

These are the issues the Budget-2018 must contend with:

India has missed yearly renewable expansion targets since 2016; no more than 29 percent of the clean energy cess — a major source for funding renewables in the country — has been spent over six years, with Rs 56,700 crore diverted in 2017 to subsidise GST losses; a new import duty on solar modules from China, Taiwan and Malaysia threatens to increase production costs and record low solar tariffs; and the rural poor may miss a renewables job boom, if a workforce cannot be trained.

Addressing these issues are important if India is to fulfill its [commitment](#) to the [Paris Climate Agreement 2015](#) to install 175 gigawatt (GW) of renewables power capacity by 2022. This is enough to replace 175 coal-fired power plants of 1,000 MW and reduce India's dependence on fossil fuels — [92 percent](#) of India's electricity comes from fossil fuels — that produce greenhouse gases and hasten global warming.

Of India's 2022 renewables target, 100 GW is supposed to come from solar and 60 GW from wind power, according to government [data](#). India installed 62 GW renewable power capacity by November 2017, of which 27 GW, or 43.5 percent, was installed over four years from May 2014.

Consequently, budgetary allocations to renewable energy rose by 38.9 percent between 2014-15 and 2017-18.