Conference of Parties (Cop23) - Bonn

What is the issue?

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23rd conference of the 'UN Framework Convention on Climate Change – UNFCC' is currently underway at Bonn, Germany.

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What are the focus areas?

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- Developing countries including India are focussing on ensuring adequate financing for mitigation and adaptation.
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- They are moving ahead with specific instruments for loss and damage they suffer due to destructive climate-linked events.
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- Envisioning technologies, sharing expertise and building structures for addressing future challenges anchored most debates.
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What is 'Transport Decarbonisation Alliance'?

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- It is alliance that has been declared at the current Bonn session– which intends to facilitate a shift to sustainable fuels.
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- This envisions a framework for getting cities to commit to eco-friendly mobility.
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- This will also improve the quality of urban life for citizens.
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- Notably, India is systematically replacing its public buses with an electric fleet and plans to go electric for all vehicles by 2030.
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- Such measures will have a beneficial effect not just on transport choices, but on public health through pollution abatement.
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- Laws to raise the energy efficiency of vehicles would work well if supported with financial incentives.
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How are India’s advances towards its targets?

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- India’s pledged to reduce the intensity of its greenhouse gas emissions per unit of GDP by 20-25% from 2005 levels by 2020.
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- This commitment was made in Copenhagen in 2009 and has been progressing positively.
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- The pledges made in the Paris pact of 2015 are also proceeding according to the envisioned targets.
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- 40% share of renewable energy is targeted by 2030 – which would be in line with emission intensity for GDP growth of 7% or less.
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- Notably, generating 175 gigawatts of renewable power by 2022 is already underway.
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- India could further raise its ambition in the use of green technologies, which would mark it as a global climate leader.
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How does the future look?

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- **Challenges -** The impact of extreme weather events such as droughts and floods on economic growth hasn’t been enumerated.
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- In this context, the rich countries must give up their rigid approach towards the demands of low and middle income countries.
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- An early resolution on the question of financing mitigation, adaptation and compensation is desirable.

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- There is also some worry that an increase in coal, oil and gas production could negate some of the gains made.
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- **Opportunities -** The climate question presents a leapfrog era for ushering in a new era of innovation and growth.
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- Hence, projects have to be decisively pursued and barriers for wider adoption of renewable need to be taken down.
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Source: The Hindu

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