



A STUDY OF INDIA'S DIPLOMACY REGARDING THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE RIO TO PARIS CONFERENCE

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Abstract

The U.N. convened a conference on the Man and Environment (Human Environment) in Stockholm 1972. It included environmental concerns in the domain of International Diplomacy and created ways for global environmental cooperation. Prime Minister of India, then Indira Gandhi, initiated India's environmental diplomacy by addressing the conference and drawing attention to the link between the environment and development, stating that "the environment cannot be improved in conditions of poverty." The UN World Commission on Environment and Development in 1983. It shaped its report as 'Our Common Future' was published in 1987. India's diplomacy was shaped by its foreign policy, which shifted from the ideological foundation of non-alignment, global justice, and ethics towards the pragmatic approach of liberalization in 1991 under the leadership of P.V. Narasimha Rao. The United Nations took steps to organize the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development at Rio de Janeiro in 1992, also known as the "Earth Summit." It adopted the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda-21. India participated in the negotiation to adopt UNFCCC; India continuously highlighted issues relating to equity, past accountabilities, and per capita emission as the basis for a differentiated approach to the collective arrangements being considered. India accepted the norms and values of the Kyoto Protocol 1997 and U.N. SDGs. India took steps to change the name of the Environment Ministry to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in 2015. At COP-21 in Paris 2015, India upgraded its official policies on climate change negotiations—taking a more proactive approach to a global

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challenge that puts millions of its citizens at risk—and placed itself in a leadership role. This paper will analyze the terms and conditions of the Rio to Paris conferences to consider India's diplomacy regarding the environment and sustainable development.

Keywords: Diplomacy, Environment, Sustainable development, Rio Conference, Paris Conferences

Introduction

Human beings have been the intellectual animals on this planet since time immemorial. The evolution of human beings depended on the natural environment, and he learned to struggle for survival in a dynamic environment with changing needs (Shepard, 1998). Human beings also experienced natural disasters that occurred in the past, which pressured modern civilization to properly survive without exploitation properly, harming and hurting the environment and natural resources.

India geographically lies in the South Asian region, with an acute fear of natural calamities and environmental problems (Farmer, 2025). India emphasized the basic needs for the proper survival of people and quality of living without the over-exploitation of natural resources and the environment. Therefore, India has also incorporated several provisions in its constitution regarding the environment and development (Verma & Pandey, 2024). The Foreign Policy of India is a part of the Indian constitution, which is also determined by several factors like diplomacy, environment, economic development, geography, etc. Diplomacy is the framework for influencing relations with other foreign states to negotiate different problems, such as environmental and sustainable development (Bandyopadhyaya, 2003).

The industrial revolution emerged as the main factor for exploiting natural resources and environmental deviation. It highlighted international concerns regarding protecting and preserving the environment and development. For the first time, the United Nations convened a conference on Man and Environment (Human Environment) in Stockholm in 1972 (Handl, 2012). It emphasized environmental concerns in the domain of International Diplomacy. 1983, the United Nations Secretary-General appointed the World Commission on Environment and Development. It shaped its report titled "Our Common Future," published in 1987 (Borowy, 2013). The information sought to maintain an equilibrium between the environment and human well-being and reconciled economic development with environmental protection. It led to the promotion of the concept of the environment and sustainable development.

The United Nations took a step to conduct a conference on Environment and Development in Rio De Janeiro in 1992, which is titled the "Earth Summit" (Grubb et al., 2019). It adopted the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda-21. It reinforced diverse ways to generate economic growth and address the overriding priority of development for developing countries without disturbing the environment. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) were legal instruments of the Earth Summit, which framed common principles in UNFCCC but differentiated

the responsibilities and capabilities of its ratifying states. India participated in the negotiations to adopt (UNFCCC) (Bodansky, 1993).

In 1997, due to the uncertain functioning of UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol, an international agreement, was set up and came into effect in 2005. It has been linked to UNFCCCs and has brought developing countries closer to the ambit of greenhouse gas reduction by making it attractive to them with the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) proposal (Dirix et al., 2016). India shifted its stand to accept the Clean Development Mechanism based on the report of the expert government group on the Kyoto Protocol Mechanism. It launched a joint statement between India and the USA in March 2000, highlighting this shift in cooperation on Energy and the Environment (Addaney, 2017).

The United Nations General Assembly committed to adopting the 8-Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in September 2000 (Sadrudin, 2013). India also became one of the 189 signatory countries; there was a timeline to achieve the target by 2015. The United Nations General Assembly reaffirmed its commitment to eliminate extreme poverty and hunger, promote environmental sustainability, and make relations with other states for development. It appealed to the member countries to make efforts in the fight against poverty, illiteracy, hunger, and environmental degradation (Assembly, 2015).

India shaped its domestic diplomacy to tackle environmental deterioration challenges by declaring the “National Action Plan on Climate Change” (NAPCC) adopted on June 30, 2008. It has incorporated India's vision of ecologically sustainable development (Singh et al., 2021). It has mentioned 8 National Missions for sustainable development, such as the fragile mountain environment and industry. India appointed Jairam Ramesh as the new energetic Environment Minister under the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh. India committed to negotiating with Bangladesh to protect the Sundarbans from environmental degradation and proposed an Indo-Bangladesh Eco system forum in 2010 (Ramesh, 2015).

Environmental regulations in India are considered the backbone of environmental diplomacy. Several countries are enhancing their investment in India's “Green Economy” and other projects. In India, the Judiciary is a crucial figure in environmental governance. Indian government formed the “National Green Tribunal” under the “National Green Tribunal Act” 2010 (Patra & Krishna, 2015). India changed the name of the environment minister to the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in 2015. At the Conference of Parties (COP-21) in Paris in 2015, India upgraded its official policies on Climate Change negotiations, taking a more proactive approach to global challenges that put millions of its citizens at risk and placed itself in a leadership role (Saryal, 2018). The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, has a keen interest in the problems of the environment and development, and India agreed to adopt a more proactive, ambitious, and forward-looking approach in the run-up to the “Paris Climate Summit” (Raghunandan, 2019). It is shown in countries' “Intended Nationally Determined Commitments” (INDCs) and made links to India's commitment to ecologically sustainable economic development with its age-old civilizational values of respecting Nature, incorporating a sense of inter-generational equity and shared humanity (Gao et al., 2019). India has also initiated a new

“International Solar Alliance” system to enhance solar power worldwide, which emerged to help the environment and sustainable development (Rajawat, 2019).

The United Nations General Assembly framed 17 new Sustainable Development Goals during the Paris Climate Conference 2015 and designed the target-achieving period by 2030. India has ratified the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (Griffiths, 2021). The research paper seeks to determine the effects of the Earth Summit on India's diplomacy and the role of the Paris Climate Conference on India's Diplomacy regarding the environment and sustainable development.

The Concept of Environment

The environment is characterized as the planet's inheritance and all its resources. It comprises all biotic and abiotic variables that interact with one another. Although all living things, including birds, animals, plants, forests, and fisheries, are biotic components, abiotic elements include air, water, and land. Abiotic features of the environment also include rocks and sunshine. The analysis of the environment necessitates an examination of the interrelationship between these biotic and abiotic environmental components. Mahatma Gandhi referred to E.F. Schumacher-“Small is Beautiful-” and stated, "Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need, but not every man's greed" (Ishii, 2001).

People frequently discuss the environment and significant issues, conservation, and preservation. Some have spoken about sustainable development, but the essential thing to note is the concept of the environment and everything it encompasses. The environment is the setting in which one lives, or in other words, an individual's atmosphere. Our surroundings are referred to as our environment. The question is whether our surroundings comprise nonliving things or living things. Looking at this question, the environment includes artificial and natural objects and consists of living and non-living things. In February-, 1968, William H. Stewart stated in his “Environmental Science and Technology”- that “the truly healthy environment is not merely safe but stimulating” (Djalilevna, 2023). The US President, Ronald Reagan, highlighted the environment as “preservation of our environment is not a liberal or conservative challenge; it's common sense” (Troy, 2009).

The Concept of Sustainable Development

With globalization, the economic development of several emerging economies, such as India, is spreading. Yet, the deterioration of the environment is a significant problem. Fundamental human rights, such as economic development, have been included in sustainable development. The notion of Sustainable Development has been interpreted as development that satisfies the demands of the present without compromising future generations' capacity to fulfill their own needs. It has two main ideas: “the idea of needs, especially the most important needs of the world's poor, which should be given the highest priority,” and “the idea that the state of technology and social organization limits the ability of the environment to meet present and future needs.” This definition was generated from the “Brundtland Report” issued by the “World Commission on Environment and Development” in 1987 titled “Our Common Future.” The words “development” and “environmental preservation” are interchangeable in the natural world because one cannot exist

without the other (Borowy, 2013). The development should take care of environmental protection by developing a concept that strikes a balance with methods to deliver the product without causing damage to the environment. The manufacturing industry in India is just beginning to pick up steam, which bodes well for the country's future social and economic progress (Allen, 2011). Degradation of the natural environment has been brought on by the excessive extraction of natural resources to satisfy industry requirements.

Sustainable Development is socioeconomic development that fulfills the demands of the present without compromising future generations' capacity to satisfy their own needs. It is an ideology that balances economic development, social development, and environmental protection. Sustainable development is determined by economic growth that does not deplete natural resources. Sustainable development, as an idea, is concerned with how progress may be made without compromising the environment. Baylis and Smith define sustainable development as "economic and social development that meets the needs of the present without hurting the ability of future generations to meet their own needs; programs that keep the right balance between economic development, social development, and environmental protection" (Baylis et al., 2020). This is a controversial idea in real life because different political, economic, social, and environmental groups have other ideas about what it means.

Economic and societal growth while maintaining sustainability is a hallmark of sustainable development. This new development does not deplete the country's existing resources. According to Abraham, sustainable development "is characterized by economic and social growth that does not exhaust the resources of a host country; that respects and safeguards the economic, cultural, and natural environment; that involves grass-roots participation and builds Indigenous institutions, and that is nurtured by policies and programs that are environmentally friendly" (Abraham, 2015). Investing in human capital, such as education, food, health, and overall well-being, can promote sustainable development. Sustainable development is a pattern of development in which resources are utilized in such a way that it satisfies the needs of human beings while also preserving the environment. This ensures that these requirements are met in the here and now and for future generations.

Review of literature

Menon (2021) asserted that India has consistently advocated for significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by industrialized countries based on their historical responsibility for high emissions levels. This position has remained unchanged since the Paris Summit on Climate Change 2015. **Dasgupta (2011)** mentioned that during the 1991 negotiations, India enthusiastically claimed that high levels of greenhouse gas emissions per person were the cause of the problem and that developed nations were to blame for the gradual increase in global warming. India also reaffirmed its insistence on using the equity principle as the benchmark for evaluating any proposal. **Dubash and Rajamani (2015)** defined that after the 1992 UNFCCC negotiations, India successfully developed its position by advocating for the interests of developing countries. This led to changes in the IPCC's concept of "common responsibilities" among nations, which was replaced with the idea

of "common but differentiated responsibilities." As a result, India played a significant role in incorporating the environmental concerns of developing countries into the legal framework of the UNFCCC. **Dubash and Rajamani (2015)** stated that an analysis of the development of India's climate diplomacy highlighted three stages: the initial years of negotiations, negotiating international pressure to secure increased commitments from developing countries during the 2009 Copenhagen negotiations, and the resolution at the 2015 Paris Climate Accord. However, several topographical and ecological difficulties have recently increased India's security vulnerabilities, making its Sustainable Development Diplomacy and Climate Diplomacy—two of the main tools of multi-level governance architectonics—more problematic. **Hall (2019)** described it as a treaty-bound intergovernmental organization in the modern era; Narendra Modi played a vital role in the official unveiling of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) at the 2015 Paris Climate Summit. The ISA is a conglomerate of nation-states that prioritizes information sharing while funding significant solar power projects in nations situated between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. **Shrivastava (2021)** elaborated that in the wake of the 2012 and 2013 negotiations in Durban, Doha, and Warsaw, India has successfully forged alliances with numerous countries with disparate interests, including China, members of OPEC, and the Bolivarian Alliance (ALBA), to drive the establishment of the Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDCs) and preserve uniqueness within the current climate regime. **Mohan (2017)** ascertained that India's role in global climate politics has evolved from establishing the United Nations Framework Conventions on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 to the Conference of Parties (COP) 21 in Paris in 2015. The country aims for profound convergences, multi-alignment, and strategic autonomy. **Sengupta (2011)**, along with the Kyoto Protocol and its related climate negotiations since 1997, India has been instrumental in defending the concept of differentiated responsibility by assembling a "Green Group" of 72 nation-states to support a legally binding protocol, so promoting the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), which lets developing countries like India sell emission credits while underlining significant greenhouse gas reduction projects.

India's Diplomacy from Rio to Paris Conferences

Diplomacy is the art of dealing with people sensitively and tactfully. Henry Kissinger, the US former Secretary of State, stated that "Diplomacy is adapting differences through negotiations." Another reputed scholar, George Kennan, said, "Diplomacy is the communication process among governments." Diplomacy is the primary instrument of foreign policy in India. Indian Diplomacy was reflected in the statement of Indira Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India, who initiated India's environmental diplomacy in addressing the conference by drawing attention to the link between environment and development that "the environment cannot be improved in conditions of poverty."

There are five categories of global concerns and public diplomacy for global public goods: environmental, health, knowledge, peace and security, and governance. It appeals to a larger audience. India's diplomacy regarding the environment and sustainable development was highlighted after the "Stockholm Conference" on the "Human Environment" in 1972. The "United

Nations General Assembly” conference was based on two significant approaches to the environment and development. The initial approach of the meeting was formulated as the first strategy focused on limiting people's activity, which would involve limiting pollution and protecting the environment. This strategy focused on what individuals could do at their best. The exploitation of resources is occurring at an alarming rate, so controlling pollution may require essential individual efforts, such as maintaining disposable habits, or it may involve anything that could be too basic and involve any action on a personal effort to improve the environment. This may take a very long time. Instead of concentrating on each environmental problem separately, the second strategy focuses on economic and social development. We can conclude from the second strategy that it unequivocally prioritizes economic and social well-being as its crucial goal rather than the environment. This means that these approaches inspired India as, individually or collectively, the countries attempted to grow so that the current unsustainable pace of resource extraction was slightly reduced. The conference was a turning point in Indian international relations because 114 countries attended and negotiated the Stockholm Declaration, consenting to the principles and action plan.

After this conference, in 1972, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was established during a meeting called “UNEP Session of a Special Character: Ten Years after Stockholm” in Nairobi (Nirupama, 2020). Air, acid rain, and soil are major environmental issues that have not been sufficiently addressed. In 1983, the United Nations Secretary-General established the World Commission on Environment and Development. In 1987, the report titled “Our Common Future” was issued. It tried to sort out the problems of balance between human and environmental well-being. It balanced economic growth with environmental conservation. It led to the promotion of the sustainable environment and development paradigm. It is also characterized as growth that fulfills existing requirements without sacrificing future generations' capacity to satisfy their needs. In 1991, under the congress leadership of P.V. Narasimha Rao, then the Prime Minister of India, India's foreign policy switched from the intellectual underpinning of Non-Alignment, Global Justice, or Ethics to the pragmatic approach of liberalization, which influenced India's diplomacy. Indian diplomacy was intellectually founded in the Earth Summit at Rio de Janeiro; it was based on the report “Global Warming in an Unequal World” prepared by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), New Delhi (Agarwal & Narain, 2012). The report's findings indicated that developed countries were responsible for most environmental deterioration and created the narrative of “historical responsibility.” Moreover, propositions like a criterion for fixing the responsibility of Green House Gas (GHG) emissions should be historical rather than current emissions flows. The report propounded the right to development and the right to eliminate poverty. During the early days of the UNFCCC, India has been one of the greatest proponents of a per capita approach to GHG emission reductions. It has advocated for the notion of equal access to carbon space on a global scale.

In 1992, the United Nations convened the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, popularly called the Earth Summit. It approved the agenda-21, the environmental action plan, and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. The report's

findings reaffirmed the need to find environmentally sustainable approaches to boost economic growth in emerging nations. In addition to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was also opened for signing at Rio. Although the UNFCCC's guiding principles were universal, its member states' obligations and resources varied widely. When negotiating for the passage of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), India consistently raised concerns about equality, historical accountability, and per capita emission as the foundation for a nuanced approach to the collective arrangements under consideration. The principles of fairness, justice, and equality, upon which the distinction between developed and developing nations in accountability and capacity is made, are valid now when the agreement is reached at the international level. The Rio Declaration includes 27 principles intended to steer the country's actions towards a more environmentally friendly development pattern. It was done to develop a new and equitable global partnership by establishing new levels of cooperation between governments, significant sectors of society, and the country's people. They focused more on functioning towards international accords that admire the interests of everyone, safeguard the integrity of the global environmental and development system, and acknowledge the autonomous and intrinsic character of our home, Earth. India is a developing country participating in the Rio Summit to tackle the environment and development.

Agenda 21 is a significant program explored at the “United Nations Conference” on the “Environment and Sustainable Development.” “Agenda 21” is one of the most considerable closing documents from the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) conference. This conference sought to provide a worldwide assessment of environmental and development concerns and to generate policy recommendations for addressing these two significant global issues. One of the concluding documents of the conference is Agenda 21, an ambitious policy agenda for international sustainable development with four divisions and forty chapters. There is a constant change to the Agenda 21 programs. This program is entirely voluntary. Agenda 21 is a blueprint for local, national, regional, and international change that will lead to sustainable development in the 21st century. According to UNCED Secretary-General Maurice Strong, Agenda 21 is the most comprehensive and far-reaching action plan ever agreed upon by the international community. The agenda places a strong focus on global cooperation to achieve the objective of sustainable development. It gets the world ready for any problems the future generation may encounter. It deals with the issues of the present. It demonstrates a high-level political commitment and a global development and environmental cooperation agreement (Board, 1992).

India has negotiated a strategy through effective global coalitional diplomacy to deal with several facets of the “United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change” (UNFCCC), such as the Preamble, Commitments, Principles, Sources and Sinks, Targets and Timetable, Joint Implementation and Mechanism and Technology Transfer. India insisted on mentioning historical responsibility and differential treatment of developing countries in the third paragraph of the preamble. It also included the per capita emission of the developing countries and the principle of common but differential responsibilities; nevertheless, the CBDR was undermined by developed countries by claiming that developing countries' GHG emissions will steadily rise (Boyte, 2010).

Controversy over the right to development presented by developing countries was incorporated into the principles, but developed countries offered modifications to reflect environmental concerns. The notion of sovereignty was also included in the preamble at the request of developing nations. The absence of the concept of financial assistance and technology transfer to developing nations in the preamble was a significant setback for developing countries. India believed that the public commitment to national planning and its international evaluation should not cover the design of strategies, as this was a subject of state sovereignty over which the convention should not intervene. India urged that "new and extra resources" be made available to assist developing countries in implementing the specified climate change mitigation measures.

The "Conference of Parties" (CoP) is the supreme decision-making body of the "UNFCCC." In 1995, the first CoP was held in Berlin. India independently presented its proposal, which members of various groups supported. India prepared the first draft decision on the adequacy of commitments at the first CoP- Berlin Conference (1995) and placed exclusive accountability for climate action on nations included in Annex 1 of the convention; the proposal was known as the Green Paper, and the group was known as the Green Group. According to the Green Paper, developed nations should reduce their CO₂ emissions by 20% during the following ten years. The second CoP was held in Geneva in 1996, where developing countries, including India, presented their draft decision that demanded the CoP explain funding requirements from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to implement the UNFCCC. In the new legal component, India urged the implementation of UNFCCC provisions relating to state-of-the-art environmentally friendly technology (EST). India also restated its opposition to the notion of carbon trading, claiming that it is extraneous to the Berlin Mandate and would not result in GHG emissions restriction and reduction. India pointed out that trading should be based on equally distributed entitlements (Oberthur & Ott, 1995).

The developed countries were only partially satisfied with the "United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change." Yet, it was helpful for underdeveloped countries to recognize the need for economic development and to cut down on 'greenhouse gas emissions' to create a sustainable environment. Eventually, the UNFCCCs founded the Kyoto Protocol. This international agreement negotiation was developed in 1997, came into force in 2005, and binds its Parties by establishing legally binding carbon reduction objectives. Making the Clean Development Mechanism appealing to them, it drew developing nations closer to the scope of GHG reduction (CDM). Initially, Indian diplomats were hesitant to accept the Clean Development Mechanism. Still, based on a report by a government expert committee on the Kyoto Protocol mechanism, this stance was modified. India shifted its perspective towards accepting CDM.

In March 2000, India and the United States issued a joint statement highlighting this shift in "Cooperation on Energy and Environment" by emphasizing the need to develop clean energy and calling for cleaner, energy-efficient technologies. In September 2000, the "United Nations General Assembly" agreed to adopt eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). India, too, joined the group of 189 signatory nations. The deadline for achieving the objective was 2015. "The United Nations General Assembly" reaffirmed its commitment to the right to security, peace, development,

and gender equality, eliminating several facets of poverty and 'global sustainable development.' They are designed to encourage Member States to combat poverty, illiteracy, hunger, a lack of education, gender inequality, newborn and maternal mortality, illness, and environmental degradation. India prepared its First Country Report on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which details its successes, problems, and policies regarding the objectives and targets. It demonstrates that the lives of the country's citizens have significantly improved over the last year. The United Nations-sponsored two global summits – the "Rio Conference" on "Environment and Development" in 1992 and the "Johannesburg Global Summit" on "Sustainable Development" in 2002 -that encouraged governments to partner with NGOs and private industry to make a bold commitment to applying Sustainable Development principles in all areas where humans have an impact on the environment (Carr & Norman, 2008).

Indian Government designed its diplomacy at the domestic level to cater to challenges of environmental deterioration by announcing the "National Action Plan on Climate Change" adopted on June 30, 2008. It incorporates India's "Vision of Ecologically Sustainable Development." NAPCC included "the 8 "National Mission for the Sustainable Environment," such as water, industry, energy, agriculture, forests, urban spaces, and the fragile mountain environment. India had strategically shifted from dependence on fossil fuels to economic development practiced progressively on renewable energy sources like solar energy and cleaner sources like nuclear energy. It would aid in advancing India's energy security and lessening the Climate Change menace. Consequently, a co-benefit approach forms the basis of India's Climate Change strategy.

India is expected to yield outcomes under the UNFCCC based on the principles of "Common but Differentiated Responsibility and Respective Capabilities," which will allow developing countries like India to advance their transition to a renewable and clean energy future through international financial assistance and technology transfer. India stands on the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities since the beginning of a negotiation. It opened the way to evolve at COP-15 to the UNFCCC in Copenhagen in 2009 when India accepted "voluntary commitments" to reduce carbon emission intensity. India pledged a 20–25 % cut in emission intensity of its gross domestic product (GDP) by 2020 compared to 2005. There was pressure on growing economies like India, China, Brazil, and South Africa to withdraw from the Kyoto exemptions for developing nations. The developing economies banded together to establish the BASIC group. Previously, in 2007, at the Bali Conference of Parties, India consented that developing countries' participation in climate change diminishes voluntarily based on their capacities (Burleson, 2008). The first-time significant change in India's position was indicated at COP-15th in Copenhagen; Former Environment and Forests Minister Jairam Ramesh recommended to Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh that India withdraw from the G-77 and make emission reduction pledges "under a fresh accord without any counter-guarantee of funding and technology." India appointed Jairam Ramesh as the new energetic Environment Minister under the Prime Minister of Dr Manmohan Singh. India negotiated with Bangladesh to protect Sundarbans from Environmental deterioration and initiated the "Indo-Bangladesh Sundarbans Eco-System Forum" in 2010. Jairam Ramesh said, "Environmental diplomacy and environmental cooperation can often be

triggers for enhancing broader regional cooperation.” Environmental regulations in India are considered the backbone of environmental diplomacy. Most countries have increased their investment in India's “Green Economy” and other Projects. In India, the judicial system plays a vital role in environmental policymaking. This is even though, according to the “National Green Tribunal Act” of 2010, the government of India has established a “National Green Tribunal” “for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources, including enforcement of any legal right relating to the environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property and for matters connected in addition to that or incidental.”

In 2010, at COP-16, Jairam Ramesh, Environment Minister, launched the statement that “all countries ought to take on legally binding commitments under an appropriate legal form.” During the last plenary of COP-16 in Cancun, the President of the Conference of the Parties specifically thanked India for its leadership role in negotiating concessions on the topic of transparency, which received universal praise (Vihma 2011). Moreover, the minister disregarded India's long-standing demand for equitable access to global atmospheric resources per person in favor of “equitable access to sustainable development,” which was ultimately incorporated into the Cancun Agreement (UNFCCC, 2010). COP-17 in Durban, India, gave up additional ground on its traditional position when it signed the Durban Accord, or more accurately, the Durban Plan for Enhanced Action, which superseded the Bali Action Plan and further blurred the line between developed and developing countries. A dramatic turn in climate change negotiations favored the OECD's position. Even though developed countries have failed to do what they could to comply with the obligations accruing out of the Kyoto Protocol, the CBD, historical emissions, development priority principles, and international technology transfer and financial support were not even mentioned in the action plan. With its newly acquired image as a rising power, India did not wish to limit itself to Third World discourse and sought to broaden its fulcrum to accommodate its new global ambitions. India appointed new Environment Minister Jayanthi Natarajan, who led India's delegation in an attempt to rectify the country's climate policy shift and resorted to conventional arguments. In Durban, India was known as a deal mediator due to its refusal to ratify a legally binding framework that included developed and developing nations.

COP-18 at Doha in December 2012, “The Doha Amendment” for the reduction of greenhouse gases was adopted in Qatar in December 2012; India could not ratify the “First Commitment Period” from 2008 to 2012 under “Kyoto Protocol,” but the “Second Commitment Period” of the “Kyoto Protocol” was approved by India which was started from January 2013 to December 2018. At COP-19 in Warsaw in 2013, India argued again that equity is a right that cannot be taken away (Netzer, 2012). However, the equity rhetoric continues to be a sham, and India is likely to accept formal obligations if others agree. For the first time, in 2014, at CoP-20 in Lima, the notion of “Nationally Determined commitments” evolved into the ultimate form of “Intended Nationally Determined Contributions” endorsed by governments. All countries must submit INDCs describing their intentions for climate action by 2030. On October 2, 2015, India's “Intended

Nationally Determined Contributions” (INDCs) were introduced to the “UN Framework Convention on Climate Change” (UNFCCC).

The new government led by Prime Minister Modi continued India's agenda-setting negotiation strategy at the 2015 CoP in Paris. On CoP 21-Paris, Indian Minister Javadekar stated that the CBDR principle had been applied to all pillars of climate action, including finance, adaptation, mitigation, capacity building, technology, and transparency. India has approved the ‘Conference of Parties’ final text (COP 21). It establishes a legally enforceable 2-degree Celsius goal for temperature rise on the planet. The Minister stated that the document addressed every issue brought up by the Indian delegation—2015 (Down to Earth). India also revealed its intention to launch the “International Solar Alliance” as a different energy source.

In 2015, India started moves to rename the "Environment Ministry" the "Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change." During COP-21 in Paris in 2015, India changed its formal policy on climate change negotiation, taking a more proactive approach to a global crisis that threatens millions of its residents and establishing itself as a leader. Together with 195 other countries, it pledged to reduce carbon emissions, shift to renewable energy sources, and invest in green energy technologies. In December 2015, 195 nations ratified a treaty to slow global warming. Governments were bound to hold global temperatures below two degrees above the pre-industrial level and keep the rise in temperature to no more than 2 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial average. The accord also included the landmark decision to curb greenhouse gas emissions at levels the earth's soil, vegetation, and water systems can absorb. According to climate experts, the deal will result in "net zero emissions" between 2050 and 2100.

The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, is keenly interested in environmental and development problems. Under his leadership, in anticipation of the Paris Climate Conference, India took a more aggressive, ambitious, and futuristic stance. It is shown in the country's INDCs. It incorporates a feeling of intergenerational equality and shared humanity and connects India's commitment to environmentally sustainable development with its ancient civilizational principles of appreciating Nature. India also ratified the 17 “Sustainable Development Goals” set by the United Nations in 2015 and designated an achieving period by 2030. India has also adopted 17 “Sustainable Development Goals” (SDGs) established by the United Nations at the Paris Conference in 2015, achieving a target by 2030. These “Sustainable Development Goals” will actively maintain the live concept of “Environment and Sustainable Development.”

India can provide further stability and peace through environmental cooperation and sustainable development. In the future, India must prioritize climate change while implementing its foreign policy. India would take advantage of climate change diplomacy in a variety of ways. The impact of climate change on strategic decisions should be considered, in addition to its effects on the environment and economy. Many nations in the Indo-Pacific area have recently witnessed numerous floods, cyclones, and tsunamis. The southern region of India and Sri Lanka was affected by one of the deadliest tsunamis in 2004. These natural calamities also hamper naval activities. It is crucial to address the issue of climate change as India places a greater emphasis on the marine sector since it directly impacts India's strategic interests in the Indo-Pacific.

Conclusion

India is a developing country with sufficient natural resources for its growth and development. Environment is another phenomenon for providing suitable conditions for growth and development. Humans are intellectual animals who process natural resources to fulfill their needs, which badly affects the environment and depletes natural resources. It compelled human beings to rethink their process of exploiting natural resources and preserving them for future generations. It also forced the world's people to face natural calamities because they disturb the environment and deplete natural resources. However, the world's people organized a conference on the human environment in 1972 in Stockholm that pressed the need for the environment for human beings on this green planet, "the Earth." It brought the issue of the environment to the stage of the world forum of the United Nations, where debate and discussion were held in proper ways. It emphasized the environmental concern in the human and ecological conference (Human Environment) domain. In 1983, a new World Commission on Environment and Development came into existence to highlight the concern for the environment and development and published a report titled "Our Common Future" in 1987. It demanded an equilibrium between humans and the environment and reconciled economic growth with environmental protection.

United Nations proposed a conference on the Environment and Development in Rio De Janeiro 1992, the "Earth Summit." Earth Summit evolved two legal instruments: the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). It proposed common principles but differentiated the responsibilities and capabilities of its ratifying states. India was committed to playing a vital role in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In 1997, the Kyoto Protocol, that international agreement, was propounded due to the inactiveness of the UNFCCCs and attached to the UNFCCCs. Developing countries came together on the issue of the reduction of greenhouse gases with the help of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). It compelled India to change its stand on Clean Development Mechanism due to the committee's expert report. A joint announcement between India and the USA in March 2000 highlighted the shift in energy and environmental cooperation.

The United National General Assembly adopted eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in September 2000; India became one of the 189 signatory countries, which would be achieved by 2015. On June 30, 2008, the Indian Government proposed a National Action Plan on Climate Change to shape its vision for ecologically sustainable development. In 2010, the National Green Tribunal Act was formulated. In 2015, there was a change in the name of the environmental ministry to the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. In the 2015 Paris Conference, India actively engaged with the environment and sustainable development. India committed to adopting 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which will be achieved by 2030. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the International Solar Alliance in Paris, effectively reducing dependency on exploiting natural resources and affecting the environment.

This paper analyses the effect of the Earth Summit on India's diplomacy regarding the environment and sustainable development. There was a need for an environmentally sustainable

approach to augment economic growth in developing nations. India's diplomacy raised concerns about per capita emissions, equality, and historical accountability during the passage of the UNFCCC. Effects of Earth Summit distinguished between India's and developed countries' accountability and capacity based on fairness, equality, and justice principles. Agenda 21 is essential to the Earth Summit, which evolved at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development. It sought environmental and development concerns to generate policy recommendations highlighting two critical global issues. Agenda 21 is a significant blueprint for local, regional, national, and international change that will pave the way for sustainable development. India's diplomacy is voluntarily concerned about Agenda 21 for the environment and sustainable development.

In 2015, CoP-21 was held in Paris, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the conference on climate change and approved the final text (CoP-21). It set a target for a legal-based 2-degree Celsius goal temperature rise on the Earth. India voluntarily committed to reducing the temperature by 2 degrees Celsius by announcing the International Solar Alliances. In 2015, India replaced the name of its Ministry of the Environment with the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change. India followed a proactive approach in its policy to global crises that disturbed the lives of millions of its inhabitants and staged itself as a leader. Paris Conference changed India's policy regarding environment and sustainable development by signing with 195 countries that pledged to decrease carbon emissions, change to renewable energy sources, and invest in green energy technologies. This conference also changed India's policy to curb 2-degree Celsius temperature by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and the deal will result in Net Zero emissions between 2050 and 2100. India also ratified 17 Sustainable Development Goals, which the United Nations set up at the Paris Conference. Finally, India has been committed to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The Indian government actively frames its policies regarding the environment and sustainable development.

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