



CLIMATIC CHANGES AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN INDIAN CONTEXT

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ABSTRACT Climate change is disturbing the natural and ecosystems and is expected to have substantial adverse effects in India, mainly on agriculture (on which 58% of the population still depends for livelihood), water storage in Himalayan glaciated which are the source of major rivers and groundwater recharge, sea-level rise, and threats to a long coastline and habitations. Climate change will also cause increased frequency of extreme event such as floods and droughts. These in turn will impact India's food security problems and water security. As per the Second National Communication submitted by India to the UNSFCC, it is projected that the annual mean surface air temperature rise by the end of the century ranges from 3.5^oC to 4.3^oC, where as the sea level along the Indian coast has been rising at the rate of about 1.3 mm/year an average. These climate change projections are likely to impact human health, agriculture, water resources, natural ecosystems and biodiversity. Concerned of the threats imposed by climate change and pressures on natural resources, sustainability & environment are increasingly taking centre stage in the Indian policy domain. India has been part of 94 multilateral environmental agreements. India has also voluntarily agreed to reduce its emission intensity of its GDP by 20-25% over 2005 levels by 2020 & emissions from the agriculture sector would not form part of the assessment of its emissions intensity. Indian economy is already moving along a lower carbon and sustainable path in terms of declining carbon intensity of its GDP which is expected to fall further through lower carbon strategies. It is estimated that india's per capita emission in 2031 will still be lower than the global per capita emission in 2005 (in 2031, India's per capita GHG emissions will be under 4 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂ eq.) which is lower than the global per capita emissions of 4.22 tonnes of CO₂ eq, in 2005).

KEYWORD: Sustainable: जीवन धारण करने योग्य, Climate: जलवायु, Change: परिवर्तन, Crop: फसल, Food: खाद्य, Security: सुरक्षा
