International Relations · GS - II

‘Clean energy is the order of the day.’ Describe briefly India's changing policy towards climate change in various international fora in the context of geopolitics.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2022	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

India’s climate diplomacy has evolved from emphasising historical responsibility, equity and differentiated obligations to combining climate justice with renewable-energy expansion, technology cooperation and global climate leadership. Its approach seeks to reconcile developmental needs and energy security with international climate commitments.

Model Answer

Introduction

India’s climate policy reflects the tension between its developmental priorities, energy security and the need to address global warming. Its international engagement increasingly combines climate justice with clean-energy transition.

Body

Evolution of India's Climate Diplomacy

1. UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol: India emphasised the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC), arguing that developed countries should take the lead because of their historical emissions.

2. Paris Agreement, 2015: India accepted nationally determined contributions (NDCs), committing to climate action while stressing equity, development needs and support from developed countries.

3. International Solar Alliance: Launched with France at COP21, the alliance promotes solar-energy deployment, technology cooperation and investment, particularly in developing countries.

4. COP26, Glasgow: India announced the Panchamrit commitments, including achieving net-zero emissions by 2070 and expanding non-fossil electricity capacity.

5. G20 and Other Forums: India has promoted sustainable lifestyles through the LiFE initiative, renewable energy, green finance and international cooperation on clean technologies.

Geopolitical Dimensions

Clean-energy cooperation can reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels and strengthen India's strategic partnerships. However, unequal access to finance, critical minerals and technology creates challenges. India continues to advocate climate finance and a just transition that protects developing economies.

Conclusion

India’s climate diplomacy increasingly combines domestic clean-energy expansion with international cooperation. A successful transition requires affordable technology, adequate climate finance, energy security and equitable sharing of global responsibilities.

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