

## Global Stocktake draft calls for phasing out fossil fuels

- **Fossil Fuel Phase-Out:**
  - Unprecedented inclusion in draft text for eliminating all fossil fuels.
  - Reflects urgency as fossil fuels contribute 80% of emissions.
- **Challenges and Influences:**
  - Past talks on coal faced stalemates due to economic significance in key countries.
  - Host nation's ties to oil influenced language in the GST.
- **GST Objectives:**
  - Evaluate Paris Agreement implementation and limit temperature rise.
  - Guide countries in updating emission reduction commitments.
- **Renewable Energy and Efficiency Goals:**
  - Proposes significant renewable energy and efficiency improvements by 2030.
  - India didn't sign due to coal use caveat.
- **Sustainable Lifestyles:**
  - Emphasis on transitioning to sustainable consumption patterns.
- **Contentions and Critiques:**
  - Draft includes disputable elements like complete fossil fuel phase-out.
  - Critics cite lack of clear roadmap for implementation.





## Glaciers shrank 1 m a year in a decade: WMO


- **Decade Overview (2011-2020):**
  - Warmest on record but saw the lowest number of deaths from extreme events due to improved early warning systems and disaster management.
- **Positive Changes:**
  - Improvements in cyclone forecasting in India led to better preparedness and evacuations.
  - No single event with 10,000 deaths or more occurred in the decade.
- **Environmental Impact:**
  - Glaciers worldwide thinned by an average of 1 meter per year.
  - Greenland and Antarctica lost 38% more ice than the previous decade


- Ozone hole showed visible signs of recovery.
- **Climate Change Effects:**
  - Human-induced climate change increased risks from extreme heat events.
  - Heatwaves caused the highest number of casualties, while tropical cyclones caused significant economic damage.
- **Climate Finance:**
  - Public and private climate finance nearly doubled, but it needs to increase sevenfold by the decade's end to meet climate goals, including limiting global temperature rise.


## Honest reckoning

### Global Climate Discussions:

-  **Temperature Boundary:** The global temperature rise has already surpassed the target of limiting it to 1.5°C, with a current increase of 1°C. The focus at the Dubai climate summit is on capping the additional half-degree rise.
-  **Renewable Energy Requirement:** In order to limit global warming to 1.5°C, it is estimated that three times more renewable energy capacity, equivalent to 11,000 GW, is needed by 2030.
-  **Global Consensus:** The New Delhi Leaders' Declaration at the G-20 emphasized the importance of tripling renewable energy capacity. While 118 countries endorsed the declaration, India and China abstained from endorsing it.
-  **Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge:** The draft text highlights the need to triple renewable energy capacity and commits to phasing down unabated coal power. However, India considers giving up coal a major red line due to its heavy reliance on coal-fired plants.

-  **India's Stance and Targets:** India positions itself as a renewable energy champion with a target to triple its renewable energy capacity to 500 GW by 2030. However, India is reluctant to be forced to give up certain fuels, particularly coal, as coal-fired plants contribute nearly 70% of the country's greenhouse gas emissions.

-  **U.S. Commitment:** The United States commits to eschewing coal for energy use by 2035, despite only relying on coal for about 20% of its energy. The majority of U.S. energy comes from oil and gas, and there are plans to increase production in 2030.

-  **Global Commitments and Realities:** While major economies commit to renewable energy, there is a lack of concrete plans to replace existing and future fossil fuel capacities. There is an emphasis on the need for an honest commitment to genuinely replace fossil fuel capacities with clean energy.

## The Ambedkar touch in rethinking social justice policies

### Ambedkar's Vision and Contemporary Challenges:

- **Democratic Values:**
- Modern democracy aims for social harmony, dignity, and self-respect, especially for historically deprived groups like Dalits and Adivasis.
- Democratic institutions are urged to involve the worst-off social groups in governing political affairs.

### Contemporary Scenario and Neo-liberalism:

- **Tokenistic Presence:**
  - Social elites dominate as national leaders, business tycoons, and cultural influencers.
  - Marginalized groups have token representation in power and privileges.
- **Impact of Neo-liberalism:**
  - Neo-liberal economic development disrupts conventional state support for Dalits and Adivasis.
  - Social justice policies have minimal effect on empowering marginalized groups politically.

### Ambedkar's Relevance and Ethical Correctives:

- **Ambedkar's Ethical Approach:**
- Provides ethical corrections for democratic institutions to be more inclusive and responsive to marginalized groups.
- Emphasizes moral sensibilities in institutions for diverse populations.

### Neo-liberal Market and Ethical Values:

- **Market Alienation from Ethics:**
- Neo-liberal markets celebrate exclusive corporate control, distancing from social responsibilities.
- Neglects aspirations and demands of Dalits and Adivasis, leading to exploitative capitalism.

### Reimagining Social Justice Policies:

- **Incorporating Marginalized Groups:**
- Need to integrate social justice policies into the private economy for democratizing the working class and poverty reduction.
- Elevating Dalits and Adivasis to influential positions within capitalist assets.
- **Addressing Adivasi Concerns:**
- Protecting habitats, ecological orders, and cultural autonomy while acknowledging the inevitability of the market economy.


### Empowerment and Economic Integration:


- **Transformative Policies:**
- Enabling Dalits and Adivasis to become leaders, entrepreneurs, and influencers in the economic sphere.
- Shifting focus from passive welfare recipients to active participants in urbanization, industrial production, and technological innovations.
- **Inclusive Capitalism:**
- Pushing for more affirmative action policies to democratize big businesses, allowing Dalit-Adivasi class to emerge as industrialists and market leaders.

### Role of the State and Social Justice:


- **State Responsibilities:**
- Ambedkar saw the state as a transformative force for Dalit and Adivasi emancipation.
- In the neo-liberal context, the state aligns with big businesses, neglecting social responsibilities.
- **Re-defining Capitalism:**
- Ambedkar's social justice vision aims to redefine capitalism as a cooperative economic order inclusive of marginalized groups.
- Encouraging market leaders to adopt welfarist measures for the worst-off social groups to be integral to economic development.


### Global Plastics Treaty Negotiations:

 **Objective:** The objective of the INC (International Negotiating Committee) under the UN Environment Programme is to develop a binding global plastics treaty by 2025 to address and end plastic pollution worldwide.


 **Zero Draft:** The INC-3, held in Nairobi, was a crucial meeting for negotiating the 'zero draft' text, which included strong options for a legally binding treaty with core obligations and control measures to tackle plastic pollution.


### Industry Influence and Dilution of Obligations:

 **Industry Presence:** The presence of industry representatives increased at INC-3, impacting discussions on reducing plastic production and the implications for the industry.


 **Dilution of Obligations:** Negotiations led to the dilution of core obligations regarding primary polymer production, chemicals, problematic plastics, trade, and financial mechanisms. This raised concerns about the effectiveness of the treaty in addressing plastic pollution comprehensively.

### Financial Mechanism and Trade Restrictions:


 **Challenges in Financial Mechanism:** Discord arose over provisions suggesting plastic-pollution fees and financial implications for high carbon-footprint projects. Some countries opposed these provisions and sought to delete them from the draft.

 **Trade Restrictions Dispute:** There was resistance against restrictions on trade in polymers, chemicals, plastic products, and waste due to concerns about national sovereignty and potential impacts on trade.


### Role of African Group and SIDS:

 **Advocacy for Stronger Provisions:** African countries and Small-Island Developing States (SIDS) advocated for binding provisions in the treaty, emphasizing the importance of human rights and public health perspectives. They also championed the voices of waste-pickers and indigenous peoples within the discussions.



### Outcome and Implications:



 **Stalemate and Industry Influence:** The INC-3 failed to adopt the mandate for developing the first draft of the global plastics treaty due to stalling by some member states. This highlighted the significant influence of the industry and resistance from certain countries against a robust binding treaty to end plastic pollution.



### Conclusion and Setback:



 **Impact of Stalling on Progress:** The lack of consensus for intersessional work between INC-3 and INC-4 impedes progress on defining targets and timelines for the treaty. It also revealed the extent of industry influence and opposition from specific member states against a strong binding treaty.

## Understanding how the Global Positioning System (GPS) works

 **GPS Impact:** GPS has had a revolutionary impact across multiple sectors, transforming the way we perceive location and navigate. It has revolutionized civilian usage, military applications, precision studies, urban planning, and more. 

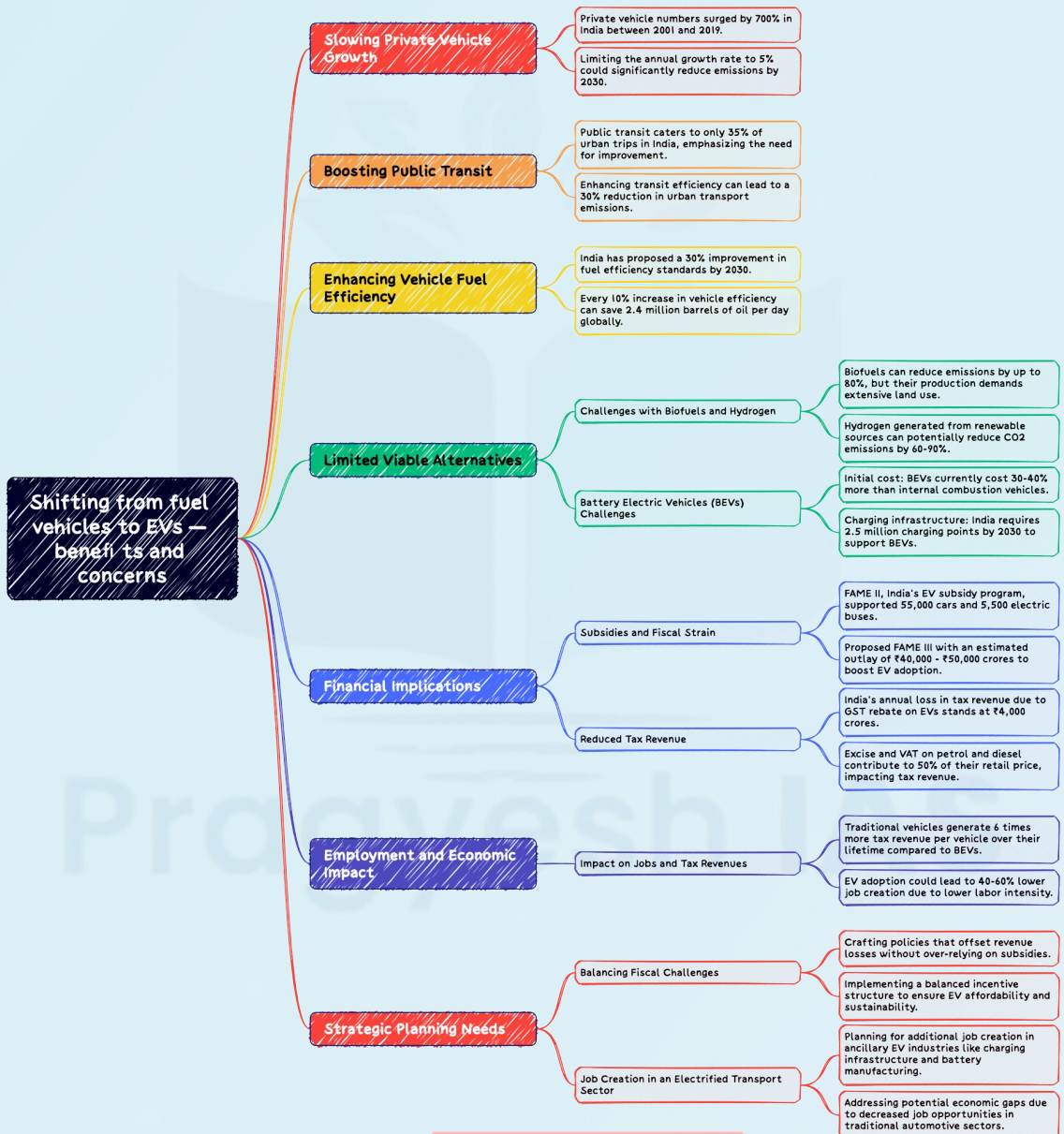
 **Initiation and Components:** GPS was originated in 1973 by the U.S. Department of Defense. It comprises three main segments: the space segment, control segment, and user segment. 

 **Space Segment:** The space segment of GPS consists of a constellation of 24 satellites moving in six orbits. This configuration ensures global coverage and accessibility, allowing for accurate positioning anywhere on Earth. 

 **Control Segment:** The control segment of GPS consists of ground-based stations located worldwide. These stations are responsible for overseeing satellite performance, maintaining system standards, and transmitting control commands to the satellites. 

**Receiver Calculation:** GPS receivers capture and process the signals transmitted by the satellites. By calculating precise distances from multiple satellites, the receiver can perform triangulation and determine the user's accurate location. 📶

## Shifting from fuel vehicles to EVs — benefits and concerns



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