



Cloudy forecast

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Highlights

- The conference of the **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change** in Bangkok last week, that was to **draft a rulebook for the Paris Agreement** ahead of a crucial **international conference in Poland in December**, ran into **predictable difficulties over the issue of raising funds to help poorer nations**.
- **Some developed countries** led by the U.S. — which, under the Trump administration, has rejected the agreement — **are unwilling to commit to sound rules on raising climate finance**.
- **Under the pact concluded in Paris**, rich countries pledged to raise \$100 billion a year by 2020 to help developing countries **reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and aid populations to cope with extreme events such as floods, droughts and storms**.
- Obstructing the transition to a carbon-neutral pathway and preserving the status quo is **short-sighted**, simply because the **losses caused** by weather events are **proving severely detrimental to all economies**.
- By trying to stall **climate justice** to millions of poor people in vulnerable countries, the developed nations are **refusing to accept their responsibility** for historical emissions of GHGs.
- Those emissions raised living standards for their citizens but contributed heavily to the accumulated carbon dioxide burden, now measured at about 410 parts per million of CO₂ in the atmosphere, up from 280 ppm before the industrial revolution.

China & India

- There is international pressure on China and India to cut GHG emissions.
- Both countries have committed themselves to a cleaner growth path.
- **India**, which reported an annual CO₂ equivalent emissions of 2.136 billion tonnes in 2010 to the UNFCCC two years ago, estimates that the **GHG emissions intensity of its GDP has declined by 12% for the 2005-2010 period**.
- As members committed to the Paris Agreement, **China and India have the responsibility of climate leadership in the developing world, and have to green their growth**.
- What developing countries need is a supportive framework in the form of a rulebook that binds the developed countries to their funding pledges, provides support for capacity building and transfer of green technologies on liberal terms.

As Damage is done already

- If scientific estimates are correct, the damage already done to the **West Antarctic Ice**

Sheet is set to raise sea levels; a 2° Celsius rise will also destabilise the Greenland Ice Sheet.

- Failed agriculture in populous countries will drive **more mass migrations of people**, creating conflict.
- A deeper insight on all this will be available in October when the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change releases its scientific report on the impact of a 1.5° C rise in global average temperature.
- This is the time for the world's leaders to demonstrate that they are ready to go beyond expediency and take the actions needed to avert long-term catastrophe.\

The Hindu

