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# THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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2026



BOARD OF PEACE FOR GAZA

**Is Asia-Pacific on track towards elimination  
of Malaria by 2030?**

**BRICS India summit needs a green and  
resilient agenda**

**Officials coercing us to surrender land  
:Nicobar tribals**

**India absent as Trump rolls out his board  
of peace**

# Is Asia-Pacific on track towards elimination of Malaria by 2030?

## Is Asia-Pacific on track towards elimination of Malaria by 2030?

World Malaria Report 2025, launched in December, provided a mixed bag, while fall in estimated cases in southeast Asia offer hope, rising cases of resistance to artemisinin-based frontline treatment and reduction in funding for malaria programmes raise concern

### Business Functions

The World Malaria Report 2025, launched in December, presented a lag of estimated more than 100 million cases of malaria during the decade. While the reduction in estimated cases in sub-Saharan Africa presented data hope, of certain countries in the region, such as Malawi, are still in a position to eliminate malaria and failing funding for malaria programmes. It is the hope that the region that posted most of the good news. The significant action was driven by 10 of the region's 18 malaria-endemic countries, which together reduced malaria cases by 9.6 million in 2020 to approximately 303 million in 2018. The major reduction in estimated cases happened in Pakistan, India, and Indonesia, while in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam, the annual case ranking. Among the countries being plateaued against the goal of malaria elimination, the region against malaria elimination also comes from the region, with the Global Malaria Elimination campaign in tackling malaria in the region, including the report.

**Shared File Locations:** A P2P model for sharing big logging readouts from multiple sensors as part of provenance tracking.

of achieving zero in dengue cases of malaria by 2037, ahead of the 2030 target. This says India's target is ambitious but attainable. "India has made extraordinary set of investments over 20 years

a clearing step reduction in cases and deaths, with many districts remaining stable or increasing for multiple years. This is also true for the first year of the pilot project, prior to the point-of-contact for elimination through 'indigenous project' phase 1. It is, however, recent data shown that project has plateaued and is cases have even rebounded in some districts, indicating that rebounding is a concern for the next 2020 milestones. At points, the

14. We explain that to make the leap from point-of-contact to elimination, three shifts will be required: control of transmission, then shift

are essential. "Because the country needs real-time information everywhere - reporting from

services, railcars and urban health systems, so that every infection is detected, classified and responded to rapidly."

of the malaria burden. Success will depend on focused, project-based escalation in these remaining hotspots while near-elimination status must be in preventing resurgence."

Thirdly, the continuity of financing operational discipline must be restored. India must trust that a no-nonsense time-bound national mission, with

the operate efficacy studies, more rapidly update national insurance policies when early warning signals emerge. India emphasizes an universal paramedical diagnosis and treatment system, and evidence of seal automation in microscopy has been central to promoting drug efficacy at scale.

India's ambition through national efficacy monitoring, and regulation of antimicrobial use, strong community-level surveillance, and strict border and regional coordination to prevent cross-border spread are the need of the hour. By "Particular" assistance can be provided to the government and the collective action. Protecting antimicrobials is just a technical task – it is a strategic imperative for global health in eliminating, and reducing, the threat of antimicrobial resistance.

Figures 1 and 2 show the results of the regression analysis. The first panel shows the results for the first stage of the regression, which tests the effect of the funding constraint on the success of the malaria elimination programme. The second panel shows the results for the second stage of the regression, which tests the effect of the funding constraint on the success of the malaria elimination programme, after controlling for the first stage regressors.

accountability, sharp targeting and sustained investment through the life

**Vaccines for malaria**  
While factors such as surveillance, control and effective case management have been essential to the success of the past years, it was the vaccine that made a significant breakthrough.

Das says: "Both RTS,S and the new vaccine represent important milestones in the fight against malaria. Large-scale pilot implementation studies in Africa have shown that RTS,S, when delivered through routine immunization systems, can reduce severe malaria and contribute to measurable declines in mortality. R21 has shown comparable higher efficacy in controlled trials."

These vaccines have and will be prioritized for rollout in Africa where the burden of *Plasmodium falciparum* malaria and childhood mortality is highest. The countries in Asia Pacific and the Americas are evaluating how these vaccines can complement existing tools for the prevention of malaria.

The recent WHO report indicates while artemisinin resistance has as a serious threat to global malaria control, it has not yet been established. Artemisinin-based combination therapies remain the go-to first line treatment as they are still highly effective.

India, which otherwise has a anti-microbial resistance burden, on the other hand, "has taken a precautionary approach by institutio-

# Why in the News?

- **The World Malaria Report 2025** presents mixed signals for the **Asia-Pacific region**, showing declining malaria cases alongside rising **artemisinin resistance** and shrinking global financing.

- Raising doubts over achieving the **2030 malaria elimination target**, particularly in high-burden and last-mile settings.

## About Malaria

Malaria is a life-threatening febrile illness caused by Plasmodium parasites, transmitted through the bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes.

The disease is not contagious, but can be spread through infected blood or contaminated needles.

The most dangerous species are Plasmodium falciparum and Plasmodium vivax.

## Symptoms and Risks

- Symptoms appear 10–15 days after infection and include fever, chills, and headache.
- Severe symptoms can include seizures, difficulty breathing, jaundice, dark urine, and death if untreated.
- Partial immunity can develop in endemic regions, making diagnosis difficult in some patients.

## World Malaria Day

It is observed to **raise awareness** about malaria, increasing **public understanding** of malaria & promoting **prevention measures**. Malaria is a **preventable** and **treatable** disease.



**Theme 2023** "Time to deliver zero malaria: invest, innovate and implement"

### Did You Know ?

 **247 M**  
New cases of malaria in 2021

 **95%**  
Malaria cases in **WHO African region**

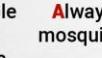
 **6,19,000**  
Malaria-related deaths in 2021

### Symptoms

 High Fever	 Diarrhoea
 Chills	 Muscle Pain
 Headaches	 Nausea & Vomiting
 Sweating	 Dry Cough

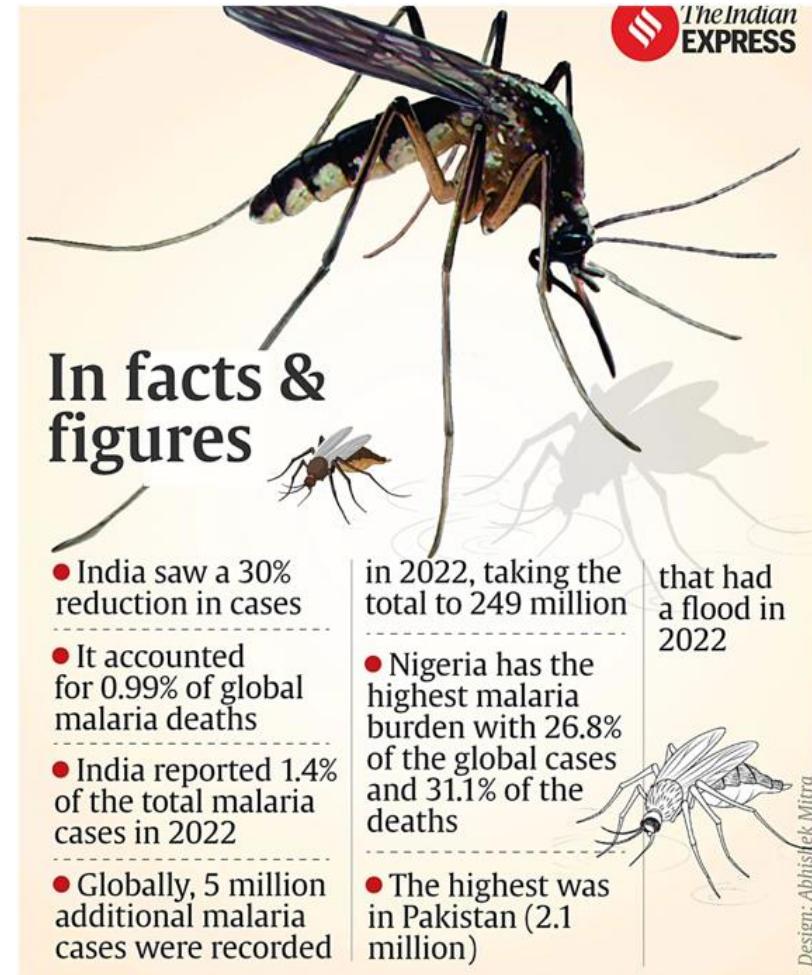
### What should you keep in mind?

**M A L A R I A**

 Make people aware of symptoms	 Always use mosquito nets	 Long sleeve clothes- Go for protective clothing	 Apply Mosquito repellents	 Remove Standing Water	 Implementing and accepting GOI guidelines against malaria	 Avoid travelling to areas with a malaria outbreak
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## REGIONAL PROGRESS AND POSITIVE TRENDS

- Asia-Pacific recorded a **reduction from 9.6 million to 8.9 million cases**, driven by sustained interventions across ten malaria-endemic countries.
- **Pakistan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Vietnam** reported major declines, with some achieving **historic lows**, reflecting effective surveillance and targeted control strategies.
- **Sri Lanka, China, and Timor-Leste** demonstrate that malaria elimination is achievable through **political commitment, system strengthening, and uninterrupted programme delivery**.
- The **Greater Mekong Subregion's containment of antimalarial resistance** highlights the value of regional coordination and early warning systems.



## INDIA'S ELIMINATION AMBITION: OPPORTUNITIES AND RISKS

- India aims for **zero indigenous malaria cases by 2027**, positioning itself ahead of the **global 2030 elimination deadline**.
- Since 2015, India achieved **steep reductions in cases and deaths**, with multiple districts sustaining **zero transmission for consecutive years**.
- .
- Recent data shows **plateauing progress and localised rebounds**, indicating India is **off the ideal elimination trajectory**.
- **Five States and the Northeast account for nearly 80% of malaria burden**, necessitating sharply focused interventions. This concentration of challenges mirrors environmental hotspots that require targeted conservation efforts.

**INDIA'S MALARIA SUCCESS STORY**  
POWERED BY PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION (JAN BHAGIDARI)

**JORHAT, ASSAM**  
Tea garden communities leveraged tech and social media to reduce cases.

**KURUKSHETRA, HARYANA**  
Sustained public awareness and community-based campaigns curbed malaria transmission.

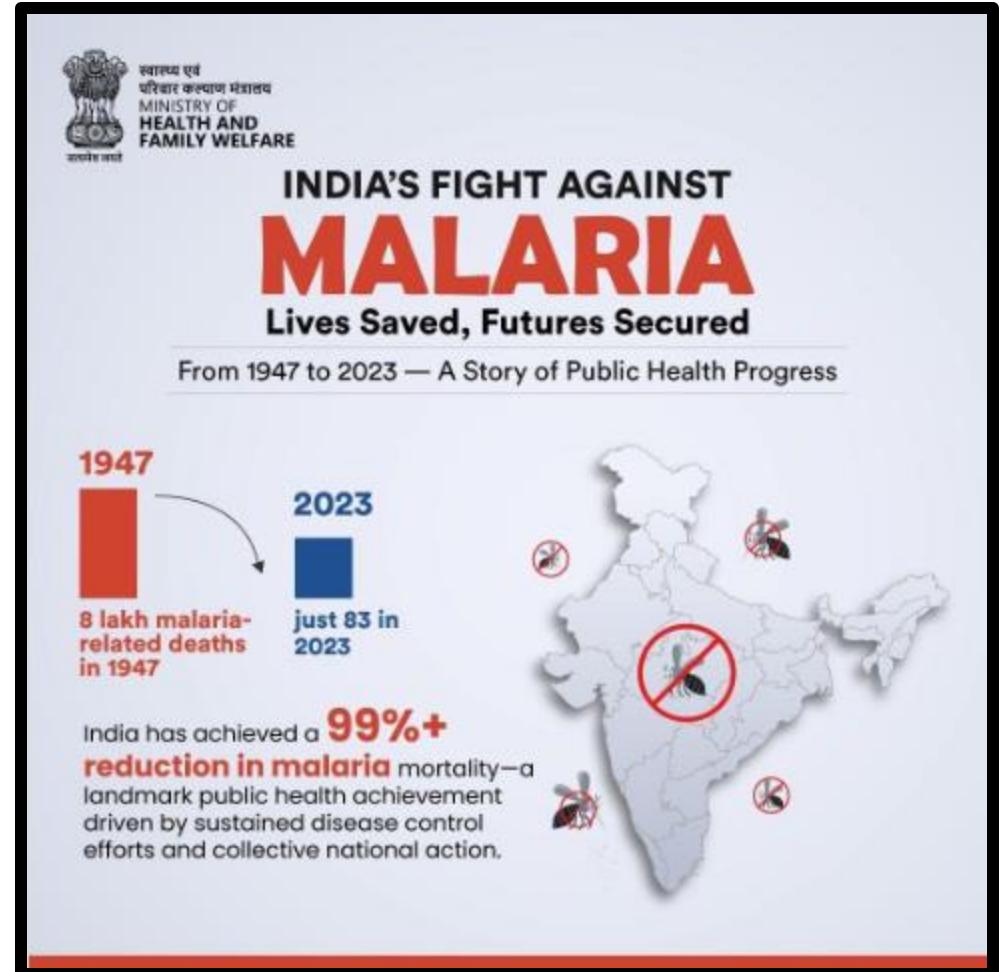
**ODISHA**  
Achieved >80% reduction (2017-18) with innovative technology, accredited social health activist (ASHA) training & community outreach.

**NORTH-EAST INDIA**  
Eco-friendly tools like Insecticide Treated Nets, ASHA-led surveillance & rapid tests drove sharp malaria decline.

**PIB RESEARCH UNIT**

## THREE SHIFTS REQUIRED FOR ELIMINATION

- India requires **real-time, case-based surveillance**, integrating private sector.
- High-burden States need **project-mode execution**, while near-elimination regions must invest aggressively in **resurgence prevention mechanisms**.
- Malaria elimination must be treated as a **time-bound national mission**, with clear accountability, financing continuity, and outcome monitoring.
- Elimination success hinges on **consistent last-mile delivery**, not merely policy intent or aggregate funding commitments.
- Health systems must synchronise **surveillance, treatment, vector control, and migration tracking** for rapid containment.



# BRICS India summit needs a green and resilient agenda

## *BRICS India summit needs a green and resilient agenda*

The next BRICS Summit will be held in India this year. Having hosted the G-20 (2023), infrastructure and organisational processes are in place, but India must quickly hone in on the Summit's focus. This should obviously resonate with India and BRICS, but critically an issue that is of vital importance for the Global South.

Given its vastly increased vulnerabilities to climate change, resilience is a top priority for the South, and also underscores India's and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's global leadership on an inclusive green agenda.

**Need for a stabilising force**  
In the Trump polar world, collaborative multilateralism is under immense stress, with climate change being particularly singled out by the United States and being called a hoax along with a visible push for more fossil fuel use. The Donald Trump administration has said that it will withdraw the U.S. from 66 international organisations, which includes the India-led International Solar Alliance. In fact, the U.S. stayed away from the COP30 in Belém, Brazil, in November 2025 – something that possibly ensured a continuation of the COP process. With the Europeans, who for long positioned themselves as climate champions, facing domestic climate fatigue and external national security priorities, there is a certain space for a stabilising force for collaborative action on sustainability and resilience. BRICS can endeavour towards this.

The acronym, BRICS, however, raises the hackles of President Trump who thinks that it is anti-American and an attempt to dislodge the dollar. Given the vast gamut of India-U.S. ties, including the imperative of an acceptable trade deal, staying clear of massive tariffs relating to



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is Senior Fellow, TERI, and Curator, World Sustainable Development Summit

It is a critical imperative for the Global South and under an expanded BRICS

Russian oil imports and ensuring a certain presidential happiness in Washington DC will certainly need a certain adroitness on the part of India at the BRICS Summit. Such diplomatic capacity was on display during the G-20 Summit in Delhi that saw a successful balancing of global geopolitics with Indian interests, including protecting its strategic autonomy through multi-alignment and leadership of the Global South.

**Climate change is a common concern**  
At the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the old grouping of BASIC (Brazil, South Africa, India, China) has been useful and will continue to have its role but a larger grouping of major developing country players may add greater heft. This was seen in Belém to ensure that the handling of fossil fuels did not stymie development imperatives of developing countries. Climate impacts, while varying in form and intensity, are a common concern across BRICS, ranging from risks to infrastructure, health, livelihoods and ecosystems arising from permafrost thaw, pressures on the Amazon and the Himalayas, and growing vulnerabilities in coastal and riverine regions. It is in their own interest to collectively advance a stronger international agenda on adaptation, resilience, equity and sustainable development.

This role is further reinforced by several BRICS members having shouldered responsibility for steering the global climate process after the Paris Agreement came into force. Brazil, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have presided over climate conferences in the post-COVID-19 pandemic period, helping safeguard momentum on climate action. A BRICS act would also be useful on a unilateral side-stepping of UNFCCC principles such as the European Union's Carbon

Border Adjustment Mechanism. An opening of a broader climate debate, including trade, was initiated at Belém.

A major outcome of the July 2025 BRICS Summit in Rio de Janeiro was BRICS Leaders' Framework Declaration on Climate Finance, a matter where India has been strong in articulating the demands of the Global South.

With finance being the key enabler for climate action, there is a need to include the World Bank and International Monetary Fund chiefs in the BRICS Summit. It is not the time to treat them as "theirs (G-7 or G-20's)" and not just confine BRICS to the New Development Bank. Any global push on climate finance without them is hardly possible, given the U.S.'s antipathy to climate change – a fact also reflected in how their corporates and private monies are reacting, including pulling back from Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) requirements and even 'green' bonds and other funds.

BRICS is now about Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, and the UAE, together comprising half of the global population, around 40% of global GDP, and around 26% of global trade. Its voice and heft are considerable.

**A chance for India to drive change**  
As the helmsman of BRICS this year, India is in a pivotal position to push for collaborative global action, at least as among much of the world that will join, on resilience and an inclusive green agenda. This will be in its interest as well as a critical imperative for the Global South.

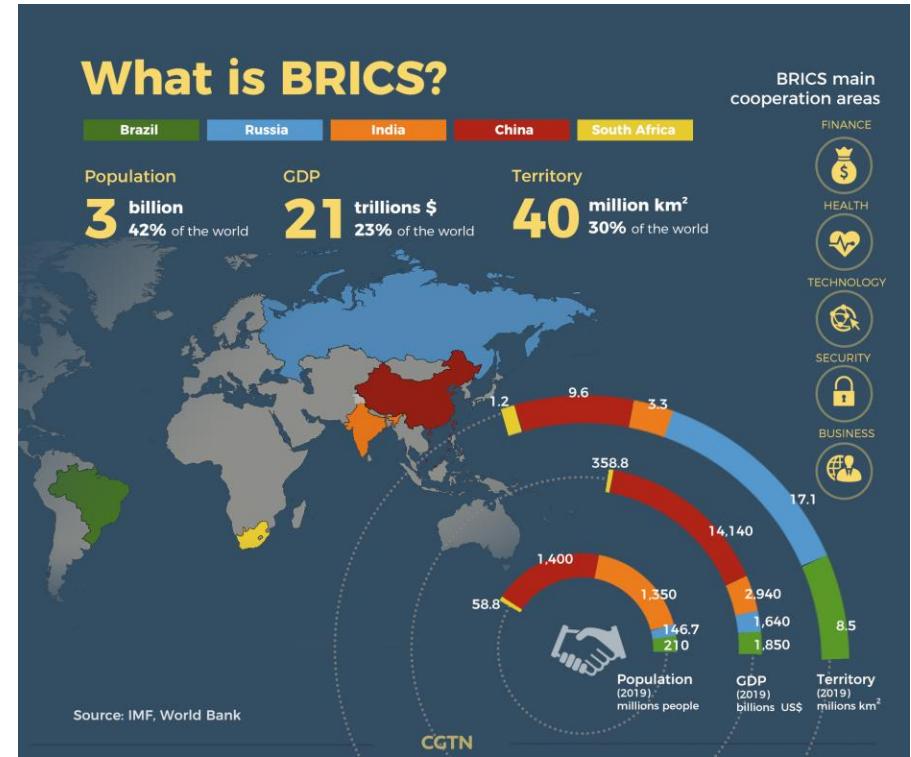
Moreover, geopolitically for India, a BRICS push keeps Chinese ambitions on global leadership on a green agenda in check. India's green agenda focusing on resilience at the BRICS Summit 2026 would also resonate with Ethiopia, the host of COP32 in 2027.

## Context

- The forthcoming BRICS Summit to be hosted by India offers a critical opportunity to align national priorities with the urgent needs of the Global South.
- With the successful organisation of the G-20 Summit in 2023, India already has the infrastructure and diplomatic capacity required.
- The growing climate crisis and the need for enhanced resilience provide a unifying and strategic agenda, particularly for developing countries that are disproportionately affected by climate impacts.

## The Global Context :A Leadership Vacuum in Climate Governance

- Global multilateralism is under severe strain amid heightened geopolitical polarisation.
- The United States, under the influence of Trump-era policies, has deprioritised climate action, promoted increased fossil fuel usage, and withdrawn from multiple international initiatives.
- This retreat has weakened global momentum on sustainability, especially as the U.S. has distanced itself from climate forums and institutions central to collective action.
- At the same time, European countries that previously positioned themselves as climate leaders are experiencing domestic fatigue and shifting their attention toward security and economic concerns.
- Within this context, BRICS has the potential to emerge as a stabilising platform capable of sustaining cooperation on climate action and development-oriented responses.



## BRICS as a Platform for Collective Climate Action

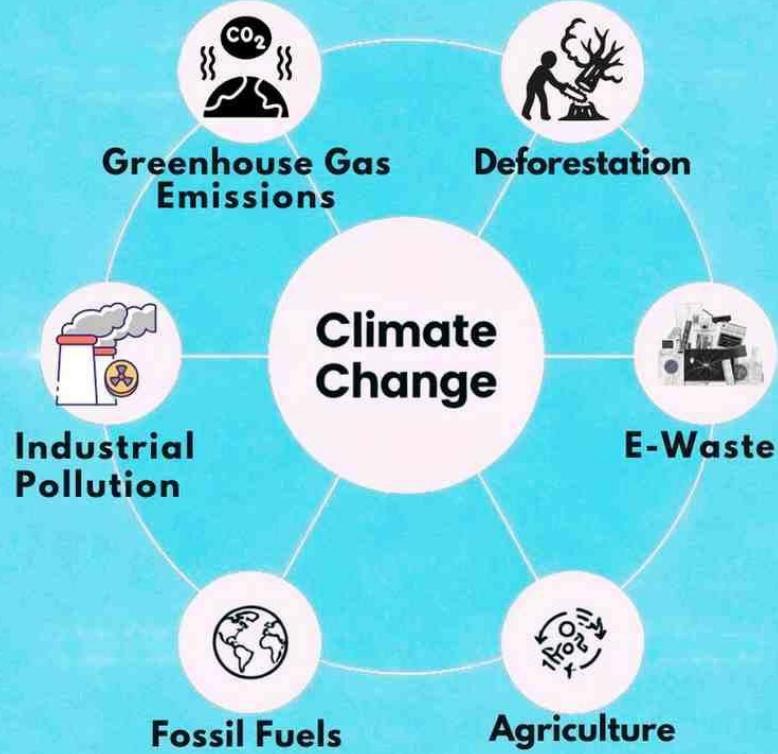
- While BRICS is often viewed with suspicion in Washington, India's diplomatic strength lies in its ability to balance competing interests.
- Its performance during the G-20 Summit demonstrated a capacity to navigate complex global geopolitics while preserving strategic autonomy through multi-alignment.
- A similar approach at the BRICS Summit can advance climate cooperation without undermining crucial bilateral relationships.
- Climate impacts affect all BRICS countries, though in diverse ways.
- These include risks to infrastructure, public health, ecosystems, and livelihoods across varied geographies.



## India's Strategic and Geopolitical Opportunity

- The expanded BRICS grouping now represents a significant share of the global population, economic output, and trade flows.
- As chair, India is uniquely positioned to shape a collective agenda that prioritises climate resilience and inclusive growth.
- Such leadership would reinforce India's global standing while addressing the pressing vulnerabilities of developing nations.
- Geopolitically, a strong BRICS-led climate initiative also serves to balance competing ambitions, particularly those of China, in shaping the global climate leadership
- By advancing a development-centric green agenda that emphasises resilience and cooperation, India can ensure that climate action remains inclusive, equitable, and aligned with the long-term interests of the Global South.

## Causes of Climate Change



## Officials coercing us to surrender land : Nicobar tribals

### Officials 'coercing' us to surrender land: tribals

Great Nicobar Island project includes forest lands where Nicobarese lived before 2004 tsunami; 'It is our ancestral land, we will have nothing for the future generations' says council member

Abhilash Lakshman  
NEW DELHI

**W**ith some sections of the ₹92,000-crore Great Nicobar Island mega-infrastructure project "nearing approval", members of the Tribal Council in Little and Great Nicobar on Thursday alleged that they are being pressured by the district administration to "surrender our ancestral lands" to make way for the project.

Parts of the projects in Galathea Bay, Pennmaya Bay, and Nanjappa Bay require the diversion of forest lands on which the indigenous Nicobarese people had been living before the 2004 tsunami.

In an online briefing to journalists, Tribal Council members said they had been called for a January 7 meeting with Nicobar district administration officials, where they were orally asked to sign a "surrender certificate", giving up their ancestral tribal lands. Hours after the briefing, they were summoned for another meeting where they were asked if they would give up their



Tribal Council members say they were asked to sign a surrender certificate, giving up their ancestral lands. FILE PHOTO

claims on a portion of their lands if they were allowed to relocate to a different section of the coast.

Deputy Commissioner of Nicobar Amit Kale Marutirao, and Assistant Commissioner (Campbell Bay) Keshav Narendra Singh, have not responded to *The Hindu's* requests for comment.

"At [the January 7] meeting, a few officials of the district were present along with a representative of the administration's Andaman Adim Janjati Vilas Samiti. We were shown various maps regarding the project

and we were asked about our opinion on the development project. And then we were asked to sign the surrender certificate," Tribal Council chairman Barabas Manju said, adding that the meeting, held at the Andaman Public Works Department guesthouse in Nicobar's Campbell Bay, lasted about 10 minutes.

The Tribal Council members told the officials that they would have to discuss it amongst themselves. At the press briefing, Titus Peter, 1st Captain of Pullobabu village and a member of the Council, said,

"We cannot sign a surrender document like this. It is our ancestral tribal land. We will have nothing for the future generations." Mr. Manju noted that it had been 25 years since they were displaced by the 2004 tsunami and are yet to hear from the administration about their requests to return to the location of their ancestral villages that had been destroyed by the tsunami.

Council members said they were not told any specifics about the "surrender certificate", though Mr. Manju noted that "the officials said they would help us draft it if needed." The Tribal Council is the apex representative body of the Nicobarese community, which is recognised as a Scheduled Tribe.

"It is not clear what parts of our ancestral land the officials are referring to. Our understanding is that they want the surrender certificate to mention areas that are covered under what used to be our villages before we were displaced by the tsunami," said Mr. Peter, pointing to the west coast on a map of Great Nicobar Island.

### AND THE PERILS

■ **Over 8.5 lakh trees to be felled over an area of 130 sq kms**

■ **Destruction of tropical rainforests in Galathea National Park, home to 648 species of flora and 330 species of fauna, including Nicobar's wild pig, tree shrew, the Great Nicobar crested serpent eagle, Nicobar paradise flycatcher and the Nicobar megapode.**

■ **Threat to the Shompen tribe: Proposed project areas have been important foraging grounds for the hunter-gatherer nomadic community.**

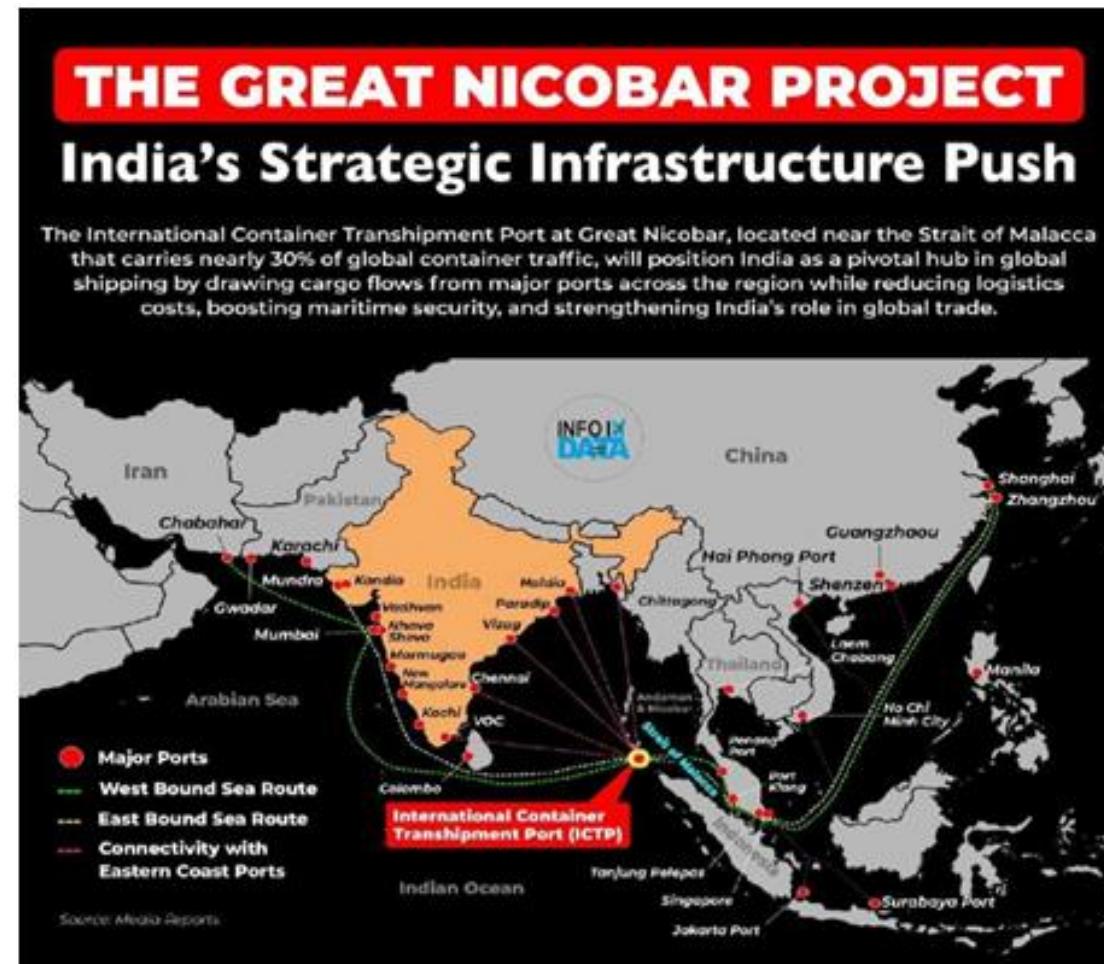
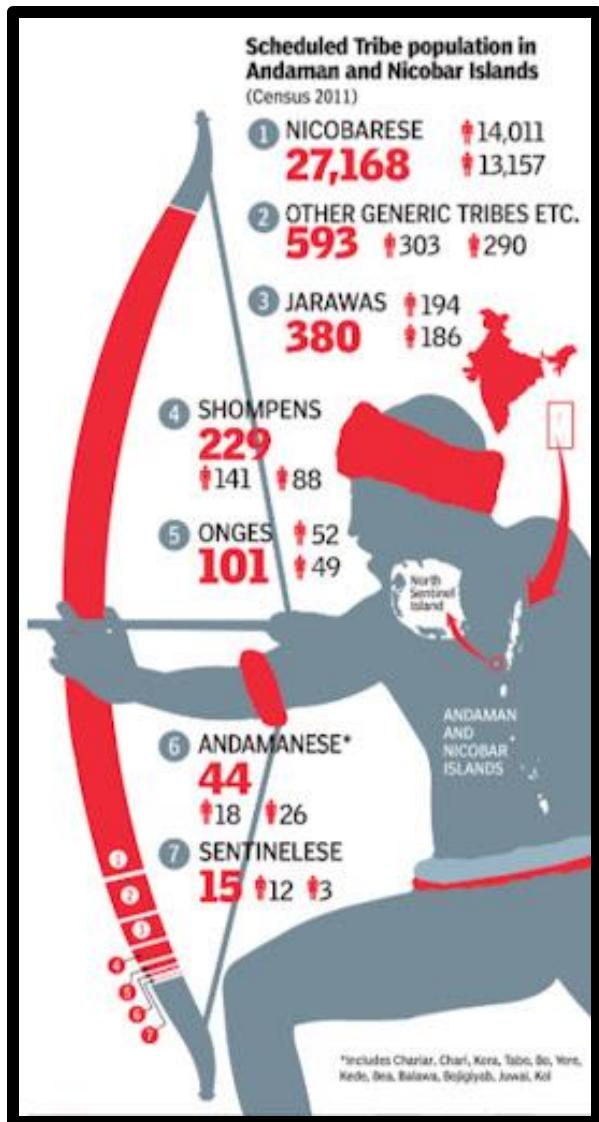
■ **Threat to nesting sites of iconic species like Giant leatherback turtle and the Nicobar megapode.**



■ **Threat to coral and marine ecosystem:** ZSI reported presence of 117 species of scleractinian corals in Galathea. But the Environment Impact Assessment of the project states that there is no coral located in the Galathea Bay region.

■ **Threat to Dugongs due to loss of seagrass meadows, rising anthropogenic activities.**





## India absent as Trump rolls out his board of peace

### India absent as Trump rolls out his Board of Peace with 19 countries in attendance

Associated Press  
Press Trust of India  
DAVOS

U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday inaugurated his Board of Peace to lead efforts at maintaining a ceasefire in Israel's war with Hamas, insisting that "everyone wants to be a part" of the body that could eventually rival the United Nations — despite many U.S. allies opting not to participate.

India was among the countries not present at the ceremony. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was among numerous global leaders invited by Mr. Trump to join the Board. India is yet to take a call on it, people familiar with the matter said when asked



**New accord:** U.S. President Donald Trump holding the founding charter of the Board of Peace in Davos on Thursday. REUTERS

about the invite. Pakistan, Turkiye, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE are among the countries that have accepted Mr. Trump's invitation.

While Mr. Trump said 59 countries have signed onto the board, representatives of only 19 countries

and the U.S. were present at the event at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

"You're the most powerful people in the world," Mr. Trump told the group, ranging from Azerbaijan to Paraguay to Hungary.

"This is not the United States, this is for the world," Mr. Trump said, adding, "I think we can spread it out to other things as we succeed in Gaza."

The event also saw Ali Shaath, former Palestinian Authority official from Gaza who is overseeing the Palestinian committee set to govern the territory under U.S. supervision, announcing that the Rafah border crossing, between Gaza and Egypt, will open in both directions next week.

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**'GREENLAND FRAMEWORK'**  
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# A New Global Forum or UN Rival? The 'Board of Peace'

Context: Proposed by Donald Trump as part of a 20-point Gaza peace plan, with broader ambitions for global conflict management.

PURPOSE & ORIGIN	STRUCTURE & LEADERSHIP	KEY MEMBERS (EXECUTIVE BOARD)	ANALYSIS: ALTERNATE TO UN?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Initial Focus: Implement US-brokered Gaza peace plan, oversee reconstruction, governance transition.</li><li>Broader Ambition: Address global conflicts outside traditional forums.</li><li>Key Goal: Provide strategic oversight, mobilize resources, ensure accountability.</li><li>Origin: US initiative, partly endorsed by UNSC Resolution 2803 (with ambiguities on authority).</li></ul>	<p> </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Chairman: Donald Trump (Significant powers: agenda setting, invitations, veto).</li><li>Executive Board: Core decision-making body.</li><li>Membership Model: "Invitation-only". Reports of \$1bn for permanent seat (disputed by White House). </li></ul> <pre>graph TD; BP[Board of Peace] --&gt; HR[High Representative Nickolay Mladenov]; HR --&gt; GE[ Gaza Executive Board &amp; Technocratic Committee (NCAG)]</pre>	<p> Donald Trump (Chair, US President)</p> <p> Marco Rubio (US Sec. of State)</p> <p> Jared Kushner (US Senior Negotiator)</p> <p> Steve Witkoff (US Special Envoy)</p> <p> Tony Blair (Former UK PM)</p> <p> Ajay Banga (World Bank President - Indian Origin)</p> <p> Marc Rowan (Apollo Global CEO)</p> <p> Robert Gabriel (US Deputy NSA)</p> <p>Regional Invitees (Gaza context): Hakan Fidan (Turkey), Ali Al Thawadi (Qatar), etc.</p>	<p></p> <p><b>ARGUMENTS FOR RIVALRY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Trump's known criticism of UN efficiency &amp; funding.</li><li>Exclusive, US-led vs. UN's universal, collective nature.</li><li>Potential to bypass UNSC on war/peace issues.</li><li>Concerns about "parallel structure" sidelining UN agencies (e.g., UNRWA).</li><li>Perceived as "neo-imperialist" or "colonial" by critics.</li></ul> <p><b>ARGUMENTS AGAINST/NUANCES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>US claims it's not to replace, but "galvanize" UN.</li><li>Sought some UNSC backing (Res. 2803) for Gaza plan.</li><li>Includes some former/current UN figures (e.g., Mladenov, Kaag).</li><li>Initially focused on Gaza, wider mandate is "aspirational".</li></ul>



# Thank you

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