COP31 a 'fractured outcome' as rich nations block progress: CSE

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News

The COP31 UN climate conference in Antalya, Türkiye ended on 22 Nov 2026 without consensus on its cover decision (the proposed "Antalya Pact"). The Delhi-based Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) called it a "fractured outcome", saying developed countries blocked progress on key issues. The Climate Finance Work Programme became a formal agenda item despite resistance from developed countries; no baseline was agreed for tripling adaptation finance by 2035; only about $50 million was pledged to the Adaptation Fund against a $1.2 billion target for 2026–29; and Saudi Arabia and Russia objected to the mitigation text.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Conference	COP31, Antalya, Türkiye (November 2026)
Main result	No consensus on the cover decision
Agreed	Just Transition Work Programme extended by 3 years
Voluntary pledge	'35x35': electricity to be 35% of final energy use by 2035 (left in the voluntary Action Agenda for lack of consensus)
Adaptation gap	Even a full tripling would meet only 20–29% of the about $305 billion a year that UNEP estimates is needed

Point	Details
Just Transition Mechanism	Deadlocked on structure and funding; moved to SB66 (June 2027)

Background

- The UNFCCC was adopted at the Rio Earth Summit (1992) and is based in Bonn. Key milestones: Kyoto Protocol (1997); Paris Agreement (COP21, 2015) – keep warming well below 2°C, aiming for 1.5°C; COP29 Baku (2024) – new finance goal of $300 billion a year by 2035; COP30 Belém, Brazil (2025).
- India stresses "Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities" (CBDR-RC) and promotes Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment).
- CSE was founded in 1980 by Anil Agarwal; Sunita Narain is its Director General.

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu launched the Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission and set up the Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company (2022) to plan climate action in the State.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Conference: COP31, Antalya, Türkiye (November 2026); Main result: No consensus on the cover decision; Agreed: Just Transition Work Programme extended by 3 years; Voluntary pledge: '35x35': electricity to be 35% of final energy use by 2035 (left in the voluntary Action Agenda for lack of consensus).

What is the background to this news?

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Practice questions (with answers)

1. What was the proposed cover decision of COP31, on which no consensus was reached, called?

A) Antalya Pact

B) Glasgow Climate Pact

C) Baku Finance Goal

D) Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan

Answer: A – Explanation: COP31 in Antalya, Türkiye ended on 22 Nov 2026 without consensus on the Antalya Pact. The Glasgow Climate Pact came from COP26 (2021) and the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan from COP27 (2022).

2. Who founded the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), which called the COP31 outcome 'fractured'?

A) Anil Agarwal

B) M.S. Swaminathan

C) Sunderlal Bahuguna

D) Sunita Narain

Answer: A – Explanation: CSE was founded in Delhi in 1980; Sunita Narain is its Director General. It publishes Down To Earth.

3. What new climate finance goal was agreed at COP29 in Baku (2024)?

A) $500 billion a year by 2050

B) $1.3 trillion a year by 2030

C) $100 billion a year by 2025

D) $300 billion a year by 2035

Answer: D – Explanation: $100 billion was the older goal from Copenhagen (2009). At COP31 only about $50 million was pledged against a $1.2 billion Adaptation Fund target.

4. At which summit was the UNFCCC adopted, and where is its secretariat?

A) Rio Earth Summit 1992; Bonn

B) Stockholm Conference 1972; Geneva

C) Kyoto 1997; Nairobi

D) Johannesburg 2002; Paris

Answer: A – Explanation: Kyoto Protocol 1997; Paris Agreement (COP21, 2015) – well below 2°C, aiming for 1.5°C. India stresses CBDR-RC.

5. Which company did Tamil Nadu set up in 2022 for climate action?

A) Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company

B) TN Energy Development Agency

C) TN Pollution Control Board

D) Tamil Nadu Water Resources Corporation

Answer: A – Explanation: The Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission was also launched. TNPCB is the pollution regulator set up under the 1974 Water Act.