

LONG PROFILE: Dr Arunabha Ghosh, Founder-CEO, CEEW



Dr Arunabha Ghosh is an internationally recognised public policy expert, author, columnist, and institution builder. He is the founder-CEO, since 2010, of the Council on Energy, Environment and Water, and has led CEEW to the top ranks as one of Asia's leading policy research institutions and among the world's 20 best climate think-tanks. With more than two decades of experience across 54 countries, he previously worked at Princeton, Oxford, UNDP (New York), and WTO (Geneva). The Asia Society honoured him with the 2022 *Asia Game Changer Award*, for his and CEEW's "incredible work, which is making a real difference for India and for the planet".

Arunabha advises governments, industry, civil society, and international organisations around the world. In October 2024, the Government of India appointed him to the Commission for Air Quality Management. In May 2025, the Government of Brazil appointed him as a Special Envoy for COP30 climate negotiations. He currently co-chairs the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on the Energy Nexus (and previously co-chaired the GFC on Clean Air). He served on Government of India's G20 Finance Track Advisory Group and advised the Sherpa Track for India's G20 Presidency in 2022-23. In 2022, the UN Secretary-General appointed him to the High-level Expert Group on the Credibility and Accountability of Net-Zero Announcements by Non-State Actors. In 2020, the Government of India appointed him Co-Chair of the energy, environment and climate change track for India's Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP2020).

Dr Ghosh has been a member of the UN Committee for Development Policy since 2019 (nominated by the UN Secretary-General; Vice-Chair 2023-25). He co-convened the Our Common Air Commission. He has been a member of several international expert advisory groups: Global Commission on the Economics of Water; High-Level Group of Economists, constituted by the French president for the One Planet Lab; Senior Consultative Group for the Energy Transition Accelerator; High-Level Panel on the Environment of Peace. He sits on the Oversight Committee of the Exploring Climate Cooling Options programme of the UK's Advanced Research and Invention Agency.

He is the co-author/editor of four books and dozens of research papers and reports. His 2019 TED Talk on air quality (Mission 80-80-80) has crossed 280,000 views. He was a World Economic Forum *Young Global Leader*, an Asia Society *Asia 21 Young Leader*, and fellow of the *Aspen Global Leadership Network*. He was previously an *Oxford-Princeton Global Leadership Fellow*. In 2023, the Government of Australia appointed him a *Canberra Fellow*.

Dr Ghosh led CEEW into a leading think-tank soon after its founding in August 2010. He was actively involved in conceptualising and designing the International Solar Alliance. He conceptualised and was a founder of the Clean Energy Access Network (CLEAN), an industry body for hundreds of decentralised energy entrepreneurs. He serves on advisory councils for Unilever and Temasek. He is a member of the Trilateral Commission.

Dr Ghosh has advised India's Prime Minister's Office, several ministries, state governments and international organisations on a range of subjects. He was invited by the Government of France as a *Personnalité d'Avenir* to advise on the COP21 climate negotiations. He also advised on HFC negotiations under the Montreal Protocol. He served as a member of an international high-level panel of the Environment of Peace initiative. He served on the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Energy. He has been a member of Track II dialogues with eleven countries/regions; and formulated the Maharashtra-Guangdong Partnership on Sustainability. He served on the Executive

Committee of the India-U.S. PACEsetter Fund. He was a member of the Environment Pollution (Prevention & Control) Authority for the National Capital Region (2018-2020). He has presented to heads of state and legislatures across the world on varied topics including global governance, international relations and human development, climate, energy, natural resources and water, trade and intellectual property, development assistance, conflict and extremism.

Widely published, he was lead author of *Stockholm+50: Unlocking a Better Future* (SEI-CEEW, 2022), and *Jobs, Growth and Sustainability: A New Social Contract for India's Recovery* (CEEW, 2020). Arunabha's co-authored essay "Rethink India's energy strategy" in *Nature*, the world's most cited scientific journal, was selected as one of 2015's ten most influential essays. He is co-author of *Energizing India: Towards a Resilient and Equitable Energy System* (SAGE, 2017); *Human Development and Global Institutions: Evolution, impact, reform* (Routledge, 2016); and *Climate Change: A Risk Assessment* (FCO, 2015). He is the co-editor of *The Palgrave Handbook of the International Political Economy of Energy* (2016). He has been a co-author of three UNDP *Human Development Reports*, including the pathbreaking *Beyond Scarcity: Power, poverty and the global water crisis* (2006).

His regular columns and articles are widely read and have been published in the *Business Standard*, *Financial Express*, *Euractiv*, *Forbes*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Hindustan Times*, *Indian Express*, *Mint*, *Nikkei Asian Review*, *The Hindu*, *The Times of India*, among other platforms. He has hosted a documentary on water in Africa, featured in *National Geographic* and *Discovery Channel* documentaries on energy and climate change, and delivered a *TED Talk* on air quality. He has been regularly interviewed on Al Jazeera, BBC, CGTN, CNA, CNBC, CNN, News 18, Gulf News, India Today TV, NDTV, Voice of America, etc.

He holds a doctorate from the University of Oxford (Clarendon Scholar; Marvin Bower Scholar), an M.A. (First Class) in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Balliol College, Oxford; Radhakrishnan Scholar); and topped Economics from St Stephen's College, Delhi.

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