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- ❖ **China in Africa**
- ❖ **Israel-UAE Peace Deal**
- ❖ **Chinese Language as Soft Power**
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THIRD CONCEPT NOW UGC-CARE List

Designed by: Pt. Tejpal

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Is Climate Change Real?

Recent incidents of unprecedented heat waves in Canada and the United States, frequent occurrence of extreme weather events, wildfires, and faster pace of rising sea-levels along with immense loss of biodiversity attest to the fact that climate change no more remains confined to the pages of imaginary fiction, rather it has emerged as a stark reality with which we are made to live with like the new normal of COVID-19 pandemic. The quantum of havoc wreaked, in terms of loss of human lives and loss of property, by climate change is proved to be far greater than that of natural disasters. Every now and then, worrisome reports appear that portray a dismal picture of deteriorating climatic conditions in different parts of globe, and very recently UNESCO has issued a draft decision recommending that the Great Barrier Reef be placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and this does not seem to be surprising recommendation because scientific evidence explicitly demonstrates that the Great Barrier Reef, the largest living structure and continuous coral system, is really in danger. Undoubtedly, the Australian government has been publishing the most exhaustive assessment of the Great Barrier Reef, and in its most recent report, published in 2019, downgraded the long-term outlook to “very poor”, and stated that the greatest threat to the Great Barrier Reef is climate change.

Underwater heatwaves are instrumental in causing coral bleaching and it is one of the most explicit impacts of climate change, and in the space of just five years – 2016, 2017 and 2020 – the Great Barrier Reef has suffered three mass bleaching, culminating in killing an estimated half of the reef’s inshore coral. The Great Barrier Reef is a global treasure encompassing ample space to provide habitat to multiple assortments of fish, sharks, rays, sea turtles, and decline of this reef is prone to endanger the future of those species inhabiting it. Viewed in a abroad perspective, reefs from Florida to the Philippines are often faced with identical challenges, Undoubtedly, IPCC’s special report of 2018 had warned that global warming of 1.5 degree Celsius could lead to a global decline of 70 to 90 percent of all coral reef by 2100; nevertheless, any failure to limit warming to 1.5 degree could lead to loss of nearly all coral reefs. The Paris Agreement on Climate Change, signed in 2015, has become operational in 2020, with its emphasis on limiting the global temperature increase to 1.5 degree. In the absence of relevant data, it is difficult to say as to how sincerely the signatory countries to Paris Agreement have worked towards the goals of this agreement. Nevertheless, the forthcoming COP-26 scheduled to be held in Glasgow Scotland, in November 2021 will afford an opportunity to the participating countries to update their goals towards climate goals.

Developing countries have been emphasizing to make fiscal resources along with appropriate technologies to combat the adverse impacts of climate change; however, developed countries have shown reluctance to concede to the demands of developing countries. At one stage, Trump Administration announced US leaving the Paris Agreement; nevertheless, Biden Administration’s decision to rejoin the agreement has raised new ray of hope of America leading the global actions on climate change. How far America succeeds is to be seen at the promises Biden Administration makes at COP-26. It is interesting to know that even a developed country like France has not been able to reach the climate crisis targets. Recently, France’s top administrative court in its ruling has ordered the French government to take all necessary additional measures between now and 31 March 2022 to hit the target. Noting that France was not on track to meet its goal of achieving a 40% cut in emissions from 1990 levels by 2030, the ruling warned the government to face possible sanctions, including hefty fines. Many experts feel that such a ruling is bound to force the government to abide by the ruling. Climate change is real, and having witnessed or even suffered the havoc wreaked by the vagaries of climate change, every nation is called upon to address climate crisis for its own good and for humankind. It is a global problem that requires collective action and one can hope that concrete outcomes from COP-26 will save humankind.

— BK