# CHRONICLING CLIMATE CHANGE

## Response to climate change—Global and National

*By*

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# UNFCCC- The Global Climate Regime

-The International Response to Climate Change is in the form of a legal regime- the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), a result of the Earth Summit in 1992.

- Its principles

- **Rights to the global common**
- **Equity and Historical responsibility**
- **Right to development**
- **finance and technology access**

*American lifestyle is non-negotiable-*

George Bush Summit at Rio summit, 1992

# UNFCCC- The Global Climate Regime

- Negotiations started thereafter to produce a legal protocol to clearly define the targets for the developed countries and voluntary actions for the developing countries

- In 1997, the Kyoto Protocol was signed

-Science said emission reductions at least 12 percent. US objected

# US Drop Out from the Kyoto Regime

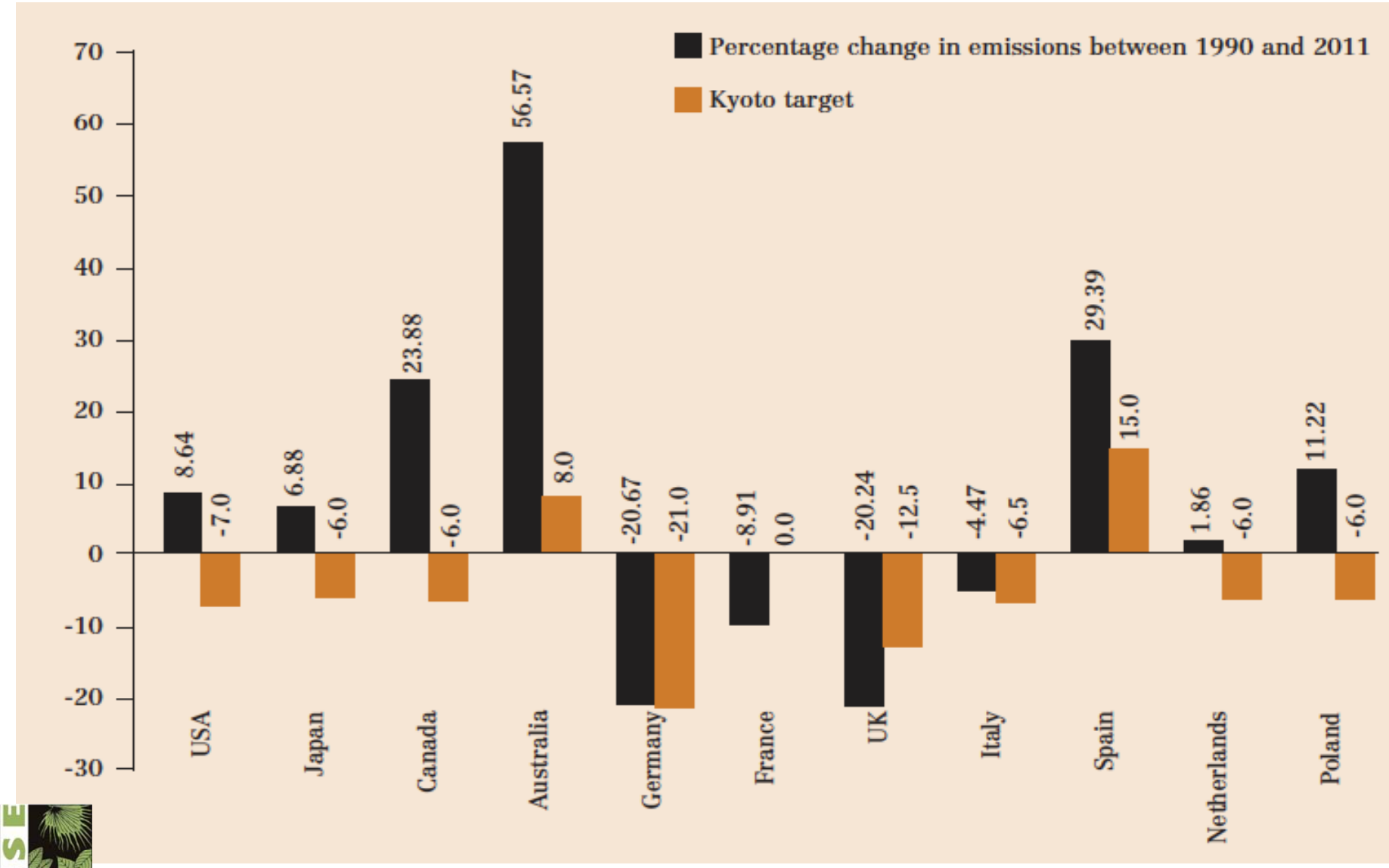
-The biggest blow to Kyoto Regime with the US exit in 2001 called it ‘fatally flawed’

- A weak and unambitious Kyoto Protocol finally ratified in 2005

-Annex 1 (developed countries) mitigation target: just 5.2% below 1990 levels between 2008-2012, mechanism for carbon trading created, no specific commitments on finance and technology

-Australia, Japan, Russia, Canada out of Kyoto regime in 2011

# Rich countries:
# not meeting Kyoto target



The rich did not reduce their emissions which have only increased over the years

## Bali Action Plan 2007

- IPCC Fourth Assessment Report released in 2007, demanding urgent climate action. Kyoto Protocol would expire in 2012

-Bali Action Summit held in same year. Negotiating tracks emerged: AWG-LCA ( long term cooperative action), short term goal.

- US came back to be part of the future climate regime (AWG-LCA)

- The west led by the EU pressed for legally binding new climate agreement, actions by all countries

-The actions would be subjected to an international review and monitoring, a stance vehemently opposed by the developing countries

-No financial commitments

# Cop(Flop)enhagen Summit

-The extremely hyped Copenhagen Summit held in 2009 to agree to a new climate agreement post 2012

-Summit was disaster. No new agreement, only a political Accord

-The Copenhagen Accord held the potential to wipe equity off the table—it proposed voluntary action to reduce emissions, by all countries

## Warsaw Summit 2013

- An important outcome of the Warsaw summit (2013) were the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions, INDCs

-These were national contributions to be made by countries which would be assessed, reviewed and, if required, be raised in consonance with the 2°C degree target

-Voluntary contributions regime strengthened

# Lima Summit 2014

-*Lima Call to Climate Action* further wiped out equity by using , Common but differentiated Responsibility, in light of evolving national circumstances

-For the first time, principle of the Convention re-written

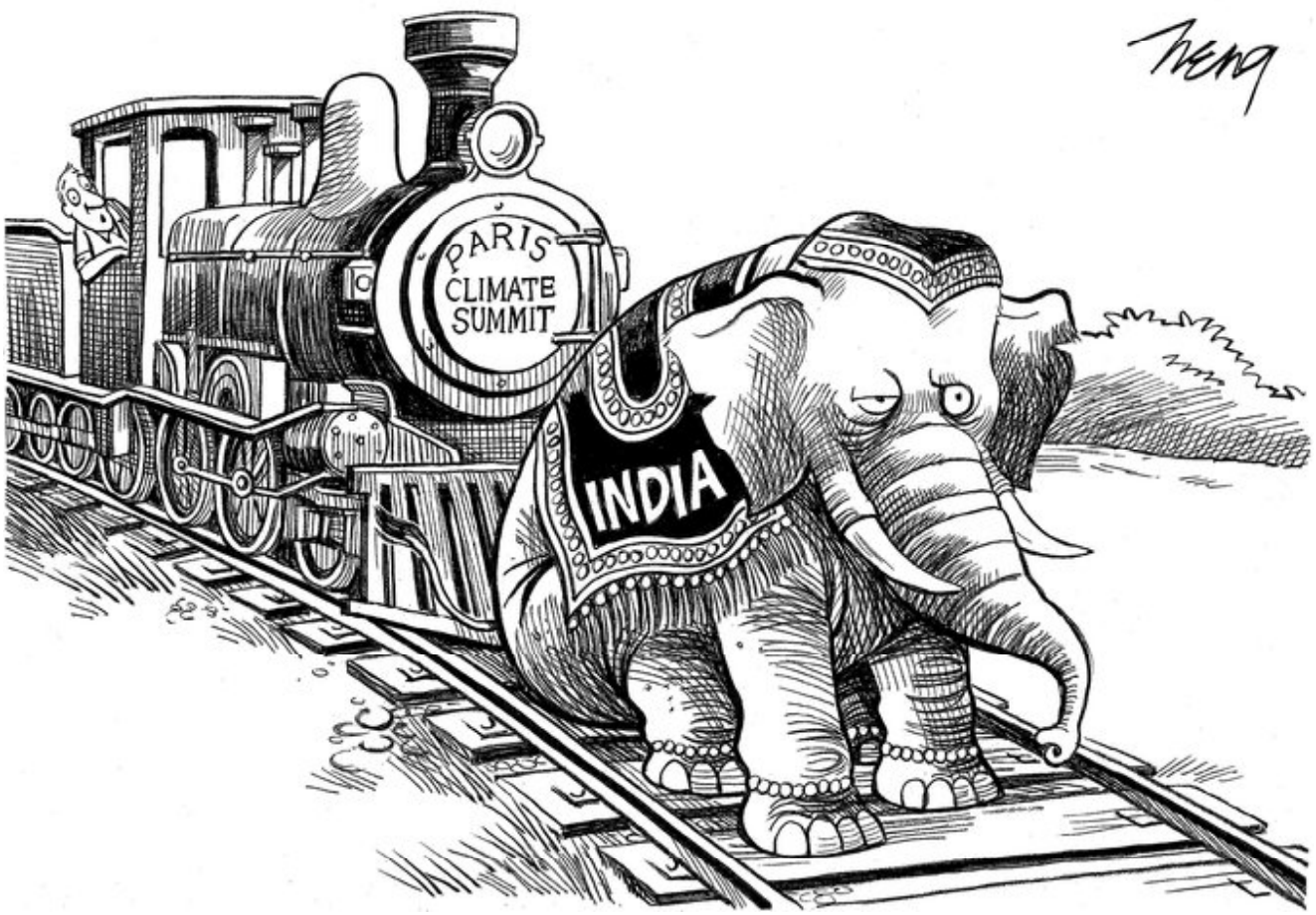
- Collective Review in the form of Synthesis Report

- Ahead of the Paris Summit, countries responsible for 80 percent of emissions submitted their INDCs

-US target of 26-28 percent by 2025 against 2005 levels is highly un-ambitious and insufficient; Developing countries efforts more than the developed countries

-The targets however do not add up to the 2 degree C. It is more than 3 degree C.

# NY Times Cartoon of India



# Paris Summit- Key Outcomes

-Adopted after 2 weeks of intense negotiations; developing countries made lot of compromises

-The new agreement is under the Convention, talks of principles of Equity and CBDR, notes climate justice and sustainable lifestyles

-A temperature goal of 2 degree C is recognized and parties are urged to make efforts to pursue 1.5 degree C

-No quantified commitments for emission targets or finance

-No legally binding emission reduction targets or financial commitments

-There is no difference now between Parties that are required to undertake and communicate ambitious action; the efforts of all Parties will represent a progression over time

-No differentiation in the measuring, reporting and verification (MRV) provision; universal in the form of a technical expert review on reporting and progress

-Only says that for all it will be facilitative, non-punitive and respectful of national sovereignty

-Market mechanism is established with which, developed countries will be allowed to buy cheap emission reduction options

-The text does talk about support for loss and damage, but clearly specifies that this will not be considered as liability or compensation,

-Further weakens the obligations of developed countries and erases responsibilities of dealing with the consequences of their past emissions

-Donald Trump called global warming a hoax, vowed to kill the Paris Agreement

-Adopts series of measures, to dismantle climate initiatives of Obama's administration

-No money for UNFCCC, GCF

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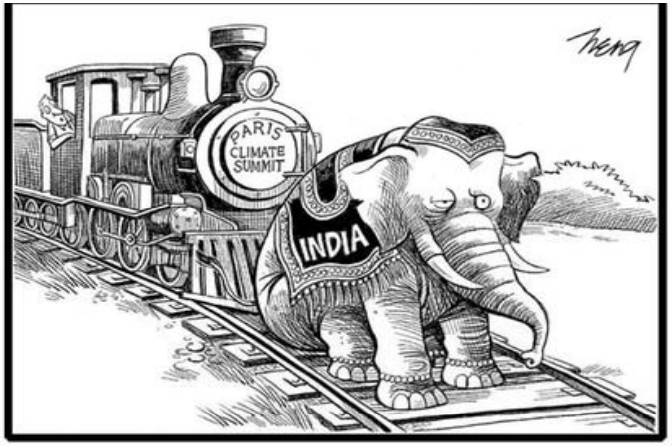
- 2 June 2017, Trump pulls out of the Paris Agreement, calls it unfair and blames China and India

-On the whole, the Paris agreement is weak and unambitious, no meaningful targets or commitments for developed countries

-Does not operationalise equity and the term carbon budget didn’t even find mention in the text, equity gone in ambition, mitigation, review

-Commitment confined to procedures




**DECEMBER 6, 2015**
**IN NEW YORK TIMES**

PARIS
CLIMATE
ACCORD

SATISH
ACHARYA

# Key Takeways

-Paris Agreement non binding, voluntary regime. Commitment confined to procedures

-The UNFCCC has not functioned as an inclusive regime, **US a hegemon**

-It has not been able to address climate change, the effects of climate change are rising, finite carbon budget. **Futility of regime?**

# India's Response

**--PM's Council on Climate Change-** constituted in 2007 under UPA . Re-constituted in 2014 under Modi Government. No meeting since then.

**--National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)** in June 2007. 8 missions constituted. States asked to create SAPCC

National Mission on Enhanced Energy Efficiency
National Solar Mission
National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture
National Mission for Sustainable Habitat
National Action Plan on Climate Change
(NAPCC)
National Water Mission
National Mission for Green India
National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem
National Mission for Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change

# National Solar Mission

- Solar tariffs have come down from Rs 18 per unit—a 2010 figure—to Rs 2.44 per kWh, a big achievement
- Cumulative installed capacity to 14,766 MW, resulting India to reach at the seventh position, surpassing Australia and Spain
- Grid Instability or lack of availability of a transmission line is one of the biggest barriers
- Storage of solar energy is expensive

# NMEEE– Focus is the PAT

- First cycle of PAT (from 2012–15), eight energy intensive sectors—thermal power plants, iron and steel, cement, fertilizer, aluminium, textile, pulp and paper, chlor-alkali
- Resulted in 5,635 MW of energy saving, which is 1.25 per cent of India's total primary energy supply, **leading to emission reduction of 31 million tonnes of CO2, equaling 1.93 per cent of India's total emissions**.
- In PAT Cycle II (2016–19), 621 industries from 11 sectors were given specific energy consumption (SEC) targets, with energy saving of 8.869 MTOE

1. **Common challenges: inter-ministerial coordination, financial and technological constraints, process barriers, project clearances**
2. **Lack of clarity and overlapping objectives of Missions**
3. **New developments launched: AMRUT, Smart Cities, Swachh Bharat, launched with aligned objectives-existing Missions now more stand-alone**
4. **De-centralized structures and institutions lacking, funding mechanisms**
5. **Monitoring and Evaluation: for cross-cutting issues problematic**
6. **NAPCC's approach towards climate change too broad and lacks specificities.**
7. **SAPCCs not a ready-to-act plan yet , too broad and all encompassing**
8. **Lack of finance—states losing interest in SAPCCs, Need to revamp SAPCCs**

# India's INDC

- Share of non-fossil fuel in the total installed capacity to be 40 percent by 2030, was 30 percent in 2015- Solar target 100 GW by 2022, 175 GW renewable energy by 2022
- Emission intensity of GDP to reduce by 33-35 percent by 2030 from 2005 level
- India to create additional carbon Sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO2 through additional forest and tree cover by 2030
- To anchor ***International Solar Alliance-*** active now, 120 members

## *Funds Required to Implement INDC*

# $2.5 trillion between 2015-2030