

## Important Vocab for the Editorial

1. zero-sum game (phrase) – zero-sum game is one in which no wealth is created or destroyed. So, in a two-player zero-sum game, whatever one player wins, the other loses.
2. carbon emission (noun) – the release of carbon into the atmosphere.
3. net zero emissions/carbon neutrality (noun) – it means annual zero net CO<sub>2</sub> emissions; Carbon neutrality means every ton of anthropogenic (human-caused or influenced) CO<sub>2</sub> emitted is compensated with an equivalent amount of CO<sub>2</sub> removed (e.g. via carbon sink or carbon sequestration).
4. envoy (noun) – representative, delegate, deputy; diplomat, consul, ambassador.
5. summit (noun) – meeting, conference, conclave.
6. convene (verb) – summon, call/get together, assemble, gather.
7. prompt (verb) – induce, cause, motivate, persuade, encourage, impel, urge.
8. in contrast (phrase) – when compared to another.
9. mire in (verb) – entangle, catch up, involve, mix up (a difficult situation).
10. Energy poverty (noun) – the lack of access to sustainable modern energy services and products. To be more precise, it is not only a matter of sustainability: energy poverty can be found in all conditions where there is a lack of adequate, affordable, reliable, quality, safe and environmentally sound energy services to support development. In simple words, energy poverty is the inability of a household (family) to meet their energy needs.
11. underdevelopment (noun) – it is low level of development characterized by low real per capita income, widespread poverty, lower level of literacy, low life expectancy and underutilisation of resources, etc.
12. ironically (adverb) – paradoxically, unexpectedly, strangely.
13. hit (verb) – affect badly, damage, ruin, have a negative effect on.
14. storm (noun) – low-pressure weather system; cyclone.
15. drought (noun) – dry spell, dry period, lack of rain, shortage of water.
16. heatwave (noun) – (a long period of) hot weather, hotness, humidity.
17. climate change (noun) – a long-term change in the Earth's climate, or of a region on Earth (Courtesy: NASA).
18. unsurprising (adjective) – predictable, anticipated.
19. clamour (noun) – protest, complaint, outcry/commotion.
20. growing (adjective) – increasing.
21. evidently (adverb) – obviously, palpably, seemingly, apparently.
22. seek (verb) – try, aim, attempt.
23. possibility (noun) – chance, probability.
24. pursue (verb) – engage in, conduct, follow.
25. green (adjective) – environmentally friendly, non-polluting, ozone-friendly, energy-efficient, fuel-saving, low-carbon.
26. green technology (noun) – it is also known as clean technology/sustainable technology; it is the application of one or more environmental technologies to monitor, model and conserve the natural environment and resources, and to curb the negative impacts of human involvement.

27. **road map** (noun) – schedule of a (complex) program.
28. **diplomacy** (noun) – negotiations, discussions, talks, dialogue, conversations (related to international politics).
29. **climate diplomacy** (noun) – negotiations, discussions, talks, dialogue, conversations (related to climate change regime).
30. **The (Global) North** (noun) – the economically developed countries (of Europe, North America, Australia, amongst others).
31. **The (Global) South** (noun) – the poor developing countries (of Asia, Africa, South America, amongst others).
32. **Paris Agreement/Accord/Pact** (noun) – The Paris Agreement builds upon the Convention (agreement) and for the first time brings all nations into a common cause to undertake ambitious efforts to combat climate change and adapt to its effects, with enhanced support to assist developing countries to do so.
33. **underpin** (verb) – support, strengthen, fortify, buttress.
34. **the bulk of** (noun) – most, larger part, larger number.
35. **Carbon budget** (noun) – an estimate of the total quantity of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent emissions that can be allowed (in order to maintain a 66% chance of staying within the Paris Agreement target of capping global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius this century) (OR) The amount of greenhouse gases that can be emitted for a given level of global warming. If we exceed this budget, global temperatures will become higher.
36. **give up** (phrasal verb) – stop, discontinue, abandon, renounce, forgo.
37. **in favour of** (phrase) – in support of, to the advantage of, approve of.
38. **transition** (noun) – change.
39. **pandemic** (noun) – the worldwide spread of a new disease; The illness spreads around the world and typically affects a large number of people across a wide area.
40. **cannot afford/can ill afford** (phrase) – if you cannot afford to do something, you must prevent it from happening because it would be embarrassing and cause problems (if it happens).
41. **deforestation** (noun) – it is when humans remove or clear large areas of forest lands and related ecosystems for non-forest use.
42. **afforestation** (noun) – the effort to plant trees in barren (unproductive) lands so as to create a forest.
43. **see fit** (phrase) – think it right/suitable/appropriate to do something.
44. **press/push ahead** (phrasal verb) – continue, proceed with (a plan of action).
45. **gross** (adjective) – total, whole, entire, complete, full, overall.
46. **dilution** (noun) – reduction in value/power/force of something.
47. **norms** (noun) – standard, convention, guidelines, criterion.
48. **due to** (phrase) – because of, owing to, on account of, as a result of.
49. **taxation** (noun) – the act of levying or imposing a tax by a government/the taxing authority.
50. **dividend** (noun) – benefit, advantage, gain.
51. **inflationary** (adjective) – tending to cause monetary inflation.
52. **inflation** (noun) – simply meaning “cost of living”; an increase of price level of goods & services and vice versa decrease of currency value.
53. **run-up** (noun) – a period of time just before an important event.

54. **convention** (noun) – conference, meeting, summit, forum.
55. **26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26)** (noun) – The 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is expected to take place from 01-12 November 2021, in Glasgow, UK. The COP26 summit will bring parties together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.
56. **come up with** (phrasal verb) – produce, put forward, present/submit.
57. **decade** (noun) – a period of ten years.
58. **align (with)** (verb) – join forces with, join up with, form an alliance with, link up with, combine with.
59. **justifiable** (adjective) – valid, legitimate, reasonable.
60. **uphold** (verb) – confirm, endorse/approve, vindicate/validate.
61. **enshrine** (verb) – to enclose in, preserve, treasure, protect (as valuable).
62. **framework** (noun) – structure, system.
63. **The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** (noun) – The UNFCCC entered into force on 21 March 1994. Today, it has near-universal membership. The 197 countries that have ratified the Convention are called Parties to the Convention. Preventing “dangerous” human interference with the climate system is the ultimate aim of the UNFCCC.
64. **differentiated** (adjective) – distinguished, segregated, individualized
65. **equity** (noun) – fairness/justness, neutrality, impartiality, lack of discrimination, egalitarianism.
66. **luxury** (adjective) – non-essential.
67. **luxury (carbon) emission** (noun) – emission from profligate lifestyles (e.g. cars, air-conditioners).
68. **survival (carbon) emission** (noun) – emission from subsistence living (e.g. burning wood for cooking).
69. **outcome** (noun) – result, effect, consequence.
70. **send out** (phrasal verb) – give out, announce, deliver/produce.

## Beyond zero sum: On rich countries and carbon emissions

### Rich countries must commit technology and funds to move to net zero carbon emissions

The **visit of the U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, John Kerry**, ahead of a leaders’ summit convened by President Joe Biden later this month on the climate challenge, has prompted a review of India’s long-term policy course. To the developed world, India presents a study in contrasts, with carbon dioxide emissions that rank in the top five globally, while millions of its citizens remain mired in energy poverty and underdevelopment.

Ironically, to many smaller countries, including island nations hit by intense storms, lost farm productivity, droughts and heat waves linked to a changing climate, India contributes to the problem with its total annual emissions. It is unsurprising, therefore, that the clamour is growing for India to join many other big economies and commit itself to net zero emissions: to balance carbon emissions with their removal from the atmosphere, by a specific date. Evidently, Mr. Kerry sought to explore the possibility of raising national ambition, with the assurance that the U.S., pursuing major green technology initiatives in the post-Donald Trump era, would support such a road map. His meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been positive. It would, of course, reassure not just India but other emerging nations as well, if the climate diplomacy of the North under the Paris Agreement is underpinned by funding and technology transfer guarantees to reduce emissions. If climate change is the biggest crisis today, the solutions require the U.S, the U.K., Europe and others who occupied the bulk of the world's carbon budget to give up further emissions in favour of the developing world and fund the transition.

Even if India does not commit itself to a net zero deadline, and prefers to wait for the post-pandemic development pathways to become clear, it cannot afford to ignore the impact that its project decisions — such as deforestation — will have on the climate. At the peak of COVID-19 last year, the Centre saw it fit to press ahead with environmental clearances that would have a serious negative impact. It extended the deadline for coal plants to adopt strict pollution control, and proposed gross dilution of norms to assess environmental impact of projects. Fuel prices, at historic highs due to taxation, pay no specific environmental dividend, and the poorest are worst hit by its inflationary effects. What India should be doing in the run-up to the UN Convention on Climate Change in Glasgow, scheduled later this year, is to come up with a domestic climate plan that explains to the citizen how it will bring

green development in this decade, specifying a target by sector for each year. This would align internal policies with the justifiable demand that rich countries uphold the principle enshrined in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, of common but differentiated responsibilities to build equity. Taxing luxury emissions, whether it is cars, air-conditioners, big properties or aviation, for specified green development outcomes, will send out a convincing message.

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