Environment & Ecology · GS - III

The omission of explicit fossil-fuel phase-out commitments from climate negotiations reflects the continuing tension between global climate ambition and national energy interests. Critically examine.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 22/11/2026	GS - III	Environment & Ecology

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Fossil-fuel dependence, energy security, climate justice, CBDR-RC, Paris Agreement, just transition, climate finance, renewable energy, carbon capture, international consensus.

Model Answer

Introduction

Fossil fuels remain the principal source of global greenhouse gas emissions. However, differences in economic dependence, development priorities and energy security continue to complicate consensus on their phase-out in international climate negotiations.

Reasons Behind the Negotiating Deadlock

1. **Economic dependence:** Coal, oil and natural gas remain important to employment, industrial production and government revenues in several countries.

2. **Energy security:** Developing economies often prioritise affordable and reliable energy access while expanding their infrastructure.

3. **Differentiated responsibilities:** Countries differ in historical emissions, financial capacity and development needs, making uniform commitments contentious.

4. **Geopolitical interests:** Fossil-fuel-producing nations may resist commitments that could affect their economic and strategic interests.

Implications of Weak Phase-out Commitments

- **Climate targets:** Delayed fossil-fuel transition makes limiting global warming more difficult.
- **Climate vulnerability:** Small island states and developing countries face disproportionate risks from rising temperatures and extreme weather.
- **Credibility of negotiations:** Weak language can widen the gap between international commitments and actual emissions reductions.

Way Forward

- Establish clear and measurable transition pathways consistent with national circumstances.
- Strengthen climate finance and technology transfer for developing countries.
- Ensure a just transition through worker protection, reskilling and regional economic diversification.
- Expand renewable energy, storage, electrification and grid infrastructure.
- Use carbon capture as a supplementary mitigation measure, not a substitute for reducing fossil-fuel emissions.

Conclusion

Effective climate diplomacy requires reconciling ambitious emissions reduction with equity and energy security. A credible transition must combine clear fossil-fuel reduction pathways with adequate finance and support for vulnerable economies.