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GENERAL STUDIES 3: ENVIRONMENT

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ESCALATING CLIMATE CRISIS IN INDIA

Record Heat and Global Climate Warnings

- India saw its hottest year in 2024 since 1901, pointing to an accelerating global warming trend.
- Predictions suggest that 2025 could also be extremely hot, emphasizing the urgent need for climate action.
- While India has made progress, many Western countries still lag in addressing climate change.

Economic Risks from Climate Change

- Over 30% of India's GDP depends on sectors vulnerable to climate change, like agriculture and water utilities.
- A predicted 16% drop in agricultural output within five years could lower GDP by over 2.5%.
- Extreme weather events endanger nearly half of India's infrastructure.
- The RBI is taking steps to assess localized climate risks to help mitigate these economic challenges.

Political Inaction and Systemic Weaknesses

- Climate issues are often sidelined in political discussions, despite the growing risks.
- Inadequate infrastructure and ineffective disaster response contribute to vulnerability to extreme weather.
- There is a pressing need for a systemic, long-term strategy to tackle floods, droughts, cyclones, and heatwaves.

India's Climate Action Plans

Panchamrit

- **500 GW Non-fossil Energy: By 2030.**



- **50% Renewable Energy:** By 2030.
- **Carbon Emission Reduction:** 1 billion tonnes by 2030.
- **Carbon Intensity Reduction:** 45% by 2030 from 2005 levels.
- **Net Zero Emissions:** By 2070.

National Action Plan on Climate Change

- Aims to raise awareness about climate change and its impacts, involving various stakeholders like the public, government, and industries.

Conclusion

India faces severe climate-related risks affecting its economy, infrastructure, and citizens. While there are notable efforts in place, a proactive, long-term approach is essential to effectively manage climate impacts and achieve sustainability goals. Immediate reforms and enhanced planning are crucial for the country's climate resilience.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/editorials/2024-was-the-hottest-year-2025-could-be-hotter-9757220/>

