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THE TIMES OF INDIA

Set up dedicated green body on lines of GST council: States

TNN | Feb 21, 2022, 03:36 AM IST



NEW DELHI: With experts demanding a separate body to deal with issues linked to climate change for long, states have proposed setting up a dedicated 'environmental council' like GST council to implement India's climate action at all levels.

Although the Centre has an apex committee, comprising members from 13 key ministries, to coordinate actions for achieving India's climate goal under the Paris Agreement, an idea to have a separate council came up during the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) where state representatives, including ministers, proposed having such independent body for more focused action.

They pointed out that the implementation aspects of climate action, be it mitigation, adaptation and resilience, often falls on the state governments

and therefore there should be a dedicated body composed of representatives from the Centre and all the states/Union Territories (UTs).

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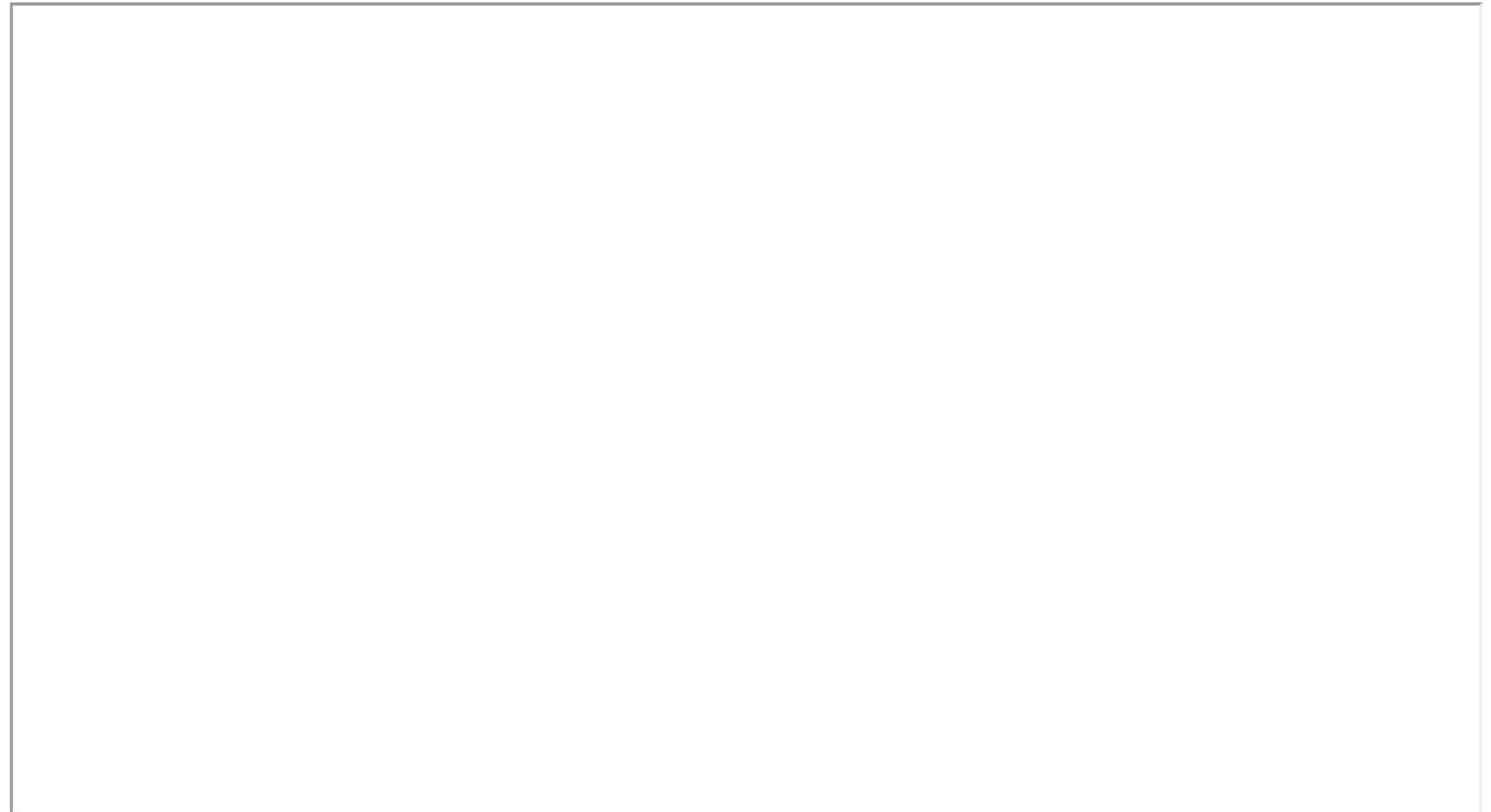
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“On the lines of the GST Council, if we have the environment and forest ministers of all states along with the Union minister of environment in a council, I think that is where we can set targets and policies at the national level and implement at the state

level,” said Aaditya Thackeray, environment minister of Maharashtra.

Participating in a ‘ministerial session on sub-national leadership for Inclusive green growth’ at WSDS, organised by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), Thackeray on Thursday suggested putting out an annual environment report. “We can think of an ‘ease of living’ report that lists out environmental steps and targets, and what can be done in terms of climate action such as mitigation, adaptation and resilience,” he said.



At the session, moderated by director general of TERI, Vibha Dhawan, the ministers highlighted the need for newer measures