

Lessons From Copenhagen to Delhi: How India Can Improve Its CCPI Performance

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ABSTRACT

"It's time to stop burning our planet, and start investing in the abundant renewable energy all around us" - ANTONIO GUTERRES, United Nations Secretary-General.

Climate finance encapsulates all the financial efforts a Nation does to mitigate climate Deterioration. It also includes financial aids from foreign bodies, private entities & any other source towards the aforesaid objective. It serves as a key ingredient in fostering the nation's endeavour to mitigate the climate Deterioration.

Denmark, a forerunner in fighting climate deterioration, has remarkably organised climate finance via a unified system of government and private finance and a strict administrative structure. Conversely, India has recorded a fall in its ranking in CCPI from 10 to 23, which raises a question towards its dedication to Climate change mitigation and scope for learning and adopting such strategies and policies, which can not only improve its ranking but also foster sustainable development.

This paper focuses on creating a contrast between the climate finance framework of Denmark and India by employing cross country comparison and SWOT Analysis of India. By comparison, meaningful insights can be drawn which will highlight the scope, opportunities, challenges, lessons, and long-term goals for India and further improve its rank in CCPI and other related indices.

This study also aims at providing actionable suggestions in order to follow its vows towards a greener earth, improvement in CCPI ranking and transition to low low-carbon economy.

Keywords: Climate Finance, Sustainable Development, Renewable Resources, Decarbonised Nation, Climate Change Performance Index, Carbon Footprint, Green Technology

INTRODUCTION

Climate finance stands out as a key tool in driving worldwide efforts against climate change. It matters a lot for countries in the developing world. They try to handle quick economic expansion while keeping environmental duties in check. Shifting the whole world toward low-carbon options calls for roughly 2.4 trillion dollars every year by 2030. That figure applies just to those developing nations. It really shows the growing divide between bold climate goals and the funding that is actually on hand.

India, recognised as one of the fastest-growing economies globally and a key figure in the Global South, confronts the challenge of promoting economic advancement while tackling climate change. In light of the urgency surrounding this issue, India has set forth ambitious climate objectives. During the 2021 UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the "Panchamrit" framework, which aims for net-zero carbon emissions by 2070 and a non-fossil fuel energy capacity of

500 gigawatts (GW) by 2030 (Pib). To facilitate these aims, India has garnered around \$386 billion in financing from financial institutions intended for renewable energy growth by 2030 (Business Standard). India's renewable energy sector has showcased robust growth between November 2023 and November 2024, with significant strides across solar, wind, bioenergy, hydro, and nuclear energy. These achievements underline the nation's unwavering commitment to clean energy and its ambitious target of achieving 500 GW from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030, positioning India as a global leader in sustainable energy.

India's dedication to a sustainable future is evident through projects like the National Solar Mission, which seeks to substantially boost solar energy capacity, and the National Green Hydrogen Mission, aimed at producing clean hydrogen. Furthermore, the government has implemented policies such as the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme to promote domestic production of solar photovoltaic modules.

India showcases a significant standing in the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI), which evaluates countries based on their efforts to lower emissions, enhance renewable energy integration, and establish robust climate policies. While there is room for improvement in India's CCPI ranking, its renewable energy targets and commitment to sustainable development showcase its determination to address climate change on both national and global levels. As of the most recent 2025 rankings, India is positioned 10th among large economies in the CCPI, driven by its renewable energy progress and climate initiatives (CCPI).

India's climate finance initiatives have been pivotal in propelling its sustainability agenda forward. The country has progressively acted as both a recipient and provider of climate finance, receiving international funds for its renewable projects while also engaging in global climate finance efforts like the 720 MW Mangdechhu hydroelectric project in Bhutan. (mfa.gov.bt)

India's dedication to acquiring climate finance for its green energy projects is vital in assisting other nations in the Global South in achieving their climate targets, highlighting India's leadership in promoting a global shift towards sustainable development. Despite facing challenges such as policy delays and supply chain issues.

Denmark is at the forefront of global sustainability efforts, targeting net-zero emissions by 2050 and aiming for a 70% reduction in emissions by 2030 compared to levels in 1990 (Government of Denmark) and Denmark is the forerunner in the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) because of its robust climate policies. Furthermore, the country plays an active role in international climate financing by aiding developing countries in their transition to renewable energy sources (Danida).

Given that current research continues to look into India's progress concerning energy from renewable sources and Denmark's climate policies separately, there is a significant gap of understanding related to differences in climate finance framework, capacity utilization, institutional and legal framework among India and Denmark lead to CCPI rankings. A comparative lens becomes vital as countries in the global south seek growth strategies that remain compatible with climate commitments.

LITERATURE REVIEW

• CLIMATE CHANGE PERFORMANCE INDEX AND ITS INDICATORS

CCPI is a worldwide ranking system which measures and reports the country's effectiveness in combating climate change. It is published annually since 2005 in collaboration with Germanwatch, NewClimate Institute, and the Climate Action Network (CAN) during the conference of the parties. 63

nations and the EU, which together account for more than 90% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, are represented in the CCPI's climate mitigation efforts. Countries are ranked on 4 parameters and 14 indicators, which are Greenhouse Gas Emissions (40% of the overall score), Renewable Energy (20%), Energy Use (20%), and Climate Policy (20%). (CCPI)

• CLIMATE FINANCE AND ITS ESSENCE

The flow of money intended to combat climate change by lowering greenhouse gases and boosting climatic resilience is referred to as "climate finance" (Jakob et al., 2015). Climate finance encapsulates all the financial efforts a Nation does to mitigate climate Deterioration. It also includes financial aids from foreign bodies, private entities & any other source towards the aforesaid objective. The UNFCCC was signed in 1992, which paved the way for the creation of the climate finance mechanism, which was designed to help developing nations deal with warming temperatures. (X. Ren et al, 2025) Later, the COP21 held in Paris provided the framework for financial, technical and capacity building mechanisms from the developed nations to the needy ones.

Climate finance has gained significant global attention since the COP29 concluded with a central focus on climate finance. COP29 brought together nearly 200 countries in Baku, Azerbaijan, and reached a breakthrough agreement that will:

- a) Triple the finance to developing countries, from the previous goal of USD 100 billion annually, to USD 300 billion annually by 2035.
- b) Secure efforts of all actors to work together to scale up finance to developing countries, from public and private sources, to the amount of USD 1.3 trillion per year by 2035. (UNFCCC)

Developing economies now account for over half of global emissions, and their share is growing relative to that of developed economies, so if the 2°C ceiling is not to be exceeded, they will have to start reining in their emissions soon (Clarke et al, 2009).

• CLIMATE FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE IN CCPI AND OTHER RELATED INDICES

Available literature shows that countries receiving and effectively utilising climate finance exhibit stronger performances in renewable energy transition and emissions reduction, correlating with higher rankings in global climate indices such as the CCPI. (Environmental Research Letters, 2022). Empirical evidence from CCPI reports, Environmental Research Letters (2022), and UNFCCC assessments establishes that greater mobilisation and effective use of climate finance strongly correlate with improved national performance on emissions reduction, renewable energy expansion, and climate policy — the core metrics assessed in the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI).

• CLIMATE POLICY, GOVERNANCE AND TRANSITION TO GREENER ECONOMY

Climate Policy Integration (CPI), also known as climate mainstreaming, involves incorporating climate initiatives into various sectorial policies (such as agriculture, energy, and infrastructure) to ensure alignment with sustainable development goals (SDGS).

Finance for climate change plays a very important role in shaping the policies and tailoring the efforts of a nation towards climate deterioration and achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement determined during COP21. According to the 2025 contemporary rankings by CCPI, Denmark retained its position and ruled the chart at rank 4, whereas India dropped three places and is at rank 10. About the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI), governance plays an indirect role in all four pillars, especially regarding climate policy and the reduction of emissions. Countries that possess robust institutional frameworks and strong political commitment, such as Denmark, tend to achieve higher positions in CCPI rankings.

The framework for climate governance in India has undergone considerable transformation, particularly following the introduction of the 2008 National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) and the establishment of State Action Plans on Climate Change (SAPCCS). Nonetheless, several challenges continue to exist:

- **Disjointed Policy Execution:** There continues to be a lack of effective coordination between the central and state authorities (Dubash et al., 2018).
- **Regulatory Deficiencies:** In spite of ambitious goals for renewable energy, the mechanisms for enforcement and monitoring frequently fall short.
- **Inconsistent Mobilisation of Climate Finance:** The mobilisation and effective utilisation of international climate financing are hindered by bureaucratic obstacles and lengthy project approval processes.

India has moved a long way, but there is a significant scope for further developments.

This comparative study is needed because INDIA as a nation, which is still in the developing phase there has a lot of underutilised potential to grow and become a developed nation by 2047 via transformative and visionary initiative VIKSIT BHARAT@2047 (pib), but that growth comes at a cost to the environment. At the end, growth is evident, necessary and required, so is the financing to mitigate climate change & hence the international climate funding (CF) becomes an essential instrument for poor nations to help them both prepare for and reduce the consequences of the warming climate (Carfora et al., 2017).

By comparing India and Denmark through the CCPI Report, this paper aims to

- To compare India's and Denmark's climate finance scenarios
- To identify key strengths and gaps in India's approach
- To propose actionable recommendations for improving India's CCPI performance.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

RESEARCH DESIGN

This research employs a Comparative and Descriptive Research Design.

It aims to outline the current climate finance frameworks, climate policies, and CCPI performances in India and Denmark.

By conducting a cross-country comparative analysis, the study uncovers patterns, similarities, differences, and important insights that India can utilise to enhance its performance in addressing climate change.

DATA COLLECTION

The study relies solely on Secondary Data obtained from reliable and publicly accessible sources, which include:

- Government Publications (e.g. Publications from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change – India; the Ministry of Climate, Energy and Utilities – Denmark)
- Global Reports (e.g., UNFCCC Reports, CCPI Annual Reports, Climate Action Tracker)
- Scholarly Research and Journals (e.g., Environmental Research Letters, Climate Policy journal)
- Additional Public Sources (e.g., OECD databases, World Bank reports, IPCC reports)

DATA ANALYSIS

The research will employ two primary analytical methods:

- **Cross-Country Comparison:**

An examination contrasting the climate finance systems, governance quality, renewable energy investments, regulatory frameworks, and CCPI results of India and Denmark.

The analysis will concentrate on the four CCPI categories: GHG Emissions, Renewable Energy, Energy Consumption, and Climate Policy.

- **SWOT Analysis:**

For India, an in-depth Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) assessment will be carried out, focusing on climate finance distribution, policy execution, and international standing.

Denmark's approach will act as a standard for pinpointing areas for improvement and practical strategies for India.

DATA COLLECTION & ANALYSIS

- **Cross-country analysis**

To understand India’s performance in the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) and its climate finance needs, this section presents key indicators on emissions, energy use, and fuel mix. These indicators come from well-regarded databases (IEA, World Bank, Global Carbon Project) and official sources from the Government of India. They show where India’s emissions come from, how energy is used, and the main pressure points in its energy system. A heavy reliance on coal and growing electricity demand means that reducing carbon emissions will require significant investments in renewable energy, upgrades to the grid, energy efficiency, and storage. Low per-capita consumption and moderate energy intensity indicate that development needs will push up future demand, making targeted climate finance crucial for a fair transition. Looking at these indicators helps explain why India’s CCPI performance has declined, even with growing capacity: financing must go towards not just building infrastructure but also improving governance, integration, and use. Overall, these metrics highlight both the extent of India’s financing needs and the sectors where climate finance can have the greatest effect

Table 1

POINT OF DIFFERENCE	INDIA	DENMARK
CCPI RANK (2025,2026)	10,23	4,4
GHG emission	MEDIUM RATING RANK-25	HIGH RATING RANK-10
Renewable energy	LOW RATING RANK-36	VERY HIGH RATING RANK-2
Energy use	MEDIUM RATING RANK-26	MEDIUM RATING RANK-25
Climate policy	MEDIUM RATING RANK-14	HIGH RATING RANK- 4
Total CO2 Emissions	2763.34 MtCO2	24.54 MtCO2
Share of global GHG emissions 2022	7.33%	0.09%
Electricity consumption	1699.27 TWh	36.85TWh

Net zero pledge	2070 In policy documents, and not legally binding	2050 Operational law, which is legally binding
Emission control (by the end of 2030)	Regulated increase in emissions of 53.8 mt annually from 2022-2030.	Regulated decrease in emissions of 1.9 mt annually from 2022-2030.
Share of renewable energy in total power generation (2024) (SDG 7.2)	30%	88.4%
Total public energy RD&D budget		171.88 Million USD
Carbon market mechanism	India's Carbon Credit Trading System (CCTS) is in the development phase.	EU-ETS Functional
Climate action tracker rating	Highly insufficient	Insufficient

source: author's compilation

India has done remarkable work in fighting climate change and it is known as the nation which is growing responsibly in Asia-Pacific by strategically collaborating with developed nations and utilizing climate funding in optimum ways however Cross-country comparison reveals that India lags behind Denmark in most of the aspects and this comparison paves the way for India to take lessons from the Denmark's policy and channelize climate financing to improve its rank in CCPI.

To better understand the strategic position of India, a SWOT analysis of India is employed. This will help to identify internal strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to assess how financial and structural factors can shape India's way ahead in fighting climate change responsibly.

• STRENGTH

- a) **Top performer among the G20 countries:** India has a highest position in CCPI as compared to any other member country after UK (6) which indicates its efforts to achieve its NDCs & restricted growth in emissions than rest of the member countries and the per capita GHG emissions of India (2.24tco2 eq./capita) stand way below the global average (5.57tco2 eq./capita).
- b) **High Growth potential in renewable energy sector:** At the end of December 2024, the total renewable energy installed capacity of India has reached 209.44 GW, registering a 15.84% YOY increase as compared to 180.80 GW in December 2023. (pib) and currently it stands at 220.10 GW. Moreover, the share of renewable energy in electricity generation stood at 22% in 2022, which indicates that there is a gap in the installed capacity and its optimum utilisation.

Table 2

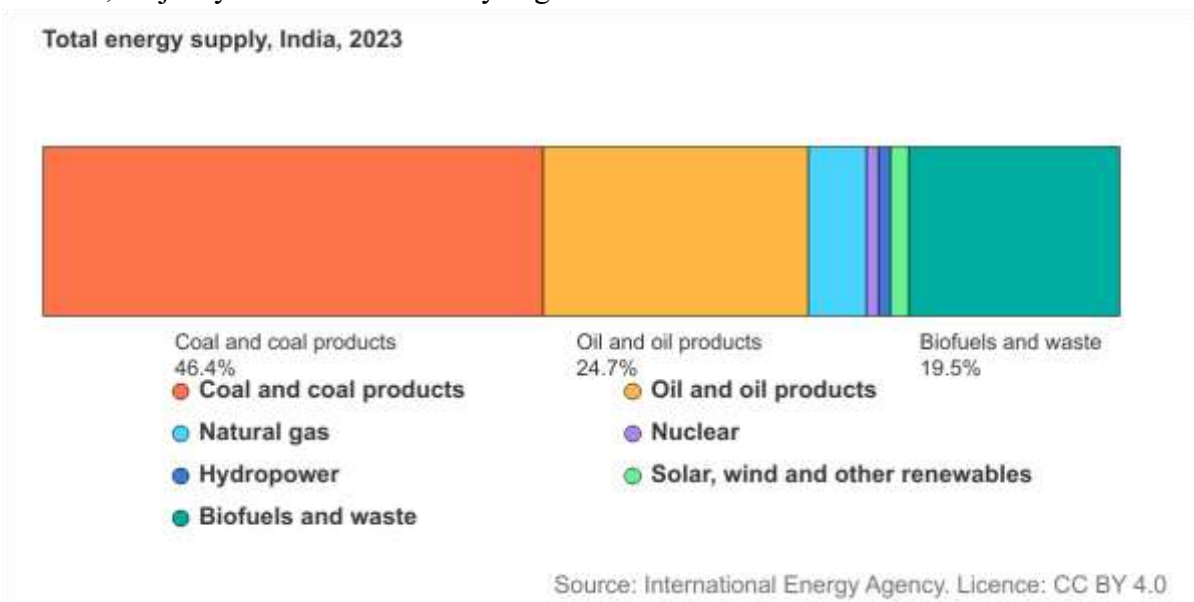
Particular	Capacity/ share	Significance
Installed renewable capacity	220.10 GW	It refers to the maximum output which can be obtained if all the sources are utilised optimally.
Share of renewable energy in electricity generation	22% of the energy mix.	It refers to actual energy generation from renewables.

Source: (pib, eia)

- c) **Better strategic alliance with developed nations:** India, in the past 10 years, has shown grit towards forming long-term strategic alliances with developed nations, which paves the way for obtaining climate funding from them and the export of required green technology to fuel the green growth of the nation. Moreover, the global south has seen India collaborating with the less developed countries for funding their climate mitigation and initiatives like the International Solar Alliance, which promotes the use of solar energy for electricity generation across the globe.
- d) **Aspirational Schemes:** India's climate policy and its schemes to tackle climate change channelise climate finance have shown significant progress in the last decade. GOI has launched various key Government schemes and initiatives Like the issuance of second NDCs, National Action Plans on Climate Change (NAPCC), FASTER (fair, ambitious, sustainable, timely, equitable, and responsive finance). PM-KUSUM etc.

- **WEAKNESS**

- a) **Heavy reliance on Coal and fossil fuels for energy & electricity:** The above graph shows that India still relies heavily on coal for energy, followed by oil, and the renewable sources have a very low share in the energy supply mix despite having 46% of renewables sources in installed capacity. Moreover, majority of India's electricity is generated from coal i.e. 74%.



- b) **Restricted corporate sector involvement:** Climate financing by the GOI is the backbone of our country, and it is the only player which is acting towards climate change, although through CSR spending, it pushes the corporate sector to fund their CSR activities, but this spending is not exclusively for climate damage. Hence, the role of the private sector is limited in this regard. There are various factors which decide the participation of the private sector in climate financing, like the high cost of low-carbon generation technology, unpredictability of policies, volatility of the consumer market, etc.
- c) **Transition to developed economy:** India with its VIKSIT BHARAT@2047 Agenda aims to become a developed nation, and the economic growth rate from the past confirms the growth, moreover India has the highest share of workable human resource which means we have a lot of potential of growth, which will result in increased GHG emissions and as per the Second NDCs it has to limit its emissions up to 15.7% by 2030 as compared to 2022 level.

d) **Underdeveloped Carbon market and statute:** Although India has taken various initiatives and schemes to mitigate its growth impact and channelise climate funding by providing subsidies to corporates and public but it still has no functional carbon credit trading system. Climate Dedication of the country is fragmented across the ministries and departments, and lacks a central body which oversees the related matters. The net zero pledge of the country is still in the second phase and is not legally binding yet.

- **OPPORTUNITIES**

a) **Demographic dividend:** Thanks to the demographic dividend, India has the potential to become a leader in green job creation. If this youth is directed effectively, it can become a key player in the green transition. Sectors related to green jobs have huge potential for job creation, the GOI can grab this opportunity to train and make them employable in green sectors like renewable energy installation, electric mobility, EV development, etc. A well-crafted climate financing strategy will fund the large-scale skilling programs, especially in rural and semi-urban areas, where employment is most required.

b) **Urbanisation:** As India is on the verge of massive urbanisation, it opens up ways for building green infrastructure (green corridors, green public transport, waste management, urban planning, and eco-friendly energy solutions and housing). If this urbanisation is aligned with the core idea of going green, India can become a climate-friendly growth engine with a productive and trainable workforce.

c) **Adopting models of developed nations:** By studying the models adopted by developed nations to tackle climate change, by applying those models in its context, India can improve its ranking in CCPI. E.g. India can develop its own carbon market mechanism like the EU-ETS, a strong coordinated PPP model, Integration of climate education with curriculum and workforce development.

d) **Promoting green start-up culture:** As we have witnessed, the start-up culture is on the boom in India right now, government can use climate financing to fund the start-ups which focuses on the green technology development in order to create green start up culture.

- **THREATS**

a) **Insufficient climate funding:** During COP29, India called on the global north for at least 1.3 trillion dollars a year as climate financing, however, the conference concluded with only 300 million dollars a year, which is way below the required financing, and India called it an Optical illusion. Inadequate financing is a double-edged sword for developing countries. On one side, it will bring pressure from the global north to restrict emissions within the NDCS, and on the other hand, it will restrict nations from developing responsibly on their own.

b) **Exposure to climate risks:** India's geographical location makes it even more difficult to grow responsibly as being one of the most climate vulnerable countries, it faces floods, droughts, cyclone, heat waves and these events cause a great damage to the nation which impacts the public health, safety, development of green infrastructure and diverts resources which could have been used for green growth.

c) **Technological Dependence:** despite being the youngest nation and having the highest demographic dividend, India still lacks in domestic innovation culture and heavily relies on developed nation. Which pose a threat to net zero pledge.



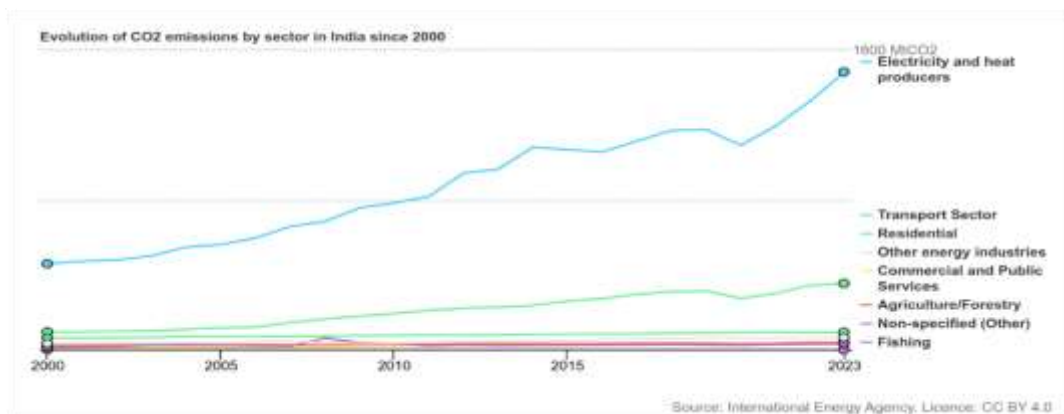
CONCLUSION

India is a nation which is young and growing responsibly & it is rising as a leader in the global south. Its regularly evolving climate scenario poses both challenges and opportunities as it aims to achieve equilibrium between economic development and sustainability. Although the country has shown commendable progress in the renewable energy sector, international collaborations and climate policy frameworks, underlying structural barriers continue to limit its performance in CCPI and better utilisation of climate fundings. Cross-country comparison and SWOT analysis highlight key differences between India and Denmark and the loopholes where India can direct its climate funding to enhance its performance in the Index. At the end, the growth is evident, so is the harm to the environment, but the one thing which attains supremacy over it & can't be overlooked is the Environment, and with the better utilisation of climate finance, it can reduce the consequences of its growth to a minimum.

SUGGESTIONS

- 1. Investment in Green skill and workforce creation:** To utilise the demographic dividend, India should integrate green skilling programs under PMKVY, with special focus on the emerging sectors like Renewable energy, Electric mobility, green hydrogen, water & waste management, etc. India can use climate finance to scale up these programs and link them with job creation.
- 2. Climate governance through statute:** India's Net Zero pledge is still a policy document, meanwhile, Denmark and other developed nations have passed and enacted climate law. Climate law will make climate actions legally binding on the concerned parties, ensuring informed responsibilities and answerability, mandatory periodic evaluation and constant monitoring of climate goals.
- 3. Operationalise a Transparent and Efficient Carbon Market:** India should accelerate the development of its domestic carbon market, ensuring clear rules, a transparent carbon credit mechanism, and robust institutional oversight like the EU-ETF. This might encourage corporate sector involvement in climate change and offer market-based incentives for reducing emissions.

4. **Need for NDCS revision:** The experts' recommendations include revising the country's NDC to set more ambitious absolute emissions reduction targets across more sectors. The energy transition also should be accelerated while ensuring a just transition. (CCPI) After Energy production, Transport & industry sectors are the largest emitters in the country (IEA), by focusing on the sector-wise decarbonisation, India can ensure sectoral climate mitigation with special policies tailored for each sector.
5. **Gradual shift to non-fossil sources:** India has been heavily reliant on coal for its energy requirements; at the same time, it has shown a significant growth in the installed capacity of non-conventional energy sources. However, there is a difference in installed capacity of renewable sources and their share in energy generation, which stands at 30%, Meanwhile, Denmark's 88.4% energy is generated through renewable sources (IEA), and that is a key reason behind its performance in CCPI. India should consider phasing out coal gradually and stop being overly dependent on coal for its energy needs.
6. **Promote green infrastructure:** As a part of its climate policy GOI should promote the development of green infrastructure, infrastructure which is sustainable, immune to climate vulnerabilities. This includes renewable energy sources, energy-efficient buildings, a Sustainable urban transport system, waste & water management channels and nature-based flood protection. To promote this idea GOI can integrate green infrastructure into the Smart Cities mission.
7. **Sectoral decarbonisation:** As our nation moves towards net zero emissions by 2070, sectoral decarbonisation can help in achieving net zero very significantly. India's logistic sector emits approximately. 13% of its total emissions, and it is among the most carbon-intensive in the world. Major decarbonisation can be done in waterways and coastal shipping. To scale up the decarbonisation, adopting cleaner maritime fuels, energy efficient warehousing, electrifying road transport and similar measures can be taken to pay back to the environment. India can build a High-performing logistics network with low environmental impact. Similar policies can be formed for separate sectors.



8. **Strategic Coal Transition and Reallocation of Fossil Subsidies Toward Decentralised Renewable Energy:** India's progress in the energy transition is limited by the lack of a national timeline for phasing out coal. New coal blocks are still being auctioned, showing ongoing reliance on fossil-based energy. To connect development needs with climate goals, it is essential to create a clear strategy for reducing coal use over time, followed by a credible plan for completely phasing it

out. Setting interim targets for cutting coal use, along with clear reporting, would help stakeholders manage a smooth transition. At the same time, existing subsidies for fossil fuels should gradually be shifted to support decentralized, community-owned renewable energy systems, particularly in areas where energy access and local job needs are significant. Moving these public funds away from coal expansion would lower the risk of stranded assets over the long term. It would also promote shared energy ownership, increase resilience, and build social support for the energy transition. These actions would play a vital role in India's efforts to reduce emissions while promoting fair and sustainable development.

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