



12 April, 2024

Corporate Climate Responsibility Monitor (CCRM) 2024

Context: The CCRM 2024 report by New Climate Institute evaluated climate goals of 51 major global companies.

Climate Targets Assessment:

- The Corporate Climate Responsibility Monitor (CCRM) 2024 evaluated climate targets set by 51 major companies.
- These companies collectively generated \$6.1 trillion in revenue in 2022.
- They self-reported greenhouse gas emissions of 8.8 gigatonnes of CO2 equivalent in 2022.
- This amount roughly equals the combined annual emissions of India, Russia, and Brazil.
- Their emissions represent approximately 16% of global greenhouse gas emissions in 2022.

Emissions Reduction Progress:

- The collective emissions reduction target for 2030 is only 30% compared to 2019 levels.
- Only 7 companies have targets to reduce emissions by more than 50% by 2030.
- Some companies, such as Walmart and Volkswagen, lack updated or clear emission reduction plans.
- Conversely, companies like Danone, Iberdrola, Mars, and Volvo Group have relatively robust emission reduction plans.

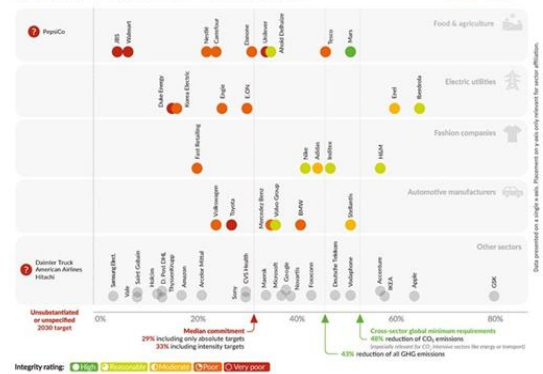
Loopholes and Accountability:

- Companies may rely on contentious solutions and carbon offsets to meet their targets.
- The proposed Voluntary Carbon Market Initiative and Science Based Targets initiative may provide loopholes for companies to bypass Scope 3 emissions accountability.
- Testing flexible offsetting showed that it could erase accountability for Scope 3 emissions.

Overreliance on Voluntary Reporting:

- Climate targets set by companies are voluntary and assessed by validation frameworks.
- Examples of validation bodies include SBTi, Transition Pathways Initiative, and MSCI Net Zero Tracker.
- While voluntary reporting encourages target setting, it lacks accountability mechanisms.
- A more stringent accountability system is needed for true emissions reduction from private corporations.

The median commitment to emission reductions between 2019 and 2030 is 30-33%. This chart shows the proportion of full value chain GHG emissions that companies commit to reduce between 2019 and 2030. Data includes 51 companies. 4 companies without clear commitments for 2030 are not included.



Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDTL) rules

Context: DGCA has contacted Indian airlines about implementing new Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDTL) rules, which address pilot stress and fatigue.

Background and Deferment of New FDTL Rules:

- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) deferred the implementation of new Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDTL) rules from June 1.
- This decision followed instructions from the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) on March 22.
- The new implementation date remains unspecified, allowing airlines to continue following existing rules until their own schemes are approved.

Concerns and Opposition from Airlines:

- Airlines resisted the new rules due to concerns about requiring 20-25% more pilots and potential capacity cuts of 15-20%.
- The Federation of Indian Airlines (FIA) sought a one-year postponement of the new rules, notified in January, through a letter to the DGCA in February.

Pilot Dissatisfaction and Legal Proceedings:

- Pilots and their associations expressed dissatisfaction with the deferment and lack of a fresh compliance deadline.
- The Delhi High Court directed the DGCA to indicate a tentative implementation date in the next hearing scheduled for May 8.

Importance of FDTL Rules and Pilot Concerns:

- Flight crew fatigue and stress can lead to human errors and jeopardize safety.
- Pilots have voiced concerns about fatigue due to extended flying hours, erratic rostering, and high crew utilization levels, exacerbated by rapid network expansion efforts by airlines.

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➤ Overview of New FDTL Rules:

- The new rules increase mandatory weekly rest periods for pilots from 36 to 48 hours.
- They also reduce night flying by extending the definition of "night" and limiting the number of night landings per crew.
- Compliance requires airlines to hire and train more pilots or scale back operations, impacting their business and operations.

➤ Current FDTL Regulations in India:

- Current FDTL rules, issued by the DGCA in 2019, include maximum flight duty periods, mandatory rest periods, and guidelines for scheduling night operations.
- These regulations are based on International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards and practices of the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA).

➤ Responsibilities and Accountability:

- The regulations prohibit flight crew from operating flights beyond prescribed limitations or if fatigued.
- Airlines are responsible for maintaining fatigue management systems, providing training, and addressing fatigue-related incidents.
- Pilots are accountable for refusing assignments that exceed limitations or if fatigued.

CDP-SURAKSHA

Context: The government introduced CDP-SURAKSHA, a platform for disbursing subsidies to horticulture farmers under the Cluster Development Programme (CDP).

➤ Introduction of CDP-SURAKSHA:

- The government introduced CDP-SURAKSHA to disburse subsidies to horticulture farmers under the Cluster Development Programme (CDP).

- The platform aims to boost India's horticulture sector, which contributes nearly one-third to the agriculture gross value addition (GVA).
- CDP-SURAKSHA is a digital platform acronym for "System for Unified Resource Allocation, Knowledge, and Secure Horticulture Assistance."
- It enables instant subsidy disbursal to farmers' bank accounts using e-RUPI vouchers from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- Features include database integration with PM-KISAN, UIDAI validation, e-RUPI integration, and geo-tagging.

➤ Functionality of CDP-SURAKSHA:

- Farmers, vendors, implementing agencies (IA), and cluster development agencies (CDA) have access to the platform.
- Farmers can order planting material based on their requirements and contribute their share of the cost.
- Upon payment, an e-RUPI voucher is generated, which the vendor receives for supplying the material.
- Farmers verify delivery, after which the IA releases payment to the vendor.

➤ Difference from Previous System:

- Unlike the old system where farmers bought materials and then sought subsidy release, CDP-SURAKSHA provides subsidies upfront.
- Vendors receive payment only after farmers verify delivery.

➤ Cluster Development Program (CDP):

- CDP is a component of the central sector scheme of the National Horticulture Board (NHB).
- It aims to develop horticulture clusters, promoting integrated and market-led development activities.
- 55 horticulture clusters have been identified, with 12 selected for the pilot phase and others in various stages of development.
- The initiative covers approximately 9 lakh hectares and 10 lakh farmers, attracting private investment estimated at Rs 8,250 crore.

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NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

Garudan Thookkam



Recently, the devotees take part in 'Garudan Thookkam' at the Sarkara Devi Temple in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

About Garudan Thookkam:

- Garudan Thookkam, also known as Garudan Parava, is a **ritual art form** that takes place in some Kali temples in Kerala, India.
- The art form is **known for its vibrant costumes, headgear, and makeup**, which transform ordinary people into majestic performers.
- The performers wear **costumes that mimic Garuda**, an eagle and dance to percussions.
- The dancers then have hooks pierced into their backs and carried around the temple for the deity's blessing.
- The ritual includes **18 rhythmic patterns**, and the performers are carried in procession on bullock carts, boats or hand-pulled carts.
- The practice is popular in the Bhadrakali temples of Kottayam, Alappuzha, Ernakulam and Idukki districts.

EA-Earth Action



Recently, EA Earth Action published a report projecting that approximately 220 million tonnes of plastic waste will be generated worldwide in 2024.

About EA-Earth Action:

- EA-Earth Action is a **Swiss-based research consultancy** that provides solutions and initiatives to address the plastic pollution crisis.
- It annually **publishes the Plastic Overshoot Day Report**, which provides crucial insights into the global plastic pollution crisis.
- The organization employs data-driven methodologies to assess plastic consumption patterns, waste management capacities and environmental impacts.
- It categorizes countries **based on the Mismatched Waste Index (MWI)**, which measures the imbalance between plastic production and waste management capacity.
- According to EA, **India ranks fourth in MWI, with 98.55%** of generated waste being mismanaged.
- India is among the **12 countries**, along with **China, Brazil, Indonesia, Thailand, Russia, Mexico, the United States, Saudia Arabia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iran and Kazakhstan**, which are responsible for 52 per cent of the world's mismanaged plastic waste.

Angara-A5



Recently, Russia achieved a significant milestone with the test launch of Angara-A5, its first post-Soviet space rocket, from the Vostochny Cosmodrome in the far eastern Amur region.

About Angara-A5


- Angara-A5 is a significant space **rocket developed by Russia to replace the Proton M** as its heavy-lift launch vehicle.
- It is a **three-stage rocket** with a weight of approximately 773 tonnes and **can carry payloads of up to 24.5 tonnes into space**.
- It is designed to be **more environmentally friendly, utilizing less damaging fuels and Russian-made components**.
- The Angara project is of utmost national importance for Russia as it ensures independent access to space without relying on foreign launch sites like **Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan**.

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<p>Ural Mountains</p> 	<p>Recently, severe flooding in the Ural mountains on the continental borders of Asia and Europe has led to questions about its connection to climate change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ural Mountains serve as a natural boundary between Europe and Asia, extending from the Arctic Ocean to the Ural River and into Kazakhstan. They are considered one of the world's oldest mountain ranges, with significant geological and cultural importance. They are known for their rich mineral deposits, including gold, platinum and coal. They have been a major mineral base for Russia since the 18th century. The region is one of the largest centers of metallurgy and heavy industry production in Russia. These Mountains are divided into five parts: Southern, Middle, Northern, Pre-Polar (the highest) and Polar. The average altitudes of the Urals are around 1,000–1,300 meters (3,300–4,300 ft), with the highest point being Mount Narodnaya which reaches a height of 1,894 meters (6,214 ft). The Ural is the third-largest river in Europe after the Volga and the Danube. The Tobol is a tributary of the Irtysh, which in turn flows into the Ob. The Ob-Irtysh river system is the seventh-longest in the world.
<p>Place in News</p> <p>Zimbabwe</p>	<p>Recently, the African Academy of Sciences (AAS) reported that a scientist in Zimbabwe has developed a method to produce methanol and other energy materials using carbon dioxide obtained from industrial activities.</p> <p>Zimbabwe (Capital: Harare)</p> <p>Location: Zimbabwe, a landlocked country is located in southern Africa.</p> <p>Political Boundaries: Zimbabwe shares its borders with Mozambique (East), Botswana (West and Southwest), Zambia (North) and South Africa (South).</p> <p>Physical Features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victoria Falls, one of the world's largest waterfalls on the Zambezi River, located on the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe has experienced two major post-Gondwana erosion cycles (known as African and post-African). Subtropical type of climate is found in Zimbabwe. 

POINTS TO PONDER

- Which countries are identified as the top five contributors to global mismanaged plastic waste according to the Plastic Overshoot Day report from EA Earth Action? – **China, USA, India, Brazil, and Mexico**
- Which river ranks as the third-largest in Europe, following the Volga and the Danube? – **Ural**
- What position did IIT Bombay secure recently in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings by Subject for 2024 in the field of Engineering and Technology? – **45th with an overall score of 79.1 out of 100**
- Which article of the Indian Constitution broadly supports the concept of a curative petition? – **Article 137**
- Which hospital in India recently achieved the milestone of conducting successful piezoelectric Bone Conduction Hearing Implants (BCI)? – **Command Hospital, Pune**

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