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THE WHITE HOUSE

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FACT SHEET

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S INDIA TRIP: PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT,
PROMOTING CLEAN ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AND COMBATTING GLOBAL WARMING

Today, in a visit to Agra, India, site of the Taj Mahal, President Clinton will announce several new initiatives to strengthen Indo-American efforts to protect the environment, develop clean energy resources and combat global climate change.

There is broad scientific consensus that greenhouse gas emissions -- primarily in the form of carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels -- are at least partly responsible for an increase in global temperatures over the last century. Many developing nations are especially vulnerable to the projected impacts of global warming, particularly coastal flooding, increased incidence and severity of storms and drought, and increased incidence of disease.

The Clinton Administration is taking aggressive steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In the past year, President Clinton has issued directives to reduce energy use in federal buildings to 30% below 1990 levels by 2010, and to target tripling of the use of bio-energy in the U.S. over the next decade.

With greenhouse gas emissions from developing nations projected to surpass those of the industrialized world within a few decades, the United States is committed to ensuring broader developing country participation in global efforts to combat climate change. One of the principal goals of the President's climate change policy is to encourage developing nations to adopt clean energy technologies that can help them achieve their development goals while alleviating local air pollution and avoiding greenhouse gas emissions.

The new initiatives that will be announced today include:

Joint Statement on Cooperation in Energy and Environment:

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Minister of External Affairs Jaswant Singh signed a joint statement on cooperation on energy and environment issues on behalf of the United States and

India. The statement outlines a common agenda on clean energy development and environmental protection, including:

- Two ambitious national Indian environmental goals:
 - 10% of new electric power will come from renewable energy sources by 2012;
 - and approximately 15% improvements in energy efficiency in power production will be made by 2007-08.
- Creation of a binational 'Joint Consultative Group' on Clean Energy and the Environment that will focus on clean energy projects and policy, commercial development of clean energy, and, enhanced cooperation on global climate change;
- Promotion of a shared vision that countries can achieve robust economic growth while protecting the environment and taking action to combat climate change;
- A reaffirmation of the urgent need for international dialogue on ways both developed and developing countries can participate in actions to combat climate change, consistent with treaty obligations under the Framework Convention on Climate Change;
- Agreement to work in closer partnership on the further elaboration of mechanisms under the Kyoto Protocol, such as the Clean Development Mechanism; and
- Acknowledgement of the essential role of the private sector and reference to new initiatives.

South Asia Regional Initiative (SARI) Energy Program: The SARI Energy Program is a new \$50 million USAID program designed to accelerate investment and trade in clean energy among South Asian nations, including India, Bangladesh and Nepal. Program support will help countries foster regional cooperation and develop the appropriate policy, regulatory, and investment environments to encourage private investment. The program will promote the use of clean energy technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help stimulate economic growth.

U.S. Export-Import Bank line of credit: The Ex-Im Bank will provide a \$200 million specialized line of credit targeted for clean energy development projects through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Indian Power Finance Corporation.

Clean Energy Trade Mission: To further the goals of President Clinton's International Clean Energy initiative, the Department of Commerce will lead a trade mission to India focused on clean energy projects by the end of the year.

Greenhouse Gas Pollution Prevention Project (GEP): USAID will provide \$20 million for a three-year extension of this program

to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency and cleaner fuel use. GEP will:

- expand the efforts of India's National Thermal Power Corporation to increase efficiency in its power generation plants;
- help increase use of clean energy technology in power production;
- build local institutional capacity, and increase public/private partnerships for change abatement efforts; and
- design and demonstrate climate change abatement initiatives in cities.

Energy Conservation and Commercialization (ECO) Project: USAID will provide \$25 million for ECO, a program to help promote commercialization of energy efficient technologies and services. ECO will provide technical assistance and training to the Ministry of Power, electric utilities, and regulatory commissions on policy reforms and will work to address market constraints to greater use of energy efficiency products and services.

Resumption of bilateral energy consultations and technical assistance: DOE will resume its cooperative efforts on non-nuclear power sector policy reforms, and on public and private collaborative projects related to clean energy, renewable energy and energy efficiency. DOE programs were suspended in 1998 in the context of policy-based restrictions on U.S. assistance to India.

Resumption of EPA technical assistance: EPA will reestablish its environmental cooperation program in India with proposals to address air quality management, strengthening implementation of environmental policies and regulations, risk assessment and management of priority pollutants, and greenhouse gas reduction projects. EPA programs were suspended in 1998 in the context of policy-based restrictions on U.S. assistance to India.

Joint private sector statement: The Confederation of Indian Industry and the U.S. Energy Association announced a joint statement to cooperate on trade and investment for clean energy development in India. The parties announced creation of a new 'green business center' in Hyderabad and a 'matchmaker' initiative to help bring investors in contact with business/project opportunities.

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**JOINT STATEMENT ON COOPERATION
IN ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
BETWEEN INDIA AND THE UNITED STATES**

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1. India and the United States share a relationship founded on a common and deep commitment to democratic values and bound by growing engagement in diverse fields of human endeavour. During the current visit of President Clinton to India, President Clinton and Prime Minister Vajpayee have outlined their vision for a new relationship in the new century. Co-operation between the two countries in promoting energy and protecting the environment is an important part of their vision for the future.
2. The two countries agree that meeting energy needs in a sustainable manner is one of the most important challenges of the 21st century. They underscore the central role energy plays in economic development, as well as the human health and environmental risks associated with unsustainable energy use. They note that the development of cleaner and more efficient energy technologies will contribute significantly to improving the air quality and protecting the global environment. As leaders in the forefront of the new high-technology economy, they recognize that countries can achieve robust economic growth while protecting the environment and taking action to combat climate change.
3. India and the United States note that their common desire to promote clean energy and protect the environment has guided past cooperation and joint initiatives. They accord high importance to this aspect of their bilateral energy cooperation. They intend to activate related mechanisms established in the past, including ministerial meetings under the Indo-US Bilateral Energy Consultations, and to intensify further their cooperation in the fields of clean energy and environmental protection, including the impacts of air and water pollution on human health.
4. The two countries are taking many initiatives on their own to mitigate the impact of energy production and use on the environment. India, which was the first country to establish a full-fledged Ministry for Non-conventional Energy Sources, is working to make renewable energy sources a viable and significant part of India's energy supply. India is one of the largest users of wind energy and solar energy in the world and has also made impressive advances in generating energy from wastes.

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India intends to achieve by 2012 a 10 percent share for renewable energy in the capacity-additions of electricity nationwide. In the field of conventional energy, India is increasingly making fossil fuel energy cleaner and more efficient. India intends to improve energy efficiency in the electric power sector by focussing on renovation and modernisation including re-powering of old power plants to improve PLF, upgrading / strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution to reduce T&D losses and introduction of a legislation on energy conservation for promoting end use energy efficiency. The proposed Bureau of Energy Efficiency will act as the focal point for effecting end use energy and formulate goals and objectives in this area. By implementing the above activities, India intends to achieve approximately a 15% improvement in energy efficiency by 2007-08.

5. The United States is committed to a clean energy future and to the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. To this end, the United States pursues a program of research and development, public education, promotion of energy efficient products and practices, and targeted tax incentives. Specific actions during the past year include issuance by the President of an Executive Order mandating reduction in energy use in federal buildings by 30% below 1990 levels by the year 2010; issuance by the President of a directive that sets a target to triple the use of bio-energy in the U.S. over the next decade - a result that would lead to a reduction on 100 million metric tons of carbon; and establishment by the Department of Energy of a goal of increasing to 5% the share of U.S. electricity generated by wind power by 2020.

6. The two countries believe that close bilateral cooperation is needed to promote clean energy initiatives. They also intend to cooperate multilaterally in the appropriate fora for addressing climate change issues. The United States is committed to working cooperatively with India and other developing countries to address clean energy and climate change. Examples of such cooperation include: President Clinton's International Clean Energy Initiative, a program designed to accelerate clean energy technology transfer to developing countries, and promote trade and investment with them; and, a broad range of technical assistance and commercial development programs through the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Department of Energy, the Department of Commerce, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and other federal agencies.

7. India and the United States reaffirm their strong support for international efforts to combat global climate change under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol. They reaffirm the urgent need for international dialogue on ways in which developed and developing countries could participate in actions to

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combat climate change, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and in a manner consistent with sustained economic growth and social development. They recognise that, under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the developed country Parties shall take all practicable steps to promote, facilitate and finance, as appropriate, the transfer of, or access to, environmentally sound technologies and know-how to the developing country Parties to enable them to implement the provisions of the Convention. The two countries intend to work together and with other countries in appropriate multilateral fora toward early agreement on the elements of the Kyoto mechanisms, including the Clean Development Mechanism, which could offer opportunity for mutually beneficial partnership between developed and developing countries. They recognise, in particular, that the Clean Development Mechanism could provide important opportunities for economic growth and environmental protection.

8. India and the United States recall their Joint Statement on Co-operation in Energy and Related Environmental Aspects signed in New Delhi by US Energy Secretary Bill Richardson, and Shri Jaswant Singh, Minister of External Affairs of India, on October 26th 1999. The Joint Statement articulated the desire of the two countries to increase co-operation in energy and environment

9. In pursuit of the collaborative goals set forth in this statement and in the Joint Statement of 26th October 1999, the United States and India intend to create a Joint Consultative Group on Clean Energy and Environment to foster greater bilateral cooperation, Government to Government dialogue and further encourage public and private sector co-operation in these sectors. This represents another important step that the two countries have taken in expanding mutually beneficial relations. The Joint Consultative Group will ensure an institutional framework between the two countries to (a) identify, initiate and monitor public and private collaborative projects in research, development, transfer, demonstration and deployment of appropriate technologies and review policies in the areas of clean energy, renewable energy, energy efficiency and power sector reform, (b) explore and expand opportunities for commercial development and cooperation in clean energy, and (c) enhance cooperation on climate change issues that arise in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate.

10. The co-conveners of the Group will be the Department of State of the United States and Ministry of External Affairs of India, respectively, with participation by all concerned Agencies/Ministries as determined by either side. Focal points of contacts may be established directly between concerned Ministries and Agencies, with ministerial or other high-level involvement, as considered desirable and appropriate on specific issues.

11. The two countries believe that their strong scientific and technological resources provide a sound basis for intensifying collaborative efforts, especially between the agencies of the two Governments, in research, development, demonstration and transfers of clean energy and renewable energy technologies and for improving efficiency in production and consumption of energy from conventional resources. Progress in these areas can enhance availability of energy and increase productivity and efficiency in the economy, while protecting the environment, reducing impact on the climate and preserving the biodiversity and natural resources.

12. The two countries emphasise the considerable mutual benefit of expanded private sector cooperation in the energy sector. They welcome the United States Energy Association / Confederation of Indian Industry -Private Sector Trade, and Investment Working Group on Clean Energy and the Environment, and the creation of a Green Business Centre at Hyderabad. The Centre, a joint initiative of the Government of Andhra Pradesh, USEA and CII, is a commendable example of international private sector as well as Government -- industry collaboration in the area of environment. The two governments expect that their bilateral discussions will benefit from this and other private initiatives. For example, they welcome the joint efforts of the United States Agency for International Development, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India.

13. India and the United States believe that energy and environment could be one of the most important areas of cooperation between the two countries. The joint initiatives taken by the two sides will give practical shape to that vision. By making clean energy widely available through development and application of new technologies and strengthening efforts to protect our environment and this planet's biodiversity, Indo-US cooperation will contribute in significant measure towards further securing the welfare and quality of life of the peoples of the two countries. It will also be a vital contribution towards preserving the riches of our planet for future generations of this world.