

# **Regional Climate Politics in India: Status quo and Look Ahead**

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# India's stand at International Forum



- To cut carbon emissions intensity by 20–25% below 2005 levels by 2020 (Year : 2009)

- 5 years later : Ban Ki Moon Summit 2014



- PM avoided to attend

# Moral principle



- “The moral principle of historic responsibility [those countries which have historically emitted the most] cannot be washed away.”

India’s minister for Environment, Forests, and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar



## After Ban – Ki Moon summit

- In a remark which may disappoint rich nations, specifically the US, Canada and the European Union (EU) countries, Modi insisted on the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities" (CBDR) and made it clear that this should "form the basis of continued action" in future.
- <http://m.timesofindia.com/home/environment/global-warming/PM-Narendra-Modi-spells-out-Indias-preferences-in-future-climate-negotiations/articleshow/43739277.cms>

# India has Right to Grow, Emissions may Rise



- "We have to reduce our carbon emissions. But, I (India) have not created the carbon emission problems, which have been done by others. But I am not into any blame game. The issue is that I have a right to grow. India and developing countries have right to grow. These are the emerging economies."
- <http://m.economictimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/india-has-right-to-grow-emissions-may-rise-prakash-javadekar/articleshow/36756859.cms>

# Zero Defect, Zero Effect

"When you (youth) decide that you will make at least one thing so that the country does not have to import it. Your policy should be 'zero defect, zero effect'. It means there would be no defect in the products you manufacture and it causes zero or no ill effect to the environment,"



# Javdekar Says...

- India will take action on climate change not "at somebody's dictation" but on its own volition.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is "very much interested in climate change and environmental issues. He has proved it in Gujarat for 12 years that both conservation and protection of environment along with development is simultaneously possible,"
- [http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-09-24/news/54279570\\_1\\_intended-nationally-determined-contributions-green-climate-fund-prime-minister-narendra-modi](http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-09-24/news/54279570_1_intended-nationally-determined-contributions-green-climate-fund-prime-minister-narendra-modi)

# National Action Plan on Climate Change

- 30 June 2008 – National Action Plan on Climate Change with 8 missions announced by Prime Minister
- 8 Missions - did not have any targets, time limits or financial allocations.
- NAPCC missions – No views from experts, civil society and affected communities – away from the ground realities.



# National Action Plan On Climate Change (NAPCC) -2008

- Focuses attention of 8 National Missions
  1. Solar Energy
  2. Enhanced Energy Efficiency
  3. Sustainable Habitat
  4. Conserving Water
  5. Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem
  6. A “Green India”
  7. Sustainable agriculture
  8. Strategic Knowledge Platform for Climate Change

# State Action plans on Climate Change

- August 2009, the Prime Minister asked all states to develop State Action Plans on Climate Change (SAPCCs), as an extension of the NAPCC process.
- To decentralise action beyond the eight missions of the NAPCC, many subjects covered – especially those like water and agriculture – are actually state subjects.

# Info\* about SAPCC

- Endorsed by National Steering Committee on Climate Change – 18 states - Andaman and Nicobar, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Lakshadweep, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Puducherry, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, West Bengal
- Considered by Expert Committee on Climate Change – 3 states – Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka
- \*As on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2014

# Gujarat – Some Examples

1. Establishing Climate Change Department
2. Gujarat State Action Plan on Climate Change
3. “Convenient Action- Gujarat’s Response to Challenges of Climate Change”
4. Sabarmati Riverfront Development Project
5. Statue of Unity

# 1. Climate Change Department

- Managing Climate Change is a major challenge to humanity. To tackle it, Gujarat has established a separate **Department for Climate Change**.
- This Initiative by Gujarat Government is a trendsetter not only for India but for the whole of Asia as it is the “**First in Asia**” with a Department for Climate Change.
- It is the only **4th State/Province in the World** to have a Department for Climate Change.

# Climate Change Department

- Set up in **February 2009**, the Department is headed by Shri Narendra Modi to handle issues of Climate Change.
- While declaring the initiative Shri Modi had said **“Gujarat government’s separate department for climate change will act as a bridge between government and society to address the issues related to global warming”**.

# Moves in Department of Climate Change

- State government signed 3 year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with The Climate Group.
- Research projects which are already initiated under GEDA, GEER
- No separate website
- Renewable energy projects – e.g. solar park
- Budget

## 2. Gujarat State Action Plan on Climate Change

- **2009** - First and only State to form a separate Climate Change Department.
- **19th August, 2010** - Presentation about Climate Change Action & Adaptation by Climate Change department, Government of Gujarat at **National Consultation on State Action Plans on Climate Change, New Delhi**

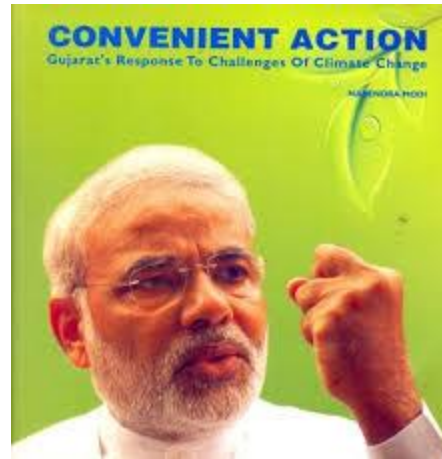


### 3. “Convenient Action- Gujarat’s Response to Challenges of Climate Change”



- Book written by Shri Narendra Modi's – one example of Sabarmati riverfront

# 4. Sabarmati Riverfront project



- In a book “Convenient Action- Gujarat’s Response to Challenges of Climate Change”, Sabarmati Riverfront project mentioned as adaptation measure to tackle climate change issue.

# Sabarmati Riverfront Development Project

- The Sabarmati Riverfront Development Project is an initiative by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation to develop the Sabarmati riverfront in the city of Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- Established in May 1997 to develop approximately 10.4 km stretch along the river in the city.

# Impact of the project

- Narrowing of channel to 275 metres ( 902 ft)
- Change in traditional livelihoods of dhobis, displacement of lok bazaar, eviction of slum – dwellers along riverbed.
- More than 10,000 families were affected.
- Project reclaims approx 200 hectares of land from the riverbed.
- While developing the 10.4 –km stretch, pollution load would be pushed downstream

# Unaddressed Issues

- Lack of **public consultations** with the affected people
- Lack of a **comprehensive R&R Policy**.
- Lack of accountability and transparency amongst the **implementing authorities**.
- Feasibility and EIA reports were prepared, but did **not obtained EC** even after the EIA notification although it falls under area development projects and needs EC.

# 5. Statue of Unity, Bharuch, Gujarat



- It will be tallest statue in the world – 182 metres (597 ft)
- Monument of Vallabhai Patel created directly facing Narmada Dam, 3.2 km away on the river island called Sadhu Bet of Narmada River, Bharuch, Gujarat.

# Project Impact

- Massive construction on riverbed
- 5000 metric tonnes of iron to be used
- Land acquisition for tourism infrastructure development around the statue.
- Work had started without the mandatory environment and social impact assessment or any public consultation process as it does not fall under any category.

# Statue of unity

- The monument will be built on public private partnership model with most of the money raised by public contribution
- Political stunt
- Environment matters avoided



# Recent @ MoEF & CC

A High Level Committee (HLC) has been constituted vide OM 22-15/2014-IA-III, dated **29.08.2014** to review **the following Acts administered by Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change:**

- Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
- Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972
- The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
- The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981

# Terms of reference - HLC

- To assess the status of implementation of each of the aforesaid Acts vis-a-vis the objectives;
- To examine and take into account various court orders and judicial pronouncements relating to these Acts;
- To recommend specific amendments needed in each of these Acts so as to bring them in line with current requirements to meet objectives; and
- To draft proposed amendments in each of the aforesaid Acts to give effect to the proposed recommendations.

# Conclusion

- Lack of public participation
- Involvement of stakeholders in Policy decisions
- Right to grow – Commitments – dual face, clarity needed
- Role of civil society