



CSIS U.S.-India State and Urban Initiative

Purpose: To expand U.S.-India energy cooperation by strengthening direct engagement with India's powerful states.

India's lofty goals for building modern, reliable, affordable and cleaner electric power infrastructure and services require strong support from India's powerful state governments. Catalyzing sustainable growth, helping Indian states strengthen their electric power grids, and increasing investment in diverse, affordable and environmentally sound energy, therefore, requires the active participation of states. A coherent U.S. strategy to engage India's states can play a strongly supportive role in helping India meet its own energy goals, catalyze strategic commercial and academic ties, and deepen the bilateral partnership.

The Modi government has made energy reform a priority. The licensing and production regimes for the coal and the oil and gas sectors have been overhauled. The central government has initiated a new financial relief and reform scheme for India's struggling state electric power utilities. And the Ministry of Power has prioritized the electrification of every village and household by 2018.

As Secretariat to the **U.S.-India State and Urban Initiative**, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) works towards the Initiative's goals of promoting energy security and energy sector reform through direct engagement between U.S. and Indian subnational entities; building productive partnerships that can help India achieve its goal of quadrupling renewable energy use by 2022; and establishing close, sustainable working relationships between Indian subnational officials, their U.S. counterparts, civil society organizations working in the areas of governance and renewable energy, and the private sector. The Secretariat is led by the Wadhvani Chair in U.S.-India Policy Studies and the Energy and National Security Program.

The U.S. private sector continues to be a technology leader in the energy sector. Many U.S. states are actively transforming their electric power, transportation, industrial and residential sectors to incorporate the latest energy technologies and services to increase benefits to the consumer, impact on the environment, and overall economic efficiency. U.S. states – government as well as research universities and the private sector - are well positioned to reach out beyond their borders to engage with subnational entities around the world to achieve common goals, share best practices and insight, and in some cases, find new investment opportunities. In many cases, Indian states welcome this engagement to meet the ambitious goals they are setting to revitalize their energy markets. This initiative will facilitate cross-collaboration between and among energy state and city governments, companies, research institutions, and universities who align as natural partners for India's top energy reform-oriented states.



Expected short-term results include:

- Facilitating new partnerships between stakeholders in India and the U.S.;
- Increased understanding of India’s energy needs on the part of U.S. actors;
- Development of best practices for energy management on the subnational level in India; and
- Building a publicly-accessible knowledge base on the Indian energy sector.

CSIS, through the State and Urban Initiative, will work to deepen the engagement between the two countries on energy, helping Indian states partner with U.S. states and other stakeholders. The initiative will leverage the leadership of the U.S. in improving the quality of Indian energy sector governance; encourage Indian states to make smart choices when considering how to meet their future energy needs; and help build enduring connections between U.S. and Indian subnational entities.

Engagement with Indian States



CSIS will be organizing multiple targeted delegations, from Indian states to U.S. states and vice versa aimed at creating partnerships between U.S. stakeholders and Indian states. CSIS is engaged with 19 Indian states, 16 of which have been surveyed for their main areas of interest and have been identified by CSIS as forward leaning in deepening their engagement with U.S. partners to meet their ambitious energy development agendas.



Highlights of the Initiative

Website with Focus on Energy: CSIS has launched a comprehensive website titled “[Engaging Indian States](#)” for businesses, research institutions, policymakers, and journalists who seek greater insight into the potential for engagement with India’s subnational governments. Phase one of the website focuses on the energy sector along with performance trackers ([solar](#), [wind](#)) for various national goals.

Energizing India (Focus on States): as part of the State & Urban Initiative CSIS launched a series of monthly briefs and discussion series focusing on critical energy issues at the state-level in India.

- *Lunch Series:* Featuring senior Indian state government officials, and energy champions from India and the United States, who have been identified as integral to fostering U.S.-India energy cooperation at the subnational level.
- *Monthly Brief:* The first [targeted brief](#) of its kind focused on energy-related matters at the subnational level in India.

Energy Personality of an Indian State in 10 Questions: these briefs distill the energy sector challenges and opportunities of each state by answering 10 critical questions. The “energy personalities” of [Madhya Pradesh](#), [Bihar](#) and [Uttar Pradesh](#) have been published.

Analyses: As the Secretariat, CSIS produces original articles diving deep into energy-related matters pertaining to Indian states. This includes analysis of the latest national and state-level policies, recommendations for improving the energy sector, as well as capturing ground realities of the energy portfolio in different Indian states.

- Breakthrough Index: [Solar Policy](#)
- Podcasts:
 - [Achieving Energy Efficiency in India’s States](#)
 - [Energy & Geopolitics: India](#)
- Commentaries:
 - [Has the World Bank Seen the Light in India’s Energy Financing?](#)
 - [India’s Power Surge: A Paradox of Plenty?](#)
 - [Squeezing India’s Industry for Power Payments Not the Answer](#)
 - [Of Sun Gods & Solar Energy](#)
 - [What Does the Future of Coal India Mean for India’s Future?](#)
- Energy Fact & Opinion Series:
 - [Activating India’s Electric Vehicle Dreams](#)
 - [India Joins International Energy Agency as an Association Country](#)
 - [India’s Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy \(HELP\)](#)
 - [Payment Security Mechanism for Solar Power in India](#)



Get Involved

Under the U.S.-India State and Urban Initiative, the secretariat will be hosting multiple events and targeted partnership delegations in the United States and in India, bringing together key energy stakeholders. The initiative is highlighted by the strong participation of state governments, the private sector, research institutions, universities, foundations and civil society organizations who will explore the energy landscape of India in order to create an environment of collaboration to strengthen future engagement and partnerships between U.S. stakeholders and Indian states. Civil society organizations and research institutions, in both India and U.S., interested in the initiative are welcome to identify their needs and share their work with CSIS through this [survey](#).

Moving forward, the secretariat will focus their efforts in creating new partnerships. CSIS has identified promising partnership opportunities, which it intends to facilitate and execute. In order to accomplish forming these new collaborations, the secretariat will use targeted delegations from Indian states to U.S. states and vice versa for introductory and detailed discussions on project plans, meeting relevant policy and technical stakeholders, and formalizing these partnerships.

CSIS, in partnership with the Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation, hosted the first-ever [U.S.-India Subnational Energy Workshop](#) in New Delhi from November 1-3, 2017. The event brought together over 100 participants over three days including 10 representatives of Indian states and 12 representatives of U.S. states to discuss common challenges in deploying technologies, creating policies and management of the grid of the future. The initiative partnered with the U.S. embassy in New Delhi, American Chamber of Commerce in India, Azure Power, and Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited to execute this event.

In addition, CSIS has also hosted eight U.S.-India energy cooperation events in seven different U.S. states, *Washington, D.C., Massachusetts, Arizona, California, Georgia, Florida and South Carolina*. These events were stakeholder meetings focused on highlighting the current scope of work being undertaken between the two countries in the energy sector, and on creating a platform to discuss a roadmap to new subnational partnerships.

CSIS welcomes new partners, U.S. and Indian states, companies, research institutions, universities and civil society organizations, to get involved in the U.S.-India State and Urban Initiative.

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