

Coal Freeze Marks India's Clean-Energy Transition

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Why in News?

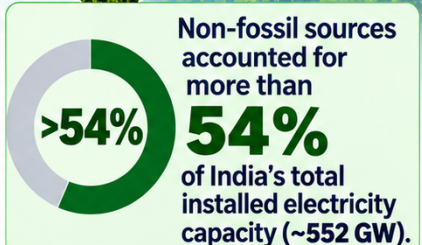
Recent CREA's analysis for Carbon Brief showed **India's coal power recorded zero growth between H1 2024-H1 2026**, the first such stagnation in over 50 years.

- **No Growth in Coal Power** - This **does not mean coal has been eliminated** from India's electricity system.
- Coal remains a major source of electricity.
- India **added approximately 8.5 GW of coal-fired capacity** during this period.
- Approximately **43 GW of coal capacity was under construction** as of the end of June 2026.
- The key change is that rising electricity demand was increasingly met by **new non-fossil generation instead of additional coal generation**.
- As renewable energy use grows, coal plants may need to operate more flexibly and reduce output when renewable generation is high.

India's Non-Fossil Power Capacity

As of 31 July 2026, government data showed:

Source	Installed capacity
 Solar	164.59 GW
 Wind	58.14 GW
 Hydro	57.24 GW
 Bio-power	11.75 GW
 Nuclear	8.78 GW
Total non-fossil	300.50 GW



RENEWABLE ENERGY



ENERGY SECURITY



SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

- **Solar Power as a Key Driver** - It is now the leading source of **new clean electricity generation**.
- Solar generation rose by **44 TWh** from the first half of 2024 to the first half of 2026.
- Solar capacity grew by approximately 77 GW over the same period.
- Installed solar capacity reached **164.59 GW as of 31 July 2026**, up from **2.8 GW in 2014**.
- **Energy Storage** - It is essential because renewable electricity is not always available during peak demand.
- India's National Electricity Plan projects the following storage requirements:
 - The plan estimates a storage requirement of 82 GWh by 2026-27.
 - By 2031-32, the projected storage requirement increases to 411 GWh.
- **State-wise Transition** - The clean-energy transition exhibits significant regional variation **across India**.
- **Gujarat**
 - Gujarat experienced the largest increase in clean-power generation.
 - The state also recorded the largest decline in fossil-fuel generation during H1 2024 to H1 2026.
- **Rajasthan & Tamil Nadu**
 - Both states reported major increases in clean energy generation.
 - They also recorded reductions in fossil-fuel generation.
- **Maharashtra & Telangana**
 - These states recorded some of the largest increases in electricity demand.

- Additional clean generation almost matched this demand growth.

Reference

[MC | India's Clean-Energy Push](#)

