



Press release

Coal power in China, India, and Indonesia could peak by 2030

Beijing | Delhi | Jakarta, 27 October, 2025: According to a new analysis by [the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air \(CREA\)](#), if China maintains its current pace of clean energy growth and India and Indonesia achieve their stated clean energy targets, power-sector emissions across these three major coal-growth markets could begin to decline by 2030.

Peaking coal power generation in China, India, and Indonesia would be a major breakthrough in global efforts to reduce CO2 emissions. The three markets accounted for 73% of global coal consumption in 2024.

These countries have also seen the largest growth in coal consumption over the past decade and are therefore driving global consumption. Therefore, a decline in coal consumption in these markets would have global implications, not just in emissions reductions but also for countries that depend on coal export revenue.

‘China has already added enough new clean electricity generation to cover all new demand growth, and power sector coal use and emissions have been falling since 2024 as a result. While the coal power decline is unlikely to be linear and may experience occasional setbacks, maintaining China’s current pace of clean energy growth means a coal power peak is imminent,’ said Qi Qin, China Analyst at CREA.

‘Meeting India’s 500 GW of non-fossil power capacity set by Prime Minister Modi could in fact peak coal power before 2030. The country has already crossed the 50% mark well ahead of its 2030 deadline, even as electricity demand continues to rise in line with rapid economic and population growth. Strengthening grid flexibility, storage, and transmission will be key to sustaining this momentum and ensuring reliable, affordable electricity.’ said Manoj Kumar, Analyst at CREA.

‘President Subianto’s 100 GW solar program could ensure that Indonesia’s coal power generation peaks by 2030. However, the current national plans still include near-term increases in fossil fuels.’



The real opportunity lies in translating this vision into a concrete delivery roadmap that positions clean energy to dominate new capacity additions,' said Katherine Hasan, Analyst at CREA.

The analysis identifies continued expansion of coal power as one common threat across the three markets. In all three countries, both a rapid phase-down post-peak and a long, drawn-out plateau or even a rebound in coal use are distinct possibilities. Falling back to slower renewable energy growth rates post 2030 peak could lead to missed opportunities in terms of further reducing power sector emissions.

'Unchecked coal power expansion risks creating powerful vested interests that could potentially delay the energy transition in China, India, and Indonesia. Rapid reduction in power sector emissions post coal peak would not only require maintaining pre-2030 renewable energy growth rate in all three countries but also ensuring power market and grid reforms. The total reduction in power sector CO2 emissions could be equivalent to India's total 2019 CO2 emissions, compared to business-as-usual,' said Lauri Myllyvirta, Co-founder and Lead Analyst at CREA.

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Note to editors

The report related to this press release can be found [here](#).

About CREA

The Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) is an independent research organisation focused on revealing the trends, causes, and health impacts, as well as the solutions, to air pollution. CREA was founded in December 2019 in Helsinki and has staff in several Asian and European countries. The organisation's work is funded through philanthropic grants and revenue from commissioned research.

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