

Climate goal failure could prove costly

If countries fail to fulfil the promises they made in the Paris climate agreement, it could cost the global economy as much as \$600 trillion this century, finds a new analysis.
What is the Paris Agreement? What did the countries agree to? Read on...

What is the Paris Agreement?

In December 2015, 195 countries reached a landmark agreement in the French capital to fight climate change. Called the Paris Agreement, it aimed at preventing the worst-case scenarios of global warming. The focus has been on reducing the amount of global emissions and strengthening the abilities of countries to deal with climate change. It is considered a historic climate pact because it brought together all the countries for the first time to combat climate change.

What was agreed on?

- The pact has 197

Economic cost of failure

An international team of climate experts simulated the costs of global cooperative action under a variety of scenarios such as . the cost of low-carbon technology and the cost of climate damage.

They found that the world would gain \$336-422 trillion by 2100 if action was taken to keep warming to 2 degrees Celsius. But if they fail to achieve the Paris temperature goals, countries stand to lose up to \$600 trillion by century's end.



With just 1 degree C of warming since pre-industrial times, Earth is already undergoing devastating heatwaves, drought, wildfires and storm surges made worse by rising seas. PHOTO: KEVIN FRAYER/GETTY IMAGES

signatories today. The member countries agreed to hold global warming to "well below" 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees

Fahrenheit) over pre-industrial Revolution levels by 2100.

- The deal committed states to work towards a safer temperature cap of 1.5 degrees Celsius, through individual emissions reductions plans, known as nationally determined contributions (NDCs).

- According to the deal, rich countries should provide financial support of US \$100 billion a year to poor nations to cope with climate change.

- Regular reporting of emission is required and there will be reviews of each country's steps every five years, but no country is forced to have a specific emission target or a deadline to meet this.

The rule book

A rule book for the climate deal was agreed upon at a conference held in Poland in December 2018. The rulebook prescribes how each country can execute

DISCUSSION POINTS

- Discuss with your parents and write three measures that every family should take to reduce their carbon footprint.
- Read up and write three measures that India should take to reduce emission in the country.

their climate plan. It allows a country to fund green projects in another country and get credits. Countries earn carbon credits for emission reductions in excess of requirement and these credits can then be traded for money.

U.S. withdrawal

A key development since the signing of the Agreement has been the withdrawal of the U.S. from the pact. President Donald Trump began a year-long process to formally exit the deal in November 2019. However, the exit will not be final until the November 2020 election is over.

MONSOON FACTS

- Monsoon refers to the seasonal shift in the direction of wind. It lasts a few months and results in wet and dry seasons. The shift in the wind is caused due to the difference in temperatures between land and ocean.
- Monsoons are associated with Southeast Asia, including India. Other regions such as North America, Brazil, Africa and Australia too experience monsoon.
- A wet monsoon - usually from April to September - brings heavy rains to countries such as India. India gets a good part of its annual rainfall during the period. This is crucial not only for agriculture but also electricity. It can cause lasting damage too in the form of floods etc. In short, this monsoon is key to the country's economy.
- A dry monsoon occurs between October and March. During this season, the Himalayas prevents much of the cool air from reaching far below, keeping places such as southern India warm. Sometimes, dry monsoon is tied to drought.

Some good news, finally!

Southwest monsoon to be normal this year, says IMD

NEW DELHI Southwest monsoon will be normal this year, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Wednesday in its forecast for the four-month rainfall season in the country.

In an online briefing, IMD director general M. Mohapatra said the Long Period Average of monsoon will be 100 % which falls in the "normal" category.

M. Rajeevan, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, said the IMD has revised the onset and withdrawal dates of the monsoon from this year. However, the normal onset date over Kerala, which is June 1, will remain the same. PTI

LEISURE CORNER

Swiss Family Robinson shows the way!

Through this column, we explore books that you must read before you turn 17....

Are you feeling stuck at home during the COVID-19 lockdown? Read the fate of a family stranded on a deserted island in Johann David Wyss's "The Swiss Family Robinson".

What it's about

Things appear bleak when the Swiss Family Robinson are shipwrecked en route to Australia with nothing but a few supplies. Adventures abound as the family learns to deal with island life. Little by little they begin to acquire treasures on the island and even set up a 'Museum of Natural History' to showcase them. When help eventually arrives, some of the family members choose to continue to live in the tranquillity of their tropical paradise.

Why you will love it

Published in 1812, Wyss wrote this book to teach



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his four sons about family values, surviving the natural world and self-reliance. These lessons are relevant even today. The book will teach you how to adapt to your surroundings and get through difficult times with a little help from your friends and family.

QUEST

Isn't it fascinating?

A tornado can wreak destruction and the venomous red scorpion sting can prove fatal

Tornado trouble

Think of the word 'tornado' and the U.S. where they famously occur, comes to mind. But do tornadoes occur only in the U.S.? Well, tornadoes can occur anywhere in the world, but they occur mostly in the United States. A tornado is violent, whirling windstorm that moves in a funnel fashion with the broad end of the funnel scraping dark clouds in the sky, and the narrow end, touching the earth. The wind speeds are tremendous, usually around 177 kilometres per hour, but sometimes touching 480 kilometres per hour. The violently rotating winds blow down almost everything in their path, and a powerful updraft of air inside the funnel can suck up large objects and carry them over long distances.



Painful sting

Which is India's most venomous scorpion? The Indian red scorpion (Mesobuthus tumulus) is believed to be the most venomous scorpion that is found in our country. Around 6 to 10 cm in length, it gets its name from its red claws. The sting of the red scorpion causes great pain, and sometimes even death. It is found in western Maharashtra, Saurashtra, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.



(Content provided by Amrita Bharati)

Rowe rows to indoor world record

Aussie rower in lockdown unwittingly sets the record

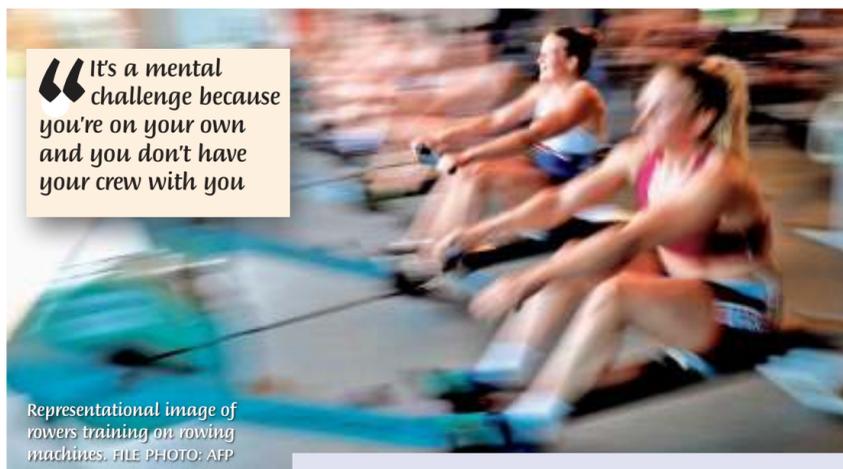
SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA: An Australian rower who set out to rack up some kilometres while on COVID-19 lockdown inadvertently broke a world record for the indoor rowing half-marathon, officials said on Wednesday.

Like the rest of the Australian team, Georgie Rowe was training at home in Sydney by herself last weekend as she deals with the disappointment of not travelling to Japan this year for the Tokyo Olympics.

Rowe, 27, was on a Concept2 rowing machine and such was her intensity that she clocked a time of 1hr 19min 28.4sec over a distance of 21,097 metres.

Rowing Australia spokeswoman Lucy Benjamin said it was an extraordinary effort in the circumstances.

"It's a mental challenge



Representational image of rowers training on rowing machines. FILE PHOTO: AFP

“It's a mental challenge because you're on your own and you don't have your crew with you”

because you're on your own and you don't have your crew with you," she told AFP.

"Whether it is a world record or not, I just wanted to get the metres up for my state," Rowe said. AFP

WHY IS IT SPECIAL?

Rowe's time of 1hr 19min 28.4sec over a distance of 21,097 metres smashed the record for the heavyweight women's half-marathon set five years ago by US rower Esther Lofgren by more than 40 seconds.

Rowe doesn't compete individually and normally works as part of a team in the women's eight.

TECH BYTES

What is malware?

A portmanteau of "malicious" and "software", malware is any software written with the intention of causing harm to a user such as stealing data, damaging devices, and spying, among others.

Trojans, spyware and ransomware are all different kinds of malware. Usually, malware is created by hackers looking to make quick money by stealing data or blocking users' access to their data.

Malware can make its way to users' computers in the form of an email link, social media or any executable file. To safeguard oneself against malware, one must install an antivirus software that can detect malware and protect one's data.

