

Not Prolonged Discussions and Lofty Declarations but Immediate Action is the need of the Hour for Conservation of Bio-Diversity

The Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) is held in Montreal, Canada after one month of COP-27 held in Egypt. China and Canada have jointly hosted this convention from Dec 6 to 19 at which official representatives of 196 countries and more than 10,000 delegates were present. Since CBD largely continues to be framed as an 'environmentalist' concern no world leaders nor the heads of the state attended this convention.

Biodiversity loss is not visible like the climate crises. It is invisible but its victims are being extremely visible. Based on the current trends of biodiversity loss, UN reckons an estimated 34,000 plants and 5,200 animal species, including one in eight of world's bird species face extinction; about 30% of breeds of main farm animal species are currently at high risk of extinction. While forests are home to much of the terrestrial bio-diversity, 45% of the earth's original forests are gone, cleared mostly during the past century. Due to this deforestation on a grand scale, the lives of the people of many indigenous tribes throughout the world were shattered. They are displaced and dispossessed of their forest land and habitats. Their cultures ruined. Their rights dishonoured. Capitalist greed for profits is the sole cause for the loss of bio-diversity and the human destitution of the forest dwelling indigenous tribes. The capitalist countries have been cutting of Amazon forests, for their animal husbandry needs – a result of their food habits and needs for meat consumption.

With an intention to arrest the biodiversity loss and to recoup the bio-diversity by 2030 to its natural levels this Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is held.

India which has been approving and implementing deforestation of large tracts of forest lands in north-eastern states in the name of defence necessities and development of giant hydro projects and spacious high-roads, and largest tracts of forest land in Andaman and Nicobar Islands for the construction of giant container project in the name of development and the user of abnormal quantities of pesticides in its agricultural sector and causing untold ecological and biodiversity loss, now posturing as the champion of conservation of bio-diversity, along with Japan raised its voice for not wanting hard targets on proposals such as reducing

the use of pesticides, arguing that different nations have different levels of responsibility towards biodiversity of conservation and succeeded in not reducing the pesticides consumption to the advantage of big agri-business and pesticides corporations and to the detriment of bio-diversity. Such has been the hypocrisy of the Indian governments and its rulers who posture to be champion of conservation and living in harmony with nature.

The convention has resolved to conserve 30% of land and sea by 2030.

Thus the wish that the negotiation of CBD shall result in a "Paris moment for nature", of the executive secretary of the CBD has not happened. The countries have agreed on preparing concrete road-maps by 2024, and the richer countries committed \$ 30 billion annually by 2030.

But, it has to be seen whether these commitments will be fulfilled or not?

Now it is not the discussion and declaration, but the action for tangible outcomes is the necessity; which seems to be a long way to go.