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### 1. What does 'unabated' fossil fuels mean?

#### Why in news?

At the ongoing COP28 climate summit, one phrase that has taken the centrestage is "unabated" fossil fuels.

For instance, the latest draft of a potential climate agreement at the meeting mentions "rapidly phasing down unabated coal" as one of the actions to slash greenhouse gas emissions.

#### What are 'unabated' fossil fuels?

When it comes to fossil fuels, "unabated" means doing nothing to reduce the carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other greenhouse gases that are released from the burning of coal, oil, and natural gas.

Conversely, "abated" refers to the attempts to decrease the release of polluting substances to an acceptable level. However, there isn't any clarity on what this level is and how to get there.

Discussions around fossil fuel abatement largely revolve around CCS technologies — they capture emissions from power stations or industrial facilities and store them underground. But those discussions remain deeply polarised.

While Oil and gas-producing companies and countries see carbon capture as a key component in plans to cut greenhouse gas emissions, climate activists and experts suggest that its role is limited. In July, the European Union and 17 nations including Germany, France, Chile, New Zealand and climate-vulnerable island states, in a statement, said carbon capture technologies are no substitute for a drastic cut in fossil fuels and they shouldn't be overused.

#### How beneficial are carbon capture and storage technologies?

In its report, Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said power and industrial plants that are equipped with modern CCS technologies capture around 90% of the CO<sub>2</sub>.

However, a 2022 study by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) — a global think tank that examines issues related to energy markets, trends, and policies — found that most of the 13 flagship CCS projects worldwide that it analysed have either underperformed or failed entirely.

Another analysis by Climate Analytics, a Germany-based climate science and policy institute, revealed that reliance on CCS could release an extra 86 billion tonnes of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere between 2020 and 2050.

Moreover, CCS technologies are also very expensive. It's cheaper to shut down a coal plant and replace it with some combination of wind, solar and batteries in comparison to attaching a carbon capture device to the plant.

### **What happens now?**

There is a chance that the COP28 meeting's final declaration might mention phase out or phase down of unabated fossil fuels. If this happens, many are concerned that it would allow countries and fossil fuel companies to continue to burn fossil fuels as long as they capture the emissions and store it underground.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper III; Environment

Source: The Indian Express

## **2. Kidney transplants in India: the law, the demand, the alleged rackets**

### **Introduction**

The government has ordered a probe into the findings of an investigation by The Telegraph published earlier this month, alleging that poor Myanmar villagers were being lured into giving their kidneys to rich patients from that country, with the involvement of Delhi's Apollo hospital.



Organ donations and transplants in exchange for money are forbidden in India in order to protect poor and vulnerable donors from potential exploitation. Apollo has maintained that the transplants were performed only after receiving go-aheads from the authorisation committee, and a certificate from the Myanmar embassy certifying the donors as relatives.

Allegations of "kidney scams" have surfaced earlier too. Most alleged rackets rely on forged documents to establish a relationship between the donor and recipient.

### **India's transplant law**

A transplant can be either from a pool of organs of deceased persons donated by their relatives, or from a living person the recipient knows. The Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994 allows living donations, in most cases, from close relatives such as parents, siblings, children, spouse, grandparents, grandchildren. Altruistic donations from distant relatives, in-laws, or long-time friends are allowed after additional scrutiny to ensure there is no financial exchange.

For living donations from close relatives, involving Indians or foreigners, documents establishing their identities, family tree, documents, and pictures proving the donor-recipient relationship, and documents to show the financial standing of the donor have to be submitted. Donors and recipients are interviewed to establish the relationship.

For donations from unrelated persons, documents and photographic evidence showing their long-term association or friendship have to be submitted along with all other documents. Such cases are examined by an external committee to guard against illegal dealings.

Offering to pay for organs or to supply organs for payment, initiating/ negotiating/ advertising for such an arrangement, looking for a person to supply organs, and abetting in preparing false documents is punishable by jail up to 10 years and a fine of up to Rs 1 crore.

### **Kidney among most targeted**

One, the demand is very high. Every year, an estimated 2 lakh Indians reach end-stage kidney failure. All of them need either a transplant or regular dialysis, but only around 12,000 kidney transplants take place in the country every year. It is also the transplant with the least risk to the donor.

Two, it is the cheapest and most accessible. A kidney transplant costs about Rs 5 lakh, which increases the pool of people who can undergo the procedure. More than 500 centres in India are trained to harvest or transplant kidneys, which provide more opportunities to people who want to undergo the surgery by getting around the law.

Three, the kidney is the organ that can survive the longest outside the body — 24-36 hours. In comparison, lungs remain viable only for 4-6 hours, and the liver for 8-12 hours.

### **Addressing supply gap**

The pool of organs in India can be significantly increased by promoting deceased donations. Organs of only a small fraction of brain deaths are donated, even though they are the ideal candidates for organ donation.

To improve this percentage, the government has rolled out an Aadhaar-linked registry of donors so that their family members can be assured that it was their wish to donate if they die. Only 16% of the total transplants in the country use deceased organs. This, experts say, can be increased several-fold by increasing awareness.

There is also a need to reduce the number of people who require organ transplants.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; Governance

Source: The Indian Express

### 3. Security Breach in Parliament

#### Introduction

On the 22nd anniversary of the Parliament attack, two individuals triggered chaos in the Lok Sabha by releasing yellow smoke canisters, prompting a major security breach.



#### Intruders Apprehended Amidst Chaos

Parliamentarians took swift action to apprehend the intruders, beating them before handing them over to security staff. Delhi police identified six individuals involved in the incident and detained five, including those who set off the canisters.

#### Political Protest with No Terror Links

Authorities clarified that the incident appeared to be a political protest rather than a terror attack. Despite ongoing investigations, no affiliations with any political party have been established.

### **Visitor Entry Suspended**

As an immediate response, Speaker Birla suspended the entry of visitors into Parliament. He reassured that the smoke emitted from the canisters was not poisonous, and no MPs or security staff were injured during the incident.

### **Intruders' Identification and BJP MP's Involvement**

The two men who breached the Lok Sabha were identified as Sagar Sharma and D. Manoranjan, entering on visitor's passes endorsed by BJP MP Prathap Simha. Other suspects involved in the incident were also identified and detained by the police.

### **Tribute Ceremony and Absence of Top Leaders**

Earlier in the day, leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, paid tribute to the 2001 Parliament attack victims. However, neither Modi nor Shah were present in the House when the security breach occurred.

### **LS handbook on visitors' passes for Parliament**

The guidelines were in the spotlight after two persons jumped into the Lok Sabha chamber from the public gallery in a major security breach.

According to the Lok Sabha handbook for members, all MPs requesting visitor passes must give a declaration that they know the guest personally and take full responsibility for him or her.

In the application form submitted by MPs for visitors, they need to provide details such as visitor's name in full, age, father's or husband's name, nationality and passport number (for foreigners only) and details of occupation, among other things.

Visitors' cards for the public gallery are issued for the guests of Lok Sabha members on the day before the visit on applications from members on yellow forms available in the Centralised Pass Issue Cell.

Not more than four visitors' cards will be issued to a member for a particular day for fixed hour(s) and complete particulars of the visitors may be furnished in the application forms for issue of visitors' cards, failing which the visitors' cards may not be issued.

Visitors' cards on same-day applications from members on red forms available in the Centralised Pass Issue Cell are issued subject to observance of certain conditions.

The applications for same-day visitors' cards should be made to the secretary general as early as possible on the date for which they are required and such applications should be delivered at the Centralised Pass Issue Cell.

For getting same-day passes issued, the Deputy Leader or the Whip of the Party, whosoever is authorised by the Party, should recommend the issue of same-day passes on the application form.

The member is also required to take the visitor to the concerned joint secretary or additional secretary. When a member requires a same-day visitors' pass, he may have his guests seated in the Reception Office or the MP Waiting Room Centralised Pass Issue Cell.

Same-day visitors' cards are delivered to the member, who is required to sign the register maintained for this purpose.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; Governance

Source: The Hindu & Deccan Herald