

 **CLIMATE GROUP**

State Climate Fellowship India

2022-2023



Established in 2021, the State Climate Fellowship (SCF) project was launched with the ambitious aim of supporting Indian states in revising their State Action Plans on Climate Change (SAPCCs) and further supporting their additional state-wide climate actions. While the national ambition in India to implement climate action is growing, the capacity of states to act is extremely varied. This programme was aimed at supporting state governments with the human resources needed to boost technical capacity and strengthen coordination among stakeholders, within and outside the state.



→ Fellowship overview

Partner Organisation: Swaniti Global

A nonpartisan social enterprise that provides development solutions to improve the delivery of public services. Swaniti aims to strengthen the policy and program delivery ecosystem to ensure a better quality of life for the most marginalized through access to quality skills, employment, livelihood, social safety nets and health opportunities.

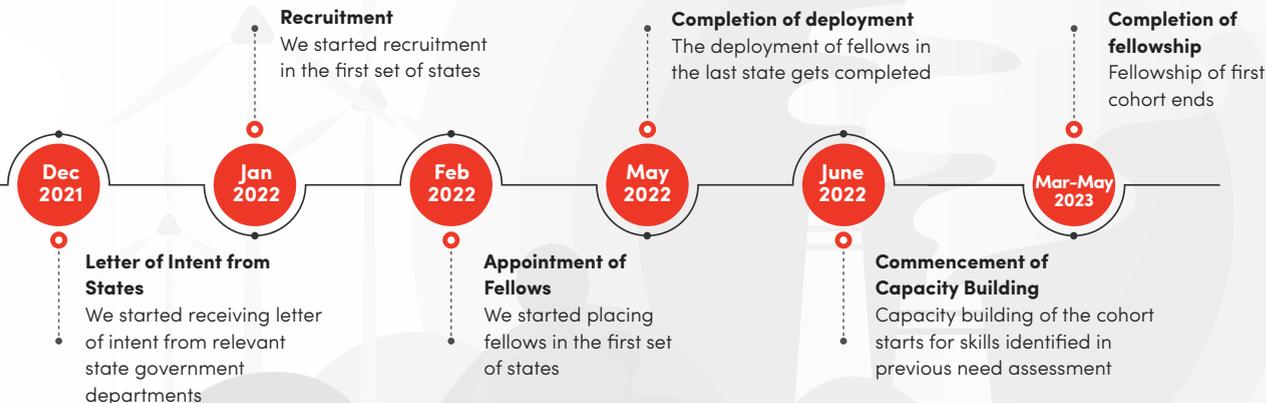
→ About the programme

A cohort of “climate fellows” was created in selected Indian states with high climate vulnerability under a 12-month long initiative. These young, skilled and dynamic professionals championed state-wise climate strategies and helped them align their climate actions/goals with the national ambition. The fellows provided technical expertise towards planning & implementation of climate actions and strengthened coordination among stakeholders.

→ Key objectives

- The fellows undertook assessments of the states and identified gaps, targets, opportunities and interventions related to climate action in line with national goals.
- The fellows provided the requisite aid through knowledge exchange, research support and technical knowledge, along with facilitating inter-departmental collaboration on related to climate action.
- The fellows supported states in voicing their achievements in terms of climate action through preparation of case studies and aiding the states’ participation in forums.

Fellowship Timeline



→ Fellowship highlights

Key areas of work

Regular discussions between Climate Group, Swaniti Global and various state governments led to the identification of a diverse set of states representing different geographies which required support in terms of technical assistance. Key areas included (but were not limited to) revision of SAPCCs, scoping for carbon markets, assessment of rooftop solar projects, project formulation related to disaster risk reduction and implementation of rural livelihood initiatives.

→ Key stats



16

policy briefs were submitted by fellows in 5 states



23

new projects were identified across 5 states



06

businesses were supported for adopting green practices



32

inter-departmental meetings were supported in 5 states



06

high-level stakeholder conversations were facilitated in 5 states

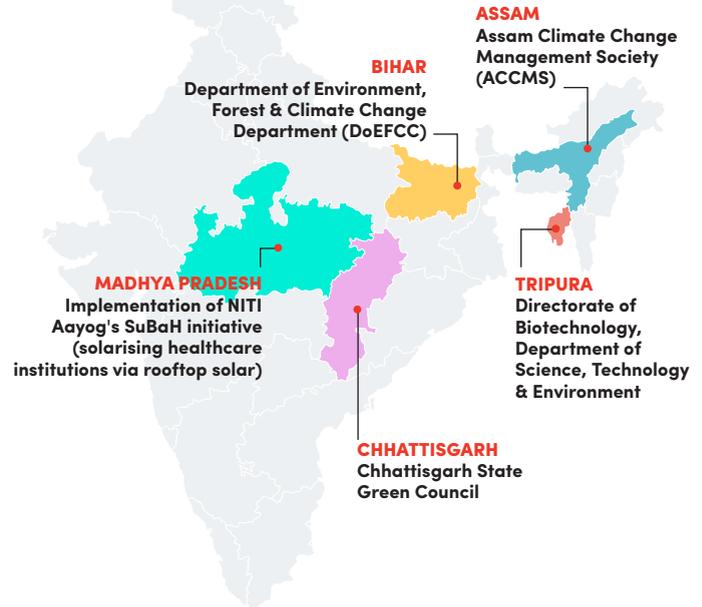


02

areas for Chief Minister-level interventions were identified & project finance was secured

→ Member states & departments

While identifying states, we also identified the key departments/agencies where we could support climate action for various themes as per the mutually decided scope of work:



CAPACITY BUILDING OF FELLOWS

- **Communication & Tone of voice**
by Climate Group
- **Proposal writing: how to make a pitch!**
by Swaniti Global
- **Government engagement**
by Swaniti Global
- **Youth climate leadership**
by NIUA and Climate Change High-level Champions
- **Industrial decarbonization & last mile delivery**
by Climate Group
- **Energy transition & transport decarbonization**
by Climate Group
- **The science of climate change**
by University of Leeds
- **Climate adaptation & urban resilience**
by IIED

ASSAM

Assam Climate Change Management Society (ACCMS)



Arundhati Deka
(Mar'22 - Nov'22)



Raka Sangma
(Dec'22 - Mar'23)



→ Project overview

The fellows worked with the Assam Climate Change Management Society (ACCMS), a Special Purpose Vehicle headed by the Chief Minister of Assam under the Environment & Forest Department. They helped to develop the project and supported an assessment of climate vulnerability in the state.

→ Key outcomes

- Scoping study for building sustainability and climate resilience in the tea sector of Assam.
- Preparation of multiple Requests for Proposals (RfP) & Expression of Interest (EoI) related to environment & climate change.

BIHAR

Department of Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department (DoEFCC)



Tanmoy Mukherjee
(Jun'22 - Oct'22)



Ashar Quadri
(Nov'22 - May'23)



→ Project overview

The fellows were posted in the Climate Change and Wetland Division of the departments, where they were engaged in the revision of Bihar's State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC). During this process, they wrote crucial chapters of the SAPCC along with multiple other articles. The fellows were also involved in capacity building related to academia and conducting wetland health assessments for the state.

→ Key outcomes

- Drafted the 'Climate Finance' chapter of the revised Bihar SAPCC.
- Drafted book chapter on "Phytoremediation: An emerging circular economy tool to conserve the ecological health status of floodplain wetlands, India"

CHHATTISGARH

Chhattisgarh State Green Council



Trishant Dev
(Feb'22 - Feb'23)



→ Project overview

The fellow was actively involved in rigorous research and program design with the Green Council. He played a key role in identifying community-led projects which would be eligible for regional carbon-credit markets and in assessing the extent of additional income to the engaged communities in the process. He also supported on the collaboration between the private sector and tribal communities on livelihood and joint forest management aspects.

→ Key outcomes

- Feasibility assessment of Gautham-based & agroforestry-based activities for carbon financing in the state.
- Scoping study for Minor Forest Produce processing, organic products, diversification of Gauthan-based activities, and interventions in renewable projects in Dantewada.

MADHYA PRADESH

Implementation of NITI Aayog's SuBaH initiative (solarising healthcare institutions via rooftop solar)



Garima Chotani
(Feb'22 - Sep'22)



Anurag Gupta
(Oct'22 - Mar'23)



→ Project overview

The fellows worked towards the implementation of multiple new solar initiatives under the guidance of SuBaH's National Expert. Along with exploring the potential of electricity production for commercial purposes, the fellows also supported NITI Aayog's SuBAH scheme on solarising public healthcare infrastructure.

→ Key outcomes

- Assessment of solar rooftop projects on multiple government institutional buildings within Madhya Pradesh.
- Facilitated the submission to "Innovations in Public Administration" challenge of Capacity Building Commission (CBC) which later featured in the Annual Health of Civil Services Report submitted to the PM's Public Human Resource Council (PMHRC).

TRIPURA

Directorate of Biotechnology, Department of Science, Technology & Environment



Samrat Deb
(Apr'22 - Apr'23)



→ Project overview

The fellow worked on the implementation of the bio-villages 2.0 initiative in the state, by engaging with the rural communities to facilitate their socio-economic development process. He also worked with the academia towards developing their scientific temperament through Biotech clubs established by the directorate. One of his key contributions was to perform geospatial mapping of various projects undertaken by the department including the Bio-villages.

→ Key outcomes

- Book on bio-village 2.0 project, book on DNA School club and book on College Biotech Club launched by the honourable former Deputy Chief Minister of Tripura, Shri Jishnu Dev Varma.

Profiling state climate fellows



Profiling fellows during India's G20 Presidency

Climate Group co-organised a Youth20 (Y20) Chaupal with the Y20 Secretariat under India's G20 Presidency. The forum catalysed discussions on the role of youth in driving subnational climate actions via initiatives such as the State Climate Fellowship and others. The participants including students, young professionals and fellows also discussed youth's engagement in policy making and opportunities on green jobs.

Impact and success stories

→ Chhattisgarh

Our fellow in Chhattisgarh has worked extensively on developing the state's carbon market. The fellow has primarily worked on carbon financing involving the rural areas of the state, which included both desk-based and field-based research and assessment of the capacities of various projects in terms of generating carbon credits. This has led to the preparation of details scope of work inclusive of scoping studies, work plans and project scheduling for the creation of a multi-stakeholder carbon market.

→ Madhya Pradesh

Our fellow in facilitated in conceptualizing and formulating various initiatives such as SRISTI and SURAJ schemes to implement rooftop solar (RTS) projects at 280 technical institutions including IIT Indore, MANIT, RGPV and engineering colleges across the state and across Panchayati raj institutions of eight states in southern India respectively. He also aided in implementing RTS projects at 10 campuses of FDDI and 11 campuses of NPTI across India.

→ Tripura

The success of the Bio-village 2.0 project, which is being supported by our fellow and focuses on the sustainable socio-economic uplifting of rural communities, was included in the Honourable Prime Minister of India Mr. Narendra Modi's Mann ki Baat program in October 2022. The project also received the prestigious National Skoch award (Silver award in e-governance) in March 2023.

Key Learnings from the Fellowship

- The State Climate Fellows initiative has helped us develop a detailed understanding of subnational governments' climate ambition in India and forge a strong engagement mechanism.
- Our fellows embedded in key line departments across these states were an effective conduit providing closer view of the government's policy making, planning and implementation of initiatives across climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience. Climate Group, as a secretariat to the Under2 Coalition, has been supporting states in terms of subnational climate action. So the learnings are allowing us better design tailored strategy and future programmes and initiatives to cater to specific needs of the governments.
- Another key learning was the acknowledgement of the role of youth in supporting subnational climate action. This initiative has enhanced our understanding of the ways in which youth can support senior leadership at state level and the need to build future cohorts of such young, dynamic public policy professionals driving the climate agenda in the region and beyond.

Way forward

The successes of the 1st phase of the state climate fellowship further inspired us to maintain the critical momentum in the climate decade and led to the launch of the 2nd phase of the project. In the new phase, we aim to further expand the support for Indian states, besides sustaining the existing collaborations undertaken in the previous phase. Hence, we have deployed new climate fellows in the states/UT of Ladakh, Punjab and West Bengal along with renewing the fellowship in the case of Madhya Pradesh and Tripura for a period of 12 months. The new cohort of fellows will further aim to align the state's climate actions with India's updated climate goals, leading to stronger subnational climate action.

From the desk of Divya Sharma

Executive Director, India, Climate Group

The State Climate Fellows programme has been initiated with the objective to support and facilitate climate action at the sub-national level in India. It helps us walk the talk by instituting support through a highly capable, young, and dynamic league of climate fellows that work within the state government bringing together different elements to their climate action. The diversity of asks from State Governments and the flexible nature of support provided through this program has been mutually complementary. We look forward to working closely with sub-national governments through this initiative.

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About Climate Group

Climate Group is an international non-profit, publicly launched in 2004, with offices in London, Amsterdam, Beijing, New Delhi, and New York. Our mission is to drive climate action, fast. Our goal is a world of net zero carbon emissions by 2050, with greater prosperity for all. We do this by forming powerful networks of business and government, unlocking the power of collective action to move whole systems such as energy, transport, the built environment, industry, and food to a cleaner future. Together, we're helping to shift global markets and policies towards faster reductions in carbon emissions.

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