

GREEN NEWSLETTER

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COP28
UAE



GREEN POLICY

green
policy
watch



ECO-
WARRIORS





GREEN POLICY WATCH

A Critical Analysis To The Green Policies:

By Arya Prakash

The green policies of India demonstrate the country's dedication to environmental sustainability. Unfortunately, these policies' successful execution is hampered by flaws and gaps, just like in every complicated system. We shall examine India's green policy framework thoroughly in this piece, pointing out important weaknesses and suggesting useful solutions. We hope to further the current dialogue about enhancing India's environmental governance by doing this.

1. Inadequate Implementation: One of the major issues with India's green policies is their inadequate execution. Even when complete laws are in place, they are frequently not properly implemented or enforced.

In order to foster a culture of compliance and accountability, the government should concentrate on boosting monitoring procedures, improving interdepartmental collaboration, and raising public awareness.

In order to address this, the government should give infrastructure development top priority, accelerate project approvals by streamlining bureaucratic procedures, and encourage private sector participation to close the participation gap.

2. Inadequate Public Awareness and Participation: The lack of public awareness and involvement in green projects represents yet another weakness. Although policies are in place, the general population frequently isn't aware of them or how they fit into sustainable practices. In order to lessen this, extensive public awareness efforts, educational initiatives, and financial incentives should be used to promote public involvement in green projects.

3. **Inadequate Waste Management:** India has a lot of challenges with waste management, especially in cities. Inadequate infrastructure, poor disposal, and a lack of source isolation all lead to environmental contamination and health risks. Comprehensive waste management regulations that support composting, recycling, and waste-to-energy conversion are required to address this. Public awareness efforts should also stress how important it is to handle waste responsibly.

4. **Weak Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Processes:** India's current EIA procedures have been put amid fire for being insufficient and opaque. Potential environmental harm can occur during the project execution and planning phases due to gaps in the assessment processes. In order to lessen this, the government ought to improve the EIA processes by guaranteeing impartial evaluations, open discussions, and more stringent compliance with governmental standards.

A Pragmatic Approach to Mitigate Green Policy in India

As India grapples with the challenges of climate change and environmental degradation, the need for effective green policies has become more crucial than ever. Mitigating the adverse effects of rapid industrialization and urbanization requires a pragmatic approach that balances economic growth with sustainable practices. In this section, we will explore key suggestions to help shape green policy in India, paving the way for a greener and more sustainable future.

1. **Strengthening Renewable Energy:** It should be a primary goal to encourage the use of renewable energy sources, such as hydropower, wind, and solar power. The government can encourage the use of renewable energy technologies by providing tax breaks, financial support for research, and other benefits. Increasing private sector involvement in renewable energy initiatives will also help India's carbon footprint to shrink.



2. **Improving Energy Efficiency:** Sustainable development depends on increasing energy efficiency in homes and businesses. Energy consumption can be considerably decreased by enacting smart grid technologies, encouraging the use of energy-efficient appliances, and enacting stronger energy efficiency regulations. Campaigns for green policies should incorporate consumer education initiatives regarding the significance of energy conservation.

3. **Promoting Sustainable Transportation:** Air pollution and carbon emissions are largely caused by transportation. Developing infrastructure and offering incentives to promote the use of electric vehicles (EVs) can help India become less dependent on fossil fuels. Promote walking, bicycling, and public transportation as additional ways to reduce traffic and enhance city air quality.

4. **Sustainable Waste Management:** The enormous volume of waste produced daily in India presents serious environmental problems. Recycling, composting, and waste segregation are examples of efficient waste management techniques that can be put into practice to reduce landfill usage and advance a circular economy. Another way to lessen waste production is to encourage firms to use sustainable packaging techniques.

5. **Conservation and Reforestation:** It's critical to protect biodiversity and natural resources. Mitigating the effects of climate change requires strengthening protected areas, enforcing stronger laws against illicit deforestation, and supporting afforestation projects. Long-term environmental advantages can result from working together with local people and giving them the tools they need to take part in conservation activities.

6. **Green Building Practices:** Encouraging environmentally friendly building methods will help cut down on carbon emissions related to the building industry. Incorporating energy-efficient designs, eco-friendly materials, and waste reduction tactics into building rules will incentivize the construction sector to embrace sustainable practices. Certifications and rewards for green buildings might encourage developers to give sustainability a higher priority.

Green Policy Challenges in India:

1. **Implementation Issues:** Laws not effectively enforced; solutions include improved monitoring and public awareness.
2. **Infrastructure Barriers:** Insufficient support for green initiatives; focus on development, streamlined approvals, and private sector involvement.
3. **Public Awareness Gap:** Limited public engagement due to lack of awareness; address with campaigns and incentives.
4. **Waste Management Problems:** Inadequate infrastructure and poor disposal; regulations and awareness needed for responsible waste handling.
5. **EIA Process Weaknesses:** Criticized for insufficiency; improvements include impartial evaluations and stricter compliance.

Pragmatic Green Policy for India:

1. **Renewable Energy Boost:** Encourage hydropower, wind, and solar energy with tax breaks and private sector involvement.
2. **Energy Efficiency Focus:** Enhance efficiency via smart grid tech and energy-efficient appliances, backed by consumer education.
3. **Sustainable Transportation:** Promote electric vehicles, walking, biking, and public transport to cut reliance on fossil fuels.
4. **Waste Management Tactics:** Implement recycling, composting, and sustainable packaging to reduce landfill usage.
5. **Conservation and Reforestation:** Strengthen protected areas, enforce anti-deforestation laws, and collaborate with local communities.
6. **Green Building Incentives:** Encourage eco-friendly building practices with certifications and rewards.

In conclusion, mitigating green policy in India requires a thorough and practical strategy that takes into consideration the particular opportunities and problems the nation faces. India can lead the way towards a more sustainable and environmentally friendly future by prioritizing energy efficiency, waste management, conservation, sustainable transportation, renewable energy, and green building techniques. To slow down environmental degradation and guarantee a higher standard of living for future generations, it is imperative that corporations, citizens, and legislators work together to put these recommendations into practice.

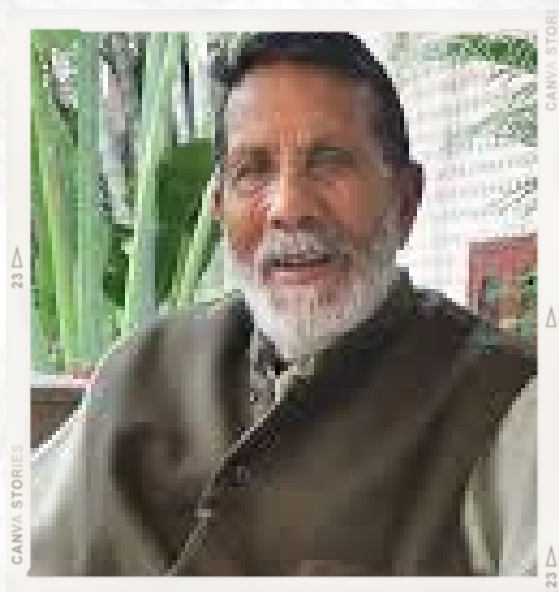
ECO WARRIORS



Guardians of Green

By Naina Sharma

In the annals of environmental activism in India, luminaries like Chandi Prasad Bhatt and Sunderlal Bahuguna have left an indelible mark, inspiring a new generation of eco-warriors. As the world grapples with the Triple Planetary Crisis, these pioneers stand as testament to the enduring power of grassroots movements and individual commitment. The environmental journey unfolds beginning with the inception of Dasholi Gram Swarajya Sangh (DGSS) and leading to the globally acclaimed Chipko movement.



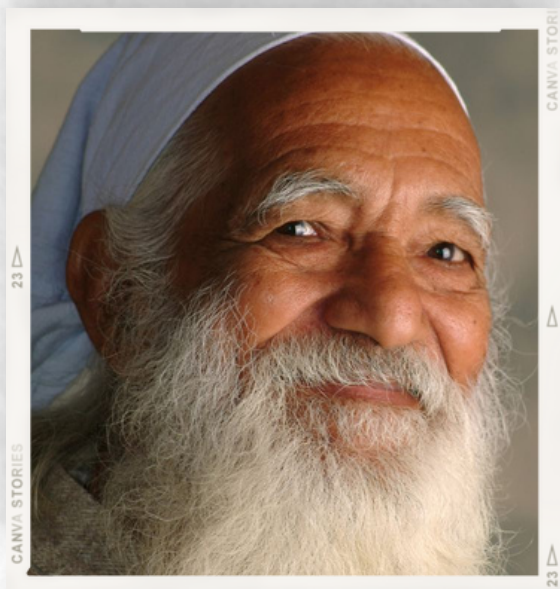
Chandi Prasad Bhatt – A Gandhian Environmentalist:

The environmental narrative in India found its first modern champion in Chandi Prasad Bhatt, a social activist and Gandhian environmentalist. In 1964, he laid the foundation for Dasholi Gram Swarajya Sangh (DGSS) in Gopeshwar, a pivotal organization that would later birth the famous Chipko Movement.

Bhatt's commitment to sustainable development and environmental harmony was rooted in Gandhian principles, setting the stage for a transformative era in India's environmental history. In recognition of his pioneering efforts, Bhatt was awarded the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award for Community Leadership in 1982, a testament to his unwavering dedication to community-driven environmental initiatives.

Sunderlal Bahuguna - The Chipko Movement:

Building upon Bhatt's foundation, Sunderlal Bahuguna emerged as a luminary during the Chipko movement in the 1970s. This iconic anti-deforestation campaign, primarily led by rural, impoverished women, sought to challenge a powerful government forestry department entangled with large private corporations.

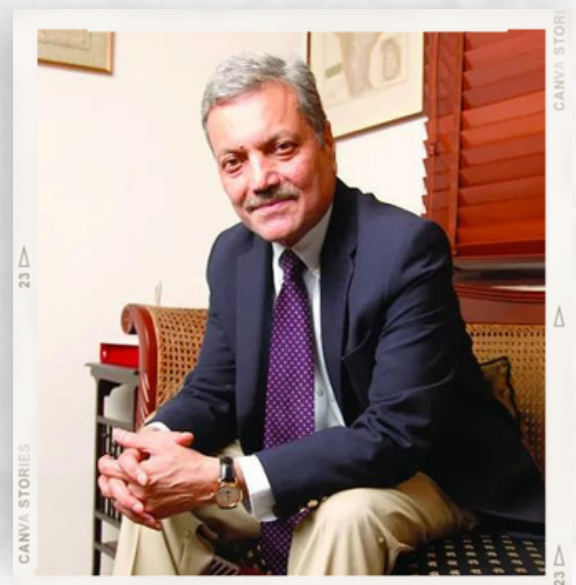


The movement gained global recognition for its distinctive act of tree hugging, a poignant symbol of the villagers' commitment to protecting their natural heritage. The Chipko movement not only halted the relentless act of deforestation but also served as a catalyst for environmental awareness across India. Inspired by the grassroots triumph of Chipko, subsequent generations of environmental activists took up the mantle of preserving India's ecological balance.



Pradip Shah - Grow- Trees.com:

In 2010, Pradip Shah co-founded Grow-Trees.com, embodying the spirit of environmental stewardship. Shah's vision focused on afforestation projects tailored to address ecological challenges, fostering community engagement. Innovative initiatives, such as Trees for Tribals and Trees for Tigers, have contributed significantly to India's greener and healthier future.



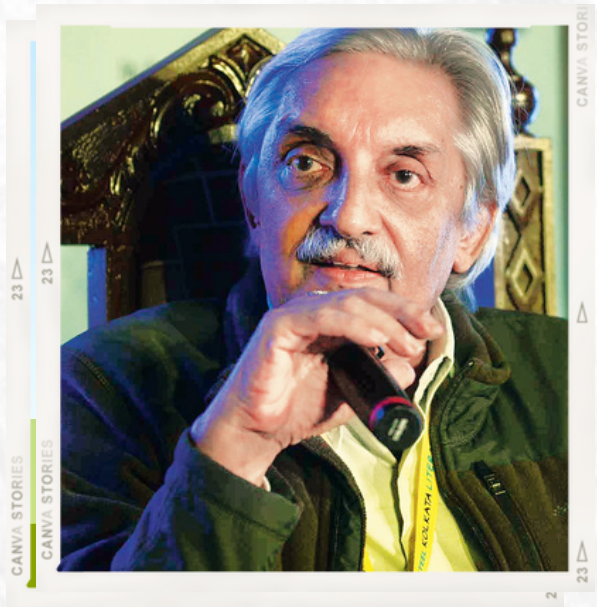
Bittu Sahgal – Sanctuary Nature Foundation:

A torchbearer of environmental journalism, Bittu Sahgal founded the Sanctuary Nature Foundation, contributing to biodiversity protection and community outreach. Through initiatives like Sanctuary Asia magazine, he inspires a new generation of naturalists, echoing the spirit of early environmental movements in India.



Rajendra Singh – Tarun Bharat Sangh:

Known as 'The Waterman of India,' Rajendra Singh's founding of Tarun Bharat Sangh in 1975 aligns with the chronology of environmental movements. Singh's community-driven water management initiatives have transformed water-scarce landscapes and empowered communities with control over water resources.



Vandana Shiva – Navdanya:

Continuing the legacy of environmental champions, Vandana Shiva intertwines environmental concerns with social issues through Navdanya. Her advocacy for seed sovereignty and organic farming resonates with the self-sufficiency championed by the Chipko movement, emphasizing the importance of sustainable agricultural practices.



Purnima Devi Barman – Hargila Army:

In Assam, Purnima Devi Barman embodies the spirit of community engagement. Through the Hargila Army, she focuses on grassroots conservation, actively involving local communities, particularly women. Barman's work exemplifies the transformative power of collective action in preserving biodiversity.

Barman's work exemplifies the transformative power of collective action in preserving biodiversity.



As we reflect on the environmental journey of these remarkable individuals, it's akin to witnessing the life stories of everyday heroes. Sunderlal Bahuguna and Chandi Prasad Bhatt, along with the torchbearers who followed, have not only shaped India's environmental landscape but have left an enduring legacy of personal commitment and community-driven change.

As we gather at forums like COP28, let's carry the spirit of these eco-warriors with us, a reminder that each one of us, in our own way, can contribute to a more sustainable and resilient future.

Their stories, woven into the fabric of our shared history, inspire us to keep hugging trees, both figuratively and literally, for the well-being of our planet and the generations yet to come.





POETRY

By Naina Sharma

SONG OF JAMNA JI (YAMUNA)

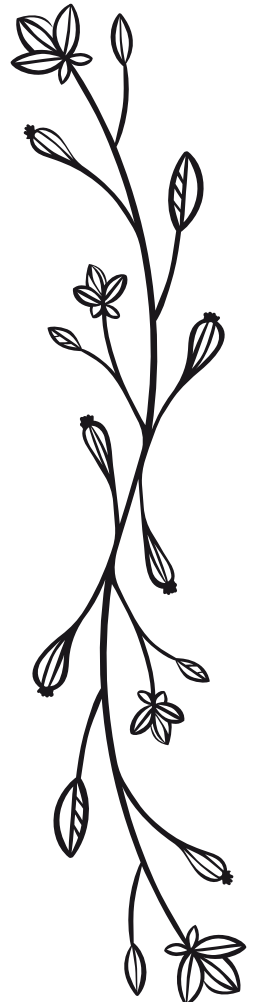
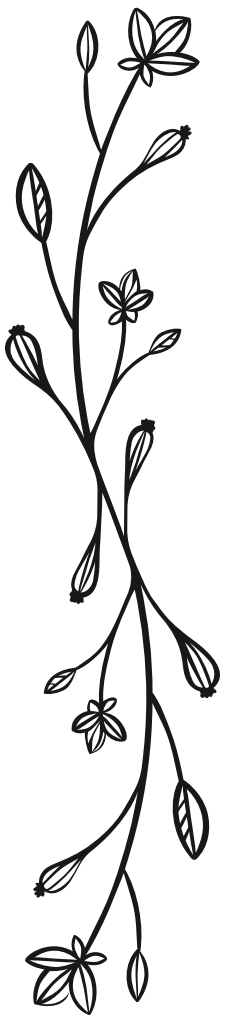
In the heart of Delhi's ancient sprawl,
Where legends whispered, heard by all,
There flows a river, sacred, old,
Jamna Ji's tale, often untold.

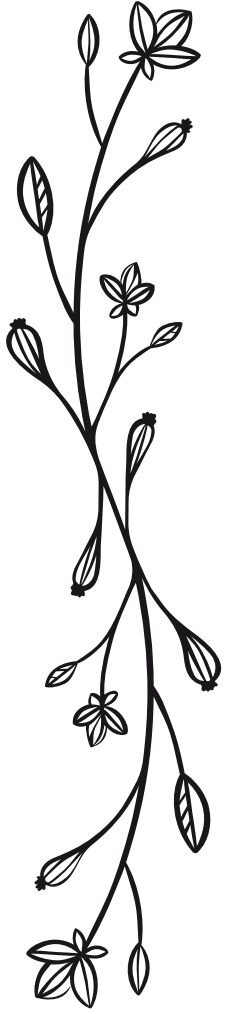
Born from the heavens, myths declare,
An earthly goddess, beyond compare,
A lifeline to people, a cherished sight,
In history's pages, she found her light.

From Hastinapur's past to Delhi's embrace,
Her journey unfurled, through time and space,
Amid Mughal splendour and princely glee,
She wove her story, through history's decree.

And in this land where Krishna played,
By her banks, his tunes were swayed,
A divine connection, where love did bloom,
Between the Lord and the river's tune.

But alas, her beauty, once pure and clean,
Now bears the scars of a world unseen,
Pollution's grip, a deathly snare,
Choking her waters, a burden to bear.





The city that thrives along her shores,
Turned a blind eye to her timeless wars,
Dumping waste, heedless and blind,
A lifeline neglected, left behind.

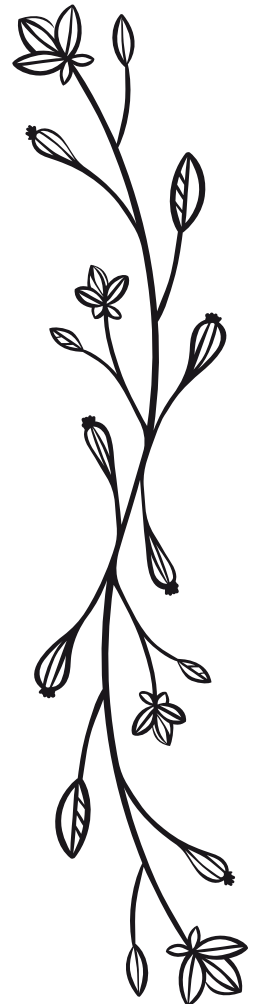
Consequences mount, as the river cries,
Floods in monsoons, a warning of the skies,
Yet still, her children look away,
From her pleas for help, day by day.

But Jamna Ji's heart, though wounded, beats,
For in the people's hands, her hope retreats,
With each callous act and careless toss,
She longs for redemption, her cleansing dross.

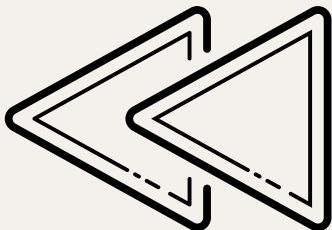
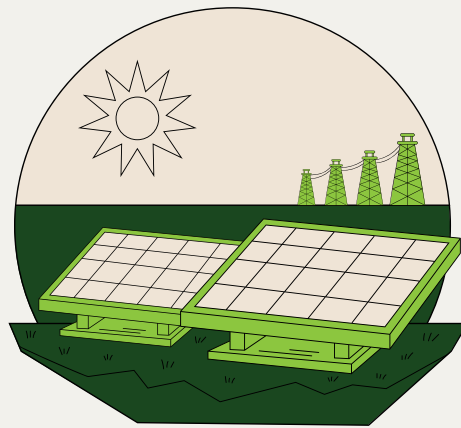
The future lies in Delhi's grasp,
To cherish the river, to alter the asp,
Reviving the goddess from her languished state,
A journey of healing, it's never too late.

Let's honour the past and learn the way,
To save Jamna Ji, to let her sway,
Her waters pristine, her beauty restored,
A sacred lifeline forever adored.

In the hands of the people, the power does reside,
To protect and preserve, to stand by her side,
In unity, a lifeline reborn anew,
Jamna Ji's blessings, for all, and for you.



MONTHLY REWIND



DECEMBER 2023

By Sanskriti

December is a month full of environmental gatherings that bring together world leaders, scientists, and activists to discuss and take action on environmental issues. These gatherings provide an opportunity for leaders to share their knowledge, experiences and ideas to create policies that support sustainable living.

Let's take a look at some of the key takeaways from these gatherings, including new agreements, commitments, and initiatives aimed at addressing climate change, pollution, sustainable development, and biodiversity, to protect our planet and make impactful solutions.

Apart from these summit, also have a look towards some monthly event which are celebrated to remind the essence of biodiversity and How Important They Are !

December 2023: A Month of Environmental Action on the Global Stage

December 2023 has been a whirlwind of activity in the world of environmental policy, with major meetings and conferences taking place across the globe. From tackling plastic pollution to addressing the health impacts of climate change, these events have brought together governments, NGOs, and experts to chart a course towards a more sustainable future.

The most high-profile event of the month was undoubtedly COP28, the 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Held in Dubai from November 30th to December 12th, COP28 saw over 190 countries come together to discuss and negotiate on a range of climate change issues.



COP28 UAE

One of the key outcomes of COP28 was the adoption of a new "Global Goal on Adaptation" aimed at increasing the resilience of vulnerable communities to the impacts of climate change. The conference also saw significant progress on the issue of "loss and damage," with developed countries agreeing to provide financial assistance to developing countries that are already suffering from the effects of climate change.

While COP28 did not achieve all of its ambitious goals, it was a significant step forward in the global fight against climate change. The conference built on the momentum of COP27 in Egypt and sent a clear message that the world is committed to taking action on climate.

Beyond its outcome, what can we take away from the world's largest international climate conference, where 197 countries and the European Union (EU) were represented and some 85,000 participants attended?

Here we take a look back at the highlights, key figures and quotations from COP28.



HIGHLIGHTS

The creation of a “loss and damage” fund

This fund, whose creation was negotiated at COP27, aims to support the most vulnerable countries in the face of climate-related disasters. Hailed as a major step forward and a “running start” for COP28 by Simon Stiell, head of UN Climate Change, it has received pledges of \$792 million from governments.

Official declaration of 2023, as the hottest year on record

In the early days of COP28, one report followed another on the worsening climate situation. European scientists from Copernicus and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) both warned of record temperatures in 2023, at 1.40°C above the pre-industrial average (1850-1900).

Commitment of oil companies’ deemed insufficient

Major issue was its omnipresent nature. That’s why one of the first commitments announced in Dubai on 2 December by 50 oil companies to achieve “zero” methane emissions from their operations by 2030 was deemed insufficient by Mr. Guterres: “The fossil fuel industry is finally starting to wake up, but the promises made clearly fall short of what is required.”

A group of 22 countries calls for a tripling of nuclear energy

On 2 December, the United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands, the United States, Canada and Japan were among 22 countries to sign a declaration calling for a tripling of nuclear power generation capacity between 2020 and 2050, in order to reduce dependence on oil, gas and coal. The signatories include 12 EU member states: Bulgaria, Czechia, Finland, France, Hungary, Moldova, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Sweden.

A declaration on food systems signed by 134 countries

A first in the history of the COPs On 1 December, 134 countries signed a declaration pledging to tackle the climate impacts of the food industry.

These countries represent 5.7 billion people, 70% of the food consumed and 76% of the emissions produced by the global food system. However, the declaration contains no quantified targets, and makes no mention of livestock.

60 countries make commitments on air-conditioning

Another aspect of climate action is the cooling sector (such as air-conditioners and refrigerators) which is generating more and more greenhouse gas emissions (7% of the global total) as temperatures rise.

Among the 60 countries signing up to a new commitment to reduce these emissions by 2050 are the United States, Canada and Kenya, aware of the growing needs of the cooling sector, which are set to triple by 2050.

This fund, whose creation was negotiated at COP27, aims to support the

35 countries commit to recognise clean hydrogen certificates

A breakthrough: 35 countries, including the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Belgium, agreed on 6 December to mutually recognise their clean hydrogen certification schemes. This breakthrough should enable long-distance cross-border flows of low-carbon hydrogen produced using renewable energies.

KEY PROMISES AT COP 28



Emissions Reduction and Energy Transition:

- **Faster action on emissions reduction:** Countries agreed to accelerate the pace of emissions cuts before 2030, aiming to keep the 1.5°C warming limit within reach.
- **Increased renewable energy deployment:** A commitment was made to significantly scale up renewable energy investments and phase out fossil fuels.
- **Just transition for workers:** Recognizing the impact of transitioning away from fossil fuels, support was pledged for affected workers and communities.

Climate Finance:

- **Increased financial commitments:** Developed countries were urged to at least double their climate finance to developing nations by 2025.
- **New funding mechanisms:** Exploring innovative financing mechanisms, like carbon markets and debt swaps, to mobilize additional resources was discussed.
- **Transparency and accountability:** Ensuring transparent allocation and use of climate finance to maximize its effectiveness was emphasized.

Adaptation and Loss and Damage:

- **Strengthening adaptation plans:** Countries were encouraged to develop and implement comprehensive national adaptation plans to build resilience against climate impacts.
- **Addressing loss and damage:** Recognizing the suffering already faced by vulnerable communities, increased support for addressing loss and damage associated with climate change was promised.
- **Global Loss and Damage Facility:** Discussions on establishing a global facility to address loss and damage progressed, but no concrete agreement was reached.

Nature-based Solutions:

- **Protecting and restoring ecosystems:** Commitments were made to conserve and restore forests, wetlands, and other natural ecosystems, recognizing their crucial role in climate mitigation and adaptation.
- **Sustainable land use:** Promoting sustainable land-use practices, like regenerative agriculture and agroforestry, to enhance carbon sequestration and build soil health was highlighted.
- **Indigenous knowledge and rights:** Recognizing the valuable contributions of indigenous communities in managing natural resources, respecting their rights and integrating their knowledge into climate action was emphasized.

Other Important Promises:

- **Mobilizing technology and innovation:** Fostering research and development of clean technologies and promoting their rapid deployment was pledged.
- **Enhancing transparency and cooperation:** Countries agreed to further improve reporting and data sharing to track progress towards climate goals and strengthen international collaboration.
- **Empowering youth and civil society:** Recognizing their vital role, increased participation and engagement of youth and civil society in climate action was promised.

Although these promises are not legally binding, and their success will depend on concrete actions and follow-through from governments, businesses, and individuals. COP 28 has laid the groundwork for a more ambitious and collaborative approach to addressing the climate crisis.



INDIA AT COP28

India's goals at COP 28 focused on promoting equity, ambitious climate action, sustainable solutions, nature conservation, and individual responsibility.

While some criticized India for not taking more ambitious steps on emissions reductions, their emphasis on these key areas reflects India's evolving climate action strategy and its commitment to contributing to a global solution.

It's important to note that India's journey towards achieving its climate goals is ongoing, and it faces significant challenges like balancing economic development with environmental sustainability. However, COP 28 provided a platform for India to showcase its priorities and engage in international collaboration for a more sustainable future.

In terms of next steps, the global environmental gatherings have paved the way for increased ambition and commitment towards environmental sustainability.

The discussions and agreements reached will shape the agendas of upcoming international conferences, where further actions and targets will be set. It is crucial for stakeholders to continue engaging in dialogue, sharing knowledge, and collaborating on concrete actions to drive positive change.

Overall, the implications and next steps after December's global environmental gatherings highlight the urgency of addressing environmental challenges, the role of innovation, the importance of policy frameworks, and the need for continued collaboration. By taking these key takeaways into account, we can move closer to a more sustainable and resilient future for our planet.

We hope you found our guide to the environmental summits and meetings in December informative and inspiring. As we face urgent environmental challenges, it is crucial to stay informed about the global efforts and initiatives taking place to tackle these issues. By understanding the key events and participating in the conversations, we can all contribute to driving positive change. Let's embrace this countdown to change and work together towards a more sustainable and environmentally conscious future. Remember, every action counts, no matter how small it may seem!

