



SHORT COMMUNICATION

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Why Cop30 Matters For India: Climate Justice, Renewable Energy and Path Ahead

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Abstract

The 30th Conference of Parties (COP30) arrives at a critical point for climate action, globally, and especially for developing countries such as India. This short communication explores why COP30 is significant and relevant for India, by focusing on key areas of climate justice and the renewable energy transition which is expanding in the country. India's growing leadership in renewable energy, low per-capita emissions and high climate vulnerability, makes it a key stakeholder in the movement of shaping the path ahead for equitable climate. This article highlights renewable energy as India's key and primary climate strategy and further explores the challenges and opportunities that COP30 presents for an inclusive and sustainable climate action.

Keywords: COP30; Renewable Energy of India; Climate Action; Climate Justice; Sustainable Climate Action

Introduction

COP30, the 30th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, took place in Belém, Brazil, in November 2025 (UNFCCC, 2025). It was convened to advance global climate action under the Paris Agreement. This conference is a significant moment which had many key outcomes like tripling adaptation finance to \$100 billion annually by 2035, along with commitments to boost emission cuts through a Global Implementation Accelerator and a "global mutirão" for transformations collectively (COP30 Secretariat, 2025).

India's climate reality and the significance of climate justice

India faces a major climate vulnerability from extreme weather like droughts, flood, heatwaves etc., in spite of maintaining a low per capita income, about 2 tonnes per person in 2022, according to the Global Carbon Project, which is less than half the global average of about 4.7 tonnes per person (The Global Economy, 2025; Economic Times CFO, 2025). This difference highlights India's need for Climate Justice. At COP30, India advocated CBDR-RC (Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities) for equal burden sharing, requiring enhanced technology and finance from developed nations for supporting vulnerable developing countries. (Institute of South Asian Studies, 2025; DW, 2025).

India at COP30: Aligning climate justice with renewable action

At the COP30, India insisted on multilateralism to be protected and unilateral measures to be rejected, saying Just Transitions must be equitable, Climate Finance and Technology access is a right (European Commission, 2025). This view gains moral force from its low per-capita emissions, showing that it is not a primary driver of the problem, yet it is a nation which is engaged fully in solutions (Statista, 2025).

This is also reinforcing its credibility through its rapid growth of renewable energy sources. Hence, calling COP30 a COP for Adaptation underscores India's argument that the nations with high emissions must take up a larger burden, while developing nations like India are already pursuing a cleaner pathway towards development with renewables. (Drishti IAS, 2025).



India Power Capacity - Overview

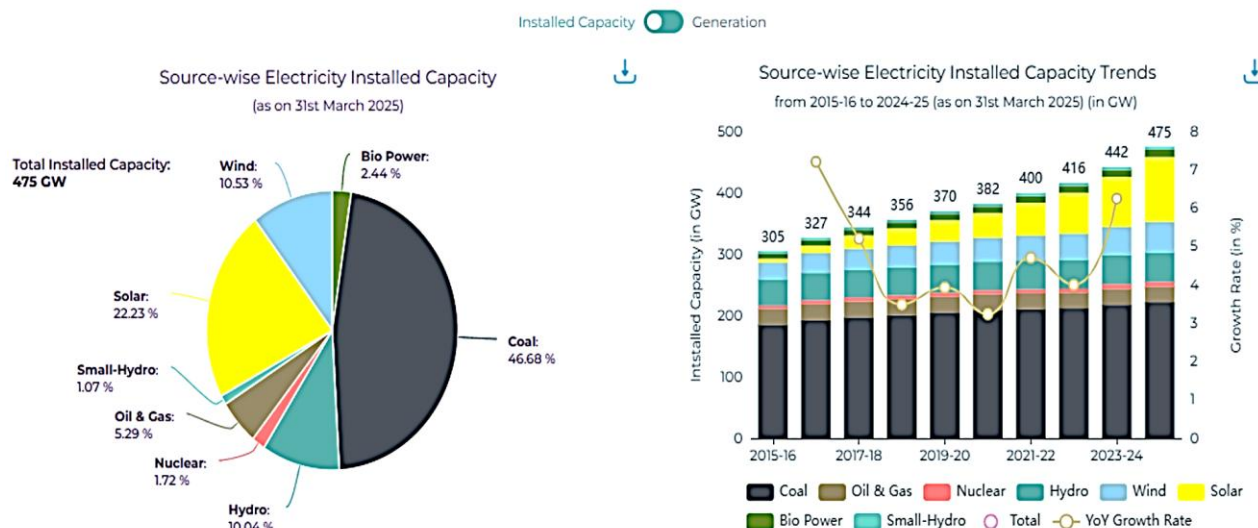


Fig. 1. Overview of India's power capacity (Source: CEA & NPP)

This chart shows that, though coal dominates the power capacity in India, solar, wind hydro and bio-power together now form a significant and fast growing share of installed capacity, reaching around half of all non-coal resources. This speaks volumes about how renewable sources can be a key strategy for climate action for India for a long term sustainable climate plan.

Challenges in India's renewable energy transition

India's renewable energy transition is constrained by transmission networks that are inadequate, limited storage and grid flexibility, leading to under-utilised solar and wind capacity in several states (IEEFA, 2025a).

Coal and other fossil fuels still dominate energy supply, providing more than two-third of India's electricity, remaining as fallback for reliability, slowing down the pace of replacement by renewable sources. (Indian Infrastructure, 2025).

The deteriorating financial health of distribution companies (DISCOMs) affects the deployment of renewable energy, as many DISCOMs face financial distress due to losses and tariffs, causing challenges in signing power purchase agreements. (IEEFA, 2025b).

100% reliance on imports for minerals which are essential for renewable energy technologies like cobalt, lithium and nickel, exposes India to supply disruptions and geopolitical risks (IEEFA, 2025b).

The path ahead: What COP30 means for India's climate future

India's path ahead will revolve around strengthening its climate justice narrative into concrete actions. Policy-wise, this means ensuring clearer coal phase-down pathways, larger investments in grids, storage and green hydrogen, stronger renewable purchase, paving way for a rapid transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

India will need to deepen adaptation planning with infrastructure that is climate resilient, using its low per capita emissions and growing deployment of clean energy to demand higher climate finance and accessible technology from high-emitting countries (European Commission Joint Research Centre, 2025). If these strands unite, India can consolidate its emerging leadership role for Global South, by a clear showcase of a development-first but low-carbon model that other countries can also adapt at their own contexts. (Mongabay India, 2025).

Conclusion:

India's journey at COP30 underlines that its fast, justice oriented energy transition with renewable sources as a key strategy can be utilised to shape its climate future. By leveraging advantages of low per-capita emissions, expanding clean energy track, strong stand on equity, finance and technology access, India is well positioned to vouch for a fairer global climate regime alongside steering its own development aligned with resilient, low carbon pathways that can prove to be an inspiration for other developing countries.

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