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BRIDGING THE DIVIDE BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING NATIONS

AT COP29

Why in News?

- The 29th edition of the UN Climate Conference (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan, was anticipated to conclude on November 22, but negotiations extended due to unresolved key issues.
- The conference aimed to make significant strides in addressing carbon emissions and climate finance.

Key Objectives of COP29:

- **Setting climate finance goals:**
 - Developing countries demanded at least \$1 trillion annually from 2025-2035 to meet emission targets, known as the **New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG)**. **Current contributions stand at \$115 billion (2021-22)**.
 - **NCQG refers to** money that will be given to developing countries by developed countries to help the former meet their goals to transition away from the continued use of fossil fuels and curb greenhouse gas emissions.
 - Developed countries were expected to agree on a higher target above **\$100 billion as per the Paris Agreement**.
- **Addressing carbon emissions:** Scientific assessments indicated an expected 0.8% increase in emissions for 2023. Efforts to achieve the voluntary Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) could result in only a 2% global emissions reduction.

Demands of Developing Countries at COP29:

- **Financial responsibility of developed nations:**
 - Developing nations, including China, India, and the **Group of 77**, emphasised that developed countries, being historically responsible for higher emissions, should bear the bulk of climate finance.

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- Funding should cover mitigation, adaptation, and compensation for climate damage.
- **Contributions should be proportional to historical emissions and per capita GDP.**
- **Grants and low-cost loans:** They stressed the need for climate finance to be primarily in grants or concessional loans rather than complex financial mechanisms.

Major Developments at COP29:

- **Carbon market agreement:**
 - A supervised UN carbon market was established based on **Article 6** of the Paris Agreement, enabling countries to trade carbon credits to meet emission caps.
 - **Sub-sections within the Article** spell out how countries can bilaterally trade carbon among themselves (**Article 6.2**) and participate in a global carbon market (**6.4**).
 - Though challenges include ensuring the authenticity and transparency of carbon credits, **India plans to leverage this agreement to activate its own carbon-trading market.**
- **Trade and climate discussion:**
 - China, as part of the BASIC group, raised concerns over the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (**CBAM**), a tax on non-compliant imports, set to be fully implemented in 2026.
 - This issue, though typically discussed in trade forums, highlights the intersection of trade and climate policies.

Conclusion:

- While COP29 made progress in areas like carbon markets, significant gaps remain, particularly in finalising climate finance targets.
 - Bridging the divide between developed and developing nations is crucial to achieving the conference's objectives and fostering global climate cooperation.
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HOW SHOULD INDIA TACKLE DIABETES LOAD?

- **Diabetes** is a chronic medical condition where the body is unable to properly regulate blood sugar (glucose) levels due to insufficient insulin production or ineffective insulin usage. It is primarily classified into two types:

Type 1 Diabetes: An autoimmune condition where the pancreas produces little or no insulin. It often occurs in childhood or adolescence and requires lifelong insulin therapy.

Type 2 Diabetes: The more common type, associated with insulin resistance or insufficient insulin production. It is influenced by factors like poor diet, obesity, and physical inactivity.

- **Symptoms** include frequent urination, excessive thirst, fatigue, slow wound healing, and blurred vision. If untreated, diabetes can lead to serious complications such as heart disease, kidney damage, vision loss, and nerve damage.

Study by the Lancet on Diabetes:

- A global study published in The Lancet highlights that over 800 million adults globally live with diabetes, including **212 million in India**.
- The numbers are significantly higher than the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) estimate of **100 million**, primarily due to differing testing methodologies.

Major Concerns:

- **Rising Diabetes Prevalence:**
 - India is witnessing increasing diabetes cases due to urbanization, lifestyle changes, and obesity.
 - The disease significantly increases risks of heart disease, kidney failure, vision loss, and other complications.
- **Inequity in Treatment:**
 - Access to diabetes care is limited, especially in low- and middle-income regions.
 - Without effective prevention and early treatment, the healthcare burden could become unsustainable.

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Strategies for Action:

- **Urgent Prevention Measures:**
 - Mass awareness campaigns to promote healthy eating and exercise.
 - Legal restrictions on sugar-sweetened beverages and high-carb diets.
 - Policies to tackle abdominal obesity, a leading cause of diabetes in Indians.
- **Focus on Vulnerable Groups:**
 - Prioritize education for women, especially post-pregnancy and during menopause.
 - Enhance healthcare access in semi-urban and rural areas.

Role of Individuals:

- **Lifestyle Changes:**
 - Adopting mindful eating habits and regular physical activity.
 - Reducing obesity through balanced diets and portion control.
- **Dietary Awareness:**
 - Recognizing the impact of poor diets on rising diabetes rates.

Government Interventions:

- **Policy Measures:**
 - Restrict unhealthy food options and make nutritious foods more affordable.
 - Provide subsidies for healthy foods and ensure free, nutritious school meals.
- **Creating Infrastructure:**
 - Establish public parks, fitness centres, and safe spaces for physical activity.
 - Encourage urban planning that promotes walkability and active lifestyles.

Conclusion:

- India faces a critical challenge in managing its growing diabetes burden. Collaborative efforts from individuals, policymakers, and healthcare providers are essential to implement sustainable preventive measures and improve access to treatment.
 - As experts emphasize, the focus must remain on **prevention** at every level.
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DAL LAKE



- It is a small mid-altitude lake situated in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir.
- It is surrounded by the Pir Panjal mountains.
- It is named the “Jewel in the crown of Kashmir” or “Srinagar’s Jewel”.
- It is the second-largest lake in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The lake covers an area of 18 sq.km. and is part of a natural wetland which covers 21.1 sq.km.
- The wetland is divided by causeways into four basins: Gagribal, Lokut Dal, Bod Dal, and Nagin (although Nagin is also considered an independent lake).
- The shoreline of the lake, is about 15.5 kilometres (9.6 mi), is encompassed by a boulevard lined with Mughal-era gardens, parks, houseboats, and hotels.
- The floating gardens, known as “Raad” in Kashmiri, blossom with lotus flowers during July and August.
- Dal Lake is also popular for the floating market where vendors have their own Shikaras/wooden boats and approach tourists.
- The depth of water varies from 6 metres at its deepest to 2.5 metres at its shallowest.
- During the winter season, the temperature sometimes reaches -11°C (12°F), freezing the lake.

Islands:

- Dal Lake includes 3 islands, 2 of which are marked with beautiful Chinar trees.
- The island located on the Lakut Dal is known as Roph Lank (Silver Island), is marked with the presence of majestic Chinar trees at the four corners, thus known as Char-Chinari (Four Chinars).
- The second Chinar Island, known as Sone Lank (Gold Island), is located on the Bod Dal (Big Dal) and overlooks the holy shrine of Hazratbal.



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JOBS AT YOUR DOORSTEP REPORT

Recently, the Union Minister for Education along with the Minister of Labour and Employment and Youth Affairs launched a World Bank's report titled **Jobs at Your Doorstep: A Jobs Diagnostics for Young People in Six States, at an event in New Delhi.**



This report serves as both a diagnostic and roadmap to providing strategic linkages and convergence between education and the jobs agenda of India.

- It goes deep into the job landscape of six states: Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Rajasthan, and identifies key priority sectors and roles that offer the highest employment potential for young people graduating from secondary school.
- It underscores the significant benefits of embedding skill-based education from Classes 9-12 to prepare students for diverse career paths relying on a bottom-up approach.
- The study was initiated to reimagine the skill education offering through in-depth primary as well as secondary research in six STARS states.

What is the STARS Scheme?

- It became effective since 2021 for a period of five years up to FY: 2024-25.
- STARS project would be implemented under Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education with the financial support of World Bank.
- It is being implemented in six identified States Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala. These states will be supported for various interventions for improving the quality of education.

It is carved out of Samagra Shiksha, with a focus on those elements of the scheme that will most directly support school education enhancement.



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DIBANG MULTI-PURPOSE HYDRO POWER PROJECT



- It is a flood control cum hydroelectric power project planned to be developed on the Dibang River, a tributary of the Brahmaputra River, in Arunachal Pradesh.
- At 2,880MW installed capacity, it will be the country's biggest hydropower facility.
- It is being developed by India's state-run National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC).
- The Project is designed as an energy storage project, with flood moderation as one of the key objectives, besides power generation.

Project Features:

- The project envisages the construction of a 278m-high and 375m-long concrete gravity dam, which will be the highest Concrete-Gravity Dam of India.
- The Dam is planned to be constructed with Roller Compacted Concrete (RCC) technique and it will be the highest RCC Dam of the World.
- The dam will create a 43 km-long reservoir with a gross storage capacity of 3.85 billion cubic metres.
- It includes six Horseshoe-shaped head race tunnels of length varying from 300 m to 600 m with 9 m diameter, an underground Power House, and six horseshoe-shaped tailrace tunnels of length varying from 320 m to 470 m with 9 m diameter.

PROJECT VEER GATHA



More than 1.76 crore school students from all 36 States and UTs have participated enthusiastically in Project Veer Gatha 4.0.

- It was instituted in 2021 with the aim of disseminating the inspiring tales of



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valour, selfless sacrifice and courage of the Gallantry Awardees and the life stories of these bravehearts among the students to inculcate the spirit of patriotism amongst them.

- Project Veer Gatha enhanced this noble aim by providing a platform for the school students to do creative projects/activities based on heroic deeds and sacrifice of gallantry award winners.
- Three editions of the Veer Gatha Project have been conducted in 2021, 2022 and 2023, respectively.
- It is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Education.

Key facts about Gallantry Awards

- Gallantry Awards have been instituted by the Government of India to honour the acts of bravery and sacrifice of the officers/personnel of the Armed Forces, other lawfully constituted Forces and civilians.
- These are announced twice in a year - first on the occasion of the Republic Day and then on the occasion of the Independence Day.
- These awards are the Ashoka Chakra, the Kirti Chakra and the Shaurya Chakra.
- Order of precedence of these awards is the Param Vir Chakra, the Ashoka Chakra, the Mahavir Chakra, the Kirti Chakra, the Vir Chakra and the Shaurya Chakra

COMPRESSED BIOGAS



India's first modern, self-sufficient gaushala with a state-of-the-art Compressed Biogas (CBG) plant was launched in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.

- It is the mixture of hydrocarbon gases and vapours consisting mainly of Methane in gaseous form.



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- It has been produced by the decomposition of animal and plant waste, purified and compressed for use as an automotive fuel and industrial application;
- CBG has calorific value and other properties similar to CNG and hence can be utilized as green renewable automotive fuel.
- Thus it can replace CNG in automotive, industrial and commercial areas, given the abundance of biomass availability within the country.

Conversion of agricultural residue, cattle dung and municipal solid waste (MSW) into CBG in a commercial scale is expected to have the following benefits

- Import reduction of natural gas and crude.
 - Utilization of agricultural residue, cattle dung and MSW for the production of CBG and thus to achieve reduction in emissions and pollution.
 - A boost towards fulfillment of National commitments in achieving climate change goals.
 - Providing a buffer against energy security concerns and crude/gas price fluctuations.
 - Contribution towards Swachh Bharat Mission through responsible waste management
 - Lowering pollution and carbon emission.
 - Providing additional source of revenue to the farmers, rural employment and amelioration of the rural economy
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