

INDGREEN

India's ambitions and possibilities of becoming a global green leader

The INDGREEN research project investigates India's role in global climate governance, and how climate action in India contributes to fulfilling global climate targets and sustainable development goals (SDGs). The project contributes to understanding the relationship between India's domestic low-carbon development and its role in international climate negotiations.

The overall objective of INDGREEN is to explore India's ambitions and potential for becoming a green leader in an increasingly polycentric global climate regime. The project is taking a multilevel perspective, from international to national and local, with focus on the energy transition.

Two main research areas:

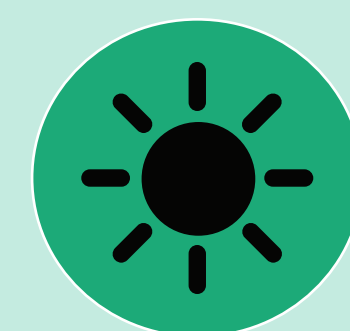
- India's role and ambitions in international climate governance
- Trade-offs and synergies between SDGs in India's energy transition



INDIA'S ROLE IN THE UNFCCC



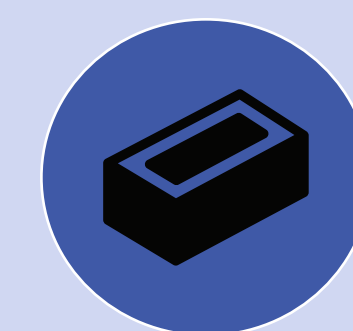
Asking whether India can take a global green leader role, we have analysed India's actions and positions in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations and in international bi- and multilateral climate partnerships. We find that India has put efforts into speaking as a strong and legitimate voice on behalf of the Global South, especially at the COP26 in Glasgow. India also has a clear strategy of seeking climate partnerships where it can have a defining role, like in the G20, but is reluctant to be a "taker" of roles defined by others, like the Joint Energy Transition Partnerships (JETP).



THE INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE



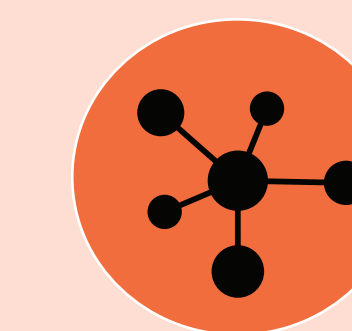
The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is the first multilateral organisation headquartered in India, and we study what kind of climate partnership the ISA is and how it contributes to India's global climate role. Through analysing documents, ISA events, meetings between the ISA and stakeholders, as well as several semi-structured interviews with key informants, we find that although the start has been slow, the ISA is clearly part of India's climate agenda. We also find that India, at least to some extent given its own experience and history, is uniquely positioned to enhance the trust in global energy transition cooperation.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN BRICK PRODUCTION



The study explores to what extent the current policies for energy efficiency in the brick production sector in Bihar enable transformative justice. The SDGs on health and wellbeing (SDG3), livelihood and decent working conditions (SDG 8), equality (SDG5 and 10), and protecting the environment (SDG13) are central to our analysis. These SDGs have relevant targets for a just transition of the brick sector when it comes to livelihood, working conditions and decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation. We find that integrating a wider variety of social dimensions and relevant support schemes to overcome inequality barriers and safeguard the environment for future generations is needed.



SMALL GRID-CONNECTED SOLAR



Solar energy transition is not inherently just and can reproduce existing economic, social, and environmental injustices; but how? We studied decentralised solar projects, through the case of a central scheme that aims to diversify farmers' income by installing small grid-connected renewable projects on their land. Fieldwork was conducted in three districts of Rajasthan, through 40 semi-structured interviews, to explore local-level synergies and trade-offs with SDGs. We find that the decentralised solar schemes have the potential to enhance their effectiveness by integrating mechanisms that promote inclusion; thereby facilitating a solar energy transition that 'leaves no one behind'.

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