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TODAY'S ANALYSIS

(13 April 2024)

TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- INDIA'S CLIMATE POLICY



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INDIA'S CLIMATE POLICY

THE BEGINNING

The **1990s** were a time of great change in India and the world, which led to the forging of new policies in many areas, including on the environment.

The **Rio Summit of 1992** saw the emergence of:

- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- The Convention on Biological Diversity.
- The Convention to combat Desertification.

After Rio, the **divisions of climate change and biodiversity** in India's then **Ministry of Environment and Forests** came to life slowly and steadily.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE?

Climate change has come to occupy centre-stage in our lives — **it is a truly global collective action challenge**. Climate change has been brought to a crisis stage by the excessive, **unsustainable production and consumption patterns of the developed countries**.

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- According to a study published in **The Lancet (Ref period: 1970-2017)**, the **United States and Europe** were responsible for **majority of global ecological damage** caused by the **overuse of natural resources**.
- The **US accounts for 27% of the world's excess material use**, followed by the **EU (25%)**. Other rich countries such as **Australia, Canada, Japan, and Saudi Arabia** were collectively responsible for **22%**.
- **High-income countries** with only **16% of the world's population** are responsible for **74% of excess resource use**.

WHAT IS THE SHARE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES?

Over the same period (1970-2017), **58 countries** representing **3.6 billion people** — including **India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Nigeria, and Bangladesh** — stayed within their sustainability limits.

China has **overshot its sustainability limit by 15%** of resource overuse.

While **India** is within the limits of its sustainability, the **high-income countries** must **reduce resource use by ~70%** from existing levels to reach the sustainability range.

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WHAT IS INDIA'S CLIMATE POLICY?

India's climate policy is based on **five major determinants**:

- Geography
- Population
- Impacts
- Worldview and
- Actions.

GEOGRAPHY



- The **Indian landmass has an area of 3.28 million sq km**, accounting for **2.4% of the world's geographical land surface area** and **4% of the world's freshwater resources**.
- India is the **seventh largest country** in the world.
- It is **one of the 17 mega-biodiverse countries**, having four biodiversity hotspots, 10 biogeographic zones, and 22 agro-biodiversity hotspots.
- India experiences **six different seasons**, and its **civilisation and economy have developed in harmony with this seasonal cycle**.

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In recent decades, **climate change has disrupted this harmony** by blurring the distinction between seasons, which has led to **increased unpredictability** and **negative consequences for nature and society.**

POPULATION

- India's **1.4 billion people** account for almost **one-sixth of humanity.**
- It is home to **7-8% of the world's recorded species**, with more than 45,500 species of plants and 91,000 species of animals documented so far.
- The **human to land ratio is very low** in India at **0.0021 sq km**, and is continuing to recede — we must learn to survive with this serious limitation, which requires understanding and an integrated management of land and water.

IMPACTS

The **Global Climate Risk Index 2020** prepared by **Germanwatch** puts India as the **fifth most affected country** in terms of experiencing extreme weather events, a sharp rise from its 14th position in 2017.

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The **World Bank report on the Impact of Climate Change on South Asia (2018)** predicts that rising temperatures and changing monsoon rainfall patterns could cost India **2.8% of its GDP** and depress the living standards of nearly half the country's population by 2050.

WORLDVIEW

Our worldview is **shaped by our ancestors** — of **living in harmony and consonance with nature.**

- The '**Prithvi Sukta**' says that the **Earth is our Mother**, and **sacred groves tell us that the idea of protection of nature and natural resources is seeped in our way of life.**
- **Gandhi's ideals of standing up for the last man, trusteeship, and the ability of the Earth to provide enough for everyone's need and not anyone's greed** represents a continuous strain of thought since time immemorial.
- The logo of the **(MoEFCC) — Nature Protects if She is Protected** — shows our reverence, respect for nature, and our focus towards conserving it.

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ACTIONS

Our actions are shaped by science, and are based on evidence and numbers. Despite having historical cumulative emissions of **less than 4% (1850-2019)** and **1.9 tonnes CO₂ per capita emissions**, India **has not dissuaded itself from taking resolute domestic and international actions** that benefit the planet.

- It has created international institutions like the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** to focus on the **transition to renewable energy**.
- India has **decoupled carbon emissions from economic growth**.
- It is one of the G20 countries that are on track to meet the **Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)** targets.

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INDCs SUBMITTED BY INDIA

- India submitted its INDCs as mandated by Paris Pact of 2015. (CoP 21 of UNFCCC).

Updated them in 2021 in CoP 26 in Glasgow.

INDCs submitted in 2015:

- To reduce **emissions intensity** of the economy (emission per unit of GDP) by **33-35% below 2005 levels**.
- To have **40% of installed electric power from non-fossil-based energy** resources by 2030.
- To create an additional carbon sink of 2.5-3 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (GtCO₂e) by 2030.

INDCs submitted in 2021:

- India will increase its **non-fossil fuel energy capacity** to **500 gigawatts (GW)** by **2030**.
- It will meet **50% of its energy req.** from **renewable sources** by **2030**.
- The total **projected carbon emissions** will be **reduced by 1 billion tonnes** from now through **2030**.
- The **emission intensity** of its economy will be **brought down to less than 45%**.
- Achieve its **target of net zero by 2070**.

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EVOLUTION OF INDIA'S CLIMATE POLICY

India's climate policy is **informed by its vision of inclusive growth** for all-round **economic and social development**, the **eradication of poverty**, **declining carbon budget**, **firm adherence to the foundational principles of the UNFCCC**, and climate-friendly lifestyles.

India's climate policy has always been **clear, consistent, and coordinated**.

India has been clear that the **problem of climate change is the result of overexploitation of natural resources by developed countries**. India has been a consistently **strong voice of the Global South**: the **CBDR-RC (Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities)** principle was developed largely through Indian interventions at the **Rio Summit, 1992**.

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

The **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) 2008**, with eight missions, has laid the ground for understanding climate change and acting on it. Thirty-four Indian states and Union Territories have prepared **State Action Plans on Climate Change (SAPCCs)** consistent with the objectives of NAPCC; it is coordinated as India's climate policy, and is not the preserve of any one Ministry or Department.

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More than **23 line Ministries at the Centre**, and similar stakeholders in the states take part in the decision-making process. Civil society is also an active participant. India's efforts to address climate change are immediate, ambitious, planned, and cover every sector of its economy.

National Action Plan on Climate Change

8 missions to address climate change concerns & promote sustainable development



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- India is a world leader in climate action today. It has added **two more 'C's** to its climate policy, that of **confidence and convenient action**, embracing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's slogan of '**Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayaas**'.
- India has reflected this confidence in building global institutions such as the ISA, the **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)** and the **Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)**.
- India, along with Sweden, heads 'The Leadership Group for Industry Transition'.
- With the '**Lifestyle for Environment (Mission LiFE)**' movement, India shows that convenient actions are the only way possible, and that India's sustainable lifestyles are the way forward.
- India's **long-term low emissions development strategy (LT LEDS)** to the UNFCCC showcases its belief in the multilateral process to achieve net zero by 2070.

India's road to 'net zero'

At COP-27, India announced its long-term strategy to transition to a 'low emissions' pathway to become carbon neutral by 2070

KEY MILESTONES

- The National Hydrogen Mission, launched in 2021, aims to make India a green hydrogen hub
- At least a three-fold increase in nuclear capacity by 2032
- Achieving an ethanol blending target of 20% by 2025
- Maximising the use of electric vehicles, increase public transport
- Increased climate finance to be provided by developed nations
- The long-term strategy aims at keeping global temperatures well below 2 degrees Celsius and, ambitiously, 1.5 degrees Celsius by the century-end

Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav at the COP-27 summit in Egypt on Monday. REUTERS

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- India's **solar energy capacity has increased by more than 26 times**, and **wind energy capacity has more than doubled in the last 10 years.**
 - It now has the **fourth largest installed capacity of wind**, and **fifth largest solar in the world**, achieving a **target of 40% installed electric capacity** from non-fossil fuels in November 2021, nine years ahead of schedule, and then increasing the target to 50%.

INDIA'S MESSAGE TO THE WORLD

India recognises that **development and environment are two sides of the same coin**, and must be **taken together for all-round holistic development.**

Unless the world truly believes in the age-old Indian ethos of '**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**' — **One Earth, One World And One Future** — we will be unable to solve a global collective action problem like climate change.

Our common vision that all of **Earth is but one family**, and empathy for all fellow species on Earth and reverence for nature is the only way to sustainability, choosing moderation over profligacy.

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MCQs

1. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?

1. India submitted its second set of INDCs in CoP 27 of UNFCCC.

2. India submitted its LT LEDS in CoP 26 of UNFCCC.

(A) Only 1

(B) Only 2

(C) Both 1 & 2

(D) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans. (D)

2. Which of the following is not classified as a mission under the National Action Plan on Climate Change?

(A) National Solar Mission

(B) National Mission on Enhanced Energy Efficiency.

(C) National Green Hydrogen Mission

(D) National Mission for a Green India

Ans. (C)

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3. **How many** of the following **statements is/are correct** wrt the second set of INDCs submitted by India?

1. India will increase its non-fossil fuel energy capacity to 500 gigawatts (GW) by 2030.
2. It will meet 40% of its energy req. From renewable sources by 2030.
3. The total projected carbon emissions will be reduced by 2 billion tonnes from now through 2030.
4. The emission intensity of its economy will be brought down to less than 33-35%.

- (A) Only 1 statement is correct
- (B) Only 2 statements are correct
- (C) Only 3 statements are correct
- (D) All the statements are correct

Ans. (A)

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4. Consider the following statements and mark the correct one:

1. The developed countries are more responsible for global warming than the developing countries.
2. China is world's largest emitter of CO₂.
3. In India, Excess Resource use is one of the drivers of global warming.

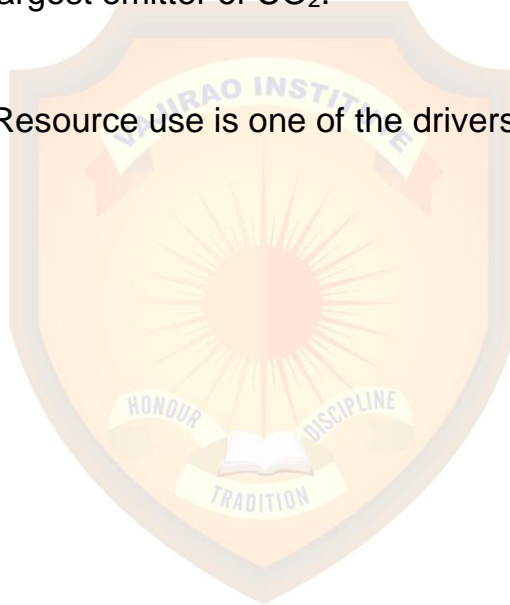
(A) Only 1 & 2

(B) Only 1 & 3

(C) Only 1

(D) All of the above

Ans. (A)



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