



Ministry of Environment and Forests
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

INDIA: TAKING ON CLIMATE CHANGE
POST-COPENHAGEN DOMESTIC ACTIONS

JUNE 30, 2010

[1] An Expert Group on A Low Carbon Strategy for Inclusive Growth

The Government of India has set up an Expert Group on Low Carbon Strategy for Inclusive Growth.

- A multi-stakeholder group with representation from industry, leading think tanks, research institutions, civil society and government.
- The Group has been given the mandate to develop a **roadmap for India for low carbon development**.
- It will recommend prioritized actions in sectors such as Electricity, Transport, Industry, Oil and Gas, Buildings, and Forestry.
- The Group's recommendations will become a central part of India's Twelfth Five Year Plan which will come into effect in 2012.

[2] A "Carbon Tax" on Coal to Fund Clean Energy

India has announced a levy – a clean energy cess – on coal, at the rate of Rs. 50 (~USD 1) per ton, which will apply to both domestically produced and imported coal.

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- This money will go into a **National Clean Energy Fund** that will be used for funding research, innovative projects in clean energy technologies, and environmental remedial programmes.
- The expected earnings from this cess is around USD 500 million for the financial year 2010-11.

[3] Perform, Achieve & Trade (PAT) Mechanism for Energy Efficiency

India's cabinet approved the **National Mission on Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE)** on 24th June, 2010. The Mission includes several new initiatives – the most important being the Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) Mechanism, which **will cover facilities that account for more than 50% of the fossil fuel used in India, and help reduce CO2 emissions by 25 million tons per year by 2014-15**.

- About 700 of the most energy intensive industrial units and power stations in India would be mandated to reduce their energy consumption by a specified percentage.

- The percentage reduction for a facility would depend on its current level of efficiency: the most efficient facility in a sector would have a lower percentage reduction requirement, and the less efficient facility would have larger percentage reduction requirement.
- In order to enhance the cost effectiveness of this mechanism, facilities which achieve savings in excess of their mandated reduction would be issued Energy Savings Certificate (ESCerts) for the savings that are in excess of their mandated target. These ESCerts can be used by other facilities for compliance if they find it expensive to meet their own reduction target.
- Energy efficiency ratings made mandatory for 4 key appliances – refrigerators, air conditioners, tubelights and transformers from January 7, 2010; more to follow through 2010-11.

[4] Release of India's National GHG Inventory 2007

On 10th May 2010, India released its Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory for 2007, with the aim of enabling informed decision-making and to ensure transparency. Until now, the only official emissions estimates available were for the year 1994.

- With this publication, India has become the first “non-Annex I” (i.e. developing) country to publish such updated numbers. www.jeywin.com
- India also announced its intent to publish its emissions inventory in a two-year cycle going forward, which is much more frequent than the requirement under its NATCOM commitments. India will be the first developing country to do so.
- According to the results, India's emissions are less than a fourth of the USA and China.
- Results also show that the emissions intensity of India's GDP declined by more than 30% during the period 1994-2007 due to the efforts and policies that India has proactively put in place.
- Despite its already low emissions intensity, India intends to do even more. India has announced its intent to further reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 20-25% between 2005 and 2020, even as it accelerates infrastructure development and the growth of its manufacturing sector.

[5] National Mission on Sustainable Habitat (NMSH)

The NMSH was recently approved as one of the eight National Missions under the Prime Minister's National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). A comprehensive strategic plan is being drafted for the implementation of this Mission.

Key objectives of the NMSH include:

- Promoting **energy efficiency in residential and commercial sectors** by bridging the knowledge gap on designing green infrastructure, by ensuring better implementation of government schemes, and by offering appropriate financial incentives.
- Developing a comprehensive approach to **managing water, solid waste and wastewater** that takes into account potential for recycling, reuse and energy creation.
- **Refurbishing urban transportation** to increase usage and energy efficiency through a combination of promotional, regulatory and fiscal measures, including mandatory fuel efficiency standards to be notified shortly.

[6] Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM)

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The JNNSM which has been launched recently is an ambitious mission to make India a global leader in solar energy. This is also one of the eight National Missions under NAPCC.

- The National Solar Mission aims at **generating 20,000 mw of solar power by 2022**.
- The Mission also has other targets: 2000 mw of off-grid solar plants, and 20 million sq meters of solar collectors to be installed. In addition, 20 million solar lighting systems will be created/distributed in rural areas, saving about 1 billion litres of kerosene every year.
- On January 11, 2010 a Solar Energy conclave was held in New Delhi where the details of the Mission implementation, investment and financing opportunities, technical aspects (technology, R&D, human resources) were discussed.

[7] Green India Mission (GIM)

The GIM, also one of the eight National Missions under NAPCC, is being finalised.

- The overarching target of the GIM is to double the area to be taken up for afforestation/eco-restoration in India in the next 10 years, taking the total area to be afforested or eco-restored to 20 million ha. This would increase the above and below ground biomass in 10 million ha of forests/ecosystems, resulting in **increased carbon sequestration of 43 million tons CO₂(e) annually**.

Key features of GIM include:

- Increasing the quality of our forest cover by increasing the cover and density of our medium density and degraded forests.
- Taking a holistic view of forestry, and not merely focus on plantations to meet carbon sequestration targets.
- Focusing on decentralization and involving existing local governance institutions. Forests are the main source of livelihood to over 200 million people in India and hence GIM will actively try to secure the participation of local communities.

A series of nationwide public consultations are being currently undertaken to finalise the Mission before its launch. www.jeywin.com

[8] REDD+

India has announced a number of initiatives related to its preparedness for REDD+:

- A **Technical Group** has been set up to develop methodologies and procedures to make assessment and monitoring of REDD+ actions.
- A National **REDD+ Coordinating Agency** has been given in-principle approval.
- Methodologies for National Forest Carbon Accounting are being institutionalized.

[9] Regional and International Cooperation

- South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), which comprises the 8 South Asian countries, adopted the **Thimpu Statement on Climate Change** on 29th April 2010. The Statement calls for, among other things, an **Inter-governmental Expert Group on Climate Change** to develop clear policy direction for regional cooperation on climate change.

- India announced the grant of **USD 1 million** each to **SAARC Forestry Centre, Thimpu**, Bhutan and **SAARC Coastal Management Centre, Male**, Maldives.
- India and Bangladesh to set up the India-Bangladesh Sunderbans Ecosystem Forum to conserve the Sunderbans – the world’s largest riverine delta. Climate change will be the central component of this Forum.
- India to host 11th COP of Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) in 2012, mark 20th anniversary of Rio.

[10] Sub-National State-level Actions

- State governments are preparing **State-specific Action Plans on Climate Change**, that draw upon India’s National Action Plan and to operationalise state-level measures in mitigation and adaptation.
- Delhi and Orissa become two States to complete and launch their Action Plans. Most other States are finalising their Action Plans. Himachal Pradesh on track to become the first Indian State to negotiate a large (USD 450 million) loan on sustainable environmental growth and climate change with the World Bank. Himachal Pradesh is also setting up a State Centre for Climate Change, Disaster Management and Snow and Glacier Studies.
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- Incentive-based additional special grant of USD 1.2 billion announced by Central government to all States for sustainable forestry management.

[11] Climate Change Science

- The Indian Network for Climate Change Assessment (INCCA) is undertaking a major “**4X4**” **assessment** of the impacts of climate change on four sectors – water resources, agriculture, forests and human health – in four critical regions of India – the Himalayan region, North east, Western Ghats and Coastal India. This will be released in November 2010.
- INCCA is a network comprising 127 research institutions tasked with undertaking research on the science of climate change and its impacts on different sectors of the economy across the various regions of India.
- Launch of Indian satellite to monitor GHG emissions by 2013 on track.

[12] India's First CDM PoA (Bachat Lamp Yojana)

- The Bachat Lamp Yojana (BLY) conceived as **CDM Programme of Activity (PoA)** for **mass distribution of Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs)** in India has been registered successfully by the CDM-Executive Board. This is the first PoA to be registered from India and third in the World.
- The Programme has been developed to promote energy efficient lighting in India. State-level Electricity Distribution Companies (DISCOMs) that join this programme would distribute high quality CFLs at about Rs. 15 per piece.
- The Programme would not only help the reduction of peak load in the country but also lead to a potential reduction of over 6,000 MW in electricity demand.

[13] Himalayan Ecosystem

- The National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem approved and launched. This Mission focuses on evolving suitable management and policy measures for sustaining and safeguarding the Himalayan glacier and mountain ecosystem. It will establish an observational and monitoring network for the Himalayan environment to assess freshwater resources and health of the ecosystem.
- A National Institute of Himalayan Glaciology being set up in Dehradun, India to undertake cutting-edge research on the Himalayan glaciers.
- A coordinated Research Programme for measuring, modelling and monitoring the health of the Himalayan glaciers being implemented across the Indian Himalayas.
- Regional cooperation on Himalayas being pursued with neighbouring countries.

[14] Contributions to International Negotiations

- India makes detailed submission on how to operationalise MRV to MEF and UNFCCC.
- India hosting an International Conference on “Equity in Climate Change” on June 28-29, 2010 to discuss concrete proposals on equity.
- India to host Ministerial and High-level Conference on Technology and Climate Change in November 2010.

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