iFOREST | INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY & TECHNOLOGY

ANNUAL REPORT

2024-25

Contents

Message from the Board

During this year, we launched two new programmes: Urban Transition and Industrial Decarbonization, along with initial work on Air Pollution and Geoengineering. The Urban Transition programme is designed to build resilience and promote just transitions. We were proud to release one of the country's first research reports on the just transition of the mobility sector, with a focus on Maharashtra.

In Industrial Decarbonization, we initiated a comprehensive study on the Urea sector, the largest greenhouse gas emitter from agriculture and allied activities. Our upcoming report will offer a clear roadmap to address the overuse of Urea and support the decarbonization of its production process.

Our work on Air Pollution focused on identifying the key contributors to particulate matter (PM2.5) pollution. We published a PM2.5 inventory for India and Delhi-NCR, conclusively demonstrating that solid fuels like biomass and coal are the primary sources. This underscores the need to reduce emissions from these sources in order to improve air quality in India.

In the emerging field of Geoengineering, we addressed the potential and risks of Solar Radiation Modification (SRM), a technology aimed at cooling the planet. Our report on SRM, launched during a side event at the Meeting of Parties to the Montreal Protocol in Nairobi, advocated for a global regulatory framework for SRM. This pioneering report paves the way for further research and governance on this crucial issue.

Geographically, we expanded our efforts into Assam and Maharashtra. In Assam, our focus has been on renewable energy, while in Maharashtra, we have concentrated on just transition and mobility transformation. We are committed to strengthening our engagement in both states in the coming years.

In addition to these new initiatives, we continued to make significant strides in the just transition space, reinforcing our role as a leading global organization advancing this agenda. We also made notable progress in our work on biomedical waste management.

Recognizing the need to support our growing team, we relocated to a new office

in Noida, which offers enhanced infrastructure and research facilities. Additionally, we established a project office in Bhubaneswar to further our work in Odisha.

Our work is gaining wider recognition, especially in areas such as Single Use Plastics (SUP), where our research has informed the Central Pollution Control Board's guidelines for measuring compliance with the SUP ban. In Maharashtra, our efforts on just transition have led to a formal request from the state government to assist in developing its just transition policy. Similarly, our work in Odisha has attracted interest and investment in the renewable energy sector.

Overall, in 2023-24, iFOREST made significant contributions toward supporting the sustainable development of the country, and we look forward to continuing this important work in the years ahead.

Raghunath Anant Mashelkar

Chairperson

Chandra Bhushan

CEO & President

ABOUT US

About Us

The International Forum for Environment, Sustainability and Technology (iFOREST) is an independent non-profit research and innovation organisation which was established in 2019 to identify, promote and scale-up solutions for pressing Environmental development challenges in India. Our work is guided by a commitment to sustainability and equity, ensuring that our solutions are socially just and environmentally responsible.

iFOREST's work is rooted in regional priorities to accelerate environmental actions at the sub-national level and to improve national policies and plans to support it. At our core, we are a regional organisation with a national focus and an international reach. Our mission is to address the unique needs of regions by leveraging our resources and expertise to scale up national action and make a global impact. We use our regional knowledge to inform national policies and plans and strengthen international collaboration.

To achieve our goals, we conduct independent evidence-based research, develop new knowledge and innovative solutions, convene stakeholders to increase awareness and build consensus, and partner with think tanks, civil society, government agencies, philanthropies and industry to scale up solutions.

Mission

We are working for a sustainable future by generating and disseminating knowledge and by developing, supporting and mainstreaming policies, strategies, technologies and solutions that are environmentally sound, economically prudent and socially just.

Strategic Priorities

At iFOREST, we believe that a green environment can only be achieved by building a green economy. Guided by this vision, our work is anchored in four strategic priorities: enabling and supporting transition to clean energy and sustainable livelihoods, building resilience to climate and environmental risks, managing local pollution to safeguard health and ecosystems, and strengthening environmental governance to ensure effective institutions and policies. Together, these pillars move the needle towards a just and low-carbon future.

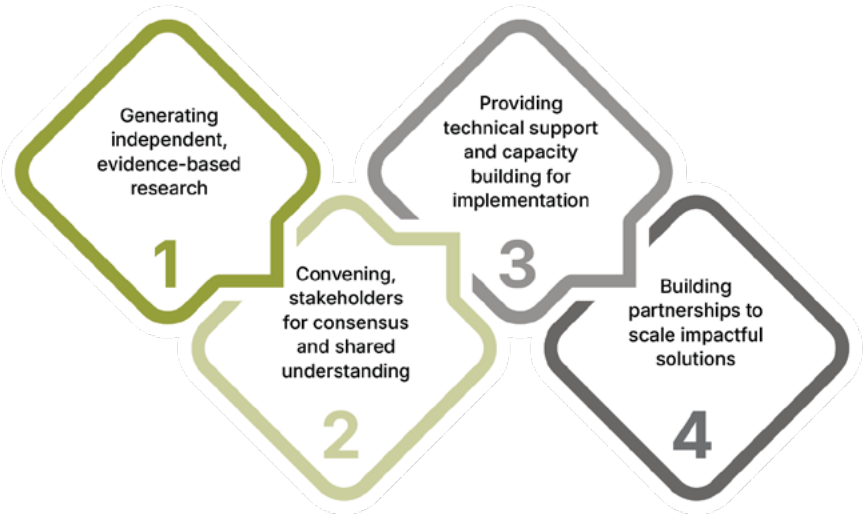
Enabling & Supporting Transition
- Just transition
- Clean energy
- Industrial decarbonisation

Building Resilience
- Urban resilience
- Climate resilient agriculture
- Sustainable forest management

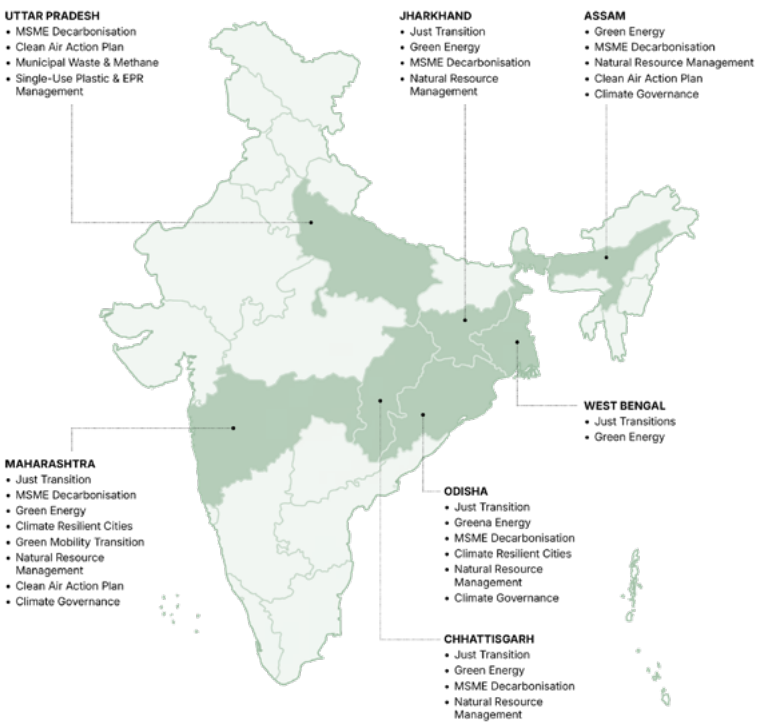
Managing Local Pollution
- Air Pollution
- Solid waste management
- Plastics

Strengthening Environmental Governance
- International & national climate governance
- National & local environmental institutions

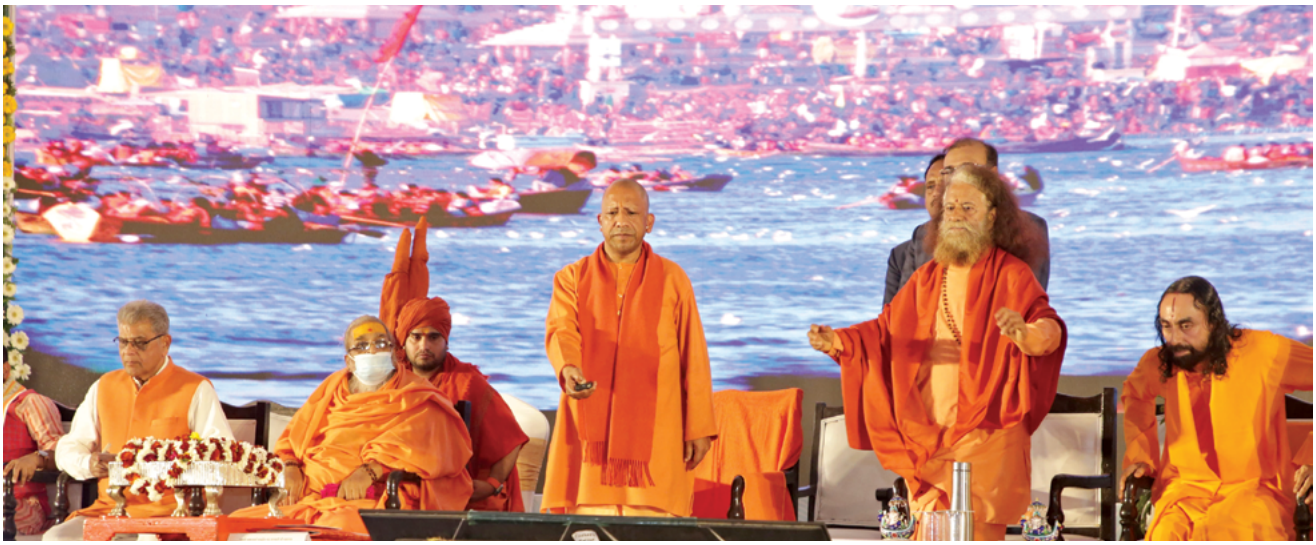
Our Approach



Regional Engagement



This Year's Finest Moments

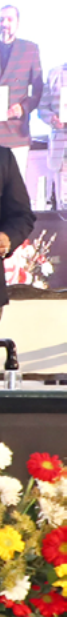


CM Yogi Adityanath inaugurates the conclave

All parties come together to release the 'Sankalp Patra' or climate declaration

CEO iFOREST Chandra Bhushan presents on the urgency of climate action

Uttar Pradesh Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Singh addresses the gathering



Waterman of India Rajendra Singh meets Chandra Bhushan

CEO iFOREST Chandra Bhushan presents on the urgency of climate action

This Year's Finest Moments

iFOREST director, Mandvi Singh, speaking at the Odisha Solar Investor Conclave, Bhhubaneswar

Panel discussion during iFOREST's 'Global Just Transition Dialogue event'

Signing of an MoU with Assam Pollution Control Board

iFOREST unveiling the Integrated Heat and Cooling Action Plan at OEGW46, Montreal

Workshop on 'Collaborative Learning and Engagement for Accelerating NCAP', Auroville

iFOREST at MOP36, Bangkok

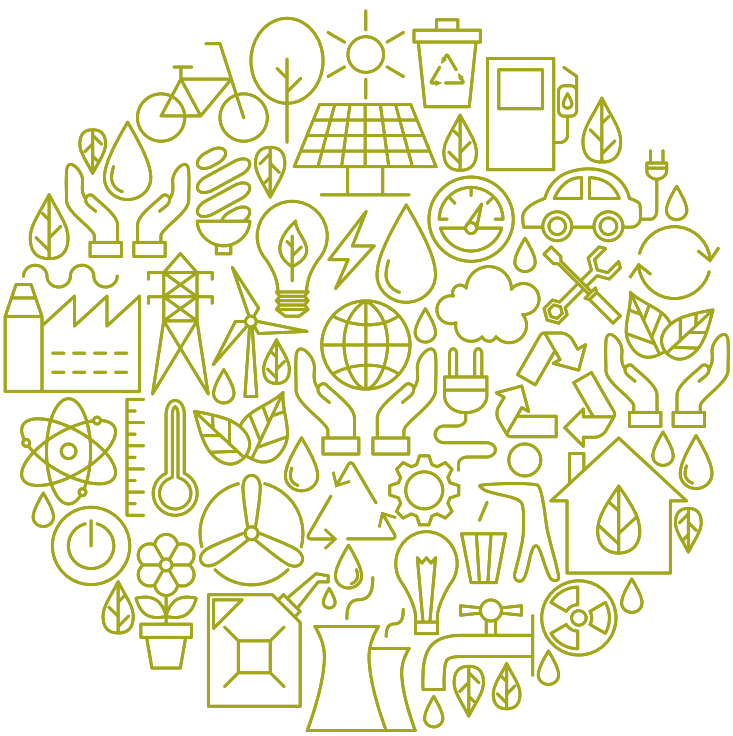
PROGRAMMES

Enabling & Supporting Transition

Building Resilience

Managing Local Pollution

Strengthening Environmental Governance



Enabling & Supporting Transition

Just Transition

The Just Transition programme of iFOREST is focused on ensuring that India's shift to a net-zero economy is not only environmentally sustainable but also socially just and economically resilient. It prioritises the industries, regions, employment, and livelihoods most impacted by climate action, particularly the phase-down of fossil fuels. A central objective is to advance green growth and employment generation.

In the fossil fuel sector, the programme supports the transition of the coal mining industry through strategies, tools, and frameworks for mine land repurposing at both asset and cluster levels, business transformation, and economic diversification of coal regions in line with local development priorities. For fossil fuel–dependent industries, it facilitates sectoral just transition pathways, particularly in the power, automobile, and MSME sectors.

"Just Transition presents an opportunity to proactively plan green economic growth aligned with India's energy transition and net-zero goals. A well-designed plan, aligned with local developmental needs, can help fossil fuel–dependent districts diversify their economy and generate jobs."

- Dr. Srestha Banerjee,
Programme Director, Just Transition

At the sub-national level, iFOREST is supporting coal-dependent states such as Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Maharashtra by preparing district-level just transition plans and regional investment plans that integrate energy transition, climate action, and development imperatives to drive green growth and jobs.

The programme also builds knowledge on employment impacts, mapping potential job losses, shifts in skill requirements, and emerging roles, while strengthening education, skilling, and entrepreneurship ecosystems to prepare the workforce for a green economy.

Financing underpins all efforts: the programme assesses transition costs and green investment needs at district and regional scales, identifies funding gaps, and works to mobilise public resources and unlock private capital to support just transition measures.

Just Transition in India's Coal Mining Sector

In 2025, India's coal mine closure guidelines were revised to integrate, for the first time, the just transformation of coal mines and coal-dependent regions as an integral part of mine closure planning. The guidelines recognise that mine closures must not only meet environmental requirements, but also be accompanied by just transformation planning to minimise social and economic disruptions.

Repurposing of coal and lignite mines and associated infrastructure has been emphasised as a key mechanism to support just transition. Emphasis has also been put on supporting people and communities in mining areas by creating new opportunities for employment and income

This milestone has been shaped by iFOREST's research undertaken and frameworks developed by iFOREST, and engagement on mine closure and just transition planning with the Ministry of Coal, and Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries in various states.

Building on earlier reform framework of Coal Mine Closure Guidelines (published in 2023 by iFOREST) and a sustainability framework for the sector (2024), iFOREST organised a workshop Coal Mines at a Coal India Limited workshop in Kolkata in July 2024. The timing was strategic: with the Ministry of Coal issuing draft Mining Plan Guidelines in 2024, iFOREST's inputs provided actionable recommendations to embed Just Transition within mine closure protocols. The workshop, attended by senior executives of CIL, served as a crucial platform to influence industry practice and inform policymaking.

The new guidelines will be instrumental for just transition of coal mines and mining regions, besides ensuring sustainable mining practices.

iFOREST and C40 release 'Pathways for a Just and Inclusive Transition in Electric Freight'

Pathways to electric freight

In March 2025, our Urban Resilience programme expanded its focus to road freight, which accounts for nearly 90% of transport sector emissions and sustains millions of livelihoods. Under the Laneshift programme (a collaboration between C40 Cities and The Climate Pledge), iFOREST co-organised the preview of the report Pathways for a Just and Inclusive Transition to Electric Freight. The event brought together policymakers, industry, civil society, and academia to deliberate on the socio-economic and workforce implications of electric freight adoption in India.

The dialogue addressed key priorities: accelerating policy action for e-freight, safeguarding the livelihoods of small fleet operators and informal workers, bridging workforce skill gaps, overcoming infrastructure and cost barriers, and promoting multimodal integration for efficient logistics. A highlight was the testimony of EV truck driver Dhinesh Singh, who shared how electric trucking transformed his work experience and income—demonstrating the transformative potential of a just and inclusive freight transition.

Regional Engagements

At the state and district levels, iFOREST has catalysed research and multistakeholder dialogue to identify pathways for transition, focusing on both sectoral and geographic priorities.

Just Transition of Maharashtra's Automobile Sector

In April 2024, iFOREST convened a multistakeholder meeting in Pune on 'Navigating the Shift: Just Transition Roadmap for Maharashtra's Automobile Sector.'

Report release and Conference on Navigating the Shift: Just Transition Roadmap for Maharashtra's Automobile Sector, Pune

At the event, iFOREST released the first comprehensive study on the impacts of EV transition on Maharashtra's automobile businesses, workforce, and environment. Based on the deep dive of India's largest automobile cluster in Pune, the study provided a practical roadmap for aligning technological innovation with policy, skills development, and job creation, positioning Pune as a hub for EV research and knowledge generation.

This event brought together leading scientists, economists, government officials, and industry leaders to explore strategies for a socially and environmentally responsible EV transition.

Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar, former Director General of Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) and Chairperson of iFOREST, emphasised the critical need for coordinated action across technology development, policy formulation, and workforce planning. The dialogue demonstrated iFOREST's ability to shape sector-specific transition strategies, foster innovation and deliver positive environmental outcomes.

Just Transition of Jharkhand's coal mining regions

Jharkhand, one of India's top coal mining states, is facing just transition challenges due to the presence of a large number of old and economically unviable mines. Many will close in the next five years and requires a just transition planning, alongside mine closure planning.

Discussions at Stakeholder Meeting & Report Release: Just Transition for Enabling Green & Inclusive Growth, Jharkhand

In July 2024, iFOREST convened a multistakeholder meeting in Ranchi to explore opportunities for green and inclusive growth in coal-reliant districts as these mines close. During the event iFOREST released the framework on coal mines closure to ensure a just transition, building on case studies in closed mine areas.

The convening, which was attended by government officials, civil society members from various districts of Jharkhand, and workers representatives, on repurposing mine lands for supporting economic local development, and generating green jobs. The event underscored the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration, highlighting iFOREST's role in shaping local transition strategies grounded in evidence and community needs.

Odisha's Green Transition

In November 2024, iFOREST released its report Just Transition in Odisha for Green Growth and Green Jobs at a multistakeholder public meeting in Bhubaneswar. The event was inaugurated by the Deputy Chief Minister of Odisha. Senior state officials, industry representatives, civil society, and academics explored strategies to how just energy transition can be strategised in the state as the state aims to become the nerve-centre of economic and industrial growth in Eastern India.

The discussions emphasised skilling and reskilling the workforce, expanding renewable energy, and leveraging industrial and government initiatives on decarbonisation, including green hydrogen and ammonia production. The event showcased iFOREST's ability to connect research with policy and implementation strategies, helping shape a model for state-level just transition planning.

Report Release: Just Transition in Odisha for Green Growth and Green Jobs, Bhubaneswar

Global Just Transition Dialogue

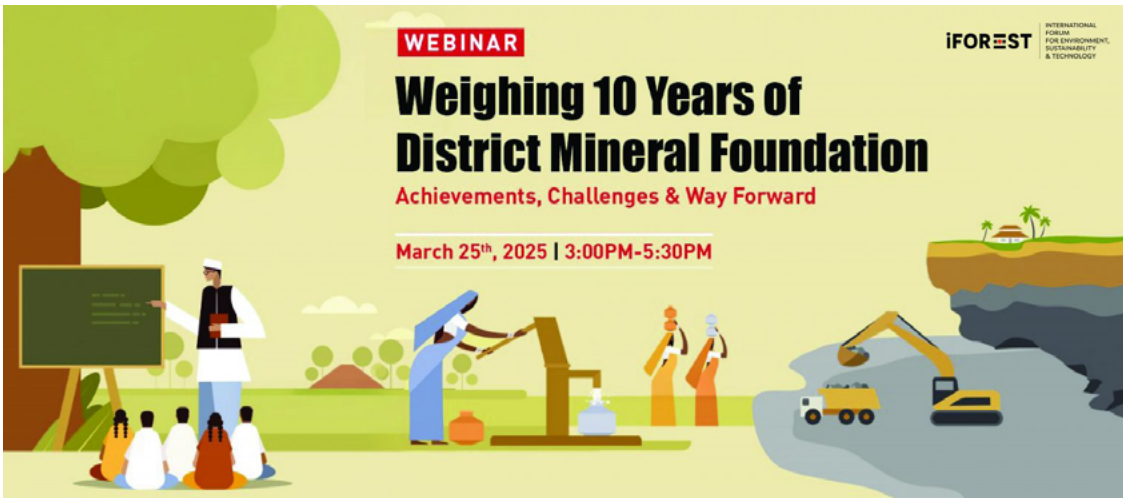
iFOREST's flagship Global Just Transition Dialogue, held in New Delhi in October 2024, convened government officials, industry leaders, financial institutions, and civil society actors from India, the EU, UK, US, and Global South. As a precursor to COP29, discussions hosted diverse speakers such as Mr. Anil Kumar Jain, IAS (Chairperson, Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board and former Secretary, Ministry of Coal), Mr. Khaled Hashem (G77 and China coordinator on Just Transitions), Dr. Anshu Bharadwaj (Programme Director, Green Transitions and Climate, NITI Aayog, Government of India), Ms. Sangeeta Kaushik (Executive Director, Corporate Planning, NTPC Limited), Laura Aylett, Head of Climate and Energy at the British High Commission in India and Lebogang Mulaisi from South Africa's Presidential Climate Commission. Discussions focused on green growth, job creation, industrial innovation, climate finance, and technology cooperation.

Release of Just Transition, Just Finance report at Global Just Transition Dialogue, New Delhi.

During the dialogue, iFOREST released Just Transition, Just Finance: Methodology and Costs for Just Energy Transition in India, a pioneering study outlining methodologies to calculate transition costs and estimate the financing India requires for a 30-year just energy transition. This work provides a blueprint for policymakers and financiers to integrate social equity into climate planning, further solidifying iFOREST's influence on national and international policy discourse.

Assessment of 10 years of District Mineral Foundation (DMF)

March 2025 marked a significant milestone for India's mining sector and mining regions. It marked the 10-year milestone of District Mineral Foundation (DMF) institutionalisation which is a crucial benefit -sharing mechanism with mining-affected communities. Marking a decade of the DMF initiative, iFOREST published a 10-year assessment and convened a national webinar to share a comprehensive assessment of the DMFs' achievements, challenges, and future trajectory. The assessment revealed that while DMFs have mobilised over 1,03,242 crore since 2015—with projections estimating 3,00,000 crore by 2035—they face institutional, planning, and governance challenges. iFOREST recommended redesigning DMFs as independent public welfare funds with greater community participation, ensuring that mining-affected populations benefit equitably from resource extraction. This work reinforced iFOREST's commitment to integrating social justice into national resource governance frameworks.



Clean Energy

iFOREST's Clean Energy Programme supports India's energy transition by fostering a balanced renewable energy (RE) landscape—helping low-capacity states raise ambition, engage stakeholders, attract investment, and strengthen institutional capacity for effective implementation.

During the year, the Clean Energy Programme strengthened engagements in the eastern states of India while building on ongoing national-level initiatives, in pursuit of the overarching goal of promoting balanced growth of RE across the country.

At the national level, the programme focused on advancing understanding of how national strategies influence the economics of inter-state power procurement and shape RE capacity citing. It also continued to prioritise strengthening the institutional capacities of subnational agencies to enable more effective implementation of RE initiatives.

"Over the past year, eastern region states have shown clear momentum in raising their renewable energy ambition. The challenge now is to translate this ambition into action — through institutional strengthening and state-level reforms."

- Mandvi Singh
Programme Director

At the state level, iFOREST deepened engagements in Odisha to support the implementation of the state's RE Policy and the target of achieving 10 GW of RE capacity by 2030. This included providing technical advisory to the nodal agency, undertaking in-depth research, mobilising demand, identifying reform pathways, and supporting investor mobilisation. The programme also expanded its footprint to other eastern states—Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and West Bengal—with the ambition of unlocking an additional 20 GW of renewable energy capacity. Initial engagements focused on reassessing RE potential, evaluating state-level policies and regulatory frameworks, assessing institutional capacities, and building stakeholder engagement.

Through this combination of national and state-level efforts, iFOREST continued to lay a strong foundation for balanced and sustainable RE growth in India, with particular emphasis on addressing regional disparities and strengthening institutional capacity to support the energy transition.

iFOREST at the Odisha Solar Investor Conclave, Bhubaneswar

National Engagements

In 2024-25, the Clean Energy Programme advanced the national discourse on strategies for balanced renewable energy growth, with a focus on how national policies shape regional development. A key output was the report Decoding ISTS Charge Waivers, which analysed how waiving inter-state transmission system (ISTS) charges enabled discoms and large consumers to procure affordable renewable energy from 'RE-rich' states, while discouraging capacity growth in 'low-RE' states. The report argued that while this accelerated RE deployment, it also deepened regional disparities, and with the sector now mature, the waiver could be phased out.

The report was launched at iFOREST's national conference on Enabling Balanced Renewable Energy Growth in India: Key Challenges and Requirements in August 2024. Headlined by the Secretary, MNRE, the event brought together policymakers, state agencies, industry leaders, and experts, with discussions converging on the need for strategies to reduce state-level disparities.

This effort contributed to the central government's decision to not extend the ISTS waiver for wind and solar projects, opting instead for a phased withdrawal between June 30, 2025 and June 30, 2028.

Complementing this, iFOREST also released Strengthening Renewable Energy Development Agencies in India, which underscored the importance of fortifying Renewable Energy Development Agencies (REDAs) in lagging states by adopting best practices from high-performing regions.

Regional Engagements

Odisha

iFOREST continued its dedicated work in Odisha through the locally set up team to support the implementation of the Odisha Renewable Energy Policy (OREP), 2022. Under the ongoing MoU with GRIDCO and OREDA, the programme delivered technical assistance and capacity-building while providing policy advisory through targeted research assignments. These covered policy design, strategy development, sectoral analysis, vendor engagement, tender frameworks, and pilot studies, ensuring both institutional strengthening and practical on-ground support. These efforts aimed at strengthening institutional capacity and accelerating renewable energy deployment in the state.

A key contribution was a comprehensive assessment of pumped storage potential, which identified ten brownfield projects with an aggregate capacity of 4.3 GW and twenty-seven greenfield projects totalling

Roundtable Discussion: Accelerating Clean Energy Adoption among MSME Industries in Odisha, Bhubaneswar

Report release-Enabling Renewable energy growth in West Bengal, Kolkata

21.9 GW. These projects have since been announced by the state as priority sites for development. In parallel, iFOREST advanced solar deployment by preparing a detailed roadmap for rooftop installations across both domestic and C&I consumers, and by supporting the solarisation of government buildings through surveys, scheme design, and vendor engagement. To complement these technology-focused initiatives, the programme submitted a comprehensive policy and regulatory review to the Department of Energy and nodal agencies, outlining reforms needed in policy, regulation, infrastructure, and incentives to enable faster RE deployment.

Work was also initiated on mobilising renewable energy demand from commercial and industrial (C&I) consumers, particularly focusing on MSMEs. This included detailed scoping study three regional workshops in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela on accelerating clean energy adoption among MSMEs, which explored challenges, opportunities, and pathways for scaling RE uptake.

Capacity building for state stakeholders was another priority. In May 2024, iFOREST organised an exposure visit for senior officials from the Energy Department, GRIDCO, and OHPC to the 1,200 MW Purulia pumped hydro project in West Bengal. A subsequent visit in June 2024 took officials to Maharashtra to study agri-PV systems and solar cold storage projects. In October 2024, iFOREST convened an inter-departmental workshop chaired by the Principal Secretary, Department of Energy, bringing together over 50 senior officers from 20 departments to align initiatives under OREP.

To mobilise investments, iFOREST co-organised the Odisha Solar Investor Conclave with GRIDCO in December 2024, which attracted 400 participants, including over 150 C&I consumers and over 100 solar developers, fostering a collaborative environment for exploring investment opportunities, forging partnerships, and discussing the enabling policy frameworks essential for Odisha's transformation into a solar energy hub. Building on this momentum, iFOREST also supported GRIDCO and the Department of Energy at Utkarsh Odisha 2025, where renewable energy projects worth ₹4.33 lakh crore were announced out of total commitments of ₹16.73 lakh crore.

Through these efforts, iFOREST advanced Odisha's renewable energy ecosystem by bridging research and practice, strengthening institutions, and catalysing investment to realise the state's clean energy ambitions.

Other Easter Region States

During the year, iFOREST expanded its engagement to other eastern states, including Jharkhand, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, and Assam. The initial focus was on foundational research to support renewable

energy scale-up in these states. This included a detailed reassessment of state-level RE potential to strengthen the case for increased investment, an analysis of the economics of solar power procurement from inter- and intra-state projects in the absence of ISTS charge waivers, and a review of state policies and regulatory frameworks to identify pathways for RE expansion and institutional strengthening. Collectively, these efforts provided a robust evidence base for advancing renewable energy development and scaling up deployment across the region.

While the research reports for Assam were released in the previous year, those for West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, and Jharkhand were developed and published during September and October 2025. These events brought together a wide range of stakeholders—including policymakers, nodal agencies, industry leaders, investors, and experts—and helped foster a constructive discourse on strengthening the states' ambitions in the renewable energy sector.

Industrial Decarbonisation

Industries are the backbone of India's economic growth. However, they are also the largest final energy consumers and the third-largest source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in India, following coal-based power generation and agriculture.

We partner with national and state governments to design and implement comprehensive decarbonisation roadmaps for key industrial sectors such as the nitrogenous fertilizer sector, steel manufacturing, process boilers, lifecycle refrigerant management (LRM), and the integration of energy efficient technologies in industries, such as heat pumps.

Through evidence-based strategies and practical on-the-ground initiatives, our objective is to advance a low-carbon industrial transition that is inclusive, resilient, and just—ensuring both large industries and MSMEs contribute to India's net-zero goals.

"We can no longer choose between development and the environment — India must industrialise sustainably and responsibly"

- Sanjeev Kanchan
Programme Director - Industrial Decarbonisation & ESG

Report Presentation: 'Enabling Balanced Renewable Energy Growth' Conference, New Delhi

In line with our programme objectives, in May-June 2024, iFOREST undertook the first comprehensive techno-economic modelling study of the urea sector in India. The report highlights the urgent need for a Green Urea Mission to modernize urea production and optimise consumption. It underscores the current unsustainable levels of urea use, which threaten food security and depend heavily on imported natural gas, impacting energy security. The proposed mission aims to enhance productivity, reduce environmental costs, and support small farmers, projecting a net benefit of nearly a trillion dollars over the next 25 years.

The study presents detailed models of urea demand from 2025 to 2050, identifying the optimal technology routes for production. Findings reveal that India's urea consumption, which contributes significantly to greenhouse gas emissions, can be halved by 2050 through improved policies promoting natural farming, enhancing nitrogen use efficiency, and reducing urea dependency. The cost of environmental damage due to current urea practices is substantial, with significant water pollution costs outweighing the industry's turnover. Modernizing the aging urea plants and transitioning to Green Urea production using Green Hydrogen by 2050 is essential for achieving these goals.

In July, iFOREST organised a multistakeholder meeting on 'Green Urea: Economic and Environmental Benefits of a Low-Carbon Future', in July, in New Delhi to share its findings.

The recommendations include integrating the Green Urea Mission with the National Green Hydrogen Mission, setting ambitious targets for non-chemical farming, nitrogen use efficiency, and reducing urea in fertilizers. This integrated approach is expected to eliminate urea imports, reduce subsidies, cut greenhouse gas emissions, and significantly mitigate air and water pollution. The report calls for policy reforms to foster innovation and modernization in urea manufacturing, aiming to build a sustainable and resilient sector aligned with India's Net Zero targets.

Multistakeholder meeting on 'Green Urea: Economic and Environmental Benefits of a Low-Carbon Future'

Building Resilience

We support cities to adapt to climate change. The scope of our work includes developing urban heating and cooling action plans, climate-resilient agriculture for vulnerable regions, and sustainable forest management — helping communities manage risks, protect ecosystems, and strengthen long-term resilience to rising temperatures and extreme weather events.

Urban Resilience

Our Urban Resilience programme addresses rising urban temperatures and cooling demands through integrated heat action and green cooling plans. By supporting the implementation of the India Cooling Action Plan, promoting low-emission technologies, and working with states and cities, the programme aims to reduce refrigerant demand and build climate-resilient, low-carbon urban systems.

Regional Engagements

In June 2024, iFOREST organised a press briefing and webinar titled Why Heat Action Plans Failed to Save Lives? A Case Study of Delhi. The discussion was anchored in our study assessing nine city and five district Heat Action Plans (HAPs), which examined the adequacy of current frameworks in adapting to and mitigating heat risk. With Delhi experiencing a record-breaking heatwave, the assessment underscored the urgent need for stronger planning and implementation. iFOREST presented a new Heat and Cooling Action Plan (HCAP) framework, offering solutions to the dual challenges of extreme heat and rising cooling demand in Indian cities.

National Engagements

Cool Conclave

In August 2024, in partnership with the Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation, iFOREST curated two tracks at the Cool Conclave organised by ISHRAE. Track 5, Energy-efficient and Planet-friendly Cold Chain Infrastructure, highlighted the importance of cold chains for agriculture and the environment, identifying emerging markets, obstacles, and off-grid technologies. Discussions explored government interventions and new business models to make cold chains more accessible and affordable. Track 11, Chilling Out: Advancing Natural Refrigerants and Not-in-Kind Technologies, examined the market outlook for natural refrigerants and building-envelope innovations, alongside barriers to adoption. Stakeholders also emphasised the need for stronger standards and policy instruments, including BIS standards and ICAP, to accelerate market transformation.

Presenting at the Cool Conclave organised by ISHRAE, Jaipur

Managing Local Pollution

Air Pollution

A key programmatic highlight of 2024 was the launch of iFOREST's Air Pollution vertical in September. The team focuses on major sources of pollution such as:

- Open burning (domestic and commercial solid fuel burning, solid waste burning, agri-residue burning and industrial waste burning),
- Road and Construction & Demolition dust, and
- Industrial emission from MSMEs.

The vertical focuses on generating scientific evidence for strengthening air quality management at the state- and city-level and exploring air pollution and climate linkages tackling black carbon and methane emissions. iFOREST provides knowledge support for designing clean air strategies and builds capacity of government officials through training programmes. The team works closely with urban local bodies, guiding them from scientific analysis to the implementation of actionable air pollution mitigation measures.

"At iFOREST, our work on air pollution and waste management is driven by the vision of creating cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable cities. By combining rigorous research with on-ground action, we are not only addressing critical issues like open burning, dust management, industrial emissions, agricultural burning, and waste mismanagement, but also building the capacity of states, cities, and communities to implement lasting solutions."

- Dr. Pratima Singh
Programme Director

The vertical also addresses waste management, including municipal solid waste, biomedical waste and plastics. Initiatives encompass waste inventorisation, city action plans, single-use plastic regulation, and marine litter management, reinforcing a holistic approach to interconnected environmental challenges.

National Engagements

Strengthening National Clean Air Programme

In 2024-2025, the team spearheaded six pivotal training and workshop sessions aimed at accelerating the effective implementation of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). These initiatives galvanised collaboration across diverse stakeholders, driving collective action on air quality management.

In late July, a two-day training programme, 'Roles of Consultants of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)' was held to sharpen consultants' understanding of their essential roles in NCAP. This programme equipped participants with knowledge and skills for implementing, monitoring, reporting, and evaluating NCAP efforts at city and state levels. Interactive sessions combined practical exercises with expert guidance, enabling consultants to address onsite challenges effectively

Following this, another two-day training titled 'Roles of Consultants of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)' was held in early August. It reinforced consultants' skills and promoted knowledge exchange on challenges and solutions within NCAP operations. Expert engagement further refined support mechanisms, boosting consultants' ability to better air quality outcomes.

Training session: Collaborative Learning and Engagement for Accelerating NCAP" (C.L.E.A.N), Auroville

With a dedicated focus on City Nodal Officers, November saw a two-day training on effective NCAP implementation titled 'Effective Implementation of the National Clean Air Programme'. The training programme focused on enhancing capacity building to enable effective implementation of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). It covered the critical roles and responsibilities of City Nodal Officers, emphasising their pivotal role in coordinating and driving city-wide clean air initiatives. The convergence of related schemes was highlighted to ensure integrated action and resource optimisation.

Covering scheme convergence, technical air quality aspects, and Clean Air Action Plan strategies, the programme emphasised collaborative problem-solving and peer learning. The knowledge exchange fostered best practice sharing, empowering officers to drive cleaner air initiatives with greater confidence.

In late February, iFOREST conducted a training programme for SPCB Nodal Officers, in collaboration with GIZ, Bloomberg Philanthropies and MoEFCC. Organised at New Delhi, it oriented participants on supporting NCAP implementation across 130 non-attainment and million-plus cities. Designed to be interactive and participatory, the programme combined expert lectures with group exercises using the ZOPP method, enabling officers to actively engage and visualize outcomes through pin-up boards and flip charts. The event saw participation from 31 officers representing 15 SPCBs/PCCs.

An interactive session with MoEFCC and CPCB officials provided a platform for officers to openly share challenges in NCAP implementation and seek guidance. The open dialogue fostered a collaborative environment, helping identify actionable steps to address immediate concerns and strengthening the officers' capacity to contribute effectively to improving air quality and public health in India

During the same month, more than 30 officials of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) were trained by iFOREST to enhance the city's response to air pollution. We organised the 'Air Quality Management Capacity Building Training for BMC Officials' at MCMCR, Powai, Mumbai. The programme featured addresses and sessions by senior officials and experts guided by Dr. Pratima Singh, Director–Air Pollution and Waste Management at iFOREST. The training strengthened their capacity in air quality management and implementation of mitigation measures.

Soon after, the Collaborative Learning and Engagement for Accelerating NCAP' (C.L.E.A.N) workshop was held in March 2025 in Auroville, Tamil Nadu. The workshop convened senior officials from MoEFCC, CPCB, SPCBs and municipal corporations across the country. It aimed to equip participants with the orientation necessary to support effective implementation of NCAP across 13 non-attainment and million-plus cities. It facilitated the discussion of good practices in these cities and their contributions to the broader goal of improving air quality and public health in India.

Collectively, these initiatives advanced NCAP objectives through capacity building, knowledge sharing, and multi-stakeholder engagement, laying a strong foundation for cleaner, healthier urban environments across India.

Participation in these programmes included consultants, City Nodal Officers, senior MoEFCC officials, CPCB representatives, municipal corporations, and State Pollution Control Boards from diverse states and cities, reflecting broad institutional involvement essential for the programme's success.

NCAP training in Delhi was attended by 43 City Nodal Officers from 17 States/UTs

Strengthening Environmental Governance

iFOREST advances climate and environmental governance through legal reform, strengthening institutional capacity, and skill-building. From shaping domestic climate laws and global negotiations to training regulators, industries, and municipal authorities, we strengthen systems and leadership for effective climate action, pollution control, and sustainability across sectors.

International & National Climate Governance

Under this vertical, iFOREST works to strengthen climate governance by supporting institutional reforms in India and advancing equity-focused international climate action. Our work spans sector-specific assessments, policy and regulatory frameworks, and strategic engagement with governments, industry, multilateral institutions, and civil society. At the global level, iFOREST contributes to platforms such as the UNFCCC and the Montreal Protocol, promoting finance, technology transfer, and climate action for the Global South.

In 2024–25, iFOREST advanced climate governance through global side events, national workshops, and policy briefs, delivering actionable frameworks for urban heat, cooling, and climate law reform

National Engagements

In August 2024, we convened a two-day national workshop on climate laws and institutions at Tijara Fort Palace, Alwar, Rajasthan. The workshop gathered experts from energy, electricity, forests and biodiversity, finance, and adaptation/resilience, alongside state and district climate officials. Discussions focused on evaluating current sectoral laws and institutional frameworks, identifying required amendments, and translating national policies into state- and district-level implementation measures. Participants also explored subnational governance mechanisms to strengthen climate action, just transition, adaptation, and climate finance. The workshop concluded with a working group session to map the contours of a comprehensive climate framework law for India.

iFOREST CEO presents at the National workshop on climate law and institutions, Alwar

Participants at the National workshop on Climate Laws and Institutions, Alwar

International Engagements

Integrated Heat and Cool Action Plan

In July 2024, we organised a side event on Framework for Integrated Heating and Cooling Action Plan for Cities at the Forty-sixth Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (OEWG46) in Montreal, Canada. The event addressed extreme temperatures and rising cooling demand, bringing together international delegates to discuss strategies, evolving needs, and global support programs for cities. In parallel, iFOREST released a policy brief proposing the Integrated Heat and Cooling Action Plan (IHCAP) to provide sustainable and equitable urban cooling solutions.

Unveiling of the IHCAP policy brief at the OEWG46, Montreal

Side event at the 36th Montreal Protocol Meeting.

Not-in-Kind cooling technologies at MOP36

In October 2024, iFOREST hosted a side event at the Combined Thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP13) and Thirty-Sixth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (MOP36) at the United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok. The event highlighted the role of Not-in-Kind (NIK) cooling technologies in greening RAC systems. Discussions covered the technological and market status of NIK solutions, barriers to adoption, and pathways for global scale-up, emphasising their potential to meet growing cooling demand in the Global South while supporting SDG targets and international obligations.

COP29, Baku

In November 2024, at COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, iFOREST convened a side event addressing the Urban Heat Island effect and rising global temperatures. The event evaluated existing Heat Action Plans and National Cooling Action Plans, sharing global best practices and identifying gaps in delivering integrated, sustainable solutions. Key discussions included city-level planning, multilevel governance, passive and nature-based cooling strategies, building decarbonisation, health and productivity impacts, and the development of a comprehensive global framework to support cities in managing heating and cooling challenges amid climate change.

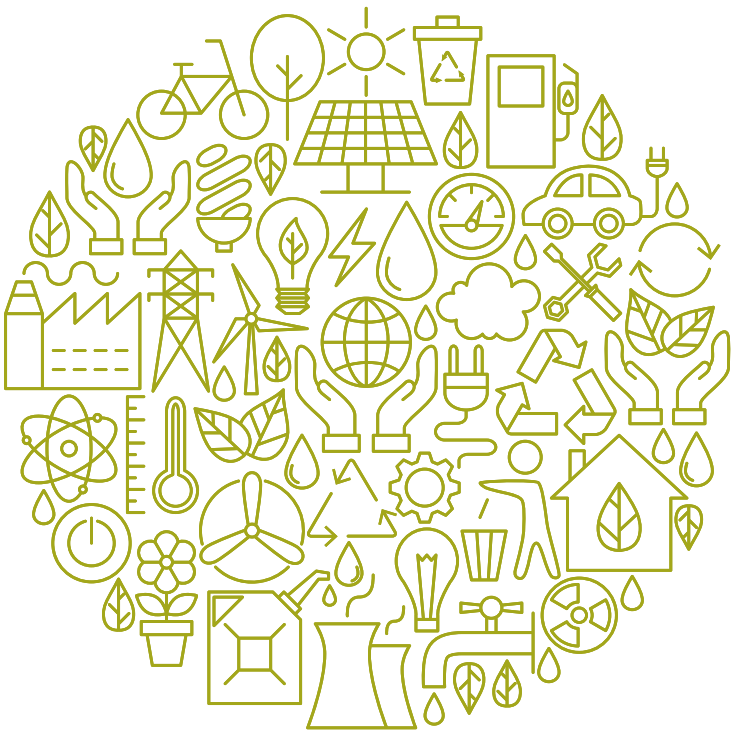
IFOREST side e vent discussing Urban Heat Island effect and rising global temperatures at the COP29 summit, Baku

Engagement and Outreach

Citizen's Corner

Opinions

Annual Retreat



Citizen's Corner

Nothing can drive environmental movement better than collective citizen action. Citizens have locally stood up to combat pollution, to save green spaces and forests, improve waste management and protect rivers. And whenever they have, the authorities have had to sit up and take action.

We at iFOREST, see the citizen's participation as the foundation of building a strong environmental movement in the country. Our endeavour is to empower citizens with credible and relevant knowledge and tools which can be used to demand better environmental outcomes.

Smog Tales

During the peak pollution months of November to February, iFOREST launched Smog Tales: Know Your City and What You Breathe, a campaign to take the air pollution conversation beyond Delhi and into India's smaller cities. Air pollution is often discussed in policy or expert circles, yet it is a daily crisis affecting public health, productivity, and quality of life. By putting Central Pollution Control Board data in the public domain in an accessible way, the campaign sought to turn expert knowledge into everyday conversations and citizen awareness.

The campaign focused on cities across the Indo-Gangetic plains—Patna, Guwahati, Meerut, Baddi, Bhiwadi, Amritsar, and Moradabad—spotlighting local pollution trends, sources, and solutions. Through social media outreach, webinars, and city-level dialogues, we engaged state pollution control boards, urban local bodies, civil society, and the media, making clean air a governance and citizen agenda.

Experts from across health, policy, and civic initiatives joined the discussions to identify solutions and amplify pathways to cleaner air. By bridging science, governance, and public dialogue, Smog Tales underscored the urgency of tackling air pollution as a national public health crisis, while empowering citizens to 'know their city and what they breathe'.

Faith of Kumbh and Climate Change

In February 2025, iFOREST convened the Climate Conclave 'Faith of Kumbh and Climate Change' at the Maha Kumbh Mela 2025, held from January 13 to February 26 at the Triveni Sangam in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. As the world's largest spiritual gathering, the Kumbh represents a profound confluence of faith, culture, and humanity, offering a unique platform to influence societal consciousness and galvanise climate action through the moral authority of faith communities.

The event saw over 1,000 participants and 30 speakers representing religious institutions, government bodies, civil society and academia. Organised in partnership with the Department of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of Uttar Pradesh, the event highlighted the need to bridge sacred traditions with sustainable practices amid intensifying global climate challenges. As moral and spiritual guides to billions, our faith leaders hold a unique position to inspire action, influence behavior and bring transformational change.

A cornerstone of the conclave was the Uttar Pradesh Government's pledge to "green" religious institutions. The state envisions religious centers and shrines becoming models of sustainable development. This includes installing solar panels, implementing rainwater harvesting systems, recycling waste, banning single-use plastics, and creating green zones around sacred spaces. The state's pledge also includes funding faith-based organisations to promote environmental and climate education, campaigns, and actionable practices. Initiatives like eco-friendly pilgrimages, green festivals, and sustainable temple management can reduce the carbon footprint of religious practices. Panel sessions included role of religious leaders in environmental protection and climate change mitigation; sacred rivers, water security and climate change and role of governments in supporting faith-based organisations in climate action.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Yogi Adityanath who headlined the Conclave, emphasised that the message from this holy Mahakumbh is that we need to channel our faith to conserve our environment. Other faith leaders such as Swami Chidanand Saraswati, President of Paramarth Niketan, who spoke at the inaugural, stated that our nation can progress only if our environment is protected. If there is no climate action, the next Kumbh, he warned, will be on mere sand, not river.

Release of Just Transition, Just Finance report at Global Just Transition Dialogue, New Delhi.

The conclave saw speakers from a diverse set of institutions—Shri Ram Chandra Mission, International Renewable Energy Agency, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Indian Institute of Science, National Institute of Disaster Management, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, the JSW group and eminent individuals such as Dr. Rajendra Singh (Waterman of India).

Partnerships

During 2024–25, iFOREST strengthened its collaboration with governments and institutions to advance climate action, Just Transition, pollution mitigation and green growth across India.

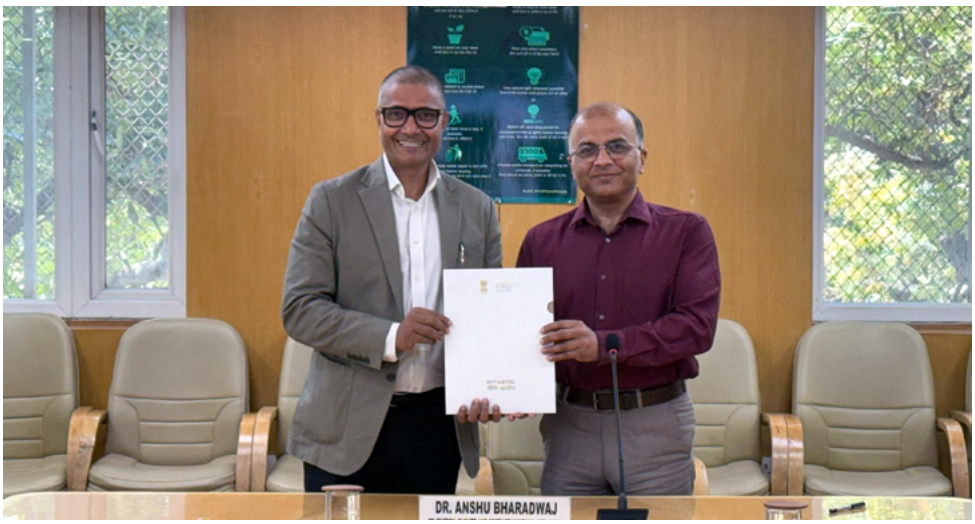
In October 2024, iFOREST signed two MoUs with Maharashtra's Department of Environment and Climate Change to strengthen air pollution control in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region and advance climate action statewide. Drawing on its research and technology, iFOREST has developed practical guidelines and local action plans for monitoring, testing, and compliance. The partnership also supports green growth through a State Just Transition Policy, regional and district climate action plans, and an integrated heating and cooling plan for key energy and industrial clusters including Chandrapur, Nagpur, Yavatmal, Pune, Aurangabad, Nashik, and Ahmednagar.

In February 2025, iFOREST partnered with the Government of Assam during the Advantage Assam Summit 2.0 in Guwahati, signing two MoUs with the Department of Forest and Environment. The first MoU focuses on knowledge and capacity building support in air pollution and waste management, while the second strengthens governance, institutional capacity, policy, and implementation support for climate response, action planning, climate financing, and mitigation investments.

In March 2025, iFOREST further advanced its climate and environmental agenda through two key partnerships. The first, with NITI Aayog, focuses on developing knowledge and strategies, designing policies and governance frameworks, and building capacity in climate mitigation, adaptation, resilience, Just Transition, and climate finance. The second, with the Directorate of Environment, Government of Uttar Pradesh, followed the Faith of Kumbh and Climate Change summit in February, and aims to tackle a wide range of environmental challenges including air pollution, waste management, and climate change across the state.

Signing an MoU with the Ministry of Environment, Government of Uttar Pradesh.

iFOREST partners with Govt. of Assam



iFOREST partners with NITI Aayog

iFOREST partners with Govt. of Maharashtra

OPINIONS

Opinions

TOI+

No, cloud seeding didn't drown Dubai

Chandra Bhushan
Apr 22, 2024, 21:28 IST IST

A warming Arabian Sea means cities around it, Dubai to Mumbai, are vulnerable to extreme weather. But what's more extreme is that govts and companies are trying to fix the weather using tech

The unprecedented flood in Dubai on April 19 has ignited much-needed discussion on weather modification and geo-engineering. Theories on what caused the extreme rainfall include cloud seeding, global warming and poor drainage systems. So, what triggered the rains?

TOI+

Are ACs now a human right?

Chandra Bhushan
Jun 3, 2024, 20:36 IST IST

Soaring temperatures are here to stay & cooling has become a necessity. But it has to be done smartly. Not via ACs that guzzle electricity & worsen outdoor heat even at a low-penetration level

Last Wednesday, the automatic weather station sensor at Delhi's Mungeshpur reported a record high temperature of 52.9°C. Fortunately, the figure has turned out to be incorrect. India Meteorological Department

NBT
नवभारत टाइम्स

सीधे किसानों के खाते में पहुंचे यूरिया की सबसिडी

August 1, 2024, 8:28 AM IST NBT एडिट पेज in मज़ारिया | अन्य

लेखक: चंद्रभूषण

इस साल अपने बजट भाषण में वित्त मंत्री ने खेती में productivity और adaptability को प्राथमिकता के रूप में पेश किया। इस पहल का उद्देश्य प्राकृतिक खेती को बढ़ावा देना, दालों, तिलहनों और सब्जियों के उत्पादन को बढ़ाना, कृषि अनुसंधान में सुधार करना और जलवायु अनुकूल फसलों को प्राथमिकता देना है। ये लक्ष्य महत्वपूर्ण और जरूरी हैं, लेकिन इनके साथ उर्वरक क्षेत्र खासकर यूरिया को लेकर भी सुधार की जरूरत होगी।

FINANCIAL EXPRESS
Read to Lead

A Green Urea Mission has economic, environmental benefit of $1 trillion over 25 years

The most viable path forward is to decontrol the urea sector and allow market competition, similar to other fertilisers.

Written by Guest
September 19, 2024 04:15 IST

Urea causes three major environmental problems: nitrogen pollution, ozone layer depletion, and climate change, largely because of its overuse and inefficient use.
By Chandra Bhushan,

One of the core priorities in this year's Budget is "productivity and resilience in agriculture". Under this, the government plans to promote natural farming, enhance the production of pulses, oil seeds, and vegetables, transform agricultural research, and prioritise climate-resilient crops. While these are important and much-needed goals, the road to productive and resilient agriculture goes through a reformed fertiliser sector, especially urea. Here's why.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

How to avoid capital error

September 27, 2024, 7:50 AM IST / Chandra Bhushan in TOI Edit Page, Edit Page, India, TOI

With Delhi's air quality index (AQI) rising to 235 on Wednesday, its highest level since June 19, pollution season is here again. In what's ominous, air quality dipping to "poor" category in Sep is a first in six years. As citizens of the national capital brace for the dreaded winter haze, Delhi govt has unveiled a 21-point action plan to curb pollution.
The action plan includes drone-monitoring of hotspots, special task force, work-from-home policy, voluntary vehicular restrictions, and a green award. To combat severe air pollution, the odd-even vehicle rationing scheme and even artificial rain are proposed.

Last year, too, AAP govt had introduced a 15-point action plan, which was completely ineffective. In fact, the air pollution season of 2023-24 was one of the worst in recent memory, with an average AQI of 304, compared to 280 in 2022-23 and 278 in 2021-22.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

AQI: Adaptable, quick-acting ideas

October 26, 2024, 8.12 AM IST / Chandra Bhushan in TOI Edit Page, India, TOI

Chandra Bhushan
Oct 25, 2024, 20:04 IST IST

Tackle air pollution via effective measures like big subsidies on LPG, per-acre financial help for stubble management, incentives for small factories to switch to clean fuel

We know we're losing the battle against air pollution, yet we persist with the same corrective measures, hoping for different results. The Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) serves as a good example. GRAP

FINANCIAL EXPRESS
Read to Lead

Renewable Energy waiver no longer a boon

Investments in ISTS grid infrastructure dedicated to RE projects have surged over the past decade, as new transmission lines and substation capacities have been developed to transfer power from RE-rich states to low-RE states.

Written by Guest
October 17, 2024 04:30 IST

India has experimented with "price equalisation" policies in the past, often with negative consequences. (Image/Reuters)

By Chandra Bhushan

The inter-state transmission system (ISTS) charge and loss waivers for renewable energy (RE) between Indian states are set to be phased out by 2028. Initially introduced to support the RE sector, the waiver has been extended several times due to demands from developers and the industry. However, as the solar and wind energy markets have matured, it's crucial to reassess the merits and drawbacks of the policy, especially given renewed calls to continue the waiver beyond 2028.

NBT
नवभारत टाइम्स

Opinion: हवा साफ रखने के ये हैं 8 महामंत्र, एक आपके के लिए भी; वायु प्रदूषण का इलाज समझ लीजिए

Authored By: नवीन कुमार पाण्डेय | टाइम्स न्यूज नेटवर्क • 26 Oct 2024, 1:41 pm

Steps for Good AQI: दिल्ली-एनसीआर की वायु गुणवत्ता सुधारी जा सकती है, बशर्ते कुछ कदम उठाए जाएं। इनमें स्वच्छ खाना पकाने के ईंधन, सर्दियों में हीटिंग के लिए स्वच्छ ईंधन, पराली जलाने को रोकने, उद्योग ऊर्जा संक्रमण, इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों का उपयोग, हरा पट्टी विकास और नगरपालिका को सशक्त बनाना शामिल हैं।

हाइलाइट्स

- पर्यावरण एक्सपर्ट ने बताए वायु प्रदूषण रोकने के 8 प्रभावी उपाय
- पर्यावरणविद ने ग्रैप लागू करने की व्यवस्था को बताया निष्प्रभावी
- घरों से लेकर उद्योगों तक सालोभर हों हवा साफ रखने के उपाय

FINANCIAL EXPRESS
Read to Lead

US polls: Who is pro-climate?

Overall, the trajectory of US climate politics in the coming years – whether under Harris or Trump – will likely emphasise domestic oil and gas production alongside protectionist economic policies.

Written by Guest
October 29, 2024 04:00 IST

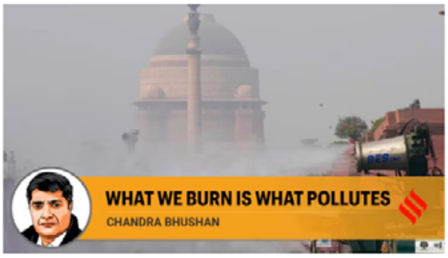
Just as the US struggles with the political and economic influence of fossil fuel-dependent states, democracies like India will face similar challenges once the discussion on phase-down begins. (Representational Image/Reuters)

These are anxious times for the climate community, watching with bated breath to see who will become the next US president. The last time Donald Trump held office, he withdrew from the Paris Agreement and stalled efforts to curb domestic emissions. But would Kamala Harris take a radically different approach from Trump on climate issues?

The Indian EXPRESS
JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

We knew what caused air pollution 25 years ago – but governments still won't act

Acknowledging the true impact and sources of our pollution crisis is the first step toward meaningful action



An anti-smog gun being used to spray water droplets to curb air pollution, at Raisina Hills in New Delhi. (PTI Photo/File)

A quarter-century ago, over 200 scientists from the US, Europe, the Maldives, and India came together to study the haze over the Indian Ocean. Led by atmospheric scientist V Ramanathan of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in California, the Indian Ocean Experiment (INDOEX) undertook intensive field observations using aircraft, ships, surface stations, and satellites. They discovered a giant brown layer of cloud hanging over much of the Indian Subcontinent and the Indian Ocean between October and February, which they termed the Indian Ocean Brown Cloud or Asian Brown Cloud. INDOEX revealed that this layer was primarily created by the burning of biomass in fields and homes, as well as fossil fuels like coal in industries, and that it traveled thousands of kilometres. The study also found that the haze significantly affected regional temperatures, precipitation patterns, and ground-level pollution, reducing agricultural productivity and causing widespread respiratory and cardiovascular diseases.

the quint

A Trillion-Dollar Dilemma: War Budgets vs Climate Funds

It was a grim reality check that the world prioritises fortifying borders over securing a liveable planet.

SRESTHA BANERJEE Follow Published: 26 Nov 2024, 3:05 PM IST OPINION

Are we prepared for the climate crisis staring us in the face?* The Quint wants to go big on telling the most important stories of our time. Support us to tell them. *Become a member now.

In an era defined by the twin existential crises of security and survival, two pledges stand as examples of human ambition and the competing narratives in 2024.

TOI+

The COP cop out that should surprise no one

Chandra Bhushan
Nov 26, 2024, 20:17 IST IST

Baku conference has shown up the glaring inadequacy of the international climate framework and the deep mistrust among nations. Bad news for the fight against climate change

NBT
नवभारत टाइम्स

बाकू में क्यों नहीं बन पाई बात, भारत ने लगाया हेरफेर का आरोप

November 27, 2024, 7:48 AM IST चंद्रभूषण in नजरबट्टू | अन्य

अजरबैजान के बाकू में हालिया संयुक्त राष्ट्र जलवायु सम्मेलन (COP 29) में जो जलवायु वित्तपोषण समझौता हुआ, उससे इतिहास की एक बड़ी प्रसिद्ध बात याद आती है। 1942 में महात्मा गांधी ने क्रिप्स मिशन की आलोचना करते हुए इसके प्रस्ताव को डूबते हुए किसी बैंक में आया 'एक आने का चेक' बताया था। दोनों बातों में बस एक फर्क है- महात्मा गांधी ने इस मिशन के प्रस्ताव को एक आने का चेक कहकर रिजेक्ट कर दिया था, जबकि आलोचना के बावजूद कॉप के वित्तपोषण समझौते को भारत सहित कई देशों ने अपना लिया है। यह मंजूरी बताती है कि जलवायु संकट दूर करने में संयुक्त राष्ट्र फ्रेमवर्क कन्वेंशन ऑन क्लाइमेट चेंज (UNFCCC) सहित बाकी दुनिया ने जो कोशिशें की हैं, वे बड़े लेवल पर फेल हो गई हैं।

NBT
नवभारत टाइम्स

पर्यावरण रक्षा में धर्म की क्या हो भूमिका

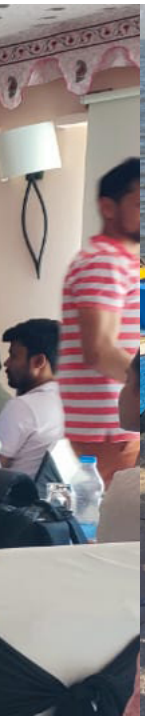
चंद्रभूषण

Annual Retreat

iFOREST held its Annual Planning Retreat in Sariska, Rajasthan, bringing the team together to reflect, set priorities, and chart the organisation's goals for the year ahead. Through focused discussions, five-year planning exercises, and collaborative group activities, the team aligned on strategies and came together to build a shared vision for iFOREST's work ahead.

The retreat also struck a balance between work and play, with team activities, boat rides, dance floors, and our annual cricket tournament, where taking a break from batting for the environment, iFOREST took to the field to hit some sixes for the home team in our annual cricket tournament.

Returning to Delhi NCR, we carried renewed energy and shared purpose into another year of advancing our environmental mission.



Videos & Podcasts

iFOREST launched its first-ever podcast COgreen, where the team dives into the science, technology, politics and economics of local and global climate change. Using research, data and storytelling, COgreen aims to bridge global narratives with local issues, keeping a finger on the pulse of how India navigates its most pressing environment challenges. Through wholesome conversations with experts at iFOREST and beyond, COgreen unpacks subjects such as air pollution in the Indian countryside, heating and cooling challenges around the world over, energy transitions, decarbonising technologies, climate negotiations and more. In this financial year we recorded three episodes.

CoGreen Episode 1: What we burn is what pollutes

In the inaugural episode of iFOREST's podcast 'COgreen', President and CEO Dr. Chandra Bhushan engaged in a vital conversation with Communications Lead Shriya Mohan about the deteriorating air quality in Delhi and other cities. The discussion uncovered the major contributors to pollution, revealing that nearly 50% of Delhi NCR's PM2.5 pollution originates from cooking and heating with biomass, disproportionately affecting low-income populations. Industries and thermal power plants contribute about 30%, while vehicles account for less than 10% of pollution. Highlighting the urgent need for inclusive mitigation strategies, the conversation also draws lessons from successful policies in China and other countries, emphasising the importance of viewing pollution control as a pro-poor agenda with sustainable solutions.

Co Green Episode 2: COP29 and the future of UNFCCC

COP29 marked a major advancement by agreeing to triple climate finance support for developing countries to $300 billion annually by 2035, addressing significant gaps in global climate action. In this context, iFOREST CEO Chandra Bhushan discusses the significance of it with Programme Directors Srestha Banerjee and Mandvi Singh. This episode of CO Green emphasises the limited outcomes of COP29, reflecting

ongoing geopolitical tensions, financial shortfalls, the future of UNFCCC, its diminished power in mobilising consensus and the resulting challenges in meeting ambitious climate goals.

Co Green Episode 3: Stubble burning subterfuge ft. Dr. Hiren Jethva

Stubble burning in India remains a severe environmental crisis, driving hazardous air pollution across vast regions and worsening health impacts in major cities.

In the Episode 3 of COgreen Podcast series iFOREST CEO Dr. Chandra Bhushan engages in an critical conversation with Dr. Hiren Jethva, Senior Research Scientist at NASA Goddard, reveals how farmers have shifted the timing of stubble burning in India to evade satellite detection, contributing to severe air pollution extending as far as Chennai and beyond. Despite governmental claims of reduced stubble burning, satellite data indicates that this harmful practice continues, posing a significant national air quality crisis that demands improved monitoring methods with higher-resolution satellite technology to enable effective action against pollution.

Governing Council

Raghunath Anant Mashelkar

National Research Professor, Former Director-General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research

Pradeep Dutt

Leadership & Executive Coach

Anjali

Senior Lawyer

Chandra Bhushan

President & CEO
iFOREST

Anil Kumar Roy

Associate Professor
Faculty of Planning
CEPT University

iFOREST

INTERNATIONAL
FORUM
FOR ENVIRONMENT,
SUSTAINABILITY
& TECHNOLOGY

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