

India's focus is on green growth, green jobs: PM

NITIN KUMAR

New Delhi, 23 September

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday encouraged state governments and citizens to focus on green growth and green jobs to help achieve the net zero carbon emissions target by 2070.

"Now, the focus of the country is on growth, on green jobs. And to achieve all these goals, the role of the environment ministry of every state is enormous," Modi said at the National Conference of Environment Ministers in Gujarat.

Ahead of the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference, commonly referred to as COP27, the Centre reached out to states to encourage them for devising stronger climate action plans. COP27 will be held in Egypt from November 6 to 18.

Modi also urged state ministers against unnecessarily allowing obstacles in the name of the environment and to ensure ease of living and doing business, while highlighting the importance of the PARIVESH portal for the single-window forest, wildlife, environment, and coastal regulation zone clearances. "Where environment clear-

ance used to take more than 600 days 8 years ago, it takes 75 days today," the PM said, calling for expedited clearance of more than 6,000 proposals for environmental and 6,500 for forest that were pending with the states.

"Expedited clearances should also take care of the rules and give priority to the development of the people. It is a win-win situation for both the economy and ecology," he said.

Modi said the role of the environment ministry was more of a promoter of the environment than a regulator. "It should be our endeavour that by raising the name of the environment unnecessarily, no obstacle should be allowed to be created in the quest of ease of living and ease of doing business. We have to remember that the faster the environment clearance is available, the faster the development will also take place."

Stressing the need to maintain equilibrium with nature, the PM said the role of the environment ministries of the states in achieving these goals was of vital importance.

Modi emphasised the need for a participative and integrated approach by the environment ministries and citizens to create awareness about biodiversity.



PM Narendra Modi called for expedited clearance of environmental proposals that are pending with states