

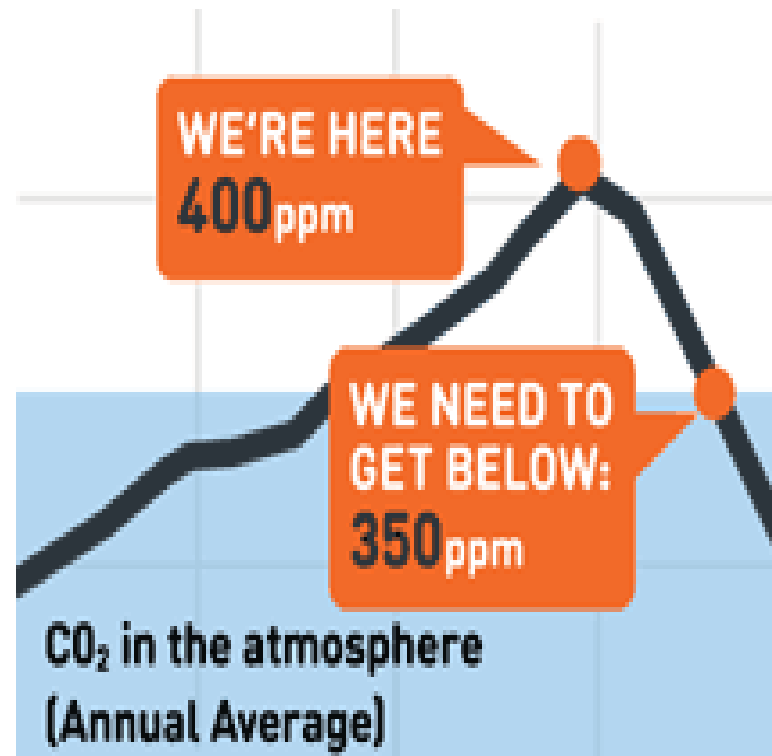
# Current state of play: climate change, human rights, sustainable development

Civil Society Workshop on Sustainable Development  
& Future Climate Politics in India

7-9 October 2014, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

# Human Induced Runaway Emissions: unsustainable planet

IPCC Chair at UN  
Summit: *The cost of  
inaction will be  
'incredibly higher'  
than the cost of  
action*



*Global mean temperature should stay below or stabilize at 2  
degrees Celsius above pre industrial levels*

# Issues of Global Concern

- Negotiations trajectory: moving backward
- [The History of Climate Change Negotiations in 83 seconds \(HD\).mp4](#)
- Historical vs. Future Emissions Deadlock
- Country self interest vs global interest
- Disconnect between civil society demands and international decisions

# India's stand

- Reduce energy intensity by 20-25% by 2020 based on 2005 levels
- No shift: other BASIC countries are showing flexibility esp. China and South Africa
- Unacceptable because of double speak: equity

**WHY SHOULD INDIA BE  
CONCERNED ABOUT THE  
CLIMATE CRISIS?**

# Manifestations of Climate Change in India

- 2002 **drought**
- May 2003: 20 day **heat wave** during in Andhra Pradesh
- 2002-03: Extreme **cold winter** in the year
- July 2004: **Drought** like situation in India in
- March 2004 and Jan 2005: **Abnormal temperatures**
- 2005: **Floods**
- 2005 – 06: **Cold wave**
- 2006: **Floods** in arid Rajasthan & AP and drought in NE regions
- 2007: **Abnormal temperatures** during 3rd week Jan - 1st week Feb
- 2009: 2nd India **Severe drought**
- 2010 – One of the **warmest** years
- 2011 – Failure of September rains in AP
- 2012 – Drought in Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat and Karnataka. **Floods** in Assam; Neelam cyclone, **AP floods**
- June 2013: Uttarkhand **heavy rainfall** leading to devastation
- Sept. 2014: Kashmir: worst **floods** in living memory of people due to **torrential rain**

# Climate Change violates the human right to live with dignity of eco-system communities

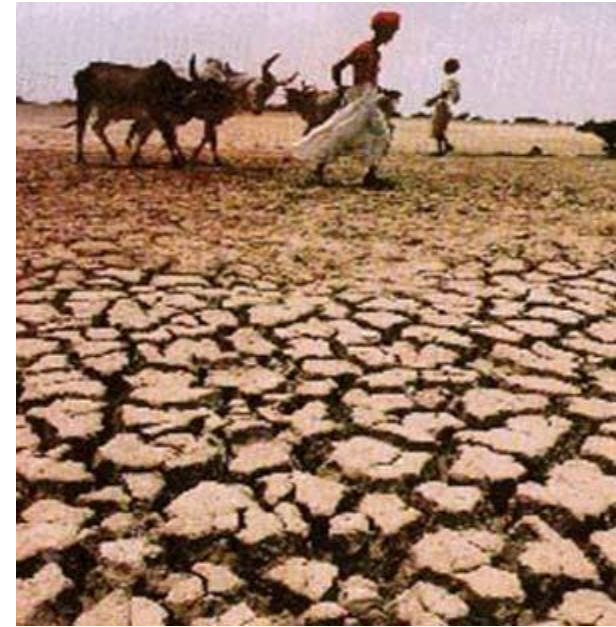
- Marginalised are dependent on eco-systems for their survival: Coastal, forests, arid, mountainous, urban.
- Infringement of socio-economic and cultural rights





# The farming community: semi arid/arid

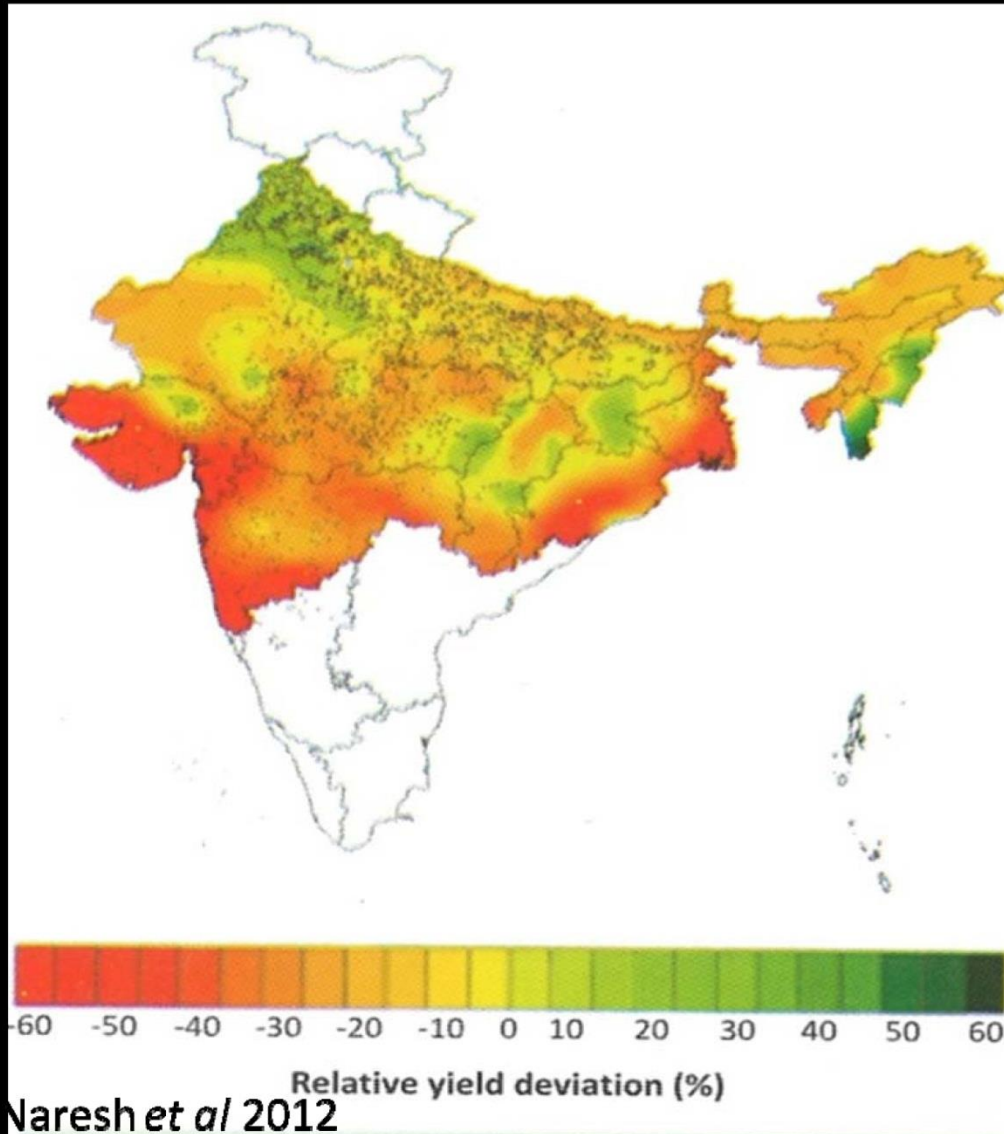
- Two third of our area is rain fed (CRIDA)
- Rainfall: greater variability
- More frequent and severe weather extremes: more risk of flooding or drought: concern to small farmers
- Average temperature predicted to rise by at least 1.7°C from a 1970s baseline (Gol study prediction for 2030s) leading to a lower yield per unit area, especially for India's wheat and paddy crops.



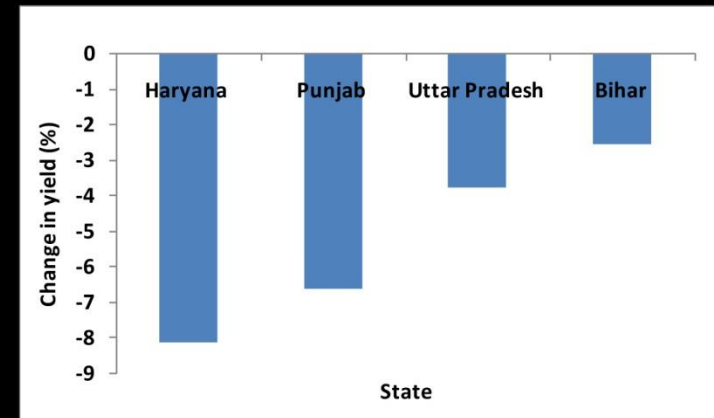


# Impacts on Wheat and Rice-2030 scenario

## WHEAT



## RICE



## OVERALL IMPACTS

- Negative impact on rice, wheat and horticulture
- Neutral or positive on some crops like soybean, groundnut, coconut, potato in some zones
- Impact on livestock and fisheries still to be better understood

Source: ICAR

# Coastal communities

- India has a large coastline of **7512 kms**
- Mean sea-level-rise trends along the Indian coasts are about 1.30 mm/yr
- higher flood risks associated with storm surges along the southern part of the east coast of India, where tidal ranges are low
- one metre rise in sea level would displace over 7 million people,



# Net sea-level-rise trends from past tide- gauge data

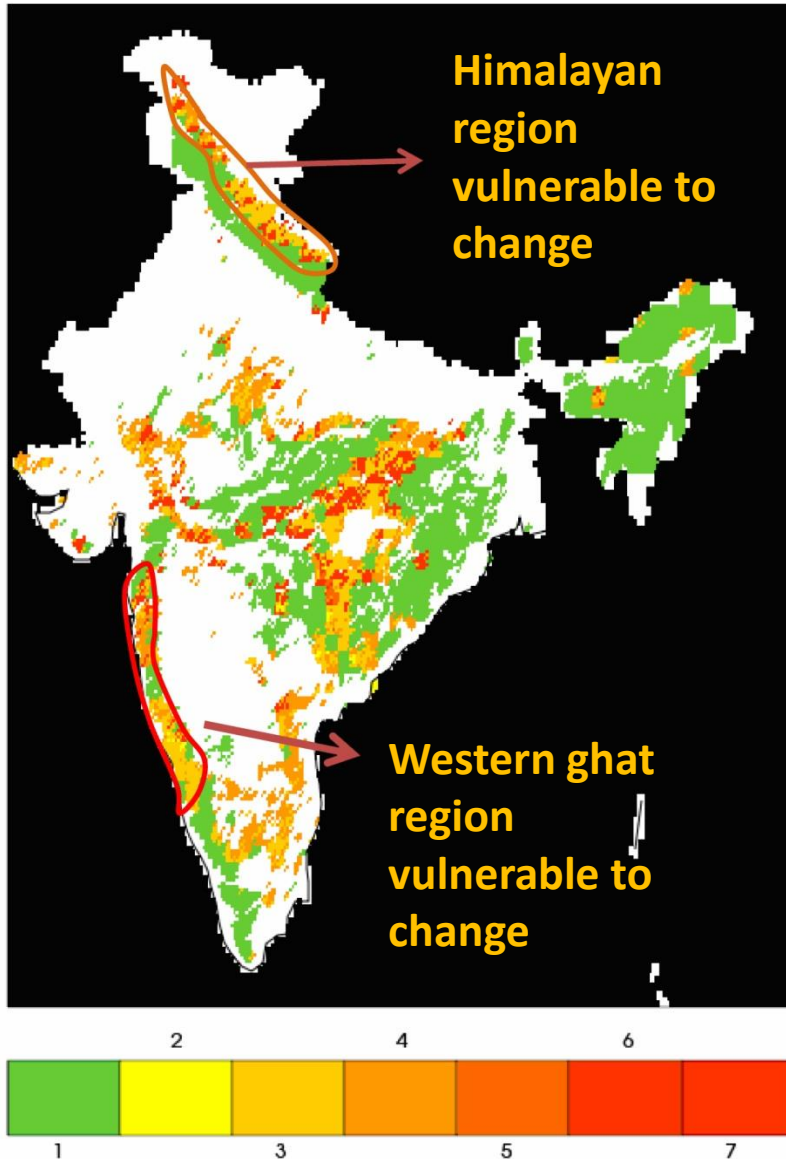
| Station                   | No of years of data | Trends (mm/year) | GIA (Glacial Isostatic Adjustment) corrections | Net sea level rise (mm/yr)                                                                                                              |
|---------------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mumbai                    | 113                 | 0.77             | -0.43                                          | 1.20                                                                                                                                    |
| Kochi                     | 54                  | 1.31             | -0.44                                          | 1.75                                                                                                                                    |
| Vishakhapatnam            | 53                  | 0.70             | -0.39                                          | 1.09                                                                                                                                    |
| Diamond Harbour (Kolkata) | 55                  | 5.22             | -0.52                                          |  <p>5.74<br/>5.74</p> <p>←<br/>sinking of delta</p> |

# Case of Ghoramara in the Sunderbans

- **Rising sea levels are real:** the case of Ghoramara island has been reduced in size by 42% since 1969.
- 7,000 people displaced in the last 30 years...just a tip of the iceberg.
- Ghoramara may not exist beyond 2020.
- In another decade the sea will claim a dozen islands and will render about 70,000 people homeless

# Forest Eco System

## Distribution of forest vulnerability index for 2085



Red is most Vulnerable and green is least vulnerable

- The Himalayan Forest Eco-region are the most vulnerable to climate change
- The coastal and Western Ghats regions (esp. the northern part of Western ghats are more vulnerable) and others are moderately vulnerable to climate change
- The north-east region is minimally projected to be impacted by climate change (as there are predictions of increase in rainfall)



# Mountainous region

- Source region for India's three major rivers.
- 75% of the Himalayan glaciers are thinning (ISRO)
- An increase in water run-off in the Himalayan region of 5%-20% anticipated.
- Beyond the 2030s, the 500 million people living in the catchments of the Ganges and Indus rivers are likely to experience diminishing water availability in summer.





# Urban eco system

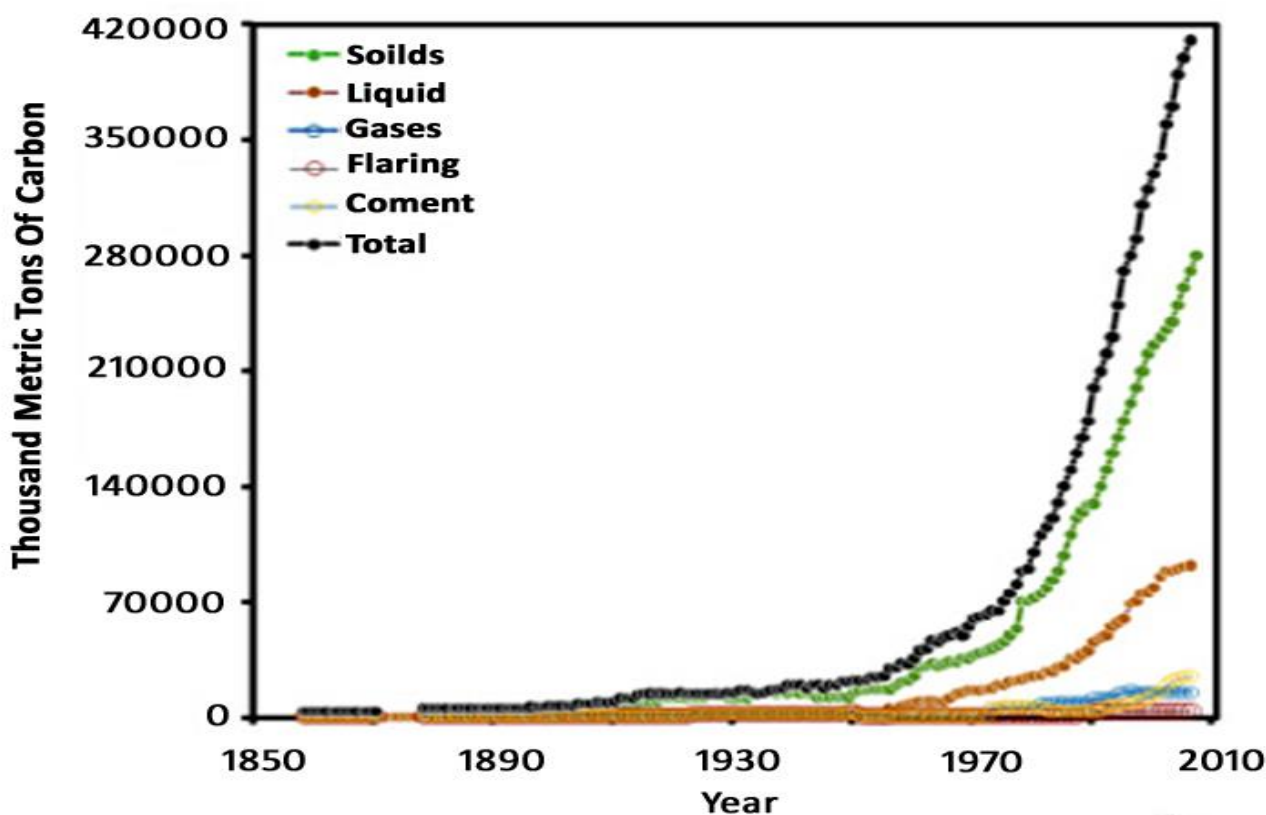
- Cities subjected to multiple climate hazards depending upon their geographical location and climatic conditions
- Direct and Indirect Impacts
- Human rights perspective: subsystem within the larger urban eco-system

# Climate impacts contribute to Human Rights violations

- **Threat of life from increasing disasters**
- Physical **displacement** of the most vulnerable
- **Food Insecurity:** *staple crops will be affected, degradation of resources*
- **Acute water shortages:** *4AR-per cap availability of water will decline between 2001-2050*
- **Health Vulnerability:** *nutritional deficiency, water stress resulting in diarrhea, spread of malaria, extreme events related mortality*
- **Gender inequity**

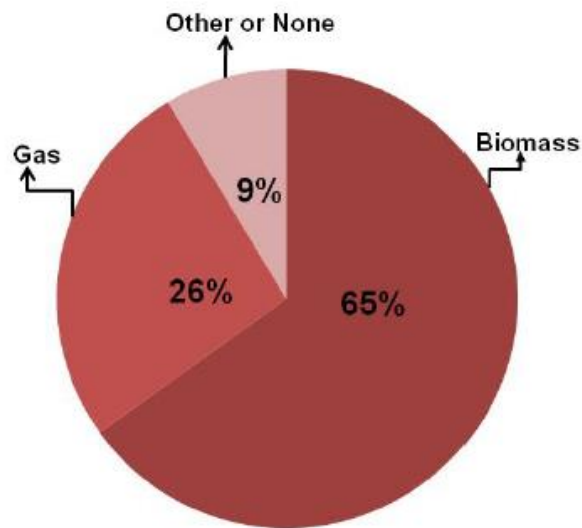
# India's emissions rising!

*Carbon Emissions Of India*

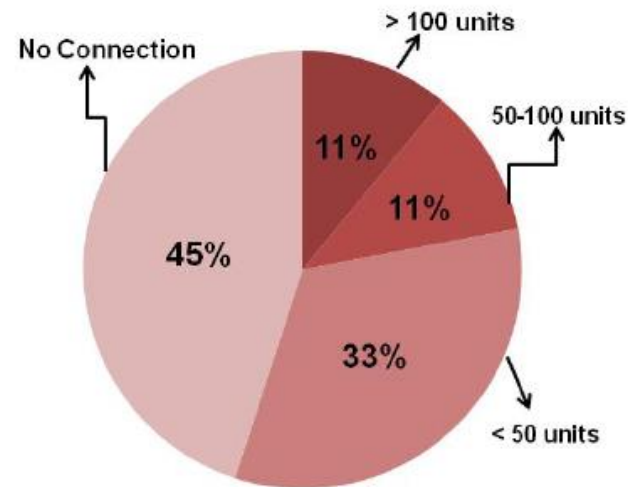


# The poor are low carbon users

## Residential Sector Energy Use and Poverty



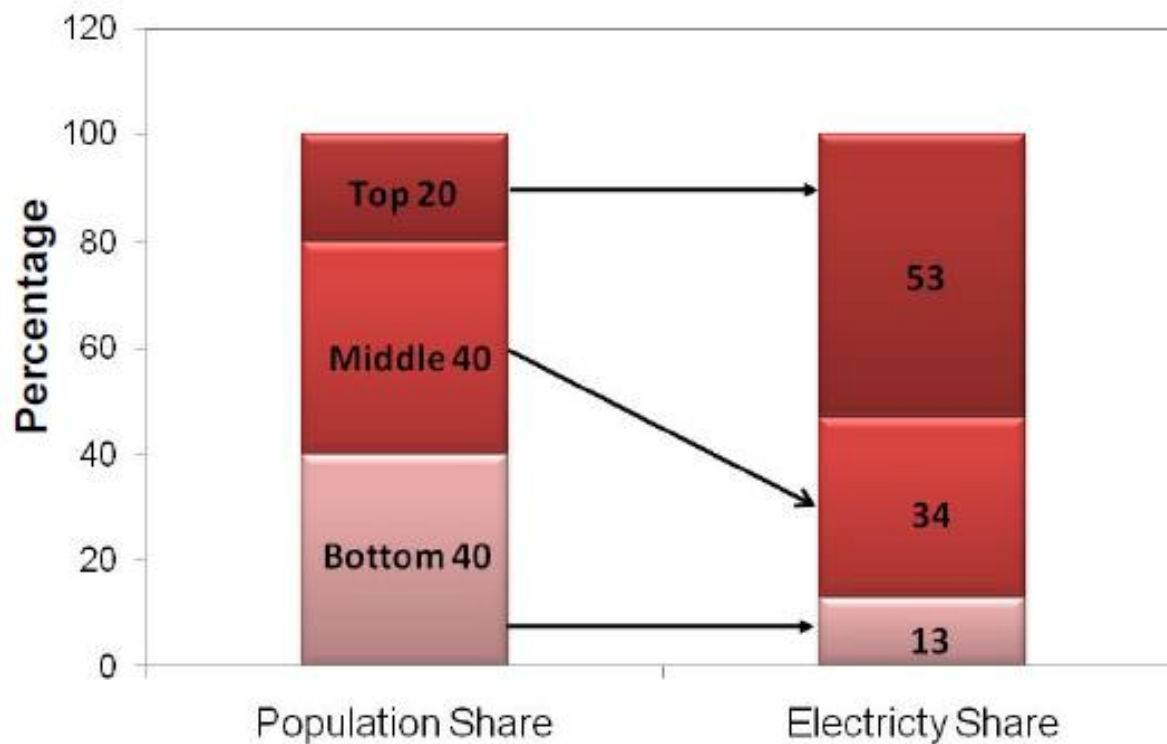
Household Cooking Fuel Options



Household Electricity Consumption

# Energy and Development - Equity

Distribution of Electricity Consumption by Income Class



Source: National Sample Survey Data, 2004-05



# Energy distribution and access: key sectors

- Galloping emission pathway yet no access to electricity for half the population:
- Transport sector: second largest consumer of energy yet poor road and public transport systems
- Construction sector: huge consumer of energy
  - ✓ *70 percent of buildings in India that will exist by 2030 have yet to be built*
  - ✓ *More than half of our population does not reside in permanent homes,*

# Challenges for India

- How to cope with impacts of CC?
- How to address issues of standard of living: HDI 136/186?
- How to ensure ecological soundness?
- How to ensure equity?
- How to stay within the carbon budget?

# Underlying Challenges

- Revisiting perspective of development: Equity is perceived as a by product of growth
- Including social well being in the radar of development goals
- Prioritizing importance of natural capital (ecological services)
- Addressing problems of good Governance

# Signs of Hope: Global Context

- UN discourse on sustainable development goals
- Climate Summit at New York in September 2014
- Civil Society has not given up on advocacy efforts
- Business entities more forthcoming with commitments
- Multiple actions outside the negotiation framework

# Signs of Hope: Indian Context

## Green National Accounts in India-A National Framework, March 13

### Measurement of Social Well Being

- **Constituents:** health, happiness, autonomy, security and the fulfillment of desires
- **Determinants:** food clothing, potable water, shelter, access to knowledge and information

### Sustainability Analysis:

- National Accounts should include the use and depletion of the natural environment (natural capital)

# Civil Society Discourse: Alternatives

## **Pillars of alternative framework**

- Ecological sustainability
- Social Wellbeing and Justice
- Direct and delegated democracy
- Economic democracy
- Cultural diversity and knowledge democracy



# Alternatives in various sectors

- *Society, culture and peace*
- *Alternative economies & technologies*
- *Livelihoods*
- *Food and Water*
- *Settlements and Transportation*
- *Alternative Politics*
- *Knowledge and media*
- *Environment and Ecology*
- *Energy*
- *Learning and Education*
- *Health and Hygiene*

# Values and Principles expressed in alternatives

- Ecological integrity and the rights of nature
- Equity and justice
- Right to and responsibility of meaningful participation
- Diversity and pluralism
- Collective Commons and Solidarity
- Resilience and Adaptability
- Subsidiarity and Ecoregionalism
- Simplicity and Sufficiency
- Dignity of Labour and Work