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National Human Rights Commission
[PRP&P Division: Research Unit-V]

Minutes of the Meeting of the Core Advisory Group on Environment, Climate Change & Human Rights

A meeting of Core Advisory Group on **Environment, Climate Change and Human Rights** was held on 16 December 2024 I hybrid mode at the Manav Adhikar Bhawar, New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani, Hon'ble Acting Chairperson, NHRC. Shri Bharat Lal, Secretary General, Shri Joginder Singh, Registrar (Law), Smt. Anita Sinha, Joint Secretary, Shri Devendra Kumar Nim, Joint Secretary and other senior officers were present in the meeting. The list of participants is **annexed**.

2.) The theme of the meeting of the Core Advisory Group was Climate Change and Human Rights which broadly focused on three critical agendas; Impact of Climate Change on Indigenous Populations', 'Extreme Weather Events and their Effect on Lives and Livelihoods; and Corporate Accountability in the context of Climate Change;

3.) The meeting commenced with a welcome address by **Joint Secretary Shri Devendra Kumar Nim**, who acknowledged the Hon'ble Acting Chairperson of NHRC, Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani, and other dignitaries. He emphasized the critical importance of the right to a healthy environment, citing constitutional provisions and landmark judicial interventions, such as the Supreme Court's decision in the M.K. Ranjitsinh case and the UN General Assembly's declaration of a healthy environment as a fundamental human right. He highlighted NHRC India's proactive role in addressing human rights violations linked to environmental degradation, including the resolution of over 8,900 cases in the past year. Shri Nim also noted that NHRC has issued letters to the Chief Secretaries of 20 states and 4 Union Territories, urging them to take necessary measures to protect vulnerable populations from the impacts of cold waves.



4.) NHRC's efforts in addressing climate-related human rights issues were highlighted, including the issuance of advisories to both central and state governments on preventing environmental degradation. Notably, Karnataka has implemented special environmental courts across 30 districts, reflecting compliance with NHRC's recommendations. The Commission actively engages with global bodies like GANHRI and the UN to address climate change's human rights impacts, recently contributing to key events like the COP28 symposium and the Asia-Pacific NHRIs conference. The NHRC also emphasized the importance of corporate accountability, advocating for integrating human rights protections into corporate social responsibility practices through initiatives like the Delhi Declaration.



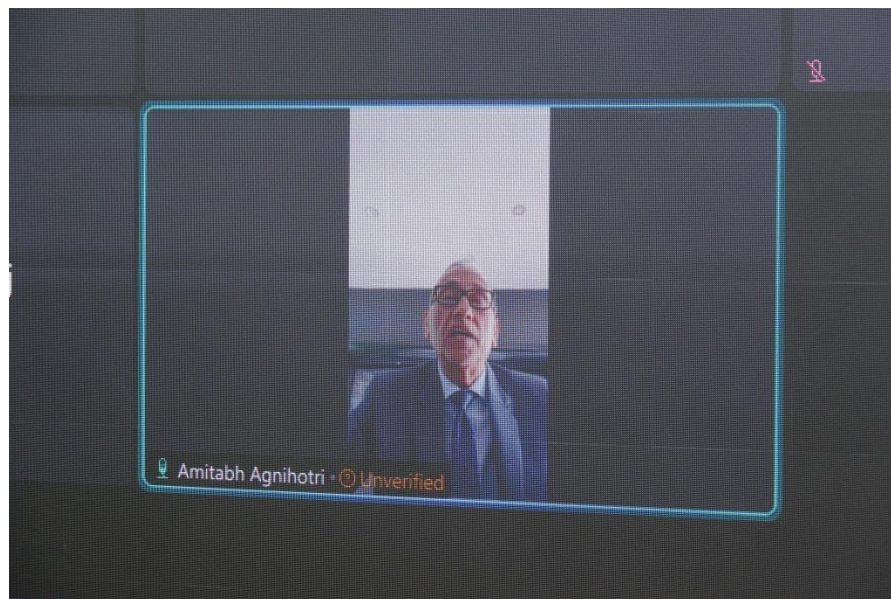
5.) **Shri Bharat Lal, Secretary General, NHRC** underscored the importance of addressing climate change and environmental concerns through human rights lenses. Highlighting that a clean, healthy, and functional environment is essential for the enjoyment of basic human rights—such as the rights to life, health, food, and a decent standard of living. He emphasised that the right to clean air and water is fundamental to human dignity. Drawing attention to the growing need to integrate human rights perspectives into climate change responses, he focused on the disproportionate impact on marginalised groups, including tribal populations, children, older individuals, and economically vulnerable during natural calamities such as cold waves, floods, cyclones, droughts, and pollution. He further outlined the three agenda points for the meeting: the impact of climate change on Indigenous populations, extreme weather events and their effects on lives and livelihoods, and corporate accountability in the context of climate change. Emphasising the urgency of strengthening monitoring systems and promoting coordinated action, he invited participants to share concrete advice, actionable suggestions, and insights, enabling the NHRC to engage with relevant stakeholders effectively and take decisive steps forward.



6.) In her inaugural address, **Smt. S Vijaya Bharathi Sayani, Hon'ble Acting Chairperson** emphasized the importance of addressing the global challenge of climate change, drawing upon ancient Indian texts like the Rig Veda and the Mahabharata to highlight the timeless wisdom of the harmony between humanity and nature. She pointed out that tribal communities, who have long lived in close connection with nature, are among the most vulnerable to climate change impacts and must be supported through effective policy-making to protect their traditional lifestyles. Hon'ble Acting Chairperson also highlighted the increasing frequency of extreme weather events in India, which disproportionately affect marginalized communities, including farmers and the poor. Citing the Bhagavad Gita, she reminded the audience of nature's duality as both creator and destroyer, stressing the need for resilience and adaptive strategies. She called for

greater corporate accountability, citing Kautilya's *Arthashastra*, and urged businesses to adopt sustainable practices and take responsibility for their environmental impact. In conclusion, Smt. Sayani urged everyone to work collaboratively with compassion and a commitment to justice and equity, ensuring that future generations inherit a more just, sustainable, and resilient India.

7.) Shri Amitabh Agnihotri, NHRC Special Monitor for Environment, Climate Change & Human Rights commended the NHRC's ongoing efforts on the critical intersection of climate change and human rights. He highlighted the Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996, which empowers tribal communities by granting them ownership and decision-making roles in managing forest resources and related activities. However, he pointed out that implementation of this Act remains inadequate in many states, necessitating a broader approach. Shri Agnihotri also referred to the Tribal Rights Act of 2006, which recognizes community rights over forest, non-forest, government lands and strengthens tribal land ownership. However like the previous act, implementation of this act also remains a challenge. NHRC can check the status of implementation of both these acts (PESA & Tribal Rights Act, 2006) on ground.



8.) Addressing the increasing frequency of extreme weather conditions and their disproportionate impact on rural populations, he noted that climate change is exacerbating urban migration in India, a trend that is both fast-growing and complex. This migration to urban areas is due to poverty, food insecurity and lack of opportunities in rural areas. This migration is going to further increase with increase in extreme weather events. To mitigate this, he recommended leveraging government schemes such as MGNREGA to address urban migration and its associated challenges while emphasizing the need for research into the effects of migration, technological innovation, and urban infrastructure development. Additionally, he highlighted the importance of corporate social responsibility (CSR) in infrastructure and livelihood funding. The

exit strategy of these companies should be such that once these companies leave, the local communities should be able to take up the maintenance of project areas. He underscored the need for collective efforts in addressing climate change and its interconnected socio-economic impacts.

9.) **Mr Neelesh Kumar Sah**, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change addressed the meeting by emphasizing the intertwined nature of climate change and human rights, describing both as global phenomena with far-reaching implications. He referenced the UNFCCC and stressed that climate action must not infringe upon human rights. He highlighted the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and capabilities, acknowledging that different nations bear varying levels of responsibility in addressing climate change.



10.) Discussing the first agenda, ‘The Impact of Climate Change on Tribal Populations’, Mr Sah focused on how climate change disproportionately affects tribal communities, emphasizing that the ‘Right to Development’ should be recognized as a human right to support these vulnerable groups. On second agenda, ‘Extreme weather events and its impact on lives and livelihoods, he addressed the challenges posed by floods, droughts, and other climate-related disasters, emphasizing that their effects on livelihoods must be evaluated through climate adaptability strategies and aligned with India’s National Action Plan on Climate Change. He also mentioned that globally, 28 adaptation goals are under discussion, with their finalization expected next year. Regarding Agenda three, ‘Corporate Accountability in mitigating Climate Change’, Mr Sah referred to the Companies Act mandating companies to allocate 2% of their profits toward environmentally responsible activities. He underscored the role of corporate responsibility in advancing cleaner development, reducing emissions, and supporting climate action. The discussion reinforced the urgent need for collective and strategic approaches,

including the private sector's active engagement, to combat the effects of climate change. Schedule VII of the Companies Act 2013 does not mention the word 'Climate Change' explicitly instead talks about 'Adaptation measures'

11.) Shri Bharat Kumar Sharma, Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board highlighted the fact that we have many laws, guidelines and rules on environmental protection, however, the real challenge is in implementing the existing laws. He called for the strengthening of enforcement agencies (implementing bodies) is the need of the hour. Shri Bharat also underlined the need for public awareness and participation that can help push the implementation of the existing environment protection framework. He further stated that the ban on single-use plastic can be leveraged to create opportunities for tribal communities, who are already equipped with knowledge and skills to create environment-friendly products. He emphasized that providing tribal communities with resources and support can help them scale up the production of environment-friendly products.



12.) Shri Bharat stated that currently, waste management is a major challenge in India. He elaborated on the concept of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regime, which puts the obligation on manufacturers to recycle products manufactured by them at the end of their lifecycle. He stated the EPR regime also increases the scope for setting up recycle management plants and called for support to be provided for the setting up of such plants across India. Shri Bharat also highlighted the 'Sustainability Cell' initiative by the municipal corporation of Pimpri-Chinchwad, a city in Pune district, Maharashtra. The cell was launched within the local governance structure of the Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC), to carry out initiatives that are innovative and lead towards sustainable development.

13.) Further, he highlighted the initiatives of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the guidelines they have curated with industry-specific guidelines concerning effluents/emissions

for large-scale industries. He underscored the need to apply a similar set of guidelines to smaller industries are well, to ensure better management of effluents/emissions.

14.) Environmentalist **Shri Sundaram Verma**, elaborated on his ‘One Liter Water Plantation’ technique and talked about the immense benefits of this technique of agro-forestry, especially in desert areas of Rajasthan. He listed the benefits, stating that this technique of farming and plantation not only helps increase the green cover in desert lands but also helps create several income sources for women and economically backward communities residing in these areas. Shri Sundaram also reiterated the importance of agro-forestry, stating that crops and forests need to co-exist. He also elaborated on the climate, environmental, social, economic and cultural impact of the ‘One Liter Water Plantation’ technique and how it can be replicated in different parts of the country.



15.) **Ms Patricia Mukhim**, Social Activist and Editor of The Shillong Times reiterated the fact that there are many existing laws, however, there are a lot of challenges in their implementation at the ground level. The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution gives District Councils control over 94% of forest land and natural resources, whereas the state has control only over about 4% of the forest and natural resources. She stated that this lopsided control results in a problem as there are too many authorities granting or rejecting mining rights. She called for the integration of all these institutions to help reverse the effects of climate change.

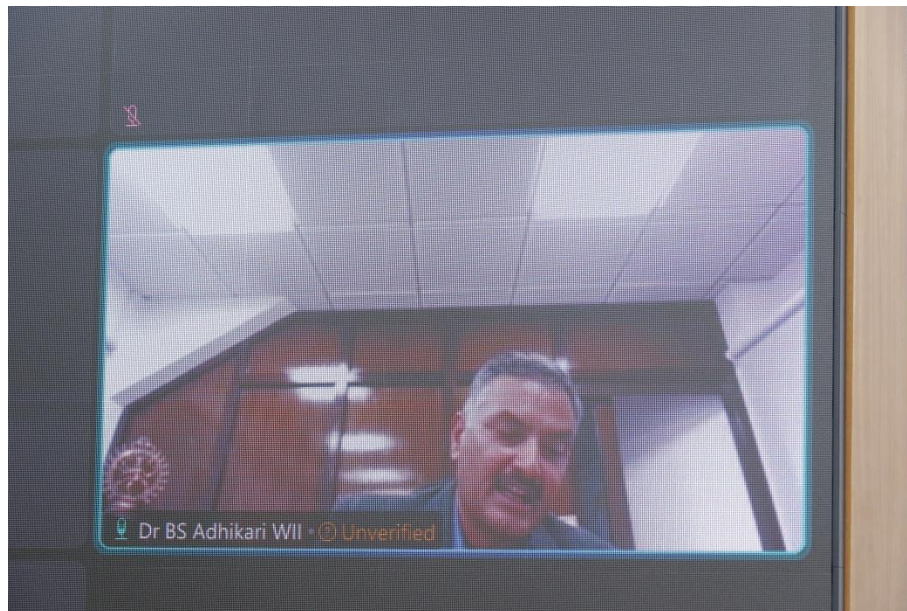


16.) Ms. Patricia focused her discussion on the current state of environmental degradation in her home state Meghalaya, and the peripheral north-eastern states. She elaborated on the deteriorating state of rivers in the northeastern region of the country. She spoke about how vehicles are still being washed in rivers, and there is no action taken by the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) against the same. People in Dibrugarh are claiming that land is being submerged in Brahmaputra and they are skeptical of China's activities. Therefore, she called upon the Commission to assess the on-ground situation about rivers in North-East India and the impact of China's activities on these rivers. She also underlined the need to formulate and implement lower-riparian and upper-riparian Water Treaties for the protection of rivers. She called for the reclamation of abandoned mines for the revival of water resources and stated that the increasing lead content in water bodies needs to be assessed on an urgent basis. Ms Patricia further spoke about the impacts of coal, limestone, boulder mining and cement industries, all of which have been exploiting resources in the North-East region of the country. She stated that these activities, mining in particular, cause active displacement of not just resources, but of the tribal population as well and she remarked that there are no visible CSR activities by these companies.

17.) Referring to the recurring and rampant occurrence of natural disasters, she also said that there are National/State Disaster Response Authority, but these are emergency response institutions. She stated that we also need to focus on building organisations that focus on the prevention of these disasters in the first place. On this note, she also proposed setting up a Climate Risk Atlas for every district, a 'Climate Risk Commission' in India as well as an Environment Protection Index. She stated that North Eastern states also sell tourism, but are not equipped with the means and methods to handle the large quantities of waste generated. She further emphasized how waste management systems are only focused in state capitals and there is no such mechanism in the interior areas.

18.) Ms. Patricia also spoke about how the approach towards policymaking needs to be changed and the focus needs to be on identifying problems before proposing solutions. She also stated that district-level data needs to be taken into consideration in policy formulation. Adding to this, she also spoke about how we need better data to confront problems about the environment and climate change.

19.) B.S. Adhikari, Scientist - G, Wildlife Institute of India (WII) provided a comprehensive overview of the multiple challenges tribal communities are facing due to climate change. He underscored the severe impact on livelihoods, with the loss of traditional farming practices and vegetation, which in turn affects livestock health and agricultural productivity. Adhikari highlighted the growing health risks, including epidemics that spread due to changing environmental conditions. Additionally, he drew attention to the increasing displacement of tribal populations, with many migrating from their original habitats in lower regions to metropolitan areas in search of better opportunities. This migration exacerbates socio-economic and cultural challenges. He also pointed out that the marginalization of these communities in political and policy-making processes makes it even more difficult to address their needs effectively.



20.) In response to these issues, he proposed several solutions to improve the situation. They include introducing climate-resilient crops and sustainable farming practices, implementing skill development programs in non-traditional sectors such as eco-tourism and renewable energy production, and developing early warning systems to predict extreme weather events to minimize disaster impact. Measures also involve adapting homes and infrastructure to withstand extreme weather, restoring natural water systems, and enhancing local disaster response capabilities. Additionally, Shri Adhikari emphasized the importance of exploring rainwater harvesting methods to address water shortages by collecting and storing rainwater during the rainy season.

He also highlighted the need for awareness programs among tribal communities about invasive species encroaching on their arable and non-arable lands. Furthermore, he underscored the necessity of research to create strategies that are both culturally relevant and scientifically robust, blending traditional ecological knowledge with modern climate science.

21.) Dr. Padma Rao, Chief Scientist, National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, (NEERI) Nagpur elaborated on the role of research institutions like the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, (NEERI) Nagpur in addressing climate change impacts on tribal areas. She noted that her institution conducts research to collect baseline data at several locations which helps in planning area-specific mitigation strategies. According to Dr Rao, such research is crucial for understanding the nuances of climate change in different regions and developing effective solutions tailored to local needs. She stressed the importance of robust monitoring and reporting systems to track progress and ensure that interventions are effective. Dr Rao also advocated for the traditional mapping of tribal areas to help understand the environmental changes and identify areas most in need of adaptation. She proposed that a combination of international best practices and traditional knowledge could be used to enhance climate resilience in these communities.

22.) Another important point raised by Dr Rao was the issue of environmental degradation, particularly mining activities. She highlighted the significant damage caused by unregulated mining, which disrupts ecosystems and contributes to the deterioration of the environment. Dr Rao suggested that a balance should be struck between the technological demands of mining and the need for sustainable environmental practices, ensuring that mining activities are conducted within environmentally safe limits. Furthermore, she emphasized the need for capacity building in tribal communities, particularly to identify those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Dr. Rao also noted that effective implementation of policies and strategies is essential to achieving meaningful progress in improving the livelihoods of tribal populations.

23.) Shri Ram Kumar Agarwal, Director, Commission on Air Quality Management contributed by discussing the potential role of technology in combating climate change. He suggested that advancements in technology could help tribal communities adapt to climate impacts, particularly in agriculture and resource management. Agarwal further emphasized the importance of including Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives that focus on the education and empowerment of tribal populations. He proposed that CSR activities should be specifically directed toward enhancing the capacity of tribal communities to manage the challenges posed by climate change. However, Agarwal stressed that these CSR initiatives must be strictly monitored to ensure their effectiveness and accountability. He suggested that the monitoring of CSR activities should be more rigorous to ensure that they lead to tangible, positive outcomes for tribal communities, particularly in terms of education and capacity building.

24.) Dr Ravinder Yadav, Director, National Rainfed Area Authority, emphasizes the importance of promoting climate-resilient agriculture by training tribal communities in climate-smart techniques, such as agroforestry and sustainable land management practices. To diversify livelihoods and reduce reliance on agriculture, he advocates for non-farm activities like handicrafts, ecotourism, and micro-finance schemes. He highlights the need for early warning systems, disaster preparedness, and climate-resilient infrastructure to mitigate the impacts of extreme weather events. Key strategies include conservation agriculture, crop diversification, efficient water management, and precision technologies like GIS and IoT while supporting renewable energy solutions. While these strategies are important and ongoing, effective implementation is crucial. Collaboration across governments, civil society, and international agencies is vital to ensure food security, environmental health, and resilience to climate change. Additional suggestions include adopting a One Health approach for climate change solutions, encouraging innovations and value additions, promoting convergence across sectors, establishing dedicated funds for climate change initiatives within each ministry, implementing landscape-based solutions, encouraging carbon financing mechanisms in agriculture, and leveraging CSR funds to support multi-year, long-term climate adaptation and mitigation plans. The approach must be bottom-up, ensuring that local communities are central to the planning and execution of these efforts.



25.) Shri Vinay Kumar, Deputy Director, Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education highlights the impact of climate change on the tribal population, with low agricultural productivity, advocating for the introduction of a Minimum Support Price (MSP) for crops and crop insurance in tribal areas. He stresses the need for drought prevention measures and dedicated health programs to address waterborne diseases and other health-related concerns. On corporate accountability, Mr. Kumar points to the launch of the Green Credit program in 2023, where 41 PSUs contributed 268 crores for taking up plantation efforts across 17 states, marking

progress in the CSR sector. In empowering the tribal communities, the valuation of NTFP plays a major role and it is essential to remove middle men. He suggests that research institutes like ICFRE can play a crucial role in documenting traditional knowledge and supporting high-yielding NTFP and agro-forestry species. Utilization of Budget with Tribal Sub-plan has to be assured along with dedicated budget in Green India Mission which has to be utilized for tribal welfare, emphasizing crop diversity, water audit and participatory ground water management while involving local bodies and NGOs. Mr Kumar encourages carbon sequestration projects like REDD+ in Meghalaya and advocates for expanding early warning systems, particularly in high-altitude regions, to mitigate climate risks.

26.) Shri Niranjana Dev Bharadwaj, Distinguished Advisor, Global Foundation for Environmental Advancement and Human Wellness highlights key strategies for addressing climate change and its impact on tribal populations, emphasizing the importance of culturally aware legislation that incorporates indigenous knowledge, such as introducing tribal-specific policies. Shri Bharadwaj presented his points under the larger framework of 'Tribal Panchsheel.' He advocates for capacity-building programs to empower tribal communities through education, healthcare, and leadership training, with examples like involving tribal women in renewable energy initiatives. For sustainable resource management, he proposes promoting the conservation of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) like honey and bamboo.

27.) In response to extreme weather conditions, he recommends adopting agro ecological farming practices, including crop diversification and organic farming, and integrating disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies into urban and rural planning. This includes building climate-resilient infrastructure, flood-proof housing, and green buffer zones, along with developing livelihood diversification programs focusing on eco-tourism, handicrafts, and renewable energy jobs. He also stresses strengthening vocational training in sustainable industries.

28.) Additionally, he calls for equity-centred corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives that focus on vulnerable communities, urging businesses to adopt circular economy models like recycling and waste reduction and support climate adaptation projects such as rainwater harvesting and renewable energy systems. To ensure accountability, he advocates for transparent impact measurement of CSR initiatives and encourages corporations to prioritize eco-friendly packaging, resource efficiency, and waste reduction in their operations.

29.) Shri Promode Kant (Retd. IFS) focused on the state of Uttarakhand. He highlighted that Uttarakhand ranks first in the production of several fruits; however, there has been a noticeable decline in fruit production due to the adverse effects of climate change. He also pointed out that forest fires are becoming increasingly prevalent in the state, posing significant environmental and socio-economic challenges. Additionally, he mentioned that 2.9% of the state's population is tribal, and many tribal communities depend on the production of Rhododendron flower juice for

their livelihood. Unfortunately, climate change has led to the early blooming of Rhododendron flowers, disrupting their traditional harvesting cycles.

30.) On a positive note, he discussed ongoing climate mitigation efforts in the state. For example, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives are playing a significant role. Titan Company has implemented a sustainable water solution program in 60 villages in Tehri. Similarly, Dettol has established four Climate Resilient Schools near Gangotri, Yamunotri, Kedarnath, and Badrinath. These zero-carbon schools are self-sufficient in energy production, generating their electricity. To address the increasing incidents of forest fires, Shri Kant suggested that the NHRC could explore ways to encourage the state government to prioritize actionable strategies on two pointers, preparation strategy to avoid forest fires and adequacy of funds on this issue. He further suggested that NHRC can persuade the companies for increased CSR funding for adaptation strategies and not for mitigation strategies. He also suggested the need for more research studies on adaptation strategies. The commission (NHRC) can also persuade the state government to provide more funding for research in this area.



31.) Prof. N. H Ravidranath, Professor (Retd.), IISc said that district level impact assessment of climate change is lacking. He emphasized that building resilience and adaptation to climate change should be prioritized at the district level, with district officials playing a key role in driving these efforts. He pointed out that one of the major limitations in addressing climate change is the lack of district-specific data. Currently, most information is generic, making it difficult to address localized challenges effectively. To bridge this gap, he suggested conducting pilot studies at the district and sub-district levels, as the absence of localized knowledge often creates significant challenges at the community level. NHRC should push Government of India and state government to do research and generate knowledge at local level because adaptation efforts are context specific and location specific.

32.) Another key limitation he highlighted is the preference of CSR initiatives for investing in areas like energy efficiency and solar energy. While these are important, CSR companies are often unaware of climate adaptation projects as the money is going into mitigation efforts. To address this, he proposed the creation of a well-defined inventory of climate adaptation projects that CSR companies can fund particularly. This would make it easier for them to identify impactful initiatives and diversify their investments.

33.) He further suggested developing clear indicators to measure the impact of CSR investments. These indicators would help companies understand the tangible outcomes of their contributions, encouraging continued and targeted support. Lastly, Prof. Ravindranath recommended implementing pilot projects (on adaptation efforts) in tribal areas to build climate resilience. He proposed that the NHRC could request the government to fund climate resilience initiatives in at least one district per state, ensuring equitable and impactful action across the country.

34.) NHRC should recommend MoEFCC, M/o Agriculture, M/o Water resources to have pool of resources from where any district or state can access information on adaptation strategies, information about potential risks, potential extreme weather events, capacity building programs, schemes and activities that are reliable, science based, evidence based.

35.) Shri Honey Karun, an Economist with the Climate and Sustainability Initiative, emphasized that a substantial portion of CSR funds is concentrated in larger states, leaving tribal and rural states underserved. Moreover, within states, the majority of funding is directed toward urban areas, sidelining local-level and rural-focused initiatives. This urban-centric approach reduces the effectiveness of CSR efforts in addressing the distinct challenges faced by rural and tribal communities. He pointed out that 50% of CSR funding is allocated to education and health activities, while activities such as agroforestry, safe drinking water, and environmental conservation receive less than 20%. To address this imbalance, Shri Karun proposed conducting a feasibility study to align funding with sectors essential to tribal populations, such as agroforestry and environmental conservation.



36.) He further recommended involving local communities, human rights commissions, line ministries, and institutions like the CPCB to identify community-level projects to establish a National Carbon Offsetting Platform, where individuals could purchase carbon offsets by paying a set price. Additionally, he advocated for creating a localized Climate Atlas Map to estimate the likelihood of climate events, assess their potential adverse impacts, and determine the resources needed to mitigate losses. Shri Karun underscored the need for development plans starting at the Gram Panchayat level and extending to the district level, enabling communities to identify projects and promote them on a platform for companies to allocate CSR funds. He also highlighted the role the NHRC could play in defining the scope of carbon markets for tribal and rural populations.

37.) Shri Imad Malik added to this discussion by recommending an assessment of the physical risks associated with climate change in tribal regions, using both qualitative and quantitative data.

38.) Meeting concluded with the vote of thanks given by Shri Bharat Lal, Secretary General, NHRC.

List of Participants

NHRC Officials/Staff

1. Smt. S Vijaya Bharathi Sayani, Honble Acting Chairperson
2. Shri Bharat Lal, Secretary General, NHRC
3. Shri Joginder Singh, Registrar, NHRC
4. Shri Devendra Kumar Nim, Joint Secretary, NHRC
5. Smt. Anita Sinha, Joint Secretary
6. Dr. (Ms.) Rajul Raikwar, Consultant Research
7. Shri Raghwendra Singh, Junior Research Consultant
8. Ms. Jessica Swamy, Junior Research Consultant
9. Ms. Saptarni Majumdar, Junior Research Consultant
10. Ms. Swarna Singh, Junior Research Consultant
11. Ms. Perna Hasija, Junior Research Consultant
12. Ms. Vintee Sangwan, Research Assistant
13. Shri Upendra Bhai Patel, Research Assistant

Core Group Members/Special Invitees

1. Shri Amitabh Agnihotri, NHRC Special Monitor for Environment, Climate Change & Human Rights
2. Mr Neelesh Kumar Sah, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change
3. Shri Bharat Kumar Sharma, Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board
4. Shri Sundaram Verma, Environmentalist
5. Ms Patricia Mukhim, Social Activist and Editor of The Shillong Times
6. B.S. Adhikari, Scientist - G, Wildlife Institute of India (WII)
7. Dr. Padma Rao, Chief Scientist, National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, (NEERI), Nagpur
8. Shri Ram Kumar Agarwal, Director, Commission on Air Quality Management
9. Dr Ravinder Yadav, Director, National Rainfed Area Authority
10. Shri Vinay Kumar, Deputy Director, Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education
11. Shri Niranjana Dev Bharadwaj, Distinguished Advisor, Global Foundation for Environmental Advancement and Human Wellness
12. Shri Promode Kant (Retd. IFS)
13. Prof. N. H Ravidranath, Professor (Retd.), Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
14. Shri Honey Karun, Economist, Climate and Sustainability Initiative
15. Shri Imad Malik, Engagement Lead, Climate and Sustainability Initiative