

# Greenhouse gas emissions are the 'gravest threat'

NEW YORK TIMES

December 6

Greenhouse gas emissions worldwide are growing at an accelerating pace this year, researchers said, putting the world on track to face some of the most severe consequences of global warming sooner than expected.

Scientists described the quickening rate of carbon dioxide emissions in stark terms, comparing it with a "speeding freight train" and laying part of the blame on an unexpected surge in the appetite for oil as people around the world not only buy more cars but also drive them farther than in the past — more than offsetting any gains from the spread of electric vehicles.

## Central effort

"We've seen oil use go up five years in a row," said Rob Jackson, a professor of Earth system science at Stanford Uni-

versity. Worldwide, carbon emissions are expected to increase by 2.7 per cent in 2018, according to the new research, which was published by the Global Carbon Project, a group of 100 scientists from more than 50 academic and research institutions and one of the few organisations to comprehensively examine global emissions numbers. Emissions rose 1.6 per cent last year, the researchers said, ending a three-year plateau.

Reducing carbon emissions is central to stopping global warming. Three years ago, nearly 200 nations hammered out the Paris Agreement with a goal of holding warming below 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit (2 degrees Celsius) over pre-industrial levels.

Avoiding that threshold — already considered challenging — is viewed as a way to stave off some of the worst effects of climate change, like melting polar ice caps and



Worldwide, carbon emissions may increase by 2.7 per cent in 2018 ISTOCKPHOTO

rising sea levels. For the Paris goals to be met, scientists say, global emissions from power plants, factories, cars and trucks, as well as those from deforestation, would need to swiftly begin declining to zero.

## Serious blow

President Donald Trump, however, has vowed to pull the United States out of the accord and has moved to roll back Obama-era regulations designed to limit emissions from vehicle tailpipes and

power-plant smokestacks. On Tuesday he wrote on Twitter that the Paris Agreement was "fatally flawed" because its system of voluntary pledges let other countries off the hook, adding that "American taxpayers — and American workers — shouldn't pay to clean up oth-

ers countries' pollution." The new report comes as delegates from nearly 200 countries are meeting in Poland to debate their next steps under the Paris climate agreement. Many nations haven't been meeting their self-imposed targets.

## India 4<sup>th</sup> highest emitter of CO<sup>2</sup>

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, December 6

A study has said India is the fourth highest emitter of carbon dioxide in the world, accounting for 7 per cent of global emissions in 2017.

The top four emitters in 2017, which covered 58 per cent of global emissions, were China (27 per cent), the US (15 per cent), the European Union (10 per cent) and India (7 per cent), according to the projection by the Global Carbon Pro-

ject. The rest of the world contributed 41 per cent last year, it said.

India's emissions look set to continue their strong growth by an average of 6.3 per cent in 2018, with growth across all fuels — coal (7.1 per cent), oil (2.9 per cent) and gas (6 per cent), the study said.

The study said that while China and India still rely heavily on coal, the US and the EU are slowly decarbonising.