

IPCC SR 1.5 C: Significance and Implications

Challenges posed by 1.5 degree impacts? Is the proposed strategy of addressing Climate Change viable?

Concept Note

India faces the triple challenge of transitioning to a low-carbon economy, raising a large portion of its population out of poverty, and safeguarding from its climate change vulnerability. The IPCC Special report on impacts and emissions pathways of 1.5C frames the issues specifically in the context of strengthening responses to climate change, sustainable development, and eradication of poverty. [In a recent interview](#), Chair of the IPCC Hoesung Lee said that the belief that reducing emissions slows economic growth is outdated and rests on a faulty development model of the 20th century.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has prepared a Special Report on the *'impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty.'* The Special Report has been prepared by the IPCC on a specific invitation of the UNFCCC following a decision of Parties to the UNFCCC taken at CoP 23. The Special Report will be a major input for policy decisions on global climate change in future.

2C or 1.5 C have similar pathways, only the speed and scale are not the same. While there is no simple answer to the feasibility of 1.5C, it is certain that it will require rapid and far reaching transitions at the global as well as at the national levels. These include transitions that would have to occur in the next couple of decades in energy, land, urban and industrial systems. In addition, demand side measures, behavioural changes and emissions reductions in the short term hold great potential towards a 1.5 consistent response.

In India, transitions are underway, notably in the energy sector where RE is already cost-competitive with coal for example, but also in the transport and building sectors with recent initiatives in electric vehicles and cooling systems. Abatement in the industrial sector is slower but also crucial for India. While research and empirical evidence is showing that transitions are technically

feasible or will be, it is becoming clearer that the challenges and barriers now lie elsewhere. Indeed, policies and institutional capacities, and socio-cultural and market barriers may be the inhibitors of the required change.

While there are enough signals that transitions in India as also in other similarly placed developing countries are taking place, the question is the extent to which they must be technically, politically, socially and economically stretched in order to be 1.5 consistent? Do the pathways indicated in SR 1.5 suggest any substantial changes in the nature and content of the strategies currently adopted? Which trends must be in place at the national level and which barriers need to be removed for these accelerated transitions to happen in the energy, urban and industrial, among others, sectors?

The conference on SR 1.5 in Delhi on 15th October 2018 will analyse the significance and implications of the impacts presented by the IPCC in its SR1.5 degree Report and the Summary for Policy Makers. Stakeholders from government, scientific & research institutions, think tanks, and industry have been invited to participate and contribute to the event. The Conference will examine/explore the transitions needed for 1.5 consistent development pathways and the viability of such pathways or measures from global as well as national or regional perspectives.