

‘India must revisit climate plan’

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Carbon capture and storage (CCS) is a technology that can capture carbon dioxide emitted during electricity generation and store it underground to prevent this greenhouse gas (GHG) from entering the atmosphere. The technology, however, hasn't been perfected yet.

Since CCS is not yet fully developed, the report calls for cutting GHG emissions by 40%-70% by 2050 from the 2010 level and to near-zero by 2100 to keep global warming below 2 degree Celsius by the turn of the century.

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tions we brought out,” said R K Pachauri, “which include reducing and doing away with deforestation, reduction in emissions of GHGs from fossil fuels and a movement towards more renewable sources of energy. So I think we need to look at a whole menu of these options and start implementing them effectively, and hopefully, we will also de-

velop CCS and bio-energy options, as we have spelled out very clearly”.

The synthesis report, released by UN secretary-general Ban Ki-Moon along with many climate experts, including Pachauri, reiterated what IPCC had said in its three previous working group reports in the past 13 months. It said the impacts of climate change have already been felt in recent decades in all continents and across oceans. In his advice to the government, Pachauri said: “India has a national action plan on climate change that, I think, will need to be revisited...” Scientists widely accept that if the world cannot keep temperature rise

to below 2 degree Celsius, it will face disasters like a sharp rise extreme weather events, sea level rise, melting of glaciers and consequent food crisis and human conflicts.

“It is technically feasible to transition to a low-carbon economy”, said Youba Sokona, co-chair of the IPCC third working group. The synthesis report says that although estimates of mitigation costs vary, global economic growth would not be strongly hit by these investments. In business-as-usual scenarios, consumption grows by 1.6% to 3% per year over the 21st century. Ambitious mitigation would reduce consumption by just about 0.06%, the IPCC notes.