

At COP27, India releases plan for low-emission development

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India today released its long-term low carbon emission development strategy (LT-LEDS) document at the COP27 climate conference underway at the Egyptian city of Sharm el Sheikh.

The document outlines the actions India proposes to take towards low carbon development.

TAKING STOCK

It takes stock of the existing policies and speaks about what the government would like to do, under each of these heads — electricity; transportation; adaptation in urban design; energy and material efficiency in buildings and sustainable urbanisation; decoupling of growth and emissions in industry; carbon dioxide removal and related engineering solutions; increasing forest cover and vegetation; and economic and financial aspects of low carbon transition.

Under Article 4.19 of the Paris Agreement — a 2015 climate deal to which India is a signatory — all countries are to “strive to formulate” long-term low emission strategies.



GREEN'S THE WORD. Bhupender Yadav, Minister of Environment, and Inger Andersen, UNEP Executive Director, unveiling India's low-carbon strategy document AP

The LT-LEDS released today flows out of that agreement.

Releasing the document, Union Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav said the LT-LEDS had been prepared after extensive consultations within the Centre and with the State governments.

INDIA'S THINKING

The Minister used the opportunity to once again express India's dismay at the developed nations not doing their part, including mobilising the promised annual \$100 billion to developing

countries towards the green transition. The LT-LEDS has several pointers that indicate Delhi's thinking. For example, under electricity, it speaks of introduction of Energy Storage Obligations to promote storage, Hydro Purchase Obligations to promote hydro power, and tripling of installed nuclear capacity by 2032 (from 6,780 MW now).

Under CO₂ removal, the document says that retrofitting existing coal-based power plants with 'carbon capture and sequestration' technologies is “not a viable option” unless finance and technology are provided.