

Analysis of Print Media on COP23



COP23 | FIJI

UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

BONN 2017



CMS ENVIS Centre





MAJOR DAILIES

 *The Indian* **EXPRESS**

हिन्दुस्तान
तस्मिन् को पाछि नया नगरिया

hindustantimes



दैनिक जागरण



THE TIMES OF INDIA


THE HINDU



दैनिक भास्कर

Editorial Board

Dr N Bhaskar Rao
Chairman, CMS

Ms Annu Anand
Head, CMS Advocacy

Ms P N Vasanti
Director General, CMS

Mr Prabhakar Kumar
Coordinator, Media Lab

Disclaimer

Although every precaution has been taken in the preparation of this publication, CMS assumes no responsibility for errors or omissions, which arise from the information received from other sources. Neither does it take any liability for any damage resulting from the use of Information contained herein.

Published by

CMS ENVIS Centre on Environment and Media, New Delhi

Compiled by

Preeti Kashyap, Programme Officer
Anand A Jha, *ENVIS Co-ordinator*

Design:

Zia ul Arfin

Content

COP23, Bonn, 2017	1
Methodology	4
Major Research Findings	4
Conclusion	6

CMS ENVIS Centre

CMS ENVIS is a premiere centre designated by Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Govt of India to facilitate information dissemination and further the cause of environment awareness and sensitisation. Since 2000, it has come a long way to establish itself as a resource centre, co-ordinating body and a centre for information dissemination through various print, electronic and new media. Today the centre reaches an overwhelmingly large no. of people through its various activities. CMS ENVIS quarterly newsletter “Green Voice” reaches to more than 5000 individuals and organisations. The daily e-newsletter Green Media has a circulation of over 8000. From time to time the centre also undertakes focused study of media coverage of pressing contemporary issues and translates that knowledge in the form of well-documented publications.

CMS ENVIS also presents impressive on-line databases of approx. 50,000 news items, around 2116 advertising agencies and over 1350 audio-visual programmes, 3869 weblinks along with 2189 environment filmmakers, 124 plus environment print and electronic journalists. Besides this, the centre also engages itself into focused research studies and analysis of media coverage and trends on environment news. The centre has been an active and dynamic channel of reaching out to people through different mediums such as newsletters, publications, research studies, case studies, highly visited website etc. to build public consensus and a network towards environment conservation.

www.cmsenvis.nic.in

COP23, Bonn, 2017

COP23 is the informal name for the 23rd Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The UNFCCC was adopted in 1992 at the Rio Earth Summit, which marked the beginning of the international community's first concerted effort to confront the problem of climate change. Known also as the Rio Convention, the UNFCCC established a framework for action to stabilize concentrations of greenhouse gases in the earth's atmosphere. The UNFCCC entered into force in 1994, and nearly all the world's nations—a total of 195—have now signed on.

Each year the parties to the agreement convene to assess progress in implementing the convention and, more broadly, dealing with climate change. The first Conference of the Parties was held in Berlin in 1995. In 1997, the participants established the Kyoto Protocol, which included legally binding obligations for developed countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Since 2005 the Conferences have carried another name: CMP. This stands for Conference of the Parties Serving as the Meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, and so COP23 will also be known as CMP13.

At COP21, held in Paris in November-December 2015, the parties negotiated what is known as the Paris Agreement, which established specific actions and targets for reducing greenhouse gases emissions, mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change, and financing mitigation and adaptation efforts in developing countries. The agreement took effect nearly a year later. Signatory countries agreed to work to limit global temperature rise to below 2 degrees Celsius and to make strong efforts to keep the rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The Paris Agreement is especially significant because it is a legally binding agreement.

Fiji presided over COP23 in Bonn with the support of the government of Germany. COP23 took place in Bonn, Germany, from 6-17 November 2017.



Five things that will be top of the agenda at the COP23 climate summit (Fanworth, 2017)

1.1 Extreme weather

Fiji is the President of COP23, and its agenda is to highlight the threat posed to small island states by climate change. Fiji has become the first emerging market to issue a sovereign green bond, raising 100 million Fijian dollars (US\$50 million) to support not only climate change mitigation, but adaptation. This is an important signal that adaptation needs more attention. It has often been eclipsed by mitigation technology, which offers more mature opportunities. But urgent action is needed on both fronts. The headlines made by this year's hurricanes, soaring temperatures and wildfires will ensure talk is grounded in practical reality rather than theory.

1.2 The United States

The US is retreating from their hitherto impressive position. President Trump's withdrawal from the Paris Agreement in June raised concerns about whether the pact would endure. But China recognizes that the continued growth of its clean economy presents opportunities and has strengthened its leadership position accordingly. Others, including Europe, Canada and India, are also standing firm. The statement by the G19 following President Trump's withdrawal gave a clear indication that the group would not backtrack on its environmental ambitions. When the economic benefits of clean policy decisions are starting to pay dividends, why would it?

After the White House's disappointing move, certain US State Governors stepped forward as bold leaders. California, Hawaii, Massachusetts, New York and Minnesota have all set their own targets for emissions reductions. This will ensure the US stays aligned with the climate action that businesses want to see. It is not clear how much direction will come from the White House in dictating the US negotiating position during COP23. The promotion of fossil fuels is likely to be on its agenda. Trump is on his first Asian tour and is preoccupied. But despite the US' official position, the voice of American businesses, states and cities will be resolute in their commitment to dramatically cutting emissions.

1.3 Bolder ambition

Businesses, states and cities - in the US and elsewhere - have a strong voice. The Talanoa Dialogue is an official discussion at COP23, focused on how countries can increase their targets for reducing emissions. (Talanoa is the name of a Pacific Islander approach to group discussion which ensures a constructive, transparent and solutions-oriented dialogue). This discussion kicks off in Bonn and will run up to 2018's COP24 in Poland.

The latest UN Environment Emissions Gap Report indicates that many countries are on track to deliver their 2020 goals, including China, the EU28, India and Japan. This shows that targeted policy measures which support market growth in low-carbon technologies can stimulate investors and private sector to shift their focus. The reaction from the private sector and other non-state actors is critical as the Dialogue continues throughout 2017. Evidence that low-carbon choices are synonymous with economic prosperity help to generate the confidence that governments need to increase their ambition.

1.4 Finance

Although climate finance will not be on the negotiating table at COP23, it remains a thorny issue and a hot topic of conversation. Stimulating blended public-private sector finance options to enable low-carbon and climate-resilient investment is a key focus. The latest report from the International Finance Corporation details the opportunities. With the NDC Partnership building support from governments, efforts to support finance flow are accelerating. While financing options for mitigation technologies are obvious, increased private sector funding to support sustainable land use and climate adaptation are topics shooting up the climate finance agenda. These areas are likely to receive further attention at December's Climate Summit in Paris.

1.5. The real economy

More and more businesses, cities, states and regions are seeing the benefits of a low-carbon economy. Low-carbon solutions are increasingly becoming low-cost solutions. Up to half of current annual emissions could be reduced through the application of renewables; more efficient use of energy in buildings, manufacturing, heavy industry and transport; afforestation; and stopping deforestation, according to UN Environment. Demand for renewable power, electric vehicles and energy-efficient technologies is rising. Companies are setting evidence-based targets, showing leadership and being transparent with investors about their low-carbon strategies. This helps create certainty about the transition to a clean economy. This in turn provides evidence and feedback for governments, which informs them about how to develop and support mechanisms to accelerate the transition.

These conversations will not end at COP23. From Bonn to Paris, Davos to California, and New York to Poland for COP24 in 2018, there are opportunities ahead to celebrate successes, take stock of progress and step up ambition.

In this regard, the CMS ENVIS Centre was designated by Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Govt of India, to find out the role of print media, with the objective to analyse the trend in print media and conducting a survey of newspapers regarding the coverage 'COP23'.

- To comprehend the information covered by the print media during the conference
- To ensure the role and participation of the CMS ENVIS Centre by disseminating the media responses during the COP23 conference, through this analytical study.
- To focus on minimising the data gap with the compilation of diverse news forms covered by the print media.

2. Methodology

The study adopted the following procedure for data collection and analysis:

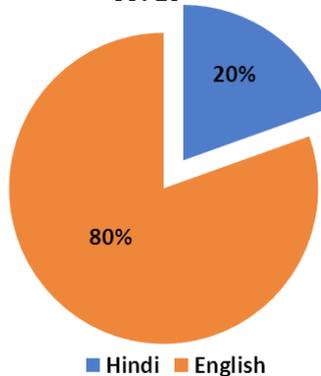
- Three prominent Hindi newspapers (Dainik Jagran, Hindustan and Dainik Bhaskar) and four English newspapers (The Hindu, The Times of India, The Indian Express and Hindustan Times), were reviewed from November 1 to November 30, 2017
- During the study period, the coverage of the issue was reviewed on a daily basis.
- The study analyzed the type of coverage and the space given to the news item.

3. Major Research Findings:

Graph 1: The coverage of English and Hindi dailies on COP23

Percentage of Hindi & English Newspaper Coverage on

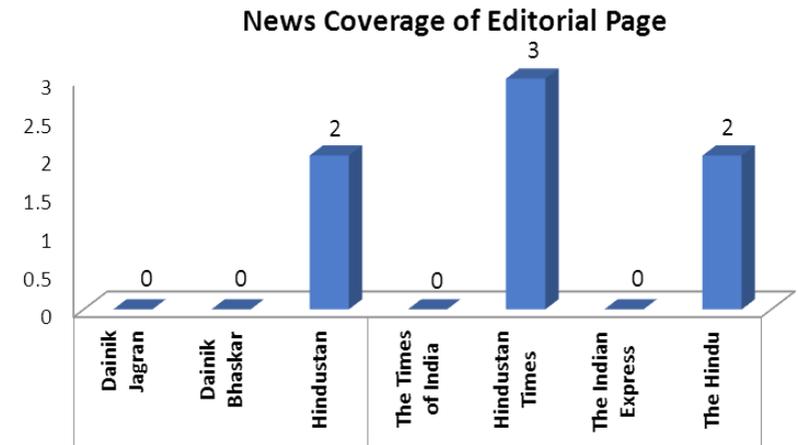
COP23



Hindi and English dailies Coverage on COP23: The English newspapers were far ahead in covering the conference. 37 (80%) news items were published in English newspapers i.e. The Indian Express - 28 news items; The Times of India – 13 news

items. The Hindi newspapers published only 9 news stories (20%) in the month of November. This margin of difference appeared to be high (80% by English newspapers & 20% by Hindi newspapers).

Graph 2: Coverage on the editorial page in seven daily newspapers



Among the 46 news items only 7 articles were written on editorial pages-about the cop23. The Hindustan Times newspaper has maximum number of edit articles written on the issue 3. Hindustan and The Hindu also published two editorials each during the monitoring period.

Table 1: Format of coverage of CoP-23

Format of News Coverage	News Stories
Editorial	7
News Reportv	38
Front Page News	1
Total	46

For coding the news item a certain format is followed like: Editorial, news report and front page. Out of 46 news items nearly half of the coverages were of just reports. Apart from this features/ articles/ editorials had been published in these seven newspapers.

4. Conclusion

Developed countries, led by US and the European Union, tried their level best to not have their carbon emissions scrutinised before 2020.

Though US faced widespread criticism after it announced the decision to quit PA, the European Union also connived with the US to walk away from their pre-2020 commitments.

Overall, the outcomes represent this year decline the coverage of COP23. The main reason newspaper captured and focused on smog stories of pre and post Diwali.

Outcomes of COP23

The 23rd session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)



Water distribution and waste water treatment programme

supported by the Water Authority of Fiji



Agriculture and sustainable forest management fund

supported by the government of Norway and other partners



Climate change and deforestation programmes

supported by the governments of Germany/United Kingdom along with other partners



Talanoa dialogue

to encourage the international community to take more action to close the global climate mitigation gap



Gender action plan

to make women part of all climate change projects and decisions internationally and nationally



Clean Energy Transitions programme

to support clean energy transitions around the world



Global average temperature

to keep the global average temperature rise below 2 Celsius



Launch of Fiji clearing house for risk transfer

A new online platform to help vulnerable countries find affordable insurance and solutions to avoid climate risk



By 2020



Long-term finance

to deliver \$100 Billion per year for supporting developing countries to take climate action



Ocean pathway partnership

to strengthen action and funding that link climate change action with healthy oceans



InsuResilience - the climate risk insurance initiative

\$125 million insurance coverage from the government of Germany to protect 400 million poor and vulnerable people from extreme weather events

By 2030



New Small Island Developing State (SIDS) health initiative

to triple the levels of international financial support on climate and health for people living in SIDS

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

(Source: <https://snrd-asia.org/what-agreements-were-reached-at-cop23-check-out-this-one-page-infographic-summing-up-the-key-outcomes-here/>)

For more information:

CMS ENVIS Centre
Anand A Jha, Co-ordinator
cms@envis.nic.in
www.cmsenvis.nic.in

CMS ENVIS Parent organisation:
P N Vasanti, Director, CMS
pvasanti@cmsindia.org
www.cmsindia.org

RESEARCH HOUSE Saket Community Centre, New Delhi 110 017
P: 91-11-2684 4020, 2685 1660, F: 91-11-2696 8282