

## THE NEW US BILL ON CLIMATE ACTION

**SYLLABUS:** GS PAPER-II & III (CLIMATE CHANGE, LAWS TO GOVERN GLOBAL WARMING, REGIONAL & GLOBAL GROUPING FOR CLIMATE ACTION)

**CONTEXT:** The U.S. Senate approved a Bill titled **the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) 2022 with a focus on climate, healthcare, and tax provisions to address inflation.**

The bill is a scaled-down version of **President Biden's Build Back Better Act (BBBA)**, which failed to get approval from the Senate.

### CLIMATE CHANGE PROVISIONS

#### Package for the clean energy transition:

- The Bill marks the largest American investment aimed toward making the U.S. a leader in clean energy.
- It includes packages worth \$369 billion for the clean energy transition.
- The Bill provides significant investment in renewable energy through heavy tax credits for wind and solar energy projects and electric vehicles.

#### Tax deduction to low and middle-income households:

- It provides a tax deduction to low and middle-income households to go electric and seeks to lower the energy bills of American households.
- Bolster domestic production: It also aims to bolster the domestic production of heat pumps and critical minerals.
- Tax on large and profitable companies to meet the green investment.

#### Methane fee:

- It also imposes a fee on methane leaks from oil and gas drilling.
- At the same time, the Bill also aims at more investments in fossil fuels.

#### Expand oil and gas drilling:

It seeks to expand oil and gas drilling, with the federal government offering land for onshore and offshore drilling with the prerequisite that the entity will develop renewable energy.

Thus, it handcuffs the expansion of oil and gas with renewable energy development.

### ISSUES WITH THE BILL

- **Issues of fossil industry:** Fossil fuel supporters criticize the bill as it does not consider the communities that are dependent on the fossil fuel industry for their income.
- **Workers of coal plants:** A protest by the workers of a coal plant in the state of West Virginia was recorded after their own Senator Joe Manchin agreed to back the bill.
- **Provisions for fossil fuels:** Climate advocates criticise the bill for coupling the development of renewable energy, which is the cause of global warming, with land leasing for oil and gas drilling.
- The Bill still contains giveaways to the fossil fuel sector.

## HOW DOES THE BILL HELP THE U.S. ACHIEVE ITS CLIMATE TARGETS?

### SIMILAR CLIMATE PACKAGES ANNOUNCED BY OTHER COUNTRIES

#### Invest in Kisida by Japan:

- In May 2022, Japan announced its 'Invest in Kisida' plan which aims for a \$1.1 trillion investment to bolster the Japanese economy.
- As part of the plan, the country aims to transition to clean energy and achieve a 46% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

#### Fit for 55 by EU:

- In June 2021, the European Union (EU) proposed a similar 'Fit for 55' plan to reduce emissions by 55% by 2030.
- The plan is expected to become law soon.

### CONCLUSION

- Turning point for global climate action: Thus, the Bill can prove to be a turning point for global climate action as the S. is one of the largest emitters of greenhouse gases globally.
- However, it does not address any issues of global climate finance which is a major impediment to global climate action.
- Achieving Paris Agreement: It is a mere step toward achieving the climate target agreed upon in the Paris Agreement, where Article 2 states global temperature should be limited to below 2°C.
- Benchmark for other emitters: Even though the Bill is not enough to address the climate crisis, such historic initiatives by global leaders in greenhouse gas emissions can be a benchmark for other large emitters to push their climate action programmes.

## COMBINED MARITIME FORCES-BAHRAIN (CMF-B)

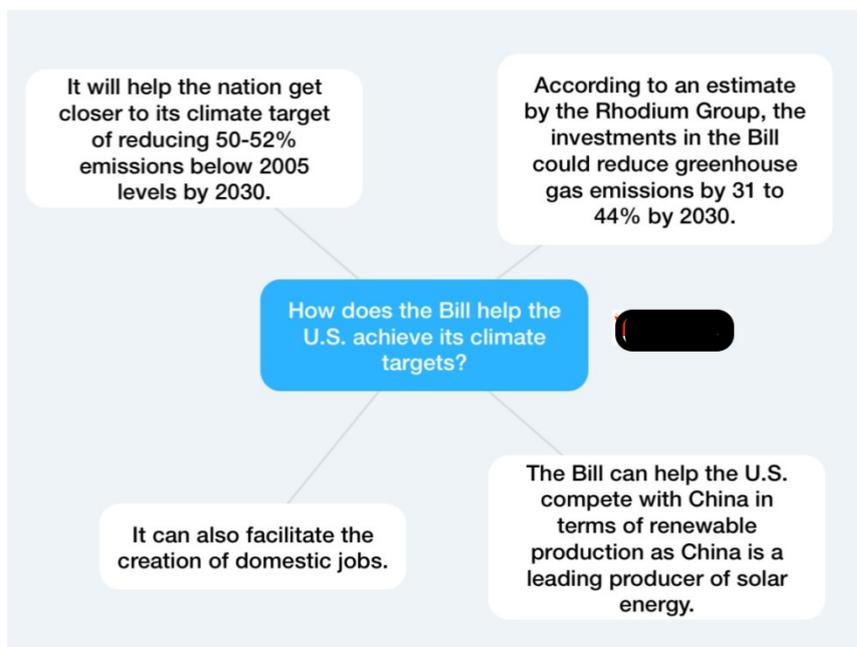
### SYLLABUS:

**CONTEXT:** India formally commenced cooperation with the **Bahrain-based multilateral partnership**, Combined Maritime Forces (CMF).

At the India-U.S. 2+2 April, India had announced that it would join the CMF as an Associate Partner.

### ABOUT COMBINED MARITIME FORCES-BAHRAIN (CMF-B)

- It is the U.S. backed counterterrorism coalition aimed at protecting international waters. It was **established in 2002 with only 12 members**.
- The coalition was formed with like-minded partners **to counter the threat of international terrorism and uphold the international rules-based order**.



- The **United States Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT)** was tasked with leading the then CMF in 2001.
- The coalition is **headquartered in Bahrain.**

## ROLE

- The CMF-B is primarily tasked with **ensuring stability and security across 3.2 million square miles of international waters.**
- It acts against illegal non-state actors operating in vital sea lines of communication.
- Its scope has expanded from just **counterterrorism to counternarcotics, counter-smuggling operations, and suppressing piracy.**

## MEMBERSHIP

- Participation in the **CMF-B is voluntary**- it is mandated neither by a political agreement nor a military one.
- The coalition has **34 members from across the world.**
- Recently, India became an associate member of the maritime partnership. Other Asian members include **Pakistan, the Philippines, Seychelles, Singapore, and Malaysia.**

## WORKING

- The work of the CMF-B is divided into 4 combined task forces (CTF)-the CTF 150, CTF 151, CTF 152, and CTF 153.
- The CTF 150 focuses on ensuring maritime security in the **Gulf of Oman and the Indian Ocean.**
- The CTF 151 focuses on **counterpiracy.**
- The CTF 152 aims to ensure maritime security in the **Persian Gulf.**
- The CTF 153 which was established in April 2022, focuses on ensuring maritime security in the **Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.**

## INDIA AND CMF-B

- So far, India was conducting similar anti-piracy mission on its own. India has two ships deployed round the clock between the Gulf of Aden and the Persian Gulf for anti-piracy and anti-smuggling operations.
- With India now joining this grouping, it will operate in coordination with the CMF-B members.
- As an associate member, India will reportedly not get command of the task forces and will also have a limited say in planning operations.

## SIGNIFICANCE

- **Increased maritime regional security:** It will strengthen cooperation in regional security in the **Western Indian Ocean.** It is also in line with India's commitment to the collective responsibility of maritime security in the Indian ocean.
- **India has already worked with the CMF in the past:** The CMF's CTF 151 has coordinated with Indian and Chinese warships deployed on anti-piracy duties to patrol the Maritime Security Transit Corridor.
- **Widening military diplomacy:** Joining the CMF is the latest in a series of multilateral engagements by the Indian Navy as part of India's widening military diplomacy.

## PRELIMS FACTS

### NALLATHAMBY KALAISELVI

- The **first woman to head the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Dr Nallathamby Kalaiselvi**, is credited with developing novel materials to be used as **electrodes in lithium-ion batteries** that improve their storage capacities.



### CHESS OLYMPIAD 2022

- **Koneru Humpy, Harika Dronavalli, Tania Sachdev, R Vaishali and Bhakti Kulkarni** – a delightful mix of long-serving mould breakers and young prodigies – were the top players in the women's section.
- Harika Dronavalli played Chess Olympiad Medal While Being 9 Months Pregnant. They still made history – as the first-ever Indian women's team to win a medal at an Olympiad.

### TECHNO-NATIONALISM

- Report “**Internet in India**” by the **Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI)** has recently highlighted this word.
- **Definition: Techno-nationalism is a way of understanding how technology affects the society and culture of a nation.**
- **Aim:** It is aimed at the use of technology to advance nationalist agendas, with the goal of promoting connectedness and a stronger national identity.
- **Examples:**

**Use of social media in election campaign:** The 2014 elections where the first-time internet streaming played a significant role in disintermediating broadcast media. The 2019 elections were marked by the extensive role played by social media platforms such as Facebook and WhatsApp.

**Indonesia** is not just controlling online gaming apps and services but also actively promoting indigenously developed gaming apps.

**From Kenya to Brazil** the countries are witnessing pre-emptive actions to insulate the electoral processes of their respective democracies from the spread of viral fake news and disinformation on WhatsApp.

**China:** created digital surveillance; restricted online gaming for children. From securing semiconductor supply chains to regulating data flows, techno-nationalism is on the political agenda of western democracies and eastern nations alike.

### EKLAVYA MODEL RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS (EMRS)

- **Samvaad' (a virtual interaction)** with the students of EMRS was organized by the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**.
- It was started in 1997-98, **to provide quality education (middle and high-level education) to scheduled tribe (ST) students in remote areas (with high tribal population), in form of residential schools.**

- Every block with more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons will have an EMRS.
- **Provision:** Set up by grants provided under **Article 275(1)** of the Constitution. Set up as an autonomous society under the ministry of tribal affairs — similar to Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti — to run the EMRSs.

