

## Militants gun down seven in Kashmir, say officials

### INTERNAL SECURITY

Seven civilians — a local doctor and six workers from outside the Union Territory — were killed in a militant attack at a construction site in Ganderbal in central Kashmir on Sunday evening. The strategic Z-Morh tunnel is being constructed and a highway widened in the area close to the tourist destination of Sonamarg.

*"I assure the people that those behind this despicable act will not go unpunished. We have given full freedom to J&K Police, Army and Security forces"*

- Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha

*"I strongly condemn this attack on unarmed innocent people and send my condolences to their loved ones"*

- J & K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah

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

### POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Union Minister of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal attending the valedictory session of the second Indian Lighthouse Festival at Puri announced steps taken to preserve lighthouses, an integral part of India's rich marine heritage, and transform them into tourist hubs that would help coastal communities.

*"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"*

- Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways

According to the Ministry, 75 iconic lighthouses across nine coastal states and one union territory have been developed, at an investment of ₹ 60 Cr. Each lighthouse has become a beacon of both heritage and recreation, with modern amenities such as museums, amphitheatres, 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.

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

### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



challenges.

“Exercise Malabar” commenced 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”. The harbour phase was held in Visakhapatnam, followed by the sea phase in the Bay of Bengal.

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

### 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 partnerships”. Earlier, they were part of the multilateral “Exercise Kakadu” hosted by the Royal Australian Navy from September 9 to 20.

## Odisha braces for Cyclone Dana’s likely arrival

### DISASTER MANAGEMENT

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 kmph to 120 kmph.

### ‘Fully prepared’

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 under influence of an upper air cyclonic circulation lay over the north Andaman Sea on Sunday. 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. 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.

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

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. The Odisha government has decided to deploy disaster response forces in the coastal districts. Qatar has given the name Dana, meaning a beautiful, precious pearl in Arabic.

## Governor vs Govt.

### POLITY & GOVERNANCE

A distorted rendition of the State anthem at a Prasar Bharati event triggered political hostilities between Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi and Chief Minister M.K. Stalin. The *Tamil Thai Vazhthu*, rendered as an invocation song at official functions since 1970, was declared the State anthem in December 2021. This followed a judge holding that there was no statutory or executive order requiring attendees to stand when the song is played, after a seer remained seated during its rendition.

At the event that was attended by the Governor, a verse in this 55-second anthem hailing the 'Dravidian land' was conspicuously omitted. Though it was described as inadvertent, no attempt was made to rectify it on stage. Most political parties were disapproving of the omission. Mr. Stalin asked whether if Mr. Ravi was being a "Governor" or an "Aryan" and sought to know whether the Governor, "who suffers from Dravidian allergy", would propose the deletion of the term "Dravida" from the national anthem.

The Governor took umbrage at this and described the "Aryan" reference as "racist". Such interpretation actually goes against the Governor's theory that the concept of Aryans and Dravidians was mainly a geographical, "rather than racial", division. Mr. Ravi argued that the imputations against him lowered the dignity of the high constitutional office of the Chief Minister.

## Complicit

### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The U.S. Department of Justice's second indictment against an Indian intelligence and paramilitary officer, in the alleged plot to kill American-Khalistani activist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, indicates another serious turn in the case that has cast a long shadow over India-U.S. ties. The indictment against Vikash Yadav was released publicly along with an arrest warrant and his listing on the FBI's database of "most wanted" — the first time that an Indian official has been so marked out. The developments come just after a high-level Indian security delegation investigating the matter travelled to the U.S., and the U.S. State Department expressed "satisfaction" with India's cooperation. There is cause for concern now: the second indictment that supersedes the one against jailed businessman Nikhil Gupta, repeats linkages to the Canadian case of the 2023 killing of Canadian-Khalistani activist Hardeep Nijjar. It seems no coincidence that the indictment is timed with the Canadian expulsion of Indian diplomats, sparking a



diplomatic storm and also statements by the “Five Eyes” urging India to cooperate in the investigation with Canada. That these statements reek of a double standard, given that these countries have a record on transnational killings, must not stop India from upholding the law. But this surely raises questions about whether these allies are reliable as India’s closest strategic partners.

New Delhi must not delude itself and must proceed on the assumption that the cases in the U.S. and Canada are being linked by their investigating agencies. The stark difference in the Modi government’s outraged denial of the Canadian charges while providing a sympathetic ear for the American charges may prove untenable as the trial in the U.S. progresses. It is in India’s interest to clarify whether it believes Mr. Yadav was a “rogue” agent or was carrying out orders from senior officials, when he allegedly promised “2-3” contract killings a month against targeted members of the diaspora. While the External Affairs Ministry has since confirmed that he “no longer works for the government”, the indictment claims that he was employed by India’s Cabinet Secretariat, under which the R&AW is run. If it does not allow such operations, and it should not, then it is time for a more detailed investigation into its internal processes as well as a more realistic evaluation of its diplomatic relations.

## Essential business priorities in a changing world

### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Following the multiple exigencies of the recent past, the global economy appears to have stabilised this year, albeit with geopolitical risks remaining on the horizon. The G-20 economies displayed different growth rates in the first quarter of the year, with some growing more rapidly than expected, while others experienced setbacks. Within this scenario, businesses of the world have the potential to leverage new opportunities for growth and benefit from wider dispersal of developmental gains.

The B-20 process has been led by emerging economies over the last three years, and with the handover to South Africa later this year, an unprecedented agenda for the Global South has been catalysed. Businesses of both advanced and emerging economies have come together and identified key priorities and policy actions that will facilitate inclusive growth and development. At the same time, as lead players in the growth endeavour, businesses also must prioritise certain actions to align with emerging challenges faced by the world.

#### Focus on inclusive development

Equitable growth remains a top imperative as the world seeks to promote inclusive development. The tools for enabling this include skill development and education which will work towards empowering workers and building their capacity to adapt to changing industrial scenarios. Businesses must play a proactive role in offering tailored programmes for skilling and upskilling workers — particularly women — including through on-the-job training, working with academic institutions and developing curricula suited to evolving industry needs.

Financial access and tailored credit solutions along with diversity and inclusion policies have been highlighted by B-20 Brazil. In India, the convergence of Unified Payments Interface and digital access has transformed financial transactions, with over 530 million accounts opened under the landmark Jan Dhan Yojana. Such success at scale has many lessons for the world. Similarly, Africa’s inclusion in the G-20 during the India presidency opens up a wealth of new opportunities in the continent. It is important for global businesses to expand their footprint in Africa to not only leverage its rapid growth and young demographics but also to support the continent’s inclusion in global value chains.

#### Ensuring better food security

Sustainable food systems and boosting food and nutrition security are another critical pillar of focus

for encouraging sustainability efforts. Myriad factors including the impact of extreme weather events have exacerbated the global food crisis. The use of technology and other digital tools in promoting sustainable agricultural practices, reducing waste, and ensuring equitable access to nutritious food for all would be imperative. Businesses can play a pivotal role in addressing food security by advocating sustainable practices, investing in infrastructure and agricultural technologies such as precision farming and fostering collaborations with governments and international organisations for amplifying efforts on food security.

Second, accelerating resilient global trade flows is intrinsic to global growth, yet national security concerns and unfair trade practices are leading to rising tariffs and other hurdles that constrain the efficacy of trade. Organisations such as the World Trade Organization should be strengthened to identify and counter unfair trade practices while agreed interoperable taxonomies for environmental measures can bring in more clarity for businesses in industrial and trade policies aimed at sustainability.

The third priority that businesses must lead is digital transformation and innovation including Artificial Intelligence (AI) for the common good. Businesses must harness AI for responsible use in health care, climate change and resource management. It is also important for businesses to engage youth in developing innovative solutions to pressing contemporary issues and drive positive societal impact. Investments and mentoring for social tech startups, digital platforms for research and development collaborations and developing science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) talent should be taken up by corporates in mission mode.

The sustainability mission is the fourth priority for businesses. As the world accelerates towards net-zero transition, fair and just climate policies can enable businesses to work towards carbon mitigation. Availability of finance is required for all enterprises, and particularly for small and medium enterprises, to align with net zero targets. Building renewable energy capacity and greater use of biofuels and green hydrogen can be promoted by businesses. Industry should also be conscious about circular economy options and strive to inculcate sustainable business practices in their usual operations across the board.

### **Aiming for the highest standards**

Above all, corporate governance of the highest standards must be prioritised by businesses, and this includes large global corporates and small and medium enterprises. It is the responsibility of the private industry to go beyond established best practices in compliances and regulatory systems to continually drive ethical operations. This will facilitate building trust between different stakeholders including the community, governments and businesses. Trust is today viewed as intrinsic to the growth process and ease of doing business across the world.

These are some of the issues that we would be working on through the B20 Global Institute that was envisaged during India's B20 leadership and is now taking off. With the participation of successive G-20 presidency countries, the institute will maintain alignment in policy suggestions, undertake action agendas to facilitate business competitiveness in the above areas and monitor outcomes. As the B20 recommendations are presented to the G-20 group, businesses of the world must take a key role in ensuring that our common global aspirations are catalysed to fruition.



*“If you invest more in your education, then you are likely to get more interest in it.”*

*–Benjamin Franklin*



# On climate finance to developing nations

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



The 29th Conference of the Parties (COP - 29) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (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 as geographical factors and, reliance of economies 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 public, private, and alternative sources. The sources for climate finance include 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 Oxfam have noted several shortcomings with the OECD’s reports. They have argued they should represent 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 capital. For instance, the cost of capital for solar photovoltaic and storage 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 (GH<sub>2</sub>) 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 Cr investment. Per the National Green Hydrogen Mission, India's GH<sub>2</sub> target will need ₹ 8 lakh Cr. Consumers will also need to spend around ₹ 16 lakh Cr to purchase EVs to achieve this vision. A long-term perspective reveals a greater requirement: ₹ 850 lakh Cr in investments between 2020 and 2070 to achieve net-zero emissions.

### What should the NCQG quantum be?

Determining a new annual climate finance mobilisation target — called the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) — is a top priority. The NCQG 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.

## What does the new 'lady justice' statue signify?

### POLITY & GOVERNANCE

The Chief Justice of India unveiled the 'new lady justice' statue in the Supreme Court premises that replaced the 'original lady justice'. The new statue is clothed in a saree, has shed the blindfold and holds scales on one hand and the Indian Constitution on the other.

### What is the background?

It is believed that the origin of the modern-day 'lady justice' is Justitia, the goddess of Justice in Roman mythology. 'Lady justice' is depicted with a blindfold, scales, and a sword. The blindfold was added during the Renaissance period (14th century) probably as a satire on the corrupt state of legal systems with judicial institutions turning a blind eye. It was only during the enlightenment period (17th-18th century) that it was reinterpreted as representing impartiality. It signifies that justice should be administered without bias regardless of wealth, power and social status. The scales represent balance. It emphasises that courts must weigh both sides of an argument before delivering a judgment. Finally, the sword symbolises the power and authority of the law, signifying that the law can both protect and punish.

### Why the change?

When the British established their control over India, they introduced their legal system. The hierarchy of courts from lower courts to the Supreme Court is a relic of the British system. It was during British rule that the 'lady justice' became a prominent symbol in India and was placed outside courtrooms. The new statue is an attempt at decoloniality, with an aim to shed colonial symbols. The saree replacing the western attire brings the statue closer to Indian tradition. The removal of the blindfold and having eyes open is significant in the Indian context. It conveys that the law is not blind and it 'sees' everyone equally. More importantly our social diversity, the discrimination faced by underprivileged sections, constitutional



provisions and laws made for their upliftment require a nuanced approach of 'viewing' every case appropriately and delivering justice. The sword being replaced with the Constitution symbolises the supremacy of the Constitution and its value in our jurisprudence. The preserving of the scales goes on to show that the courts will continue weighing evidence impartially and hearing both sides before delivering its final judgment.

### What urgent actions are needed?

The Supreme Court last week dismissed a Public Interest Litigation which sought a time frame of three years for disposal of over five Cr cases pending in all courts of the country. The Supreme Court held that while the demand was desirable, it is practically impossible considering the flood of litigation faced by the justice delivery system. However, 'justice delayed is justice denied' and there are some urgent actions needed in this regard with respect to the institution that delivers justice.

Firstly, the revised Memorandum of Procedure that deals with appointment of judges by the collegium has not been finalised for the past eight years. This needs to be finalised by the government and judiciary without any further delay to bring transparency and accountability to the process of appointment. Secondly, the representation of backward classes, scheduled castes, schedule tribes, and religious minorities is less than 25% in the higher judiciary and women constitute less than 15%. The appointments to higher judiciary should reflect the social diversity of our country. Third, the High Courts invariably operate at only 60-70% strength thereby contributing to the huge pendency of over 60 lakh cases at present. The government needs to appoint collegium recommendations for High Courts without dragging its feet. The vacancies in lower courts, where 4.4 Cr cases are pending, should also be filled by the States without backlog. Finally, cases dealing with the constitutional validity of amendments/laws and individual liberty should be heard on a priority basis by the higher judiciary. These measures would ensure that the new symbol is not just symbolic but reflects the actions taken for the delivery of fair and prompt justice.

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