

A NEW APPROACH TO FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE IN INDIA & THE WORLD -AN IURC INITIATIVE

Table of Contents:

About Confederation of Indian Universities (CIU).....	4
Origins & leitmotif of CIU:.....	5
About Inter-University Research Centre (IURC):.....	9
About the climate action initiative:.....	11
Scary Future of Global Climate:.....	13
Climate Conservation Movement – Journey over the Years:.....	14
GLOBAL STORY:	17
POLITICS HAMPERING GLOBAL CLIMATE PRESERVATION EFFORTS:	17
Fatalism, technology as panacea and conspiracy theorists:.....	17
Geo-politics as one of the principal obstacles:.....	19
STORY IN INDIA:	26
GLOBAL ENERGY POLITICS AND THE PERCEIVED ‘ANTI-NATIONAL’ CONDUCT OF CLIMATE ACTIVISTS IN INDIA:	26
ANOTHER BIG PROBLEM - INABILITY OF LEADERSHIP OF CLIMATE MOVEMENT TO CONNECT WITH ‘SOUL’ OF INDIA:	31
THE PATH-AHEAD - NEW APPROACH TO CAMPAIGNING AND A NEW ROLE FOR THE CLIMATE ACTIVIST:	33
Call For Collaboration Among Like-Minded People / Institutions:.....	37
Principal Movers Behind The Initiative Called IURC:.....	39

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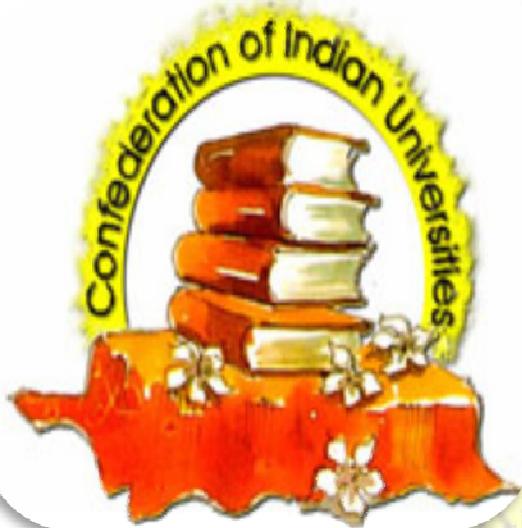
Purpose Of This Document:

This document is not a scholarly writing on the topic of human induced climate change. It is a document that has been prepared with the intention of introducing the idea called Inter-University Research Centre (IURC) which has been floated recently by Confederation of Indian Universities (CIU).

Through this document, an attempt has been made to explain what CIU is and what it does. This document also explains what IURC is and what its relationship with CIU is. This document also contains brief introduction about all that IURC intends to pursue in near future, including what it plans to do for the cause of climate preservation.

Finally, this document should be seen as a call to collaboration, going out from one organization in India to all other like-minded people and organizations all over the world.

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About Confederation of Indian Universities (CIU):

Born on 21st April, 2004, CIU is an apex body of universities in India, with around 1200 universities as its member. It is a purely voluntary organization of universities and university level institutions in India. It provides various kinds of services to its member organization, services such as opportunities to collaborate with leading international institutions, curriculum enhancement consultancy, pedagogy development consultancy, consultancy on quality enhancement, research guidance & facilitation, publishing opportunities for scholars, dissemination of information about available opportunities in national and international academic institutions, consultancy on legal matters such as handling of relationship with statutory bodies etc.

CIU does not look at academia as an insulated universe. Instead, we at CIU believe that universities are parts of larger social system, from where they draw various kinds of nourishment such as finance, manpower, market etc. Thus, according to CIU, universities owe it to society to contribute towards development of a better and smarter society. In a way, CIU is not just about the universities themselves, as it is about the relationship that exists between the universities and the society at large. CIU believes that it is its solemn duty to nourish this relationship and help sustain the symbiosis that is the foundation of this relationship.

There are of course other platforms where universities congregate. But, most of the times, either those platforms are simply avenues for the Government to interact with the top management of the university system, or, those are voluntary associations designed to act as advocacy platforms, platforms through which universities mostly lobby

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A NEW APPROACH TO FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE IN INDIA & THE WORLD -AN IURC INITIATIVE

for better tax environment, lesser compliance burden, freedom to raise funds etc.

CIU however, as described above, is different. It is not just a platform for universities to improve their collective bargaining strength, but, more importantly, it is a platform where all stakeholders, namely civil society, Government, corporate world, independent scholars, media and NGOs come together with the sole purpose of finding out ways & means to improve the functioning of the relationship that exists between universities and society at large.



Origins & leitmotif of CIU:

Those who are familiar with the history of expansion of educational infrastructure in post-independence India, know that for a large part of the time since 1947, almost every single institution in the country survived largely by adopting a submissive, non-intrusive and apolitical posture in its interactions with the State machinery. Education

too was no different.

There was a time, not in some remote, hidden corner of our history, but quite literally, out in the open, when educational institutions at all levels, beginning with primary schools and all the way up to universities, had to bow down to an inspector raj system. It was basically a system which allowed civil bureaucracy a decisive hand in the formation and management of educational institutions. It was very much in tune with the workings of a centralized, statist model that had been adopted by India as her Governance model at the time of her independence.

Such a model of Governance had a devastating warping effect on the nature of institutions in our country. As a result, crucial sectors of our national life such as industry & commerce, agriculture, healthcare, infrastructure, law & order, justice delivery, crucial democratic functions like impartial management and conducting of electoral process, and delivery of almost all other Government services to the citizenry took

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multiple crippling blows during this period. Education sector too suffered in such an atmosphere of all pervasive Government high-handedness.

This is not to say that it was just a saga of doom and despair. On the contrary, many of the finest academic institutions of our country were born and nurtured during those times. Institutions like IITs, IIMs, IISc, RECs, later rechristened NITs etc were shining examples of this. But, ultimately, at the end of the day, progress made has to be evaluated against parameters such as results obtained vs results expected, investment made vs output obtained, whether the pouring of massive public investments generated enough returns to cover the opportunity costs etc. When such an exercise was conducted for our education system, one had to concede that the results achieved were often way short of the expectations.

But, as happens in case of any overly centralized endeavour, this system, even though festooned with multiple cracks in its structural integrity, was loathe to admit its failings and was not ready to loosen its status as the post-colonial overlord of India. As a result, Government machinery found itself overstretched to a point of almost cracking open. Moreover, unfortunately for the Governing class, as the spirit of democracy started striking roots in India, people of India, especially the middle class, in spite of Government attempts to muzzle its spirits, started demanding accountability.

What compounded the agony for the Government was the financial crunch that soon engulfed the whole system. In the fiscal disaster created by the 'Hindu rate of growth' that the Nehruvian model was generating, it was no longer possible for the Government to endlessly pour money into endeavours that were not adding value to the system. Soon, the Government had to agree to provide lion's share of limited budgetary capacity to issues with greater electoral heft. Issues like rural development, welfare measures such as public distribution system, management & funding of vast and burgeoning system of reservations etc soon outcompeted the education sector when it came to access to public financing. It was in this kind of scenario when Government machinery started ceding space to the concept of professionally run institutions.

From the point of view of educational institutions, end of the era of all-pervasive Government overlordship had some positive and a few negative consequences. On the plus side, this phase of withdrawal of

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the Government, primarily meant two things, namely more autonomy to educational institutions, especially universities and university level institutions and greater space for private sector within the educational landscape of the country.

On the minus side, withdrawal of the Government also meant faster than expected disappearance of the system of generous Government financing that was previously available to the Government institutions. One might say that this was a problem limited to the Government owned institutions. But, when such institutions constitute almost the entirety of the system, from being a sectoral one, the problems soon assume systemic proportions. Sadly, for the Government machinery, the situation of the public finances, instead of improving, kept on deteriorating. The terrible financial crunch meant that the Government became more and more reticent when it came to taking capital decisions for sectors that were not likely to result in additional tax revenues, at least in the short to medium term.

This reluctance of the Government meant that most of the existing publicly funded institutions were increasingly looking at ever tightening financial constriction. Investments in research and in capital intensive projects such as creation of additional capacity soon became quite scarce. On the other hand, due to factors emanating from demography, the demand for good quality education was rising rapidly at all levels.

This matrix of high demand and limited supply, created northward pressure on price of highly-in-demand courses such as medicine, engineering, management and any other stream that promised a good future for the students pursuing them. This naturally created powerful incentives for private capital to enter the education space.

But, unfortunately, most of the private players that entered the education space between 1990s and the entire first decade of the 21st century, came with the mindset of reaping big and quick rewards. They did not have any serious commitment to the cause of education.

Therefore, education, especially the higher education space, became saturated with players with dodgy intentions. The interests of the country, and of the students, were therefore never really paid adequate attention to. So, outwardly, at least in a statistical sense, India was posting impressive growth in the expansion of its educational infrastructure. But, in reality, the scene was largely chaotic, wasteful, inefficient and rapacious.

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Reports after reports, from Government as well as independent sources, were raising loud alarms about the falling standards in our academia. Commentators, especially those with a corporate background such as Gurcharan Das, Mohan Das Pai etc were repeatedly warning that any sustained degeneration of Indian education system, if not properly addressed, was a bad omen for Indian economy and therefore for India too. Even professional academicians like Jean Dreze etc were also saying more or less the same things.

This was also the period when the country was being pounded by dangerous churning in society like rising caste tensions, increasingly fragile communal amity, domestic industry running the risk of being swamped by global MNCs, and an overall decline in institutional capacity. That was the time when the country needed its intelligentsia to properly study what was going on, synthesize the multiple variables and create a holistic model that could restore the socio-economic equilibrium and put the country solidly on the path of domestic peace and global expansion in terms of our economic footprint.

But, in reality, what the country got was massive disappointment. By the time the crisis started maturing, our academia had lost the capacity to productively reflect on issues and come out with solutions. Things that were being bandied as solutions, were in fact, rearticulations of what was already known. It was therefore clear that the country needed a bold new approach towards education and academia.

Various individuals and institutions came forward to answer this national call. Among them, CIU is counted as one of the most respectable names. Although the institution was formally born in 2004, it had been brewing in the minds of some of the most eminent educationists of India such as Prof. K. Venkatasubramanian, former Member of the Planning Commission, Government of India and Dr. Priya Ranjan Trivedi, noted educational evangelist of India. It was largely through the efforts of people like Dr. Venkatasubramanian and Dr. Trivedi that renowned minds were pooled in to lay the foundation of CIU.

As of now, CIU is engaged in multiple projects largely aimed at fulfilling the role that its founders envisaged for it. The spectrum of CIU's activities include research, translation of acclaimed books from global languages into Indian ones & vice-versa, launching of high value courses in India in collaboration with international academic institutions,

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advocacy for better policy regimes and above all, widening of emotional and intellectual horizon of anyone who comes in contact with it.

About Inter-University Research Centre (IURC):



Inter-University Research Centre (IURC) is an offshoot of CIU. As discussed in the preceding pages of this document, one of the most important tasks assigned to CIU by its founders is the promotion of a culture of high-quality research in the institutions of higher learning in India. Towards that end, CIU has been working with individual researchers and the organizations associated with them. However, as is to be expected, managing this structure where CIU has to work with individual organizations separately is a tedious task and consumes a lot of managerial bandwidth of CIU. Besides, because of the plethora of research projects, all of them working as silos insulated from each other, CIU felt that it was not possible to provide a coherent direction and a unifying thread to the multitude of research projects supported by it.

Apart from all this, CIU also felt that it needed a separate organization that would not only promote a culture of research among the member organizations but, wherever apt, also take the output of the research to the people at large, by using the networks that exist between the individual universities and the communities that fall in their catchment areas.

IURC was therefore created precisely with these objectives in mind. Now, while CIU is an already established organization, IURC has to

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A NEW APPROACH TO FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE IN INDIA & THE WORLD -AN IURC INITIATIVE

create a name for itself. This may be a challenge for most people. But, we at IURC, are simply delighted because of the possibilities such a challenge presents to us. It means that we can fashion a brand-new organization to suitably reflect our collective thought process, to reflect our collective ambition of championing the cause of world class research in India.

While the fine-points of the scope of IURC would keep on evolving in order to maintain its tuning with the broader global forces, it is nevertheless worth taking a look at the broad outline of the same:

1. Bringing the best researchers in India, under one umbrella, unified by the common purpose of promoting a culture of research in India.
2. Convincing university authorities in India to spend a larger share of their 'discretionary expenditure' budget on research.
3. Creating a platform to felicitate and recognize the good work in research being done in member universities.
4. Encouraging universities to adopt a system of faculty exchange programs.
5. Encouraging better placed and better resourced universities to start training programs aimed at improving the quality of research & teaching in other, no so well-resourced member institutions.
6. Bringing the 'crème de la crème' of global academia on the platform with the objective of letting researchers in India see what is it that makes a world class researcher.
7. Translating the best of global academic output into Indian languages and making them available to students, teachers and researchers in India, even in the remotest corners of the country.
8. Creating opportunities for best of Indian researchers to collaborate with established global academicians, do joint projects and co-author papers with famous international names.
9. Organize larger number of lectures (physical or online depending upon circumstances) of good global academicians into Indian institutions.
10. Identifying and supporting research programs with high socio-economic impact potential and sharing the outcome of the same with other stakeholders namely Government, industry, civil society etc.

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A NEW APPROACH TO FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE IN INDIA & THE WORLD -AN IURC INITIATIVE

11. Creating a TED-X like platform in India, but dedicated to the cause of serving universities, researchers and the larger cause of promotion and propagation of knowledge.
12. Connecting the society at large with the research endeavours in the universities and creating public opinion in favour of larger budgets for research.
13. Creating avenues of regular interaction between universities, industry and Government, so as to enable the later i.e the Government, to share its pain-points with the universities and demand research effort to solve those problems.
14. Sensitizing the public authorities about the need to support high impact research projects.

With a vision like this, we at IURC, have thus resolved to work towards creation of a better academic environment within universities in India, towards creating a better relationship between universities, the service providers and society at large, the entity that ultimately underwrites the expenses of the universities.

About the climate action initiative:



**Do we want this for our
children?**

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The need for climate action: Ever since the onset of the industrial age, impact of man on the global climate and ecology has been on a scale that could not have been imagined in the preceding ages.

Scientific data shows that the global average temperature has risen by around 1°C since pre-industrial times. The magnitude and pace of warming of global weather, can no longer be attributed to long cycle variations in global climate alone. In fact, the data having been painstakingly gathered ever since 1950s clearly shows that something other than pure natural forces is to be blamed.

And, a simple application of logic reveals that there is only one factor that has changed drastically over this period, and that one factor is human impact on environment. This same conclusion was achieved, when, the vast data, gathered over the last 50 years or so, was used to carry certain statistical examinations through tools such as correlation, regression etc. Each of those statistical tests gave a certain kind of relationship between the global climate change and the various variables thought to be responsible for the same. Among those multitudes of statistical relationships between various variables, one relationship that repeated itself most consistently, was the one that said that there was very high positive correlation between worsening global climate and the rising severity of human activity on the climate.

Subsequently, several more such tests were conducted using other data sets, using ever more powerful supercomputers with staggering computing powers. But, with a few exceptions here and there, that too not very credible, now, almost every climatologist worth his salt, agrees, that it is human footprint, manifesting itself through parameters such as emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs), aerosols and changes in land use and land cover (LULC), that have substantially altered the equilibrium of the global climate.

Terrifying pieces of evidence in the form of warming of the ocean waters resulting in significant weather anomalies such as frequent heat waves, droughts, heavy precipitation, and severe cyclones, changes in wind patterns (including shifts in the global monsoon systems), warming and acidification of the global oceans, melting of sea ice and glaciers, rising sea levels, and changes in marine and terrestrial ecosystems, is now staring directly into our eyes.

In fact, according to the opinion of substantial majority of climatologists, the rate of change seems to be gathering pace, and, unless urgent

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A NEW APPROACH TO FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE IN INDIA & THE WORLD -AN IURC INITIATIVE

measures are implemented, we would be staring at the bleak prospect of staring onto the point of no-return. And, even more alarming is the prospect that if we procrastinate any further, we would probably not be able to do anything to avert the unspeakable human disaster that would be our ultimate undoing.

Scary Future of Global Climate:



Available data, and projections based upon the same, indicate that none of the really important factors driving climate change, factors such as global economy, changing consumption patterns, are really going to change in any meaningful way to make any worth-while impact on the global climate.

Global climate models developed by experts point at a scenario where we would most likely have a continuation of human-induced climate change during the twenty-first century and beyond. And, projections from these very models show that if meaningful changes are not introduced in a timebound manner to check GHG emissions, the global average temperature is likely to rise within a range of 3° to 5°C, and possibly more, by the end of the twenty-first century.

In the context of the current global ambitions to check human-induced environmental degradation, it must be noted that even if all the targets under commitments such as Paris Accord, Kyoto Protocol etc are met, we would still have to contend with a minimum average jump in temperature of around 3°C by the end of the century. Moreover, this temperature fluctuation will not be uniform across the planet; some

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regions will most likely suffer more severe warming than the global average. Such large changes in temperature will greatly exacerbate other changes that are already underway in global climate system, such as the changing wind, precipitation and temperature extremes.

Even today, when the global temperature has risen only by a little over 1°C, we can see certain parts of the world being frequently pummelled by ever more destructive cyclones, forest fires, blizzards in some parts and intense heat waves in certain others, irregular rainfall etc. While the whole world is suffering and would suffer even more if the situation worsens. But, it is also true that poorer countries would be the worst sufferers since they would not be able to make investments to create infrastructure to withstand the impending ferocity of nature.

One shudders to think what would happen if currently fertile regions of the world go dry and infertile, what would happen if the global food production is not able to keep in pace with the expected rise in global population, where would the vast multitudes of the global poor go, if agriculture, which depends directly upon climate remaining favourable, collapses?

Climate Conservation Movement – Journey over the Years:



Year	Seminal Event
1972	The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (also known as the Stockholm Conference) was an international conference convened under United Nations auspices held in Stockholm, Sweden from June 5-16, 1972. It was the UN's first major conference on international environmental issues, and marked a turning point in the development of international environmental

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A NEW APPROACH TO FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE IN INDIA & THE WORLD -AN IURC INITIATIVE

	politics.
1987	Signing of Montreal Protocol. It bound member states to act in the interests of human safety even in the face of scientific uncertainty
1988	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) founded under the leadership of Mr. Bert Bolin. It is headquartered at Geneva. UNEP and World Meteorological Organization (WMO) are its parent organizations.
1992	Rio Convention held. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also known as the 'Earth Summit', was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 3-14 June 1992. This global conference, held on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the first Human Environment Conference in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1972, brought together political leaders, diplomats, scientists, representatives of the media and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from 179 countries for a massive effort to focus on the impact of human socio-economic activities on the environment. A 'Global Forum' of NGOs was also held in Rio de Janeiro at the same time, bringing together an unprecedented number of NGO representatives, who presented their own vision of the world's future in relation to the environment and socio-economic development.
1992	Rio earth summit of 1992 saw the birth of the Conference of Parties (CoP) as the supreme decision-making body under UNFCCC. First CoP was held in Bonn in 1995 and ever since it has been meeting on an annual basis at different locations. The COP has met each year since 1995 to review the implementation of the Convention. Each COP elaborates and builds on the decisions and resolutions of previous COPs, with the Kyoto Protocol adopted at COP3 in 1997 being one of the better-known agreements. At COP21 in Paris, "Paris Agreement" was reached and has been widely proclaimed as a historic deal and one that will inevitably lead to decarbonisation.

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	The implementation of the Paris Agreement was to be at the centre of negotiations for COP22 in Marrakech.
1994	The UNFCCC entered into force on 21 March 1994. Today, it has near-universal membership. The 197 countries that have ratified the Convention are called Parties to the Convention. Preventing “dangerous” human interference with the climate system is the ultimate aim of the UNFCCC.
1997	Signing of Kyoto Protocol. The Kyoto Protocol, which was signed in 1997 and ran from 2005 to 2020, was the first implementation of measures under the UNFCCC. The 1st Conference of the Parties (COP-1) decided that the aim of Annex I Parties stabilizing their emissions at 1990 levels by the year 2000 was "not adequate", and further discussions at later conferences led to the Kyoto Protocol in 1997. The Kyoto Protocol established legally binding obligations under international law, for developed countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. The Kyoto Protocol was superseded by the Paris Agreement, which entered into force in 2016.
2016	Signing of the Paris Accord. The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate change. It was adopted by 196 Parties at COP 21 in Paris, on 12 December 2015 and entered into force on 4 November 2016. Its goal is to limit global warming to well below 2, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels. To achieve this long-term temperature goal, countries aim to reach global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible to achieve a climate neutral world by mid-century. The Paris Agreement is a landmark in the multilateral climate change process because, for the first time, a binding agreement brings all nations into a common cause to undertake ambitious efforts to combat climate change and adapt to its effects.
2017	United States under the leadership of President Trump decided to withdraw its consent to the Paris Accord. This represented the gravest ever challenge to global climate

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A NEW APPROACH TO FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE IN INDIA & THE WORLD -AN IURC INITIATIVE

	preservation efforts, ever since the same were set rolling during the Stockholm Conference in 1972. USA, being the richest, most influential country also happens to be the source of largest GHG emissions in the world. Withdrawal of USA was considered a mortal blow to international efforts.
2021	The new US president Mr. Joe Biden decided to bring US back into the fold of Paris Accord, thus effectively reviving the campaign.

GLOBAL STORY:

POLITICS HAMPERING GLOBAL CLIMATE PRESERVATION EFFORTS:



Fatalism, technology as panacea and conspiracy theorists:

Over the years, the vast scientific evidence supporting the phenomenon of climate change, has become so strong that, except for groups on the fringes, or those who purportedly believe that they have nothing to lose from climate change, it is not possible to deny the phenomenon itself.

Every society has had a very unique way of describing its relationship with nature, or perhaps with God Himself, who was believed to be the energy that manifests itself in so many other ways. As result, the way a

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A NEW APPROACH TO FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE IN INDIA & THE WORLD -AN IURC INITIATIVE

society looks at nature and balances the equation between human development and nature. This means that how individual societies understand the concept of climate preservation is also unique.

In spite of the nature of things, as described above, at some level, there seems to be a broad agreement among nation states. But, unfortunately or fortunately, depending upon where one is in the larger scheme of things, the same epistemology that forces one to acknowledge the existence of climate change, is also used by quite another set of people to claim being in possession of a completely different conclusion and, supposedly, another radically different way of interpreting the data that buttresses the current dominant scholarly view of things.

Because some reason, human society has so far not been able to put together an ontologically perfect method of interpretation of data. In reality, no matter where one is placed on the map of categories into which things are classified, there is always at least one category, one method that has the potency to pose very credible questions. Therefore, at crucial moments, human beings often have to make hard choices between the ideal and the plausible.

The debate cannot be closed in the absence of a final arbiter, whose opinion could not be questioned. It is not always possible to find such arbiters who, in addition, have also got to be universally acceptable. And, the absence of such arbiters, often justifies the need to allow multiplicity of views.

Is it any wonder therefore that even today, even on such an existential issue as climate change, world seems to be bitterly divided into camps. There is a fringe lunatic stream which believes that concept of climate change is nothing but a hoax. To such people, occasional occurrence of blizzards in New York, Western Europe, or eastern coast of US or Canada is a proof that there is no such thing as global warming. These fringe elements are no different from those who believe that moon-landing of United States was a hoax executed in a Hollywood studio. It is difficult to say which piece of evidence would decisively convince them.

There are then people with totally different kinds of extreme positions. For example, one such group of people believes that the earth is just about to slide into an inferno, that humans are incorrigible, that the only solution to climate crisis is to go back to a pre-industrial, agrarian world. However, when probed deeper, these people are not in a position to provide credible answers to questions such as how would a pre-

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industrial agrarian society feed the 7 billion, likely to be 9 billion, by the middle of the next century, people on earth.

Just as we have ontology fanatics, as discussed above, there are also those can be dubbed technology fanatics, those who believe that there is no need to worry, no need to change anything drastically, except for one single factor, accepting the power of technology to turn even the hardest of problems on their heads down. According to them, what we need is basically significant enhancement in research & development, in areas like weather engineering & climate management. To these people, technology alone has the solution to all the problems faced by us, it is the only master solution to the problem.

They may very well be right, technology might finally yield have the ultimate answer. But, can anyone guarantee that the required technologies would be ready before it is too late? This is the age of science, there is no reason to distrust the ability of science to deliver working solutions. But, going by the evidence over the last century, one can safely conclude that it is not always possible for science to deliver results in a calendarized manner, at least certainly not when the solutions being sought are as complex as re-engineering of global climate to yield results as per our convenience.

Such a solution, if and when it is found, would be truly fantastic, akin to sending manned missions to sun or to alpha-centauri, and, bringing the crew and the information back, alive and in a 'usable' condition. It might also be imagined as humans developing one single vaccine for all our health problems, a kind of super immune booster to fight any pathogen. It could also be considered as equivalent of humans managing to finally build enough Dyson's spheres to finally harvest every single watt of energy being emitted by our sun. Though staggering in scope and potential, and perhaps because of that, one has to conclude, such technologies are unlikely to be ready anytime soon, at least not soon enough to help mankind fight the impending disaster of climate change.

Geo-politics as one of the principal obstacles:

As we know, in 2007, through the opening provided by the Kyoto conference, global community created a protocol to reduce greenhouse gases among nations. That accord agreed to view the world as being constituted by two principal blocks, namely, developed and developing world. The text of the accord agreed that the global climate crisis is

**Office Address: A 14-15-16, Paryavaran Complex, South of Saket, New Delhi-
110030**

A NEW APPROACH TO FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE IN INDIA & THE WORLD -AN IURC INITIATIVE

principally a result of the economic policies followed since the advent of the industrial age. And, that being the case, developed world, being home to largest concentration of industries, and that too for the largest period of time since the industrial revolution, was considered to have contributed the maximum to the destruction of the environment.

Kyoto protocol also recognised that developing world, having just about started the process of industrialization, and being far from fully industrialized, has contributed far less, in fact, miniscule amount to the concentration of harmful GHGs in our atmosphere. Besides, having fully industrialized themselves, and having reaped the economic benefits of industrialization for nearly three centuries, the developed world had also accumulated enough financial and technological capital to make serious difference to global efforts at decarbonization and detoxification of our environment.

Therefore, it was suggested that the developed world would have to take lead in the form of proportionately greater share of reduction of emissions, as well as take responsibility in the form of commitment of financial and technological assistance to help the developing world chart a carbon-neutral path of development.

It looked sound and quite logical on paper. However, leaders of the developed world alluded to the fact that certain parts of the developing world, especially China and India, were industrializing fast, and, given the scale of things in these two countries, they would soon emerge as major polluters, perhaps even outpace even the developed world, in terms of total emissions. Besides, in the opinion of certain powerful economic interest groups in the developed world, time-bound reduction in emissions and decarbonization were essentially going to result in a squeeze on their economic output, and thus essentially put the developed world at a position of disadvantage vis-a-vis the developing countries, especially India and China, which were already 'breathing down their necks', so to say.

Structure of global production chain is such that essentially the pace of movement of the wheel of economy depends upon how much energy is being consumed. And, with fossil fuels being the principal source of energy in large parts of the developed world, the more the industrial machinery of a country cranks up, the more energy it consumes, and hence the greater is the need for fossil fuels. And, barring a few exceptions, developed world, especially Europe and even Japan, is also

**Office Address: A 14-15-16, Paryavaran Complex, South of Saket, New Delhi-
110030**

A NEW APPROACH TO FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE IN INDIA & THE WORLD -AN IURC INITIATIVE

quite poor in dependable and scalable sources of alternative, carbon-free sources of energy.

In addition, there is also the fact that alternative energy technologies, essentially nuclear energy technology, since others like solar technologies have not yet been able to demonstrate the capacity of required degree of scalability, has its own limitations, not least of which is the fact that it is not exactly completely pollution free. In fact, the pollution, in the form of spent nuclear fission fuel rods, heavy water and every other item exposed to the inside of the reactor, is essentially a radio-active waste with no way, and nowhere to dispose to ensure perfect safety. Besides, accidents like Chernobyl, Fukushima etc have really scared the global opinion and driven it against nuclear fission powered energy.

The world is therefore faced with a very tricky situation. We have a combination of factors such as an existing energy mix, which is causing unsustainable levels of GHG emissions; solar technology, which, at least in its present state, is not useful for every part of the globe, especially for colder, sun-light deficient areas like Europe and North America; battery technology is in its infancy because of which it is not possible for solar powered plants to generate excess power during day time, and store the same for use during non-peak hours; hydro-power which has its own damaging impact on the environment etc. And, the real solution to our energy woes, namely nuclear fusion powered reactors, are not yet ready for commercial deployment. In fact, such is the state of their readiness, that energy spent to fire up the reactor, is often more than the energy generated by the reactor.

Developed world too is therefore in a bind. It knows that its prosperity, and consequently its continued dominance of the world, depends upon it being able to maintain both its absolute and relative economic clout. They do not want to face a situation, where they can no longer compete with the rising economic powers like China and India. China, because of its completely different political-economy, and its stated ambition to replace the western world as the principal pole of the world, is of special concern to the developed world.

On the other hand, they also know that the vast majority of the developing world is simply too poor to make any meaningful investments into clean energy sources. Besides, almost all the developing countries have either very large deposits of fossil fuels, mainly coal, within their

**Office Address: A 14-15-16, Paryavaran Complex, South of Saket, New Delhi-
110030**

A NEW APPROACH TO FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE IN INDIA & THE WORLD -AN IURC INITIATIVE

reach at really affordable prices. And, the aspirations of the people in the developing countries have risen over the years, mainly because of exposure to new age media. As a result, policy makers in developing countries are under tremendous pressure to do something to uplift the standards of living of their people. So, if these countries are not supported in the form of attractive financing and access to suitably priced green technologies, they would simply double down on coal or petroleum, and thus exacerbate the situation even further.

But, a full awareness of all these complications does not necessarily mean that the developed world would have a homogenous response to the situation. The two dominant constituents of the developed world, namely Europe and North America, have in fact quite different, often antagonistic positions on the matter. The differing temperament of public opinion within Europe and North America, even though the underlying economic structures of both the regions are more or less the same, means that European Governments cannot afford to be seen to be ignoring climate considerations, at the altar of economic development.

On the other hand, North America, especially USA, and to a large extent even Canada, is quite different. First of all, these two countries are quite rich in fossil fuel deposits, coal, oil as well as natural gas. And, the nature of public opinion in these countries is such, that it favours a focus on domestic economy, rather than on global climate concerns. There are of course, opposing voices in these two countries as well. But, the political-economy of both these countries, especially United States, is such that the public space is dominated by arguments that favour the interests of big business.

Using this lever generated by its domestic political narrative and fearful of losing its clout, especially to China, United States argued that it could not be a party to an agreement that penalized developed world but did precious little to stop, in an equally forceful manner, the emissions from other equally large sources of pollution, mainly India and China. Citing this anomaly, United States opted out of Kyoto Protocol. Australia and Canada initially dithered, but eventually they too followed the lead of United States and backed out of Kyoto.

The last global attempt to resolve such an impasse occurred at Copenhagen in 2009. But unfortunately, the discussions at Copenhagen very quickly degenerated into chaos and recriminations. Looking at what happened at Copenhagen, it was quite evident that Paris talks were

**Office Address: A 14-15-16, Paryavaran Complex, South of Saket, New Delhi-
110030**

A NEW APPROACH TO FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE IN INDIA & THE WORLD -AN IURC INITIATIVE

going to be the UN's last chance to pull off an agreement in time. In the last few hours of negotiations, all countries had to make some sort of compromise to reach a consensus. US, India and China, the three biggest polluters of the world, accepted their critical role if the world was to be able to limit global warming to under 1.5°C of pre-industrial levels. Developed countries accepted partial blame for having played the biggest role in precipitating the crisis to its present levels, they also agreed to help the developing countries switch over to clean and green energy. In return, developing countries agreed not to seek damages from developed countries.

Spirit of the agreement was clear, developed countries were required to undertake sweeping emission reduction targets and developing countries were to continuously strive to improve their mitigation efforts. The US, led by Secretary of State John Kerry, wanted the spirit echoed by the word 'should' to be applied for both developed and developing countries. What it meant was that US, in spite of being the richest country in the world, in spite of its history as the single biggest polluter of the world for around 100 years, wanted to avoid any commitment that might tie its hands in any way. In essence, US was only willing to commit to try, but not be held accountable for anything.

Everyone was aware of what had happened to Kyoto protocol because of US not owning the final outcome. Each and every participant of the COP22 at Paris was acutely aware that if Paris was not to meet the same fate as Kyoto, US had to be brought on board. Managers of the floor at Paris summit knew that US, with its vast geopolitical leverage, could lean on other nations to toe its line. Therefore, it was clear to everyone that US had the power to make or break the deal, depending upon where it was placed.

Accordingly, after intense diplomatic lobbying, allies of US, principally EU, Japan and Australia, managed to convince US, in spite of deep-rooted scepticism in America, to take the lead and sign the deal. Besides, US too did not want to be seen as the odd man out, blocking the collective efforts of the global community to save the earth from certain disaster. Finally, because of all this lobbying, the hitherto unthinkable happened at Paris, when for the first time, all the nations were present, and the three top players, namely the US, China and India, reached an agreement.

**Office Address: A 14-15-16, Paryavaran Complex, South of Saket, New Delhi-
110030**

A NEW APPROACH TO FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE IN INDIA & THE WORLD -AN IURC INITIATIVE

However, like every good thriller, this story too had a hidden sub-plot. President Obama was serving the last couple of years of his 2nd term as the President of the United States. He, like many other ambitious presidents before him, wanted to leave a legacy, one that would not only be appealing to his captive domestic constituency, but would also cement his reputation as a great global statesman, one who showed the world a path to a better future.

In addition, having his ears finely tuned to the political churning within American society, he could sense, given the great mobilizations going on in the republican camp, and given the rumblings in the likes of tea party movement, that it was unlikely for the Democrats to win a third consecutive term in the White House. And, given the reputation of the Republicans as climate sceptics, Obama perhaps wanted to leave behind a legacy that would force even his climate change sceptic republican successor to follow through on the agreement. He sensed that at the end of the day, no matter which side of the political spectrum he belonged to, no American President could afford to be seen as undermining the global order that US had painstakingly built over the years, and which had served American interests so well for so long.

Similarly, the developing countries too, most notably India and China, did not want to be seen as stubborn stumbling blocks holding the global community to ransom. Therefore, under pressure from diplomatic efforts from all other major powers, these countries too had to agree to take a few steps back from their maximalist position of no legally binding targets for developing countries and massive financial and technological aid from developed to developing countries.

But, there was a dilemma. If every country was to sign up only for 'no obligatory emission reduction targets' then any hope of any sincere progress was going to be all but a pipe dream. Similarly, as discussed above, it was not going to be possible to tie every country down to a legally binding emission reduction regime. Therefore, it was quite clear that the world needed a middle path.

The solution to the conundrum was provided in part by something that had already been going on since Copenhagen 2009 conference, wherein nations had agreed to be more transparent in reporting in advance their contributions to climate change. This allowed everyone to see what the others were doing. It also made it possible for better monitoring of the progress.

**Office Address: A 14-15-16, Paryavaran Complex, South of Saket, New Delhi-
110030**

A NEW APPROACH TO FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE IN INDIA & THE WORLD -AN IURC INITIATIVE

All the commentators noted that instead of a strict, legally binding treaty, countries were much more comfortable working in a framework defined by concepts such as transparency, accountability and voluntary agreements. However, as noted above, working in such a framework also meant that there was a need to publicly keep up a level of pressure that could force nations to live up to their 'voluntary' commitments.

A new kind of leadership was needed, at the global level, but more so at the level of individual nations. The need of the hour was a leadership that could demonstratively prove that it was possible to achieve the desired results set out under the Paris agreement and yet remain economically vibrant and supremely competitive in the global market.

Fortunately for the world, Europe, under the leadership of EU at the trans-national level, and Germany, under Chancellor Angela Merkel, at the national level, stepped up to take up the mantle of the role of this kind of leadership. Europe had exemplary leadership in countries like Germany, Norway, Sweden, Finland etc. In all these countries, in spite of relative lack of sun light and in spite of their altitude and cloudiness, because of the efforts of their governments and civil societies, use of wind, solar, geo-thermal etc was really picking up and their carbon neutral programs were progressing quite well. And, more importantly, in spite of the limitations imposed by environmental considerations, all these countries remained economically competitive. In fact, some, like Germany, were so successful that by 2010 or so, were already meeting close to 30 percent of their energy needs from renewable sources.

But, as the later events, especially after the election of President Trump to office, showed, no matter how well things are calculated, it is not always possible to fully eliminate 'irrational' behaviour especially if the stem is fed by some deep-seated fear. When President Trump was voted to power, he showed scant regard for considerations such as need to preserve the standing of the United States as the leader of the world order that believed in operating in a multi-lateral framework.

President Trump represented that hawkish constituency which believed that climate change campaign was a hoax and that there was no need to worry about the same. In fact, the supporters of President Trump argued that America must leverage its phenomenal wealth of fossil fuel deposits and power its economy to get firmly perched as the undisputed leader of the world economy.

**Office Address: A 14-15-16, Paryavaran Complex, South of Saket, New Delhi-
110030**

A NEW APPROACH TO FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE IN INDIA & THE WORLD -AN IURC INITIATIVE

Accordingly, in spite of powerful voices from within the country, urging President Trump not to wreck the multi-lateral global order, President Trump not only walked out of Paris accord, but also doubled down on his push for coal, petroleum and natural gas. From the point of view of the climate campaigners, the defeat of President Trump in the US elections of 2020, was a great blessing. With USA once again back into the fold of Paris accord, fully committed to providing leadership to the world, things looked much more hopeful.

However, first the victory and later the loss of President Trump, both against the run of the play, demonstrated very clearly that if serious global goals were to be pursued in earnestness, it was not a wise thing to depend on any single leader or party or dispensation. Governments and regimes change. People and civil societies on the other hand, do not change so fast. So, the need of the hour is to build a public opinion, so firmly in favour of the need for climate preservation, that no change of Government could torpedo the process.

STORY IN INDIA:

GLOBAL ENERGY POLITICS AND THE PERCEIVED 'ANTI-NATIONAL' CONDUCT OF CLIMATE ACTIVISTS IN INDIA:

Unfortunately for the climate campaign in India, those who lead this campaign in India have often been accused of acting at the behest of foreign donors who are not always favourably disposed towards India and even her genuine developmental needs. A case in point is the saga associated with Kundakulam nuclear power plant in Tamil Nadu state in the south of India.

Towards the end of 20th century, when GDP growth rate of India picked up substantially, India, being a country deficient in reserves of hydrocarbons, had to import massive quantities of crude petroleum, largely from the volatile region of middle east and West Asia.

Incidentally, as is common knowledge, apart from United States and Canada, none of the other major oil producing states are stable, democratic regimes. Most of them are either Islamic theocracies or dictatorships of one or the other variety. India, being a multi-lingual, multi-ethnic democracy, is not very comfortable with the idea of depending too heavily on such states.

**Office Address: A 14-15-16, Paryavaran Complex, South of Saket, New Delhi-
110030**

A NEW APPROACH TO FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE IN INDIA & THE WORLD -AN IURC INITIATIVE

However, the cost of logistics involved in importing oil from 'stable' but far-off sources like Norway, United States and Canada, coupled with the fluctuations in supply from largely fracking based suppliers, depending upon the viability or otherwise of oil obtained through fracking, means that importing oil from such sources is not really a realistic option for India. Therefore, middle east and West Asia are the only realistic, financially viable sourcing options for India.

India, with a persistent problem with Islamist insurgency, is loath to enter into transactions with suppliers from middle east and West Asia who, apart from being suppliers of oil & gas, are also suppliers and financiers of international Jihadi ideology.

However, there was one thing going for India. India is home to largest reserves of Thorium, a radio-active material, with the possibility of being used as an alternative source of fuel in nuclear reactors. Usually, nuclear reactors the world over, use Uranium as fuel to feed the chain reaction. However, India, being not very well endowed with Uranium deposits, is reluctant to establish an energy supply chain which would make it import dependent once again.

Besides, big suppliers of Uranium, like USA, Canada and Australia, have a terrible reputation in India, as being too keen to interfere in the internal political issues of other countries, on grounds like human rights, environment, democracy etc. How far these countries, especially USA, live by these principles while taking crucial energy sourcing decisions for themselves, is an altogether different thing. Both, the policy makers, as well as the opinion makers in India, do not fail to notice the duplicity in behaviour of countries like United States on this matter.

Policy makers in India were aware of all this, all through. It was because of this that, way back in 1960s, India started a program called Fast Breeder Reactor (FBR) program. This was an initiative aimed at developing nuclear reactors specially designed to work with Thorium as fuel. It was expected that FBRs would be ready by the turn of the 21st Century. However, in view of multiple challenges such as technological complications and technology denial regimes placed on India by western countries, that target could not be achieved.

India therefore was forced to relook at her options when the time came to do so towards the turn of the 21st Century. Majority opinion in India concluded that in spite of all its limitations, uranium based nuclear energy route was the best possible option for India. Ideally, India, like so

**Office Address: A 14-15-16, Paryavaran Complex, South of Saket, New Delhi-
110030**

A NEW APPROACH TO FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE IN INDIA & THE WORLD -AN IURC INITIATIVE

many other developing countries, would have liked to go for greener options like solar, wind etc. But all such options were plagued with the usual set of problems, like lack of financing and lack of appropriate, easily accessible technology. And, in the absence of suitable alternative home-grown technology, India did not wish to choose any option that would force her to live in the shadow of continuous threat of supply chain disruptions.

A degree of foresightedness, a spirit of generosity, and a future oriented outlook of geo-politics, especially from United States, could have had a drastically different impact on the choices made by India in the sphere of energy procurement. But, USA, being heavily engaged in basking in the glory of victory in cold war, showed no great inclination to seriously consider the concerns of 'third world' countries like India. Moreover, various domestic lobbies in USA, like the Christian Evangelical lobby, nuclear non-proliferation lobby, lobbies championed by newly 'indoctrinated leftists' people like Geroge Soros and lobbies of industrial bodies like those of providers of nuclear and solar technologies, cumulatively conspired to deny India the opening in Capitol Hill that could have helped alter the matrix of choices available to India.

Keeping all this in mind, India decided to go with the only available and dependable source of nuclear technology to it, namely Russia. During those days, only Russia was generous enough to provide India with cutting-edge nuclear technology. Russia was also wise enough not to attach too many strings to its offerings. Even the financing terms offered by Russia were quite attractive.

Keeping all that in mind, in 1988, Government of India represented by Prime Minister Late Shri Rajeev Gandhi, and President of Soviet Union, Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev, signed a deal to develop a nuclear power complex in Kudankulam.

However, the project soon went into a limbo, mainly because of two reasons, namely, the dissolution of Soviet Union in 1991, and resolute opposition from United States on one or the other ground. Government of United States failed to realize how much that project meant for the long-term energy security of India as well as from the point of view of reduction of emissions of harmful GHGs.

Popular narrative in India, something which Government of India, like Government of any other democratic country, had to take into account, believed that United States was actively seeking to sabotage the nuclear

**Office Address: A 14-15-16, Paryavaran Complex, South of Saket, New Delhi-
110030**

A NEW APPROACH TO FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE IN INDIA & THE WORLD -AN IURC INITIATIVE

energy program of India. It was also widely alleged, that later on, other interest groups, as noted in the preceding pages of this document, such as Christian evangelical groups, left leaning groups financed by the likes of George Soros, Ford Foundation etc were also deployed to serve the same cause, namely dismantling of India's nuclear energy program.

During early 2000s, when the first phase of Kudankulam nuclear power project was to go live, India saw the spectacle of host of people, most of them with no direct linkages to the project affected area, descending on the area and start opposing the project, tooth & nail. Nobody could quite understand, why Christian missionaries could have any opposition to nuclear power, especially when their principal backers and financiers, mainly USA and Canada, had such huge nuclear power capacities back home.

National media in India was agog with stories narrating how Christian missionaries, mainly financed by evangelical bodies in USA and Canada, were busy mobilizing fishermen, of all the people fishermen, to oppose the project. Not just that, a few weeks after the protests being initiated under the leadership of Christian missionaries, all hues of left-leaning activists, including the Maoists and even the anarchists, joined forces to oppose Kudankulam project.

The leaders of the protest movement erroneously believed that they would continue to enjoy public sympathy in view of their claim that they were fighting to preserve environment, that they were struggling to preserve the rights of the local people. Unfortunately for the activists leading the protests, the same press that had lionized them initially, started coming out with multiple stories detailing how money from overseas sources, often with doubtful credentials, had flowed into the accounts of local evangelists, Jesuits, communists of all hues and even the so-called climate activists.

The media asked them to clarify why they had suddenly started receiving so much money from the concerned sources. They could not even satisfactorily answer queries related to their expenses, especially over the period when the protests were going on.

Looking at the massive outcry against the agitators, Government of India asked relevant investigating agencies, like the income tax department, Central Bureau of Investigation, Enforcement Directorate etc, to look into the matter and set the records straight. However, instead of answering

**Office Address: A 14-15-16, Paryavaran Complex, South of Saket, New Delhi-
110030**

A NEW APPROACH TO FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE IN INDIA & THE WORLD -AN IURC INITIATIVE

the queries posed by the investigating agencies, the people and organizations involved in those protests started crying 'victimization'.

However, before their shrill noises of 'persecution' could have any impact on the popular opinion about them, the weight of suspicion against the so-called agitators had grown so much, that by and large everyone, especially those who were less educated or were less inclined to devote large amount of time to understand the dynamics of the matter, started buying the notion that those people were working at the behest of their foreign pay masters who did not wish to see India become independent and self-sufficient in the crucial area of nuclear energy technologies.

Later on, the same template played out when, in the year 2010, Government of India, in partnership with Government of France, was trying to establish the largest ever nuclear power plant in India, at a place called Jaitapur, an area in coastal Maharashtra, a province in the western part of India. Just like Kudankulam, in Jaitapur too, an army of 'professional' protesters descended with the aim of mobilizing public opinion against the project.

However, as had happened during the protests at Kudankulam, various kinds of investigative reports started appearing in Indian press, reports that linked the leaders of the protest at Jaitapur to foreign financiers, to various outfits linked to suspicious sources, such as in China. Whether all that those reports said were true or not, remains to be established. But, one thing is for sure, a narrative took shape in India. This narrative said that the people and entities, trying to sabotage various nuclear power projects in India, did not want India to become energy secure and feel confident about its chosen path of development.

Subsequently, in a bid to set the narrative straight, people and entities linked to prominent agitators like Mrs. Medha Patekar, Mrs. Arundhati Roy and to various organizations such as Christian churches etc, tried to mount a concerted media campaign. But, the more they tried, the more the allegations tended to stick. Consequently, in spite of their best attempts, agitators who were protesting against projects like Kudankulam, Jaitapur etc continued to be viewed as 'suspicious' by a very large part of populace, especially those who were not formally linked to any political party or interest group.

However, it is not just about nuclear power plants. Even hydel power projects, such as Sardar Sarovar Project, or for that matter, any other

**Office Address: A 14-15-16, Paryavaran Complex, South of Saket, New Delhi-
110030**

A NEW APPROACH TO FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE IN INDIA & THE WORLD -AN IURC INITIATIVE

crucial infrastructure project, such as building of railway lines and highways to remote corners, continue to face same kind of opposition from the same kind of quarters.

By the turn of the 21st Century, when 24X7 electronic media really took off in India. It became difficult for any person, or any interest group, to remain and operate in the shadows for long. Soon enough, television screens were full of footages & pictures showing the links between international financiers like George Soros, Ford Foundation, evangelical societies, and various other entities that did not really have a good image in India. News reports were constantly hammering home the view that these entities and their Indian 'collaborators' were out to sabotage the chances of India to become energy self-sufficient and thereby gain economic heft.

Whether those reports were true or not, is not the point. Ordinary people in India, or for that matter, in any other country, do not care about whether or not certain charges can be proved in a court of law. To a simple mind, what looks plausible and is supported by enough circumstantial evidence, is often held to be true. And, this was exactly the case in India. So, no matter how hard the leaders of climate campaign like Mrs. Medha Patekar, Arundhati Roy etc protested, the more they protested, the stronger the public opinion consolidated against them. And, unfortunately for the movement, these charges could never be convincingly cleared.

So, by and large, a large part of climate activists, especially their leaders, continue to be viewed as anti-tradition, anti-native, anti-Hindu, anti-national and potential traitors. So, no matter what they say, their words and actions do not have the required degree of social acceptability.

ANOTHER BIG PROBLEM - INABILITY OF LEADERSHIP OF CLIMATE MOVEMENT TO CONNECT WITH 'SOUL' OF INDIA:

As we have noted in the preceding sections of this document, climate conservation movement, in India as well as in many other countries of the world, has been plagued with multiple problems, often originating from the ideological inclination of the people fronting the campaigns. This in turn had a direct bearing on the outreach strategy as well as the way, the related issues were taken up by the movement.

Office Address: A 14-15-16, Paryavaran Complex, South of Saket, New Delhi-110030

A NEW APPROACH TO FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE IN INDIA & THE WORLD -AN IURC INITIATIVE

Because of the largely left leaning, quite often meandering towards the extreme left, world view of its leadership, the climate preservation movement often showed scant regard for the local sensibilities, more specifically for the native traditions. Just like classical Marxists and Maoists, leadership of the movement, tended to believe that the climate crisis was caused by the inherent drawbacks of capitalism and the existing social structures.

While that is largely true, at least to the extent that for capitalism, everything, including nature, is a resource that had to be exploited to maximize profits. But the same is also true for the other major western materialist worldview, namely Marxism. Marxism too believes that the world is nothing but a collection of materials, and, in order to build a truly prosperous socialist society, all kinds of resources, including natural resources, had to be 'optimally' exploited.

The only difference between capitalism and Marxism, in so far as it concerns their outlook towards nature & natural resources, is anchored in the fact that while in capitalism, surplus i.e. profits was to flow back to capitalist class, in a socialist society, surplus was to be utilized for the betterment of the proletariat class. But, in essence what it meant was that, in a socialist system, surplus was to be at the disposal of the State, and the state could do whatever it wanted with the same.

So, although at the level of optics and rhetoric, the two worldviews differed in their outlook towards nature, in essence, both believed in ruthless exploitation of nature. The way natural resources were exploited in socialist countries, like Russia, China etc, clearly demonstrates that rhetoric apart, none of them truly respected nature, none of them actually believed in conservation of nature, if it meant foregoing even a few units of economic output in the short to medium term.

As against these two worldviews for whom nature was a 'thing' to be exploited, native traditions, for example in countries like India, regarded nature as part of life itself, as extension of divinity, as the source of life in fact. To native societies, destroying virgin forests, polluting sources of water, contaminating the air and soil are akin to sacrilege, violation of the divinity.

It is worth noting that in all the four religions produced by India, namely Vedic religion (mistakenly called Hinduism), Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism, nature is regarded as a manifestation of the Supreme Being, and deserves to be held in just as much of respect as God himself. No

**Office Address: A 14-15-16, Paryavaran Complex, South of Saket, New Delhi-
110030**

A NEW APPROACH TO FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE IN INDIA & THE WORLD -AN IURC INITIATIVE

wonder that planting trees and preserving nature is regarded as acts with inherent, inalienable spiritual value.

Apart from all the problems mentioned above, perhaps the single biggest failure of the leadership of climate campaign in India, lies in its inability to adopt symbols and languages that might appeal to ordinary people of India. Somehow these people seem to be uncomfortable with the deep-rooted spiritual connections of popular symbols. They even fail to notice that none less than the Father of The Nation, Mahatma Gandhi had to adopt symbols and language from native spiritual traditions. Only after doing so, only after donning the appearance of an ascetic, another native symbol, did the symbol of Mahatma Gandhi finally began to resonate in India.

The communication style of the climate campaign leadership in India, heavily influenced by its radical left ideological inclinations, was more about blaming someone, trying to create an enemy figure, often either the state itself or the industrialist class that generated the wealth that ultimately enabled the state to pursue an agenda expected of it by the people of India. They failed to realize that it is not possible to sustain any movement by simply 'otherizing' an entity against which there is no historical memory of sustained animosity.

It was therefore no surprise to note the failure of this movement to strike roots in India, especially when, apart from the problems mentioned above, its leadership often committed the mistake of trying to protect the interest of a few hundred 'project affected people', and in the process, run the risk of being seen as trying to harm the interests of hundreds of millions of people who stood to benefit from the projects concerned.

THE PATH-AHEAD - NEW APPROACH TO CAMPAIGNING AND A NEW ROLE FOR THE CLIMATE ACTIVIST:

In the context of the history of climate conservation campaigns in India, and in view of the repeated failure of the movement to strike roots in India, it is quite clear that there is no point trying to play the game with the same approach. Afterall, trying to achieve a different result using tactics that have always resulted in massive failures, is either being completely naïve or outright foolish. And, when the stakes are so high, existential to be precise, there is not much scope to bumble any further. The need for a new approach to campaigning, a new kind of cadre of

**Office Address: A 14-15-16, Paryavaran Complex, South of Saket, New Delhi-
110030**

A NEW APPROACH TO FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE IN INDIA & THE WORLD -AN IURC INITIATIVE

activist, a cadre-base with a new kind of role in society, cannot be ignored any further.

Looking at the multiple failures of the climate conservation movement in India and in other parts of the world, we have to take a hard look at the way things have been conducted in India so far, and accordingly draw up a plan concerning how the things should be done in future. If the movement has to succeed, we have to recognize that our volunteers can not afford to be seen just as agitators. Instead, they must graduate to a level where they are seen as leaders of society.

In this context, our volunteers, our mentors and our leadership group would need to ponder over one question: What makes a society treat someone as a leader? A useful pointer would be the age-old adage that one who solves the big problems of the day, is usually the one who is regarded as a leader by the people around him/her. Accordingly, instead of limiting themselves exclusively with just the climate change related issues, our volunteers, our mentors and our sympathizers, must be encouraged to identify the problems affecting the quality of life of people around them. They could then approach their mentors within the movement to try and develop a suitable solution of the problem. And, using that solution as the leverage, they could enhance their reputation as leaders within the society.

While the exact nitty-gritties and finer details of the future of climate campaign cannot be put down in an approach document like this, we can certainly attempt to draw the broad outlines of the same. At the moment, what we do much better is to try to define our objectives, in light of our understanding of the ground-reality. Towards that end, let us first define the broad objectives that we would be seeking to pursue:

1. Climate campaign movement in India, instead of remaining a matter of academic interest, to be discussed in the drawing rooms of elites and in the cocktail circuits of socialites, has to be transformed into a mass movement.
2. The movement must seek to develop an organic bond with the Youth of India, future of our country, and, just as important, the source of future leadership of the movement itself.
3. In order to connect with the youth, especially those pursuing education in colleges and universities, movement must seek to identify topics that are of interest to them and accordingly build

**Office Address: A 14-15-16, Paryavaran Complex, South of Saket, New Delhi-
110030**

A NEW APPROACH TO FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE IN INDIA & THE WORLD -AN IURC INITIATIVE

innovative outreach programs built around the activities that find natural traction among the youth.

4. Power of media, especially social media, must be harnessed to serve the cause of the movement.
5. Select group of high potential cadres from colleges / universities must be identified and mentored. Through smart tie-ups, centred around the idea of reciprocity, with international climate action and academic groups, the movement would make all possible efforts to enable such resources spend some quality time in international universities / colleges. This would also be a great way to familiarize our future leadership with how climate campaigns are being run elsewhere in the world.
6. Study tours must be organized to the climate hotspot zones such as Himalayan glaciers, permafrost regions such as Siberia, North & South Pole, Arctic Sea and Antarctic Ocean, Sunderban, Coral reefs in Indian Ocean, low lying islands like Maldives etc.
7. Within India too, there must be exchange programs enabling students from one university to go and share their experiences with their friends, colleagues in other universities.
8. High impact audio-visual material must be prepared, in English as well as in Indian languages, to educate the youth about status of climate conservation movement in India, and to share with them, our plans for the future and the role of youth in the movement, as well as within the organization.
9. Working with ministry of information & broadcasting, and with film makers, to make sure that before the screening of any movie in any movie theatre or on any television channel, 2-3 minute clips depicting the horrors of impending climate disaster must be shown, and suitable appeals made to the people's conscience to stand up for mother earth.
10. Leadership of the campaign must start working closely with leadership of religious institutions such as temples, trusts, Churches etc and seek their support in spreading the message to the people.
11. Leadership of the religious institutions must be encouraged to adopt high visibility afforestation initiatives on the lands controlled by them.

**Office Address: A 14-15-16, Paryavaran Complex, South of Saket, New Delhi-
110030**

A NEW APPROACH TO FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE IN INDIA & THE WORLD -AN IURC INITIATIVE

12. Large Government / corporate institutions like Railways, airport authorities, highway authorities, universities, large boarding schools, big corporations like Reliance, Tata Group etc must be contacted and convinced to adopt plantation initiatives on vacant lands in their portfolio.
13. Special campaigns must be mounted in desert states of Rajasthan and Gujarat, urging people and Governments to convert vast tracts of sun-scorched desert lands into solar power parks. Vested interest groups that oppose these initiatives must be unmasked.
14. Cadres and leaders of the movement must be sensitized about the need not to lend support to, or be seen in the company of any of the protests being organized by radical left elements. Our people must be made to understand that doing so only makes us look like saboteurs and, once such a tag sticks, it is exceedingly difficult to get rid of the same.
15. Opinion makers like teachers, academicians, journalists, scientists, jurors, social service professionals, retired Senior Government servants etc must be recruited as mentors. The movement must seek to organize regular conditioning / enrichment camps for such mentors. Our partner institutions, like the universities, must be encouraged to play the role of hosts for such camps. Such camps would also be used to deliberate upon plan of action for the near future.
16. Our volunteers must be encouraged to go for mass contact campaigns during which an attempt must be made to understand what the people on the street think about our efforts & achievements, and what they expect from us in the short, medium and long-term.
17. Our mentors must be encouraged to write columns in newspapers / periodicals about the need to conserve climate.
18. Such columns, op-eds, irrespective of whether they are published by established media outlets or not, must be published in the electronic newsletter of the movement. Such newsletters, through the use of appropriate mass mailing software, must reach the WhatsApp account of each and every single member and sympathiser.

**Office Address: A 14-15-16, Paryavaran Complex, South of Saket, New Delhi-
110030**

A NEW APPROACH TO FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE IN INDIA & THE WORLD -AN IURC INITIATIVE

19. Each edition of our newsletters must contain one or more attractive contests, designed to attract the attention of the youth. This way, it would be possible for the movement to keep the interest of the youth hooked to the activities of the movement.
20. We must work with media houses to introduce a segment on climate in each and every single news bulletin. Companies must be encouraged to employ our volunteers as journalists to handle that segment.
21. Finally, we must think about a calendar of local, regional, national and global felicitation ceremonies where innovative contribution of our volunteers and our mentors are recognized and applauded.

Call For Collaboration Among Like-Minded People / Institutions:

IURC, as defined in the initial few pages of this document, has wide-ranging areas of interest that it would seek to support. We believe that at the archaeological level, all problems of the world are connected somewhere. And, if any resourceful organization wishes to make a meaningful contribution, it must seek to find ways to solve as many problems, in as diverse areas, as possible.

In pursuit of its larger goals, IURC is therefore looking to partner with scholars and institutions on diverse range of issues. Towards that end, we seek to support research and public outreach efforts on multiple issues. However, no matter which area IURC seeks to investigate, we would always seek to promote the inter-disciplinary way of looking at problems. In the near future, we see enormous scope for collaboration with experts from the fields of military strategy & diplomacy, economic policies suitable to the developmental needs of countries like India, education, healthcare, statecraft, democracy & functioning of political parties, conflict resolution in multi-ethnic societies, science & technology etc.

We would like to emerge as a large banyan tree that provides shelter to scholars and activists from multiple disciplinary areas. Given the extent of our reach within the Indian university / higher education system, we believe we provide a very exciting platform for any ambitious international researcher / academician to come, interact with their

**Office Address: A 14-15-16, Paryavaran Complex, South of Saket, New Delhi-
110030**

A NEW APPROACH TO FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE IN INDIA & THE WORLD -AN IURC INITIATIVE

counter parts from India, and be facilitated to work on areas of great global importance.

Speaking specifically in the context of the climate movement, having conceptualized the above-mentioned approach to a new kind of movement, and a new kind of leadership, IURC wishes to call upon all like-minded people and institutions, from India, as well as from the rest of the world, to come, pool in their efforts with us, and to start working together with a common objective and a unified plan of action.

Given the enormity of the challenges being faced by the climate conservation movement the world over, it is, at least in the minds of people associated with IURC, quite clear that no attempt at working in silos would ever be successful. The story in India too is no different. We have seen a reasonable exposition of this point in the previous sections of this document.

Therefore, we at IURC believe that we have no other option but to collaborate. Accordingly, through the instrument of this document and through any other means available to us, we would like to request all like-minded people to come and join us.

On its part, IURC would be happy to provide the following kind of service to the cause:

- Conducting / organizing incisive research on the various problems preventing the growth of the movement.
- Acting as a kind of training academy for the volunteers and leadership of the movement.
- Approaching and motivating influential voices from other walks of life to come and lend their support to our cause.
- Creating high-impact documentation about the various facets of the movement.
- Creating high-impact audio-visual material to be used to train the cadre as well as the leadership of the movement.
- Acting as the intellectual ballast to provide philosophical stability to the cause.
- Acting as the central hub enabling exchange of people and ideas between member institutions, especially universities.

**Office Address: A 14-15-16, Paryavaran Complex, South of Saket, New Delhi-
110030**

A NEW APPROACH TO FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE IN INDIA & THE WORLD -AN IURC INITIATIVE

We would be happy to answer any queries that are sent to us by anyone in the context of the issues that have been discussed in this document. We are always available through our mail id mail@research.ind.in.



Principal Movers Behind The Initiative Called IURC:

Dr. Priya Ranjan Trivedi:

As noted above, this is an initiative of Inter-University Research Centre (IURC), and IURC in turn is a platform floated by Confederation of Indian Universities (CIU). Being a part of CIU, IURC is sponsored by almost all the top universities and university level institutions in India.

But the faces behind this initiative also deserve to be noted. Getting to know this initiative, in some ways, would be incomplete without getting to know the people who have visualized this platform, people who have spent countless hours creating the blueprint, agenda, organizational structure etc needed to achieve what we intend to achieve, those who spared no effort to reach out to like-minded people, in India as well as in the world outside.

Dr. Priya Ranjan Trivedi, President of CIU and founding Chairman of IURC, is the soul behind this initiative. It is he who incubated the idea initially. Having developed the very broad outlines of the idea in his mind, he roped in the first few critical people, who worked under his guidance to develop the idea and to create a more detailed picture of the same.

It is he who provided, and continues to do even today, continuous support and encouragement to the first few people who were trying to work on this enormous problem statement. It is he who instilled the belief among the people around him that when good intentions combine with smart work and collaborative energy of large number of people, everything can be achieved.

He completed his undergraduate engineering (Bachelor of Engineering) from the prestigious Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra, India in the

Office Address: A 14-15-16, Paryavaran Complex, South of Saket, New Delhi-110030

A NEW APPROACH TO FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE IN INDIA & THE WORLD -AN IURC INITIATIVE

year 1973. Subsequently, he also did his M.Tech from the same institution. In the subsequent years, taking into account the importance of taking a managerial perspective of things, he also completed his MBA. Later on, when he developed a keen interest in the emerging field of human rights, he completed his Ph.D. in human rights, with specialization in conflict resolution.

He became involved in the field of institution building during 1977-78, when he laid the foundation of Indian Institute of Business Management (IIBM) at Patna, in collaboration with his close friend, Dr. Uttam Kumar Singh, who was also equally passionate about the cause of institution building.

The journey that started with the IIBM story never stopped. In fact, with every passing year, his passion in and commitment to the cause of finding solutions to 'big problems of the day' only increased in intensity. He has continuously drilled the motto of 'Job giver, not seeker' among all the students that pass out of any of the institutions founded / mentored by him.

In fact, very early on in his life, perhaps immediately after completing his engineering education, he realized that the only way a vast, densely populated country like India could ever provide good employment opportunities to all its citizens, is to foster a spirit of entrepreneurship among its people. He was one of the very first people who espoused the view that people of India are by nature entrepreneurial, even though Government of India, till quite recently, praised the virtues of an all-powerful, centrally planned, bureaucratically administered way of building the country.

Some of the other institutions founded / mentored by him include prestigious ones like Dr. Zakir Husain Institute for Non-Formal and Continuing Education (1980), Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology & Applied Nutrition (1980), Indian Institute of Ecology and Environment (1981), National Centre for Developmental Communication (1982), National Institute of Computer Education (1983).

He even started the practice of encouraging State Governments, especially from remote and relatively less developed regions, to nominate students from their jurisdictions to pursue high-end, job-oriented courses at the institutions under his control. Students from these institutions have gone on to occupy top positions in different public and private sector organisations in India as well as in other countries.

Office Address: A 14-15-16, Paryavaran Complex, South of Saket, New Delhi-110030

A NEW APPROACH TO FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE IN INDIA & THE WORLD -AN IURC INITIATIVE

He was the first person in India to have advised the Government of India and the State Governments, way back in the year 1992, to allow the establishment of State Universities with external funding provided by public charities and philanthropic organisations. Towards this end, he has worked closely with State Governments of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Haryana, Rajasthan, Punjab, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Sikkim and Jammu & Kashmir.

The Global Open University of Nagaland, established by the Government of Nagaland, and Indira Gandhi Technological & Medical Sciences University are shining examples of his vision, providing great service to the people of these states and beyond.



Dr. Sidharth Shankar

Dr. Sidharth Shankar has been rendering his services to Confederation of Indian Universities (CIU) as Director (Operations), looking after the affairs of member universities located in the western states of India i.e. Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa, Rajasthan and the Union Territories of Daman & Diu and Dadara & Nagar Haveli.

He completed his undergraduate and post-graduate studies from Jawahar Lal Nehru University, New Delhi, one of the most prestigious universities of India. After completing his BA (1996-1999) & MA (1999-2001) in Germanic Studies, he worked for various companies in Information Technology (IT) space where he looked after the markets in Western Europe. Thereafter, he enrolled for MBA program (2007-08) from Icfai Business School, Hyderabad.

After completing his MBA, he went back to pursue his corporate career. Among his notable achievements during this period was raising the first of its kind TV channel in India, a channel located in the backward region of Bihar. This TV channel, Maurya TV, was promoted by noted film maker Mr. Prakash Jha. This was the first TV channel that provided unbiased, true reporting from Bihar, one of the most challenging geographical locations in India, a location with a history of endemic violence, plagued by extreme left wing inspired insurgency and above all, massive, indescribable poverty.

Office Address: A 14-15-16, Paryavaran Complex, South of Saket, New Delhi-110030

A NEW APPROACH TO FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE IN INDIA & THE WORLD -AN IURC INITIATIVE

Before the establishment of Maurya TV, news from Bihar was all about murders, political corruptions and various other kinds of bureaucratic and social malpractices. Very few news channels had dedicated, full-time reporters in that state. And those that had, managed with just one person, who operated out of the state capital, but was expected to cover that vast state of around 80 million people, with an area almost as large as that of France or Germany.

For the first time, Maurya TV brought on to the television screens incredibly inspiring stories of ordinary people struggling to build their lives in an otherwise challenging environment. For the first time, people could now see wonderful stories of people doing ground-breaking work such as raising business organizations in an area dubbed by the established media houses as the graveyard of private enterprise.

This channel discovered and showcased multiple stories of people, rising against odds to build no-frills educational institutions that produced brilliant students who went on to make a mark for themselves in renowned institutions like Indian Institute of Technology (IITs), Indian Institute of Management (IIMs), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) etc.

During this period, while interacting with entrepreneurs and policy makers of the region, Dr. Shankar developed an interest in public policy. He realized that there was an urgent need for policy innovations if backward regions like Bihar were ever to break out of the vicious cycle of poverty, violence and recriminations. It was during that time that he started working closely with the State Government of Bihar. This experience of working with top policy makers helped him learn that, even in the 'dead zone' of Bihar's politics and administration, there were people who were trying to make a difference.

Subsequently, after spending close to 5-6 years in corporate sector, he enrolled for PhD in Management from B.R. Ambedkar Bihar University, Muzaffarpur. His Ph.D. was on the workings of Indian Railways and how big transportation projects like Indian Railways, if they are run properly, do make a significant difference to the developmental landscape of remote regions like Bihar.

After completing his PhD, Dr. Shankar started working with various political parties, NGOs and think tanks as policy researcher. During this period, he worked with prominent political personalities from all political

**Office Address: A 14-15-16, Paryavaran Complex, South of Saket, New Delhi-
110030**

A NEW APPROACH TO FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE IN INDIA & THE WORLD -AN IURC INITIATIVE

hues. During this period, he also devised electoral campaigns for different political parties in the context of state and municipal elections.

While pursuing his policy research interests, in 2018, Dr. Shankar came in contact with Dr. Trivedi who encouraged him to work for the cause of education and to become an institution builder. Dr. Shankar found the approach of Dr. Trivedi extremely inspiring and accordingly, took the decision of joining CIU as a dedicated resource.

He nurtures ambition of helping IURC grow up to be a truly world-class institution specializing in research on issues affecting India and her immediate periphery.



Mr. Ritesh Shukla:

Mr. Ritesh Shukla is a successful journalist in India, working for the largest Hindi language newspaper, called Dainik Bhaskar. He works in the editorial section, handling news sourcing from foreign countries. He also writes columns in the same newspaper. As part of his assignment, he also conducts interviews with leading international personalities like heads of states, celebrated academicians, business leaders, social reformers etc. Before his stint with the Hindi edition of the newspaper, he used to work as Chief Sub-Editor in the short-lived English language edition of the same group. That edition was called DB Post. It was the most successful English language tabloid in Central India. But, due to certain problems on the business front, DB Post had to be closed down around the time when India was hit by the first wave of Corona Virus.

Before joining Bhaskar Group as a journalist, for around a decade, Mr. Shukla worked as a project manager with some of the most important companies in the information technology space in India. As part of his assignment with those companies, he used to handle customers from Europe and North America.

Interestingly, for around 2-3 years after quitting his corporate career, and before joining Dainik Bhaskar as a journalist, Mr. Shukla had also served as a teacher in one of the Engineering Colleges in Bhopal. During that time, he also participated actively in the formation of the upcoming political party called Aam Aadami Party (AAP), whose convener, Mr. Arvind Kejriwal later went on to become the Chief Minister of Delhi.

Office Address: A 14-15-16, Paryavaran Complex, South of Saket, New Delhi-110030

A NEW APPROACH TO FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE IN INDIA & THE WORLD -AN IURC INITIATIVE

However, due to differences with the leadership of the party, on the issue of course of action to be followed by the party in Madhya Pradesh, Mr. Shukla ultimately severed his association with the party. Since then, he has never been associated with any political party on a formal basis.

Mr. Ritesh Shukla holds a Bachelor degree in German Language & Literature from Jawahar Lal Nehru University, New Delhi. After completing his BA from JNU, he enrolled for an MA in English language from Barkatullah University, Bhopal. He also completed his LLB from the same university.

He also has interest in spirituality, and in occult sciences like astrology. In fact, he is widely respected as a very competent and insightful astrologer. He is often invited by religious organizations to participate in spiritual discourses and to talk on various spiritual and philosophical issues.

He is associated with CIU and IURC on an honorary basis, and provides assistance in research and outreach related initiatives of the organization. IURC believes that going forward, he is going to play a significant role in the realization of all the plans that have been prepared for the organization.

IURC is sure that it is only when many more people like Dr. Shankar, Mr. Shukla, and people even higher up in the competence ladder, join the organization, would it be truly able to effectively implement all its plans, and really make a difference. Therefore, like all good ancient shamans, invoking the spirits of ancestors and the power of divinity just before the troops marched into the battle field, IURC too would like to give a clarion call to all concerned, to come and join hands to make a difference to the future of humanity as a species surviving on the only known home, mother Earth.

**Office Address: A 14-15-16, Paryavaran Complex, South of Saket, New Delhi-
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