

## Curbing carbon emission won't hamper India's growth: Sathaye

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Coimbatore:** Reducing carbon emissions and energy consumption will not hamper India's development, said climate change expert Jayant A Sathaye here on Saturday. Economical, social and technological development, he said, can still be achieved as long as the country's population was brought on board with policies to reverse climate change. To achieve this, Sathaye added, it was important to create awareness among people on the dangers of climate change.

Sathaye, senior scientist, strategic advisor and founder of the International Energy Studies Group at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, was in Coimbatore to deliver a lecture on climate change at Amrita University.

He also stressed on the need to make energy efficient alternatives affordable. "In developing countries with a large rural population, it is important to make people understand the harmful effects of wasting energy. They should be taught on how minimal use of energy and use of products consuming less energy would help environment. And most importantly, they should be priced on par or even low compared to usual products," Sathaye said.



A Sathaye giving a lecture at Amrita University on Saturday

Sathaye believes that energy efficiency is the most affordable and best way to reduce carbon emission. According to him, it is important that every household and person contributes their bit to realise the country's vision.

"It is great that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has committed to bringing down carbon emission by 35% by 2030 from the 2005 levels. But, beyond pushing solar, wind energy and nuclear energy, the easiest way to go about reducing emissions is to reduce energy consumption," he said.

Presenting clear evidence of climate change that studies have unearthed, the scientist said, "Some 1,500 years ago, the average temperature across the globe was -18 degree C, but in 1970 it was +15 degree C. In India, almost 12 states have set up departments or committees to bring down carbon emissions. Hopefully the remaining 18 will

In developing countries with a large rural population, it is important to make people understand the harmful effects of wasting energy

**A Sathaye** | CLIMATE CHANGE EXPERT

also follow suit," Sathaye said.

The north-eastern states seem to be least inclined towards reducing carbon emissions, he said. "They seem to have done the least or 'not much' in that direction. Most of the African nations are in the same boat," Sathaye noted.

The scientist advised all countries and even Indian states to take a leaf out California's efforts to bring down climate change. "In California, use of fossil fuels or coal has come down to almost nil, because they made products working on renewable energy and renewable energy generators cheaper than normal products. It took them a few decades, but they have ensured that the surface temperatures have not increased since 1970. They are now trying to bring it further down," he said.