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Cabinet Approves India's Climate Target: 47% Emissions Reduction by 2035

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The Union Cabinet has approved India's updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for the period 2031–2035, reaffirming the country's commitment to global climate action under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement. India has pledged to reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 47% by 2035 (from 2005 levels), marking a significant enhancement of its earlier climate targets.

Key Highlights of the New Targets

47% reduction in emissions intensity of GDP by 2035

60% of installed power capacity to come from non-fossil fuel sources by 2035

Creation of a carbon sink of 3.5–4 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through forest and tree cover

These targets represent India's third NDC submission, reflecting increased ambition in tackling climate change.

India's Progress So Far

Emissions intensity already reduced by 36% (2005–2020)

52%+ non-fossil fuel capacity achieved (as of 2026), meeting earlier targets ahead of schedule

Around 2.29 billion tonnes of carbon sink created through afforestation by 2021

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Objectives and Significance:

Aligns India's growth with sustainable development and climate justice

Supports the long-term goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2070

Balances economic development with environmental protection

Strengthens India's position as a leader among developing countries in climate action

Additional Facts:

NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions): Climate action plans submitted by countries under the Paris Agreement

Emissions Intensity: Amount of greenhouse gas emissions per unit of GDP

India contributes only about 3–4% of global historical emissions, yet is enhancing commitments

Guided by principle of CBDR-RC (Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities)

Key initiatives supporting targets:

National Solar Mission

Green Hydrogen Mission

LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) Movement