



POLITOSCOPE

Issue no. 3

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
POLITICAL SCIENCE, JESUS AND MARY COLLEGE

INDIA

And the

WORLD





POLITOSC^QPE



**THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
JESUS AND MARY COLLEGE**

Issued on 1st May, 2024

INDEX

Foreward by Professor Sushila Ramaswamy	2
Editor's Note by Avni Chawla, Lilly Jerisha and Garima Arora	3
<i>Befriending the Graveyard: India's dynamic with other stakeholders in Afghanistan after the Taliban takeover</i>	4
Mohammad Daanyal Zaidi	
<i>Climate Financing: The effect on the economies of the developing nations due to the strife between Global North and Global South</i>	11
Disha Goyal, Bhavika Srivasthav & Kanyka Gupta	
<i>India's Infrastructure Aid and Development: A New Card of Diplomacy</i>	27
Sourishree Ghosh	
<i>India and the Global South Strategy - Focusing On Diplomatic Relations with Africa</i>	37
Anjali Gaur	
Research Papers presented at the Paper Presentation Competition	45
<i>Exploring the Erosion of Democracy and Judicial Sentiments in India: The Impact of Community-Based and Restorative Justice</i>	46
Keerthana Girish and Devanandana S	
<i>The (Un)Democratic Question - Analyzing the South Asian Interplay of Gender and Climate</i>	51
Sneha Dey	
<i>Marginalized Gender Disparity in Education and Politics</i>	60
Mathew C Abraham, Jyothis Anna John and Alviya Sheejo	
Department Events	70
Politologue: The Annual Academic Day of the Department	79
Office Bearers	83
Department Achievers	84
Office Holders	92
Introducing the Editorial Team	93
Introducing the Design Team	94
Acknowledgment	95

FOREWORD



India's tryst with the modern world began on 15th August 1947. By the time India attained independence the shape of the post Second World War period was already in place; the establishment of the United Nations with veto power to the victorious Allied members, the permanent members in the UN Security Council, and the monetary management as part of the Bretton Woods system. India, an infant nation but with ancient roots, had to steer clear of difficult and challenging terrain both internally and externally. It had to work out a foreign policy, as Jawaharlal Nehru said, keeping in mind its national interest.

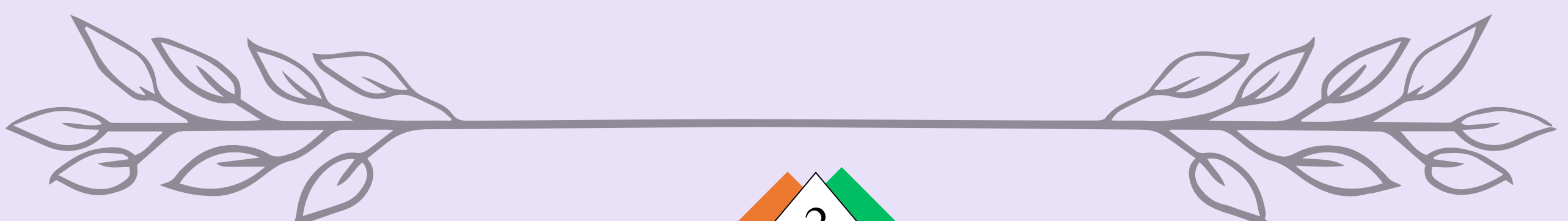
An independent foreign policy of non-alignment emerged with the expectation that India would have a leveraging space in a scenario dominated by two Superpowers and their individual blocs. As an infant nation, it needed this space to build a strong, self-reliant prosperous nation. By this singular act, India emerged as a new symbol of defiance and autonomy in a divided world where the voice of India was heard with respect as it was the voice of overwhelming humanity, the wretched of the world. Over a period, India's presence was felt with an evolution of a bipartisan foreign policy which led Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the first non-Congress foreign minister in 1977, that the policy would be genuine non-alignment.

In the modern world, India is respected as a peace-loving, responsible, nuclear power with its demographic advantage and impressive achievements in frontiers of knowledge and scientific innovations. It is an important player in international politics, international organizations, regional and multilateral organizations like BRICs and in all the parleys of serious issues like climate change and global warming. A long coastline and an unique geographical location allows India to pursue its foreign policy with relative autonomy and confidence.

Jai Hind

Prof. Sushila Ramaswamy

TiC, Department of Political Science, Jesus and Mary College



EDITOR'S NOTE

As we unveil the latest edition of *Politoscope*, a wave of pride washes over us, mingled with a deep sense of gratitude for the remarkable journey we have shared over the last few months. The experience of crafting *Politoscope* has been nothing short of enriching. It has served as a powerful testament to the value of fostering diverse perspectives and the transformative power of expression.

This year, a surge of excitement fills us as we unveil this year's theme, "India and the World," which takes center stage in this edition of *Politoscope*. India's ascent to the position of a pivotal global actor is a narrative steeped in historical significance, marked by perseverance, astuteness, and dynamism. The inaugural article sets the tone for a comprehensive examination of India's strategic partnerships with the Global South. Particular emphasis is placed on the intricate and evolving relationship between India and Afghanistan. Next, we dissect the critical issue of Climate financing, highlighting the differential consequences it engenders for the Global North and the Global South. An in-depth examination of India's foreign policy strategy towards Africa can be found in our article titled, "*India and the Global South Strategy*." In addition, a dedicated paper explores India's Infrastructure Aid and Development as a facet of its foreign policy and its impact on partner nations.

Politoscope presents to you thought-provoking research papers presented at the Paper Presentation Competition that delve deeply into critical contemporary issues. These articles include "*Exploring the Erosion of Democracy and Judicial Sentiments in India*", "*The (Un)Democratic Question: An Analysis of the South Asian Interplay of Gender and Climate Change*," and "*Marginalized Gender Disparity in Education and Politics*."

Further, the "Department Events" section offers a curated glimpse into the academic and non-academic events that enrich the tapestry of our department. We culminate this section with a special highlight: our Annual Academic Day, the Politologue. We are immensely proud to celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of our esteemed students in the "Department Achievers" section and express our gratitude to the office holders.

As you delve into the rich tapestry of articles within these pages, we fervently hope you discover the same depth and value in *Politoscope* that we hold dear. We invite you to embrace the opportunity to grapple with the stimulating ideas presented within these pages, and embark on a voyage of intellectual discovery.

Happy reading!

Avni Chawla (Chief Editor)

Lilly Jerisha (Deputy Editor)

Garima Arora (Deputy Editor)



Avni Chawla



Lilly Jerisha



Garima Arora

BEFRIENDING THE GRAVEYARD:

India's dynamic with other stakeholders in
Afghanistan after the Taliban takeover



Mohammad Daanyal Zaidi

Department of Political Science

Sri Aurobindo College

University of Delhi

Introduction

In August 2021, videos of Afghans flooding the runway in Kabul and clinging onto a military aircraft flooded the internet. It was met with reactions of horror and shock and was a precursor of what was to follow after the Taliban took over the country following the American withdrawal. Even before the last of American boots left the country, the NATO-backed government fell like a house of cards. The Afghan National Defense Force (ANDF) could not handle the blitz of Taliban fighters without the assistance of the international coalition. While the domestic situation in Afghanistan demands a series of papers on its own, this paper aims to decipher the dynamics of Indian foreign policy in Afghanistan in relation to other countries.

Afghanistan's strategic position has made it an important country for India to have ties with, and its history has been pockmarked with foreign intervention and contesting claims. Taliban's takeover raises two primary questions for India, How will the Taliban's proximity to Pakistan affect their relationship with India? and what will become of India's developmental initiatives in the country? Historically, India and Afghanistan have

had deep ties but formal diplomatic channels opened after India's independence.

Indo-Afghan Relations After Independence

Both countries signed a treaty of friendship in 1950 along with a treaty on trade and commerce. The relations between the two countries were marked by positive association and sustained cultural exchanges. In 1953, The Delhi University hockey team participated in the Jashan festival in Kabul and in the same year India offered to train 79 air trainees and also trained many Afghan citizens in its technical institutes. During the initial years of the Cold War, both countries did not join any of the power blocs and remained neutral but the American military assistance to Pakistan pushed both of them to have warm relations with the Soviets (Ghosh, 2016). One anomaly in Indo-Afghan relations happened after Pakistan implemented the 'One Unit West Pakistan Province' which integrated Pashtunistan into the province. This policy saw widespread protest all over Afghanistan which led to the Afghan government releasing a statement against

it. India viewed this situation as being confined between the two countries and remained neutral, in response to this the Afghan government stayed neutral during the Sino-Indian war of 1962 and the Indo-Pak war of 1965.

After the Saur Revolution of 1978, which brought forward a socialist and secular government backed by the USSR, Pakistan, and the CIA started arming the Mujahideen or religious fighters who were against the “un-Islamic” nature of the new government. The new Socialist government, in the late 1970s and throughout the 1980s was not able to handle the well-funded mujahid and eventually, the Soviets intervened and invaded the country. India did not openly condemn this invasion considering its deep strategic and technological ties with the Soviets. Still, the then foreign minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee opined that the ‘over-arming’ of Pakistan by the Americans and Soviet Invasion would destabilize the region. The Socialist government fell in 1992 after the dissolution of the USSR and the Mujahideens took control of the country led by Ahmad Shah Massoud. The Massoud government never worked out and a brutal civil war ensued. Finally, the Taliban captured Kabul and formed the ‘Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan’. The Indian government after these developments ceased all contact with Kabul. The Emirate

became a breeding ground for terrorist organisations and the eventual 9/11 attacks in 2001 led to the American invasion of the country which pushed the Taliban to the periphery.

Relations With The Erstwhile Republic of Afghanistan

After the Bonn agreement which established an interim government in Afghanistan and the subsequent Republic, India pursued a development first diplomacy towards Afghanistan. India invested significantly in the reconstruction process in the country and was guided by five factors: a) large infrastructure projects b) human resource development, c) high-impact community development projects (HICDPs) and d) humanitarian development (Mathur & Chaudhari, 2021). In 2011, India became the first country with Afghanistan to enter into a Strategic partnership.



Former Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, right, and Afghanistan's then-President Hamid Karzai before a meeting in New Delhi, India, on Tuesday, October 4, 2011

During Prime Minister Singh's government, several developmental initiatives were started like the building of the Afghan parliament, the construction of route 606 and the construction of the Salma dam along with other projects. Prime Minister Modi's government pursued a similar policy and initiated several projects which aimed towards human resource development in the country. India's foreign policy vouches for Afghan-led solutions for Afghanistan and never has interfered in the domestic sphere of Afghan polity while dealing with the government in power irrespective of whatever faction they belong to. It can be said that India approaches Afghanistan as a 'soft power' and instead of coercion, it uses cooperation as a tool to manifest its interest.

Dynamics with Other Countries

The Taliban takeover in 2021 has made India recalibrate its policy towards the country considering its strong intolerance of Islamic terrorism and the Taliban's proximity with Pakistan. Pakistan is one of the primary reasons why Afghanistan is of strategic importance to India, there is a legitimate fear of ISI's proximity with the Haqqani network. The Haqqani network is the premier insurgent group within the larger Taliban organisation with connection to ISI and Al-Qaeda which is worrisome for the Indian government because it has had its share of terror attacks.

The apprehension regarding the proximity of Pakistan with these terror groups is not unfounded considering that the Haqqani network maintains a haven in North Waziristan in Pakistan (Dresselar, 2010). Pakistan is one of the most vocal advocates of a Taliban-ruled Afghanistan, which makes things tricky for India when dealing with the Taliban because Pakistan is one of the primary reasons why India is interested in establishing ties with Afghanistan in the first place.

The United States is one of the most influential players on the diplomatic ground when it comes to Afghanistan. India's relationship with the US is not exactly black and white and its complex nature demands exploration of its nuances. The Soviet invasion and the subsequent funnelling of arms to the Mujahideen by the USA destabilised South Asia into another front for a proxy war.

During this time India was deeply concerned over the possible over-arming of Pakistan which had the potential of creating an influx of insurgents from the Af-Pak region in the Kashmir valley. The then foreign minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee issued a statement in this regard saying 'the Soviet Union must make a prompt declaration that it will withdraw its forces' and 'the United States must not use the developments in Afghanistan to induct arms into Pakistan' (Ghosh, 2016).



After the fall of the Soviet Union in 1992, the Socialist government in Afghanistan also collapsed and the Mujahideen took over. After the fall of the socialist Najibullah government, the Mujahideen took over Kabul but the serious infighting between different warlords hurled Afghanistan towards a civil war.

The Americans under President Clinton and Bush did not make any efforts towards nation-building after the disintegration of the Soviet Union, thus effectively leaving a power vacuum in Afghanistan with multiple trigger-happy warlords aiming to fill it. The Civil War divided the country into two regions: a) the northern portions of the country under General Dostum's and Ahmad Shah Massoud's Northern Alliance and b) the rest of the Country run by Islamists under the Taliban Organisation. India during this time recognised the Northern Alliance as the official Afghan government but the Americans welcomed the Taliban, turning a blind eye towards their feudal interpretation of a State. Indian and American interests in Afghanistan only converged after the latter invaded Afghanistan in 2001.

Both countries aimed for a democratic set-up in Afghanistan with a firm anti-terrorism stance, considering both countries had been victims of horrendous terrorist attacks. One slight irritant in this relationship is the use of Pakistan as a 'frontline nation' by the Americans in their war on terror. While Pakistan might share a border with Afghanistan its security apparatus supported the same organisations the Americans aim to destroy.

Taliban's takeover in 2021 has muddied America's image as a regional stability partner to India. China is another country with whom India has cordial relations when it comes to Afghanistan. The Chinese policy towards Afghanistan is characterised by a strong 'no boots on grounds policy' much like India. But ever since the withdrawal of Western forces, the Chinese have held multiple talks with Pakistan and the Taliban to bring Afghanistan into their Belt and Road Initiative, which India strongly opposes.

It is imperative for China to have good relations with the Taliban as to foreign militant instigation in the Xinjiang province. China is not the only country that has changed its stance in Afghanistan, both Iran and Russia have done the same. In the 1990s Russia and Iran along with India supported the Northern Alliance but the recent developments have made them change their approach to the Taliban. But after America's ineffectiveness, both countries were easing up to the Taliban and had established contact with the group way before Americans left. For Russia, the objective was not to legalize the Taliban but to deliberate on potential agreements and accords (Saxena,

2021). Iran is also inching closer to the Taliban as a necessity because it shares a 921 km long border with it. While Iran was on the verge of declaring war on the Taliban in 1998, it has now



hosted one of the Taliban's Shura in Mashhad. Both Tehran and Moscow have diplomatic associations with Taliban-ruled Afghanistan, which is different from India's approach but doesn't harm its interests. The Central Asian Republics (CARs) of Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan have a similar policy towards the Taliban in Tehran, Moscow and Beijing. The dominant concern of the CARs is the drug

trade in Afghanistan and the permeation of Islamic fundamentalist ideals into their country. So far the CARs are supportive of India's initiatives in Afghanistan as New Delhi has strategic partnerships with many countries in that region (Ghosh, 2016).

Conclusion

India is slowly warming up to the Taliban and it must do so if it wants to maintain its status as a decisive actor in South Asia. Though India does not recognize the Taliban government, it is one of the largest humanitarian aid providers to their country and has channels of communication with

them. The Indian embassy in Kabul, while not having an ambassador, has a technical team there. Another testament to the Taliban's diplomatic warmth towards India is their invitation to the

Regional Cooperation Initiative' meeting in Kabul. The regime change in Kabul and the new government's diplomatic inclination towards dialogue with India opens a potential window of opportunity for it to become a decisive actor in the region. It now remains to be seen how India will use this opportunity. Therefore to conclude, the Taliban government has deep ties with Pakistan and especially its

security services. On the other hand, the Americans have had a very complex relation with the militant organization, but currently focus on “pragmatic engagement” in Afghanistan. It does not recognize the current administration but maintains channels of communications with them. The Central Asian Republics, Iran, Turkey, Russia and China also have a similar policy, where they are engaging with the Taliban while maintaining a safe diplomatic distance. Lastly, India, while hesitant at first, emerged as one of the biggest aid providers to the country and is now warming up to the prospects of diplomatic engagement with Afghanistan.

References

1. Bhattacharjee, K. (2024): *India engaging the Taliban in “various formats”*, The Hindu.
2. Burrough, M. A. (2009): *A Historical Case Study of U.S. Strategy towards Afghanistan*. Journal of Defense Technical Information Center, US Army War College.
3. Chayanika Saxena, C. (2021): *The American Exit, the Fall of Afghanistan and the Indian Dilemmas*. International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research, 13(4).
4. Dresselar, J. A. (2010): *The Haqqani network: From Pakistan to Afghanistan* (Afghanistan Report Vol 6).
5. Ghosh, S. (2016): *India’s Difficult Transition in Afghanistan*. In *Afghanistan’s Regional Dilemmas, South Asia and Beyond*, Hyderabad, Orient BlackSwan. (pp 46- 70)
6. Khalaf, R. (2023): *China holds security and trade talks with the Taliban*.
7. Maizland, L. (2023): *What is the Taliban?*, Council on Foreign Relations.
8. Mathur, P., & Chaudhary, S. (2021): *Changing Dynamics In India’s Policy: After the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan*, *World Affairs: The Journal of International Issues*, 25(3).
9. Smith, J. M. (2021): *The Haqqani network: The new kingmakers in Kabul*, *War on the Rocks*, Texas National Security Review.

CLIMATE FINANCING

The effect on the economies of the developing nations due to the strife between the Global North and the Global South

DISHA GOYAL, BHAVIKA SRIVASTHAV, KANYKA GUPTA
Indraprastha College for Women, University of Delhi



ABSTRACT

The research paper provides a critical analysis of climate financing dynamics, particularly highlighting the challenges and disparities that developing nations face in accessing and utilizing funds for climate change adaptation and mitigation. It scrutinizes the debate between the Global North and the Global South over the control and management of financial mechanisms like the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which is perceived as being dominated by donor interests and aligned with World Bank procedures. The study emphasizes the economic burdens placed on Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) due to these global financial conflicts. By examining climate fund allocations and the disparities in promised versus actual funding, the paper aims to shed light on the need for more transparent, inclusive and flexible funding strategies. Through case studies, the research underscores the profound economic impacts of inadequate climate finance and the essential role of both public and private sectors in bridging the funding gap. The conclusion calls for an urgent global response to streamline climate financing mechanisms, ensuring they are more attuned to developing countries' specific needs and vulnerabilities. The paper advocates for a more equitable and effective approach to climate finance, highlighting the importance of global cooperation and solidarity in addressing the pressing challenges of climate change. In conclusion, this paper reiterates the urgency of reforming climate finance structures to better serve the needs of the vulnerable nations. It argues for a paradigm shift towards a more equitable and participatory approach in climate finance governance, ensuring that funds are not only accessible but also effectively address the

specific challenges faced by LDCs and SIDS. The research ultimately serves as a clarion call for enhanced global cooperation and commitment towards a sustainable and inclusive future, where climate finance acts as a catalyst for genuine change rather than a barrier to progress.

Keywords: Climate Finance; Global Environment Facility; Global North and South; World Bank; Developing Nations

Today, it is evident that the world is increasingly facing the impacts of climate change, such as drastic climate occurrences, increasing sea levels and biodiversity loss. Thus, the need for financial resources to support climate change mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage efforts becomes imperative and vital. The requirement for more projects that are aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting sustainable development and enhancing the resilience of vulnerable communities and ecosystems has to increase, keeping in view the adverse impacts of climate change. This research paper explores the importance of climate finance and its impact on developing countries and global sustainability, the key players and institutions involved in the global finance domain, analysis of data and figures provided by trustworthy institutions and organizations, sources of climate finance, challenges, effective allocation strategies, global initiatives and the future outlook of climate finance.

INTRODUCTION

Climate finance is an essential component to cope with the impacts of climate change, particularly in developing countries. The costs associated with implementing climate change mitigation measures can be enormous. Similarly, adapting to the impacts of climate change, such as building climate-resilient infrastructure or green buildings, requires significant financial resources. Thus, climate financing refers to the financial resources and the funding provided to support climate change mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage efforts.

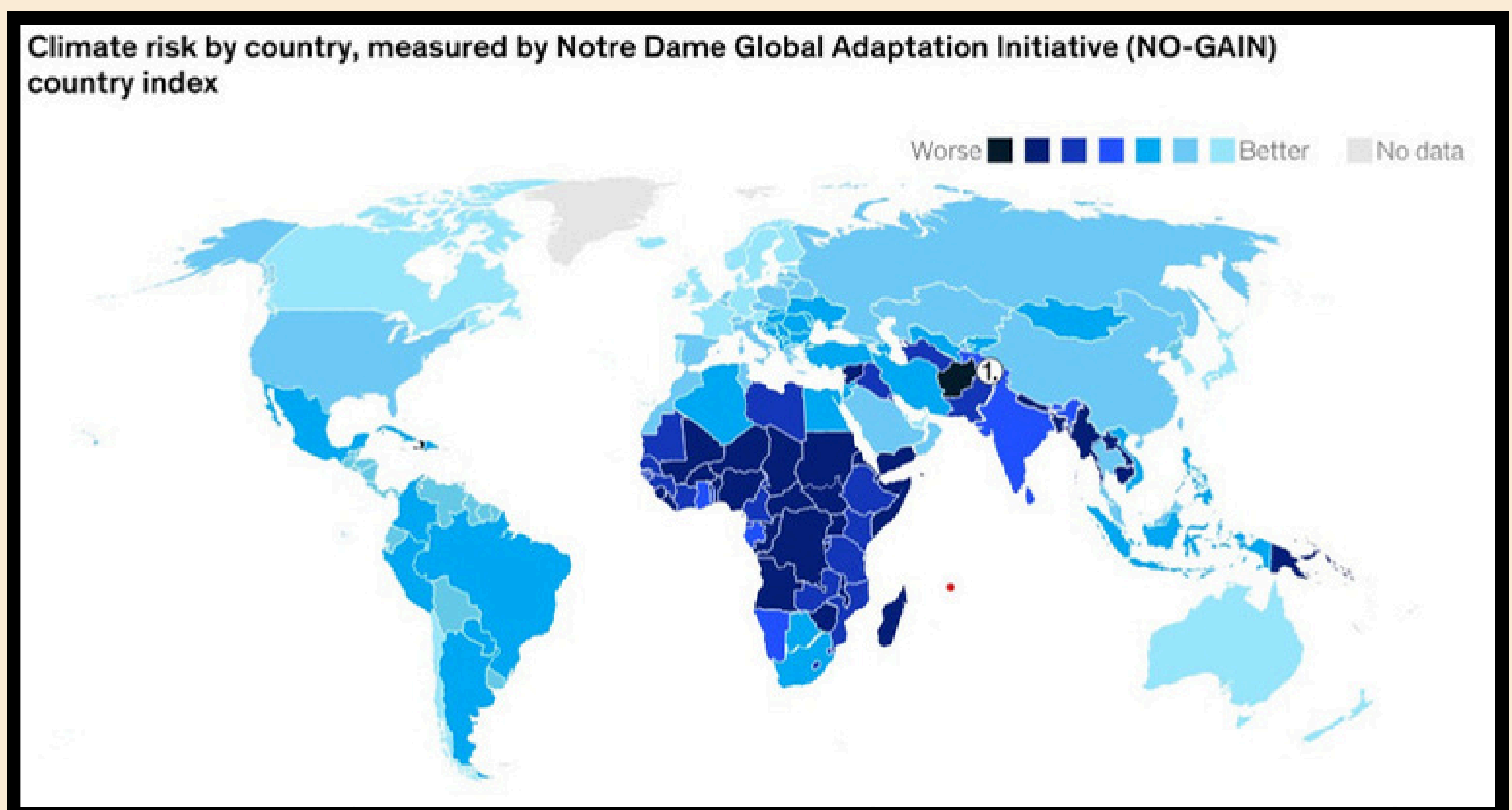
United Nations Framework Convention On Climate Change (UNFCCC) defines "Climate finance" as local, national, or transnational financing—drawn from public, private, and alternative sources of financing—that seeks to support mitigation and adaptation actions that will address climate change." Climate financing plays a fundamental role in facilitating the transition towards a climate-resilient and low-carbon economy.

There are several ways to finance climate change initiatives, such as international agreements, national budgets, private investments and multilateral funds like the Global Environment Facility and Green Climate Fund. Many mechanisms have been put in place to guarantee the efficient use of climate funding. These systems are designed to offer funds so that they are allocated with accessibility, accountability and transparency. To guarantee that funds are used effectively, the Adaptation Fund and the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), for example, have established stringent appraisal procedures to assess project proposals and provide grants to developing nations for initiatives that improve the environment globally and support sustainable livelihoods in local communities. However, these funding mechanisms operate with a Western biasness, attaching conditions to loans they provide to developing countries as climate assistance, which is not acceptable to most developing nations.

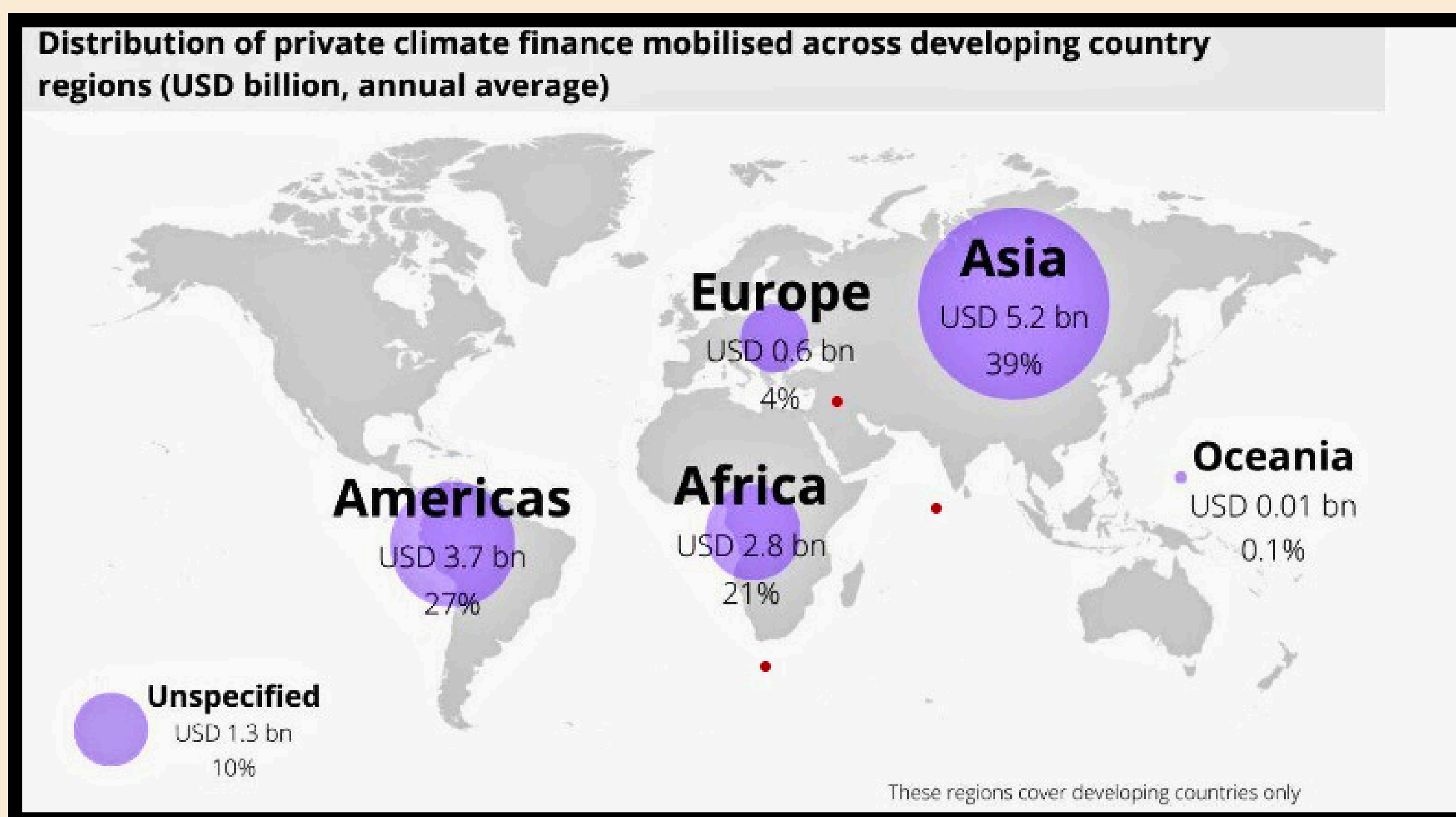


1.1 Importance of Climate Financing in Developing Countries

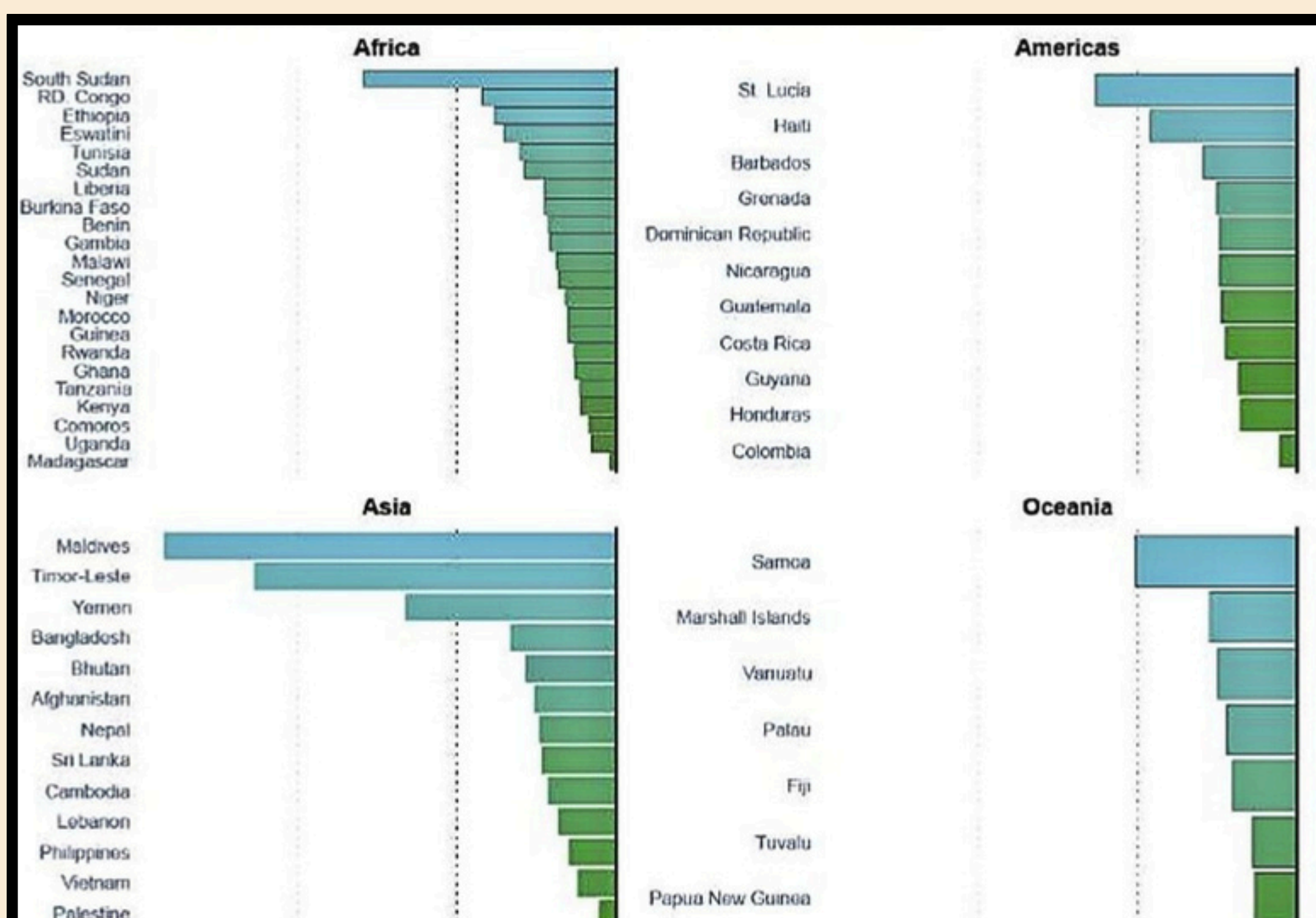
Climate change has a significant impact on developing countries particularly the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), which are often the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change (figure 1.1) due to their geographic exposure and small size, but lack the necessary financial resources to address it adequately (figure 1.2). Climate Vulnerable Economies Loss Report presents a study on the economic loss suffered by V20 (Vulnerable 20), (figure 2) (majority nations of the African continent) with a 5 percent share in global emissions. As per the findings of the report, over the last two decades, one-fifth of the wealth of V20 countries has been lost due to climate change and economic losses, otherwise, V20 would have been 20 percent wealthier today. Furthermore, V20 economies made a loss of approximately 525 billion USD because of climate change's temperature and precipitation patterns during the period 2000-2019. The research also shows that 98% of 1.5 billion people (approximately) have no access to financial protection. Although these countries themselves are allocating a significant portion of the national budget, this puts pressure on their already scarce resources and hence, resulting in diversion of resources from critical development sectors like health, education, and so on. Therefore, funding from climate financing mechanisms can enable these countries to adopt clean energy technologies, enhance their resilience to climate-related hazards and promote sustainable development. As the impacts of climate change continue to worsen, the need for substantial funding to address this global challenge is becoming increasingly evident.



(Figure 1.1: Economies of LDCs and SIDS being most vulnerable to climate change impacts. Source: ND-GAIN, University of Noted Dame, 2023)



(Figure 1.2: Despite being vulnerable, the climate finance (particularly the private climate finance) mobilized for LDCs (specifically LDCs in the African continent) is not distributed in equity. Africa, which has most LDCs has received only 21% of the total funds (fig 1.2) which has to be used for mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage. Source: OECD report)



(Figure 2: Economic losses resulting from climate change in V20 countries. This analysis does not cover those V20 countries, for which sufficient data is not available. Source: Climate Vulnerable Economic Loss Report)

LITERATURE REVIEW:

Since the Paris Agreement was first negotiated in 2015, the academic community has paid closer attention to this emerging topic as seen by a sharp increase in the number of academic publications.

The methodology used to analyze the different global costs to raise given amounts of climate funds is a computable general equilibrium analysis. The funding sources vary from taxes to international aid. The key findings include that systematic data on public climate finance are scarce and that public investment should be made transparent.

The studies also critically evaluate key themes, theories, methodologies, and gaps in knowledge relevant to climate funding mechanisms. Thus, they provide a comprehensive understanding of the state of research in this area, enabling professionals to make informed decisions on policy formulation and resource allocation. Hence, with a focus on providing evidence-based insights into climate funding approaches, the analysis of the available literature highlights opportunities for future research to advance knowledge and promote best practices to address climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts at local, national and international levels.

Before moving to hypothesis, we need to analyze two reasons for the strife between Global North and the Global South : I) Debates on historical representation and II) Adaptation Vs Mitigation funding.

3. STRIFE BETWEEN GLOBAL NORTH AND SOUTH

The strife between the global north and the global south is a significant aspect surrounding debates in the international climate negotiations, particularly on shared responsibility and climate finance.

3.1 Debates on Historical Representation

The countries of the global north insist that each country should bear the equal response to climate change, whereas the countries of the global south put forth the argument, that first the developed countries who had historically emitted high carbon emissions and are still the major polluters should take more responsibility and hence calls for Common but Differentiated Responsibility (CBDR). The developed countries counter this by justifying that shortly, the developing countries will emit a significant amount of emissions, which makes it necessary to hold everyone accountable, but the developing needs of the Global South cannot be ignored in totality.

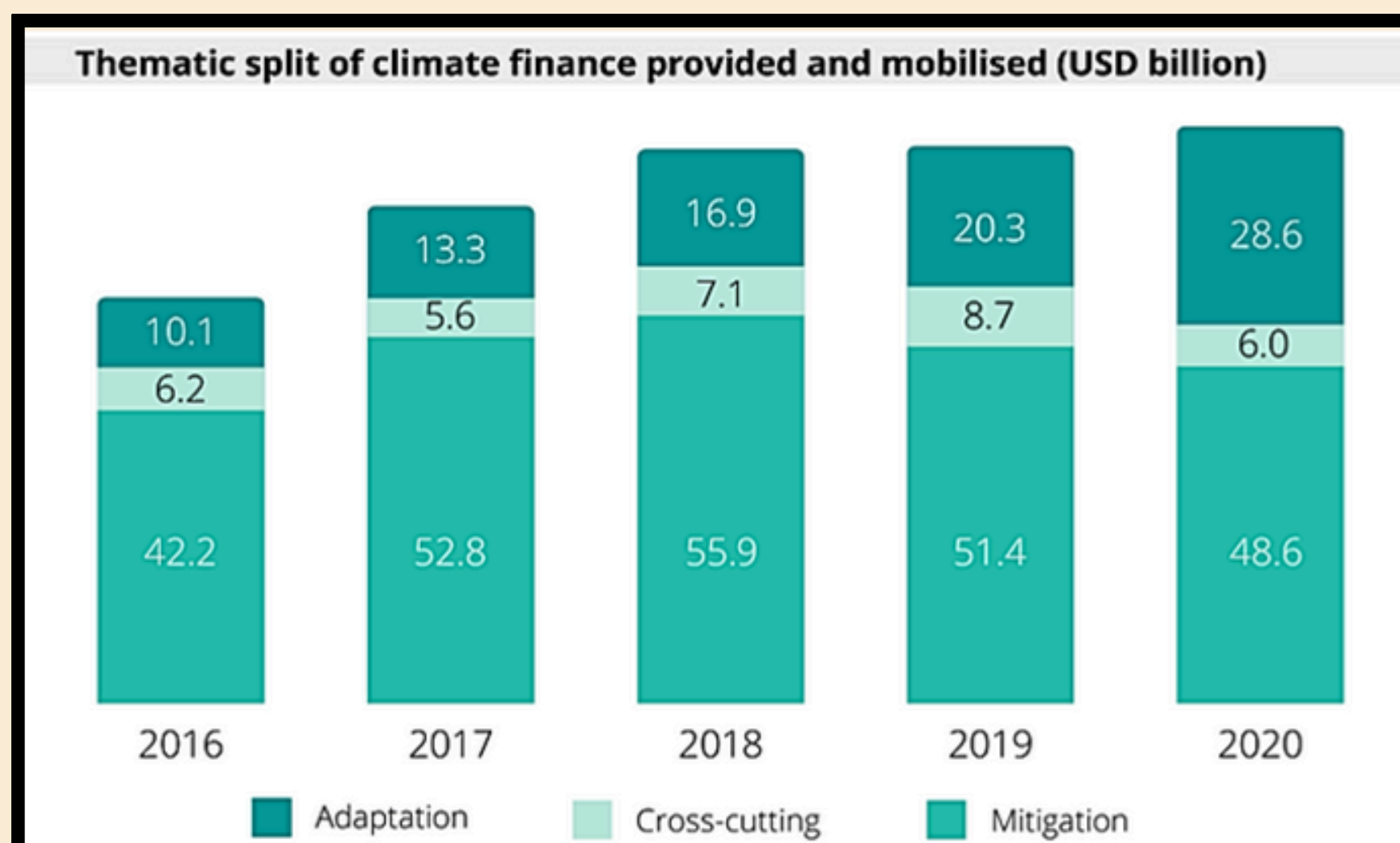
3.2 Adaptation Vs Mitigation

There is a disagreement between the Global North and Global South on the allocation of climate finance between funds for adaptation and those for mitigation.

Developing countries, particularly the ones that are more vulnerable to climate change, advocate that a considerable amount of funds should be dedicated to adaptation mechanisms to deal with the current and estimated future effects and impact of climate change, such as infrastructure improvements, natural ecosystem restoration, crop diversification, disaster preparedness & early warning system, climate-resilient infrastructure and so on.

The global North, however, emphasizes more on providing mitigation funds, reflecting their efforts on reducing future emissions. This is because success can be easily measured in mitigation efforts but it is hard to do so in adaptation needs. Moreover, funds given for mitigation are categorized as climate funding, but those allocated for adaptation are just seen as aid mechanisms. Therefore, developed countries focus more on giving funds for mitigation (figure 3).

This can be substantiated by the fact that according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) report of 2021, the climate funds allocated for mitigation was 60%, while that allocated for adaptation was just 27%.



(Figure 3: Thematic split of climate finance provided. Source: OECD Library)

As can be seen from the figure, the finance allocated towards mitigation exceeds the amount allocated towards adaptation needs of LDCs and SIDS. The economies of LDCs and SIDS are already facing the adverse impacts of climate change, for instance, the Pearl river islands of China, and the Ganga-Brahmaputra delta. Most of the parts of these countries are low-lying areas, which are most vulnerable to climate change impacts, specifically the sea level rise. It is predicted that some of their parts will be completely inundated even with a small rise in sea level. The island countries are already facing the impacts of climate change for which they need adaptation funds to rehabilitate their population and bring their economy back on track. Therefore, there needs to be a reconsideration in the distribution of funds.

4.HYPOTHESIS:

The research hypothesis is that the developed countries press to continue the use of GEF as the financial mechanism which is dominated by the donor countries and give loans according to the World Bank operating procedures. The developing countries feels that GEF's global outlook, with a Western bias, excludes the key environmental concerns. Therefore, they advocate for a democratically managed fund under the agencies of the United Nations, free from the arbitrary conditions of funding institutions like the World Bank.



4.1 Explaining the Hypothesis:

In April 1991, The World Bank, United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) jointly established the Global Environment Facility (GEF) as a pilot program to help developing countries implement projects for limiting greenhouse gas emissions (S.Oberthur 1993). The roles and responsibilities of GEF were affirmed by different articles of the UNFCCC convention.

As explained earlier, the funding mechanism creates a strife between the developed and developing nations. The major impact of this strife was borne by the economies of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

These small countries are amongst the extensively vulnerable to climate change influences, which has the potential to become severe if no reasonable effort is taken. Numerous islands are jeopardized by rising sea levels. Another thriving problem is the increasing number and stringency of extreme climate occurrences—with all they entail in terms of casualty of life and damage to possessions and infrastructure that can readily cripple small economies. SIDS are amongst the parties least liable for climate change and are dependent on developed economies to ensure that substantial measures are taken in consent of the Convention.

Consequently, they strive not only to support the process directly but also to ensure that proper international action is taken to limit emissions of greenhouse gasses and to adapt to climate change. However, due to the strife between the developing and the developed countries, there has not been a permanent solution to effective climate finance, the brunt of which is faced by the economies of SIDS and LDCs.

5. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

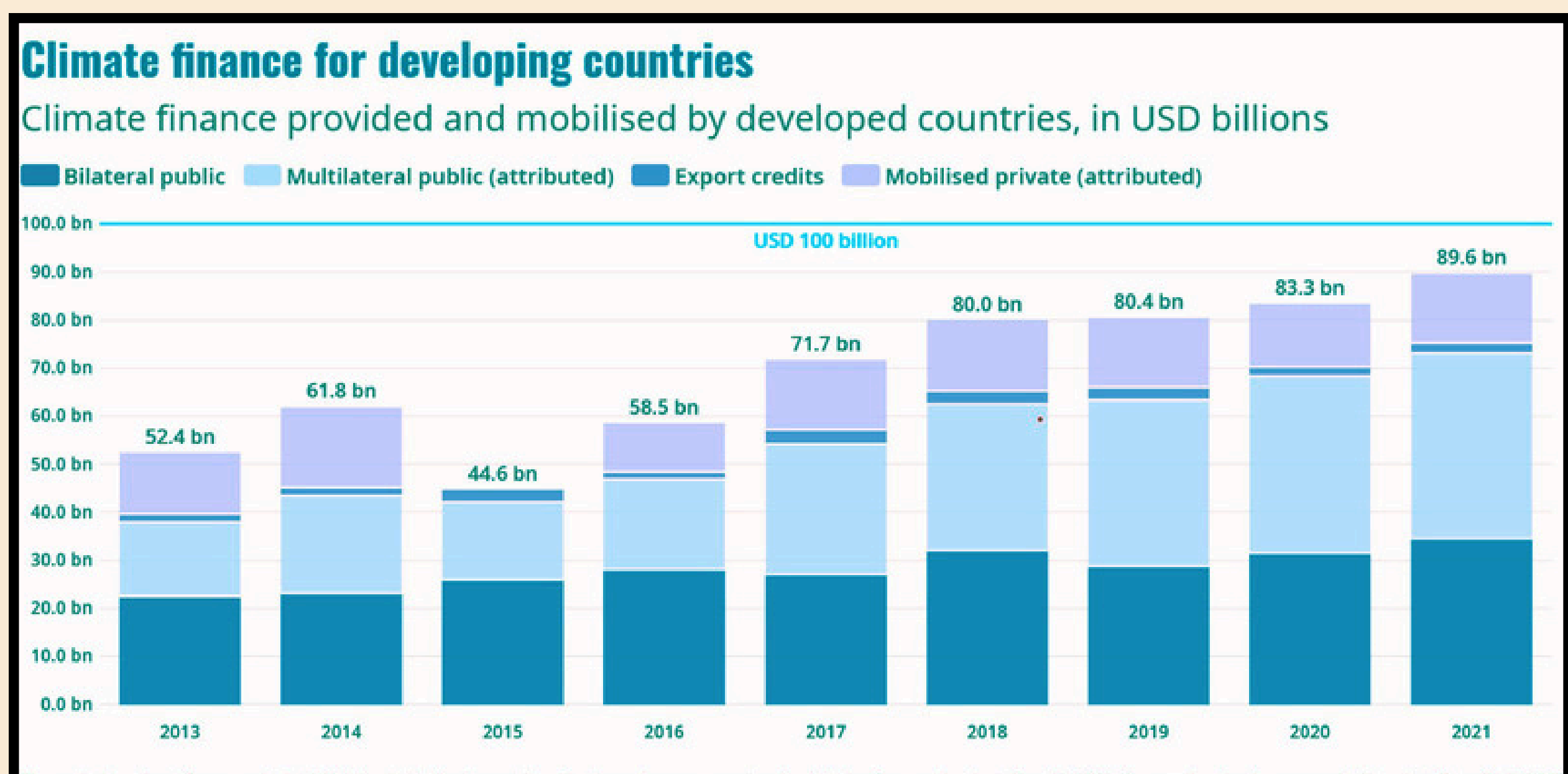
The research paper aims to analyze the economic impact of the strife between the global north and the global south by using secondary sources of data mainly the OECD reports, the World Bank data and case study of Ganga-Brahmaputra region.

5.1 Analysing the data

On the pretext of giving climate assistance, the developed countries are playing accounting tricks. This can be shown by the following data:

In 2009, the developed countries committed the goal of providing 100 billion dollars to the developing countries for climate action, especially for mitigation. This pledge was made at the Conference of Parties 15 (COP15) of the UNFCCC. Although the contribution made by developed countries has shown an increase over the consequent years from 2016, they still failed to fulfill their promises and the increase rate was not desirable (figure 4).

The 100 billion dollar goal mentioned above was collectively undertaken by developed countries, however, lack of accountability made it possible for the countries to evade their responsibilities. The Overseas Development Institute in its report, based on each country's historical responsibility for cumulative greenhouse gas emissions, its gross national income, and population size, determined their progress in fair share towards climate finance.

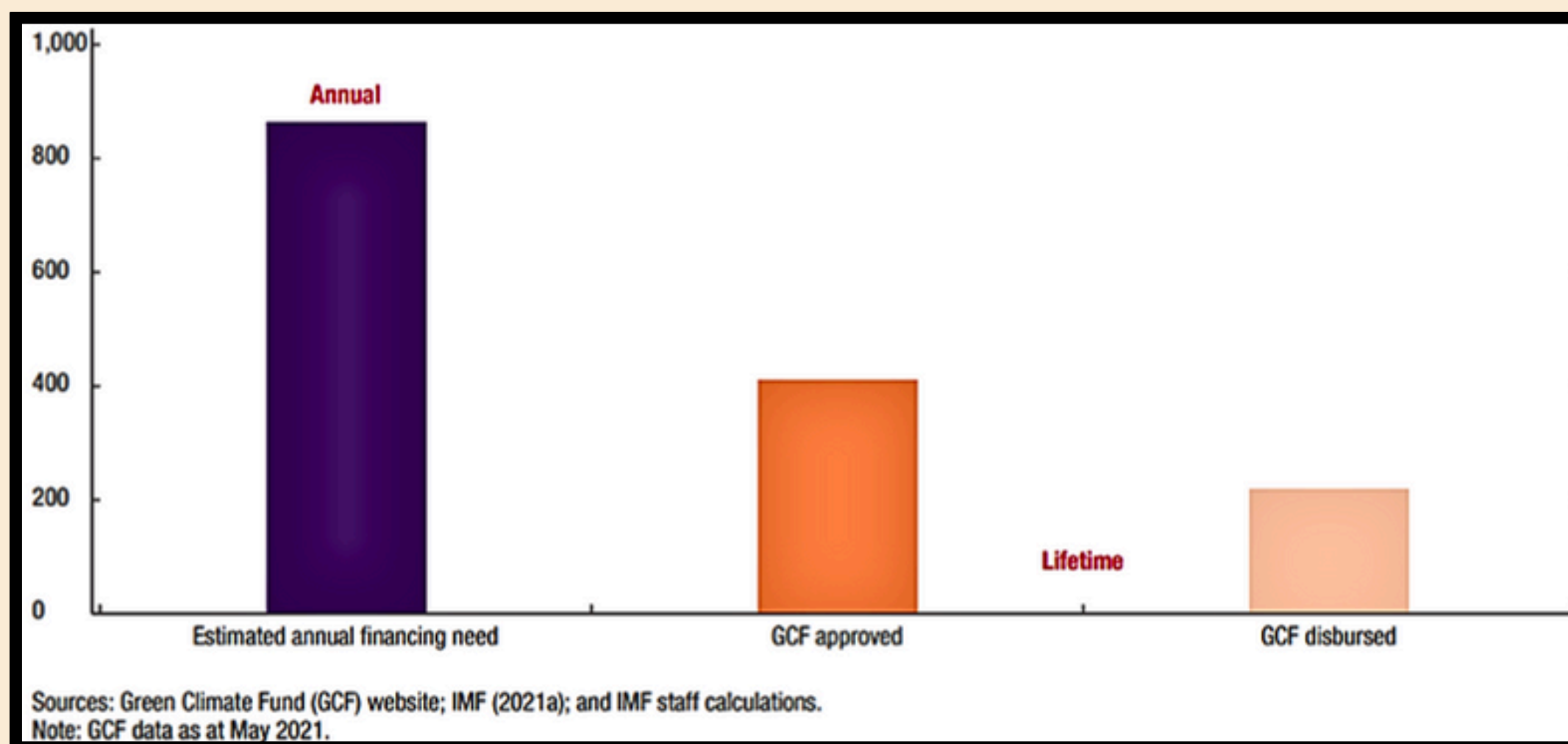


(Figure 4: climate finance provided to developing countries which has still not reached the targeted amount of 100 billion dollars as of 2021. Source: OECD Report)

Annex II country	Fair share of the \$100 billion goal (US\$ billions)	Climate finance provided in 2021 (US\$ billions)	Progress towards providing fair share %
Norway	0.64	1.88	295%
France	5.45	10.33	190%
Sweden	0.94	1.73	184%
Denmark	0.62	1.00	162%
Germany	8.33	11.11	133%
Switzerland	0.93	1.15	124%
Luxembourg	0.09	0.11	122%
Netherlands	1.75	1.93	110%
Austria	0.83	0.82	99%
Finland	0.56	0.55	99%
Japan	11.44	10.92	95%
Iceland	0.04	0.04	94%
Belgium	1.14	1.06	94%
United Kingdom	5.88	3.87	66%
Italy	4.73	3.02	64%
Canada	4.25	2.16	51%
Ireland	0.54	0.27	49%
New Zealand	0.44	0.21	47%
Spain	3.44	1.58	46%
Australia	2.99	1.00	34%
Portugal	0.69	0.17	25%
United States	43.51	9.27	21%
Greece	0.78	0.15	19%

As shown from the diagram below (figure 5), developed countries like the USA, France, Germany, Japan and the UK are major contributors to climate finance. However, the contributions made by the USA and UK are not adequate when compared with the relative size of these economies. Therefore, the developed countries that are contributing less than their fair share, should take the lead, considering the urgent need for climate financing.

(Figure 5: Share of developed countries in climate finance to meet the \$100 billion goal. Source: World Bank)



(Figure 6: Estimated Annual Climate Adaptation Need vs. GCF Lifetime Approvals and Disbursements (USD million))

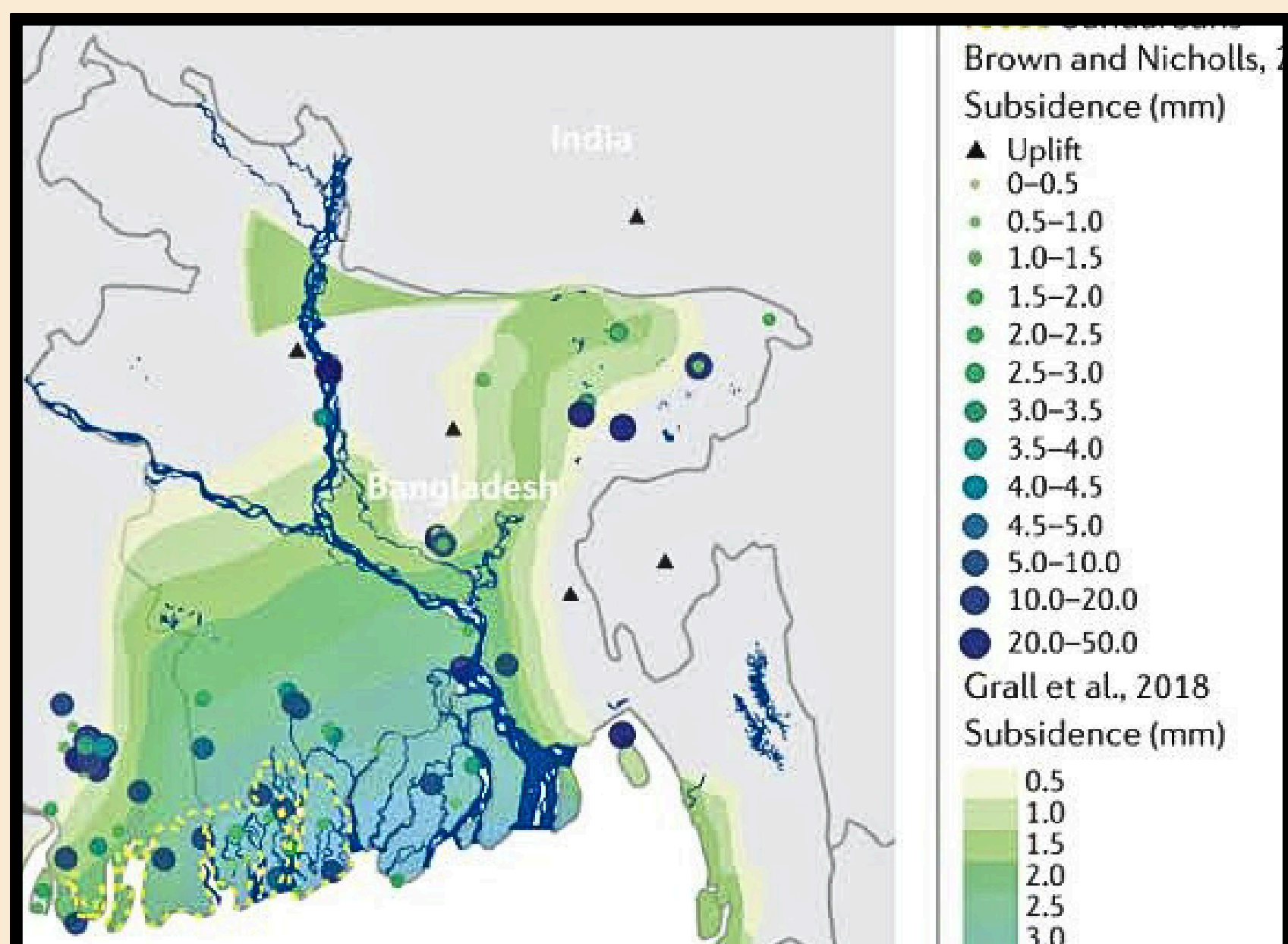
As can be seen from the statistics related to the annual financial needs of Pacific Island Countries, the estimated annual financing needs of the Pacific Island nations are above 800 USD million. The Green Climate Fund (GCF) approved only 400 Million USD (approx.) and the GCF disbursed only 200 Million USD (approx.). There is a need to create a bridge to reduce this gap to enable countries to meet the targets set in the Paris Agreement.

5.2 Case Study of Ganga- Brahmaputra Delta:

Taking up the case study of the Ganga Brahmaputra Delta, one of the most vulnerable and highly diverse areas in the world, faces an imminent threat of submergence due to lack of climate financing. Sunderbans, the world's largest mangrove forest is a key area in the region. This crucial region spanning Bangladesh and parts of India has been witnessing increased threats of devastating cyclones, rising sea levels and storm surges as a result of climate change. It is often considered a delta mostly exposed to sea-level rise.

As per a report given by Science Direct, "205 point measurements of net subsidence were found and reported in 24 studies. These reported measurements were often repetitive in multiple journals."

Another study by LiveMint which was conducted by analyzing monthly readings from 101 gauges estimating water levels and sea levels across the Ganga - Brahmaputra delta finds that if the process of subsidence continues at the identical pace throughout the centenary, the water-level rise might reach 85cm to 140 cm by 2100 in relation to the period 1986-2005. This is double the rise previously projected under a greenhouse gas emission mitigation scenario in the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report.



(Figure 7: Geomorphic change in the Ganges - Brahmaputra - Meghna Delta. Source: Brown and Nicholls report, 2021)

Researchers from France and Bangladesh, who carried out the study found that from 1968 to 2012 the water level in the delta increased by 3 mm/year on an average, which is slightly more than the rise in global mean sea level, which was 2 mm/year during the same period. From 2005 onwards, the water level rise was faster towards the west of the delta. They also estimated the contribution of land subsidence (which is the gradual sinking of the earth's surface due to the rise of water level) which can exacerbate the effects of sea-level rise and found that maximum land subsidence in the delta between 1993 and 2012 was precisely 1 - 7 mm/year.

The highest rates that occurred in the last 1000 years had a mean of 8.8 mm/year. Therefore, it is impossible to put in place the infrastructure required to eventually lower and curb these risks without sufficient funding. This leaves millions of people residing in the delta area extremely vulnerable to disastrous outcomes like losing their means of subsistence, being uprooted, seeing a rise in the rate of poverty and health risks.

6. EMERGING TRENDS IN CLIMATE FINANCE:

6.1 Establishment of Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) in India:

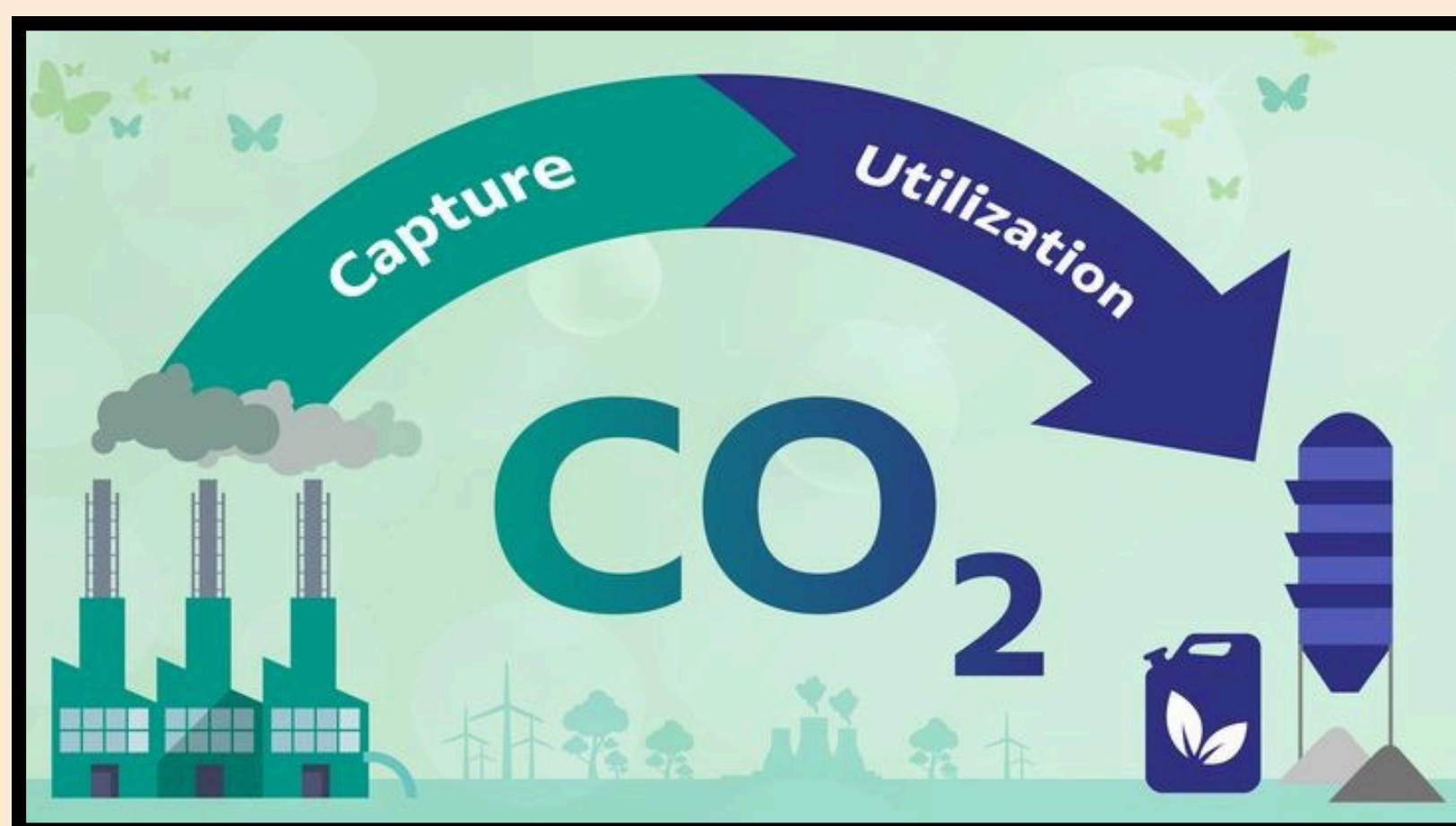
Gujarat International Finance Tec-City, also known as Gift City, is a groundbreaking initiative by the Indian government that integrates climate change mitigation and sustainable development in a way never seen before. Gift City aims to become a major global financial center and also emphasizing on environmental sustainability through its creative architecture and intelligent infrastructure. The city is proud of its many environmentally friendly programs, which include rainwater harvesting, effective waste management systems, and the production of renewable energy through solar power plants.

Additionally, Gift City encourages the use of public transportation and eco-friendly transportation options like electric vehicles to lower carbon emissions. Gift City is a great example of other urban developments in India and around the world because it has adopted these sustainable practices on a large scale. By lowering greenhouse gas emissions, protecting natural resources, and improving the general quality of life in the city, this innovative strategy greatly aids in the mitigation of climate change.



6.2: Increasing the use of Carbon Capture Technology especially in developing countries whose economies are dependent on agriculture:

A key component of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating climate change is carbon capture and storage, or CCS technology. This creative approach involves trapping carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from factories and power plants before they are discharged into the sky. After being captured, the CO₂ is moved and stored underground in geological formations that are inaccessible to the outside world, such as deep saline aquifers or exhausted oil and gas reservoirs.



This is particularly beneficial for LDCs and SIDS whose economy majorly depends on agriculture. Due to CCS's demonstrated ability to drastically cut CO₂ emissions, industries can continue operating with the least amount of negative environmental impact. As a practical means of decarbonizing fossil fuel-dependent industries, CCS contributes significantly to the achievement of global climate goals, especially when combined with other sustainable practices like the use of renewable energy. Still, more developments in CCS technologies are needed to improve their effectiveness and affordability for broader use. This technology can prove to be the greatest boon if applied tapping its full potential. The developed economies should fund or help the underdeveloped and developing economies bear the establishment cost of CCS Technology.

6.3: Understanding and analysing the current trends in Carbon Trading:

Carbon trading is a legally binding scheme that caps total emissions and allows organizations to trade their allocated carbon emissions and hence the term "cap and trade". This idea was liked by the world and hence in 1997, the Kyoto Protocol was negotiated in which a Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) was set up. If any industry could stop 1 ton of carbon emission or reduce 1 ton of CO₂, then it gains one carbon credit. The activities that generate carbon credit are called carbon-positive activities, for instance, renewable energy plants.

All Cap and Trade Systems have conditions limits calculated by governments and policymakers which are compatible with the targets of limiting environmental damage. Carbon allowances or units totalling up to this maximum are then allocated to companies and can be treated on a market. This is despite the acknowledgment by the climate community of the potential for the framework agreed upon under Article 6 of the Paris Pact to unwind new sources of climate finance. Leveraging climate finance is pivotal for developing countries, primarily in Africa, which accounts for 72% of all Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

Activities to support the development of sovereign carbon markets under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement will enable the rise of additional climate finance because of the levy on carbon market dealings for adaptation, that can reinforce climate-resilient evolution: 5% of all credits under Article. 6.4 will be given to the Adaptation Fund – a major increase from the 2% levy under the Clean Development Mechanism. These issues, which are especially pertinent to Small Island Developing States (SIDS), deserve tremendous awareness.

KEY FINDINGS:

- There is a huge potential to develop Industries or sectors that climate finance can support in developing countries: there are large opportunities in green buildings and construction, renewables, transportation, climate-smart agriculture and energy efficiency for manufacturing factories and industries. Green buildings alone will take a lion's share of investment. Out of 23 trillion dollars about 16 trillion dollars will be required alone in green buildings.
- Most of the developing countries are dependent on agriculture, therefore CSA will play an important role. For instance, drip irrigation coupled with off-grid solar is just one of the technologies that promises to increase both productivity and income making crops less vulnerable to climate change impacts.

- One finding is that the wealthier countries are committing to greening their economies as they look to recover from any setbacks of the past years. The question that arises here is, why is it necessary for developing countries to do the same?
- For wealthier economies, it is an opportunity to accelerate a transition that began many years ago but while analyzing the answer to this, we need to remember that the lion's share of future climate-related investments will not be in the developed countries but in the emerging markets. Low-income countries will have their share as they require significant investments in their transition to a middle-income status that is linked to urbanization, industry, infrastructure and food supply chains. Besides this, most of the economies of the developing countries are vulnerable to climate change impacts, so there is a need for resilience in every economic aspect, like buildings, infrastructure, agriculture and farming.

CONCLUSION :

After analyzing all the data and statistics, it can be concluded that the GEF operates with a Western bias in decision-making and letting funds. It remains a bureaucratic organization where any climate-related projects have to go through complex approval procedures. There is a lack of proper coordination and the resources do not have an equitable distribution. As analyzed above, in the African continent the majority of the nations come under LDCs, but still, they receive only 21% of the \$100 billion target. Due to the strife between the Global North and South, the proper financial mechanism could not be established due to which funds are not channelised according to actual needs.

WAY FORWARD :

The current situation has highlighted inequalities between and also within countries. In this scenario, climate investments become very important for shared prosperity. Now, many climate-smart technologies are aiming particularly at helping LDCs. Eg: solar power has helped many families that did not have access to electricity.

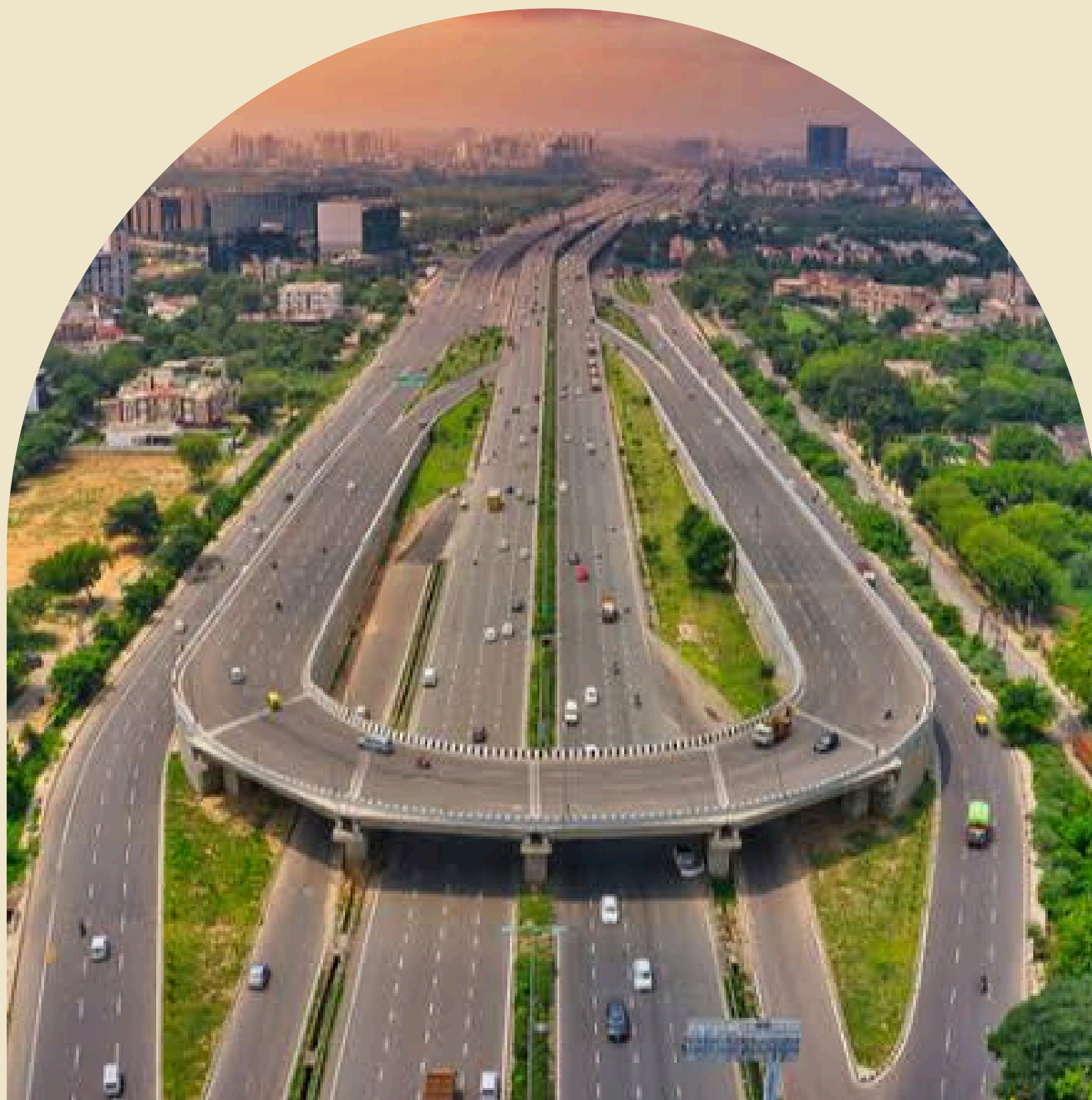
The construction and building industry is focusing on building more energy-efficient green buildings that have lower utility costs and higher resale values, significantly outweighing any additional cost required to build them. It will offer several advantages to LDCs and SIDS like building climate resilience, improved air quality, job creation and economic development, energy independence and security and so on. One example is the energy efficient housing in Mexico which has become the default option for low-income housing as it saves precious money on utility payments.

REFERENCES:

- 1.) Admin, P. by CVF, & Admin, C. (2022): *Climate vulnerable economies loss report, V20: The Vulnerable Twenty Group*. (<https://www.v20.org/resources/publications/climate-vulnerable-economies-loss-report>)
- 2.) Bajic, A., Kiesel, R., & Hellmich, M. (2023): *Handle with care: Challenges in company-level emissions data for assessing financial risks from climate change*, *Journal of Climate Finance*, 5, 100017 (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclimf.2023.100017>)
- 3.) Becker, M., Papa F., Karpytchev M., Delebecque C., Krien Y., Khan J.U., Ballu V., Durand F., Le Cozannet G., Islam A.K.M.S Calmant S., Shum C.K., M. (2020): *Water level changes, subsidence, and sea level rise in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna delta*. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*. (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31907308/>)
- 4.) Bos , J., & Thwaites, J. (2021): *A Breakdown of Developed Countries' Public Climate Finance Contributions Towards the \$100 Billion Goal*, World Resources Institute.
- 5) Brown, S (2015): *Science of The total environment*, Volumes 527-528, pages 362-374. (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0048969715300589>)
- 6) Bryant, G., & Webber, S. (2024): *Climate finance: Taking a position on climate futures*, Agenda Publishing.

- 7.) Choudhary, S. (2020): *Water level rise in Ganga-Brahmaputra Delta could reach 85-140 cm by 2100*, Mint. (<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/water-level-rise-in-ganga-brahmaputra-delta-could-reach-85-140-cm-by-2100-11578572785427.html>)
- 8.) Daharwal, M., Engel, H., Frandsen, S., Jayaram, K., Kendall, A., & Mwaniki, B. (2023): *Solving the climate finance equation for developing countries*, McKinsey & Company (<https://www.mckinsey.com/capabilities/sustainability/our-insights/solving-the-climate-finance-equation-for-developing-countries>.)
- 9.) Global Environment Facility Trust Fund World Bank (n.d.). (<https://fiftrustee.worldbank.org/en/about/unit/dfi/fiftrustee/fund-detail/gef>)
- 10) Fuhr, H (2021): *The rise of the Global South and the rise in carbon emissions*, Third World Quarterly, 42(11), 2724-2746, (<https://doi.org/10.1080/01436597.2021.1954901>)
- 11) Grantham Research Institute on climate change and the environment. (2023): *What is climate finance?*. (<https://www.lse.ac.uk/granthaminstitute/explainers/what-is-climate-finance-and-where-will-it-come-from/>)
- 12.) Ledger, E., & Klöck, C. (2023): *Climate justice through Climate Finance? Australia's approach to Climate Finance in the Pacific*. Npj Climate Action, 2(1). (<https://doi.org/10.1038/s44168-023-00053-6>)
- 13.) Paszkowski, A., Goodbred, S., Borgomeo, E. et al. (2021): *Geomorphic change in the Ganges–Brahmaputra–Meghna delta*. Nat Rev Earth Environ 2, 763–780 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43017-021-00213-4>
- 14.) Rahman, Md. M., Ghosh, T., Salehin, M., Ghosh, A., Haque, A., Hossain, M. A., Das, S., Hazra, S., Islam, N., Sarker, M. H., Nicholls, R. J., & Hutton, C. W. (1970): *Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna Delta, Bangladesh and India: A transnational mega-delta*. SpringerLink. https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-030-23517-8_2
- 15.) Steckler, S, M., (2021): (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0012825221003883>)
- 16.) Timperley, J. (2021): *(The broken \$100-billion promise of climate finance - and how to fix it)*. Nature News. (<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-02846-3>)
- 17.) The Journal of Indian and asian studies - World scientific publishing ... (n.d.-b). (<https://worldscientific.com/doi/10.1142/S2717541322400022>)
- 18.) World Economic Forum. (n.d.) *Climate adaptation: The \$2 trillion market the private sector cannot ignore*. (<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/11/climate-change-climate-adaptation-private-sector/>)
- 19.) World Scientific Publication. (2016): *Climate finance theory and practice*.
- 20.) X, S. (2020): *A better estimate of water-level rise in the Ganges Delta*. Phys.org. (<https://phys.org/news/2020-01-water-level-ganges-delta.html>)

INDIA'S INFRASTRUCTURE AID AND DEVELOPMENT : A NEW CARD OF DIPLOMACY



**AUTHOR:
SOURISHREE GHOSH**

Affiliation:
Jadavpur University, Kolkata

Course:
B.A (H)Political Science

INTRODUCTION



India's infrastructure diplomacy is one of the key instruments of India's foreign policy. The importance of infrastructure aid diplomacy has risen significantly as a part of India's soft power diplomacy. Moreover, there has been a growing emphasis on quality, people-centric, sustainable and resilient infrastructure. India's development cooperation is intrinsically linked with its infrastructural diplomacy, as evident through its grants and lines of credit. In the 2022-23 Union Budget, the Indian government allocated Rs. 6292 Crore (Rs. 6.9 billion) in the form of development assistance to the countries in India's neighbourhood and Africa. So far, India has extended concessional lines of credit for supporting the infrastructure projects worth US\$34.4 billion to the developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. India has been financing and building transportation, energy and social infrastructure projects across Africa, Asia and Latin America.

India has also proven its leadership capabilities by launching the International Solar Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure for positioning itself as a leader in the field of sustainable and resilient infrastructure in the face of growing threat of climate change. India also recently launched the scaled-up Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII) and India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor Programme. The former programme is aiming to build sustainable, resilient infrastructure (corridors) in India, West Asia and Europe. This project will push commerce, energy trade, digital connectivity to higher standards, aiming at executing it in a transparent, non-coercive and sustainable way. India's development partnerships abroad has significant geopolitical ramifications on the regional dynamics as well on the global geopolitical dynamics. This is crucial from the perspective of enhancing India's national security interests in the Asian region while acting as a bulwark against belligerent powers such as China and Pakistan. Infrastructure diplomacy has been an important instrument for expanding India's sphere of influence not only in its neighbourhood but also across the world. Geopolitical analysts believe that India's infrastructure diplomacy has also led to the promotion of multipolarity amidst the intensifying U.S.-China rivalry.



Infrastructure investment mainly includes the setting up of both soft (digital infrastructure) and hard infrastructure (ports, roads). Moreover, India has also pushed for developing emerging infrastructure in the maritime and digital spaces. The creation of the Development Partnership Administration at the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in January 2012 for effective implementation of all aid projects from technical training to extension of credit lines to grant-in-aid projects in close cooperation and partnership with the partner countries. Also, under the concept of ‘Small Development Project’ programme, India is engaging with the aid partner projects for introducing stakeholders in the process of swift implementation. For example, 466 small projects have been completed in Nepal as a part of this plan in just 10 years at a relatively low cost of Rs. 3.5 crores per project. The successes of these projects build and strengthen credibility and reliability of India’s infrastructure aid initiatives, thereby enhancing India’s infrastructure diplomacy.

Secondly, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure is also an integral component of this strategy to globalise India’s technological products. India’s open source fintech is one of the best in the world, which is also being widely adopted for achieving the UN’s SDGs. India’s UPI (Unified Payments Interface) has been a game changer in the global context. India is actively pursuing partnerships and collaborations for sharing its technology, especially digital public goods such as CoWin (portal for covid vaccination drive) and UPI (Unified Payments Infrastructure) with the emerging economies of the world. India’s positioning as a credible infrastructure provider to provide for the regional needs is estimated at \$26 trillion by 2030. So, India’s infrastructure diplomacy is multifaceted in nature, manifesting itself in varied spheres of development.

INDIA'S GLOBAL PARTICIPATION IN THE INFRASTRUCTURE DOMAIN

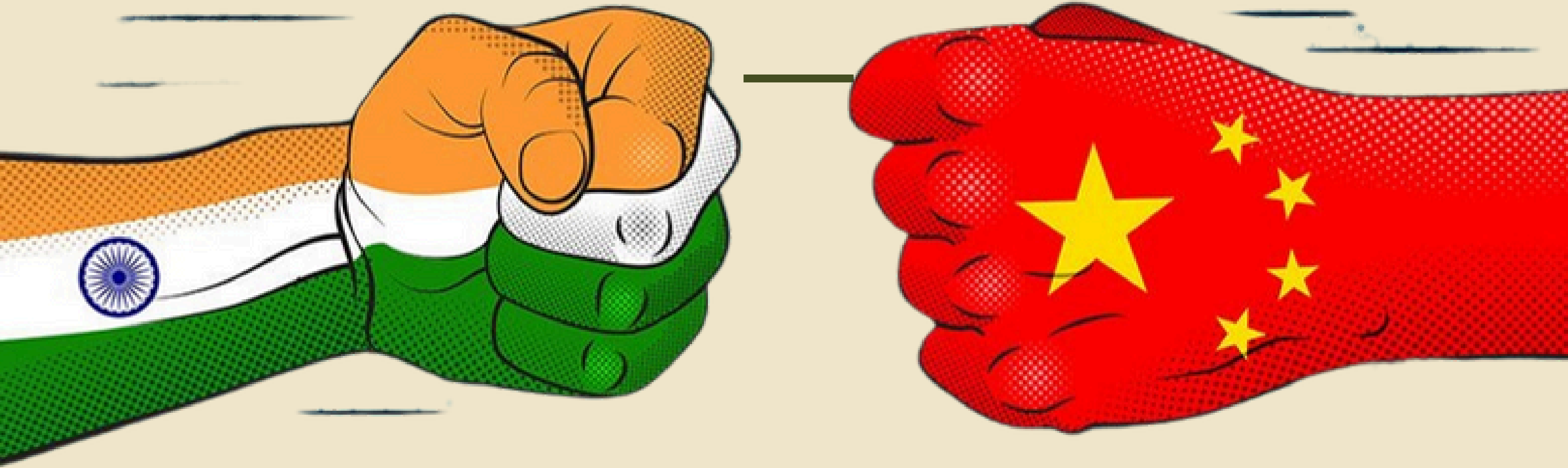
The case of India-Africa relations can be understood from one of the important bilateral partners in this aspect of infrastructure diplomacy in South Africa. Africa is one of the largest untapped potential destinations for investments for India. Indian investment in this region has grown substantially across the African continent. India has financed various development projects in Africa in the sectors and infrastructure is one of the crucial dimensions of their bilateral relations. India-led International Solar Alliance has also been contributing significantly to the clean energy transition of the African nations. India has also asserted its position as a better development partner to Africa than China as the democratic institutions and economic model of functioning. The rise of the influence of China in the African Continent has made it a strategic necessity for India to invest in Africa's development. Currently, there are many Indian multinational companies that have invested heavily in Africa ranging from energy to mining to telecommunications to IT-enabled services. India today is the fifth largest investor in Africa. These strategic investments by India also culminates as an important component of India's soft power diplomacy.



The Tata group in India has been present in Africa and has been present in various sectors such as telecom sector, information technology and transport sector. The Indian companies are also expected to invest up to US\$ 176 bn in Africa for Infrastructural development. This way, India has also established its place as a credible partner in the domain of technology and infrastructure development. This also points towards the fact that the major domestic private players of the country are actively contributing to India's foreign policy through their business ventures. Thus, the emerging partnerships with like-minded countries or with existing or potential partners, strengthens domestic infrastructure and collaboration with the private players to brings innovation, research and expertise to the table. To conclude, India's foreign policy in Africa is one of the biggest drivers of India's diplomacy in the Global South.



BOOSTING INDIA'S NEIGHBOURHOOD DIPLOMACY: COUNTERING CHINA



Development Diplomacy is the new card of New Delhi's outreach in its neighbourhood. In the 2022-23 Union Budget, approximately Rs. 2,266 crore (Rs. 2.2 billion) were earmarked for Bhutan. The development assistance for Nepal and Myanmar was Rs. 750 crore and Rs. 600 crore respectively. We can infer that through development diplomacy, India has expanded its influence and footprint in the South Asian subcontinent. India has also been one of the biggest contributors for reconstruction of Afghanistan. India, being one of the largest regional donors to Afghanistan as the former has been particularly important for India to counter Pakistan. So, infrastructure diplomacy is essentially interlinked to India's national security concerns and high stakes in its neighbourhood. Therefore, there is no doubt that India's neighbourhood is the mainstay of India's infrastructure diplomacy. New Delhi is also seeking to invest more in the Sri Lankan economy through its support and assistance in the domain of renewable energy, tourism and power projects. This can also be analysed from the perspective of India's security concerns and emerging geopolitical threat from China's presence in the Indian Ocean in particular and the South Asian region in general. Sri Lanka is aiming to work with India to develop and expand the Trincomalee harbour into a major port. This bilateral engagement would also be a great opportunity for India to exert its influence in the Indian ocean region and beyond to the Indo-Pacific Region. The Adani Group also invested \$1.41 billion in renewable energy in the Mannar Basin and the West Container Terminal at Colombo Port. It would also be a mutually beneficial proposition especially since most of the transshipment at Colombo Port is to and from India.

One of the major regions of India's proactive pursuit of infrastructure diplomacy is to counter the rise of China. On the other hand, China's BRI (Belt and Road Initiative) initiatives under its larger strategy of String of Pearls, including big infrastructure projects such as the Gwadar Port in Pakistan and, the deep-water port of Kyaukpyu among others pose national security threats to India. To counter such a threat, India has been expanding through the deepening and expansion of its bilateral relations with the South Asian nations to expand its influence in the Indian Ocean. India has been investing in building ports such as the construction of the deep-sea port called Sabang in Indonesia which is strategic as it is in close proximity to the Strait of Malacca and Andaman and Nicobar Islands, deep water port in Sittwe, Myanmar, and across countries including Oman and Singapore. India has been actively pursuing strategic foreign policies based on the idea of infrastructure diplomacy. Examples include the Necklace of Diamond Strategy, the SAGARMALA Project, and port infrastructure development to enhance India's influence in the Indian Ocean region. India's strategic investment for becoming more competitive in delivering overseas development finance is based upon equality, mutual benefit, and non-interference in the internal affairs of the country. India has also the potential to emerge as a key player in the infrastructure marketplace of the Indo-Pacific and the Bay of Bengal region through BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation).



Another way of forwarding infrastructure diplomacy is through extending lines of credit. For example, in September 2021, the Export-Import Bank of India gave credits worth \$40 million line of credit (LOC) to the Maldives government to support the development of sports infrastructure. In June 2021, the same bank announced a \$100 million LOC for the Sri Lankan government to finance solar energy projects. Maritime infrastructure is an important aspect of maritime diplomacy. So, India is focusing on investing in the maritime security infrastructure in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) as part of the SAGAR initiative.



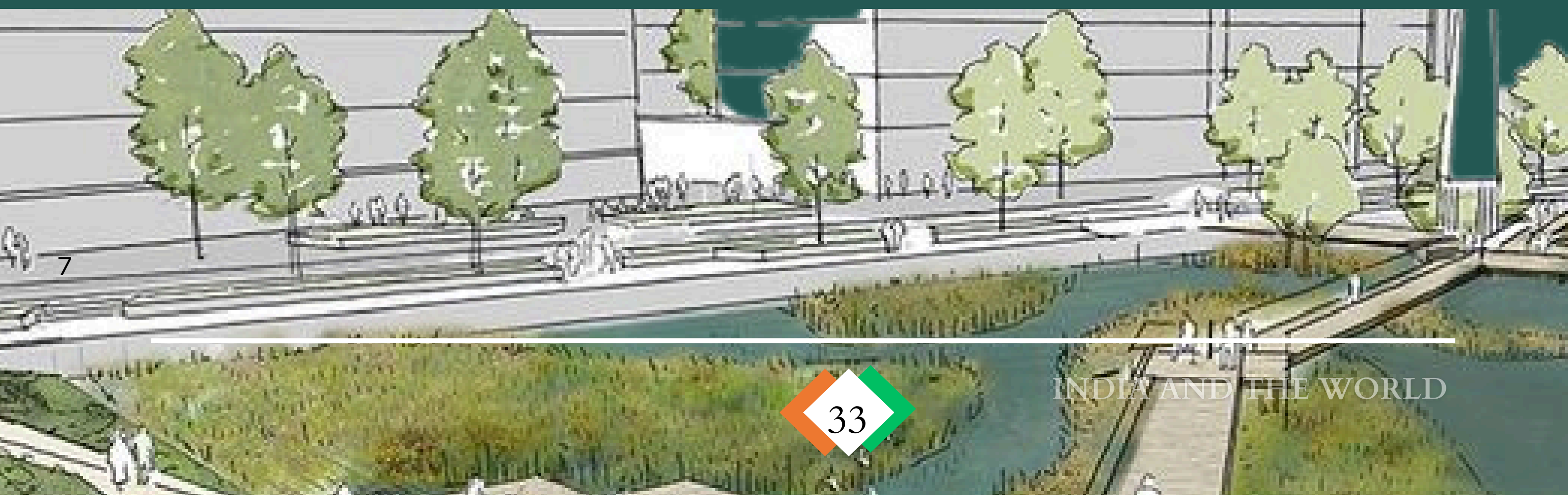
THE WAY FORWARD: EXPANDING PARTNERSHIPS AND GLOBALISING THE INDIA BRAND



India's pursuit of infrastructure diplomacy has not been without hurdles. There have been various challenges to India's expansion of investment in global infrastructure. One of them being the domestic politics of countries, especially in countries such as Myanmar, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. This is in addition to bureaucratic delays, challenging working conditions, and security threats, for example, the India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway. India's aid projects in the neighboring countries such as the Terai road projects in Nepal and the hydroelectric dams in Nepal and Bhutan have faced numerous delays and issues. India's efforts in developing the commercial maritime infrastructure, especially the Chabahar port in Iran (post-Taliban takeover of Afghanistan) had failed in countering China's Gwadar Port in Pakistan. These failures point gaps towards India's infrastructure diplomacy.

Firstly, India should also focus on prioritising the adoption of India's digital public infrastructure in its neighbourhood. India currently does not have a grand masterplan like China's BRI, however, it has ample opportunities for becoming a credible and reliable partner.

This would also strengthen India's stature as a net security provider in the region. On the other hand, the Chinese infrastructure projects have earned discredit and are known widely as China's debt trap diplomacy. However, given the enormity of Chinese loan, it would remain a tough competitor to India at least in the short run. Secondly, India needs to tap into its bilateral and mini-lateral infrastructure partnerships. India's infrastructure undertaking under its Arctic Policy and cooperating with Moscow on issues related to trade and logistics. This would take India's infrastructural diplomacy to the next level. The digital initiatives under ICT is an excellent opportunity for India amidst the Chinese dominating digital silk road initiative. Currently, India and Japan are partnering for exploring business collaboration for making provision for digital infrastructure in Asia and Africa. It can display its global leadership through new multilateral development banks and multilateral coalitions. This is indeed a step in the right direction towards India's infrastructural diplomacy through leveraging multilateralism.





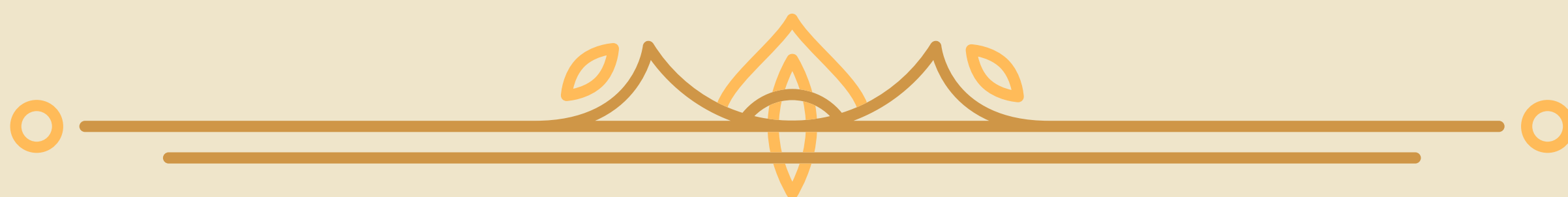
CONCLUSION

Development diplomacy is the latest card of projecting India's soft power diplomacy. Thus, India has made strategic investments in strategic sectors such as infrastructure and communications across the countries. These diplomatic moves have significant geopolitical implications in South Asia as well as in global affairs. These investments have played a crucial role in enhancing India's interests in these geopolitically important regions. To conclude, India has been successfully leveraging its Infrastructure diplomacy for achieving its strategic foreign policy objectives.

REFERENCES

1. Aulakh, G. (2022): *How Bharti Airtel got a signal boost in Africa*, LiveMint. Retrieved from <https://www.livemint.com/industry/telecom/how-bharti-airtel-got-a-signal-boost-in-africa-11661791161730.html>
2. Chaudhury, D. R. (2022): *India plans investments across sectors to strengthen links with the Sri Lankan economy*, Economic Times. Retrieved from <https://m.economictimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-plans-investments-across-sectors-to-strengthen-link-with-sri-lankan-economy/articleshow/93486758.cms>
3. Contributor, G. (2022): *Tata Motors: How India's largest commercial vehicle maker is conquering Africa*, Financial Express. Retrieved from <https://www.financialexpress.com/auto/commercial-vehicles/tata-motors-how-indias-largest-commercial-vehicle-maker-is-conquering-africa-kenya-uganda-tanzania-mozambique-nigeria-ghana-cote-de-ivoire-senegal-tunisia-ethiopia-sudan-djibouti/2291771/>
4. Economic Times. (2022): *India, Japan script an expanding partnership for a shared future*. Retrieved from <https://m.economictimes.com/tech/startups/india-japan-script-an-expanding-partnership-for-a-shared-future/articleshow/102139039.cms>
5. Gujjar, A. S. (2021): *SAGAR Policy: Analysing India's Vision for Maritime Diplomacy*, Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS). Retrieved from <https://www.claws.in/sagar-policy-analyzing-indias-vision-for-maritime-diplomacy/>
6. India Brand Equity Foundation. (2024): *Indian investments abroad*. Retrieved from <https://www.ibef.org/economy/indian-investments-abroad>
7. Indian High Commission in Maldives. (n.d): Press Release. Retrieved from <https://hci.gov.in/male/?13441?000>
8. Indian Trade Portal. (n.d): *Investment Opportunities*. Retrieved from <https://www.indiantradeportal.in/vs.jsp?lang=0&id=0,55,286>
9. Invest India. (2023): *Indian orgs to invest up to US \$176 bn in Africa for infra development*. Retrieved from <https://indbiz.gov.in/indian-orgs-to-invest-up-to-us-176-bn-in-africa-for-infra-development/#:~:text=In%20terms%20of%20sectoral%20distribution,billion%20to%20US%24%20176%20billion.>

10. Madhukalya, A. (2022): *China's debt trap diplomacy in the region and how it impacts India*, Business Today. Retrieved from <https://www.businesstoday.in/latest/world/story/chinas-debt-trap-diplomacy-in-the-region-and-how-it-impacts-india-329371-2022-04-11>
11. Mishra, A. R. (2022): *India extends \$100 mn line of credit to Sri Lanka to finance solar projects*, LiveMint. Retrieved from <https://www.livemint.com/news/india-extends-100-mn-line-of-credit-to-sri-lanka-to-finance-solar-projects/amp-11623929982506.html>
12. Ministry of External Affairs, MEA Media Centre, India. (2022): *Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII) - India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)*. Retrieved from <https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/37091/Partnership+for+Global+Infrastructure+and+Investment+PGII++IndiaMiddle+EastEurope+Economic+Corridor+IMEC#:~:text=PGII%20is%20a%20developmental%20initiative,the%20Gulf%20region%20to%20Europe>
13. Naiko, J. (2024): *How India leads the global fight against climate change*, Press Insider. Retrieved from <https://pressinsider.com/news/how-india-leads-the-global-fight-against-climate-change/>
15. Perth USAsia Centre. (n.d.): *The Potential of Indian Investment in Africa*, Retrieved from <https://perthusasia.edu.au/getattachment/fedb30a9-e7d7-49b0-985f-2fa4918eb386/PU-225-V27-Passive-WEB.pdf.aspx?lang=en-AU>
14. Srivastava, S., & Panchal, S. (2023): *How India is taking UPI global*, Forbes India. Retrieved from <https://www.forbesindia.com/article/take-one-big-story-of-the-day/how-india-is-taking-upi-global/87477/1>
15. Srinivasan, M. (2022): *Colombo mulls converting Adani power project to a G2G deal: Sri Lankan media*, The Hindu Business Line. Retrieved from <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/colombo-mulls-converting-adani-power-project-to-a-g2g-deal-sri-lankan-media/article67266468.ece>
16. Telecom Economic Times. (2021): *Jio says deploying submarine cable systems to Singapore, Middle East, Europe to address data demand*, Retrieved from [https://telecom.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/jio-says-deploying-submarine-cable-systems-to-singapore-middle-east-europe-to-address-data-demand/82707021#:~:text=NEW%20DELHI%3A%20Reliance%20Jio%20Infocomm,Europe%20DXpress%20\(IEX\)](https://telecom.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/jio-says-deploying-submarine-cable-systems-to-singapore-middle-east-europe-to-address-data-demand/82707021#:~:text=NEW%20DELHI%3A%20Reliance%20Jio%20Infocomm,Europe%20DXpress%20(IEX))
17. Triolo, P., Brown, C., Allison, K., & Broderick, K. (2020): *The Digital Silk Road: Expanding China's Digital Footprint*, Eurasia Group. Retrieved from <https://www.eurasiagroup.net/live-post/digital-silk-road-expanding-china-digital-footprint>



India and the Global South Strategy-Focusing on Diplomatic Relations with Africa



Anjali Gaur
Department of Political Science
Atma Ram Sanatan Dharma College

Introduction

In the past, India was predominately perceived as a developing nation but in the contemporary times, the scenario has been changed taking into consideration the transition in India's foreign policy. India is charting a new course for itself in the regional and global economic and political landscape. As a leader of the Global South, India has strategically positioned itself as a trailblazer and frontrunner, with diverse achievements attributed to itself across varied spheres.

What is Global South?

- The term Global South was first coined in 1969 by political activist Carl Oglesby after the Second World War.
- The Global South refers to countries often characterized as developing, less developed, or underdeveloped, primarily located in Africa, Asia, and Latin America which experience higher levels of poverty, income inequality, and challenging living conditions compared to the wealthier nations of the Global North.
- The term Global South signifies a combination of political, geopolitical, and economic similarities among nations as they all had a history of colonialism and imperialism.

What is the Significance of the Global South today?

1. *Shifting Economic and Political Power*

- The World Bank (WB) has challenged traditional ideas of the allocation of economic power by acknowledging a "shift in wealth" from the North Atlantic to the Asia-Pacific area.

- The BRICS countries—Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa—have a GDP (Gross Domestic Product) that is already higher than the G-7. Furthermore, political figures from the Global South—such as Saudi Arabia, Brazil, and China—are becoming more and more significant players in world politics.

2. *Geopolitical Significance*

- It is expected that Asian countries would be major players in what scholars refer to as the "Asian Century."
- A "post-Western world" is also being discussed as the Global South's influence overtakes the Global North's historical domination.

India's Global South Strategy

1.1 *India - voice of Global South*

When India hosted the online Voice of the Global South Summit under the theme – 'Unity of voice, Unity of purpose' in January 2023, it officially started using the phrase "Global South" in diplomatic arenas. During the summit, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that the nations in the Global South, comprising 75% of the global population, hold the greatest potential for future development and declared that India would stand up for the Global South.

The developing world has been deeply impacted by recent global occurrences, including the Covid epidemic, the ongoing crisis in Ukraine, growing debt, issues with food and energy security, etc. The developing world's issues frequently go unnoticed and unallocated on the international scene. Additionally, the pertinent platforms that are already established have frequently shown to be insufficient in resolving

these issues and worries of the emerging nations.

In this way, the Voice of Global South Summit initiative inspired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas Sabka Vishwas aur Sabka Prayas', and also underpinned by India's philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam has been India's endeavour to provide a common platform to deliberate on the concerns, interests and priorities that affect the developing countries and also to exchange ideas and solutions, and most importantly, to unite in voice and purpose in addressing the concerns and priorities.

India's Global South Strategy encompasses three things: 1. India understands the dichotomy between Global North and South and being a victim of colonialism and imperialism, India tends to create a platform for these countries to discuss the various issues faced by countries in Southern Hemisphere in multilateral forums led by major countries, such as the G7 and G20; 2. After the Bandung Conference of 1955, both India and China began to vie for leadership of the Global South, with its Global South strategy China is positioned outside the framework implying India's standing as a representative of the Global South; 3. India continues to take a position that purposefully leaves open-ended and imprecise the list of nations that fall under the umbrella of the Global South. This uncertainty suggests that all nations outside of developed ones could be included except China, and consequently, India appears to have been successful in presenting the Global South—a collection of developing and emerging nations—as a unified political entity.

1.2 India's proposal for African Union to become Permanent Member

India has endorsed new membership for the G-20 presidency and made a proposal to African Union, and the AU's formal accession was approved at the G20 summit held in New Delhi in September 2023. It was considered as a historic move. This is an actual instance of an aspect of India's Global South strategy that addresses the fact that, except from South Africa, the perspectives of Africa's 1.48 billion people are not sufficiently represented in international collaboration. Africa is one of the G20's permanent members. India supports expanding permanent memberships in the Security Council through UN reform and feels that the international political system needs to be reformed. Another factor behind India's policy is to secure stronger support from African Countries, which are biggest voting-bloc in international community, is its desire to gain support in the international community arena. Furthermore, India hopes to drive a wedge between China and Africa by implying that it is the representative of the developing world, even as China and African nations strengthen their ties via China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative. In order to do this, India has been working to establish an image of itself as a reliable partner for African nations.

Historical Background - India and African Relations

The relations between India and Africa have long historical roots. One of the consistent aspirations of late Jawaharlal Nehru was the gradual creation of friendly, cooperative, and mutually constructive relationships between India and African countries. Efforts were made to create policies that were inclined towards the African countries.



2.1. Creation of the Non-Aligned Movement

After the Second World War, the world was divided into two blocs (USA & USSR) but India decided to make its way by creating NAM (Non-Aligned Movement) which was the result of the Asian-African Conference, held in Bandung, Indonesia. In this Conference, members committed themselves to do the following things: firstly, to promote trade and economic development and cooperation in the Asia-African region. Secondly, to enhance the development of cultural cooperation between the Asian and African countries, some of which had been hampered by centuries of European colonial rule. Lastly, to promote the extension of human rights and self-determination for the African countries. As the African countries gained independence, from 1956 onwards, the Indian government did not hesitate to establish formal diplomatic relations and offices there. The African countries also reciprocated.

2.2 Policy framework for India-Africa collaboration

The close relations that exist presently between Africa and India predate the creation of the Global South concept. Through the India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS), a summit-level gathering

that has been conducted on a regular basis since 2008, and the CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership, a working-level meeting that was first held in 2005, the nations of Africa and India have gradually deepened their ties. The IAFS collaborates in many different and extensive fields. Intangible support is emphasized, as exemplified by India's International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) providing agricultural support to small-holder farmers in Kenya and Ethiopia, and capacity building assistance to establish food processing enterprises in Uganda and Ghana.

IIT Madras plans to open its overseas branch campus in Zanzibar, Tanzania, in October 2023. Indian External Affairs Minister Subramanian Jaishankar visited Tanzania in the summer to discuss increased cooperation on a variety of industries and to inaugurate the university.

The Indian government's concerted attempts to directly support the development of human resources in African nations amply demonstrate India's inclination towards the Global South.

2.3. India: A More Reliable Partner

With increasing interest and investments of China in the African nations, India faces a



a potential threat from China. How India is a more reliable power than any other nation because:

- **People Centric** - Enhancing Africa's productive capacities, diversifying skills and knowledge, and investing in SMEs are on the cards. India's cross-border connectivity initiatives with Eastern African countries are a natural extension of its policy to enhance people-to-people ties.
- India is also seeking to reinvigorate its cultural links with East Africa under the rubric of Project 'Mausam', an initiative of the Ministry of Culture. The project seeks to revive lost linkages with the "Indian Ocean world" - East Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia.
- **Joint Initiatives** - India, Japan, and many African nations have also launched a trilateral initiative, the Asia Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC). This is to develop 'industrial corridors', and 'institutional networks' for the growth of Asia and Africa, and to promote development cooperation.
- **Security and Defence Cooperation** - India's security and defence cooperation with Africa is mainly limited to anti-piracy operations off the coast of Somalia which broadly include - deployment of Indian forces to UN peacekeeping missions in Africa and joint-naval patrolling of the Western Indian Ocean. These engagements are mainly with Tanzania, Kenya, Mozambique, and the island nations of "Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar, and Comoros".

Economic ties with India and Africa

Trade agreements between India and Africa are growing concurrently with the Indian government's initiative to provide loans and technical support to the continent. India is set to invest \$150 billion in Africa by 2030, up from a total of US\$74 billion between 1996 and 2021,

according to the Confederation of Indian Industry. The growth drivers are probably going to be investments in industry, infrastructure development, agribusiness and food processing, and construction. It should be mentioned that the Chinese government waived interest on loans issued to 17 African countries during the 2022 FOCAC coordinators' meeting. However, the overall amount of debt forgiveness amounted to less than 1.1% of all loans made by China to Africa. Though, India's emphasis on Human Resource Development may become a factor that will help India to be a reliable and trustworthy partner in the eyes of African nations.

Providing foreign Aid to Africa

Africa has been designated as a high priority in our foreign and economic strategy, and the government has been taking various steps to improve engagement with the African nations. Through our development partnership assistance schemes, including as grant-in aid projects, training and capacity building programmes, Lines of Credit support, Humanitarian & Disaster Relief Assistance, and familiarisation visits, the government has been giving aid to African countries. Through multi-sectoral projects in agriculture, infrastructure, health, education, research, and information technology, much has been accomplished under development cooperation.

48 African nations were included in the first phase of the Pan Africa e-Network project (PANeP), which focused on telemedicine and tele-education. A total of around \$8 billion in 152 lines of credit have been given to 44 nations for the development of public transport, infrastructure, clean energy, irrigation, and other projects throughout Africa.

China and India battle for leadership of Global South

When it comes to influencing the Global South, China seems to hold the top position. Since the 2010s, China has increased its influence by giving Africa enormous financial support for the building of infrastructure as part of Xi's signature initiative, the Belt and Road Initiative. But China is facing headwinds as China's corporations' indifferent behaviour towards African people on one hand and African nations sliding into the debt trap of China on the other make way for India's favourable position for African nations over China.

But the question arises how India is taking one step ahead to lead the Global South:

1. The Raisina Dialogue, a conference of dignitaries and experts from Asia and Western nations that examines international issues, was held in New Delhi which discussed how developing nations are struggling with excessive debt, food and energy crises, and poverty and urged Western nations to support these developing nations economically.
2. The Indo-Japan Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC) document launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his former Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe and India's non-interfering policy towards Global South, especially with African nations helped India take the lead.

How African nations are favouring India over China

African nations in recent times prefer India's non-interfering development model over China's. Allegations in recent media reports have stated that Chinese corporations are exploiting local resources; such as agricultural, mineral, and marine resources and that they are treating African labourers like slaves. However, according to the experts already mentioned, India sees Africa as a partner on an equal footing and a

collaborator. Instances include: China-funded projects are also seen pushing African countries towards a debt trap as the 6-8% interest charged on loans are neither soft nor long term whereas India's support of development and capacity-building projects in Africa through line of credit has seen 20 major ventures completed.

Conclusion

With giving membership to African nations in G-20, India has secured support from African countries and is perceived as a more reliable partner in global arena. In a nutshell, India's approach to partnership with Africa is driven by the aim of South-South Cooperation, empowerment, capacity building, and human resource development, access to Indian market, and support for Indian investments in Africa.

References

1. Asif Shamim, Contributor, G. (2022): *Tata Motors: How India's largest commercial vehicle maker is conquering Africa*, Financial Express. Retrieved from <https://www.financialexpress.com/auto/commercial-vehicles/tata-motors-how-indias-largest-commercial-vehicle-maker-is-conquering-africa-kenya-uganda-tanzania-mozambique-nigeria-ghana-cote-d-ivoire-senegal-tunisia-ethiopia-sudan-djibouti/2291771/>
2. Aulakh, G. (2022): *How Bharti Airtel got a signal boost in Africa*, LiveMint. Retrieved from <https://www.livemint.com/industry/telecom/how-bharti-airtel-got-a-signal-boost-in-africa-11661791161730.html>
3. Chaudhury, D. R. (2022): *India plans investments across sectors to strengthen links with the Sri Lankan economy*, Economic Times. Retrieved from <https://m.economictimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-plans-investments-across-sectors-to-strengthen-link-with-sri-lankan-economy/articleshow/93486758.cms>

4 Dorff, P., Council on Foreign Relations. (n.d.): *China's Digital Silk Road*, Retrieved from <https://www.cfr.org/china-digital-silk-road/>

5. Economic Times. (2022): *India, Japan script an expanding partnership for a shared future*, Retrieved from <https://m.economictimes.com/tech/startups/india-japan-script-an-expanding-partnership-for-a-shared-future/articleshow/102139039.cms>

6. Gujjar, A. S. (2021): *SAGAR Policy: Analysing India's Vision for Maritime Diplomacy*, Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS). Retrieved from <https://www.claws.in/sagar-policy-analyzing-indias-vision-for-maritime-diplomacy/>

7. India Brand Equity Foundation. (n.d.): *Indian investments abroad*, Retrieved from <https://www.ibef.org/economy/indian-investments-abroad>

8. Indian

High Commission in Maldives. (n.d): *Press Release*. Retrieved from <https://hci.gov.in/male/?13441?000>

9. Indian Trade Portal. (n.d.): *Investment Opportunities*, Retrieved from <https://www.indiantradeportal.in/vs.jsp?lang=0&id=0,55,286>

10. Invest India. (2023): *Indian orgs to invest up to US \$176 bn in Africa for infra development*. Retrieved from <https://indbiz.gov.in/indian-orgs-to-invest-up-to-us-176-bn-in-africa-for-infra-development/#:~:text=In%20terms%20of%20sectoral%20distribution,billion%20to%20US%24%20176%20billion.>

11. Madhukalya, A. (2022): *China's debt trap diplomacy in the region and how it impacts India*, Business Today. Retrieved from <https://www.businesstoday.in/latest/world/story/chinas-debt-trap-diplomacy-in-the-region-and-how-it-impacts-india-329371-2022-04-11>

12. Mishra, A. R. (2022): *India extends \$100 mn line of credit to Sri Lanka to finance solar projects*, LiveMint. Retrieved from <https://www.livemint.com/news/india-extends-100-mn-line-of-credit-to-sri-lanka-to-finance-solar-projects/amp-11623929982506.html>





13. Ministry of External Affairs, MEA Media Centre, India. (2022): *Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII) - India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)*. Retrieved from <https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/37091/Partnership+for+Global+Infrastructure+and+Investment+PGII++IndiaMiddle+EastEurope+Economic+Corridor+IMEC#:~:text=PGII%20is%20a%20developmental%20initiative,the%20Gulf%20region%20to%20Europe>
14. Naiko, J. (2024): *How India leads the global fight against climate change*, Press Insider. Retrieved from <https://pressinsider.com/news/how-india-leads-the-global-fight-against-climate-change/>
15. Perth USAsia Centre. (n.d.): *The Potential of Indian Investment in Africa*. Retrieved from <https://perthusasia.edu.au/getattachment/fedb30a9-e7d7-49b0-985f-2fa4918eb386/PU-225-V27-Passi-WEB.pdf.aspx?lang=en-AU>
16. Srivastava, S., & Panchal, S. (2023): *How India is taking UPI global*, Forbes India. Retrieved from <https://www.forbesindia.com/article/take-one-big-story-of-the-day/how-india-is-taking-upi-global/87477/1>
17. Srinivasan, M. (2022): *Colombo mulls converting Adani power project to a G2G deal: Sri Lankan media*, The Hindu Business Line. Retrieved from <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/colombo-mulls-converting-adani-power-project-to-a-g2g-deal-sri-lankan-media/article67266468.ece>
18. Telecom Economic Times. (2021): *Jio says deploying submarine cable systems to Singapore, Middle East, Europe to address data demand*. Retrieved from [https://telecom.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/jio-says-deploying-submarine-cable-systems-to-singapore-middle-east-europe-to-address-data-demand/82707021#:~:text=NEW%20DELHI%3A%20Reliance%20Jio%20Infocomm,Europe%2DXpress%20\(IEX\)](https://telecom.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/jio-says-deploying-submarine-cable-systems-to-singapore-middle-east-europe-to-address-data-demand/82707021#:~:text=NEW%20DELHI%3A%20Reliance%20Jio%20Infocomm,Europe%2DXpress%20(IEX))
19. Triolo, P., Brown, C., Allison, K., & Broderick, K. (2020): *The Digital Silk Road: Expanding China's Digital Footprint*. Eurasia Group. Retrieved from <https://www.eurasiagroup.net/live-post/digital-silk-road-expanding-china-digital-footprint>

RESEARCH PAPER PRESENTATION COMPETITION



THEME: DEMOCRACY IN SOUTH ASIA



Exploring the Erosion of Democracy and Judicial Sentiments in India: The Impact of Community-Based and Restorative Justice

Keerthana Girish and Devanandana S

First Position

This study examines the intricate dynamics of democracy, the justice system and the proliferation of community-based and restorative justice mechanisms in India. The central research problem revolves around understanding how the reliance on community-based and restorative justice may undermine the foundational pillars of democracy and erode public trust in the formal judicial system. Employing an in-depth analysis of crucial resources, the study seeks to provide nuanced insights into the complex interplay between democracy, justice, and informal dispute-resolution practices in India. Ultimately, this research aims to understand the challenges posed by informal justice mechanisms and safeguard the foundational principles of democracy and justice in India.

Keywords: India, Democracy, the justice system, informal justice, Community-based justice practises

India, a diverse and complex union of states, is characterized by a rich tapestry of cultures, languages, and traditions. India's trajectory from a colony to an independent state and its subsequent evolution into a vibrant democracy constitute a complex and compelling journey that has left an indelible mark on the nation's history. The transition from British colonial rule to independence in 1947 marked a pivotal moment, setting in motion a series of profound changes that would shape the destiny of a subcontinent. The struggle for independence, led by iconic figures underscored the aspirations of a diverse population for self-determination and sovereignty. However, the journey did not end with the attainment of independence; instead, it marked the beginning of a multifaceted process, characterized by the daunting tasks of nation-building, socio-economic development, and the establishment of a robust democratic framework.

Against the backdrop of diverse cultures, languages, and religions, India's experiment with democracy has been both a beacon of pluralism and a test of governance complexities. Before India embarked on its journey from a colony to an independent state, the socio-legal landscape was marked by the existence of traditional community-based justice systems. In the absence of a formal legal apparatus and judiciary, these systems played a pivotal role in resolving disputes and maintaining order within local communities. The lack of a centralised and codified legal framework meant that justice was often dispensed based on local customs, traditions, and the authority of community leaders. While these informal systems may have addressed immediate concerns, they often lacked the procedural safeguards and consistency inherent in a formal legal system. As India transitioned towards independence and the establishment of a democratic state, the need for a more organized and equitable justice system became apparent.

Community-based and restorative justice practices in India have garnered attention for reasons that underscore significant challenges within the legal system and societal norms. While cultural traditions may emphasise community cohesion, the adoption of restorative justice seems, in part, a response to the inadequacies of the overburdened formal legal system. The extensive backlog of cases and delays in court proceedings have driven a search for alternative methods, often at the expense of due legal process. Additionally, the informal dispute resolution traditions, while prevalent, may lack the necessary structure and safeguards inherent in formal legal mechanisms. The emphasis on reconciliation, while admirable, may inadvertently overshadow concerns related to accountability and deterrence. Critics argue that the humanitarian and rehabilitative approach could be perceived as lenient, potentially undermining the deterrent effect of the justice system.

Moreover, community participation, while valued, might be seen as compromising the impartiality and fairness essential to the legal process. In essence, the adoption of community-based and restorative justice practices in India reflects, for some, a response to systemic challenges but also raises questions about the potential trade-offs in terms of legal rigor and accountability.

Community, customary and traditional justice systems have for a long time operated outside the formal justice system without adequate recognition and protection in law. They have been described using different tags such as indigenous, informal, non-formal, non-state or nonofficial justice systems.' (Francis)[1]

The nation's democratic foundation, deeply rooted in its commitment to inclusivity, faces a myriad of challenges stemming from socio-cultural diversity, economic disparities, and institutional shortcomings. Within this intricate landscape, the traditional justice system encounters significant hurdles in ensuring timely and accessible justice for all citizens. As democracy intertwines with the judiciary, the foundational principles of justice become pivotal in maintaining societal order.

Dr. Jain says the following about democracy and the judiciary;

"In democratic countries, the judiciary is given a place of pride, honour and dignity. The role of the judiciary in a democracy is that of multi-faced activism and creativeness. A democratic society lives and swears by certain values - individual liberty, human dignity, rule of law, constitutionalism, limited government etc. A well-organised, strong and impartial judiciary is most essential to achieve these values on which a democratic system thrives. It is the function of the courts to infuse these basic values in the country's legal and constitutional system. From this point of view, the role of the judiciary in a democracy becomes crucial and significant.[2]"

[1] Kariuki, Francis. "Community, Customary and Traditional Justice Systems in Kenya: Reflecting on and Exploring the Appropriate Terminology." *The Comparative and International Law Journal of Southern Africa*, vol. 44, no. 3, November 2011, pp. 408-427. E. Hunter, "Access to justice: to dream the impossible dream?"

[2] Jain, Mahabir Pershad. "Role of the Judiciary in a Democracy." *JMCL* 6 (1979): 239.

CASE STUDIES

The term 'legal pluralism' refers to the simultaneous existence of multiple legal systems which enjoy recognition of the state. According to Hooker, the term 'legal pluralism' denotes the situation in which two or more laws interact in society.[1]

Legal pluralism, characterized by the coexistence of multiple legal systems within the same state, is a key feature of the Indian legal landscape. Stemming from historical foundations, India's legal pluralism encompasses diverse religious laws such as Hindu law, Mohammedan (Shari'a) law, and Christian law, which have been codified and practiced for centuries. However, while legal pluralism has been a longstanding aspect of India's legal system, it is increasingly viewed as incompatible with the principles of equality and religious freedom in modern, democratic India. Legal pluralism in India faces significant criticism, particularly regarding its impact on gender equality and religious tensions. The coexistence of different legal systems has led to disparities in the rights and treatment of individuals, particularly Muslim women. Under Shari'a law, Muslim women often experience discrimination in matters of marriage, divorce, and property rights, leading to a stratified citizenry where certain groups are afforded fewer rights than others. This undermines the principles of equality enshrined in the Indian Constitution and perpetuates social divisions within society.

Moreover, legal pluralism has exacerbated religious tensions between Hindus and Muslims by placing them into separate legal enclaves based on faith. Rather than fostering cooperation and understanding between religious groups, it has contributed to a political divide, hindering social cohesion and perpetuating stereotypes and prejudices. This has led to a lack of trust and tolerance between communities, further exacerbating religious divisions within Indian society. While legal pluralism has been a longstanding aspect of India's legal system,

it is no longer compatible with the values of equality and religious freedom in modern, democratic India. Moving towards a unified legal framework that ensures equality and fairness for all citizens is necessary to address these challenges and promote social cohesion and harmony in India.

The indigenous communities of North East India, such as the Khasi, Jaintia, Garo, and Kuki tribes, have long relied on their traditional mechanisms of conflict resolution and governance. These indigenous institutions, deeply embedded in their cultural heritage, have been protected and upheld by provisions like the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. However, while these traditional systems have been effective in maintaining peace and resolving disputes within their communities, their coexistence with the modern state-based judicial systems presents several critiques and challenges.[2]

The coexistence of traditional indigenous conflict resolution mechanisms alongside the modern state-based judicial systems raises concerns regarding the uniformity, consistency, and accountability of justice delivery across the nation. While traditional mechanisms may be effective within their communities, their compatibility with broader legal frameworks and standards of justice remains questionable. While the Indian Constitution protects these traditions, their informal nature and lack of standardized procedures may undermine the principles of legal certainty and consistency. The absence of clear legal guidelines could lead to inconsistencies in decision-making and potential violations of individual rights. Moreover, the reliance on traditional mechanisms may perpetuate inequalities and discriminatory practices, particularly against marginalized groups within these indigenous communities. Traditional systems, often governed by customary laws and community leaders, may prioritize communal interests over individual rights, thereby potentially exacerbating existing social disparities.

[1] Pereira, Melvil, Bitopi Dutta, and Binita Kakati. *Legal Pluralism and Indian Democracy*. Taylor & Francis, 2017

[2] Pereira, Melvil, Bitopi Dutta, and Binita Kakati. *Legal Pluralism and Indian Democracy*. Taylor & Francis, 2017.

Additionally, while traditional mechanisms may prioritize reconciliation and restoration over punitive measures, this approach could undermine the deterrence function of the legal system and erode public trust in formal justice institutions. The perceived leniency of traditional mechanisms may also raise questions about the accountability and legitimacy of their decisions, particularly in cases of serious crimes or human rights violations.

Another case of community resolution that created a change in the judicial system of India is the “Shayara Bano” case, from which we can infer that some of the community resolutions are problematic. The Shayara Bano case, particularly its focus on the practice of Triple Talaq, not only addressed a significant issue within Muslim personal law but also highlighted the intersection between informal justice mechanisms and formal legal processes. The case brought to light the struggles faced by Muslim women subjected to the arbitrary and unilateral practice of Triple Talaq, showcasing the need for reform within community-based justice systems. [1]

The informal justice mechanisms prevalent within Muslim communities, such as mediation by community elders or religious leaders, often prioritize traditional customs over individual rights, particularly those of women. In the context of Triple Talaq, these mechanisms may have perpetuated the discriminatory practice, leaving women vulnerable and without recourse. However, the Shayara Bano case sparked debates about democracy and justice by challenging the dominance of informal justice mechanisms over formal legal processes. By bringing the issue to the forefront of the legal arena, the case questioned the legitimacy of practices that undermine fundamental rights guaranteed by the Indian Constitution. Moreover, the adoption of community-based or restorative justice approaches, while intended to promote reconciliation and harmony within communities, can sometimes clash with principles of equality and justice.

[1] LawBhoomi. “Shayara Bano Vs. Union of India [(2017) 9 SCC 1].” LawBhoomi, December 22, 2023. <https://lawbhoomi.com/shayara-bano-vs-union-of-india-2017-9-scc-1/>.

The Shayara Bano case prompted discussions about the balance between cultural autonomy and universal human rights. While respecting cultural diversity is essential in a pluralistic society like India, it should not come at the expense of individual liberties and dignity. The case underscored the importance of aligning informal justice mechanisms with constitutional values to ensure that justice is accessible and equitable for all citizens, regardless of their religious or cultural background.

The Shayara Bano case prompted discussions about the balance between cultural autonomy and universal human rights. While respecting cultural diversity is essential in a pluralistic society like India, it should not come at the expense of individual liberties and dignity. The case underscored the importance of aligning informal justice mechanisms with constitutional values to ensure that justice is accessible and equitable for all citizens, regardless of their religious or cultural background.

Furthermore, the Shayara Bano case highlighted the role of the judiciary in upholding democratic principles and safeguarding the rights of marginalised groups. By declaring Triple Talaq unconstitutional, the Supreme Court affirmed its commitment to gender equality and justice, setting a precedent for future cases involving conflicts between religious customs and constitutional rights.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, while the preservation of indigenous conflict resolution mechanisms is essential for cultural heritage and community cohesion, their coexistence with the modern state-based judicial systems presents significant challenges. Addressing these critiques requires careful consideration of the compatibility, accountability, and inclusivity of traditional practices within the broader legal framework of the country. Balancing the preservation of cultural diversity with the promotion of legal certainty and individual rights

remains a complex and evolving challenge for India's judicial systems.

One potential solution lies in the implementation of a Union Civil Code, which could effectively streamline legal procedures and limit the prevalence of community-based resolutions that might undermine the formal judicial system. Such a code could serve to strengthen the integrity of the judiciary by ensuring uniformity, accountability, and protection of individual rights across diverse communities. Moreover, enhancing awareness among the populace about their rights and the functioning of the judiciary is crucial in fostering public trust and confidence in the legal system. This can be achieved through educational initiatives and outreach programs aimed at promoting legal literacy and civic engagement.

Recognizing the pivotal role of the judiciary in upholding democratic principles and safeguarding the rights of all citizens is essential for strengthening India's democratic fabric. A robust and impartial judiciary serves as a cornerstone of democracy, ensuring the rule of law, protecting individual liberties, and upholding constitutional values. By fostering a culture of respect for judicial institutions and the principles of justice, India can reinforce its commitment to democracy and promote social cohesion and harmony. A strong and independent judiciary not only ensures justice and fairness but also reinforces the foundations of democracy by upholding constitutional values and safeguarding the rights of all citizens.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Jain, M.P, (1979): *Role of the Judiciary in a Democracy*, JMCL 6, 239.
2. Kariuki, F. (2011): *Community, Customary and Traditional Justice Systems in Kenya: Reflecting on and Exploring the Appropriate Terminology*, The Comparative and International Law Journal of Southern Africa, vol. 44, no. 3, pp. 408-427.
3. E. Hunter, "Access to justice: to dream the impossible dream?"
4. Melvil, P., Dutta, B., and Kakati, B.,(2017): *Legal Pluralism and Indian Democracy*, Taylor & Francis.
5. LawBhoomi. "Shayara Bano Vs. Union of India [(2017) 9 SCC 1]." (2023): LawBhoomi, (<https://lawbhoomi.com/shayara-bano-vs-union-of-india-2017-9-scc-1/>)





THE (UN)DEMOCRATIC QUESTION- ANALYSING THE SOUTH ASIAN INTERPLAY OF GENDER AND CLIMATE

Sneha Dey

Second Position

ABSTRACT

This paper analyses the socio-political trends and practices in some of the major democracies of South Asia that contribute to stark gender disparities in the representation of women in the political arena. The paper highlights a greater need to include women's interests, encouraging their involvement while formulating policies on pertinent issues like climate change. Through a feminist lens, the paper first analyses the general socio-cultural structure in the South Asian region that reinforces legislation and governance. The two spheres are both male-dominated and exist within a patriarchal framework which constrains the participation of women. With the help of secondary research data, this paper delves into how gender-biased cultural practices in these societies lead to women of different social backgrounds having unequal access to rights like education, healthcare, and decision-making. This further increases their vulnerability to issues like climate change,

marginalising their needs and experiences. For instance, as per the UN Global Compact Network India, pre-existing cultural stereotypes continue to hinder the inclusion of women in India in the growing field of climate-focused startups. As per the reports of CARE Nepal, in the period between 2000 and 2016, as Nepal grappled with escalating climate-related disasters, women tended to neglect their health concerns, resulting in higher rates of illness and disease. Similar statistics exist for the other countries as well. Lastly, using the cases of Nepal and Bangladesh, the paper tries to underline how such intersection of gender and environmental issues raise questions about the efficient functioning of democratic structures in these countries.

Keywords: Gender Disparity, South Asia, Democracy, Climate Change, Intersection

1. Introduction

The first principle of the Universal Declaration of Democracy, describes it as both an ideal and a goal, based on common values that people share throughout the world despite their social, political, economic, and other differences. The principle also mentions the conditions under which democracy exists, including “freedom, equality, transparency and responsibility” and “due respect for the plurality of views, and in the interest of the polity.”

Setting these conditions within the context of gender justice in South Asian democracies, this paper begins by briefly analysing the representation of women in democratic politics as decision-makers. Since ‘representation of women in politics’ subsumes various meanings, this paper narrows its focus on the decision-making aspect of the particular issue of climate change, which emerges as a defining and intricate threat to global peace and security in the twenty-first century. (Sangwan and Brahmachari, 2023). The sixth assessment report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) highlights South Asia as particularly prone to the impacts of climate change. According to the report, the region is anticipated to witness increasingly severe weather conditions in the next ten years, posing substantial risks to vulnerable and marginalized populations, including a heightened occurrence of heatwaves and flash floods. (Atchaya. 2023). Of the 750 million South Asians affected by at least one climate-related disaster in the last two decades, women have been disproportionately impacted. (Madhira, 2023).

Based on various such reports and literature, this paper analyses the intersection of gender justice with the need to tackle the issue of climate change in South Asia, while using it as a yardstick to extrapolate whether or not aforementioned democratic principles are truly embodied in the practice and functioning of these South Asian countries.

2. The Socio-Cultural Barriers to Women’s Political Decision-Making

“Women have served all these centuries as looking glasses possessing the magic and delicious power of reflecting the figure of man at twice its natural size.”

— Virginia Woolf, A Room of One’s Own

There is a widespread sense of unease regarding the core essence of representative and meaningful democracy because of the recurring pattern of exclusion or marginalization worldwide of half of the citizens from political representation and decision-making processes (Kumari, 2012). South Asian democracies are no exception to this. The complex social structures of this diverse region shape the role of its women in different arenas. The exclusion of South Asian women from the political arena in terms of their physical presence within decision-making structures is surpassed only by some nations of the Middle East. (ibid.)

“Under the canopy of patriarchy, women face a myriad of problems including, but not limited to, backlash from family members, political parties ostracising women candidates, character assault, harassing women on the basis of their clothing choices, etc” (Agarwal et Ravishankar, 2020).



There are notable variations in the political atmospheres among different countries of South Asia, ranging from well-established and enduring democracies to those that have recently undergone transitions to democracy (Hallan, 2020). Such differences in the historical frameworks also mean that these different countries negotiate political spaces for women differently. However, what is common is that they all have patriarchal structures that restrict women from proportionate representation at different levels of governance.

The region also presents a paradoxical situation where it boasts an abundance of influential female politicians, including prime ministers, party leaders, and regional governors, but the broader participation of women in politics remains disappointingly low. (Omvedt, 2008) As per the IPU data of May 2022, women's representation in the national parliaments was 34 percent in Nepal, 21 percent in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka 5 percent and for India, women's representation in Lok Sabha has been slightly below 15 percent.

Ranjana Kumari describes the pertinent role played by deeply patriarchal traditions along with socio-religious norms in South Asia that constrain women from fully participating in politics. Women's dependency on men for access to politics stems from lesser access to education, economic status, and land rights. Commonly held beliefs in South Asian countries dictate that women should primarily operate within the confines of the home, where their societal value is largely assessed through their roles as spouses, mothers, sisters, and daughters-in-law.

Consequently, women in this region are confronted with a plethora of social limitations and are burdened with lofty expectations and assumptions, alongside the marginalization of any economic activities they pursue outside the domestic realm (Tambiah, 2002,7). Considering these hindrances, when feminists rightfully demand reservations for women in spaces of political decision-making, they either go unheard or are met with misogynistic responses like reservations being meaningless given women's alleged lack of desire and skills to partake in political spaces.





The possible explanation for women's unwillingness also lies in the patriarchal dichotomy between the public and the private which places politics within the public domain and hence aligned with masculine attributes, contrasting with the perception of private realms as feminine and secluded.

As per an interview held in Sri Lanka, even women who express a desire to partake in political decision making, fear character assassination (Udamini, 2021). Another major drawback is that involvement of women at different levels of government may not always guarantee gender sensitivity in policies made and implemented because they often end up becoming puppets in the hands of a patriarchal political system. At the grassroots level, female councillors may face expectations to prioritize their husbands' interests, such as "sarpanchpatism" in Indian local governments.

At a national level, women in politics often find themselves navigating male-dominated ideologies. Even in top positions, personal agendas take a backseat to party affiliations and the obligation to align with party mandates (Hurst, 2004 as cited in Kumari, 2012). Although such factors may lead to situations where women in power too are not able to bring fundamental changes, they still do serve as role models and open avenues of opportunity (Omvedt, 2004).

3. Tackling Climate Change in South Asia- Women as Stakeholders

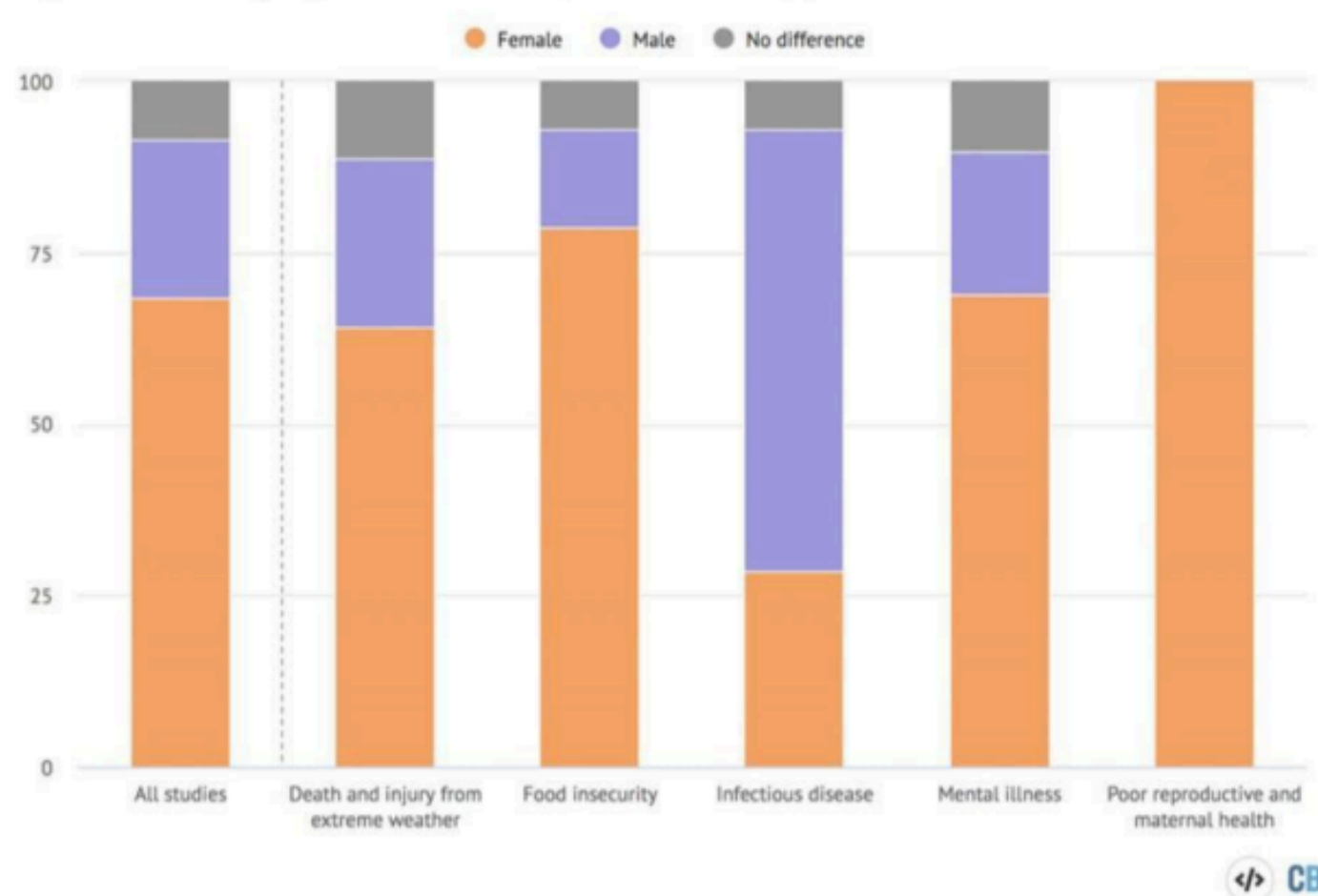
The climate crisis poses a major challenge in the divided region of South Asia where excessive heatwaves, heavy rainfall, prolonged droughts, and swiftly rising sea levels have become frequent occurrences. It also aggravates the development of this region which is already characterised by poor economic and human development indicators. However, the impact and experience of climate change in South Asia is not the same for every community. For instance, in the context of gender, women experience climate change very differently from men, with the former being more vulnerable.

Even amongst women the vulnerabilities differ based on the different extents of marginalization when gender is coupled with other social factors like caste and class.

Women across South Asia bear the brunt of climate change due to their restricted access to education, health, financial, and land resources along with their low involvement in decision-making roles at all levels of governance (Kuriakose and Kerr, 2023). Women also form the largest proportion of the world's poor and South Asian women, especially rural women are more dependent on threatened natural resources. They often form a major proportion of the workforce in primary sectors like agriculture, fisheries, forestry as well in manufacturing. This makes them particularly more vulnerable to drastic changes in the climate. For instance, rural women in many South Asian countries have to travel long distances and difficult terrains to fetch water during events of droughts, even at the expense of their education (Bakare and Alalade, 2024). Women also form the majority of those who are displaced and dislocated during climate crisis (Aamer, 2021).

Women are more likely to be affected by most climate impacts on health

Proportion of studies finding the gender most affected is male, female or no difference (%)



A principal factor—as already noted—for such disproportionate impact are the skewed gendered dynamics of power and unfair socio-cultural norms. As per a UNEP report, South Asian women are often prevented from learning basic life skills like swimming which puts them at a disadvantage during events of floods. They often do not possess the social right to evacuate their homes without the permission of their husbands or elder men of the families.

Gendered dress codes, may often make their mobility more difficult during crisis situations, often resulting in higher mortality. Their restricted mobility, lack of information, preparedness etc also often make them victims of violence during natural disasters (Savas and Bose, 2021). Since climate policy-making and research in South Asia are still predominantly led by men, and women are often excluded from decision making, not enough has been invested in understanding the gender aspects of it and how it affects poor women and girls specifically.



Additionally, when it comes to designing infrastructure like transportation systems, water facilities, and emergency shelters, they're often created by men, for men, neglecting the unique needs of women (ibid.) However, it is important to change this narrative, by changing the position of women from being passive victims to active stakeholders by addressing the unique challenges that they face. It is imperative to incorporate women, into every aspect of climate engagement, ranging from international negotiations to corporate leadership and local environmental initiatives, particularly in areas most affected by climate change.

Indigenous women, in particular, have long been pioneers in environmental preservation, possessing invaluable wisdom and skills that can enhance resilience and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. By fostering greater female participation in climate action, we pave the way for a more sustainable and just world for everyone (UN, 2023).

A study conducted in 2019 revealed that greater representation of women in national parliaments leads to the implementation of stricter climate change policies, ultimately leading to reduced emissions. Similarly, at the grassroots level, women's involvement in managing natural resources is linked to improved governance and conservation results. Making gender equality a focal point in addressing climate change involves incorporating a wide range of gender perspectives into comprehensive and sustainable policies and programs for climate, environmental protection, and disaster risk reduction (UN Women, 2022).

4. Realizing Democratic Principles (Nepal and Bangladesh)

Bangladesh had adopted a parliamentary democratic system way back in 1971 post its independence and Nepal is comparatively a newer representative democracy established in 2008 after decades of struggle against its monarchy. Just like other South Asian countries, both Bangladesh and Nepal are faced with the challenge of climate change.

Geographically, Nepal's vulnerability exists because of its high altitude, erratic weather and diverse terrain which causes frequent flooding, landslides, food shortages. While Bangladesh is prone to natural disasters, because of its land's close proximity to the sea which leads to frequent floods and rising tides. Women in Nepal constitute the majority poor and are highly dependent on natural resources (especially rural women) for securing their livelihoods through their responsibilities for family farming and activities such as collecting water and biomass for energy. However, their access to relevant information and skills to manage the impacts of climate change and related disasters is way lower than men (Leduc, 2009 as cited in Mainley and Tan, 2012).

Although Nepal has successfully met the 33% representation goal in its Parliament, women still face significant barriers to accessing executive leadership roles. Moreover, their presence in Parliament committees and the Cabinet remains disproportionately low. This situation effectively sidelines them from crucial decision-making processes even in the context contributing to climate change policies. Despite this Nepal has attempted to include the gender perspective in several climate related policies and action plan. One such relatively recent policy was the Nepal Climate Change Policy 2019, addressed the vulnerability of women and other marginalized groups with an aim to integrate climate change and GESI mechanism at national and sub national level. Another is Nepal's REDD+ strategy 2018 which involves specific objectives on carbon and non-carbon benefits which aims at gender sensitivity through provisions like fair sharing of benefits amongst women, indigenous people, Dalits and diversifying their employment opportunities (Goodrich and Bastola, 2021). However, certain drawbacks are that such policies continue to view women and other marginalized groups as passive recipients who lack knowledge and not active agents of change. Even the REDD+ strategy remains silent on how to improve the social and political position of women to ensure they truly reap its benefits. Nepal's absence from COP28 Gender-Responsive Just Transitions & Climate Action Partnership, may indicate a shortcoming of its policy makers.

Like Nepal, Bangladesh's policies and communications also recognize the severe difficulties women encounter because of climate impacts. These challenges encompass issues within the agricultural sector, increased workloads, and discrimination concerning extended hours of work, employment prospects, and human rights. (Bangladesh has established a unified governance framework to integrate its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and National Adaptation Plan (NAP) with key national strategies such as the five-year plan, SDGs implementation, and BCCSAP. However, there is a notable gap in Gender considerations due to insufficient analysis across s

sectors and inadequate guidance in implementation. Water-related impacts of climate change are one of the most critical issues here which is again harsher for women because of gendered roles like collecting water, household care along with labour-intensive work. The 2014 Participatory Water Management Rules aimed to involve women in water management groups, mandating a 30% female committee membership. However, in practice, women encounter various social barriers, leading to their systematic exclusion from such decision-making institutions, particularly in the coastal areas of southwestern Bangladesh.

While it is beyond the scope of this paper to do a comprehensive analysis of the gendered aspect of all the climate policies in these two democracies, what can be extrapolated through limited data is that both countries have over the years introduced various policies which recognize the importance of including women's interests as well as their involvement in various ways. However, it can also be observed that legal policies do not always translate to women being able to truly benefit from them because discriminatory social stigma and responsibilities still prevail. Ironically, they also become the very reason why mostly male policy makers either do not take women's opinions or interests into consideration or a very visible slacking in implementation. Such gaps conclusively prove as contradictions to the very fundamental democratic principles of active participation, equal opportunity, consensual governance and inclusivity which these democracies claim at least on papers.

However, one shouldn't be too eager to dismiss these as failed democracies given that the very reason these countries even attempt to take up issues of gender and climate change is because they are at the very least, "formally" democratic. After all one of the most significant aspects of democracy is that it is dynamic and has the ability to consistently mould itself to stay relevant.

5. Conclusion

In sum, this paper has attempted to establish (non-exhaustively) that not only is the intersection of gender disparity and climate change a challenging issue in South Asian democracies, but a challenge to democracy itself. While such intersection is a vast area of research, this paper, through analyzing some relevant literature, has reinforced the gendered discrepancies that are still very dominant in the arena of political decision-making. It particularly takes into consideration the unique socio-culturally constructed constraints. It further uses this framework in analysing how women, particularly those marginalized due to other social factors of caste, class, and regional divides, suffer the horrors of climate change much differently than their male counterparts while are ironically excluded from making policies on the very issue of which they are victims. It finally concludes through a brief analysis of this intersection in Bangladesh and Nepal, that there is still a long way for the reality to mirror the democracy on paper.



References

- Bakare, S., & Alalade, T. (2024): *From Rising Seas To Rising Tensions: How Climate Change Is Eroding The Pillars Of Democracy*. HumAngle. <https://humanglemedia.com/from-rising-seas-to-rising-tensions-how-climate-change-is-eroding-the-pillars-of-democracy/>
- Cuffley, A. (2022): *South Asia's Climate Crisis Beckons A Gender-Balanced Policy Approach*, Stimson Center. <https://www.stimson.org/2021/south-asias-climate-crisis-beckons-a-gender-balanced-policy-approach/>
- International IDEA. (n.d.): *Democracies can't afford to exclude women from the fight against climate change*. <https://www.idea.int/blog/democracies-cant-afford-exclude-women-fight-against-climate-change>
- UN Women – Headquarters. (2022): *Explainer: Why women need to be at the heart of climate action*. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/explainer/2022/03/explainer-why-women-need-to-be-at-the-heart-of-climate-action>
- Jane H. Bayes. (2012): *Gender and Politics: The State of the Discipline*, JSTOR. www.jstor.org. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctvddzq1d>
- Iwanaga, K. (2008): *Women's Political Participation and Representation in Asia*, NIAS Press. http://books.google.ie/books?id=RsDXtwZyaHAC&printsec=frontcover&dq=Women%27s+Political+Participation+and+Representation+in+Asia:+Obstacles+and+challenges&hl=&cd=1&source=gbs_api
- Kuriakose, A. T., & Kerr, T. (2023): *Putting women at the heart of climate action across South Asia*. <https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/endpovertyinsouthasia/putting-women-heart-climate-action-across-south-asia>
- Nepal's climate-gender nexus. (2023,): <https://kathmandupost.com/columns/2023/12/16/nepal-s-climate-gender-nexus>
- Governance Lab. (n.d.): *Placing Nepali women first past the post: How to ensure systemic change for gender equity and equality in Nepal's political leadership*. <https://www.govlab.com.np/blog/strengthening-female-representation>

- Politics, W. F. (2021): *Towards Gender Equality in South Asian Democracies*, Women for Politics. <https://www.womenforpolitics.com/post/towards-gender-equality-in-south-asian-democracies>
- Rai, A., Ayadi, D. P., Shrestha, B., & Mishra, A. (2021): *On the realities of gender inclusion in climate change policies in Nepal*, Policy Design and Practice. <https://doi.org/10.1080/25741292.2021.1935643>
- Ravishankar, K. A. A. A. (2023): *Barriers To Women's Political Participation In South Asia: Money, Muscle & Misogyny*, Feminism in India. <https://feminisinindia.com/2020/08/17/south-asia-india-women-politics-barriers/>
- The National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR). (2022): *The Intersection of Climate Change and Gender Equality in South Asia*, The National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR). <https://www.nbr.org/publication/the-intersection-of-climate-change-and-gender-equality-in-south-asia/>
- Times, N. (2023): *Placing Nepali women first past the post*, Nepali Times. <https://nepalitimes.com/opinion/placing-nepali-women-first-past-the-post>
- World Economic Forum. (2023): *Why South Asian women have a key role in tackling the climate crisis*. <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2023/06/how-putting-south-asian-women-at-the-helm-of-climate-action-could-be-a-model-for-sustainable-development/>
- [Women and Climate Change Factsheet.pdf \(un.org\)](#)



MARGINALIZED GENDER DISPARITY IN EDUCATION AND POLITICS

A comparative study of women in a downstream migrant community of Delhi and a reconstructed slum area in Kerala

Mathew C Abraham, Jyothis Anna John and Alviya Sheejo

Third Position



“Globally girls have higher survival rates at birth, more likely to be developmentally on track, and just as likely to participate in preschool, but India is the only large country where more girls die than boys. Girls are also more likely to drop out of school” (UNICEF India, 2023). The high death rate and drop-out rate are only two indicators used by UNICEF to show the depth of gender disparity in India. In true essence, gender disparity in India exists in multiple layers. The intensity of disparity varies from upstream to downstream. In the unprivileged-downstream society, the data on the actual stage of discrimination is inconclusive. It is indefinite to assume that a common stage marks the beginning of discrimination, it is to be specifically identified. The level of disparity varies from community to community depending on the demographics. Measuring the differences in gender disparity of unprivileged communities is necessary to identify specific and researched issues in a community and find more comprehensive solutions. Identifying along with finding ample solutions to Gender Disparity is a key objective of any democratic Government. For this research gender disparity will be defined following the definition given by the European Institute of Gender Equality, “The differences in women’s and men’s access to resources, status, and wellbeing” (EIGE, 2016).

This paper analyzes the gender disparities faced by women in comparison to men in two revolving and dynamic downstream societies—Sanjay Camp, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, and Ambathirandu Colony (52 Colony), Chalakudy, Kerala—from the domains of politics and education. Although the Governments in both areas are providing supportive policies for education and political representation, is it reaching the unprivileged communities? Does education, political representation, and political awareness differ in the two communities when their income level is the same?

Sanjay Camp is a small area in Chanakyapuri, New Delhi consisting mainly of migrant workers and their families, some settled, some residing in the area to work. It is in the heart of India, the capital city of New Delhi. Ambathirandu Colony (52 Colony) is a downstream area that was partly reconstructed by the Kerala Government a few years ago. Both these communities have differences in government, culture, region, and lifestyle but also similarities in their backwardness and income. Sanjay Camp has a typical slum outlook, and facilities and sanitation are very less. Ambathirandu colony has been enhanced from its previous marginalized state to a more developed colony due to Government intervention and reconstruction. This

initiative has made some changes, but still, many houses are poorly constructed and have less satisfactory facilities. The reconstruction hasn't affected factors like "politics" and "education" as they remained at the same level even before the changes. Thus, this paper aims to analyze the various disparities faced by the women in these downstream societies across various domains apart from economic considerations with a primary focus on the domains of "politics" and "education".



Literature Review

Gender Disparity varies significantly from one community to the other, even if they exist side by side in the same geographical location. Factors like culture, societal norms, education, development, and religion all contribute to gender disparity apart from economic factors. India is a country known for its diversity, and due to this diversity evaluating gender disparity involves considering several variables. The major realms where India, a South Asian country faces gender disparities are "politics" and "education".

Although on a global level, political representation has been on the rise from 11% in 1995 to 26.5 % in 2024 (UN Women, 2024), according to the data published by IPU Parline, all

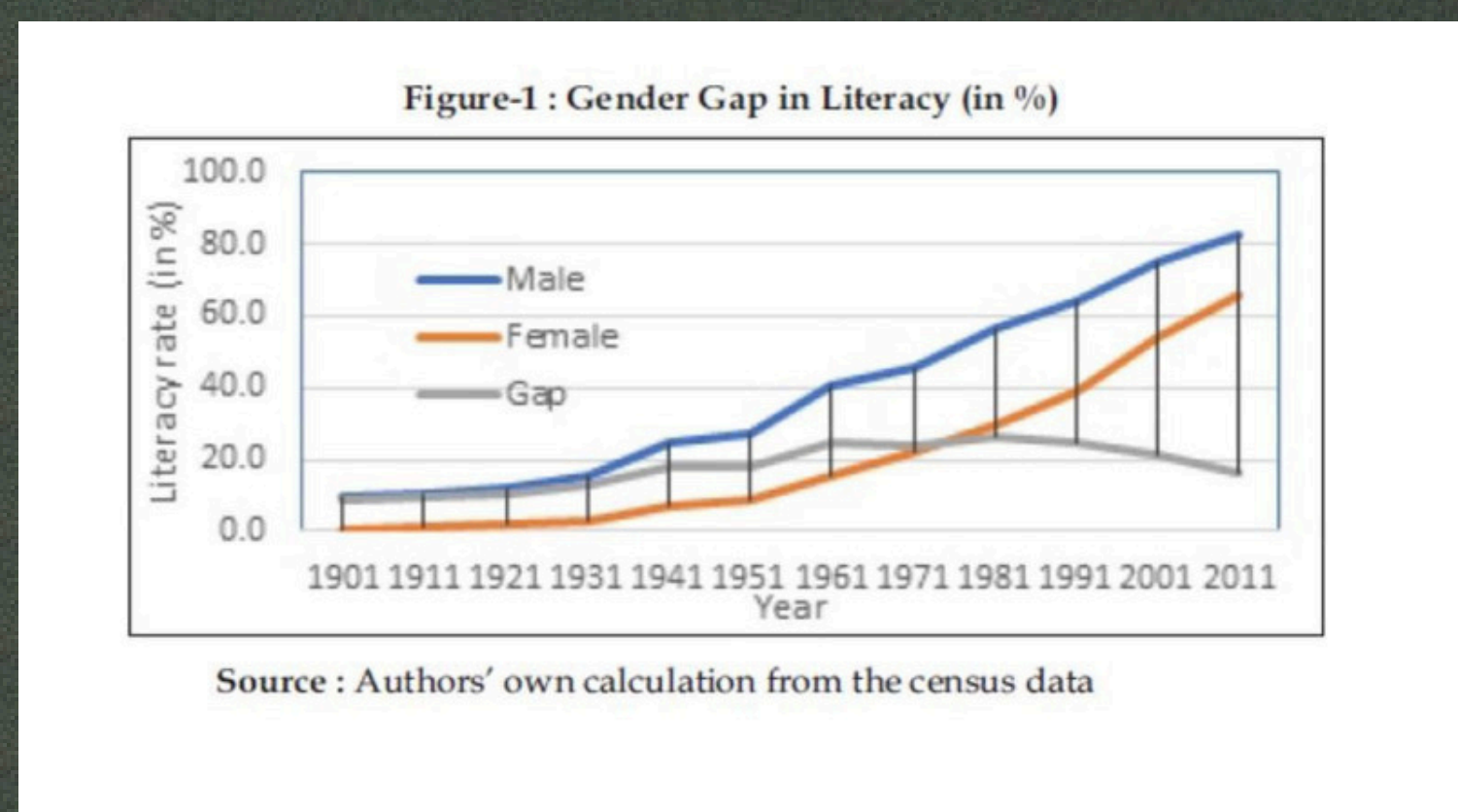
South Asian countries perform very substandard in political participation of women in government as none of them go beyond 33.1% (Nepal). In the lower house chambers of the National Legislature, the government of India ranks lowest even compared to its other South Asian Neighbors like Pakistan, Bangladesh, and China significantly except Sri Lanka (5.3%) (IPU, 2023). Although on a historical basis, Indian women have a long history of participating in the Indian Freedom Movement and politics since independence, their representation as elected representatives has been lower compared to their population (Shanker, 2014).

Although on a historical basis, Indian women have a long history of participating in the Indian Freedom Movement and politics since independence, their representation as elected representatives has been lower compared to their population (Shanker, 2014). Reservation Policies exist and have contributed to increased participation at the local level. At the local level the reservations are about one-third of the total seats. Nevertheless the disparities exist, and are often considered as an after-effect of lack of education (Observer Research Foundation, 2022).

In terms of education, Historically India has made significant improvements in reducing disparity. Figure 1 shows the change in gender disparity in education from the pre-independence era to the last census of 2011. According to the 2011 Census, the literacy rate among women in India was 65.46%, compared to 82.14% among men (Chaubey, 2023). The percentage increase in literacy among women and men has been on the rise since independence however, the gender gap continues to persist.

Methodology

The research aims to identify the potential differences in gender disparity based on education and politics, geographically in Indian unprivileged communities. Both these communities are apt for the research, as they allow us to hold factors such as income constant and analyze factors such as education and political representation in similar communities with different demographics, cultures, and geographics.



Source: Chaubey, P. (2023). Chart name: Gender Gap in literacy(%), Status and Trends in Gender Disparity in Education in India. In Contemporary Social Sciences (Vol.

Surveys were done mainly to answer two questions. First, gender discrimination in unprivileged communities; second, understand the comparative differences between the two communities surveyed. The factors used to select the community were the income level and their geographical and cultural differences. Both have similar economics but have different categories of people—Migrants in Delhi and Natives in Kerala. The information relating to education level, political representation, and political awareness of women in both communities was collected to analyze how these factors differ geographically when possessing similar economics.

Data Collection and Ethical Consideration

The survey consisted of six closed-ended questions such as

1. Annual Income of the family.
2. Possession of Voter ID.
3. Receiver of Govt. policies.
4. Awareness of the ward representative.
5. Participation in Self-Help Groups (Mahila Sangh/Kudumbasree).
6. Educational Qualification of both women and girl children.

The aim was to conduct the survey randomly on 50 women from Sanjay Camp and 50 women from Ambathirandu Colony (52 Colony), all middle-aged women ranging from 35 years to 65 years. The survey was done in Sanjay Camp on 18-20 February, and in Ambathirandu colony on 19-21 February between 12:00 and 17:00. The participants were orally asked the question by the surveyor, and responses were recorded. A total of 118 participants were surveyed out of which 100 were completed and included in the analysis. The respondents were all asked for consent and informed of the purpose of the study. Their identity remains anonymous and no sensitive information was collected in the survey.

Data Analysis

Before analysis, the dataset was checked for missing data and outliers. For this, the “outlier labeling rule” was used. Outlier Labeling flags potential outliers for further investigation (i.e., are the potential outlier’s erroneous data, indicative of an inappropriate distributional model, and so on) (Iglewicz and Hoaglin, 1993). All values outside the calculated range were considered outliers. The data was then analyzed using Microsoft Excel. Since Delhi and Kerala are significantly distinct, A paired t-test was conducted

Limitations and Validity

The verbal surveys were time-consuming and therefore the reach and size of the survey were reduced. Precautions were taken to ensure that the sample represented most of the community to the extent possible by choosing the participants from all the different locations in the area, and the sample size was distributed proportionately between these locations. The questions were closed-ended and objective, so subjective bias was reduced.

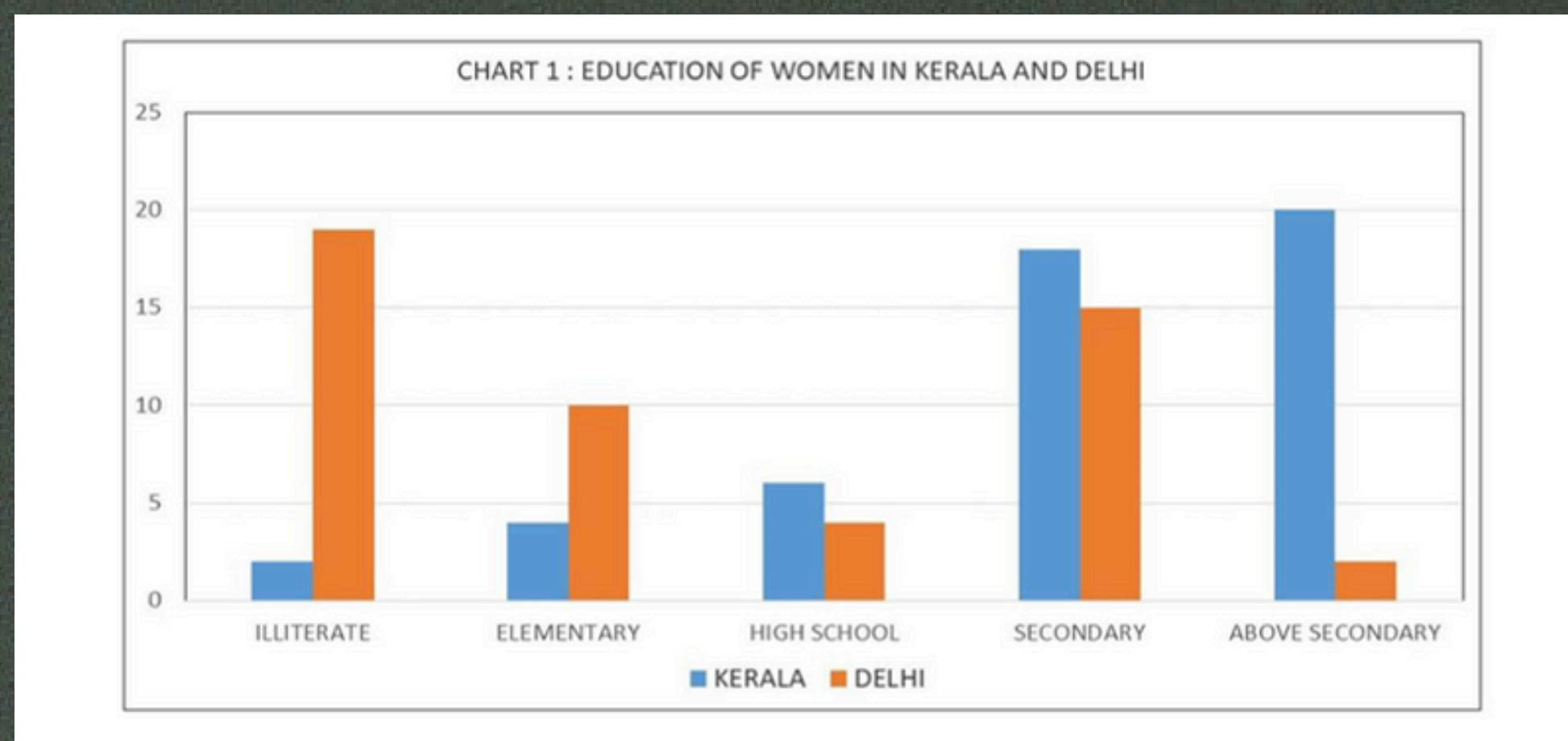
Results

The median income level of each community was found out through the survey. The median household income in the sample of Sanjay Camp was 144000 Rs with 30% of respondents reporting incomes below 120000 Rs per year.

The median household income in the sample of Ambathirandu Colony (52 Colony) was 168000 Rs with 25% of respondents reporting incomes below 120000 Rs per year.

The following three charts show the level of education, political awareness, and representation of women in Sanjay Camp and Ambathirandu Colony from the data collected by the author from the primary survey.

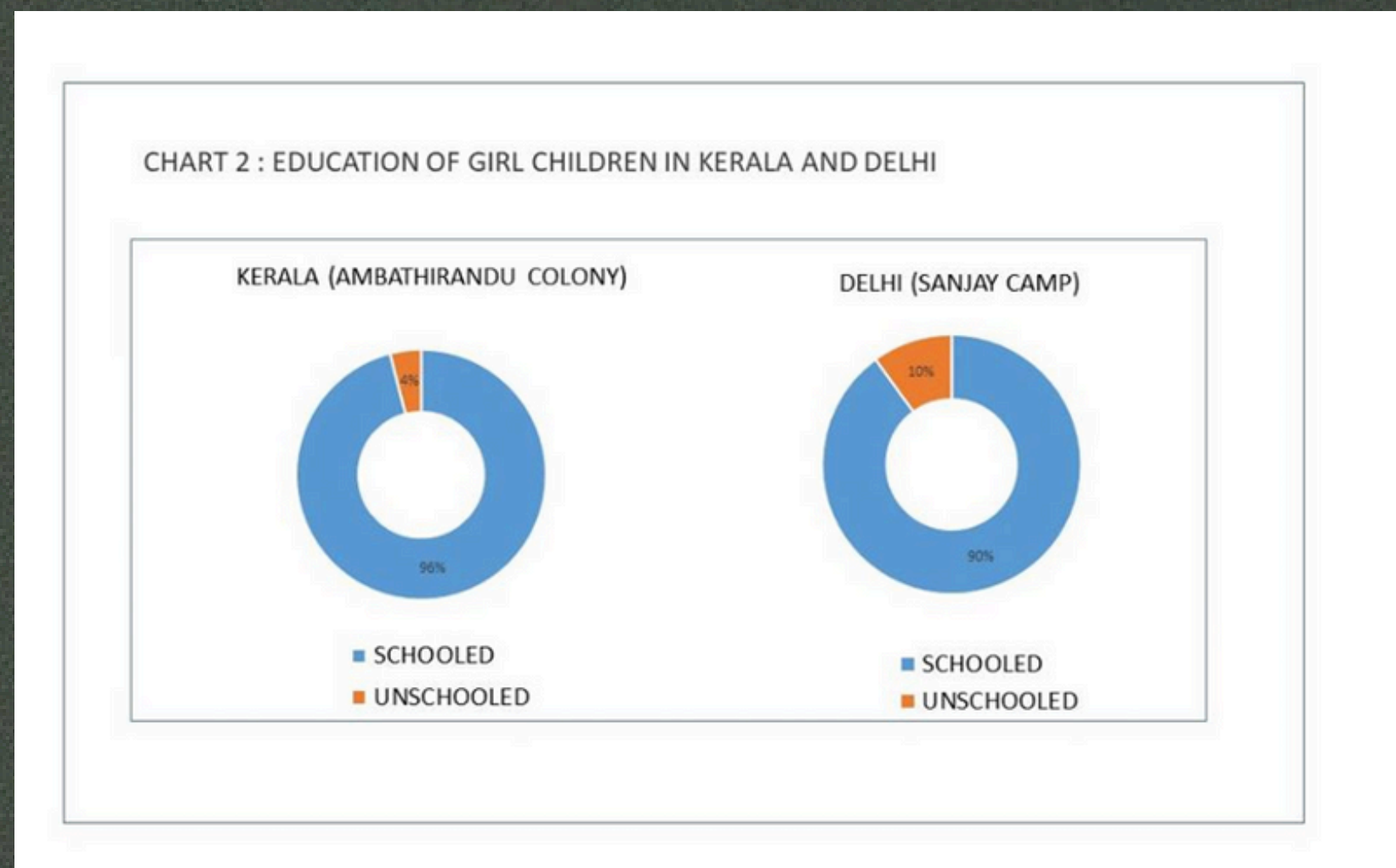
Chart 1 shows the education of the women themselves. In this data, we can see the significant difference between unprivileged women in Delhi and Kerala. Out of the 50 women in Sanjay Camp who responded, 19 of them were illiterate, 10 had an elementary level of education, 4 had high school education and 15 had a higher secondary level of education. However, only 2 had above secondary level education. On the other hand,



Source: Author's own calculation based on primary survey

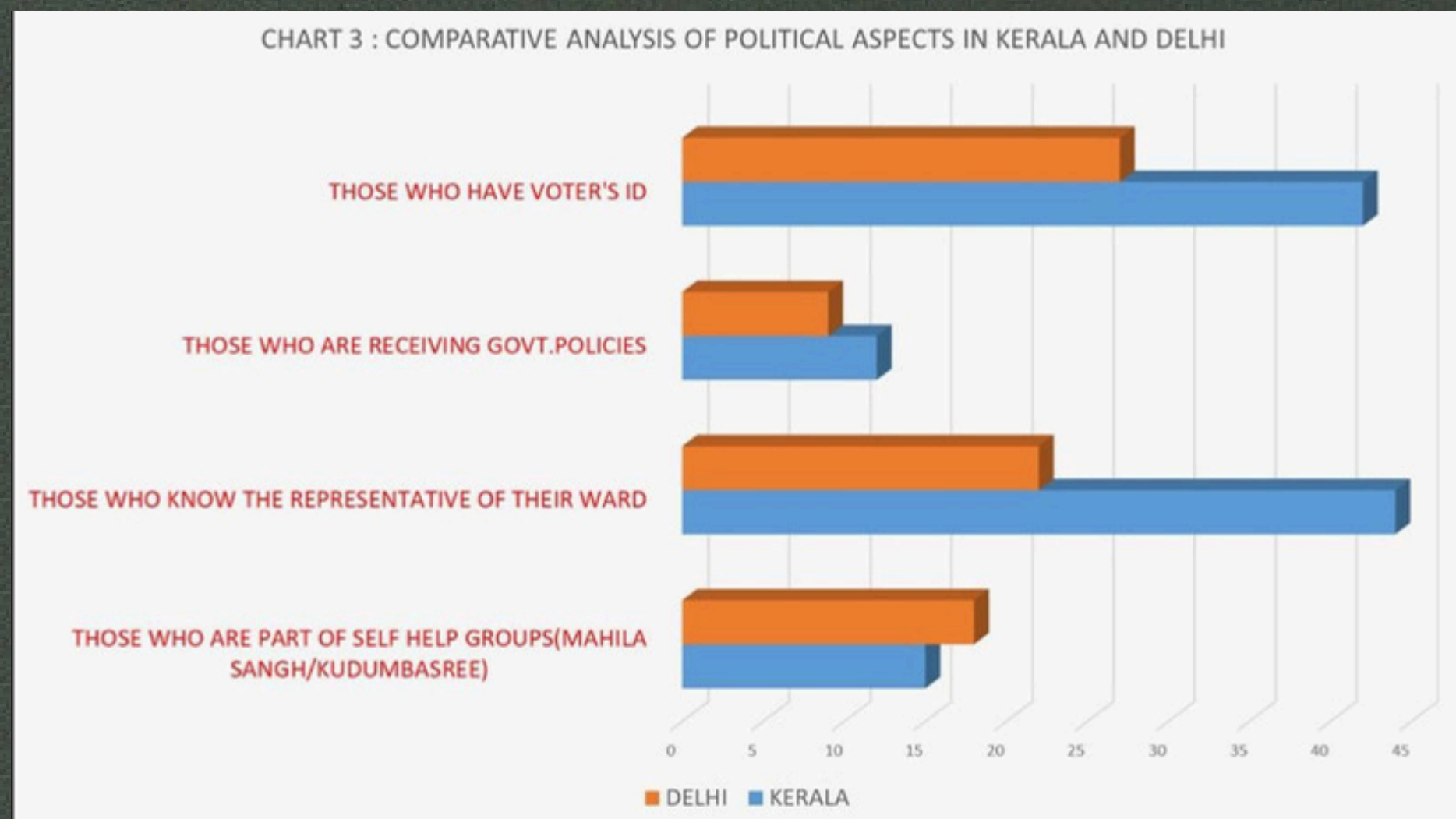
out of the 50 women that responded in Ambathirandu Colony (52 Colony) only 2 were illiterate, 4 had elementary education, 6 had high school education, 18 had secondary level of education and 20 had above higher secondary education.

Chart 2 shows the education of children in Ambathirandu colony and Sanjay Camp. Out of the 50 women in Ambathirandu colony that responded, 96% percent of the children were schooled or are being schooled. In Sanjay Camp, 90% of 50 women said that their girl children were being schooled.



Source: Author's own calculation based on primary survey

Chart 3 shows the comparative analysis of Political Representation and Political Awareness of women in both communities. In case of political awareness information relating to Voter IDs and knowledge about their local municipal or panchayat representative was asked which can be interpreted as the basic information that a politically aware citizen possesses. In Sanjay Camp, only 27 women possessed Voter IDs out of the 50 while in the Ambathirandu colony 42 women out of 50 had Voter IDs. 27:42 ratio for Voter IDs between Sanjay Camp and Ambathirandu Colony. In Sanjay Camp, only 22 women knew their area representative while 44 women knew their area representative in Kerala, a ratio of 22:44.



Source: Author's own calculation based on primary survey

minimal. In the case of SHGs 18 women in Delhi were involved and 15 women in Kerala were involved, a ratio of 18:15. The ratio of participation in Government Policy was 9:12, with more in Kerala.

Interpretation

Ambathirandu colony (52 Colony) had a significantly low number of illiterate women and a higher number of women with more than higher secondary education that is undergraduate or graduate level.

Self-help groups symbolize the basic form of self-reliance and self-governance. In both communities the participation of women in Self-help groups and government policies was

This shows the high education priority for females in the Ambathirandu Colony (52 Colony). In Sanjay Camp, the number of women participation decreased as we climbed the levels of schooling and education. This disparity between women's education and the de-emphasis given by the underprivileged community in Sanjay Camp is to be noted.

The women of Ambathirandu Colony (52 Colony) were found to possess Voter IDs and knowledge of their area representative which shows their political awareness and representation in comparison to migrant women of Sanjay Camp. In terms of Political Representation and Participation, Ambathirandu colony (52 Colony) had the edge on all data except for the case of SHGs. SHGs are a form of local self-governance and self-reliance, and it is a good indicator of micro self-governance. But the Voter's ID being the basic unit of political representation at a national, state, and local level is more important. The lack of Voter IDs is to be noted as a significant deprivation of political representation in Sanjay Camp. In the case of both political awareness in Sanjay Camp and political awareness the women in Ambathirandu Colony (52 Colony), Kerala performed better in comparison. The lack of awareness of women at Sanjay Camp could also be due to the lack of education—38% of women are illiterate.

There is more need for political intervention in migrant communities by the government for both education and political representation. Income level is not a good indicator of group communities. While shaping policies the government should try to use factors such as education and political representation to identify the more priority communities and focus efforts on them.

Conclusion and Findings

From our research, we were able to find that gender disparity differs significantly on a community basis, even when the economic well-being is similar. Factors like education and political representation differ significantly between unprivileged communities. Factors such as migration and culture could be the major contributors to gender disparity. Hence, gender disparity in unprivileged communities such as Sanjay Camp and Ambathirandu colony is least affected by their income and more affected by the cultural and societal outlook on factors such as education and political representation.

If the government wants to solve the problem of inequality in various communities, gender in this case, they must put in more effort to analyze the

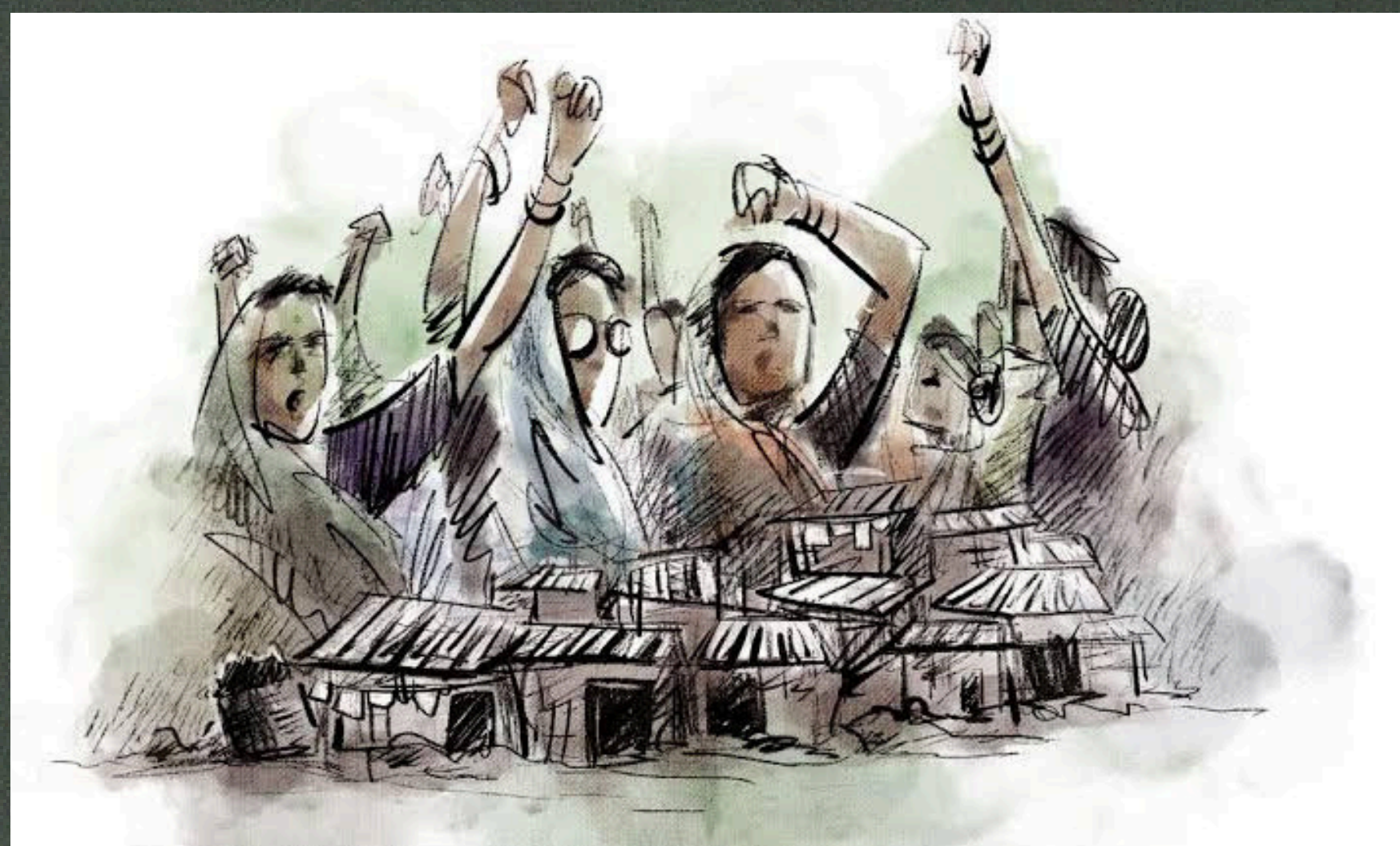
dynamics of each community to identify specific problems and specific solutions. Governments at the local level should be able to identify each community and understand the exact type of gender disparity that exists in those communities and solve it from the grassroots level. Policies adopted from a state level won't be able to solve the problems in all communities equally. Resources could be saved, and results could be maximized if more freedom is given to local governments to deal with the issue. If delegation of power to the local government is not suitable, then the state governments could set up local-level institutions to collect data and find and analyze specific problems of communities in its jurisdiction. In both cases, the State and Central Governments should also provide for the needs of the local Government and institutions for satisfying those needs.

Changing the outlook of gender disparity must be done communally, which includes the active efforts of both males and females. It must mobilize many sectors of society. Only when society's perception changes, will the rights of all the girls and all the boys in India be fulfilled.

Suggested Solutions

The grassroots-level approach is most suitable for tackling gender disparity, therefore local governments and local institutions set up for tackling the issue should be given the responsibility to collect data and analyze the specific issue. Developing a single score or index which considers all the different factors such as education and level of political representation to rank gender disparity in communities and identify key hotspots for primary intervention is necessary. This could be used by the local government, agency, or institutions set up by the government to analyze the communities. These institutions can also play the role of a mediator between the government and women.

Using these institutions the government can also spread political awareness and inform them of their basic rights as a citizen of a country. Underprivileged communities such as Sanjay Camp require more efforts from the government in terms of political representation. Voting, the most basic form of political representation, should be guaranteed and given.



References

1. Iglewicz, B. and Hoaglin, D (1993): *Volume 16: How to Detect and Handle Outliers*, The ASQC Basic References in Quality Control: Statistical Techniques, Edward F. Mykytka, Ph.D., Editor
2. Chaubey, P. (2023): *Status and Trends in Gender Disparity in Education in India*, In *Contemporary Social Sciences* (Vol. 32, Ser. 1, pp. 29–38). essay, Research Foundation International.
3. EIGE. (2016): *Gender disparities*, European Institute for Gender Equality. https://eige.europa.eu/publications-resources/thesaurus/terms/1181?language_content_entity=en
4. Foundation, O. R. (2022): *The link between education and participation of women in Politics*. orfonline.org. <https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/link-between-education-and-participation-of-women-in-politics>
5. G. Gandhi Kingdon (2002): *The Gender Gap in Educational Attainment in India: How Much Can Be Explained?*, *The Journal of Development Studies*, 39:2,25-53
6. Haq, R. (2013): *Intersectionality of gender and other forms of identity: Dilemmas and challenges facing women in India*, *Gender in Management*, Vol. 28 No. 3, pp. 171-184. (<https://doi.org/10.1108/GM-01-2013-0010>)
7. India, U. (2023): *Gender equality*, UNICEF India. (https://www.unicef.org/india/what-we-do/gender_equality#:~:text=Across%20India%20gender%20inequality%20results,that%20are%20the%20most%20disadvantaged.)
8. Parline, I. (2024): *Monthly Ranking of Women in Parliament - ipu – parline data*. IPU Parline. <https://data.ipu.org/women-ranking>
9. Shanker, R. (2014): *Measurement of Women’s Political Participation at the Local Level: India Experience*. UN Stats. ([https://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/mexico_nov2014/Session 6 India paper.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/mexico_nov2014/Session%206%20India%20paper.pdf))
10. UDISE. (2023): *Dropout rates in schools in India-Analysis of UDISE+ 2021-2022*. Education for All in India. <https://educationforallinindia.com/dropout-rates-in-schools-in-india/>
11. World Economic Forum. (2023): *Global gender gap report 2023*. <https://www.weforum.org/publications/global-gender-gap-report-2023/>
12. UN Women. (2023): *Facts and figures: Women’s leadership and political participation*, UN Women – Headquarters. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/leadership-and-political-participation/facts-and-figures>





DEPARTMENT



EVENTS



DEPARTMENT ORIENTATION

17.08.2023



A Comprehensive Freshers' Orientation session was set up by the Political Science Department on 17th August 2023 in Room No. 304 to welcome new students to the department's extracurricular and academic activities.

The Orientation began with a warm welcome by department heads, Vasvi And Harrgun. The whole session took place in the presence of First, Second years and Faculty members of the Department. With a great deal of enthusiasm for mentoring, a team of second-year students graciously provided the information to the first-year students so as to walk them through several departmental events.

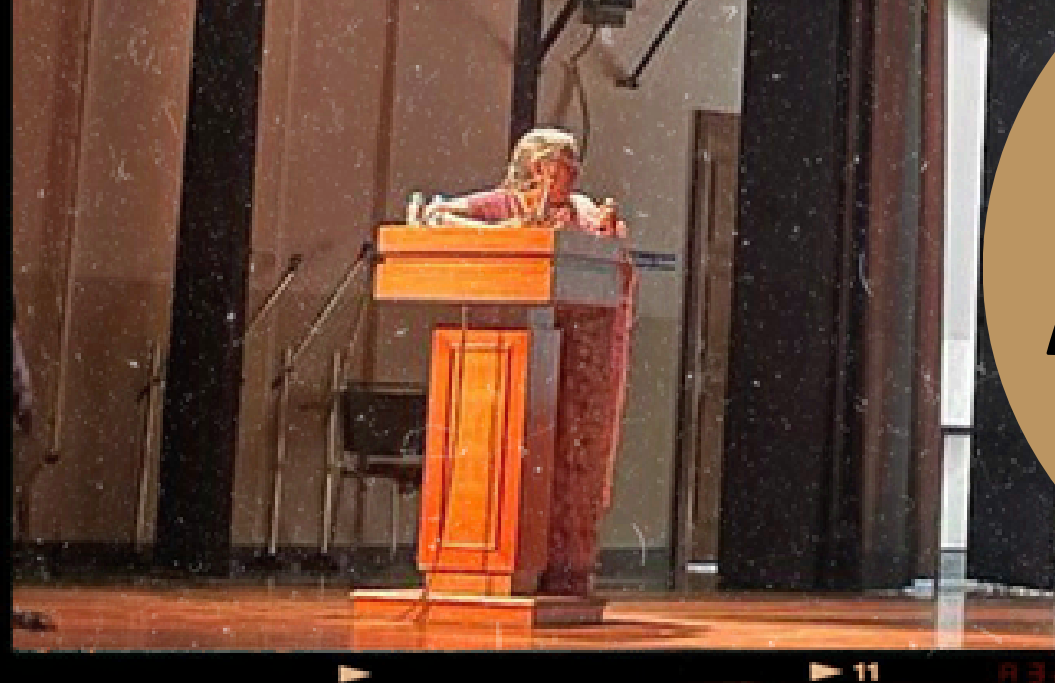
They were made familiar with the annual academic event, Politologue and competitions which held within; Politoscope (The Annual Magazine of Department), Elections of the various Office Bearers(CR, President, Vice President ,Secretary and their roles and responsibilities); Volunteering Teams (Social Media, Hospitality, Organizing etc); Rewards for Department's contribution in the form of Certificates; Department's Merchandise; Multiple lectures, activities held by the department for which attendance is imperative. Subsequently, Freshers were encouraged to pose any queries openly. This was followed by refreshments for all.



TEACHER'S DAY

05.09.2023

On 5th September 2023, the department of Political Science, Jesus and Mary College organized Teachers Day celebration. The event was led by the office bearers of the department, welcoming and felicitating professors. Stage was then set for the game of Pictionary wherein professors actively took part in finding answers through hand drawn pictures. Students were intrigued by the interesting session where professors shared their personal experiences of taking the noble path of teaching which also included the experiences with the current batch of students. Students from second years dedicated an enthusiastic dance performance followed by a blissful singing performance. Towards the end, vote of thanks was given and each of the faculties were presented with the plants as a token of gratitude. It proved to be a worthwhile day filled with fun, joy along with expressing gratitude and respect towards our faculties.



The Department of Political Science, Jesus and Mary College, in collaboration with Alliance University, organized a dynamic workshop on "Research Methodology" led by the esteemed Dr. Uma Sreedhar. With a meticulous focus on both qualitative and quantitative research techniques, students were equipped with invaluable insights into conducting rigorous research. The seminar underscored the critical importance of methodological precision in academic inquiry and knowledge advancement. Through interactive sessions and practical demonstrations, participants gained a deeper understanding of various research methodologies, paving the way for enhanced scholarly pursuits. This event served as a catalyst for students to develop essential skills and competencies essential for navigating the complexities of contemporary research. Overall, the workshop proved to be an enriching experience, fostering a culture of intellectual curiosity and academic excellence among the participants.

FRESHER'S
06.10.2023



The Department of Political Science, Jesus and Mary College, welcomed its first year students with enthusiasm on its Freshers Day on 6th October 2023, hosting an array of exciting activities that created a lively atmosphere for building connections among the incoming students. The theme of the Freshers was 'Floral Fashion' which had the students dressed up in bright and beautiful florals. The event commenced with a warm welcome from the department faculty and senior students. The celebration featured captivating dance and music performances by the second and third year students. Interactive game sessions were held in between to engage the freshers. The freshers had their moment in the spotlight as well through stunning ramp walks and the talent show wherein the students flaunted their talents. The event's highlight was the crowning ceremony of Namita Bahadur as Miss Fresher, Aradhana Lilian Saji as Miss Talented and Daksayani Chandra as Miss Sunshine. The winners of each category were selected through a question and answer round. Towards the end of the event, the students took on the stage and had a merry time dancing and enjoying together, leaving indelible memories for all in attendance. The event was successful in creating a supportive and inclusive environment for new students, ensuring a smooth integration into the academic community.

On the occasion of 26th November being celebrated as Constitution Day, the Department of Political Science, Jesus and Mary College, organized an Inter-Departmental Quiz Competition to celebrate the zeal, spirit and integrity of the Indian Constitution. The quiz was conducted on 22nd November, 2023 and enjoyed a hearty participation. The competition included a general quiz on the Indian Constitution and took place in 2 rounds, with participation open to solo contestants as well as teams of two. The zealous and resolute team worked assiduously in ensuring the success of the event with Harrgun Kohli being the Quiz Master, Joshika and Yashika managing the scores and Nikita and Aastha acting as Time-keepers and maintaining a degree of discipline in the competition.

CONSTITUTION DAY

26.11.2023



The event concluded with Alviya and Khusi bagging the 1st prize, followed by Anshika and Garima winning the 2nd prize and lastly, Keesiya and Aleena winning the 3rd prize. The Quiz Competition aimed to celebrate the adoption of the Indian Constitution almost 74 years ago and was an attempt to further the ideas of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, for whom, the Constitution was not merely a lawyer's document but rather, a living document that represented the vehicle of life and whose spirit encompassed the spirit of the age.



VOTER'S DAY

25.01.2023

The Department of Political Science, Jesus and Mary College, in collaboration with the Electoral Literacy Club, orchestrated a meaningful Voters Day pledge ceremony. The primary objective was to foster and maximize voter's enrolment. The event celebrated the significance of democratic participation and aimed to raise awareness among students. By promoting informed engagement in the electoral process, the ceremony honoured the dedication of voters across the country. Students enthusiastically pledged to uphold democratic values and ensure the integrity of free, fair, and peaceful elections. This commitment resonated deeply with new voters, inspiring them to take an active role in voter awareness initiatives within the college. The pledge ceremony served as a catalyst for fostering a culture of civic responsibility and informed decision-making among the student body. It underscored the importance of every vote and emphasized the role of young voters in shaping the future of democracy. Overall, the event was a resounding success, galvanizing students to become agents of positive change in their communities.



ISSUE NO. 3

DOCUMENTARY SCREENING 31.01.2023

The Department of Political Science, Jesus and Mary College, in collaboration with the Electoral Literacy Club, organized a compelling documentary screening as part of the Voter Awareness Week. The documentary delved into the rich history and evolution of the Election Commission over the past 60 years in India. Through archival footage and expert analysis, students gained a comprehensive understanding of the pivotal role played by the Election Commission in ensuring the integrity of the electoral process. The screening served as a poignant reminder of the importance of upholding democratic ideals and principles. It inspired young voters to actively engage in the electoral process, recognizing their role in shaping the nation's future. The documentary effectively highlighted the challenges faced by the Election Commission and its efforts to maintain transparency and fairness in elections. Overall, the event was instrumental in fostering a sense of civic duty and responsibility among the student community, encouraging them to vote and uphold the democratic values of free and fair elections.

PANEL DISCUSSION 03.02.2024



On 3rd February 2024, the Department of Political Science, Jesus and Mary College, in collaboration with St. Aloysius College, organized a panel discussion on "Politicisation of Crime and Criminalisation of Politics." The event aimed to delve into the complex interplay between crime and politics, focusing on the Indian context. The discussion was divided into two segments, with the first addressing the criminalization of politics and the second discussing the politicization of crimes. The first segment, focusing on the criminalization of politics, began with Gloria Das shedding light on the concept itself. She elucidated on what constitutes the criminalization of politics, providing a comprehensive understanding to the audience. Following her, Daksayani Chandra provided insights into the Indian context, discussing the various dimensions and manifestations of the criminalization of politics within the country. Jyothis Anna John then outlined the existing challenges associated with the criminalization of politics, offering a critical analysis of the current scenario. The second segment of the discussion centered on the politicization of crimes. Anvesha initiated the discussion by examining the politicization of crimes within the Indian context, highlighting its implications. Kirti followed with a brief overview of the politicization of crimes, setting the stage for a deeper understanding of the subject. Finally, Janhavi Singh delved into the existing challenges surrounding the politicization of crimes, offering valuable insights into the complexities of this phenomenon. The event, conducted via online mode on Google Meet, provided a platform for an insightful discourse on the intricate relationship between crime and politics.

**LECTURE SESSION ON
ANTI
DEFECTION LAW
21.02.2024**



On 21st February 2024, the Department of Political Science at Jesus and Mary College organized a lecture session on the Anti-Defection law. The session featured two distinguished speakers, Ms. Ritwika Sharma and Ms. Mayuri Gupta. Ms. Sharma, a Senior Resident Fellow at the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, leads Charkha, Vidhi's Constitutional Law Centre, and holds an L.L.M from the University of Cambridge. Ms. Gupta, an expert in Constitutional and Administrative Law, obtained her L.L.M from Gujarat National Law University with a R B Mehta Gold Medal.

The session covered three main themes: understanding defections within the constitutional scheme, India's Anti-Defection law, and bulk defections. The speakers provided a comprehensive overview, starting with the relationship between legislators and political parties and delving into the intricacies of the Anti-Defection law in India. They explained that the Anti-Defection law was introduced through the 52nd Amendment Act, 1985, to address the issue of legislators changing their political parties for personal gains. The law aims to prevent such defections which may lead to instability in the functioning of the government and promote party discipline.

Ms. Sharma and Ms. Gupta concluded the session with an examination of mergers following splits, offering examples to illustrate key points. The lecture was highly informative and insightful for the students, providing them with a clear understanding of the Anti-Defection Law in India. By exploring various aspects and scenarios, the speakers equipped the students with a solid foundation in this crucial area of Indian constitutional law.





SPORTS DAY

05.03.2024

On 5th March, 2024, the Department of Physical education of Jesus and Mary College hosted the 55th Annual Sports Day. The day started off with the highly competitive department wise march past. Students of political science in their unblemished uniforms marched sternly with pride and unity. The outstanding performance of the department contingent reflected their tireless hard work and unwavering commitment. It was followed by the sporting events and competitions. Faculty members and students of political science participated and won in the competitions, bringing laurels to the department. The notable achievements are as follows:

Under sports category, Shruti Kandwal of 3rd year won the 1st position and Nourina Khicher of 3rd year won 2nd position in discuss throw. Shruti Kandwal of 3rd year won 1st position in the shotput. Under the non-sports category, Neiya of 2nd year won the 2nd position in discuss throw. Jyothis Anna John of 1st year participated in the 200m race event.

Dr. Niamkoi won 2nd position in the lemon and spoon race and Dr. Hongchui won 1st position in the blind fold race.

With the closing ceremony, annual sports day was a resounding success and played an integral role in highlighting the commitment of holistic education and inculcating the values of companionship, competition, cooperation, dedication and discipline.



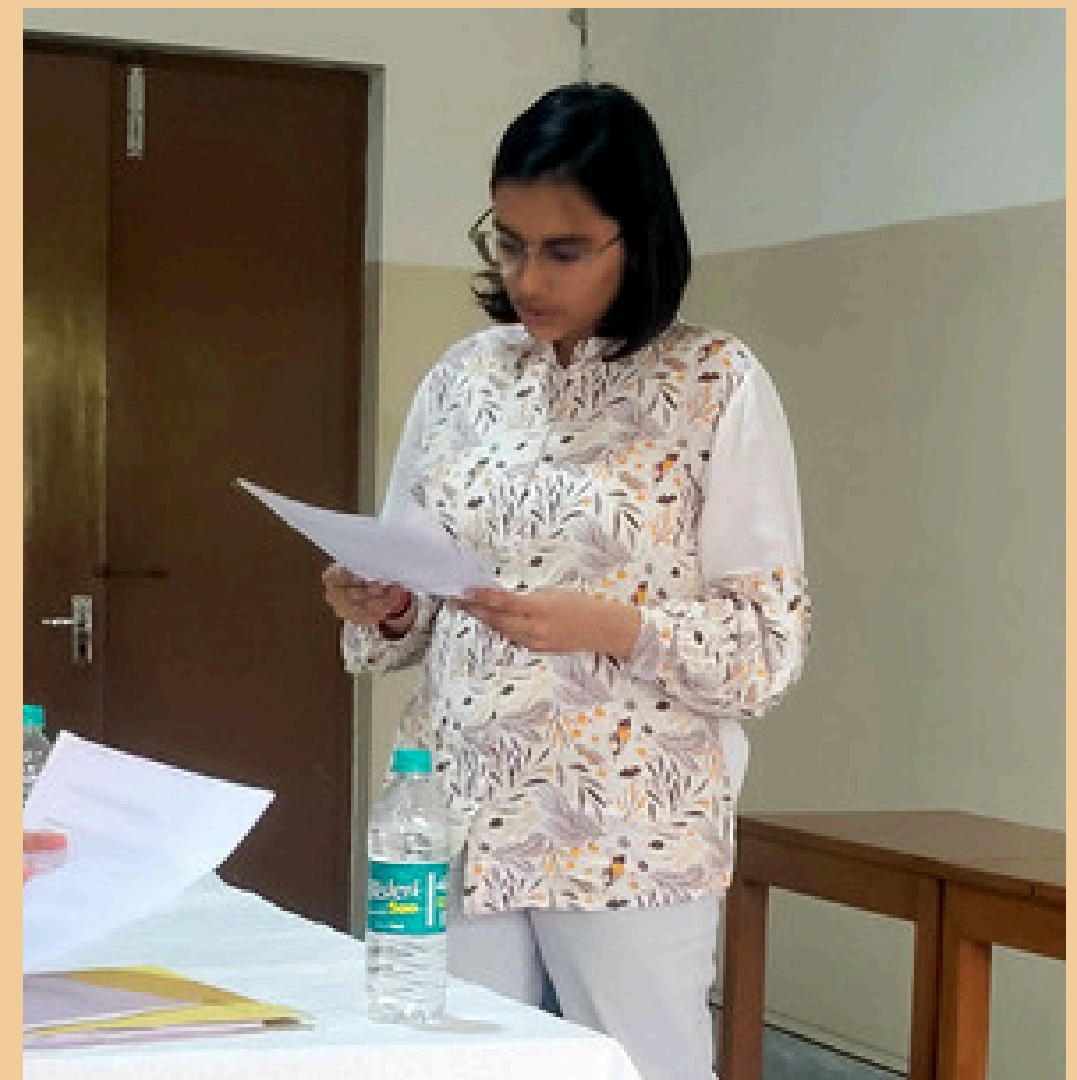
PAPER PRESENTATION COMPETITION

03.04.2024

The paper presentation competition, whose theme centred around “Democracy in South Asia” was convened on 3rd April, 2024 by the Department of Political Science, Jesus and Mary College. The event was presided over by Mhadeno Jungi, Assistant professor of Political Science at Rajdhani College, Dr. Jayshree Tandekar, Assistant professor of Political Science at Gargi College, and Prof. Jatin Kumar, Assistant professor of Political Science at Ram Lal Anand College. 11 teams participated in the competition and presented their papers shedding light on various aspects of culture, politics and socio-economic development of the South Asian region. Presenters analyzed the ethnic tensions and governance challenges within the region and explored global affairs, giving their suggestions on an appropriate course of action for resolving the complexities within the region.

Following were the participants for the event - Agnes Rose Rony, from Jesus and Mary College; Manya Grover from Jesus and Mary College; Sneha Deg from Miranda House; Anjali Bhardwaj, Shreya Pandey from Kamala Nehru College; Garvit Ramchandani from Dyal Singh College; Janhavi Singh, Manya Garg and Yashika Sharma from Jesus and Mary college; Priyanshi, Kritartha Boruah and Mrigakshi Bhuyan from Indraprastha college and Kirori Mal college respectively; Kaushiki Ishwar from Miranda House; Anvesha, Aarushi, Kirti from Jesus and Mary college; Harshita Rao from Jesus and Mary college; Devandana S from Jesus and Mary college, Keerthana from Gargi college ; Jyothis Anna John, Alviya, Mathew C. Abraham from Jesus and Mary college and Shaheed Bhagat college respectively ; Himanshu Sharma from IGNOU.

Emphasis on India’s role and position in the South Asian region was underscored. Toward the end, the Judges announced and appreciated the winners and provided a concluding note emphasizing the regional cooperation in South Asia and the prospect of achieving an “Asian Century”. The event concluded with Devananda, S. Keerthana Girish securing the first position. Sneha Dey earned the second prize, while Jyothis Anna John, Alviya Sheejo, and Mathew. C. Abraham claimed the third position in the paper presentation competition.



VOTER'S PLEDGE CEREMONY

18.04.2024

On 18th April, 2024, the Political Science Department, in Collaboration with Electoral Literacy Club, conducted the Voter's Pledge Ceremony which was aimed at promoting Electoral awareness and civic responsibility among students and faculty members.

The event was conducted in the amphitheatre and witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and faculty.

Neha Mishra, the President of Electoral Literacy Club was introduced as the key figure leading the pledge. She led the attendees in reciting a pledge emphasizing the importance of exercising their commitment to entitle their voting rights and promote the notion of Democracy and civic engagement. We were honoured to have Principal, Dr. Sandra Joseph, join the pledge for electoral literacy. Her presence and support underscored the significance of the campaign and motivated students to actively engage in the activities.

The pledge ceremony served as a significant milestone in promoting commitment to entitle rights as a voter and fostering a culture of responsible citizens within the student community. Through collaborative efforts between the Department of Political Science and the Electoral Literacy Club, participants were empowered with the knowledge and motivation to actively participate in the democratic process. A group photograph was then taken to commemorate the occasion, capturing the collective commitment of the participants towards fostering a culture of democratic engagement and electoral awareness. The photograph serves as a symbol of unity and shared purpose among the members of the Department of Political Science and the Electoral Literacy Club.



POLITO



LOGGUE

2023



The Department of Political Science, Jesus and Mary College showcased the pinnacle of academic excellence and spirited competition during its Annual Academic Day, 'Politologue', on November 29th, 2023. From the thought-provoking insights shared by Mr. Pravin Sawhney to the intense competitions that followed, every moment was infused with a fervent commitment to intellectual growth and scholarly achievement. The day commenced with a captivating Inaugural Session delivered by Mr. Pravin Sawhney, a distinguished former Army officer and the Editor of FORCE magazine, who expounded upon the theme, "India And The New World Order". Mr. Sawhney's discourse offered profound insights into the evolving dynamics of global power structures, delineating India's evolving role across diplomatic, technological, economic and geopolitical dimensions within this emergent global milieu. With the conclusion of this enlightening session, 'Politologue' heralded the commencement of a series of tightly contested academic competitions.

Policy Crafters

Led by Ananya Rana, Joshika Sharma, and Maitree, the Policy Crafters competition emerged as a crucible for testing participants' capacity for innovative thinking and strategic policy formulation. Entrants grappled with hypothetical scenarios, endeavoring to devise efficacious policy solutions reflective of their nuanced perspectives. Lovisha, Jaya, and Shamita distinguished themselves by clinching the first position, the second position was grabbed by Gaurangi, Rashi, Disha; whereas Adnan and Mishti won the third position.

Envision '23

Conceived as a platform for youthful innovation, Envision'23, led by Hargun Kohli, Thorana Naali, and Dipanita, unfolded across three immersive rounds. Participants were tasked with presenting Power Point Presentation models elucidating their agendas across various thematic contours. In each round, participants had to present their ppt, followed by group discussion. Winners were assessed on the basis of performance in both presentation and Group Discussion. The first position was secured by Himanshu, Khushi and Anshika won the second prize, followed by Ann Maria, Rose Mathew who secured the third prize.

Conventional Debate

Conventional Debate, led by Soumya Arora, Garima Arora, and Daksayani Chandra, provided a platform for rigorous intellectual discourse surrounding the motion, "This House Believes That Women's Recruitment in Conscripted Armies Serves A Feminist Cause". Each speaker was provided with a total of 4 minutes and a maximum of 2 interjections, participants engaged in a spirited exchange of ideas. Kinshuk was awarded the first prize while the second speaker prize was won by Afiya, whereas Arnav and Rijuta secured the first and second best interjector prizes respectively.



Youth Parliament

Led by Himakshi, Aastha, and Udita, the Youth Parliament convened under the theme "EWS Reservation In India".

Participants were tasked with articulating innovative solutions pertinent to expanding economic opportunities for marginalised sections of society. The Best Parliamentarian award was given to Aaditya, while Sumit and Ujwal secured the second and third positions respectively. The best speaker was awarded to Deepak.

Short Film Making

The Short Film Making was led by Nandini, Tanish and Esther where participants were tasked with crafting cinematic narratives that offered poignant reflections on pertinent societal issues on the theme, " Socio-Political Challenges in India." The prizes were distributed after screening the best films. The event concluded with Simran and Jatin winning the first prize, Albab winning the second prize and Gourav winning the third prize.

Quiz Competition

The Quiz Competition led by Shreya Khanna, Yashika Sharma, Shreya Prakash centred around the theme "Global Movements". The Competition was divided into three rounds – Preliminary, Rapid Fire and Buzzer round. The first prize was awarded to Vivek and Satwik, second position was won by Ahimsa and Sanya and Bhavya and Aakash grabbed the third position.



The event culminated in a vibrant closing ceremony, where winners were felicitated with certificates and cash prizes. The open mic segment showcased the students' diverse talents, adding to the festive atmosphere. Thereafter, the event came to a near end with a vote of thanks given by the Department's President. Moreover, the teacher-in-charge, Professor Sushila Ramaswamy presented every student of the Political science department with a customised Notepad as a gift of appreciation. Along with this, the event heads were also rewarded with customised tote bags for organising the various events. To forever cherish the moment, a group photograph was taken, and the event ended with a resounding success owing to the prodigious efforts put in by each and every student under the guidance of our teachers.

OFFICE



SHUBHI DUBEY
PRESIDENT



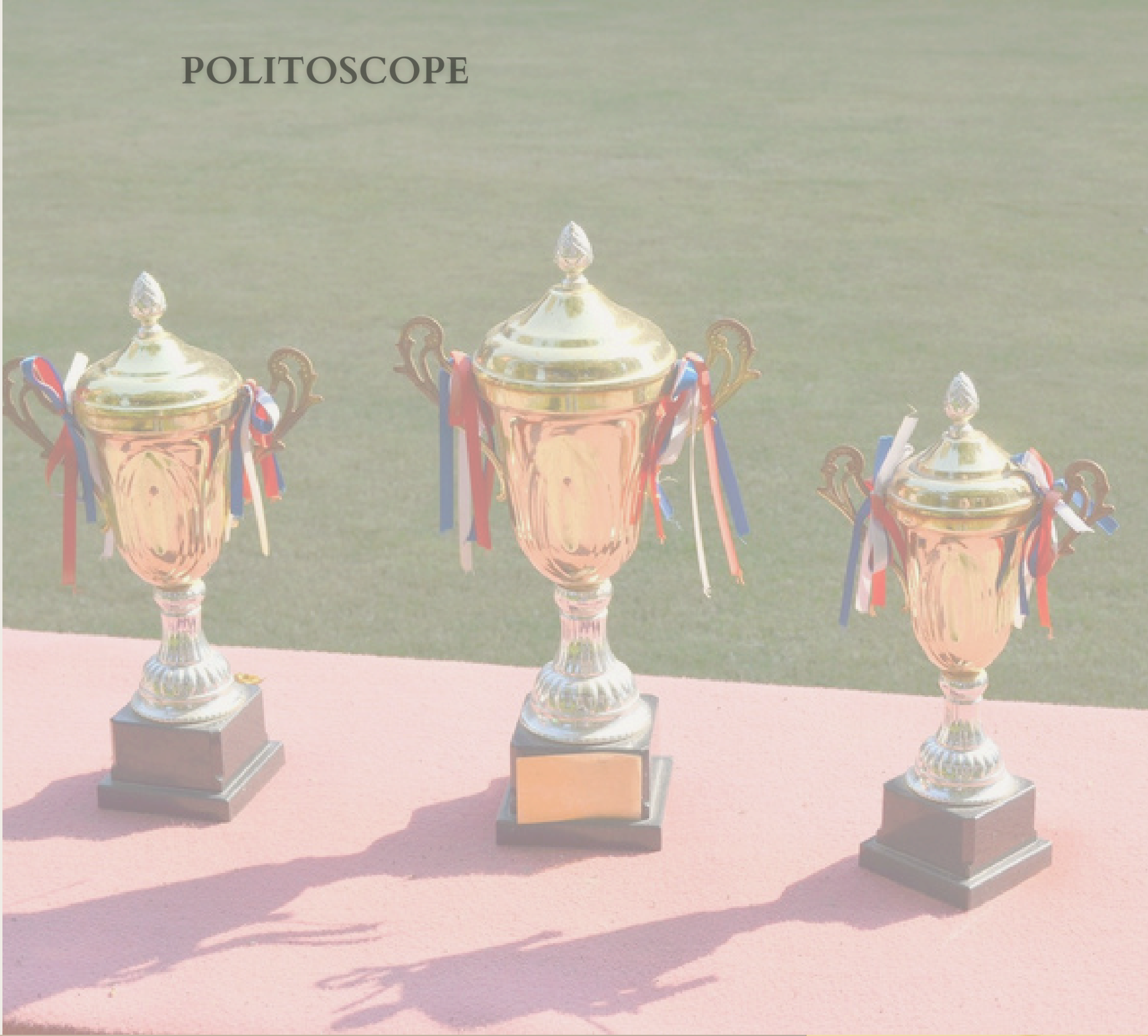
NIKITA
VICE PRESIDENT



JYOTHIS ANNA JOHN
SECRETARY

BREAVARBERS





DEPARTMENT ACHIEVERS



ISHITA PHULORIA



UPSC CSE AIR-140

ALUMNI, 2019-22 BATCH

I am Ishita Phuloria, a proud graduate of Jesus and Mary College, where I earned my degree in B.A. Political Science (Honours) in 2022.

My journey towards the Civil Services Exam began in my second year of college. Despite the challenges posed by online classes and Open Book Examinations (OBE), I successfully managed to balance my college commitments with my exam preparation. However, as my final semester approached and in-person classes resumed, maintaining this balance became increasingly demanding.

Despite the high levels of stress, I persevered, giving priority to my college studies. I sat for my first prelims just six days after completing my final year exams, unfortunately falling short of success that year.

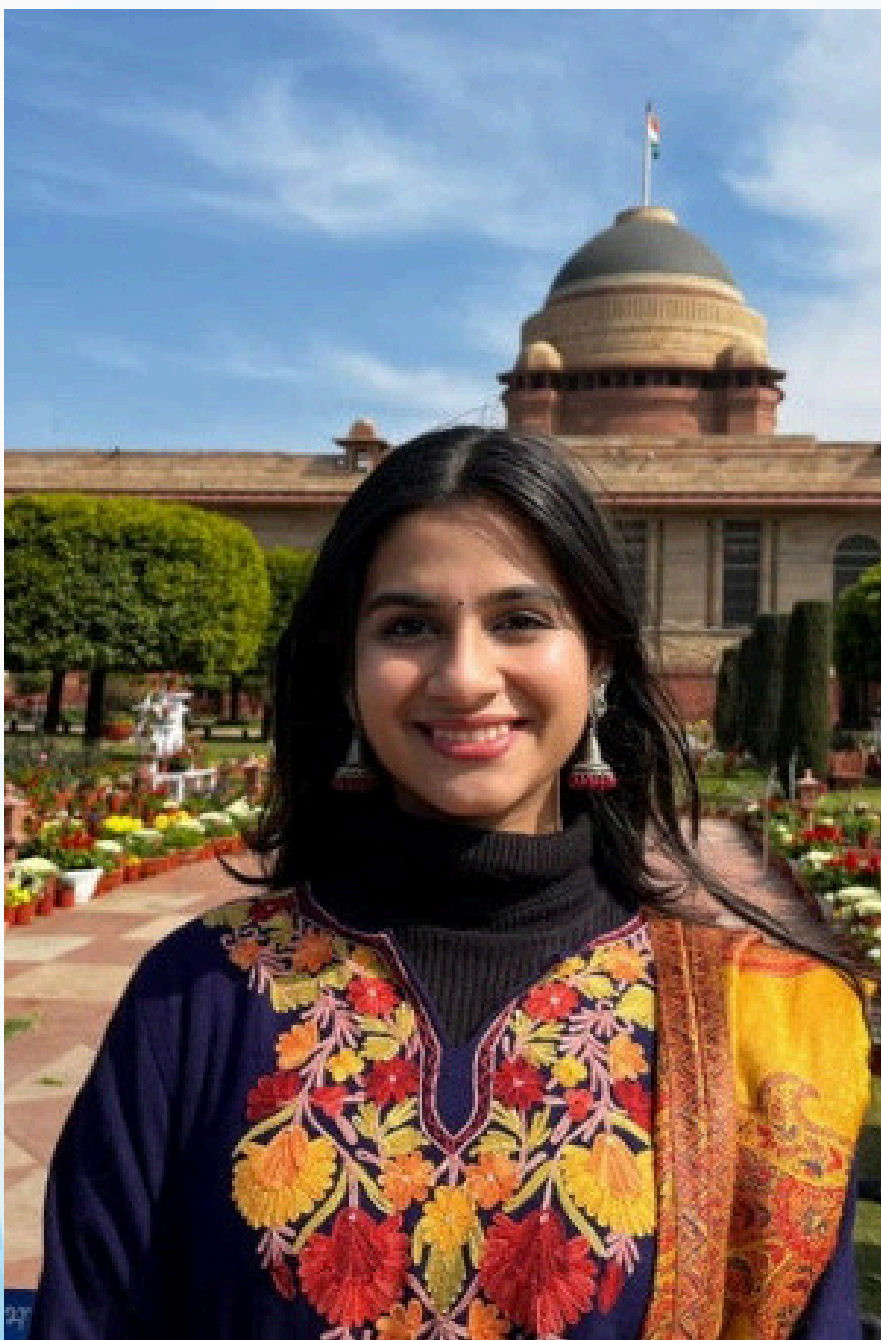
From this experience, I learned several valuable lessons. Firstly, I realized that I had not fully embraced the last few months of my college life, often heading straight to the library after classes. Although I missed out on some aspects of the typical college experience, I have no regrets as this dedication allowed me to stay on top of my studies. Secondly, prioritizing my college studies over the Civil Services Exam proved beneficial, especially since my optional subject was Political Science and International Relations (PSIR).

Finally, I made the decision to take a gap year after college to focus entirely on preparing for the Civil Services Exam, a decision I believe was wise.

For anyone considering taking the exam, my advice is simple: trust yourself.

Thank you, and best of luck to all aspiring candidates!

YEAR TOPPERS



Ananya Rana
Second year



Jissa Alex
Third year



Awani Suresh Nandanwar
First year

ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS

Third position in Inter-college Research paper presentation organised by Department of Political Science, Jesus and Mary College on 3rd April 2024 on the theme: *Democracy in South Asia*. Research paper presented on the topic- "*Marginalized Gender Disparity in Education and Politics: A Comparative Study of Women in a Downstream Migrant Community of Delhi and a Reconstructed Slum Area in Kerala*".



Jyothis Anna John



Alviya Sheejo

CO-CURRICULAR



Kanishka Dobhal

- Performed and won competitions representing Nrityanjali, the Indian Dance Society of JMC.
- 1st Position at Centrifuge- Group Dance Competition at SpringFest'23, IIT Kharagpur
- 1st Position at Tarangini- Group Folk Dance Competition, Miranda House



Aneta Thomas

- Performed and won competitions representing
- KAHKASHA- The dramatics Society of JMC
- First position at the street play competition MUNADI'24 organised by Janki Devi Memorial College, Delhi University .
- Third position at the street play competition NAVRAS'24 organised by Maharaja Surajmal Institute, IP University.
- Second Position at the Street play competition NUKKAD'24 at Delhi Technological University.
- Third Position at the Street Play competition THE THESPIAN'24 at College of Vocational Studies, Delhi University.
- First position at the street play competition at PGDAV Collage.
- First position at the street play competition at Antaragni23 at IIT KANPUR.
- Performed in Bharat Rang Mohasav 2024, World's largest theatre festival at National school of Drama.

CO-CURRICULAR

- Performed and won dance competitions representing, NRITYANJALI- The Indian Dance Society of JMC.
- First position in 'Tarangini'23: group folk dance competition organised by Miranda House.
- Second position in Dhanak'23: group folk dance competition organised by Gargi College.



Anna Anto

- Performed and won dance competitions representing, NRITYANJALI- The Indian Dance Society of JMC.
- First position in 'Tarangini'23: group folk dance competition organised by Miranda House.
- Second position in Dhanak'23: group folk dance competition organised by Gargi College.



Anshika Vashist

SPORTS

- Intercollege Athletics Competition 2023- 2nd position 100mtrs and 200mtrs & 1st position in relay 4x100mtrs.
- Junior Federation Cup Athletics Championships participation in 100mtrs.
- Khelo India Youth Games participation in 100mtrs.



Cynthia Francis

- JMC Handball Team Captain.
- Inter College Handball 2023-2024 -1st position.
- North Zone Inter-University - 3rd position.
- Qualified for All Indian University (AIU).
- 45th Junior National Handball Championship 2023 - 1st position .
- Delhi Olympic Games 2024 - 1st position.
- Spardha Fest - 1st position.

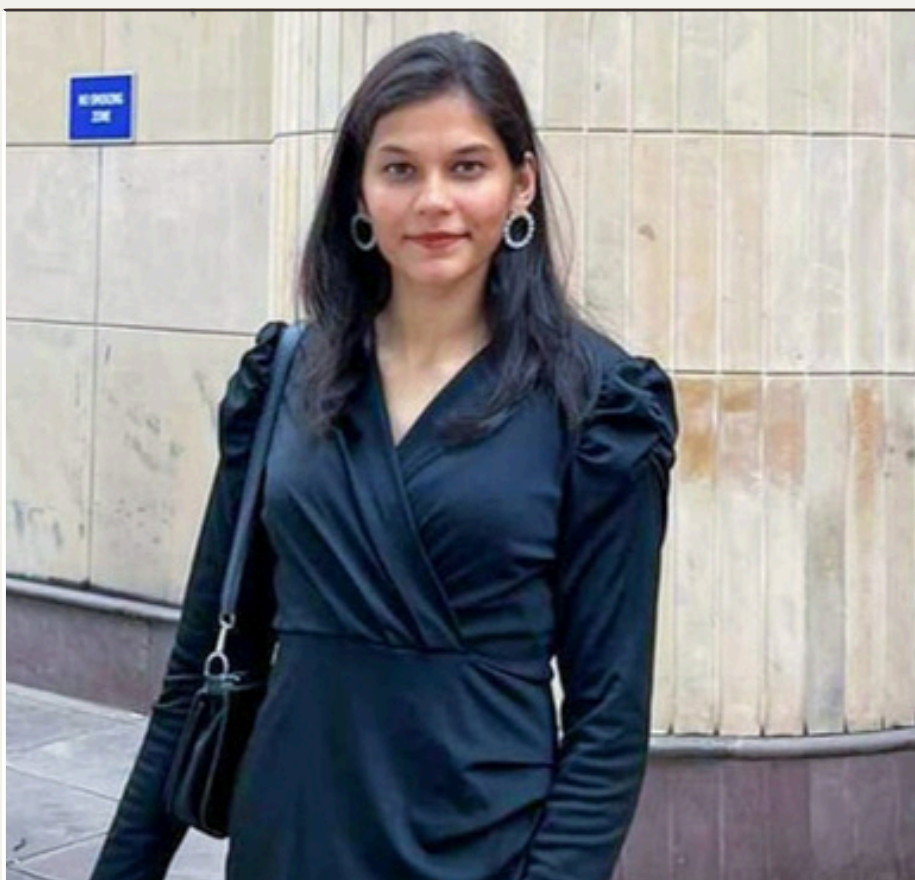


Shruti Kandwal



Anjali Beck

- 1st position in Delhi Olympic Games 2024 (Cestoball).
- 1st position in Delhi State Korfball Championship 2024.
- 2nd position in 1st North Zone National Cestoball Championship 2023.
- 3rd position in 5th Senior National Cestoball Championship 2023.



Shreya Singh

- All India University Championship in Softball, Punjab University - 3rd position.
- Participated in the Republic Day March Past as part of the National Cadet Corps (NCC).



Mayuri Rawat

- Basketball Royal Club - 2nd position. YMCA Basketball Tournament- 2nd position.
- Delhi State Basketball Tournament - 3rd position.



KRIPA BIJU

Vice President, Student Council



CHARU CHAUHAN

President, Curiosis
(The Quiz Society)



HARRGUN KOHLI

Campus Ambassador,
Electoral Literacy Club

Office
HOLDERS



KHILI GUPTA

Convenor, Electoral
Literacy Club



KANISHKA DOBHAL

President, Nrityanjali (The
Indian Dance Society)



AMBIKA GHANTY

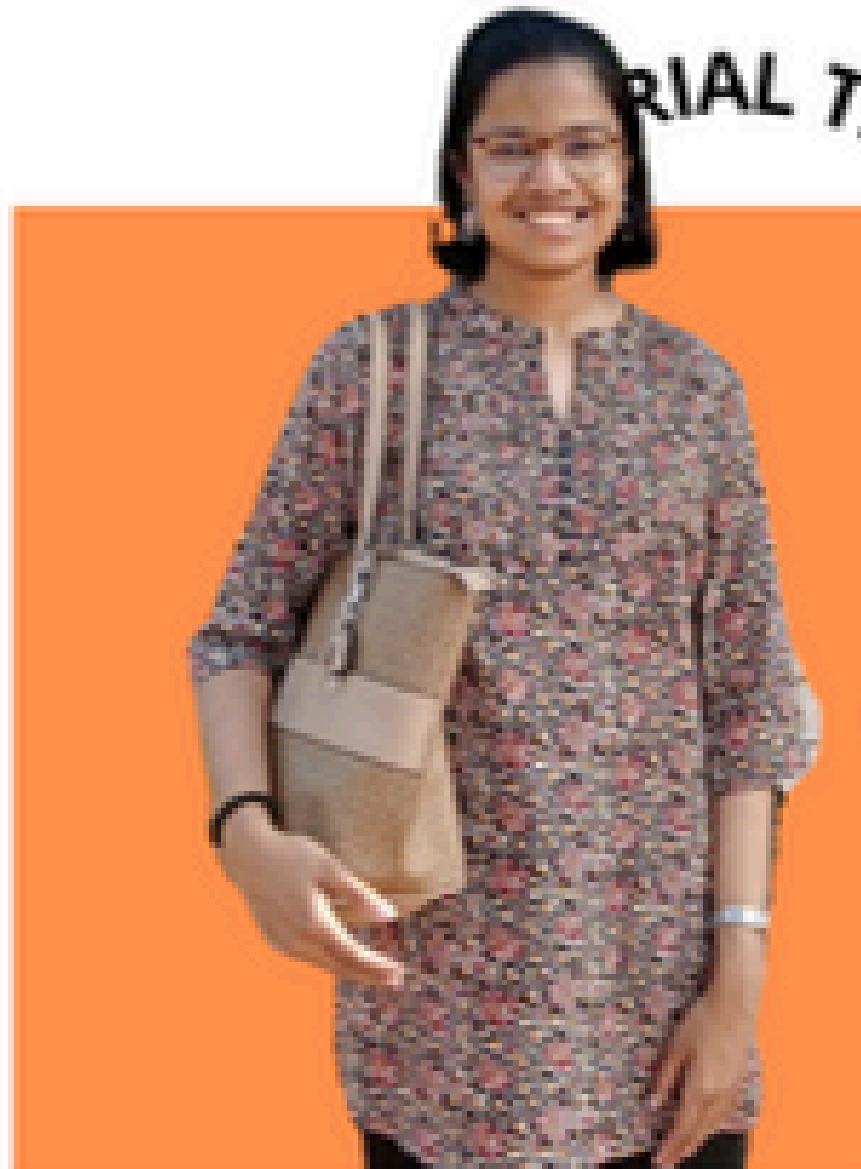
President, Peace Society



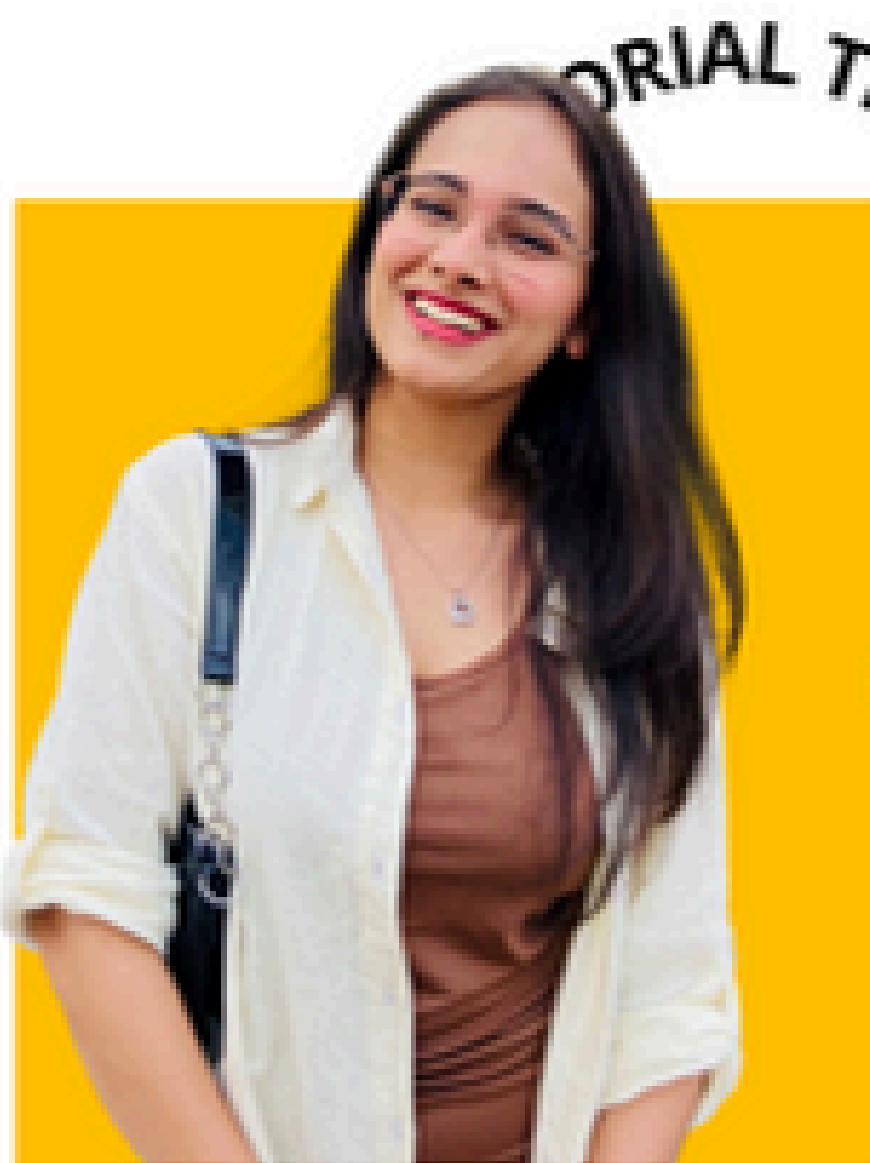
DAKSAYANI CHANDRA

INDIA AND THE WORLD
Secretary, Electoral Literacy Club

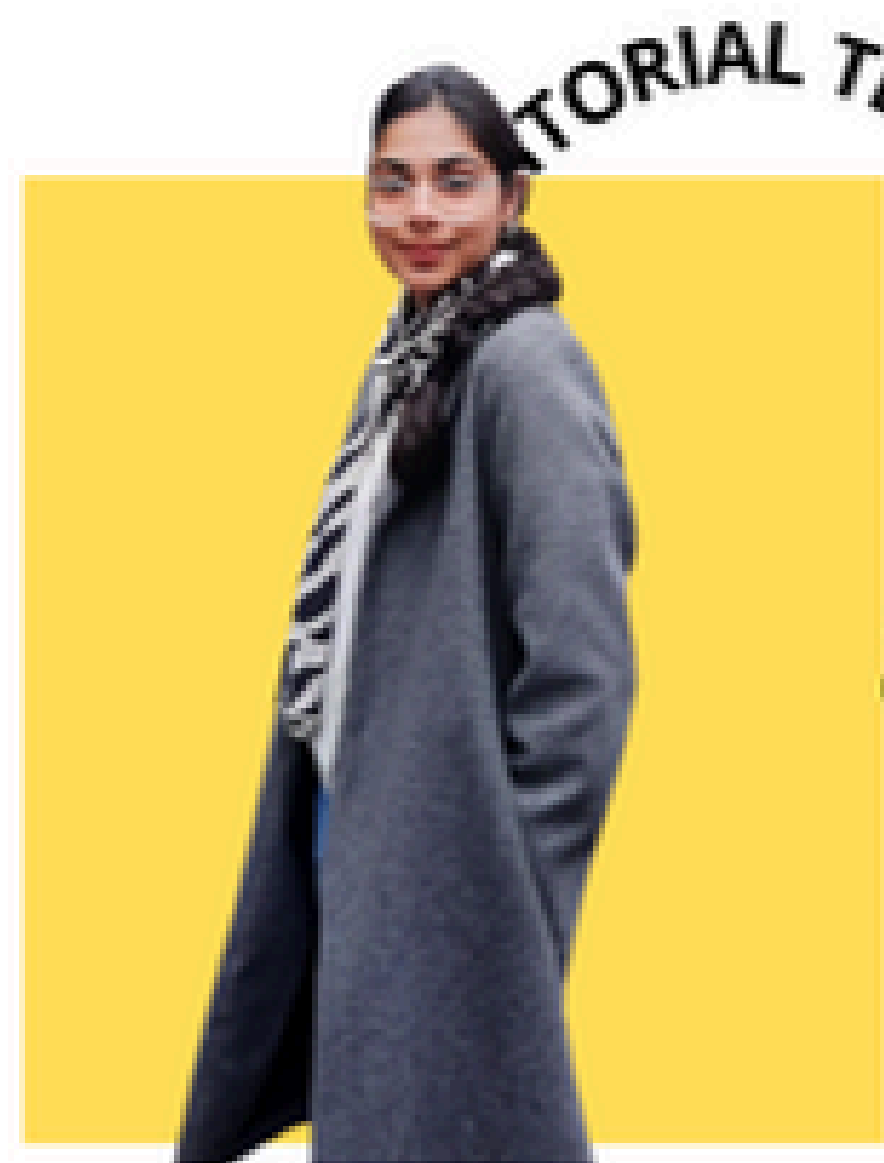
Introducing THE EDITORIAL TEAM



Ananya



Anvya



Udita

Introducing THE DESIGN TEAM



JANHAVI
Design team head



MOULI
Design team head



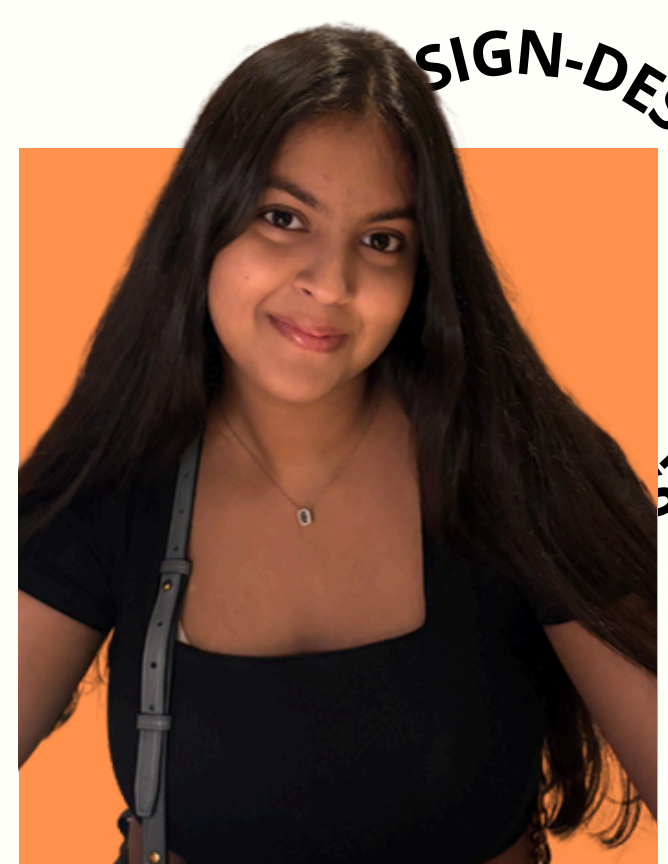
YASHIKA
Design team head



YUVIKA



ANEETA



AVIKA



KIRTI

INDIA AND THE WORLD

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The successful launch of *Politoscope* signifies the culmination of a collaborative project demanding unwavering commitment and the fostering of a shared vision. This acknowledgement serves to express my sincere gratitude to all those who played a pivotal role in transforming this vision into reality.

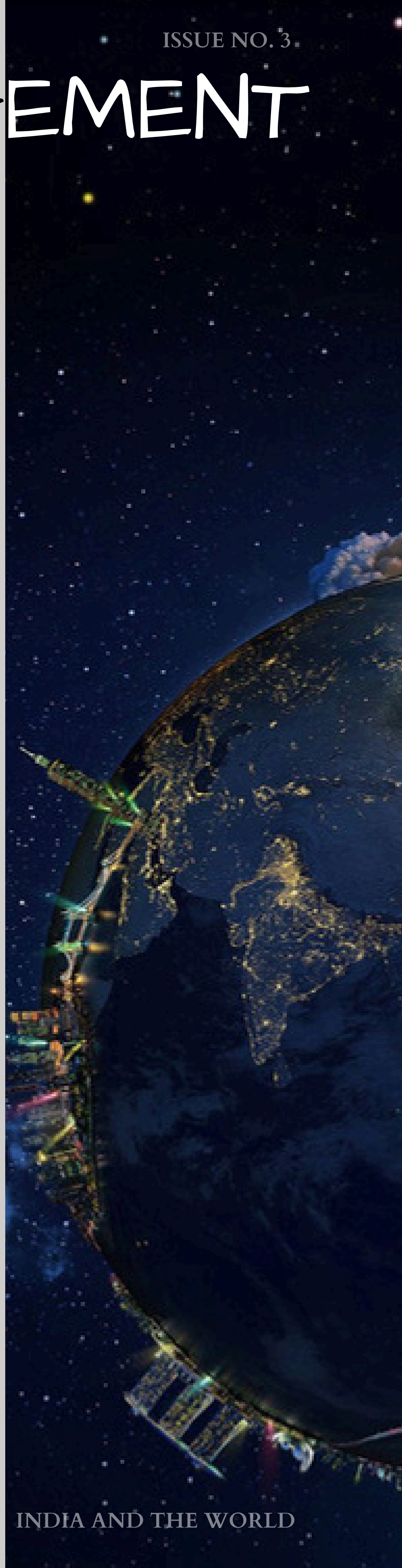
Firstly, I extend my deepest appreciation to Professor Sandra Joseph, Principal, for her enthusiastic support in facilitating the development of *Politoscope*. Professor Sushila Ramaswamy, our teacher-in-charge, deserves immense recognition for her invaluable guidance throughout the process. Her meticulous attention to detail and insightful feedback significantly enhanced the quality of *Politoscope*.

Furthermore, I would like to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of the faculty members of the department. Their insightful feedback and guidance served as a crucial element in ensuring the academic rigor and intellectual merit of the magazine's content.

I am particularly grateful to my deputy editors, Lilly Jerisha and Garima Arora. Their unwavering optimism and perseverance provided a much-needed source of encouragement and resilience throughout the magazine's development. The dedication and meticulous editing skills of the editorial team deserve special mention. Additionally, the design team, led by Janhavi Singh, Mouli Sharma, and Yashika Sharma, played a crucial role in bringing *Politoscope's* essence to life.

Finally, I extend my sincere appreciation to the entire Political Science department for their persistent cooperation and support throughout this endeavor. Embodying the relentless commitment and collaborative spirit of a dedicated team, *Politoscope* stands as a radiant testament to the power of collective ambition and unwavering resolve. In every page, the combined dedication of a remarkable team shines - thank you to all who made *Politoscope* a reality.

Best Wishes,
Avni Chawla



INDIA

And the

WORLD



POLITOSCOPE
THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
POLITICAL SCIENCE, JESUS AND MARY COLLEGE



@politoscope.jmc@gmail.com



[@politoscope.jmc](https://www.instagram.com/@politoscope.jmc)