

## **Indian Public Enterprises with billions of tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions willing to act on Climate Change**

India is one amongst the few G-20 countries whose climate actions are in line to achieve its NDC targets. For this, it is crucial that the capacities of Private and Public enterprises to tackle climate change are enhanced. In particular, Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) are of strategic importance for the Indian economy as they have contributed to capital formation, employment generation (about 1.7 million people), balanced regional development, promotion of research and represent a very high proportion of India's CO<sub>2</sub>eq emissions of 2.3 billion tonnes in 2018.

A milestone was achieved, when SCOPE and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH India entered into an MoU in October 2019 to build capacities of Public Sector Enterprises on climate change, SDG implementation, carbon markets and climate finance. This initiative is part of the German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) funded 'Global Carbon Market' (GCM) Project, which advises and aims to enhance capacities of public and private decision-makers on use of existing and new market based carbon markets and climate finance instruments to support meeting the climate goals. To start action, SCOPE and GIZ India jointly organised an event on 'Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation and Sustainable Development Goals – Emerging Role of Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs)' on 17-18 December 2019 in New Delhi.

This event was inaugurated by Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad, who underlined that engaging with PSEs can galvanise actions for meeting the goals on Climate Change and SDGs. With view to international climate negotiations, he highlighted that independent analysis shows that it was the developing countries who are taking more action than the developed countries as the latter are not meeting their commitments, including that under the Kyoto Protocol. A closer look at India shows that climate action is indeed being enhanced beyond the national NDC targets – for instance the increase in the target for renewables from 175 GW to 450 GW as well as commitments under the Bonn Challenge announced to increase from 21 million hectares to 26 mha. Additional Secretary Prasad added that the State Action Plans on Climate Change are currently being aligned with the national NDCs.

The participating Indian PSEs included several which are rated by Thomson Reuters<sup>1</sup> in the list of top 100 global businesses with highest CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, among them Coal India Limited, National Thermal Power Corporation Limited and Oil & Natural Gas Corporation. In addition, big players like Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL), Steel Authority India Limited (SAIL), Nuclear Power Corporation etc. joined the meeting. Concerning CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, the state-owned company Coal India Limited tops the list with 2.076 billion tonnes in 2017. After China, India is the world's largest coal consumer meaning India could largely determine the global trajectory for coal considering that coal has fuelled rapid growth in Indian electricity sector. One estimate says that coal generated 76% of India's electricity in 2017.

The SCOPE and GIZ India event had sessions on Indian Climate Policy and international negotiations; Low carbon growth and decarbonization; Climate Resilient Infrastructure and Supply Chains; Carbon Pricing and Carbon Finance; Role of Indian Public Sector in achieving SDGs; and accelerating mobilisation of climate finance in India.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/air/four-indian-companies-among-top-100-ghg-emitters-in-2016-59131>



An action plan has been proposed by SCOPE and GIZ which includes developing a platform for experience sharing and fostering collaboration amongst PSEs; identifying champions among PSEs for Climate Change and SDGs; conducting training needs assessment of the PSEs and developing training manuals; and supporting selected PSUs in establishing climate change strategies.

Contact: Kundan Burnwal, [kundan.burnwal@giz.de](mailto:kundan.burnwal@giz.de)