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Confronting a ‘Wicked Problem’ with ‘Noble Tools’: A Study on how India can tackle Climate Change Effectively

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ABSTRACT

Climate change is a wicked problem. It presents compound problems with no straight answers. For human civilization to benefit, it is of utmost importance that the international law is clear on this. India, a developing nation which has to sustain both economically and through climate change efforts has to go a long way. India has had policies and laws but, there still remain certain inadequacies. This paper will highlight the same and delve into what noble tools can help India in charting the correct path toward climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Keywords: Climate change, International Law, Indian law, India policy.

I. INTRODUCTION

‘Thy gifts to us mortals fulfill our needs and yet run back to thee undiminished.

The river has its everyday work to do and hastens through fields and hamlets; yet its incessant stream winds towards the washing of thy feet.

The flower sweetens the air with its perfume, yet its last service is to thee.

Thy worship does not impoverish the world.’- (LXXV GITANJALI, RABINDRANATH TAGORE)

The Nobel laureate has described Mother Nature as a vessel from which man takes to grow and sustain. Nature and its resources have helped man survive and develop into civilizations. This is an undeniable fact. Another irrefutable fact is that the resources which have helped man develop are limited. Hence, these need not be used recklessly. Today, humanity faces a complex challenge- Climate Change. This challenge has become so serious in the recent years that it is now being referred to as a ‘Wicked Problem’. In the socio-cultural context, a ‘wicked’ problem can be understood as a complex set of problems which is difficult to define precisely. Because of this difficulty in giving a uniform definition to the problem, it becomes impossible to achieve a uniform solution. Every stakeholder is affected differently and thus, conflicts and ethical

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issues are bound to arise. It is an uphill task which requires urgent attention of all the nations. For a 'wicked' problem, humanity requires a 'noble' tool which can at least mitigate the loss that can be caused by climate change.

India is not oblivious to this challenge. In fact, the Indian civilization has always recognized the importance of nature since ancient times. India is uniquely placed in this challenge. It has the highest population which requires jobs and a growing economy for its sustenance. On the other side, it has diverse and fragile environment and resources which are depleting and will ultimately finish endangering India's future survival. To tackle this situation, India needs to put in efforts which are holistic and effective. India needs a noble tool at hand which helps it to adapt, mitigate and balance India's development at the same time.

This paper deals with the certain idea which India can do to achieve the dream of carbon net-zero by the year 2070². It first gives a brief introduction of the history of the existing climate change regime, the principles which command it, whether these rules are fair to the developing nations and concludes with how India can steer this challenge toward a positive ending for both itself and the world. As India embarks toward this ambitious objective, only effective law and policy can help it and ultimately, the world.

II. THE INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE REGIME: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

Climate change is often quoted by people of a certain age as the 'blunder' created by the man of the present (present means the year of 2000's). Some old and young even differ on whether the problem is even there? Some challenge it as a 'Conspiracy' to stop economies from doing well. Differing ideas and opinions only add to more distractions and complications. 'Environmentalism' a related movement toward the current issue, has been existing internationally since the West commenced with colonization and industrialization. Colonization of mainly the Eastern and African countries led to more pollution of the world. Setting up of industries without any regulations or laws in place to feed the greed of a few led to increasing inequalities and inequitable access to existing resources. *Ramachandra Guha* points toward this development as a catalyst toward the origin of environmentalism which highlighted the need of countries to pay attention to environmental degradation and related issues³. Ultimately, in the 1960's this movement successfully highlighted that a concerted International effort is required to prevent further exploitation of the environment at the hands of unregulated industrialization

² This is according to the recent goals set by Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi at the Glasgow Summit (COP26). <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1768712> <as accessed on 25-01-2022>

³ Ramachandra Guha, *Environmentalism: A global history* 4 (New York, Longman, 2000)

and urbanization.

With specific reference to climate change, an International consensus was finally brought over by the establishment of the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) in 1994⁴. The Convention attempted to set in certain rules and led to regular conferences on the matter. The first task that the UNFCCC accomplished was of defining ‘climate change’ as a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods⁵. This definition finally recognized climate change as a ‘fact’.

At present the International regime on climate change depends upon international cooperation and negotiations on climate change which is more or less facilitated by the UNFCCC through Conference of Parties. The COP helps in keeping track of the implementation of the FCCC and provides a platform for all the countries party to it to voice their views regarding the Convention and its decisions. Lately, the COP has also become a platform where countries can put forth their future goals and long-term objectives. At the recent COP26⁶ (the Glasgow Summit) India was one of the countries which announced its long-term targets, one of which was to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2070.

There were certain other important developments which gave further shape to the International Climate Change Regime. These were as follows:

- a) The establishment of a regulatory framework which focused on the achievement of the targets set by countries under the Kyoto Protocol. This lasted till the year 2012.
- b) After 2012, the International Climate Change has been focusing on further developments through new strategies and clearer negotiations. The Paris Agreement of 2015 was hailed as another historic achievement since the Kyoto Protocol.

What is the future of the International Climate Change regime? This is a question which has become important in the recent years. With the shifting International Polity, a stronger China and the assertiveness of developing nations demanding more from the developed nations, controversies and conflicts are bound to arise. The recent COP26 is an example of this. During the Glasgow Summit, several differences came out between the developing nations and the rich

⁴ The Convention entered into force on 21st March 1994.

⁵ Article 1, United Nations Convention on Climate Change, https://unfccc.int/files/essential_background/background_publications_htmlpdf/application/pdf/conveng.pdf <as accessed on 23-01-2022>

⁶ The first Conference of Parties (COP) was held in 1995 at Berlin. Since then, the meetings organized by COP have always been an anticipated event for all the involved stakeholders at an international level.

nations. One of the major problems was related to funds. The poorest nations and the developing nations asserted that the conference failed to establish a transparent mechanism which would help provide funds to the vulnerable nations to tackle this challenge. India also refused to sign the Leaders' Declaration on eliminating deforestation by 2030 as it linked trade and infrastructure with forest conservation⁷. If these issues are not settled at the earliest possible opportunity, it would be difficult for the regime to withstand the turbulence in politics and power play at the international level.

OF FAIRNESS IN THE REGIME...

It is important to acknowledge that certain overarching issues have led to a weakening in our efforts to tackle climate change more aptly. The issues can be understood as follows:

a) *The Inherently weak International Law*: International Law is more or less based on conventions, treaties and commonly accepted principles. Barring a few cases which directly affect countries and people, there is no centralized regime which can implement any international law through sanctions or punishments. Even if sanctions are imposed, other political pressures mount and successfully push the main issue into oblivion. Take United Nations Security Council for example; due to the much debated veto power for the permanent members certain decisions taken by the UNSC come under the shadow of international politics rather than international responsibilities. The climate change regime also has certain inherent weaknesses which more or less stem from the weaknesses of the International law in general. For better international cooperation and the success of any international treaty to transform into an International Law, it is important that the goals and the aims are met. Here, the principle of *pacta sunt servanda* plays an important role. The English translation of this Latin term is simple- 'Treaties shall be complied with'. The first reference to this phrase was made in Article 26 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties⁸. The emphasis is on fulfilling your obligations ***out of good faith***. The good faith element of this principle suggests that States should take the necessary steps to comply with the object and purpose of the treaty. States may not invoke ***restrictions imposed by domestic law as good reason*** for not complying with their treaty obligations provided the instrument was duly ratified by competent authorities and in

⁷ COP26: Why is forest rich India staying away from Glasgow Declaration 03/11/2021, <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/forests/cop26-why-is-forest-rich-india-staying-away-from-glasgow-declaration-80043> <as accessed on 24-01-2022>

⁸ Article 26 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties states, "[e]very treaty in force is binding upon the parties to it and must be performed by them in good faith."

accordance with constitutional and statutory requirements⁹. Taking ‘good faith’ as the foundation for fulfilling obligations by parties is more or less a weak argument.

A similar problem arises when the debate is regarding the nature of the treaty. Should an international treaty be legally binding? Most International treaties remain legally non-binding on the parties. And there is reason for the same because internal treaties require negotiations to bring all stakeholders on board. *Bodansky*¹⁰ put forth certain arguments which could favour making a treaty binding on parties because such treaties would then have a ‘**compliance factor**’. He has even suggested that such international treaties could change the domestic politics and policies of a country. It also affects the international reputation of a country based on its performance and level of compliance. But, these same reasons can drive nations to consider that the treaty **be not made legally binding**. Also, States which fear outside/foreign interference into their domestic politics or policy-making can very well use this same argument to exit the treaty citing national security issues and ultimately, causing mass hysteria in their own State. Thus, the problem of making a treaty legally-binding has a complex answer to it. It can only be achieved when the International order is stable and cooperative. It has not been proved empirically that a legally-binding agreement or treaty would help in tackling climate change. The Paris Agreement of 2015 has certain obligations which are legally binding on the parties. These are binding on the Nationally Determined Contributions and goal to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050¹¹. But, there are no penalties imposed for not achieving or complying with this procedure. States are only expected to do this. The example of Paris Agreement only makes it clear that there has been no real consensus achieved regarding the nature of the treaty which would help the Climate Change regime.

b) The question of most nations is regarding the fair deal. The handling of the COVID-19 pandemic has opened certain fault-lines in the International community. It has deeply divided the rich countries from the poorer ones more explicitly. This divide has only deepened countries’ suspicion of each other. The same arguments were echoed whenever an action-plan was to be discussed on climate change. Many developed nations especially, the US have time and again protested about the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities approach. It is argued that this approach gives a free pass to nations like India and China which have higher emissions than the developed nations. On the other hand, the developing nations

⁹ http://www.judicialmonitor.org/archive_0908/generalprinciples.html <as accessed on 21-01-2022>

¹⁰ Bodansky, Daniel, Legally binding versus non-legally binding instruments, Towards a Workable and Effective Climate Change Regime, p.158-160, <https://voxeu.org/sites/default/files/file/bodansky.pdf> <as accessed on 24-01-2022>

¹¹ <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/11/paris-climate-agreement-legally-binding/> <as accessed on 27-01-2022>

especially India and China argue that the historical obligation lies on the rich Western countries which produced the menace in the first place. The poorest vulnerable nations on the other hand, argue for a regime which equally distributes the responsibilities between the developed and the developing nations. All these arguments call for a ***Non-Discriminatory, Impartial and Transparent Approach***. This is difficult to achieve under the current circumstances but, a preliminary discussion can be initiated on this as the problem is only to get bigger in the future.

India and its tryst with destiny...

The above words were echoed on the eve of India's independence at the Red Fort by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru. India's independence was envisioned by our founding fathers and mothers as a holistic one. Historically, India has always acknowledged Nature as its mother. Giving life, Indian Gods and Goddesses personify nature and its various aspects. Due to this acknowledgement, India is uniquely placed when it comes to environment and its conservation. Conservation efforts are as important for India as is its human population's sustenance and survival. Blessed with bio-geographical diversity, rare tribal population and natural resources which can help the economy to grow; India has to act cautiously and effectively.

For India, laws and policies related to environment and climate change has given mixed results. On the one hand, India ranks third in total emissions globally. But, its per capita carbon emission is comparatively low to other countries¹². India ranks third in the 10 most polluted countries in the world¹³. But recently, India's rank in Climate Change Performance Index shows that it has consistently improved. To tackle this mixed bag, it is important to understand certain steps taken by India toward environmental conservation and climate change.

India's efforts can be understood accordingly:

LEGISLATIVE APPROACH: India is ruled by its Constitution. The Constitution of India is held supreme by Indian polity. Due to this the first step toward environmental conservation was made through constitutional amendments done in 1976¹⁴. A major implication of the speech rendered by Smt. Indira Gandhi at the Stockholm Conference (1972) was the 42nd Amendment of 1976. The 1976 Amendment led to the incorporation of 2 Articles in the Constitution of India

¹² <https://www.indiatimes.com/explainers/news/what-is-carbon-footprint-552600.html> <as accessed on 24-01-2022>

¹³ <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/most-polluted-countries> <as accessed on 28-01-2022>

¹⁴ 'Modern man must re-establish an unbroken link with nature and with life. He must again learn to invoke the energy of growing things and to recognize, as did the Ancients in India centuries ago, that one can take from the Earth and the atmosphere only so much as one puts back into them.'- Smt. Indira Gandhi in the Stockholm Conference 1972, <https://lasulawsenvironmental.blogspot.com/2012/07/indira-gandhis-speech-at-stockholm.html?m=1> <as accessed on 26-01-2022>

relating to protection and improvement of the environment.

48-A. Protection and improvement of environment and safeguarding of forests and wild life: The State shall endeavor to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country.

51-A. Fundamental Duties.- It shall be the duty of every citizen of India...(g) to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wild life, and to have compassion for living creatures.

The Constitutional changes led to the recognition of India's domestic and international commitments toward environment. With this India further enacted certain other important legislations. The key legislation has been the Environment Protection Act, 1986. This legislation provides powers to both the Central Government and the State Governments to make rules and regulations to prevent and abate environmental pollution. Another important legislation is the Air (Prevention and Control) Pollution Act, 1981. The most important contribution of this legislation has been the establishment of Pollution Control Boards at the Central and State Levels. These Boards collect scientific evidence related to air pollution and advise the governments on policy making related to prevention of air pollution in India.

It is to be noted that with a new challenge, India is in need of a specific legislation addressing climate change and its related challenges. General legislations on environment protection are inadequate when it comes to precise targets and solutions.

DOMESTIC POLICY APPROACH: In 2008, India adopted the NAPCC i.e. National Action Plan on Climate Change. The core of the implementation of the Action plan are constituted by the following eight missions, that will be responsible for achieving the broad goals of adaptation and mitigation, as applicable. These eight missions are as follows:

- National Solar Mission
- National Mission for Energy Efficiency
- National Mission on Sustainable Habitat
- National Water Mission
- National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem
- National Mission for a 'Green India'
- National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture
- National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change

These 8 missions provided India with a policy direction and a road-map for the future. It introduced set targets and objectives to be achieved by India within a time limit. Similar action plans have been adopted by the States.

Government schemes focused on environment protection: After 2014, India has also launched certain government schemes which complement India's road to a green and clean India. These schemes are as follows:

Namami Gange Project: India hails river Ganga as its mother. To prevent the river from being polluted, the scheme envisages an allocation of a sum of money which would fund programs dedicated to water conservation, solid waste management and biodiversity conservation. Around 147 programs are in effect under the project.

Green Skill Development Program: This was launched in the year 2018. The main objective is to train manpower which will help India in attaining its Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement.

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan: Taking inspiration from the ideas of Mahatma Gandhi, one of the key schemes introduced by the current dispensation has been Clean India Program. Its main objective was to eliminate the menace of open defecation and better solid waste management.

Behavioral nudges: Initiatives which mobilized the people to participate in green initiatives has also gained popularity among the Central and the State governments in India. Various campaigns have encouraged India to grow more trees, keep streets clean and build toilets in rural areas. Social media campaigns and involvement of the civil society has a=only raised the awareness of people of India regarding this problem.

National Policy on Bio-fuels- Bio-fuels are seen in India as an alternative to petro-based fuels. It would positively affect both the Indian economy and the environment. Petro-based fuels are becoming expensive as these are dependent on the exploitation of limited resources and non-renewable energy resources. The Policy aims at mainstreaming of bio-fuels and, therefore, envisions a central role for it in the energy and transportation sectors of the country in coming decades. The Policy will bring about accelerated development and promotion of the cultivation, production and use of bio-fuels to increasingly substitute petrol and diesel for transport and be used in stationary and other applications, while contributing to energy security, climate change mitigation, apart from creating new employment opportunities and leading to environmentally sustainable development¹⁵. The policy envisions the encouragement of use of bio-fuels in the

¹⁵ National Policy on Bio-fuels, Government of India, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, https://mnre.gov.in/file-manager/UserFiles/biofuel_policy.pdf <as accessed on 26-01-2022>

following manner- 1) Entailing the utilization of waste and degraded forest and non-forest lands only for the cultivation of shrubs and trees which bear non-edible oil seeds for production of bio-diesel, 2) Encouraging the farmers as well as the corporate to undertake such plantations, 3) Timely fiscal measures will be taken to develop and promote bio-fuel and their utilization in different sectors, 3) Promotion of research and development in feedstock production and bio-fuels processing.

National Auto Fuel Policy which sets down the standards of the auto-fuel to be used in India by the vehicles and auto-mobiles. In 2016, the Indian government announced that the country would skip the BS-V norms altogether and adopt BS-VI norms by 2020.

JUDICIAL ACTIVISM: Primarily the development of environmental jurisprudence has been more or less dependent upon activism and the interpretations made by the Indian judiciary. The Indian judiciary was able to achieve this due to broadly-worded Constitutional mandate in India. The Articles which were included by way of amendment in the Constitutional document in 1976¹⁶ broadly imposes both right and duty on the State/Indian government to protect and conserve the Indian environment.

The jurisprudence has mainly depended upon individual Public Interest Litigations in India mainly pursued by the members of the civil society in India. The interpretations have led to the replication of internationally acknowledged principles like Inter-generational equity, Sustainable development, Precautionary principles. It has been observed that with subsequent judgments, the prime focus of the judiciary has been to prevent environmental pollution in India. The Supreme Court has been able to develop and mandate a permanent AQI (measures air quality in Indian cities) so that people are informed about the levels of pollution in their nation and hold the stakeholders accountable. Climate change has entered the language of the Indian courts. But certain researchers have argued that the judicial activism in India should not be measured over-optimistically. Certain weaknesses have been pointed out namely, a) less of judicial reasoning by Indian courts and over-dependence on International Environmental Laws and Principles, b) arguments between parties are unable to represent the climate concern and c) judicial outcomes in India remain unaffected by the limitations faced by the Indian Executive¹⁷. Another point which can be added is that Indian courts are unable to steer the policy decisions in any manner. These limitations only exist at present. With time, the scope of India's role in

¹⁶ Article 48-A and Article 51-A (g) of the Constitution of India, 1950.

¹⁷ Ghosh, Shibani, Litigating Climate Claims in India, <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/american-journal-of-international-law/article/litigating-climate-claims-in-india/4BF1BFCD33474A8E7370425F3014BE26> <retrieved on 25-01-2022>

climate litigation and climate justice is bound to expand.

III. INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS

Under the Paris Agreement of 2015: India's Nationally Determined Contributions under 2015 were as follows¹⁸:

- An economy-wide emissions intensity target of 33%–35% below 2005 levels;
- A electric power capacity target of 40% installed capacity from non-fossil-based energy resources by 2030, to be achieve with internationally support); and
- A carbon sink expansion target of creating an additional (cumulative) carbon sink of 2.5–3GtCO_{2e} through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.

Under the *Copenhagen Accord 2020*, India pledged to reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 20–25% in 2020 below 2005 levels.

Further in the recent *COP26 Glasgow Summit*, India has pledged a net-zero target by the year 2070. An important stepping stone toward achieving of international cooperation has also been the launch of the Infrastructure for Resilient Island States for vulnerable countries. Under this the ISRO will provide a special data window for island countries to monitor coral reefs through satellites. This will be achieved with the help of United Kingdom.

All these international commitments and initiatives are becoming ambitious with time. How much India can achieve is yet awaited.

Noble tools which India needs...

As climate change is a 'wicked problem', oversimplified solutions will be rendered ineffective. For India to succeed, ambitious targets and objectives on paper will need to involve multiple stakeholders in reality. Imprecise solutions to a wicked problem would only make the problem more rigid for India. India has to balance between its economy and its environment. India has to balance between its domestic needs and its international commitments. All this requires precise and effective changes in Indian laws and policy. Certain positive changes which can be made by India to make its efforts more effective are discussed as follows:

a) ***Focus on achieving specific climate legislation:*** Two bills in Parliament were introduced in 2012 and 2015 regarding climate change. The major objective of this bill was to set up a National Committee which would help India in setting carbon targets, carbon tax regime and establish a carbon trading scheme. This can be considered as a stepping stone toward having

¹⁸ <https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/india/targets/> <as accessed on 26-01-2021>

a specific legislation addressing climate change. The Bill was in a nascent stage. Hence, there were certain shortcomings in the Bill itself. The first was its inability to respect the federal structure of the country. It is a highly centralized Bill as it gave immense power to the Centre to set targets related at the regional level. The targets could be revised by the Central Government at any stage. The National Committee is a highly centralized body as well as it does not involve any kind discussions with the State and the local government. Also, a clear target as to how much is to be achieved was also missing from the Bill.

b) Mobilize financial funds at the local level: This is in continuation with the above point. India has Panchayats and Municipal councils at the rural and urban level respectively. It is important that any Bill on Climate Change Budgeting also recognizes the role of the local government bodies and provide them a separate financial fund which would help these local bodies to devise ideas on climate change adaptation strategies at the local level in a better way. Only the spirit of cooperative federalism can help India in tackling the problem of climate change precisely as a one glove fits all approach would not help a country which is diverse in various aspects. In this context, the recommendations of the Puncchi Commission¹⁹ find relevance. It will only be through a decentralized approach that India can tackle this challenge.

c) Highlight best practices of each State regarding this: Recently, the Central Government announced that it would introduce an index which would monitor the performance of each State in achieving their commitments under the SAPCC. This is a welcome move. The index would also introduce a healthy competition among states. In a similar fashion, India can also highlight best practices of each State regarding climate change and environmental protection by creating Knowledge Bank of sorts. This knowledge bank could also draw from the traditional tribal knowledge of India.

d) Enlarge the legal institutional framework for India: The role of the National Green Tribunal, as clarified by the MoEFCCC, does not extend to climate-change litigation. Though, its importance has made a back-door entrance as certain orders of the NGT deal with air pollution prevention, its role needs to be made clear on this. The effect of this would be that even citizens of this country can have a say in climate change policy-making and degree of implementation done by the Government. Presently, the NGT presents a limited scope for

¹⁹ Commission on Centre-State Relations Report, Vol-VI, ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE, 6.1.- ENVIRONMENT: The Constitution needs to be amended to provide a specific Entry in List 1 — Union List of the Seventh Schedule empowering the Union on matters concerning “Environment, Ecology and Climate Change”. <https://www.scconline.com/Members/SearchResult.aspx#FJUD006> <Accessed from SCC ONLINE DATABASE on 26-02-2022>

environment litigation in India. Climate change litigation needs separate attention of the law makers.

e) ***Collaborate with neighboring countries:*** India continues to collaborate with various countries on the issue of climate change. What is still missing on its international agenda is collaboration with neighbors. India should lead climate change negotiations in South Asia and attempt to bring on board all the countries so that a concerted effort can be made to protect the vulnerable ecosystems shared with each country more effectively. Bangladesh is a prime example where international cooperation may be required. If harsh climatic changes lead to immigration to the bordering states of India, it would lead to national security issues for India as well. It thus, becomes an imperative to internationally cooperate through regular dialogues and conferences so that efforts can lead to better climate adaptation and mitigation strategies.

f) ***International lead:*** India will do things differently; this was recently emphasized upon by Prime Minister at the Glasgow Summit 2021. India can lead developing nations at the international forums and conferences highlighting the need for non-discriminatory international regime and related laws.

g) ***Move beyond environmental constitutionalism:*** India has developed unique principles which have more or less been interpreted by the Apex Court of India. The broadening of the scope of Article 21 of the Constitution of India, the interpretation of international principles like Polluter Pays, Inter-generational equity and setting up a rights regime by welcoming activism through public interest litigations has helped the people of India to raise their voices against environmental problems and dangers. But, India needs to move beyond this. Judicial activism can only work in a limited sense. At times, certain realities relating to implementation of laws, rules and regulations are not known to judges. It is thus advised that not everything be left to judicial interpretation which remains dynamic with time.

h) ***Devise innovative government schemes and jobs in India:*** The recommendation of the TSR Subramaniam Committee (2014) is important in this context. Recently, the Supreme Court has also questioned the government's willingness to establish an All-India Service fully dedicated to Environment. Similarly, the emphasis should now be on 'green jobs'. A country which is suffering from rampant unemployment and untrained human resource can benefit hugely from this. Innovative green jobs in both the private and public sector is the need of the hour.

Both the Central and the State Governments should also emphasize on connecting government schemes with environment conservation. A case in point can be modifying the MGNREGA

scheme. This scheme can give employment in green infrastructure projects. The same can be replicated in urban areas.
