

Sushma: India willing to take lead on climate action

United Nations, Sept. 27: India is willing to take the lead in combating climate change as it poses significant developmental challenges, especially for developing countries, external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj has told a high-level UN meeting on the issue.

India is the sixth largest producer of renewable energy, and fifth largest producer of solar energy in the world, Ms Swaraj said at the high-level meeting on climate change convened by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres during the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly on Wednesday.

For its part to fight climate change, it has set a target of generating 175 Giga Watts of solar and wind energy by 2022, Ms Swaraj said.

India has installed over 300 million LED bulbs saving \$2 billion and 4 GW of electricity. She also cited the example of the Kochi airport in Kerala which is the first solar-powered airport in the world.

"India is willing to take lead in climate action. Our commitment to combat climate change is rooted in our ethos, which considers Earth as Mother," Ms Swaraj said.

She told the UN meeting that India will reduce the emission intensity of its GDP by 25 per cent over 2005 levels by 2020, and further by 33-35 per cent by 2030.

— PTI