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## Climate change action plan launched by Gujarat CM

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GANDHINAGAR: On the World Environment Day on Saturday, the Gujarat government unveiled its 'State Action Plan on Climate Change' with the aim to build a sustainable and climate-resilient future. Coordinated climate adaption and mitigation planning is envisaged by 2030.

Announcing the plan in Gandhinagar, chief minister Vijay Rupani said that Gujarat had become the first state in the country to implement a long-term action programme to address the challenges of climate change.

The plan, prepared by the state's climate change department in collaboration with experts from IIM-A and IIT-Gn, covers aspects such as renewable energy, energy conservation, forestry, coastal

areas, tribal areas, animal husbandry, agriculture, and health.

The state's action plan aims to build a sustainable and climate-resilient future for its people in line with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, a government statement said.

The plan has thematic groups representing the key priorities for Gujarat such as agriculture, water, health, forests and biodiversity, sea-level rise and coastal infrastructure, energy efficiency and renewable energy, urban

development, and green jobs. It will have strategies such as people's participation, mobilizing private investment as well as policy measures and public investment, the government release said.

"Gujarat has placed a special emphasis on the use of solar and wind energy and electric vehicles for environmental protection," Rupani said in his address at the event. "The state government has decided not to allow new thermal power plants, and has instead realized the effort of green, clean energy by generating 9,000MW of wind and 5,000MW of solar energy."

In the coming days, the CM said, Gujarat will be a leader in this field by producing 30 gigawatt of solar and wind energy. He added that his government was also promoting CNG and electric vehicles for pollution-free transportation.