

## Renewable Energy Development in India: Policies in Selected Leading States

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### Abstract

### Original Research Article

With growing energy demand and the need for future energy security, sustainability and environmental stability, the world is steadily moving toward greater use of renewable energy. Renewable Energy Development Policy implementation is the backbone of policy because it directly impacts project success and scalability. States with a clear strategy and well-articulated policies have moved sooner than others in India. Because each state has separate regulatory control over the renewable energy policies it implements, this gives state-level initiatives considerable importance. By analysing the different policies of some important leading states of India, this study examines the role of policy support in meeting the requirements for satisfactory development of renewable energy. The study is based on three large states of India, which have high installed renewable energy capacity. The results show that the energy transition and share of renewable energy among the top-performing states are significantly enhanced due to their adoption of more state-specific renewable energy policies. The study also notes that states that are more committed to doing the work have seen greater success with renewable energy policy than those that were unwilling to make any effort to implement them. Such successful experiences may then be better examples for other states to fortify their renewable energy sectors in line with their resources and any developmental needs.

**Keywords:** Renewable energy, State policies, Installed capacity from renewable energy resources, Renewable energy development, Energy transition.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Energy transition is a need of the decade. The whole world wants to shift towards renewable energy to meet energy demand and ensure future energy security, sustainability, and environmental stability. Instead of these, India is heavily importing dependent country due to its high demand of fossil fuels for fulfil its energy need [1]. Acceptance of renewable energy development differs from country to country or state to state due to its policy implementation differences. Policy implementation is the backbone of renewable energy development because it determines the destination of the renewable energy projects, whether it is succeeded or not. The Indian states that have deep policy-insight related to renewable energy development have speed energy transition [2]. The environmental taxes and environmental policies revitalize the renewable energy uses in India [3]. Thoughtful, engineered, and powerful policy increases the renewable energy deployment to fulfil the energy demand successfully [4]. India has cost-effective renewable energy policy approaches [5]. It gave

a long-term vision and a clear target to achieve the ambitious targets. Like Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission launched in 2010 by MNRE give fuel to the nation for target of 200 GW from renewable resources so nation moves ahead for renewable energy [6] and further in 2022, target increases for achieving 500 gigawatts of non-fossil capacity by 2030 [7]. Proper policy implementation structures the financial incentives, which reduces the risk of finance. In India, IREDA finances the renewable projects which implemented the programme without delays and without any financial obstacles. In India large renewable energy potential has been unused so far which delays the process of decarbonisation [8]. Efficient infrastructure development is needed for harnessing these potential and renewable energy development, and efficient policy implementation ensures the infrastructure. Grid and storage are the particular infrastructure necessities for renewable energy development. Policy is also mandatory to increase the ease of doing business of these projects because it simplifies the deployment procedures. It also

helps to promote domestic manufacturing, which ultimately curtail the import which reduces the burden of import dependence, and as a result, it encourages technological innovation and facilitates decentralisation. To achieve the climate goals and energy security there is need of regional involvement for better policy implementation [9]. Policy implementation is the centre point at which the centre and state came to a point for coordination and at this point two partners is accomplishing a target, and the state has a huge responsibility in it. So, state-level coordination is needed for it. In India, policy implementation and renewable

energy development can clearly present by the data. Long term renewable energy target achievement is only possible through innovation, social empowerment, and policy implementation. India has 28 states and 9 UTs. Every state and UT has a different policy for implementation; these policies are beyond the central renewable policies. Every state has their autonomous regulation over these policies. The renewable energy growth trend shows there are some particular states that have performed very well in renewable energy sector from very long time.

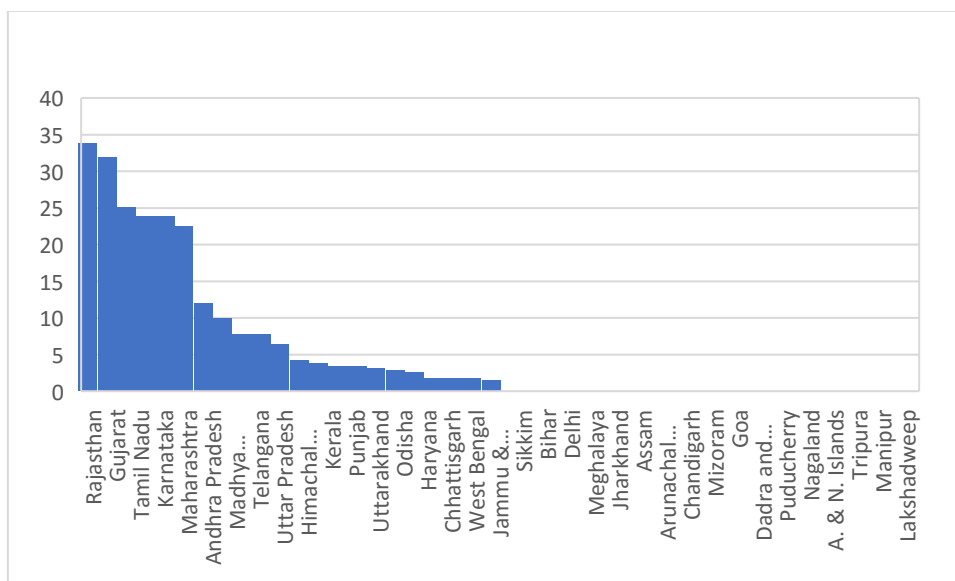


Figure 1: Rank-wise installed capacity (GW) of renewable energy resources in different states/UTs of India as on 31.03.2025

Source: Energy statistics of India, 2026

Figure 1, shows the state-wise renewable energy installed capacity of India. We find that Rajasthan, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Maharashtra respectively top performer in India [10]. When we focus upon these states, we find that uppermost states are implementing more and more renewable energy policies. In our study we have shown that how much policy is necessary for satisfactory development of renewable energy by illustrating different policy implemented in some powered states of India.

## 2. OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

### Objective of the study

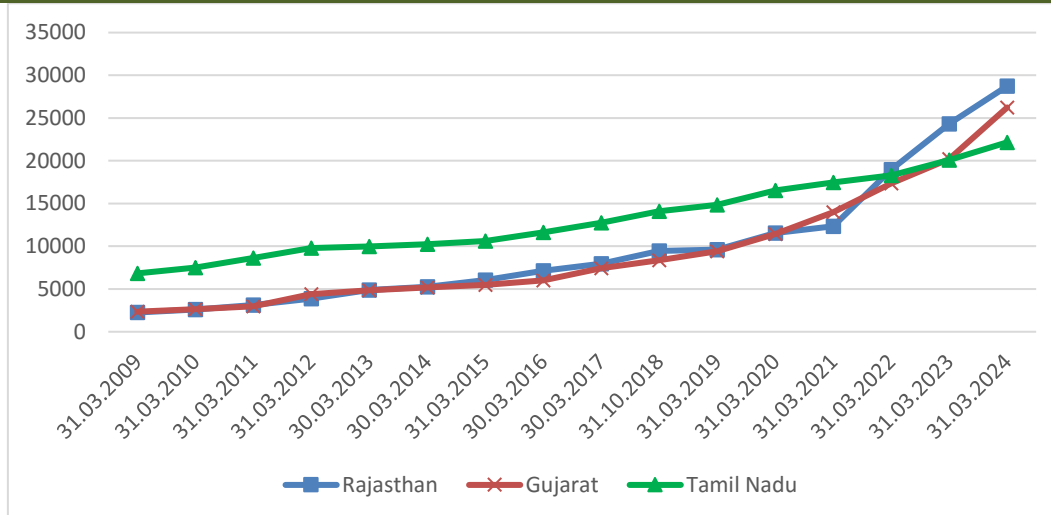
- i) To show the power of policy implementation in the path of achieving renewable energy development in India.
- ii) To show how much difference can create only by policy implementation among Indian states in this competitive era of renewable energy transition.

### Methodology

A simple technique of graphical representation and tabulation has been used to show the status of renewable energy in different states of India. Policy analysis has been used to drag the attention of other state to improve their policy implementation to achieve the renewable energy development and sustainable development goals.

## 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

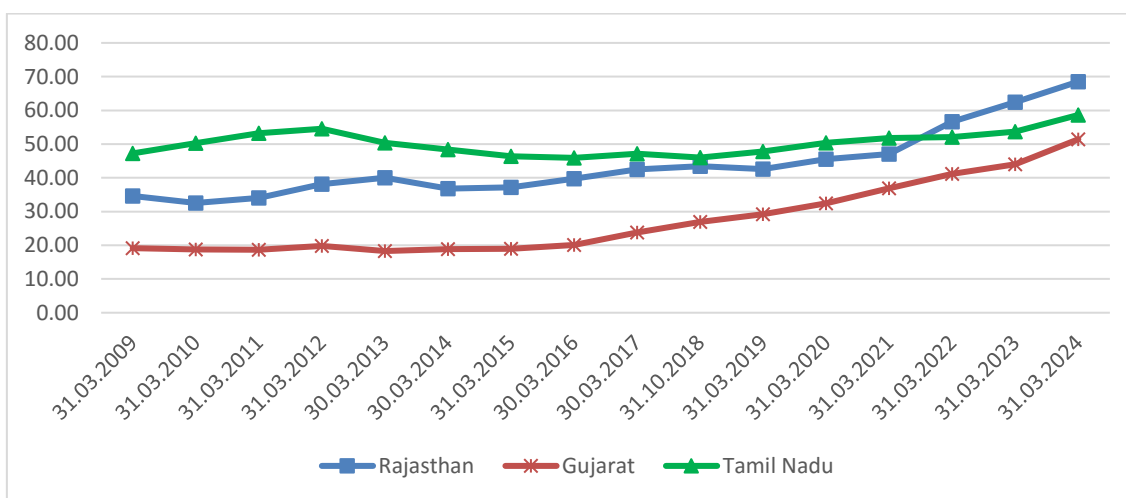
Indian states have different places according to their installed capacity from renewable energy resources. In this study we have analysed that the top states have powerful renewable energy policies implemented in their region. Their installed capacity from renewable energy resources year on year increasing at an increasing rate with the help of proper policy implementation. For this study we have taken major 3 empowered states according to installed capacity from renewable energy resources in India.



**Figure 2: Installed capacity (MW) of some powered state from renewable energy resources from 2009-2024**  
 Source: Various energy statistics of India (from 2010-2025)

Figure 2, shows that Rajasthan and Gujarat were on same level in 2009 whereas Tamil Nadu was on higher level in compare to Rajasthan and Gujarat. Installed capacity from renewable energy of all these states increases at an increasing rate and as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, Rajasthan holds 1<sup>st</sup> rank followed by Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.

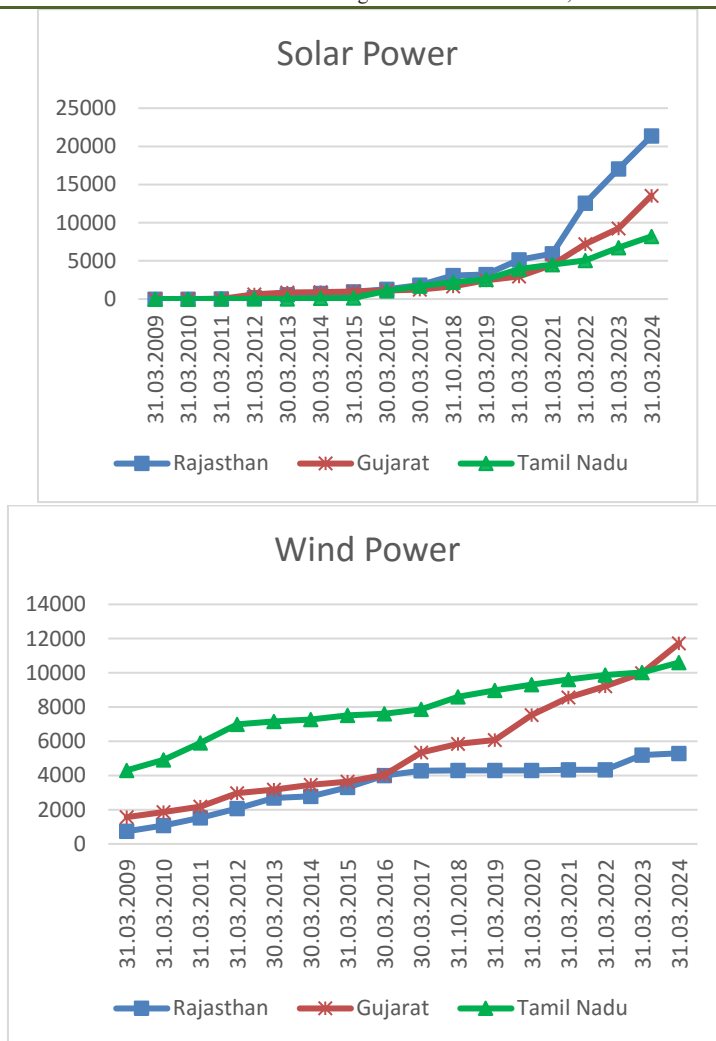
A state can engage non-renewable and renewable energy resources for its installed capacity or electricity production. The states that performed very well in installed capacity from renewable energy resources, renewable resources also significantly contribute in total installed capacity in respective state. In India contribution of renewable energy resources in major powered states increases at an increasing rate.



**Figure 3: Renewable energy contribution (%) in total installed capacity of respective state**  
 Source: Various energy statistics of India (from 2010-2025)

From Figure 3, we can see the contribution of renewable energy resources in total installed capacity of major powered states are significant from very early period as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009. Renewable energy contribution in installed capacity of Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu was 19.10 %, 34.66 %, and 47.27 % respectively. As the time passes and renewable energy policies implemented in the state the renewable energy

resource contribution increases in total installed capacity of the state over the time and as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 it increased to 51.43%, 68.52%, and 58.63 % for Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu respectively. In Rajasthan, it contributes maximum i.e., 68.52%. This significant contribution increases the source-wise capacity in these states. Their source wise improvement is also acknowledgeable.



**Figure 4: Installed capacity (MW) of solar power and wind power from renewable energy resources in powered states in India from 2009-2024**

**Source: Various energy statistics of India (from 2010-2025)**

Solar power and wind power improvement is clearly visible in these states. Although all these states are on the same level for installed capacity from solar power as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 but after 2014-15 drastic change has been seen in this sector. After policy implementation, technological improvement and financial deployment in this sector Rajasthan continuously improve and stood in 1<sup>st</sup> rank for installed capacity from solar with capacity 21347.58 MW followed by Gujarat (13544.88 MW) and Tamil Nadu (8211.38 MW) as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. Wind power capacity has been used from early period in India, in 2009 Tamil Nadu was on upper level compared to Gujarat and Rajasthan. Installed capacity from wind power of Tamil Nadu was 4304.5 MW followed by Gujarat and Rajasthan having capacities of 1566.5 MW and 738.4 MW, respectively as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009. All these major states have continuous growth with an increasing rate for wind installed capacity. In 2024 Gujarat stood 1<sup>st</sup> rank with installed capacity of 11722.72 MW, followed by Tamil Nadu (10603.54 MW) and Rajasthan (5295.82 MW). Here we can see the growth

rate of solar installed capacity is much higher than wind installed capacity over the year across the states.

The above growth is seen due to the intensive care of the state government on renewable energy development departments. We can explain the steps of state government in their respective states, which is in the ongoing policy implementation form of government.

### 3.1 Rajasthan Rajasthan Renewable Energy Policy, 2023

The policy was introduced in 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Policy targeted for different renewable energy resources like solar, wind & hybrid and hydro. Total targeted capacity is 90000 MW in which 65000 MW is targeted for solar, 15000 MW for wind and hybrid and 10000 MW for hydro power and targeted year is 2029-30. Policy suggested Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) for state DISCOMs, which will be determined by RERC. Policy target implemented through small decentralised solar power projects, which are grid-connected, off-grid solar water pumps, encouragement of electric vehicles,

roof-top solar projects via net-metering and gross metering, development of solar parks, floating solar projects etc. They also promote the industries of equipment for solar and wind energy system.

For net metering solar rooftop system, the government provide subsidies and gross metering system up to 1 MW solar rooftop system can supply generated power to the state DISCOM at a particular tariff decided by RERC. Under the RESCO model, a government building can set up a rooftop solar system, and solar power generated within state premises can sell this power within the state. Solar parks got promoted under the MNRE scheme. They encourage the charging stations of electric vehicles that have a renewable-based charging system.

For wind power projects, the policy suggested to state generate wind power at a rate that has been decided after competitive bidding to achieve the RPO targeted by RERC. Hybrid power projects also came under this policy, in which solar and wind power system efficiently used together to get maximum utilisation of land and to achieve more stable grid connection. New technologies are included for hydro power projects and in the storage system of power which optimises the efficiency of the power system. The state creates a Project Management Consultancy (PMC) for solar project implementation via different government departments. [11]

#### **Rajasthan Biomass and Waste to Energy Policy, 2023**

The policy was launched on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023. Policy facilitates the biomass power, biomass co-firing projects, etc. and also encourages the waste-to-energy projects. The policy encourages the generation of power from biomass wastes and disposal products of industry/ medical, etc. The government provide financial assistance of ₹ 30000 for 1 MW for biomass and waste-to-energy power plant projects having a maximum limit of 20 MW.[12]

#### **Rajasthan Green Hydrogen Policy, 2023**

This policy was introduced in 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023. Policy targets for 200 Kilo Tonnes Per Annum (KTPA) of green hydrogen production by 2030. Aim for a 1 Giga factory and curtail green hydrogen export by 20 % in India. Natural gas blend with 10 % green hydrogen for the future in Rajasthan. The policy also targets to develop green hydrogen parks, green hydrogen plants with renewable energy in remote areas and inhabited renewable energy plants. The Government of Rajasthan assist finance of ₹ 30000 /MW for a project having capacity of up to 100 MW. As the project capacity increases, the margin of finance assisted by the government increases. [13]

#### **Integrated Clean Energy Policy, 2024**

The Rajasthan government launched this policy in 2024, and this is an umbrella policy implementation. The policy collectively targeted for all types of

renewable energy encouragement, technology improvement in the storage of power sectors and green hydrogen production projects, etc. This policy is a refinement of the Rajasthan Renewable Energy Policy, 2023. The previous policy target has been enhanced to 1,25,000 MW, under which 90,000 MW for solar, 25000 MW from wind & hybrid projects and Hydro pump storage targeted for 10,000 MW by 2029-30. All the initiatives and sectors targeted are the same as the earlier Rajasthan Renewable Energy Policy, 2023. For carrying this policy, the suggested measures are using wastelands, technological improvement for renewable energy manufacturing, research and development for it, etc. [14]

#### **Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme, 2024**

The scheme was announced in 2024 and is under implementation until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2029. Under this scheme, many other targets and objectives are set for different sectors. The scheme provides benefits for the sunrise sector, recognised as green hydrogen, ethanol, agri-tech, waste recycling, biotechnology, etc. The state keeps the green sector incentive as a priority for renewable energy generation and its storage. State invests INR 20 crore for environmental projects, INR 20 crore for clean production technology, and INR 10 crore for pollution control (waste management), etc. [15]

#### **Household Solar Programme-PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana**

PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana was launched in Feb, 2024, and this central programme has been strongly followed by the government of Rajasthan. Under this programme, government of Rajasthan provides 150 units of free electricity for a household generated by rooftop. Subsidy provided by the government for solar rooftop installation. Almost 50000 rooftop solar installation completed through ₹ 325 crore financial assistance, and a huge number of applications are held for further rooftop installation.[16]

### **3.2 Gujarat**

#### **Gujarat Renewable Energy Policy, 2023**

The said policy launched in October 2023 and was validated up to 30.09.2028. Gujarat plays a major role in energy transition in India, with an installed capacity 21.6 GW from renewable energy resources. This policy encourages solar energy, wind energy and wind-solar hybrid energy technology. The policy has a cumulative target to achieve is 100 GW. This policy simplified the way of investment for the renewable energy sector. The state has 1600 km of coastline, which is very favourable for wind energy generation. Under this policy, 4,00,000 acres of land have been used for renewable energy improvement by investment of ₹ 5 Lakh crore. The policy is targeted to harness the maximum potential of the state (36 GW of solar energy and 143 GW for wind energy). The objective of this policy to ensure energy security and decrease the energy dependency upon non-renewable energy resources.[17]

### Gujarat Small Hydel Policy, 2016

The policy was announced in March 2016 by the government of Gujarat (Energy and Petrochemical Department). Although the small hydro plants tapped a very small potential of energy generation, it is clean and renewable energy generation initiatives taken by the government of Gujarat to combat climate change and environmental pollution. This policy operation period is announced for 35 years from the period of installation.[18]

### Gujarat Waste to Energy Policy, 2022

In contribution to the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Waste to Energy Policy-2016 was launched by the Gujarat government in 2016, but it has expired in July, 2022. After India's commitment to Panchamrit, the Gujarat government again launched Waste to Energy Policy-2022, in line with achieving the goal of Net-Zero by 2070. It has been improving the efficiency of energy use by promoting waste-to-energy as a renewable energy resource. This policy converts municipal wastage in to environment friendly waste for Gujarat. This policy will remain in operation till November, 2027.[19]

### Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission Regulation, 2025

This regulation was launched in August, 2025 for renewable energy procurement in energy consumption. The obligated entities have to buy 29.91 % of their electricity power consumption from renewable energy resources during 2024-25, and the target of RPPO (Renewable Power Purchase Obligation) will keep increasing, and for 2029-30, it will 43.33 % in Gujarat. This RPO is also classified into sub-sectors like wind energy, hydro energy, other renewable energy, etc. The RPPO suggested for storage obligation for renewable energy sources is 1 % for 2024-25, and in future, it will increase to 3.5 % in 2029-30. Gujarat Energy Development Agency is the state agency for monitoring and reporting this regulation. If this regulation is not compliant, then a penalty will impose to obligated entity, which is ₹ 3.72 /kWh.[20]

### Different steps of Gujarat for sustainability

Gujarat has two green energy corridors, GEC-I and GEC-II, having investments of ₹ 1932 crore and ₹ 3636 crore. Collectively targeting 40 GW of installed capacity. State will start its 3<sup>rd</sup> phase green energy corridor with an investment of ₹ 29000 crore targeting for 16.5 GW transmission capacity. This transmission line is integrated to grid of Kutch, Jamnagar, Bet Dwarka, Central Gujarat, Banas katha- Patan of Gujarat.[21]

Wind-solar hybrid solar park was installed in 2021 under the wasteland policy having capacity of 30 GW. 72,400 ha of land near the international border of Kutch identified for installation of 27.700 MW capacity plant. This is the world's largest renewable energy park

and project cost was ₹ 1.5 lakh crore. This solar park will save 58 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>/year and provided electricity to 16 million homes. The project usage waterless robotic cleaning system and advance wind turbine for energy production having solar storage capacity of 14 GWh battery and the solar panels are solar bi-facial module. The project expected to save 60,300 tonnes of coal.[22]

Dholera solar plant is one of the large solar plants in Gujarat having capacity of 300 MW. This project reduces 704340 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>/year. Gujarat state has different renewable energy initiatives like off-grid rooftop solar promotion guidelines, installation of water heater in public domain and LED lights in schools etc. In the renewable energy policy, Gujarat targets green hydrogen in upcoming future. [23]

### 3.3 Tamil Nadu

#### Tamil Nadu Solar Energy Policy, 2019

The policy was launched by the government of Tamil Nadu in 2019, and it will remain in action until another superseding policy launch. Tamil Nadu launched net-metering system for small solar PV system use for consumers which will make Tamil Nadu solar energy leader in upcoming year and other willing states are adopting this. Government targeted for 9000 MW of solar energy generation up to 2023 and Tamil Nadu already surpassed its target. The vision of this policy was to make Tamil Nadu as international leader. The objective of this policy is to encourage and taking incentives regarding solar energy consumption in this sector. At the end state want to create win-win situation for the stakeholders. Under this policy government promote electric vehicles and charging facility through solar energy. All public buildings become solar system installed having photovoltaic and thermal mechanism both. State encourages for solar street lights and water supply. Solar thermal will promote for residential, institutes and other commercial buildings. State made Solar Energy Research Fund (SERF) with the collaboration of other department of government which is an add-on for solar energy R & D. [24]

#### Tamil Nadu Electric Vehicle Policy, 2023

The Government of Tamil Nadu launched the Electric Vehicle Policy in 2023 from industries, investment promotion and commerce department. The government invested almost ₹ 24000 crore and created 48000 job opportunities during the policy period. Government-issued terms comprise charging stations for EVs. The objective of the policy is to increase the adoption of EV, develop the EV ecosystem, expand EV cities in Tamil Nadu and make Tamil Nadu an emerging destination for the mass production of EVs in South-East Asia. The government promotes investment promotion through reimbursement of SGST (100 % SGST reimbursement after EVs sold), 2 % of annual turnover received as a subsidy for EV project, 15 % of capital subsidy received on fixed assets, etc. [25]

### Tamil Nadu Pumped Storage Project Policy, 2024

The Government of Tamil Nadu launched this policy in August 2024 and initiatives are applicable for upcoming 40 years with 10 years of expansion. Tamil Nadu is one of the leader states for renewable energy generation. Although the state is in high rank for renewable energy generation but hydro power generation has a lower growth rate compare to other renewable energy resources. The objective of policy is to harness the PSP potential of the state, create sustainable energy growth, get support for RPO target achievement, encourage the renewable energy integration to the grid, create job opportunities, etc. [26]

### Policy Note 2024-25 (Energy development, Government of Tamil Nadu)

This note is for all the different energy agencies of Tamil Nadu, like Tamil Nadu Power Generation Corporation Limited (TNPGL), Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited (TANGEDCO), Tamil Nadu Transmission Corporation Limited (TANTRANSCO), Tamil Nadu Electrical Inspectorate (TNEI), Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission (TNERC). Although the objective and targets are specified for all agencies, the emphasis is on making Tamil Nadu a national leader in clean energy by 2030. Tamil Nadu Green Energy Corporation Limited is the main green energy company to chase the future target of renewable energy for a cleaner and sustainable future. Tamil Nadu has got new milestones in renewable energy generation, and now Tamil Nadu has gained recognition in the international market for its renewable achievements. TNGECL follow the objective of increasing the energy mix from 22 % to 50 % by 2030. To promote hydro power generation, pumped storage projects, solar rooftop installation, biomass power generation, etc. [27]

### Tamil Nadu Repowering, Refurbishment and Life Extension Policy for Wind Power Projects, 2024

The policy was launched on 22.08.2024, and its objectives are to support the repowering project, refurbishment project and life extension project for the wind power mill. The wind generator, which has completed its 20-year energy generation period, can choose one support from the objectives of this policy. The policy will be valid up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2030 or till the date of new policy issue. Under refurbishment, any project developer can convert their wind project into a hybrid wind-solar power project. For financial assessment, 0.25 % interest rate rebate is given to loans taken for new wind projects by IREDA and loans are provided for repowering by Power Finance Corporation (PFC), Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) and Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) on the same terms and conditions.[28]

### Tamil Nadu Policy for Small Hydel Project, 2024

The policy launched in August, 2024 and will on workforce for five years from notification. The small hydel projects that have completed their 40 years (expandable by 10 years) are eligible for this policy. [29]

## 4. CONCLUSION

Different Indian states show different level in terms of installed capacity from renewable energy resources. From this study it is clear that high ranked states are implementing more and more state policies related to renewable energy development. This study expresses the implemented policies in the powered states that have good performance in renewable energy development. This study clear that willing states improves its implemented policies related to renewable energy and they got the result positively. Other states can get idea from these states and after implementation of such policies they can improve the renewable energy development status according to their potential. Policies act as barriers when there is not proper policy implemented by government.

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