

CLIMATE CHANGE

Status of climate change negotiations and action taken

10.63 While the developing countries like India have contributed the least to climate change (Table 10.13), they are most vulnerable to its adverse impacts. The Bali Action Plan (BAP) was adopted by the 13th Conference of Parties (COP) to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held at Bali in December 2007 with a view to enhance long-term cooperation for reducing greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation), and increasing the capacity to meet the impacts/consequences of climate change (adaptation). These objectives are to be supported by sufficient financial resources (finance) and technology transfers (technology) from developed to developing countries. The mandate of the 15th Conference of Parties in Copenhagen is to agree on specific outcomes that will enhance the implementation of the convention. At the end of G-20 Summit at London, the world leaders confirmed their commitment to address the threat of irreversible climate change, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and to reach agreement at the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009.

10.64 Over the last many years of economic development, India had major programmes addressing climate variability concerns. Current Government expenditure in India on adaptation to climate variability exceeds 2.6 per cent of the GDP, with agriculture, water resources, health and sanitation, forests, coastal-zone infrastructure and extreme events, being specific areas of concern. As a part of its international obligations under the UNFCCC, India prepares periodically the National Communication (NATCOM) that gives an inventory of the greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions in India, and assesses the vulnerability and impacts and makes appropriate recommendations regarding social, economic and technological measures for addressing climate change. First NATCOM was presented in 2004. The Government is engaged in preparing NATCOM II, which will be presented to the UNFCCC in 2011. Preparation of NATCOM II is an exercise based on an extensive network of research and scientific institutions in India and draws upon expertise and excellence from different institutions. The Government of India had also set up an expert committee to study the impact of climate change on various sectors on May 7, 2007. The committee has studied the impact of anthropogenic climate

change on India and has come out with its first set of findings and the research agenda that the ministries need to follow and implement in order to address India's vulnerability to anthropogenic climate change impacts.

10.65 The Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change was set up in June 2007 with the objective of ensuring effective coordination and implementation of all national action plans. India released its National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) on June 30, 2008, to outline its strategy to meet the challenge of climate change. The National Action Plan advocates a strategy that promotes, firstly, the adaptation to climate change and secondly, further enhancement of the ecological sustainability of India's development path. The Action Plan identifies measures that promote the objectives of sustainable development of India while also yielding co-benefits for addressing climate change. Eight national missions, which form the core of the National Action Plan, represent multi-pronged, long-term and integrated strategies for achieving key goals in the context of climate change. The focus is on promoting the understanding of climate change, adaptation and mitigation, energy efficiency and natural resource conservation.

10.66 India holds that the planetary atmospheric space is a common resource of humanity and each citizen of the globe has an equal entitlement to that space. Furthermore, in tackling the challenge of climate change, both production and consumption patterns need to be addressed, with a willingness to address lifestyle issues. Technology forms a critical

Table 10.13 : A comparison of India's per capita GHG emissions with some other countries

Country	per capita CO ₂ emissions (tonnes)
USA	20.01
EU	9.40
Japan	9.87
China	3.60
Russia	11.71
India	1.02
World Average	4.25

Source: National Action Plan on Climate Change, GOI

component of actions aimed at responding to climate change. Availability and/or dissemination of existing climate-friendly technologies and goods to developing countries as public goods and at affordable costs is

essential to enhance the actions of developing countries to pursue sustainable development policies. The collaborative R&D effort has to be promoted, with multilateral financial support under the UNFCCC in order to facilitate rapid and widespread dissemination, absorption and

application of climate-friendly technologies. A Copenhagen package incorporating this component, with an accompanying multilateral financing package, would be an outcome necessary to address climate change in a manner consistent with goals of sustainable development.