



Exploring Energy Transition in Rajasthan

Background Note

Climate change is gathering momentum globally. With US's entry in to Paris Climate Agreement, the announcement of net-zero targets by almost 120 countries and concerted global and national efforts to curb carbon emissions across sectors, the stage is set for worldwide action against human-induced emissions and climate change.

This discourse has gained even more steam with the US-led virtual summit witnessing landmark commitments and reinforced efforts by various countries to combat climate change. India and the US took a joint step forward by setting up the 'India-US Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership' to mobilise investments, demonstrate green technologies, and enable green collaborations.

One of the main sectors contributing to carbon emissions across the world is the energy sector. To this effect, various countries are working towards decarbonising their economies by limiting the dependence on fossil fuels for production and consumption of energy and moving towards renewable sources like wind and solar, other than adopting principles like circular economy and resource efficiency.

Although India has not announced a target year for net-zero emissions thus far, it is being primed as a global leader for its efforts in this space. India is poised to be a pivotal player in achieving a sustainable future for the planet as a whole. The country has stitching global alliances like the International Solar Alliance, ambitious renewable energy plans of having

450GW of installed capacity by 2030 and proactively taking up newer technologies, such as electric vehicles, hydrogen, and battery storage systems.

However, for effective implementation of proposed interventions on the ground, there is a need for decentralised strategy, in which states and other units of governance will play a significant role.

The discourse has even translated into concrete actions at the state-level in India, with states like Gujarat and Chhatisgarh announcing the ‘no new coal’ commitment. Rajasthan, being a solar-rich state, is an apt state for capitalising on its natural endowments, strategic location and industrial capabilities to transition to a greener energy scenario.

However, there are still gaps that need to be addressed, as various experts have pointed out. For one, target announcements will mean nothing without a credible plan of action to support their smooth implementation. Secondly, these plans should account for the huge disruption in the *status quo* that could potentially happen. This also highlights the need to manage such a disruption in addressing the concerns of vulnerable sections of society. Finally, in the aftermath of the ongoing pandemic, such efforts also need to be aligned with the narratives of socio-economic resilience and “building back better.”

To further this narrative and address these gaps, CUTS International, along with Climate Trends, is hosting an event for putting forth the vision of Rajasthan for fostering the envisaged energy transition and addressing climate change.

The event aims to address the following key questions:

- a. What is the role of Rajasthan in national and global efforts on energy transition?
- b. How can the state adopt the prominent narratives of ‘just transition’ in its endeavour to a cleaner energy portfolio in the future?
- c. What are the challenges in the current strategies being deployed to ramp up renewable energy penetration in the state? How can policies and practices address these challenges in the future?
- d. How can energy transition go hand-in-hand with societal and environmental welfare?

Agenda

Time Duration	Session Details
05 Minutes	Opening Remarks
10 Minutes	Presentation by CUTS and Launch of Info Deck on "Energy Transition and Climate Change"
15 Minutes	Keynote Address
45 Minutes	Panel Discussion - Moderated by Climate Trends
15 Minutes	Q&A
05 Minutes	Closing Remarks