PUBLIC AFFAIRS CENTRE
Committed to good governance

SUSTAINABILITY TATTVA

Volume 6 September 26, 2019

WHAT HAPPENED AROUND THE WORLD ON SEPTEMBER 20TH?

Photo credits: World Economi Froum

Millions of people around the globe went on rallies for the Global Climate Strike on September 20th calling for citizens and leaders to urgently address climate change. The Global Climate Strike came just before the countries gathered at the United Nations for the Climate Action Summit on September 23rd. The protests took inspiration from 16-year old, Greta Thunberg's who inspired thousands of young people for Future strikes since August 2018. Hundreds of youngsters also gathered in major cities in India to include New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru and other cities for what could be the largest climate protest in history. A report released last year by a UN science panel concluded that there's still a chance to meet the 2015 Paris climate accord's goal of keeping global temperatures from rising more than 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) by 2100 compared with pre-industrial times. But achieving this would require drastic measures, including ending the use of fossil fuels such as oil, gas and coal by mid-century.

UN CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT: HIGHLIGHTS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW

The United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres hosted the Climate Action Summit in New York on September 23rd ahead of the UN General Assembly. The Secretary-General called on all leaders – governments, the private sector, civil society, local authorities and other international organisations – to come with concrete, realistic plans that will boost ambition and rapidly accelerate action to implement the Paris Agreement.The Summit focused on 9 independent tracks led by 19 countries supported by international organisations. The nine tracks included- mitigation, social and political drivers, youth and public mobilisation, energy transition, industry transition, infrastructure, cities and local action, nature-based solutions, resilience and adaptation, climate finance and carbon pricing. While world leaders were asked to come with concrete plans to cut emissions to net zero major economies failed to answer.

2020 CLIMATE PROGRESS TRACKER: AN OPEN-ACCESS TRACKER TOOL

Photocredits: Bigstock

While 2020 is the year when one will see if the Paris climate deal can deliver, it's the first true test of the 2015 deal – a moment when it will become clear whether the 196 signatories can meet their promise to scale up ambition in line with the demands of science.

This open-access tracker tool, updated by researchers in the UK, Australia and the US, pulls together a myriad of different climate pledges that have been made by nations, cities, businesses and others. Also included in the tracker tool are examples of progress across key sectors, current information on climate impacts, climate-related initiatives, and key dates in the climate calendar.