Environment & Ecology · GS - III

Examine the role of the Conference of the Parties (COP) under the UNFCCC in addressing global climate change. Discuss the importance of international cooperation in achieving climate commitments.

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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

UNFCCC 1992, Rio Earth Summit, Conference of the Parties, Paris Agreement 2015, Nationally Determined Contributions, climate finance, technology transfer, emission reduction, common but differentiated responsibilities, climate justice, international cooperation.

Model Answer

Introduction

Climate change is a transboundary challenge requiring coordinated international action. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), adopted in 1992, provides the foundation for global climate negotiations.

Role of COP

The Conference of the Parties is the supreme decision-making body of the UNFCCC. It reviews implementation, facilitates negotiations and strengthens international climate commitments. The Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement are important outcomes of this process. The Paris Agreement encourages countries to submit and periodically strengthen their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Importance of International Cooperation

Global cooperation enables emission reduction, climate finance, technology transfer and adaptation support. Developing countries require financial and technological assistance to pursue sustainable development while addressing climate vulnerabilities.

Challenges and Way Forward

Differences in national interests, inadequate climate finance and weak implementation affect progress. Transparent monitoring, equitable burden-sharing and stronger commitments are essential.

Conclusion

COP negotiations remain central to multilateral climate governance. Their success depends on sustained cooperation, accountability and climate justice.