



COP 28 - ENVIRONMENT AND GS III MAINS

Q. The Dubai Climate Deal marks the significant development from the Paris Climate Deal. Discuss the positive outcomes of the COP-28 in the global fight against climate change. (10 marks, 150 words)

News: *COP28 summit calls for 'transition away' from fossil fuels*

What's in the news?

- The 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference or Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC, more commonly referred to as COP28 is the 28th United Nations Climate Change conference, being held from 30 November until 12 December 2023 at **Expo City, Dubai.**

Key takeaways:

- The conference has been held annually since the first UN climate agreement in 1992.
- The COP conferences are intended for governments to agree on policies to limit global temperature rises and adapt to impacts associated with climate change.

Theme

- Transforming climate finance.
- Fast-tracking the energy transition.
- Climate finance solutions.
- Nature, people, lives and livelihoods.
- Inclusivity in climate management.

Positive Outcomes:

1. Global Climate Stocktake:

- Countries would be required to submit raised emissions reduction targets by mid-2025 for finalisation at COP30.
- This stocktake can guide our future climate action.

2. Operationalisation of Loss and Damage Fund:

- The operationalisation of the fund will help in ensuring climate justice to the developing and underdeveloped countries which have suffered tremendous loss and damage due to climate change.

3. Fossil fuel role in Climate Change:

- In COP-28, the role of fossil fuels in causing global warming has been formally acknowledged for the first time.



- Fossil fuels which contribute to 75% of all greenhouse gases and about 90% of global carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions, took centre stage at COP28.
 - This marks the beginning of the end of fossil fuel usage in the world.
- 4. Phase-down of coal:**
- The COP-28 document singles out coal amongst other fossil fuels by calling for phase down.
- 5. Emission reduction with enhanced focus on renewable energy:**
- The Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge, adopted at COP 28, has the potential to avoid emissions of about 7 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent between now and 2030.
 - This reduction of emissions will be more than the combined emission reduction due to all the other climate actions being currently taken.
- 6. Need for enhanced Climate Finance:**
- The COP 28 conference also highlighted the need for enhanced climate finance to combat the climate change consequences. According to the report by UNCTAD, wealthy nations owe developing countries USD 500 billion in 2025 under the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) for climate finance.
- 7. Increased Focus on Adaptation:**
- COP 28 resulted in the identification of some common adaptation goals, which are important for the entire world. Before COP 28, adaptation measures had largely been a local endeavour.
- 8. Diverse participation:**
- The COP 28 saw the participation of activist groups, indigenous groups, big and small business, consultancies, traders and media. These diverse groups enhance the transparency of the Climate change negotiations.

Shortcomings:

- Lack of Ambitious Climate Action.
- Issues with the Fossil Fuel Pledge.
- Issues with the Renewable Energy Pledge.
- Issue with Phase Down of Coal Usage.
- Impasse over Methane Emission Cuts.
- Lack of Financing Mechanism.

India's Climate Action Initiatives during the COP28 summit:

- Global River Cities Alliance (GRCA)
- Green Credit Initiative
- LeadIT 2.0
- Green Development Pact



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WAY FORWARD:

- **Introduction of New Indicators** - New tangible indicators need to be identified to measure progress on each of the global goals established at COP 28.
- **Establishment of Financial Mechanism.**
- **Binding commitments** - Efforts must be taken to make the renewable energy pledges binding on all the member countries.
- Clarity on phase down of Fossil Fuel.
- **Climate Justice** - Common but Differentiated Responsibility (CBDR) must remain the guiding light.

