

6.2 GLOBAL WARMING

- Gradual increase in the overall temperature of the earth's atmosphere due to the high concentrations of carbon dioxide, CFCs, methane, other pollutants generally attributed to the greenhouse effect.
- It is the process that causes the Earth's temperature to rise and makes the Earth warmer.
- It is not new as this process occurs naturally and keeps the Earth warm useful for living beings.
- Without this natural cover, Earth's surface would be colder than it is today making the planet freezing and devoid of life.
- Gases present in the atmosphere, such as water, carbon dioxide, methane, CFCs and nitrous oxide, absorb infrared light and would otherwise escape to space, radiating it back towards the planet's surface.
- These gases are called 'greenhouse gases' and they have a critical role in determining the temperature of the Earth's surface and the living conditions on the planet. This natural process is called the "greenhouse effect".
- Effect on Global Warming includes rise in temperature and unusual severe weather conditions in many parts of the world.
- It could also raise the sea levels with disastrous consequences for islands and low- level coastal areas, melting of polar icecaps etc.