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A SPECIAL REPORT ON
UNFCCC'S COP 28





COP28 UAE

UNITE. ACT. DELIVER.

Why in news?

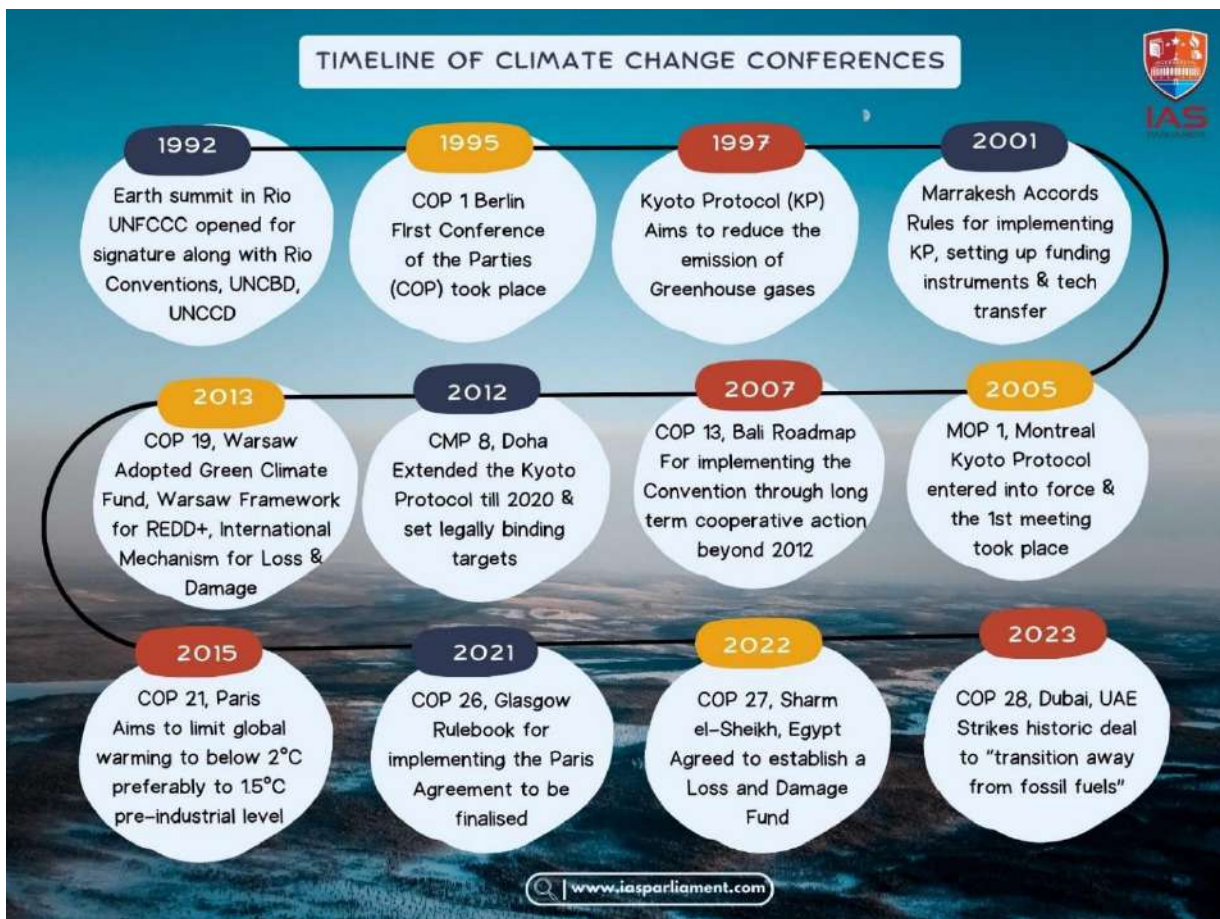
The Conference of Parties (COP-28) has been recently concluded in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) with the adoption of UAE Consensus.

Status of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions

- G20 countries represent **around 75%** of global GHG emissions.
- The US, the UK and the EU are considered to be responsible for **50%** of all emissions.
- India is responsible for **only 4%** of historical emissions.
- China, the world's biggest emitter in the last 15 years, is responsible for **30%** of global emissions every year.

What is COP all about?

- The COP is the **main decision-making body** of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- It brings together the **198 Parties** (including the European Union) to negotiate and agree on how to tackle climate change, reduce emissions and limit global warming.
- The inaugural gathering took place in **Berlin**, Germany, in 1995.
- The COP secretariat is headquartered in **Bonn**.
- The COP Presidency rotates among the **5 recognized UN regions** - Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Central and Eastern Europe and Western Europe and others.
- COPs (28) are organized into 2 distinctive areas.
 - **The Blue Zone** - A UNFCCC-managed site that is only open to UN-accredited participants.
 - **The Green Zone** - Managed and delivered by the COP28 UAE Presidency, and is open to everyone.
- To know more about COP-27, click here: [Part - I](#) & [Part - II](#)

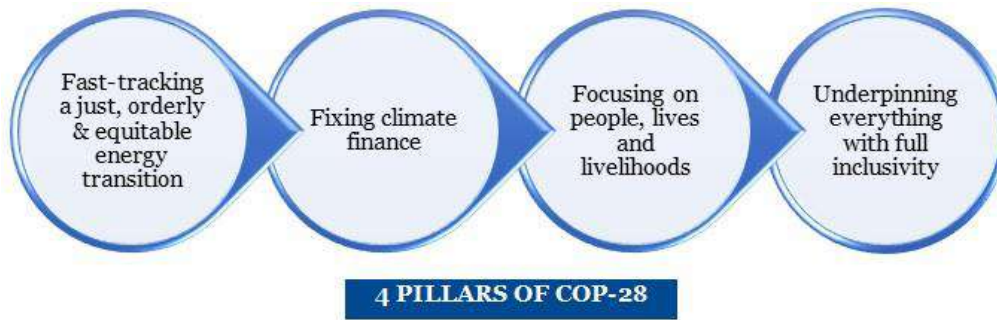


What about COP28?

- **Host of COP28 - Dubai, The UAE**
- It appointed the chief executive of the state-owned oil company, **Sultan al-Jaber**, as COP28 president.
- The UAE is one of the world's top 10 oil-producing nations.
- **US President Joe Biden** and **China's Xi Jinping** did not attend the event, but both countries were represented.
- **4 themes** - The 4 crosscutting themes are technology & innovation, inclusion, frontline communities and finance.
- It also focuses on the progress towards the existing **Paris goal** of limiting the global average temperature rise to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5°C.

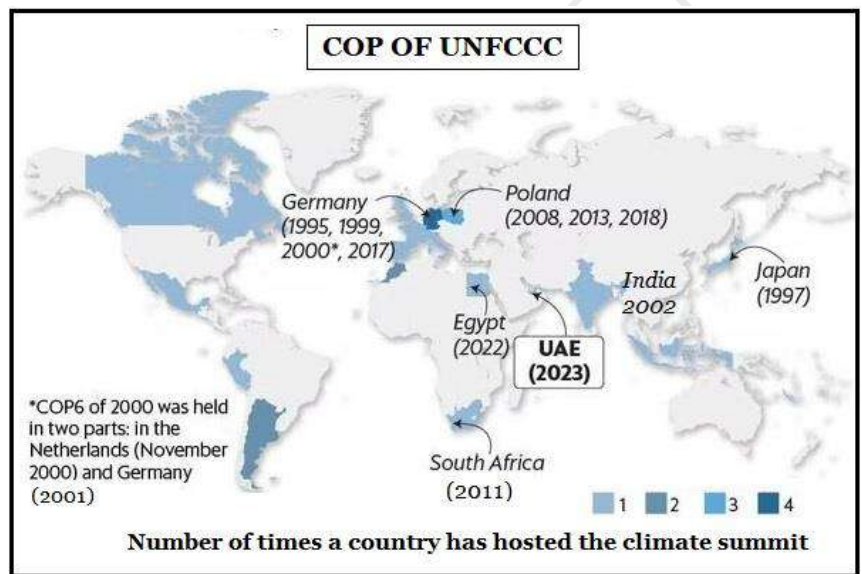
UNFCCC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UNFCCC was formed in 1994 to stabilize GHG emissions and to protect the earth from the threat of climate change. • The participants at COPs are signatories to UNFCCC and have been meeting every year since 1995. • At present, the UNFCCC has 198 members. • It is one of the 3 Rio Conventions which includes <u>Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)</u>, <u>Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)</u>.

Paris Agreement is a **legally binding** international treaty on climate change that was launched in 2015 and was adopted by 196 countries.



Meetings at 2023 UN Climate Change Conference, Dubai – It includes

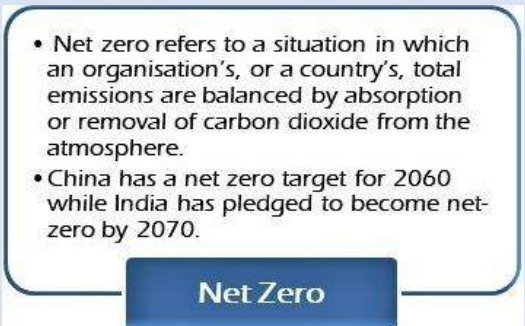
- 28th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 28)
- 5th session of the decision-making body of the Paris Agreement (CMA 5)
- 18th session of the decision-making body of the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 18)
- **The World Climate Action Summit (WCAS)** - It was held during the COP 28 where world leaders presented their progress and ambitions, providing guidance for the remainder of the COP.



QUICK FACTS

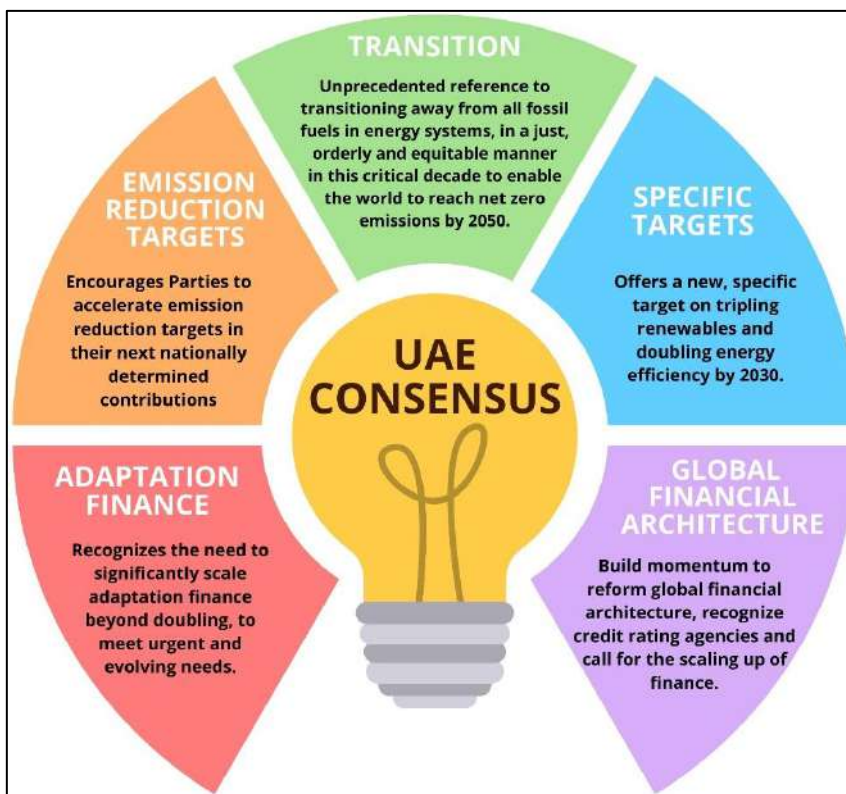
India's Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)

- This update translates the 'Panchamrit' announced at COP 26 into enhanced climate targets.
1. **Emissions intensity** – It is the total amount of emissions emitted for every unit of GDP.
 - The goal to reduce emissions intensity and improve energy efficiency was not sector specific.
 - Reducing emission intensity of GDP by 45% below 2005 levels by 2030.
 - **Status** -India had already achieved 21% of its emissions intensity as a proportion of its GDP in line with its commitment.
 2. **Non fossil fuel-based energy** – To meet 50% of cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030.
 3. **Power** - 500 GW of non-fossil fuel installed power generation capacity by 2030.
 4. **Absolute Emission** - Cutting absolute emissions by one billion tonnes, presumably from projected business-as-usual (BAU) 2030 levels.
 5. **Net-zero emissions** – To be achieved by 2070.



Net Zero

- Net zero refers to a situation in which an organisation's, or a country's, total emissions are balanced by absorption or removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
- China has a net zero target for 2060 while India has pledged to become net-zero by 2070.

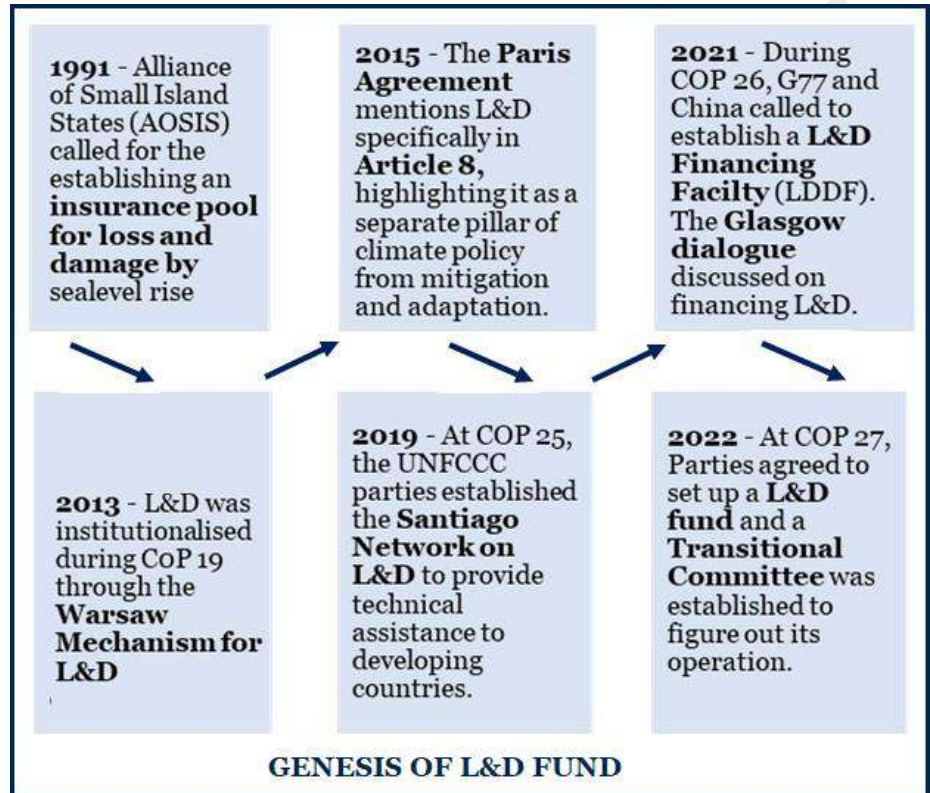


INITIATIVES TAKEN AT COP-28	
Major International Initiatives	Other International Initiatives
Loss and Damage Fund	Declaration on Climate Relief, Recovery and Peace
Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge	Global Expert Review on Debt, Nature and Climate
The Global Cooling Pledge	Gender-Responsive Just Transitions and Climate Action Partnership
Declaration on a New Global Climate Finance Framework	Podong Indigenous Peoples Initiative
Declaration on Resilient Food Systems, Sustainable Agriculture, and Climate Action	Youth Climate Champion
Declaration on Climate and Health	Africa Green Industrialization Initiative
Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP) Pledge	Cargo Owners for Zero Emission Vessels (coZEV)
ALTERRA	Net-Zero Export Credit Agencies Alliance (NZECA)
Global Decarbonization Accelerator (GDA)	Utilities for Net Zero Alliance (UNEZA)
Coal Transition Accelerator	The Cement and Concrete Breakthrough
Alliance of Champions for Food Systems Transformation	Climate Club
Global Roadmap on Food and Agriculture	
Summit on Methane and Non-CO ₂ Greenhouse Gases	

What major international initiatives were launched during COP 28?

Loss and Damage (L&D) Fund

- It is a global financial package that rich nations, whose industrial growth has resulted in global warming, must pay to poor nations, who are facing the cascading effects of climate change.
- It is different from climate adaptation funds because [loss and damage](#) refer to a situation in which *communities can no longer adapt to climatic impacts* or prepare for it because the damage has already been done.
- The L&D fund was 1st announced during **COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt**.
- The initial funding is estimated to be **\$475 million**—UAE pledged \$100 million, the European Union promised \$275 million, \$17.5 million from the US, and \$10 million from Japan.
- World Bank** will host the L&D facility as a financial intermediary fund (FIF) for an interim period of 4 years.
- The fund will be allocated based on the available evidence and with a **minimum percentage** allocated to *least developed countries* and *Small Island Developing States*.



Global Stocktake

- At the heart of the COP28 negotiations was the culmination of the **1st ever “global stocktake”**.
- Established under **Article 14 of the Paris Agreement**, the GST is designed to assess the collective progress towards achieving the purpose of Paris Agreement.
- It is a **5-yearly** process, designed to inform the next round of nationally-determined contributions (NDCs).
- The **synthesis report of the 1st global stocktake** released by UNFCCC lays out **17 ‘key findings’** that suggests that the world is not on track to achieve Paris Agreement targets.

India is one among the only few countries that are on track to achieve its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The Global Stocktake

The GST text calls on Parties to follow 8 steps taking into account different pathways.

- Tripling renewable energy capacity globally and doubling the global average annual rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030;
- Accelerating efforts towards the phase-down of unabated coal power;
- Accelerating efforts globally towards net zero emission energy systems, utilizing zero- and low-carbon fuels well before or by around mid-century;
- Transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly and equitable manner, accelerating action in this critical decade, so as to achieve net zero by 2050 in keeping with the science;
- Accelerating zero- and low-emission technologies, including inter alia, renewables, nuclear abatement and removal technologies such as carbon capture and utilization and storage, particularly in hard-to-abate sectors, and low-carbon hydrogen production;
- Accelerating and substantially reducing non-carbon-dioxide emissions globally, including in particular methane emissions by 2030;
- Accelerating the reduction of emissions from road transport on a range of pathways, including through development of infrastructure and rapid deployment of zero- and low-emission vehicles;
- Phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that do not address energy poverty or just transitions, as soon as possible;

UAE Declaration on a New Global Climate Finance Framework

- **Aim** – Making finance available, accessible and affordable thereby bridging the trust gap between the Global North and Global South.
- **Endorsed by** – Around 13 countries including ***India and the US***
- It will build on the momentum created by existing initiatives such as
 - The Bridgetown Initiative
 - The Accra-Marrakech Agenda
 - The Paris Pact for People and Planet
 - The G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration
 - The African Leaders Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change and Call to Action
- The UAE also launched the ***Global Climate Finance Centre (GCFC)***, a private-sector-focused think tank that will be a [climate finance](#) centre of excellence.
- The \$100 billion climate finance goal, which developed countries committed to in 2009, will be succeeded by the ***New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG)***.
- The new goal will be a building block for the design and subsequent implementation of national climate plans that need to be delivered by 2025.

Declaration to Triple Nuclear Energy

- During the World Climate Action Summit, more than 20 countries (***not India***) launched the Declaration to Triple Nuclear Energy ***by 2050*** from 2020 levels.

Nuclear energy is the 2nd largest source of clean dispatchable baseload power.

Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP) Pledge

- **Aim** - To enhance cooperation with our subnational governments in the planning, financing, implementation, and monitoring of climate strategies.
- **Endorsed by** - 71 countries (***not endorsed by India***)
- **Key partner** - NDC Partnership

ALTÉRRRA

- It is the ***world's largest private investment initiative*** to attract more climate investment to Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
- **Announced by** - The United Arab Emirates (UAE) (commits \$30 billion)
- **Aim** - To mobilise US\$250 billion globally by 2030 for climate investments.
- **Established by** - Lunate, an independent global investment manager
- **Domiciled in** - Abu Dhabi Global Market
- **Key verticals**
 - Energy Transition
 - Industrial Decarbonisation
 - Sustainable Living
 - Climate Technologies
- **Components**
 - **ALTÉRRRA ACCELERATION** - With US\$25 billion dedicated to steering institutional capital towards large-scale climate investments.
 - **ALTÉRRRA TRANSFORMATION** - With US\$5 billion aimed at mitigating risks and incentivizing investments in the Global South.
- **Significance** - From the initial tranche, an unspecified amount has been earmarked for the development of over 6 GW of new clean energy capacity in India.

Global Decarbonization Accelerator (GDA)

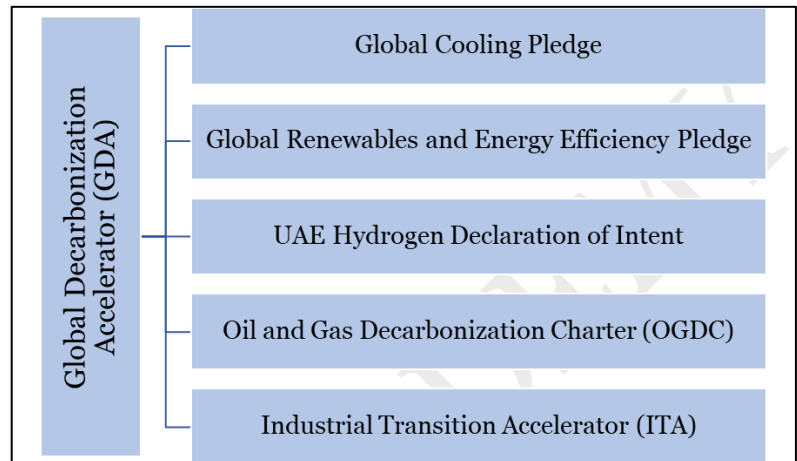
- **About** - A series of landmark initiatives designed to speed up the energy transition and drastically reduce global emissions.
- **Launch** - Launched at the World Climate Action Summit 2023.
- **3 key pillars**
 - Methane and other non-co2 GHGs

- Decarbonizing the energy system of today
- Building the energy system of the Future
- **Global Cooling Pledge** – It commits the countries to reduce their cooling emissions by at least 68% by 2050 and outlines several strategies to tackle them.

- **Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge** – 133 countries have signed the Pledge to rapidly scale the energy system.

- **Aim** - To triple renewables and double annual energy efficiency improvements by 2030.

- **UAE Hydrogen Declaration of Intent** - Through this, 37 countries have agreed to endorse a global certification standard and to recognize existing certification schemes, helping to unlock global trade in low-carbon hydrogen.



- **Oil and Gas Decarbonization Charter (OGDC)** – It commits to align around net zero by or before 2050, zero-out methane emissions, eliminate routine flaring by 2030 and to continue working towards industry best practices in emission reduction.
- It was launched by **UAE and Saudi Arabia**.
- 52 companies, representing over 40% of global oil production have signed on to the OGDC.
- **Industrial Transition Accelerator (ITA)** – To catalyse decarbonisation across heavy-emitting sectors, including energy, industry, and transportation, and accelerate the delivery of Paris-aligned targets.
- **Launched by** - UAE, United Nations Climate Change, and Bloomberg Philanthropies
- **Contribution** - \$30 million
- **Managed by** - Mission Possible Partnership

Coal Transition Accelerator

- **Launched by** – **France, Powering Past Coal Alliance (PPCA)** and others (Not India)
- **Aim** - To share expertise, design new policies including best practices and lessons learned and unlock new sources of financing to facilitate just transitions from coal to clean energy.
- PPCA is a coalition of national and subnational governments and organisations working to advance the transition from unabated coal power generation to clean energy. **USA is a member while India and China are not members.**
- Africa has 40% of the world's critical minerals necessary for energy transition and has the world's largest natural carbon sink.

Alliance of Champions for Food Systems Transformation (ACF)

- **Aim** – To deliver universal access to affordable, nutritious, and sustainable diets.

- **Launched by** - 5 countries — Brazil, Cambodia, Norway, Sierra Leone, and Rwanda.
- The alliance members must agree to update their NDCs and national climate adaptation and biodiversity strategies to integrate these food system efforts by 2025 and report annually on progress towards their goals.

Agriculture and livestock farming are the major sources of GHG emissions, contributing roughly a 10th of global carbon output directly.

Global Roadmap on Food and Agriculture

- **About** - It is a first-of-its-kind, *non-binding global roadmap for food systems* that contains 20 key targets to be met between 2025 and 2050.
- It is a 3-year process for countries to draft climate action plans for food systems that will be finalized at *COP30 in Brazil*.
- **Targets** - The targets include
 - Reducing methane emissions from livestock by 25% by 2030
 - Safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030
 - Halving food waste by 2030
 - Eliminating the use of traditional biomass for cooking by 2030

UNFCCC hosted its 1st ever Food, Agriculture and Water Day on December 10.

Summit on Methane and Non-CO₂ Greenhouse Gases

- **Convened by** - *USA, China, and UAE*
- **Aim** - To accelerate actions to cut methane and other non-CO₂ GHGs to reduce near-term warming and keep a goal of limiting global average temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius within reach.
- Governments and private sector together announced over \$1bn for methane reduction, as part of a '*Methane Finance Sprint*', which is due to be administered by entities including the World Bank and the Global Methane Hub.

Global Methane Pledge is an initiative from COP26 Glasgow, to cut methane emissions by at least 30% by 2030 from the 2020 levels.

- *India, which is not a part of the Global Methane Pledge*, is among the top 5 methane emitters globally.

Draft text on Global Goal on Adaptation

- The first draft text on the [Global Goal on Adaptation](#) was released and it proposes **7 target areas** for climate adaptation by 2030.
- The goal, established with the 2015 Paris Agreement, aims to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change.

Emirates Framework for Global Climate Resilience

- The framework is a step change that will put adaptation focus and action on a par with mitigation by galvanising not just governments, but also all non-party stakeholders to speed up and scale up action for adaptation.

- The framework also calls for regional and international cooperation, including for the first time asking to also look at the need to look at the transboundary nature of climate impacts.

Just Transition Work Programme

- It was established at COP27.
- This is a 5-year programme will drive ambitious, equitable implementation across all pillars of the Paris Agreement.
- Continuing the Presidency’s commitment to inclusion, it includes references to labour rights and social protection as part of adaptation, for the first time in the UNFCCC process.

Mitigation Work Programme

- It was established at COP26 that effectively showcases opportunities and barriers to closing the ambition and implementation gap.

Other Initiatives	Key Features
Declaration on Climate Relief, Recovery and Peace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim – To redirect climate finance into highly vulnerable and fragile areas, offering comprehensive financial, programming, and partnership solutions. • Endorsed by - 80 countries • <i>The Green Climate Fund, with over \$20 billion in pledges, is the world’s largest fund dedicated to supporting climate action in developing nations.</i>
Global Expert Review on Debt, Nature and Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched by - Kenya, Colombia and France • 1st proposed at the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact in Paris in 2023. • Aim - A coalition of experts from countries across the world will independently review the relationship between sovereign debt and its impacts on hindering climate ambition.
Gender-Responsive Just Transitions and Climate Action Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorsed by - 78 countries • Aim - To support just and inclusive transitions that advance gender equality and the goals of the enhanced <i>Lima Work Program on Gender and its Gender Action Plan.</i> • To reconvene for dialogue at COP 32 to report on the implementation of the Partnership.
Podong Indigenous Peoples Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched by - IUCN, the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, and IUCN Indigenous Peoples Organisations members. • Aim – To provide funding directly to indigenous peoples, ensuring no less than 85% of funds reach indigenous territories and communities.
Youth Climate Champion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Climate Champion was appointed by the UAE building on the foundations of the COP27 Youth Envoy. • UAE, the Youth Climate Champion and YOUNGO (official children and youth constituency of the UNFCCC) convened the Dubai Youth Dialogue.

<p>Africa Green Industrialization Initiative</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim - To accelerate green growth of industries in Africa and attract finance and investment opportunities, building upon the <u>Nairobi Declaration of the Africa Climate Summit</u> held in 2023.
<p>New members added to Cargo Owners for Zero Emission Vessels (coZEV)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim - To drive ambition and action toward zero emission ocean transport. • It is done as a part of the <u>Green Shipping Challenge</u>, a joint initiative between the <u>United States and Norway</u> launched at <u>COP27</u> to help put the shipping sector align with the goal of limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C.
<p>Net-Zero Export Credit Agencies Alliance (NZECA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a <u>net-zero finance alliance</u> that consists of global public finance institutions committed to reaching <u>net-zero GHG emissions by 2050</u>. • Launch - Formed in partnership with the University of Oxford's Innovation and Knowledge Hub, Future of Climate Cooperation, 8 leading export credit agencies, and the UN Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI)
<p>Utilities for Net Zero Alliance (UNEZA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched by - 31 partners, including 25 utilities and other energy companies along with <u>IRENA</u> and the UN Climate Change High-Level Champions • Aim - To advance electrification, renewables-ready grids, and clean energy deployment in line with <u>2030 Breakthrough goals</u> and a net zero future by 2050. • The Breakthrough Agenda, launched at COP26 by 45 countries (including India) represents a global commitment to work together this decade to scale up clean technologies to keep the 1.5 degree Celsius goal in reach.
<p>The Buildings and Cement Breakthrough</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched by - Canada and the United Arab Emirates • Aim - To advance the decarbonisation of the construction sector by 2030. • To focus the industry on speeding up decarbonization by sharing 3 best practices, working on policy and standards, and supporting new innovation in areas like carbon capture and storage or utilization, or circular economy.
<p>Waste to Zero Coalition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched by - UAE Ministry of Climate Change & Environment • Aim - To decarbonizing the waste sector and accelerating the shift towards circular and regenerative modes of industry and production.
<p>Charter on Finance for Managing Risk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signed by 39 countries and partner agencies to increase the share of resources released before a climate disaster instead of after.
<p>Global Education Solutions Accelerator</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim - To fast-track education transformation, a \$70 million investment to build climate-resilient schools in vulnerable countries was announced. • Launched by - The Green Climate Fund, the Global Partnership for Education and Save the Children.

Declaration on the common agenda for education and climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signed by 38 countries, committing to incorporate climate education into their NDCs and national adaptation plans (NAPs).
Net Zero Mobilization Charter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage the private sector to make and update net zero emissions targets, underpinned by ambitious transition plans.
Climate Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st arose at a Group of Seven (G7) summit 2022 and has now formally launched. Members - 36 countries co-chaired by <i>Germany and Chile</i> Aim - To ambitiously tackle industrial emissions

What is the role of India in COP 28?

- Bihar's program** - The actions undertaken by the *Bihar government* in the field of afforestation, particularly through the ***Jal-Jeevan-Hariyali Abhiyan*** (Rural Development Department), was praised by the international community at COP-28.
- Hosting the COP** - Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his address at COP-28, offered to host the ***33rd edition*** of the annual summit due in ***2028 in India***.
- If India hosts the 33rd summit, it would be for the ***2nd time after 2002***, when it hosted the 8th edition.
- A proposal to host the COP must be approved by other signatories to the UNFCCC. Venues for future COP are only decided ***2 years in advance***.
- Green Credit Initiative** – India has announced the launch of the Green Credit Initiative to incentivize voluntary environmental actions across diverse sectors.



Green Credit Initiative

- Genesis** - Unveiled in 2023, by the *Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change*, the Green Credit Program is an initiative within the government's broader ***Lifestyle for Environment or Life Movement***.
- Working** - Green credits will be assigned to specific environmental activities, and will be treated as tradable commodities.
- These credits will be able to be sold on domestic market platforms.
- Administration** – By ***Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE)***
- Focus areas**
 - Tree plantation
 - Water

- Sustainable agriculture
- Waste management
- Air pollution reduction
- Mangrove conservation and restoration
- Ecomark
- Sustainable building and infrastructure

- **Priorities** – The 2 main priorities include water conservation and afforestation.

Green growth was one of the top 7 priorities in the Finance Minister's Budget 2023-24.

- **Global River Cities Alliance (GRCA)** – Inspired by India's River Cities Alliance (2021), GRCA was launched at the COP28.
- The River Cities Alliance currently has 142 river cities in India and serves as a dedicated platform to discuss aspects related to enhancing the state of urban rivers within their administrative boundaries.

Global River Cities Alliance (GRCA)

- **Aim** - To scale up the concept of collaborative knowledge sharing to facilitate the transfer of good experiences from one part of the world to another.
- **Launched by** - National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)
- **Members** – 9 countries (Indian, Denmark, Cambodia, Japan, Bhutan, Australia, Netherlands, Egypt, and Ghana)
- **Secretariat** – Provided by
 - National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Ministry of Jal Shakti
 - National Institute for Urban Affairs (NIUA), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- **Supported by** – World Bank, Asian Development Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

In what initiatives did India refuse to join?

Declaration on Climate and Health

- **About** - The non-binding declaration calls for nations to reduce their greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions in the health sector swiftly, sustainably, and substantially.
- **Signatories** - 144 countries till now. US and India, which are among the top greenhouse gas emitters, absent from the list of signatories.
- India neither signed the declaration nor participated in official activities on World Health Day citing the lack of practicality in curbing GHG use for cooling in the health sector.

December 3 was celebrated as World Health Day.

The Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge

- **About** – The pledge provides for
 - Tripling installed renewable energy generation capacity to at least 11,000 GW by 2030
 - Doubling global average annual rate of energy efficiency improvements to more than 4% by 2030
- It is **not legally binding**.
- **Spearheaded by** - *EU, the US and the UAE*
- **Supported by** - Brazil, Nigeria, Australia, Japan, Canada, Chile and Barbados.
- **Signatories** - As many as 130 countries signed on to a pledge, with the **China and India**, absent from the list of signatories.
- They have stayed away as the initiative calls for **phasing down of coal** and ending the continued investment in unabated new coal-fired power plants.

China has the world's largest installed renewable energy capacity followed by the United States, Brazil and India.

India's Status on Renewable Energy

- India is the world's **3rd largest producer** of renewable energy, with 40% of its installed energy capacity coming from non-fossil fuel sources.
- India has announced its aim to meet **50% of its electricity demands** from renewable energy sources by 2030 and reach **net zero emissions by 2070**.
- India already has ambitious targets on renewable – **450 GW by 2030**.
- India had already supported, as part of the G20, to work towards **tripling global renewable energy capacity by 2030**.

Emirates Declaration on Resilient Food Systems, Sustainable Agriculture, and Climate Action

- **Aim** - To promote food security while combatting climate change.
- **Promoted by** - The UAE
- **Partner** - Melinda Gates Foundation
- **Signatories** - **134 nations** which make up 76% of food-based GHGs and produce 70% of food globally
- India refrained from signing as it conflicted with its longstanding **policy of not committing to climate action related to agriculture and livestock** and the millions of livelihoods that depend on them.

Global Cooling Pledge

- **Aim** - It commits the countries to reduce their cooling emissions **by at least 68% by 2050** from 2022 levels and outlines several strategies to tackle them.

Conventional cooling, such as air-conditioning is a major driver of climate change, responsible for over 7% of global GHG emissions.

- **Signatories** - 66 countries, including the US and Canada have signed the pledge.
- **India has not signed** the pledge as strict adherence to it could restrict access to affordable cooling and transitioning to sustainable cooling technologies requires substantial investments.

*India has its own **Cooling Action Plan**, announced in 2019 to reduce power consumption for cooling across sectors by 20-25% by 2038.*

What are the disappointments in the COP 28?

- **Fossil fuel phase-out** - The final agreement called upon countries to contribute towards transitioning away from fossil fuels, to achieve net zero by 2050 but there were no time schedules or targets.
- Some countries were extremely disappointed that the term "fossil fuel phase-out" had not been used.
- Fossil fuel companies had been steadily increasing their presence at the COPs with COP 28 being held in a petrostate and headed by an oil company chief.

Fossil fuels are responsible for around 75% of all GHG emissions and about 90% of global CO₂ emissions.

- **Loss & Damage Fund** - A meagre \$790 million has been pledged so far, despite the corpus requiring \$100 billion to more than \$400 billion a year.
- Notably, the U.S., the largest historical emitter, committed only \$17.5 million.
- Concerns related to limited access to the fund, questions about the legal autonomy, flexibility, and decision-making authority, and general scepticism about the fund's agility in responding promptly to emergencies, have emerged.
- **Tripling of Renewable Energy** - Tripling is a global target, and it is not incumbent on every country to individually triple its current installed capacity.
- It is thus not clear how this tripling would be ensured.
- **Phase-down of coal** - There was a move to stipulate that no new coal fired power plants could be opened without an in-built carbon capture and storage facility, but it was strongly **resisted by India, China**, and others and so it was dropped.
- In 2022, India had proposed to phase down all fossil fuels and not just coal.
- There is nothing about how this phase-down is to be measured, or from what baseline.
- **Methane emission cuts** - Several countries, **including India**, are opposed to any mandate to cut methane emissions, because one of the major sources happens to be agriculture and livestock.
- The agreement also does not mention any targets for methane emission cuts for the year 2030.

Methane is the most widespread greenhouse gas apart from CO₂, accounting for nearly 25% of all emissions. It is also about 80 times more potent than CO₂ in causing global warming.

- **Global Goal on Adaptation** - Much more needs to be done on this front, particularly in identifying the indicators to measure progress on each of the global goals.

- The adaptation agreement currently *lacks financial provisions*, and countries would need to continue working on it to strengthen it in the coming years.
- **Loose definitions** - While calling for a phase-down of “*unbated*” coal power, the door was left open for “*low-carbon fuels*”, “*low-emission*” technologies, “*low-carbon hydrogen*” and “*transitional fuels*”.
- **Transitional Fuels** - The declaration also refers to ‘transitional fuels’, such as natural gas, for ensuring energy security. But this falls short of true climate justice as it allows industry to continue operating in business-as-usual mode.
- **Climate finance** - The draft did not take the issue of financial support by developed countries further, causing much anguish to climate vulnerable countries.
- **Carbon capture** – The call for accelerated deployment of carbon capture is skeptical as it is expensive and has yet to be proven at the scale needed to impact climate change.
- **Energy systems** - The call upon parties to transition away from fossils in energy systems – *as opposed to across the entire economy*, sends a signal that other energy-intensive sectors like plastics and petrochemicals production can continue to rely on fossils.

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