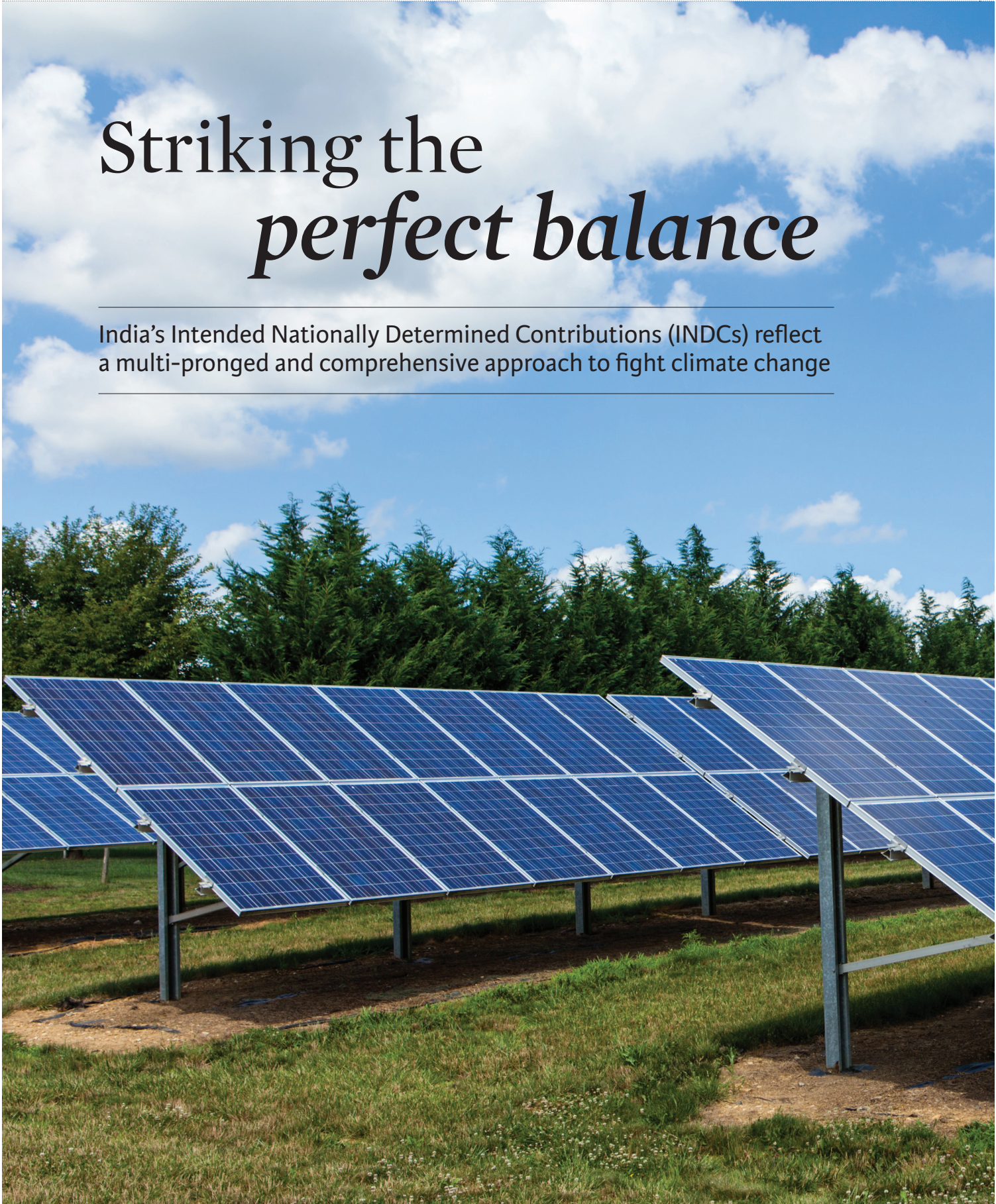



# Striking the *perfect balance*

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India's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) reflect a multi-pronged and comprehensive approach to fight climate change

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**T**he Conference of the Parties (COP), under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), has been the leading international initiative to find a collective global response to one of the most pressing challenges facing the planet today. And over the years, India has made a meaningful contribution to this effort. At the COP 21 summit, held between November 30 and December 11 in Paris last year, too India took on a strong leadership position to play a more active role in shaping the world's response to climate change. After two weeks of intense negotiations, 196 nations signed what is being hailed as a 'landmark' deal to

limit carbon emissions through Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC), restrict the rise in global temperatures to below 2°C of pre-industrial levels, and make the world economy carbon neutral by the second half of the century. They have pledged \$100 billion a year to finance the effort of countries towards cleaner technology but there is no specific liability on each country and no means to enforcing it.

In this context, India made three important moves: First, it put greater emphasis on incorporating clean fuel and green technologies while, of course, still underlining the importance of the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR).



Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Mr Prakash Javadekar, addressing a press conference on INDCs in New Delhi

Second, it launched the International Solar Alliance inviting 120 solar-abundant countries to join the quest for affordable solar power that would eventually replace the fossil fuels of today. The alliance was launched by Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi, alongside French President Mr Francois Hollande. India is making the initial investment of \$30 million and setting up the alliance's headquarters in the country but the plan is to eventually raise \$400 million from membership fees and international agencies.

Finally, India pushed for equity in climate finance, suggesting developed countries, which prospered on the back of a fossil fuel-powered

industrial movement, now pay back to the planet by helping developing countries finance their shift from cheap but dirty fuel to clean but expensive fuel. This will ensure that developing countries can continue on the path of fast economic growth, which they desperately need if they are to pull thousands out of poverty, in a sustainable, eco-friendly manner.

India's INDCs, a necessary pre-summit input that had been declared last October, have already set the bar high and were crucial in ensuring success in the negotiations. The INDCs stand on three primary platforms: The reduction of per capita emissions, an increase in both the share of renewable energy in the country's energy basket and in forest cover.

In the first case, India has pledged to cut the emissions density of its Gross Domestic Product by 33 to 35 per cent by 2030. This will bring emissions down to pre-2005 levels. In the second case, India will ensure that at least 40 per cent of all its energy needs are met through renewable sources of energy by 2030. In the third case, it has pledged to increase its forest

*INDCs reflect on a multi-pronged and comprehensive approach to fighting climate change*

cover to such an extent that it will be able to absorb an additional 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide by 2030. Overall, the INDCs reflect on a multi-pronged and comprehensive approach to fighting climate change. They reaffirm India's long-term commitment to making a meaningful contribution to the new global processes that will help the world, particularly the emerging economies, transition towards a low-carbon economy while balancing the demands of fast-paced development.

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