

## LiFE for Climate Action

### What is the issue?

*For the first time, the UN Development Programme's Human Development Report (2022) has warned that global human development measures have declined across most countries in the past two years.*

### Why was this warning given?

- This warning comes against the backdrop of the greatest existential threat of all - the **triple planetary crisis** of Climate change, Pollution and Biodiversity loss.
- Climate change is a disruption multiplier in a disrupted world, rolling back progress across the global Sustainable Development Goals.

### What is being done now?

- The Commitments we have now to reduce the climate change will not keep warming below the 1.5°C target, giving us the best chance of averting catastrophe.
- With the narrative so focused on geopolitics, the scope for each of us to make a difference as individuals seems increasingly lost.

### What is LiFE?

- Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) announced by Indian Prime Minister at COP26 in 2021, brings a fresh and much-needed perspective.
- LiFE recognises that small individual actions can tip the balance in the planet's favour.
- Many of the goals of LiFE can be achieved by deploying 'nudges' - gentle persuasion techniques to encourage positive behaviour.
- To learn more about the LiFE Mission, [click here](#).

### Does LiFE's nudging technique works?

- The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) employs proven nudging techniques such as
  1. Discouraging food waste by offering smaller plates in cafeterias;
  2. Encouraging recycling by making bin lids eye-catching; and
  3. Encouraging cycling by creating cycle paths.
- According to the UNEP, more than two-thirds of greenhouse gas emissions can be attributed to household consumption and lifestyles.
- The urgent cuts to global emissions we need can only be achieved through the widespread adoption of greener consumption habits.
- While LiFE is a global vision, India is an excellent place to start. This would be increasingly followed by the world.

## What does the Mission LiFE say?

- Under the Mission LiFE, the Prime Minister of India and the UN Secretary-General are calling on all consumers worldwide to become “Pro Planet People” by 2027.
- The “Pro Planet People” approach aims to **adopt simple lifestyle changes** that can collectively lead to transformational change.

## What is the onus on vulnerable societies?

- Emissions across the poorest half of the world’s population combined still fall short of even 1% of the wealthiest.
- Those who consume the least, often the most vulnerable and marginalised members of society, will not be asked to consume less, but rather supported to participate in the green economy.
- Each ‘Pro Planet’ stakeholder is nudged according to differentiated approaches.

## What is the onus on the developed world?

- The same applies across countries.
- LIFE resonates with the global climate justice India has rightfully called for - highlighting enhanced obligations those in developed countries bear, to support climate adaptation and mitigation for those most affected, yet least responsible.
- The average carbon footprint of a person in a high-income country is more than 80 times higher than that of a person in a least-developed country.
- It is common sense and only fair to call on the developed world to shoulder a proportionate share of this transition.
- In the words of Mahatma Gandhi, “the world has enough for everyone’s need, but not enough for everyone’s greed.”

## Reference

1. [The Hindu | A new lease of LIFE for climate action](#)

