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India has taken very significant steps for combating climate change says Prakash Javadekar

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New Delhi: Union Environment Minister, Shri Prakash Javadekar, represented India at the fourth edition of the virtual Ministerial on Climate Action and witnessed countries exchanging views on how nations are aligning economic recovery plans with the Paris Agreement and the critical enabling conditions to ensure continued climate action.

The meeting was co-chaired by European Union, China and Canada to advance discussions on the full implementation of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and to demonstrate continued political commitment to global climate action.

Prakash Javadekar called upon developed country parties, once again, to do their part as envisaged under UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement, for extending financial and technological support to developing countries. "The promise of USD 1 trillion by 2020 has not been fulfilled so far, and I hope that in the remaining 5 months of 2020, the promised amount is mobilized and delivered, for further strengthening climate actions in developing countries," stressed the Environment Minister.

Javadekar highlighted India's efforts in achieving a reduction of 21 per cent in emission intensity of its GDP between 2005 and 2014, thereby achieving its pre-2020 voluntary target. Further, India's renewable energy installed capacity has increased by 226 per cent in the last five years and stands more than 87 Gigawatt. provided 80 million LPG connections in rural areas.

The minister also pointed out the Government has provided people with clean cooking fuel and a healthy environment. "India's total forest and tree cover is 8,07,276 sq. km. which is 24.56 per cent of the total geographical area of the country; More than 360 million LED bulbs have been distributed under UJALA scheme, which has led to an energy saving of about 47 billion units of electricity per year and reduction of 38 million tonnes of CO2 per year," said the Environment Minister.

The fourth edition of the meeting was attended by ministers and representatives of about 30 countries and was held virtually for the first time in view of the ongoing pandemic. The purpose was to ensure that progress is made on climate action.

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