



## PAPER I

### NEWS – CLIMATE CHANGE MEASURES – DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

**"Climate Change Challenges: Evaluating the International and India's Response".**

#### **Issues of Mitigation and Adaptation as Stated in Kyoto and Paris Summits**

The Kyoto Protocol, adopted in 1997, marked a significant global effort to address climate change by setting binding emission reduction targets for developed countries. It emphasized mitigation efforts to limit global temperature rise to below 2 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels. However, it faced criticism for not including developing nations, exempt from binding targets due to their lower historical emissions.

In contrast, the Paris Agreement of 2015 aimed to achieve a more inclusive and ambitious framework. It recognized the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, allowing each country to set its non-binding emission reduction targets (Nationally Determined Contributions, or NDCs). The agreement emphasized mitigation and adaptation, reflecting a shift towards broader global participation in combating climate change.

#### **Difference in Commitment Between Developed and Developing Countries**

Developed countries, historically responsible for the majority of greenhouse gas emissions, have generally committed to more stringent emission reduction targets under international agreements. However, many have struggled to meet these targets, with emissions often continuing to rise or decrease minimally.

In contrast, developing countries, while contributing less to historical emissions, face increasing pressure to adopt climate-friendly policies without adequate financial and technological support.

This disparity in commitments underscores the inequities within the international climate regime, where developing countries argue for greater support and recognition of their development imperatives alongside climate action.

#### **Significance of the International Climate Framework**

The international climate framework plays a crucial role in setting global priorities and standards for climate action. It provides a platform for cooperation, negotiation, and resource mobilization among countries with diverse socioeconomic contexts and environmental challenges.

The framework's effectiveness is measured not only by its ability to achieve emission reduction goals but also by its capacity to promote sustainable development and resilience to climate impacts worldwide.



## Indian Economic Survey Approach

The Indian Economic Survey – 2023 - 24 has critiqued the existing international climate architecture, highlighting its flaws and inequities. It argues for a balanced approach that prioritizes adaptation alongside mitigation, particularly emphasizing the need to improve livelihoods and resilience in the face of inevitable climate impacts.

The Survey suggests that the focus on stringent temperature targets like 1.5 or 2 degrees Celsius may divert attention and resources from more immediate developmental needs, especially in developing countries.

## Relevance to India

India's approach to climate change reflects its dual challenge of rapid economic growth and vulnerability to climate impacts. The country has committed to ambitious targets under the Paris Agreement, including reducing emission intensity and increasing renewable energy capacity. However, like many developing nations, India faces challenges in implementing these commitments due to financial constraints and technological dependencies.

The Economic Survey's perspective resonates with India's policy discourse, advocating for sustainable development pathways that integrate climate resilience into infrastructure, urban planning, and resource management strategies.

## India's Measures and Climate Change Commitments

India's climate change strategy includes initiatives like the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), which emphasizes adaptation, mitigation, and sustainable development. Key measures include promoting renewable energy, enhancing energy efficiency, afforestation programs, and climate-resilient infrastructure development. The country's efforts also emphasize behavioral and lifestyle changes to reduce carbon footprints, although these initiatives are still evolving into mass movements.

In conclusion, while international frameworks like the Kyoto and Paris agreements set important benchmarks for global climate action, their effectiveness hinges on addressing the disparities between developed and developing countries.

India's stance, as stated in the Economic Survey, underscores the need for a realistic approach that balances climate commitments with developmental imperatives, aiming for sustainable and equitable growth in the face of climate change challenges.

## Main Practice Questions

**1. Evaluate the effectiveness of the international climate frameworks established by the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. Discuss the key differences between the two in terms of their approach to mitigation and adaptation, and analyze their impact on developed and developing countries.**



**2. Discuss the key arguments presented in the Indian Economic Survey – 2023-24 regarding the current international climate framework and its implications for developing countries. How does the Survey suggest addressing these challenges, and what are the potential benefits and limitations of its proposed approach?**

## Answers

**1. Evaluate the effectiveness of the international climate frameworks established by the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. Discuss the key differences between the two in terms of their approach to mitigation and adaptation, and analyze their impact on developed and developing countries.**

### Answer:

**Introduction :** The Kyoto Protocol (1997) and the Paris Agreement (2015) represent two pivotal efforts in international climate governance, each with distinct approaches to mitigation and adaptation.

The Kyoto Protocol introduced binding emission reduction targets primarily for developed countries, reflecting the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities" by exempting developing nations from mandatory targets due to their historical lower emissions.

**Core :** However, its effectiveness was limited by non-participation from major emitters like the United States and the lack of binding commitments for developing countries.

In contrast, the Paris Agreement sought a more inclusive framework, allowing countries to set their own non-binding targets (Nationally Determined Contributions, or NDCs). It emphasized both mitigation and adaptation, recognizing the need for universal participation. Despite its ambition, the Agreement's reliance on voluntary targets has faced criticism for insufficient ambition and accountability.

Developed countries, historically responsible for the majority of emissions, were expected to lead in mitigation efforts. However, many have struggled to meet their targets, with emissions continuing to rise. Developing countries, while less historically responsible, face pressures to adopt climate-friendly policies and seek financial and technological support from the developed world.

**Conclusion:** The impact on both sets of countries highlights the inherent inequities in the frameworks, with developing nations often bearing the brunt of climate impacts without proportional support or capacity-building, while developed countries struggle with commitment and implementation challenges.

**2. Discuss the key arguments presented in the Indian Economic Survey regarding the current international climate framework and its implications for developing countries. How does the Survey suggest addressing these challenges, and what are the potential benefits and limitations of its proposed approach?**



## Answer:

**Introduction :** The Indian Economic Survey critically examines the international climate framework, highlighting its flaws and inequities. It argues that the current focus on stringent temperature targets, such as the 1.5 or 2 degrees Celsius thresholds, imposes undue pressure on developing countries.

**Core :** These nations are often forced to prioritize emission reductions over immediate developmental needs, which can hinder their economic progress and social well-being.

The Survey suggests that adaptation should receive equal, if not greater, emphasis alongside mitigation. It proposes that improving livelihoods and enhancing resilience to climate impacts are crucial for developing countries, especially as the 1.5-degree target appears increasingly unattainable. This approach advocates for prioritizing rapid development and adaptation to better protect vulnerable populations from climate-related risks.

The proposed approach offers several benefits. It acknowledges the reality of current climate impacts and the need for sustainable development that balances growth with resilience. By focusing on adaptation, it addresses the immediate needs of communities facing climate vulnerabilities.

However, there are limitations. The effectiveness of adaptation alone may be insufficient if climate impacts intensify beyond manageable levels. Additionally, the approach requires substantial resources and infrastructure improvements, which may not be feasible for all developing countries. The approach also necessitates a shift in global climate finance and support mechanisms to ensure equitable and effective implementation.

**Conclusion :** Despite of existing challenges in approach, it is an mandated imperative to take mitigation measures for the Human Welfare.