

From Tradition to Innovation: India-Russia Relations and the Emerging Focus on Sustainable Development and Climate Change

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Abstract

Rising as a serious worldwide threat across national boundaries is climate change. This visa-free issue presents several difficulties, most importantly related to horticulture and human consumption patterns. The effects extend widely and include: The loss of territory and human habitats is one of the most prominent effects. Filtering freshwater supplies Damage to agricultural fields, especially in sensitive areas. Natural disasters caused by climate change also compromise human security, infrastructure, and ecosystem livelihoods. This subsequently increases the risk of migration and refugees. Climate change compromises a nation's traditional security through social, political, and economic instability, so undermining human security, food security, water security, and environmental security, all classified under non-traditional security issues. Particularly in view of globalization, climate change also has far-reaching effects on a nation's foreign policy. Despite their own difficulties, India and Russia should start cooperative projects to solve climate change and advance sustainable development in order to strengthen their bilateral ties. Climate change is no longer only a national issue but a global one that calls for collaborative effort and worldwide cooperation to minimize its hazards.

Keywords: India-Russia relations, Sustainable development, Globalization, Climate change,

Introduction

Climate change impacts all the countries and geopolitical systems since it is a visa-less and border-less issue. The magnitude of these hazards has attracted worldwide attention and resulted in climate change as a universal threat. Many steps have been taken to solve such challenges, including the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 44/207 of 1989, the Framework Convention on Climate Change developed in 1992, the Kyoto Protocol, and the Paris Agreement. India's position on climate change acts to overcome the threat affecting people's livelihoods as well as global scenarios. India has adapted its conventional security approach to address non-traditional security concerns. India steps out to start globalizing and, on the other hand, uses sustainable development goals to protect the environment and address humanitarian problems. Even after facing their respective problems and emissions profiles, India and Russia played a significant role in combating the climate change menace.¹

With a carbon-intensive economy, India ranked third among all consumers of oil, and Russia, on the other

side, is an important exporter of fossil fuels. With their dedication to being a responsible global partner in climate change, both postures seem to be crucial for economic progress regarding emissions, Russia ranks fourth, while India is the third-largest emitter of carbon dioxide. Still, Russia's per capita carbon dioxide emissions are more than India's. Both nations show initiative by means of climate actions to tackle the challenge related to climate change. The Paris Agreement set the targets of limiting global warming to 1.5°C, where India and Russia were assessed as "highly insufficient" and the former as "critically insufficient" by Climate Action Tracker. Being one of the biggest consumers and importers of fossil fuels presents India with a dilemma. India's position on climate change emphasizes, as was already noted, the alleged hypocrisy of the West, which industrialized using fossil fuels and greatly added to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. India challenges the western insistence on nations under development depending on fossil resources, managing their own growth without using them. Russia's and India's same point of view indicates a critical view of the division of responsibilities for the slowing down of climate change. As members of BRICS, both states contend that given their past contributions as the main emitters of greenhouse gases, rich industrial nations should bear most of the responsibility for tackling climate change.

While the West encompasses the United States and European Union endeavors to bring climate negotiations into the domain of the UNSC, India and Russia view the securities of climate change discussions and the environment of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) from a different vantage point. Viewing the remarks as a western strategy to impose its climate change agenda on India, India and Russia advocate for discussions on climate change to remain within the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) rather than being addressed by a specialized UN organization.

- **India-Russia relations in the context of Sustainable development and Climate change in the 1990s**

For Russia and India's economic histories, 1991 marked a turning point. After the USSR collapsed in December 1991, a program of economic reforms was started to bring about the change from an economy governed by central planning to a market-oriented system. Initiated in India following the balance of payment crisis of 1991 by the Narasimha Rao government, a similar liberalizing process Prices were liberalized; a program of privatization and disinvestments was launched; and ideas to cut central government spending were floated. Regarding Russian

and Indian resources, both natural and human are the significance of the structural adjustments has been great. Decontrol of the economy, political decentralization, and market liberalization have generated fresh pressures relevant to the state of the natural surroundings of both nations. The economic, social, political, and environmental reorientation of both nations resulting from these processes is among their most arresting results.¹

Russian and Indian economies, respectively, added two percent and one percent of the Gross World Product in 1994. Nevertheless, Russia and India have above one-tenth of the world's total carbon dioxide emissions, and their emission intensity is among the highest worldwide. India and Russia are changing rapidly; environmental preservation falls behind social and economic growth in both countries.

¹ Chopra, V. D. (ed.) Indo- Russia Relations Prospects Problem and Russia Today Delhi: Klpaz PubHcations, 2001.

Poverty in India and Russia is causing extensive destruction of renewable resources, mostly including freshwater, soils, and forests. Many individuals living in these economies have few choices other than running down their natural resources. Large populations still rely heavily on renewable resources, and environmental damage immediately lowers living standards and opportunities for economic development. Still, both Russian and Indian economies have been undergoing extensive and enduring transformation since the government started reform in 1992. The economy has not yet started to dematerialize even if it has started to de-industrialize. In both bilateral ties and the international scenario, Russia's and India's foreign policies have sought to raise the strategic cooperation to a higher and qualitatively new level. With a commercial context, Indo-Russian relations in the 1990s have concentrated especially on upgrading bilateral economic relations—trade, investment, and new areas of collaboration and science and technology projects, including sustainable development challenges. Actually, the relative relevance of materials that are natural resource development in the economy has expanded while the efficiency of many industries has fallen. Moreover, the degree of pollution of the economy—emissions per unit of economic output—is increasing. Moreover, technical backwardness has enabled environmental damage in India and Russia. Unsustainable environmental management disturbs political systems, increases social conflicts, and damages economic growth.

- **Ecological problems and Deficiency in resources**

Today's biodiversity in Russia and India is not just a result of nature but also of long-standing human-nature interactions in the farms and the forests. The regulations now in place in both nations exhibit an unscientific attitude. There is growing evidence that incorrect assumptions support initiatives for policy biodiversity protection. Government taxes for ecosystem preservation don't work as expected. In Russia, the protected area makes up 7.6% of the total land area; in India, it is 5.2%. This is less than the 10.8% protected area total worldwide, Europe (8.4%), and Asia (8.3%). Both nations show ignorance and lack of knowledge about biological diversity, so there is a pressing need to build scientific, technical, and institutional capacities to offer the fundamental understanding upon which to design and carry out suitable conservation actions. Given Russia's 25 biosphere reserves and India's three that demand quick conservation, this becomes all the more urgent. Both nations should concentrate on anticipating, preventing, and attacking the factors causing notable loss or decline of biological diversity at source.² Large parts of global biodiversity found in Russia and India are under increasing danger from human activity.³ Apart from fish, the count of threatened species in India substantially exceeds that of Russia for all living entities. Population pressures on land and resources can lead to the loss of biodiversity. Because of this, governments and non-governmental organizations should work to make people more aware of the inherent value of biological diversity and the genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational, and aesthetic values of biological diversity and its parts that are good for the environment. Both nations have to understand that maintaining life-sustaining biosphere systems and evolution depends on biological variety. One shared issue of humanity is the preservation of biological diversity. not for India

² Backman, C.A., The Forest Resources of Russia by Economic Regions, Laxenburg, Austria. IIASA, WP-95-53, 1995, pp. 12-97.

³ Baylis, Johan & Smith Steve, (eds.) The Globalization of the world Politics. New York: Oxford University Press 1997.

and Russia only. Russia and India thus have sovereign rights over their own biological resources. They also help to sustain their biological variety by means of sustainable use of their resources.

Methodology of the Research

Historical, Descriptive and Analytical research methods will be followed in the study.

Sources of Data Collection: - Both Primary and Secondary sources of data collection will be used.

- Primary sources: The interviews and discussions with experts in this field will result in the collection of relevant data, also the Indian government publication, documents on USSR/Russia, and records on foreign affairs, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha debates.
- Secondary sources: Secondary data will be collected through books, e-resources, journals, Research thesis international reports on India-Russia relations and official documents

Results and Conclusion

Though it has not kept pace with our capacity to change the surroundings, human awareness of them has grown greatly. The potential of damaging Earth's ecology with disastrous results is great unless knowledge acquired is utilized for sustainable development. Dramatic changes in the manner the knowledge and experience at hand is applied as well as the spectrum of information applied on resource management decisions are needed in order to make sustainable environmental management judgments in the twenty-first century. The national economies of the globe are founded on the products and services produced from ecosystems; human survival depends on the ongoing capacity of ecosystems to offer their several advantages. But for far too long in both countries, development agendas have mostly concentrated on how much people can extract from the ecosystems, paying scant regard to the effects of their activities.

Economic development is overwhelming environmental benefits from new technology and policies. The forces of liberalization, globalization, and structural reforms aggressively stimulate the intricate relationships between people and natural resources in these nations. The processes of globalization are significantly affecting social and economic change in the environment in both these nations, so they should be focused on resolving rather than aggravating the inequality that divides the planet nowadays. Correcting these disparities is the only way to guarantee a more sustainable future for these civilizations as well as for the earth. Environmental issues are rising on the worldwide political agenda as they grow more urgent. Global eco-politics is under growing strain. Among themselves, industrial nations often disagree; the European Union and the United States are presently in conflict on everything from genetically modified organisms to global climate change.⁴ Rich and poor nations split on how to handle environmental problems in the framework of the global economy, which has made environmental issues unpleasant in North-South relations as well. Nonetheless, India and Russia share the same worries about how to assign responsibility for undoing the environmental damage worldwide.

India and Russia both have to balance environmental management against industrialization. Therefore, the technical decision has to be grounded in science. Both nations have started several legislative and administrative actions to guarantee environmental stability and ecological security. Still, most of the legal rules are not followed sufficiently. For example, severe deforestation occurs in both Russia and India because illegal felling, incendiary fires, indiscriminate grazing, encroachment, and resource diversion for

⁴ Priyadarshi, Anurag (2005), Sustainable development and environment management in Russia and India 1991 2001, <http://hdl.handle.net/10603/23683>

non-forest usage happen despite legal clauses meant to protect the forests. Therefore, general environmental degradation—air, water, and land pollution are on the rise in spite of the constitutional clauses and the several administrative policies. Some of these results from government policies toward fast industrialization, infrastructure-based advancement, population concentration, etc.

Before concentrating on particular sector activities or institutional reforms, governments ought to lay out objectives for environmental issues, held to overall development and growth goals. Usually, these goals are expressed with regard to the well-being of people, economic resources, and ecological preservation. Good environmental plans call for well-defined priorities. Many nations find that an absence of definition of environmental priorities and clear strategy articulation complicates the process of enhancing environmental performance on the ground. This usually shows a lack of political will to implement environmental policies. Still, good environmental management depends on decisions. These decisions guide the creation of targets that are understood by people, communities, and experts.

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