

Rejuvenating Climate Actions: Think Global Act Local

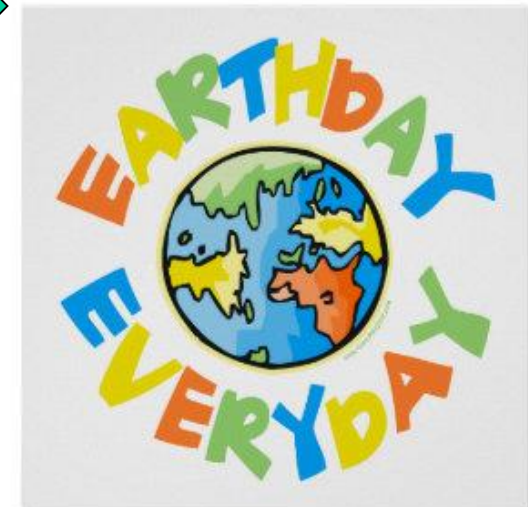
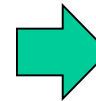
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We Understand the Need to Save the Earth

Sustainable Development Goals, 2015 (until 2030)



Paris Climate Change Agreement, 2015 (until 2030)



Various Internet sources

But are we doing enough?

- Unbridled natural resource exploitation
- Deteriorating water quality and depletion
- Unbreathable air in our cities
- Solid fuel use in kitchens resulting in high indoor air pollution
- Increasing greenhouse gas emissions
- Green cover (?)
- Increasing consumption levels
- Increasing income and wealth inequality

- Why? or Why not?

Why? Sequencing and Sense of proportion

- People, Planet, Profit – sequencing? Proportion??
- **Profit**, People, Planet
- Why has this happened over time and over geographies?
 - Profit focus (Owners Vs Managers, These two Vs People, These two Vs Planet, even People Vs Planet)
 - Consumerism and consumption have gone up
 - Resource use not constrained, its sustainability not considered
 - Externalities not internalized
 - Governance – Policy Vs Implementation, Exit and Voice with/without hierarchical control
 - Risks have increased many-folds and -types for People and Planet
 - Can Profit remain unaffected? Probably NOT (Covid-19 crisis)

Some Emerging Threats to Profit

- Business liquidation risks
 - Stranded assets (e.g. infrastructure, coal, oil)
 - No People to operate (e.g. Covid-19 labor crisis)
- Regulatory risks
 - Uncertainty of future regulations (globalization?, taxes, caps)
- Supply chain risks
 - Major disruptions (by nature – e.g. climate change) (by People – e.g. no migrant labor, nationalism/ protectionism)
- Disruptive businesses
 - Shared economy, distributed solutions, change in user behavior
- Reputational risks
 - Public image negative, leading to loss of faith of stakeholders
- Litigation risks
 - Threat of lawsuits on “bad businesses” (e.g. by NGOs)

Think Global Act Local: Some Examples

Global Challenges

- Covid-19 pandemic
- Water security
- Energy security
- Responsible consumption
- Gender equality

Examples of Local Actions

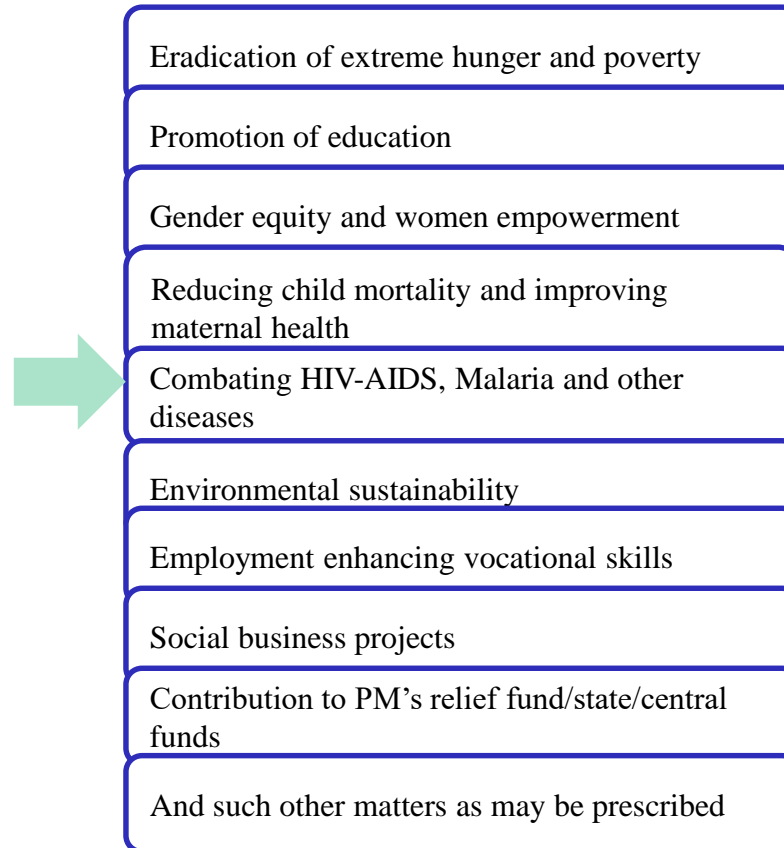
- Wash hands, wear masks, keep safe distance, avoid closed and common AC spaces
- Do not waste water, especially in kitchens and toilets
- Do not waste energy, switch off something
- Do I really need to buy this?
- Respect females in home and neighbourhood, and their rights

Think Global Act Local: CSR Examples

Sustainable Development Goals, 2015 (until 2030)



CSR Provisions of the Companies Act 2013 Schedule VII – CSR Activities



Possible Projects @ village/ community level

-
- Water resources' rejuvenation – village ponds, rivulets
 - Forest rejuvenation
 - Agro-forestry/ reforestation projects
 - Rural biogas grid
 - Solar Home Systems

*Primary and secondary
social and
environmental benefits*

Climate Change Challenges

- Prime challenge of the 21st century
- Reduce GHG emissions - Mitigating climate change (reducing carbon emissions)
- Be ready for adverse impacts - Adaptation
- Focus on lives and livelihoods, and involve businesses

Rejuvenating Mitigation Actions

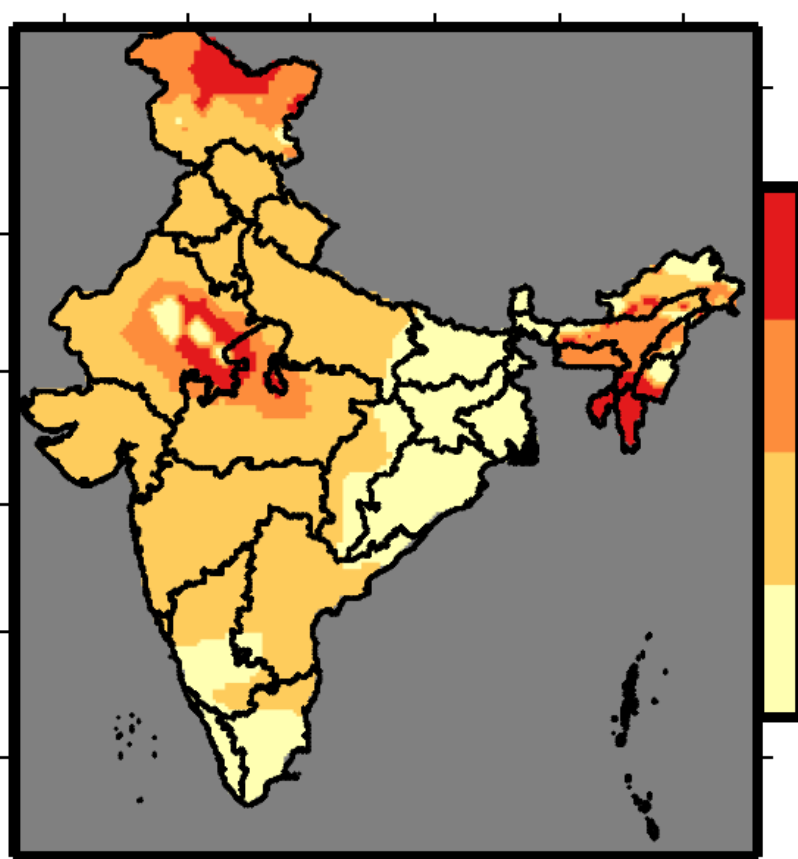
- Energy security and Climate security – go together
- Energy is the main source of GHG emissions
 - About 90% for developed, 2/3rd for developing countries
 - *So Low carbon energy transition actions are a must*
- Coal transitions (1950 GW globally) – **how?**
- Renewable energy
 - Integration into national power grids
 - Batteries and storage (EV included) – charging through renewable power
 - Bioenergy
 - **Hype Vs realism**
- Energy efficiency and energy savings – generate Negawatt, that is **save energy**

Rejuvenating Mitigation Actions

- Remove energy poverty for all and soon
 - HDI of 0.7 possible with 50 GJ/capita/year in 2012, now at 30 GJ/capita/year
 - Stop solid fuel use in households – e.g. Ujjwala LPG scheme
 - Modern bioenergy
- Demand reduction
 - Lifestyle changes – e.g. minimum travels, work from home
- Internalize externalities
 - Polluter pays principle – put a high enough price on various types of polluting actions (GHG, air, water, noise, tree cutting etc)
 - 57 carbon pricing mechanisms in the world – 16% global GHG emissions covered – deepen them and integrate them
 - Carbon neutral growth 2030 (?)
- Kigali Convention and Paris CCA
 - Cooling Action Plan: India's AC load is going to increase 7-times by 2037

Rejuvenating Adaptation Actions

- Adaptation is the need of the hour
- ~ 20 years gap in mitigation and reduction in impacts
 - Water
 - Infrastructure
 - Education
 - Health
 - Controlling corruption and stopping leakages (more money goes to public welfare and resilience-enhancing projects)

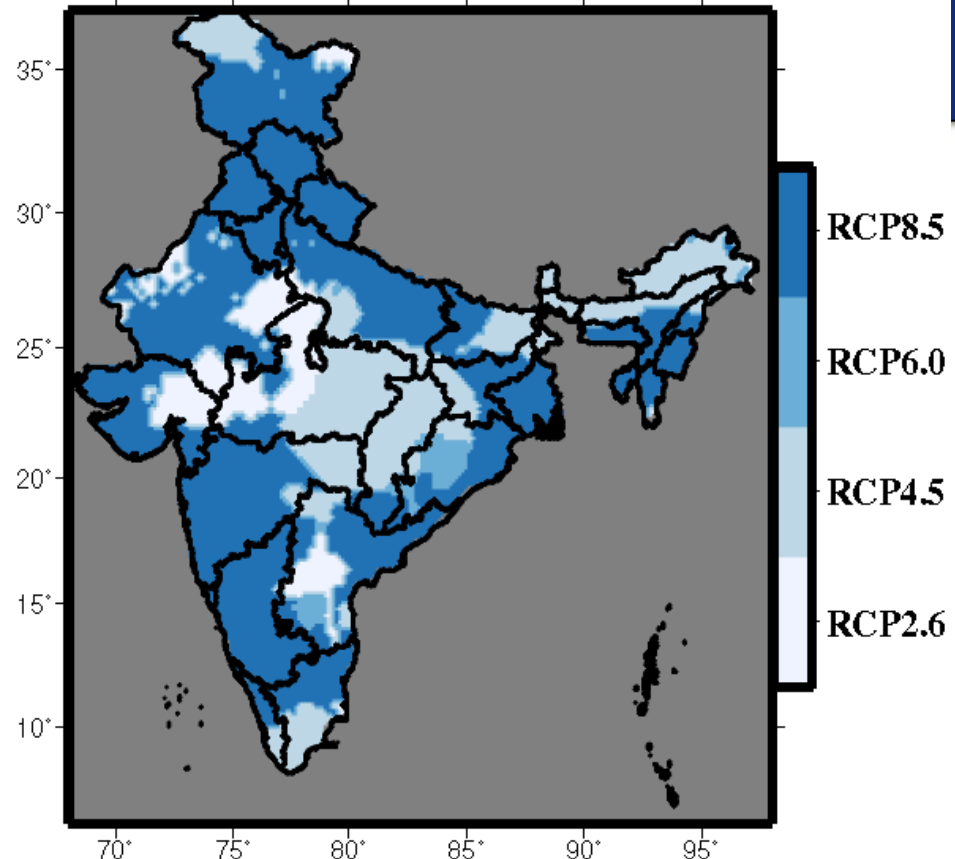


RCP8.5

RCP6.0

RCP4.5

RCP2.6



RCP8.5

RCP6.0

RCP4.5

RCP2.6

Source: Garg, Mishra and Dholakia (2015)

- Temperature:

- RCP 8.5 (warming of 4°C+): 36 districts (5.5% of land area or ~36 million people)
- RCP6 (warming of 3°C to 4°C): 65 districts (11% of land area or ~65 million people)
- RCP4.5(warming of 2°C to 3°C) : 346 districts (59% of land area or ~704 million people)
- RCP2.6 (warming of up to 2°C): 190 (24.5% of land area or ~405 million people) districts

- Precipitation: 63% area for RCP 8.5, 2.6% area for RCP 6, 24% area for RCP 4.5 and only 11% area for RCP 2.6

- 22 districts are on both (temperature and precipitation) extreme pathways

Rejuvenating Adaptation Actions

- **Water** should be on the very top in the list of rejuvenation actions
 - Conserve, augment, enhance
 - **Rejuvenating rivers and water bodies** (41 rivers across 4 states brought back to life)
 - Local solutions – cost efficient, commitment of involved populations
 - **Tree cover** and water - *trees attract rains and rains develop trees* – livelihoods and biodiversity
 - **Linking forest corridors**
 - Enhance water use efficiency – *within and between* sectors and economies – implement standards

Rejuvenating Adaptation Actions

- Infrastructure development
 - Working and usable – be aware of stranded assets
 - Attempt to make it of high quality
- Corruption control
 - Eats into developmental works and actions
 - Make services (and their quality) work for the poor
 - Direct benefit transfers to poor and vulnerable
 - Transparency through Digitalization
- Seriously consider imposing Wealth Tax
- Education and health
 - Quality of their universal provision

Rejuvenate Your Own Actions

- Prepare your own basket of green actions, especially on **water and energy** conservation
 - Make it a part of your lifestyle
 - Do not waste water, especially in kitchen and toilets
 - Switch off something (electric switch)
 - Air conditioner temperature setting ~25-26°C – not below
 - Start home competition – chart who wasted what today, the loser gets to do additional exercise/ some work for others the next day
- Responsible consumption
 - Reduce your demand – **offline and online**
 - Ask before every buy – **do I really need it?**
 - **Donate old things to the needy** (reuse) if you really need to buy new
- Plant and **nurture** five trees in your life (one tree saves about 20 kg CO₂ per year)
- Be part of the solution **now** – before its too late for our earth
- **Print this and paste in your living area so as to implement**

Finally....

- No silver bullet solution
- Incremental Vs Transformative solutions
- Natural Resource Responsible Businesses
 - **Technology based Vs Nature based solutions** (e.g. AC Vs trees) better find common solutions (26°C AC setting, plus more urban tree cover)
 - **Concept of trusteeship (Mahatma Gandhi)**
 - Live with the environment and not try to manage environment
 - Concepts of ESG financing (Environmental, Social and Governance – USD 33 trillion have been invested through ESG, make ESG as a requirement for all Indian businesses?)
 - Link Profit with ESG (**Responsible businesses generate higher returns**)
 - Transitions are indeed possible – embark on your own **Realize** (your actions), **Minimize** (their –ve impacts), **Neutralize** (-ve externalities), **Revitalize** (the environment) journey for the environment NOW and HERE

And.....

- Responsible consumption
 - Minimize (Need Vs Greed - Mahatma Gandhi)
 - Behavioural change – e.g. reduce consumerism, **Buy local wherever possible** (but quality is important)
 - Sustainable transitions – e.g. **Make in India for the world**, Housing for all, Energy for all, Education for all, Health for all, Modal shift towards rail, ESG finance etc.

अर्थ श्लोक में कहता हूँ, क्लाइमेट एक्शन का सार;
उत्सर्जन कम करो, पर अडाप्टेशन को हो अब तैयार।

दिल ना-उमीद तो नहीं, नाकाम ही तो है
लम्बी है ग़म की शाम, मगर शाम ही तो है

फ़ैज़ अहमद फ़ैज़

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