

# Climate deal should not hamper nations' economic growth: France

REUTERS

New Delhi

A GLOBAL deal to curb carbon emissions must recognise each country's right to develop, France's foreign minister said here on Thursday, as the host of this year's United Nations climate change talks seeks to win New Delhi's backing for a global deal.

Laurent Fabius said that efforts to reach an agreement, which is due at the UN in Paris in December, would fail if any country believed it would hurt their economic prospects.

India, the world's third-largest emitter of greenhouse gases, often acts as the voice of the developing world in climate change talks, and winning its support is seen as crucial if countries are to reach a deal.

"An agreement that would leave some countries



**ONE ON ONE:** Prime minister Narendra Modi with French minister of foreign affairs and international development Laurent Fabius

to consider their growth hampered by its provisions will not be accepted," Fabius told an audience at an annual sustainable development summit.

Fabius said he understood "the constraints of India" as it seeks to grow its economy. Governments across the world are ex-

pected to submit national plans to rein in greenhouse gas emissions by an informal deadline of March 31 to form the basis of the global agreement due at the Paris summit.

India has long resisted pressure to commit to any emissions targets, on the grounds that it could ham-

per its economy and that rich countries should shoulder most of the burden of lowering emissions.

Instead, India has committed to a huge expansion in renewable energy and improving the energy efficiency of its rapidly growing economy, while at the same time increasing its burning of coal to meet the bulk of its growing energy needs.

India will build an ambitious 100,000 mw of solar power capacity — 33 times its current level — by 2020, two years ahead of a target date announced last year, Prakash Javadekar, union environment minister, told the same event in Delhi.

Fabius also argued that the public and private sector should commit more money to a green climate fund, a UN plan that aims to help poor nations cope with global warming, if the world is to cut emissions successfully.