

IN MISSION MODE

Developed world's climate plans in a fog, India's a clear blue sky

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Calling it a tragedy, the Economic Survey has pointed to the gaping hole in the delayed climate action plans of developed nations and their pressure on poor developing nations to step up their carbon mitigation efforts. The Survey has lauded India's efforts at decoupling economic growth from greenhouse gas emissions.

"Even as developed nations prepare to impose a carbon tax at the border on imports coming into their countries laden with carbon, they are ramping up energy demand like never before," said the Survey.

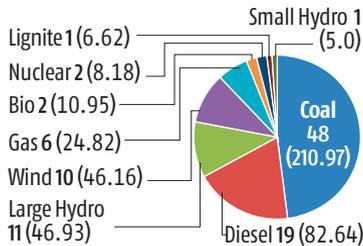
India has managed to keep its rate of carbon emissions growth lower than its gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate, it said. "Despite the challenges mentioned above, managing the impact of climate change while ensuring that developmental priorities continue to get focus has been the hallmark of India's growth strategies. The plethora of cross-sectoral measures taken in the economy and the several schemes to modify consumer and producer behaviour and promote energy saving have resulted in India's total national emissions, including Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry, increasing by 4.56 per cent since 2016," the survey said.

This compares favourably with the growth experienced by the country. India's GDP between 2005 and 2019

FOSSIL FOOTPRINT

Coal powers nearly half of India's energy requirement

Figures in bracket represent absolutes in Gw Share (%)



India's per capita emissions much lower than low carbon economies

Country	CO ₂ equivalent emissions per year (in tn)
Russia	18
United States	18
South Korea	14
Iceland	14
India	3

Source : Economic Survey

grew at a compound annual growth rate of about 7 per cent, whereas emissions grew at a CAGR of about 4 per cent, it pointed out. The survey noted a recent report by the International Finance Corporation, which recognises India's efforts to achieve committed climate actions. It highlights that India is the only G20 nation in line with a

'India should develop its own climate plan'

India should develop its own climate action plan rooted in traditional methods, suggests Economic Survey 2023-2024, released on Monday. "Even as the traditional scientific approaches to climate change are welcome, it's high time that India adopted and disseminated its wisdom of pursuing a life of sustainability," the survey said. This suggestion aligns with the broader goals of Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), which aims to create a widespread movement encouraging sustainable living. The survey outlines the crucial role of the 3Rs—Reuse, Recovery, and Recycling—is essential for achieving the country's ambitious net-zero target.

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2°C warming target. Last year, the government said India had successfully reduced the emission intensity relative to its GDP by 33 per cent between 2005 and 2019, thus achieving the initial Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) target for 2030, 11 years ahead of the scheduled time.

Meanwhile, India is on track to make an additional carbon sink of 2.5-3 billion tonnes (bt) through tree and forest cover by 2030, with a carbon sink of 1.97 bt of carbon dioxide equivalent already created from 2005 to 2019, the survey said.

