



CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL DIPLOMACY

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INTRODUCTION

India's policy framework now includes climate change and environmental diplomacy as essential elements, especially when considering the Global South. India, one of the most populous and quickly developing countries in the world, must simultaneously manage the environmental effects of its economic expansion and meet its rising energy demands. The nation strikes a careful balance between promoting sustainable development and defending its national interests in its responses to climate change and environmental diplomacy.

India's participation in international conferences and accords demonstrates its commitment to combating climate change. India committed to lowering its emission intensity and raising the proportion of renewable energy in its overall energy mix when it ratified the Paris Agreement in 2015. This pledge is in line with the nation's initiatives to move to a low-carbon, more sustainable economy. But when it comes to climate negotiations, India frequently emphasizes the idea of "common but differentiated responsibilities," drawing attention to historical differences in carbon emissions between wealthy and developing countries.

Developing countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America collectively referred to as the "Global South" face similar obstacles in addressing climate change. These countries' environmental diplomacy seeks to promote cooperation by highlighting their particular vulnerabilities and the need for financial and technological support from richer nations. India, with its considerable

economic power and regional leadership, is an important member of this coalition.

One key aspect of India's environmental diplomacy is its push for technology transfer and financial assistance from developed nations. Recognizing that many Global South countries lack the resources to implement sustainable practices, India advocates for a more equitable distribution of green technologies and financial aid. This approach aims to bridge the gap in capabilities between nations, enabling comprehensive climate action across the Global South.

Furthermore, India's focus on climate justice is consistent with the belief that disadvantaged communities, which are typically situated in developing countries, are disproportionately affected by the effects of climate change.

In order to address issues related to climate change, this viewpoint emphasizes the necessity of international cooperation and solidarity. India continuously seeks policies that guarantee a just and equitable transition to a sustainable future and promotes inclusive solutions that take the socioeconomic realities of the Global South into account.

In India, the idea of "ecological diplomacy" has also become more popular when it comes to environmental concerns. This entails taking into account the cross-border connectivity of ecosystems and the shared accountability for safeguarding biodiversity. The population of India depends heavily on natural resources, which highlights the importance of diplomatic efforts to address cross-border environmental concerns. India also boasts a rich biodiversity.

India has undertaken several domestic projects aimed at addressing climate change and improving environmental sustainability. The nation's approach is laid out in the National Action Plan on Climate Change, which emphasizes topics including sustainable agriculture, energy efficiency, and renewable energy. India's commitment to a sustainable energy transition is evidenced by the ambitious objective of obtaining 40% of the installed electricity.

capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030. India is a pioneer in setting the agenda for the Global South, as seen by its participation in organizations like the G77 and BASIC (Brazil, South Africa, India, China). Through these channels, developing countries can speak with one voice and negotiate in

international fora on an equal basis with developed countries. India hopes to protect its interests and promote environmentally conscious policies globally through these kinds of partnerships.

India's strategy for addressing climate change and environmental diplomacy is a sophisticated one that strikes a compromise between domestic concerns and global obligations. India, a major force in the Global South, promotes fairness, climate justice, and inclusive solutions that tackle the particular problems faced by poor countries. India's diplomatic endeavours underscore the significance of cooperation, technological transfer, and monetary assistance in guaranteeing a sustainable and robust future for the country and the wider Global South.

A fascinating case study that illustrates the intricacies and difficulties faced by a fast-developing country in striking a balance between environmental concerns and economic expansion is India's involvement in combating climate change.

➤ **Mitigation Commitments:** India has voluntarily committed to large mitigation measures, even though traditionally it hasn't been accountable for the majority of greenhouse gas emissions. As part of the Paris Agreement, the nation committed to lowering its emission intensity from 2005 levels by 33–35% by 2030.

This pledge indicates that even while India's per capita emissions are still lower than those of many industrialized countries, it nonetheless recognises its need to support international efforts to slow down global warming.

➤ **Renewable Energy Transition:** India has become a global pioneer in the deployment of renewable energy. By 2022, the nation aims to achieve 175 GW of renewable energy capacity, which includes wind and solar power. This ambitious goal demonstrates the nation's dedication to sustainable growth. In addition to mitigating climate change, the move to renewable energy also helps India achieve its energy security objectives by lowering its reliance on imported fossil fuels.

➤ **Energy Access and Poverty Alleviation:** One of India's main challenges is striking a balance between the need to combat climate change and the country's desire for economic growth and poverty alleviation. The nation has placed a strong emphasis on the idea of "climate justice," contending that the

cost of taking action to combat climate change should be commensurate with past contributions.

India's emphasis on providing more energy access to its vast population, frequently using conventional but carbon-intensive methods, highlights the challenges of tackling both environmental issues and poverty at the same time.

CHAPTER–1 INTERNATIONALENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

India contributes to international efforts to address urgent environmental concerns by playing a significant and diverse role in International Environmental Governance (IEG). A number of important aspects of India's involvement in IEG become apparent when one looks at it closely, including technology transfer, biodiversity preservation, sustainable development objectives, climate change negotiations, and green diplomacy.

Climate change discussions are one of the key areas in which India actively participates in IEG. India, a country that is quickly developing and has a diversified and big population, must simultaneously address the effects of climate change and achieve its developmental goals. As a party to global accords such as the Paris Agreement, India has committed to certain goals for cutting its carbon intensity and raising the proportion of renewable energy in its overall energy mix. The nation's position in the climate talks demonstrates its dedication to the idea of "common but differentiated responsibilities," which emphasizes that although all countries have a duty to address climate change, developed countries—who have historically been the main producers of greenhouse gas emissions—should act more aggressively and assist developing countries.

India actively engages in a number of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) that address a variety of environmental challenges, in addition to climate change. These include agreements to prevent desertification, preserve biodiversity, and safeguard the ozone layer. India exhibits its dedication to international cooperation in addressing global environmental concerns by becoming a party to these accords.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) offer an additional framework that India uses to support IEG. Adopted by the United Nations, the

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) cover a wide range of topics, such as reducing poverty, promoting gender equality, providing access to clean and cheap energy, promoting responsible consumerism, and combating climate change. India recognizes the interdependence of the environmental, social, and economic facets of sustainable development and aligns its domestic policies accordingly.

In India, regional and bilateral collaboration is essential to the IEG strategy. To solve common issues, the nation actively participates in environmental diplomacy with its neighbours. Cooperation is required to address transboundary challenges like deforestation, biodiversity loss, and pollution of the air and water. India takes part in regional agreements and conferences that support collaboration in the management of natural resources, the preservation of ecosystems, and the handling of environmental emergencies.

Through a number of projects and interactions, India contributes significantly to international environmental governance (IEG). Among the crucial elements are:

➤ India is a party to multiple multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) that address concerns such as climate change, biodiversity conservation, and ozone depletion. It takes steps to fulfil its pledges and actively engages in talks.

Climate Change: India participates in international climate change negotiations as a significant developing nation. It has pledged to lower its carbon footprint and raise the proportion of renewable energy in its energy mix.

➤ **Bilateral and Regional Cooperation:** To solve common environmental concerns, India participates in regional conferences and bilateral environmental cooperation with neighbouring nations.

➤ **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** India aims to achieve the SDGs in areas such as affordable and clean energy, clean water, sanitation, responsible consumerism, and climate action.

➤ **Technology Transfer:** In order to improve environmental sustainability, India highlights the significance of technology transfer from developed to poor

nations. It participates actively in conversations about promoting the transfer of clean technologies.

➤ India uses "green diplomacy," or the promotion of ecologically friendly methods in international interactions. This includes initiatives to encourage sustainable development methods and lessen the usage of single-use plastic.

