UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference

Why in news?

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The conference of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change recently ended in Bangkok.

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What were the outcomes of the meet?

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- The purpose of the meet was to draft a rulebook for the Paris Agreement ahead of a crucial international conference in Poland in December.
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- But it ran into difficulties over the issue of raising funds to help poorer nations.
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- Some developed countries led by the U.S. are unwilling to commit to sound rules on raising climate finance.
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- Earlier, U.S. under the Trump administration, has rejected the Paris agreement in which the rich countries pledged to raise $100 billion a year by 2020 to help developing countries reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
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Why it is unfair on the part of developed countries?

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- Historical the developed countries have contributed heavily to the accumulated CO2 burden.
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- It now measures at about 410 parts per million(ppm) of CO2 in the atmosphere, up from 280 ppm before the industrial revolution.
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- If scientific estimates are correct, the damage already done to the West Antarctic Ice Sheet is set to raise sea levels.
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- A 2° Celsius rise in global temperature will also destabilise the Greenland Ice Sheet.
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- This will also drive more mass migrations of people on account of failed agriculture and the associated conflicts.
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- Hence the developed countries are ignoring their historical responsibility.
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- Obstructing the transition to a carbon-neutral pathway is also short-sighted, simply because the losses caused by weather events are proving severely detrimental to all economies.
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- Additionally, walking out of developed countries have created a financial and leadership vacuum.
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- This was followed by other developed countries that are unwilling to create sustainable financial commitment to realise the objectives of Paris agreement.
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What are the responsibilities of India and China in this regard?

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- There is international pressure on China and India to cut GHG emissions.
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- Both countries have committed themselves to a cleaner growth path.
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- India reported an annual CO2 equivalent emissions of 2.136 billion tonnes in 2010 to the UNFCCC two years ago.
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- Recent estimates show that the GHG emissions intensity of its GDP has declined by 12% for the 2005-2010 period.
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- China has suspended construction of 103 new coal-fired power plants last year, and announced plans to invest more than $360 billion into renewable energy by the end of the decade.
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- Both have the responsibility of climate leadership in the developing world and Innovative instruments (climate bond, social impact bond, catastrophic

risk insurance, etc.,) could be leveraged to realise a “Green Economy”.
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- It needs to be accompanied by a supportive framework in the form of a rulebook that:
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- Binds the developed countries to their funding pledges.
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- Provides support for capacity building.
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- Transfer of green technologies on liberal terms.
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- Thus the responsibility lies in the domain of both developed and developing countries to go beyond expediency and take the actions needed to avert long-term catastrophe.
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Source: The Hindu

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Quick Facts

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India’s Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC)

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- To reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 33 to 35 per cent by 2030 from 2005 level.
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- To achieve about 40 per cent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel based energy resources by 2030.
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- To create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO_2equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.
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