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DAILY EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

TOPIC

COP30 IN BELEM: CLIMATE AMBITION AND REALITY

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Context

- As the **30th Conference of Parties (COP30)** to the **UNFCCC** begins in **Belém, Brazil**, absence of the **United States** and **China**, along with **lower-level delegation sent by India** casts a long shadow over proceedings.

About COP30 at Belém, Brazil

- **Belém**, situated at the **edge of the Amazon rainforest** *(150–200 billion tonnes of global carbon sink),* holds the **rotating presidency for COP30,** shaping the summit's agenda toward **collective climate action**.
- COP 30 is termed as **'Implementation COP'**, a turning point where **commitments need to transform into action**. It is guided by the **Global Stocktake (GST)** — a mandatory five-year review of countries' progress on climate goals.

Key Focus Areas of COP30 at Belém, Brazil

- **Climate Finance & Equity:** COP 30 builds on the **'Baku to Belém Roadmap'**, **initiated at COP29** *(co-led by Azerbaijan and Brazil)* to mobilize **$1.3 trillion annually by 2035** for climate finance, and serves as a **guide for negotiations** following the **NCQG decision.**
- **Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF):** It was proposed by Brazil to reward countries that conserve tropical forests — redirecting finance toward **ecosystem restoration, agroforestry**, and **community-led conservation**.
  - It aims to mobilize **$125 billion** for long-term forest conservation, with **70–80% of funds expected from private investors.**
  - It was endorsed by more than **50 countries. India** has joined only as an **'observer'.**
- **Collective Action & Inclusion:** Brazil introduced the **concept of Mutirão**, meaning collective effort, to inspire global unity in climate action.
  - Greater inclusion of Indigenous communities and local stakeholders in climate governance.
- The COP30 agenda centers around **six key areas:**
  - Energy, industry, and transport transitions;
  - Stewardship of forests, oceans, and biodiversity;
  - Transformation of food systems;
  - Urban and infrastructure resilience;
  - Water security;
  - Human and social development;

Key Issues & Concerns Ahead of COP30 at Belém, Brazil

- **Limited Commitments and Missed Deadlines:** Despite the commitment to limit global temperature rise to **well below 2°C**, with efforts to stay within **1.5°C at the Paris Agreement**, progress has been uneven.
  - COP30 was expected to build on earlier commitments. But, progress remains inconsistent:
    - **COP28 (UAE)** saw an agreement to **transition away from fossil fuels**, but it was omitted at **COP29 (Azerbaijan)**.
    - Countries vowed to **triple renewable energy capacity by 2030**, but global efforts lag far behind.
    - The target **highlighted in COP29** for developing nations remains unmet, despite Brazil's proposed 'road map' to bridge the gap.
  - The erosion of the principle of **Common But Differentiated Responsibility (CBDR)** — which places greater obligations on wealthier nations — continues to weaken the spirit of equity that underpins climate negotiations.
- **Climate Finance:** Under the **Paris Agreement**, developed nations pledged **$100 billion annually** for developing countries.

- ◆ The **Loss and Damage Fund**, established at COP28, remains severely underfunded — with under **$1 billion pledged** against needs in the hundreds of billions.
- ◆ At **COP29**, this target was revised under the **New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG)** — tripling the amount to **$300 billion per year by 2035** and calling for total climate finance (public and private) of **$1.3 trillion annually**.
  - ▪ However, developing countries argue that it **dilutes the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR)**.
- **Issues of Adaptation:** For nations in the **Global South**, **adaptation** is not a choice but a necessity. The **Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)** seeks to define measurable resilience targets and align funding with real-world needs.
  - ◆ However, **context-specific challenges** — such as differing vulnerabilities between coastal, desert, and mountain regions — make it difficult.
- **Fossil Fuel Dependence:** COP30 faces resistance from major oil-producing nations, wWhile COP28 saw some movement toward phasing down fossil fuels.
  - ◆ The lack of a binding global agreement on fossil fuel phase-out remains a contentious issue.

Way Forward

- **Transitions and Technological Equity:** Transitioning to **net zero** needs to be **just and inclusive**. For developing countries, access to **affordable technology** and **capacity building** is as critical as finance.
  - ◆ However, high costs and intellectual property restrictions often impede progress.
- COP30 is expected to promote **North–South collaborations** in **training, innovation, and technology sharing**.
  - ◆ For India, it means scaling investments in **renewable energy, low-carbon manufacturing, ecosystem restoration, and green skills** — ensuring a **'just transition'** that aligns with development priorities.
- India is championing a **fair and predictable NCQG**, as coordinator of the **G77+China bloc,** and stands as both a **bridge between the Global North and South** and a **voice for equitable climate action**.
  - ◆ It is expected to advocate for **climate justice** and **CBDR**, urging developed countries to lead on emissions reduction and financial commitments.
- Domestically, India is pursuing ambitious goals — **green budgeting**, **sovereign green bonds**, and a **national carbon market (by 2026)**.
  - ◆ India's **indigenous and local knowledge** like traditional seed systems, community-based water harvesting, and ecosystem restoration models offer valuable lessons for globally adaptable resilience strategies.

Conclusion

- The Amazon's symbolic backdrop is a reminder that protecting the planet's ecosystems is integral to combating climate change.
- What emerges from Belém will determine whether the world can still **bend the emissions curve** — and whether developing nations can secure the **space, technology, and finance** they need to grow sustainably.
- COP30 needs to deliver **implementation, inclusion, and impact**.

Source: BS

Daily Mains Practice Question

[Q] How might hosting COP30 in Belém influence global climate negotiations and reshape the narrative around environmental justice?

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