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ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF GLOBALISATION ON INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW IN LIGHT OF PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT

Globalization, a defining feature of contemporary society, has profoundly influenced international environmental law (IEL) and the pursuit of sustainable development. While globalization fosters economic growth and facilitates knowledge sharing, it simultaneously challenges environmental governance, often exacerbating inequalities and ecological degradation. This study explores the intricate relationship between globalization and sustainable development, emphasizing the need for cohesive international frameworks to address transboundary environmental issues. Key concerns include the overexploitation of resources, influence of multinational corporations, and erosion of environmental standards due to the "race to the bottom" phenomenon.

India's response, as a prominent developing economy, highlights the dual challenges and opportunities globalization presents. Initiatives like the International Solar Alliance, Paris Agreement commitments, and domestic policies such as the Clean India Mission and Namami Gange Programme showcase India's efforts to balance economic growth with environmental sustainability. However, challenges like industrialization-induced pollution, resource depletion, and weak compliance mechanisms underscore the limitations of existing legal frameworks.

The paper argues for robust global governance mechanisms, equitable technology transfer, and enhanced accountability to mitigate globalization's adverse effects on the environment. Strengthened IEL and sustainable practices are imperative for achieving global justice and equity. India's experience serves as a case study in navigating these complexities, advocating

for policies that prioritize environmental preservation alongside economic advancement.

Keywords: *Globalization, International Environmental Law, Sustainable Development, global justice*

INTRODUCTION

The term “Globalization” has become one of most used term in the contemporary world thanks to the intra-border transactions of culture, economy, human resources, etc. It has become the outline of the modern world. Due to this, any incident that takes place somewhere in the world is no longer an isolated incident; rather, they all have some correlation with each other, and one incident leads to the other. One of the most imperative corollaries of globalization is its effect on International Environmental Law (hereinafter IEL), as it outlines significant concerns of Justice and Sustainability in a global world that is becoming increasingly interrelated with the advent of time. In the past few decades, the environmental issues have spruced up and it has gone from bad to worse, which is noticeable in the raising pollution levels, resource exhaustion, climate change and flora & fauna loss. IEL has tried its best to keep up with these changes. All the nations across globe has now come to unison that in this race between environmental preservation and economic expansion, it is pertinent to give more weight to the notion of Sustainable Development.

“Sustainable Development” has taken centre stage in this globalizing world and has been defined by various scholars. The most acceptable among them was a report published by the Brundtland Commission in 1987, “Our Common Future”¹. It endeavors to achieve the present demand without pushing the future generation resources to the detriment.

Prima facie it is clear that this globalization phenomenon has impacted the legal framework and how people have clamoured their support for sustainable development; the researcher in this paper has tried to gauge the effect of globalization on IEL. We may develop a refined grasp of a pertinent legal framework that is needed to foster Justice and Equity in this connected world and how Globalization, IEL and the idea of sustainability intermingle. This study becomes imperative because it outlines the need for a unified policy and framework to face the challenges introduced by globalization while rooting for environmental sustainability.

Structure

The structure of this project will proceed as follows. In **the first part**, the terms ‘globalisation’ and ‘sustainable development’ are explained in light of their origin and contemporary understanding, followed by an exploration of the link between the two. This is followed by navigating the interplay between Globalization, Sustainable Development, and Global Justice. In the **second part**, an analysis of the impact of globalisation as a double-edged sword on international environmental law and sustainable development is conducted. In the **third and the last part**, the position of India with respect to globalisation and its impact on sustainable development has been analysed with the help of some recent policies and programmes of the Indian government. A conclusion follows this.

PART -1

UNDERSTANDING GLOBALISATION AND ITS LINK WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

A. WHAT IS THE RIGHT TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT?

In the recent decades of environmental jurisprudence, the Right to Sustainable Development has emerged as a multidimensional concept in response to striking a balance between commercial growth and environmental protection in the wake of globalization. With the advent of globalization, the economic growth of nations has achieved an all-time high, but with it, it has also brought the environmental challenges. These challenges, like globalization, are not confined to a border state; rather, they transcend physical boundaries.¹ In this backdrop, the role of International Environmental Law becomes all too important in preserving the right to sustainable development. This framework seeks to achieve the current needs without clamping down the needs of future generation by the help of myriad international institutions, legal principles and treaties.

1. Origins of the Right to Sustainable Development

As discussed earlier, this novel concept was pioneered first in the **1987 Brundtland Report** titled *Our Common Future*, which defined Sustainable Development as “*the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.*”² This notion was the initiation of incorporating the environmental concern

¹ C. Gopinath, *Globalization: A Multidimensional System* (2008).

² G. Brundtland & M. Khalid, *UN Brundtland Commission Report: Our Common Future* (1987), <http://www.undocuments.net/our-common-future.pdf> (last visited Sept. 25, 2024).

into the development blueprint at the international level.

Sustainable Development gained further traction at the UNCED's (United Nations Conference on Environment and Development) **Earth Summit in 1992** which took place at Rio de Janeiro. This meeting of the nations yielded numerous momentous agreements, like **Rio Declaration on Environment and Development** and **Agenda 21**.³ The Rio Declaration was revolutionary for its time because it formally introduced principles like the Precautionary Principle, PolluterPay principle, and Inter-generational equity. These all played an important role in moulding the Sustainable Development right under the International Law framework. Among various principles of the Rio Declaration, Principle 3 is noteworthy because of the emphasis that "the right to development must be fulfilled so as to equitably meet developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations."

2. Protection of the Right to Sustainable Development in International Law

The concept of Sustainable Development which was introduced, soon gained support from nation states in International Law and was recognized and protected through numerous treaties, conventions and declarations. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (hereinafter as UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement of 2015 are noteworthy efforts to tackle the problem of Climate Change and the need of Sustainable Development. The objective of UNFCCC is to even out the greenhouse gas concentrations and limit the global warming to below 2 degree Celsius.⁴ By this, UNFCCC underlines the significance of Sustainable Development for the developing nations.

In 2015, all UN member states adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁵, which is an all-inclusive framework for strengthening the right to Sustainable Development under the framework of International Law. It comprises 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), stipulating proposals for poverty eradication, social justice, and environmental sustainability, which would be achieved through global cooperation. The focus of SDGs is to enhance human rights protection, which ranges from access to clean water, health, education, and food to developing environmental administration.

³ John Blewitt, *Understanding Sustainable Development* (2d ed. 2015).

⁴ O. Fox & P. Stoett, *Citizen Participation in the UN Sustainable Development Goals Consultation Process: Toward Global Democratic Governance?*, 22 *GLOBAL GOVERNANCE* 555, 555-74 (2016).

⁵ United Nations, *Agenda 2030: Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* 1-35 (2015).

The International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (hereinafter as ICESCR) which was adopted in 1966 secures economic, social and cultural rights which are inherent to achieve the sustainable development. Article 1 of ICESCR recognizes the right of self-determination of all the people, thereby ensuring that the environmental resources are managed frugally, keeping pace with the developmental goals. Article 11 further guarantees the right to an adequate standard of living comprising right to food, cloth, housing. All these rights, which are very basic to a human being, must be achieved without impinging upon environmental sustainability.

DEFINING GLOBALISATION AND ITS LINK WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Held et al. has defined globalization as “*a process (or set of processes), which embodies a transformation in the spatial organization of social relations and transactions- assessed in terms of their extensity, intensity, velocity and impact- generating trans-continental or interregional flows and networks of activity, interaction, and the exercise of power.*”⁶

Economist and Nobel Prize winner **Joseph Stiglitz**, has defined globalization as “*the closer integration of the countries and peoples of the world which has been brought about by the enormous reduction of costs of transportation and communication, and the breaking down of artificial barriers to the flows of goods, services, capital, knowledge, and (to a lesser extent) people across borders,*”⁷.

These thinkers have emphasized globalization’s potential to foster cooperation, economic growth, and cultural exchange, creating opportunities for collective action toward a sustainable future.⁸

As nations become interconnected, they face shared challenges like climate change and resource depletion. Sustainable development aims to meet present needs without compromising future generations, necessitating cooperative legal frameworks. International environmental laws, such as the Paris Agreement, exemplify how global cooperation can address these issues, ensuring that globalization supports environmental sustainability rather than undermining it.

GLOBALIZATION, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, AND GLOBAL JUSTICE:

⁶ David Held et al., *Global Transformations* (1999).

⁷ Joseph E. Stiglitz, *Globalization and Its Discontents* 1-304 (2002)

⁸ Luke Martell, *Introduction: Concepts of Globalization*, in *The Sociology of Globalization* 1-14 (2010).

NAVIGATING THE COMPLEX INTERPLAY

The growing interdependence of economies, cultures, and populations is known as globalisation, and it has significant ramifications for both global justice and sustainable development. Although it can spur technical development and economic expansion, its effects are complex, frequently escalating inequality and presenting environmental issues.

Economic integration is one of the main ways that globalisation impacts sustainable development. Globalisation can, on the one hand, improve market accessibility, enabling poor countries to export commodities and make money. This can result in advancements in healthcare, education, and infrastructure, all of which support sustainable development. For example, international commerce has significantly increased the economies of nations like China and India, bringing millions out of poverty.

However, this expansion frequently has a price. **Deforestation, biodiversity loss, and environmental degradation** can result from the overuse of natural resources to satisfy global demands. This paradox exemplifies a crucial tension: while some people may benefit economically, others may suffer ecologically.

Furthermore, **socioeconomic inequality** within and between countries may worsen as a result of globalisation. The advantages of globalisation are not shared equally; while poorer areas may become caught in a cycle of reliance, wealthier countries and individuals frequently gain the most. This discrepancy brings up the topic of global justice: *how can we make sure that the advantages of globalisation support just and sustainable development?*

This problem is brought to light by the exploitation of labour in developing nations, where employees may endure subpar working conditions and inadequate pay. The necessity for laws that safeguard the rights of employees and the environment is highlighted by the *race to the bottom*, in which businesses move to nations with weaker rules.

Another crucial element of the relationship between sustainability and globalisation is **environmental justice**. Climate change, pollution, and resource depletion are just a few of the serious environmental issues globalisation brings. Marginalised populations are disproportionately affected by these problems, especially in the Global South, where people are frequently more susceptible to the effects of environmental degradation. For instance, increasing sea levels brought on by climate change—a issue primarily caused by industrialised

nations—are posing grave dangers to small island states.⁹

This raises ethical concerns regarding accountability and responsibility: *who should foot the bill for climate change adaptation and mitigation?* According to the common but differentiated responsibilities approach, wealthier countries should take the lead in resolving these issues since they have caused the most environmental harm.¹⁰

Additionally, through innovation and knowledge exchange, the globalisation of technology and information offers chances to promote sustainable development. But if access is still restricted to particular groups, there is a chance that technological advancements will exacerbate already-existing disparities. In order to promote equitable growth and ensure that all nations can take advantage of global technological advancements, it is imperative to close the digital divide.¹¹

Therefore, there are many difficulties and complexities in the relationship between globalisation, sustainable development, and global justice. Globalisation can spur advancement, but it also runs the risk of exacerbating already-existing disparities and environmental damage. In today's globalised world, achieving sustainable development necessitates a dedication to just policies that place a high priority on environmental conservation and social justice. We can strive towards a more equitable and sustainable future for everybody by promoting global cooperation and highlighting shared responsibilities. In a globalised society, striking a balance between environmental integrity, ethical issues, and economic progress is not only difficult but necessary.

⁹ Silvio M. Brondoni, *Global Capitalism and Sustainable Growth: From Global Products to Network Globalization*, *Emerging Issues in Management*, 1, 2014, at 10-31.

¹⁰ H. Docalavich, *Economic Globalization and Sustainable Development: UN Leadership and Challenges in a Global World* 1-88 (2016).

¹¹ John Elkington, *Towards the Sustainable Corporation: Win-Win-Win Business Strategies for Sustainable Development*, 36 *CALIF. MGMT. REV.*, 90, 90-100 (1994).

PART-2

GLOBALISATION AS A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD: CHALLENGES FOR INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

Globalisation, characterized by the increasing interconnectedness and interdependence of economies, societies, and cultures, has profoundly influenced International Environmental Law (IEL). While it has facilitated economic growth, technological advancement, and the dissemination of environmental knowledge, it has also introduced significant challenges that hinder the effective formulation and enforcement of IEL. This section explores the primary challenges globalization poses to IEL, particularly in the context of promoting sustainable development, with a focus on India's experience.

ECONOMIC GROWTH VS. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

“ Globalisation and Industrialization

Globalisation has accelerated industrialization, especially in developing countries like India, aiming to integrate into the global economy. Significant economic growth has been fuelled by trade barrier removal, economic reforms, and increased foreign direct investment (FDI). For example, India's rapidly expanding IT and industrial sectors have helped to lower poverty and increase GDP. But this quick industrialisation frequently puts immediate financial benefit ahead of long-term environmental sustainability. More production results in more trash being produced, more energy being used, and more natural resources being consumed. The increase of mining and textile industries in India has led to deforestation, biodiversity loss, and serious air and water pollution, underscoring the conflict between environmental preservation and economic progress.¹²

“ Environmental Degradation

One major obstacle to IEL is the environmental damage brought on by globalised industrial activity. Depletion of water bodies, soil erosion, and habitat damage result from uncontrolled resource extraction. In addition to being a major threat to human health, air pollution from manufacturing and traffic is a contributing element to climate change. For instance, some of the worst levels of air pollution in the world are found in Indian cities like Delhi and Mumbai due to the country's fast urbanisation. Global supply networks also make waste and

¹² Laura Horn, Globalisation, Sustainable Development and the Common Concern of Humankind, 7 MACQUARIE L.J. 53 (2007).

contaminants easier to cross international borders, frequently shifting environmental obligations to nations with laxer laws.¹³ This transboundary movement makes the implementation of IEL more difficult since events such as industrial pollution in India can have regional and international consequences.

B. INFLUENCE OF MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS (MNCs)

“ Corporate Influence on Environmental Law

International environmental policy and regulations are significantly influenced by multinational enterprises. Thanks to their economic clout, they can advocate for favourable conditions, frequently at the expense of strict environmental requirements.¹⁴ By negotiating trade agreements that put market access and investment flows ahead of environmental protection, MNCs can influence IEL. MNCs in industries like manufacturing and mining have occasionally disregarded environmental laws in India in an effort to increase profits, which has seriously harmed the environment. Strong environmental restrictions may be difficult to enforce internationally as a result of this influence, which may dilute environmental measures in international treaties.

“ Exploitation of Developing Countries

Developing nations, whose regulatory structures and enforcement procedures may be weaker, are frequently exploited as a result of globalisation. MNCs externalise their environmental expenses by establishing businesses in areas with laxer environmental regulations, taking advantage of these differences. Industries like electronics and textiles in India have come under fire for seriously harming the environment while offering little financial assistance to nearby people. By fostering a disjointed approach to environmental governance and an unequal distribution of environmental obligations, this practice undercuts IEL.

C. WEAKENING OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY

“ Trade vs. Environment

Globalisation frequently pits trade liberalization against environmental protection, creating conflicts between economic and environmental priorities. International trade agreements, such as those governed by the World Trade Organization (WTO), emphasize reducing trade barriers

¹³ Mona L. Hymel, *Globalisation, Environmental Justice, and Sustainable Development: The Case of Oil*, 7 *MACQUARIE L.J.* 125 (2007).

¹⁴ D. Raghunandan, *Environment and Development under Capitalist Globalisation*, 31 *SOCIAL SCIENTIST* 36 (2003)

and promoting free trade. These accords, however, occasionally have the power to supersede national environmental laws, which restricts nations' capacity to enact laws that safeguard their ecosystems and natural resources. The difficulties of striking a balance between commerce and environmental goals is demonstrated by the pressure from trading partners demanding further market access, which has made it difficult for India to enforce stringent environmental requirements.

“ Carbon Leakage

Carbon leakage refers to the relocation of carbon-intensive industries to countries with lenient environmental regulations, undermining global efforts to reduce GHG emissions.¹⁵ In India, stringent regulations may drive industries to India, where standards may be less strict. This shift exacerbates global environmental challenges and highlights the limitations of International Environmental Law (IEL) in addressing global environmental issues.

EROSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS AND COMPLIANCE

“ *Race to the Bottom*

Globalisation can lead to a "race to the bottom,"¹⁶ where countries competitively lower environmental standards to attract foreign investment. By fostering an atmosphere where environmental preservation is sacrificed for financial benefit, this standard-setting undercuts IEL. In India, the drive to draw foreign direct investment has occasionally led to the easing of environmental laws, enabling businesses to function with little regard for the environment. In addition to endangering regional ecosystems, this trend slows down global sustainability goals.

“ Compliance Challenges

The complexity and scale of global supply chains make monitoring and enforcing compliance with environmental standards challenging.¹⁷ In India, multi-tiered supply chains often obscure the origins of environmental harm, making it difficult to hold specific actors accountable. The lack of transparency and accountability in globalized production processes allows environmentally harmful practices to persist, as end consumers and even parent companies may be unaware of the conditions under which products are manufactured.

¹⁵ S. M. Aami Ali & A. Ghose, Balancing Globalisation Process through Development Agenda: Sustainable Global Justice, 2023 LAW & SAFETY 217 (2023).

¹⁶ Peter Herrmann, Globalisation Revisited, 32 SOCIETY AND ECONOMY 255 (2010).

¹⁷ Oliver Kichenside, Law of Globalisation: Here, There and Nowhere, 2003 UCL JURISPRUDENCE REV. 141 (2003).

E. INSTITUTIONAL AND GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES

“Fragmented Global Governance and Influence of Powerful States and Corporations

Globalisation complicates the implementation of International Environmental Law (IEL) due to fragmented global governance, involving multiple actors such as states, organizations, NGOs, and MNCs. This leads to inconsistent implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, undermining IEL effectiveness. Powerful states and corporations can also influence IEL, shaping it in ways that reflect their interests rather than global environmental needs.¹⁸ India struggles to balance national development priorities with global environmental commitments, making progress difficult due to these factors.

PART-3

INDIA'S DIPLOMATIC STANCE ON GLOBALIZATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

India's diplomatic stance on globalization and sustainable development is shaped by its unique socio-economic context, historical experiences, and strategic interests. As one of the world's largest developing nations, India recognizes that globalization offers both opportunities and challenges. The country has positioned itself as a proponent of across the board and sustainable development that brings economic growth with social equity and environmental sustainability at par.

EMBRACING GLOBALIZATION

India has actively engaged with globalization, particularly since the economic liberalization of the early 1990s. The country has harnessed globalization to fuel its economic growth, resulting in significant improvements in GDP and poverty reduction. India has become a key player in global trade, technology, and investment, advocating for a multilateral trading system that benefits all nations, especially developing countries.

However, India's engagement with globalization is nuanced. The government emphasizes the need for fair trade practices that protect the interests of its farmers and small-scale industries. India has voiced concerns about the negative impacts of globalization, such as job displacement and environmental degradation, advocating for policies that mitigate these effects. This dual

¹⁸ Felix N Yurlov, Globalisation, Inequality and threat to sustainable development, 5 WORLD AFFAIRS: THE JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL ISSUES 36 (2001).

approach illustrates India's commitment to leveraging globalization while safeguarding its domestic priorities.¹⁹

India has consistently advocated for a balanced approach to globalization, emphasizing the need for sustainable and inclusive growth. In international forums, India champions the principles of **Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR)**, arguing that developed nations should have a bigger responsibility in tackling climate change and in supporting sustainable development in developing countries as they have historically contributed more to environmental degradation.

Furthermore, India underscores the importance of **technology transfer** and **financial support** from developed countries to enable sustainable development in less economically advanced nations. This stance is evident in India's participation in climate negotiations, where it sought equitable solutions that account for emerging economies' developmental needs and constraints.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

India's diplomatic stance on sustainable development is closely aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Indian government has integrated the SDGs into its national policy framework, aiming to achieve sustainable economic growth that is inclusive and equitable. India emphasizes the importance of local context in implementing these goals, advocating for a bottom-up approach that empowers communities and fosters grassroots participation.

In international forums, India has championed climate justice, arguing that developed nations bear a greater historical responsibility for environmental degradation. India's commitment to the Paris Agreement reflects its commitment to fight climate change while recognizing the need for financial and technological support from wealthier countries to aid its transition to a low-carbon economy.

REGIONAL AND GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

India's approach to globalization and sustainable development is also reflected in its regional and global partnerships. Through platforms like the BRICS and the G20, India actively

¹⁹ Poojitha Vempuluri, Impact of Globalisation in India: In Investment and Environment Law, 5 INDIAN J.L. & LEGAL RSCH. 1 (2023).

promotes sustainable development steps and policies that address the needs of developing countries. It advocates for a multipolar world where emerging economies play an important role in shaping governance and policies at a global level.²⁰

Additionally, India emphasizes the importance of financial inclusion and equitable access to resources, calling for reforms in international financial institutions to serve the interests of developing nations better.²¹

In summary, India's diplomatic stance on globalization and sustainable development is characterized by a commitment to inclusive growth, environmental sustainability, and equitable global governance. By balancing its economic aspirations with social and environmental responsibilities, India seeks to shape a global narrative that advocates for development that benefits all nations, particularly those most vulnerable to the adverse effects of globalization. This holistic approach not only enhances India's global standing but also underscores its role as a responsible leader in international affairs.

RECENT EXAMPLES OF INDIA'S APPROACH TO GLOBALISATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT LAW

India, a rapidly growing economy, is actively balancing economic growth with environmental sustainability. This is evident in various initiatives, policies, and international engagements, such as the International Solar Alliance (ISA), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), Clean India Mission (Swachh Bharat Abhiyan), Make in India Initiative, Ganges River Cleaning Project (Namami Gange), E-Waste Management Rules (2016) and Amendments, Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules in 2022, and India's role in COP Summits.

The **International Solar Alliance** (ISA) was launched in 2015 during the Paris Climate Conference (COP21) to mobilize \$1 trillion in solar investments by 2030. India has been a pioneer in renewable energy initiatives, providing financial assistance, capacity building, and technology transfer to member countries. India's commitments to the Paris Agreement reflect a balanced approach to globalization and sustainable development, prioritizing renewable energy and emission reductions.

²⁰ Joyeeta Gupta & Courtney Vegelin, Sustainable Development Goals and Inclusive Development, 16 INT'L ENV'T AGREEMENTS: POL. L. & ECONS. 433 (June 2022).

²¹ Udaya Raghavan, Globalisation and International Environmental Law, 4 INT'L J.L. MGMT. & HUMAN. 2433 (2021).

The **Clean India Mission** (Swachh Bharat Abhiyan) is one of India's largest sanitation campaigns, aiming to improve solid waste management, end open defecation, and encourage hygiene nationwide. The Make in India initiative aims to establish India as a major hub for global manufacturing, drawing in foreign capital and encouraging creativity. Green manufacturing practices have reduced the environmental footprint of industries, contributing to overall sustainable development goals.

The **Namami Gange Programme** is a flagship initiative aimed at rejuvenating the Ganges River by addressing pollution, improving sewage infrastructure, and promoting sustainable river basin management. India's **E-Waste Management Rules (2016)** and Amendments aim to regulate the disposal and recycling of electronic waste, addressing environmental challenges associated with rapid technological advancement and globalization.

India's active role in **COP summits** has contributed to more inclusive and equitable climate agreements, advocating for the needs of developing nations and shaping global climate policies that recognize diverse capabilities and responsibilities.

Thus, these initiatives demonstrate India's commitment to promoting sustainable practices and promoting economic growth while addressing the environmental challenges posed by globalization and urbanization.

CONCLUSION

Globalisation undeniably has both positive and negative impacts in the realm of international environmental law and sustainable development.

On the one hand, it promotes technological innovation, stimulates economic growth, and makes it easier for best practices and environmental knowledge to be shared. By giving nations access to green technologies, improving domestic environmental governance, and fostering international collaboration to address transboundary environmental concerns, these benefits of globalisation can greatly aid in the accomplishment of sustainable development goals. International environmental legislation, however, faces significant obstacles from the negative aspects of globalisation. Because industries prioritise profits over sustainability, the unrelenting quest of economic growth frequently results in environmental destruction. Multinational firms have a significant impact on environmental regulations, occasionally compromising national sovereignty and lowering environmental standards.

Furthermore, MNCs' exploitation of poor nations exacerbates environmental inequality worldwide, making it challenging to impose consistent environmental norms everywhere. The efficacy of international environmental legislation is hampered by the race to the bottom in environmental laws and the erosion of state sovereignty through trade agreements. Global sustainability initiatives are further undermined by the institutional and governance issues that arise in globalised systems, which make it more difficult to coordinate and execute IEL.

It is essential to improve worldwide cooperation and fortify global environmental governance in order to lessen these difficulties. This entails strengthening current international agreements, forming fresh coalitions centred on particular environmental concerns, and establishing strong enforcement systems to guarantee adherence to environmental regulations.

Furthermore, promoting equitable technological transfer and supporting developing countries in adopting green technologies can help bridge the gap in environmental capabilities and foster more inclusive global sustainability.

India's place in this intricate relationship between environmental sustainability and globalisation serves as an example of both the potential and difficulties that growing economies face. With efforts like the International Solar Alliance and its pledges under the Paris Agreement, India, a prominent player in the global economy, has made great progress in supporting sustainable development. But India also has environmental problems that are made worse by the country's fast industrialisation and urbanisation, underscoring the need for well balanced policies that combine environmental preservation with economic expansion.

In conclusion, globalisation presents opportunities for constructive change through improved collaboration, technical advancement, and just policy frameworks. It also presents serious obstacles to international environmental law and sustainable development. A concerted effort is needed to address the negative effects of globalisation by promoting sustainable corporate practices, strengthening global governance, and ensuring that environmental integrity is not compromised in the name of economic prosperity. The international community may get closer to a future that is more sustainable just by maximising the positive effects of globalisation while reducing its negative ones.