

Urban Green Spaces, Climate Change and Environment Sustainability: A Critical Acclaim



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ROLE OF SOCIAL GOVERNANCE IN THE URBAN GREEN SPACE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

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ABSTRACT

India's urban transition is salient to the growing emphasis on city responses to climate change. While projected to experience the largest global urban transition with significant infrastructure investment in the next few decades, the welfare of Indian cities remains poor, which complicates the implications for climate change mitigation and adaptation. This paper traces, synthesizes and characterizes the emerging literature on Indian urban climate debates. It discusses the arc of urban climate efforts, from an initial emphasis on climate vulnerabilities and risks, broadening over time to include climate mitigation. The paper examines the governance forms and political motivations with which such actions are pursued in cities and finds three overarching characteristics: the use of local development priorities as an entry point to climate mitigation and adaptation; the role of non-state actors in promoting climate-relevant outcomes; and the proclivity for discrete project-based activities. The paper suggests that while a range of Indian cities are beginning to consider climate concerns, a larger strategic understanding of the interaction between climate and development priorities, across policy and governance levels, is yet to be developed. The future trajectory of urban India's responses to climate change will be shaped by how pressing local development and mitigation and adaptation goals will be institutionally linked, integrated and prioritized.

Keyword: Climate Change; Governance; Urban India; Development and Mitigation.

INTRODUCTION

One of the defining parameters for delivering India's sustainable development agenda will be the development path chosen by urban India.

—*Economic Survey of India, 2017–18*

(Department of Economic Affairs 2018)

Cities are increasingly seen as targets for strategic measures in relation to climate change. The United Nations' (UN) 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) include an explicit goal on cities, and the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement enables new nationally designated instruments to promote climate outcomes and emphasizes the importance of cities. UN-Habitat's 2016 New Urban Agenda emphasizes the role of local city governments in addressing climate change. The eleventh SDG focuses specifically on cities. As targets for infrastructure provision and immediate social and environmental challenges, cities have become central pillars for the economic, environmental and social pillars of sustainability (Acuto, Parnell, & Seto, 2018; Sanchez Rodriguez, Urge-Vorsatz, & Barau, 2018). The importance of urban climate response is particularly important for developing countries, where most urban growth is expected to occur and which are often exposed to climate impacts (Nagendra, Bai, Brondizio, & Lwasa, 2018). In fact, the infrastructure improvements and construction required for this growth are predicted to generate 226 Gt of CO₂ by 2050 (Bai et al., 2018), almost 50% more than the CO₂ emissions of the G-77 (excluding China) since 1850 (WRI, 2014). At the same time, cities in transition economies often have limited local capacity, scarce information and informal governance structures, making their climate responses different from those documented in industrialized countries (Anguelovski, Chu, & Carmin, 2014; Carmin, Anguelovski, & Roberts, 2012; Bai et al., 2018; E. Chu,

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THE ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

Dr. Amit Kashyap*
Mrs. Shashi Bala Kashyap**

Abstract

A new wave of technology is driving rapid international change. This change has created new opportunities for multilateral cooperation in the areas of sustainable development, state-society relations, peace and conflict, international security and global governance. Waves of technological change driven by inventions ranging from steam power to electricity to automobiles have driven economic development and social change throughout history. Some historians talk of "technological revolutions", from the First Industrial Revolution that mechanized production, to the Second Industrial Revolution that brought mass production, to the Third Industrial Revolution, to automated production. The Fourth Industrial Revolution has argued that "the convergence of technologies ... is blurring the lines between the physical, digital, and biological realms." In this latest technological revolution, everything from the internet to drones to big data has been dubbed 'emerging technologies', and the potential applications of these technologies are expanding rapidly.

Keywords: *Cyber-security, Cyber-crime, Technology, Development.*

Introduction

The Internet is one of the fastest growing areas of technology infrastructure development.¹ Today, Information and Communication

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Related to the development of the Internet, see: Yang, Miao, ACM International Conference Proceeding Series; Vol. 113; Proceedings of the