

US, China clinch deal on greenhouse gases

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Pact may now put pressure on India

Beijing/New Delhi: At a time when the world is hoping to clinch a global climate deal in Paris next year, the top two carbon emitters — the US and China — on Wednesday pledged to take ambitious actions to limit emission of greenhouse gases.

Under the bilateral deal, the US will reduce emissions by 26%-28% below its 2005 level by 2025. China, on its part, vowed to achieve peaking of carbon emissions around 2030 and to make efforts to peak early. It also intends to increase the share of non-fossil fuels in primary energy consumption to

The US-China pledge may put pressure on India to commit something substantial on its 'intended' goal of cutting emissions by next March. It may also trigger a clamour within India to de-link itself from China ahead of the 2015 Paris meet. **P 9**

around 20% by 2030.

The move by the two nations may be interpreted as an attempt to show their sincerity to deal with the challenges of climate change.

► **Target by March. P 9**

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US may submit target by March

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The joint announcement marks the first time that China has agreed to peak its carbon emissions.

The deal was unveiled on the last day of US President Barack Obama's visit to China. It came three weeks ahead of the Lima climate negotiations which will, hopefully, culminate into a global deal in Paris next year.

It is expected that the new US goal will be to double the pace of carbon pollution reduction from 1.2% per year on an average during the 2005-2020 period to 2.3-2.8% per year between 2020 and 2025.

"This ambitious target is grounded in intensive analysis of cost-effective carbon pollution reductions achievable under existing law and will keep the US on the right trajectory to achieve deep economy-wide reductions on the order of 80% by 2050," an official statement on the bilateral announcement said.

Since all countries are expected to submit their respective 'intended nationally determined contribution' (target to cut emissions voluntarily) by March next year, the US will submit its 2025 target

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— as announced in Beijing on Wednesday — to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change by that time.

"China's target to expand total energy consumption coming from zero-emission sources to around 20% by 2030 is notable. It will require China to deploy an additional 800-1,000 giga-watts of nuclear, wind, solar and other zero emission generation capacity by 2030 — more than all the coal-fired power plants that exist in China today and close to total current electricity generation capacity in the US," the statement said.

China, the world's largest emitter, whose emissions are still growing as it builds new coal plants, didn't commit to cut emissions by a specific amount. It just preferred talking about peaking emissions by 2030 or earlier if possible.

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