

## India's net zero plan

- At the United Nations Conference of Parties (COP) in Sharm el-Sheikh, India on Monday announced its long-term strategy to transition to a “low emissions” pathway, which is premised on expanding its nuclear power capacity by at least threefold in the next decade, apart from becoming an international hub for producing green hydrogen and increasing the proportion of ethanol in petrol.
- These steps were consonant with India’s “five-decade journey” to net zero or being carbon neutral by 2070.
- “The LTLEDS (Long Term Low Emission Development Strategy) has been prepared in the framework of India’s right to an equitable and fair share of the global carbon budget.
- The strategy emphasizes energy security, energy access, and employment while keeping the focus on our vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- India “aspires” to maximize the use of electric vehicles, with ethanol blending to reach 20% by 2025 (it is currently 10%) and a “strong shift” to public transport for passenger and freight traffic.
- India will also focus on improving energy efficiency through the Perform, Achieve, and Trade (PAT) scheme, the National Hydrogen Mission, increasing electrification, enhancing material efficiency, and recycling and ways to reduce emissions.
- India’s forest and tree cover is a net carbon sink absorbing 15% of carbon dioxide emissions in 2016, and the country is on track to fulfilling its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) commitment of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of additional carbon sequestration in forest and tree cover by 2030, the document notes.
- The NDCs are voluntary commitments by countries to reduce emissions by a fixed number relative to a date in the long-term to achieve the long-term goal of climate agreements of preventing global temperature rising beyond 1.5 or 2 degrees Celsius by the end of the century.
- Thus, India’s most updated NDC commits to ensuring half its electricity is derived from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030 and reducing the emissions intensity by 45% below 2005 levels by 2030.
- The LT-LEDS are qualitative in nature and are a requirement emanating

from the 2015 Paris Agreement whereby countries must explain how they will transition their economies beyond achieving near-term NDC targets and work towards the larger climate objective of cutting emissions by 45% by 2030 and achieve net zero around 2050.

- Varying across studies, they all fall generally in the range of trillions of dollars by 2050. The provision of climate finance by developed countries will play a very significant role and needs to be considerably enhanced, in the form of grants and concessional loans, ensuring scale, scope, and speed, predominantly from public sources.

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### **INDIA and US**

- “The United States and India share an interest in strengthening our supply chains in a world where certain governments wield trade as a geopolitical weapon”.
- The U.S. was particularly keen to minimize its vulnerability to supply chain disruptions and was therefore pursuing a strategy of ‘friend shoring’, with India, a key element in the plan to cut its reliance on ‘countries that present geopolitical

and security risks to the supply chain.

- Citing the Ukraine invasion and asserting that Moscow had ‘weaponized’ its supply of natural gas to Europe, as well as the challenges of China’s dominance in the production of products such as solar panels,
- Washington’s keenness to nurture local partners in developing countries to help mitigate over-concentration on select suppliers.
- The Trump administration’s antagonistic decisions on trade including the withdrawal of duty-free access to Indian exporters under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) as well as a 2020 decision to put India back on the U.S. Treasury’s ‘Monitoring List’ over its currency practices.
- With India set to take up the reins of the G-20 presidency, New Delhi has a chance to steer the global economic and trade agenda toward greater equity, including on climate change.

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## Bali g20

### What is the agenda of this summit?

- The motto for this G-20 is Recover Together, Recover Stronger. President Jokowi has made recovering from the pandemic a major focus despite geopolitical tensions overshadowing the summit.
- The leaders will engage in discussions over three sessions: on Food and Energy Security, Health Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment, and Digital Transformation.
- In addition, to highlight the concerns over climate change issues, Mr. Jokowi will lead his guests to the Indonesian mangroves of Taman Hutan Raya, which have been restored over a 30-year project covering nearly 700 acres.

### Why was the G-20 created?

- Created in 1999 as an acceptable medium between the more “elitist” G-7 (then the G-8), and the more unwieldy 38-member Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD),
- G-20 has been seen as a more representative and egalitarian grouping of global leadership, and was particularly useful in steering the global economy after the global

financing crisis and banking collapse of 2008.

- Significantly, next year the “Troika” of G-20 will be made up of emerging economies for the first time with India, Indonesia, and Brazil an indicator of the shift in the global economic agenda towards the Global South.

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## Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)

- The Narendra Modi-led government is pushing to set up 740 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) for tribal students one each in every sub-district that has at least a 20,000-odd Scheduled Tribe population, which must be 50% of the total population in that area.
- The EMRS model was first introduced in 1997-98 to provide quality education to tribal students with residential facilities in remote corners.
- The aim was to build schools at par with the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas and Kendriya Vidyalayas
- In 2018-19, at the bidding of Mr. Modi, the Cabinet approved the revamping of the EMRS scheme. The new guidelines gave the Union

government more power to sanction schools and manage them.

- The new guidelines set a target of setting up an EMRS in every tribal sub-district and introduced “population criteria” for setting them up.
- The new guidelines also reduced the minimum land requirement from 20 acres to 15 acres.

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### **Persian language in Kashmir**

- “The Mughal rule in Kashmir from 1589 saw the Persian language reaching its zenith.
- Eminent Iranian poets visited Kashmir in the 17th century including Sa’ib Tabrizi, Abu Talib Kaleem Kashani, Muhammad Jan Qudsi Mashhadi, and Mir Ilahi.
- From the 14th to 19th century, the Persian language emerged both as the language of administration and all kinds of writing
- Being the official language of courts and commerce in Jammu and Kashmir, Persian adorned verbal transactions in the Valley up until 1889, when Urdu replaced it under Maharaja Partap Singh, the third Dogra ruler.
- Now, an exhibition of Persian manuscripts by Khwaja Muhammad

Amin Darab, poet and chronogram writer, here puts a spotlight on the fast-fading language in Kashmir.

- The exhibition is an attempt to revive the language in the Union Territory.

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### **Small fishing vessels and maritime security**

- A delayed project to install transponders on small fishing vessels, under 20 meters in length, as part of coastal security measures instituted after the 26/11 Mumbai attacks is making progress, with a project underway in Tamil Nadu.
- In a related development, the third edition of the ‘pan India’ coastal defense Exercise ‘Sea Vigil-22’ is scheduled to be held on November 15 and 16,
- To allay the concerns of fishermen, the transponders with positioning navigation systems have been modified into a two-way communication system
- An Automatic Identification System (AIS) was made compulsory for all vessels above 20 meters.
- Verification and monitoring of a large number of fishing vessels in India has been greatly eased by the creation of the online ReALCraft

(Registration and Licensing of Fishing Craft)

- The exercise will be undertaken along the entire 7,516- km coastline and Exclusive Economic Zone of India and will involve all the coastal States and Union Territories along with other maritime stakeholders, including the fishing and coastal communities.

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