



# The Corporate Sector And SDG 13 – Challenges And Progress Towards Attainment

Himangi Sati, Dr Priti Ramani Nayyar

## INTRODUCTION

While high-profile corporates commit towards determined decarbonization goals and growth in net zero targets, Indian companies have been making drastic efforts towards the attainment of economic, environmental and social goals covered under Sustainable development goals. <sup>1</sup> The article reflects the impact of corporates in India in combating climate issues. India declared its foremost Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Accords in 2015. <sup>2</sup> The Paris Climate Accords is the foremost legal obligatory global climate variation agreement which is based on climate change sanctioned at the Paris climate convention (COP21) in December 2015. It enumerates worldwide framework to evade disastrous climate change by regulating world climate crisis to well lower than 2°C and chasing determined effort to restrict it to 1.5 degree celsius.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change scientific report in August 2019 on the 1.5°C aim of the Paris Climate Accords revealed that if the weather condition limit exceeds, India will see the impact of the climate crisis. <sup>3</sup> India will undergo more intense floods, droughts, reduced food production and increased water stress, risking development towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

To understand the importance of the notion of climate action we need to look at Sustainable Development Goals i.e. SDG 13. The main focus of SDG 13 is to reduce the effects of global climate crisis and combat climate crisis by limiting carbon dioxide emissions. The Ministry of Company Affairs obligated the corporates to provide two percent of their annual income towards Corporate Social Responsibility scheme that encourage economic and social welfare as per the Companies Act 2013. <sup>4</sup> The amendment has affirmed the stringent regulation and provided various benefits for corporates to put their investments into sustainable energy matters that are inexhaustible in future.

<sup>1</sup> Shailaja Tripathi, India's Net-Zero Goal Struggles For Lack Of Qualified Climate Change Experts, Outlook, Updated on May 28, 2022.

<sup>2</sup> Urmi Goswami, India set to update 2030 climate targets under Paris Agreement, The Economic Times, Updated on Oct 18, 2022.

<sup>3</sup> World Meteorological Organization, WMO update: 50:50 chance of global temperature temporarily reaching 1.5°C threshold in next five years, Published on May 9, 2022.

<sup>4</sup> Government of India, Report Of The High Level Committee On Corporate Social Responsibility 2018, Ministry of Corporate Affairs August, 2019.

The recommendations on the least contributions that belonged to and the agenda to disclose Corporate Social Responsibility projects are submitted beneath section 135 and Schedule 7 of the Companies Act, 2013, Companies CSR Policy Rules, 2014 and Companies CSR Policy Amendment Rules, 2021. Corporate Social Responsibility is obligatory if a corporate fulfills either of three circumstances 1) turnover of Rs 1000 crores or further 2) net profit of Rs 5 crores or further 3) net worth of Rs 5 hundred crores or further in annual accounting period . India is composed to progress its climate action programme with expansive use of market economy and instruments to finance and drive climate remission efforts in comparison to global event in the European Union and United Kingdom . The achievement of India's climate resilience plan depends upon asserting and ensuring climate finance in future . President Biden and Vice-President Harris have initiated American commitment to international climate crisis , India is in a good position to associate with the US to strengthen the market for climate finance and develop a renewable ecosystem for achieving economic sustainability .<sup>5</sup>

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 make revelations on challenges and risks obligatory for limited liability companies.<sup>6</sup> The SEBI needs revelations from leading 1000 listed organizations under the Business Responsibility and Regeneration record . The SEBI Record needs revelations on global warming crisis . Actions proposed by the environmental director , Forest and Climate Change and the Union Ministry of Environment against a corporate for contraventions of the conditions of the environmental approval sanctioned by the strategies covered by the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 .

India's strives at evolving a carbon sink are laudable and indispensable element of its climate action efforts. Indian companies' dominant efforts in restructuring decarbonisation drive while addressing biohazard about 54500 ha of land which has been brought under green shelter by planting one hundred and thirty two million trees serving as a biohazard of two and a half lakh tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent annually . It is organized to enfold 20000 ha of further extent by implanting over fifty million trees by 2030.

### **RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

1. To address and minimise the risks posed by climate change which is integral to the successful implementation of the SDGs by the companies .
2. To improve corporate awareness in companies by computing and disclosing environmental impact which is indispensable to the management of carbon and climate risk.
3. To assess scale of necessary carbon based emission reductions by the companies and the levers that are key to achieving them
4. To put more efforts by the companies to reduce their emissions and use carbon market mechanism to balance the residual emissions .

<sup>5</sup> Vishnu Sudarsan and Kartikeya G.S. , India: Sustainable Development And Climate Change In India , Mondaq , Published on 01 February , 2021, <https://www.mondaq.com/india/clean-air-pollution/1031534/sustainable-development-and-climate-change-in-india>.

<sup>6</sup> Securities and Exchange Board of India , SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (Listing Regulations) , Updated on 03 Sep , 2015.

The United Nations Global Compact, the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative has published a blueprint for corporate leadership on the SDGs. In this blueprint, specifically the framework on SDG 13, companies can find solutions to how they can advance goal 13, the corporate actions they can take, the interconnection of goal 13 with the other goals and the targets of the goal. There are majorly four corporate actions that a company has to undertake to attain goal 13 : ensuring climate resilience , reducing operational emissions , developing products with negligible emissions and promoting and climate-conscious behaviour.

About half of India's population depends on agriculture or other climate-sensitive sectors. About 12% of India is prone to floods and 16% to droughts. India is now the world's third-largest emitter of greenhouse gases after China and the United States. From 1990 to 2009, India's annual emissions nearly tripled from less than 600 tons to more than 1,700 tons. From 2008 to 2035, India's annual carbon emissions are expected to increase nearly 2.5 times. Net greenhouse gas emissions from India's land use, change, and forestry in 2007 was 1,727.71 million tons of carbon dioxide.<sup>7</sup>

While the energy sector accounts for 8% of net CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, the industrial sector, agriculture, and waste sectors account for 22%, 17%, and 3% of net CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, respectively. As a result, climate change and energy are now the focus of local, state and national concerns around the world. While India has previously emphasised that it is a developing country with historically low per capita emissions rates and is not responsible for past greenhouse gas emissions, India has now become a major player in international negotiations. It has begun implementing a diverse set of laws, improving energy efficiency, developing clean energy and preparing for the impacts of climate change nationally and individually.

## **CHALLENGES**

1. In spite of the fact that there is consciousness about the climate crisis , India's stand in international global warming debate is significant . The Indian companies still lack in taking stringent actions to deal with climate crisis . Considering the fact that neither domestic legislation nor International treaties bind Indian corporates to make CO<sub>2</sub> emission cuts , the drives till now are discretionary . It's the responsibility of direct stakeholders like employees , investors and consumers to encourage such drives and initiatives.

2. Understanding that the climate related crisis is already severe , it also motivates the companies to adopt disaster preparedness programme at the domestic level . Unless the companies takes the authority , rising average temperatures , extreme weather events and other symptoms of changing climatic conditions will disrupt economies and perpetually minimise average global food harvest in the times of increasing population and stress from the society . India is making large efforts to meet its SDG commitment to beat climate crisis which has

<sup>7</sup> IPleaders , Environment legislation in India , 12 Jul , 2022 , <https://iclq.com/practice-areas/environment-and-climate-change-laws-and-regulations/india>.

largely concerned itself with holding countries responsible to their Paris agreement goals . India sheds off an average of 1.7 tons of carbon dioxide per capita from energy production, lower than United States and China.

3. India's NAPCC puts down the reason for devising a global warming regulation that may impact greenhouse gas emission intensive protocol in the corporate organization in the nation . Major developed countries are planning to impose carbon tariff and permit systems on those countries that export carbon based products to them.

4. Current Indian legal framework has no provision that obligate corporates to give climate change crisis report . Though Section 166 of the Company's Act 2013 is basically considered as risk disclosure which forms a part of "Duties of Directors" . A directors duty is to act bonafide in taking decisions for the companies , understanding about the corporates tactical interests and for conserving the environment . However as the Company's Act 2013 lacks any climate related laws , it has led to increase in climate crisis in India.

5. India's foremost climate crisis disclosure report declared that India's moderate weather would be raised by 4.4 degrees in the next few years . These modifications will deeply influence the standard of living along with the whole economy .<sup>8</sup>

6.

7. Going by the census and due to climate crisis India has lost over 80 billion dollars . Going by the current situation Indian economy could lose much more . It is predicted that Indian corporates may lose the money of 7.14 lakh millions due to the repercussions of environmental crisis in upcoming five years if the corporates doesn't take initiatives to lessen the same.

India is a "dualist" state which means that the international agreements such as the Paris Agreement and the UNFCCC must be translated into domestic law to become enforceable within the country.<sup>9</sup> Article 253 of the Indian Constitution vests in the Parliament the power to make laws to implement international treaties. Article 73 extends the executive power of the Union of India to matters on which the Parliament has the power to make laws. Since companies face greater scrutiny and accountability in the context of climate risk, the nature of their governance gains prominence and the duties and liabilities of directors on corporate boards become pivotal.

In India, Section 166(2) of the Companies Act, 2013 provides that a "director of a company shall act in good faith in the best interests of the company, its employees, the shareholders and for the protection of the environment." The jurisprudence surrounding this provision emphasises that directors ought to consider the long-term interests of the company which mandates the directors to identify and assess the risks emanating from climate change and implement strategies to address them. Conduct that involves sacrificing the long-term interests of the

<sup>8</sup> NLUJ Law Review Journal , The Need of Introducing Mandatory Climate Change Risk Disclosure by Companies in India , Published on Jan 19 , 2022.

<sup>9</sup> Vol. 54 Issue No. 7 , India's Domestic Climate Policy is Fragmented and Lacks Clarity , Updated on Feb 14 , 2019 .

company in favour of short-term profitability would militate against the statute. When it comes to enforcement mechanisms, shareholders have a number of options through which they can bring claims for breach of directors' duties to deal with climate risk including the duty to make adequate disclosures. These avenues include both private and public enforcement measures. Such enforcement measures are likely to be taken only when there are significant shareholder disputes and where the petitioning shareholder has a sufficiently high economic stake as to be able and willing to incur the hefty costs of litigation.

The total inherent financial impact of climate risks on Indian companies in the next five years is estimated to be at Rs 7,138 billion with an average risk per company being Rs 92 billion. It added that the number of firms that pointed out climate-related risks with potential financial impact on corporates rose to 94 percent this year from 88 per cent in 2019. The term "climate policy" to broadly refer to the system of goals, principles and process that currently guide India's domestic response to climate change. On the basis of such an understanding, India's climate policy is located in multiple sources including international treaties, government regulations, policy documents, parliamentary legislations and judicial decisions.

The coronavirus disease wreaked unimaginable havoc across the globe. Its impact on human lives has been calamitous and global economies are still reeling from the effects on corporates, supply chains and financial markets. Due to this one of the biggest healthcare emergency it posed, other priorities took a back seat, including the SDGs. The measures that were necessitated by the need to combat the pandemic had a huge bearing on the SDGs' performance. The pandemic has reinforced the connectivity between health, the environment, and the economy, serving as a wake-up call for government organisations and corporate sector. Before the pandemic, many companies functioned as if they were immune to the machinations of nature. With concepts like Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity Planning, corporates hoped that all possibilities had been taken care of. No EWRM (Enterprise-wide risk management) could have predicted or prepared us for the impact of COVID 19. The responsibility of global well-being is not merely limited to government or civil society but also to the corporate sector.<sup>10</sup>

The 2022 SDG Gender Index, published by Equal Measures 2030<sup>11</sup>, a leading global partnership on accountability for gender equality and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provides a snapshot of where the world stands on the vision of gender equality embedded in the 2030 Agenda. The results of the index are staggering: Insufficient progress has been made on gender equality at the global level between 2015 and 2020. Of the 17 SDGs, Goal 13 (climate action) was one of the three lowest-scoring goals. What's more, even high-performing countries on the index were found to have weaknesses on gender equality under SDG 13.

<sup>10</sup> Sustainability 100, Will the COVID-19 pandemic derail India's SDG achievement?, Jan 2021, <https://www.sustainability100plus.com/msite/abinbev-article-page/will-the-covid-19-pandemic-derail-indias-sdg-achievement-6378641.html>.

<sup>11</sup> Albert Motivans, and Aurélie Acoca, 2022 SDG Gender Index, Back To Normal Is Not Enough, 2022.

The CSR regulation and SDGs development areas share a lot of overlap in their activities that need to be accomplished. While the former sets a broad framework and directions for a sustainable future, the latter sets tangible targets to measure the results of the activities and the progress of the goals. SDGs have a large arena of targets to be achieved. The targets include achieving equality, alleviating poverty and collaborating with different entities for sustainable growth. CSR activities can be interlinked with the SDGs and have been framed while keeping in mind the SDGs. Owing to the mandatory CSR there is an increase in companies choosing investments that help mitigate climate change by reducing carbon emissions, planting more trees in hundreds of acres of land and harvesting rainwater amid other initiatives. According to the 2020 Annual Report by the Carbon Disclosure Project, investor-requested corporate disclosures for climate change grew by 17% compared to 2019.<sup>12</sup> Companies calculated climate change-related risk to be Rs. 7,138 billion. The report found that climate change-related issues are overseen by individuals who are at the top of the corporate ladder and are addressed as issues that affect the bottom line.

Indian companies are making their own climate commitments and leveraging next-generation solutions from hydrogen-based steel manufacturing to developing next-gen carbon capture and energy storage technologies. A rising number of companies have announced net-zero ambitions over the last year. Some of India's biggest companies have declared net-zero targets including Reliance Industries (RIL), Tata Consultancy Services, JSW Energy, HDFC Bank, Wipro, Dalmia Cement and Indian Railways. Cipla and Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone are among the companies that have set a goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2025. In addition, Mahindra & Mahindra, Ultratech Cement, Hindustan Zinc, and Tech Mahindra have introduced a carbon price policy within their companies to minimise emissions.

### **COMPANIES SUPPORTING SDG13 GOAL**

#### **TATA**

India's leading company Tata has an existence in diverse area of corporates and most of them have carbon effluent plants. TATA Motors is broadening various types of electronic automobiles and contributing in a non renewable fuel energy to fulfill its own needs. Tata Chemicals and Steel are contributing towards fuel efficiency, putting in attempt to minimize carbon dioxide effluence and evolving carbon dioxide projects. One of the crucial things that reflected when Tata Chemicals in 2019 decided to put an end to any novel coal based generating station and accomplish aims of 70% of coal based generating station through renewable resources till 2025.

Tata Steel along with low carbon has acquired 5 tonnes everyday low carbon economy at its Jamshedpur plant. The decarbonisation plant is the foremost within the steel industry in the world that extracts carbon

<sup>12</sup> Thomas O'Malley, CDP NON-DISCLOSURE CAMPAIGN: 2020 RESULTS DISCLOSURE INSIGHT ACTION Measuring the impact of investor engagement on corporate environmental disclosure, 2020.

dioxide immediately from the bunsen burner gas. Tata Steel will renew the greenhouse emissions control to encourage the circularity .

## **RELIANCE**

Reliance formed a noteworthy declaration of beginning with a new regeneration company at 44th Annual General conference of the company in 2021 . The new organization aims to put money over \$10 billion over the next 3 years. Mahindra was the foremost Indian corporate to set forth an international standard CO2 price to provide for funds for sustainable assets within themselves to minimize the carbon footprint . The company has taken greenhouse emission goals which have been accepted by emission based goals initiatives . A few initiatives that the corporates have funded in to combat climate related crisis are technology-based tools, electric automobile charging systems and waste management system . The Reliance Industry declared in 2020 its goal to become biodegradable by 2035. It projects to enhance its ability in changing its greenhouse emissions into recyclable products and dealing with storage technologies and carbon capture in the upcoming 15 years .

## **HDFC Bank**

One of the India's biggest bank , HDFC has pledged on becoming green energy by 2031 to 2032. Headquartered at Mumbai , the bank is trying to make carbon reduction radiations by bringing out versatility in energy and consumption of water . HDFC Bank will cover up the usage of sustainable energy e.g. solar panels and big workplaces. It will provide advance for commodities like all electric automobile and renewable energy sources at minimum interest of rates along with projects for publishing sustainable bonds.

## **Indian Railways**

Indian Railways have pledged to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. They aim to influence the solar power energy for trying to meet all its energy demand obligations by the end of 2030. Currently thousands of Indian railway stations have been solarized and in addition an idea is there to utilize its unoccupied land to add further solar plants.

' Capri Global Capital Hurun India Impact 50' of 2021 came from 13 cities across India. It pointed stakeholders of corporations on how to adhere to 17 UN SDGs.<sup>13</sup> Accordingly only 14 of 50 top corporates have announced their accomplishments under all the seventeen SDG's followed by the international mechanism to handle the consequences of environmental crisis. The stories of these corporations tell the story of sustainable development in modern India. The record illustrated that India Inc. group is diligently following constructural updates to calculate in an organised manner and report sustainable developmental goals. It is adhered that this will motivate newer corporates to further line up with their corporate operations with UN Sustainable Development Goals.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>13</sup> CSR Mandate , 2021 Capri Global Capital Hurun India Impact 50: In Search of India's Most Sustainable Privately Held Companies , Updated on Apr 20, 2022 .

<sup>14</sup> Business Insider India, 36 out of 50 India's top companies fail to report their achievements under all 17 Sustainable Development Goals , Updated on Apr 19, 2022.

In current times most of the work on climate change in India has centred around big , utility-scale renewable energy project financing. In future we require a deep and renewable decarbonisation of the economy at all levels - retail and manufacturing , food production and consumption and construction . We need new creative solutions that transform the way stakeholders engage with the real world. Climate technology based start-ups deploying low-carbon and economical technologies reflects a paved pathway to accomplish the shift to net-zero greenhouse gas reduction emissions .

The Constitution of India and the notion of Sustainable economic growth is protected by the role of Indian judiciary in terms of safeguarding the Indian constitution to provide a technique by distinctive provisions for protection of environment . Indian constitution has special provisions for safety of development of renewable growth in India. By 42<sup>nd</sup> amendment which was related to environment protection were engraved in Article 21 Article 48-A, Article 51A(g) , Article 141 ,Article 142 , Article 246 and Article 253 for overall strengthening in numerous environmental protection laws as a base playing a crucial part in it.

## **LANDMARK JUDGEMENTS SUPPORTING ENVIRONMENT SUSTAINABILITY**

### **The Goa Foundation vs M/S Sesa Sterlite Ltd. And Ors<sup>15</sup>**

The Supreme bench decided a number of reconsideration applications applied by the administration of Goa on July 9 and by Vedanta opposed to its judicial decision on February 7, 2018 revoking the allotment of secondary addition for 88 extraction leases in Goa and allowing new leases and environment clearance .

**Foremost since leases of mining were given out by the Portugals , coalfield in Goa was put to a sudden termination ceasing years of pointless extrication which irreparable destroyed the natural surrounding , disrupted the calmness of village community and poor state of the public .**

In the case law **Society for Protection of Environment & Biodiversity v. Union of India & Ors** <sup>16</sup>, an administration notice immuned the construction industries from an environmental administrative compliance procedure was contested . The National Green Tribunal annulled the applicable paras of the notice on the foundation that the exception was in detraction of India’s responsibility under “principle 15 to 17 of the Rio Declaration along with clauses of the Paris Agreement, 2015 particularly in the face of precautionary approach.”

**Samatha v State of Andhra Pradesh<sup>17</sup>** The case law concerns with the tribal land renting of industrial and mining ambition. The Andhra Pradesh state allowed non native people to excavate tribal lands for leases. Samatha portrays the entitlement of influencing tribal people , registered an application in the Andhra Pradesh High Court disputing that the allowing of renting of tribal areas to non-tribal people for excavating activities contravened the Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Areas Land Transfer Regulation and Forest Conservation Act . The Supreme Court of India decided that the government and tribal areas in the scheduled areas cannot be given to non-tribal people or corporate enterprise for extracting grounds . It further stated that “ it is the duty to

<sup>15</sup> [Special Leave to Appeal (Civil) No. 32138 of 2015]

<sup>16</sup> Original Application Number – 677 of 2016 ( M.A. No. 148 / 2017 ) .

<sup>17</sup> AIR 1997 SC 3297, JT 1997 (6) SC 449, 1997 (4) SCALE 746

ensure that the industry or enterprise do not denude the forest to become menace to human existence nor a source to destroy flora and fauna and biodiversity” . This judgment gave a serious blow to the commercial mining industry.

**The Indian Environ-Legal Action v Union of India<sup>18</sup>** In the matter a writ was pleaded beneath Article 32 on the part of native habitants claiming that harmful substances were discharged by corporates and it infringed the right for living of the native habitants . The Supreme Court discovered that sludges were discharged by the corporates were poisonous in environment and it made the riveras and oceans not suitable for human drinking . The SC decided that in this matter that if Corporates blatantly breached the right to life of citizens then the Court had the fundamental right under Article 32 of the Constitution of India to safeguard the right for living and privilege of the citizens of India .

**Bombay Dyeing and Manufacturing Co. Ltd vs. Bombay Environmental Action Group<sup>19</sup>**, The SC analysed noteworthy threats to ecology such as climate related crisis the requirement to safeguard the ecology has become very important and simultaneously it is also important to encourage advancement as it has become extremely important and domestic issue of environment legislative framework and judgement of the same .

**Indian Council For Environmental Legal Action vs Ministry of Forests and Environment & ORS<sup>20</sup>**

Indian Council For Environmental Legal Action , an environment non government organisation , filed an a petition in 2014 opposed to the Ministry of Environment and climate changing issue and the corporates that were manufacturing HCFC- 2 to stop discharging HFC-23. The discharge of this outgrowth had 14,800 times more climate crisis effect along with the carbon dioxide leading to global warming . The enormous release of carbon emissions may trigger a weather bomb and gravely affecting the environment. The applicant highlighted on constitutional mandates like Articles 48A i.e.duty of the state to safeguard and improve the ecology , 51A(g) i.e. fundamental obligation of every citizen to safeguard and improve the ecology and Section 3 of the Environment Protection Act 1986 which gave control to Central Government to take such measures as deemed important for the objective of safeguarding and upgrading quality of the ecosystem and countering and being in charge of environmental pollution.

In this case National Green Tribunals’ judgment and SC’s decision confirming the validity of sustainable buying obligations reflect court’s readiness to point out climate crisis through the mechanical way . By confessing HFC-23 as an ecological contaminator under subclause b of section 2 of the Environment Protection Act , 1986 the National Green Tribunals has anticipated the course of action for adding further environmental pollutants which includes CO<sub>2</sub> under the extent of the Environment Protection Act and also by acknowledging that the climatic variations is so far coated in the procedure of Environment consequences effect under the Environment Protection Act , 1986 .

<sup>18</sup> 1996 AIR 1446, 1996 SCC (3) 212

<sup>19</sup> Appeal (civil) 1519 of 2006

<sup>20</sup> 1996 AIR 1446

## CONCLUSION

The Indian judicial system heading towards revolution is slowly pointing out climate-related matters despite the absence of substantial domestic climate changing legal system. The descriptive matters classify as environment responsibility and ecological consciousness a renewable changing approach.<sup>21</sup> The court deciding on climate consciousness and grow a story by changing climate threats into real vulnerability in line with renewable energy and Sustainable developmental goals . The Indian judicial framework asserts that the process is as important as the outcome in the goal of climate accountability. Further responsible and crystal clear deciding factor in ecological matters is a changing accelerating ladder .

The role of judiciary in climatic future is crucial in exploring the sight of low carbon economy that helps an additional move towards a renewable time ahead. The legal philanthropy together actual and possibility to the climate vulnerability put forward legality , renewable progression and support for the Sustainable development goals . India should hold corporates responsible for lack of accountability of climate-related issues and legitimate framework to supervise the requirements to be instituted. As corporates turning towards obligatory climate accountability , India needs to take a stand and introduce elaborative changes under the Companies Act , 2013 . The changes should encourage the corporates to take up accountability as a part of corporate social responsibility and responsibility in respect to environment and economic sustainability as a whole .

Earlier the duty of companies in mitigating climate change was enclosed as voluntary and social duty . The perspective of corporate governance has pushed corporates to look seriously into the matters pertaining to the environment. Today Climate change is not only pursued by corporations voluntarily rather it is a monetary risk that companies face , thereby levying taxes on the directors to understand and point it out . Today Corporates can disregard the significance of climatic vulnerability only at the risk of bad reputation in the corporate world and legal consequences.

The topic of corporate responsibility and renewable accountability has become backbone of Indian securities market . It demands corporates to show accountability on how their industries are being managed “in a manner that is sustainable and safe” and the number of attempts they are spending “to protect and restore the environment.” The growth brings about a noticeable addition in the consciousness regarding renewable energy issues along with the incidence of renewable energy accountability by corporates in future. The existing accountability procedure hints that within the system of sustainable accountability there is a major area of focus on environmental challenges.<sup>22</sup>

Accountability responsibilities on company boards are significant because they obligate directors to give priority to climate related issues as a monetary risk and as a matter of corporate responsibility and accountability . The

<sup>21</sup> Gitanjali N. Gill , Gopichandran Ramachandran , Sustainability transformations, environmental rule of law and the Indian judiciary: Connecting the dots through climate change litigation , Updated on Nov, 10, 2021  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/14614529211031203> ,

<sup>22</sup> SEBI , Business responsibility and sustainability reporting by listed entities , Published on May 2021 .

assumption is that it will require directors to understand and point out climate vulnerability while acting in the long-term interest of the company. In that matter, accountability and transparency requirements will have a tremendous result in modifying corporate nature in the issue of climate variation .

Today we cannot ignore the matters dealing with ecological management and for attaining sustainable development goals. Most of the Indian corporates are taking climate related issues severely and it is high time to obligate the same. It will make sure that the countries' pledge to achieve the Paris Accord agreement and ecological preservation issues can finally be accomplished .

## **SUGGESTIVE MEASURES**

1. In current times the accountability of climate change crisis have become very important. The Companies Act 2013 principally takes after corporate governance all around the country. There is a need of climate crisis accountability for the companies in the Company's Act 2013.
2. India requires hold corporates accountable for non accountability of climate crisis risks and legitimate framework needs to be introduced.
3. The process of discretionary disclosures by the corporates in India has been unsuccessful to hold up with the global progress . As further countries are moving towards obligatory climate accountability , India needs to take responsibility in elaborating changes under the Companies Act. These changes should encourage the corporates to take up risk accountability as a part of corporate social responsibility and a responsibility towards the environment and economic sustainability .
4. Transparency and accountability will help in making a changed corporate behaviour in the topic of climate change. Accountability obligations on corporate organisations are extremely important because they impel directors to give importance towards climate-related issues as a financial risk and as a fact of corporate accountability and regeneration. It is expected that it will need to accept and point out climate crisis while working for the long-run interests of the corporate organisation.
5. Government policies are a powerful mechanisms that can switch the needle towards a carbon free future. Corporates mostly try to avoid politicizing their industries but when it comes to climate crisis it's necessary that corporates support strategies and politicians actively working to reduce carbon based radiation . Corporates must use their power to motivate bureaucrats to support progressive climate change policies .
6. India still lacks environmental compensation and other laws dealing with particular aspects of the environment. Effective regulatory organizations, transparency , appropriate compliance procedure in developing laws and strict implementation of such laws are the crucial present needs .

7. India needs to make sure that it has achieved at least few of its goals by 2030 in order to achieve its Paris commitment,. These includes growing its collective electricity generation installed capacity from non renewable energy sources to 40 % , lowering radiations depth of its GDP by 33 to 35 per cent

In comparison to 2005 position . It must also create a supplementary carbon sequestration of two and half to three billion tonnes through an extra forest cap .

8. Environmental integrity clearances must be given out justly and only to those that are of utmost importance in the national framework. No negotiations should be made while articulating the impact on the environment.

Corporates have to take stringent action to deal with climate crisis for corporates , humane and global advantages . Corporates takes a standby estimating radiations , making a global climate change agenda , net zero carbon reduction mark , quantifying progression and aiding those policies that are beneficial for climate change mitigation. If stringent actions are not taken then it would be to disregard the realities of the effect of climate emergency and that would only hurt companies and our future in the long run.

India's promise to recyclable targets which requires more corporates to step ahead and set climatic efficiency aims supported by acceptable accountability for transparentness and accountability. Corporate sector is an important part of climate shift achievements and require to create as and diligent collaborators here . Though Indian companies have progressed but at a low speed and thus the marks are at opportunity of being too determined and not accomplishing in the required time. The result of climate related issues will be regarded in the form of increasing prices of things , less resources and unpredictable climate issues that cause loss of life and millions worth of damage globally. Indian corporates need to move fast with the speed and grasp from the leading top companies which are making their label in revamping the climatic and economical prospect. Indian corporates must embrace environmental friendly strategies and worldwide climate related marks their living in future .<sup>23</sup>

<sup>23</sup> CDP India Disclosure Report 2021 , DISCLOSURE: IMPERATIVE FOR A SUSTAINABLE INDIA , Mar , 2022.