



INDIA AGREEMENTS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

INDIA RATIFIES PARIS CLIMATE DEAL AT UN

- India is the **62nd country** to ratify the agreement and accounts for **4.1%** of the **emissions**.
- Ratified on **147th birth anniversary** of **Mahatma Gandhi**, also observed as the **International Day of Nonviolence** by UN.

SECOND COMMITMENT PERIOD (2013-2020) OF THE KYOTO PROTOCOL

Recently the Union Cabinet had approved the ratification of the second commitment period (2013-2020) of the Kyoto Protocol on containing the **Emission of Greenhouse Gases**.



Importance of this Ratification

- In view of the critical role played by India in securing international consensus on **Climate Change** issues, this decision further underlines India's leadership in the comity of nations committed to global cause of environmental protection and climate justice.
- Ratification of the **Kyoto Protocol** by India will encourage other developing countries also to undertake this exercise.
- Implementation of **Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)** projects under this commitment period in accordance with Sustainable Development priorities will attract some investments in India as well.

What is Second Commitment Period

Kyoto Protocol was adopted in **1997** and the **1st Commitment Period** was from **2008-2012**. At Doha in 2012, the amendments to Kyoto Protocol for the **2nd Commitment Period** (the Doha Amendment) were successfully adopted for the period **2013-2020**.

This period **Bridges** the gap between the end of the **1st Kyoto Period** and the **Start Of The New Global Agreement** in **2020**. In this period, the **EU**, some other **European countries** and **Australia** have agreed to make **Further Emissions Cuts**.

Difference between 1st Commitment Period and 2nd Commitment Period

01 Commitment Period 2008-2012	02 Commitment Period 2013-2020
During the 1 st commitment period, 37 Industrialized Countries and the European Community committed to reduce GHG emissions to an average of 5% against 1990 levels.	During the 2 nd commitment period, Parties committed to reduce GHG emissions by at least 18% below 1990 levels in the 8-year period from 2013-2020 ; however, the composition of Parties in the second commitment period is different from the first.

Importance of Second Commitment Period

A recent **UN Environment Programme Report** reveals that **Global Emissions** have continued to **Rise** despite some signs of **Emissions From Fossil Fuels** and **Industries Stabilizing**.

What is Emissions Gap?

Emissions gap is the **Difference Between The Emissions Levels** in **2020** necessary to meet climate targets, and the levels expected that year if countries fulfill their promises to cut greenhouse gases.

So, the emissions gap reveals how much more needs to be done by countries in order to meet the target of keeping **Global Warming Levels** below the **2°C** safe limit as agreed in the Paris climate accord last year.

Significance of the Finding

The Report shows that the INDCs, even if fully implemented, would only help the world in staying below an **Increase** in temperature of **3.2°C by 2100**, and this would have **Disastrous Consequences** for the **Climate**.

The report has therefore emphasised on pre-2020 action by countries. According to it, raising ambition before **2020** is likely the **Last Chance** to keep the option of **Limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C**.

About Kyoto Protocol

The Kyoto Protocol was adopted in Kyoto, Japan, on 11 December 1997 and entered into Force on 16 February 2005 .	The Detailed Rules for the implementation of the Protocol were adopted at COP 7 in Marrakesh, Morocco , in 2001 , and are referred to as the " Marrakesh Accords ." Its first commitment period started in 2008 and ended in 2012 .	The Protocol was developed under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change UNFCCC	The participating countries have ratified the Kyoto Protocol and committed to cutting the emissions of the Green House Gasses such as Methane (CH₄), Nitrous oxide (N₂O), Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), Perfluorocarbons (PFCs), Sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆) and carbon dioxide(CO₂).
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Classification of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol

Annex I

Parties to the UNFCCC listed in Annex I of the Convention. These are the industrialized (developed) countries and "economies in transition" (EITs). EITs are the former centrally-planned (Soviet) economies of Russia and Eastern Europe. The European Union-15 (EU-15) is also an Annex I Party.

Annex II

Parties to the UNFCCC listed in Annex II of the Convention. Annex II Parties are made up of members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Annex II Parties are required to provide financial resources to enable developing countries in reducing their greenhouse gas emissions (climate change mitigation) and manage the impacts of climate change (climate change adaptation)

Annex B

Parties listed in Annex B of the Kyoto Protocol are Annex I Parties with first or second round Kyoto greenhouse gas emissions targets.

Non-Annex I

Parties to the UNFCCC not listed in Annex I of the Convention are mostly low-income developing countries. Developing countries may volunteer to become Annex I countries when they are sufficiently developed.

Least-Developed Countries (LDCs)

49 Parties are LDCs, and are given special status under the treaty in view of their limited capacity to adapt to the effects of climate change.

Classification of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol

Mechanisms To Stimulate Green Investment

Emission Trading: Emissions Trading-mechanism allows parties to the **Kyoto Protocol** to buy 'Kyoto units' (emission permits for **Greenhouse Gas**) from other countries to help meet their domestic emission reduction targets.

Clean Development Mechanism (CDM): Countries can meet their domestic emission reduction targets by buying **Greenhouse Gas** reduction units from (projects in) non Annex I countries to the **Kyoto protocol**.

Joint Implementation: Any Annex I country can invest in emission reduction projects (referred to as "Joint Implementation Projects") in any other Annex I country as an alternative to **Reducing Emissions Domestically**.

INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE (ISA)

Objectives

- Promote **Solar Technologies** and **Investment** in the solar sector to enhance income generation for the poor and global environment.
- Formulate projects and programme to promote **Solar Applications**.
- Develop innovative **Financial Mechanisms** to reduce cost of capital.
- Build a common Knowledge **e-Portal**.
- Facilitate capacity building for promotion and absorption of **Solar Technologies** and R&D among member countries.

Present Status

At present **121 Countries** have joined the **Agreement**

Significance of ISA

For World: More than **120 countries** are geographically located in the **tropics**. These places get **ample sunlight** throughout the year, making solar energy an easily available resource. These countries also happen to be ones where **massimum growth in energy demand** is expected in the coming years. The ISA is an effort to ensure that as these countries rapidly **ramp up their electricity production**, they should predominantly use **Solar Energy** and avoid **Fossil Fuels**.

Benefits to India

Launching of ISA has set up the stage for India's proactive and forward-looking leadership on climate change and the transition to a less carbon-intensive growth trajectory. The **ISA** launch establishes India as a **Voice Of Authority** in the **Developing world on Clean Energy**.

175 GW This will help India in meeting its **Solar Energy Target** which is to generate the **175GW of solar energy by 2022**.

It will also help in **bringing down the price of Solar Technology** which will further **help in accelerating the development of the country**.

It signaled that **India would employ ISA** as a **Foreign Policy Tool** to cement its **leadership among developing countries**—vastly eroded by countries like China in the past decades.

Challenges Ahead

01

Funding: Although alliance talks about developing "innovative financial mechanisms", it does not address how the capital would be provided.

02

Technology Sharing: There is need to create a comprehensive framework to share the modern solar technologies at low cost.

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