

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA: GROWTH AND CHALLENGES

Shweta Pandey, M.A (Final)

Department of Geography  
S.M.R.D.P.G. College, Bhurkura-Ghazipur

**Introduction-** Sustainable Development goals undoubtedly impact on the environment, but this does not mean that development should be given the right direction. Sustainable Development originated from the loss of not having any natural resources and to fear of slowing down or closing of economic systems and production systems. Sustainable Development is a process in which certain actions are taken to ensure that future generation requirements are not curtailed while using available resources to meet the current requirements. According to The United Nations Sustainable Development “that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

India is focusing on its growth and taking challenges and Sustainable Development Goals become its most important part. By the adoption of Sustainable development goals the countries are moving forward for achieving a world free from poverty, gender inequality and economic inequality and a healthy planet for future generations. Sustainable Development Goals are blue print for our country, to achieve good and healthy life.

Sustainable development in this environment therefore, calls for cooperation of all countries both industrialized and developing. That cooperation must be based on the foundation of the right to development and the need for an equitable distribution of burden.

The need for equity is starkly reflected in the fact that the emissions per capita in

industrialized countries are ten to twelve times those of developing countries. The total emissions in the world must decline. We must find a way of solving this problem in a way that does not deprive developing countries of their right to develop.

Economic growth, social development and environment protection are the three pillars of Sustainable development. Sustainability has different meanings for different contexts. For example, while developed countries are grappling with lifestyle sustainability, the developing countries are tackling issues of livelihood sustainability.

As a developing country in the frontlines of climate vulnerability, India has a vital stake in the evolution of a successful, rule-based, equitable and multilateral response to issues relating to climate change. The principles of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change provide the basis for creating a workable framework along these lines.

India is one of the mega bio-diverse countries of the world. Our traditional knowledge is both coded as in our ancient texts on Indian systems of medicine, and non-coded, as in oral traditions. With four global biodiversity hotspots, India ranks amongst the top ten species rich nations.

India was one of the first few countries to enact a comprehensive Biological Diversity Act in 2002 to give effect to the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992. Yet India and the world have miles to go before we can claim notable success in fulfilling the three



objectives of the Convention namely, conservation of biological diversity, and sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits.

India's tiger population is on the rise. The 2011 tiger census showed a 20 percent increase in the number of tigers over that of the year 2006. It is estimated that there are today around 1700 wild tigers in India out of a global population of around 3,000.

India's forest cover had increased by nearly 5% between 1997 and 2007 with a small decrease since then. It hopes to see further accretion with the implementation of the Green India Mission which aims to increase the forest and tree cover by 5 million hectares and improve forest cover on another 5 million hectares.

Eventually these forests will act as a sink that could absorb 50-60 million tons of carbon dioxide annually. This would offset about 6 percent of India's annual emissions. The Government of India is trying to put in place institutional arrangements and mechanisms to promote policy development and stakeholder engagement on sustainable management of commons.

India has recently established a National Green Tribunal under the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010. The Tribunal provides for the effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.

This includes the enforcement of any legal right relating to environment, including providing relief and compensation for damages. The National Ganga River Basin Authority is yet another example where the Govt is trying institutional innovation to protect the sacred River.

The objective of the Authority is to ensure conservation of the river Ganga & to

maintain environmental flows by adopting a comprehensive river basin approach. The Rio Declaration of 1992 enunciated 27 far reaching principles that sought to protect the integrity of the global environmental and developmental system. These principles have stood the test of time.

India's journey on the path of sustainable development has so far been marked both by reasons for celebration and introspection. The right place to begin the story would be the 1980s and early 1990s, which mark the beginning of economic reforms, catalyst for India's phenomenally faster growth rates since, and coinciding with a time when countries around the world acknowledged and started addressing the increasing environmental concerns, such as at the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992.

India's faster gross domestic product (GDP) growth over the last two decades has been unprecedented; but at the same time India's rankings in terms of the human development index (HDI) as well as indices measuring environmental sustainability are yet to fully reflect this growth.

However, it would be a mistake to downplay the enormous progress made, as India has followed a much more conscious path of sustainable development with impressive results on the ground. The key environmental challenges have become sharper in the past two decades.

The 2009 State of the Environment Report by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) clubs the issues under five key challenges faced by India, which are climate change, food security, water security, energy security, and managing urbanization.

Climate change is impacting the natural ecosystems and is expected to have substantial adverse effects in India, mainly on agriculture on which around 58 per cent of the population



depends for livelihood, water storage in the Himalayan glaciers 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 events such as storms, floods, and droughts. These in turn will impact India's food & water security problems. India also faces the critical challenge of meeting its rapidly growing energy demands.

It currently depends on around 80 per cent imports for its crude oil requirements. A large section of the rural population is still not connected to the grid or efficient modern cooking fuel sources, and India's per capita energy consumption of 439 kg of oil equivalent is far below the world average of 1688 kg (Planning Commission report in 2006).

As a developing nation India has made remarkable success and already achieved or reaches nearby to some of the targets which were set under SDG. Like electricity & Sanitation facility to all villages of India, but still problems like poverty, unemployment, education, health & technology etc. requires lots of efforts to be made by government to overcome these barriers in path of SDG. India's National Development Goals and the Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas policy initiative for inclusive growth are in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and India will play a leading role in determining success in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals worldwide.

\*\*\*

## अभी टूटी नहीं हूँ मैं.....

मुस्कान

बी. ए. द्वितीय वर्ष, तृतीय सेमेस्टर

अभी कुछ तो बाकी है मुझमें,  
अभी टूटी नहीं हूँ मैं;  
थोड़ी थकी, थोड़ी चुप सी सही,  
पर अब भी रुकी नहीं हूँ मैं \*

एक दिन मेरी भी बारी आएगी,  
भले ही सितारा नहीं हूँ मैं ;  
अँधेरे में भी जलने वाली,  
एक उम्मीद की चिंगारी हूँ मैं \*

मेरे अन्दर भी चलती हैं लहरें,  
पर मैं कोई नदी नहीं हूँ;  
खामोशी में भी बहुत कुछ कहती,  
एक गहराई भरी कहानी हूँ मैं \*

मैं किस्मत को इलजाम नहीं देती,  
क्योंकि हार को अपनाया नहीं मैंने;  
जो कुछ भी हूँ, अपनी मेहनत से हूँ,  
किसी और का सहारा नहीं हूँ मैं \*

\*\*\*

## शायरी

मुझको न रोकिये, न ये नज़राने दीजिये,  
मेरा सफ़र अलग है, मुझे जाने दीजिये;  
ज्यादा से ज्यादा होगा ये कि हार जाऊंगी,  
किस्मत तो मुझे अपनी, अजमाने दीजिये \*

\*\*\*