DISCOM TRANSFORMATION PLATFORM
NITI Aayog, Rocky Mountain Institute, and RMI India have partnered to launch Discom Transformation Platform, a collaborative space for stakeholders in the power sector to participate and provide coordinated support for discoms in India.

The Discom Transformation Platform is designed to demonstrate the value of integrated clean energy portfolios, scale existing examples of effective solutions, develop cutting edge pilot projects, and enable increased coordination, collaboration, and sharing of learnings across the ecosystem of power sector stakeholders.

The Discom Transformation Platform is envisioned as a highly collaborative space for stakeholders from across the power sector to participate and provide coordinated support for discoms across the country. It will engage directly with discoms to create new examples of integrated clean energy technologies, improve operational efficiency, accelerate AT&C loss reduction, and prepare for market reforms through the Lighthouse Discom Programme.

In partnership with several leading states, the Discom Transformation Platform will develop several ‘Lighthouse Discoms’ by planning for and deploying integrated pilots that demonstrate the economic and environmental benefits achievable through clean energy portfolios.

The Lighthouse Discom Programme will run for the next 24 months and support the process of planning for and deploying renewable energy, stationary storage, EV charging infrastructure, demand flexibility solutions, and other clean energy technologies.
Financially viable discoms are essential to the future stability of India’s economy. But many discoms are currently suffering from a number of financial and infrastructure challenges. The intersection of renewable energy, energy storage, electric mobility, and demand flexibility presents an emerging opportunity for India’s discoms to integrate portfolios of clean energy technologies. If designed to work together, these portfolios can create enhanced value for customers, discoms, and other stakeholders. In order to take advantage of these opportunities, proactive approaches are required in analysis, planning, and implementation across a number of topics.
Renewable Energy
Accelerated deployment of renewable energy and power sector reforms that support renewable generation will support India's ambitious near- and long-term targets

Electric Mobility
Load growth from electric mobility presents a new revenue opportunity for discoms. But readiness for charging infrastructure programs, network upgrades, EV tariffs, and grid will determine a discom’s ability to take advantage of the opportunity to capture new sources of revenue from electric mobility

Energy Storage
The steeply falling costs of battery energy storage systems (BESS) enable scaled deployment of stationary storage to support a stable and resilient electricity grid that can absorb increasing shares of renewable energy. India’s National Mission on Transformative Mobility and Battery Storage creates a framework for the growth in demand for energy storage technologies to be supplied by Indian manufacturing

Demand Flexibility
IoT solutions can increasingly enable individual devices, buildings, and other loads to participate as market actors; and demand flexibility measures can help create system wide efficiencies
TRANSFORMATION PLATFORM

There is an opportunity and a need to ensure the progress and learnings of the highly diverse actors are leveraged to enable the most efficient use of resources.

Over the past decade the collective ecosystem of government agencies, private sector, academia, development agencies, and civil society have made good progress in advancing discom operations, reducing losses, and preparing them for advanced technologies and market reform. There is an opportunity and a need to ensure the progress and learnings of the highly diverse actors are leveraged to enable the most efficient use of resources and to create a pathway to replicate discom improvement at scale across the nation as quickly and smoothly as possible. The Discom Transformation Platform encourages and incentivizes coordination, collaboration, and sharing of learnings and experiences across the diverse actors already engaging with discoms and other stakeholders in the power sector.

The platform is designed around three guiding pillars:

1. Increase coordination, collaboration, and sharing between key actors

2. Support decarbonization through operational, technological and business model advancements

3. Accumulate, promote, and replicate success at scale

The platform is envisioned as: a) a virtual information hub to host and organize the diverse set of projects, funders, schemes, and key actors engaging in decarbonization across India, and b) a physical convening mechanism to assemble the stakeholder ecosystem to address critical institutional, regulatory, business, and technical barriers in a more coordinated and collaborative way.
LIGHTHOUSE DISCOMS

Rajasthan and Haryana have joined the platform as the first “Lighthouse Discoms” to demonstrate the benefits of integrated clean energy portfolios. Working in close partnership with the states and the discoms, the Lighthouse Discom Program will create leading examples of integrated clean energy technologies, improved operational efficiency, pathways towards profitability, improved customer service, and preparedness for future market reforms.

Lighthouse Discoms will leverage past learnings from platform participants and create new replicable pathways for other discoms. The program offers discom support over three phases of engagement:

Analysis
A deep evaluation of current conditions and assessment of technical and economic opportunities for various clean energy portfolios

Planning + investment
Working with discom partners to design an integrated approach for investment and deployment of projects, inclusive of identification of sources of capital and investment

Project implementation
Deployment of projects and pilots, monitoring and evaluation of performance, reporting on key takeaways and relevant lessons for other discoms
OUTCOME

Working with discoms in Haryana and Rajasthan, and the broad coalition of actors currently involved in discoms transformation across India, the program will catalyze and integrate a portfolio of advanced energy solutions by engaging public and private sector partners. Lighthouse Discoms will establish a replicable pathway for others to follow. It will align with and support key government initiatives including FAME II, 2022 RE targets, UDAY, National Programme on Battery Storage, and many other national programs.

The Discom Transformation Platform will increase the shared awareness across key actors of the ongoing projects, successes, and challenges discoms are facing within all aspects of transformation. Through shared learnings and improved coordination key actors will leverage existing efforts and facilitate transparency and inter-agency collaboration of the projects and programs underway.

Creating a durable transformation platform with engagement and participation from all stakeholder groups will ensure optimal use of resources and an accelerated path to financially healthy discoms across India. Together and in a coordinated way the collective group of stakeholders can develop an accelerated path to a healthy and clean discom ecosystem.

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NITI Aayog

The National Institution for Transforming India, also called NITI Aayog, is the premier policy 'Think Tank' of the Government of India, providing both directional and policy inputs. While designing strategic and long-term policies and programs for the Government of India, NITI Aayog also provides relevant technical advice to the Centre and States. An important evolutionary change from the past, NITI Aayog acts as the quintessential platform of the Government of India to bring States to act together in national interest, and thereby fosters cooperative federalism.

RMI India

RMI India is an independent nonprofit organization. RMI India takes inspiration from and collaborates with Rocky Mountain Institute, a 40-year-old non-governmental organization. RMI India’s mission is to accelerate India’s transition to a clean, prosperous and inclusive energy future.

Rocky Mountain Institute

Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI)—an independent nonprofit founded in 1982—transforms global energy use to create a clean, prosperous, and secure low-carbon future. It engages businesses, communities, institutions, and entrepreneurs to accelerate the adoption of market-based solutions that cost-effectively shift from fossil fuels to efficiency and renewables. RMI has offices in Basalt and Boulder, Colorado; New York City; the San Francisco Bay Area; Washington, D.C.; and Beijing.