



Mapping Climate Readiness: Mainstreaming Low Carbon Pathways at Sub-National Level

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Acronyms

AHP	Analytical Hierarchy Process
AI-ML	Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
ALMM	Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (MNRE)
APAC	Asia-Pacific
CMSPGHS	Chief Minister's Solar Powered Green House Scheme
CRI	Climate Readiness Index
CRI-DSS	Climate Readiness Index–Decision Support System
DSS	Decision Support System
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
IREDA	Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency
LULC	Land-Use/Land-Cover
MAC	Marginal Abatement Cost
MNRE	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
MoEFCC	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
MSEDCL	Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited
NIUA	National Institute of Urban Affairs
NISE	National Institute of Solar Energy
NREDCAP	New & Renewable Energy Development Corporation of Andhra Pradesh
PV	Photovoltaic
RE	Renewable Energy
RPO	Renewable Purchase Obligation
RRECL	Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation Limited
RUMSL	Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Limited
TANGEDCO	Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation
TIDCO	Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation
TIIC	Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation
TNERC	Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission
UPEFA	Uttar Pradesh Education for All Project Board
UPERC	Uttar Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission
UPNEDA	Uttar Pradesh New & Renewable Energy Development Agency

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Executive Summary



Executive summary

Global surface temperatures have risen markedly over recent decades, driven by increased greenhouse gas concentrations and atmospheric humidity.

As a result, heatwaves, extreme meteorological events are becoming more frequent and severe, particularly in India's tropical climate during the March–May pre-monsoon season. Projections indicate that, by 2050, Indian heatwaves could exceed human survivability thresholds in shaded conditions, potentially impacting up to 500 million people. Failure to meet Paris Agreement targets may lead to a global temperature rise exceeding 3°C by century's

end, exacerbating extreme rainfall, droughts, and cyclonic activity over the Indian subcontinent.

The Climate Readiness Index (CRI) represents a comprehensive, multi-dimensional assessment framework designed to benchmark and diagnose the preparedness of India's top ten greenhouse gas, emitting states for a low-carbon transition. The methodology integrates a robust, indicator-based approach across three core pillars: systemic, financial, and technological readiness, each comprising multiple sub-indicators to capture the complexity of climate action. The study also incorporates qualitative assessments of policy frameworks, institutional mandates, and implementation capacity. The final Climate Readiness Index (CRI) ranking (Fig. E.S 1) reflects a comprehensive assessment of the ten highest GHG-emitting states in India. Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Gujarat lead the way: three of India's top ten emitting states are now ranked higher in the climate readiness Index. Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Maharashtra, need to fast-track its low carbon pathways transition.

The “Mapping Climate Readiness at the Subnational Level” introduces the Climate Readiness Index (CRI), a first-of-its-kind, indicator-based framework that evaluates preparedness across India's ten highest GHG-emitting states in three critical dimensions:

- **Systemic Readiness:** Policy frameworks, institutional mandates, and governance mechanisms. Andhra Pradesh tops the rank in terms of systemic prudence to transition into low-carbon future followed by Rajasthan, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, among others. (Figure E.S.3).
- **Financial Readiness:** Investment pipelines, funding mechanisms, and bankability of projects. Chhattisgarh leads the states in terms of financial readiness. This reflects the state's substantial commitment to renewable energy investments and robust financial mechanisms supporting its green initiatives. Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh follow closely, showcasing their strong financial readiness and significant investments in renewable energy projects (Figure E.S 4)
- **Technological Readiness:** Availability and adoption of mitigation technologies and infrastructure. Gujarat, and Rajasthan, emerge as leaders in technological readiness, setting strong examples for other states to follow) (Fig E.S 5)

Figure E.S.1: Climate Readiness Index ranking of top 10 emitting states

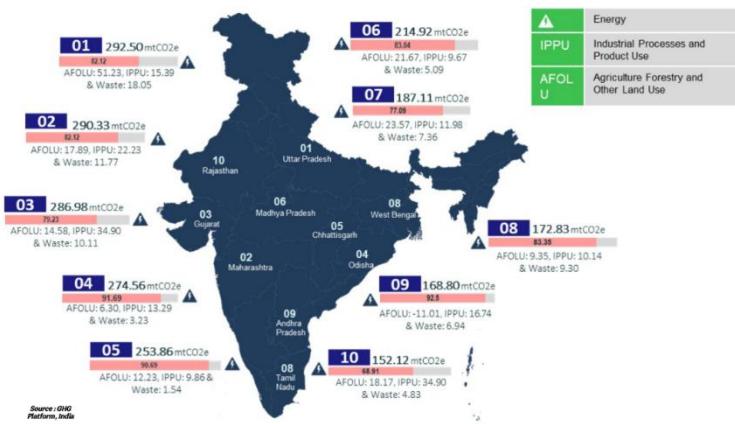


Figure E.S.2: Climate Readiness Index



Source: Author' analysis

Key components of this study include **State-Level CRI Scorecards** with comprehensive readiness scores

Figure E.S.3: System Readiness Index



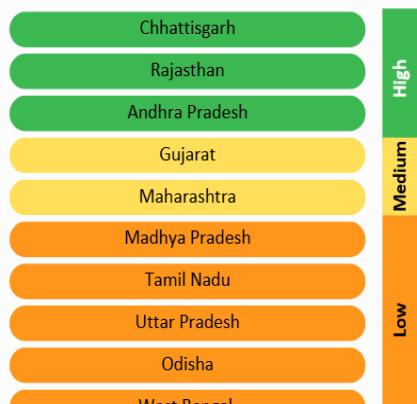
Source: Author' analysis

Figure E.S.5: Technological Readiness Index



Source: Author' analysis

Figure E.S.4: Financial Readiness Index



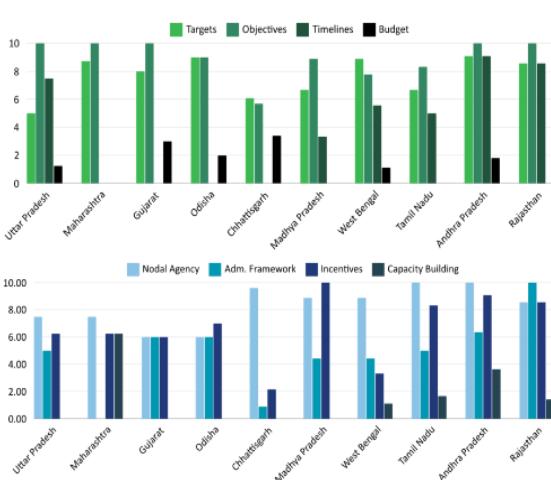
Source: Author' analysis

revealing marked divergence, top performers exhibit robust policy foundations and finance mechanisms, whereas lower-ranked states face gaps in institutional capacity and project bankability. By mainstreaming CRI metrics into state planning, strengthening institutional capacity, and mobilizing public-private finance, this study aims to accelerate India's low-carbon transition and support the nation's subnational climate commitments. The emphasis on system readiness recognises the fundamental importance of strong institutional frameworks, policy coherence, and governance mechanisms in facilitating climate financing and technological growth to ensure effective climate action. Financial readiness captures the states' ability to mobilize and allocate funds for climate initiatives, while technological readiness assesses the development and deployment of renewable energy technologies and infrastructure

The first-of-its-kind AI-ML-based Climate Readiness Index (CRI) reveals sharp disparities in preparedness among India's top-emitting states, where readiness hinges on credible governance, accessible finance, and deployable technology. Andhra Pradesh leads in systemic readiness with defined climate targets, a nodal agency, and enabling policies, though most states lack time-bound implementation and workforce skilling plans. Chhattisgarh ranks highest in financial readiness, driven by a 93% rise in central implementation funds, while Odisha recorded a >1,400% surge in IREDA sanctions and Rajasthan secured the largest total sanctions (~₹18,439 crore). Green-energy tariffs are highest in Chhattisgarh (~₹1.64/kWh) and Gujarat (~₹1.50/kWh),

compared to lower rates in Odisha (~₹0.25/kWh) and Uttar Pradesh (~₹0.44/kWh). RPO compliance exceeds mandates in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Odisha, but lags in others. On technological readiness, Gujarat dominates with 48% of solar manufacturing and 35% of park capacity, while Rajasthan leads in installed solar capacity (21,347.58 MW) and Uttar Pradesh excels in workforce development. The findings underscore a clear strategic imperative that leading states have achieved high climate readiness by effectively integrating robust policy frameworks, sustained financial commitment, and scalable technological infrastructure. The study has three key actionable recommendations that can fast-track low carbon transition at a sub-national level can address the trinity of jobs, growth and sustainability

Figure E.S.6: Indicator Scores-based comparison across states



Source: Author' analysis



Mandating establishment of Technical Support Unit at sub-national level: We recommend establishing Technical Support Units (TSUs) within the Climate Change Cells of the Departments of Environment and Forest across the top ten emitting states to fast-track India's low-carbon transition. These TSUs should function as dedicated hubs for technical expertise, data integration, and inter-departmental coordination, enabling effective convergence between Viksit Bharat initiatives, state-level programs, and India's Net-Zero 2070 targets. The TSUs would strengthen institutional capacity to mainstream low-carbon pathways into state development planning by supporting greenhouse gas accounting, climate finance mobilisation, and technology deployment. By aligning policy, investment, and implementation at the sub-national level, the TSUs can ensure that climate action is both evidence-based and outcome-oriented, thereby transforming high-emitting states into leaders of sustainable, low-carbon growth.



Adoption of a Unified Technology Transfer Framework (UTTF): a Unified Technology Transfer Framework to streamline and accelerate the deployment of climate-smart and low-carbon technologies across sectors and states. Such a framework would serve as a national blueprint for identifying, adapting, and scaling up innovations that support mitigation and adaptation priorities under India's Net-Zero 2070 and Viksit Bharat visions. By integrating institutional mechanisms, regulatory standards, and financing models, the framework would enable effective collaboration between public agencies, private enterprises, and research institutions, ensuring that technology flows are demand-driven and context-specific. It should establish a common platform for technology assessment, intellectual property management, and capacity-building, while promoting local manufacturing and innovation ecosystems. Additionally, the framework would help address the asymmetry in access to climate technologies among states by providing tailored support for technology localisation and adoption at the sub-national level. By facilitating transparent governance, monitoring of technology performance, and alignment with global climate commitments, a unified technology transfer framework can enhance India's climate readiness, mainstream regional equity in low-carbon transitions, and position the country as a leader in South-South cooperation on green technology exchange.



Mainstreaming Innovative Financing Mechanisms: We recommend mainstreaming of innovative financing mechanisms to accelerate the low-carbon transition and enhance sub-national climate financing readiness. Traditional funding sources alone are insufficient to meet the scale of investment required for decarbonisation/low carbon transition; hence, leveraging blended finance, green bonds, climate risk insurance, and impact-linked financing can help mobilise diverse capital pools from public, private, and philanthropic sources. A structured framework should be established to integrate these instruments into state and sectoral planning processes, aligning them with Viksit Bharat and Net-Zero 2070 objectives. The approach should include building the capacity of state financial institutions and departments to design, manage, and track low-carbon investments while incentivizing private sector participation through credit enhancement and risk-sharing tools. Further, adopting climate budgeting and expenditure tagging systems can enhance transparency and accountability in financial flows. By institutionalizing innovative financing within state climate action frameworks, India can create predictable, scalable, and outcome-oriented funding pathways that translate policy ambition into implementable low-carbon solutions across its highest-emitting states.

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