**Solar tariffs could delay India’s renewable progress**

India has announced the introduction of a two-year tariff on solar equipment imported from China and Malaysia in a move intended to help stimulate its domestic solar industry.

India currently purchases 31% of the solar cells and modules China exports, while its own solar market has been stagnating due to the cheaper alternatives available from abroad.

Despite claims that the new duty will strengthen the domestic market, analysts have expressed fears that the decision will hinder the growth of India’s renewable energy system, with Bloomberg NEF saying the tax could bump up the price of solar plants by as much as 14%.

Solar installations are predicted to slow as a result of the measure, with developers having to adapt projects to accommodate the new duty.

The tax, originally intended to come into effect in July this year, is a 25% safeguard duty on imported solar cells and modules, falling to 20% after a year and 15% after 18 months. The delay in implementation was due to a series of objections and court challenges.

Previous attempts to boost the domestic market have been similarly opposed due to investors’ fears that such schemes are unsustainable.

Renewable energy makes up around a fifth of India’s installed power capacity and solar has remained at less than a quarter of the 100 GW target set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi by 2022.

Under the Paris Agreement, India set a target of reaching 40% of installed electric capacity derived from low-carbon sources by 2030.

India is the fastest-growing major economy in the world, adding 9.5 GW of solar capacity last year and according to the International Energy Agency is on track to reach 28 GW by the end of this year, a figure six times higher than what was installed three years ago, though it is still below the targets set in the Paris Agreement.

**Will mankind be wise enough to protect our planet for future generations?**

The more facts that pile up about global warming, the greater the resistance to them grows, making it harder to enact measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare communities for the inevitable change ahead.

The Arctic ice cap has shrunk by nearly half, coastal storms have become increasingly destructive, and millions of acres of forest in the American West have been killed off by warming-related pest infestations.

Just a few months ago two groups of scientists separately concluded that a large segment of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet has begun irreversibly to melt away; this will eventually raise global sea levels by four feet.

In an effort to track the changing climate, many—perhaps most—species are on the move, and a growing number are threatened with extinction. During the same time period, carbon dioxide emissions have soared, from about 18 billion metric tons per year to almost 37 billion metric tons per year.

New evidence shows that the climate is shifting so quickly, it’s putting many of the world’s trees in jeopardy. Rising temperatures and increasingly unusual rainfall patterns inflict more frequent drought, pest outbreaks, and fires. Trees are dying at the fastest rate ever seen.

The declining health of trees globally is starting to have profound effects on Earth’s carbon cycle. The rise in atmospheric carbon dioxide has been picking up speed over the past few years, even though human CO2 emissions have flattened. The net effect: Climate change is starting to accelerate.

Some tropical forests — in the Congo, the Amazon, and in Southeast Asia — have already shifted to a net carbon source. That means they emit more greenhouse gases than they absorb, worsening the climate problem worldwide. Forests are our last, best natural defense against global warming.

Climate change is a global challenge and requires a global solution. Consequently, an effective strategy will require commitments and action by all the major emitting countries.