World’s First Online Climate Summit

World leaders are set to participate in an innovative climate change summit that will take place entirely online which makes it a carbon neutral summit.

- By contrast, the UN’s COP21 climate talks in Paris in 2015 generated about 43,000 tons of carbon dioxide, although much of this was later offset through carbon-credit schemes.
- The Virtual Climate Summit is the brainchild of Marshall Islands President, whose nation is facing the worst impacts of climate change.
- With participants including French President Emmanuel Macron and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres this will be the first global political meeting to be held online.
- It will consist of a rolling, 24-hour livestream that will begin in the Marshalls’ capital Majuro, then include addresses from leaders and panel discussions before delivering a declaration.

Objectives

- The virtual summit’s main aim is to encourage the international community to restrict global warming to 1.5 C above pre-industrial levels.
- Immediate objective is to cut carbon emissions since flying is among the most harmful activities for the climate, accounting for about 2.5% of the world’s carbon emissions. Also, the online platform will not put additional pressure on already resource constraint nation.
- A virtual summit also flattens the playing field, removes barriers like plane tickets and conference passes that inevitably leave out those most impacted by climate change. It is more participative.
- It is the first time that leaders from the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), have come together, and therefore it is also a chance for those on the front line of climate change to make their voices heard.