

Why India must account for climate adaptation in its budget

-Indu Murthy and Vidya S

India has inexplicably dithered from making dedicated provisions for climate adaptation in its annual budgets, despite facing the brunt of climate change – it was listed as the seventh most vulnerable in the [Climate Risk Index 2021](#). The upcoming budget for the financial year 2023-24 is an opportunity to demonstrate the policy intent towards ensuring climate-resilience of infrastructure, utilising nature-based solutions, and, most importantly, safeguarding the lives and livelihoods of citizens, especially those dependent on climate-sensitive sectors and living in vulnerable regions.

A recent [study](#) by the Indian think tank, the Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy, warns that India is staring at a warmer and wetter future. Focusing on the district level across all 28 states of India, the team has analysed climate data from the recent past (1990-2019) and made projections for the near future (2021-2050) under two climate scenarios: moderate emissions and high emissions. It projects that while some districts will be seared by heatwaves in the next 30 years, others will drown because of heavy rainfall and flooding.

Clearly, the budget needs to make a range of allowances for farmers affected by increasingly unpredictable weather, for flood management in cities and towns like the one in [Barcelona](#) city, for cooling solutions in regions prone to heatwaves (such as the one in [Ahmedabad](#)), for water provision in areas where water availability dries up in the arid season, and so on.

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