

Publication: Business Standard
Date: Saturday, February 6, 2010
Edition: Chennai
Page: 4

INDIA TO LAUNCH MISSION TO CUT EMISSIONS BY 99 MN TONNES: PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, 5 February

India will spare no efforts to contribute to the success of the post-Copenhagen process, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh declared today as he announced the launch of a National Mission on Enhanced Energy Efficiency, aimed at cutting carbon emissions by 99 million tonnes.

Inaugurating an international summit on climate change here, Singh said India had already committed itself to a path of sustainable development based on a graduated shift to the extent possible from the use of fossil fuels to renewable and clean energy, including nuclear energy.

Within the ambit of our National Action Plan on Climate Change, India had already unveiled one of the world's most ambitious plans to promote solar energy, targeting an installed capacity of 20,000 Mw by 2022, he told the meeting, which was attended by presidents, prime ministers and energy ministers of several countries.

"I wish to assure this distinguished gathering that India will spare no effort in contributing to the success of the post-Copenhagen process," he said at the 10th

World leaders back Pachauri

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Embattled UN climate panel chief, R K Pachauri, today found support from world leaders attending the climate change conference here, as they contended that some mistake in the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report does not change the basic facts of global warming.

"Those who took delight in chastising IPCC for its prediction on melting of Himalayan glaciers by 2035 missed the point... We in Bhutan feel and see for ourselves the rapid change in the surroundings," Bhutanese Prime Minister Jigme Thinley said.

He was addressing the 10th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS) here.

Similar were the views of the prime

ministers of Norway, Greece and Finland, who spoke at DSDS. They unequivocally backed the IPCC report and its findings about the impact of the global warming on glaciers and rising sea levels.

"We do not want to give a false sense of hope to our people by telling them that climate change is not happening," said Anote Tong, President of Kiribati, a tiny Pacific nation comprising 32 atolls and one raised coral island.

"Some of the recommendations have been subject to criticism. In principle, I welcome criticism. I also congratulate Pachauri for taking prompt steps to correct mistakes," Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg said.

The main point of the IPCC report remains unchanged — polar ice is melting, sea levels are rising and the globe is warming, Stoltenberg said.

Delhi Sustainable Development Summit.

"We will soon launch an ambitious National Mission on Enhanced Energy Efficiency that will put in place an in-

novative policy and regulatory regime to unlock the market for energy efficiency, estimated at over \$15 billion," Singh said.

He said the initiative was expected

to lead to the avoidance of capacity addition of nearly 20,000 Mw and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by almost 99 million tonnes.

Referring to the earlier announcement of steps by India to cut emission intensity by 20-25 per cent by 2020 on 2005 levels, the prime minister said: "We are also very serious about fulfilling, and perhaps even exceeding, this target."

In the case of developing nations, climate action had to be combined with their central developmental goals, he said.

"In a country like India, where hope and deprivation co-exist, sustainable development requires that the needs of the present are given at least as much attention as the needs of the future," Singh observed.

Climate action that delayed or made more difficult the basic task of poverty eradication would be difficult to implement, he said.

"That is why in our National Action Plan on Climate Change, we have given priority to those activities that mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and also deliver substantial collateral benefits by reducing poverty or by improving local environmental quality and human health," Singh said.