

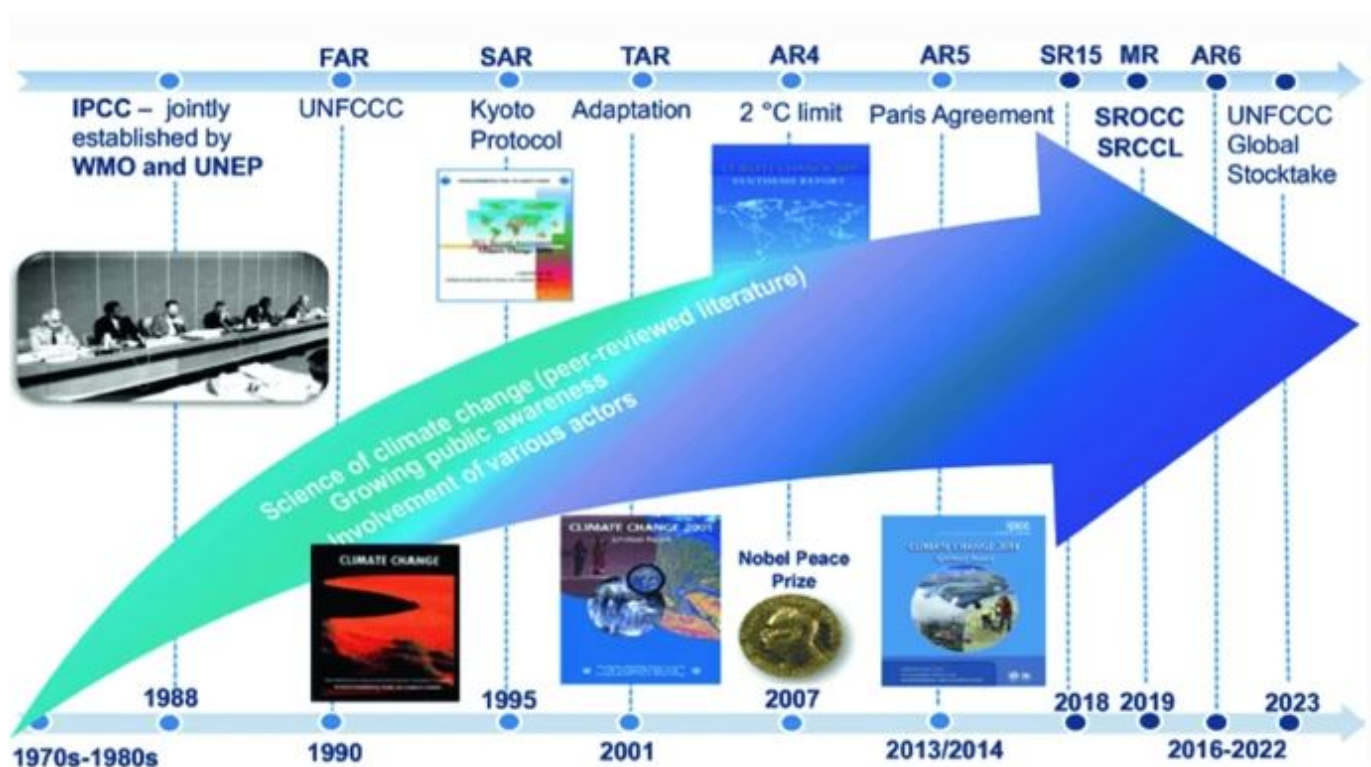
## IPCC Synthesis Report

### Why in news?

Highlighting the need for urgent climate action, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its Synthesis Report for the Sixth Assessment Cycle in Interlaken, Switzerland.

### What is the IPCC?

- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the *United Nations body* for assessing the science related to climate change.
- The IPCC does not undertake scientific assessments but only evaluates the state of scientific evidence on various aspects of climate change.
- **Establishment** - It was created in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- **Objective** - The objective of the IPCC is to provide governments at all levels with scientific information that they can use to develop climate policies.
- **IPCC reports** - They are also a key input into international climate change negotiations.
- **Members** - The IPCC is an organization of governments that are members of the United Nations or WMO.
- The IPCC currently has 195 members.



## What is the IPCC synthesis report?

- The Synthesis Report is the final part of the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report (AR6).
- It is fully based on the reports of the *three Working Groups of the IPCC plus the three Special Reports* (Global Warming of 1.5°C, Climate Change and Land, and on the Ocean and the Cryosphere in a Changing Climate).
- **3 Working Groups (WGs) -**
  - WG I evaluated the physical science basis of climate change,
  - WG II evaluated the impacts, adaptation, and vulnerability, and
  - WG III evaluated the mitigation
- This is the final report of the sixth assessment cycle of the UN panel.

Other [IPCC reports](#).

## What are the findings of the 6<sup>th</sup> report?

- **Reduce greenhouse gases** - The report emphasised the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to effective and equitable action for a liveable sustainable future for all.
- **Paris Agreement** - The report highlights the urgency to limit rising global temperatures by 1.5 C from pre-industrial levels, set by the [Paris Agreement](#).
- While the rate of emissions growth has slowed in the past decade, humanity is estimated to be on a 2.8° C (2.1°-3.4° C range) trajectory by 2100.

*Climate justice entails ensuring representation, inclusion, and protection of the rights of those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.*

- **Carbon** - The amount of carbon that the world can cumulatively emit before reaching key temperature limits, i.e., the world's 'carbon budget', is far lower for the 1.5° C than the 2° C target.

*Carbon budgets measure how much CO<sub>2</sub> is produced by industry, homes and all other parts of the economy to calculate by how much emissions must be cut in the future.*

- The IPCC report points out that humanity had already consumed 4/5th of its total carbon budget for 1.5° C by 2019, with developed economies consuming the lion's share.
- **Climate adaption** - Second, the recognition of greater risks at lower temperatures points to the necessity of early climate adaptation.

*Climate adaptation means taking action to prepare for and adjust to both the current and projected impacts of climate change.*

- **Increase finance** - Governments & policymakers should increase finance to climate investments.
- They should expand the clean energy infrastructure, reduce nitrogen pollution from agriculture, and curtail food waste.

*Climate finance is a multifaceted concept, which generally refers to finance for activities aiming to mitigate or adapt to the impacts of climate change.*

### How is the world doing in this regard?

- The report finds evidence of progress in the proliferation of laws and policies, and confirms the effectiveness of existing policy tools such as regulations and carbon markets.
- However, the report points out that there are gaps between modelled sustainable pathways and what countries have pledged as well as substantial gaps.

### What is the key message from the report?

- **Climate resilient** - Urgently adopt to climate resilient development.

*Climate resilient development model integrates both adaptation and mitigation to advance sustainable development for all.*

- **Net zero emissions** - While a climate-resilient development pathway is the journey, the destination is [net zero emissions](#) at the global level.
- If sustained, net-zero GHG emissions will result in a gradual decline in global temperatures.

### What are the implications for India?

- **Extreme weather events** - The most significant implications of the report for India is the increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events.
- **Vulnerable population** - With a large vulnerable population, India needs to prioritise grants and policies that focusses on adapting to the effects of climate change.
- **Loss of biodiversity** - India's priority should be to minimise loss and damage in terms of lives, livelihood and biodiversity, and accelerate equitable action mitigation and adaptation.

### What is the way ahead?

- The IPCC report offers a blueprint for sustainable development, while presenting an account of present and future damages to ecosystems and the most vulnerable amongst us.
- Access to clean energy, improving air quality to increasing employment opportunities, boosting healthcare through technology, and delivering equity are among the report's recommended goals to help adapt to climate change.

- It is now up to governments and people of the world to act.

## References

1. [The Hindu | What is the IPCC synthesis report and what does it say?](#)
2. [The Hindu | U.N. panel calls for rapid action against climate change](#)
3. [The Hindu | A climate change survival guide to act on](#)
4. [The Indian Express | IPCC releases its Synthesis Report](#)
5. [The Indian Express | IPCC report warns global warming will breach critical threshold by 2030](#)

