Suriname

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Ecology & Environment*

Why in news?

Suriname's government has pledged to protect 90% of its tropical forests, the most ambitious commitment to climate and biodiversity ever made by an Amazonian nation.

- It is located on the ***northern coast of South America***, yet its population is one of the most ethnically diverse in the region.
- **Capital –** Paramaribo.
- **Bordered by –** Atlantic Ocean to the north, by French Guiana to the east, by Brazil to the south, and by Guyana to the west.
- **Languages -** Dutch, Sranan Tongo, plus regional languages.
- **Topography and Landscape**
  - **Rainforests -** Over 90% of Suriname's territory is covered by tropical rainforest, the highest proportion in the world.
  - **Mountains and Valleys -** The interior includes mountain ranges, isolated hills, and valleys, with Juliana Top being the highest summit.
  - **Coastal Plain -** The north features a swampy plain, which is a significant area for rice cultivation and home to reclaimed areas (polders) used for farming.
- **Major Rivers –** Maroni, the Coppename, the Suriname, and the Courantyne.
- **Tropical Climate -** Suriname experiences a tropical climate with two rainy seasons and two dry seasons throughout the year.
- **Economy –** Dependent on its extensive supply of natural resources, most notably bauxite, of which it is one of the top producers in the world.
- **Highest forest cover –** Suriname already has the world's highest share of forest cover, with about **93%** of its land blanketed in tropical rainforest.
- Most of that remains primary forest untouched by logging, agriculture, or mining.

- By pledging to ***permanently protect 90% of its tropical forests***, Suriname sets a new standard for the Amazonian region as a whole, which has suffered from serious deforestation in recent decades.

  Suriname is one of only 3 countries worldwide that absorbs more carbon dioxide than it emits — a so-called "carbon sink" — making its forests a critical buffer against global warming.

- The pledge far ***surpasses the "30x30" global target*** — a U.N.-backed goal for countries to protect 30% of land and oceans by 2030.



References

1. The Hindu | Suriname's pledge
2. Britannica | Suriname

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