

Press Release

iFOREST Hosts Northeast India Clean Energy Conclave to Accelerate Renewable Growth in the Region

- Northeast holds ~130 GW renewable energy potential, yet only ~2.3 GW is currently planned for deployment — signalling a major untapped investment opportunity.
- Electricity demand in the region is projected to rise by over 40% by 2031–32, requiring a diversified, storage-integrated and reliability-focused power system.
- From hydro backbone to diversified architecture — land efficient solar (rooftop, floating, agri), storage (BESS & PSP), biomass and hydro to drive the next phase of growth.
- Conclave created a structured platform for dialogues to align policy, finance, grid planning and private investment for accelerated clean energy deployment in the region.

Guwahati | 26 February 2026

The Northeast India Clean Energy Conclave 2026 was convened today by the International Forum for Environment, Sustainability and Technology (iFOREST) at NEDFi House, Guwahati, bringing together senior government leaders, regulators, industry representatives, financial institutions, and technology providers to help chart a structured roadmap for renewable energy scale-up across the Northeastern states.

Organised as a dedicated regional knowledge and investment platform, the Conclave focused on unlocking the region's estimated 130 GW renewable energy potential. With nearly 9% of India's waterbodies and significant hydro and solar resources, the Northeast is uniquely positioned to anchor India's next phase of clean energy expansion. However, installed renewable capacity remains limited, underscoring a substantial opportunities for developers, financiers, and technology providers.

Presenting the Northeast's Clean Energy Growth Opportunity, Ms Mandvi Singh, Programme Director, iFOREST, said "The Northeast stands at a pivotal moment in India's clean energy transition. With strong hydro and solar resources and rising demand, it can play a significant role in the country's next phase of renewable growth. The priority now is to convert identified opportunities into bankable projects through policy clarity, offtake certainty, and integrated storage and transmission planning."

Shri Arup Misra, Chairman Assam Pollution Control board said," Renewable energy is not trying to push fossil fuel out. It is trying to integrate a more variable, reliable and flexible energy delivery system.

The Conclave was inaugurated by Shri Jadav Saikia, IAS, Secretary (Power), Government of Assam, who emphasised "Currently, Assam has notified it's solar, PSP and thermal power generation policy in 2025 so that future clean energy transition becomes smooth and easy. Currently, 3 PSP projects are in progress of capacities more than 3000 MW capacity. Also Assam is successful in implementing PM Suryaghar Muft Bijli Yojna with more than 91000 rooftops already targeted. It makes Assam 1st in NE and 10th in Iindia. New PV projects with more than 200 MW are in pipeline. Simultaneously, in the distribution sector ,current T&C losses have reduced to 14% as of 2023-2024. Assured power supply is an achievement and achieving it with higher efficiency is a special thing altogether"

In his Special Guest address Shri Kumar Sanjay Krishna, IAS(Retd) said ' In COP they attempted to triple the climate funding to 300 billion dollars. But seeing the international situation now that is not going to happen. They have their own problems like wars, inflation and debt. So it is very important that organisations like iFOREST generate domestic interest for investing in renewable energy.

A Region at an Inflection Point

The Northeast is projected to witness a steady rise in electricity demand—from 24,417 MU in 2025–26 to 34,572 MU in 2031–32, with peak demand expected to increase from 4,996 MW to 7,192 MW. Meeting this demand reliably will require not only additional capacity but a diversified, flexibility-oriented power system.

The region's renewable energy potential is dominated by hydro resources in Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, and Meghalaya, complemented by expanding solar opportunities across Assam, Tripura, Manipur, Nagaland, and Mizoram. Solar deployment, though nascent, is gaining traction with supportive state policies and pilot initiatives, including battery energy storage and floating solar projects.

With industrial expansion underway through initiatives like Advantage Assam 2.0, the region's growing commercial and industrial demand presents a strong opportunity for innovative renewable procurement models, including demand aggregation for MSMEs.

From Hydro Backbone to Diversified Architecture

A key theme of the Conclave was the transition from a hydro-centric system to a diversified renewable architecture integrating:

- Rooftop and distributed solar
- Floating solar and reservoir-based systems
- Pumped storage and battery energy storage systems (BESS)
- Biomass and waste-to-energy
- Modernised small and run-of-river hydro
- Smart distribution and grid-readiness solutions

Technical sessions addressed heightened Renewable Consumption Obligation (RCO) compliance, storage integration, transmission planning, payment security, and innovative financing models. Dedicated plenaries and parallel sessions examined rooftop solar acceleration, biomass and waste-to-energy, hydro modernisation, floating solar, grid readiness, and project financing.

Building an Implementation-Focused Platform

The Conclave was designed to address a critical implementation gap: while resource potential is substantial, coordinated action across policy, regulation, finance, and infrastructure remains fragmented. The platform sought to:

- Align RCO targets with project pipelines
- Strengthen transmission and storage integration planning

- Enhance offtake certainty and payment security mechanisms
- Promote distributed renewable models for remote and hilly terrains
- Facilitate partnerships to accelerate project execution

A Strategic Clean Energy Growth Corridor

The Northeast Renewable Energy Conclave 2026 marks a decisive step toward positioning the region as India's frontier clean energy growth corridor. With abundant hydro and solar resources, rising demand, emerging storage integration, and increasing policy momentum, the Northeast stands poised to become a strategic engine of India's next phase of renewable expansion—powering regional growth through green, reliable, and affordable energy.

About iFOREST

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