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# IPCC synthesis report

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**Why is in news?** Highlighting the need for urgent climate action, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its Synthesis Report for the Sixth Assessment Cycle on March 20 in Interlaken, Switzerland

## **A Brief about Synthesis Report**

The Synthesis Report has come after a week-long negotiation with the approval of 195 countries. It is essentially a non-technical summary of the previous reports, which were released between 2018 and 2022, and sets out possible policies and measures that might help stave off the worst consequences of climate change.

The report emphasised the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to human-caused climate change through “mainstream effective and equitable action” for a “liveable sustainable future for all.”

The report was finally approved by nations after major economies like China, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, the U.S. and the European Union raised concerns about the working of the text.

The report was signed by country representatives – an unusual step taken to ensure governments accept its findings

## **Key takeaways from the report**

The Synthesis Report is a compilation of the main findings of the IPCC’s Sixth Assessment Report, based on results from three Working Groups (WGs):

WG I evaluated the physical science basis of climate change,

WG II evaluated the impacts, adaptation, and vulnerability, and

WG III evaluated the mitigation

The Synthesis Report also drew from Special Reports based on Global Warming of 1.5°C (October 2018), Climate Change and Land (August 2019), and the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (September 2019).

The report highlights the urgency of drastically reducing the emission of greenhouse gasses and so limit rising global temperatures by 1.5 C from pre-industrial levels, set by the Paris Agreement.

Despite the IPCC’s warnings in 2018, the increase in greenhouse gas emissions continued so much so that the global surface temperature has already warmed by 1.1 C over pre-industrial levels, leading to extreme and/or unpredictable weather events that risking human health, fortunes, and ecosystems.

Noting the impact of the rise in temperature, the report states that such events have made people much more susceptible to food insecurity, water shortages with vulnerable populations disproportionately facing the brunt of climate change.

The report highlighted the economic loss and damages incurred due to climate change and stressed on the need for financial resolution for a more equitable world.

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“Climate justice is crucial because those who have contributed least to climate change are being disproportionately affected

### **Implication of report for India**

With a large vulnerable population, India needs to prioritise grants and policies that focusses on adapting to the effects of climate change, said some of the authors of report

India’s priority should be to minimise loss and damage in terms of lives, livelihood and biodiversity, and accelerate equitable action mitigation and adaptation.

The new IPCC Synthesis Report has a sobering message on impacts: warming has already reached 1.1 C, this is unequivocally due to climate change and the impacts are likely to be greater at a particular temperature than earlier thought

Several messages emerge that are salient for India: It proposes an approach emphasising ‘climate resilient development’.

This recognises that development is important, but the quality of that development, whether it locks us into low or high carbon choices or resilient development is important,” he added.

As a developing country, India can lower its per-capita emissions through energy efficiency policies already being implemented in almost every sector

However, it can also decarbonise the energy sector by using cleaner options like solar and renewable energy, she added.

### **The Way Ahead**

The report suggests climate resilient development that will not only mitigate the effects of climate change but also provide wider benefits.

Access to clean energy, improving air quality to increasing employment opportunities, boosting healthcare through technology, and delivering equity are among the report’s recommended goals to help adapt to climate change.

The report also foregrounded the role of financial investments to achieve climate goals and encouraged public funding through central banks, government and financial regulators to reduce emissions, scale up climate resilience, and protect low-income and marginalised communities.