

## **CLIMATE CHANGE – A CONVERSATION – QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

1. Prepare a biographical sketch of Ms. Licypriya Kangujam using the details available in the interview.

Ans: Licypriya Kangujam is a young climate activist from Manipur, India. Born in a small village surrounded by nature, she developed a deep concern for the environment early in life. Her activism began after experiencing severe air pollution in Delhi and devastating cyclones in Odisha. At the age of six, she attended the United Nations Disaster Conference in Mongolia, which inspired her to start “The Child Movement” in 2018. The movement advocates for urgent climate action and has grown into a global campaign.

By the age of nine, Licypriya addressed world leaders at the United Nations Climate Conference (COP25) and travelled to more than 32 countries, speaking at over 400 platforms. Her main demands include passing a climate change law, making climate education compulsory in schools, and encouraging students to plant trees. She emphasizes the importance of youth involvement and Indigenous communities in protecting the planet.

Despite facing criticism, cyberbullying, and personal hardships—including dropping out of school to continue her activism—Licypriya remains determined. Her work has inspired many and positioned her as a powerful voice in the global climate movement, calling for accountability, solidarity, and sustainable change.

2. What events/ circumstances inspired Ms. Kangujam to take up climate activism.

Ans: Several events and personal experiences inspired Ms. Licypriya Kangujam to become a climate activist. She was born in a small village in Manipur, surrounded by nature, which made her sensitive to environmental changes from a young age. In 2016, when she moved to Delhi for schooling, she faced severe air pollution, which affected her daily life. Later, in Odisha, her home was hit by Cyclone Titli in 2018 and Cyclone Fani in 2019. These disasters made her aware of the devastating effects of climate change.

Another significant event was the Nepal earthquake in 2015. As a child, she accompanied her father to raise funds for victims, which introduced her to the terms “climate change” and “natural disasters.” In 2018, she attended the United Nations Disaster Conference in Mongolia at the age of six, which proved to be a turning point in her life. Upon returning home, she started “The Child Movement” to demand immediate climate action. These personal experiences, along with witnessing the lack of response from leaders, motivated her to speak out and advocate for the environment and future generations.

3. Ms. Kangujam says that “Climate change has no border”. Explain.

Ans: When Ms. Licypriya Kangujam says, “Climate change has no border,” she means that climate change affects the entire planet and cannot be limited to one country or region. Environmental problems such as air pollution, floods, heat waves, and rising temperatures impact every nation, regardless of where it is located. Even if a country is far away, pollution and carbon emissions from one part of the world can harm others. Therefore, everyone shares the responsibility to protect the environment.

Ms. Kangujam explains that although developed countries like the United States and European nations emit a large amount of carbon, developing countries like India also contribute to pollution and must act. She stresses that climate change is a global issue, and every country, big or small, must come together to solve it.

She also highlights that trust between nations is essential for working together. Without cooperation, efforts to reduce emissions and protect the planet will fail. By saying climate change has no border, she

reminds us that the environment connects all people. Solving this crisis requires unity, shared responsibility, and actions that go beyond national boundaries. Only then can we secure a healthier planet for future generations.

4. How can schools and students help in shaping a sustainable climate, as per Ms. Kangujam?

Ans: According to Ms. Licypriya Kangujam, schools and students play a vital role in building a sustainable climate. She strongly believes that climate education must be included in every school's curriculum because it helps raise awareness from a young age. When children learn about the causes and effects of climate change, they can share this knowledge with their families and communities, creating a ripple effect that promotes environmental responsibility.

Ms. Kangujam suggests that students should actively participate in climate action by planting trees. If each of the 350 million students in India plants at least 10 trees every year, 3.5 billion trees could be planted annually, which would greatly improve air quality and reduce the effects of floods, heat waves, and droughts. This would help transform the environment in just a few years.

Furthermore, she encourages students to become responsible citizens by demanding stronger climate policies from their governments. She also emphasizes the importance of involving students in protests and initiatives that promote renewable energy, reduce pollution, and protect forests. By educating children and empowering them to act, schools and students can lead the way toward a healthier planet and a more sustainable future.

5. Write a short on SUKIFU.

Ans: SUKIFU stands for Survival Kit for the Future, a symbolic device created by Ms. Licypriya Kangujam to address the growing problem of air pollution in India, especially in Delhi. She developed this kit on October 4, 2019, to raise awareness and demand action from the government. The kit is made from almost zero-cost materials, mostly trash, and is designed to provide fresh air to breathe when pollution levels are dangerously high.

SUKIFU is not only a practical tool but also a powerful message. It highlights how polluted the air has become and warns of the possible destruction of the environment if urgent action is not taken. In Delhi, air quality has reached an emergency level, with the AQI at 999, affecting millions of people, especially children.

Through this invention, Licypriya urges leaders to stop blaming each other and instead work together to solve the crisis. She demands shutting down coal plants, stopping stubble burning, reviving forests, promoting renewable energy, and replacing fossil fuel vehicles with solar or electric alternatives. SUKIFU represents hope, creativity, and determination to fight climate change, proving that even simple solutions can bring global attention to serious issues.

6. Can India fight the ill effects of climate change without any support? Why/why not?

Ans: India cannot fight the ill effects of climate change without support from other countries. Climate change is a global problem that affects every nation, and it does not follow borders. India is one of the largest carbon emitters in the world and faces severe climate challenges like floods, droughts, heat waves, cyclones, air pollution, and water stress. These problems need large-scale solutions, which require cooperation from both developed and developing countries.

Developed countries like the United States and European nations have historically contributed more to carbon emissions and should invest heavily in green technologies. However, India also plays a significant role and must lead by example by promoting renewable energy, electric vehicles, and sustainable resource use.

International collaboration is essential to tackle climate change effectively. By working together through initiatives like the International Solar Alliance, countries can share technology, knowledge, and funds. Without this support, India's efforts would be limited by financial, technical, and infrastructural constraints.

Trust among nations is also crucial. If governments stand united and share responsibility, India can successfully transform into a green economy and protect vulnerable communities. Collective action, not isolation, is the key to addressing the climate crisis. Only with global support can India fight climate change and safeguard its future.

7. Summarise in your own words Ms. Kangujam's views about climate change.

Ans: Ms. Licypriya Kangujam believes that climate change is one of the biggest threats facing the world today. She feels that everyone, including children, has a responsibility to protect the environment. According to her, climate change has no borders and affects all countries equally. Even though developed nations are responsible for most carbon emissions, India and other developing countries must also take action because they are equally affected.

She emphasizes the importance of climate education in schools, as it will help children become aware of environmental issues and encourage them to take action. By teaching children about climate change, adults will also learn through them, creating a wider impact.

Ms. Kangujam also supports policies like planting trees, using renewable energy, reducing pollution, and shifting from fossil fuels to electric vehicles. She highlights the role of Indigenous communities as protectors of forests and the environment, and stresses that the climate movement must work with Indigenous rights movements.

Despite facing criticism and challenges, she remains hopeful that global cooperation, trust among nations, and political willpower can help achieve climate goals. She believes that every person, regardless of age, can contribute to solving the crisis and that collective action is essential.

8. With the help your teacher, write a short note on: Chipko Movement, Bishnoi Movement, Silent Valley Movement, Salumarada Thimmakka, Narmada Bachao Andolan.

Ans: The Chipko Movement started in the 1970s in Uttarakhand, India. Villagers, especially women, hugged trees to prevent them from being cut down. The movement raised awareness about forest conservation and the need to protect natural resources.

The Bishnoi Movement began in the 18<sup>th</sup> century in Rajasthan. Bishnoi people are known for their love for nature and wildlife. When trees and animals were threatened, they risked their lives to protect them.

The Silent Valley Movement in Kerala was a protest against building a hydroelectric dam that would destroy the rainforest and its biodiversity. The movement helped stop the project and conserve the unique ecosystem.

Salumarada Thimmakka is an environmentalist from Karnataka. She planted and nurtured over 385 trees along a highway, showing how one person's commitment can make a big difference.

The Narmada Bachao Andolan is a campaign to protect the Narmada river and oppose large dam projects that displace people and harm the environment. It advocates for sustainable development and justice for affected communities.

All these movements and personalities teach us that protecting nature is a collective effort. Their courage and dedication inspire people to fight for a greener, healthier planet.