

# DAILY PT POINTERS

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### On climate finance to developing nations

Why are developing countries more vulnerable to climate change? How does the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change define climate finance? Why have the figures mentioned in the OECD report been called into question? Does India need climate financing?

#### EXPLAINER

Arjun Dutt  
Gagan Sidhu

#### The story so far:

The 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) of the UNFCCC to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from November 11 to 22 is expected to be a “finance COP” as key climate finance issues feature at the top of its agenda.

#### Are developing states more at risk?

Economically developing countries are among the most vulnerable to climate change’s effects. This is because of geographical factors and, because their economies rely more on sectors like agriculture, which are particularly sensitive to climate change.

Despite being among the most vulnerable, developing countries have contributed relatively little to the cumulative emissions that cause climate change. According to the Sixth Assessment Report of the

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, developed countries account for 57% of cumulative global emissions since 1850 despite hosting smaller populations than the developing world. Developing countries also face competing developmental needs, vexing their ability to take climate action by themselves. The 2009 Copenhagen Accord had developed countries commit to providing \$100 billion a year in climate finance to developing countries by 2020, later also made applicable through 2025. A new mobilisation target for the post-2025 period is on the agenda at COP29.

#### What is climate finance?

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) defines climate finance as “local, national, or transnational financing — drawn from



Leak waters: A sunrise over the polluted waters of Yamuna laden with foam on October 17, 2018

adaptation actions addressing climate change.” This specifies two aspects of climate finance: sources (public or private, and flowing either domestically or across borders) and end-uses (climate mitigation or adaptation). The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) publishes reports on climate finance flows from developed to developing countries. They cover flows from four sources, including international public finance and the private finance mobilised by it. International public climate finance is composed of commercial and concessional loans, grants, equity and other instruments. Loans typically constitute the largest share (69.4% in 2022), followed by grants (28%). However, developing countries and observers such as

actual disbursements and not simply commitments to provide climate finance; that a flow should be new and additional and not simply a reclassification of existing aid; and that only grants, or grant equivalents of concessional finance, should be counted, not finance provided on a commercial basis.

#### Who needs climate finance?

Developing countries require external financing for climate action. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), 675 million people in the developing world didn’t have access to electric power in 2021. Developing countries need to universalise access and increase electricity consumption.

Developing countries also have smaller domestic financial systems relative to their GDPs and face higher costs of

technologies is about twice as high in developing economies than in developed ones, according to the IEA. Therefore, if developing countries are to balance development and climate action, external finance should be made available.

#### How much does India need?

India has both short-term and long-term climate targets. By 2030, India aims to install 500 GW of generating capacity from non-fossil-fuel sources; five million metric tonnes per annum of green hydrogen (GH2) production capacity; and differentiated levels of penetration for various Electric Vehicle (EV) categories. The authors have estimated (as part of a co-authored report) that achieving 450 GW of renewable energy by 2030 will require an additional \$16.8 lakh crore investment. Per the National Green Hydrogen Mission, India’s GH2 target will need \$8 lakh crore. Consumers will also need to spend around \$16 lakh crore to purchase EVs to achieve this vision. A long-term perspective reveals a greater requirement: \$350 lakh crore in investments between 2020 and 2070 to achieve net-zero emissions.

#### What should the NDCQ quantum be?

Determining a new annual climate finance mobilisation target — called the New Collective Quantified Goal (NDCQ) — is a top priority. The NDCQ should include flows that are (i) actual disbursements, not just commitments; (ii) new and additional (iii) public capital in the form of direct grants; and (iv) private capital that is mobilised by public capital. However, organically flowing private finance to developing countries should not be counted. An independent high-level expert group constituted by the presidencies of COP26 and COP27 has already determined that developing countries (excluding China) will require around \$1 trillion in external finance by 2030.

Arjun Dutt and Gagan Sidhu are,

#### THE GIST

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### India transforming its iconic lighthouses into tourist hubs: Sonowal

Satyasundar Barik  
BHUBANESWAR

Union Minister of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal announced on Sunday that steps would be taken to preserve lighthouses, which are an integral part of India's rich marine heritage, and transform them into tourist hubs that would help coastal communities.

Attending the valedictory session of the second Indian Lighthouse Festival at Puri, Mr. Sonowal said coastal communities around lighthouses would be empowered so that they take pride in the lighthouses.

"Lighthouse tourism is part of the Prime Minister's vision. There has been a 400% rise in tourist footfall at lighthouses since 2014. From 4 lakhs in 2014, it reached 16 lakhs in the last fiscal. We have already crossed 9 lakhs in the first half of the current fiscal," said the Union Minister. He said, "The 'Lighthouse Festival' is our effort to shift this perception."

"A national framework is being mooted to ensure the lighthouses remain torchbearers of India's rich maritime history and legacy," said the Minister.

According to the Ministry, 75 iconic lighthouses



Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal with Odisha CM Mohan Majhi in Puri on Sunday. SPPCL ARRANGEMENT

and one union territory have been developed, at an investment of ₹60 crore. Each lighthouse has become a beacon of both heritage and recreation, with modern amenities such as museums, amphitheaters, children's parks, and more. These developments have also resulted in job creation, with 150 direct and 500 indirect employment opportunities emerging in nearby hotels, restaurants, tour operators, transportation services, and local shops and artisans.

Mr. Sonowal announced two new lighthouses on Odisha's coastline — one at Chaumuck at Narayanpur in Balasore district and another at Dhamra in Bhadrak district. He also inaugurated the new Kalwan Reef Lighthouse at Jamnagar in Gujarat. Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Majhi also attended the festival at Puri.

- Union Minister of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal announced on Sunday that steps would be taken to preserve lighthouses, which are an integral part of India's rich marine heritage, and transform them into tourist hubs that would help coastal communities.
- Since 2014, tourist footfall at lighthouses has surged by 400%, rising from 400,000 to 1.6 million visitors in the last fiscal year, with over 900,000 already in the first half of the current fiscal year. The government is proposing a national framework to highlight the lighthouses' maritime heritage. The Ministry has invested ₹60 crore to develop 75 iconic lighthouses across nine coastal states and one union territory, incorporating amenities like museums and parks, which have created 150 direct and 500 indirect jobs in local hospitality and services. Sonowal announced two new lighthouses in Odisha and inaugurated the Kalwan Reef Lighthouse in Jamnagar, Gujarat,

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## Odisha braces for Cyclone Dana's likely arrival on Thursday

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BHUBANESWAR

Odisha has started preparing for a possible impact from Cyclone Dana in the coastal areas on Thursday, with the India Meteorological Department forecasting wind speeds to reach 100 to 120 kmph.

The IMD said an upper air cyclonic circulation lay over the north Andaman Sea on Sunday. "Under its influence, a low pressure area is very likely to form over the east-central Bay of Bengal and the adjoining north Andaman Sea during the next 24 hours. It is very likely to move west north-westwards and intensify into a depression by October 22 morning and into a cyclonic storm by October 23 over the east-central Bay of Bengal," it said. "Thereafter, it is very likely to move north-westwards and reach the northwest Bay of Bengal off Odisha-West Bengal coasts by October 24 morning."

### **'Fully prepared'**

The Odisha government has decided to deploy disaster response forces in the coastal districts.

The IMD has issued a yellow warning for Wednesday in the coastal districts, such as Bhubaneswar,

### **Collectors have been asked to identify people in vulnerable pockets and shift them to shelters**

Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, and Cuttack. A red warning has been sounded for Thursday morning for Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Khordha, and Ganjam, where rainfall could range between 7 cm and 20 cm.

Fishermen have begun moving their vessels to safer locations and have halted deep-sea fishing.

"We are fully prepared to face the cyclone. People should not unnecessarily panic over cyclone prediction," said Suresh Pujari, State Revenue and Disaster Management Minister. The Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Department warned unscrupulous traders against hoarding. The District Collectors have been asked to identify people living in vulnerable pockets and shift them to shelters. Women due to be delivered of babies this week have been asked to move to hospitals.

Qatar has given the name Dana, meaning a beautiful, precious pearl in Arabic.

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- Cyclones are caused by atmospheric disturbances around a low-pressure area distinguished by swift and often destructive air circulation.
- Cyclones are usually accompanied by violent storms and bad weather. The air circulates inward in an anticlockwise direction in the Northern hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern hemisphere.
- Cyclones are classified as: (i) extra tropical cyclones (also called temperate cyclones); and (ii) tropical cyclones. The word Cyclone is derived from the Greek word Cyclos meaning the coils of a snake. It was coined by Henry Peddington because the tropical storms in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea appear like coiled serpents of the sea.



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## Quad group of countries take part in back-to-back naval war games

**Dinakar Peri**  
NEW DELHI

The Quad group of countries – India, Australia, Japan, and the U.S. – have held back-to-back naval war games, deepening interoperability and honing, in particular, their anti-submarine warfare skills.

“Exercise Malabar” by the four countries concluded on Friday off the coast of Visakhapatnam. Earlier, they were part of the multilateral “Exercise Kakadu” hosted by the Royal Australian Navy from September 9 to 20.

The Indian Navy termed “Exercise Malabar”, held from October 8 to 18, as the “most comprehensive” of all editions so far. The harbour phase was held in Visakhapatnam, followed by the sea phase in the Bay of Bengal.

“Malabar 2024 Sea Phase serves as a testa-



**Strategic waves:** The harbour phase of ‘Exercise Malabar’ was held in Visakhapatnam, and the sea phase in the Bay of Bengal. ANI

ment to the commitment of participating nations towards enhancing understanding, collaboration and engagement in the maritime domain as the world grapples with increasingly complex maritime security challenges,” the Indian Navy said in a statement on Saturday.

“Exercise Malabar”, which began in 1992 as a bilateral naval drill between India and the U.S. has

evolved into a key multilateral event aimed at “enhancing interoperability, fostering mutual understanding, and addressing shared maritime challenges in the Indian Ocean and Indo-Pacific region,” it noted.

Anti-submarine warfare and undersea domain awareness have emerged as major focus areas among the Quad partners as all of them have con-

cerns over the rapid expansion of the Chinese Navy and its increasing forays into the Indian Ocean Region.

Units participated in complex and advanced exercises in the domains of surface, sub-surface, and air warfare. Major exercises included surface weapon firings, anti-air shoots, air defence exercises, anti-submarine warfare exercises, extensive operations of ship-borne helicopters, the Navy said.

### Exercise Kakadu

Exercise Kakadu brought together nearly 3,000 personnel from 30 nations, ships from 10 countries, and aircraft from five nations, all converging in the north Australian exercise area, underscoring Canberra’s commitment to “regional maritime security and international partnership”

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## The Hindu –Governance(GSII)

### PM opens 3 airports in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh under UDAN scheme

The Hindu Bureau

RAIPUR/BHOPAL

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday virtually inaugurated three airports across the country – in Chhattisgarh’s Surguja, Madhya Pradesh’s Rewa, and Uttar Pradesh’s Saharanpur. The airports have been developed under the regional connectivity scheme – UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik)



Narendra Modi

Deputy CM Jagdish Devda attended the inauguration ceremony from Rewa.

The airport in Madhya Pradesh, expected to improve connectivity in the State’s Vindhya region, will operate with 19-seater aircraft with two flights initially. One flight from Singrauli will connect Rewa to Bhopal via Khajuraho, while another will fly to Jabalpur.

The authorities are plan

The sixth airport licensed by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation in Madhya Pradesh, it was built by the Airports Authority of India in about one and a half years at a total cost of ₹450 crore.

The airport in Uttar Pradesh’s Saharanpur has been built next to the Airforce Station as the civil airport does not have its own runway. The local adminis

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- UDAN 1.0: Established routes for five airlines to 70 airports. UDAN 2.0: Connected 73 underserved airports, including helipads. UDAN 3.0: Introduced tourism routes and connected water aerodromes. UDAN 4.0: Focused on the Northeast, hilly states, and islands. UDAN 5.0: Removed distance restrictions, emphasizing quicker route operationalization.



## The Hindu –Economy (GSIII)

### Gateway at Galathea Bay: the new major port can be a game changer

**T.E. Raja Simhan**

A quarter century after Kamarajar Port was named the country's 12th major port, the mega international container transshipment port (ICTP) at Galathea Bay – in the Great Nicobar island in the Bay of Bengal – has been notified as the 13th major port.

This paves the way for the development of the port, which could prove a game changer for maritime trade in the region.

The ICTP, with a 20 metre natural draught, will be strategically located on the East-West international trade and shipping route in proximity to transshipment terminals like Singa-



It is also a part of the rapidly evolving Indo-Pacific geopolitical region. As a gateway to the region, it will capture transshipment cargo from Indian east coast ports, as also Bangladesh and Myanmar.

The Great Nicobar island, part of the Union territory of Andaman and Ni-

nautical miles from Malacca Strait – the international shipping channel catering to about 35% of the annual global sea trade. Currently, nearly 75% of India's transshipped cargo is handled at overseas ports. Colombo, Singapore and Klang cumulatively handle more than 85% of this cargo, with 45% going to Colombo port. The ICTP can save Indian ports \$200-220 million each year in transshipment charges.

#### **Eco-sensitive zone**

However, the port's development faces several challenges, since it is in an ecologically sensitive region.

As per a government source, "Consultants will

ing the region's eco-sensitivity. That is the mandate. They will accordingly seek proposals from contractors and implement these in a phased manner."

The ICTP is envisaged to be developed in four phases at an estimated cost of ₹41,000 crore. Phase 1 is expected to be commissioned in 2028 with a handling capacity of around 4 million TEUs, which will go up to 16 million TEUs in the final stage of development. The estimated cost for phase 1 is ₹18,000 crore, which covers dredging, reclamation, construction of breakwaters, berths, storage areas and buildings among other things.

(The writer is with The

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- The ICTP, with a 20 metre natural draught, will be strategically located on the East-West international trade and shipping route in proximity to transshipment terminals like Singapore, Klang and Colombo. It is also a part of the rapidly evolving Indo-Pacific geopolitical region. As a gateway to the region, it will capture transshipment cargo from Indian east coast ports, as also Bangladesh and Myanmar. The Great Nicobar island, part of the Union territory of Andaman and Nicobar islands, is 40 nautical miles from Malacca Strait — the international shipping channel catering to about 35% of the annual global sea trade. Currently, nearly 75% of India's transshipped cargo is handled at overseas ports. Colombo, Singapore and Klang cumulatively handle more than 85% of this cargo, with 45% going to Colombo port.

### Watch what you tell journalists: China's conditions to rent pandas to zoos

MARA HVI STENDAHL  
OCTOBER 20

PANDA EXCHANGES, like the one that sent two bears to Washington's National Zoo this week, are governed by closely held contracts. In most countries, they are never released.

Lawyers for the Smithsonian, which operates the National Zoo, refused to release a 2020 contract. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which regulates the import and export of exotic species, provided a San Diego Zoo contract with key passages blacked out.

But The New York Times had

found full copies of those documents and others in regulatory filings. The contracts govern two pandas at the National Zoo and two more that arrived in San Diego this summer.

Comparing these contracts with past agreements revealed that American zoo administrators are ceding increasing authority to the China Wildlife Conservation Association, a government group. Here are a few of the terms:

#### Watch what you tell journalists

The arrival of pandas in Washington and San Diego were



Giant panda Mei Xiang at Washington National Zoo. Reuters file

highly choreographed media events. But zoo administrators have agreed to limit what they tell journalists.

Administrators cannot discuss panda illness, death, disease or "any other important matters" without first consulting with their Chinese partners, whose views "shall be fully respected."

#### Don't talk about the money

Zoos pay up to \$11 million a year to rent pairs of pandas from China. To raise money, zoos court donations from everyday people and big-ticket philanthropists.

China retains ownership of

the pandas, and zoos pay for the right to display and breed them for a decade. But the China Wildlife Conservation Association prohibits zoos from discussing the deal in that way. "Commercial terms such as 'lease,' 'rental,' 'loan agreement' or 'contract' shall not be used," the National Zoo's contract dictates.

#### All-expense paid travel

Zoos have agreed to pay for Chinese panda experts to travel to the United States regularly to give advice, including airfare, hotels and a daily stipend of \$100 to \$150 per person.

#### Restrictions on live panda cams

Some zoos previously promoted live panda feeds. Subsequently, they have agreed to limit their live feeds. Melissa Songer, a Smithsonian conservation biologist, said that the zoo pushed back on this provision. But the zoo will offer footage on a delay, Songer said.

#### Break the rules? Deal's off.

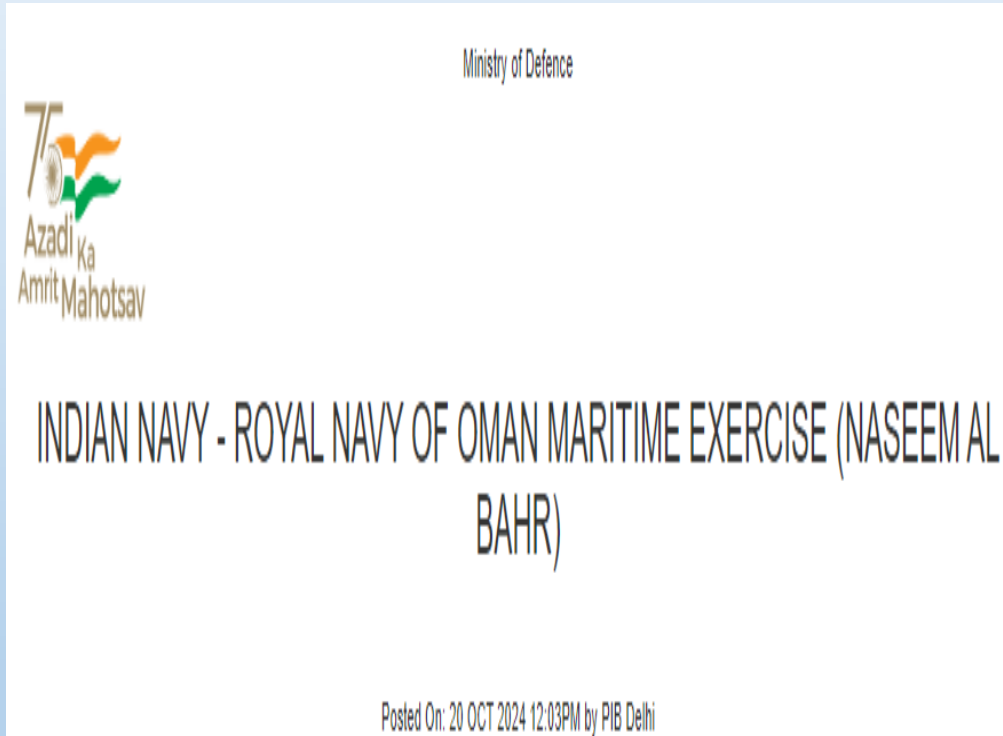
China's Wildlife Conservation Association can terminate the contract and recall pandas to China for a variety of reasons. NYT

- The red panda is a small arboreal mammal inhabiting forests in India, Nepal, Bhutan, northern Myanmar, and southern China. It prefers elevations between 2,200 and 4,800 meters in mixed deciduous and conifer forests with dense bamboo understories, although evidence of red pandas has been found as low as 1,800 meters. In India, they are primarily located in Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, and the Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts of West Bengal, where the red panda is the state animal of Sikkim. Classified as Endangered on the IUCN Red List and protected under Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972, the red panda enjoys the highest level of legal protection.



# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## PIB –Defense (GSIII)



- INS *Trikand* and Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft, participated in the Indo-Oman bilateral naval exercise Naseem-Al-Bahr with the Royal Navy of Oman Vessel Al Seeb off Goa from 13 to 18 October 24.
- The exercise was conducted in two phases: with harbour phase from 13 to 15 October 24, followed by the sea phase. As part of harbour activities, personnel from both Navies engaged in professional interactions, including Subject Matter Expert Exchanges and planning conferences. In addition, sports fixtures and social engagements were also held.
- The exercise was a resounding success, achieving its aims of enhancing interoperability, fostering mutual understanding, and strengthening cohesion between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of Oman.