

# Global Climate Strikes of 2019

The Global Climate Strike concluded on 27th September 2019. The Strike, mainly led by young people, was staged from 20 to 27 September and took place in more than 150 countries spanning around 4500 locations. Read more about this event on This Day in History 27th September, for the UPSC IAS exam. This is important from an environment and ecology point of view for the exam.

## Facts about September 2019 Climate Strike

The September 2019 Climate Strike was one of the largest strikes in world history in terms of the number of people who took part in it.

- It was a part of the international movement known as the 'School strike for climate'.
  - 'School strike for climate' is also known as 'Fridays for Future (FFF)', Youth Strike for Climate and Youth for Climate or simply Climate Strike.
  - Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg is a leading figure in this movement.
  - In this movement, school students skip school on Fridays and participate in strikes demanding action from political leaders to take steps to mitigate the effects of climate change.
  - They also demand a transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy.
- The strike which occurred on 20th September saw record participation from people, especially young people and school children.
  - Around 4 million people took part that day.
- On 27th September, about 2 million people participated in the protests against climate change, with more than 2400 protests happening that day.
- There were many such strikes starting in March 2019 and the movement grew in momentum, after getting attention from a lot of quarters and also finding support from many scientists and climatologists.
- India saw participation from about 14000 people in 26 different locations in the climate strike.
- These youth-led climate strikes have faced both appreciation and criticism from various sections for their activities.
- While many opine that children have the right to strike and that these strikers are demanding action for a serious and legitimate cause, many others feel that skipping school and protesting on the streets have no real impact.
- Many accuse young activists such as Thunberg to be ignorant of the complex ways of the world.
- Whatever be the argument, the importance of the cause these young people are fighting for cannot be undermined. Climate change is a serious issue and nations all over the

world are in one way or the other, feeling its effect with erratic climate patterns, floods and droughts, forest fires, exhausting underground water levels, etc.