

PRESS RELEASE

India's Green Economy Could Support 1.3 Crore Jobs by 2035; iFOREST Calls for National Green Jobs and Skilling Mission

Bridging education and skilling will be crucial to turning India's youth dividend into an opportunity for the green economy

New Delhi, 7 October 2026: India's green economy could support 98.5 lakh jobs by 2030 and nearly 1.3 crore by 2035. A new report by the International Forum for Environment, Sustainability and Technology (iFOREST) calls for a National Green Jobs and Skilling Mission to prepare India's education and skilling systems for this growing opportunity.

The report, *India's Green Jobs Moment: Pathways to Build a Future-Ready Workforce*, was released today at a national conference at the India International Centre, New Delhi. The conference was organised by iFOREST in collaboration with the Skill Council for Green Jobs (SCGJ).

The event brought together representatives from the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, NITI Aayog, industry and leading research organisations to discuss jobs, skilling and entrepreneurship in India's emerging green economy.

Key findings and recommendations

- **India's green economy could support 1.3 crore jobs by 2035**, including 98.5 lakh by 2030, across renewable energy, green hydrogen, electric mobility, circular economy and nature-based solutions.
- **Environment sectors can be major employment generators**, with nature-based solutions such as agroforestry, forest restoration and mangrove restoration alone offering about **41.5 lakh jobs**, alongside opportunities in waste management, circular economy and pollution management.
- **India's youth, 27% of the country's population, can be a major opportunity for the green economy**, but only 5.3% have technical education and 5% have formal vocational training. Stronger links between education, skills and jobs will be key.
- **Existing skills can be leveraged for emerging opportunities**, with about 89% of assessed coal-mining roles highly transferable to metal mining, and 90% of automobile roles and 71% of thermal power roles having high or medium transferability.
- **A coordinated national-state policy approach is needed, with iFOREST proposing a National Green Jobs and Skilling Mission**, along with State Missions, to scale targeted green skilling to meet the employment demand. The Mission can be launched under the National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, 2015.

Speaking at the launch, Dr. Shamika Ravi, Member, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, said, "Today, the biggest constraint to the growth of every business is finding skilled manpower. We have degrees, but we don't have skills, and the market is now saying it will reward only skill. Labour markets are state markets, and reports like this are extremely important for governments to design and implement highly localised policies based on economic intelligence. That is what this report has created for the government. But we must also guard against the tyranny of metrics. Targets will be met, but at what cost? Skilling is not an end in itself; job creation is the outcome we must keep in sight."

Releasing the report, Dr. Chandra Bhushan, President and CEO, iFOREST, said, "India has the institutions, the policy momentum and the demographic advantage to build a trained, future-ready green workforce at scale. The priority now is to connect these capabilities to emerging demand. This report sets out how to do this across India's states and industries."

"The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship is in the process of finalising the revision of the National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. The next policy shall certainly integrate green jobs and skills, as this is an important consideration. The Ministry shall also focus on strengthening delivery mechanisms. PM-SETU is an important mechanism for modernised skilling, including training that can support high-tech jobs in green sectors." said Shri Niranjana Kumar Sudhansu, IAS, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

Bridging education, skilling and employment

India's demographic profile provides a significant opportunity for the emerging green economy. More than one in four Indians is aged 15–29. The scale of potential green jobs creates an opportunity to connect this young population with new areas of economic activity.

But this will require stronger links between education, skilling and employment. The report recommends pathways that begin in schools and continue through technical and vocational education, higher education, apprenticeships and workplace learning.

The National Education Policy 2020 provides an important foundation. iFOREST recommends project-based learning on clean energy, waste, water and climate resilience in schools. It also calls for stronger career awareness around emerging occupations and greater focus on green sectors in vocational education.

The report also recommends a shift towards longer-duration and higher-value training. Around 43% of formal training courses are currently less than six months long, while many emerging occupations will require deeper technical and practical capabilities.

A National Green Jobs and Skilling Mission

The proposed Mission would provide a common policy architecture for green jobs and skilling. It would bring together occupational identification, qualification development, curricula, training, apprenticeships, recognition of prior learning, industry participation and employment outcomes.

A National Green Jobs and Skills Taxonomy would help identify where new qualifications are needed and where existing occupations can be upgraded. It would cover three broad categories: new green occupations requiring new qualifications; existing occupations requiring enhanced green competencies; and occupations in growing demand requiring expanded training and apprenticeship pathways.

At the state level, Green Jobs and Skilling Missions could align national priorities with state economic opportunities. At the district level, Green Jobs and Skilling Cells could identify local demand and connect training providers with employers.

The report also highlights the importance of skills mapping and recognition of prior learning. These can help workers move into related and emerging occupations as industries evolve.

Together, these measures can help India build the skills needed for its emerging green economy and create stronger pathways from education and training to employment.

The report notes that this approach can support Viksit Bharat@2047 and India's net-zero goal for 2070, while helping turn India's demographic advantage into a major opportunity for participation in the green economy.

About iFOREST

The International Forum for Environment, Sustainability & Technology (iFOREST) is an independent non-profit environmental research and innovation organisation working to develop and scale solutions to critical environment–development challenges.

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