

# Renewable Energy Integration: Challenges and Solutions for Grid Stability in India's 500 GW Non-Fossil Future

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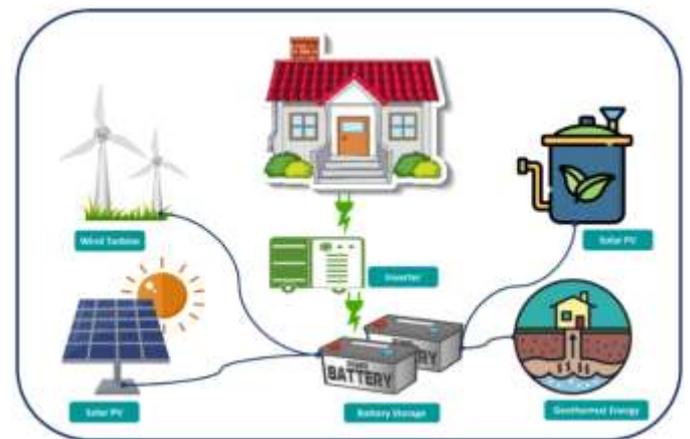
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**Abstract** - India has achieved a significant milestone by attaining 50% of its cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel sources in June 2025, five years ahead of its 2030 target. This paper examines the critical challenges and innovative solutions for integrating renewable energy sources into the Indian power grid, focusing on the transition from capacity expansion to system integration and grid stability. With total renewable energy capacity reaching 253.96 GW as of November 2025, the country faces substantial technical and infrastructural challenges in maintaining grid stability while accommodating variable renewable generation. The paper analyzes key challenges including intermittency, transmission connectivity issues, and grid curtailments, while presenting comprehensive solutions such as Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), smart grid technologies, and hybrid project configurations. The analysis reveals that BESS has emerged as a critical enabler with over 20 GWh of standalone projects awarded since April 2024, while advanced technologies including smart inverters, AI-based forecasting, and Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) systems offer promising solutions for grid management. The paper concludes with policy recommendations and future outlook for achieving the 500 GW non-fossil energy target by 2030, emphasizing the need for continued investment in storage technologies, grid modernization, and supportive regulatory frameworks.

**Key Words:** Renewable energy integration, grid stability, battery energy storage systems, smart grid technologies, energy storage, India, non-fossil energy, intermittency.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

India's ambitious renewable energy transition has positioned it as a global leader in clean energy adoption. The country's achievement of 50% non-fossil fuel capacity in June 2025 represents a remarkable advancement toward its 500 GW target by 2030. However, the integration of variable renewable energy sources (VREs) into the existing power infrastructure presents substantial technical and operational challenges that require innovative solutions and strategic planning. The rapid expansion of solar (132.85 GW) and wind (53.99 GW) capacity has created unprecedented integration challenges, including grid stability concerns, transmission bottlenecks, and curtailment issues. This paper provides a comprehensive analysis of these challenges and evaluates emerging solutions, with particular focus on India's unique context and requirements.



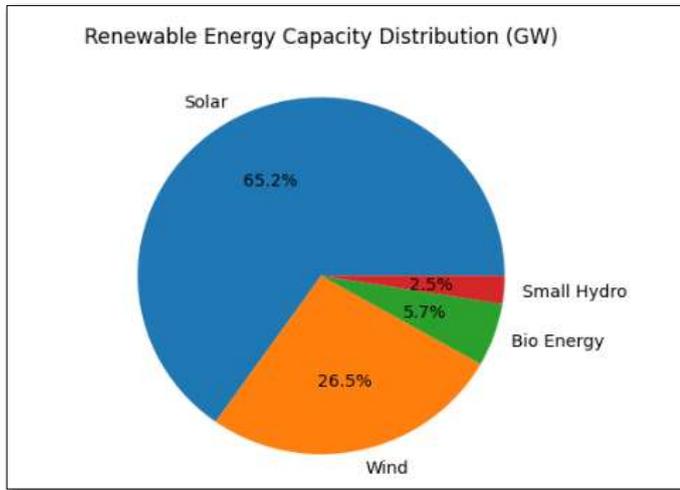
## 2. BACKGROUND AND LITERATURE REVIEW

### A. Current Renewable Energy Landscape

As of November 2025, India's renewable energy portfolio includes:

- **Solar Power:** 132.85 GW
- **Wind Power:** 53.99 GW
- **Bio Energy:** 11.61 GW
- **Small Hydro:** 5.16 GW

The country added 44.51 GW of renewable capacity in 2025, nearly double the 24.72 GW added during the same period in 2024. This accelerated growth has



intensified the need for effective integration strategies.

### 3. OVERVIEW OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES

#### A. Solar Energy

Solar photovoltaic (PV) systems convert sunlight directly into electricity. Solar energy is abundant and environmentally friendly, but its output varies depending on weather conditions and time of day.

#### B. Wind Energy

Wind turbines convert kinetic energy of wind into electrical energy. Wind power generation depends on wind speed and atmospheric conditions, making it variable in nature.

#### C. Hydro and Biomass Energy

Hydropower provides relatively stable output and can support grid balancing. Biomass energy utilizes organic materials for electricity generation and can act as a controllable renewable source.

### 4. CHALLENGES IN RENEWABLE ENERGY INTEGRATION

#### A. Intermittency

Solar and wind energy generation fluctuates due to weather conditions. This variability creates difficulties in maintaining supply-demand balance.

#### B. Voltage and Frequency Stability

High penetration of renewables reduces system inertia, leading to frequency fluctuations. Voltage variations may occur due to rapid changes in power generation.

#### C. Power Quality Issues

Power electronic converters used in renewable systems may introduce harmonics and reactive power imbalance, affecting power quality.

#### D. Transmission Constraints

Renewable plants are often located far from load centres. This requires expansion of transmission infrastructure and investment in high-voltage networks.

### 5. INTEGRATION TECHNIQUES

#### A. Energy Storage Systems

Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), pumped hydro storage, and hydrogen storage systems help store excess energy and supply it during peak demand. Storage improves grid flexibility and reliability. Over 20 GWh of standalone BESS projects awarded since April 2024-October 2025. Levelized cost of storage reduced from ₹8.0-9.0 per unit in 2022 to ₹4.0-7.0 per unit currently. Lithium-ion batteries dominate with 68.9% market share in smart grid applications.

#### B. Smart Grid Technology

Smart grids incorporate advanced metering infrastructure, real-time monitoring, automation, and two-way communication between utilities and consumers. These features enhance grid efficiency and stability.

Advanced smart grid technologies offer promising solutions for renewable integration:

- Smart Inverters:** Provide dynamic voltage regulation, reactive power support, and frequency stabilization
- Advanced Forecasting:** Deep learning-based models enable accurate prediction of renewable generation patterns
- Flexible AC Transmission Systems (FACTS):** Manage voltage and power flow to enhance grid stability
- Demand-Side Management:** Adjusts electricity consumption based on renewable availability
- Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) Technology:** Utilizes electric vehicles as mobile energy storage units

### C. Hybrid and Round-the-Clock Projects

The emergence of hybrid and RTC projects represents a significant shift in renewable energy development:

- **Solar Plus Storage:** Approximately 90% of total RE capacity awarded in FY2026 consists of RTC and FDRE projects
- **Firm and Dispatchable Renewable Energy (FDRE):** Ensures reliable power supply regardless of weather conditions
- **Hybrid Configurations:** Combining multiple renewable sources with storage for balanced generation

These project types address intermittency concerns while providing grid operators with dispatchable power resources.

### D. Power Electronics and FACTS Devices

Modern grid-connected inverters provide reactive power support and voltage regulation. Flexible AC Transmission System (FACTS) devices such as STATCOM improve voltage stability and power flow control.

### E. Policy and Regulatory Framework

#### Government Support Mechanisms:

- **Viability Gap Funding:** Extended for BESS capacity projects
- **Transmission Charge Waivers:** Continued until 2028 for storage projects
- **Annual Bidding Trajectory:** 50 GW renewable capacity until FY 2028

#### Major Initiatives:

- **PM-Surya Ghar Yojana:** Targeting 1 crore rooftop installations by FY 2026-27
- **PM-KUSUM Scheme:** Focus on solarizing agricultural pumps
- **National Bioenergy Programme:** Extended through FY 2025-26

### F. Demand Side Management

Demand-side management techniques such as time-of-use tariffs and load shifting reduce peak demand and support grid balancing.

## 6. CASE STUDY: RAJASTHAN SOLAR INTEGRATION CHALLENGE AND BESS SOLUTION

This case study examines the Rajasthan solar grid integration challenge, one of India's most significant renewable energy integration problems, and its innovative solution through Battery Energy Storage

Systems (BESS). Rajasthan, with over 20 GW of solar capacity, faced severe grid curtailments during peak solar hours, threatening project viability and grid stability. The implementation of a 500 MW BESS solution demonstrated how energy storage can effectively address renewable integration challenges while providing economic and operational benefits.

### 7. FUTURE TRENDS

Future power systems will be decentralized, digitalized, and intelligent. Artificial intelligence-based forecasting improves renewable generation prediction accuracy. Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) systems enable electric vehicles to act as mobile energy storage units. Green hydrogen production using surplus renewable energy is emerging as a long-term storage solution. Virtual power plants aggregate distributed energy resources to operate as a single power plant.

### 8. CONCLUSION

Renewable energy integration is essential for achieving a sustainable and environmentally friendly power system. However, high penetration of renewable sources introduces challenges related to intermittency, grid stability, and power quality. Advanced technologies such as energy storage systems, smart grids, power electronic converters, and demand-side management play a vital role in overcoming these challenges. With emerging innovations such as AI forecasting, V2G systems, and green hydrogen, the future electrical grid will become more resilient, flexible, and sustainable. The successful integration of renewable energy sources is not merely a technical challenge but a comprehensive transformation of the power sector, requiring coordinated efforts across technology, policy, and infrastructure domains.

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