

World sleepwalking to climate disaster.

UN chief Antonio Guterres said on Monday "the world is sleepwalking to climate catastrophe with major economies allowing carbon pollution to increase when drastic cuts are needed."

The planet-saving goal of capping global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius is already "on life support," he told a sustainability conference in London.

Keeping 1.5 degrees Celsius in play requires a 45% drop in emissions by 2030 and carbon neutrality by mid-century, according to the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

But even if nations honour newly revised pledges under the Paris Agreement, emissions are still set to rise 14% before the decade ends.

"The problem is getting worse," Mr. Guterres said in a pre-recorded video message. "We are sleepwalking to climate catastrophe."

"If we continue with more of the same, we can kiss 1.5 degrees Celsius goodbye," he added. "Even two degrees may be out of reach."

His comments came only hours before the 195-nation IPCC kicks off a two-week meeting to validate a landmark report on options for reducing carbon pollution and extracting CO₂ from the air.

Uneven Spending

The report is expected to conclude that CO₂ emissions must peak within a few years if the Paris temperature targets are to be met.

Mr. Guterres described COVID recovery spending as "scandalously uneven" and a missed opportunity to accelerate the turn toward clean energy.



The Russian invasion of Ukraine, he added, could further derail climate action with importers locking in fossil fuel dependence as they scramble to replace Russian oil and gas.

“Countries could become so consumed by the immediate fossil fuel supply gap that they neglect or knee-cap (climate) policies,” Mr. Guterres said.

“This is madness. Addiction to fossil fuels is mutually assured destruction.”

Breaking with the usual practice of not singling out countries, Mr. Guterres called out Australia and a “handful of holdouts” for failing to lay out “meaningful” near-term plans to slash emissions.

He also said the development needs of China, India, Indonesia and other “emerging economies” prevent them from making similar commitments, especially on coal.

Expected Question (Prelims Exams)

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Global warming /Green house effect.

1. 'Green House effect' has led to the rise in Global temperature in the recent past.
2. Global warming may cause the world temperature to rise by 4.5 degree celsius to 5 degree celsius by 2050.

which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None

Expected Question (Mains Exams)

Q. What is global warming? Discuss the various efforts in the direction of reducing the Green house gas emissions below 1.5 degree celsius. (250 Words)

Note: - The question of the main examination given for practice is designed keeping in mind the upcoming UPSC main examination. Therefore, to get an answer to this question, you can take the help of this source as well as other sources related to this topic.