



UPSC &amp; STATE PCS CURRENT AFFAIRS · UJIYARI.COM

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

# India's NDC 3.0 — 47% Emissions Intensity Cut and 60% Non-Fossil Power by 2035

27 March 2026



CURATED &amp; WRITTEN BY

**Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator &amp; Content Creator

[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)

ALSO FROM THE CREATOR

**BharatNotes**Free UPSC notes, MCQs, PYQ analysis. **100% Free.**[bharatnotes.com](http://bharatnotes.com) →

ADVERTISE

**Advertise with Ujiyari**

Reach thousands of UPSC aspirants daily.

[epicbharat@gmail.com](mailto:epicbharat@gmail.com)

# India's NDC 3.0 — 47% Emissions Intensity Cut and 60% Non-Fossil Power by 2035

27 March 2026 · 9 min read · 2 tags ▾

▼ On this Page

## India's NDC 3.0 — 47% Emissions Intensity Cut and 60% Non-Fossil Power by 2035

 **Why in News** The Union Cabinet approved India's updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) for the period 2031-2035, committing to a 47% reduction in emissions intensity of GDP from 2005 levels, 60% non-fossil fuel installed power capacity, and a carbon sink of 3.5-4.0 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent by 2035 — to be communicated to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

### **Background — What Are NDCs?**

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are the climate action plans that each country submits under the **Paris Agreement** (adopted at COP21 in Paris, December 2015). The Agreement operates on a **five-year ratchet cycle** — every five years, each Party must submit a new NDC reflecting progressively higher ambition. The **Global Stocktake (GST)**, conducted every five years starting from 2023, assesses collective progress and informs the next round of NDCs.

The February 2025 deadline for the third round of NDC submissions (covering the 2031-2035 period) saw only about 33 countries submit on time. India had announced at **COP30 in Belem, Brazil** (November 2025) that it would submit its revised NDC by December 2025. The Cabinet approval on **March 25, 2026** formally clears the updated targets for communication to the UNFCCC.

## India's NDC Journey — From 1.0 to 3.0

Parameter	NDC 1.0 (2015, COP21)	NDC 2.0 (August 2022)	NDC 3.0 (March 2026)
<b>Emissions Intensity Reduction</b> (from 2005 levels)	33-35% by 2030	45% by 2030	<b>47% by 2035</b>
<b>Non-Fossil Installed Capacity</b>	40% by 2030	50% by 2030	<b>60% by 2035</b>
<b>Carbon Sink</b> (additional, from 2005)	2.5-3.0 billion tonnes CO <sub>2e</sub> by 2030	Same as NDC 1.0	<b>3.5-4.0 billion tonnes CO<sub>2e</sub> by 2035</b>
<b>Net Zero Target</b>	Not stated	2070 (announced COP26)	<b>2070 (reaffirmed)</b>
<b>Submitted To</b>	UNFCCC	UNFCCC	<b>UNFCCC (pending formal submission)</b>

India's NDC 2.0 was an update to the original NDC, translating PM Modi's **Panchamrit commitments** announced at COP26 in Glasgow (November 2021) into formal climate targets. The five Panchamrit goals were: 500 GW non-fossil capacity by 2030, 50% energy from renewables by 2030, one billion tonnes reduction in projected emissions by 2030, 45% carbon intensity reduction by 2030, and net zero by 2070.

## NDC 3.0 Key Targets — Detailed Breakdown

Target	Metric	Baseline	Current Status (Feb 2026)
Emissions Intensity Cut	47% reduction in GDP emissions intensity	2005 levels	36% achieved (2005-2020)
Non-Fossil Power Capacity	60% of total installed capacity	—	52.57% achieved
Carbon Sink	3.5-4.0 billion tonnes CO <sub>2e</sub>	2005 levels	2.29 billion tonnes achieved (by 2021)

**Key point:** India achieved its NDC 2.0 targets of 50% non-fossil capacity **five years ahead of schedule** — the country crossed the 50% mark in early 2025 itself. This early achievement has given India the credibility to set an even more ambitious 60% target for 2035.

## India's Climate Progress So Far

India's renewable energy transformation has been one of the fastest in the world:

### Installed Capacity (as of February 2026):

- Total installed power capacity: **~524 GW**
- Non-fossil fuel capacity: **~271.96 GW** (52.57% of total)
- Solar: **~143.6 GW** (crossed 143 GW in early 2026)
- Wind: **~55.13 GW**
- Large Hydro: **~51.16 GW**
- Nuclear: **~8.18 GW**
- Small Hydro + Biomass + Waste: **~14.89 GW**

### Record Addition in FY 2025-26:

- India added over **52 GW** of power capacity in just the first 10 months of FY26 (April 2025 to January 2026), led by renewables
- Solar alone contributed **38 GW** in the first 11 months of FY26 — a record annual pace
- FY25 saw a record **44.5 GW** of renewable energy capacity added

### Emissions Intensity Performance:

- India's emissions intensity declined by **36%** between 2005 and 2020 — surpassing the original NDC 1.0 target of 33-35% well ahead of the 2030 deadline
- The country now needs an additional 11 percentage points of reduction (from 36% to 47%) over 15 years (2020-2035)

### Carbon Sink Progress:

- India's fourth Biennial Update Report (January 2025) reported a carbon sink of **2.29 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2e</sub>** created between 2005 and 2021
- The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) ranks India **third globally** in net gain in forest area and **ninth** in total area under forest

### Key Climate Initiatives Underpinning NDC 3.0

- **National Green Hydrogen Mission** (January 2023): Budget outlay of Rs 19,744 crore (~\$2.4 billion); targets 5 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) of green hydrogen production capacity by 2030, requiring ~125 GW additional renewable capacity
- **Green Credit Programme** (October 2023): Market-based mechanism under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) covering seven activities — tree plantation, water conservation, sustainable farming, waste management, air quality improvement, mangrove protection, and eco-restoration. Participants earn tradable green credits for verified eco-actions
- **Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)**: Launched by PM Modi at COP27 (Sharm el-Sheikh, November 2022); promotes individual and community-level behavioural change for environmental sustainability

- **International Solar Alliance (ISA):** Co-founded by India and France, launched at COP21 (2015); headquartered in Gurugram, India; over 120 member and signatory countries as of 2026. The US announced withdrawal in January 2026
- **PM-KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan):** Promotes solar energy among farmers through solar pumps and grid-connected solar plants
- **National Adaptation Fund on Climate Change (NAFCC):** Funds adaptation projects in states vulnerable to climate change impacts

### How India Compares Globally

Country/Bloc	Net Zero Target Year	2035 NDC Emissions Intensity/Absolute Target
India	2070	47% emissions intensity cut (from 2005)
China	2060	Yet to submit 2035 NDC
EU	2050	90% net GHG reduction (from 1990 levels)
USA	2050	61-66% below 2005 levels
UK	2050	81% below 1990 levels

**Climate Action Tracker (CAT) Assessment:** CAT rates India’s overall climate targets and action as “**Highly Insufficient**”. However, under its sub-rating system, India’s policies and action are rated “**Almost Sufficient**” – recognising that India has surpassed its NDC 2.0 targets ahead of schedule. The tension lies in India’s continued high coal production, which CAT flags as a risk for carbon lock-in.

**India’s position:** India consistently argues that its per-capita emissions (~2.4 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> per person) remain well below the global average (~6.3 tonnes) and far below developed nations like the USA (~14 tonnes) and Australia (~15 tonnes). India also emphasises the principle of **Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC)** enshrined in the UNFCCC, which requires developed nations to take the lead in emissions reduction and climate finance.

### International Reaction

- **UNFCCC Secretariat:** Welcomed India’s submission as a demonstration of commitment to the Paris Agreement ratchet mechanism
- **Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF):** Urged India to adopt an absolute emissions cap alongside intensity targets, noting that GDP growth could still raise total emissions even with lower intensity
- **Developed nations:** The EU and UK had earlier called on all G20 nations to submit ambitious NDCs before COP30; India’s delayed but substantive submission was noted positively
- **Domestic experts:** The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), New Delhi, noted that while the targets are incremental rather than transformational, they are realistic given India’s development needs and energy access imperatives

### **COP30 Context**

COP30 in **Belem, Brazil** (November 2025) was the critical milestone where countries were expected to present their 2035 NDCs. The **New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG)** on climate finance — agreed at COP29 in Baku (November 2024) at \$300 billion per year by 2035 — remains contentious. India has argued that developed nations must honour their climate finance commitments under Article 9 of the Paris Agreement before demanding steeper cuts from developing countries.

### **UPSC Angle**

This topic is central to both Prelims and Mains preparation:

- **GS-I (Geography):** Impact of climate change on monsoon patterns, glacial retreat, sea-level rise affecting Indian coastlines
- **GS-II (International Relations):** Paris Agreement architecture, UNFCCC process, CBDR-RC principle, India's climate diplomacy at COP summits
- **GS-III (Environment & Economy):** NDC targets, renewable energy transition, Green Hydrogen Mission, carbon trading, green finance, balancing development with decarbonisation
- **Essay:** "India's climate commitments: ambition vs. equity in a warming world"
- **Interview:** "Should India accept an absolute emissions cap given that per-capita emissions remain far below the global average?"

### **UPSC Relevance**

**Prelims:** Paris Agreement (Article 4 — NDCs), UNFCCC, Panchamrit goals, ISA, Green Credit Programme, National Green Hydrogen Mission, PM-KUSUM, NAFCC, carbon sink, emissions intensity vs. absolute emissions. **Mains GS-III:** India's climate commitments under NDC 3.0; balancing economic growth with emissions reduction; renewable energy targets and progress; carbon sink through afforestation; role of green hydrogen in decarbonisation. **GS-II:** Climate diplomacy, CBDR-RC, NCQG, developed vs. developing nation obligations, India's position at COP30.

## ★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

### INDIA'S NDC EVOLUTION:

- NDC 1.0 (October 2015, COP21): 33-35% emissions intensity cut by 2030; 40% non-fossil capacity by 2030; 2.5-3.0 bn tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e carbon sink
- NDC 2.0 (August 2022): 45% emissions intensity cut by 2030; 50% non-fossil capacity by 2030 (Panchamrit translation)
- NDC 3.0 (March 25, 2026): 47% emissions intensity cut by 2035; 60% non-fossil capacity by 2035; 3.5-4.0 bn tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e carbon sink
- Net Zero target year: 2070 (announced at COP26 Glasgow, November 2021)

### CURRENT PROGRESS (AS OF FEBRUARY 2026):

- Emissions intensity decline: 36% from 2005 levels (achieved by 2020)
- Non-fossil installed capacity: 52.57% of total (~271.96 GW out of ~524 GW)
- Solar capacity: ~143.6 GW
- Wind capacity: ~55.13 GW
- Large hydro: ~51.16 GW
- Nuclear: ~8.18 GW
- Carbon sink created (2005-2021): 2.29 billion tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e
- India is 3rd globally in net forest area gain (FAO)

### PANCHAMRIT GOALS (COP26, GLASGOW, NOVEMBER 2021):

- 500 GW non-fossil energy capacity by 2030
- 50% energy from renewable sources by 2030
- One billion tonnes reduction in total projected emissions by 2030
- 45% carbon intensity reduction of GDP by 2030
- Net zero by 2070

### PARIS AGREEMENT NDC CYCLE:

- Adopted: December 12, 2015 at COP21, Paris; entered into force: November 4, 2016
- NDCs submitted every 5 years (2020, 2025, 2030...)
- Each successive NDC must show higher ambition (ratchet mechanism)
- Global Stocktake every 5 years (first in 2023) informs next NDC round
- Article 4: NDC obligations; Article 9: climate finance from developed to developing nations

### KEY CLIMATE INITIATIVES:

- National Green Hydrogen Mission: Approved January 4, 2023; outlay Rs 19,744 crore (~\$2.4 bn); target 5 MMTPA green hydrogen by 2030
- Green Credit Programme: Launched October 2023 by MoEFCC; covers 7 activities; tradable credits
- International Solar Alliance (ISA): Co-founded by India and France at COP21 (2015); HQ Gurugram; 120+ members; US withdrew January 2026
- Mission LiFE: Launched at COP27 (Sharm el-Sheikh, November 2022)
- PM-KUSUM: Solar pumps and grid-connected solar for farmers
- NAFCC: Funds climate adaptation projects in vulnerable states

#### PER CAPITA EMISSIONS COMPARISON:

- India: ~2.4 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>/person
- Global average: ~6.3 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>/person
- China: ~9.7 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>/person
- USA: ~14 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>/person
- EU: ~7.1 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>/person

#### CLIMATE FINANCE:

- NCQG (New Collective Quantified Goal): \$300 billion/year by 2035 — agreed at COP29, Baku (November 2024)
- Previous target: \$100 billion/year (2020 deadline, met only in 2022)
- India demands developed nations honour Article 9 commitments before expecting steeper cuts from developing nations
- CBDR-RC: Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities — foundational UNFCCC principle

#### OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

- COP30: Belem, Brazil (November 2025) — NDC 3.0 submissions expected
- COP29: Baku, Azerbaijan (November 2024) — NCQG agreed
- COP28: Dubai, UAE (2023) — first Global Stocktake completed
- COP26: Glasgow, UK (November 2021) — India's Panchamrit announcement
- India's total GHG emissions (2019): ~3.9 billion tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e (third largest after China and USA)
- India FY26 renewable addition pace: 52 GW in first 10 months (record)
- Climate Action Tracker rates India: "Highly Insufficient" overall; "Almost Sufficient" on policies and action
- India 4th Biennial Update Report: submitted January 2025

Sources: PIB, Down to Earth, Business Standard, UNFCCC, Climate Action Tracker

#### Related Editorials

##### DOWN TO EARTH

[Himalayan Fire Shift — When Climate Change Pushes Flames to New Heights](#)

27 Mar

##### THE HINDU

[India's Energy Insecurity — From Episodic Crisis to Systemic Vulnerability](#)

27 Mar

##### INDIAN EXPRESS

[India vs WTO's IFD Agreement — Defending Multilateralism or Blocking Progress?](#)

27 Mar

##### DOWN TO EARTH

[NBA Internship Programme — Reviving India's Biodiversity Governance Architecture](#)

26 Mar



CURATED &amp; WRITTEN BY

## Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator &amp; Content Creator

[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)[Read Full Article on Ujyari](#) →<https://ujyari.com/daily/2026/03/27/ndc-climate-targets-2035/>

### ALSO FROM THE CREATOR

## BharatNotes

Free UPSC study platform — subject-wise notes across all 4 GS papers, Prelims MCQs, Mains answer frameworks, PYQ analysis & progress tracking. **100% Free • No Login Required.**

[Start Preparing](https://bharatnotes.com) → [bharatnotes.com](https://bharatnotes.com)

### 📌 OPPORTUNITY

## Advertise with Ujyari

Reach **thousands of serious UPSC & State PCS aspirants** daily through our PDFs, website, and social channels.

**Ideal for:** Coaching institutes • EdTech platforms • Book publishers • Exam prep apps

[✉ epicbharat@gmail.com](mailto:epicbharat@gmail.com)

Write to us for rates & media kit

Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs · [ujyari.com](https://ujyari.com) · [bharatnotes.com](https://bharatnotes.com)

