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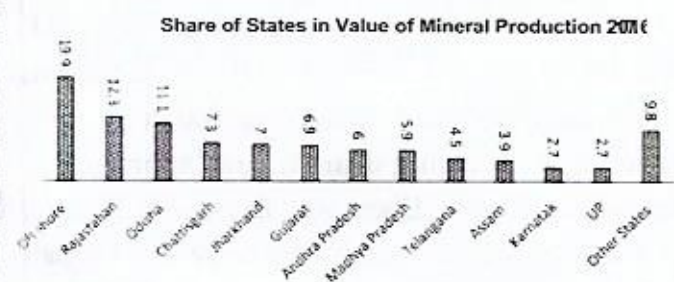
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Odisha's Mineral Resources: A Brief

Other than the offshore areas, Odisha is the second largest producer of the mineral products in total value terms preceded by Rajasthan (12.3%) in the year 2016-17. Odisha is the leading producer of chromite, graphite, bauxite, manganese ore, iron ore, sillimanite, quartzite, pyroxenite and dolomite. The State hosts country's sole resources of ruby and platinum group of metals 86%. It accounts for country's 93% chromite, 92% nickel ore, 69% cobalt ore, 52% bauxite, 51% titaniferous magnetite, 44% manganese ore, 40% limestone, 22% pyrophyllite, 33% iron ore (hematite), 20% each mica & sillimanite, 25% each fireclay and garnet, 24% coal, 5% zircon and 20% vanadium ore resources. Important minerals that occur in the State are bauxite in Bolangir, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Keonjhar, Koraput, Malkangiri Raygada and Sundergarh districts; china clay in Bargarh, Boudh, Bolangir, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Sambalpur and Sundergarh districts; chromite in Balasore, Dhenkanal, Jajpur and Keonjhar districts. Chromite deposits of Sukinda and Nuasahi ultramafic belt constitute 95% of the country's chromite resources. Coal occurs in IB river Valley coalfield, Sambalpur district and Talcher coalfield, Dhenkanal district; dolomite in Bargarh, Keonjhar, Koraput, Sambalpur and Sundergarh districts; dunite/pyroxenite in Keonjhar district; fireclay in Angul, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Jharsuguda, Khurda, Puri, Sambalpur and Sundergarh districts; garnet in Ganjam and Sambalpur districts; graphite in Bargarh, Boudh, Bolangir, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Koraput, Nuapada and Raygada districts; iron ore (hematite) in Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Keonjhar, Koraput, Mayurbhanj, Sambalpur and

Sundergarh districts; iron ore (magnetite) in Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj districts; limestone in Bargarh, Kalahandi, Koraput, Malkangiri, Nuapada, Sambalpur and Sundergarh districts; manganese ore in Bolangir, Keonjhar, Koraput, Mayurbhanj, Sambalpur and Sundergarh districts; Pyrophyllite in Keonjhar district; quartz/silica sand in Boudh, Bolangir, Kalahandi, Mayurbhanj, Rayagada, Sambalpur and Sundergarh districts; quartzite in Bolangir, Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Keonjhar, Jharsuguda, Mayurbhanj, Sambalpur and Sundergarh districts; sillimanite in Ganjam and Sambalpur districts; talc/steatite in Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and Sambalpur districts; titanium minerals in Dhenkanal, Ganjam, Jajpur and Mayurbhanj districts; and zircon in Ganjam district. Other minerals that occur in the State are Asbestos in Keonjhar district; cobalt in Jajpur district; copper in Mayurbhanj and Sambalpur districts; granite in Angul, Boudh, Bolangir, Cuttack, Deogarh, Dhenkanal, Ganjam, Keonjhar, Khurda, Koraput, Mayurbhanj, Nuapada, Rayagada and Sambalpur districts; lead in Sargipalli area, Sundergarh district; Mica in Sonapur district; and nickel in Jajpur, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj districts. Occurrences of ruby and emerald are reported from Bolangir and Kalahandi districts, respectively. Platinum Group of Metals occur in Keonjhar district; silver in Sundergarh district; tin in Koraput and Malkangiri districts; and vanadiferous magnetite occurs in Balasore and Mayurbhanj districts. (Source: Taken from Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India)



Source: As per the available database from the Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India

REGIONAL

Mineral Rich District but Malnutrition Death in Nagada



Malnutrition (Representative Photo...)

Jajpur district has the deposit of rich mineral resources in the state. Main mineral resources available in the district are Chromite, Iron Ore and Quartzite. Associated minerals like Pyroxinite and Nickel Ore are also available in the district. Despite sitting on rich mineral resources, the death of nearly 20 infants in a short span of time in the Juanga families of Nagada in Chingudipala panchayat under Sukinda block of Jajpur district is a wakeup call for many of us. Nagada is situated on the hilltop in a dense forest under the mineral rich Sukinda block where the people live in unhygienic condition, depending on forest produce, with no drinking water, no road, clean water or electricity. Much to everyone's surprise, the village has no anganwadi (or mini anganwadi) centre, no school, no health sub-centre, and no fair-price shop. The benefits of nutrition and healthcare has not reached these people even after seven decades of independence. State government's steps to eradicate malnutrition and other programmes like MAMATA Yojana and JANANI SURAKSHYA Yojana etc. remained a distant dream for them as none from this village were covered under MAMATA Yojana and JANANI SURAKSHYA Yojana, as per government statistics.

According to a UNICEF report, in Odisha, 45 per cent of under-five children suffer from chronic under-nutrition. Among them, tribal children bear maximum brunt with 57 per cent of the tribal under-fives being chronically undernourished. The situation is worse among Odisha's rural tribal children aged between 18-23 months is even more serious with the prevalence of stunting (low height for age) as high as 83 per cent, said the report. A survey by Aspire in Nagada village shows that out of 83 kids (aged between 5 and 12 years), about a third were suffering from malnutrition, as shown by their body mass index (BMI). Another 17% were just marginally 'normal'.

The implementation of Government's Yojana at the ground level still remains a major issue in the state though Odisha mostly remains among the top 10 states in terms of the amount of funds received under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) schemes of the government of India. Largely because of the implementation problems, ICDS programme was not particularly effective in reducing malnutrition in a state like Odisha. An effective state mechanism is required to utilize the fund, reduce the leakages and make it reach at the weaker group of the state. The amount of funds released under central ICDS scheme for Odisha was Rs. 65643.7 lakhs for the year 2015-16. In the budget 2017-18, the total money allocation to the Women and Child Development ministry shows nearly 26% increase with the total money set aside climbing to Rs 22,095 crore from Rs 17,640 crore last year. The central government also allocated Rs 500 crore for 14 lakh ICDS Anganwadi centers for the setting up of 'Mahila Shakti Kendra' at village level in the budget 2017-18. Similarly, the Child Protection Scheme, which received Rs 400 crore in 2016-17 has received Rs 648 crore in 2017-18 budget. However, if it does not reach at these needy people and they are deprived from the basic lifeline, many poor from Nagada like villages will perish of hunger and diseases.

Acute Poverty and Mining Worker in Sukinda...

The people in mineral bearing areas have faced the back lash of unbridled mining in many ways. There are fatal accidents due to insufficient safety measures and miners develop various diseases. The contract systems in mines forces miners to work, even in sub-human conditions. The fatal accidents in mines are a routine affair in many parts of the country. But it does not end there. The plight of the workers is even worse during post retirement in many cases.

There are reports of mining workers who live under poor substandard condition, particularly after their retirement. One such instance in the recent past has come to light in the Sukinda block of Jajpur district, where the infamous malnutrition death of children had shaken the country. The widow named Jana Munda (70) who worked with Odisha Construction Corporation (OCM) is living under acute poverty. With no food and a helping hand, she was found lying in an unhygienic condition in Kansa Panchayat of Sukinda Block. Though the people of that area had extended a helping hand but there is no clear record of her pension money and related files. During the last 5-7 years, she used to beg to fulfill the daily basic needs as she received no pension even after repeated attempts.

Mining can contribute to poverty reduction in various ways, mostly through generating income and through creating opportunities for growth for lateral or downstream businesses. There exists a close link between efforts towards poverty reduction and the performance and framework for the mining sector. Though workers' plights are reported at times, but with the appropriate government interventions and policy frameworks, these instances are minimized to a great extent.

Farmers' Suicides in Western Odisha

Dr. Arun Kumar Nayak, Assistant Professor,
Tripura University



Majority of the population in India live in rural areas, who are engaged in agriculture sector for their survival and livelihoods. Although about 70% of the population in India are farmers, they merely contribute 14% of the total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country. Therefore, the rural India is infected with widespread poverty, growing inequality, rising unemployment and it has been leading to stagnation in their economic life. Whatever the economic progress that has been made in the post-independence India, it has by-passed millions of people and their marginalization and deprivation has been accelerating to a great extent during the post-economic reform period or in the era of globalization.

Farmers have been facing a number of problems and among those 'farmers' suicides' has become a concern for the whole nation. It has been reported that 256,913 people have committed suicide during the period 1995 to 2010. Interestingly, these suicides are committed mostly in the prosperous regions of India namely in Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Karnataka and Maharashtra. The major reasons of such suicides are linked to poverty, debt, rise in price and failure of crops. However, it is not true that there are no farmer suicides in other underdeveloped states of the country. It has been reported that some odd 50 farmers have committed suicides in Western Odisha in the year of 2009, and nearly 50 farmers killed themselves during August- December 2015. It is an established fact that farmers have been committing suicides in Odisha and especially in western part of Odisha. Keeping these facts, a study was made by C. Satapathy and B. Mishra to investigate the reasons of farmer suicides in western Odisha. The report was published in a journal in the year 2012 explaining responsible factors of suicides. It says that debt and pressure of credit agency for repayment, poor marketing system, inherited poverty of farm families, crop

failure, non-remunerative technology, weak psychology and the lack of government support are the major reasons of farmer suicides in western Odisha.

First, high cost of labour, high cost of inputs and climatic hazards are attributed as major reasons of crop failure. Agriculture heavily depends on monsoon and the success of crop production and availability of water are inseparable components. But in western Odisha, farmer suicides are reported from the well irrigated area of Bargarh area, which is said to be the rice bowl of the state. The occurrence of farmer suicides in such prosperous area is a matter of concern. *Second*, high rate of interest rate, less period of repayment and increased pressure for repayment by the credit agencies cause farmers to take their lives. Besides it, lack of irrigation as per need, non-availability of required inputs in time and high labour costs is responsible for acute distress among farmers. *Third*, poor economic conditions and inherited poverty, the increased cost of living and the expansion of aspiration of family member especially children and non-cooperation of family member to bear with poverty force the farmer to escape from the world. *Fourth*, the poor market structure has been the cause of acute poverty of the farmers. Non guarantee of procurement by the government, low market price of farm produce has been pushing farmers into depression and such situation is leading to suicides. Agriculture and market are intervenient and once the market is favorable, farmers derive good income to live. But in rural areas the poor farmers are left at the mercy of market which is never in favor of producers. *Fifth*, the present farm technology is not so much remunerative to the small and marginal farmers. It has seen that technological advancement in the agricultural sector is not leading to any changes in the life of farmers. *At last*, weak psychology of rural farmers, low risk bearing capacity and frequent depression have been causing large number of suicides of farmers.

Viewing these facts, the government must take initiatives to save farmers who are on the verge of committing suicides and protect the agricultural sector to ensure food security for the rising population of the nation.

Maoist Conflict in Odisha: An Insight

Dr. Anshuman Behra

Assistant Professor, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore.



Odisha, in terms of its socio-economic profile, fits into the classic template of a region vulnerable to Maoist conflict. The Maoist conflict in Odisha cannot be seen in isolation. It can be safely argued that a number of unresolved issues have contributed to the persistence of the Maoist conflict in the state. Followings are the three important underlying issues in this regard:

Land alienation among the poor, the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and the Scheduled Tribes (STs) has been an important source of conflict. Important issues such as manipulation of land records, 'benami transfer of land' and illegal acquisition of large tract land has caused land alienation among the STs and the SCs. Organized movement against land alienation in Odisha goes back to the 1960s. In the 1990s organisations such as the Kui Lewang Sangha (KLS) and the Chasi Mulia Samiti (CMS) took up the land alienation issue and fought for reclaiming land from land owners. Though, the KLS and the CMS were successful in recapturing some land from the rich, the scale and intensity of the movement was confined to some pockets in southern Odisha. The Maoists used the mass organisations like the KLS and the CMS as their front to reach out to the local people and through their support intensified the protest movements against land alienation. The Maoists thus have become 'self-claimed' medium for 'people's protest'

Underdevelopment and chronic poverty is a second major issue which has been capitalized by the Maoists. According to the National Sample Survey 50 per cent of the people in Southern and northern region of Odisha (which are mostly affected by the Maoist Conflict) live below the poverty line. In the process of raising the poverty issue and

empowerment, the Maoists have been able to attract local communities into their fold. The Maoists have presented themselves as liberators for these communities, who can ensure them justice and their right to life and livelihood.

Development-induced displacement of human settlement has been an important issue engendering Maoist conflict in Odisha. Most of the large-scale development projects are constructed in and around hilly and forest areas (e.g. Hirakud Dam, Machhakund Dam, Upper Kolab Dam, Rengali Multipurpose Dam, Upper Indravati Hydro Electric, Balimela Dam, NALCO, HAL, Ordnance factory etc.) making the people belonging to the tribal and other backward communities vulnerable to displacement.

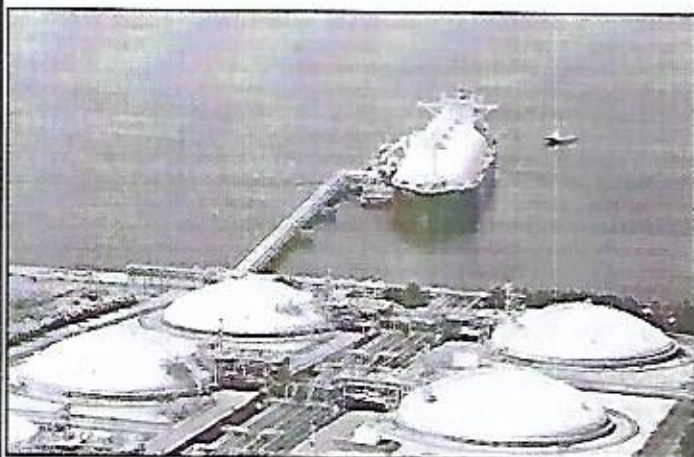
Taking advantage of the mis-governance of the state, the Maoists have been able to emerge as an 'alternative force' and claim to bring justice to the poor and marginalized. It is, however, understood that Maoist posturing is meant to consolidate their movement and further the political objective to seize power. As a stated principle the Maoists have caused rather mindless violence against the security forces and the local communities. The Odisha state adopts a three-pronged strategy to deal with the Maoists conflict— (i) the military strategy ;(ii) the developmental approach; and (iii) the surrender and rehabilitation policy. Despite these strategies the state has not been able to effectively deal with the Maoists.

The Odisha state may like to consider following options to deal with the Maoists better. There is a need in change of perception towards the Maoists. The state shouldn't see the Maoists as merely a law and order problem and try to understand and manage public perception towards the Maoists. There is an urgent need to have a political consensus in the state to deal with the problem. It has to be recognized that the state police force is ill-trained, ill-equipped and under-staffed to fight the guerrillas and hence it demands modernization. Effective conceptualization and implementation of developmental plans to make them responsive to local needs through the involvement of civil society organisations to design such plans is the need of the hour to stop people from joining the Maoists ranks. And lastly, call for amnesty and negotiation should be backed by effective reassurance that there is a genuine desire for

reconciliation by the state to bring sustainable peace to the state.

India's growing Energy demand and Dhamara LNG Terminal...

"Reform in the energy sector is among the top priority to keep India in the accelerated growth path"



LNG Terminal (Representative Photo...)

India is a major liquefied natural gas (LNG) consumer in the World. India with the tag of the fastest growing major economies globally, the demand for LNG consumption is set to rise substantially in the coming years. Keeping this in mind, the government of India aims to increase the share of LNG in Indian Energy basket from 7% to 20% by 2025. Despite the increase in domestic gas production, India's dependency on imported gas continues to remain high. India is the world's fourth largest LNG importer after Japan, Korea, and China. Report by Citi Research says, India's import capacity over the next four years is expected to double to 45 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) against 22 MTPA currently.

In recent months, Indian LNG imports have risen substantially, partly because of falling LNG prices but primarily because of the government's efforts in encouraging gas consumption. The launching of the 'Gas for India campaign', which targeted at promoting gas usage in the country and its various benefits of using gas as the

preferred fuel has also substantially increased the demand of LNG and will accelerate its demand further in near future. The government has launched a project on city gas distribution (CGD) network in smart cities to encourage the urban population to shift from LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas) to PNG (piped natural gas). Apart from this, demand for natural gas is projected to increase by many folds with the establishment of new power generation projects, fertilizer plants, and industries.

Taking this into consideration, Dhamara LNG Terminal is one such project aimed at meeting the growing LNG demand in the coming years. The BhumiPujan (Ground breaking ceremony) of the 6,000 crore LNG Terminal was held at Dhamra port in Odisha's Bhadrak district on 8th July, 2017 in the presence of Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. Inaugurating the project, the Union Minister said- while households in various cities would get piped gas, motor vehicles and industries would get cheaper and clean fuel. At present, the eastern Indian states, viz., Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal, are not able to get the benefits of natural gas in sectors like domestic, transport, industries, etc., as the region does not have gas infrastructure by way of LNG terminals and cross-country gas pipeline grid. It will cater to city's gas distribution networks and industrial hubs in various districts of Odisha and other adjoining states. Many districts will reap the benefit from the pipeline passing through the state. Natural Gas from this LNG terminal will also be an important gas supply source to the Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga (JHBDPL) Project. Above all, the LNG terminal will be a major support for the future needs of the household and industry.

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

Improving Anganwadi Infrastructure....



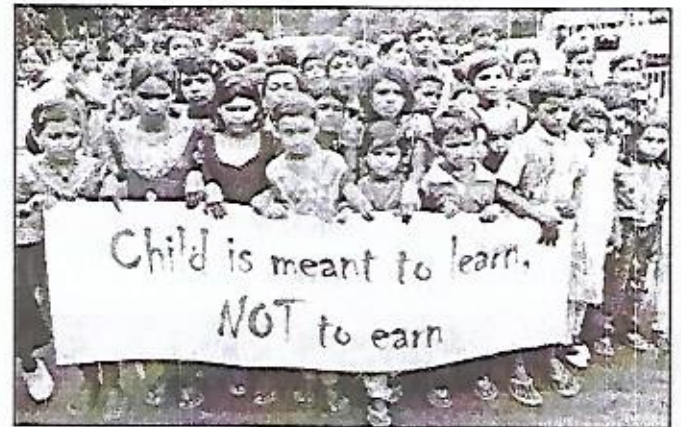
Representative Photo...

On the path of the goals of sustainable development, gender equality, women empowerment and development of children the central government has undertaken several initiatives in the last three years. One such attempt is to increase the Anganwadi Infrastructure.

The Government has repositioned the Anganwadi Centre (AWC) as a "Vibrant Early Childhood Development Centre" to become the first village outpost for health, nutrition and early learning. Towards this end, several steps have been taken for improvement and strengthening of ICDS scheme covering programmatic, management and institutional areas. Intensive efforts are being made for improving the service delivery at Anganwadi Centres. An estimated 4.5 lakh Anganwadi Centres (running in kachcha/rented buildings) at beginning of 2015 have no pucca buildings of their own to locate their activities. Therefore there was an urgent need to take up construction of buildings for these Anganwadi Centres. Joint guidelines of MWCD & MoRD for construction of 2 lakh Anganwadi Centre buildings under MGNREGS in convergence with ICDS Scheme of MoWCD have been issued on 13.08.2015 covering IPPE Blocks/High Burden Districts in 11 States. Further, the revised Joint Guidelines of MWCD, MoRD and MoPR have been issued on 17.02.2016 for construction of 4 lakh Anganwadi Centre buildings by 2019 across the country.

Under Convergence scheme, during 2015-16, MWCD approved construction of 29,941 Anganwadi Centres in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Telangana & Uttar Pradesh and funds of Rs. 18,264.62 lakh have been released for construction of these AWC buildings. Further, Rs. 101,139 lakh has been released during 2016-17 towards construction of 81,809 AWC buildings. In addition to this, funds of Rs. 3391 lakhs were also released for construction of 2362 AWC buildings under regular scheme. (Source: Ministry of Women and Child Development)

World Day against Child Labour 2017



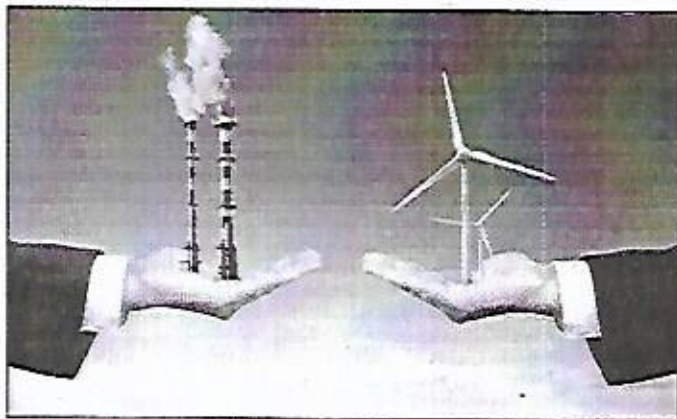
Representative Photo...

Every year June 12 is observed as the 'World Day against Child Labour'. The purpose is to focus on the extent of child labour and the action and efforts needed to eliminate it. Odisha is a home to a sizable number of child labourer. To promote the drive towards child labour free and child friendly Odisha, some organizations and the government organizes few functions and social awareness programmes. After 17 years of the last survey (last survey was in 1997), a State Action Plan has been formulated and a fresh survey of child labour started in all 30 districts. Through sustainable development goals the union government has committed that by 2030, all girls and boys will complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes. The union government also guarantees that it will take immediate and effective measures to eliminate child labour by 2025. In a

major step, the union government have amended the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act in July 2016.

According to UNICEF's report 'When coping crumbles: Drought in India 2015-16,' young children and elderly were left behind in drought-affected villages, while adults migrated to other states. Deprived families often saw children as productive assets and earning members. Cases of trafficking (Odisha) and child marriages (Maharashtra and Telangana) have seen a rise in the drought-prone states. Effective action should be taken and task force should be formed to rescue the children who are victims of trafficking for bonded or forced labour. Many children are out of the purview of free and compulsory education scheme. Proactive steps by the state government and the local administration would help to bring all those children to the education system under the scheme of free and compulsory education. Proper awareness programmes, institutional mechanisms, village social and health infrastructure etc. should be strengthened to eradicate the child labour.

Paris Climate Agreement



(Representative Photo...)

What is it?

The Paris climate agreement, also referred to as the Paris climate accord, Paris climate deal or Paris agreement is a pact sponsored by the United Nations to bring the world's countries together in the fight against climate change.

Key elements?

Countries which are party to it have agreed to limit the century's global average temperature increase to no more than 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit)

above the levels from the years 1850-1900 (the pre-industrial era).

- ◆ To limit the amount of greenhouse gases emitted by human activity to the same levels that trees, soil and oceans can absorb naturally, beginning at some point between 2050 and 2100
- ◆ To review each country's contribution to cutting emissions every five years so they scale up to the challenge
- ◆ For rich countries to help poorer nations by providing "climate finance" to adapt to climate change and switch to renewable energy.

How many nations are part of the accord?

- ◆ As of May 2017, of the 196 negotiating countries that signed the agreement, 147 parties have ratified it.
- ◆ With USA withdrawal from the deal, it will join two other non-signatory nations, Syria and Nicaragua.

What is each country responsible for?

- ◆ Participating nations made a historic pact on Dec. 12, 2015, in Paris, France, to adopt green energy sources, cut down on greenhouse gas emissions and limit the rise of global temperatures (as mentioned in the overall mission).
- ◆ Under the agreement, every country has an individual plan (or "Nationally Determined Contributions") to tackle its greenhouse gas emissions.
- ◆ For example, under the Obama administration, the country vowed to cut its emissions by 26 to 28 percent below 2005 levels by the year 2025.
- ◆ The U.S. also pledged \$3 billion to the Green Climate Fund, which helps developing countries to adapt and mitigate practices to fight climate change.
- ◆ The overall agreement asks developed countries to provide \$100 billion to the fund.

(Source: BBC World and other print media)