

Deadline looms for climate summit negotiators seeking a deal for funds to check global warming

Associated Press
BAKU

With time running out, negotiators at the United Nations annual climate talks, COP-29, on Wednesday remained mired in the maze of a trillion-dollar money problem, turning to host Azerbaijan to lead the way to daylight with a promised map to be released in the dark of night.

Vulnerable nations are seeking \$1.3 trillion to deal with damage from climate change and to adapt to that change, including building out their own clean-energy systems. Experts agree that at least \$1 trillion is called for, but both figures are far more than the developed

world has so far offered.

After 10 days of talks, the host presidency of COP-29 promised a draft proposal around midnight local time, which they acknowledged will be far from final and have many decisions still to be made.

German special climate envoy Jennifer Morgan late on Wednesday afternoon put the onus on the COP-29 presidency. "Much is really now in the presidency's hands and the options that they will put in front of us, the text that will come out," Ms. Morgan said.

'Not enough'

Diego Pacheco Balanza, the chair of the Like-Minded Developing Countries



Global concern: An activist takes part in a demonstration for climate finance at the COP-29 summit in Baku on Wednesday. AP

negotiating bloc, said the group was also hearing a figure of \$200 billion in negotiating corridors. That's not enough, he said. "Developed countries whose

legal obligations it is to provide finance continue to shift their responsibility to developing countries," Mr. Pacheco Balanza said.

Alden Meyer of the Eu-

ropean think tank E3G summed up the state of negotiations on Wednesday by saying the word of the day at the talks is "circle... as in going around in circles."

Juan Pablo Hoffmaister of the Environmental Defense Fund said "the frustration is palpable" as time starts to run out.

Mr. Hoffmaister, a former negotiator for developing countries, said that while potential climate finance goals are finally out, it is still unclear how they will be delivered — loans, grants or other means. "We need to fix this over the next 72 hours," he said.

The summit concludes on November 22.

UNITED NATIONS

U.S. vetoes UN resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza



AFP

The United States on Wednesday vetoed a UN Security Council push to call for a ceasefire in Gaza that Washington said would have emboldened Hamas. "We made clear throughout negotiations we could not support an unconditional ceasefire that failed to release the hostages," said U.S. Ambassador to the UN Robert Wood. AFP

India, China agree to work on rebuilding mutual trust

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Chinese counterpart Dong Jun put thrust on cooperation rather than conflict; Mr. Singh calls for drawing lessons from 'unfortunate' border clashes in 2020

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India and China on Wednesday agreed to work towards a road map for rebuilding mutual trust and understanding with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh calling for drawing lessons from the "unfortunate border clashes" of 2020 during talks with his Chinese counterpart Dong Jun.

The two Defence Ministers met in Vientiane, the capital city of Laos, weeks after Indian and Chinese militaries completed disengagement of troops from the two last face-off points in eastern Ladakh.

The Defence Ministry said both sides agreed to work together towards a road map for rebuilding mutual trust and understanding.

In the delegation-level



In consonance: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Chinese counterpart, Dong Jun, meet in Vientiane, Laos on Wednesday. ANI

talks, Mr. Singh highlighted that amicable relations between India and China would have positive implications for global peace and prosperity, it said. "Considering that both countries are, and will continue to remain, neighbours, he mentioned that 'we need to focus on cooperation rather than conflict'," it said.

Mr. Singh called for reflecting on the lessons

learnt from the unfortunate border clashes of 2020, taking measures to prevent the recurrence of such events and safeguarding peace and tranquillity along the India-China border, the Ministry said in a statement.

"He emphasised and looked forward to greater trust and confidence building between the two sides through de-escalation. Both sides agreed to work

together towards a road-map for rebuilding mutual trust and understanding," it added.

The Singh-Dong meeting took place on the sidelines of a conclave of 10-nation ASEAN grouping and some of its dialogue partners.

Indian and Chinese militaries completed the disengagement exercise in Demchok and Depsang in eastern Ladakh late last month after the two sides reached an agreement following a series of negotiations to resolve the festering border row. The two sides also resumed patrolling activities in the two areas after a gap of almost four-and-a-half years.

Mr. Singh began his three-day visit to Vientiane on Wednesday, primarily to attend a meeting of the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus).

Online platform set to give further push to solar policy

Portal Launched To Simplify Process Of Rooftop Installation

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New Delhi: Delhi govt unveiled a new online platform called 'Delhi Solar Portal' on Wednesday, aimed at simplifying the process of rooftop solar panel installation for city residents. CM Atishi introduced this single-window solution, enabling Delhiites to become 'prosumers' by generating surplus solar power.

During the launch at Delhi Secretariat, Atishi explained that this initiative aligned with AAP govt's solar policy introduced on March 14, targeting 750 MW of rooftop solar power generation. She highlighted that households consuming over 400 monthly power units could access subsidy benefits through solar panel installation.

An official said the portal would serve as a comprehensive resource for Delhi residents, providing information about Delhi Solar Energy Policy 2023, rooftop solar system advantages, subsidy frameworks, approved vendors and regulations. The platform will enable online net meter applications

TAPPING THE SUN

Total installed solar capacity in Delhi: **Approx 300 MW**
Of this, 40 MW installed during policy period: **From March 14, 2024, till date**

SALIENT FEATURES

Target of rooftop solar policy: **750 MW (cumulative) in 3 years**



ECONOMIC INCENTIVES FOR CONSUMERS

Generation-based incentive (GBI) for 5 years after installation

Type of consumers	Monthly GBI (INR/kWh)
Residential: Maximum up to 3kW	3
Residential: Above 3 kW, and up to 10kW	2
Group housing societies/ residential welfare associations: Up to 500kW (at 10kW per house)	2
Commercial & Industrial (for the first 200 MW deployed)	1

Capital subsidy for all solar projects for residential customers at the rate of **₹2,000 per kW** up to a maximum of **₹10,000 per consumer**

Highlights of Delhi Solar Portal

- > Consumer can apply for net meter online through this portal across all Delhi discoms
- > You can apply to avail Delhi govt's capital subsidy and GBI benefits too
- > Track status of application

across all discoms.

The portal facilitates applications for Delhi govt capital subsidy and GBI benefits, while allowing users to monitor

application progress. Atishi said residents could complete all necessary procedures through the portal without visiting any offices.

CM announced that domestic consumers generating excess solar power would receive a generation-based incentive of Rs 3 per unit. A senior govt official detailed that "prosumers" would receive Rs 3 per unit for systems up to 3 KW and Rs 2 per unit for systems up to 10 KW.

Housing societies and resident welfare associations can receive Rs 2 per unit incentive for rooftop installations, while commercial and industrial users qualify for Re 1 per unit. Officials noted that a 1-KW system generated approximately 100 units, with installation costs ranging between Rs 40,000 and Rs 60,000 per KW.

AAP convenor Arvind Kejriwal said, "Today, Delhi govt's own solar portal has been launched. With the help of this portal, you can now get solar panels installed on the roof of your house while sitting at home. By installing solar, not only will your electricity bill be zero, but you can also earn up to 700- 900 every month. I congratulate all the people of Delhi on this wonderful policy reaching the public."

India slips on climate list but still a high performer

Baku: India slipped from 7th rank a year ago to 10th in the latest Climate Change Performance Index, but the country along with the UK (6th) are the only G20 nations on the high-performers list, showed an annual report released on the sidelines of COP29 on Wednesday.

Despite the drop, India remains on the list of top 10 high-performing countries for the sixth year in a row. India, which ranked 31st in 2014, entered the top 10 in 2019.

Denmark, the Netherlands and the UK take the lead as fourth, fifth and sixth rankers with the top three ranks remaining vacant like the previous years in the absence of a perfect score to any country.

The world's biggest emitter China ranks 55th and the second biggest, US, remains at 57th position — they are among very low performers, according to the 20th edition of CCPI, released jointly by Germanwatch, NewClimate Institute, and CAN International.

The four last-placed countries are Iran, Saudi Arabia, last year UN climate talks host UAE and Russia — ranked 67, 66, 65 and 64, respectively. "All four are among the largest oil and gas producers worldwide. The share of renewables in their energy mix is lower than 3%. These countries show no sign of departing from fossil fuels as a business model," the report, which assessed the progress made by the largest emitters globally, said.

CCPI uses a standardised framework to compare the climate performance of 63 countries and the EU, which together account for over 90% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The climate mitigation performance of countries is assessed in four categories: GHG emission, renewable energy, energy use, and climate policy.

India has got a high ranking in GHG emission and energy use categories, medium in climate policy, and low in renewable energy. "While India is the world's most populous country, it has relatively low per capita emissions and low energy use," the report said.

INDIA IN TOP 10 FOR SIXTH YEAR



Rich nations oppose but developing world sticks to \$1.3tn/year demand

Baku: As the new text diluting differences on the post-2025 climate finance goal continues to elude negotiators at COP29, different developing countries' groups on Wednesday stuck to their demand of \$1.3 trillion a year, amid opposition to this figure by developed nations.

With rich nations eager to expand contributor base be-

India and China are also part of LMDC group.

The new text on finance, called New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG), is expected late Wednesday night or on Thursday, zeroing-down the negotiation on three issues — quantity, quality, and contributors. The quantity will replace the existing goal of an annual \$100 billion, which was supposed to be mobilised during 2020-25.

Since developed countries have, so far, not put their number on the table, speculation is rife about different figures without any verified statement. All those speculated figures are, however, much lower than the annual \$1.3 trillion, which was put forward by almost all developing countries, including India.

The developing countries, referring to obstacles during the negotiation process, emphasised that climate finance is not a charity. They insisted that it's a legal obligation of developed nations to provide money to developing countries for taking measures to deal with climate change.



yond developed countries, Bolivian negotiator Diego Pacheco, speaking on behalf of Like Minded Developing Countries (LMDC), said the developed countries are trying to shift their own responsibility on to developing countries, which is in violation of the Paris Agreement and not acceptable.

"We are not here to renegotiate the Paris Agreement. The discussions on NCQG cannot be used to change the Paris Agreement. That is a super red line for us," he said.