

# VIII B.

## 5. Ecological Issues

(Part-2)

For BA Part-3 Political Science (Hons.)  
Paper-VIII B.

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# Intro

- In continuation with the problems and challenges of Ecological Issues, raised and discussed yesterday, today we're going further to see that the how the world community has responded to those challenges and what instrumentalities they 've evolved and adopted for this problem.
- It would allow us to confront some of the terminologies thrown in the last couple of decades and also to understand the various agreements agreed upon by the world including India.

# Climate change

- A global environmental issue haunted by many controversies and disagreements. Some of them are:
  - The cause of climate change;
  - The significance (implications) of climate change; and
  - How it can be overcome, i.e. cures

# Causes of climate change

- It is true that it did not happen overnight but over the years the man's rapacity to use resources and the very process of development has complicated the matter so much so forth that it has become a matter of you vs me, who is culpable and more responsible for this state of affairs.
- Climate change have called into question the link between global warming and human activity.
- If unaddressed, it will have catastrophic implications for human kind as a whole. More warmer days and night and fewer cold days might induce human mortality in different ways.

# Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

- Consisting of panel of international scientists and researchers to provide advice on climate change.
- It was created in the year 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme(UNEP) to provide decision makers an objective source of information about the climate change.
- It does not conduct research on her own rather it assess the available scientific, technical and socio economic literature and publish its own Assessment Reports.
- It has played the leading role in building a consensus amongst the scientists and national politicians about the existence of climate change.

# KYOTO PROTOCOL

- An agreement reached in Kyoto, Japan in 1997, mandating that industrialized nations cut their greenhouse gas emissions.
- Signed and ratified by 192 parties.
- The protocol mandated that 37 industrialized nations plus European Community (EU) cut their greenhouse gas emissions. Developing nations were asked to voluntarily comply.
- More than 100 developing countries, including China and India, were exempted from the treaty.
- The treaty could not go into effect until at least 55 countries, accounting for 55% of the world's emissions in 1990, ratified it.

# Kyoto

- USA has put an obstacle to the whole process and wanted the world to understand their unique problems.
- Canada officially renounces the Kyoto Protocol.
- An Adaptation Fund was established to finance concrete adaptation projects and programmes in developing countries that are Parties to the Kyoto Protocol. The Fund is to be financed with a share of proceeds from clean development mechanism (CDM) project activities and receive funds from other sources.

# UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen

- Popularly known as Copenhagen Summit held during 7-18 December, 2009 to develop a successor to the Kyoto Protocol that ran out in 2012.
- 163 countries participated and out of that 101 countries were represented by their Head of States and that included Obama, Jiabo.
- Copenhagen Accord drafted by USA, China, India, Brazil and South Africa and pledged followings:
  - To prevent global temperature rises in the future not more than 2\* c above pre-industrial level.
  - Some 30 billion dollar assistance will be given to developing countries by the developed countries to cut emission and adapt to climate change.
  - Developed countries will submit plans for cutting emissions to the UN for inspection and monitoring.



# Conclusion

“Climate is what we expect,  
weather is what we get”

Mark Twain