



World Sustainable Development Summit 2018

Kolkata Regional Dialogue | February 28, 2017

Session: Energy Basket of India- Innovations for Clean and Sustainable Practices

Coal-dependent India was the third-largest emitter of atmosphere-warming greenhouse gases in 2014, accounting for around 7 percent of total emissions, according to scientific estimates. China and the United States were the world's highest emitters, accounting for 25 percent and 15 percent of greenhouse gases respectively. However, India's annual per capita CO₂ footprint was just 1.6 tonnes per person, compared to 16.4 tonnes per person for the US and 7.1 tonnes per person for China, according to the most recent available data. Government figures showing that around 300 million Indians live without access to electricity, insisting that raising the standard of living among India's poorest would require increased use of fuel to levels closer, but probably still below, those enjoyed by residents of developed nations.

India has nevertheless committed to taking significant steps to tackling climate change and to leading developing countries along the same path. It has been declared that India would reduce emissions by 33 to 35 percent of 2005 levels by 2030, and that 40 percent of its installed capacity would be from non-fossil fuels.

India would ramp up its use of [solar and wind energy](#), and to a lesser degree hydroelectric and nuclear power, as it seeks to reduce its carbon footprint. But those options, at their current state and costs, were not enough to provide India's short- and medium-term energy needs.

The Session seeks to address the issue of bringing about a balance in India's energy basket and power infrastructure. In addition, the international alliances, for example, international solar alliance technology disruptions largely driven by resources available nationally and adhering to the commitments met at the Paris COP are key deliverables for the country under the ambit of UNFCCC negotiations.