

U.S -INDIA GREEN PARTNERSHIP: A REVIEW OF BILATERAL COOPERATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND CLEAN ENERGY

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Abstract:

India and the United States moved for the beginning of a new era of cooperation to expand bilateral relation on Climate Change and Clean Energy. Climate Change poses a serious challenge for every country now-a-days. The US-India partnership is important not only for the security of two nations but also for assuring a sustainable future for the world. India and USA both realize the critical importance of increasing energy security and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and thus provided the needed leadership at the International Climate Change Negotiations. India-US bilateral Relations have been gradually increasing and thus developed into a “Global Strategic Partnership” based on bilateral, regional and global issues. The countries have opened dialogues and created working groups on issues like climate change negotiations, green technology innovation, and growing green energy markets. This paper seeks to analyses the increasing green partnership between the two countries and also discusses the agreements between US-India to tackle the climate change and for the advancement of clean energy. It also provide some suggestions regarding the issue.

Key Words: Bilateral Relations, Climate Change, Clean Energy, Security.

Introduction:

India and The United States moved for the beginning of a New Era of Cooperation to expand Bilateral relation on Climate Change and Clean Energy. Climate Change have become a crucial issues for every country now-a-days. This partnership is important not only for the security of two nations but also for

assuring a sustainable future for the world. India is the world's third largest carbon emitter behind the U.S and China.

India and USA both realize the critical importance of increasing energy security and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and thus provided the needed leadership at the International Climate Change Negotiations. At Copenhagen and Cancun UNFCCC Conferences, Indian and U.S officials worked collectively to bring the developed and developing countries together.

India-US bilateral Relations have been gradually increasing and thus developed into a “Global Strategic Partnership” based on bilateral, regional and global issues. The countries have opened dialogues and created working groups on issues like climate change negotiations, green technology innovation, and growing green energy markets.

The Modi Government has created new opportunities to revive bilateral ties under the new motto-“ Chalein Saath Saath: Forward Together We Go” that was adopted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first summit with Previous President Barak Obama on 30 September 2014 in Washington DC. On 25 January, 2015, Both Ministers announced that the two countries will work together to fight global climate change, initiate a set of goals that “will expand policy dialogues and technical work on clean energy and low greenhouse gas emissions technologies”. This partnership provided a important impetus to the Universal Climate Change agreement in Paris in 2015.

Objective of the Study:

- To evaluate the bilateral cooperation on Climate Change and Clean Energy between India and US.
- To study the agreements related to clean energy and climate change between India-US.
- To provide some suggestions to strengthen the cooperation between the two countries.

Methodology:

The data needed for the paper are collected from the secondary sources. The secondary data are collected from all published works like reference books, journals, periodicals, news papers etc.

Significance of the study:

Climate change is one of the biggest long-term challenges around the world faces today. It affects all aspects of the development agenda, from poverty eradication to health care, and from economic growth to disaster risk reduction. Global warming and climate change requires all societies to work together. While the major responsibility for the accumulation of green house gases in the atmosphere lies with the developed countries, its adverse affects are felt most severely by developing countries like India.

In the past, discussions on climate change, especially discussions at international negotiations regarding mitigation commitments, transparency, and climate equity, have been contentious between the United States and India. Thus, making needed effort in this sensitive area of International cooperation is vital to effective bilateral cooperation. But the positive progression started at the Cancun discussions. Both the U.S and Indian delegations worked productively to support India's proposal on Interantional Consultation and Analysis (ICA) and reach agreement in Cancun.

Thus, the US-India both the countries considered that global climate change is a profound threat to human and it hinders sustainable development and eradication of poverty. Thus, to tackle climate challenge, there is required concerted action by the countries such as by enhancing their bilateral relation on adaptation measures, joint research, technology innovation, adoption for clean energy. It helps India to transition in Low Carbon Economy along with its fulfilling goals of increase India's Solar target to 100 gigawatts by 2022. The agreements stipulates a number of key actions including enhanced cooperation on phasing down CFC, advancing clean energy research and finance, cooperation on vehicles etc.

The United States has started taking concrete steps to provide some findings. It use climate dialogue as a forum to create a better understanding with Indian officials of these funding streams that includes the Senate Appropriations Committee recommendations for 2011, including approximately \$ 1.2 billion for international efforts to combat the impacts of global warming and for making a clean energy

future. Thus, the two countries agreed to work proactively together to “address barriers to clean energy deployment, shale gas resource assessments etc.

Findings:

India and The United States have adopted significant step together on energy and climate under the Energy Dialogue and the U.S- India Joint Working Group on Combating climate Change. These joint measures to boost clean energy in India that also boost international climate action. Since 2009, the US- India Partnership to Advance Clean Energy(PACE) has mobilized nearly \$2.4 billion to support India’s clean energy goals. Apart from this,\$ 125 million for research on solar, biofuels, and energy efficiency through the U.S- India Clean Energy Research and Development Centre. It covers PACE-D Technical Assistance Program that foster clean energy technologies and policies at the national and state levels and the US-India Energy Cooperation Program (ECP),a public-private partnership between the US member companies and the governments of the United States and India.

In April 2015, due to sustained pressure from US ,India agreed to follow a time-bound complete phaseout of Hydrochloroflourocarbon under the Montreal Protocol on ozone layer protection. The Clean Energy Finance Task Force as met on February 16 and September 9,2015 that initiate an agreement to design specific finance solutions appropriate to the Indian Context.

The US-India Joint Working Group on combating Climate Change held in 21st September,2015 in Washington, D.C. It gave emphasis on reaffirmed their commitment to work together toward achieving a successful outcome at UNFCCC in Paris. Moreover, The both countries continued work of their bilateral task force on HFCs in November,2015. Previous President Obama and Prime Minister Modi started implementing new fellowship program designed to build long term capacity to address climate change related issues in both countries.

Moreover, 6th US-India Energy Partnership Summit was held in 21st September, 2015 as a means of energy dialogue between the Governments of USA and India. It focused on the improving the Efficiency of Energy Use, Renewable Energy & Financing Clean Energy; Carbon Capture, Commoditization and Utilization. This summit helps in reviving and reaffirming ties between the two nations.

The United States and India are cooperating on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) through the Partnership for Land Use Science (Forest-PLUS) that designs new techniques and methods for forest management.

Moreover, The Export-Import Bank of the United States(U.S Ex-Im Bank) and the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)have agreed to enter into an MOU. This MOU supports to become India a low-carbon and climate-resilient energy economy that also helps in creating renewable energy industry jobs in the United States.It led to the fulfilling of the promise of the the US-India civil nuclear agreement and demonstrating a shared commitment to meet India's growing energy needs while reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

Apart from these, US-India plan to engage in a new partnership on energy smart cities that will help clean energy into a commercial opportunity and also fulfill India's goals of bringing 24x7 power to all. The two country agreed to create a bilateral Clean Energy Finance Forum to mobilize finance for clean energy. Moreover , the United States supports the Government of India's ambitious national goals to install 175 GW of renewable power that includes 100 GW from solar power.

The two countries decided to work to adopt an HFC amendment in 2016 with increased financial support from industrialized countries to the multilateral Fund to help developing countries with implementation of the climate and clean energy policies it adopted.

The United States appreciated the launch of the International Solar Alliance (ISA). The United States and India jointly launch the third initiative of the ISA that focus on off-grid solar for energy access on 16 september, 2016 in India. Moreover ,they jointly launch with India new efforts to further investment in India's renewable energy sector and creation of a \$ 20 million US-India Clean Energy Finance(USICEF) initiative that is expected to mobilize up to \$400 million to provide clean and renewable electricity up to 1 million households by 2020. A \$ 40 million U.S-India Catalytic Solar Finance Program that facilitate liquidity to smaller scale renewable energy investments in rural villages that are not connected to the grid.

Another goal launched by both the countries such as Mission Innovation during COP-21 in Paris to double their clean energy research and development(R&D) investment in 5 years. The two sides launched Greening the Grid, a \$ 30 million,5-year initiative to scale up renewable energy integration into India's power grid.

As a priority initiative under the PACE(Partnership to Advance Clean Energy), the US Department of Energy (DOE) and the Government of India have established the Joint Clean Energy Research and Development Centre(JCERDC) introduced to promote clean energy innovations by teams of scientists from India and the United States with a joint funding from both Governments of US\$50 million. This centre has funded 3 research projects- in the areas of Solar Energy, Generation of Bio-fuels and energy efficiency of buildings Thus the two countries are working to expand energy resources, promote energy efficiency and address the global concern for climate change.

Suggestions:

- United States and India should reaffirm that climate Change provide a great challenge to the economic security of both the nations and international community. Thus, striving for clean energy solutions is very essential for tackling the issue effectively.
- Both the countries should agree to refocus government efforts to ensure that new collective projects makes measurable progress in meeting it over the next few years. So, this green partnership requires collective efforts on climate change adoption.
- A new framework for bilateral cooperation need to evolve so that more steps both the countries government can initiated to create new approaches at the national as well as global level.
- With the help of proper communication and coordination among the involved government agencies, business, universities, citizen groups as a mechanism to monitor and progress on collective projects that make the green partnership a more responsive, efficient partnership and thus can easily access informations about various programs related to the issues.

Conclusion:

The cooperation between the United States and India have been increasing in the last few years. It is because both the countries recognized climate change and clean energy as priority issues in their foreign policy goals. This bilateral relation can be strengthened more by improved transparency along with advancing more engagement with civil society, business groups etc. The quest for green energy growing gradually with renewable plants mainly wind and solar and thus surpassing the capacity of hydroelectricity projects that were earlier the biggest source of electricity. Moreover, it is helpful in the protection of environment and less expensive too. Thus this green partnership helps to become a low-carbon sustainable future for the world.

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