

## Important Vocab For the Editorial

1. **deforestation** (noun) – it is when humans remove or clear large areas of forest lands and related ecosystems for non-forest use.
2. **prism** (noun) – a viewpoint which clarifies/distorts something.
3. **basin** (noun) – the portion of land drained by a river and its tributaries (branch rivers).
4. **carbon sink** (noun) – also known as carbon sequestration; a natural environment (forest or reservoir) which absorbs and stores carbon (greenhouse gases) from the atmosphere and thereby maintain a balance. (carbon sequestration is the process by which the forest removes and stores carbon from the atmosphere).
5. **harbour** (verb) – nurse, nurture, foster.
6. **biodiversity** (noun) – the existence of a number and variety of species (plants & animals) in a particular geographic region/ environment.
7. **indigenous** (adjective) – native/local, original, domestic.
8. **overrun** (verb) – invade, occupy, spread over.
9. **relentless** (adjective) – persistent, continuing, constant.
10. **pasture** (noun) – grassland, pastureland, open country.
11. **fragile** (adjective) – weak, shaky/risky, feeble/unsound.
12. **legacy** (noun) – footprint, effect/outcome (something received from a predecessor or from the past).
13. **imperil** (verb) – endanger, jeopardize, risk.
14. **exploitation** (noun) – utilization, use, capitalization.
15. **embolden** (verb) – give courage, encourage, strengthen/fortify.
16. **incursion** (noun) – attack on, assault on, invasion.
17. **depressing** (adjective) – upsetting, distressing, painful.
18. **custodian** (noun) – curator, guardian; caretaker/protector.
19. **convention** (noun) – conference, meeting, summit.
20. **climate change** (noun) – a long-term change in the Earth's climate, or of a region on Earth (Courtesy: NASA).
21. **Paris Agreement/Accord** (noun) – The Paris Agreement builds upon the Convention (agreement) and for the first time brings all nations into a common cause to undertake ambitious efforts to combat climate change and adapt to its effects, with enhanced support to assist developing countries to do so.
22. **jeopardise** (verb) – threaten, endanger/imperil, put in danger/put at risk.
23. **tremendous** (adjective) – massive, huge, immense.
24. **back** (verb) – support, endorse, uphold.

25. **shut down** (phrasal verb) – discontinue, cease activity, close.
26. **remedial** (adjective) – restorative, reparative, corrective.
27. **account** for (verb) – consider, regard as, take for.
28. **degradation** (verb) – deterioration, degeneration, decay.
29. **inalienable** (adjective) – inviolable/unchallengeable, absolute/inherent.
30. **diplomacy** (noun) – statesmanship, negotiations/discussions; tactfulness, thoughtfulness/cleverness.

## Logged out: On protecting Amazon rainforest

### **Brazil must recognise that the Amazon rainforest is a universal treasure**

It is a matter of global concern that deforestation in the Amazon rainforest in Brazil is increasing rapidly since January, when Jair Bolsonaro took office as President. Satellite images show that about 4,200 sq km of **forests** have been destroyed up to July 24 under the new government. While most nations tend to view their land and forests through the narrow prism of short-term economic gain, climate science data show that they play a larger environmental role. The Amazon basin, spread across millions of hectares in multiple countries, hosts massive sinks of sequestered carbon, and the forests are a key factor in regulating monsoon systems. The rainforests harbour rich biodiversity and about 400 known indigenous groups whose presence has prevented commercial interests from overrunning the lands. Much of the Amazon has survived, despite relentless pressure to convert forests into farmlands, pastures and gold mines, and to build roads. That fragile legacy is now imperilled, as Mr. Bolsonaro has spoken in favour of “reasonable” exploitation of these lands. Although the forest code has not been changed, his comments have emboldened illegal expansion into forests. Armed gold-hunting gangs have reached tribal areas and the leader of one tribe has been murdered in Amapa in an incursion. These are depressing developments, and the Brazilian leader’s criticism of satellite data and denial of the violence are not convincing at all.

As the custodian of forests in about 5 million sq km of Amazon land, Brazil has everything to gain by engaging with the international community on meeting the opportunity cost of leaving the Amazon undisturbed. Mr. Bolsonaro lost a valuable opportunity to seek higher funding for forest protection by refusing to host the annual convention of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change this year, but he has been wise not to exit the Paris Agreement. Abandoning that pact would jeopardise Brazil’s access to the important

European Union market. Globally, there is tremendous momentum to save the Amazon forests. Brazil must welcome initiatives such as the billion-dollar Amazon Fund backed by Norway and **Germany**, which has been operating for over a decade, instead of trying to shut them down. Remedial funding, accounting for the value of environmental services, is the most productive approach, because forest removal has not helped agriculture everywhere due to soil and other factors. One estimate by the World Bank some years ago noted that 15 million hectares had been abandoned due to degradation. Brazil's President must recognise that rainforests are universal treasures, and the rights of indigenous communities to their lands are inalienable. The international community must use diplomacy to convince Mr. Bolsonaro that no other formulation is acceptable.