

ISSN : 2393-8358



Vol. 2, No. 3
June-July 2015

Interdisciplinary Journal of Contemporary Research

An International Refereed Research Journal

CONTENTS

→	<i>Abhishyanda</i> <i>Preeti Goud, Sushil kumar Tiwari & Dr. Pramod Kumar</i>	1-4
→	<i>Indian Arbitration Law and Enforcement of Award</i> <i>Mayank Pratap</i>	5-8
→	<i>Vocal Execution Techniques and Characteristics of Popular Khayal Gharanas</i> <i>Jaya Shahi</i>	9-12
→	<i>Multinationals and Human Rights</i> <i>Shiv Kumar Saroj</i>	13-14
→	<i>Customer Services in Life Insurance Sector</i> <i>Dr. Pramod Kumar Verma</i>	15-18
→	<i>Examining Development and Growth of Tourism in Ladakh</i> <i>Dr. Priyanka Singh</i>	19-24
→	<i>Female Juvenile: Law and Society</i> <i>Dr. Manish Kumar Rai</i>	25-30
→	<i>A Critical Reappraisal of Anticipatory Bail</i> <i>Rohini Kumar</i>	31-40
→	<i>Financial Mismanagement and the Austerity Measures: Critical Analysis of the Greek Debt Crisis</i> <i>Dr. Pratibha Rai & Dr. Anup K. Mishra</i>	41-50
→	<i>The Ramcharitmanas: Its Impact on the Mauritian Bhojpuri Culture</i> <i>Suresh Chandra Maurya</i>	51-54
→	<i>Impact of Declining Sex Ratio on the Economy of Some of the States of India</i> <i>Dr. Manisha A. Mehrotra</i>	55-62
→	<i>Alauddin Khilji's Espionage System and its Organisation</i> <i>Dr. Anjali Yadav</i>	63-66
→	<i>Trachoma</i> <i>Dr. Pramod Kumar</i>	67-70
→	<i>Dyeing of Wool Yarn using Onion Skin (Eco-Friendly Dye) with different Metallic Mordants</i> <i>Dr. Sangita Deodiyaa</i>	71-74
→	<i>Khajuraho : A Glorious History of Architecture</i> <i>Akhilesh Kumar Rai</i>	75-78
→	<i>Exploring India's Stand on Climate Change</i> <i>Amrita Jaiswal</i>	79-84
→	<i>Major Concern on the Declining Child Sex Ratio and its implication on the Economic Growth of India</i> <i>Dr. Manisha A. Mehrotra</i>	85-88

Exploring India's Stand on Climate Change

Amrita Jaiswal

Research Scholar, Department of Political Science, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi

Introduction

Climate change is emerging as a major global issue and perhaps the most serious environmental challenge which the human society has ever faced, particularly possessing difficult challenges for India. It is the increased concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, that act as the fundamental cause of climate change, and with the increase in the concentration of GHGs, the impact of climate change in the form of temperature changes, sea level rise, rise in frequency of extreme events such as floods, cyclones, typhoons and hurricanes, changes in precipitation, loss of species also keep on increasing. Its effect particularly on the developing nations is more adverse because of their limited capacity and resources to deal with the challenge. However climate change, possibly being the serious environmental challenge, need to be dealt with the collective action by all nations, but nations are far from 'united' while addressing and responding to the drastic consequences of climate change. Though, it is realized and there has been growing consensus among governments that aggressive climate change mitigation is desirable, but the world remains divided on the issue of how the associated burden should be shared. India has so far been opposed to joining an international climate mitigation treaty while defending its stand that aggressive mitigation would be desirable from a global perspective and it would like to join a climate treaty only if the terms are right, fair and just. India while arguing on the same line like other industrializing nations, is pleading for the stand that since the developing nations are not responsible for the environmental problem in the first place, henceforth the developed nations should take the lead in remedial action. India recognize the need for an alternative climate policy that stand for proactive action for climate change mitigation while ensuring that the developed nations do not pass on their burden to the global south, which would otherwise seriously restrict its development options in the process. The Present paper will discuss how India engages more constructively in global mitigation efforts and it will also highlight India's stand and critically analyses the initiatives undertaken by us to adhere with the issue of climate change. In this backdrop the paper is divided into three parts. Part one discusses India's vulnerability and response to climate change. The second part would elucidate India's stand on the climate change issue is based on what fundamental principles and third part of the paper would provide India's demands and critically analyses the initiatives undertaken by us to address the issue of climate change.

I

Climate change is expected to have adverse effect on India's development (Kapur & Mehta 2009: 36) and that's why climate change negotiations more than any others will also require India to think of the appropriate conceptual framework within which to conduct negotiation (ibid). India being the second largest populated nation has been ranked fifth largest contributor of the GHGs in the world (Sharma, 2014: 15). India is amongst the lowest per capita emitters of GHGs in the world (Kapur, 2009: 37). Report notes that India's per capita carbon emission (0.87 tonnes in 1994) was amongst the lowest in the world and only 23% of the world average (Dutt and Gaioli, 2007: 4249). Even it has been recognized widely that India's per capita emissions will not cross the Annex I countries and levels at any point in time (Kanitkar et.al. 2009: 36). Kapur 2009 also noted that it is well known fact that Indians are amongst the lowest per capita emitters of GHGs in the world, henceforth since, we emit only a small percentage of world emissions of greenhouse gases, so our direct influence on their concentration is small (Somanathan, 2009: 51). It is estimated that India emitted 908 million

tonnes of CO₂ in 1998, 4% of the world's total (UNEP, 2002 quoted in Gupta 2003: 4292) and the rate of growth of GHG emissions in India is 4.6% annually, compared to a 2% world average (Gupta, 2003: 4292). Beside this developing countries share (including India) is only about half and henceforth primary responsibility of emission reduction lies with the North (Parikh, 1994: 2940).

However India has strong reasons to be concerned about climate change, because vast population depends upon climate-sensitive sectors like agriculture and forestry, fishery for its livelihood (Gupta, 2005: 982). Notably, India like most of the developing nations is going to suffer greatly from the unchecked changes in climate and henceforth it is imperative for us to be concerned and responding genuinely on this climate issue. National Environment Policy 2006, outlines essential elements of India's response to climate change. These inter-alia, include adherence to principle of different countries and their specific regional and national development priorities, objective and circumstances. India undoubtedly played its part by participating in global negotiations. India is signatory to many international treaties in matters of environment. It has been party to United Nations on Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) since 1992 and ratified it in 1993. Indian negotiators submitted a detailed recommendation on the architecture for transfer and diffusion of technologies under the UNFCCC from developed countries to the developing world for the first time. And nearly in all conference, convened till now for addressing environmental issue, that is from Kyoto till Durban, Doha and Warsaw India is proactively showing its concern both nationally as well internationally. India felt that environment is a matter of Common Concern as any damage to it affects us all (Heptulla, 2003: xi), henceforth the need is to avoid any confrontation on the issue of climate change and instead forge a global partnership which simultaneously seeks to protect the environment while addressing the development needs of the developing nations.

It is worldwide felt that developing countries are greatly vulnerable to the impact of climate variability and change especially when compared to developed nations (Panda, 2009: 105); and this is because of the low income level of most citizens in the developing countries which ultimately constrain their ability to cope. In addition to this poor infrastructure facility, weak institutional mechanisms, lack of financial resource and vast sectoral and regional variability adversely affect the adaptive capacity of the country to climate change (Gupta, 2005: 982). Even IPCC argues that developing nations are most vulnerable to climate change because of their lack of institutional capacity to cope. Poorer nations and the poorest within them will be the worst hit by climate change. And that's why very often it is felt that fundamental inequality is always at the heart of the climate change issue as those who have contributed minimal in climate change, will bear the real brunt of it. And change is predicted to have severe impact on India as while the climate change will wreak havoc on countries like India, it is expected to have middle effects on industrialized countries and those in the northern hemisphere, countries in Europe, North America and northern Asia have more temperate climates that will be overwhelmed by warming only in the long-term. Parikh, 1994, outlined that generally speaking poor are always more vulnerable to any calamity compared to well-off. For instance, in earthquake that happened at Latur in India, more than 10,000 people dies compared to less than hundred in the earthquake of similar intensity in California. Nearly half of Bangladesh was expected to submerge as a consequence to increased floods and sea level rise, increasing poverty and homelessness. Contrary to this Netherlands was expected to build more dikes, for protection against sea level rise, Bangladesh cannot do the same (Parikh, 1994: 2941).

The economic cost of climate change for India is quite excessive; agriculture which contributed nearly 30% of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) would be greatly impacted. The Indian Agriculture Research Institute estimates that with every 1 degree Celsius rise in global temperature, India will lose four or five million tonnes in wheat production (Padukone,

2010: 47). Thus the impact of climate change greatly affects the poorest countries and like other developing nations India is more vulnerable to climate change than the U.S, China, Russia (Dutt & Gaioli, 2007: 4240). This is because developing countries like India have less resources to counter the impact of climate change and also because they are often heavily dependent on agriculture. Henceforth it is in our interest to help achieve a comprehensive agreement since it is particularly vulnerable to climate change. However, though India moves ahead in recognizing the need for the large developing nations in particular to contribute strongly to climate change mitigation, it must also ensure that Annex I countries do not pass on their burden to the global south and ultimately seriously restricting its development options in the process (Kanitkar, et.al. 2009: 35).

II

India's policies on climate change are those of a relatively poor developing nation, which aimed to focus intently on domestic economic growth and which perceived the developed world, particularly the west, as the responsible cause for climate change and henceforth they should take initiative in addressing the aforementioned issue of climate change. India's stand on this issue is based on the following fundamental principles.

First principle is that the developing nations of the *global south have a right to development*. The industrializing nation should not be compelled to sacrifice their development. India's position was based on the principle that every human being has an equal right to the global atmospheric resource. However, the costs of climate change should be borne by those who can afford to bear them, namely the developed nations (Harris, 2003: 13), instead of pressurizing the developing nations to become the part of the binding commitment.

Second Principle of India emphasizes the *historical responsibility of the industrialized countries*. Historical responsibility corresponds to the rule that wrong doers should carry the can (Sachs, 2007: 186). The developed nations are responsible for the largest share of historical and current greenhouse gases that are threatening the earth today. However, developing nations like India have recently started industrializing and contributed relatively little to the aggregate level of carbon emissions. Thus countries like ours should not be asked to sacrifice their present development for the global commons. Given differentiated responsibilities, any legitimate climate mitigation initiatives should be just, equitable and secure developing countries' growth patterns. To that end, India has held out on any compromises on emissions caps until a just agreement is met. India felt that "polluter pays" principle should prevail and each state should undertake to reduce emissions by an amount proportional to its historical contribution to climate change.

Third principle is based on *Equity*. India stands on the point that those responsible for environmental degradation should also be responsible for taking corrective action/measures. It argue on the line that industrialized nations with high per capita emissions of greenhouse gases are responsible for incremental global warming, since they were the ultimate cause for the present increase level emissions, henceforth the corresponding obligation to take corrective action also lies with them. Even, these developed nations have the greatest capacity to bear the burden (Dubash, 2012: 89). These Northern nation even posses the financial resources and technology needed for corrective action which further reinforces their obligations regarding this. But reality is quite different as the developed world aimed at shifting the responsibilities of tackling climate change to the developing world as they sought to minimize or ignore the link between responsibility for causing climate change and the burden of addressing the problem (ibid). And they called upon developing nations to accept some form of a binding mitigation commitment.

Contrary to this developing nations fear that participation in emissions trade will amount to accepting some sort of emissions ceiling on their part (Toman, 2004: 2). Most of the southern nation, particularly India and China felt that the problem of climate change has been

created in the first place by the industrialized countries and therefore they are the one who should reduce their emissions, no matter how, before the developing nations can consider accepting on ceiling.

Thus the ultimate solution to this problem might indeed be in reaching an agreement on some equity principle that could lead to some well-defined pollution rights or entitlement for each country (ibid). The industrializing nations may not prefer to enter emissions trade until such trade is institutionalized first among the developed nations and a competitive price of emissions reduction is established, which can then be used as a benchmark by the developing countries (ibid).

Notably, India's strategy on climate change seems to insist on equity as a basis for sharing the right to emit GHGs and the burden imposed by climate change mitigation should be borne by the industrialized nations (Joshi & Patel, 2009: 71) and these advanced nations should shoulder the costs of climate mitigation and the climate-related redistribution from developed world to the developing nations would actually reach and benefit poor people in developing nations despite some leakage along the way (ibid). Thus India's climate policy must be founded on the development needs of the majority of its population and the needs of India's future development. Keeping this point in view while addressing India's concern, as also those of the developing nations to the largest summit of its kind, the then Prime Minister of India, Sri P.V. Narasimha Rao stated that "*We cannot have conservation of the environment without the promise of development, even as we cannot have sustained development without the preservation of the environment*" (emphasis added) (Heptulla, 1993: xi). It is clear from the above stated statement that India has always been in support of not only sustained production but also sustained consumption patterns which would help to attain environment free from any strain and stress and help to achieve the goals of higher economic development (Gupta, 2005: 982). Nevertheless our efforts towards economic development have always been guided by the principles of sustainable development, with a commitment to a greener environment (ibid).

III

On the basis of the above mentioned study, India's stand and the demand it put forward on the climate change issue can be studied under following point.

- (1) ***The developed world must lead*** and the initiative should be taken by them in addressing the challenge of climate change. While recognizing this stand India recognizes the proactive action for climate change mitigation while ensuring that the developed nations do not pass on their burden to the global south, which would otherwise seriously restrict its development options in the process (Kanithar et al. 2009: 35). But it is clear that developed nations avoided adaptation issue because acknowledging culpability on this issue may lead to demand for the solution of other global problems, such as poverty, health and human right violation. However at the core of the politics of adaptation funding is the reality that even though the developing nations have contributed almost nothing to cause climate change but then also they are the first one to experience the worse impact of the climate change.
- (2) Secondly India is concerned towards ***growth-inclined position on climate change*** which appears to be legitimate (Padukone, 2009). Since we belong to the developing countries, we are facing the formidable tasks of not only preserving the environment but at the same time promoting development because we firmly believe that without development the minimum and basic needs of the people cannot be met (Heptulla, 1993: xi) and in this context it was rightly said by our late P.M Smt Indira Gandhi that "Poverty is the greatest cause of pollution in the developing countries. Henceforth the agenda before these developing nations including India is to firstly address this problem. Due to this India is having this outlook that international outcomes should not jeopardize our development prospects.

However, India always kept the attitude of joining any treaty only when the ground is of fair basis and think of the appropriate conceptual framework within which to conduct negotiations. India is concerned about getting fair compensation for its sink projects, ensuring real transfer of technology from the developed nations to the developing world (Parikh, 1994: 192). However the ultimate goal of transfer of technology should be to enhance the capabilities of developing countries so that they can assess their needs, select one, and import, adapt and then develop the appropriate technologies at home to improve, built capacities and export them. India has demanded and asked rich countries to contribute 0.5% of their gross Domestic Product (GDP) towards an adaptation fund for the poor countries. There is a broad consensus in India that the country should focus on adaptation, preferably with money and technologies from the west, whose emissions are the root cause of the problem (Kapur et.al 2009: 34).

- (3) One crucial thing which need to be given due attention is that India at this stage of growth and development cannot agree to a *legally binding agreement* for emissions reduction. Nevertheless our emissions are bound to grow as we have to ensure our social and economic development and fulfill the imperative of poverty eradication. Even though India is asking for the "*common but Differentiated Responsibility*" but it does not fail to recognize no responsibilities at all, rather it believe in the respective capabilities of the nations, where the developed nations have both capabilities as well resources and at the same time they are in a position to lead in the process towards adhering the issue of climate change. However in this sense India has played an extremely constructive role both for India and as the voice of the developing world.
- (4) Finally India endorses the idea that environment is a matter of *Common Concern* and any damage to it affects us all (Heptulla, 1993: xi). We are committed to address the problem and issue of climate change through enhanced international cooperative actions of all nations developed and developing nations together. India firmly believes that climate change is possibly the most serious environmental challenge which the human society is facing at present era and for this global cooperative action is imperative. Though sometime it has been said that India's stand, like most of the developing nations on climate negotiations has been largely negative as India has so far been opposed to joining an international climate mitigation treaty and take an internationally agreed binding target (Joshi & Patel, 2009: 71). But it is in India's interest to achieve a comprehensive agreement since it is particularly vulnerable to climate change. Today the nations need to get 'united' while responding to the issue of climate change, at the same time North should lead in the issue while not shifting the adaptation burden on the south and at the same time providing environmental space for south while considering the need of the future generation to grow and develop. To these end we need to recognize some concrete initial steps to enable just and lasting solutions to the climate crises for developing nations, the countries whose interest are most essential on this issue and the most unlikely to be met (Ciplets, Roberts & Khan, 2013: 49). Thus India stand on the point that though developed nations have both capability of supporting adaptation actions and who have been most responsible for climate change have failed to recognize their obligations. Despite recognizing the responsibilities, and having clear language in the convention about wealthy countries responsibility to provide adequate funding to industrializing nations to adapt to climate change, there remains a wide gap between funds needed and those promised and delivered. The inadequacy in funding levels contributes to tensions between developing nations over who should have priority to access scare resources. This threatens to disrupt decades of the solidarity among actors in the global south essential to finding leverage in the negotiations.

Conclusion

Thus as the industrialized nations become more serious on the climate change, action on mitigation efforts will form a crucial part of India's continues successful international relations with these countries. It is evidently clear that India will be one of the worst sufferers of the consequences of drastic climate changes and henceforth it galvanized the attention of the people of the countries and making the government to feel the need to take active part in the global response to climate change. India though insist quite correctly, on the historic and contemporary responsibility of the advanced industrial nations in mitigating the consequences and effects of climate change, but India policy has not been up to the mark and officially speaking it failed to recognize its role, as part of the emerging economies, in keeping global concentrations of GHGs within limits that would limit the impacts on global society and basically on the most vulnerable of the world, many of whom are Indians. Thus, climate change will and does impact upon virtually every aspect of life in our country, something that is virtually important for our country both internationally and in our relationships with rest of the world and further world at large.

References :

1. Ciplet, D., Robert, J.T., Khan, M., 2013, The Politics of International Climate Adaptation Funding: Justice and Divisions in the Greenhouse, *Global Environmental Politics*, Vol. 13, No. 1, pp. 49-68.
2. Dubash, K.N., 2012, *Handbook of Climate Change and India, Development, Politics and Governance*, (New Delhi: Oxford University Press).
3. Dutt, G. & Gaioli, F., 2008, Negotiations and Agreements on Climate Change at Bali, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 43, No. 3, pp. 11-13.
4. Dutt, G., & Gaioli, F., 2007, Coping with Climate change, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 42, No. 42, pp. 4239-4250.
5. Gupta, S., 2002, Dittering on Climate Change, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 37, No. 52, pp. 5073-5076.
6. Gupta, S., 2003, Inaction on Climate Change: Follow the Leader? *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 38, No. 49, pp. 5141-5142.
7. Gupta, V., 2005, Climate Change and Domestic Mitigation Efforts, *Economic and Political Weekly*, pp. 981-987.
8. Heptulla, P., 1993, *Environmental Protection in Developing countries*, (New Delhi: Oxford University Press).
9. Joshi, V., & Patel, U. R., 2009, India and Carbon Deal, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 44, No. 31, pp 71-77.
10. Kanitkar, T., Jayaraman, T., D'Souza, M., Purkayastha, P., Raghunandan, D., Talwar, R., 2009, How Much 'Carbon Space' Do We Have? Physical Constraints on India's Climate Policy and Its Implications, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. XLIV, No. 41, pp. 36-46.
11. Kapur, D., Khoshla, R., & Mehta, P. B., 2009, Climate Change: India's Options, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. XLIV, No. 31, pp. 34-42.
12. Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, 2012, India Second National Commission to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, New Delhi.
13. Padukone, N., 2009, Climate Change in India: Forgotten Threats, Forgotten Opportunities, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. XLV, No. 22, pp. 47-54.
14. Panda, A., 2009, Assessing Vulnerability to Climate Change in India, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 44, No. 16, pp. 105-107.
15. Parikh, J., 1994, North-South Issue on Climate Change, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 29, No. 45/46, pp. 2940-2943.
16. Somanathan, E., & Somanathan, R., 2009, Climate Change: Challenges Facing India's Poor, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. XLIV, No. 31, pp. 51-58.
17. Toman, A.M., Chakravorty, U., & Gupta, S., 2003, *India and Global Climate Change: Perspectives on Economics and Policy from a Developing Country*, (New Delhi: Oxford University).

