

India will achieve net-zero by 2070: PM Modi at climate summit

Synopsis

"India is among the top countries in the world in terms of installed renewable energy, wind and solar energy capacity. At the WLS, I will share India's excellent track record on climate action and our achievements," PM Modi said in a statement ahead of the summit.



India will achieve net-zero by 2070, said Modi.

In a move that will energise the global efforts at climate change, India committed to achieve net zero emissions by 2070. This commitment was buttressed with four near-term targets. By 2030, India would increase its non-fossil fuel energy capacity to 500 GW, increase the share of

renewables in the energy mix to 50%, and reduce the emissions intensity of its economy by 45%. India also committed to reduce emissions by one billion tonnes by 2030.

Addressing the COP 26 climate summit in Glasgow, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** announced the five-point climate 'panchamrit', or pledge. As he set new and tougher targets for India, Modi called for a new financial target of \$1 trillion, money that the developed countries would provide the developing countries.

COP26 Summit: India will achieve 'net zero' emission target by 2070, says PM Modi in Glasgow



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday presented 'Panchamrit' or five 'Amrit Tatva' from India at the COP26 Summit in Glasgow. He said, "India will bring its non-fossil energy capacity to 500 GW by 2030. Second, by 2030 India will fulfil 50% of its energy requirement through renewable energy." He added, "Third, India will cut down its net projected carbon emission by 1 bn ton from now until 2030. Fourth, by 2030 India will bring down carbon intensity of its economy by more than 45%. Fifth, by 2070 India will achieve the target of 'net zero'."

In doing so, India gave support to the Africa Group's demand for \$1 trillion in climate finance. "When we as developing countries are increasing the ambition of our climate action, then the amount of climate finance cannot remain the same as it was at Paris," Modi said in a stark reminder of the global compact that has been forged to address climate change, but one that has been consistently undermet.

This ties in with what Modi set out as the mantra of India's approach to global climate action. "Today in the 21st century, it has become all the more important, relevant, that the world has to move together, talk to each other and that our hearts should meet."

Track Record

Modi stressed that India is the only big emitter that has delivered in letter and spirit on Paris. He also reminded that India's track record is not empty words. India's renewable energy capacity is fourth in the world, a 25% increase in the last four years. India's railway system has promised to reach net zero by 2030. This alone will reduce 60 million tonnes of emissions. India also has launched institutional solutions at the global level: ISA, CDRI, that go hand in hand with Monday's announcement in **COP26**.

Day 1 highlights

- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres reminded delegates that the six hottest years on record have occurred since 2015.
- Other speakers, including activists from the poorer countries hardest hit by climate change, had a defiant message. "Pacific youth have rallied behind the cry 'We are not drowning, we are fighting'," said Brianna Fruean from the Polynesian island state of Samoa, which is at risk from rising sea levels. "This is our warrior cry to the world."
- Leaders of countries such as Kenya, Bangladesh, Barbados and Malawi called rich nations to task for failing to deliver.
- President Xi Jinping of China, by far the biggest emitter of greenhouse gases, said in a written statement that developed countries should not only do more but also support developing countries to do better. Xi's absence, along with that of Russia's Vladimir Putin, president of one of the world's top three oil producers together with the United States and Saudi Arabia, may hinder progress.
- Activist Greta Thunberg appealed to her millions of supporters to sign an open letter accusing leaders of betrayal. "This is not a drill. It's code red for the Earth," it read. "Millions will suffer as our planet is devastated -- a terrifying future that will be created, or avoided, by the decisions you make. You have the power to decide."
- India and Brazil, two of the largest polluters, both used the platform to provide new emission cutting pledges. "We will act responsibly and search for real solutions for an urgent transition," Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, who has presided over more than two years of deforestation, said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi set 2070 as a target for India to reach net-zero carbon emissions, much later than those set by other polluters and twenty years beyond the U.N.'s global recommendation.

U.S. President Joe Biden said the rich must do more, admitting that "right now we're falling short," while French President Emmanuel Macron also called on all developed countries to deliver their fair share of funding.