Glasgow at five: NITI Aayog puts fossil fuels at 87 per cent of India's primary energy in 2025

In this report: the five findings; electricity from fossil fuels; coal and coal plants; the air; what the updated NDC kept.

At Glasgow on 1 November 2021, the Prime Minister promised that India would meet 50 percent of its energy requirements from renewable energy by 2030. Five years later, NITI Aayog's own estimate of February 2026 shows that fossil fuels still supplied 87 per cent of India's primary energy in 2025.

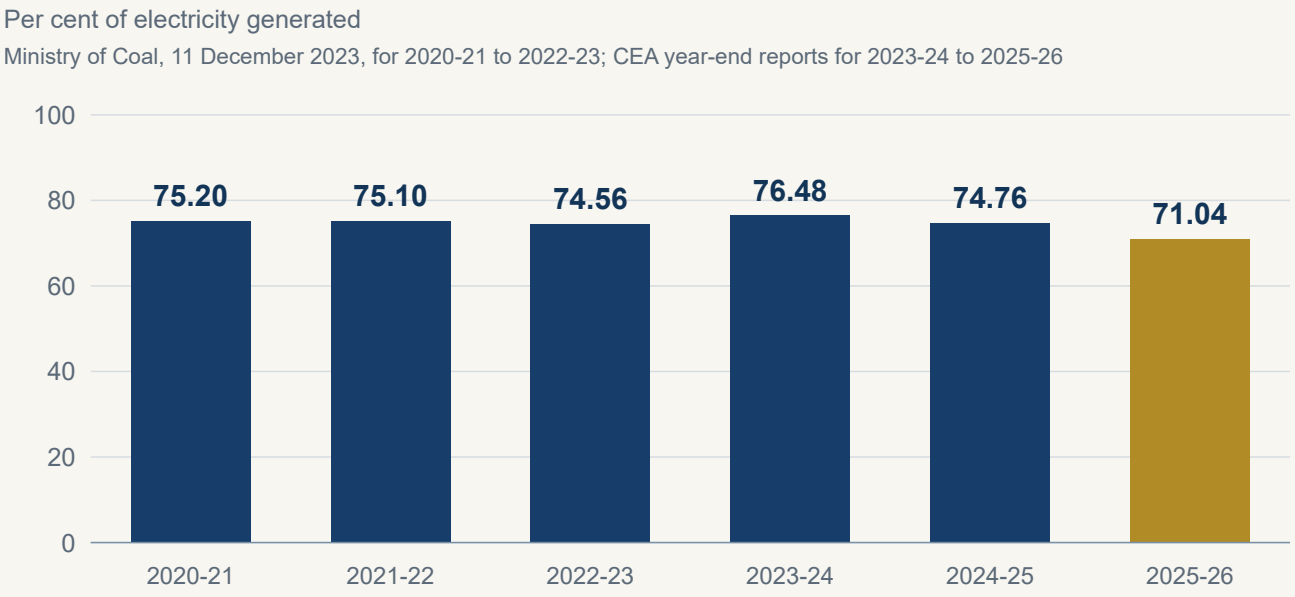
In electricity, the Central Electricity Authority's count for April 2025 to March 2026 shows that fossil fuels generated 71.04 per cent of the power produced, while renewable energy, counting large hydro, generated 25.97 per cent.

Finding	What the Government's own records show
NITI Aayog: 87 per cent of primary energy from fossil fuels, 2025	NITI Aayog's overview of February 2026 estimates that fossil fuels supplied 87 per cent of India's primary energy in 2025, and that non-fossil fuels, excluding traditional biomass, supplied 5 per cent. The Prime Minister had promised that India would meet 50 percent of its energy requirements from renewable energy by 2030.
71.04 per cent of electricity from fossil fuels, 2025-26	The Central Electricity Authority's year-end table shows that fossil fuels generated 71.04 per cent of India's electricity in 2025-26, the latest closed year. The non-fossil share was 24.90 per cent in 2021-22 and 28.96 per cent in 2025-26, a rise of 4.06 percentage points in four years.
17.26 per cent more thermal power, 33.65 per cent more coal	Thermal power stations generated 1,307.13 billion units in 2025-26, which is 17.26 per cent more than the 1,114.71 billion units of 2021-22. Coal production rose from 778.210 million tonnes in 2021-22 to 1,040.08 million tonnes in 2025-26, which is an increase of 33.65 per cent.
21,993 MW more coal capacity since October 2021	India's coal-based capacity rose from 2,02,414.50 MW on 31 October 2021 to 2,24,407.50 MW on 31 August 2026, as the Central Electricity Authority counts it. On 31 July 2026 the Authority listed 42,700 MW more thermal capacity in its programme to 2031-32, leaving out projects on hold and stressed projects, and it scheduled 16,620 MW of that for 2029-30.
The updated NDC: no 500 GW, no one billion tonnes, no target for energy	By 2030, the updated NDC of 3 August 2022 committed India to a 45 percent cut in emissions intensity and to about 50 percent of installed capacity from non-fossil sources. The 500 GW and the cut of one billion tonnes are not in it, and it sets no target for energy; its target of about 50 percent counts installed capacity.

Sources: Read on 22 October 2026. NITI Aayog, February 2026; PIB 226227, 1 November 2021; CEA, RE Generation, March 2026; RS Question 836, 11 December 2023; CEA, Executive Summary, March 2026; RS Question 47, 20 July 2026; CEA capacity, 31 August 2026; CEA thermal projects, July 2026; PIB 236437, 3 August 2022.

Electricity from fossil fuels, 2020-21 to 2025-26

The Central Electricity Authority, which is the Government's technical body for the power sector, publishes how much of India's electricity came from fossil fuels when each financial year ends. Its table for 2025-26, which ran from April 2025 to March 2026, puts non-fossil sources at 28.96 per cent of the electricity generated, so fossil fuels generated 71.04 per cent. Renewable energy, counting large hydro, generated 25.97 per cent, and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy gave the Rajya Sabha the same 25.97 per cent on 21 July 2026.



Each bar is the share of India's electricity that was generated from fossil fuels in one financial year. The gold bar is 2025-26, the latest year that has closed.

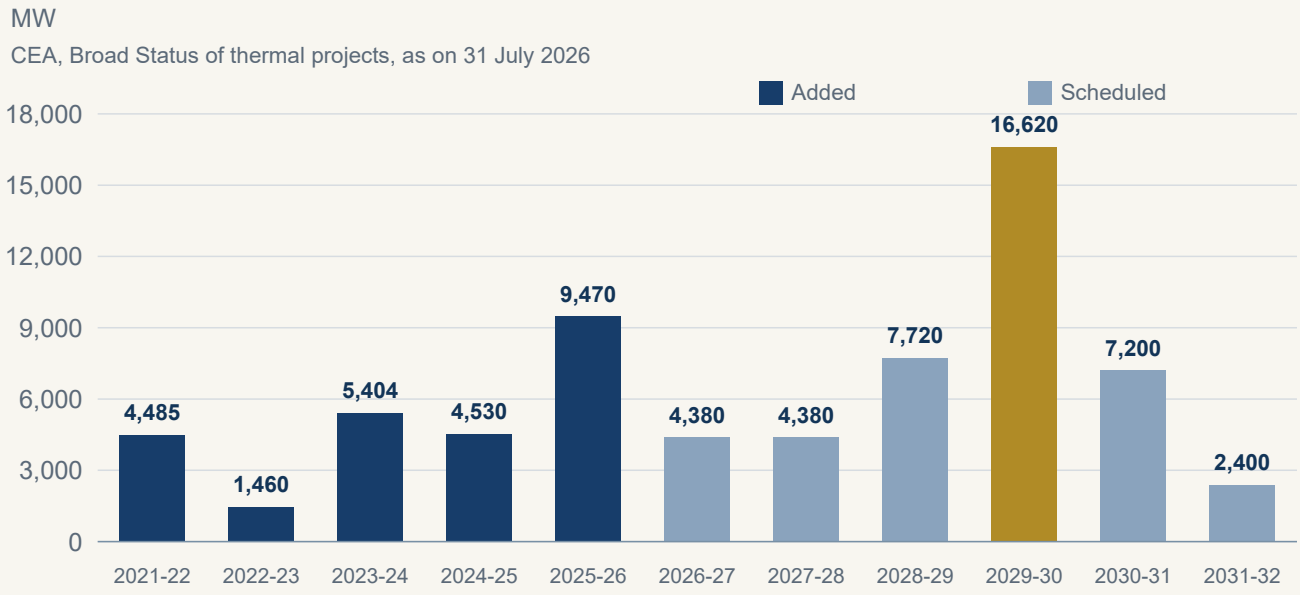
In 2021-22, which was the year of the Glasgow statement, non-fossil sources generated 24.90 per cent of India's electricity, as the Ministry of Coal's own table shows. The non-fossil share rose by 4.06 percentage points in the four years to 2025-26.

Sources: Read on 22 October 2026. CEA, RE Generation, March 2026; RS Question 836, 11 December 2023; RS Question 301, 21 July 2026.

More coal, and more coal plants

India's coal output rose faster than thermal power generation over the same four years, from 2021-22 to 2025-26. In 2021-22, India produced 778.210 million tonnes of raw coal, as the Coal Directory of India counts it. The Ministry of Coal told the Rajya Sabha on 20 July 2026 that production was 1,040.08 million tonnes in 2025-26, a rise of 33.65 per cent, against a target of 1,157 million tonnes for that year.

On 31 October 2021, the day before the Glasgow statement, India had 2,02,414.50 MW of coal-based power capacity, by the Central Electricity Authority's count. On 31 August 2026 it had 2,24,407.50 MW, which is 21,993 MW more.



The dark bars show the thermal capacity added in each year from 2021-22 to 2025-26, which comes to 25,349 MW in all. The pale bars and the gold bar show the capacity that CEA's programme schedules for each year, and the gold bar marks the year with the most, the financial year that ends in March 2030.

Sources: Read on 22 October 2026. Coal Directory 2024-25; RS Question 47, 20 July 2026; CEA capacity, 31 October 2021; CEA capacity, 31 August 2026; CEA thermal projects, July 2026.

What the updated NDC kept, and how the figures were made

On 3 August 2022 the Cabinet approved India's updated Nationally Determined Contribution, the commitment that India makes to the United Nations under the Paris Agreement. Its release says that the update "translates the ‘Panchamrit’ announced at COP 26 into enhanced climate targets". The release then states the commitment in these words: "As per the updated NDC, India now stands committed to reduce Emissions Intensity of its GDP by 45 percent by 2030, from 2005 level and achieve about 50 percent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030."

Neither 500 GW nor the cut of one billion tonnes is in that commitment, and it sets no target for energy: its target of about 50 percent counts installed capacity, which is the size of power plants and not the power they produce.

On the Environment Ministry's own count, the cities under the National Clean Air Programme with PM2.5 above the national standard numbered 42 in 2020, 58 in 2021, 62 in 2022, 66 in 2023, 61 in 2024 and 55 in 2025. Delhi's PM2.5 stood at 102 µg/m³ in 2025-26. The Ministry's answers name transport, industry including thermal power plants, and fossil fuel combustion among the sources. Since 11 July 2025 the sulphur dioxide limits of 2015 no longer apply to Category C plants that meet the stack height criteria, and Category C held 78.9 per cent of the capacity in the Ministry of Power's table.

The shares of electricity for 2023-24 to 2025-26 come from the Central Electricity Authority's year-end tables, while those for 2020-21 to 2022-23 come from the Ministry of Coal's answer to Rajya Sabha Question 836, given on 11 December 2023. Both sources count coal, lignite, gas and diesel as fossil fuels. The fossil share of each year is what remains after the non-fossil share that the source prints, and that subtraction is this brief's arithmetic.

NITI Aayog marks its primary energy supply for 2025 as estimated, and this brief treats the shares for 2025 as part of that estimate. Those shares are on different bases, so this brief quotes each one in NITI Aayog's own words and never adds them together. The figures for electricity measure only the part of energy that is electricity.

Five years after Glasgow, India mines more coal, has more coal-fired capacity and generates more power from fossil fuels than it did in 2021-22, and fossil fuels still supplied 87 per cent of its primary energy in 2025, on NITI Aayog's own estimate.

Sources: Read on 22 and 27 October 2026. PIB 236437, 3 August 2022; RS Question 2936, 13 August 2026; RS Question 545, 23 July 2026; RS Question 1344, 30 July 2026; RS Question 3107, 19 March 2026; Gazette, 11 July 2025; RS Question 2552, 11 August 2025; CEA, RE Generation, March 2026; RS Question 836, 11 December 2023.