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Global climate action summit has recently taken place in California.

The Global Climate Action Summit will bring leaders and people together from around the world to “Take Ambition to the Next Level.”

It will showcase the actions states and regions, cities, companies, investors and civil society have taken already to reduce their emissions.

The Summit comes at the half-way mark between the Paris Agreement and the 2020 timeline to recalibrate nationally determined Contributions (NDCs). It provided a perfect opportunity to review the progress achieved thus far, recognise the roadblocks and gear up for increased commitments. The positive momentum from this summit should generate a fresh wave of action globally to help pull down the emissions curve by 2020.

It focussed on how climate change has impacted women and the steps needed for their empowerment. It was also witnessed that women themselves were leading this agenda as in the case of Innovative Finance for Climate, Resilience and Energy, which had three women out of the four participants..

Benefits for India:

The summit helped cement India’s credentials as a climate action leader.

It showcased some great work happening in India, by both industries as well as local governments. Several large corporates have adopted low carbon business methods across their entire supply chain. Innovations such as Heat Action Plans, energy conservation building codes, electric vehicles and solar pumps for farmers also bear testimony to India’s efforts to cut down carbon dioxide levels.

Source: The Hindu.

Rashtriya Poshan Maah

Ministry of Women & Child Development as the nodal agency launched Rashtriya Poshan Maah or National Nutrition Month, across the length and breadth of the country on the 01st of Sep 2018.

Poshan Maah aimed at making people aware of the importance of nutrition & giving individual access to government services to support supplement nutrition for their children & pregnant women /lactating mothers.

It is to address the malnutrition challenges and sensitize our countrymen regarding the importance of holistic nutrition.

Source: The Hindu.

Methanol Cooking Fuel Program

Northeast and Assam Petro-chemicals, a state-owned company is launching Asia's first cannisters based and India's first "Methanol Cooking Fuel Program". 500 households inside the Assam Petro Complex will be the first pilot project, scaling it to 40,000 households in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Telangana, Goa and Karnataka.

Assam Petrochemicals Limited has been manufacturing methanol for the last 30 years and is in the process of upgrading their 100 TPD methanol plant to 600 TPD by Dec 2019.

The safe handling cannisters based cooking stoves are from Swedish Technology and through a Technology transfer a large-scale cooking stove manufacturing plant will come up in India.

Source: The Hindu.

GI Tag for Alphonso from Konkan

Alphonso from Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Palghar, Thane and Raigad districts of Maharashtra, is registered as Geographical Indication (GI).

The king of mangoes, Alphonso, better known as 'Hapus' in Maharashtra, is in demand in domestic and international markets not only for its taste but also for pleasant fragrance and vibrant colour.

It has long been one of the world's most popular fruit and is exported to various countries including Japan, Korea and Europe.

New markets such as USA and Australia have recently opened up.

Source: The Hindu.

India, Russia Bilateral Deal

India and Russia concluded the contract for five S-400 'Triumf' missile systems. S-400 is a long range surface to air missile.

However, the two sides failed to conclude two other major deals, for stealth frigates and assault rifles.

Meanwhile, U.S. issued a statement warning that any waiver for the S-400 deal would be considered on only a "transaction-by-transaction basis."

On education and people to people ties – Modi and Putin interacted with young talent drawn from India's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and Russia's SIRIUS educational centre.

An MoU was also signed between AIM and SIRIUS to further their cooperation. Indian and Russian students visit other countries and together must think what they can do to make lives simpler for people, especially the poorest, to improve their way of living.

Source: The Hindu.

Editorial

To Read

Going green, bottom up

Participation of non-state actors made the Global Climate Action Summit different.

Globally, climate change has started to take a heavy toll. The California fires, the heat wave in Europe and Asia, and the droughts in East Africa bear testimony to this. In India, severe floods and random variations in weather have caused significant loss of life and property. All this has resulted in a flurry of activity with governments springing into action. There is a lot more awareness and intent on show with regular discussions and nations pledging to cut down on greenhouse gas emissions.

In this background, the Global Climate Action Summit (GCAS) 2018, in San Francisco, was a crucial exercise in mobilising key stakeholders and urging them to go “further and faster”. It sent out an unequivocal message that a lot more remains to be done on this front. While the Paris Agreement laid down the marker, GCAS 2018 challenged us to “step up” a level higher. Let us see some of the distinct features that made it stand apart amidst a glut of climate action events.

To begin with, the Summit could not have come at a more opportune time, roughly at the half-way mark between the Paris Agreement and the 2020 timeline to recalibrate National Contributions (NDCs). It provided a perfect opportunity to review the progress achieved thus far, recognise the roadblocks and gear up for increased commitments. The positive momentum from this summit should generate a fresh wave of action globally to help pull down the emissions curve by 2020.

Secondly, the summit was unique in that it secured participation of leaders from cities, states, environmentalists, corporates, investors and NGOs, that is “non-state actors”, on a mass scale, for the very first time. Traditionally, climate conferences have focused on heads of state and national governments. GCAS 2018 saw a major departure from this trend with private institutions and civil society coming forward to supplement the state’s efforts. With steady inflow of “green” private capital, governments would now be expected to up the ante and announce higher commitments.

An equally refreshing change was the focus on how climate change has impacted women and the steps needed for their empowerment. It was even more heartening to note that women themselves were leading this agenda, as evident from my panel on Innovative Finance for Climate, Resilience and Energy, which had three women out of the four participants. Third, “Walk the talk” dominated the agenda with the summit showcasing real people and their achievements — people who have successfully implemented plans to reduce carbon footprint. This sharing of success stories, technological innovations and creative policies was highly educational and impactful, and should inspire all stakeholders to do that extra bit in the days to come.

President Donald Trump’s sudden decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement had created a lot of uncertainty, with the US being a major carbon emitter. A successful GCAS 2018 will now help reassure the international community that this will not decelerate the “decarbonisation” movement. Jerry Brown, the Governor of California put to rest any creeping doubts in this regard by demonstrating how his state is leading the charge of regional governments, businesses and individuals to offset a silent national government.

The summit points towards the emergence of “bottom up” climate action that is rooted firmly enough to ward off any conflicting individual or belief. Last but not the least, GCAS 2018 also helped cement India’s credentials as a climate action leader. It showcased some great work happening in India, by both industries as well as local governments. Several large corporates have adopted low carbon business methods across their entire supply chain. Innovations such as Heat Action Plans, energy conservation building codes, electric vehicles and solar pumps for farmers also bear testimony to India’s efforts to cut down carbon dioxide levels. The start-up community and investors at the event also acknowledged growing contributions from private renewable energy providers.

I see GCAS 2018 heralding a new phase in climate action, marked by bolder commitments and speedier implementation, with wider participation. The movement against climate change is now clearly beyond individuals and countries.

Mains Question

Q: Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Australia have unveiled strategies to forge closer economic ties with India. Do you think that China’s growing assertiveness has become a blessing in disguise for India? Critically comment.