



COP-28

Description

Theme:

- The 28th Conference of the Parties (COP-28), was held from November 30th to December 13th, 2023, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), marking an important moment in global efforts to combat climate change. Let us explore the key highlights and outcomes of COP28, revealing the significant progress achieved towards a sustainable and resilient future for our planet.

What is the Conference of the Parties (COP)?

- The Conference of the Parties (COP) is an annual gathering established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1992 during the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.
- Under the framework of the UNFCCC, COP serves as a platform for nations to discuss environmental issues and collaborate on climate action.
- There are currently 198 member countries (197 countries plus the European Union) of the UNFCCC that take part in the yearly COP meetings.

Key Highlights of COP-28:

- Countries agreed to conduct a comprehensive assessment known as the “global stocktake” to evaluate collective progress towards Paris Agreement goals. This evaluation will occur every five years, with the first one finalized at COP-28 in December 2023. It serves as a crucial mechanism to identify areas requiring more ambitious action, ensuring the 1.5°C target remains achievable.
- COP-28 acknowledged the need to address carbon emissions and emphasized transitioning from fossil fuels. Phasing down fossil fuel usage was emphasized, with developed countries urged to lead in this effort, while developing nations could proceed at a slower pace due to limited alternative technologies.

- COP-28 emphasized the need to triple global renewable energy capacity to 11,000 GW and double energy efficiency from 2% to 4% by 2030.
- Countries agreed to implement the Loss and Damage Fund, initiated in COP-27, with the World Bank temporarily administering it for the next four years. This fund addresses the damages countries face due to climate change, underscoring the collective responsibility for supporting vulnerable nations.
- COP-28 called for developed countries to contribute \$500 billion by 2025 to address climate change, with specific allocations for mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage. Although it is not legally binding on developed countries, it falls upon their political commitment.
- 66 countries committed to reducing carbon emissions from cooling equipment, such as air conditioners, by 68% by 2050 compared to 2022 levels.
- The Declaration to “Triple Nuclear Energy by 2050” gained the backing of 22 governments, aiming to play a significant role in achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions.

India’s Initiatives at COP28:

- India launched the Global River Cities Alliance, focusing on the conservation of urban rivers and sustainable river use. The initiative promotes global collaboration for sustainable river-centric development, acknowledging the importance of water resources.
- India also introduced the Green Credit Initiative, emphasizing water conservation and afforestation. The initiative provides a platform for exchanging innovative environmental programs and instruments, showcasing India's commitment to green practices.

Conclusion:

COP-28 emerges as a crucial chapter in the ongoing global battle against climate change. The agreements reached, such as the global stocktake, transitioning from fossil fuels, and renewable energy targets, showcase a collective acknowledgement of the urgency to address climate challenges. However, the success of COP-28 also sheds light on the essential need for countries to cultivate a robust sense of political commitment to effectively achieve the outlined goals. While agreements and initiatives are critical, their success hinges on the unwavering dedication of nations to implement and uphold these commitments on the political stage. As the international community moves forward, the spirit of collaboration and shared responsibility witnessed at COP-28 will be critical for achieving sustainable and resilient futures for all.

Your Turn...

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