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India Sets Wind Power Record — 6.05 GW Added in FY26, Total Crosses 56 GW

8 April 2026

ENVIRONMENT

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GS3

CURATED & WRITTEN BY

**Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator & 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 →**ADVERTISE****Advertise with Ujiyari**

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8 April 2026 · 3 min read · 3 tags

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WHY IN NEWS

India's **wind energy sector** has set a new all-time annual record with **6.05 GW of capacity added in FY 2025–26** — a **46% increase** over FY25's 4.15 GW, and surpassing the previous record of **5.5 GW set in FY 2016–17**. The milestone was announced by the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**, which brings India's **total installed wind capacity to over 56 GW**, making it the **4th largest wind power nation globally**.

KEY NUMBERS

METRIC	FIGURE
FY26 wind addition (new record)	6.05 GW
Previous record	5.5 GW (FY2016–17)
YoY growth	46% over FY25's 4.15 GW
Total installed wind capacity	56 GW+
India's global rank (wind)	4th (after China, USA, Germany)
National wind target by 2030	140 GW
Total RE target by 2030	500 GW non-fossil
Leading states (FY26)	Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra

INDIA'S WIND ENERGY LANDSCAPE

Onshore Wind

India's wind energy is **predominantly onshore**, concentrated in peninsular states with high wind speeds:

STATE	INSTALLED CAPACITY (APPROX.)	WHY HIGH
Gujarat	~12 GW	Kutch desert winds, long coastline
Tamil Nadu	~11 GW	First mover — wind since 1990s
Karnataka	~7 GW	Western Ghats passes
Rajasthan	~7 GW	Thar desert wind corridors
Maharashtra	~5 GW	Satara, Dhule
Andhra Pradesh	~4 GW	Krishna delta corridor



Offshore Wind — Emerging

- India has **7,500 MW of offshore wind capacity** targeted by 2030 (pilot: 1,000 MW)

- First offshore lease areas announced in **Tamil Nadu and Gujarat** coasts
- MNRE's **Offshore Wind Energy Policy 2015** updated; viability gap funding mechanism being developed
- **OWPs (Offshore Wind Projects)** require new grid and port infrastructure

WHY THE FY26 RECORD MATTERS

Breaking the 9-Year Drought

FY 2016–17's 5.5 GW record stood unbroken for **nine years** — the result of policy uncertainty (interstate transmission issues, DISCOM health, land acquisition problems). FY26's 6.05 GW marks a decisive structural revival.

Key Policy Drivers (FY24–26)

- 1 **Waiver of ISTS charges** for renewable energy until 2032 (incentivises inter-state wind projects)
- 2 **Wind RPO trajectory** — State DISCOMs mandated to purchase specific percentages of wind power
- 3 **Repowering Policy** — replacing old, low-capacity wind turbines with modern high-efficiency ones
- 4 **Wind-Solar Hybrid Policy** — colocation maximises land use and grid stability
- 5 **PM Surya Ghar and PM KUSUM** — rural energy demand creates market for RE

INDIA'S 500 GW NON-FOSSIL TARGET — PROGRESS

India committed at **COP26 (Glasgow, 2021)** and in its **Updated NDC (2022)** to:

- 500 GW of non-fossil electricity capacity by 2030
- 50% of electricity from non-fossil sources by 2030
- Net-zero by 2070

Status as of April 2026:



SOURCE	INSTALLED (GW)	TARGET 2030 (GW)
Solar	~110	280
Wind	~56	140
Hydro	~47	~55
Nuclear	~8	~20
Small Hydro, Bio, Other	~15	~20+
Total RE	~236	500

CHALLENGES AHEAD

CHALLENGE	DETAIL
Land acquisition	Wind sites in ecologically sensitive areas
Grid integration	Variability in wind generation requires storage + balancing
Transmission bottleneck	Evacuating power from wind-rich states to load centres
DISCOM payment risk	Many DISCOMs financially stressed — delayed payments to RE developers
Repowering pace	~2,000 MW of old <500 kW turbines need replacement
Offshore wind cost	Offshore LCoE still ~₹7-9/kWh vs onshore ~₹3-4/kWh

UPSC RELEVANCE

GS Paper 3 — Environment & Economy

- Renewable energy transition and India's energy security
- **NDC commitments** and progress tracking
- Role of MNRE, wind RPO, ISTS waivers in RE acceleration
- **Offshore wind** as a frontier technology
- Grid integration challenges — storage, transmission



Schemes & Bodies

BODY / SCHEME	ROLE
MNRE	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
SECI (Solar Energy Corporation of India)	Tender and procurement aggregator
NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd.	PSU developer
NIWE (National Institute of Wind Energy)	Research, wind resource mapping
ISTS Waiver	Removes inter-state transmission surcharge for RE

FACTS CORNER

ITEM	FACT
FY26 wind addition	6.05 GW (new all-time record)
Previous record	5.5 GW (FY2016–17)
Growth over FY25	46%
Total wind capacity	56 GW+
India's global rank	4th largest wind nation
Wind target 2030	140 GW
Total RE target 2030	500 GW (Panchamrit)
Top wind state	Gujarat (~12 GW)
India's net-zero target	2070
ISTS waiver valid till	2032

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