

**Climate change and development imperative and inseparable:
Mr. Shyam Saran, Prime Minister of India's Special Envoy on Climate Change**

The world should work along to achieve sustainability

The onus to adopt environmentally friendly technologies should not completely lie on the developing world. Science suggests the current climate change is due to accumulated emissions of over 200 years of industrialization. The world, therefore, should work together to achieve sustainability, said Mr. Shyam Saran, Prime Minister of India's Special Envoy on Climate Change. He was speaking at a Seminar on 'Business Response to Climate Change' organized today by the CII – ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development.

According to him collaborations become irrelevant when competitive tendencies prevail. He outlined practices like IPR and trade competitiveness as major obstacles for environmentally friendly technology adoption. Positioning India's National Action Plan on Climate Change as a new strategy for sustainable development, Mr. Saran highlighted that the issue of climate change, particularly for India, is closely linked to development. He was of the view that India's development denominator is associated with huge population; ongoing industrialization; extensive urbanization and need for greater agricultural output.

Seeking to achieve energy security, he further stated, 'if India has to continuously grow at 8- 9 %, then it should reduce dependence on fossil fuel. According to India's Integrated Energy Policy, by 2030 India will be importing more than 90% of oil and about two-third to three-fourth of coal, and the energy cost will increase.' To this regard he reflected upon the National Solar Energy Mission,

which is an ambitious project by the Government of India for reducing India's dependence on non-renewable energy sources. The mission is based on the fact that India receives high insolation and is a leading option to innovate and scale up.

Mr. Saran further appraised about the Energy Efficiency National Mission, which builds on India's decoupling of its economic growth and energy intensity. He stated, 'The clearance of Civil Nuclear Energy Agreement will help India to have better energy security. The current economic downturn has turned to India's advantage as the cost of equipment and fuel have come down considerably.

Speaking about the National Mission on Water by the Government of India, which aims to ensure better water management. Mr. Saran stated that the Mission envisages micro and macro level initiatives. River Basin Management projects are place at Indus, Ganga and Bhramaputra. At the micro level the aim is to ensure involvement by the community. Such projects lend themselves to greater participation from business and industry bodies like CII leading to water-positive practices and water-neutral industrial processes.

Green India Mission has been formulated as an adaptive and mitigating practice for climate change. Mr. Saran highlighted that the mission aims to scale up India's forest cover from the current 22% to 33%. He advocated participation of the in this mission which also links with the Water Mission.

Earlier, welcoming Mr. Saran, Mr. Harpal Singh, Chairrman, CII Northern Region and Chairman Emeritus, Fortis Healthcare Ltd. stated, Climate change features in regular discussions as it is closely linked with growth, poverty, equity and the future of the human race. It is optimistic to find Indian companies voluntarily disclosing their carbon footprints and trying to keep emissions under control. CII is now into the 3rd carbon disclosure project for India's top 200 companies. Such

voluntary initiatives should be augmented with policies and initiatives, which can help India achieve leadership in climate change mitigation.

In her concluding remarks, Ms. Seema Arora, Principal Counsellor & Head, CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development, said, as development and climate control are interlinked, industry has to come together. A shift from a mere response to a strategic intervention is imperative for achieving sustainable development.

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