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S.NO.	TOPIC
1.	INDIA'S HEALTH-CARE SYSTEM-CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS
2.	SPECIAL MARRIAGE ACT (SMA), 1954, PERSONAL LAW AND RECENT HC JUDGEMENT ON INTERFAITH MARRIAGE
3.	COP 29

INDIA'S HEALTH-CARE SYSTEM-CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

Health regulations need a base to top approach

In the last week of May, an incident of a devastating fire in a private neonatal care nursing home in New Delhi shook us all. Political parties began a blame game and the media coverage was intense, going overboard and reporting incorrectly that a number of nursing homes in Delhi function without a licence. Yet, the incident seems to have been forgotten by most even as the parents grieve. Such tragedies are often followed by a question of who should be blamed, completely missing the point that these are almost always the outcome of a systemic failure – in this case, the failure of health-care regulations.

The subject of regulation has always been of interest to health programme managers but, arguably, is one of the weakest points in India's health-care system. It is not as if there are not enough health regulations in Indian States. Rather, it is a problem of excess. Some States have over 50 approvals under multiple regulations, which need to be followed and complied with by every health-care facility. Still, many officials in government, as well as others, believe that the private health sector in India has insufficient regulation.

The other challenge is unrealistic health-care quality standards. Governments at every level in India – national and States – are known to draft policies which are near perfect. One such case is the Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010, enacted 14 years ago, but not adopted by States. This is because State governments, in discussions with stakeholders, have realised that many provisions in the Act are impossible to implement. Another example is the Indian Public Health Standards, or IPHS, drafted by the government for its own health-care facilities and proposed as essential in order to deliver quality health services. The IPHS were first released in 2007 and have been revised twice since then. Yet, in 17 years of existence, only 15% to 18% of government primary health-care facilities in India meet the government's own standards. Clearly, in the efforts to be aspirational, health-care regulations and standards in India have drifted towards unrealistic standards, and are difficult to implement.

India has a mixed health-care system

There is a binary perception that when it comes to adhering to the rules, the government health sector always does better, and that the private sector always violates them. The fact is that India has a mixed health-care system, where private health-care facilities and providers deliver nearly 70% of outpatient and 50% of hospital-based services. In most States such as Maharashtra or Kerala, the health indicators are better not because these States have outstanding government facilities but because the facilities and clinics in the private sector are fulfilling the



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Health regulations are essential but their implementation in India needs to be nuanced and calibrated

health needs of the people. People 'vote with feet' by seeking care at these private health facilities.

Yet, when it comes to health-care regulation, there seems to be an unfairness and overzealous attempt to enforce the regulations in the private sector. In 2017, two separate but near identical incidents in two large hospitals in Delhi (a tertiary-care government hospital and a large corporate hospital), had allegedly declared newborn infants as dead; they were alive. This resulted in a temporary suspension of licence in the case of the private hospital, while in the case of the government hospital there was just the setting up of an inquiry committee. Clearly, for effective regulation and adherence, the stakeholder should not feel they are being targeted. In health-care regulation, in the current scheme of things, the burden of responsibility is more on providers and facility owners. Most private nursing homes and clinics have often flagged the issue of approvals being delayed by the authorities for months even when these facilities apply for renewal well in advance. In many examples, applications submitted well on time for renewal (two to three months before the due date), are granted approval months later. The sluggish approval process is a main concern as far as facility owners are concerned.

Affordable care is one need

The private sector is also not a homogenous entity as there is everything from single doctor clinics, small nursing homes and medium-sized hospitals to large corporate hospitals. Single doctor clinics and small nursing homes are often the first point of contact for access and utilisation of health services in India by middle-income and low-income populations, and are the real lifeline of health services. They deliver a large share of health services at a fraction of cost of that of the big corporate hospitals. Why the parents of the babies opted to go to a private nursing home despite government health facilities with free health services is an issue we must reflect on. The single doctor clinics and nursing homes play a key role in health service delivery in India and make services accessible and affordable. Clearly, there needs to be supportive and facilitatory regulations to serve the public purpose of keeping health-care costs low and affordable.

Yet, the tragic incident in Delhi is not something which should be allowed to pass without calm assessment and some concrete plans. First, ensuring quality of health services is essential and the joint responsibility of all stakeholders. However, in an overzealous attempt to ensure having a 'world class tag' or being 'swayed by the lure of medical tourism', the government should not end up making health-care regulations unrealistic. There is a need to formulate guidelines that can be practised and implemented. There is a need to

harmonise multiple health regulations and simplifying the application process. Such applications need to be disposed of in a time-bound manner.

Second, in regulatory aspects, what is possible for large corporate hospitals may not be feasible for smaller clinics and nursing homes, without escalated cost. Expecting smaller facilities to meet the same standard would make it expensive for the smaller facilities – a cost that is likely to be transferred to patients, making health services unaffordable. There is a need for a differential approach for different types of facilities. Yet, there should be essential and desirable points in each category overseen by regular self-assessment and regulatory visits. If thousands of buildings in the city can have safe elevators, why cannot there be equal emphasis on fire and other safety measures in health facilities? For effective adherence and implementation, the government should consider subsidies and funding to increase adherence to regulations.

Third, representatives of doctors' associations and the types of facilities for which regulations are being formed as well as community members should be involved in the process of the formulation of such regulation.

Fourth, political loose talk and sensational media headlines might worsen the mistrust of the common man about doctors and nursing homes and may result in increased violence against health-care providers.

Focus on the primary-care givers

Fifth, and most importantly, India needs to promote single doctor clinics apart from smaller health-care facilities, and nursing homes. These are what deliver primary care and contribute to keeping the cost of health care low. Every such facility and its doctors need to be supported rather than burdened with excess regulations.

In the fire tragedy in Delhi, we should not just treat the symptoms but also aim to find and eliminate the root causes. It is a reminder of the need to have simplified and implementable regulations that have been developed with the collaboration and coordination of key stakeholders. There is a need for fairness in implementations, time-bound decisions and the disposal of applications for renewal of licences, promoting smaller health-care facilities with subsidies, and support for increased quality and safety. India's health-care system is already becoming skewed towards admission based in-patient services. It needs to promote providers and facilities that deliver out-patient care at lower costs. This would contribute to the goal of the National Health Policy, 2017 – to deliver health services that should be people-centric, accessible, available, affordable, and have quality. This requires health regulations being drafted from bottom up and not top down, and implemented in a nuanced and calibrated manner.

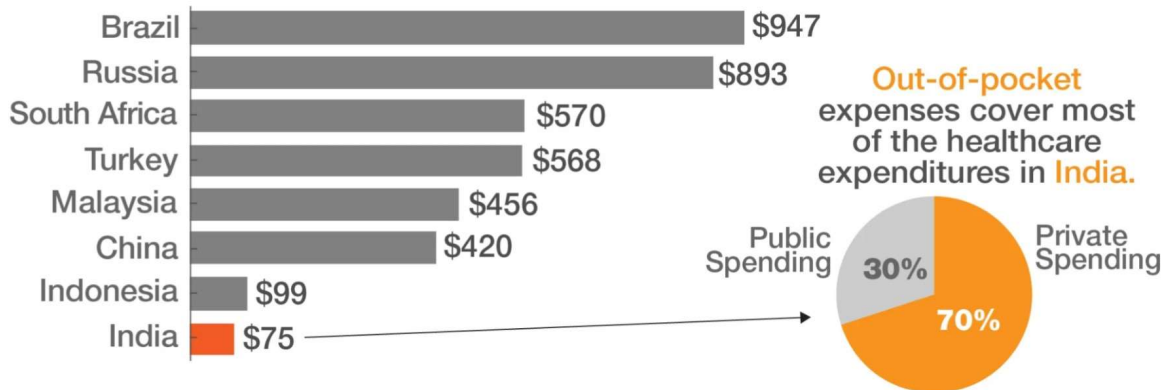


What you should note Down?

- Important for GS-I (Health - social issues & social jus)
- context (News)
- Health care systems in India
 - Problems
 - solutions
- Conclusion

Health expenditure per person

Among the BRICS and other newly industrialised nations, India spends the least on health per capita.



What are the Initiatives for the Health Care Sector?

- ❖ National Health Mission
- ❖ Ayushman Bharat.
- ❖ Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).
- ❖ National Medical Commission
- ❖ PM National Dialysis Programme.
- ❖ Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK).
- ❖ Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK).

Mains Answer Writing:

Q.1 What is the current Scenario of the Health Care Sector of India? What are the major concerns? How to use India's huge potential in the health sector to rectify the problems? (250w/15m)



**SPECIAL MARRIAGE ACT (SMA), 1954, PERSONAL LAW AND
RECENT HC JUDGEMENT ON INTERFAITH MARRIAGE**

Bizarre judgment

Personal law norms cannot be used to invalidate inter-faith marriages

It is an old principle that ignorance of law is no excuse. Evidently, this applies not only to offenders but also to judges. The Madhya Pradesh High Court's order ruling declining to give protection to a couple on the ground that a marriage between a Muslim man and Hindu woman will not be valid, even if registered under the Special Marriage Act (SMA), 1954, reflects an incredible misunderstanding of the law. The judge examined Muslim law treatises to conclude that a Muslim cannot marry an "idolatrix or fire-worshipper", as such a marriage would be irregular. The SMA was passed precisely to allow inter-faith couples to get married without the requirements of marriage rituals associated with their religions. For a court to dissect the personal law requirements of the parties to enter into a valid marriage, when all they wanted was police protection to appear before the Marriage Registration Officer, is nothing short of bizarre. The question raised by Justice G.S. Ahluwalia – whether the inter-faith marriage that was intended to be registered under the SMA will be valid under Muslim law – is utterly irrelevant to the case at hand. Even though counsel for the couple advanced the correct argument that the Special Marriage Act would override the personal law of their respective religions, the judge chose to examine whether such a marriage would be valid or void or irregular under Mohammedan law.

The judge concedes that when a marriage is performed under SMA, it cannot be challenged on the ground of non-performance of mandatory marriage rituals. The only justifications offered by the judge is that the SMA itself provides that when the parties are within the degrees of prohibited relationship, it shall not be valid. From this, he draws a conclusion that a marriage that is invalid in personal law cannot be legalised by registering it under the SMA. It is clear that this is only a salutary provision that exists to prevent the Act from being misused to solemnise the marriage of those in prohibited relationships, and does not mean that every inter-faith marriage has to be scrutinised for compliance with personal law requirements. It is strange that the court underscores that the woman petitioner in this case did not want to convert to Islam, but at the same time examines the case through the lens of Muslim law. This is nothing but an attempt to impose religious personal law on those opting for a secular marriage. Allowing this judgment to stand will render the entire Special Marriage Act superfluous. It will also undermine any move towards a uniform civil code, and privileges Muslim personal law over the secular Special Marriages Act. In effect, it could drive people to religious conversion just for the sake of solemnising their marriages.

- ❖ In India, the secular personal law - Special Marriage Act (SMA) 1954, provides an alternate route to religious laws for marriage to interfaith couples.

What is the Special Marriage Act 1954?

- ❖ About:
 - ☛ The Special Marriage Act (SMA), 1954 is an Indian law that provides a legal framework for the marriage of people belonging to different religions or castes.
- ❖ It governs a civil marriage where the state sanctions the marriage rather than the religion.
 - ☛ The Indian system, where both civil and religious marriages are recognised, is similar to the laws in the UK's Marriage Act of 1949.



Basic Provisions:

- ❖ Applicability:
 - ☛ The applicability of the Act extends to the people of all faiths, including Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Sikhs, Jains, and Buddhists, across India.
- ❖ Recognition of Marriage:
 - ☛ The Act provides for the registration of marriages, which gives legal recognition to the marriage and provides a number of legal benefits and protections to the couple, such as inheritance rights, succession rights, and social security benefits.
 - ☛ It forbids polygamy and declares a marriage null and void if either party had a spouse living at the time of the marriage or if either of them is incapable of giving a valid consent to the marriage due to unsoundness of mind.

Differentiation from Personal Laws:

- ❖ Personal laws, such as the Muslim Marriage Act, 1954, and the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, require either spouse to convert to the religion of the other before marriage.
 - ☛ However, the SMA enables marriage between inter-faith or inter-caste couples without them giving up their religious identity or resorting to conversion.
 - ☛ But, once married as per the SMA, an individual is deemed severed from the family in terms of rights like the right to inheritance.

Question:

Q.2 With reference to the Special Marriage Act (SMA), 1954, consider the following statements:

1. The Act requires either spouse to convert to the religion of the other before marriage.
2. People of all faiths across India are eligible to get married under the SMA.
3. Section 4 of the SMA requires that both the parties should be capable of giving consent and must be of sound mind.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: B

Notes:

- ❖ Explanation –
 - ☛ Statement 1 is incorrect. SMA, 1954 does not require conversion. It allows to different religion couples to get married.
 - ☛ Statement 2 and 3 are correct. People of all faiths across India are eligible to get married under the SMA. Section 4 of the SMA requires that both the parties should be capable of giving consent and must be of sound mind.



COP 29

Climate conference in November to emphasise 'peace' and 'truce'

Jacob P. Koshy
BAKU

The annual climate conference to be held here in November will lay particular stress on "peace" and "truce" to enable countries to focus on climate solution amid ongoing conflicts, a top adviser to the Azerbaijan government said at a media briefing this week.

The 29th edition of the Conference of Parties (COP) – as the climate con-

ference is called – is set to further agenda points decided in the 28th edition in Dubai such as a firm commitment to "transition away from the use of fossil fuels...in a just, orderly and equitable manner, and accelerating action in this critical decade, to achieve net zero by 2050."

The choice of Azerbaijan as the host means that it will preside over COP-29 proceedings and try to steer countries into achieving consensus on address-



A view of Dubai's Expo City, the venue where the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP-28 was held. FILE PHOTO

ing the climate crisis. Most countries have agreed on the urgency of the problem

and the need to keep temperatures from rising 1.5C above pre-industrial levels

by the end of century.

A long-standing criticism and a matter of deep division between developed and developing countries is that a 2009 commitment by developed countries to mobilise \$100 billion a year between 2020 and 2025 for developing countries has only been partially realised. A major item that is expected to be firmed up in 2024 is to decide a new annual target above \$100 billion and agreement on whether

these will be in the form of grants or loans.

However, deliberating on all these would require an atmosphere of peace. "We are now seeing that geopolitically the world is in a Cold War-like situation," said Hikmet Hajiyev, top adviser to Azerbaijan President, Ilham Ayilev, "The world is divided but Azerbaijan's position is that the climate issue is something different. Countries can be on different sides on geopolitical mat-

ters but climate affects everybody and needs an inclusive process. So, we are proposing a COP-truce. During the COP [meet], all cannons should stop." He said this in reference to the Russia-Ukraine war

Mr. Hajiyev said he had sounded out the UN on this and as an example he highlighted the recent cessation of hostilities between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

(The writer was part of a South-Asia media delegation invited to Azerbaijan)

Key Points To Take Away -

Syll - GS - III

What is COP?

History

Significance

Host of COP-29

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCES: COPS 1-28



What is a COP?

- ❖ The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the principal decision-making body under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It convenes annually, bringing together representatives from the 197 nations that are parties to the Convention, along with the European Union.



- ❖ The primary objective of the COP meetings is to negotiate, discuss, and establish global agreements and strategies to address climate change, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and limit the impacts of global warming.

Importance of COP:

- ❖ **Decision-Making:** COPs serve as the primary forum for nations to negotiate, agree upon, and implement measures to combat climate change.
- ❖ **Emission Monitoring:** Member countries present national reports and emission inventories, providing crucial insights into their efforts and progress toward achieving climate goals outlined in the Convention.

COP Presidency Rotation:

- ❖ The COP Presidency rotates among five recognized UN regions (Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Central and Eastern Europe, and Western Europe and others).
- ❖ This rotation system ensures equitable representation among different regions, allowing them to host and demonstrate their commitment to addressing global climate challenges.

COP1-28-Overview

- ❖ COP1, 1995 - Berlin, Germany:
 - ☛ Following the establishment of the UNFCCC in 1992 at the Rio Earth Summit, COP1 focused on the submission of national communications by parties detailing measures to limit anthropogenic emissions.
 - ☛ Agreed upon in-depth reviews of these national communications covering emissions limitations, cooperation for adaptation, and aggregate data without individual national totals.
- ❖ COP2, 1996 - Geneva, Switzerland:
 - ☛ Parties aimed to set binding quantitative targets to limit emissions by industrialized countries but faced disagreements leading to the endorsement of results from the IPCC second assessment report.
 - ☛ The Geneva Ministerial Declaration was noted but not adopted due to stalled negotiations.
- ❖ COP3, 1997 - Kyoto, Japan:
 - ☛ The Kyoto Protocol was adopted, establishing legally binding emissions reduction targets for developed countries to reduce emissions to 5.2% below 1990 levels for the period 2008-2012.
 - ☛ The protocol allowed flexibility in reducing emissions, introducing mechanisms like emissions trading and the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).
 - ☛ However, the US delayed signing and ratifying the agreement until later due to concerns regarding the absence of commitments from developing nations.
- ❖ COP4, 1998 - Buenos Aires, Argentina:
 - ☛ Produced the Buenos Aires Action Plan, focusing on advancing the Kyoto Protocol into reality.
 - ☛ Established rules for market-based mechanisms (emissions trading, Joint Implementation, and CDM), compliance rules, technology transfer to developing nations, and understanding carbon sinks for policy measures.



- ❖ COP5, 1999 - Bonn, Germany:
 - ☛ A more technical summit, emphasizing contributions to the Buenos Aires Action Plan, especially supporting the participation of developing countries.
 - ☛ Identified capacity-building needs for developing nations across various domains necessary for effective climate action.
- ❖ COP6, 2000 (The Hague, Netherlands) and 2001 (Bonn, Germany):
 - ☛ Nations, except the US, agreed on implementing mechanisms for the Kyoto Protocol, including emissions trading, Joint Implementation (JI), and the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).
 - ☛ Funds were agreed upon for least developed countries and adaptation under the Kyoto Protocol and the Framework Convention, recognizing the role of developing countries in tackling climate change.
 - ☛ Negotiations resulted in agreements on emissions trading, JI, CDM, and contributions of sinks towards emissions reductions on a country-by-country basis.
 - ☛ Quantitative limits were not set on flexibility mechanisms, but domestic action was emphasized as a significant element to achieve binding targets.
- ❖ COP7, 2001 - Marrakech, Morocco:
 - ☛ Marrakech Accords established operational rules for the Kyoto Protocol, focusing on accounting, inclusion criteria, and penalties for non-compliance.
 - ☛ Refined and specified mechanisms for emissions reduction, but largely refined COP6's Bonn Agreement without substantial changes.
- ❖ COP8, 2002 - New Delhi, India:
 - ☛ Delhi Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development urged parties to ratify the Kyoto Protocol and integrate sustainable development with climate change objectives.
 - ☛ Emphasized the need for national strategies integrating climate change objectives into key sectors like water, energy, agriculture, and biodiversity.
- ❖ COP9, 2003 - Milan, Italy:
 - ☛ Limited progress in implementing the Kyoto Protocol despite EU and Annex-1 countries' climate leadership.
 - ☛ Initiated the Special Climate Change Fund and LDC Fund, focusing on capacity-building for developing countries.
 - ☛ Launched a comprehensive review to assess the success of capacity-building efforts, emphasizing technology transfer.
- ❖ COP10, 2004 - Buenos Aires, Argentina:
 - ☛ Advanced groundwork for adaptation measures and initial discussions on post-2012 targets.
 - ☛ Adopted the Buenos Aires Programme of Work on Adaptation and Response Measures to enhance adaptation projects in developing nations.
 - ☛ Defined guidance for the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and initiated discussions on post-2012 targets and pathways.



- ❖ COP11, 2005 - Montreal, Canada:
 - ☛ The Kyoto Protocol came into force, including emissions trading and a strengthened Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).
 - ☛ Parties agreed to extend the Protocol beyond 2012, marking the beginning of negotiations for the post-2012 phase.
- ❖ COP12, 2006 - Nairobi, Kenya:
 - ☛ Discussed the economic risks of climate change and emphasized the need to intensify adaptation efforts.
 - ☛ Continued deliberations on adaptation, technology transfer, and future negotiations without setting concrete deadlines for new global targets post-2012.
- ❖ COP13, 2007 - Bali, Indonesia:
 - ☛ Parties agreed to launch the Bali Action Plan, aiming for comprehensive long-term cooperative action under the Convention.
 - ☛ Stipulated commitments for developed nations to limit emissions and developing nations to take mitigation actions with support in technology, financing, and capacity-building.
- ❖ COP14, 2008 - Poznań, Poland:
 - ☛ Established roundtable meetings and workshops to discuss mitigation objectives, technology transfer, and differentiation of commitments across countries for future negotiations.
 - ☛ Operationalized the Adaptation Fund funded by a levy on projects under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).
- ❖ COP15, 2009 - Copenhagen, Denmark:
 - ☛ Despite weak consensus, the Copenhagen accord aimed for a 2°C global warming limit without legally binding commitments.
 - ☛ Acknowledged the need for a review by 2015 to strengthen long-term goals in relation to a 1.5°C temperature rise.
 - ☛ Shifted focus from Kyoto Protocol by urging quantified actions from both developed and developing nations.
 - ☛ Pledged financial support with promises of \$30bn over three years and a target of \$100bn annually by 2020, fostering greater scrutiny over emissions measurement and climate efforts, notably from China.
- ❖ COP16, 2010 - Cancún, Mexico:
 - ☛ The Cancún Agreements covered adaptation, technology transfer, mitigation, and finance but were considered a relatively modest step in combatting climate change. Key highlights included:
 - ☛ Establishment of the Green Climate Fund without a finalized funding plan.
 - ☛ Re-emphasis on the \$100bn climate finance goal without clear funding sources.
 - ☛ Restoration of faith in multilateral processes and the foundation for a low-emissions future.
 - ☛ Decisions to continue negotiations for a successor to the Kyoto Protocol.
- ❖ COP17, 2011 - Durban, South Africa:
 - ☛ The Durban Conference marked significant progress in climate negotiations and set the stage for future agreements:



- Kept the Kyoto Protocol alive on a limited basis and paved the way for a new pact under the UNFCCC.
- Made headway on operationalizing the Green Climate Fund initiated at COP16.
- Broke through an impasse on developing country involvement, aiming for a more equitable approach to emission reduction commitments.
- Agreed upon the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action, initiating negotiations to conclude no later than 2015, leading up to a new agreement post-2020.
- Lack of explicit mandates for binding commitments and the absence of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, indicating a compromise on the legal nature of the post-2020 agreement.
- ❖ COP18, 2012 - Doha, Qatar:
 - The Doha Climate Gateway at COP18 set a timetable to adopt a universal climate agreement and emphasized the need to increase efforts to cut greenhouse gases and assist vulnerable countries. Key outcomes included:
 - Launching the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.
 - Endorsing the Republic of Korea as the host of the Green Climate Fund, although funding remained unresolved.
 - Discussions on deforestation without concrete agreements on reduction efforts.
 - Outlining workstreams for the Ad hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action focusing on negotiating a new agreement by 2015.
- ❖ COP19, 2013 - Warsaw, Poland:
 - At COP19, the establishment of the Warsaw international mechanism for loss and damage under the Cancun Adaptation Framework was agreed upon, alongside discussions on REDD+ financing and reporting.
 - Key points encompassed:
 - Progress on the loss and damage mechanism for extreme weather events in vulnerable developing countries.
 - Advancements in monitoring REDD+ activities and discussions on financing these initiatives.
 - Setting a deadline for negotiating a new global treaty by 2015, facing opposition but eventually agreed upon.
- ❖ COP20, 2014 - Lima, Peru:
 - The Lima Call for Climate Action was a significant outcome, emphasizing clear and precise emission reduction targets.
 - Key highlights included:
 - Agreement on requiring countries to set out clear targets, known as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), for the Paris Agreement in 2015.
 - Concessions on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities to address concerns from developing countries.



- ❖ COP21, 2015 - Paris, France:
 - ☛ The landmark Paris Agreement, signed by 196 countries, aimed to limit global warming well below 2 degrees Celsius, ideally targeting 1.5 degrees Celsius. Key outcomes of COP21 included:
 - ☛ Setting a legally binding international treaty on climate change, with an emphasis on the reduction of global emissions.
 - ☛ Establishment of a goal to achieve a climate-neutral world by mid-century.
 - ☛ Commitment to financial flows, with a pledge of \$100 billion annually for climate finance post-2020.
 - ☛ Adoption of transparency measures to ensure NDCs and financial reporting.
 - ☛ Encouragement for regular submission of NDCs every 5 years to raise climate action ambition.
- ❖ COP22, 2016 - Marrakech, Morocco:
 - ☛ At COP22, the Marrakech Action Proclamation called for urgent action to bridge the gap between current emission trajectories and the long-term temperature goals set in the Paris Agreement. Key points included:
 - ☛ Reaffirmation of the \$100 billion commitment by developed countries to support mitigation and adaptation efforts in developing countries.
 - ☛ Enhanced collaboration with non-state actors, including the private sector, to boost immediate and ambitious climate action.
 - ☛ Launch of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action, fostering collaboration between governments, businesses, cities, and civil society to strengthen climate action.
 - ☛ Establishment of an open and transparent dialogue between COP22 and COP23 presidencies to align goals with the Paris Agreement's objectives.
- ❖ COP23, 2017 - Bonn, Germany (Fiji as chair):
 - ☛ Slow negotiations on the Paris rulebook, hinting at the need for an additional session to finalize the rulebook by COP24.
 - ☛ Reaffirmation of the \$100 billion commitment but falling short of actual funding. Progress in Adaptation Fund funding exceeded the 2017 target.
 - ☛ Significant attention on the link between oceans and climate change. Launch of the Ocean Pathway and 'Because the Ocean' Declaration to address the ocean/climate nexus in UNFCCC processes.
 - ☛ In response to the US withdrawal under President Trump, France and EU partners committed to filling the funding gap, gaining applause at the conference.
- ❖ COP24, 2018 - Katowice, Poland:
 - ☛ Production of most of the Paris rulebook known as the Katowice climate package, including operational guidance on various aspects of the Paris Agreement.
 - ☛ Guidance on domestic mitigation goals, adaptation communications, transparency rules, global stocktake, technology transfer, financial support, and committee establishment.
 - ☛ Gaps left in voluntary carbon markets, loss and damage, and carbon credit mechanisms, left for further discussions at COP25. Lack of new commitments or ambition from Parties.



- ❖ COP25, 2019 - Madrid, Spain:
 - ☛ Continued lack of agreement on carbon trading, common time frames, long-term finance, and transparency matters.
 - ☛ Only three decisions were taken, including guidance for existing finance facilities. Parties struggled to unite behind greater ambition, with minimal specific calls for increased climate ambition.
- ❖ COP26, 2021 - Glasgow, United Kingdom:
 - ☛ Adoption of the Glasgow Climate Pact aimed at maintaining the 1.5C target.
 - ☛ Finalization of the Paris rulebook, particularly article 6 and transparency rules, facilitating multilateral mechanisms to support countries in achieving NDCs.
 - ☛ Reaffirmation of the \$100 billion annual commitment with an action plan to achieve this by 2023.
 - ☛ Phase-down commitments for unabated coal and inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.
 - ☛ Acknowledgment of loss and damage, scheduled for discussion in future COPs.
 - ☛ Outlining of measures for adaptation finance moving forward.
- ❖ COP27, 2022 - Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt:
 - ☛ Mitigation:
 - With scientific estimates indicating an imminent breach of the 1.5-degree Celsius target within a decade, there was a call for stronger emission reduction efforts.
 - Suggestions included annual strengthening of climate actions till 2030 (a proposal by the European Union) and a phase-down of fossil fuel use. The latter was initially proposed by India and eventually backed by the EU and the US.
 - Resistance to proposals came from within developing countries, notably the oil-producing Gulf nations. Discussions aimed at pursuing the 1.5-degree Celsius target did not find consensus.
 - COP27 decided to continue discussions on scaling up mitigation actions through a work program with biannual global dialogues.
 - ☛ Adaptation:
 - Developing countries emphasized the need for more attention to adaptation efforts, demanding at least half of climate finance to be directed towards adaptation projects.
 - Similar to mitigation targets, efforts were initiated to define global goals for adaptation.
 - However, tangible progress was limited, with express support for an ongoing work program.
 - Despite some promises of financial support, especially from the US, developing countries received minimal funding. A significant initiative by the UN Secretary-General involved plans by the World Meteorological Organisation to establish early warning systems in vulnerable areas.
 - ☛ Finance:
 - The biggest disappointment came regarding funding. Developed countries fell short of delivering the promised USD 100 billion annually, expressing only "serious concern" in the final agreement.



- COP27 agreement highlighted financial requirements, indicating the need for substantial investments, such as USD 4 trillion annually in renewable energy by 2030 for achieving netzero targets by 2050.
- Developed nations pledged to ensure the flow of USD 100 billion yearly starting from 2023, with discussions ongoing to increase this amount from 2025.
- The agreement urged international financial institutions to simplify procedures for easier access to climate action funds by developing countries.
- ❖ COP28, 2023 - Dubai, UAE:
 - ☛ **Loss And Damage:**
 - A major achievement was the establishment of support for vulnerable nations facing severe climate impacts, aiming at developing national response plans, addressing climate data inadequacy, and facilitating human mobility due to loss and damage.
 - A fund was created, with initial pledges exceeding \$650 million from wealthy nations. The World Bank will initially manage the fund, aiming to assist in supporting nations affected by climate change.
 - ☛ **Climate Finance Target:**
 - COP28 saw advancement on the collective quantified goal for financing climate mitigation and adaptation.
 - While the \$100 billion target pledged by developed nations is nearing achievement, an agreement was made to draft a post-2025 finance target before COP29, acknowledging the shortfall in the required financial support.
 - ☛ **Global Goal on Adaptation:**
 - Emphasis remained on supporting adaptation strategies.
 - The final text advocated for a doubling of adaptation finance, highlighted explicit 2030 targets for water security, ecosystem restoration, and health.
 - However, commitments on closing the adaptation finance gap were weakened, requiring further elaboration in subsequent COPs.
 - ☛ **Global Stocktake and Fossil Fuels:**
 - The Global Stocktake indicated a projected peak in global emissions between 2020-2025, urging nations to align emissions reductions with the goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and achieving net-zero by 2050.
 - The language in the agreement leaned toward a "transition away" from fossil fuels, introducing the concept of "transitional fuels" and acknowledging the role of gas in the energy transition, which some found less definitive than a call for "phaseout."
 - ☛ **Carbon Markets:**
 - No consensus was reached on the supervision and accounting of carbon markets.
 - Discussions around supervision and credibility of different types of credits used in these markets are yet to be addressed in future COPs.



☛ Just Transition and Nature:

- The COP text highlighted the importance of delivering a just transition in various agreements but requires further quantification of terms concerning emissions trajectories and climate finance.
- The agreement emphasized the use of ecosystem-based adaptation and naturebased solutions, acknowledging the interdependence between climate goals and nature conservation.

Question:

Q.3 With reference to the Conference of the Parties (COP), consider the following statements:

1. It is a permanent body of the United Nations.
2. The primary goal of COP is to assign specific emission targets to each country based on their historical contributions to climate change.
3. It is the only forum under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) where all countries come together to discuss and negotiate climate action.
4. It plays a crucial role in mobilizing financial and technical resources to support developing countries in their efforts to adapt to climate change and transition to low-carbon economies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 and 4 only
- (d) 4 only

Answer: C

Notes:

❖ Explanation –

- ☛ Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. The Conference of the Parties is not a permanent body of the United Nations. It's an annual meeting of the signatories to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- ☛ It is the supreme decision-making body of the UNFCCC, but it is not a standing or permanent body.
- ☛ While the COP aims to promote international cooperation and action to address climate change, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, it does not assign specific emission targets to each country based on their historical contributions to climate change.
- ☛ Instead, the Convention encourages countries to take “common but differentiated responsibilities” into account.
- ☛ Statements 3 and 4 are correct. The Conference of the Parties is the only forum under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) where all countries come together to discuss and negotiate climate action.
- ☛ It also plays a crucial role in mobilizing financial and technical resources to support developing countries in their efforts to adapt to climate change and transition to lowcarbon economies.



UPSC Mains PYQs:

1. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has predicted a global sea level rise of about one metre by AD 2100. What would be its impact in India and the other countries in the Indian Ocean region? [250 Words] [15 Marks] [2023]
2. Discuss global warming and mention its effects on the global climate. Explain the control measures to bring down the level of greenhouse gases which cause global warming, in the light of the Kyoto Protocol, 1997. [250 Words] [15 Marks] [2022]
3. Discuss in detail the photo chemical smog emphasizing its formation, effects and mitigation. Explain the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol. [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2022]
4. Describe the major outcomes of the 26th session of the Conference of Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on climate change (UNFCCC). What are the commitments made by India in this conference? [250 Words] [15 Marks] [2021]
5. Explain the purpose of the Green Grid Initiative launched at World Leaders Summit of the COP26UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow in November,2021. When was this idea first floated in the International Solar Alliance (ISA)? [150 Words] [10 Marks] [2021]

