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Vishwa Mohan | TNN | Nov 13, 2017, 21:26 IST

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(AP photo)

BONN, Germany: Global carbon dioxide emission is set to rise in 2017 after three stable years (2014-16) with China continuing to dominate the scene by recording highest increase as compared to last year.

Though India too is expected to record an increase (by 2%) in its carbon emission this year, the country's emission rise is much less as compared to its 6% per

year average increase over the previous decade.

The conclusion is part of the 2017 Global Carbon Budget, released here on Monday on sidelines of the ongoing UN climate conference (COP23). The report said the global emissions of CO2 from fossil fuels and industry were projected to rise by about 2% (with an uncertainty range of just between 0.8% and 3%) compared with the preceding year. It noted that this year's emission rise would follow three years of nearly no growth in emissions.

The carbon budget report, referring to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) statistics, also flagged that all the nations collectively during the year would see GDP rise of 3.6% as compared to previous year. Citing GDP growth in the report assumes significance in view of its link to emissions. "The global economy is picking up slowly. As GDP rises, we produce more goods, which, by design, produces more emissions", said Robert Jackson, a co-author of the report and professor in earth system science at Stanford University.

In that context, the Budget report noted that emissions of 101 countries, representing 50% of global emissions, increased in the presence of growing GDP. According, Chinese emissions are projected to rise by 3.5% in 2016 as compared to last year with its GDP up by 6.8%. India will, however, report lesser emissions growth (2%) while the country is expected to record almost same GDP growth (6.7%) during the period.

The report gave credit to India for its "significant government interventions in the economy" that helped it record emission rise of only 2% in 2017. It is, therefore, significantly less than the 6% per year averaged emission growth over the previous decade (2007-16).

The United States and the European Union (28 nations), on the other hand, are likely to report decline in their emissions growth this year as compared to 2016. The US emissions are projected to decline by 0.4% this year when its GDP will grow by about 2.2%. Similarly, the EU emissions are expected to decline by 0.2% in 2017 when this group of 28 nations would collectively record 2.3% increase in their GDP.

The report, in fact, noted that there are 22 countries (representing 20% of global emissions) which recorded decline in their emissions during the last decade (2007-16) even as their economies grew.

"The return to growth in global emission in 2017 is largely due to a return to growth in Chinese emissions, projected to grow by 3.5% in 2017, after two years with declining emissions. The use of coal, the main fuel source in China, may rise by 3% due to stronger growth in industrial production and lower hydro-power generation due to less rainfall," said the Budget's another co-author Glen Peters who is research director at CICERO in Oslo.

Robert Jackson, however, noted that there were several factors which point to a continued rise in 2018. "That's a real concern," said Jackson

On a positive note, the authors flagged that the emissions are unlikely to return to the persistent high growth rates, seen during the 2000s of over 3% per year, in the long term. They said, "It is more likely that emissions will plateau or have slight positive growth, broadly in line with national emission pledges submitted to the Paris Agreement".

The Global Carbon Budget is produced by 76 scientists from 57 research institutions in 15 countries, working under the umbrella of the Global Carbon Project (GCP). The budget took into account the amount of fossil fuels that nations around the world burn. Such report will play an important role when countries take 'Global Stocktake' under the Paris Agreement every five years. It will help scientific community to develop methods and perform measurements that can verify changes in national emissions within the five-yearly cycle.

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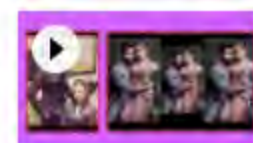
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