



Workshop on

Development of Decarbonisation Strategies in Tamil Nadu

November 17, 2023 | Taj Clubhouse, Chennai | Tamil Nadu

Context

India has set ambitious targets for the deployment of Renewable Energy (RE) and decarbonisation in the pursuit of its stated climate goals. At the 26th Conference of Parties (COP) held in Glasgow in 2021, India made a bold commitment to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2070, signifying a strong determination to combat climate change and contribute to the global effort to reduce carbon emissions. According to the updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs), India now stands committed to reducing its emission intensity by 45% from the 2005 level and achieving 50% installed power capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030. While the updated NDCs also represent the framework for India's transition to cleaner energy for the period 2021 to 2030, it also has committed to increasing its carbon sinks by 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO₂e by 2030.

To meet its ambitious goal, India requires a significant and rapid transition in both the energy and non-energy systems across the country. While national targets, policies, and programmes are essential, they alone may not be enough to reach this goal. Therefore, the individual states in the country have a critical role to play in achieving this transition. Each state has its unique socio-economic profile, energy consumption patterns and resources, natural resources and management amongst others, which implies that each state must develop and implement its own strategies and plans to decarbonise their respective economies.

From an energy perspective, states need to go beyond merely meeting their Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPOs) and implement additional measures to promote RE deployment, energy efficiency, etc. Tamil Nadu has made significant achievements in the capacity addition of RE, having the highest wind installed capacity in India at 10.3 GW and 7 GW of solar as of September 2023. Further, the state has strengthened climate commitments by announcing no new unabated coal investments in the state. Additionally, the state has set up a Green Climate Fund to mobilise 1,000 crores for climate change mitigation and adaptation, firming the state's commitment to achieve net zero well before 2070. However, to accelerate initiatives across the sectors of the economy, especially heavy industry,



