High-Level Signature Ceremony of the Paris Agreement  
UNHQ, New York  
April 22, 2016

Statement by H.E. Mr. Prakash Javadekar, Minister for Environment Forest and Climate Change

Mr. President,

On this Earth Day, we have made History. 171 countries have signed the Paris Agreement.

It is a triumph of collective wisdom.

I congratulate the Secretary General, the French Presidency, and the World Leaders.

Mr. President,

I wish to point out two special features of this Agreement.

In its very Preamble, the Paris Agreement explicitly highlights the benefits of sustainable lifestyles and sustainable consumption.

This is very important.

If we continue with the extravagant lifestyles we see in many countries, it will become unsustainable. Therefore, bring sustainability in consumption should be our priority goal.

If we continue with unsustainable consumption patterns, we will require three planets. But we don’t have three, we have only one planet, which people call mother earth. We must, therefore, take care of this one mother earth.
The second feature I wish to point out is that of climate justice. The Paris Agreement recognizes this imperative in its Preamble.

Climate Justice is justice to the poorer sections, justice to the four billion poor of the world and also justice for the developing world.

We must chalk up our action plans to implement the Paris Agreement based on these two features.

Mr. President,

I wish to reiterate that India will reduce its emissions intensity by 35%.

We will build 40% capacity of power generation from Non Fossil fuels.

We will create additional carbon sink of 2.5 billion tonnes through various policies of afforestation and we will heavily invest in reducing our vulnerability and enhancing adaptation on Climate Change.

All this is a part of our INDC which we take very seriously.

Mr. President,

India has already started on the road to climate action.

- In a revolutionary measure, we have taxed coal at the rate of $6 per tonne. This, I believe, is the highest such rate of taxation of such taxation in the world and we will invest the monies in Clean Environment. If the World follows India’s example, the elusive $100 billion target will be met easily.

- We have undertaken a huge Renewable energy program of 175 GW. I am happy to announce that we have already achieved 40 GW.

- We have blended 1 billion litres of Ethanol, and intend to double it next year, without changing the Land use.

- We have taxed polluting vehicles – 1% on petrol vehicles, 2.5% on diesel vehicles and 4% on SUVs. We are simultaneous incentivizing the use of Electric and Hybrid Vehicles through subsidies.

- We have distributed 100 million LED bulbs. We have made them cheaper by 80% from $4.7 to $0.8

- We will save 80 Million tonnes of Carbon equivalent per annum, when we will complete LED programme of one billion lights.
➢ Urban Public Transport which presently has a route length of 300 kms and carries 3 million passengers, will increase to 1300 KM and 10 million passengers in next 3 years.

➢ For afforestation we are providing $10 billion in next 5 years.

➢ We are replacing energy inefficient agriculture pumps with efficient pumps, and giving them free to our farmers.

**Mr. President,**

Ratification of the Paris Agreement is an important issue and I have no doubt that it will happen quickly.

But ratification of the 2nd commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol is urgent and needs to be done immediately. Developed world must take enhanced targets for the pre-2020 period.

There cannot be an action holiday of five years.

**Mr. President,**

We should cooperate and collaborate on clean action.

Competitiveness concerns should not over shadow our common resolve to build a sustainable future.

I thank you.

*****