CoP 29 EXPLAINED: WHAT'S AT STAKE FOR INDIA & THE WORLD?



Context:

- India is likely to skip the February deadline for submitting the next round of climate action plans under the Paris Agreement requirements.
- These plans, called Nationally Determined Contributions or NDCs, are supposed to provide details of the climate actions countries intend to take up to the year 2035.
- India, and other developing countries, have expressed serious disappointment with the outcome of COP29, last year's climate conference in Baku, which delivered an extremely weak agreement on climate finance.



Q.1 What is COP?



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- COP, or the Conference of the Parties, is the supreme decision-making body of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- It consists of **representatives from all countries** that are **Parties to the Convention,** which currently includes **197 nations.**
- The COP's primary role is to review the implementation of the convention and its legal instruments, assess progress in achieving climate objectives and make necessary decisions to enhance effective implementation.

Q.2 What is the history of COP?



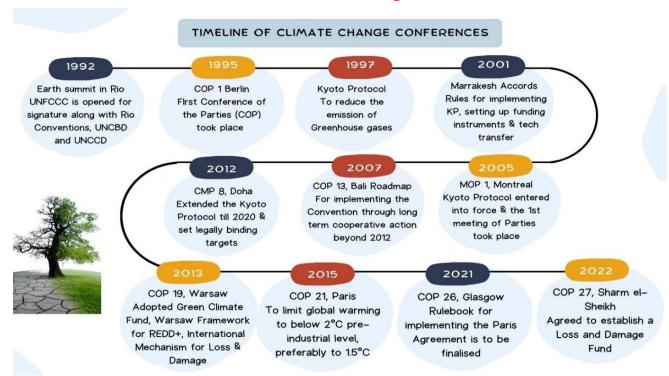
In 1992, countries joined an international treaty, the United Nations
 Framework Convention on Climate Change, as a framework for
 international cooperation to combat climate change by limiting
 average global temperature increases and the resulting climate
 change, and coping with impacts that were, by then, inevitable.

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- By 1995, countries launched negotiations to strengthen the global response to climate change, and, two years later, adopted the Kyoto Protocol.
- The Kyoto Protocol legally binds developed country Parties to emission reduction targets.

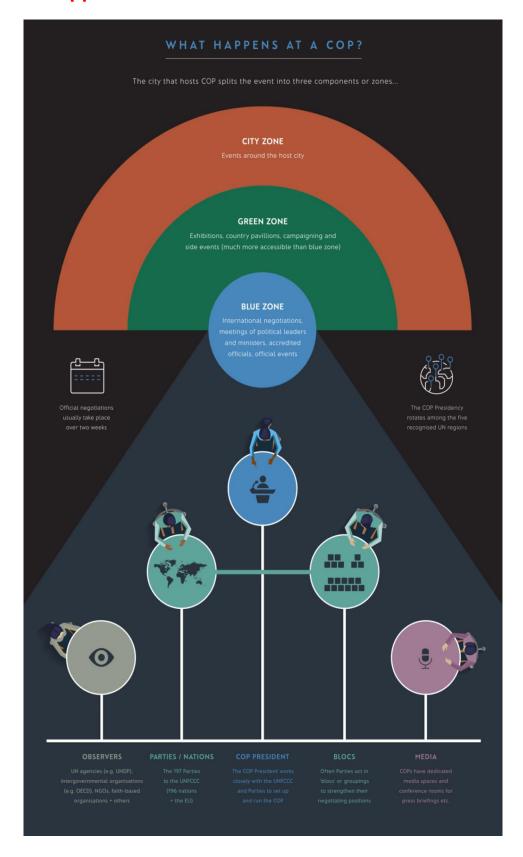
Q.3 What is the timeline of climate change conferences?



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Q.4 What happens at a COP?



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Functions	Analysis
Negotiations	 The primary objective of COP conferences is to negotiate and reach agreements on international climate change policies and actions. Parties negotiate various issues, such as emissions reduction targets, adaptation measures, financial support for developing countries, technology transfer, and capacity-building initiatives. The negotiations are complex and involve multiple working groups and committees.
Adoption of Decisions	 At the end of each COP conference, the parties adopt decisions, which are official outcomes of the negotiations. These decisions can take the form of protocols, agreements, or resolutions. One of the most significant agreements adopted under the UNFCCC is the Paris Agreement, which was reached at COP21 in 2015.
Reporting and Review	 Parties to the UNFCCC are required to submit regular reports on their greenhouse gas emissions, progress toward their climate goals, and efforts to adapt to the impacts of climate change. COP conferences provide a platform for reviewing these reports and assessing the collective progress in tackling climate change.
Side Events and Exhibitions	 COP conferences also feature various side events, exhibitions, and workshops organized by governments, international organizations, NGOs, and other stakeholders. These events provide opportunities for sharing knowledge, showcasing innovative solutions, and fostering partnerships.

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High-Level Segment	 The high-level segment of the COP conference brings together heads of state, ministers, and other high-level representatives from governments. During this segment, leaders deliver speeches, outline their countries' commitments, and express their views on global climate action.
Stakeholder Engagement	 COP conferences aim to include the voices of various stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations, businesses, indigenous communities, and youth groups. These stakeholders have opportunities to engage in discussions, present their perspectives, and advocate for their interests.
Capacity Building and Technical Workshops	• COP conferences often include capacity-building activities and technical workshops to enhance the understanding of climate change issues, build skills, and promote knowledge sharing among participants.

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Q.5 What are Green and Blue zones in COP?

• Each COP event is divided into two physical spaces or zones which house the activities of the conference:



Zone	Description
Blue Zone	 The Blue Zone is a UN-managed space where the official negotiation proceedings take place. All delegates within the Blue Zone must be accredited by the UNFCCC. As an accredited observer, UConn receives a varying number of badges for access to the Blue Zone. UConn's delegates are allowed to be actively involved in this space, including attending sessions and sharing their expertise, knowledge, and perspectives with participants, including Party delegates. The Blue Zone is also host to panel discussions, side events, exhibits, and cultural events.

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Green Zone	 The Green Zone is managed by the host country and is home to dozens of pavilions, presentation spaces, and more. UN accreditation isn't required to participate in this space and some COPs have a Green Zone that is
	entirely open to the public , while others require some form of registration.

Q.6 Enlist key milestones of COP?

COP	Milestones
COP 3: 1997	 The Kyoto Protocol was an international agreement, signed by more than 150 countries in Kyoto (Japan). The Parties were committed to internationally binding emission reduction targets. The Kyoto Protocol entered into force in February 2005 and its first commitment period started in 2008 and ended in 2012. In the Kyoto Protocol, only limited reference was made to adaptation. The protocol mainly repeated the commitments made in the UNFCCC regarding the need for enhanced adaptation programming and financing. The Mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol

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COP 7:1997

Marrakesh Accords:





MARRAKECH C O P 2 2 | C M P 1 2 UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE 2016

- At COP 7 in Marrakesh, the establishment of the National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) was announced.
- With NAPAs the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) were given the opportunity to identify their urgent climate change adaptation (CCA) priorities based on their own needs and capacities.

COP 12: 2006

Nairobi Work Programme:

- At COP 12 in Nairobi, the Nairobi Work Programme (NWP) on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change was established.
- Its main aim was to assist all Parties, in particular developing countries, including the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in:
 - Improving their understanding and assessment of climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation.
 - Making informed decisions on practical adaptation actions and measures to respond to climate change on a sound scientific, technical and socio-economic basis.

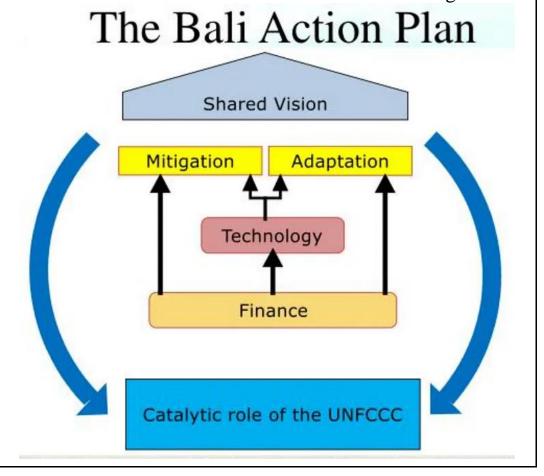
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- One of the important achievements of the NWP is the creation of the Adaptation Knowledge Portal (AKP).
- The AKP aims to provide access to information and knowledge on climate change adaptation, and on the work of related work streams under the Framework Convention on Climate Change.

COP 13:2007

Bali Action Plan:

• The Adaptation Fund, while already established in 2001 at the 7th Conference of the Parties (COP7) in Marrakesh, was officially launched in 2007 at COP 13 in Bali. The goal of the Adaptation Fund was to finance concrete adaptation projects and programmes in developing country Parties that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.



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COP 16:2010

- COP 16 in Cancun resulted in the establishment of the Cancun Adaptation Framework, which aimed to:
 - Strengthen action on adaptation in developing countries through international cooperation.
 - Support better planning and implementation of adaptation measures through increased financial and technical support, and through strengthening and/or establishing regional centres and networks.
 - O Boost research, assessments and technology cooperation on adaptation, as well as strengthen education and public awareness.

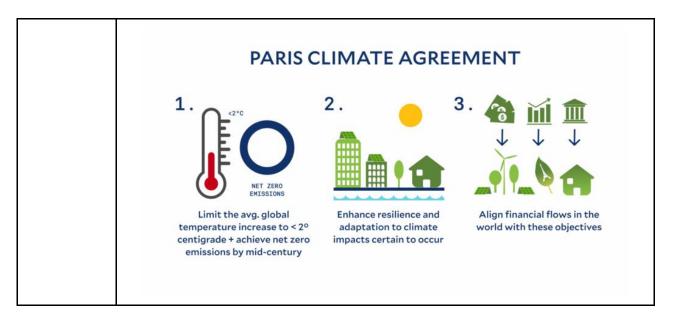


COP 21:2015

Paris Agreement:

- The **Paris Agreement** provided a **balance between adaptation and mitigation** and featured several provisions that are relevant to Adaptation.
- COP21 marked the adoption of the Paris Agreement, aiming to limit global warming to well below 2°C, preferably to 1.5°C.
- It also introduced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for each country.

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Q.7 What is COP 29?



- The **2024 United Nations Climate Change Conference**, also known as COP29, was held in **Baku**, **Azerbaijan**, from 11 to 22 November 2024, under the **Presidency of Azerbaijan**.
- The conference focused on climate finance and how to help countries protect their economies and people from climate disasters.

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Q.8 Why does COP29 matter?



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Q.9 Mention key outcomes of COP29?

NEGOTIATIONS AT COP 29

FUNDING AND INVESTMENT

- This year's conference has been dubbed the Finance COP because it aims to increase funding to mitigate the impact of climate change.
- Nearly \$500 million to reduce methane was announced in new grant funding by governments and through philanthropy, bringing total grant funding to over \$2 billion.



ENERGY TRANSITION

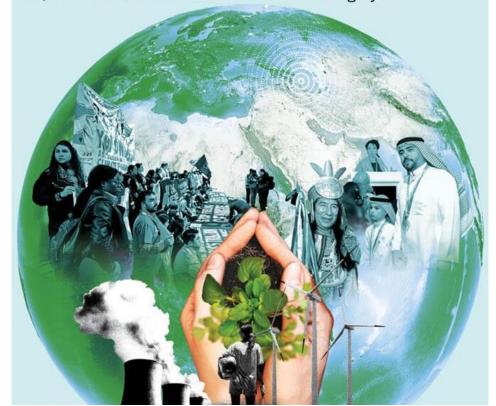
The UN climate change commissioner urged negotiators to get down to business, negotiating new agreements for climate-related damage compensation and energy transition funding.

ARTICLE 6 OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT

Article 6 recognizes voluntary cooperation by some parties in implementing nationally determined contributions, allowing for greater ambitions around sustainable development and environmental integrity.

GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTION

The European Commission announced the Methane Abatement Partnership Roadmap to strengthen cooperation between exporters and importers to drive reductions.

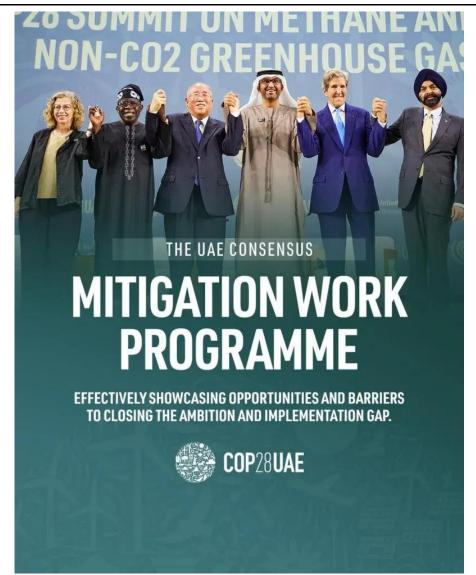


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- The recently concluded **COP29** in Baku marked another critical milestone in global climate action with mixed outcomes.
- Developed nations committed to channeling at least \$300 billion annually into developing countries by 2035 for climate action.
- However, this **fell short of the \$1.3 trillion annual target** demanded by **developing nations.**

Outcome	Analysis
New global climate finance goal	 It calls on "all actors" to raise at least \$1.3 trillion per year, and on developed countries to lead the mobilization of at least \$300 billion, by 2035. The decision also refers to development finance reform, centrality of public sources, enhanced access, as well as reporting on finance. Climate Finance Has Fallen Short Developed nations only recently met their previous promise to provide \$100 billion in annual climate financing to developing nations Bilateral public Multilateral public Export credits Mobilized private
Mitigation work programme	 It launched a "Baku-Belem Roadmap to 1.3T"—a conversation to scale up finance in 2025. This decision identified technical options to reduce emissions in cities and encouraged collaboration between governance levels. Parties and observers were invited to propose topics for mitigation dialogues in 2025.

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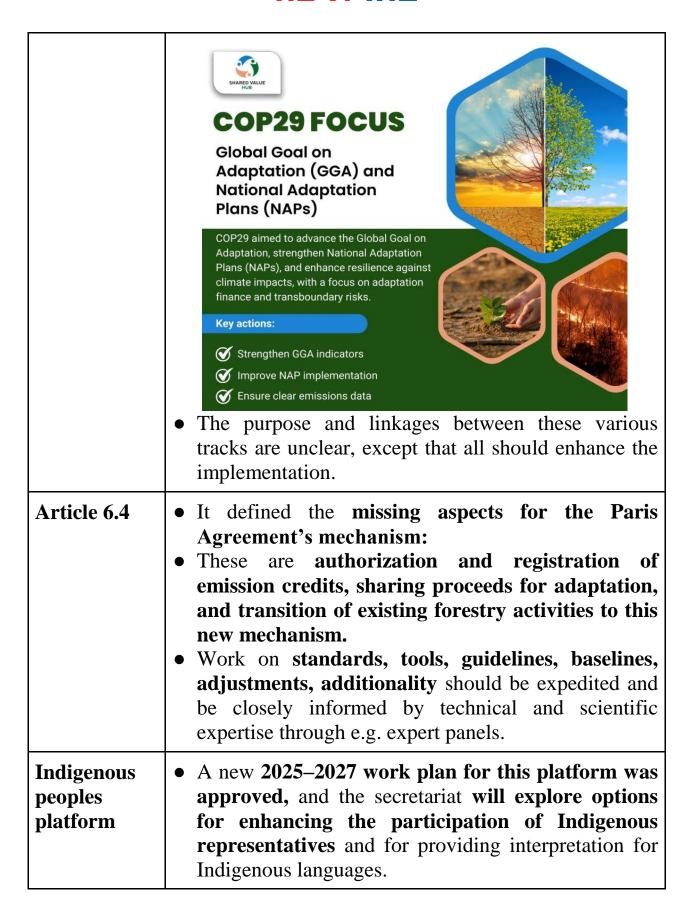


• A digital platform, to be designed in 2025, will enable exchanging information on mitigation actions.

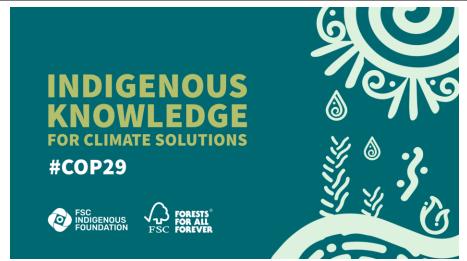
Global goal on adaptation

- Countries gave instructions to the ongoing work by technical experts on indicators to measure progress towards global resilience.
- It builds up UNFCCC adaptation work with a permanent agenda item on adaptation, a Baku Adaptation Roadmap, and a high-level dialogue.

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• The work plan focuses on convening knowledge holders, regional engagement, and collaboration with UNFCCC workstreams.

Loss and Damage Fund

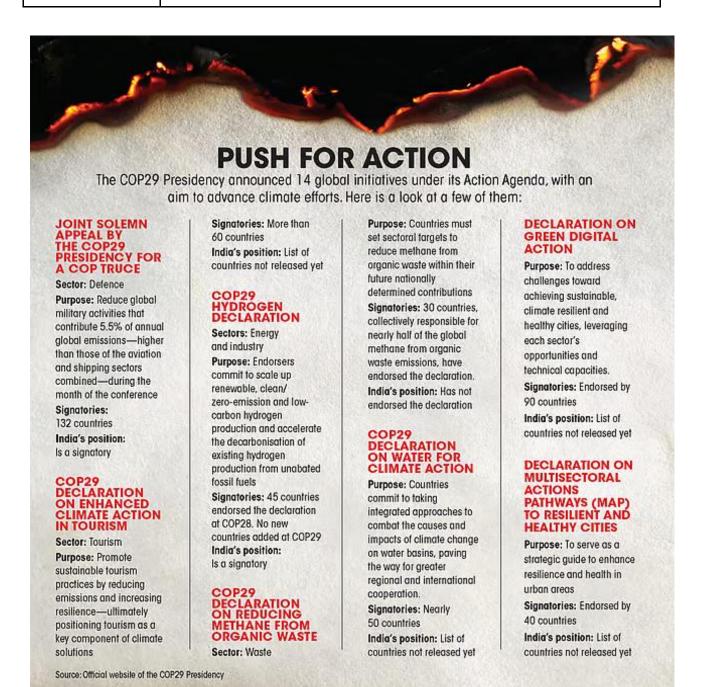
- COP29 marked a turning point with the operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund, initially agreed upon at COP27.
- This fund aims to provide financial support to nations suffering from climate-induced disasters such as hurricanes, floods, and sea-level rise.



• The operationalization of this fund underscores the principle of climate justice, acknowledging the disproportionate impact of climate change on vulnerable populations.

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• According to a study, climate change damage costs the world between \$1.7 trillion and \$3.1 trillion each year by 2050.



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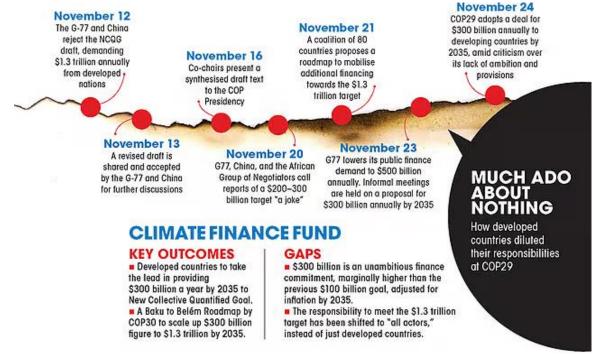
Q.10 What is article 6?

- Article 6.4 of the Paris Agreement is a UN-led carbon crediting mechanism that allows countries to trade carbon credits.
- It's also known as the **Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism** (**PACM**).
- Under the text agreed on Article 6.4, there is a clear mandate for the UN carbon market to align with science.



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Q.11 What are the challenges faced by COP29?



Analysis **Challenges** • As COP29 concluded, several issues remained **National** Adaptation unresolved. Plans (NAPs) Among the **NAPs** emerged these, significant point of contention, as there was a lack of progress in formulating and implementing them. **COP29 FOCUS** Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) and **National Adaptation** Plans (NAPs) COP29 aimed to advance the Global Goal on Adaptation, strengthen National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and enhance resilience against climate impacts, with a focus on adaptation finance and transboundary risks Strengthen GGA indicators M Improve NAP implementation M Ensure clear emissions data

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- While the discussion on NAPs made "significant progress" during the first week, parties could not reach an agreement by the conclusion of the conference.
- Differing views on key issues such as **developed countries' obligations for means of implementation in NAPs**, and the private sector's role in adaptation finance contributed to the lack of consensus on this issue.
- The discussion has been pushed to Bonn, to recommend a draft decision for consideration at COP30.

New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG)

• In the lead-up to COP29, the NCQG was anticipated to be one of the most contentious issues in the negotiations.

7 key elements of the new climate finance goal (NCQG)



Quantity



Contributors



Timeframe



Covered



Scope



Quality of Finance



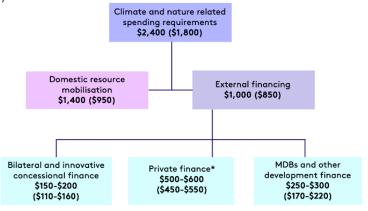
Transparency

• According to numerous studies, climate finance needs to scale up to US\$2.4 trillion annually by 2030 for developing countries, excluding China, to implement the necessary climate actions.

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- Despite this background, the agreed NCQG was US\$1.3 trillion annually by 2035 from various sources, with a minimum of US\$300 billion annually dedicated to developing countries.
 - Unsurprisingly, this **target faced heavy criticism for falling short** of what was needed.

Figure 2. Mobilising the necessary financing for the green transition (\$ billion per year by 2030)



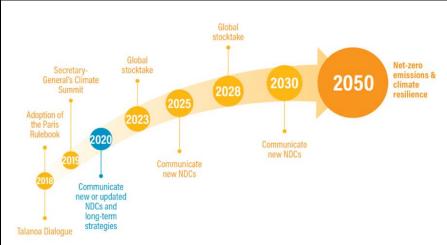
Notes: Incremental investment from current levels is indicated in parentheses. *More than half of this private finance would be directly and indirectly catalysed by MDBs, other development finance institutions, and bilateral finance.

- Countries in the Global South described the target as "insultingly low" to build upon the commitments made at COP28.
- The NCQG decision also included a commitment to triple annual outflows from key climate funds such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) by 2030 compared to 2022 levels.

Global
Stocktake
Outcomes
(GST) and
Fossil fuel
transition

• The GST, a critical mechanism for assessing the progress towards the 1.5 degrees Celsius target, includes a historical call for countries to transition away from fossil fuels.

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- Developed countries were adamant about including strong language on transitioning away from fossil fuel while many developing nations, including Saudi Arabia, called for the discussions to focus exclusively on scaling up finance.
- Despite efforts to bridge divides, **negotiators did not achieve consensus.**

Mitigation Work Programme (MWP)

• MWP, established at COP26 and formally adopted at COP27, also saw significant divisions, particularly over whether the program should address more specific mitigation actions such as coal phase-out and fossil fuel subsidies.

MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION KEY OUTCOMES Mitigation Work Programme saw a deadlock and is on the verge of collapse implementing Global Stocktake

Mitigation Work Programme saw a deadlock and is on the verge of collapse
Procedural texts released on Global Goal on Adaptation and National Adaptation Plans

Adaptation Fund sees new pledges of just \$61 million against target of \$300 million.

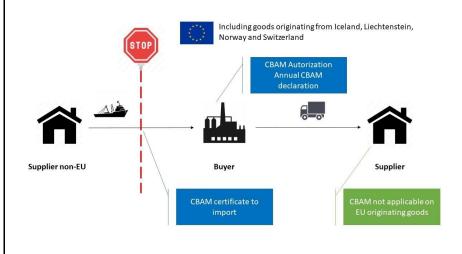
• For developed countries, the inclusion of these elements was key. For China, on behalf of the LMDCs, and Saudi Arabia for the Arab Group, the inclusion of the stocktake or NDCs was a "red line".

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- On the final day of COP29, the first draft of the MWP negotiating text was released.
- It made **no mention of stocktake, fossil fuels**, or any guidance on the next round of NDCs and was **met with criticism from the Global North countries.**
- A second draft negotiation text maintained the lack of reference to the stocktake but contained a changed preamble with a softer high-level political messaging.
- Ultimately, COP29 failed to make significant progress on the MWP, and the matter was pushed to future negotiations.

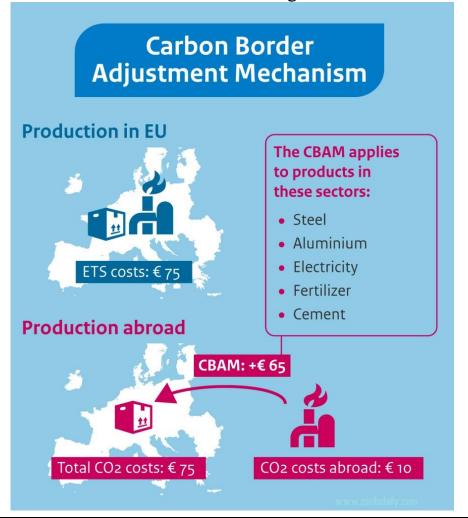
Unilateral Trade Measures

- Finally, unilateral trade measures, especially the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), emerged as another contentious issue at COP29.
- Developing countries expressed concerns about the potential for developed countries to implement carbon border taxes or other trade restrictions that could disproportionately affect their economies.



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- Restrictive unilateral measures force developing and low-income nations to bear the costs of transitioning to low-carbon economics.
- Developed countries, on the other hand, maintained that this issue falls under WTO jurisdiction and not UNFCCC.
- This issue will likely continue to be a point of contention in future climate negotiations.



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Q.12 How much influence does the COP Presidency have on issues addressed at negotiations?

- There are often a **lot of questions** about the role of the **COP Presidency**, and it is not easy to explain to people why climate change negotiations are happening in big oil-producing countries.
- The role of the **COP Presidency is to moderate the negotiations.**
- They have a strong role in trying to facilitate agreement on very thorny issues.
- It's a hugely **important diplomatic exercise** to try and sort out possible disagreements, ideally ahead of time.
- It is a key role, but it is not so influential that the **COP Presidency** can sway the whole negotiations.



Q.13 How does the U.S. view climate agreements?

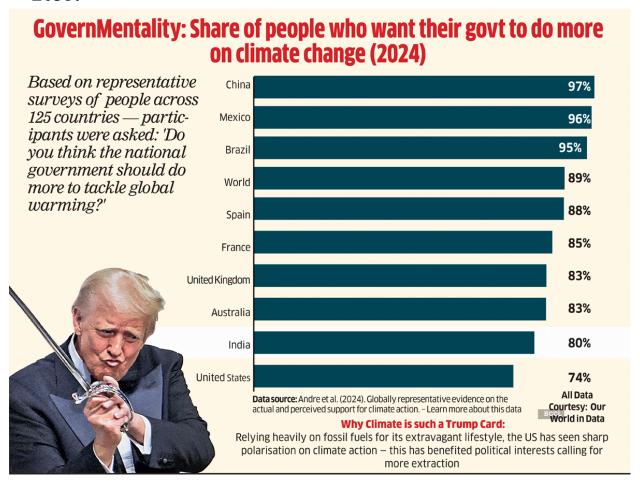
- Until 2006, the U.S. was the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases.
- As the world's largest economy, its general attitude towards the European Union-backed climate pacts has been to project itself as

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- **solving the climate crisis** but being non-committal towards taking the legally binding emission cuts that this entailed.
- Right from the first Conference of Parties in Bonn in 1995, the U.S. expressed discomfort with a fundamental axiom of the UNFCCC which is the mother convention that gives treaties such as the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement meaning.
- This is because **carbon dioxide concentrations** in the **atmosphere** were largely due to **historical emissions by developed countries**.
- It also translated to developing countries continuing on a fossil-fuel pathway.
- Due to discomfort expressed by major fossil fuel economies like the U.S., Australia, and Canada ideas such as joint implementation (where countries earn credits for implementing clean energy projects in developing countries) surfaced.
- The U.S., despite having walked out of climate agreements, continues to send large delegations to the conference as 'observers' and be closely involved in negotiations.
- In 2005, at **COP 11 in Montreal, Canada**, the head of the U.S. delegation, as reported by **The New York Times**, walked out of the **negotiations despite the U.S.** not being part of the **Kyoto Protocol** at the time.
- The U.S. remains the world's largest crude oil producer and achieved record production in 2023.
- The country is also the largest producer of gas and, in 2022, became the world's largest exporter of liquefied natural gas.
- Mr. Trump has committed to adding to this already substantial base.
- Despite all this, the U.S. is critically short of achieving its greenhouse gas emissions target.
- As of 2022, the **U.S. has achieved only about one-third** of its 2030 emissions reduction goal.

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• In the last weeks of his presidency, Mr. Biden increased the U.S. emissions reduction commitments to 61%-66% of 2005 levels by 2035.

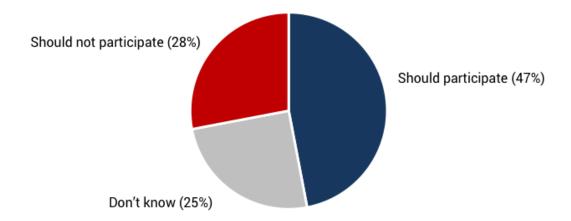


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About Half of Trump Voters Say U.S. Should Participate in the International Agreement to Limit Global Warming

- Fewer than three in ten say the U.S. should not participate -

"Do you think the U.S. should participate in this agreement, or not participate?



One year ago, the United States signed an international agreement in Paris with 196 other countries to limit the pollution that causes global warming. Do you think the U.S. should participate in this agreement, or not participate?

Base: Trump Voters (n=401). November 2016.





Q.14 What will be the fallout of the U.S. exit?



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- The **U.S.** has only exited the Paris Agreement, not the overarching UNFCCC.
- Several analysts have pointed out that the scale of investments in renewable energy, including private finance from the U.S., have vastly grown since 2017.
- Unlike India, China, and Indonesia large developing economies dependent on coal, the U.S. is less reliant on it.
- The U.S. has historically supported the EU on anti-coal positions in climate negotiations.
- Mr. Trump's espousal of a 'Drill, baby, drill!' motto encourages more fracking and oil-and-gas drilling, which previous dispensations have only modestly slowed.



• A U.S. exit might lead to developing countries taking on less ambitious targets, but given that climate targets have not managed to slow down global emissions, the U.S.'s exit at this point means little.

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Q.15 How can COP29 benefit India?

Benefits	Analysis
Benefits of Article 6.4 for India	 Relevance to India's carbon markets: India, as a rapidly growing economy with ambitious climate targets under its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), stands to benefit significantly from the operationalisation of Article 6.4. The country has been advancing its domestic carbon market framework and COP29's decisions align with its priorities to monetise

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emission reductions while **ensuring environmental integrity.**



Harmonising the price of carbon credits

- One notable advancement under Article 6.4 is the standardisation of carbon market registries, which promises to harmonise the pricing of carbon credits across global markets.
- For India, this standardisation offers several advantages:
- Price stability:
 - Ensures that **Indian carbon credits**, especially from **renewable energy and reforestation** projects, receive competitive and fair pricing
- Enhanced market confidence:
 - A standardised system attracts investors by reducing transaction risks and creating predictable market dynamics
- Integration into global trade:
 - By aligning with international norms, Indian businesses can seamlessly trade carbon credits, fostering economic integration.

Opportunities for India under NCQG

- Despite its limitations, the NCQG presents significant opportunities for India.
- India's demonstrated leadership in renewable

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	 energy, energy efficiency and large-scale adaptation projects makes it a preferred destination for climate finance among developing economies. Also, at COP29, the stakeholders have agreed to work together to scale up finance to developing countries, from public and private sources, to the amount of \$1.3 trillion per year by 2035.
Need for south-south cooperation	 The COP29 outcomes underscore the urgency for developing nations to strengthen south-south cooperation to counterbalance the dominance of developed economies in climate negotiations. Collective efforts by the global south can help: Advocate for more ambitious climate finance targets. Ensure equitable distribution of funds aligned with the specific needs of developing countries. Push for mechanisms that address loss and damage effectively.
Leveraging the Baku-to-Belem roadmap	 The roadmap from Baku to Belém incorporates key milestones like the Global Stocktake 2025, a critical assessment of global progress towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and highlights key priorities for catalysing climate finance. India can leverage this framework by: Building coalitions with like-minded nations to push for clearer mechanisms and accountability in climate finance. Advocating for innovative financing instruments, such as climate bonds and blended finance models, to supplement traditional funding sources. Showcasing its success stories in renewable energy and adaptation projects to attract further investments.

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Q.16 Why is India disappointed with COP 29?

- India expressed disappointment at the shifting of focus from enablement of adequate Climate Finance to emphasis only on mitigation, at the Plenary Session at the CoP29 of the UN Climate Change Summit in Baku, Azerbaijan.
- India aligned its stance with the statement made by Bolivia on behalf of Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDCs) and reiterated that the process of the fight against Climate Change has to be guided by the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement, as the Global South continues to face the intense impacts of Climate Change.
- India put forth its stance on the following issues that are critical in the fight against Climate Change.
- They are:

Issues	Analysis
New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG)	 India highlighted that as grant-based concessional Climate Finance is the most critical enabler to formulate and implement the new NDCs, action will get severely impacted in the absence of adequate means of implementation. India highlighted that the document needs to be specific on the structure, quantum, quality, timeframe, access, transparency, and review. The goal for mobilisation needs to be USD 1.3 trillion, with USD 600 billion of this coming through grants and grants equivalent resources. Expansion of the contributor base, reflection of conditional elements such as macroeconomic and fiscal measures, suggestion for carbon pricing, focus on private sector actors for scaling up resource flows as investments is contrary to the mandate for the goal.

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	• NCQG is not an investment goal and therefore stakeholders must accept that climate actions by Developing countries will have to be country driven, in line with their circumstances and in the manner best suited to country priorities.
Mitigation	 India strongly protested against changing the scope of the Mitigation Work Programme (MWP) in the draft text. India further cautioned against shifting of temperature goals, which need to be as per the exact language in the Paris Agreement. India called the introduction to the targets for 2030, 2035 and 2050 in the preamble as purely prescriptive. India urged to add to the text certain elements like noting the pre-2020 mitigation gap by Annex-I Parties. India strongly urged to recall the negative impacts of coercive unilateral measures on climate action specifically mitigation ambition and implementation.
Just Transition	 India strongly declined to accept any renegotiation of the shared understanding prevalent on 'Just Transitions' in the decision from Dubai. The statement read that the Just transition is interpreted in narrow domestic terms, implying that it is national governments that have to take actions to ensure domestic just transitions. However, Just transitions begin globally with Developed countries taking the lead in mitigation and ensuring that they provide the means of implementation to all Developing countries. The India statement further said that the possibility of domestic transitions and our right to development, and overriding priority to pursue sustainable

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	 development, is constrained by repeated and ongoing inaction of Developed countries. The current text completely disregards this point that we have been making about our understanding of just transitions, which is also reflected in the Dubai decision.
Global Stocktake(GST)	 On the GST India stated the following: India does not agree to a follow up of the GST outcomes. As per Paris agreement, GST is supposed to only inform parties to undertake climate action. The new chapter on Enhancing Action, Support and International Cooperation has been drafted without adequate connection or integration with the text, parts of which are under negotiation on the UAE dialogue. The last text from the negotiations undertaken by Parties was one that captured the views of all Parties and was a viable basis for further negotiation. Further, the phrase "with developed countries (as per the synthesis report of the Biennial Reports) on track to increasing their emissions by 0.5 per cent from 2020 to 2030" may be added after the phrase "by 2.6 per cent by 2030 compared with the 2019 level". Though the new chapter title is general, the text added is completely mitigation centric and completely unbalanced. India does not accept the way the options have been formulated in the Timing and Format sections of the UAE dialogue.
Adaptation	 India shared the following five points, which are essential to consider the draft decision: Final outcome should include indicators on means of implementation in order for this work on a global goal on adaptation to be meaningful.

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- There is no need to further focus on transformational adaptation.
- Instead, it is **important to focus on other approaches** such as incremental adaptation, long term adaptation in the context of national circumstances.
- The data used for reporting on indicators should be taken from Party submitted reports and not from any third party databases. Therefore, this text may be dropped.
- Indicators should reflect the progress in the GGA goals.

Q.17 Where do we stand on climate change mitigation and future prospects wrt to mitigation in the upcoming COP?

- Looking back at COP 28 in Dubai, the biggest breakthrough in those negotiations was the inclusion of language on fossil fuel transition and expanding renewable energy capacity.
- That was huge because **reducing greenhouse gas** emissions is really the **essence of tackling climate change.**
- Whether it happens in the context of discussions on the mitigation work program or in discussions on guidance for the next round of NDCs doesn't really matter.
- What matters is that we get clear signals that countries are committed to transitioning away from fossil fuels, and they will make the **next 5** years really count toward keeping 1.5 °C alive.

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Q.18 What next for COP30?

- COP29 saw the Global North abandon its obligations to enable the climate transition in the developing world for the remaining part of this decade when urgent climate action is crucial.
- Up next is the update to the NDC cycle, which will see calls to raise ambition from "all" climate polluters and victims in an audacious act of hypocrisy from the Global North.
- COP30 host Brazil—itself a growing power and diplomatic behemoth—played a part in rushing through the finance issue in Baku, not wanting to deal with the mess of this negotiation in Belem next year.
- Brazil's Presidency offers both promise and reason for caution.
- An emerging Global South leader in an increasingly multipolar world that has been vocal about sticky issues like the unsavoury hegemony of the dollar in global trade, and the need to tax the ultrawealthy, Brazil has the opportunity to tilt the scales and reclaim the ground that G77 gave up in bargaining power this year.
- Brazil has raised the issue of operationalising equity in the phaseout of fossil fuels which was missing in the GST outcome of 2023.

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• Many argue it **is too late to save the climate**, but those who have been fighting the fight know it **is only too late if we give up.**

Q.19 What should be the way ahead?

• Bold and urgent actions are required to match ambition with reality. To bridge the gap between current climate actions and the 1.5°C target, a multipronged strategy is needed:

Way ahead	Analysis
Everyone has a role to play	 Governments, corporations, and citizens alike must embrace sustainable practices and champion this cause. Individual choices and behaviours, from energy consumption to lifestyle changes, can significantly influence carbon footprints and propel the global transition.
Accelerated Decarbonisation	 Rapid phasing out of fossil fuels and scaling up renewables like solar, wind, and emerging technologies such as green hydrogen, to act as long-duration storage, are critical. Governments need to implement stringent emissions regulations, commit to fund carbon capture technologies to become available at a scale needed for decarbonising hard to abate sectors, and overhaul fossil fuel subsidies.
Energy Efficiency and Electrification	• Enhancing energy efficiency across sectors and advancing the electrification of heat and transportation through investments in efficient heat pumps, battery technology, and public transport can substantially reduce emissions.
Climate Finance	• Wealthier nations must commit to, and of course 'deliver', the climate finance needed for enabling

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	 the developing countries to implement the objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The fund has been estimated by the Independent High-Level Expert Group on Climate Finance to be at least \$1 trillion per year by 2030.
Nature-Based Solutions	• Strategies such as afforestation and sustainable land management can augment carbon sequestration efforts while preserving biodiversity.
Stronger International Cooperation	 Global unity must extend beyond pledges to enforceable actions with transparent monitoring. A global carbon pricing system could align cross-border incentives and ensure fair contributions.

Q.20 What is the relevance of the topic for UPSC CSE?

- For Prelims: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, New Collective Quantified Goal, Carbon markets, United Nations, Nationally Determined Contributions, Global Methane Pledge, Lima Work Programme on Gender, Food and Agriculture Organization, Green Climate Fund, Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE), Mangrove Alliance for Climate.
- For Mains: India's Climate Policy, COP29 and its Outcomes, Global Climate Governance, India's Leadership in Global Climate Initiatives

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SOME PREVIOUS YEARS PRELIMS QUESTIONS

Q.1 Consider the following activities:

- 1. Spreading finely ground basalt rock on farmlands extensively
- 2. Increasing the alkalinity of oceans by adding lime
- 3. Capturing carbon dioxide released by various industries and pumping it into abandoned subterranean mines in the form of carbonated waters

How many of the above activities are often considered and discussed for carbon capture and sequestration?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Answer: (c)

Q.2 Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Carbon markets are likely to be one of the most widespread tools in the fight against climate change.

Statement-II: Carbon markets transfer resources from the private sector to the State.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement- II is correct

Answer:(b)

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SOME PREVIOUS YEARS MAINS QUESTIONS

- Q.1 The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has predicted a global sea level rise of about one meter by AD 2100. What would be its impact in India and the other countries in the Indian Ocean region? (2023-15 Marks)
- Q.2 Describe the major outcomes of the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). What are the commitments made by India in this conference? (2021-15 Marks)

SOME QUESTIONS FROM THIS YEAR AND PREVIOUS YEARS INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPTS.

Board Dinesh Dasa sir:

 What has the Indian PM committed regarding chemicals in COP 21 & COP 26?

Board Preeti Sudan mam:

• What are India's renewed commitments under UNFCCC CoP?

Board Suman Sharma mam:

• What is the Conference of Parties(COP)?

Board Suman Sharma mam:

• The Government of India has taken some steps for climate change, what are those?

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SOME QUESTIONS FOR QUIZ

- Q.1 With reference to the Conference of the Parties (COP), consider the following statements:
 - 1. The first COP meeting was held in Berlin, Germany in March, 1995.
 - 2. The COP aims to promote international cooperation and action to address climate change, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
 - 3. It is a permanent body of the United Nations.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Answer: (b)

SOME QUESTIONS FOR POLL

- Q.1 Is India on track with the Paris climate Agreement?
 - (a) YES
 - (b) NO
 - (c) Can't say.
- Q.2 Can India become vishwaguru in mitigating climate change?
 - (a) YES
 - (b) NO
 - (c) Can't say.

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