

However even with the facts slapping us in the face, we are somehow managing to negate the bigger issue. With reference to the current Kyoto protocol debate, our Indian leaders are proudly noting that every American has global energy consumption more than 2 times each Indian. Reality check: a recently conducted green peace survey has noted that 873 million people in India, mostly those below the poverty line have an average carbon emission of below 2 tonnes a year, but somehow WE Indians still have a decently high carbon emission rate. Confused? Don't be, Greenpeace found the answer to that too. Every Indian in the rich consumer class uses 3 times the global average as well as 4.5 times the carbon emission rate of those people below the poverty line. This tells us that we are as bad as the countries that we are belittling. We are just as bad as them or maybe worse since to put it bluntly we are proudly hiding ourselves behind the poor.

And its not like we can hide behind the age old excuses, the time has come to realise that we are the one country who will probably suffer the greatest. At a bare minimum, 50% of our population indirectly depends on agriculture. Can you imagine if there comes a time where excessive drought, rising temperatures and lack of monsoon rain causes the ultimate agricultural shortage?

Drastic changes in our monsoon cycle and the greatest decrease of agricultural yield in one area since the black plague.

Apart from providing employment for 200 -250 million people , heaven forbid there comes a time where there just is not enough food and water for a population of one billion? Instead of being in denial about our part

in global climate change, we should strive to actively involve ourselves in finding out the solution for a problem that has the potential to ruin our country.

The solutions are simple and in our hands. It's not a monumental task if it's a collective effort. We have advanced in every field but we still can't do the most important thing- take care of our earth, our homes and more importantly ourselves. Its easy to read this and think to yourselves why should I care? This is someone else's problem! But that's the easy route, the one we have been taking uptil now. Its time we realised that we are the ones who can change our own destiny. To put it in perspective, in 200 years, if we don't take a stand now, we will have done more damage to the earth than any al Qaeda attack can cause. The earth is a ticking time bomb, waiting to explode. And guess what we are the only ones who can defuse it. Sounds clichéd? I think not, remember this is the world of climate change and its happening RIGHT NOW. ❁



PHOTOWATCH | DREAMSTIME.COM