

'Govt working on mission to curb greenhouse gas emissions'

NEW DELHI, Aug 27 (IANS)

THE Union Government is finalising the roadmap and outlay for Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) mission to curb greenhouse gas emissions and support net-zero goals by 2070, according to Rajnath Ram, advisor for energy, natural resources and environment, Niti Aayog.

"We are working on finalising the mission roadmap. Discussions are also on to finalise the total outlay," Niti Aayog official said at an event.

He also called for long-term supply contracts for liquefied natural gas (LNG) to boost gas consumption to 180-200 billion cubic meters by 2030, aiming for a 15 per cent energy mix share. This requires a two to threefold increase in LNG consumption.

Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) is a process that captures carbon dioxide (CO₂) from industrial sources and power plants before it enters the atmosphere.

Captured CO₂ is transported for use in products like chemicals, building materials, or fuels, or it is permanently stored in underground geological formations, such as depleted oil and gas



reservoirs or saline aquifers.

To increase LNG consumption and long term supplies, Ram called for a nationwide survey of geographical basins to map existing resources and reduce import dependence. At the domestic front, we have to tie up at mass level for CBG (compressed biogas), he added.

BC Tripathi, former chairman and managing director of GAIL, stated that India's gas pipeline network, though large in scale, operates at approximately 50-55 per cent capacity.

'India-Africa trade crossed USD 100 bn in 2024-25'

NEW DELHI, Aug 27 (PTI)

UNION Minister Kirti Vardhan Singh on Wednesday said India-Africa trade has crossed USD 100 billion and New Delhi has emerged as one of the top-five investors in the continent.

Addressing the inaugural session of the 20th CII India-Africa Business Conclave in the national capital, Singh said India has extended concessional loans worth over USD 12 billion and USD 700 million in grant assistance for projects across Africa, apart from offering 50,000 scholarships for African youth, of which more than 42,000 have already been utilised.

"This year's theme is different as we have decided to move from project partnership and growth partnership to the spir-

it of 'Co-creating a Shared Future', which signifies the sentiment attached to this remarkable journey," the Minister said.

"India's bilateral trade with Africa has crossed the magical figure of USD 100 billion in 2024-25 compared to USD 56 billion in 2019-2020. With cumulative investments over USD 75 billion from 1996-2024, India is among the top-five largest investors in Africa," he said.

Singh said India-Africa partnership is resilient enough to tackle emerging challenges such as the post-Covid global economy and conflicts in the Middle East and Ukraine.

He stressed that Africa continues to play an important role in India's foreign policy and

recalled that the African Union was given permanent membership of the G20 during India's presidency.

"We put emphasis on

Africa's rightful place at the global high table," he said.

Singh added that India has stood with Africa in times of need, recalling relief operations in Mozambique, Madagascar, Mauritius and several other countries and invited African nations to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure as well as the International Solar

Alliance to strengthen cooperation in climate and clean energy.

He said India is keen to share its experiences and knowhow to help Africa in its energy transition through rapid deployment of clean energy technologies.

"India and Africa are shaping a strong partnership to co-create a shared future, built on mutual trust and collaborative efforts," he said.

Singh said that the Duty Free Tariff Preference Scheme gives duty-free access to 98.2 per cent of India's tariff lines, benefiting 33 least developed African countries. He hoped that the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement, which came into force in 2021, would further boost Indian companies' footprint in Africa.



Trump's 50% tariff on India comes into effect

■ By Yoshita Singh
NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, Aug 27 (PTI)

THE additional 25 per cent tariff imposed by US President Donald Trump on India for its purchases of Russian oil came into effect on Wednesday, bringing the total amount of levies imposed on New Delhi to 50 per cent.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in a draft order published on Monday, said the increased levies would hit Indian products that are "entered for consumption, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after 12:01 am eastern daylight time on August 27, 2025".

The steep 50 per cent tariff on Indian goods entering the United States, which came into

effect from August 27, would impact exports worth more than USD 48 billion.

Trump had announced reciprocal tariffs of 25 per cent on India that came into effect on August 7, when tariffs on about 70 other nations also kicked in.

On August 7, the president announced doubling tariffs on Indian goods to 50 per cent for India's purchases of Russian crude oil, but gave a 21-day window to negotiate an agreement.

On Monday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted he can't compromise on the interests of farmers, cattle-rearers, small-scale industries, cautioning "pressure on us may increase, but we will bear it".

"Products of India, except those set forth in section 3 of Executive Order 14329, that are entered for consumption, or withdrawn from warehouse for



The steep 50 pc tariff on Indian goods entering the US, which came into effect from Aug 27, would impact exports worth more than USD 48 billion.

consumption, on or after 12:01 a.m. Eastern daylight time on August 27, 2025, will be subject to the additional ad valorem rate of duty," the DHS order

read. However, Indian products will be exempt from the new 50 per cent tariff if they were already loaded on a ship and

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Step 50 pc tariff to severely impact shrimp, apparel, diamonds, footwear exports to US

NEW DELHI, Aug 27 (PTI)

THE USA's steep 50 per cent tariff on Indian goods entering America will severely impact exports and job creation in labour-intensive export sectors such as shrimp, apparel, leather and gems and jewellery.

Exporters said that the imposition of a 25 per cent penalty on India over and above the 25 per cent tariff move will disrupt the flow of Indian goods to its largest export market.

The US accounted for about 20 per cent of India's USD 437.42 billion worth of goods exports in 2024-25. The US is the largest trading partner of India from 2021-22.

In 2024-25, the bilateral trade in goods stood at USD 131.8 billion (USD 86.5 billion exports and USD 45.3 billion imports).

"The 50 per cent tariff is like an economic sanction. It would lead to closure of units and job cuts," an exporter from the leather sector said.

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'Armed forces must be prepared for longer conflicts'

■ By Manash Pratim Bhuyan
MHOW (MP), Aug 27 (PTI)

INDIA'S armed forces must be prepared for all kinds of security challenges, from short duration conflicts to even a five-year war, in view of an unpredictable geopolitical environment, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Wednesday.

In an address at the 'Ran Samvad' conclave here, Singh also said the sheer number of soldiers or the size of weapon stockpiles is no longer enough as cyber warfare, artificial intelligence, drones and satellite-based surveillance are shaping the wars of the future.

Precision-guided weapons, real-time intelligence and data-driven information have now become the cornerstone of success in any conflict, Singh said on the final day of the conclave at the Army War College.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan and Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) Air Chief Marshal AP Singh during the 'RAN SAMWAD 2025', at Army War College, in Mhow on Wednesday. (PTI)

Delving into national security challenges, Singh said India does not want anyone's land, but it is ready to go to any extent to

protect its territorial integrity. "In today's era, wars have become so sudden and unpredictable that it is very difficult to predict when any war will end and how long it will last," he said, noting that the Indian military must be prepared for every situation.

"That is, if any war stretches for two months, four months, a year, two years, even five years, then we should be fully prepared for it," he said in the presence of India's top military brass including Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan, Air Chief Marshal AP Singh and Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi.

The Defence Minister said modern battles are no longer confined to land, sea and air, and they now extend into outer space and cyberspace. "Satellite systems, anti-satellite weapons and space command centres are the

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