

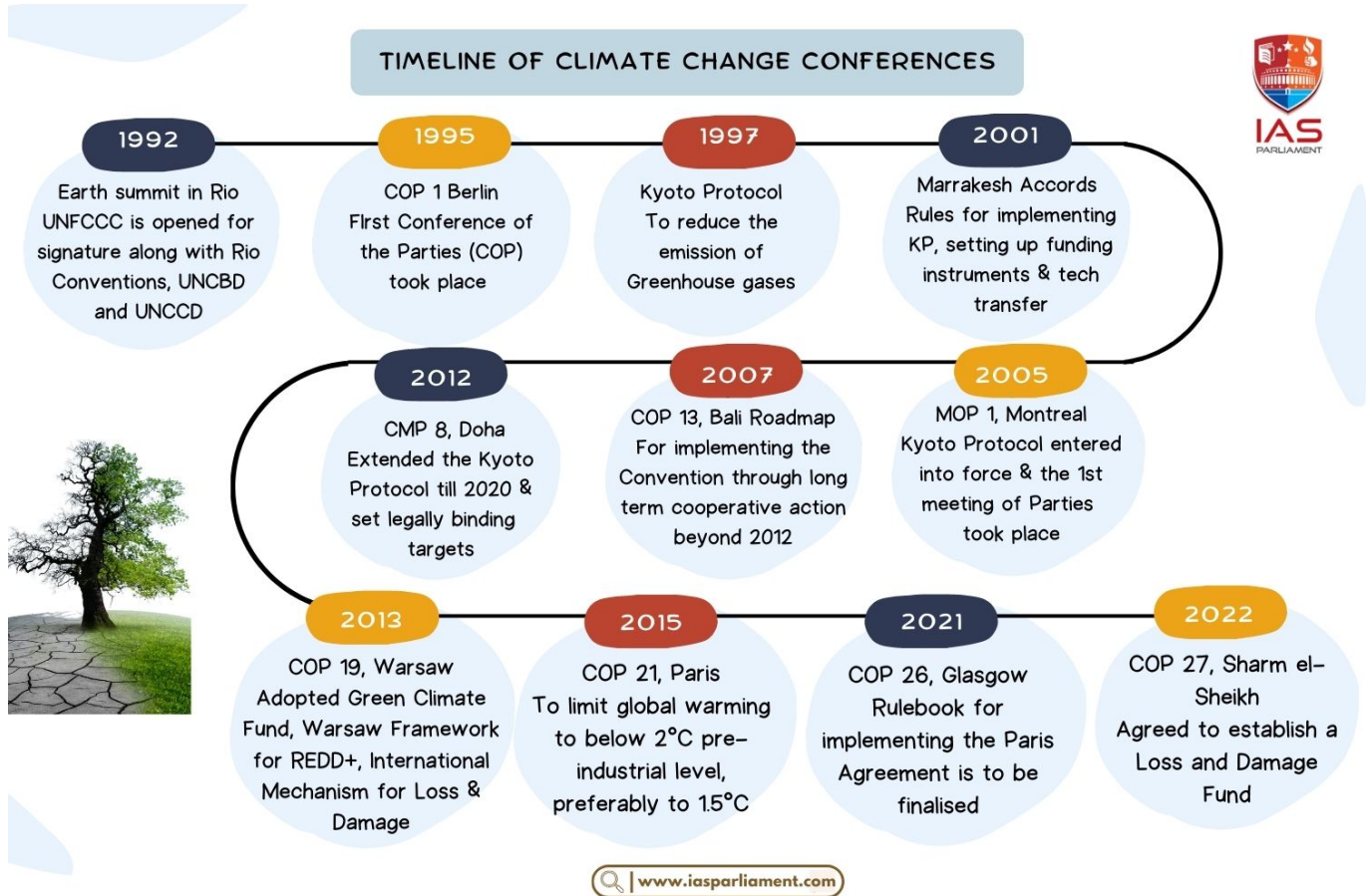
## **Mitigating a Crisis: COP 26 Glasgow**

### **What is the issue?**

The Heads of state from at least 120 countries are expected to convene in Glasgow for the 26th meeting of the United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP).

### **What is the COP 26 about?**

- COP26 is the 26th iteration of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- This year, the meeting will be held in Glasgow, UK.
- The UK will share the presidency with Italy.



## Why is COP26 important?

- This year's COP is the most significant climate meeting since 2015, when the Paris Agreement was launched.
- A first version of the guidelines known as the 'rulebook' was worked out in past meetings, but so far countries have been unable to agree on important points.
- At the meeting, countries will also be expected to raise their climate ambitions, updating the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

## What points of the rulebook are still under debate?

- **Carbon Markets** - Developing countries, particularly India, China and Brazil, gained significantly from the carbon market under CDM of Kyoto Protocol.
- India registered 1,703 projects under CDM which is the second highest in the world.
- The ratification of the Paris Agreement would change the scenario of carbon markets.
  1. Targets for developing countries
  2. CDM transition
  3. Accounting rules

#### 4. Share of Proceeds (SOP) to the Adaptation Fund

are the major problems to be discussed regarding carbon markets.

- **Emission cut pledges-** In 2015, countries have agreed to cut GHG emissions to 2 degrees Celsius and ideally 1.5 degree Celsius.
- The deadline for countries to make steeper emission cut pledges is this year and major emitters like China and India have not yet come forward with strengthened NDCs.
- **Fossil Fuels** - The UN has called upon the OECD countries to phase out coal by 2030 but environment ministers from G20 economies have not agreed on a timeline.
- **Finance-** Developed countries pledged to raise \$100 billion per year till 2020 to assist developing countries in dealing with the effects of climate change but it has not yet been achieved.
- **Net zero** - The issue of net-zero or carbon neutrality was not mentioned in the Paris Agreement.
- More than 50 countries have pledged to carbon-neutrality by middle of the century. China has said it would achieve this status by 2060
- Several other developing countries including India have also been resisting such targets as developed countries are responsible for over 75% of accumulated atmospheric GHGs.

*IPCC AR6 emphasised that to keep temperature rise within 1.5°C, global emissions should be reduced by 45% from 2010 levels by 2030, on the way to net zero 2050.*

- **2030 targets-** The IPCC has called for 2030 emissions to be 45% less from 2010 levels for the 1.5°C goal.
- Several countries have not yet updated their NDC targets and the report calls for a significant increase in the level of ambition of NDCs" till 2030.

#### **What has to be the focus for India at COP 26?**

*India is ranked as the world's third largest emitter. It emits 7% of global emissions but the per-capita emissions are far below the global average.*

- COP26 must focus sharply on reducing emissions till 2030, rather than on net zero 2050 which is too distant.

- India can raise its NDC pledge of reducing Emissions Intensity by 33-35% from 2005 levels by 2030 to 38-40%.
- India could also offer to achieve the carbon neutrality by 2070-75 by invoking Common but Differentiated Responsibility.

## References

1. <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-opinion/in-glasgow-all-eyes-on-2030/article37155895.ece>
2. <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-opinion/mitigating-a-crisis/article37155899.ece>
3. <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/climate-change-cop26-conference-glasgow-paris-agreement-7588676/>

