

COP26: India PM Narendra Modi pledges net zero by 2070

Published
8 minutes ago



India's Prime Minister outlines five commitments for his country at COP26

India has announced plans to cut its emissions to net zero by 2070 - missing a key goal of the COP26 summit for countries to commit to reach that target by 2050.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi made the pledge at the Glasgow conference. This is the first time the country has made such a commitment.

Net zero, or becoming carbon neutral, means not adding to the amount of greenhouse gases currently in the atmosphere.

In contrast, **China has announced plans for carbon neutrality by 2060**, while the US and EU aim to hit net zero by 2050.

India is the world's fourth biggest emitter of carbon dioxide after China, the US and the EU.

its huge population means its emissions per capita are much lower than other major world economies. India emitted 1.9 tonnes of CO₂ per head of population in 2019, compared with 15.5 tonnes for the US and 12.5 tonnes for Russia that year.

Mr Modi made the pledge as one of five commitments from his country.

They include a pledges for India to get 50% of its energy from renewable resources by 2030, and by the same year to reduce total projected carbon emissions by one billion tonnes.

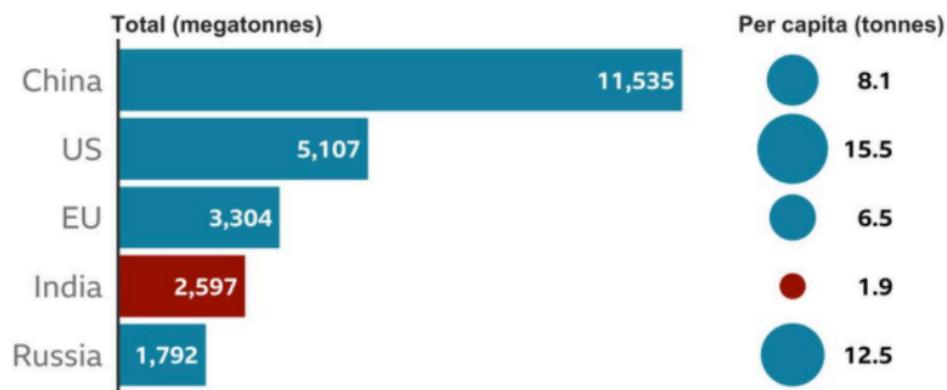
While the 2070 net zero target may have disappointed activists and experts in Glasgow, Mr Modi seems to have impressed people back home.

The BBC's Vikas Pandey reports that the prime minister appears to have found the middle ground for his base - he is seen as being serious about climate change but without compromising India's economic potential.

Most headlines are using words like "big" and "major" to describe the announcement, our correspondent reports.

India is the world's fourth biggest emitter of carbon dioxide

Total and per capita emissions of CO2 per year



2019 data, EU includes UK
One megatonne = 1,000,000 tonnes

Source: EC, Emissions Database for Global Atmospheric Research

BBC

India's bold step

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi used most of his time in front of his fellow world leaders to underline the need for lifestyle changes as the greatest solution to climate change.

But Mr Modi saved his biggest news to the last minute.

Detailing what he termed were India's "five elixirs" for climate, Mr Modi announced that his country would adopt a net zero emissions target - by 2070.

This is quite a significant step for the world's third largest emitter, still getting more than 50% of the country's electricity from coal.

It has to be tempered by the fact that the date is far past the mid-century goal for carbon neutrality that scientists say is necessary to avert the most dangerous levels of warming.

But there has been a general welcome for the goal.