent research.

Details

Research Findings

- ✓ An international group of botanists conducted a comprehensive study of 42 known Rafflesia species and their habitats.
- ✓ The research estimates that approximately 60 percent of Rafflesia species face a severe risk of extinction.
- ✓ Some species might become extinct before they are even scientifically documented, emphasizing the urgent need for further research and conservation measures.

Habitat Vulnerability

- ✓ Rafflesia's limited geographical range makes it particularly susceptible to habitat destruction, which further escalates its extinction risk.
- ✓ Climate change and human-driven environmental destruction compound these threats.

Global Conservation Initiatives

- ✓ Nations have made commitments to protect 30 percent of the world's land and seas by 2030 to mitigate species loss and ecosystem degradation.
- ✓ This research underscores the critical importance of such global conservation efforts in the face of climate change and environmental challenges.

About Rafflesia

Rafflesia, often referred to as the "corpse flower" or the "monster flower," is a fascinating and enigmatic genus of flowering plants known for producing the largest individual flowers on Earth.

Conservation Status:

- ✓ One species of Rafflesia is currently categorized as "critically endangered" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- ✓ This status reflects the severe threat to its survival due to factors like habitat loss and limited conservation efforts.

ANSWER WRITING

Q. What are the basic principles of public life? Illustrate any three with suitable examples. (150 words) 10

Introduction: What is public life and why are principles necessary? Public life includes these aspects of social life which are happening in public. While discussing the basic principles of public life, one must recognize the need of principles in public life. Public officials are expected to uphold highest standards in their actions and an ethical code acts as a guide to achieve this. When people choose a public life, they must follow an ethic distinct from private morality. While in one's personal life, in our dealings with those with whom we have close daily encounters, such as our family, friends or 'servants', we can't help but be partial, and while in the larger public domain, where we face people with different religio-philosophical sensibilities, we can't entirely escape some degree of partiality to our own world view, the public domain requires the impartial or just use of power for the good of all.

Explaining and illustrating some basic principles of public life:

Selflessness: Selflessness is characterized by low levels of selfcentredness and a low degree of importance given to the self. Whenever there is the notion of "self", there is fear; the fear of failure, the fear of being

defeated, the fear of being rejected, the fear of making mistake, the fear of poor health, the fear of losing face and the fear of not being recognized. It is rather common for us to see someone hesitating to do thing proactively because his or her mind is too occupied with “self” which is followed by “fear”. On the other hand, when one forgets about “self”, one will have no fear. One will be able to see thing as it is and nothing more. One will be able to look at thing with the heart of compassion and love. One will have the courage to do what is right. This style of psychological functioning is closely related to characteristics. such as altruism, kindness, respect, empathy, compassion and the search for harmony. Today, in the society there is an increase in selfishness, and general lack of concern for other individuals. What we have in India today, is not a giving and sharing society, but a grabbing society, not a sacrificing society but a consumer society.

Mother Teresa’s life can be said to be an embodiment of selflessness. She treated all human beings as children of god and hence, loved them as god loved them. She served people in a way that diluted the boundary between I and Other.

Leadership: Leadership is an abstract quality in a human being to induce his follower to do whatever he is directed to do with zeal and confidence. The public servant should be transformational leader. Transformational leaders aim to make team members better people by encouraging their self-awareness and helping them to see the bigger picture of what they do. They want team members to overcome self-interest and move towards achieving the common goals and purposes that are shared with the group.

Transformational leaders are often charismatic with a clear vision. They spend a lot of time communicating and gaining the support of the team through their enthusiasm. This vision may be developed by the leader or the team, or may emerge from discussions. Leaders will want to be role models that others will follow and will look to explore the various routes to achieve their vision. They look at longterm goals rather than short-term goals. They are always visible and will be accountable for their actions rather than hiding behind their team. They act as mentors and demonstrate how the team should behave and work together through their own good practice. They listen to the team and often delegate responsibility – they trust their team enough to leave them to grow and solve the problems through their own decisions.

Lee Kuan Yew, the founding father of Singapore, was one such leader. With his visionary leadership and strict administration, he radically and completely transformed the society of Singapore.

Integrity: Integrity refers to “honesty” or “trustworthiness” in the discharge of official duties, serving as an anti-thesis to “corruption” or “the abuse of office”. At the individual level, integrity is more than ethics; it is all about the character of the individual. It is those characteristics of an individual that are consistently considerate, compassionate, transparent, honest, and ethical. According to the Nolan Committee, holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that may influence them in the performance of their official duties. This only depicts the concept of maintaining financial integrity. Civil servants should also be guided by a sense of propriety and conduct themselves at all times in a manner that would bear the closest public scrutiny. This obligation is not fully discharged merely by acting within the law. Civil servants should take steps to avoid conflicts of interest and the appearance of such conflicts. They should take swift action to resolve any conflict that arises. This obligation continues after leaving office.

MCQs

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| <p>1. Which of the following statements about Mithun (<i>Bos frontalis</i>) is correct?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mithun is native to the plains of North India. 2. It is primarily raised for its milk production. 3. Mithun is culturally significant in Northeast India. 4. The coat color of Mithun is uniform, typically brown. <p>CODES:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) 1 and 2 b) 2 and 4 c) 3 only d) 3 and 4 | <p>2. Which of the following statements about Rafflesia is correct?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rafflesia is a photosynthetic plant with leaves and stems. 2. It is commonly found in regions with temperate climates. 3. Rafflesia flowers are known for their pleasant fragrance. 4. The genus Rafflesia is entirely parasitic and lacks roots. <p>CODES:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) 1 and 3 b) 2 and 4 c) 3 and 4 d) 2 and 3 |
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3. Consider the following statements regarding the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME):
1. It officially represents medical teachers and medical teaching institutions before the World Health Organization (WHO).
 2. The National Medical Commission (NMC) of India has been awarded the WFME Recognition status.
- 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
4. Take a look at the following statements about the Asia Pacific Forum:
1. It brings together Asia Pacific National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs).
 2. India is a full-time employee of the company.
- Which of the following assertions is/are correct?
- a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) **1 and 2 are both correct.**
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2 are correct.
5. Consider the following statements regarding the Promotion of Tribal Products for North East Region' (PTP-NER 2.0) scheme:
1. It is a Central Sponsored scheme launched by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
 2. India Post under the Department of Posts is one of the implementing partners of the scheme.
- 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
6. Consider the following statements regarding the General Crop Estimation Survey portal:
1. It has geo-referencing feature to draw the boundary of the land and upload photos of it.
 2. It has been developed by the National Informatics Centre, Pune.
- Which of the statements given above is/are Incorrect?
- a) 1 only
 - b) **2 only**
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2
7. A With reference to the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar, consider the following statements:
1. It is one of the highest recognitions in the field of science, technology and innovation in India.
 2. The award selection committee is headed by the Prime Minister of India.
 3. People of Indian Origin staying abroad are also eligible for the awards.
- How many of the statements given above are correct?
- a) Only one
 - b) **Only two**
 - c) All three
 - d) None
8. Considered the following statement regarding Nuakhai
1. It is an agricultural festival celebrated primarily by tribals and Hindus in Western Odisha.
 2. Nuakhai is observed to welcome the season's new rice.
- 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
9. Recently, Truenat test is in news it is use for which disease.
- a) **Nipah**
 - b) AIDS
 - c) Malaria
 - d) typhoid
10. Consider the following statements about Phosphorus
1. Phosphorus (P) is non-metallic chemical element of the nitrogen family.
 2. The world's largest Phosphorus reserve is in West Australian region.
 3. India is the world's largest importer of phosphorus.
- How many of the statements given above are correct?
- a) Only 1
 - b) **Only 2**
 - c) Only 3
 - d) None