

In the rapidly evolving global geo-political landscape, the healing and supportive actions by India through supply of Covishield and Covaxin vaccines will have a huge impact in promoting peace, security, cooperation and prosperity in the region and the world.

**8. Discuss the potential of India-Africa partnership in shaping global climate diplomacy.**  
(150 words) 10

**Approach:**

- Briefly write about global climate diplomacy.
- Write about the role, India-Africa relationship can play in shaping global climate diplomacy.
- Conclude appropriately.

**Answer:**

The climate crisis is one of the greatest challenges of the 21st century, with severe environmental and geopolitical consequences. It calls for a stronger role for foreign policy in international climate policy – namely through global climate diplomacy. It includes important frameworks, such as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, Paris Climate Agreement etc.

In this context, India and Africa have a great potential in addressing the threat of climate change.

The convergence in commitment to climate action is reflected in **India's SDG commitments and Africa's Agenda 2063**, which envisions "a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development". India-Africa partnership, which will prove very consequential in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, can influence the global climate diplomacy because of following factors:

- **Convergence of interests:** India and Africa both have to go through the natural progression of industrialization and development, a sizable amount of which will come through fossil fuel. The **New Delhi Declaration, 2008** reaffirmed the **shared vision of vibrancy and resurgence** in India-Africa relations.
- **Role in UNFCCC:** India together with African countries can continue to put the pressure on industrialized countries to accept the principle of **common but differentiated responsibility** on the account of historic pollution caused by those countries. In the **COP21, the developed countries promised to mobilise US\$100 billion per year by 2020** to help developing countries lower greenhouse emissions and mitigate the effects of climate change. However, three years later, **it has become apparent that this was an empty promise.**
- **Role in other international forums:** India-Africa partnership can play a leading role in other international forums like **UNFCCC on the line of International Solar Alliance. A majority of the African states, around 34 countries, are already parts of International Solar Alliance (ISA)** - launched by India for the "massive deployment of affordable solar energy". India- Africa ties on this will help in the effort to start a multilateral bank to advance the goals set forth under the ISA. The coming together of India and South Africa in the **BASIC framework for negotiations at CoP 15 of the UNFCCC, Copenhagen in 2009 is another example of this potential.**
- **Develop a closer partnership:** Given the geo-economic and geopolitical significance of the African region, India has stepped up climate diplomacy with Africans, which will encourage the responsible engagement from the West on issues like finance and technology required for climate change.

As per German watch **Global Climate Risk Index 2020, India was the fifth most affected country in 2018 due to extreme climatic events.** Recognizing the urgency of the situation, India has increased its share of energy from solar and wind. It is also evident that isolated efforts by countries to mitigate the effects of climate change have met with limited success and there is need for a robust collaborative initiative, which makes climate change a significant era of multilateralism and owing to strong convergence of interest, India- Africa partnership will be critical in determining the future.