



# COP26 Climate Conference

## Why in News

The [COP 26 United Nations Climate Change Conference](#) will be hosted by the UK from **31<sup>st</sup> October to 12<sup>th</sup> November**.

- Earlier, [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\) published its assessment report](#) on Earth's climate, highlighting [heat waves](#), [droughts](#), [extreme rainfall](#) and [sea-level rise](#) in the coming decades.

## Key Points

- **COP 26 Goals:** According to the [United Nations Climate Change Framework Convention \(UNFCCC\)](#), COP26 will work towards four goals:
  - **Net Zero by 2050:**
    - To secure **Global Net-Zero by Mid-Century** and keep 1.5 Degrees within reach.
    - Countries are being asked to come forward with **ambitious 2030 emissions reductions targets** that align with reaching [net zero](#) by the middle of the century.
    - To deliver on these stretching targets, countries will need to:
      - Accelerate the phase-out of coal
      - Curtail deforestation
      - Speed up the switch to electric vehicles
      - Encourage investment in renewables.
  - **Adapt to Protect Communities and Natural Habitats:**
    - Countries will work together to **'protect and restore ecosystems and build defences**, warning systems and resilient infrastructure and agriculture to avoid loss of homes, livelihoods and even lives.'
  - **Mobilise Finance:**
    - **Developed countries must make good on their promise** to mobilise at least USD100bn in [climate finance](#) per year.
  - **Work Together to Deliver:**
    - Another important task at the COP26 is to **'finalise the Paris Rulebook'**.
    - Leaders will work together to frame a list of detailed rules that will help fulfil the [Paris Agreement](#).
- **Suggestions for India:**
  - Update its [Nationally Determined Contributions \(NDCs\)](#).
    - (NDCs detail the various efforts taken by each country to reduce the national emissions)

- **Sector by sector plans are needed** to bring about development.
  - **Decarbonisation** of the electricity, transport sector and starting to look at carbon per passenger mile is needed.
- Aggressively figure out **how to transition the [coal sector](#)**.

## Conference of Parties (COP)

### ▪ About:

- The Conference of Parties comes under the **UNFCCC** which was formed in 1994. The UNFCCC was established to work towards “stabilisation of **greenhouse gas** concentrations in the atmosphere.
  - COP is the **apex decision-making authority of UNFCCC**.
- It laid out **a list of responsibilities for the member states which included:**
  - Formulating measures to mitigate climate change.
  - Cooperating in preparing for adaptation to the impact of climate change.
  - Promoting education, training and public awareness related to climate change.

### ▪ Meetings:

- COP members have been **meeting every year since 1995**. The UNFCCC has 198 parties including **India, China and the USA**.
  - Generally it meets in Bonn, the seat of the secretariat, unless a Party offers to host the session.

### ▪ Presidency:

- The **office of the COP President normally rotates among the five United Nations regional groups** which are - Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Central and Eastern Europe and Western Europe and Others.
- The **President is usually the environment minister of his or her home country**. S/he is elected by acclamation immediately after the opening of a COP session.

## COP's with Significant Outcomes

- **1995: COP1 (Berlin, Germany)**
- **1997: COP 3 (Kyoto Protocol)**
  - It legally binds developed countries to emission reduction targets.
- **2002: COP 8 (New Delhi, India) Delhi Declaration.**
  - Focuses on the development needs of the poorest countries and the need for technology transfer for mitigating climate change.
- **2007: COP13 (Bali, Indonesia)**
  - Parties agreed on the Bali Road Map and Bali action plan, which charted the way towards a post-2012 outcome. The Plan has five main categories: shared vision, mitigation, adaptation, technology and financing.
- **2010: COP 16 (Cancun)**
  - Resulted in the **Cancun Agreements**, a comprehensive package by governments to assist developing nations in dealing with climate change.
  - The **Green Climate Fund**, the Technology Mechanism and the Cancun Adaptation Framework were established.
- **2011: COP 17 (Durban)**
  - Governments commit to a new universal climate change agreement by 2015 for the period

beyond 2020 (Resulted in the Paris Agreement of 2015).

- **2015:** [COP21 \(Paris\)](#)
  - To keep global temperature well **below 2.0C** above pre-industrial times and endeavor them to limit them **even more to 1.5C**.
  - It requires rich nations to maintain USD 100bn a year funding pledge **beyond the year 2020**.
- **2016:** [COP22 \(Marrakech\)](#)
  - To move forward on writing the **rule book of the Paris Agreement**.
  - Launched the **Marrakech Partnership** for Climate Action.
- **2017: COP23, Bonn (Germany)**
  - Countries continued to negotiate the finer details of how the agreement will work from 2020 onwards.
  - First set of negotiations since the US, under the presidency of Donald Trump, announced its intention earlier this year to withdraw from the Paris deal.
  - It was the first COP to be hosted by a small-island developing state with Fiji taking up the presidency, even though it was being held in Bonn.
- **2018:** [COP 24, Katowice \(Poland\)](#)
  - It finalized a “rulebook” to operationalise the 2015 Paris Agreement.
  - The rulebook covers climate financing facilities and the actions to be taken as per **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)**.
- **2019: COP25, Madrid (Spain)**
  - It was held in Madrid (Spain).
  - There were no **concrete plans regarding the growing climatic urgency**.

**Source: IE**

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