- **Lack of Specific Details and Actions:** Many countries have **not provided details on specific actions** to be taken which would determine the actual trajectory to net zero which creates uncertainty about what will be achieved.
- **Failure in Securing Climate Finance:** The summit's mild admonition **only urges the developed country** parties to scale up their provision of climate finance. It failed to firmly secure funding commitments from developed nations.
- **Unequal Distribution of Carbon Budget:** The world's top three largest emitters (China, USA, Europe) which account for about 30% of the world's population, would take up **78% of the carbon budget.**
    - China intends to hit peak emissions only by 2030, before going down to net zero in 2060; it would take up 54% of the global carbon budget against a global population share of only 18.7%.

- The US, with 4.2% of the total population, would take up 14.2% of the budget and Europe, with 6.8%, would take up 9.5%.
    - This problem reflects the fact that focusing on net-zero dates **does not ensure a fair apportioning of the available carbon space** if the initial position in terms of emissions varies so greatly.

Way Forward

- **Suggestions for Largest Emitters:** China, instead of increasing emissions up to 2030, as currently declared, may **need to keep them at their current level for a few years** and then go down to net zero by 2050.
    - The **US should achieve a sharper reduction in emissions by 2030**, and also advance its net-zero date to 2040.
    - Europe as a whole should **follow the German/ Swedish example and aim at net-zero by 2045.**
        - With this recalibration, the carbon emissions of this group would fall to 32% of the carbon budget, much closer to their population share.
- **Suggestions for India:** India's 2070 target would take up **18.1% of the carbon space**, which is a little higher than our **population share of 17.7%.**
    - It should be willing to consider a **modification in its trajectory as part of an agreed global package**, in which other countries also take appropriate action.
- **Coal-Based Power and India:** India has made **no commitments regarding phasing-down** of coal-based power; however, its renewable energy goals 2030 are likely to reduce the share of the same from current 72% to about 50% by 2030.
    - Also, the government shall consider **ordering against establishment of any new coal-based plants** apart from those currently under construction.
    - What more is needed is a **policy of accelerated retirement of older, inefficient and polluting plants**, provided suitable financing can be obtained.
- **Encouraging Electric Vehicles (EVs):** India's net-zero by 2070 also requires phasing out petrol and diesel in transport and **shifting to Electric Vehicles (EVs) that use electricity from renewables.**
    - In order to make the country's entire fleet emissions-free by 2050, the government may consider **announcing against the sale of fossil fuel based vehicles after 2035.**
        - This would give the automotive sector about 15 years to restructure its production.
- **Need of Policy Changes:** Expanding renewable capacity requires policy action aimed at resolving problems such as **stabilizing intermittent supply from renewables,** building transmission infrastructure, **creating efficient electricity markets** and **fixing the financial weakness of India's discoms.**
    - These actions are not specified in the Nationally Determined Contributions but will have to be built into the domestic policy agenda in the years ahead.

Conclusion

- The COP26 of Glasgow is a promising start on emissions reduction, however, on the part of global largest emitters, much more is expected to be done.
- In India's context, it needs to work out a detailed plan of action with reference to phasing-down coal-based power generation and encouraging electric vehicles.

Note: