

India: US-China climate deal 'not so ambitious'

Vishwa.Mohan@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: India doesn't appear to be impressed by the US-China deal to limit carbon emissions in coming years and said the pact was "not so ambitious" — a signal that New Delhi would not budge from its position while demanding more action from the world's top two polluters.

In his first formal reaction to the pledge by the two countries, environment and climate change minister Prakash Javadekar on Friday said, "Whatever intentions have been declared by the US and China is a good beginning but it is not as ambitious as people wanted it to be".

He said many people were expecting that the US would agree to more cuts than what it declared two days ago or China will declare its peaking year much earlier than 2030. "But that has not happened," said the minister on the sidelines of a function.

Though the expectation from the top historical emitter US is understandable, the remark on China — whose case earlier used to be part of the joint narrative of developing economies including India, Brazil and South Africa as a part of the BASIC group — shows the existing discomfort within the Modi government ahead of the Lima climate negotiations.

Under the bilateral deal that was signed in Beijing on Wednesday, the US will reduce



People had expected that the US would agree to more cuts than what it declared or China will declare its peaking year much earlier than 2030. But that has not happened, said minister Prakash Javadekar

emissions by 26-28% below the 2005 levels by 2025. China, on its part, intends to achieve the peaking of carbon emissions around 2030 and try its best to peak earlier. It also intends to increase the share of non-fossil fuels in primary energy consumption to around 20% by 2030.

Making New Delhi's priority clear, he said India's poverty eradication and energy access were important developmental tools and "therefore when our peaking will be, we will declare at the right moment".

He said that eradicating poverty in developing nations such as India is the government's primary goal. He also noted that electricity has still not reached one third of the country's population.

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com