

'We aren't on track for 1.5°C target'

No single ministry alone may be able to deal with the climate crisis and government institutions and policies must be strengthened to help build a low carbon future, **Navroz Dubash**, professor at Centre for Policy Research and one of the coordinating lead authors of the IPCC report told **Jayashree Nandi** in an interview. Edited excerpts:



Average annual greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the past decade were higher than any previous decade, as per the IPCC report. Does that mean most countries failed to deliver?

On an aggregate, we are not on track to achieve 1.5 degree C warming, and current policies will take us to between 2.2 and 3.5-degree C warming. That emissions have continued growing during the decade of the 2010s likely shows a combination of inadequate pledges by countries and a lack of implementation of existing pledges... we are indeed not on track to limit warming to 1.5 degree C. However, the key issue is to limit the warming as far as possible... the report does note some signs of progress. There are many more policies and laws in place that have played a role in enhancing energy efficiency, lowering deforestation and accelerated deployment of renewable energy...

The report has indicated that keeping global warming under 1.5 degree C is unlikely. What can still be done to keep it in check, or should countries now focus on the 2 degree C goal?

The value of 1.5 degrees C is sig-

nificant, but it is important to remember that the key is to work harder to limit warming to the extent possible – 1.5 is better than 1.6 degree C, but that is better than 1.7 or 1.8 degree C and so on. The important thing is to act, rather than focusing on specific numbers... Emissions have to decrease substantially by 2030, as much as 27% even to achieve 2 degree C... More than focusing on any particular number, the countries need to stimulate domestic actions...

IPCC has flagged that continued installation of unabated fossil fuel infrastructure will 'lock-in' GHG emissions. What are the implications for developing countries such as India?

In developing economies where emissions are still growing, there is an option to choose technologies that steer a country toward a low rather than high carbon future. Fossil fuel infrastructure versus renewable energy infrastructure is one such choice... It is worrying that the report finds a significant gap in financial flows, on an average it is 3-6 times lesser than what is projected to be needed... It would be wise to mobilise these funds to enable a transition to a low carbon world rather than locking into a high-carbon future.