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by saurabh pandey





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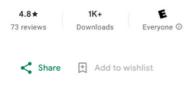
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IR AND geo

Philippine and Chinese vessels collide in disputed South China Sea

Four Filipino crew members were injured and Manila's vessel suffered minor structural damage in separate incidents; U.S., Australia and Japan condemn Beijing's actions which transpired ahead of an ASEAN summit taking place in Melbourne

Associated Press MANILA

hinese and Philippine coast guard vessels collided in the disputed South China Sea and four Filipino crew members were injured on Tuesday in high-seas confrontations as Southeast Asian leaders gathered for an Asian summit where alarm over Beijing's aggression at sea was expected to be raised.

The Chinese Coast Guard ships and accompanying vessels blocked the Philippine Coast Guard and supply vessels off the disputed Second Thomas Shoal and executed dangerous manoeuvres that caused two minor collisions between the Chinese ships and two of the Philippine vessels, Philippine officials said.

The BRP Sindangan of the Philippine Coast Guard had minor structural dam-



Bone of contention: Chinese vessels deploy water cannons at a civilian boat operated by Philippine military in South China Sea. AFP

age from the collision that happened shortly after

Over an hour later, another Chinese coast guard ship first blocked and then collided with a supply boat the Philippine coast guard was escorting, the Philippine officials said.

Canon attack

The supply boat, manned by Filipino Navy personnel, was later hit by water cannon blasts from two Chinese coast guard ships. Its windshield shattered, injuring at least four Filipino crew members, according to a statement from the Philippine government task force dealing with territorial disputes.

The task force said the actions by the Chinese was "another attempt to illegally impede or obstruct a routine resupply and rotation mission."

"China's latest unpro-

voked acts of coercion and dangerous maneuvers" against Philippine ships en route to deliver supplies and fresh troops to the Philippine-occupied shoal "put the lives of our people at risk and caused actual injury to Filipinos," it said.

Envoy summoned

The Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila summoned China's Deputy Ambassador to convey a protest against the Chinese coast guard's actions, which it said were unacceptable.

A small Philippine marine and Navy contingent has kept watch onboard a rusting warship, the *BRP Sierra Madre*, which has been marooned since the late 1990s in the shallows of the Second Thomas Shoal.

China also claims the shoal lying off the western Philippines and has surrounded the atoll with coast guard, Navy and other ships to press its claims and prevent Filipino forces from delivering construction materials to fortify the Sierra Madre in a decadeslong standoff.

The shoal has been the site of several tense skirmishes between Chinese and Philippine coast guard ships last year.

Washington strongly condemned the Chinese coast guard's actions and its Ambassador in Manila, MaryKay Carlson, said the U.S. stands with the Philippines and proponents of international law. Australia and Japan separately expressed their concern over China's actions.

The long-simmering territorial disputes in the South China Sea are expected to be discussed at a summit of leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and their Australian counterpart on Wednesday in Melbourne.





CHINA VS PHILLIPINE DISPUTE

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Australia proposes to grow trade ties at ASEAN forum

Agence France-Presse

MELBOURNE

Australia unveiled plans to ramp up investment in Southeast Asia on Tuesday, setting aside \$1.3 billion to bolster trade in a region of rising economic might.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced the funding as leaders from the 10-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) forum met in Melbourne for a three-day summit.

"The government I lead has made it clear. More than any other region, Southeast Asia is where Australia's future lies," Mr. Albanese told a business forum on the summit's sidelines.

Following a series of bruising disputes, Australia has increasingly looked



Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, left, with leaders and representatives of ASEAN members in Melbourne on Tuesday. AFP

to build economic ties outside of major trading partner China.

Fuelled by years of swift and sustained population growth, the ASEAN bloc is widely seen as an emerging economic powerhouse.

With vast deposits of critical minerals and a booming appetite for electricity, Southeast Asia is also poised to play a major role in the global push for clean energy.

Australia's new funding package will provide export financing and loans geared largely toward infrastructure and renewable energy projects.

Mr. Albanese said it was "the most significant upgrade of Australia's economic engagement with ASEAN for a generation".



About ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM

- Established in 1994, the ASEAN
 Regional Forum (ARF) is an important platform for security dialogue in the Indo-Pacific.
- It provides a setting in which members can discuss current security issues and develop cooperative measures to enhance peace and security in the region.

- The ARF is characterised by consensusbased decision-making and frank dialogue.
- It comprises 27 members: the 10 ASEAN member states (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam); 10 ASEAN Dialogue Partners (Australia, Canada, China, the European Union (EU), India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea (ROK), Russia and the United States); Bangladesh, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Papua **New Guinea, and Timor-Leste**



UN REPORT

U.N. warns of climate change impact on women run farms in poor nations

Associated Press

Women who run farms and rural households in poor countries suffer more from climate change and are discriminated against as they try to adapt to other sources of income in times of crises, the United Nations warned Tuesday.

A new report by the Food and Agriculture Organization, "The Unjust Climate," found femaleheaded rural households lose on average 8% more of the income during heat waves and 3% more during floods, compared with male-headed households.

That disparity translates into a per capita reduction of \$83 due to heat stress



Bearing the brunt: Female-headed rural households lose 8% more of income during heat waves and 3% more during floods. AP

and \$35 due to floods – coming up to an annual total of \$37 billion and \$16 billion respectively in poor countries, the U.N. agency said in the report.

"Considering the significant existing differences in agricultural productivity and wages between women and men, the study suggests if not addressed, climate change will greatly widen these gaps in the years ahead," FAO said.

The Rome-based FAO

came up with the statistics by surveying 1,00,000 rural households across 24 poor and middle-income countries around the world. The agency then integrated that data with 70 years of precipitation and temperature data.

Few plans

Significantly, the report noted few government plans to address climate change and promote adaptation strategies take into account the specific vulnerabilities of rural women and youth.

Only 6% of the more than 4,000 proposals contained in the national climate- adaptation plans of the countries surveyed mentioned women.





Women and climate change

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Environment and women

Green jobs and the problem of gender disparity

he transition to low-carbon development has the potential to add about 35 million green jobs in India by 2047. The nternational Labour Organization defines green obs as "decent jobs that contribute to preservation or restoration of the environment". Many of these span across sectors, such as manufacturing, construction, renewable energy, energy efficiency and automobiles, which raditionally saw a lower representation of

Globally, men are likely to transition to green obs faster than women. Even as India increased ts renewable energy capacity by 250% between 2015 to 2021, women comprised merely 11% of workers in the solar rooftop sector. The Annual Survey of Industries 2019-20 shows that women workers are mostly concentrated in industries such as apparel, textile, leather, food, and obacco. In contrast, a Confederation of Indian ndustry (CII) 2019 report shows that men comprise 85% of the work force in sectors such as nfrastructure, transport, construction, and manufacturing.

A study in 2023 by the Skill Council for Green

lobs indicated that 85% of the training for green skills was imparted to men while over 90% of vomen believed that social norms limited their articipation in training for green jobs. These restrictive social norms include factors such as he belief that women are unsuitable for certain echnical roles, safety concerns, lower representation in science, technology engineering, and mathematics (STEM) subjects, and familial constraints.

As India embraces a green transition. empowering women and advancing gender equity in climate actions will be one of the keys to unlock the co-benefits of a low-carbon and environmentally sustainable economy. Increasing vomen's representation in green jobs has several

In the short run, it can address the gender ases in the Indian labour market and improve

Ananya Chakraborty

is with the World

<u>Bhawna Ahuja</u>

is with the World

Arivudai Nambi Appadurai

is with the World

Increasing women's representation in green jobs will lead to benefits such as boosting a low-carbon and environmentally sustainable

long run, this can contribute to improving women's agency and their empowerment by creating economic, technical, and social opportunities

Address the gaps in data There is limited data to understand the landscape of women's work for green jobs in India. Mapping emerging areas for green growth and collecting sex-disaggregated data on green jobs could be the starting point to improve women's participation. There is need to build evidence on the present and future impact of low-carbon transitions on women workers and entrepreneurs while considering the hidden and invisible roles played by women across different sectors and geographies. This could be done by conducting gender analysis, collecting gender statistics on green jobs through periodic labour force surveys and mobilising additional resources to emphasise and encourage women's role in the green

Globally, women are being left behind in the worldwide race to achieve climate targets and sustainability goals. This is particularly evident in the transition to a low-carbon economy, who new opportunities are created alongside job displacement and transformation. Recently in a critical stride towards justice and inclusivity in transition planning, COP 28's high-level dialogue launched 'Gender-Responsive Just Transitions and Climate Action Partnership' with a focus on improved data, targeted finance, and skill

development.
Given the unequal landscape of women's work and participation in green jobs, we need to ensure that women can access emerging opportunities from low-carbon transitions. There is a strong need to review the status quo, map the current roles of women, address structural barriers that hinder women's employment choices, and also create a conducive ecosystem to foster their participation in green jobs.

In India, despite 42.7% of the total number of

only 30.8% in engineering, manufacturing and construction programmes which are the key sectors for green transition. To bridge this gap early hands-on learning, mentorship, scholarships, financial assistance, and awarene generation are crucial to empower women in green jobs-related fields

Supporting women entrepreneurs

Gender-focused financial policies and products catering to the requirements of women entrepreneurs can spur their ability to enter the green transition market. Collateral-free lending, financial literacy training and building supportive networks are crucial steps to unlock their potential. Suitable tools must be developed to assess creditworthiness, disburse loans, and reduce operational costs for women-owned

Finally, bringing in more women into leadership positions to incorporate gender-specific needs in low-carbon developmen strategies can promote women's integration in

A gender-just transition demands a multi-pronged strategy that focuses on employment, social protection, reduces the burden of care work, and enables skill development. Partnerships across government, private sector and other stakeholders are necessary to leverage the benefits of innovation, technology and finance for women entrepreneu and workers.

Businesses must recognise the centrality of gender justice and ensure equity throughout the process of green transition by mitigating barriers that exist due to stereotyping or gender bias and fostering equitable job opportunities for a just transition that benefits everyone. This is the time to build the capacity and support women in meeting the demands of the new world of work and co-design a future pathway that is socially equitable and inclusive for all.





Green jobs and Women

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- Many of these span across sectors, such as manufacturing, construction, renewable energy, energy e□ciency and automobiles, which traditionally saw a lower representation of women.
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- As India embraces a green transition, empowering women and advancing gender equity in climate actions will be one of the keys to unlock the cobenefits of a low-carbon and environmentally sustainable economy.
- Increasing women's representation in green jobs has several bene ☐ts. In the short run, it can address the gender biases in the Indian labour market and improve women's labour force participation rates.
- In the long run, this can contribute to improving women's agency and their empowerment by creating economic, technical, and social opportunities.





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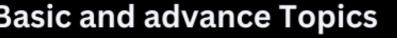
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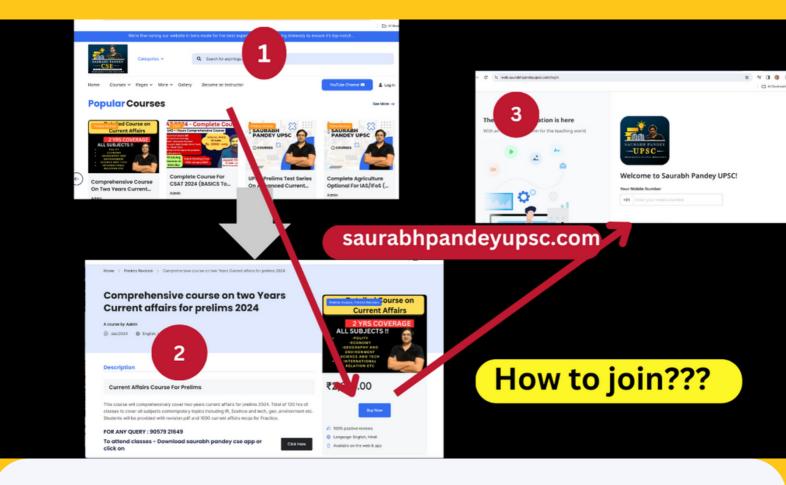
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