

FEATURES

Global Wind Day: India Can Harness the Potential



[Rituraj Phukan](#) · 19:31, 15 Jun 2017 · 13071 views · 3 min read



Global Wind Day is observed on 15th June to raise awareness of the potential of wind power for future energy systems and the opportunities for growth and employment. Wind Day, as [\(/taxonomy/term/2291\)](/taxonomy/term/2291) it was known until 2009, was first organised by the European Wind Energy Association in 2007 and is currently coordinated by WindEurope and the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) and various national associations.

Wind energy is important for decarbonization of economies as [unlike fossil fuels, it is clean](#), produces no greenhouse gas emissions during operation, consumes no water, and uses little land. Wind power is plentiful, renewable, widely distributed and has the potential to exceed current global energy requirements forty times over.

A GWEC report in April asserts that wind power could generate 20 per cent of global electricity by 2030, with installed wind power capacity of 2110 gigawatts (GW). An increase in wind capacity would also create up to 2.4 million new jobs and help reduce carbon emission by 3.3 billion tonnes a year.



China and India were the top nations with new wind power in 2016, accounting for a major share of 54 GW installed across 90 countries worldwide. Last year wind accounted for 44 per cent of all new power installations in Europe and onshore wind energy is now the cheapest form of new power generation.

In the beginning of 2017, Dutch railway company NS announced that all public transport trains in the Netherlands now run on 100 per cent renewable wind power. The train network requires 1.2 billion kWh of electricity annually and this pioneering initiative is expected to inspire similar action across the world.

The American Wind Energy Association recently declared that the U.S. wind energy sector added jobs more than nine times faster than the overall U.S. economy last year. African countries led by Kenya, South Africa and Morocco and Australia are also expected to make record progress in the next few years.

During (/taxonomy/term/1961)2016 (/taxonomy/term/1961)-17, India (/taxonomy/term/2367) added a record 5,400 megawatts (MW) of wind power, exceeding its 4,000MW target, but there is huge gap in terms of the commitments made at the Paris Agreement. Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Telangana and Kerala are among the top states with installed wind power capacity.

India (/taxonomy/term/2367) is committed to a renewable energy revolution and looks to solar and wind power for driving economic growth. At the Paris Agreement, India (/taxonomy/term/2367) had declared an ambitious target of 175 GW of renewable energy by 2022, including 60 GW from wind power. Wind power is currently the major component of the renewable energy sector, contributing over (/taxonomy/term/2166) half of the 50000 MW installed capacity in the country. According to government estimates, the onshore wind power potential alone is about 302GW. The National (/taxonomy/term/1874) Offshore Wind Energy Policy has been set up to harness wind power along the vast coastlinethat extends to 7600 kilometres. Wind power has arrived and along with solar, set to hasten the end of dirty energy.



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