

West's \$100bn fund vow not met: India

'Need Up To \$11Tn Till '30 In Climate Fight'

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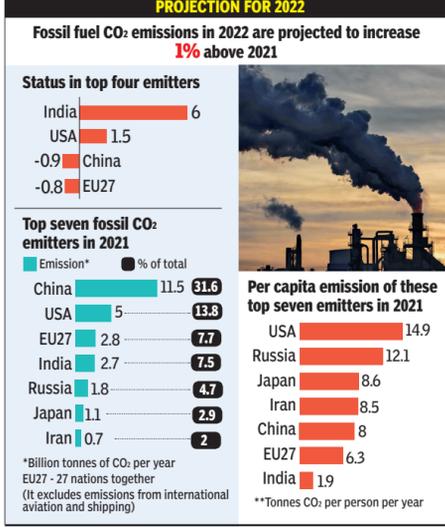
Sharm el-Sheikh: Developing countries, including India, have flagged that they would need \$6 trillion to \$11 trillion till 2030 to meet their climate action targets, but their rich counterparts in the developed world have collectively not even brought \$100 billion to the table so far despite making the promise to do so 13 years ago.

The issue was raised at a high-level ministerial dialogue on 'new collective quantified goal' (NCQG) at UN climate talks (COP27) where India intervened on behalf of the like-minded developing countries (LMDC) group on Wednesday evening.

"Clearly, the need for climate finance is immense even when estimates have not completely captured the identified needs, especially that for adaptation," said India, while flagging how even the commitment of \$100 billion made in 2009 by developed countries was not only minuscule, given the scale of needs, but that too had not been achieved yet.

As far as India is concerned, it has been implementing its climate action plans, submitted under the Paris Agreement, through its own finance and budgetary support.

NO SIGN OF DROP IN CO₂ EMISSIONS



Global emissions stay at record level in 2022: Report

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Sharm el-Sheikh: Global carbon emissions in 2022 remain at record levels with no signs of reduction and if the current levels persist, there is now a 50% chance that global warming of 1.5°C will be exceeded in nine years, said a Global Carbon Project report. The global average temperature has already reached 1.15°C above the pre-industrial (1850-1900 average) level.

The report, released on Thursday, noted that the global fossil CO₂ emissions are projected to rise 1% this year, compared to 2021, slightly above the 2019 pre-Covid levels. The picture among major emitters is mixed. While emissions are projected to fall in China (0.9%) and the European Union (0.8%), it's projected to increase in the US (1.5%) and India (6%) this year compared to 2021.

India's per capita emission, however, continues to be quite low as compared to other current big emitters like US, China and EU27.

"At the current rate, in less than 10 years the world could blow through its

chances of staying within 1.5°C of global warming. More than half of this damage was done before 1990 when economies like India started to develop. Even now, India's emissions are rising from a low base compared to other large economies, and the average Indian's emissions are a fraction of the European or American," said Ulka Kelkar, director of climate programme, World Resources Institute, India.



"Going forward, India is fortunate to have abundant renewable energy to fuel its growth, but needs timely finance to build the infrastructure to store and transmit this energy. Adoption of clean technologies by India will not just cut carbon but can also prevent millions of premature deaths due to air pollution," she said.

The new report projects total global CO₂ emissions of 40.6 billion tonnes (GtCO₂) in 2022 which is close to the 40.9 GtCO₂ in 2019, which is the highest annual total ever.

Interview waiver for student visa-seekers if they've been to US

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New Delhi: The US is taking steps to reduce the wait time for visa in India. The biggest change is for the work "H (including H-1B) and L" and student visa categories.

"If student, H and L applicants had a US visa of any category irrespective of when it expired, they can use the drop box. As a result, several young Indians who have had been to America on a tourist visa earlier will now be eligible for an interview waiver while applying for a student visa in most cases. They may be called for biometrics if the same were not taken during earlier visit/s," a senior US embassy official said, adding that a "pretty good" number of Indian student visa applicants had been to the US earlier on tourist visas.

The US has drawn up a priority visa processing list as staffing in its India missions is expected to reach pre-Covid levels only by next summer, while post-Omicron travel demand is back "much earlier" than initially thought.

While students will get priority during admission seasons, the primary focus is on H and L work visa drop box cases as they have not been able to come to India and visit their families for some years now. "If you are in America and your H1 has expired or you were a student and got an H1 change (meaning got a job after completing studies and then this visa), you don't have to come back to India to get the visa stamped. You are legal. But when you want to come to India, you need to get the visa stamped before returning to the US. This appointment category had got packed due to which many people could not come home. We are tackling this very furiously and

India to pip China in getting US visas by '23, to be No. 2

China is expected to surpass India in getting the number of US visas by 2023 and will be ranked two in the issuance of visas after Mexico, a senior US embassy official said. The senior US embassy official in New Delhi announced that they are opening slots in mid-November. "For various kinds of visas, we would not have much wait time. Each separate category has some wait time," a senior US embassy official added.

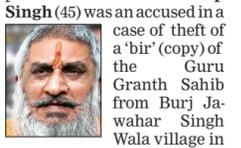
The US has opened up 100,000 slots for applicants of H and L worker visas. "India is a number one priority for Washington right now. We have big categories in students, high-tech workers, tourists, and business," the official said. ANI

had recently released a lakh appointments for them," the official said.

B1 and B2 drop box cases, which currently have a wait time of nine months, are next on the list. Crew visas for airline and shipping company employees will come after that. H and L applicants who are ineligible for the drop box and have to be interviewed, along with B1 and B2 hopefuls, will come later. Cutting business and visitor visa wait times is still a long way off due to the massive backlog. "My advice to them is to keep applying. Once the line starts moving, you can seek an earlier date for an interview," the official said, adding things may start changing in about nine months. On immigrant visas, the official said, "Before Covid, Mumbai was the busiest consulate (for applications). By (next) summer, it will be back there."

In a week, 2nd Dera man facing sacrilege cases shot in Punjab

Kotkapura: Five men on motorbikes killed a Dera Sacha Sauda follower, who was facing sacrilege cases, in his shop at Kotkapura in Faridkot district of Punjab on Thursday morning and injured his gunman and neighbour; reports Neel Kamal. Pardeep Singh (45) was accused in a



case of theft of a 'bir' (copy) of the Guru Granth Sahib from Burj Jawahar Singh Wala village in June 2015 and also in a case linked to torn pages of the Sikh holy book being found scattered at Bargari in Faridkot in October 2015.

Pardeep was out on bail and had three security guards assigned to him.

So far, seven Dera followers have been killed following a slew of sacrilege cases in Punjab, in the last seven years. Two of the seven were killed in the canteen of a Dera branch itself. In most of these cases, assaults on motorcycles committed the crimes. Also Pardeep's killing is the second in Punjab in a week when a protectee has been eliminated in police presence. Shiv Sena (Taksali) functionary Sudhir Suri was killed when he was accompanied by his security detail in Amritsar on November 4.

In the instant case, the assailants, who seemed to be in their 20s, came on three bikes and parked in front of Pardeep's milk dairy-cum-grocery shop on Hari Naur Road of Kotkapura around 7am when he was cleaning the shop after opening it. One of them entered the shop while the other four stood guard. As the youth who entered the shop ran out after shooting Pardeep, his accomplices fired at one of the Dera man's gunmen and a person from a neighbouring shop, who was witness to the crime. The attackers then escaped, leaving behind one bike with a Haryana registration number.

TIMES Special

THE HUNGRY TIDE

TOI photojournalist SL Shanth Kumar captures the human & ecological devastation wrought along Kerala's Chavakkad coast by rising sea levels and official apathy

Text input: Sreemol TC

DEMLISHED BY EROSION: A man walks past a home destroyed during the sea surge in monsoon this year. People who built their houses about 10 years ago along the coastline have been now forced to shift to safer places

ONCE THERE WAS A HOME: Ashraf, a fisherman, and his son amidst the remains of their home washed away by the rising sea levels

EVEN THE DEAD ARE NOT SAFE: The cemetery lying near the shoreline is almost half-filled with sand

GOBBLED UP: The shells of sea-facing houses. Even as the coastline is slowly consumed by the sea many are being forced to relocate

REDUCING RISK: Sandbags placed as a safeguard against sea erosion can hardly fight erosion, but the authorities are yet to take action on the residents' demand for erecting tetrapods to resist the advancing sea

ERODING COASTLINE: Shuhaib, another Kadappuram resident shows around a destroyed home. Experts say there is no universal solution with some even suggesting 'giving away' some land to the sea and steering development away from vulnerable areas

TUMBLING INTO THE SEA: Hameed at his house swept away by the sea. The coastline is a bleak landscape of crumbling houses as the sea water continues to shrink the beach width

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Update Aadhaar info every 10 years, suggests govt

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The government has issued Aadhaar enrolment and update rules, nudging those who had enrolled for the unique identification number 10 years ago should submit their proof of address and identity documents. The updation process is completely voluntary for Aadhaar holders, the government said.

While the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) had started a pilot for updation in 40 districts a few months ago, the mechanism has now been launched nationwide for those seeking to update through physical channels, including Aadhaar Sewa Kendras or at camps that are being organised by authorities. The rules are meant to provide the legal framework for the process.

Others also have the option of submitting the details through the online window at the Aadhaar portal. Both the options are available on payment of a fee (Rs 25 for online and Rs 50 for offline updation).

Change in biometric data, including, or the phone number will, however, require a visit to one of the centres. Government sources said that the rules issued by UIDAI have clearly stated that on completion of 10 years, Aadhaar holders "may... update their supporting documents... to ensure continued accuracy of their information in the Central Identities Data Repository".

A key reason for the push for updation is the change in address and other details, including phone numbers, of large number of the 134 crore Aadhaars that have been issued so far. Besides, for someone who had enrolled at the age of 15, there is a change in appearance too 10 years down the line.

"Keeping the documents in Aadhaar updated helps in ease of living, better service delivery, and enables accurate authentication. UIDAI has always encouraged residents to keep their documents updated, and the gazette notification is another step in that direction," an official statement said.

Bommai: Work an extra hour in lieu of pay-scale revision move

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A day after announcing the constitution of the 7th Pay Commission for revision of salaries and pension of state government employees, Karnataka chief minister Basavaraj Bommai requested the employees to work for an extra hour in appreciation of the government's gesture.

In reply to felicitations offered by the Karnataka State Government Employees' Association on forming the pay panel, Bommai said: "I do not expect anything in return. You demonstrate your appreciation by working an extra hour at all levels."

The CM said that government employees must work with dedication and efficiency to serve the people, especially the poorer sections. "We have to build a strong and prosperous Karnataka. The state should contribute \$1 trillion towards the country's goal of becoming a \$5-trillion economy," he said. He said the BJP government would implement the Pay Commission report as the party is confident of returning to office.

Second daughter to donate kidney to Lalu, op in S'pore

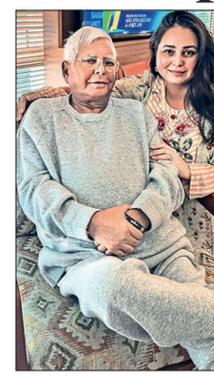
Sheezan.Nezami @timesgroup.com

Patna: RJD chief Lalu Prasad will undergo a kidney transplant in Singapore later this month with his second daughter Rohini Acharya being chosen as the donor after a series of medical tests.

TOI had reported in its edition on November 10 that a family member will donate kidney to the ailing RJD chief.

Praises poured in for the Singapore-based Rohini on social media after family sources said she had already undergone the required medical tests before the organ donation a month back. "Now Lalu Ji is expected to fly to Singapore on November 24 or around that time. After a week, he will undergo the transplant," said a senior RJD leader and a close family member.

He added that several family members, including La-



RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav with daughter Rohini Acharya

lu's wife Rabri Devi and their other children, are expected to fly to Singapore at the time of transplant. Even Bihar deputy CM and Lalu's young-son Tejaswini Prasad Yadav

may visit Singapore. Prasad returned to India on October 24, after spending nearly a fortnight in Singapore, where he consulted specialists and took their views.

"Nowadays, Lalu Ji keeps talking about the entire process (of transplant). He is very excited and positive about his surgery. Pray for his successful surgery and health," RJD leader Faisal Ali wrote on social media on Thursday, sharing his photo with Lalu.

Sources said not much is known about Lalu's return to India after the transplant, as it depends on his recovery.

Dr Pankaj Hans, head of nephrology department at Ruban Hospital, said a patient is kept in hospital after transplant for at least 10 days and immunosuppressive drugs continue for a longer time.

Apart from kidney ailment, Lalu is also diabetic and suffers from hypertension.

Don't believe in world order superiority: Rajnath

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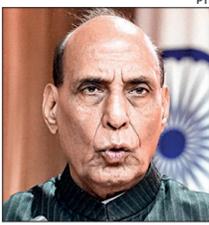
New Delhi: India does not believe in a world order where a few countries are considered superior to others, defence minister Rajnath Singh said on Thursday, while also calling for concerted efforts by the international community to counter emerging security threats including cyber-attacks and information warfare.

"We believe in a multi-aligned policy realised through diverse engagements with multiple stakeholders, so that views and concerns of all can be discussed and addressed for a prosperous fu-

ture for all," Singh said, in an address at the National Defence College here.

The minister's comments come amid China's muscle-flexing along the line of actual control and in the larger Indo-Pacific region as well as the ongoing bloody Russia-Ukraine war that has led to major disruptions in trade, food and fuel supplies around the world.

Singh said a strong and prosperous India would not be built at the cost of others. "Rather, we believe in helping other nations to realise their full potential. India does not believe in a world order where few are considered



Rajnath Singh during the convocation ceremony of National Defence College on Thursday

superior to others," he said. "Realpolitik cannot be the figleaf for being immoral or amoral. Rather, enlightened self-interest of nations

can be promoted within the framework of strategic morality, which is predicated on the understanding and respect for the legitimate strategic imperative of all the civilised nations," he added.

Stressing the need to consider security as a truly collective enterprise, which can create a global order beneficial to all, Singh said national security should not be considered a zero-sum game.

"We should strive to create a win-win situation for all. We should not be guided by narrow self-interest which is not beneficial in the long-run. We should be guided by enlightened self-inter-

est which is sustainable and resilient to shocks," he said.

Noting that information warfare has the potential to threaten political stability, the minister said, "There is no account of how much fake news and hate material is likely to be brought in society through social media platforms."

"The deployment of information war was most evident in the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Throughout the conflict, social media has served as a battleground for both sides to spread competing narratives about the war and portray the conflict on their own terms," he said.