

# India and Climate Diplomacy

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**Abstract** - Climate Change refers to the Rise in average surface temperature on Earth. It can be due to Natural phenomenon like volcanic eruptions but it has been exacerbated by Anthropogenic factors like burning of fossil fuels ,Industrial emissions and Vehicular emissions.According to Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) under the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) Human induced global warming of 1.1 degrees Celsius has spurred changes to the Earth's Climate that are unprecedented in recent human history. This study focus on India's Climate diplomacy and voicing the concerns of developing states.

**Keywords:** Climate,Developing nation,Disaster Diplomacy.

**Introduction** - In 1960s With the publishing of book 'Silent Spring ' by Richard Carson the impact of Human activities on spoiling the environment was taken into consideration. Then in early 1970's at Sweden's request , the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (UNCHE) was the first international meet on human impact on Environment. India's PM Indira Gandhi set the Development versus environment narrative back then by statement , "Are not poverty and Need the greatest polluters?" by which she meant that fraction of countries consuming the bulk of resources and causing greater Environmental Degradation. Climate Change first gained significant attention in 1988.United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)was adopted by various government representatives in May 1992 and came into force in 1994.Today it is the most widely supported international environmental agreement. Conference of The Parties are the gatherings held within the framework of The UNFCCC. The Ultimate objective of UNFCCC is to achieve stabilisation of GHG concentrations in the Atmosphere.The Kyoto protocol is an international treaty which extends the 1992 UNFCCC that commits state Parties to reduce greenhouse gases emissions. It was adopted in 1997 and came into force in 2005.The protocol is based on the Principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities" as the developed countries are responsible for the current high levels of GHG emissions in the Atmosphere as a result of more than 150 years of Industrial activity, the protocol placed heavier burden on developed nations.

India's push for cooperation on climate change has expanded beyond simply seeking a multilateral solution to organising the emerging powers,or newly industrialised countries of the developing world into a Coalition. India has

been a part of Three significant groupings -the Brazil,South Africa, India and China (BASIC) countries, the Brazil, Russia, India and China and South Africa (BRICS) and the Group of 77 (G-77) countries of Global South. BASIC was a key player at both Copenhagen and Paris Conference of the Parties (COPs) where India was recognised as a drafting author of the agreement. It led to adoption of Copenhagen Accord in 2009 at COP15 in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC).The Green Climate Fund (GCF) was established in Cancun Agreement and developed countries committed to a goal of mobilizing USD 100 billion per year by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries which still now have not been done.

The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate change adopted by 196 countries at UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP21) in Paris on 12 December 2015 and entered into force on 4 November 2016.The main goal of the accord is to limit global warming to below 2 degree Celsius and preferably limit it to 1.5 degree Celsius compared to pre- industrial levels. At COP 21 in Glasgow UK India called for " Phase down" of coal based power instead of phase down in accordance for energy demands to be met by developing nations like India to cater to demands of rising population.At COP 27 in 2022 at Sharm-el -sheikh ,Egypt India led Mangrove alliance for Climate (MAC) , In our LiFetime campaign with UNDP to encourage Youth to adopt sustainable lifestyle and make them Pro-Planet-People. Also Long- Term Low Emission Development Strategy was announced a roadmap to achieve net-Zero emissions by 2070.

During the Latest Cop 28 meet at UAE outcomes like First Global Stocktake to measure NDC's target and

agreement on operationalization of Loss and damage fund to provide financial help to countries trying to recover from climate -induced disasters. In his speech to COP28 PM modi said that India's global carbon emissions were just 4% despite having 17% of the global population.

As the world's third largest greenhouse gas emitting country, India is often criticised by the International community. However, it justifies itself by stating its low per capita emissions and low -historical emissions as compared to the developed world.

Institutions of Global Governance like WTO Have failed to cater to the developmental needs of the Global South when globalization has increased wealth inequalities and created undesirable dependencies. Through Institutions such as G20, International Solar alliance ,Indian ocean Rim Association (IORA) and Coalition for disaster resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), India is actively reconstructing the world order by offering sustainable solutions to challenges faced by humanity . In 2021 ,CDRI created the Infrastructure for the Resilient Island States (IRIS) initiative to cater to the infrastructural resilience of Small island Developing States (SIDS) like Fiji, Papua New Guinea etc. At its G20 presidency India inducted African union as a permanent member and once again voiced the concerns of Global South. India also launched The Global Biofuel Alliance to expediate the global uptake of Biofuels in line with the National Policy on biofuel with target of 20% ethanol blending by 2025.

India has always been the first responder whether it be Tsunami in Indonesia or the recent Earthquake in Turkiye. India is actively working to ensure maritime security and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific ,and the Indian Ocean region in particular which accounts for around 80% of maritime oil trade. In line with its Security and Growth for all in the Region (SAGAR) policy, India has established the Information Fusion Centre -Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) which provides real time information to its partners to ensure maritime security. Indian Navy frequently conducts anti-piracy operations in the region extending from gulf of Aden to Malacca Straits ,the latest being operations to save MV Lila Norfolk from Somali pirates. India is working with

countries like Bangladesh, Myanmar ,Srilanka etc. to boost blue economy By sustainably extracting ocean based resources in line with UNCLO's.

In 2015, India released its Nationally determined Contributions (NDC's) and they were revised in 2022 For instance to reduce the emission intensity of India's GDP by 45% by 2030. The targets are higher than before and accommodate the "Panchamrit"-goals presented by PM Modi at COP 26 to raise non-fossil fuel -based energy capacity of the country to 500GW by 2030 and to achieve Net zero emissions by the year 2070. PM Modi's global initiative to combat climate change - ' Lifestyle for the Environment (LIFE) Movement .

India has taken various initiatives at national level like PM-KUSUM ,PM-UJJWALA to deal with climate change. Efforts like International solar alliance aims to create a "One Sun ,One World ,One Grid initiative" at international level.

Since Independence, India has been consumed by its domestic priorities. Now with increasing integration with the World and a huge stake in global stability ,it is time to focus on the Global commons. India has a seat on the hightable to design and shape the rules for the governance of the global commons for instance The Indian Antarctic bill 2022 for conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources .

India has shifted from its earlier defensive, neo-colonial attitude on the matter of climate responsibility to a more proactive and cooperative internationalist approach in recent climate engagements.

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