



COP 28

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Why in News

Recently, the **United Arab Emirates** announced an **offer to host the 28th session of Conference of Parties (COP 28)** to the **UNFCCC** in **Abu Dhabi in 2023**.

COP 26 was **postponed in 2020** and will take place in **Glasgow, UK** in November 2021.

Key Points

- **About UNFCCC:**

- The **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**, signed in **1992** at the **United Nations Conference on Environment and Development** also known as the **Earth Summit**, the **Rio Summit** or the **Rio Conference**.

India is among the select few countries to have **hosted the COP of all three Rio conventions on climate change (UNFCCC), biodiversity (Convention on Biological Diversity) and land (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification)**.

- The UNFCCC entered into force on **21st March 1994**, and has been **ratified by 197 countries**.
- It is the **parent treaty of the 2015 Paris Agreement**. It is also the **parent treaty of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol**.
- The **UNFCCC secretariat** (UN Climate Change) is the **United Nations entity** tasked with supporting the global response to the threat of climate change. It is **located in Bonn, Germany**.

- **Objective:**

To achieve stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous repercussions within a time frame so as to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally and enable sustainable development.

- **The Conference of the Parties (COP):**
 - COP is the **apex decision-making authority** of UNFCCC.
 - The COP **meets every year**, unless the Parties decide otherwise. The first COP meeting was held in Berlin, Germany in March, 1995.
 - The COP **meets in Bonn**, the seat of the secretariat, unless a Party offers to host the session.
 - 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.