Environment & Ecology · GS - III

Write a review on India's climate commitments under the Paris Agreement (2015) and mention how these have been further strengthened in COP26 (2021). In this direction, how has the first Nationally Determined Contribution intended by India been updated in 2022?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2025	GS - III	Environment & Ecology

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Paris Agreement, NDC, Panchamrit, 2030 targets, emissions intensity, non-fossil electricity capacity, carbon sink, net zero 2070, updated NDC 2022

Model Answer

Introduction

India's climate commitments combine mitigation with developmental priorities, emphasising climate justice, sustainable lifestyles and differentiated responsibilities. Its commitments have progressively strengthened since the Paris Agreement.

1. Paris Agreement commitments

India's original NDC committed to:

1. Reduce the emissions intensity of GDP by 33–35% from 2005 levels by 2030.
2. Achieve about 40% cumulative installed electric-power capacity from non-fossil sources by 2030.
3. Create an additional carbon sink of 2.5–3 billion tonnes of CO_2 equivalent through forest and tree cover.

India also committed to enhancing adaptation measures across vulnerable sectors.

2. COP26 strengthening

At COP26 in 2021, India announced the “Panchamrit” commitments, including:

1. 500 GW of non-fossil electricity capacity by 2030.
2. 50% of electricity requirements from renewable energy by 2030.
3. Reduction of projected carbon emissions by 1 billion tonnes by 2030.
4. Reduction of emissions intensity by 45% from 2005 levels by 2030.
5. Net-zero emissions by 2070.

3. Updated NDC, 2022

India's updated NDC retained the 45% emissions-intensity reduction target and raised the non-fossil cumulative electric-power capacity target to about 50% by 2030. It also incorporated a stronger emphasis on sustainable lifestyles and climate-resilient development.

Conclusion

India's trajectory demonstrates progressively stronger mitigation ambition while maintaining developmental priorities. Achieving these commitments requires rapid renewable deployment, storage, green hydrogen, energy efficiency and climate-resilient infrastructure.

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