UPSC Mains practice – reference note

GS-III · 14-11-2026 · 15 marks · https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/upsc-mains-practice/2026-11-14-cop31-climate-finance-gap

As COP31 meets at Antalya, India has placed the delivery of climate finance under Article 9.1 of the Paris Agreement at the centre of its position. Examine the gap between the climate finance committed by developed countries and the needs of developing countries, and suggest how India can secure its interests in the negotiations while mobilising climate finance at home. (15 marks, 250 words)

1. The news (as of 13 November 2026)

- COP31 – the 31st Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC – opened at Antalya, Türkiye, on 9 November 2026 and runs to 20 November; delegates from 197 countries and the European Union attend. Türkiye holds the presidency (COP31 President Murat Kurum) under a compromise with Australia, whose Climate Change and Energy Minister Chris Bowen is President of Negotiations. A World Leaders' Summit was held on 11–12 November.
- India's opening statement, delivered by Environment Secretary Narendra Bhooshan, asked developed countries to meet their obligations under Article 9.1 of the Paris Agreement, said public funding from them remains crucial, and stressed Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and the growing risk of crossing 1.5 °C.
- Before the conference (New Delhi briefing, 3 November), Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said India would seek a formal decision to launch the climate finance work programme; India wants finance that is predictable, largely public and concessional, voluntary adaptation indicators, and technology transfer without IPR and trade barriers.

2. Climate finance at a glance

Milestone	What was agreed	Source
Copenhagen (COP15, 2009) / Cancún (2010)	Developed countries to mobilise $100 billion a year by 2020; OECD says it was first met in 2022 ($115.9 billion)	UNFCCC; OECD (2024)
Paris Agreement (2015), Article 9.1	Developed country Parties "shall provide financial resources" to assist developing country Parties	UNFCCC – Paris Agreement text
COP29, Baku (2024) – NCQG	At least $300 billion a year by 2035, developed countries taking the lead; call on all actors to scale up to $1.3 trillion a year by 2035	UNFCCC decision 1/CMA.6

COP30, Belém (2025) – Global Mutirão	Call for efforts to at least triple adaptation finance by 2035; two-year work programme on climate finance including Article 9.1; 59 Belém Adaptation Indicators; decision to develop a just transition mechanism (to be operationalised at CMA8, 2026)	UNFCCC; C2ES summary
UNEP Adaptation Gap Report 2026	Developing countries need about $305 billion a year for adaptation by 2035; international public adaptation finance was $28.2–31.7 billion in 2024	UNEP; AIR News (11-11-2026)
Loss and Damage Fund	Operationalised at COP28 (2023); pledges of about $821.5 million so far; first replenishment from 2027	C2ES summary of COP30

3. Key terms

- **CBDR-RC** – Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (UNFCCC, 1992): all countries act, but developed countries, with greater historical emissions and capacity, lead.
- **NCQG** – New Collective Quantified Goal on climate finance, the post-2025 successor to the $100 billion goal.
- **Mitigation vs adaptation** – cutting emissions vs coping with climate impacts (sea walls, drought-resistant crops, early warning).
- **NDC** – Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement. India's updated NDC (2022): cut emissions intensity of GDP by 45% from the 2005 level by 2030 and reach about 50% of installed power capacity from non-fossil sources by 2030 (achieved in 2025); net zero by 2070.

4. India's domestic climate finance tools

- Sovereign green bonds – first issued in January 2023; proceeds go to eligible green projects under the Sovereign Green Bonds Framework.
- Carbon Credit Trading Scheme, 2023 – notified under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001 to build an Indian carbon market.
- National Action Plan on Climate Change (2008) and State Action Plans; public-sector banks and blended finance for renewable energy.

5. Tamil Nadu angle

- With a coastline of over 1,000 km facing the Bay of Bengal and repeated cyclones, Tamil Nadu needs adaptation finance for coastal protection, mangrove restoration and early warning.
- The State channels its Climate Change Mission, Green Tamil Nadu Mission and Wetlands Mission through the Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company, set up in 2022 as a special purpose vehicle.

6. Value-adding words

- climate justice, historical responsibility, grant-equivalent finance, concessionality, predictability, adaptation gap, debt distress, blended finance, just transition, carbon space, cooperative multilateralism.

Official sources

- AIR News (newsonair.gov.in) – India urges developed nations to fulfil climate finance obligations (COP31, 11 November 2026) – https://newsonair.gov.in/india-urges-developed-nations-to-fulfil-climate-finance-obligations/
- The Week – COP31 opens in Turkey: India's push for climate finance, adaptation support and tech transfer (9 November 2026) – https://www.theweek.in/news/world/2026/11/09/cop31-climate-summit-antalya-begins-india.html
- UNFCCC – Paris Agreement (Article 9) and COP29 / COP30 decisions – https://unfccc.int/
- C2ES – Key negotiations-related outcomes of the UN climate conference in Belém (COP30) – https://www.c2es.org/document/key-negotiations-related-outcomes-of-the-un-climate-conference-in-belem

Shanmugam IAS Academy – your next step

- **Courses:** TNPSC Group 1, 2 / 2A (Prelims + Mains), Group 4, UPSC / IAS, Bank, SSC, SI – Coimbatore · Madurai · Online – https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/fees
- **Books (PDF):** TNPSC PYQ books, UPSC books – https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/study-materials
- **More free PDFs:** https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/free-pdf-download · This page: https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/upsc-mains-practice/2026-11-14-cop31-climate-finance-gap

Admissions – call / WhatsApp: 99941 46662 · 99944 27714 · www.shanmugamiasacademy.in