Rulebook for the 2015 Paris Agreement - Katowice Climate Meet – II

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What is the background?

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- Recently, the IPCC report focusses on keeping warming to under 1.5°C as compared to pre-industrial times.
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- It also said that to achieve the 1.5°C target, a 45% reduction in emissions over 2010 levels must be made by 2030.
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- This is a challenge for all big economies, including India, which is among the top five emitters of carbon dioxide.
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- Accordingly, negotiators from 196 countries recently finalised a rulebook for the 2015 Paris Agreement at the Katowice climate conference.
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- This reflects strong support among citizens of all countries for urgent action to avert dangerous climate change.
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What should be the response from India?

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- India’s emission of CO2 per capita stands at an estimated 1.2 tonnes, which is far below the global average of 4.2 tonnes.
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- Yet, cumulative emissions (country’s total historic emissions) determine the impact on climate, and India’s emissions grew at an estimated 6.3% in 2018.
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- Thus, India has to systematically assess its emissions and measure mitigation actions for reporting to the UNFCCC at stock-taking meetings.

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- India needs to take action on several fronts –
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1. Scaling up solar and wind power in line with the goal of reaching 175 GW of renewable energy by 2022
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2. Steadily reducing reliance on coal
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3. Shifting substantially to electric mobility
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4. Adopting green industrial processes.
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- India could also tax luxury emissions and use the dividend achieved to give energy access to the poor, thereby ensuring a stable indigenous green climate funding linkages.
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- India should also make regulatory changes that favour environment-friendly alternatives in sectors like energy production, building, agriculture and transport.
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- With respect to transportation sector, both China and U.S., (top two emitters), has already taken the lead in advancing electric mobility, thereby reducing their carbon footprint.
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- A clean-up in India will thus help meet emissions commitments and remove the blanket of air pollution that is suffocating entire cities.
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What should be done?

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- Indian negotiators put forth legitimate concerns on the likely social impact of the new rules that will operationalise the Paris Agreement in 2020.
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- However, increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events and the associated sea level rise that affects small island states allows little room

for complacency.
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- Hence, the task now is to achieve a paradigm shift that will slow down the addition of new sources of carbon emissions.
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Source: The Hindu

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