

Intended Nationally Determined Contributions

Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) are (intended) reductions in greenhouse gas emissions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

This article will give further information about the INDC within the context of the Civil Service Examinations

Overview of the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions

The INDCs combine the top-down system of a United Nations climate agreement with bottom-up system-in elements through which countries put forwards their agreements in the context of their national capabilities, circumstances and priorities with the goal of reducing greenhouse emissions.

The INDC in itself has safeguards which help in emission reductions and also address steps taken to adapt to climate change impacts along with looking into what the country needs to implement such steps.

When and INDC data is submitted by a country, an assessment phase is followed to review the impact of the submitted INDCs before the United Nations Climate Change Conference.

During the COP 21 of the UNFCCC, in which the Paris Agreement was signed. The following INDCs was submitted:

- China: targeted a 60-65% reduction of greenhouse gases emitted.
- United States: aimed to reduce greenhouse gases by 26-28%
- European Union: Sough to reduce greenhouse gases by 40%
- India: Submitted a target of 33-35% per unit of GDP

Challenges and Opportunities of the INDC

Like all climate change agreements, the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions comes with its fair share of opportunities and challenges.

Opportunities

- The INDC showed that economic growth is compatible with low-carbon and climate-resilient pathways.
- It will also help in poverty alleviation, improved health, and easy access to energy and security
- It will also attract financial, capacity building and technological-transfer support.

- If other countries are encouraged to take similar actions, it might mitigate the worst of climate change.

Challenges

Some of the challenges related to the INDCs include:

- Some countries feel that the short timeframe available to develop the INDC is a hurdle.
- Limited expertise in technical options
- Lack of certainty and guidance on what should be included in INDCs or not
- Lack of international support to developing the INDCs

Relevant Questions for Intended Nationally Determined Contributions

What has been the progress of the INDCs filed?

By the time COP 25 took place in 2019, global environmental NGOs published an assessment of 184 INDCs filed in which it was found that 20% of them were 'sufficient', 6% 'partially sufficient', 4% 'partially insufficient' and 70 % 'insufficient'

How is the INDC relevant?

The INDCs are the primary means for governments to communicate internationally the steps they will take to address climate change in their own countries.

Are INDCs legally binding?

An Internationally Determined Contribution is not legally binding but a review process in the agreement would assess how countries are meeting their goals.