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Paris Climate change Agreement – India

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India recently ratified the Paris Agreement on Oct 2, 2016 – a landmark pact which calls on countries to combat climate change and limit global temp rise to well below 2 °C

Paris Agreement is an agreement within the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) dealing with greenhouse gases (GHGs) emissions mitigation, adaptation and finance starting in the year 2020.

UNFCC defines climate change as a change in climate attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of global atmosphere.

The major characteristics of climate change include rise in global temp, icecap melting, changing in percipitation, increase in ocean temp. leading to sea level rise.

The efforts needed to address climate change include mitigating GHG emission one one hand, and building adaptive capacities on the other. India is committed to the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol, which represents the intern'l consensus on the ways to deal with climate change.

The Paris climate conference brought into sharp focus the hazards of runaway climate change. India announced its new climate plan, also known as its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC). India accounts for 4% of global cumulative energy-related emission since 1850 and is highly vulnerable to impacts of climate change

Initiatives taken by India to deal with Climate change:

India is committed to invest in tackling climate while addressing poverty, food security and access to healthcare and eduⁿ.

- India launched an International Solar Alliance (ISA) at the COP21 conference. ISA's vision and mission is to take solar from the

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lab (or rich world markets) ~~to streets~~ (developing country)

- India's INDC targets on its goal of installing 175 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2022, out of this, 100 GW has been allocated to Solar and 60 GW to Wind.

- It has set a new targets to increase its share of non-fossil fuel-based energy from 30% today to 40% by 2030 and committed to reduce its emissions intensity per unit GDP by 33 to 35% below 2005 by 2030

- It has committed to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO_2 through additional tree cover.

- In this fiscal year, \$1.27 billion was transferred to the National Clean Energy Fund (NCEF) through collection of coal cess.

Challenges Before India :

Under India's Constitution, climate action is the mandate of states and Union territories. ~~States have developed~~ ac with new national goals on climate change as per INDC, the State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC) would need to refit ~~the~~ to address the new commitments.

India's plan to reach the INDC needs to be strongly gender equitable and community based.

The way to improve mitigation and adaptation is to optimise the resources. As it moves into the implementation phase for meeting commitments, tied up funds have to be released in the budget.

India needs to strongly push for climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) in order to have improved capacity in generating good adaptation action plans

INDC lacks of clarity on emissions intensity in the base year (2005) and target year (2030), as well as the scope and coverage of the intensity target and methodologies for measuring it.

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INDC would require additional support through domestic and intern'l funds. ~~decis~~ It is estimated that the country would need $206 billion during 2015-2030 with additional investment needed for disaster management.
It is reported that the accelerated warming of Arctic and the Antarctic could trigger catastrophic climate changes.

Climate change, like democracy itself, requires vigilance and participation by both state and non-state actors.
India will also have to look at state capacities towards mitigation action and thus workout inter-state financial and technology transfer to assist the socio-economically backward state

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