

Transcript | Climate Insights: India

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00:00:09.490 --> 00:00:15.010

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: Hello, everyone, and welcome to this event on climate insights from India.

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00:00:15.170 --> 00:00:25.290

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: Today we will be taking a deep dive into India's approaches in the realm of climate change, mitigation, adaptation, environmental policy, and net. 0.

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00:00:25.870 --> 00:00:31.439

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: My name is Pooja warrior Hamilton, and I am the chief partnerships officer here at Apolitical.

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00:00:31.670 --> 00:00:45.860

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: It'd be great to hear from all of you. So please let us know who you are, your name where you're joining us from today, and your role by posting in the chat. So please go ahead and introduce yourselves in the chat. I'll give everyone 30 seconds to do that.

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00:01:00.910 --> 00:01:17.880

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: Wonderful as people are introducing themselves. Welcome Samantha from South Africa. Agricultural Advisor, Denise from Nigeria. We are hoping to have a really global audience today, and I'm really looking forward to an engaging discussion. Welcome, Rachel, from the Uk.

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00:01:17.880 --> 00:01:36.410

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: I'll keep introducing yourselves in the chat, and I'll try and read out a few more names for those of you who may be joining us for the 1st time. Welcome. Apolitical is the world's largest community for government, used by over a quarter of a million public servants and policymakers from more than 170 countries.

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00:01:36.570 --> 00:01:48.340

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: Our mission is to build 21st century governments that work for people and the planet. And we do this by putting the best knowledge and skills at the fingertips of public servants around the world

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00:01:49.220 --> 00:02:00.240

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: before we jump into today's session. I'd like to invite all of you to join our net 0 community for government and engage with your peers across the global public service.

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00:02:00.460 --> 00:02:19.600

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: This community is a dedicated space for public servants working on or interested in reaching net 0. It's a really collaborative environment and space to share successes, seek advice on overcoming obstacles, or simply just find solidarity in your efforts in working on net 0 in government.

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00:02:19.780 --> 00:02:25.689

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: you should be able to find the link in the resources tab of this webinar at the bottom of your screen.

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00:02:26.500 --> 00:02:47.969

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: I'll get a few technical notes out of the way before we get into today's conversation. This event is recorded for on demand, viewing on the Apolitical website. Please don't record it yourself. Contact details for privacy concerns are in our homepage footer and closed captions are available, and they can be toggled on or off in your screen settings

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00:02:49.210 --> 00:03:05.230

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: before we introduce our speakers. We're going to run a few quick polls to get a sense of what you are hoping to get out of the discussion today. So the 1st poll is, how familiar are you with India's climate approach, or policies

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00:03:05.460 --> 00:03:09.710

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: very familiar, somewhat familiar and not familiar.

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00:03:10.310 --> 00:03:15.660

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: So go ahead. I'll give everyone 30 seconds to put their whole answers in.

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00:03:22.130 --> 00:03:28.950

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: It's fun to see the poll marks moving as people put in their answers.

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00:03:30.510 --> 00:03:44.649

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: All right. I think we can end the poll now, so we can see somewhat familiar. But a lot of the audience is not familiar. So speakers do take note of that when you're responding to this audience.

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00:03:44.700 --> 00:04:13.869

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: The second poll is what interests you most about India's climate activity. This is a single choice answer. So what interests you most about India's climate activity, renewable energy strategies, policy, innovation, global collaboration opportunities, climate resilience approaches green development. And if none of these, and if you have another answer, then do go ahead and share in the chat again. I'll give everyone 30 seconds to do their answers.

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00:04:29.650 --> 00:04:53.229

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: Okay, we can see an interesting trend emerging here. So there's climate resilience approaches about half of the audience, roughly followed closely by green development and global collaboration opportunities and policy innovation interesting. Thank you for engaging in the poll. Please do keep engaging with the conversation as we go ahead.

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00:04:53.230 --> 00:05:11.599

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: One more final question, and this is referring to governments globally. So you should be able to answer this from your government's perspectives. What do you think is the biggest blocker to government climate action today. What do you think is the biggest blocker to government climate action today? Cost and budget constraints.

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00:05:11.600 --> 00:05:18.450

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: political will and priorities, public support and behavioral changes, implementation and technical challenges

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00:05:18.580 --> 00:05:22.779

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: or anything else. And if you have, if you think there's another reason, please do put it in the chat.

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00:05:23.060 --> 00:05:24.420

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: Give you 30 seconds

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00:05:30.570 --> 00:05:34.689

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: there seems to be a clear winner emerging. But let's see if it changes.

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00:05:43.710 --> 00:05:51.770

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: Okay. I don't think anybody in the room will disagree with the top answer. It's the political will and priorities

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00:05:51.780 --> 00:05:59.970

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: followed closely by cost and budget and public support and behavioral changes. Interestingly, implementation and technical challenges.

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00:05:59.970 --> 00:06:20.030

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: While with this audience, it's actually gone lower. But in a lot of apoliticals work that does come as one of the top answers in terms of actually being able to implement policy to real programs and real services and sort of the last mile challenge, especially in certain countries so interesting that it's come lowest in this particular audience

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00:06:20.030 --> 00:06:36.869

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: brilliant. Thank you so much for engaging with that. I'm excited about the discussions. It seems like we'll have an interesting conversation. It's time for you to meet our speakers. Now we are really privileged to have brilliant and experienced guests here. Karthik, Ganeshin, and Shlokanath

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00:06:36.890 --> 00:06:53.519

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: Karthik is the Director of Strategic Partnerships at India's Council on energy, Environment and Water. He's a seasoned researcher, specializing in energy and environmental issues with a particular focus on India's electricity system. And something, I think, will come into our conversation today.

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00:06:54.100 --> 00:07:22.860

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: Shloka Shlokanath is the CEO of the India climate collaborative, a nonprofit focused on mobilizing philanthropic capital to accelerate climate action in India. Prior to this she led the sustainability and policy advocacy portfolios at the Tata Trust, which I'm sure, as some of you might know, it's 1 of India's leading philanthropic foundations. You can read their

full bios by visiting the resources tab at the bottom of your zoom screen and heading to the Speakers section.

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00:07:23.630 --> 00:07:38.009

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: So I'm going to start with an icebreaker just to have things easy to slip into. Now, Shloka and Karthik, I know the focus today is to learn from what's happening in India. But if we zoom out for a second, is there another country whose climate efforts

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00:07:38.180 --> 00:08:04.119

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: both of you find particularly inspiring? And why, I'll give you a few seconds to think. As always, we're interested in what the audience you think as well. So while I have Karthik and Shloka respond, please do respond to the chat. My colleagues is posting a link to a thread in our net 0 community. So please go ahead and share if there's a particular country you find inspiring Shloka over to you first.st

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00:08:04.860 --> 00:08:28.310

Shloka Nath: I knew you'd come to me first.st it's a great question. Look, while I think India has a lot to offer in terms of climate leadership. I think there's also so much that we can learn from other countries in the global South, particularly Brazil, Indonesia. There are so many more that lcc that we at the lcc already engage with and

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00:08:28.734 --> 00:08:48.680

Shloka Nath: for me these nations are tackling very similar challenges in terms of balancing both development. With sustainability. And so their approaches to issues. Whether it's forest conservation, community driven climate solutions, you know, policy, innovation, etc. They all offer very valuable insights for India.

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00:08:49.170 --> 00:09:15.839

Shloka Nath: And more broadly, I do believe that knowledge sharing and collaboration across the global South are essential. We're in a moment where very traditional power set centers are shifting, and the more that we can foster exchange and collective problem solving the stronger. Of course our climate response will be I often say this, but I really believe it. Climate change doesn't recognize borders. So neither should our solutions.

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00:09:16.209 --> 00:09:22.079

Shloka Nath: And on that note, Hi, everyone thanks so much for having me here. And Hi, Pooja! It's great to be here.

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00:09:22.770 --> 00:09:40.010

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: Thank you, Shloka. We are so lucky to be working with Brazil as well as Indonesia, and you're so right in terms of there's a huge appetite for South to South learning and collaboration from at least all the partners that we work with in those areas. Karthik, over to you.

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00:09:41.265 --> 00:09:50.899

Karthik Ganesan: Hi, pooja! Thank you so much for posing that interesting question. I mean, I really wanted to say United States to be, but I guess the irony will fall on all of us. But

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00:09:51.170 --> 00:10:10.469

Karthik Ganesan: I mean closer to home. I would say, you know, I really look up to Bhutan as a country. To me it's a microcosm, of course, you know, when looking at the scale of things in India or Indonesia, but they seem to have stuck to their guns in terms of what their priorities are for their society as a whole.

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00:10:10.710 --> 00:10:39.509

Karthik Ganesan: You know whether it's the foods they eat, whether it's you know how they clothe themselves, how they live on a daily basis. And you know, and the care that they give to the environment that nourishes them. I think it's phenomenal. There's a lot for us to learn. Yes, it will always be brushed off as yes, it's you know. It's so small, you know. How do you replicate that? But that's really the task, right? I think, in all of the communities that we live in, we can very much imbibe the spirit of what I think a Bhutan does

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00:10:39.690 --> 00:10:45.470

Karthik Ganesan: closer to home. I would say things that I see in communities in. For instance, the state of Kerala

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00:10:46.680 --> 00:10:49.339

Karthik Ganesan: give some hope that maybe there are.

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00:10:49.660 --> 00:10:52.549

Karthik Ganesan: you know, similar sort of shoots of.

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00:10:52.670 --> 00:10:57.280

Karthik Ganesan: I think, positivity in terms of climate action within India, as well.

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00:10:58.500 --> 00:11:04.841

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: I did not expect Canada to come up. That's my home state, so I should, I think, look more into that example.

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00:11:05.170 --> 00:11:30.559

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: I'm sure a lot of people in the audience are keen to hear about both of your personal stories as well. So if you can take a minute just to also. And this is a question to both of you. What inspired you to take on this work? Was there a particular moment, or, you know, usually sort of some information that struck that kickstarted the things for you. Perhaps, Karthik, this time, if you can kick off, and then I'll come to Shooka.

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00:11:30.840 --> 00:11:39.419

Karthik Ganesan: Yeah. You know, I think I think there are 2 separate instances. In fact, one is very closely tied to what we've been observing in recent days and weeks.

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00:11:39.540 --> 00:11:49.600

Karthik Ganesan: which is this repatriation of illegal immigrants. You know I had a personal run in with one such situation when I was myself working overseas, and I saw

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00:11:49.860 --> 00:11:55.880

Karthik Ganesan: one such, you know, sort of person trying to emigrate out of the country stopped at the Borders, you know, and it made me think

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00:11:56.010 --> 00:12:00.979

Karthik Ganesan: of what was actually driving this person to leave this country to be.

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00:12:01.160 --> 00:12:12.770

Karthik Ganesan: you know, in a place which is very uncertain in terms of what it has to offer, and the more I thought of it, you know. I realized that it really has to do a lot with the quality of life that is on offer for people

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00:12:12.980 --> 00:12:22.909

Karthik Ganesan: in rural India. Right? Given that a lot of migrations, of course, happening out of distress from people who originate there, and that in turn links with

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00:12:23.630 --> 00:12:33.520

Karthik Ganesan: the opportunities which then links with you know what actually feeds that system, right? Whether it's the energy, whether it's the services that are on offer. And clearly it's not there.

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00:12:33.640 --> 00:12:37.619

Karthik Ganesan: And I, you know, and look, and the and while we're all very proud of the fact that

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00:12:37.880 --> 00:12:38.660

Karthik Ganesan: you know.

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00:12:39.520 --> 00:12:53.109

Karthik Ganesan: our immigrants basically are contributing to billions of dollars worth of remittances every year, which is a significant portion of our Gdp as a country. To me. It also tells that India has a long way to go.

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00:12:53.420 --> 00:13:08.490

Karthik Ganesan: and really wanting to work in improving the way we, you know, provide services that are under, driven by energy, I think, is one of the things that nudged me to, I think, look in the direction of energy policy. When I was looking at a change in careers from what I was doing before this. Yeah.

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00:13:09.570 --> 00:13:22.679

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: Thank you, Karthik, and I think we'll come back to the topic of energy in a bit. But, Shluka, I've been lucky enough to witness your journey over a decade now, or more probably, but keen to hear what was the shift?

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00:13:22.820 --> 00:13:24.520

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: What was the shift moment for you.

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00:13:25.698 --> 00:13:47.329

Shloka Nath: You know, very left field definitely. So my journey really began in childhood. I think it was a very deep connection to nature, and my father had really instilled that in both my brother and me a very deep appreciation for the natural world. You know, we grew up going to sort of the the forests of India to the jungles here.

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00:13:47.370 --> 00:14:06.769

Shloka Nath: and I think you know a very deep appreciation to not just admire nature, but to respect it, and that there was a very delicate relationship between land people. Wildlife, and I think that very early exposure sparked a lifelong passion in me for conservation. But over time I think it evolved into something much bigger.

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00:14:06.810 --> 00:14:20.399

Shloka Nath: that really, a recognition that climate action is not just about protecting what we love. It's about rethinking how we live, how we grow, how we build a future that is both sustainable as well as just

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00:14:20.959 --> 00:14:27.929

Shloka Nath: and I think this last decade was a huge shift for me in realizing that the spaces

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00:14:28.673 --> 00:14:49.390

Shloka Nath: places, communities that we care about are are really shrinking. And and there's this huge crisis at hand, and that perspective ultimately led me to the Tara Trusts. I had the opportunity, as you mentioned, to lead the sustainability and and policy and advocacy portfolios. There. I think that experience continues to shape my work today.

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00:14:49.749 --> 00:15:12.020

Shloka Nath: You know, I keep again. I keep saying this, but I really sort of came face to face with it. In our work at the Tara Trust, and of course, at the Icc. That climate action isn't just about safeguarding the planet. It's really about also transforming our systems, our economies, the way we collaborate and how we create lasting change.

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00:15:12.090 --> 00:15:26.275

Shloka Nath: And at the trust I really saw firsthand how climate change was no longer a purely sort of environmental issue, which is how it was framed in India for decades. It was really affecting everything we cared deeply about.

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00:15:26.790 --> 00:15:53.289

Shloka Nath: as well as you know, the ecosystems we depend on. And so it was increasingly clear that climate change posed a fundamental risk to the development sector that it was going to threaten very hard won progress on issues like gender equality, equality or poverty, reduction

livelihoods, and the data, of course, has made it impossible to ignore. So we know today that 3 out of 4 districts in India are very vulnerable to floods, droughts, or cyclones.

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00:15:53.290 --> 00:16:06.170

Shloka Nath: The country is at risk right now of crossing the human survivability limit when it comes to heat, extreme weather is disproportionately impacting low income communities, women, the elderly children.

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00:16:06.556 --> 00:16:11.759

Shloka Nath: Not to mention those facing, you know, caste and gender discrimination as well. And so

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00:16:11.930 --> 00:16:24.720

Shloka Nath: you know, we know what these numbers are. You know, rising heat and humidity can lead to labor losses up to, you know, putting at least 4 4.5%, I believe, of India's Gdp at risk.

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00:16:24.810 --> 00:16:42.100

Shloka Nath: And that affects about 75% of our workforce. But of course, beyond the risks, there's also a lot of potential. And I do want to say that while climate inaction in India could cost the economy, I think about 35 trillion Usd. By 2070

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00:16:42.500 --> 00:16:46.840

Shloka Nath: proactive climate action can also add 11 trillion.

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00:16:47.280 --> 00:16:58.940

Shloka Nath: So I think we're really facing a a set of choices in India today. And this is true for many emerging economies. You know, inclusive, well planned action

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00:16:58.980 --> 00:17:26.389

Shloka Nath: can protect vulnerable communities, can build resilience across sectors. It can set the stage for sustainable long term growth. And we have that option today. So speaking, from the perspective of a country that is both a major emitter and one of the most climate vulnerable nations. I really do believe that India has a unique opportunity as well as responsibility to pioneer a really climate, resilient development pathway for the global South.

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00:17:26.858 --> 00:17:40.389

Shloka Nath: But of course, you know there are significant challenges that we face, and and I'm happy to dive into those as we go forward. But I will just close with saying that the creation of the India Climate collaborative

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00:17:40.420 --> 00:18:05.660

Shloka Nath: was ultimately recognizing the need for an organization that could direct really critical brand capital towards climate action. In India the vision has always been very simple, but very ambitious. That funding climate action needs to be a priority when it comes to Indian philanthropy, we need to unlock finance for high impact climate solutions. And we need to convene a diverse range of actors.

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00:18:06.022 --> 00:18:15.089

Shloka Nath: Across the Eco, the climate ecosystem in India, whether it's business communities, policy makers, etc, to scale real solutions. So that's who we are.

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00:18:15.960 --> 00:18:21.050

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: Thank you. Shloka can't think so. I think every country

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00:18:21.220 --> 00:18:50.220

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: will say that their climate journey is unique, right? Because of the different contexts. And I think if you look at India, there's obviously the public commitments that we've made. But there's also the balancing of the rapid economic growth, there's energy security, and then I think the opportunity that Shloka is talking about. Is there anything particular that in your experience of having worked on this in India? Is there a distinct aspect to India's climate journey and India's story that stands out for you.

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00:18:53.920 --> 00:19:03.070

Karthik Ganesan: I mean, I think there's always a sense of exceptionalism when it comes to India, because we represent, you know, nearly a 20% of the global population

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00:19:03.880 --> 00:19:10.949

Karthik Ganesan: to be honest in the moment, the more I look at it, I wouldn't say that it is so much exceptionalism as it is about

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00:19:11.974 --> 00:19:16.320

Karthik Ganesan: the Government having acknowledged that

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00:19:16.580 --> 00:19:34.229

Karthik Ganesan: it is something that we want to act on, I mean, and you know I spent some time in Southeast Asia and in the Middle East, over the course of my professional career and grad school. What I see is, despite having thriving economies which are driven by the use of fossil fuels in these regions.

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00:19:34.420 --> 00:19:42.750

Karthik Ganesan: The awareness that I think India has shown to act on it's emissions

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00:19:42.940 --> 00:19:46.980

Karthik Ganesan: is, I think, at a scale that is very significant.

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00:19:47.626 --> 00:19:55.370

Karthik Ganesan: You know, we are at the end of the day, while working in this sector. Very critical of government of India's efforts to not do it faster.

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00:19:55.660 --> 00:20:04.210

Karthik Ganesan: because we are such a large economy, which means we always need to be doing more, because our footprint is that large. But we can't find, I think, fault with.

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00:20:04.820 --> 00:20:21.950

Karthik Ganesan: When how early did they start it? I don't want to get into the act of naming and shaming, so to say, any economy. I think everybody has their reasons why they are not able to do it. But if I look at some of the larger economies in Southeast Asia or the Middle East. Today

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00:20:22.730 --> 00:20:28.580

Karthik Ganesan: I feel they're oblivious in some way to some of this change that really needs to happen. And whereas

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00:20:28.680 --> 00:20:37.139

Karthik Ganesan: not because I'm in a echo chamber of, you know, constant climate, mitigation discussions because of my work, but I genuinely see that

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00:20:37.250 --> 00:20:38.750

Karthik Ganesan: it is there

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00:20:39.210 --> 00:20:59.809

Karthik Ganesan: you take a flight in India you take a flight in India. I understand it's a bad example, because it's a terrible polluter when it comes to Ghg mitigation, but you will find that even at the level of an airline, where profitability is such an important question, you will find a lot of principles there, you know, stuff that is actually sort of being used to serve is

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00:20:59.910 --> 00:21:08.370

Karthik Ganesan: either reusable or, you know, biodegradable, which you will not find in any of the leading airlines overseas.

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00:21:08.850 --> 00:21:17.000

Karthik Ganesan: You look at things like, for instance, paper straws, which, for instance, you know, President Trump is, you know, gleefully sort of thrown away.

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00:21:17.120 --> 00:21:44.100

Karthik Ganesan: and you will find that India has lapped it up. They've taken up solutions, despite the fact that it's obviously more expensive, more inconvenient, doesn't give you the same level of service. So in many ways, I think India has taken on a lot of things which are tough, which you wouldn't attribute to an economy at this level of Gdp per capita to have done. But we've done it, and I think that is where India's exception. But the hard truth is.

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00:21:44.270 --> 00:21:45.830

Karthik Ganesan: that's well begun.

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00:21:45.980 --> 00:21:56.999

Karthik Ganesan: But there's a lot more that needs to be done, and I hope you know, we're able to take, you know, sucker from our early start and really keep at it. We'll discuss more on this going forward. Yeah.

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00:21:58.310 --> 00:22:13.069

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: My God, I have so many questions I need to be mindful of. You know, the audience needs to ask questions as well. But, Karthik, if we just go down one particular route in that. I know you said that. Obviously, you know, we did start early, and there's a lot of sort of

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00:22:14.150 --> 00:22:32.019

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: will behind it as well. But a question has always been, are we moving fast enough? Right? So if he picks focused on electricity and energy systems in India. What are some of the biggest shifts we need to see in order to hit our targets that we've set for ourselves.

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00:22:33.250 --> 00:22:36.279

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: And by, when do we need to hit them?

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00:22:39.760 --> 00:22:48.640

Karthik Ganesan: It feels like it, you know. It feels like we can't be doing any of these fast enough, I mean, and especially when I think of the quantum of energy

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00:22:48.790 --> 00:22:53.739

Karthik Ganesan: that is being consumed in China or in the Us.

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00:22:55.330 --> 00:23:02.299

Karthik Ganesan: and we are such an insignificant factor, I mean, look at any one of these big, you know, big commodities is being produced. Whether it's steel, whether it's cement

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00:23:02.500 --> 00:23:07.270

Karthik Ganesan: china is 3 times 3 and a half times 4 times what India does.

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00:23:07.550 --> 00:23:13.360

Karthik Ganesan: So sometimes it feels like, who are we, you know, is anything we do significant.

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00:23:13.750 --> 00:23:26.129

Karthik Ganesan: Given that China is doing things so they're doing good things, and they're doing terrible things right when you have tens of gigawatts. I mean, you know, I'm looking at close to 90 gigawatts worth of potential coal under construction in China.

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00:23:26.650 --> 00:23:40.820

Karthik Ganesan: I mean. And here we have India with a cumulative, you know, capacity of 200 gigawatt of coal, 200 plus, you know, China is literally, you know, head and shoulders above when it comes to what they can, cannot do to change the debate.

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00:23:41.670 --> 00:23:45.430

Karthik Ganesan: but at the same time. We also are so reliant. So I feel like

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00:23:45.550 --> 00:23:54.070

Karthik Ganesan: the in the Indian context. What best we can do is try and see, how can we make

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00:23:54.280 --> 00:24:01.079

Karthik Ganesan: our energy use as efficient as possible in the way it serves the ultimate outcomes that are needed.

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00:24:01.460 --> 00:24:03.250

Karthik Ganesan: And I think that is where

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00:24:03.870 --> 00:24:07.330

Karthik Ganesan: we've always struggled because India is impatient.

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00:24:08.390 --> 00:24:19.619

Karthik Ganesan: Efficiency is not the name of the game. When you're impatient, it's about just getting something done. You know, it's about getting to work for the people who are commuting. It's not about getting to work in the most sustainable way.

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00:24:20.050 --> 00:24:28.220

Karthik Ganesan: But once we sort of start realizing, and I think that is where the real opportunity is that it's about, how do we consume these services?

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00:24:28.390 --> 00:24:33.070

Karthik Ganesan: It's not about catching up and playing catch up with the rest of the world. And I think

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00:24:33.230 --> 00:24:53.489

Karthik Ganesan: that's where India is going to find it harder, because this catch up is going to become that much more challenging with every passing year on account of what Sloka has said. So if you ask me in every sector, I'm not going to limit it to power generation and say, you

know renewable energy is the easiest thing to bring on. It's as easy for us to transform the way we're thinking about our cities

116

00:24:54.070 --> 00:25:13.139

Karthik Ganesan: because they are in deep distress already. But the fact is that because we're impatient, and we want to sort of have solutions for the ones who are, you know, screaming at their saying, you know, give me a solution to get from A to B faster. We're going ahead with certain solutions that may not make sense to us. So I think collectively for us to just take stock of

117

00:25:13.360 --> 00:25:27.209

Karthik Ganesan: what's our end goal? Is this the most efficient way to get it done? If it is, let's pursue with it. If it's not, then let's take stock of what we're doing. I think that's what I think is missing at this point across sectors, you know, not just limited to power. Yeah.

118

00:25:27.460 --> 00:25:44.679

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: Yeah, thank you. Karthik Shloka, shifting gears to climate finance. And I think, especially with what's happening with the whole Usaid story that becomes even critical to talk about. How do you scale solutions, you know.

119

00:25:44.680 --> 00:26:01.410

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: while finance remains a critical bottleneck? What do you see as urgent gaps in climate funding. And because you work with so many philanthropies and philanthropists, I should say, is there a role that philanthropy can fill, and especially given what's happening now in the global stage.

120

00:26:03.390 --> 00:26:27.309

Shloka Nath: Yeah, great question. So look, the global South finance needs are really in the trillions. India's are in the billions already. So we know that there's this huge gap between, you know, costed needs. And of course, the available finance. We've progressed quite a bit here in India. But of course the Government does need additional support from funders to meet. You know, it's very ambitious. Ndc's.

121

00:26:27.380 --> 00:26:40.379

Shloka Nath: So really, who can fill this gap? I think you know without calling out the obvious. But but let's just state it here. Sufficient finance from developed countries is yet to flow our way. This is true for most of the global south

122

00:26:40.380 --> 00:26:57.430

Shloka Nath: we need. And it's not just the amount, right? We need quality, flexible, affordable finance from developed countries. Under the Paris agreement. We really cannot afford more debt that imposes additional stresses on emerging economies that need to transition. It's truly unjust.

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00:26:57.923 --> 00:27:05.980

Shloka Nath: So we have this very rising need for capital that I meant, as I mentioned needs to be flexible, compassionate.

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00:27:06.100 --> 00:27:07.520

Shloka Nath: equitable.

125

00:27:07.760 --> 00:27:26.320

Shloka Nath: and can really be swiftly deployed to communities that need it urgently. That's where I believe philanthropy comes in because philanthropy can actually do that and actually, we developed a report recently called The Trends in Climate Philanthropy report where we really mapped sectors across India, where.

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00:27:26.891 --> 00:27:38.980

Shloka Nath: where philanthropic funding currently is going both domestic and international. And we realized that the sectors where funding was going really tended to focus around very prominent

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00:27:39.486 --> 00:27:45.320

Shloka Nath: spaces. So solutions like clean energy, agriculture, urban and rural resilience.

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00:27:45.722 --> 00:28:09.679

Shloka Nath: But we do need to look at spaces like ocean and water ecosystems, transportation, cross-cutting sectors like finance or livelihoods. Those are spaces where we aren't really getting enough funds. And I think one way to tackle. This is really to keep India's climate policy priorities at the forefront, so really ensuring that our Ndc's. The Ldcs, the G 20 declarations

129

00:28:09.890 --> 00:28:32.080

Shloka Nath: we need to ensure that we are really looking to those to evaluate the full breadth of climate action that's required not just a few areas of investment that we've cherry picked, as is

currently the case. I think the other piece that we really looked into quite deeply was the levers of impact. So how is this capital really being used?

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00:28:32.210 --> 00:28:40.220

Shloka Nath: And we realized that the funding was also being used primarily for implementation, support and evidence building and, of course, capacity building.

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00:28:40.490 --> 00:29:03.713

Shloka Nath: But we needed more attention towards levers. That can really build more alignment between private and public and philanthropic actors. So, for instance, more funding needs to go towards like policy support or strategic communications. Towards building more coalitions. And that's that's not really where money is going. Currently

132

00:29:04.330 --> 00:29:12.109

Shloka Nath: and I think it's also very case by case. Different sectors have different needs, different different maturities. So, for instance.

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00:29:12.430 --> 00:29:27.819

Shloka Nath: the re ecosystem in India is at a very different stage compared to, let's say, land use. It has completely different needs. And we can also combine. You know, levers for systems change. So, for instance, we need to enable both.

134

00:29:27.820 --> 00:29:47.610

Shloka Nath: I mean, we need to enable technology and policy support as well as capacity building altogether for really sustained climate progress. So it's not just about hitting one lever at a time. I believe, again, that philanthropy can really support these models that allow combinations of levers. And that's again where it's super critical.

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00:29:47.660 --> 00:29:52.590

Shloka Nath: The final point. Couple of points that I'll make are really on one is, you know.

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00:29:52.710 --> 00:29:57.679

Shloka Nath: Well, just to close sort of the funding. The trends in funding geography was another

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00:29:57.890 --> 00:30:19.400

Shloka Nath: really sort of interesting perspective that emerged. The research showed that most vulnerable regions in India aren't actually getting sufficient finance. Assam is the most climate vulnerable state in India. It gets less than 2% of corporate philanthropic spending between. We mapped it between 2,018 and 2023.

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00:30:20.037 --> 00:30:39.170

Shloka Nath: Just to give you an example. So we do need funders in India to look beyond visible geographies. You know, the funding strategies need to be informed more by data on where local climate risks exist, and that will also, quite honestly, Pooja really help, you know, build more subnational capacity. So

139

00:30:39.190 --> 00:30:54.349

Shloka Nath: how can we help identify financial gaps that exist at the local government levels? How do we help them, then determine how they can build resilience, and where you know, philanthropy can then, or therefore collaborate with government to fill in those gaps. Right?

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00:30:54.840 --> 00:31:24.140

Shloka Nath: We need more innovative finance models. We need more collaboration. I can talk about some of those examples. But again, those are areas that we've also identified where we really need to remain flexible in how we direct capital towards actual means on the ground. And we're finding that grant making and again, philanthropic capital, can really help incentivize more innovation in those spaces in terms of how we provide capital and save solutions.

141

00:31:25.280 --> 00:31:42.482

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: Thank you, Shloka. It would be great, actually, if you shared the link to the report you were mentioning, and we can also add it as a post event resource for people who are attending today. Before I open out to questions from the audience, Karthik, maybe for closing question for you.

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00:31:43.540 --> 00:31:50.040

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: is there sort of one or 2 lessons from India's climate efforts that

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00:31:50.660 --> 00:31:54.430

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: is important for the rest of the world to take note of, or to learn from.

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00:31:57.301 --> 00:32:03.140

Karthik Ganesan: I. This goes back to, I think, a point that Shloka raised early on on climate resilience. In fact.

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00:32:03.430 --> 00:32:09.649

Karthik Ganesan: a lot of domestic philanthropy in India. Right? If you ask me, has already

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00:32:10.410 --> 00:32:14.999

Karthik Ganesan: felt like, the my purpose is to make things more resilient here.

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00:32:15.460 --> 00:32:22.620

Karthik Ganesan: It is not to help India mitigate, because mitigation is in some sense a burden that

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00:32:23.210 --> 00:32:51.360

Karthik Ganesan: the West is sort of, you know, made for India to, you know, handle, and literally, whatever support that comes from philanthropy is Western philanthropy, mitigation. So that then to me also tells how the policymakers and grassroots, communities which are beneficiaries from you know, for instance, foundations from India are then prioritizing issues, and, to be honest, given the insular nature of

149

00:32:51.530 --> 00:33:05.580

Karthik Ganesan: the world today, or the increasingly insular nature of you know everyone, every everyone for themselves. It feels like the best thing you can do is to plan for your economy, your infrastructure, and your people

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00:33:05.720 --> 00:33:07.649

Karthik Ganesan: to be more resilient, and I think

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00:33:07.780 --> 00:33:14.080

Karthik Ganesan: that is a message that many communities which have faced the brunt of natural events.

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00:33:14.469 --> 00:33:20.210

Karthik Ganesan: For instance, the in the State of Odisha right, which is, I think, a bit of a beacon when it comes to the way they've

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00:33:20.360 --> 00:33:26.109

Karthik Ganesan: reduced on fatalities, for instance, associated with, you know, cyclonic events

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00:33:26.490 --> 00:33:37.509

Karthik Ganesan: back in the late nineties. Early 2 thousands, you know. When, some of the cyclone storms hit, we would hear of hundreds, if not of thousands of people losing their lives in the more recent ones.

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00:33:37.630 --> 00:33:40.120

Karthik Ganesan: You don't hear of casualties in the same way.

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00:33:40.920 --> 00:33:50.690

Karthik Ganesan: Outages are, you know, repaired much faster. So in some sense they are prioritizing. How do you ensure that people are becoming their ability to sort of

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00:33:50.910 --> 00:34:17.249

Karthik Ganesan: handle these is improving, I would say, in many ways. Sometimes it becomes coping as much, not so much resilient handling, because coping is very different. Coping is just hiding over it right now. That is also happening unfortunately, in many cities, and I think the city of Mumbai, where Shloka lives, I think, is a classic example of a city that's barely coping. It's not really resilient in the way. You know, we make it look like after every flood event.

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00:34:17.469 --> 00:34:25.609

Karthik Ganesan: But I would say, in pockets like in Orisa, resilience is truly sort of being built, and I think that is one thing that

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00:34:26.500 --> 00:34:31.069

Karthik Ganesan: countries across the world, I think, could take from India. But

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00:34:31.179 --> 00:34:33.099

Karthik Ganesan: I think the West is doing even better.

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00:34:33.440 --> 00:34:54.880

Karthik Ganesan: even better. Japan, for instance, probably doing an order of magnitude better when it comes to how they are thinking of adaptation because they have a lot more to lose from

some of these serious cyclonic events and their investments. If you look at, you know, the way Tokyo City is sort of really prepared for. It is something that I would aspire for India to be looking up to

162

00:34:54.880 --> 00:35:11.709

Karthik Ganesan: just as much as I would like, for, you know smaller developing nations to maybe take that out of India's leaf, that resilience, urban and rural, and for the farmers is something that I think they should prioritize in the absence of mitigation in a big way from the global north. Yeah.

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00:35:12.610 --> 00:35:15.320

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: Thank you, Karthik. I think you'd be.

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00:35:15.880 --> 00:35:42.716

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: It'd be. I think it's not surprising to both of you, but something around resilience at the state level city level community level. Is a conversation that comes up again and again as policy. Priority in several countries is also in sort of the developed parts of the world. So I think there is increasing awareness around. Sort of that, but not not to the level that it should be. Yet in practice.

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00:35:43.110 --> 00:36:09.200

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: I'm going to open this out for the audience. Thank you so much for being patient with this 1st set of questions to the audience. Please remember to keep sharing any questions you have in the Q. And a feature, or just write in the chat. I'm going to try and be fair between the pre-submitted questions and the ones asked today. And I'm kind of trying to balance those. I'll give everyone a minute or 2 to type your questions.

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00:36:09.200 --> 00:36:34.159

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: In the meantime, just to remind you again to join our net 0 community. Currently, there's about 500 public servants who regularly share their issues, questions and recommendations with each other. And today's event has really been about initiating a conversation between India and the global public service community. So it'll be great to keep that conversation going well beyond the hour that we are spending today. Together.

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00:36:34.160 --> 00:36:42.370

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: you should be able to find a link in the resources. Tab all right, so I'll pick a question from today.

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00:36:43.385 --> 00:36:45.260

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: Karthik, I think you've been

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00:36:45.730 --> 00:37:11.790

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: best marks for a great speaker. You've already answered some of them, but I'm just going to go ahead and ask a couple of them. So maybe Shloka has a different point of view. But what can other countries be doing to support India in reaching its climate goals? Is it through partnerships? Policy? What do you think? There are other countries? And if you can also be specific about sort of what kind of countries would be sort of most supportive for India to reach its climate goals, any of you, if you'd like to jump in with that.

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00:37:12.630 --> 00:37:18.887

Shloka Nath: I think, do you? Wanna do you wanna go 1st and expand on your point? I can. Okay, okay,

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00:37:19.700 --> 00:37:44.439

Shloka Nath: I mean, I think Karthik put it well, lead by example is probably the best but if I had to expand it a little bit more partnerships is absolutely critical. So I think, look, India is already demonstrating a lot of leadership in areas like renewable energy adaptation. And of course, nature based solutions. But we know that global cooperation can accelerate progress. We do believe that

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00:37:44.730 --> 00:38:06.229

Shloka Nath: we need more sort of countries to come together to share best practices, go develop technologies create frameworks to scale what's working, especially in sectors, like energy, transition or climate, smart agriculture, resilient infrastructure, etc. So partnership for me is critical. The second is finance. I spoke about that already, but

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00:38:06.360 --> 00:38:15.340

Shloka Nath: India is, you know, as I mentioned, mobilizing domestic resources already, but countries do need to fulfill their commitments under mechanisms like the Green Climate Fund

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00:38:15.838 --> 00:38:32.700

Shloka Nath: and beyond that there are blended finance models that bring in philanthropic and private capital together to unlock large scale climate solutions. So we do need more sort of you know, cooperation on finance. And then the 3, rd of course, is policy, alignment as well as knowledge exchange. I would just say.

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00:38:32.900 --> 00:38:48.000

Shloka Nath: India's pathway to decarbonisation and resilience is going to look very different from that of developed countries and countries that have successfully transitioned to clean energy. For example, can offer valuable insights.

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00:38:48.140 --> 00:38:58.789

Shloka Nath: But those solutions really need to be adapted to India's unique social and economic context. And this is true for most countries across the global south.

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00:38:59.310 --> 00:39:21.190

Shloka Nath: So I think really encouraging sort of local capacity building will be far more effective than a 1. Size fits all approach. But this is again an opportunity to really have deep knowledge, exchange and policy alignment. I just want to say one last thing. The best way to support India ultimately is really also through

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00:39:21.370 --> 00:39:42.790

Shloka Nath: equitable collaboration. So India is not just a recipient of support, but it is also a leader whose innovations and approaches can benefit the world. This is very much a shared challenge. And I think, recognizing that progress in India means progress for all of us is really inherently critical to that. So I'll pause there.

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00:39:44.020 --> 00:39:47.915

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: Should look at. This could be a question for you as well.

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00:39:48.380 --> 00:40:08.529

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: We don't talk enough about sort of Indian banking and financial system which can unlock some of the finance for India's energy and just transition, can they? How you know what are some of the things that they can do or shift to be able to fulfill some of these finance gaps that we have.

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00:40:10.130 --> 00:40:37.090

Shloka Nath: I mean, I can come in really quickly and then hand it to Karthik. But honestly, there is. There is a lot of significant momentum in green finance in India. So we do have private investors, corporations, financial institutions. They are increasingly directing capital towards climate. So India, for instance, has already issued green bonds to fund renewable energy and infrastructure projects. Major Banks are integrating climate risk into their lending portfolios.

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00:40:37.110 --> 00:40:49.669

Shloka Nath: We also have blended finance, which is, you know, coming up in a major way that really combines public philanthropic and private capital. And it's emerging quite honestly as a really cool tool to de-risk climate investments and unlock

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00:40:49.810 --> 00:41:05.400

Shloka Nath: very large scale funding and has been really important for sectors like, of course, clean energy. And and you know, climate, smart agriculture up where, and especially those sectors where upfront costs can be really high. But the long term benefits, of course, are immense.

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00:41:05.530 --> 00:41:19.150

Shloka Nath: We're also seeing quite honestly a growing role for corporate sustainability initiatives and impact investors in India. So we have this mandatory, you know, corporate social responsibility framework in India

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00:41:19.470 --> 00:41:27.889

Shloka Nath: and through that framework, that's really how organizations or corporates really are starting to channel funds towards climate solutions.

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00:41:28.210 --> 00:41:56.439

Shloka Nath: And you also have private equity and venture capital which are supporting a lot of innovations in clean tech in circular economy, model nature based solutions. Actually, interestingly enough, is is another up and coming space for these for these investment areas. But of course, like, given the scale of the challenge, we need to go much further. And we need much more clearer policy signals. Pooja. To be honest, we need much stronger regulatory frameworks in India.

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00:41:56.500 --> 00:42:02.789

Shloka Nath: and we need many more mechanisms to reduce investment risks, especially when it comes to climate adaptation.

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00:42:03.279 --> 00:42:11.779

Shloka Nath: That has not historically gotten as much funding as it deserves. And we're hoping that we can start changing that while going forward.

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00:42:12.290 --> 00:42:15.800

Shloka Nath: Karthik, over to you. I've really. I've really taken up a lot of airtime.

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00:42:16.740 --> 00:42:23.539

Karthik Ganesan: No, I think I think you know Shuka, you've covered pretty much what I would say. And I think in the Indian context.

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00:42:23.810 --> 00:42:52.690

Karthik Ganesan: we've been channeling a lot of our investments. I don't know whether you focus on this, since many many folks said that they weren't aware of what India's climate actions were like, I'm guessing. You also aren't aware of this phenomenon called mutual funds that has taken India by storm right? Which is basically the way people are directed to invest their money, literally going into the equity market while. And I think India. So when you look at a lot of these things, how we can channel people's behavior

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00:42:53.212 --> 00:43:04.140

Karthik Ganesan: into sort of doing these regular investments and the billions of dollars that have actually gone into that. Unfortunately, a lot of people have also lost money in recent weeks and months, you know, when

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00:43:04.300 --> 00:43:12.309

Karthik Ganesan: post the Us. Elections, and for many other reasons, I think there is, of course, a moment for India to sort of see. How can we Channel

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00:43:12.910 --> 00:43:19.190

Karthik Ganesan: household savings to the climate cause? And I think the machinery is very well attuned to driving that

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00:43:19.270 --> 00:43:39.120

Karthik Ganesan: at this point in time, I think the risk appetite within the Indian household, and the average retail investor is still sort of not there for it when it comes to sort of unproven tech. But we're slowly but surely moving into that space where some of this is becoming more conventional. And I think it's a matter of time before we crack the

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00:43:39.200 --> 00:44:05.800

Karthik Ganesan: domestic financing story. And I think that's where a lot of the money is really even going to come from. I don't anticipate that the massive pension funds are sort of suddenly going to come up and say that you know India is my preferred destination. There will be. There are lots of reasons why India is not there yet, but once we start putting our faith in it, I think it's a matter of time, then that private capital from overseas will also come flooding in to, I think, fill the gaps that we need.

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00:44:06.040 --> 00:44:07.329

Karthik Ganesan: But yeah, yeah.

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00:44:07.670 --> 00:44:30.789

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: Thank you, Karthik, just to the audience. There are some answers already in the Q. And A. Tab, so I'd encourage everyone to read through them as well. Karthik, is there an example? We talked a little bit about climate resilience in action, and one of the questions is around an example of a specific local project, which is a great example of something that we can learn from.

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00:44:33.470 --> 00:45:01.070

Karthik Ganesan: Yeah, I mean, I don't think there is. There is one or 2 1 of my responses. I talked of this portal called the better India. Right? There are a bunch of those. There are a bunch of those, and every time I'm looking at the gloom and doom that climate stories present, I think portals, and you know venues such as better India or your story in the Indian context. For those of you who may not be familiar, I think, offer a myriad examples of what's working.

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00:45:01.370 --> 00:45:12.829

Karthik Ganesan: The thing is, they're all working at community scale, which is beautiful, because that's really the way in which we should also be looking at these problems. But the challenge is that because India is urbanizing.

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00:45:13.370 --> 00:45:18.049

Karthik Ganesan: we're losing this element of what is it that communities can do.

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00:45:18.660 --> 00:45:24.610

Karthik Ganesan: And what is it that needs to be done at city scale, and cities are becoming monoliths

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00:45:24.860 --> 00:45:26.790

Karthik Ganesan: in a way that they weren't before?

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00:45:27.210 --> 00:45:34.570

Karthik Ganesan: So I would say that if we were to really capture the spirit of these, you know small solutions that have worked

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00:45:35.503 --> 00:45:41.730

Karthik Ganesan: I would even go so far as to say that this response that we had, which is this political willingness and priority.

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00:45:42.000 --> 00:45:44.240

Karthik Ganesan: is actually a bit of a bogeyman.

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00:45:45.210 --> 00:45:49.659

Karthik Ganesan: It is the willingness of people to engage within the communities that they are in.

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00:45:50.180 --> 00:45:55.669

Karthik Ganesan: and to make improvements where they are located, which inherently was there

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00:45:56.290 --> 00:46:08.010

Karthik Ganesan: in, you know, a different society that probably, you know, we were 1520 years ago, whereas now, because we are in this fast paced urban areas where

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00:46:08.230 --> 00:46:16.370

Karthik Ganesan: our nature of how we depend on each other, for you know our daily sustenance is changing. We've also lost that sense of how to make things work as a community.

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00:46:16.720 --> 00:46:23.549

Karthik Ganesan: And I think that's 1 of the reasons why we aren't able to come up with solutions that we can organically go with.

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00:46:24.130 --> 00:46:32.970

Karthik Ganesan: and that could be to do with. You know whether it's addressing air quality, whether it's addressing, you know, water issues locally, or whether it is addressing.

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00:46:33.564 --> 00:46:35.460

Karthik Ganesan: You know, clean energy.

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00:46:35.990 --> 00:46:45.959

Karthik Ganesan: Every one of these solutions, I think, has an opportunity. If we were to come together as a community in our own different levels, whether it's the Resident Welfare Association

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00:46:46.110 --> 00:46:50.919

Karthik Ganesan: or whether it is your local area PIN code where things could be done. And

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00:46:51.310 --> 00:46:56.530

Karthik Ganesan: I think that is something that we've sort of felt like our governments will deliver for us.

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00:46:56.850 --> 00:47:25.360

Karthik Ganesan: which I'm not sure you know in the in the Indian context, given that there is this bit of capacity in governance, that that deficit, so to say, because of, you know, resources that are lacking or whether it's personnel, the onus is more, I think, on the average sort of individual to drive this community led effort. So I would say, you know, picking up from any one of those stories. So I don't want to give an example. But if you're really forcing me to. I would say things like, for instance, the the waste warriors of the Himalayas, for instance.

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00:47:25.850 --> 00:47:43.890

Karthik Ganesan: the number of people who have realized that the Himalayas being the source of you know whether it's water, whether it is so much of the biodiversity that this country holds, and how it is important to preserve. Some of those ecosystems are coming together and working with communities to rid them off. This issue of plastic waste in the Himalayas. To me

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00:47:43.890 --> 00:47:56.779

Karthik Ganesan: is a beautiful story, which I think deserves to be scaled up, and I think it certainly will, and I think even colleagues at lcc are possibly even supporting some such efforts that are happening there. So yeah, maybe I'll leave it at that. Pooja.

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00:47:57.780 --> 00:48:03.059

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: Thank you, Karthik. We haven't spoken a lot about sort of the agriculture

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00:48:03.300 --> 00:48:18.700

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: contribution to emissions yet. So it contributes on about 14%, I think roughly. So, what is the response? And what's kind of the agricultural industry planning to do to reduce these emissions.

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00:48:21.384 --> 00:48:26.689

Karthik Ganesan: Very quick crack at it. Again, the number of you know, the number of stories of

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00:48:26.890 --> 00:48:36.570

Karthik Ganesan: angry tech that is basically coming in to try and fill the gap that is being left by, you know, conventional policies not necessarily supporting farmers

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00:48:36.920 --> 00:48:51.519

Karthik Ganesan: is one of the big, I would say, success. Stories of India's climate action, and, in fact, resilience names, for instance, like Akhya Kalpa, organic, come immediately to mind in terms of the number of farmers that they have tried to impact.

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00:48:51.650 --> 00:49:02.290

Karthik Ganesan: and their different approach to how patient capital and how capacity building among the farmer community can genuinely change it for the incomes of farmers.

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00:49:02.450 --> 00:49:07.129

Karthik Ganesan: So while I think there is cognizance of the role of agriculture.

227

00:49:08.180 --> 00:49:12.420

Karthik Ganesan: the bad impacts that we see are, I think, because of

228

00:49:12.670 --> 00:49:17.719

Karthik Ganesan: the nature of industrial farming in certain pockets in the country, for the most part

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00:49:17.940 --> 00:49:26.299

Karthik Ganesan: a lot of India's producers, already organic, because fertilizer inputs actually are limited to small pockets of the country.

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00:49:26.470 --> 00:49:36.749

Karthik Ganesan: India still on on a per capita basis, given the number of farmers, is a very low consumption base for fertilizers and pesticides, whereas where it is actively used, it is overused.

231

00:49:37.410 --> 00:49:57.029

Karthik Ganesan: So there are, I think, already a lot of shoots of possibilities where people who are practicing sustainable modes of farming which are driven by rain, fed agriculture. For them, the incentive to actually shift to something that makes more sense in the context of changing climate. Drier monsoon periods is already there.

232

00:49:57.390 --> 00:50:21.169

Karthik Ganesan: We just need to ensure that we don't distort it for them by, you know, sort of giving them the perverse incentives that we gave to, for instance, make places like Punjab what they are today in terms of, you know, heavily industrial farming sort of centers which has done wonders for our food security. But today I think nutritional security requires a different approach.

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00:50:21.280 --> 00:50:30.739

Karthik Ganesan: and I think there are already people who realize that this model may not work, so there is certainly, I think, traction, but it's not overly emissions focused.

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00:50:30.970 --> 00:50:43.190

Karthik Ganesan: It's in the way that, for instance, we should be looking at it in the West, specifically, for instance, in a Brazil or in America, where the amount of sort of meat consumption and the inputs that go into cattle rearing

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00:50:43.795 --> 00:50:50.340

Karthik Ganesan: makes that a very unsustainable industry from an emissions, perspective, and indeed a resource utilization. Perspective. Yeah.

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00:50:50.920 --> 00:51:09.230

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: Thank you, Karthik Shoka. This one's for you, and it's coming from the Uk for examples where blended finance has been used for sustainable projects. And the context

is, UK is at the early stages of trying to explore the right delivery model and packaging projects, etc. So would you have any examples to share.

237

00:51:10.340 --> 00:51:25.449

Shloka Nath: Yes, we do. There are a number of sort of examples that I can sort of share here. I think one of the ways we started to really sort of encourage partnerships. And collaboration is through those models of sort of

238

00:51:25.907 --> 00:51:51.190

Shloka Nath: Pooled funds, for instance. We help see the Pool Grant Fund in 2023 to mainstream and scale Agro ecological practices in India towards non-chemical, non extractive food systems. That's been a really really sort of successful example of bringing of allowing funders to bring different types of capital to the table, and allowing very timely deployment of capital to scale very critical solutions.

239

00:51:51.621 --> 00:52:13.780

Shloka Nath: And so this has this has really worked. It's really reduced investment risks for funders. It's broken sort of silos and climate programming. And it's really been able to leverage both collective knowledge and experience from the ecosystem. That's just like one quick example in terms of some of the work that we're doing. But of course, as I mentioned, there are. There are many, many more.

240

00:52:14.200 --> 00:52:30.590

Shloka Nath: Another good one is something that we're building out on Agrovoltatics. This aligns with India's climate priorities. We know that we need to optimize land utilization in India for both agri as well as the renewable energy sector and

241

00:52:31.101 --> 00:52:45.950

Shloka Nath: we needed a solution that would, you know, really mitigate fossil fuel dependency in the agriculture sector. It would diversify farm farmer incomes and build resilience as well as, of course, accelerate re generation towards India's 500 gigawatts target.

242

00:52:46.270 --> 00:53:07.209

Shloka Nath: And so what we've done is really integrated both solar energy and agriculture. And so we've jointly launched something called the India Agrovoltatics Alliance with the Government of India, and this seeks to actually align stakeholders across Solar and Agri to address a lot of issues at the nexus of again, the food energy water system.

243

00:53:07.210 --> 00:53:32.489

Shloka Nath: So to improve food security, farmer livelihoods and land productivity. And this has also been a blended finance model in terms of how we're how we're building this out. And the, as I mentioned, sort of the real genius of these opportunities is that not only does it allow you to sort of bring in a variety of stakeholders that you wouldn't be able to before, but it really gives you the opportunity and the ability to actually scale

244

00:53:32.818 --> 00:54:01.409

Shloka Nath: scale the work. Thanks to sort of those those blended and and mixed finance models. In that way. I'm just trying to think if there's anything else that I can think of. There's 1 last example that I'll give you. The lcc is working with 6 other organizations. And, by the way, I just want to mention these are not lcc. They may be driven by lcc sort of in the ecosystem or lcc has partnered. But we work very much

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00:54:01.410 --> 00:54:21.210

Shloka Nath: in consortium with other organizations across India. Cw. Karthik's organization is one of those, and we greatly respect the work he and his colleagues are doing there this example in particular, there are 6 organizations, including the lcc. That have come together to support a local land restoration fund.

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00:54:21.595 --> 00:54:24.080

Shloka Nath: This is with Wri India as well.

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00:54:24.280 --> 00:54:51.010

Shloka Nath: and the fund will restore degraded ecosystems will sequester carbon will boost food security able to improve local land livelihoods. As well as, of course, really support local land restoration champions, and it does require new funding approaches. So we really encourage philanthropists specifically, domestic funders who are more traditional grant makers to really come in with low cost debt to incentivize more innovation.

248

00:54:51.324 --> 00:55:04.110

Shloka Nath: And that's worked out really well. As an example of again, a pool fund that we can, we can take to scale. So there are lots of these examples across the country. We need to do many, many more of them.

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00:55:05.400 --> 00:55:07.233

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: Thank you so much, Luca.

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00:55:07.610 --> 00:55:30.790

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: there is one question around. You know just how working in climate just feels gloomy at the moment, and both of you have just, I just wanted to say, Thank you for all the brilliant, both stories, but also giving people reasons for hope. So just to the audience. If you haven't read the answer to that, please do watch. Loka and Karthik have given just really wonderful

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00:55:30.790 --> 00:55:55.769

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: answers to that question around, not feeling overwhelmed and focusing on reasons for hope. There are just so many more questions, and they're all insightful. They're all valuable, and I'm conscious that we don't have the time to take all of them now, but I would really like to invite all of you to post any unanswered questions in the net 0 community, where perhaps one of our speakers, or even your peers and

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00:55:55.770 --> 00:55:58.459

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: the world, can add their thoughts and wisdom.

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00:55:58.460 --> 00:56:18.280

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: I also have a bit of bonus content to share with all of you. Today we have a fantastic course on climate communications for public servants and policymakers about creating effective climate communications. As you know, it's so important for people who are working in climate to get the buy-in of their colleagues and stakeholders, both in their teams and outside.

254

00:56:18.280 --> 00:56:38.690

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: It's self-paced. You can take it around your busy schedules, but it's also completely free. So we've posted a link to the Course enrollment page in the community of practice. My colleague has also posted a link to this thread. We really hope you find it useful. There are lots of public servants around the world taking this course right now, as we speak.

255

00:56:38.690 --> 00:57:03.519

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: as we get closer to the time for goodbyes, I'm going to ask Shloka and Karthik to continue our apolitical tradition of sharing a 1 word, takeaway. You can have another word if you'd like. But one word, takeaway or summary that ties together. What we've shared today, what you've shared with us today I'll come to you in a second. The team is 1st going to pull up a quick poll to find out

256

00:57:03.520 --> 00:57:19.630

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: how the audience felt about today. This poll is just to, you know, give us a idea of how to improve, and we would really appreciate your responses on a scale of one to 10 rank your agreement with the statement. This event was a valuable use of my time.

257

00:57:19.730 --> 00:57:30.629

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: with one being completely disagree, and 10 being at the top of you do agree fully. So back to a final insight from our experts.

258

00:57:31.460 --> 00:57:34.159

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: Shloka, what's your one word? Takeaway?

259

00:57:35.810 --> 00:57:36.850

Shloka Nath: Momentum.

260

00:57:38.810 --> 00:57:43.259

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: Thank you. It's very rare that speakers do stick to one word. But thank you, Karthik.

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00:57:44.170 --> 00:57:45.299

Karthik Ganesan: What's the view?

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00:57:46.390 --> 00:57:57.939

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: Persevere both amazing words, and I think the audience would appreciate that as well. I'd like to ask all of you to join me in giving today's speakers a virtual round of applause.

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00:57:57.940 --> 00:58:20.070

Pooja Warier-Hamilton: and, most importantly, for thank you for being an engaging audience for questions and really showing curiosity for this topic. We hope you found the conversation helpful. We want to say a huge thank you once again to everyone who's made today happen, and to all of you for taking time out of your busy days. I'm loving the hearts and the claps on the screen. Have a great day, everyone, and goodbye.