

24 cos, including Tata & RIL, pledge to be 'carbon neutral'

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New Delhi: Joining hands with the government to take India towards the path of lower greenhouse gas emissions, as many as 24 top private companies including Tata, Reliance, Mahindra, ITC, ACC, Adani and Dalmia Cement on Thursday signed a declaration on climate change by voluntarily pledging to move towards 'carbon neutrality'.

Aligning themselves with India's commitment under the Paris Agreement, captains of these industries, on the occasion of the India CEO Forum on climate change, briefly described how they would collectively take the country to 'net zero emission' goal through nine specific mitigation measures.

Though India, unlike China, European Union (EU), Japan and South Korea, has so far not committed to 'net zero



Union environment minister Prakash Javadekar called the pledge a 'historic step'

'emission' target as its national goal, these firms intend to voluntarily do so through industry-specific measures. The nine mitigation measures, listed by the companies, in the declaration include promotion of renewable energy, enhanced energy efficiency, water efficient processes, green mobility, planned afforestation and waste management & recycling. Calling it a "historic step", Union environment

minister Prakash Javadekar said, "The signing of the declaration on climate change by the industry sector is an important development. This shows India's resolve and commitment. The world must take note of it."

The event saw CEOs and various heads of key industries listing out various clean processes and initiatives they have taken and their agenda towards further decarbonisation post-2020. Under the declaration, the private companies will develop and submit an annual report to the environment ministry. India is a signatory to the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change which aims to take climate actions to keep the global average temperature rise well below 2 degree celsius by the end of the century and make best efforts to limit warming to 1.5 degrees celsius.

Full report on www.toi.in