

Emissions gap report

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Why in news?

The emissions gap report of 2019 was released by the United Nations Environment programme(UNEP).

About the report:

- **Also called the “Commitment Gap”,** it is the difference between the low level of emissions that the world needs to drop to, compared with the projected level of emissions based on countries’ current commitments to decarbonization.
- Every year, the report looks at the expected size of the gap in 2030 and progress countries are making in closing it.
- **It looks at different scenarios based on the pledges that countries made to reduce or minimize their emissions under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change called Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).**

The scenarios considered are:

- **No climate policies since 2005 (baseline)** – The baseline scenario estimates what would happen to global greenhouse gas emissions in the absence of any climate policies since 2005.
- **Current policies only** – The current policy scenario takes into account all of the policies now in place, but assumes that no additional measures are undertaken.
- **The fulfillment of current unconditional NDCs** – The unconditional NDC scenario assumes that countries meet all of the climate pledges that have no conditions attached.
- **The fulfillment of NDCs with conditions attached** – it is assumed that countries achieve all of their climate

pledges, including those with conditions.

2019 report:

- **G20 nations collectively account for 78 per cent of all emissions**, but only five G20 members have committed to a long-term zero emissions target.
- **In the short-term, developed countries will have to reduce their emissions quicker than developing countries**, for reasons of fairness and equity.
- **All nations must substantially increase ambition in their NDCs**, as the Paris commitments are known, in 2020.
- **The world will fail to meet the 1.5°C temperature goal of the Paris Agreement** unless global greenhouse gas emissions fall by 7.6 per cent each year.
- **Global temperatures are set to rise about 3.2 degrees C by 2100.**
- **The top four emitters (China, USA, EU and India)** contributed to over 55% of the total emissions over the last decade, excluding emissions from land-use change such as deforestation.