

# FRAMING THE DEBATE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Selecting Young Climate Champions

AUGUST 2017  
TO JANUARY 2018 IN  
EIGHT NORTH INDIAN  
UNIVERSITIES



## CLIMATE CHANGE: A GLOBAL CHALLENGE

Climate change is a major global concern with a potential to alter environment as never before. It has several disruptive impacts on society and lifestyle including energy, industry, transport, buildings, etc. It poses a major challenge to future generation and needs serious human interventions.

On one hand it requires response such as energy efficiency and renewable energy and on the other hand, also adequate measures to deal with heat stress, sea-level rise and extreme events such as such as floods, droughts, cyclones, storms etc. Its enormity has been realized across communities which is evident by the major climate conferences e.g., Earth Summit, Rio (1992), Kyoto protocol (1997) and Paris Agreement (2016) on climate change mitigation.

## SYMPOSIUM TO RAISE CLIMATE CHANGE AWARENESS

- SYMPOSIUM IN EIGHT NORTH INDIAN UNIVERSITIES
- LECTURES BY CLIMATE EXPERTS
- DEBATE AMONG STUDENTS
- A PLATFORM FOR AWARENESS CREATION AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

## Chief Guest for the Symposium at Delhi

Shri Prakash  
Javadekar,  
Honourable Union  
HRD Minister,  
Government of India,  
will be the Chief  
Guest for the Climate  
Change Symposium at  
New Delhi

### For Universities: A unique opportunity

This program will provide the opportunity for more visibility for the participating universities among the scientific community, thus earning academic recognition and accolades

Climate change is a multi-disciplinary subject and needs to be integrated with academic curriculum. This project can initiate this process for the participating universities

This project can be a gateway for the universities to engage in serious climate change discourse with international organizations

The immense sustainable possibilities for the project can help to build a permanent platform in the universities for a continuous knowledge exchange between promising students and academic experts

The experience will be valuable to organize similar programmes and workshops in future on climate change which will grow in all possibilities.

#### Universities are from

- Punjab
- Haryana
- Rajasthan
- Himachal Pradesh
- Uttrakahnd
- Uttar Pradesh
- Delhi

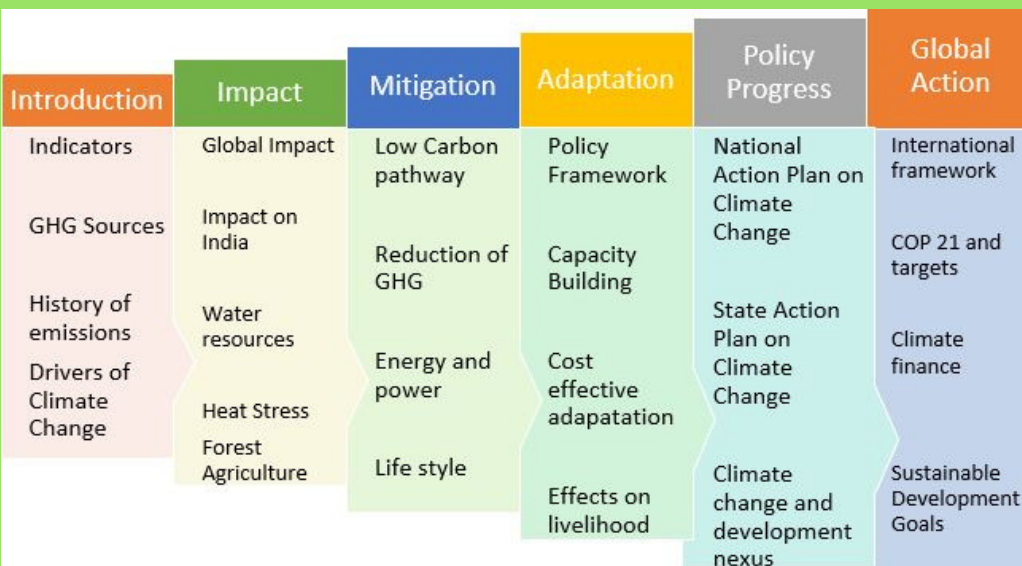
#### Role of Universities

- Advertisement about the program
- Basic amenities and support in hosting the symposium
- University faculties act as a jury memeber in the debate

## Goals

Climate change is a multi disciplinary subject that covers Natural Sciences, Meteorology, Atmospheric Sciences and Applied Sciences like Agriculture, Forestry, Hydrology, Engineering.

The overall goal is to raise awareness and simplify the ongoing complex conversations on climate change issues while preparing young leaders to participate in these discussions in an informed manner. To inspire youth in taking up the cause of climate change and become torchbearer for climate change awareness mission and practical solutions for tomorrow.



## Climate Change awareness

There have been global efforts to raise awareness on causes and consequences of climate change, in which India is also a key player. However, looking at the complexity of the problem and the heterogeneity of Indian society, an intensive method of mass awareness needs to be adopted to combat climate change. The role of society in combating climate change is not all about taking adaptation and mitigating measures, but also raising mass awareness on the severity of climate change.

## OBJECTIVES

- TO ADVANCE MULTI DISCIPLINARY CLIMATE CHANGE KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS
- TO HIGHLIGHT SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ISSUES RELATED TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT INCLUDING CHANGING BEHAVIOR AND LIFE STYLE
- TO CREATE AWARENESS ON REGIONAL SCALE IS A KEY AGENDA. IT WILL HIGHLIGHT THE IMPORTANCE OF PLANNING AND MITIGATION ON STATE LEVEL
- TO MOTIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES TO INTEGRATE CLIMATE CHANGE AS A SEPARATE SUBJECT IN CURRICULUM
- TO IDENTIFY EMERGING TALENT FROM STUDENT COMMUNITY WHO CAN CONTRIBUTE TO RESEARCH AND ACTIVITIES RELATED TO CLIMATE CHANGE.

## Program Activities

The educational symposium will be organized in eight Universities across seven north Indian states between August 2017 and January 2018. The first two days will comprise of lecture sessions by experts of climate change followed by the debate.

All the interested students will be allowed to participate in the symposium after registration and providing a brief write up on the reason of his/her participation .

Thirty students among participants will be selected for the debate based on a screening test. At the end of debate, one university champion will be declared.

A national champion will be chosen among eight university winners in a final round of debate at the New Delhi U.S Embassy.

## Sustainability

The project has a tremendous sustainable potential in building up knowledge inventory. As a start-up, this project builds a coordinating platform between experts and students which is not possible otherwise through the university curriculum.

This exposure is motivational for students to pursue the cause of climate change in terms of future research, organizing awareness programs, environment journalism and taking it down to the community to bolster awareness.

## STUDENT BENEFIT

- EXPOSURE TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN CLASSROOM, GROOMED BY EXPERTS
- A PLATFORM FOR VIBRANT CLIMATE CHANGE DISCOURSE
- UPDATED STUDY MATERIALS ON CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE PROJECT SITE
- CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION
- TALENT DEMONSTRATION AND REWARDS OF BEING A CLIMATE CHAMPION AT U.S. EMBASSY, NEW DELHI

## PARTICIPATION CRITERIA

- UNIVERSITY STUDENTS FROM POST GRADUATE COURSES
- ALTHOUGH THE PROGRAM SEEKS PARTICIPATION FROM VARIOUS DISCIPLINES, STUDENTS FROM COURSES RELATED TO CLIMATE CHANGE (EARTH SCIENCES, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES ETC.) ARE ENCOURAGED
- STUDENTS WITH A BASIC KNOWLEDGE AND INTEREST IN CLIMATE CHANGE

## **IRADe**

Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe), is an autonomous advanced research institute, engaged in various research activities including Climate Change and Environment.

### **IRADe's climate competency**

IRADe has adopted a multidisciplinary approach in core areas like Climate Mitigation, Climate Adaptation, Climate Negotiations and Natural Resources Accounting

In the Mitigation sector, IRADe carried out studies on GHG reduction potential under Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), Low Carbon Technology (LCT) implementation. In the Adaptation sector, IRADe has developed a methodology for climate vulnerability assessment and adaptation on various Indian cities. On Climate Negotiations front, IRADe developed Economy-wide Model for Low Carbon Strategies for Inclusive Growth (LCSIG). IRADe has also contributed to Biennial Update Report to UNFCCC on Mitigation Actions for National Circumstances.

Professor Jyoti K Parikh is Executive Director of Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe), New Delhi. She was a Member of the former Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change -India and is a recipient of Nobel Peace Prize awarded To IPCC authors in 2007.

### **Contact:**

Chandrashekhar Singh  
C-80, Shivalik, Malviya Nagar  
New Delhi-110017  
Phone: 011-26676181 (Extn. 126)  
Mobile: 9818935589  
Email: [chandrashekhar@irade.org](mailto:chandrashekhar@irade.org)

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