

PRESS RELEASE

February 1, 2023

Green growth a centre-piece agenda of Budget 2023

iFOREST welcomes the Government's strong focus on green industrial and economic transition in the union budget

Highlights:

- 1. Green growth, for the first time, has been enunciated as a pillar of development and jobs in the country.**
- 2. Green energy and green industries a centre-piece agenda for green growth. Major boost for the green energy and industrial sector. Overall, at least 1 lakh crore allocation for renewables, battery storage, green hydrogen, bio-gas and tax exemption for EVs.**
- 3. Clear focus on promoting sustainable agriculture practices. Significant allocation for natural farming and organic fertiliser (PM PRANAM and 10,000 Bio-Input Resource Centres) will push sustainability in the sector.**
- 4. Allocations for conservation of natural resources, such as wetlands and mangroves.**
- 5. The Green Credit Programme launched under the Environment Protection Act (1986), will incentivise environmentally responsible behaviour industries and individuals.**

New Delhi: The International Forum for Environment, Sustainability and Technology (iFOREST), the Delhi based environmental research think tank champions the union budget 2023, as tabled in the floor of the Parliament of India today. The budget has highlighted 7 priorities (*Saptarshi*) for the government's investments, among which 'green growth' remains a key one. The other 6 include: "inclusive development, reaching the last mile, infrastructure and investment, unleashing potential, youth power and the financial sector.

The union finance Minister in her budget speech noted that the government is "implementing many programs for green growth across various economic sectors. They will help reduce carbon intensity and create green jobs." Responding to the budget, Chandra Bhushan, President & CEO, iFOREST said that "it is extremely encouraging to see that green growth for the first time has been enunciated as a pillar of development and jobs in the country. The budget also provides a new impetus to Green Energy Transition".

The budget highlighted on a mix of initiatives and allocations in the energy and industrial sectors to support an economic transition and green growth. Key emphasis has been laid on, Green Hydrogen Mission, energy transition, augmentation of energy storage and RE evacuation.

"The budget is a dream budget for the green energy sector" said Bhushan. An outlay of Rs. 19,700 crore has been announced towards the Government's green hydrogen mission with a target of producing 5 MMT of green hydrogen by 2030. Besides, Rs.35,000 crore has been allocated for supporting energy transition while ensuring energy security.

The budget also emphasized on augmenting RE evacuation by extending the Interstate Transmission System. An investment of Rs. 20,700 crore was announced for evacuation and grid integration of 13 GW RE from Ladakh. Emphasis has also been laid on augmenting battery storage and pump storage.

The budget also intends to support the growth of the EV industry in the country. The government has announced the exemption of custom duty to import of capital goods and machinery required for manufacture of lithium-ion cells for batteries used in electric vehicles.

Besides allocations to support green industrial development, the government has announced the notification of a 'green credit programme' under the EP Act, to incentivise environmentally sustainable and responsible performance by industries.

Head Office: I - 89, 8th Floor, Himalaya House, 23 KG Marg, New Delhi 110 001

Registered Office: 19/103, Eastend Apartment, Mayur Vihar Phase -1, Delhi -110096

Telephone: +91-011-4309 97 307, **Email:** contact@iforest.global

In her budget speech the Minister also noted the intention of the government to promote environmentally responsible agriculture. The Government will launch the PM Pranam scheme (PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth) to incentivize states and UTs to ‘promote alternative fertilizers and balanced use of chemical fertilizers’.

“There is a dire need to promote sustainable agriculture practices as it is the single largest user of land (50% of total land) and water (80% of total water). The PM Pranam scheme is an important step to push sustainability in the sector” said Chandra Bhushan.

Overall, the budget remains a very important one for environment, energy and climate change.

For details contact:

Srestha Banerjee, Director, iFOREST

Email: srestha@iforest.global

Phone: 9958550622

Head Office: I - 89, 8th Floor, Himalaya House, 23 KG Marg, New Delhi 110 001

Registered Office: 19/103, Eastend Apartment, Mayur Vihar Phase –1, Delhi –110096

Telephone: +91-011-4309 97 307, **Email:** contact@iforest.global