

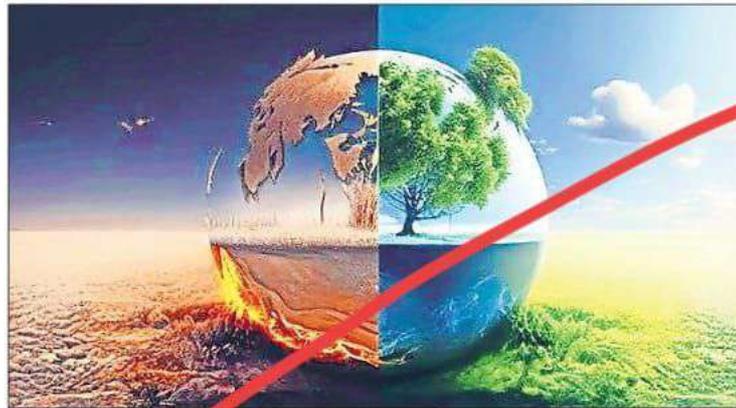
Global climate action too slow despite progress under Paris Agreement, warns UN report

NEW DELHI, Oct 28 (PTI)

TEN years after the Paris Agreement was adopted, a latest UN report has showed that countries are making progress in cutting greenhouse gas emissions but not fast enough to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

The 2025 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) Synthesis Report, released by the UN Climate Change on Tuesday, said the 64 new national climate plans submitted between January 2024 and September 2025 would collectively cut emissions by about 17 per cent below the 2019 levels by 2035.

Though this marks "real and increasing progress", the report said that "major acceleration is still needed in terms of delivering faster and deeper emission



reductions and ensuring that the benefits of strong climate action reach all countries and peoples".

NDCs are climate action plans that every country makes under the Paris Agreement. These plans set targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and outline how each country will adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Together, these national plans

determine whether the world can meet the goal of keeping temperature rise below 1.5 degrees Celsius this century.

The deadline for submitting the new NDCs was February 10, 2025, which over 90 per cent of the countries missed.

The 64 NDC-submitting countries covered in the report include the US, Russia, Japan, Brazil,

Canada, the UK, Australia and Nigeria, among others.

Other major emitters such as China, India, the EU, Indonesia, Iran and Saudi Arabia are yet to submit their updated plans.

According to the report, the implementation of the new NDCs would bring total greenhouse gas emissions of the 64 reporting countries down to around 13 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent by 2035 from 13.9 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent by 2030, with emissions peaking before 2030.

However, the 64 NDCs cover only about 30 per cent of global emissions, and therefore "it is not possible to draw wide-ranging global conclusions or inferences from this limited dataset".

The report said countries are "bending their combined emission curve further downwards, but still not quickly enough".

HAL to produce Russian SJ-100 civil aircraft

NEW DELHI, Oct 28 (PTI)

INDIA and Russia have firmed up a joint collaboration to produce a twin-engine narrow-body passenger aircraft for short-haul flights in line with growing strategic ties between the two countries.

State-run aerospace major Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) reached an agreement with Russia's Public Joint Stock Company United Aircraft Corporation (PJSC-UAC) for production of SJ-100 aircraft. It was signed in Moscow on Monday.

It will be the first such project to produce a passenger aircraft in India.

IOC to continue buying Russian oil as sanctions target certain suppliers, not oil

NEW DELHI, OCT 28 (PTI)

INDIAN OIL Corporation (IOC) and other Indian oil firms may not completely halt purchases of Russian crude as recent sanctions target specific Russian suppliers, not the oil itself - a scenario that opens the possibility of flows to continue through non-sanctioned entities.

Officials said four Russian oil companies have been sanctioned so far, but the largest supplier to India, Rosneft - which handles around 45 per cent of flows - is not an actual producer but an aggregator. Crude aggregation from fields in Russia can be carried out by other non-sanctioned entities, allowing supplies to continue. Indian refiners have not placed any new orders for Russian oil after the US last week slapped sanctions on Moscow's top two crude exporters as they assess the changed scenario to

ensure not faulting with any international commitments.

Purchase of Russian oil, they said, has not been sanctioned. The US has imposed sanctions on Russia's Rosneft and Lukoil, making it impossible for commercial dealings with them. However, Russian crude, which is processed in refineries to make fuels like petrol and

diesel, offered by any non-sanctioned entity can be considered, they said. This understanding was also reflected by IOC Director (Finance) Anuj Jain in a post-earnings analyst call on Tuesday.

"We are absolutely not going to discontinue (buying Russian crude) as long as we are complying with the sanctions.

Russian crude is not sanctioned. It is the entities and the shipping lines which have got sanctions," he said. "If somebody comes to me with a non-sanctioned entity, and the (price) cap is being

complied with, and the shipping is okay, then I will continue to buy it."

The US last week imposed sanctions on Rosneft and



Lukoil, in a bid to pressure Moscow into ending its war on Ukraine. Other major producers, Surgutneftegas PAO and Gazprom Neft, were blacklisted earlier. Officials said the Indian firms are weighing their options to understand how much they can buy from non-sanctioned entities in Russia.

India 4th largest renewable energy producer at 257 GW: Pralhad Joshi

NEW DELHI, Oct 28 (PTI)

UNION Minister Pralhad Joshi on Tuesday said India is the fourth-largest nation in the world in terms of renewable energy capacity, at 257 GW, a three-fold jump from 81 GW in 2014. Addressing the 8th session of the International Solar Alliance Assembly, the Union Minister of new and renewable energy said India's solar capacity increased from 2.8 GW in 2014 to 128 GW today. He said, "India is now the world's 4th-largest in RE capacity. Renewables in 2014 V/s Now: 81 GW - 257 GW."

He informed that solar module manufacturing capacity increased from 2 GW in 2014 to 110 GW at present. Similarly, the solar cells manufacturing increased from 'zero' to 27 GW.

He said under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India achieved the Nationally Determined



Contribution target of 50 per cent capacity from non-fossil sources, five years ahead of the deadline. India's renewable tariffs, be it solar, solar-plus-battery, and green ammonia, are among the lowest globally, he said, adding that this reflects India's ability to combine scale, with speed and skill to make clean energy affordable. The International Energy Agency projects that India will become the world's second-largest renewable market.

The International Renewable

Energy Agency calls India an energy transition powerhouse. And the Climate Change Performance Index continues to rank India among the top performers, he noted. In fact, among the G20 countries, India is the only nation to have achieved its 2030 renewable energy targets as early as 2021. "We have consistently been at the forefront of global efforts to mitigate climate change", he said. India now ranks third globally in growth in power generation capacity over the past five years.

South Africa exits FATF 'grey list' after nearly 3 years

JOHANNESBURG, Oct 28 (PTI)

SOUTH Africa has been delisted from the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) 'grey list' nearly three years after being added to it. The global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog announced the decision in Paris last week after the conclusion of its three-day plenary meeting.

Countries on FATF's 'grey list' are under increased monitoring and have to address strategic deficiencies to counter money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing.

"Over the past 32 months, South Africa has engaged with a team of reviewers assigned by the FATF to assess progress against the Action Plan," South Africa's National Treasury said in a statement.

"This culminated in an on-site visit at the end of July 2025, when the assessors came to the country to confirm the sustainability of the reforms that had been reported to them," it said.

'Cloud-seeding trials conducted in parts of Delhi, more in pipeline'

NEW DELHI, Oct 28 (PTI)

THE Delhi Government, in collaboration with IIT-Kanpur, conducted cloud-seeding trials in parts of Delhi on Tuesday, with more such exercises planned over the next few days, Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa said.

Environmentalists, however, termed the Delhi Government's cloud-seeding trial a short-term measure, saying it may temporarily reduce pollution but fails to address the root causes of the capital's deteriorating air quality.



The Cessna aircraft used for the first cloud-seeding trial in the national capital takes off from Kanpur, on Tuesday. (PTI)

ty. According to officials, the aircraft took off from Kanpur for Delhi and covered areas like Burari, north Karol Bagh and MayurVihar before landing at the Meerut Airfield.

"The Cessna aircraft took off from Kanpur. It released eight fire flares each weighing 2 to 2.5 kilograms and the trial lasted for half an hour. Each flare lasted for two to two-and-a-half minutes. The clouds had a humidity of 15 to 20 per cent. The flares were released for 17 to 18 minutes," Sirsa said in a video statement.

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