

23.11.2026 NEWS

FOSSIL FUEL CONTROVERSY: UN CLIMATE SUMMIT ENDS WITHOUT AN AGREEMENT

- The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP31), jointly chaired by Turkey and Australia, was held in Antalya, Turkey.
- The UN Climate Change Conference is an important international platform for discussions and negotiations on climate-related actions, including measures to tackle the impacts of climate change and initiatives to promote alternatives to fossil fuels.
- Usually, the proposals presented at this annual conference are adopted through a consensus among the member countries.
- However, the European Union (EU), comprising 27 member countries, and several other nations refused to accept the final proposal jointly released by Turkey and Australia, stating that it did not contain information or commitments regarding fossil fuels, which are a major cause of global warming.
- The final proposal reportedly omitted references to fossil fuels due to pressure from Russia and Saudi Arabia.
- As a result, the conference concluded without reaching any major agreements.
- Union Minister for Environment Bhupender Yadav, in a post on the social media platform X on Sunday, commented on the failure of negotiations at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP31).
- "We made every effort until the very end to ensure that our demands were fulfilled at this year's conference.
- It is essential not only to introduce measures to combat climate change but also to implement them effectively.
- Developing countries that set national targets to control the impacts of climate change must be assured of technological and financial assistance."
- He further stated that the conclusion of COP31 without a final agreement would not affect India's climate-related actions.
- India, with an installed solar power capacity of more than 170 gigawatts, is determined to strengthen cooperation among all member countries at the next climate conference.

INDIA–EUROPEAN UNION FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

- Central government sources have stated that a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and the European Union, a bloc of 27 countries, is expected to be signed.
- Benefits of the India–European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA)

» What are the benefits for India?

- The Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and the European Union (EU) is described as the "Mother of All Agreements."

- Duty-Free Exports: Around 93% of goods exported from India to European Union countries will be exempt from customs duties.
- Cheaper Luxury Cars and Wine: The prices of luxury cars and wine imported from European Union countries will decrease.
- Greater Export Opportunities: Indian exporters will gain more opportunities in the European market.
- Long Negotiations: The agreement has been finalised after more than 20 years of negotiations.
- Large Economic Partnership: The agreement will bring together India, the world's fourth-largest economy, and the European Union, the world's second-largest economic bloc.
- Creation of a Massive Market: Together, India and the European Union will create a large market comprising approximately 2 billion people.

AMUR FALCON FLIES 5,700 KM FROM MANIPUR TO SOMALIA IN FOUR DAYS WITHOUT STOPPING

- The Amur Falcon is a migratory bird known for undertaking one of the longest non-stop sea crossings in the world.
  - Weight: Approximately 150 grams.
  - Breeding Regions: Eastern Russia, northeastern China and Mongolia.
  - Wintering Regions: Southern and eastern Africa.
- Every year, Amur Falcons migrate from their breeding grounds in eastern Russia, northeastern China and Mongolia to their wintering grounds in southern and eastern Africa.
- Their migration route passes through northeastern India.
- These birds are also occasionally spotted in the Rajapalayam and Kodiakkarai regions of Tamil Nadu.
- Crossing the Arabian Sea
- The most challenging part of their migration is crossing the Arabian Sea.
- To prepare for this journey, Amur Falcons stay for several days in Manipur and Nagaland.
- During this period, they feed on insects, including termites and dragonflies, to store sufficient energy for their long-distance flight.
- Amur Falcon Monitoring Project
- The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) is conducting the Manipur Amur Falcon Monitoring Project to study the migration patterns of these birds.

» In 101 hours...

- As part of this project, researchers fitted lightweight satellite transmitters to two Amur Falcons : Alang – Female Amur Falcon; Apapang – Male Amur Falcon

1. Alang (Female)
   - Alang flew continuously for 101 hours.
   - It covered a distance of 5,700 kilometres without stopping.
   - It successfully reached Somalia.
2. Apapang (Male)
   - Apapang covered 4,100 kilometres in 95 hours.
   - Researchers reported that it was still flying over the Arabian Sea at the time of reporting.

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