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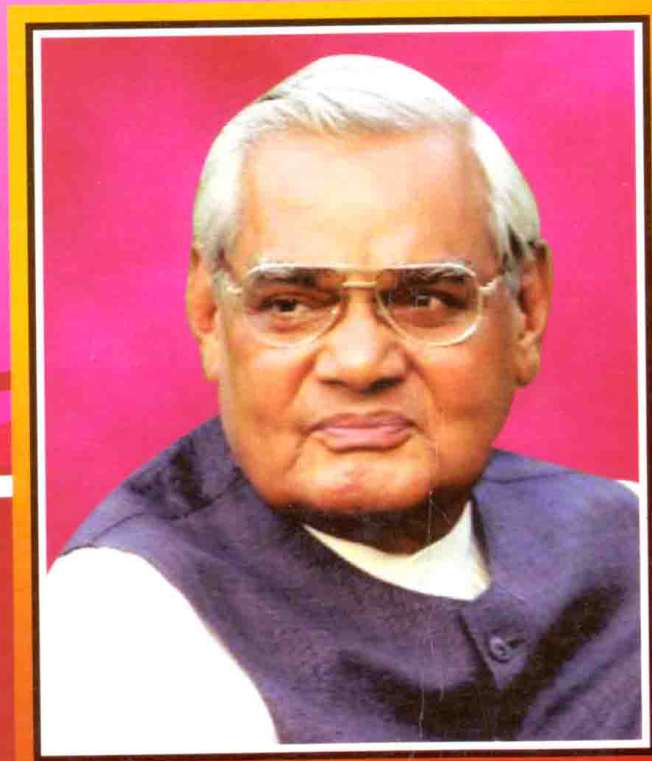
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86. Dhanraj Rai 1287-1293
Democracy, Decentralisation and Citizen Participation:
87. Dharmendra Kumar Singh 1294-1299
Decentralized Governance in India
88. Anjali Singh 1300-1311
Challenges of India as Global Power
89. Anita Sharma 1312-1318
Pondering upon Violence Against Women In Politics in Resurgent India
90. Ashwati C.K 1319-1325
Construction of Nationalism by Right-Left-Centrist Political Parties
91. Simi Joseph 1326-1331
Environmental Ethics in the Preaching of Pope John Paul II:
92. Tariq Ahmad Khan 1332-1338
Deepening of Democracy in India
93. Amit Kumar Mandal 1339-1345
The Changing Role of the State- Decentralized Governance
94. Sucharita Dash 1346-1352
Deepening of Democracy in India
95. V. K. Sridhar 1353-1359
Student Mobilizations in the Delhi University Students Union Elections
96. Vinukumar N.V 1360-1365
Human Rights Violation of Internal Migrant Workers in Kerala
97. Paban Kumar Moharana 1366-1372
Grass Rooting Democracy in India:
98. Prity Kumari 1373-1378
The Contribution of Women in Biggest Democracy :
99. Mudasar Ahmad Bhat 1379-1384
Decentralised Governance
100. Akshay Agrawal 1385-1390
Role of Indian Diaspora
101. Partha Shankar Basu 1391-1396
Maldives Election in 2018 and It's Lessons for India
102. Mukhtar Ahmad Lone, Niraj Kumar Jha 1397-1402
Panchayati Raj:
103. Farhan Abedi 1403-1408
Role of Local Governance for making City as a Smart City:
104. Seema Jha 1409-1415
Analysing Indian Democracy Through The Lenses of Participation and Representation
105. Showket Ahmad Najar 1416-1422
Decentralized Governance:
106. Shristi Gupta, Eshita Mishra 1423-1429
Contemporary Discourse on Nationalism for an Aspiring India
107. Ningombam Satyabati Devi 1430-1435
State Politics and Regional Political Parties:
108. Pillamarri Vijaya Kumar 1436-1442
E-Governance In India: Issues And Concerns
109. Patralekha Sen 1443-1448
Raja Rammohan Roy and Upliftment of Women in India
110. C. Rama Mohan Reddy 1449-1455
Ambedkar's Views on Democracy and Political Vision in Reality
111. Gobinda Chandra Sethi 1456-1463
Deepnding Democracy in India:
112. Laxmi Sarma 1464-1470
Aspiring India:
113. Anju Lis Kurian, C. Vinodan 1471-1476
Global Powers in Climate Change Negotiations: Role of India
114. Tahir Abdullah Lone 1477-1480
Stewardship of Global Counter-Terrorism:
115. Raju Musuku 1481-1489
Deepening of Democracy in India
116. Rakesh Kumar Singh 1490-1496
Deepening Democracy to its Grassroots:
117. Rajendra Kumar Pandey 1497-1503
Changing Ideological Contours of Planning in India
118. Atul Kumar Lohiya 1504-1509
Challenges of Terrorism in India
119. Shiv Kumar 1510-1518
Federalism and Management of Disasters in India
120. Rohtas 1519-1526
Reservation and Other Backward Classes:
121. Manohar Lal Rana 1527-1533
Federalism and National Security
122. Uma Devi 1534-1539
Resurgent India:
123. Sarita 1540-1547
NITI Aayog:
124. Manoj Kumar Shukla 1548-1553
Ambedkar's Views on Federalism
125. Lovekesh 1554-1559
Indian Federalism and Zonal Councils
126. Phulmoni Das 1560-1565
Indian Democracy and Political Culture of the Tea Garden Community of Assam
127. Muktikanta Mohanty 1566-1570
Migration and National Security Challenges
128. Mudassir Fatah 1571-1576
India As A Global Power:
129. S. Nayeem Banu 1577-1582
India as A Global Power

GLOBAL POWERS IN CLIMATE CHANGE NEGOTIATIONS: ROLE OF INDIA

Anju Lis Kurian
C. Vinodan

Introduction

Climate change is the sterling challenge and dynamic issue with uncertain consequences in current international affairs¹. The steep rise in concentration of Greenhouse Gases (GHG) has resulted in irreversible changes in climate patterns irrespective of geographic realm². Effective and practical proposals for global decarbonization are needed and at the auspices of the Paris Conference 2015, member countries presented commitments that, if fully implemented, will limit temperature increase in the long run. Achieving global decarbonization requires broad multilateral cooperation as fifteen to twenty countries are responsible for lion part of global emissions and therefore efforts to cut emissions must be global. Without international cooperation and coordination, some states may free ride on others' efforts or even exploit uneven emissions controls to gain competitive advantage which all leads to emergence of climate political contentions and global power hierarchy as part and parcel of climate change negotiations.

India joined the international system since independence as a keen and trusted multilateralist who vibrantly participated in cardinal international negotiations aimed at building the postwar international order. It should be noted that independent India strongly advocated in shaping the agenda of the new international organizations by spotlighting the marginalized vexations and aspirations of the developing world at the right time. India's steady democratic

political system, massive middle-class population, immense military clout in South Asia, expanding economic fortunes and global aspirations make it a potential power that enables it to play a crucial role in world affairs. Politicization of environment conservation and climate change mitigation are unique lineaments of global politics in the current century. Emerging powers like India are playing a crucial role in global environment political game today³. India aggregates characteristics of high vulnerability to climate change due to tenacious poverty and lion part share of agriculture in GDP with large and increasing greenhouse gas emissions⁴.

Global climate negotiations

After considering inputs from scientific community, policy makers and world leaders agreed the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1992. Since its inception, UNFCCC was the sole basis for climate negotiations with the Kyoto Protocol (1997), the Marrakech Accords (2001) and the Cancun Agreements (2010) as commendable outcomes. However, the UNFCCC process was more or less failed to conglomerate results until the Paris Agreement in 2015, but with the exception of the Kyoto Protocol which expired in 2012. Finally in the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 17) in Durban, participant governments finally decided to draft a new global legally binding agreement to cop up with climate change upshots in the post-2020 era. The entire process climaxed

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