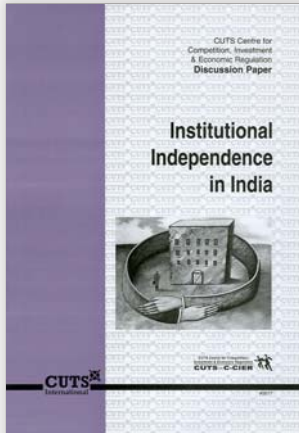


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In this discussion paper, a comprehensive analysis of institutional independence in India is carried out, which would help facilitate cross-disciplinary learning and identification of good and bad practices. Further, the functioning of various independent institutions – Tier one and Tier two – have been examined in detail.

The paper suggests that institutional independence should not be mistaken as an objective in itself; it should rather be seen as an important requisite for achieving desired effectiveness, economy, and efficiency in the system.

*Discussion Paper
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Achieving the Goals of Multilateral Environmental Agreements

A Multilateral Environment Agreement (MEA) is an agreement between two or more countries to take certain steps to protect environment and conserve natural resources. Since India is signatory to a number of MEAs, this itself is an expression of India's commitment to address global environmental problems.

Yet, environmental degradation continues unabated, and there is widespread concern that MEAs have not lived up to the expectations because the goals are not sufficiently implemented, though fully compiled with or adequately enforced by all contracting Parties.

In India, enforcement of MEAs have always been in question since the government seldom possesses personnel with skills needed to enforce policy packages.

This Parliamentary Forum on Economic Policy Issues (PARFORE) paper discusses MEAs with special focus on India and outlines the various conventions and protocols. More importantly, it provides valuable inputs required for policy action and issues dimension for Members of Parliament (MPs).

*PAR-FORE Issue Note
The same can be accessed at:
<http://www.cuts-international.org/pdf/PAR-FORE-4-2006.pdf>*



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However, while formulating such standards care should be taken to ensure that the conditions prevalent in both developed as well the developing countries are given their due importance. This briefing paper analyses the impact of environmental and health standards on the exports of developing countries.

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