

1. India's Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)

1.1 What is an NDC?

- An NDC is a set of long-term goals to cut carbon emissions and adapt to climate impacts that every country signatory to the Paris Agreement has to provide, and update every five years.
- **Article 4, paragraph 2** of the Paris Agreement states that 'Each Party shall prepare, communicate and maintain successive nationally determined contributions that it intends to achieve. Parties shall pursue domestic mitigation measures, with the aim of achieving the objectives of such contributions'.
- Under the Agreement, Parties **have to keep updating their NDCs every five years** and have to submit that to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

1.2. Background

- India is one of the 195 Parties to the Paris Agreement, a **legally binding** international treaty on climate change.
- Earlier, India submitted its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) to UNFCCC on October 2, 2015, with eight main goals.
- Three of these have quantitative targets up to 2030 namely,
 - cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil sources to reach 40%;
 - reduce the emissions intensity of GDP by 33 to 35 percent compared to 2005 levels and
 - creation of an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through additional forest and tree cover.

1.3. Introduction to India's updated NDC

- In August 2022, India formally updated its NDC to the UNFCCC, which was approved by the Union Cabinet.
- The updated NDC is a step towards **India's goal to reach net-zero emissions by 2070**.
- It seeks to enhance India's contributions towards the achievement of the strengthening of global response to the threat of climate change, as agreed under the Paris Agreement.

1.4. Main Provision of India's updated NDC

- India now stands committed to **reduce Emissions Intensity of its GDP by 45 percent by 2030** (higher than the 33-35% range mentioned in the first INDC), from 2005 level.

- India will also achieve **50% cumulative electric power installed capacity** from **non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030** (as opposed to a 40% target for this in the first INDC).
- The updated NDC also put forward a healthy and sustainable way of living based on traditions and values of conservation and moderation, including through a mass movement for **‘LiFE’– ‘Lifestyle for Environment’** as a key to combating climate change.
- It has been prepared after carefully considering its national circumstances and the principle of **common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities** (CBDR-RC).
- It also reaffirms its commitment to work towards a low carbon emission pathway, while simultaneously endeavoring to achieve sustainable development goals.
- The updated NDC also represents the framework for India’s transition to cleaner energy for the period 2021-2030.
- The updated framework, together with many other initiatives of the Government, including tax concessions and incentives such as Production Linked Incentive scheme, will provide an opportunity for enhancing India’s manufacturing capabilities and enhancing exports.
- It will lead to an overall increase in green jobs such as in renewable energy, clean energy industries, manufacturing of low emissions products like Electric Vehicles, etc.

2. India’s Panchamrit and LiFE Initiative

2.1. Introduction

- India announced its enhanced climate commitments — the “Panchamrit” at UNFCCC COP-26 which was held from 31 October to 13 November 2021 in Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom.
- It includes a commitment to reach net-zero carbon emission by 2070.
- India’s announcement of its net-zero goal is a major step considering the fact that it is not the cause of global warming.
- Its historical cumulative emissions are a mere 4.37% of the world’s total.

2.2. Panchamrit Promises

India will:

- get its non-fossil energy capacity to 500 gigawatt by 2030.
- meet 50 per cent of its energy requirements till 2030 with renewable energy.
- reduce its projected carbon emission by one billion tonnes by 2030.

- reduce the carbon intensity of its economy by 45 per cent by 2030.
- reach the set target of net zero emissions by 2070.

2.3. LiFE Initiative

- In 2022, India launched the mission LiFE movement, Lifestyle for the Environment, which is an India-led global mass movement which aims to empower individual and collective action to protect and preserve the environment.
- The LiFE movement aims to leverage the strength of social networks to create a global network of individuals called '**Pro-Planet People**' (P3).
 - The Pro-Planet People adopt environment-friendly lifestyles and have a shared commitment to promote it across the globe.
- Under the initiative, the '**Meri LiFE**' mobile application was launched with the objective to encourage Indians and other global citizens to take collective and individual action against climate change for the protection of the environment.