



An environmental agenda for the new government



Mechanism for green clearances requires a complete overhaul.

- ◆ **Myth 1:** Environment and forest clearance are a hurdle to development.
- ◆ **Reality:** 99% projects that applied got Environment clearances; 94% got forest clearances. For every one of Vedanta or Posco stopped, thousand projects are cleared without proper scrutiny
- ◆ **Myth 2:** Green clearances are stopping coal mining and power projects
- ◆ **Reality:** During April 2007-May 2014, 2,53,000 MW of thermal power plants were granted green clearances, but only 70,000 MW installed. About 500 million tonnes of coal mining projects cleared, but production increased by about 125 million tonnes.
- ◆ **Myth 3:** Green clearances are protecting the environment
- ◆ **Reality:** Multiple clearances given with poor scrutiny and even poorer accountability. Clearances are given with conditions, but there is no capacity to monitor or enforce them. Green clearances are a lot of paperwork with nothing on the ground.



Mechanism for green clearances require a complete overhaul

- ◆ Consolidate all green clearances, be it related to environment, wildlife, forest or coastal so that decisions can be taken understanding the overall impact of the project.
- ◆ Instead of several regulators, set up an independent body, accountable to MoEF, to give green clearance. The body should have enough power and resources for conducting proper assessment of projects and take punitive action against defaulters. State pollution control boards (SPCB) should be involved to monitor compliance conditions.
- ◆ Build the capacity of institutions like SPCBs for assessment and monitoring. These institutions are defunct; they must be reformed and their capacity enhanced so that they can act as a real on-the-ground regulators.
- ◆ Public participation and transparency must be enhanced. We need to strengthen the role of public hearings and making them more transparent. Similarly, all documents and information on projects applying for green clearance must be put in public domain.

Agenda for clean air and sustainable mobility



As the new government takes over:

- ◆ **India hits all time low on the WHO list of polluted cities.** 13 of the world's 20 most polluted cities are in India.
- ◆ **Air pollution is the fifth largest killer in India.** About half of all cities have particulate pollution level that are officially classified as critical.
- ◆ **Health cost of particulate matter pollution accounts for 3% of the GDP.**
- ◆ **Vehicular pollution is a special concern.** Between 2011- 2030:
 - Daily travel trips will double;
 - Share of public transport trips will fall from 26% to 16%;
 - Share of personal vehicle trips will increase from 34% to 51%;
 - Peak traffic will crawl at 8km/hour compared to 16 km/hour.
 - A person dies every hour in road accident



Agenda for clean air and sustainable mobility

- ◆ **Implement national clean air action plan to meet clean air standards in all Indian cities by 2020-21**
- ◆ **Strengthen air quality monitoring system in all states. Issue daily air quality alerts with health advisory**
- ◆ **Immediately introduce Bharat stage IV standards across the country; Leapfrog to Bharat Stage VI standards by 2020-21 to equalise petrol and diesel emissions and cut toxicity linked to lung cancer**
- ◆ **Implement favourable taxation policy to promote clean fuels and clean vehicles technology**
- ◆ **Put tax brake to discourage diesel cars. Impose additional excise duty**

Agenda for clean air and sustainable mobility



- ◆ **Substantially increase central funding to scale up affordable modes public transport**
- ◆ **Integrate public transport and implement safe and well designed walking and cycling infrastructure and para transit system**
- ◆ **Reform central taxes and state road taxes to eliminate tax burden on public transport;**
Impose additional taxes on cars.
- ◆ **Create dedicated urban transport fund** to meet the cost of improving public transport and non-motorised transport
- ◆ **Promote urban design that allows people to live closer to jobs, education, recreation, and other services**
- ◆ **Restrict use of personal vehicles – eliminate free parking, organise and limit parking, and charge parking fee** to recover the cost of parking and environmental damage



**Water: provide clean water and sanitation to all;
clean waste; revive rivers**

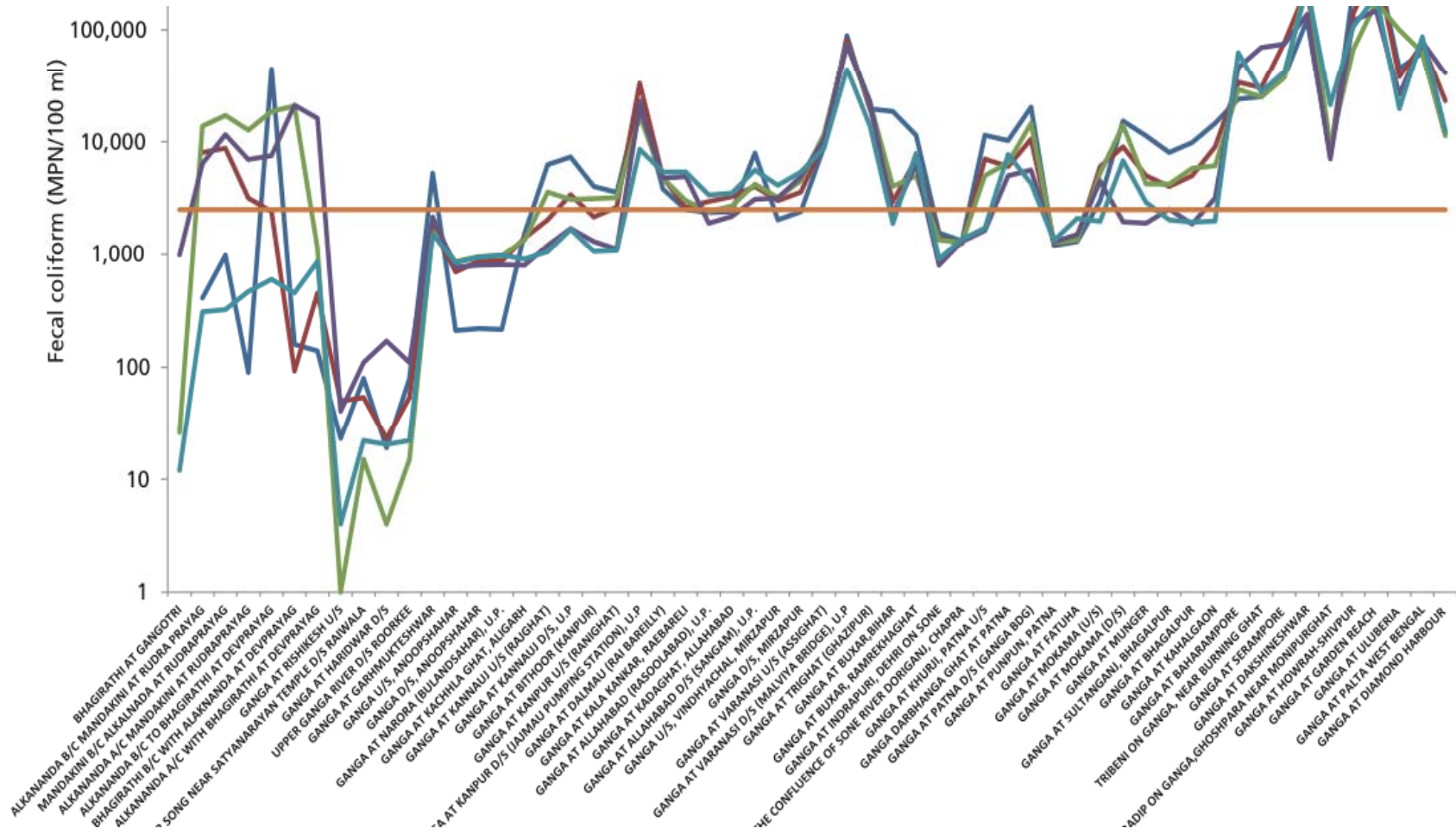
RIVERS: clean but differently



- **Ganga: covers 26% country's landmass; supports 43 per cent of its population.**
- **GAP I; GAP II and now NGRBA: but still polluted**
- **Need to understand why**
- **Need to change strategy for cleaning Ganga; India's other rivers. All dying. Becoming sewage canals**



Pollution increasing even in cleaner stretches



Ganga: 138 drains/official 2723 mld/ measured 6087 mld



Problems: known but not known



- **The inadequate flow of water in the river, needed to dilute and assimilate waste;**
- **The growing quantum of untreated sewage discharged from cities along the river;**
- **The lack of enforcement against point-source pollution from industries discharging waste into the river.**



Building STP but not catching up

- Huge gap between installed capacity and treatment: **55% gap**
- Treatment plant built; not working: 50% capacity unutilised/
Unsewered area (80% of Varanasi..Allahabad etc)
- Actual measured waste flow is 3364 mld -- 123% higher. Untreated waste is not 55 per cent, **but 80 per cent.**

Our agenda/re-design the strategy for river cleaning



- **Stop focusing on hardware – STP and drainage, focus on pollution**
- **Make ecological flow mandatory: Release money only if state govt. releases water.**
- **Intercept sewage in open drains and take it to treatment plants.**
- **Reuse treated effluent or discharge directly into river**
- **Crackdown on non-compliance by industry**
- **Recognize lack of sanitation is national shame. Implement programme with obsession. Make this the national mission that counts.**

Energy Justice Using Climate Friendly Technologies



- ◆ Per capita electricity consumption of India is a dismal 778 kWh per year against the global average of 2,600 kWh per year. In 2013, India ranked 136th on the human development index.
- ◆ About 306 million people, do not have access to electricity; 818 million people depend on traditional biomass for cooking.
- ◆ The country's dependency on imported fossil fuel is also increasing by the year. At present, about 40% of the commercial energy is imported.
- ◆ Fossil fuel based energy systems are leading to major pollution and environmental degradation.
- ◆ The new government must ensure energy access to all by striking a balance between energy security and impact of the energy system on health and climate.

Energy Justice Using Climate Friendly Technologies



- ◆ Achieve goals of Rural Electrification Policy. Provide minimum one unit of electricity per day to every rural household by 2019.
- ◆ Promote renewable energy-based mini-grids through policy and finance for meeting the goals of energy access. This can be funded through the National Clean Energy Fund.
- ◆ Frame policies to make renewable energy mainstream from marginal. Only 3% of the energy sector outlay under the 12th FYP is allocated to renewables; this must be increased to 25% by the end of the plan period.
- ◆ Frame a policy for roof top solar so that people can bring in the new revolution from their homes.
- ◆ Frame an aggressive policy and regulations on energy efficiency in buildings, appliances and industries. We can save 25,000 MW electricity by 2020.

Rural development: Extensive and expansive, but delivery questionable



- ◆ Rural development expenditure highest ever: Rs. 3,97,524 crore in 11th Plan to Rs. 6,73,034 crore in 12th Plan
- ◆ 833 million people benefit from rural development programmes like the MGNREGA
- ◆ Access to benefit is now more of right than request
- ◆ MGNREGA has created close to 7 water structures in every village;
- ◆ Focus shifts to monetise development benefits; DBT adopted in 121 districts for 28 schemes
- ◆ But, delivery of development seems toughest challenge
- ◆ Most of productive assets not complete or declining due to lack of maintenance
- ◆ Lack of banks leads to near collapse of the 'gamechanger' DBT

Rural development: Extensive and expansive, but delivery questionable



- ◆ Rural development programmes: Extensive and expansive, but delivery questionable
- ◆ Don't treat rural programmes as doles but as development dosages
- ◆ Spending is showing results: revival of rural consumption, less distress
- ◆ Change the design and delivery of the programmes
- ◆ MGNREGA should now focus on village development plan; make it a climate proofing plan
- ◆ Incentivise wages for communities maintaining and sustaining productive assets
- ◆ Implement FRA as a community led change in the current forest regime
- ◆ Identify the beneficiaries first, and in a transparent way
- ◆ This will make the delivery direct and effective

