

Climate catastrophe: Headlines do tell a story

Climate Change

UN report warns world has entered 'uncharted territory' as future warming set to exceed earlier estimates

One million species threatened, with Asia among the most vulnerable regions; long-term economic gains possible if countries shift away from fossil fuel-driven development



Investing in global energy and food system transitions could prevent nine million premature deaths by 2050, largely from reduced air pollution, the UN said. iStock

Jayanta Basu

Published on: 12 Dec 2025, 4:35 pm

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India in climate-risk top 10: Report

JAYANTA BASU

Belem: India is among the top 10 most climate-impacted countries in the world, according to a global report released in Belem on Tuesday evening, Brazil time. The report shows that heatwaves, storms, floods and other extreme weather events have hit many vulnerable countries hard in recent years, including India. The Climate Risk Index, 2025, by Germanwatch, compiled based on data from the International Disaster Database (EM-DAT) on extreme weather events and socioeconomic data from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, says that over 8.30 million fatalities and \$4.5 trillion have been lost due to climate-triggered events over the last three decades. The report states that Dominica, Myanmar and Honduras have been most affected by extreme weather over the past 30 years. It states that while almost all countries in



Protesters protest against the COP30 UN Climate Summit in Belem, Brazil, on Monday. (AP/PTI)

"In total, the index recorded over 9,700 extreme weather events between 1995 and 2024, with more than 8.30 million fatalities and over \$4.5 trillion in direct damage, adjusted for inflation. Heatwaves and storms pose the greatest threat to human life when it comes to extreme weather events," Laura Schäfer, one of the authors of the report, told The Telegraph. "Storms also caused by far the greatest monetary damage

Impact on India among the worst, says Lancet report

Climate risk to health

JAYANTA BASU

New Delhi: Health threats emanating from climate change have reached record-breaking proportions in most countries, with India being one of the most impacted, a global report has found. The report titled "Countdown on Health and Climate Change" published by The Lancet on Wednesday shows "10 of 16 indicators tracking health threats reaching... new records".

"The climate crisis is a health crisis. As the planet heats up, the frequency and intensity of climate-related disasters increase, leaving no region untouched," said Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director-general of the World Health Organization, which was a strategic partner in writing the report.

National secretary Antonio Guterres is posting "Record-high health threats to our health. We must cure the sickness of climate inaction — by slashing emissions, protecting people from climate extremes and ending our fossil fuel addiction."

The report says that in 2023, people were exposed to, on average, an unprecedented 29 more days of health-threatening temperatures than expected under "climate change." It also points out that extreme drought affected 61 per cent of the global land area last year, the second highest level ever recorded.

The impact of climate change on India was worse compared with the global benchmark. "India has recently experienced record-breaking heatwaves. In 2023, each person was exposed to more than 2,400 hours, the equivalent to 100 days, per year when light to moderate activity like walking posed at least a moderate-to-high stress," reads the report, a copy of which was shared with The Telegraph. The report states that in-



A man shields himself from the sun as he inspects the railway tracks on a hot summer day in New Delhi in June. File picture

fants and the elderly in India have been most affected by the Himalayas while damage expanded throughout the country, including coastal regions. "The transmission potential for dengue carried by Aedes albopictus mosquitoes by 47 per cent and 58 per cent (over compared to 2010-2022)," shows the report. Apart from the physical stress from such heat, there have also been formidable economic losses, claims the report stating that "11 billion potential labour hours were lost due to heat exposure in 2023 (and 184 billion was the potential income loss from labourer productivity reduction due to heat in 2027)". The report also shows that in the decade ending in 2023, climate change has substantially altered the transmission dynamics of climate-sensitive infectious diseases in India, Malawi, and parts of

Climate Change

COP of Truth's ending highlights bitter reality of discord between Global North and South

Few hits but many misses as a compromised and weak text emerges almost a day after summit's scheduled closure



COP30 President Andre Correa do Lago during closing plenary meeting of 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30). Photo by Ueslei Marcelino

Jayanta Basu

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Rain ravages among global top 10

JAYANTA BASU

New Delhi: The last monsoon in India ranks among the 10 most expensive and impactful climate disasters of the year, according to a global report published in London on Saturday. The new Christian Aid report, "Counting the Cost 2025," has found that the top 10 disasters stemming from heat waves, widespread droughts and storms have cost the world more than \$120 billion in 2025. The monsoon impact in India, alongside Pakistan, is ranked first based on financial losses. "India's monsoon season started with the wettest May since records began. By September, the country had received 8 per cent more rainfall than average, with 2,477 floods and heavy rain events recorded," the report stated. The report underscored the escalating cost of climate change, with fossil fuel companies playing a central role in driving the crisis. "The cost of being hit by the top 10 poorest countries' climate disasters this year, with at least one extreme event in each of the six populated



A flood-affected area in Chennai on December 3. (PTI)

regions of the world finding space in the report. Among these, the Philippines and Greece witnessed the most deaths, with flooding in India and Pakistan killing more than 1,860 people, the report added. Extreme rainfall, flooding and landslides in India and Pakistan during June-September have cumulatively led to a loss of \$5 billion. "From June to September, large parts of India and Pakistan experienced an exceptionally heavy monsoon season. Torrential rains began early, triggering deadly floods, landslides, cloudbursts and flash floods, particularly in mountainous regions. Across the region, severe snowed, glacial melt worsened flooding, and thousands of towns were submerged," the

disasters are a warning of what lies ahead if we do not accelerate the transition away from fossil fuels," Christian Aid CEO Patrick Walt. A recent assessment by the think tank Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) on disasters in India during 2025, mainly based on official data, highlights the devastating impact of disasters, particularly the monsoon. "India faced extreme weather events on 99 per cent of days in the first nine months of this year, marked by heat and cold waves, lightning and storms, heavy rain, floods and landslides. These events claimed 4,064 lives, affected 4.7 million because of crops, destroyed 99,583 houses, and killed approximately 60,862 animals," the CSE report stated, adding that the damage was likely to be higher as the data were incomplete. The CSE report shows that India witnessed extreme weather on all 122 monsoon days in 2025, spanning 65 states and Union Territories. "Heavy rain, floods, and landslides occurred daily, followed by lightning and storms on 104 days, cloudbursts on 17...," the report said, adding that Himachal Pradesh was the worst hit, with natural disasters affecting it on 103 days, followed by Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh on 84 days each.

POLITICS LEAD STORY

Trump order makes US exit 66 global organisations; signals end to climate action

BY THE PLURALS NEWS NETWORK | JANUARY 8, 2026

In a sweeping executive order, President Trump has withdrawn the United States from 66 international organizations, including the critical UNFCCC. The move marks a definitive shift toward a fossil-fuel-centric economy, utilizing Venezuelan oil reserves. While the administration deems these agencies "redundant," experts and former officials warn this isolationism could cede global renewable leadership to China.

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The Telegraph e-Paper



Protesters call for climate justice and territorial protection during the COP30 summit in Belem on Saturday. (Reuters)

Study: Carbon emission at record high in 2025

JAYANTA BASU

Belem: Global carbon emissions...

fossil fuels in 2025 compared to the last year. It claims that the remaining carbon budget at 1.5°C is about... The Plurals let everyone speak

is the cumulative gas released without level of... is the cumulative gas released without level of... is the cumulative gas released without level of...

Corinne Le Quérec, a Royal Society Research professor at the UEA's School of Environmental Sciences, however, pointed out that "efforts to tackle climate change are visible, with 35 countries succeeding in reducing their emissions while growing their economies".

"Unless we sharply cut down the fossil fuel emission soon, the situation may quickly go out of hand," warned an India-based climate expert, adding that the latest report has also busted the myth of coal being the most critical emitting source as it contributes 43 per cent against 55 per cent contributed by oil and gas together. "The figures from coal are increasing at a lesser rate compared to other fuels like gas and oil," the expert added.

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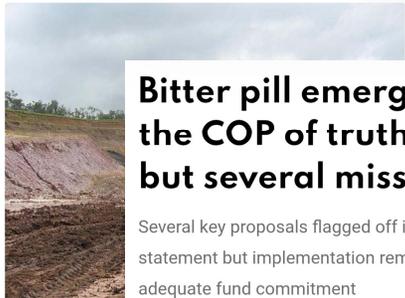


Climate catastrophe: Headlines do tell a story

Billions, including children, are under severe risk for living close to fossil fuel infrastructure: first global study

The study vindicates the need for an immediate roadmap for fossil fuel cuts and an anti-fossil fuel treaty, feel activists

BY JAYANTA BASU | NOVEMBER 12, 2025
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Globally 2 billion people

Bitter pill emerges from the COP of truth, few hits but several misses

Several key proposals flagged off in COP30 final statement but implementation remains uncertain without adequate fund commitment

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COP 30 came to an end in Belem, Brazil after a dramatic plenary that had to be suspended and reconvened even after presidential gaveling

(Photo Credit: UNFCCC)

World going in wrong direction as greenhouse gas emissions hit all-time high, warns report

India's emission rise set to slow down as the US projected to record sharpest rise among major emitters

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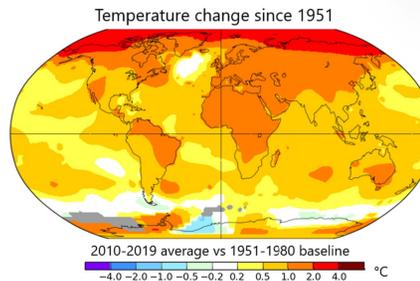


as emission has reach

UN report warns that rate of future global warming likely to overshoot previous estimates

One million species stand threatened, long-term GDP boom possible if we shift soon from fossil fuel-driven development

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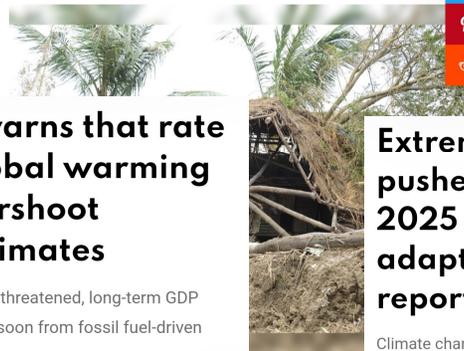


Escalating heat: Is the world crossing the temperature limit. (Photo Credit: The Plurals)

Reports bare cause and effect of climate change in India during 2024

The country experienced the warmest year on record last year, as well as highest frequency of disasters ever in 2025

BY JAYANTA BASU | NOVEMBER 20, 2025
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one disaster alone
The Plurals)

Extreme weather events pushed millions in 2025 to "limits of adaptation", says global report

Climate change-led disasters hit the vulnerable and the marginalised disproportionately

BY THE PLURALS NEWS NETWORK | JANUARY 5, 2026
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Climate change is found to play a significant role in enhancing disasters (Photo Credit: The Plurals)

India a global hotspot of methane emissions from stubble burning: UN report at COP30

One-tenth of global emissions is from India, the world's third largest methane emitter after China and the US

BY JAYANTA BASU | NOVEMBER 19, 2025
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Climate catastrophe: Headlines do tell a story

Darjeeling among fragile Himalayan cities at high risk from climate change

CSE's State of India's Environment 2024 report attributes 44 per cent of India's disasters between 2013 and 2022 to Himalayan climate change



Extreme heat to affect 3.8 billion by 2050, highest in India: Oxford study

India to face elevated threats to health, agriculture and economy, increasing inequality

The ice-melt from the Himalayan range and east of Himachal Pradesh to 365 in 2015. File photograph

BY THE PLURALS NEWS NETWORK JANUARY 29, 2026

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Extreme heat to affect 3.8 billion by 2050, Says an: Oxford study (Photo)

UN heat-stress report lists Calcutta, Delhi

JAYANTA BASU

Belem: Heat-related challenges in Calcutta and Delhi have found mention in a global report published on the sidelines of the COP30 climate summit here on Tuesday.

The report, prepared by the United Nations Environment

ment's global assessment, says that unless global temperatures are kept below 1.5°C, the world will face a 4 per cent loss of Delhi's total economic output due to reduced worker productivity. It is projected to increase to 10 per cent by 2050.

"Heat stress in Delhi is exacerbated by high levels of air pollution, which worsens health outcomes. For children in poverty, this combination of heat and air pollution is estimated to reduce life expectancy by up to five years compared to wealthier residents," an expert said.

Earlier UN reports highlighted Calcutta's vulnerability to heat. The city is projected to reach a maximum temperature of 50°C by 2050 and its Celsius surge will cross 35° for about 150 days a year by the same time.

India face heightened heat-related morbidity and mortality, and stressed water systems due to extreme heat and infrastructure challenges," the report said.

Delhi-based hospitals had reported 275 heatwave-related deaths in May-June 2024. Extreme heat currently results in a 4 per cent loss of Delhi's total economic output due to reduced worker productivity. It is projected to increase to 10 per cent by 2050.

"Heat stress in Delhi is exacerbated by high levels of air pollution, which worsens health outcomes. For children in poverty, this combination of heat and air pollution is estimated to reduce life expectancy by up to five years compared to wealthier residents," an expert said.

Earlier UN reports highlighted Calcutta's vulnerability to heat. The city is projected to reach a maximum temperature of 50°C by 2050 and its Celsius surge will cross 35° for about 150 days a year by the same time.

Alarm on Gangotri snow depletion

JAYANTA BASU

Calcutta: A recently published study by IIT Indore scientists and others has found a telltale effect of climate change on the

a journal of the Indian Society of Remote Sensing.

It has been prepared by hydrology experts from IIT Indore alongside scientists from four US-based universities and

followed by glacier melt (21 per cent), rainfall-runoff (11 per cent) and base flow (4 per cent), its relative share is sliding.

"The data analysis shows that while the snowmelt continues to dominate the overall Gangotri glacier flow, its share has gradually reduced in recent decades as less snow falls in the region due to the gradually increasing temperature. This is clearly a signature impact of climate change," Mohd Farooq Aza, who is with both IIT Indore and IGIMOD, and supervisor of the study, told *The Telegraph* on Monday.

"Moreover, since the 1990s, peak discharge has shifted from August to July, driven by reduced winter precipitation and earlier summer melting, a trend that can have severe implications for hydropower generation, irrigation and water security at higher elevations," says the report.

eration, irrigation and water security at higher elevations," says the report.

The report, in conclusion, explains: "...Long-term trend analysis indicates an increasing trend in mean annual temperature with a decreasing trend in snow cover area, resulting in a decreasing trend of snowmelt on GGS (Gangotri glacial system) over 1980-2020. Conversely, rainfall-runoff and base flow have exhibited increasing trends ... suggesting warming-induced hydrological changes, directly linking climate change with the Gangotri trend."

"The trend is being found in many places. Even in Ladakh, I have observed a similar melting trend," said Abhijit Mukherjee, a groundwater scientist at IIT Kharagpur.

India a global hotspot of methane emissions from stubble burning: UN report at COP30

One-tenth of global emissions is from India, the world's third largest methane emitter after China and the US

BY JAYANTA BASU NOVEMBER 19, 2025

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Critical State of Climate Affairs

- 2024 / 2025 has been part of the warmest year ever cohort ; last 10 years
- IPCC –AR 6 report, painted a dark future , Code Red to dire consequences
- World is on course to 3 to 5 degree temp rise by 2080-2100 under BAU
- Just released WMO's State of the Global Climate report confirmed that 2024 first calendar year to be more than 1.5°C above the pre-industrial era, (Global Mean : 1.55 ± 0.13 °C) above the 1850-1900 average.
- SLR has increased to 4.6 mm/yr from 3.2 mm/ yr earlier ;
- 1.5 degree Paris agreement target was breached in 2025; 43% emission to be cut by 2030 to remain on track with 1.5 degree C limit
- Large part of population distressed; forced climate migration increasing
- Carbon di oxide, after a lull, is again on the rise
- Climate change scenario entering into uncharted territory
- Climate change and health linkage
- Finance flow is a real issue ; politicians accused for inaction

(Lack of) Climate Action: Money vs Market debate

GOVERNANCE

Market and mitigation dominated G20 climate actions – not a good signal leading to COP28, claim experts

Woefully inadequate in response to Global Stocktake Report and unlikely to keep temperature rise within 1.5°C

By Jayanta Basu

Published: Thursday 14 September 2023



in COP 28 – 30;
Market and Mitigation dominated; Global South including India opposed, sought focus on adaption finance in COP 30 (However India did the same during G 20 Chairmanship and recent budget (Economic Survey vs 2026-27 Budget)

জলবায়ু পরিবর্তনের অনেক গুরুত্বপূর্ণ দিকই অনুক্ত থেকে গেল

বাজারের উপরেই ভরসা?



■ উপভোগ করুন! জি২০ বৈঠকের আলোচনা চলাকালীন, দিল্লি, ১০ সেপ্টেম্বর। পিটিআই

দি

ক্রিতে জি২০ শীর্ষ বৈঠকের সাক্ষাৎ নিয়ে কেন্দ্রীয় সরকার প্রচারের জি২০-তে কোন পর্যায়ে, বিদেশীরা বলছেন ২০২৯ সালের সাধারণ নির্বাচনকে পৃথিক ত্রুণ করে। ইতিহাসিক ভাবে রাজনীতিতে নম্বর বাড়তে চেয়েছেন। সুতরাং, নম্বরে মৌলি সে পক্ষে হাটসে অন্যায় বা অপ্রত্যাশিত করা যাবে না। আসল প্রশ্নটা অন্য। সত্যিই কতটা সফল জি২০ দিল্লি শীর্ষ বৈঠক?

জয়ন্ত বসু

প্রধান প্রায় অপ্রত্যাশিত করে নিচ্ছে 'মিটিগেশন' বা প্রশমন প্রায়, এবং 'মার্কারি' অর্থাৎ বায়ুরা নেই, পৃথিবীর উষ্ণতা বৃদ্ধি জমা সবচেয়ে বড় ঝড়ের দায়িত্ব, সেই জীবাশ্ম জ্বালানি অর্থাৎ কয়লা, তেল ও গ্যাস কমানোর কথা। নেই, জলবায়ু সচিব রোবার্ট জনা 'ম্যাড্রাসেশন' অর্থাৎ মালিয়ার নেওয়ার চৌকো স্পট করে আর্থিক সাহায্যে বাজারের কথা, যা খয়লাত ও ভারত-সহ উন্নয়নশীল দেশগুলির কাছে অত্যন্ত গুরুত্বপূর্ণ। তথা বলাহে 'মিটিগেশন' খাতে আঞ্চলিক আর্থিক সাহায্য ইতিমধ্যেই 'ম্যাড্রাসেশন'-এর তুলনায় অনেক বেশি, এবং সে প্রবণতা বাড়তে চলেছে। যোগাযোগের সে করে কোনও উল্লেখই নেই 'দাস' আদ্যে 'জামেজ' বা ক্ষমকতি। অর্থাৎ পৃথিবীর ইতিমধ্যেই জলবায়ু বিপদ অঞ্চলগুলির মানুষের জন্য আর্থিক সাহায্যের কথা, যা নিয়ে গত বছরের শর্ম এল শেষ আঞ্চলিক জলবায়ু বৈঠকে সিদ্ধান্ত হয়েছিল একটি আদান। তবুও বৈঠক করার, এ বার কিন্তু তেমন কিছু লাগা না মনে।

জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন সাক্ষাৎকে বাজারের মুকিবর কথা অনবীকার্য। কিন্তু শুধু বাজার নিয়েই জলবায়ু পরিবর্তনকে সামলে দেয়া যাবে, এমন ভাবনাটা আরো ঘরে ঘরে ছড়ি ছড়ি কিঙ্কিই নয়া। মনে পড়ে, ২০১১ সালে বান্নে বাজরের শেষে এক মজা আফসোস করেছিলেন, আমরা বুঝতে পারিনি যে, সব কিঙ্কি বাজারের উপর ছাড়স ছাড়স হা; সরকারকেও থাকতে হয়। আদলে বাজার অর্থনীতি কাজ করে আসলেও প্রয়োজনীয় ঝাঁকুর করে গেলা হয়েছে। মাল্য হ্রাসের যে, ২০১০ সালের মধ্যে গোটা পৃথিবীতে কর্তন নিম্নসে শনা করে দেওয়ার জন্য বাই প্রতি বছর ৪ ট্রিলিয়ন আমেরিকান ডলার। বলা আর আমলাই দিনে করার মধ্যে কতটা সাফল্য থাকবে, সে প্রশ্নকে আশাতর দূরে সরিয়ে রাখলেও তুলে ধরেন মনে না যে, জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন চৌকোতে ১৪ বছর আগে যে পরিমাণ আর্থিক সাহায্যের জরুরীকার আমেরিকা-সহ উন্নত দেশগুলি করেছিল, তা আজ অপ্রাপ্য হয়ে উঠেছে। দিল্লি সিদ্ধান্তপত্রের 'দিয়ে কোটা হান্না', সে প্রশ্ন উঠবে।

স্পষ্টতই প্রায় সব সিদ্ধান্তই শক্তহে 'মিটিগেশন'-এর ট্রাইবিউতে। মিটিগেশন যানে হল মূলত নান্দন বন্যায় সৃষ্টি ও ঝড়ের পায়ের কাছে উষ্ণতা সৃষ্টিকারি গ্রিনহাউস গ্যাসের নিয়ন্ত্রণ কমানো। আর নান্দন বন্যায় মানেই নান্দন বাজারের হাতছানি। সোজা করায় জি২০-র জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন সত্যোয় আকন্দ

মনে রাখতে হবে, নেতারা জি২০-তে খন্দ এই সিদ্ধান্ত নিচ্ছেন, তার টিক আছেই প্রকাশিত বাস্তবের প্রোগনাল স্টক ট্রে রিপোর্ট জানাচ্ছে যে, ২০১০ সালের মধ্যে কর্তন নিম্নসে ২০২৩-র তুলনায় ৪০ শতাংশ কমতে না পারলে কোনও কলমই গ্রাফ-শিটান যুগের তুলনায় পৃথিবীর গড় তাপমাত্রা সৃষ্টিতে বেশ ডিগ্রি সেটিসেটের মতো আটকে রাখা যাবে না। নেই, বর্তমানে পৃথিবীর গড় তাপমাত্রা ১.২ ডিগ্রি ফার্ডেই খি পরিষ্কি, সেটা স্পষ্ট। দলদলে পুড়েছে সে সব শেখ ও অঞ্চল, যেখানে আগে এমন পরিষ্কি টিকা করা যায়নি, বর্তহে তার পৃথিকি, হঠাৎ আশেপাশেরা পুষ্টি এবং অল্পক কেবাই এক সলে গোঙানি পাঁচিয়ে পুড়ে পৃথিবীর উপর। সবচেয়ে বেশি ক্ষতির সন্দ্ব্ধীন মনেন পৃথিবী ছুড়ে পেরি মাথ, যাঁদের এমন পরিষ্কি সামলানোর শক্তি ও সক্তি নেই। তাই প্রোগনাল স্টক ট্রে রিপোর্ট নিষ্কি করে দেওয়ার লক্ষ্যমাত্রাকে হোয়া হো দুই হান, তার কাছাকাছিও পৌঁছানো সম্ভব হবে না যদি জীবাশ্ম জ্বালানি ব্যবহার উন্নত দেশগুলি জরুপ না করে। এবং যদি আয়োজনগুলোতে ব্যক্তিগত ওজন না লগা হয়।

যারা সব দুঃখের মধ্যে পুড়ে পুড়ে জলবায়ু সৃষ্টন। প্রায় শেষ লক্ষক পরে জলবায়ু সাক্ষাৎ যে, প্রায় প্রতি বছরই ইচ্ছায়েন স্ক্রু হওয়ার পর উন্নত দেশগুলি এমন একটি আয়োজক নিয়ে ছিল মানে নামে, যা আসে তেমনে তবে জানানোতে ছিল না। ২০১৯ সালে মালিয়ার নান্দন পুরনো কর্তন বাজার, ২০২১ সালে গ্রায়েনোয় সাক্ষাৎনে নেট জি২০; উষ্ণতারের শেখ নেই। নেবা যান, পৃ-সংক্রান্তে পৃথিবীর সৃষ্টনর একটা বড় আশঙ্কি চলে যায় নান্দন আ বিস্ময়কি মুকুতে ও রোবার পর বাজারিকৈ রানিগতিতে; শিষ্টহে পড়ে যায় ওজনকর্ষক বিস্ময়কি। নিষ্কি সমারের বহু কথা পর কোনও রকমে জোতাগুলি দিয়ে এক তথ্যকর্ষক সর্পসত আর্থনিকৈ যোগাধারার তৈরি হয়, যাকে সাধারণ মানুষের বিশেষ কোনও লাভ হয় না। একই ভাবে যদি দুইই জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন সাক্ষাৎনে নেট জি২০ সিদ্ধান্তকে সামলে নেবে 'বাজার লাভ, জলবায়ু চৌকি'—এই প্রোগনাল স্টক ট্রে রিপোর্ট উন্নত দেশগুলির প্রতিশোধি, তা হবে আশ্চর্যের কিঙ্কি নেই।

আর এখানেই হলে—রাষ্ট্রকৈ আধিপত্যের জি২০ খেলতে নিয়ে প্রোগনালি মৌলি যে জলবায়ু বিপর্যয় থেকে বাঁচার ট্রেস্ট মাস্টো হায়েন দিতে অন্যতম বড় ভূমিকা নিচ্ছেন, সেইই ইচ্ছায়েন দেখা থাকবে।

Climate Action : Key concerns at hand

- Covid impact on economy , being used as an alibi
- Conflict impact : Ukraine – Russia war / Israel – Palestine war – direct and indirect; latest Venezuela
- Migration and Market seems to be taking over
- Ambition Gap as new NDCs announced by various countries; were not good enough as per science
- GST report highlighting concern
- Loss and Damage fund details to be worked out
- Fund flow – 5.8 to 5.9 trillion USD/ 4 trillion USD per year as per G 20 declaration; to trigger discussion in COP 28
- Fossil Fuel cut related discourse ; agreement demanded

Belem COP 30 Conclusion

The COP of truth, as Brazilian president Lula had christened COP30, concluded, with a weak and compromised final draft exposing the discord within Global South and Global North countries.

While UN experts hailed it as “successful” despite challenges, vulnerable least-developed countries and activists criticised it for not doing enough for finance and fossil fuel cuts, though admitting that the Belém outcome looks better than Baku for bringing back key issues of climate justice on the table.

The final draft, got accepted after a fair share of drama with several countries raising objections even after it was sealed, was praised for announcing the Loss and Damage project window, Just Transition action plan and a gender-based action plan, but the core issue of finance, particularly adaptation finance, continued to be pushed back without adequate commitment from developed countries. Need to tripling Adaptation finance accepted

The plenary had to reconvene where the text initially presented was accepted with the caveat that issues of fossil fuel cut roadmap and indicators of Global Goal of Adaptation (GGA), will be discussed at Bonn in June 2026.



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Changing Tides

Climate Action and Justice in India

Edited by Anjal Prakash and Marcella D'Souza



Innovations, Practice and the Future of Public Policy in India



15

CLIMATE ACTION

Linking international negotiation,
Indian policy, and local community
with focus on the Sundarbans

Jayanta Basu

15.1 Introduction

This chapter analyses the milestones and dynamics of international climate negotiation and their link with India's climate policy. It also examines how linked issues and developments embrace climate actions within local communities, both at the planning and the implementation levels.

The focus is on the Sundarbans in the state of West Bengal, India, off the Bay of Bengal, because it is considered a hotbed of global climate change.

The analysis looks at all three aspects, independently and in tandem, to understand the holistic qualitative and quantitative outputs of ground-level climate actions and how robust and adequate they are in combating the greatest existential crisis of modern times.

It will also bring to the fore that increasing awareness and discourse regarding all three aspects vis-à-vis undertaking climate action having hardly turned into action on the ground so far. Also that there have been yawning gaps within science-based emissions cut needs and implementation.

15.2 Methodology

Data and information for the first two aspects – international negotiation and Indian policy – were gathered from secondary sources. These consisted mainly of peer-reviewed and official reports and communiqués published by the United Nations or its subsidiary organisations and the Government of India, as well as various other research organisations, by adopting both vertical and horizontal approach to neutralise any bias in understanding and analysis.

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Global scenario: major takeaways

- ❑ Slow-paced global negotiation particularly since COP 21; not enough continuity of thought process; Covid and wars contributed
- ❑ Global agreements searching for low hanging soft solutions and long-term timelines like setting up of Net Zero targets
- ❑ More focus on market driven mitigation; far less on adaptation finance
- ❑ It also seems that climate discourse needs to be linked with other multilateral global discourses; be it at International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Trade Organization (WTO) and likewise
- ❑ The region and city related climate action discourse needs to be increased; as often the country-based discourse fails to reflect and accommodate the heterogeneity of the subnational regions vis-à-vis climate risk; youth factor
- ❑ Stronger follow up of institutional frameworks such as the operationalisation of Loss and Damage Fund Facility and Fossil Fuel discontinuation required & achieving Global Net Zero status by around 2050.

Donald Trump factor

Climate Change

Climate experts fear global climate action to be 'Trampled', and Baku COP finance talks to be affected, post US election results

Vulnerable populations across world, including India, may suffer if global climate action gets slowed down



Donald J Trump @realDonaldTrump / X

Jayanta Basu

Published on: 07 Nov 2024, 12:51 pm



iStock

Climate Change

'More than Trump himself, quickly spreading Trumpism will be dangerous for global climate action'

Harjeet Singh, a prominent global climate activist, on the various and significant repercussions of Trump's climate policies, including their effects on India

Jayanta Basu

Published on: 28 Jan 2025, 1:46 pm

- The world may be better prepared than 2016; but the impact is still high on global climate geopolitics with several countries may follow Trumpism.
- European countries, China and India have to take lead
- On Feb. 14, 2025 Trump signed an executive order to create a new "National Energy Dominance Council," aimed at increasing the country's oil and gas production. ("drill, baby, drill" approach)
- Columbia University's "Climate Backtracker," has identified more than 45 efforts to scale back or eliminate federal climate measures since Trump era started in first few months (125 env actions in last time) —ranging from boosting fossil-fuel production to withdrawing the U.S. from the Paris Climate Accords (Elon Musk face off on e vehicle) ... he is continuing in same way in 2026 (care of Venezuela oil)
- However, market can play a counter role with Biden introduced Inflation Reduction Act created quite strong domestic climate business momentum in US.
- US states in favour of climate actions ('US is still in' movement); US state judiciary also opposing in general.

Youth – Gen X factor



Don't wait
until it's
too late.

*But ... there are
other stories as
well*



Blame on hype and an hour-long call

JAVANTA BASU

Paris, Dec. 13: The hype India whipped up and the political investments it made at the Paris climate summit may, among other factors, have prompted it to compromise on a number of issues while agreeing to the accord, climate analysts said today.

Union environment minister Prakash Javadekar, who had initially said the pact met India's expectations and cited the inclusion of terminology mentioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the text of the agreement, today conceded that it was a compromise.

"While give-and-take is normal in negotiations, we believe the agreement could have been more ambitious," Javadekar said. "We share concerns of several friends that this agreement does not put us on the path to prevent temperature rise below 2°C and that the actions of developed countries are far below their historical responsibilities and fair shares."

Veteran climate negotiation trackers said although the Paris accord contains politically correct jargon—such as "climate justice" and "sustainable lifestyles"—championed by the Indian government, it largely compromises the future interests of India and other developing countries.

The accord includes the term "climate justice" only in the preamble, explicitly denying it as a universal principle for the time.



Modi, Obama, (PTI and Reuters)

and keeping it out of operational sections. "Equity has not been operationalised in the agreement," said an Indian climate policy analyst who requested not to be named as he had been guiding the government during the negotiations.

"India created a great hype in the summit with Prime Minister Modi holding stage with US President Barack Obama and other global leaders at the beginning," another analyst said. "India also set up one of the costliest pavilions and invested heavily in public relations—there was no way to turn around from there."

Harjeet Singh of the non-government Action Aid said: "If India had been so serious about climate justice, it should have resisted the deletion of words like 'compensation' and 'liability' from the text of loss and damage."

India has been one of the worst sufferers of climate-triggered disasters in recent times, and keeping those

words in the text would have given the affected people a window of support from the polluting developed countries and minimised their sufferings.

It is believed that Obama used his clout with Modi and other leaders to force a deal in Paris.

Last week, Richard Verma, the US ambassador to India, had said Obama had discussed the climate talks for over an hour with Modi over the hotline on Tuesday four days before the Paris deal was sealed.

The White House had said then: "Both leaders emphasised their personal commitment to secure a strong climate change agreement this week."

Today, an analyst said: "Paris is almost like what happened in Copenhagen. In Copenhagen, when everything seemed over, Obama took it upon himself to call Manmohan Singh (the then Indian Prime Minister) back halfway from Copenhagen airport to push a deal. Here, he used long-distance climate diplomacy when Obama failed and Paris survived is that here, the French handled the situation better," the analyst added.

Obama has not shied away from claiming credit. The US President said last night: "Today the American people can be proud because this historic agreement is a tribute to American leadership."

India's position in negotiation - globally

India's international negotiation policy on climate change often in **contradiction** and reflects a lack of continuity (*maa kali* Model of **Jairam Ramesh**) ; moreover, India has **not done enough to facilitate the forging of a south Asian conglomerate** (despite proposing the **COP 33 in India**). No Asia group like Africa group ; allows China to piggyback its interest on India through BASIC group

Refuses to be part of WHO led global climate – health action

India has done reasonably well in climate action in recent years – **7th in 2024** (though slid **in 2025**) as exemplified by our **'Panchamrit' commitments** at Glasgow COP and conversion of the same into earlier NDC subsequently, despite its continuing dependence on **coal**. Faltered in **not submitting NDC 3.0** at COP 30

Need to link climate change and air pollution at Indian subcontinent; need to dc-couple geo real politics and geo climate politics

India has provided solar leadership globally in ISA , with France, and set ambitious target; **need to reconcile with Trumpism in CC**

India skips declaration on climate and health

JAVANTA BASU

Dubai: The UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai announced on Sunday that 123 countries had signed a declaration on the impact of climate change on health, an issue occupying centre-stage at a global climate summit for the first time.

However, India, a highly vulnerable country, was a conspicuous absentee from the list of signatories although officials said efforts were on to persuade New Delhi to join in.

The successive Global Climate Index reports that Germany watched based on the sidelines of several global summits had described India as one of the topmost countries in climate-linked mortality.

COP28 director-general Majid Al Suwaidi expressed hope that the climate-health agenda would find space in the cover text of COP28. "It's just not a declaration, we are serious about it," he told The Telegraph.

"We must rapidly protect and promote their (climate-affected people's) health and well-being while improving the climate resilience of healthcare systems and reduce climate-health risks."

On India not signing the declaration, Al Suwaidi said efforts were on to engage with all the countries that were yet to sign it. "Our job is to facilitate the final decision lies with the countries," he said.

A source in the Indian delegation confirmed there were no plans to be part of the high-level ministerial meeting convened on the agenda of



Members of the International Federation of Medical Students Associations hold placards during a protest demanding an end to fossil fuels at the COP28 World Climate Summit in Dubai on Sunday. (Reuters picture)

climate and health, as neither Union health minister Mansukh Mandavya nor any senior health official was attending COP28.

Senior WHO officials, the agency that pushed the declaration, said they were engaging with all countries, including India.

Maria Neira, director of the WHO's public health and environment department, told this newspaper: "India is an important partner, a vast country with a huge population; also, a country with big technologies... I am sure we can find a way."

All major European countries, the US and China have signed, COP sources said. The declaration refers to various important subjects linked to health such as air pollution, a key issue in India.

"We, on the occasion of the first Health Day at the 28th UN Climate Change Conference (COP28), express our grave concern about the negative impacts of climate change on health," it says.

"We stress the importance of addressing the interactions between climate change and human health and wellbeing..."

India had earlier countered WHO data on air pollution and Covid deaths in the country.

"This, the climate-health declaration, is the third major pledge-cum-declaration, after the food and energy link, which India has refused to be part of," an Indian observer in Dubai said.

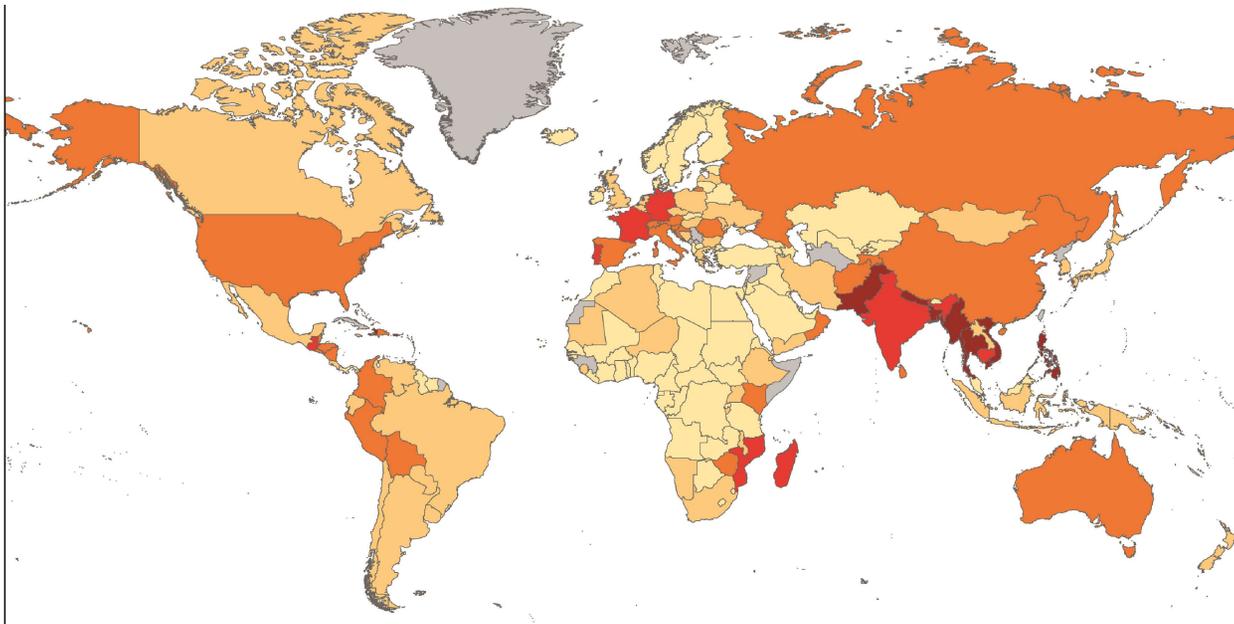
"This is not really a good omen after the Indian Prime Minister showcased India's leadership in global climate action. India could definitely make its point in multilateralism, being engaged is no idea."

A senior official in the environment department sought to underplay the matter saying these were not part of the official COP process. He said India was engaging with the final negotiation.

A COP veteran said: "Such endeavours, with time, often turn into major agendas... Loss and damage funding, though pushed by the least developed countries and civil society for decades, was not part of even the negotiation text when COP27 started but is now a frontal issue. Similarly, the International Solar Alliance, launched by India with others, gradually catapulted into a major facilitator of the COP process."

A statement issued by the COP presidency said: "Over 120 countries endorsed COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health on 2 December during the World Climate Action Summit (and) 1 billion USD of climate health financing was galvanised."

Climate impacts in India



India is most vulnerable nation to climate change impacts, according to a Global Climate Risk Index 2021 by German Watch

Period - CRI score - Fatalities (Rank) - Losses in million US\$ (PPP) (Rank) - Losses per unit GDP in % (Rank)

1999-2018 - 38.67 - 3 - 55 - 3 - 58

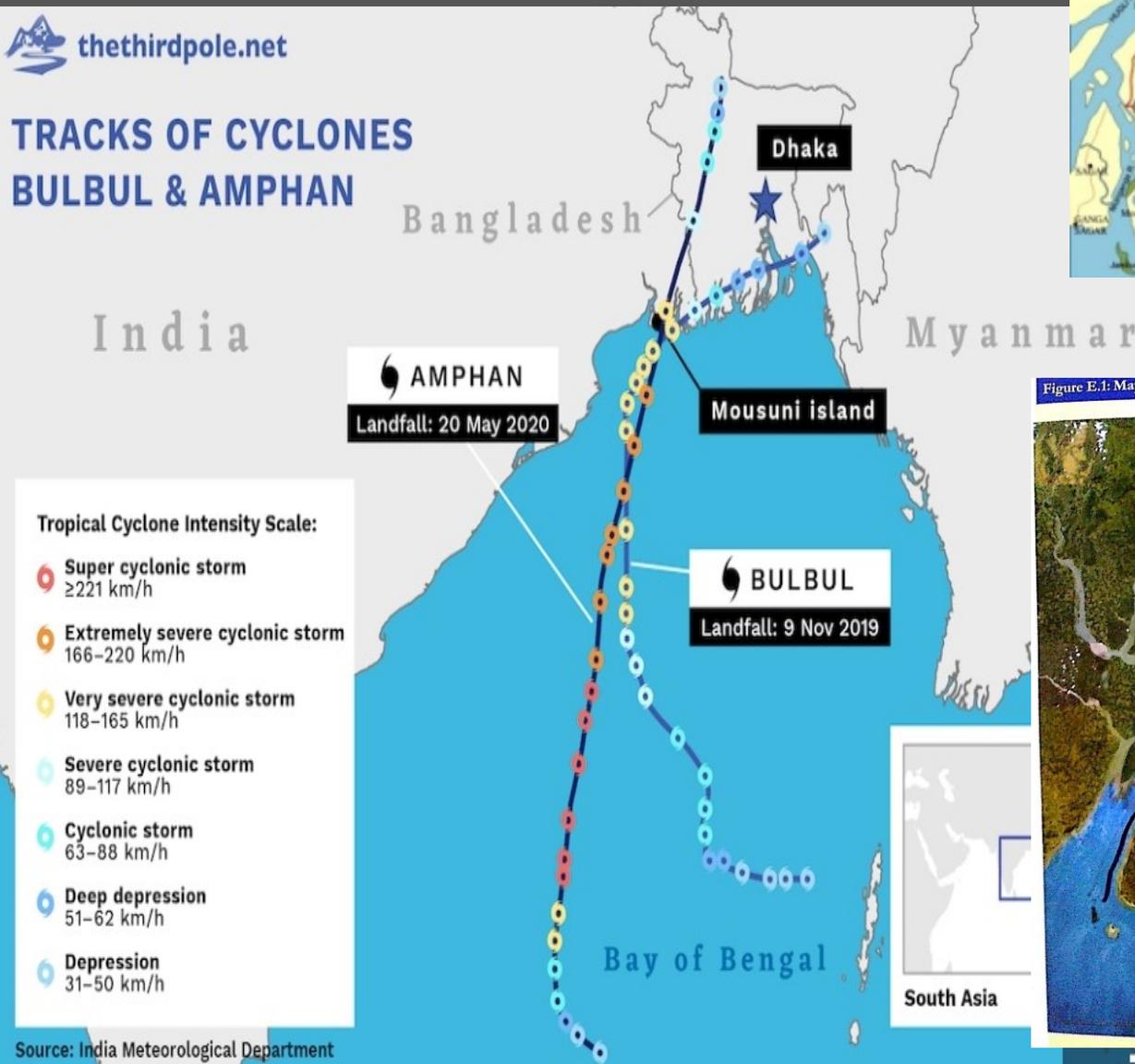
2018 - 18.17 - **1** - 34 - **2** - 19

Sundarban at acute risk



thethirdpole.net

TRACKS OF CYCLONES BULBUL & AMPHAN

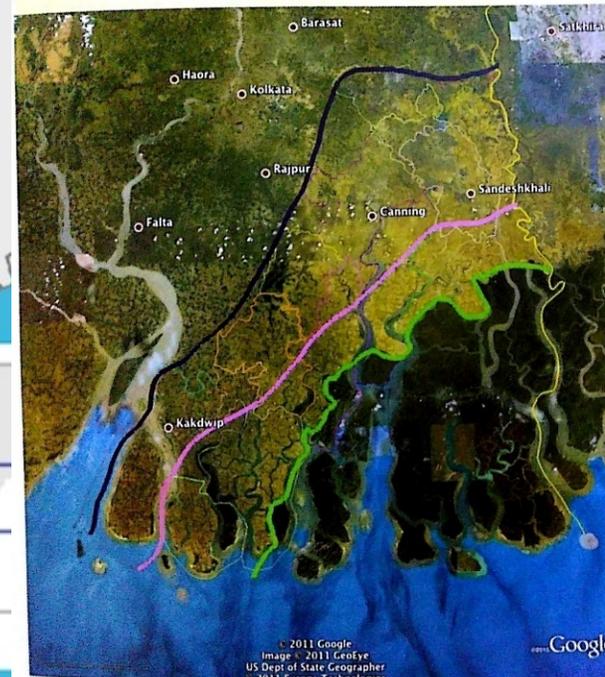


Tropical Cyclone Intensity Scale:

- Super cyclonic storm ≥ 221 km/h
- Extremely severe cyclonic storm 166–220 km/h
- Very severe cyclonic storm 118–165 km/h
- Severe cyclonic storm 89–117 km/h
- Cyclonic storm 63–88 km/h
- Deep depression 51–62 km/h
- Depression 31–50 km/h

Source: India Meteorological Department

Figure E.1: Map of Sundarbans Showing Approximate Zone Outer Boundaries



Stable zone boundary

Transition zone boundary

Core zone boundary

Notes:

1. The stable zone depicted here also includes some area outside the Sundarbans community development blocks.
2. A "high-risk" management zone is also defined by local authorities involved in protected area management; it includes the entire core zone and extends partially into the transition zone to varying distances depending on the extent of human-wildlife conflicts or unsustainable forest use.
3. All figures estimated through NLTA are based on best available information for 2011 (unless otherwise indicated).
4. Not all base information is available in formats commensurate with stable/transition/core zone boundaries.

Islands	Population	Population Density/sq km	Annual per cap. inc (lakhs)	Sea Level Rise in mm	Threat/Natural Calamities
Marshall	52,634	291	2.39	7	HC, El Nino, Flood, Drought, CC
Kiribati	102,351	126	3.7	3.9	HC, El Nino, Flood, CC
Tuvalu	9,876	380	2.56	5	1969-2010, 33 Tropical Cyclone, Flooding, Erosion, Salt Water intrusion into ground water, CC
Tonga	105,323	141	2.92	6	Last 40 years 71 Tropical Cyclone, El Nino, CC
Micronesia	103,549	147.5	2.01	10	Tropical Cyclone, Sea level rise, CC
Cook Islands	10,900	46	6	4	Last 41 years 47 Tropical Cyclone, SLR, CC
Maldivs	345,023	1150	4.4	2.9	Tropical Cyclone
Antigua & Barbuda	89,985	204	8.8	3.1	Tropical Cyclone, Hurricane, Earth quake, Tsunami, CC
Saint Kitts & Nevis	54,191	207	9.33	3.1	Tropical Cyclone, Hurricane, Earth quake, Tsunami
Sundarban	4.5 m	812	0.12	8 (act. 12)	Tropical Cycl, Erosion, SLR, Mangrove Bio,loss

Loss & Damage : Prediction for Sundarbans

Parameter	City	scenario	Baseline	2021-2040	2041-2060	2081-2100	Value	Baseline	2021-2040	2041-2060	2081-2100	Remark
Mean temp	SB	8.5	1850-1900	0.9	1.8	4.1	30.4	1995-2014	0.5	1.4	3.6	
Maximum of Maximum temp	SB	8.5	1850-1900	0.5	1.7	4.2	45.8	1995-2014	0.2	1.4	3.9	
Days with TX above 35	SB	8.5	1850-1900	3.7 days	12.4 days	49.2 days	69.7 days	1995-2014	2.3 days	11 days	47.8 days	
Sea Level Rise	SB	8.5	1850-1900					1995-2014	0.1	0.2	0.6	
Tot rainfall	Sundarban	8.5	1850-1900	2.40 %	5.20 %	18.10 %	4.2m m/day	1995-2014	1.10 %	3.90 %	16.70 %	
Maximum 1-day rainfall	Sundarban	8.5	1850-1900	9.30 %	17.20 %	46.10 %	128.9mm	1995-2014	6.20 %	13.90 %	42.00 %	

Items	Bulbul	Cost (INR crores)	Amphan	Cost (INR crores)	Yaas	Cost (INR crores)
No. of people affected	35.57 lakhs		60 per cent of state population, equivalent to 600 lakh		500 lakh	
Death	16		99		3	
Dwelling houses	5.17 lakhs	4,312.55	28.56 lakhs	28,560		3452
Agriculture	14.9 lakh ha	14,171	17 lakhs ha	15,860		3425
Horticulture			250556 ha	6,581		1540
Fisheries		756.41	Boats-8007, Huts-1.5 l	2,000		1317
ARD (loss of livestock)	13286 (dead),	8.65	Animals lost-21.22 lakhs	452		405
Irrigation canals & ponds, embankment,		1194.49	Embankments-244.73km, sea dykes-3.6km	2,944		4059
Forest		572.81	1.58 lakh ha	1,033		89
Total		23,813		1,02,442		21,535

Already incurred disaster damages in Sundarbans – huge economic loss couple with Non economic losses

NELD - Climate linked disasters impacts on livelihoods

Table 2: Impact of climate change on livelihood options at a scale of 1 (least) to 5 (maximum) (Studied islands- 48)

SL. No.	Island Name	Block	Agriculture	Fisheries	Forest dependent	Tourism	Other:
1	Amtali	Gosaba	4	2	2	2	2
2	Bali	Gosaba	4	2	2	2	2
3	Basanti	Basanti	4	2	2	2	2
4	Baunia	Sandeshkhali-I	2	1	1	1	1
5	Banashyamnagar	Patharpratima	4	1	1	1	1
6	Bhanga Tuskhali	Sandeshkhali-II	5	1	1	1	3
7	Biprodaspur	Gosaba	2	2	2	2	2
8	Choto Mollakhali	Gosaba	4	1	4	1	2
9	Brajaballavpur	Patharpratima	5	3	2	1	1
10	Choto Rakhhoskhali	Patharpratima	5	4	1	4	3
11	Chunakhali	Basanti	4	2	2	1	2
12	Debipur	Kultali	5	4	4	1	4
13	Deulbari	Kultali	4	2	4	2	3
14	Durbachoti	Patharpratima	5	2	2	2	2
15	Durga Gobindapur	Patharpratima	5	1	1	1	3
16	Durganagar	Namkhana	5	5	1	1	3
17	G-Plot	Patharpratima	4	2	2	2	2
18	Gopalnagar	Patharpratima	5	2	2	1	2
19	Gosaba	Gosaba	4	1	2	2	2
20	Hasnabad	Hasnabad	4	1	2	2	2
21	Hingalganj	Hingalganj	4	1	2	2	2
22	I-Plot	Patharpratima	4	1	1	1	1
23	Joynagar Dakshin	Jaynagar-I	5	4	4	2	3
24	Kachukhali	Gosaba	4	2	1	1	2
25	Kalinagar	Hasnabad	4	1	1	1	1
26	Kankan Dighi	Mathurapur-II	4	4	1	1	1
27	K-Plot	Patharpratima	5	4	1	4	3
28	Kumirmari	Gosaba	5	5	4	1	3
29	Kundakhali	Kultali	5	4	4	1	1
30	Lahiripur	Gosaba	4	4	4	1	2
31	L-Plot	Patharpratima	5	4	2	3	2
32	Mahendranagar	Patharpratima	5	4	1	1	2
33	Maipith	Kultali	5	4	4	3	2
34	Manipur	Sandeshkhali-II	4	1	1	1	1
35	Mousuni Island	Namkhana	4	4	2	2	2
36	Namkhana	Namkhana	4	4	2	4	2
37	Nandakumarpur	Mathurapur-II	4	1	1	1	3
38	Radhanagar-Taranagar	Gosaba	4	3	4	3	3
39	Rangabelia	Gosaba	5	5	1	1	3

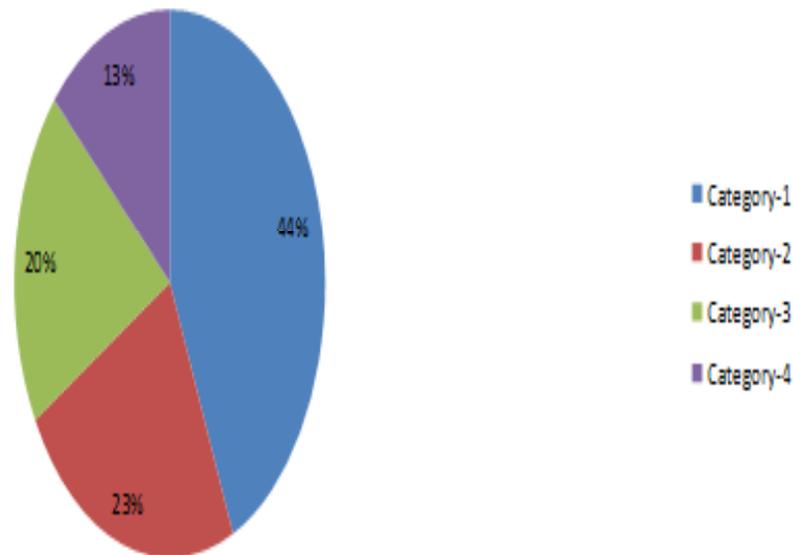
40	Ranigarh-Jharkhali	Basanti	4	2	4	4	3
41	Raydighi	Mathurapur-II	4	4	1	1	1
42	Sagar Island	Sagar	5	3	1	3	2
43	Sahebkhali	Hingalganj	4	1	2	1	1
44	Sandeshkhali	Sandeshkhali-II	4	1	2	1	2
45	Satjelia	Gosaba	4	2	2	2	2
46	Shambhunagar	Gosaba	4	2	1	1	2
47	Sonakhali	Basanti	4	2	2	2	2
48	Sukdewani	Gosaba	4	3	4	3	3
Average score			4.27	2.52	2.08	1.75	2.1

Remark:

Agriculture has been most impacted by CC (saline water ingress ion / heat etc— 85 percent impact); followed by fishery (50 percent) and then forest dependent livelihoods

Erosion status of islands leading to significant land loss (Sample size- 30)

Erosion Category(1-4) of islands in Km (0 - 2 = 1, 2 - 5 = 2, 5 - 10 = 3 and 10+ = 4)



Remark: high rate of erosion in the area mainly due to sea level rise in nearby Bay of Bengal as well as subsidence being catered by settling of islands; Incidentally the sea level rise in Bay of Bengal close to Sundarban, is the highest in the country as reported in Indian parliament, As per peer reviewed data, the zone has lost around 210 sq km net land in last 6 decades, an area bigger than the city of Kolkata, due to the dynamics as explained.

Youth: Where the mind is with fear

Total number of youths / students interviewed – 75

Reported persistent trauma wrt disasters – 60

Reported loss of productivity in agricultural land - 40

Reported damage (full or partial) of houses – 25

Reported shifting to disaster shelters / relatives house due to disasters– 30

**Reported missing of School for 15+ days – 20;
1-7 days- 65**

Reported migration in family – 45



Remark : Continuing spell of climate changed triggered burgeoning disasters has created immense impact on the youths in the region who report a high degree of trauma linked to extreme weather events.

The youth interacted, mostly in the age group of 14 to 16 yrs, have experienced several major cyclones in the area in their growing years; since 2019.

Parameter	City	scenario	Baseline	2021-2040	2041-2060	2081-2100	Value	Baseline	2021-2040	2041-2060	2081-2100
Mean temp	Kolkata	2.6	1850-1900	0.9	1.4	1.6		1995-2014	0.6	1.1	1.2
Mean temp	Kolkata	8.5	1850-1900	0.8	1.9	4.5	30.6	1995-2014	0.5	1.6	4.1
Maximum temp	Kolkata	2.6	1850-1900	0.7	1.2	1.4		1995-2014	0.5	1	1.2
Maximum temp	Kolkata	8.5	1850-1900	0.4	1.6	4.3	35.8	1995-2014	0.3	1.4	4.1
Max. of Max. temp	Kolkata	2.6	1850-1900	0.8	1.4	1.7		1995-2014	0.5	1.1	1.4
Max. of Max. temp	Kolkata	8.5	1850-1900	0.6	1.8	4.6	49.6	1995-2014	0.3	1.5	4.3
Dys with 35 deg C	Kolkata	2.6	1850-1900	7.2days	14days	16.8days		1995-2014	6.3days	13.1days	15.8days
Dys with 35 deg C	Kolkata	8.5	1850-1900	4.5days	20.6days	72 days	147 days	1995-2014	3days	19.1days	70.3days
Sea Level Rise	Kolkata	2.6	1850-1900					1995-2014	0.1m	0.2m	0.4m
Sea Level Rise	Kolkata	8.5	1850-1900					1995-2014	0.1m	0.2m	0.6m
Tot rainfall	Kolkata	2.6	1850-1900	4.90%	10.40%	11.10%		1995-2014	2.40%	7.70%	8.50%
Tot rainfall	Kolkata	8.5	1850-1900	3.70%	6.90%	22.40%	3.8mm/d y	1995-2014	1.40%	4.50%	19.70%
Max. 1dy rainfall	Kolkata	2.6	1850-1900	5.60%	12.50%	17.3 %		1995-2014	2.10%	8.90%	13.50%
Max. 1dy rainfall	Kolkata	8.5	1850-1900	11.10%	18.30%	55 %	118 mm	1995-2014	7.30%	14.30%	50 %

**IPCC
Prediction**

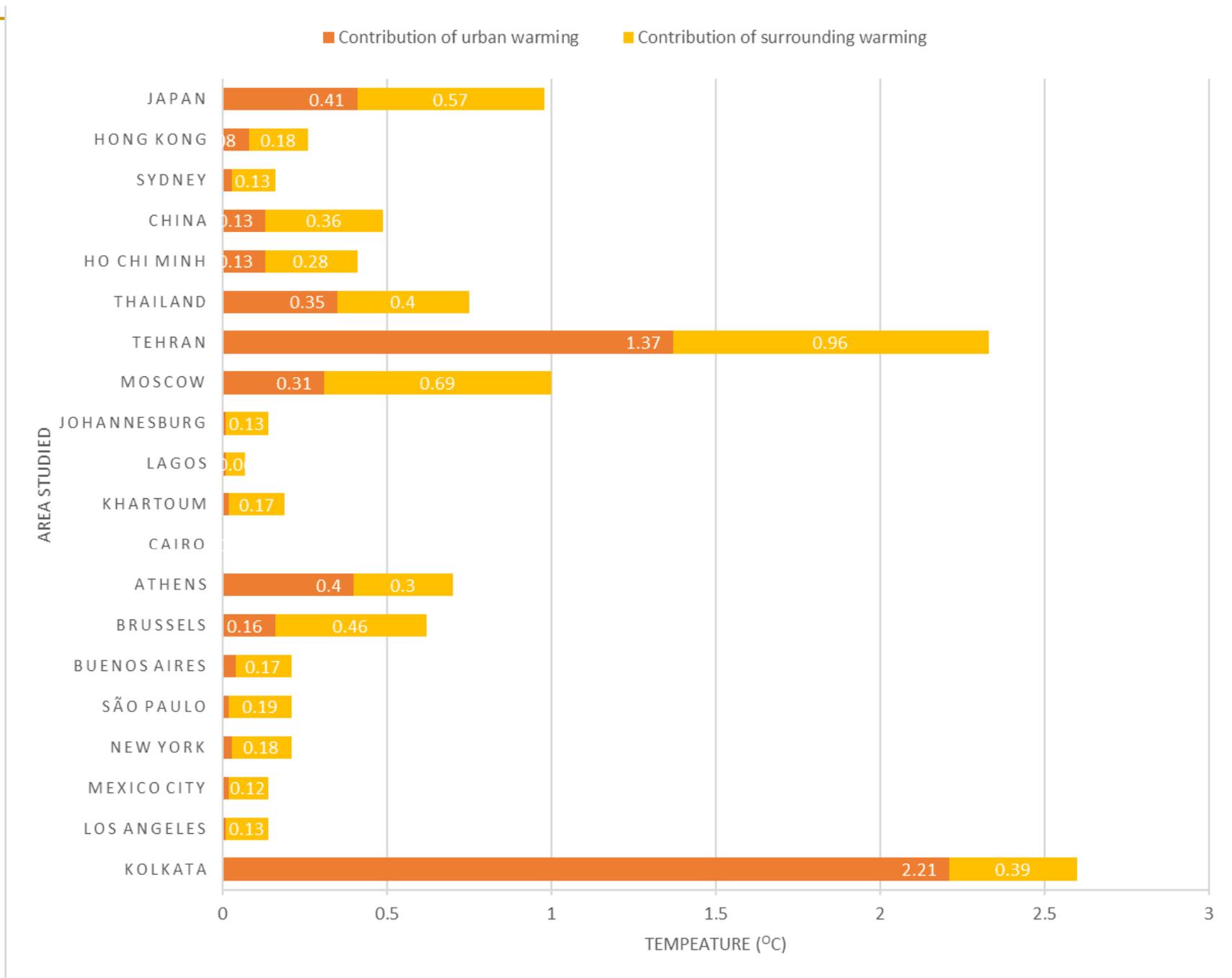


Figure 2: Change in surface air temperatures within 1958-2018. Source: Adapted from IPCC AR6 WGI Regional Factsheet - Urban Areas

The Telegraph

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CLIMATE DEAL

IS OUR EARTH SAFER NOW?



The Eiffel Tower displays the message "No plan B" on Friday night, capturing the sense of urgency and reflecting an assessment that the Paris talks represent the world's last and best hope of striking a deal that would begin to avert the most devastating effects of a warming planet. (AFP picture)

The answer is
NO
more than a
decade after
Paris
agreement

Thanks

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GAINS

● For the first time in history, almost all countries have made a public commitment to reduce or curb their Earth-warming greenhouse gas emissions

● An aim to hold the rise in the average global temperature to below 2°C, a demand required by science to avert the worst impacts of climate change

● A signal for a shift towards a zero-carbon economy in the long term, another target demanded by science

● Acceptance of the concept of "differentiation" that recognises the historic emissions of the developed countries and expects them to provide financial support to developing countries in combating climate change

JAYANTA BASU IN PARIS AND GS MUDUR IN NEW DELHI

Dec. 12: Nearly 200 countries this evening reached a climate accord that some analysts have called a "turning point" in human history designed to drive the world towards 100 per cent clean energy.

"It's a compromise... but it is a historic accord for the world," said Laurent Fabius, the president of the Paris conference of parties and the French foreign minister. "Our responsibility to history is immense."

But others have warned that the 31-page accord intended to hold the rise in average global temperature below 2°C by reducing Earth-warming greenhouse gas emissions is yet another reminder of actions still to be taken, promised yet to be kept and pledged finance still invisible.

The following are questions and answers through which the accord can be explained.

Is the Paris conference a success?

Yes, according to governments and climate policy analysts. No, according to some scientists and activists.

The governments and analysts point out that the conference has yielded an accord that for the first time in history com-

mits almost all countries to reduce or curb their greenhouse gas emissions.

It has also set an aim to hold the rise in average global temperature to below 2°C from the pre-industrial era, a key demand required by science to avert the worst impacts of climate change. The accord also seeks to pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5°C.

The agreement recognises climate action plans pledged by over 185 countries, including the biggest emitters such as China, the US, India and members of the European Union, to contribute to this effort, with different countries moving at different speeds.

It also acknowledges differences between developed countries and developing countries — and recognises the need for developed countries to raise and increase finance to help developing countries pursue clean energy and adapt to weather and environmental impacts of climate change.

But some scientists point to what they describe as a key departure from earlier climate accords: a quiet burial of the concept of historical responsibility by ignoring the cumulative emissions, especially the large contributions of the developed countries over the past century. "This is a big political gain for

developed countries — and a loss for developing countries," according to T. Jayaraman, a climate science specialist at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai.

What are the other key proposals in the accord?

It demands a once-in-five-years review of emission-reduction pledges to ramp up targets and calls for capping of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible. The deal again commits \$100 billion a year for developing countries from the rich countries by 2020 with a promise to increase it beyond that.

What are the big disappointments?

Almost everyone would agree the Paris accord is a reminder of actions-to-be-taken in the future. "The deal does not force countries to cut their emissions fast enough to forestall a climate change catastrophe," says Helen Szoke, executive director of Oxfam, a non-government organisation.

Some analysts have expressed disappointment at the outcome on promises of finance. "The final deal does not provide any real assurance to poor countries on how much finance will be delivered, when it will be delivered or how much of it will be available for adaptation," says Adriano Campolina,

chief executive of ActionAid International, another non-government agency. "There are nods in the right direction in the text — nice words, but carefully placed to have no legal meaning."

What commitments has India made?

India is among about 185 countries that have submitted Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC), a set of pledged actions to curb emissions. India's INDC includes a plan to generate 175,000MW from renewable energy by 2022, expand non-fossil fuel-based electricity to 40 per cent of installed capacity, reduce emissions intensity (the emissions per unit gross domestic product) by 33 to 35 per cent by 2030 from the 2005 level and add forests and trees to remove 2.5 billion to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Is the Indian government happy with the Paris accord?

Environment minister Prakash Javadekar has expressed satisfaction with the outcome. "I am happy as all our key demands have been accommodated," Javadekar said in Paris.

The concept of "differentiation", a key demand by India, has been acknowledged in all sections of the agreement, while issues such as climate jus-

tice and sustainable lifestyles mentioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi have been referred to in the text, Javadekar said.

The Indian government is happy with the provision in the accord for a once-in-five-years stocktaking on emissions pledges, which may help ramp up each country's contribution.

However, the absence of any real assurance of finance is likely to be a source of disappointment for India.

What about climate campaigners from India?

Initial reactions were mixed but a storm appeared to be brewing. Many are calling it a compromise text. The Climate Action Network South Asia, a coalition of over 141 civil society groups from South Asia, described the accord as durable and dynamic, but one that has fallen short of being fully fair and responsive to future needs.

What is the legal status of the Paris accord?

The Paris accord will need to be ratified by the legislative bodies of all the countries that participated in the negotiations. Different countries have different mechanisms. In India, this is typically done through a vote in Parliament.

The ratification requirement is the key reason some

countries have been kept out of the binding part of the agreement.

One example is a demand from developing countries for developed countries to increase finance to levels greater than the annual \$100 billion beyond 2020. This was one of the biggest sticking points as delegates said the US Congress would never ratify a commitment to keep on increasing that figure from 2020. In a non-binding decision, the text now says governments shall set by 2025 "a new collective quantified goal from a floor of \$100 billion per year, taking into account the needs and priorities of developing countries".

Will the Earth be safer than it was before the Paris talks started?

The current levels of pledges to cut emissions are not sufficient to hold back the rise in temperature at 2°C. So, without any ramp-up of actions, climate change is likely to worsen in the coming years and decades.

But hopes are afloat that the countries will not only keep their current pledges but also increase their actions to move towards a 100 per cent clean-energy world later this century and prevent even worse exacerbation of climate change impacts.

CONCERNS

● Accord highlights the need for more ambitious emission-cutting actions but does not force even developed countries to cut emissions fast enough to forestall the impacts of climate change

● Accord leaves key actions for the future, be it the five-yearly ramp-up of countries' pledges for emission-reduction actions or the need to increase finance to help developing countries cope with climate change

● The text actually weakens the obligations of developed countries to raise finance

● Pledges to increase finance, from rich to poor nations, from 2020 are not part of legally binding text