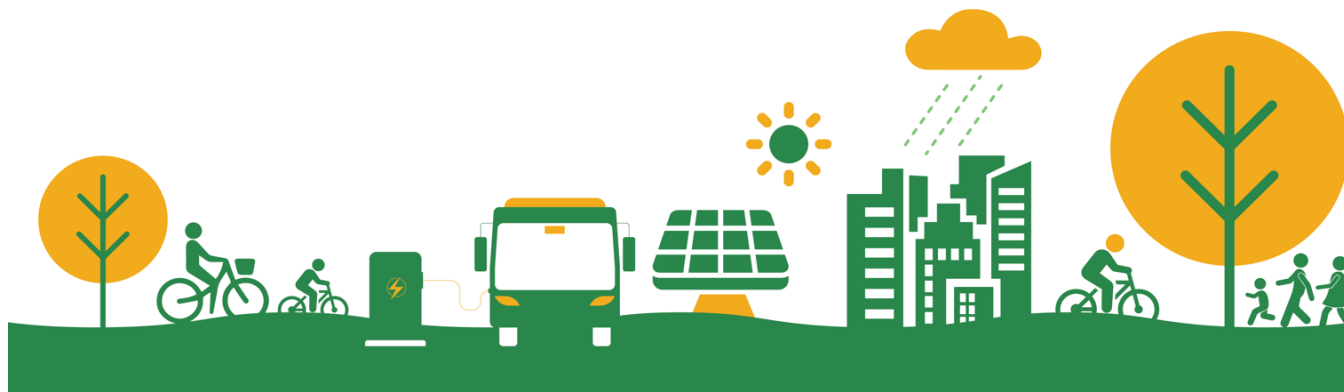


CONNECT KARO AGENDA 2024


11 - 12 September, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi



September 11 | Wednesday

9.00 am – 9.45 am	Registration	Silver Oak Lobby and Stein Foyer
9.45 am – 11.00 am	<p>Plenary 1 Pathways to Low-Carbon Equitable Development in India </p> <p><i>India is on the brink of major economic growth in the coming decades, with large investments being made in energy, transportation, and urban infrastructure sectors. As this transformation unfolds against the backdrop of global climate change and increased extreme weather events, this session will discuss strategies for achieving sustainable, resilient, and inclusive growth for everyone.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> BVR Subrahmanyam, CEO, NITI Aayog Uma Mahadevan Dasgupta, Additional Chief Secretary & Development Commissioner, Government of Karnataka Shashishekhar Pandit, Co-founder; Chairman & Group CEO - KPIT Technologies Ltd and Trustee, WRI India Dr. Lise Breuil, Country Director, AFD Madhav Pai, CEO, WRI India Ulka Kelkar, Executive Program Director, Climate, Economics and Finance, WRI India</p>	Stein Auditorium
11.15 am – 12.30 pm	<p>Reimagining Bus Transport with Digital Public Infrastructure </p> <p><i>This session will explore how technology and Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) can accelerate e-bus deployment in India. It will discuss leveraging DPI for shared mobility and clean transportation, and how it empowers stakeholders to drive innovation in the e-bus sector, leading to faster adoption and improved public health and environmental outcomes.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Dr Laxminaryan Mishra, IAS, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways* Bertram D'Souza, Chief Product & Innovation Officer, Protean Nitin Nair, Senior VP, Open Network for Digital Commerce Vivek Ogra, Partner, Transport Consulting Leader, EY Twesh Mishra, Special Correspondent, The Economic Times Rathish Balakrishnan, Co-Founder and Managing Partner, Sattva Consulting Urmila Chatterjee, Research Director, EPIC India</p>	Stein Auditorium
	<p>Financing DRE-Powered Livelihood Interventions for Inclusive and Equitable Rural Development</p> <p><i>This session will highlight the challenges and opportunities in financing Decentralized Renewable Energy (DRE) for agricultural livelihoods in India. It will present preliminary findings from a recent study by WRI India's Energy Program and feature a panel discussion</i></p>	Silver Oak 2



	<p>with experts, including policymakers, financial institutions, and DRE enterprises, to explore solutions for affordable and inclusive financing.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Kanika Verma, Lead, Green and Inclusive Entrepreneurship, Development Alternatives Vivekanandhan T, Lead, ESG & Sustainable Finance, Sammunati Surabhi Rajagopal, Senior Program Manager, SELCO Foundation Pamli Deka, Regional Coordinator, South Asia, Private Financing Advisory Network Sukanta Kumar Sahoo, Deputy General Manager, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Praviin B Kumaar, Regional Representative South Asia, Gogla Harsha Meenawat, Program Head - Energy and Development, WRI India</p>	
	<p>Pathways to Scale Nurturing Neighbourhoods</p> <p><i>The session will explore the National-level Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge, which has helped 10 Indian cities redesign neighbourhoods with a focus on young children and caregivers. It will feature a fireside chat with city leaders sharing their experiences and strategies, followed by an interactive session for participants to develop scalable and sustainable strategies for child and caregiver-centric urban development.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Sanjay Gupta, Director, Smart Cities Mission, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs Shivam Verma, IAS, Municipal Commissioner, Indore Preeti Yadav, IAS, Municipal Commissioner, Jabalpur Sambhav Ayachi, Deputy Commissioner, Jabalpur Municipal Corporation Aswathy Vinod, Dy. General Manager (Civil), Cochin Smart Mission Limited Jyotsna Kisan, Secretary, Ruputola Slum Dwellers Association, Rourkela Prakash Paul, Principal Consultant India, Van Leer Foundation Sree Kumar Kumaraswamy, Program Director, Transport, Sustainable Cities and Transport, WRI India</p>	Jacaranda 1
	<p>Accelerating Adaptation and Resilience Finance in Indian Cities</p> <p><i>This session will address the urgent need for investment in climate adaptation and resilient infrastructure in Indian cities, which face extreme weather and significant risks. It will focus on innovative financing solutions, such as green bonds and public-private partnerships, and explore strategies to overcome constraints and attract capital for these critical projects.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, IAS (R), Chief Advisor, NIUA Varad Pande, Partner & Director, Boston Consulting Group (BCG) Smita Rakesh, Vice President, Social Alpha Tushar Thakkar, Partner, The Blended Finance Company Yeshika Malik, Climate Change Specialist, The World Bank Neha Khanna, Senior Manager, Climate Policy Initiative Amitesh Ahir, Vice President, K M Dastur Reinsurance Brokers Pvt. Ltd* Rogier van den Berg, Global Director, WRI Ross Center for Sustainable Cities Shreyansh Chandak, Associate, Investments, Omidyar Network India (Moderator) Lubaina Rangwala, Program Head, WRI India (Moderator)</p>	Jacaranda 2
12.30 pm – 1.30 pm	Lunch Break	
1.30 pm – 3.00 pm	<p>Plenary 2 Transforming India's Cities - Inclusive, Resilient and Low Carbon Pathways for a Diverse and Differentiated Urbanization </p> <p><i>The session will examine India's diverse urbanization patterns, from megacities to small towns, highlighting inefficiencies and the need for tailored policies. It will explore the unique challenges and opportunities for each city tier and offer insights for sustainable and inclusive growth, supporting India's goal to become a USD 10 trillion economy by 2030.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Katikithala Srinivas, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs Dr. Sameer Sharma, IAS, Ex-Chief Secretary, Andhra Pradesh Mridula Ramesh, Founder, Sundaram Climate Institute Dr. Poornima Dore, Economist, XLRI Jamshedpur Rogier van den Berg, Global Director, WRI Ross Center for Sustainable Cities Madhav Pai, CEO, WRI India Jaya Dhindaw, Executive Program Director, Sustainable Cities, WRI India (Moderator)</p>	Stein Auditorium

3.15 pm – 4.30 pm	<p>Roundtable Session on Building Thriving Eco City-regions</p> <p><i>The session will focus on the challenges of urban expansion in India and its impact on natural systems. Highlighting WRI India's work with six city-regions to develop 'Thriving Eco City-Regions,' the discussion will emphasize integrated spatial planning for climate resilience. The session will feature a roundtable with stakeholders from these regions and launch the dedicated ECR forum and microsite, designed for knowledge sharing and collaborative efforts in creating ecologically and economically resilient city-regions.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Mandeep Kaur, IAS, Commissioner Secretary to Government, Housing and Urban Development Dept, Government of Jammu and Kashmir Akash Deep, IAS, Principal Secretary, Bodoland Territorial Council Sudha Ramen, IFS, Member Secretary, State Planning Commission, Government of Tamil Nadu Rogier van den Berg, Global Director, WRI Ross Center for Sustainable Cities Dr. Poornima Dore, Visiting Professor, XLRI Jamshedpur Prof. Saswat Bandopadhyay, Professor-Faculty of Planning, CEPT University Sanjay Sridhar, Specialist in Cities, Climate, Governance Archana Tripathi, CEO, Saahas Sandeep Paul, Sr. Urban Designer and Co-founder, The Urban Lab Pooja Tendulkar, Co-founder, Lemnion Green Solutions Pvt Ltd Surabhi Rajagopal, Senior Program Manager, SELCO Mathew Idiculla, Visiting Faculty, Azim Premji University Kirat Brahma, Co-Founder and CEO, Zankhla Design Studio Dr. Nambi Appadurai, Director - Climate Resilience Practice, WRI India Dr. Ruchika Singh, Executive Program Director - Food Land and Water, WRI India Harsha Meenawat, Program Head - Energy and Development, WRI India Rejeet Mathews, Program Director- Integrated Urban Development, WRI India (Moderator)</p> <p><i>Special Invitees:</i> Mohammad Rafi (JKAS), Vice Chairman, Srinagar Development Authority Pankaj Kumar Sharma (JKAS), Vice Chairman, Jammu Development Authority S. Govindaraju, Planning Officer, State Planning Commission, Govt of Tamil Nadu J. Durgadevi, Technical Assistant, State Planning Commission, Govt of Tamil Nadu Vivek Venkatramani, Program Head- Climate Resilience Practice, WRI India</p>	Silver Oak 1
	<p>Enabling Implementation of Integrated Space Cooling Actions at the Subnational Level</p> <p><i>The panel will discuss the challenges of heat stress in India and explore sustainable space cooling initiatives at the state and local levels. It will focus on the implementation of the India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP), examining key enablers: policy, data, technology, and finance.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Dr. Sekhar Kuriakose, Member Secretary, Kerala State Disaster Management Authority Rizwan Uz Zaman, Senior Technical Consultant, ACCMS, Dept of Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Govt of Assam Indu Gujral, Chief Architect, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Mukesh Dadhich, Head - Business Development, Sustainability and Clean Technology, BSES Yamuna Power Ltd. Aarti Nain, Advisor for Urban Cooling and Heat Risk Mitigation, United Nations Environment Programme U G Sujatha, Vice President - Global Partnerships & Net Zero, Invest India Neha Dhingra, Senior Manager, CLASP Archa Modi, Manager, Strategy & Partnerships, Tabreed India Sumedha Malaviya, Program Head – Building decarbonization, Energy, WRI India Dhilon Subramanian, Manager, Energy Program, WRI India</p>	Silver Oak 2
	<p>Transitioning towards Water Sensitive Indian Cities</p> <p><i>The session will explore the challenges of WASH and water resource management in Indian cities, exacerbated by climate change impacts like droughts and flooding. It will highlight the Water Sensitive City concept from CRC Australia, which emphasizes cities as water catchments, ecosystem service providers, and water-sensitive communities. Focus will be on the AIWASI CDP project in Delhi, showcasing its tools and approaches in advancing the city's transition towards becoming a Water Sensitive City.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, Chief Advisor, NIUA</p>	Jacaranda 1

	<p>Emily Megow, First Secretary (Development), Australian High Commission Kirtiman Awasthi, Senior Advisor, GIZ Nitin Bassi, Senior Program Lead, CEEW Dr. Fawzia Tarranum, Independent Water and Sustainability Consultant Neha Mungekar, Advisor and Researcher, DRIFT For Transitions</p>	
	<p>Sectoral Decarbonization Pathways for Achieving India's Long-Term Climate Targets 📄</p> <p><i>The session will present WRI India's sectoral analysis using the India Energy Policy Simulator (India EPS) to explore pathways for decarbonizing the power and transport sectors. Key findings will be shared, and working papers will be officially launched. An expert panel from government, industry, academia, and civil society will discuss insights and address open questions.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Dr. Alexander Fisher, Project Director Climate Action Program for IKI Interface, GIZ India Dr. Anjana Das, Senior Energy Advisor, Integrated Research and Action for Development Dr. Kaveri K. Iychettira, Assistant Professor, IIT Delhi Sivaram Krishnamoorthy, Deputy Director Industry, SED Fund Dr. Laghu Parashar, Senior Transport Specialist, The World Bank Apoorva R, Manager - Climate, Economics and Finance, WRI India</p>	Jacaranda 2
3.15 pm – 6 pm	<p>Catalyzing Actions Towards Streets and Public Spaces for Thriving Neighbourhoods for All</p> <p><i>The session will address the gaps in urban design that impact daily experiences, particularly for diverse age groups and caregivers. It aims to spark a national discussion on improving streets and public spaces through effective collaboration.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Shivam Verma, IAS, Municipal Commissioner, Indore Municipal Corporation</p> <p>Preeti Gehlot, IAS, Special Commissioner, FECC Wing, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Shahzad Alam, IAS, Special Commissioner, Transport Department, Govt. of NCT of Delhi Dr. Debolina Kundu, Director, NIUA Jeenal Sawla, Principal Advisor, DAMU, Smart Cities Mission, MoHUA Prakash Paul, Principal Consultant India, Van Leer Foundation Dr. Geetam Tiwari, Emeritus Professor, TRIP Center, IIT Delhi Dr. Ajith Kaliyath, Urban Chair Professor, Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) Pranjali Deshpande, Independent Consultant, Asian Development Bank & The World Bank Jyotsna Kisan, Secretary, Ruputola Slum Dwellers Association, Rourkela Pranjal Kulkarni, Program Manager - Healthy Streets & Compact Cities, ITDP Neeruja Gupta, Assistant Program Manager, Safetipin Jaya Srinivasan, In-Country Advisor, HCA-II, Ecorys Sarika Panda Bhatt, Director Nagarro, Co-founder and Trustee, Raahgiri Foundation Akash Hingorani, Principal, Oasis Design Inc. Udit Agarwal, Program Manager, India Global Designing Cities Initiative Ruchi Varma, CEO & founder, HumanQind Bhumika Modh, Manager, Policy Research and Coordination, The Association of People with Disability (APD, India) Dr. Sudeshna Chatterjee, Program Director, Sustainable Cities & Transport, WRI India</p>	Juniper
4.45 pm – 6 pm	<p>Plenary 3 Managing at the Frontlines of Urbanisation – Perspectives from the States</p> <p><i>This session will bring together senior government officials from various Indian states to share their insights, experiences, and strategies to leverage the opportunities of rapid urbanisation as well as navigate its compounding challenges. States and their city governments are at the forefront of managing growing demands for infrastructure, basic services, and natural resources, set in the backdrop of climate change, growing inequality, global uncertainties, and the need for institutional strengthening.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> D Thara, IAS, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India Mandeep Kaur, IAS, Commissioner Secretary to Government, Housing and Urban Development Dept, Govt of J&K Akash Deep, IAS, Principal Secretary, Bodoland Territorial Council Sudha Ramen, IAS, Member Secretary, State Planning Commission, Govt of Tamil Nadu Madhav Pai, CEO, WRI India Rejeet Mathews, Program Director- Integrated Urban Development, WRI India (Moderator)</p>	Stein Auditorium




	<p>From Plan to Action: Learnings from the Climate Action Journey of Indian Cities</p> <p><i>This session will explore how WRI India has assisted Mumbai, Bengaluru, Nashik, Solapur, and Aurangabad in developing climate action plans (CAPs). It will highlight their journey from planning to action, including project implementation, climate budgeting, and building local ecosystems. The session will also discuss how these experiences are being scaled to 43 cities in Maharashtra, emphasizing institutionalization and community engagement.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Preeti Gehlot, IAS, Special Commissioner, Forest, Environment and Climate Change and Chairperson, Bengaluru Climate Action Cell, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Preeti Yadav, IAS, Municipal Commissioner, Jabalpur Municipal Corporation K J Praveen Kumar, IAS, Regional Deputy Commissioner, Greater Chennai Corporation Sunil Sardar, Officer on Special Duty - Environment & Climate Change Department, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation Vrinda Kapur, Program Manager- Asia, Porticus Rogier van den Berg, Global Director, WRI Ross Centre for Sustainable Cities Shrimoyee Bhattacharya, Program Head, WRI India (Moderator)</p>	Jacaranda 1
	<p>Future-Proofing India's Workforce: Green Skilling for a Just and Inclusive Low-Carbon Transition</p> <p><i>This session will gather stakeholders to discuss green skilling essential for India's climate and development goals. The panel will address current skilling challenges, explore necessary innovations for a low-carbon future, and consider how to prepare the workforce for an inclusive and just transition</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Dr Arun Panda I.A.S., Former Secretary, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, and Senior Fellow, WRI India Dr Jignasa Oza, Regional Officer, Surat, Gujarat Pollution Control Board Arpit Sharma, CEO, Skill Council for Green Jobs Dharmesh Kachiwala, Director, J.P. Kachiwala Textiles Pvt. Ltd Dr Swati Mujumdar, Pro-Chancellor, Symbiosis Skills and Professional University Aditi Jha, Director and Country Head, Legal & Public Policy, LinkedIn Ulka Kelkar, Executive Director, Climate, Economics and Finance, WRI India Ashwini Hingne, Associate Program Director, Climate, Economics and Finance, WRI India Priyal Shah, Program Manager, Climate, Economics and Finance, WRI India</p>	Jacaranda 2
	<p>Industrial Decarbonization and Just Transitions</p> <p><i>The session will address strategies to reduce emissions from India's industrial sector, which accounts for nearly 30% of total emissions. It will focus on decarbonizing heavy industries and MSMEs and ensuring a 'just transition' for affected workers. Key topics include practical approaches, policy implications, and the role of governments in facilitating this transition.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> A K Rastogi, Chairman, Task Force on Sustainable Just Transition & Green Hydrogen, Government of Jharkhand N. Muthusezhiyan, Deputy Executive Director, CII - Sohrabji Godrej Green Business Centre Sanjeev Sharma, Vice President, ACME Group Abhishek Acharya, Director, Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change Rajiv Kumar, General Manager, SIDBI Prosanto Pal, Associate Director and Senior Fellow, TERI Sakshi Balani, India Director, Climate Catalyst Kinsuk Shuckla, Senior Manager-Energy Transitions, Climate Group Deepak Sriram Krishnan, Deputy Director, Energy Program, WRI India</p>	Silver Oak 2

Publication Launch

September 12 | Thursday


TIME	SESSIONS	HALL
9.30 am – 10.00 am	Registration	Silver Oak



10.00 am – 11.00 am	<p>Plenary 4 Enabling Sustainable and Resilient Food and Land Systems in India</p> <p><i>This high-level plenary session on "Enabling Sustainable and Resilient Food and Land Systems in India" will focus on key strategies to drive India's transition to sustainable food and land use systems. The session will feature a keynote address and a panel discussion with experts from government, philanthropic organizations, and other key sectors.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Padma Shri Reema Nanavaty, Director, SEWA Faiz Ahmed Kidwai, IAS, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and CEO, National Rainfed Area Authority Prittee Chaudhary, Regional Director, FSSAI Takayuki Hagiwara, Representative in India, Food and Agriculture Organization Dr. Chandrashekhar Biradar, Chairman and Managing Director, Global Green Growth Co. Dr. Ruchika Singh, Executive Program Director, Food, Land and Water, WRI India</p>	Silver Oak
11.15 am – 12.30 pm	<p>Electrifying Urban Buses: Deep Dive into Electric Bus Planning and Optimization</p> <p></p> <p><i>This session introduces the Electric Bus Planning and Optimization Tool, designed to streamline e-bus deployment and maximize fleet efficiency. The session will also see the launch of the working paper 'Assessing Financing Challenges for Implementing the Large-scale Electric Bus Program in India'.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Dr. Rajendrakumar M Patel, IAS, Managing Director, Surat Sitalink* Shalini Agarwal, IAS, Municipal Commissioner, Surat Municipal Corporation* Shilpa Shinde, IAS, Managing Director, Delhi Transport Corporation* Dr. T Surya Kiran, Executive Director, The Association of State Road Transport Undertakings* Samir Sharma, Multi Modal Transport Expert, National Capital Region Transport Corporation Daniel Moser, India Programme Director, GIZ India Amegh Gopinath, Lead - Electric Mobility, GIZ India* Cristina Albuquerque, Director of Global Electric Mobility, WRI Ross Center for Sustainable Cities Pawan Mulukutla, Executive Director, Integrated Transport, Clean Air & Hydrogen, WRI India Avinash Dubedi, Program Head, Integrated Transport, WRI India</p>	Gulmohar
	<p>Locally-led NbS Interventions for Riverine Ecosystems</p> <p><i>This session explores alternative approaches to urban river restoration that balance habitation, real estate, ecological restoration, and climate impacts. It will highlight locally led adaptation efforts and nature-based solutions in ecologically sensitive river projects, addressing both opportunities and challenges.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Rajeev Ranjan Mishra, Chief Advisor, NIUA Dr. Amit Dubey, Head, Wetlands, WWF India Bijal Brambhhatt, Executive Director, Mahila Housing Trust* Shomita Bhattacharya, Program Manager, EcoSattva/CARPE Dr. Hemant Bherwani, Senior Scientist, NEERI</p>	Silver Oak
	<p>Launch of India Alliance for Clean Construction</p> <p><i>This session will launch the IACC, which aims to steer and champion frameworks that can enable the transition of the construction sector to clean-air-oriented practices where controlling emissions and dust is at the centre of planning and execution.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Ashish Tiwari, IFS, Secretary, Dept of Environment, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh Dr. Prashant Gargava, Director - NCAP, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Sanjay Kumar Varshney, Executive Director cum COO, Signature Global Mili Majumdar, Managing Director, GBCI India and Senior Vice President – Research and Innovation, USGBC Anupam Mittal, Principal Architect & Director, Arinem Consultancy Services Pvt. Ltd; Co-Chair, ASSOCHAM State Development Council, Uttar Pradesh; and Chairman, ASSOCHAM GEM Uttar Pradesh Keval Valambhia, Chief Operating Officer, CREDAI - MCHI Jignesh Patel, Vice President, CREDAI, Gujarat President, CREDAI Surat and Invitee Member, CREDAI Gujarat Dr. Sunita Purushottam, Head of Sustainability, Mahindra Lifespace Developers Ltd. and Chairperson of the Board, Global Buildings Performance Network (GBPN) Rogier van den Berg, Global Director, WRI Ross Centre for Sustainable Cities</p>	Jacaranda 1



	Madhav Pai , CEO, WRI India Pawan Mulukutla , Executive Director, Integrated Transport, Clean Air & Hydrogen, WRI India Sree Kumar Kumaraswamy , Director, Air Quality Action, Sustainable Cities and Transport, WRI India	
	Solution Room: Enhancing Women's Workforce Participation in Greener MSME Jobs <i>This interactive session explores how to empower women in India's MSME sector to lead the transition to cleaner operations. With only 24% of MSME employees being women and limited resources to harness this potential, stakeholders will discuss overcoming challenges and leveraging green job opportunities to boost women's workforce participation.</i> <i>Speakers:</i> Mandvi Kulshreshtha , Senior Program Adviser, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, India office Mandira Kalra Kalaan , Head of Office & Senior Campaign Director, Purpose Sonal Shukla , Co-Founder, econscious® Anita Sharma , TVET expert, Independent Consultant Mamta Devi , Co-Founder, Didi ki Papad Bharti Birla , Enterprise Development Specialist, International Labour Organization Kamal Saxena , Manager, Strategy and Operations, Skill Council for Green Jobs Harpreet Bhullar , Associate Director, Impact Measuring and Learning, Purpose (Moderator)	Jacaranda 2
	Bridging the Gap – Data for Cool Cities <i>This session explores diverse urban heat adaptation strategies, highlighting how data is leveraged to assess risks, plan, and monitor measures. Expert panelists will discuss unique challenges, innovative solutions, and the importance of critical data and local insights in shaping resilient strategies.</i> <i>Speakers:</i> Dr. Devendra Kumar Shukla , Chairman, Bihar State Pollution Control Board Sambhav Ayachi , Deputy Commissioner, Jabalpur Municipal Corporation Rajeswari Namagiri Gorana , Consultant, Mahila Housing Trust Dr. Vinod Bothale , Resident Expert, IN-SPaCe (NRSC, ISRO) Dr. Richa Sharma , Fellow, TERI Dr. Pawan Kumar Joshi , Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University Bhargav Krishna , Fellow and Coordinator, Sustainable Futures Collaborative Dr. Rajashree Kotharkar , Professor, VNIT Nagpur Jaya Dhindaw , Executive Program Director, Sustainable Cities and Director, WRI India Ross Center Bina Shetty , Program Head, GeoAnalytics, WRI India (Moderator)	Magnolia
	Strengthening Food Systems by Reducing Food Loss in India 📺 <i>This session will cover the launch a working paper on post-harvest losses in the tomato value chain, followed by a high-level panel discussion on challenges and opportunities in reducing post-harvest losses in India. Experts from government, grassroots organizations, farmer representatives, and academia will join the panel. The session will also feature the launch of a 6-minute short film on food loss.</i>	Juniper
12.30 pm – 1.30 pm	Lunch Break	
1.30 pm – 3.45 pm	Plenary 5 Role of States in India's Energy Transition <i>This session will focus on state-level energy transitions in India, exploring how states like Gujarat and Rajasthan lead in renewable energy and the potential for others to follow. Key discussions will include advancing renewable deployment, infrastructure improvements, and innovative technologies to support India's clean energy goals.</i> <i>Speakers:</i> Sudeep Jain , IAS, Additional Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy Amitabh Kant , G20 Sherpa and Former CEO NITI Aayog, Government of India Vikram Kapur , IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Director, Anna Administrative Staff College and Director General of Training, Government of Tamil Nadu Manu Srivastava , IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Energy Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh Dr Anshu Bharadwaj , Programme Director (Green Transition & Climate), NITI Aayog Bibhu Bhuyan , Managing Director, Assam Power Generation Corporation Limited AK Rastogi , Chairman, Task Force on Sustainable Just Transition & Green Hydrogen, Government of Jharkhand Deepti Mathur , Superintending Engineer, Jaipur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited Ann Josey , Fellow, Prayas (Energy Group)	Silver Oak

	Bharath Jairaj , Executive Director, Energy, WRI India Sandhya Sundararagavan , Head - Energy Transition, Energy Program, WRI India (Moderator)	
3.15 pm – 4.30 pm	Actions for Reducing Food Waste in India: Building a Better Tomorrow <i>This session will address the overlooked issue of food waste, which is often confused with food loss. The session will explore strategies to tackle the root causes of food waste in India, such as measuring waste, promoting behavior change, and optimizing food donation networks.</i> <i>Speakers:</i> Abhilash Mishra , IAS, Additional Commissioner, Indore Municipal Corporation Dr. Manjyot Kaur Ahluwalia , Regional Lead, Asia, Global Methane Hub Shobha Raghavan , CEO, Saahas Zero Waste Chef Rajeev Janveja , Senior Vice President and Corporate Chef, Lemon Tree Hotels Subhaprada Nishtala , Vice President, Association of Food Scientists & Technologists (India) Pinku Yadav , Health, Safety & Environment Practitioner, Sodexo India Services Private Limited Ritoja Basu , Program Head, Food Loss and Food Waste, WRI India (Moderator) Shwetmala Kashyap , Program Manager - Food, Loss & Waste, Food, Land and Water Program, WRI India	Juniper
	Scaling Sectoral Solutions for Clean Air: Reflections from ACAAS <i>This session will bring together cities from the Accelerator for Clean Air Actions (ACAAS) for a roundtable discussion on best practices and strategies for clean air. The focus will be on highlighting successful mitigation solutions, exploring governance frameworks for scaling these practices, and addressing long-term challenges in air quality management.</i> <i>Speakers:</i> Dr. Prashant Gargava , Director - NCAP, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change* Ashish Tiwari , Secretary, Dept of Environment, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh Shalini Agarwal , Municipal Commissioner, Surat Municipal Corporation Shivam Verma , Municipal Commissioner, Indore Municipal Corporation Durgesh Mishra , Additional Municipal Commissioner, Nagar Nigam Gorakhpur* Jignasa Oza , RO, Gujarat Pollution Control Board Pankaj Bhushan , Environmental Engineer, Agra Nagar Nigam* Mangesh Dighe , Environment Officer, Pune Municipal Corporation Varsha Athalye , Executive Engineer, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation Sunil Sardar , OSD, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation Jwalant Naik , Exn Engg & Nodal Officer NCAP, Surat Municipal Corporation* RN Modi , Exn Engg SWM, Surat Municipal Corporation* Dr Bhavin Solanki , Nodal Officer - NCAP, Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation* Pawan Mulukutla , Executive Director, Integrated Transport, Clean Air & Hydrogen, WRI India Sree Kumar Kumaraswamy , Director, Air Quality Action, Sustainable Cities and Transport, WRI India Dr. Prakash Doraisamy , Director, Air Quality Technical, WRI India	Jacaranda 1
	Financing Long-Term Climate Strategies: India's Sub-National Challenge <i>This session will address innovative financial solutions needed for India's climate transition, focusing on both national and sub-national levels. With current investments covering only 25-30% of the required funds, we will explore strategies to mobilize climate finance and support long-term climate actions at the sub-national level.</i> <i>Speakers:</i> Anand Kishore IAS , Principal Secretary to Government of Bihar, Department of Finance, Government of Bihar Lokendra Thakkar , State Nodal Officer, Climate Change and Director, MP State Wetlands Authority, EPCO, Department of Environment, Government of Madhya Pradesh Naim Keruwala , Program Director, CITIIS, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) Malini Chakravarty , Research Manager, Climate Policy Initiative Jazlyn Lee , Regional Engagement Lead for Southeast Asia and South Asia, The City Climate Gap Fund, Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy Shravan Shankar , Co-Founder, Climate	Jacaranda 2
	Enabling Economically Productive Cities in India through TOD: Bringing Jobs Closer to Mass Transit  <i>This session will address the gap between mass transit and job growth in Indian cities, focusing on enhancing job proximity to transit. It includes a roundtable on policy integration</i>	Magnolia


	<p>for better job densities around transit areas. The discussion will present findings from Bengaluru, Mumbai, and Delhi, and explore strategies for improving job accessibility and transit-oriented development.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Paromita Roy, Director, Housing & Urban Projects Wing, Delhi Development Authority Mukut Sharma, Chief TOD Expert, National Capital Region Transport Corporation Nilesh Rajadhyaksha, Programme Director, Urban Strategy Unit, NIUA* Gerald Ollivier, Lead Transport Specialist, India, World Bank Kalpana Kataria, Executive Director, Connectivity and Asset Management, Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited Bhaskar T. Nagendrappa, President, CREDAI Bengaluru Mriganka Saxena, Founding Partner, Habitat Tectonics Architecture & Urbanism Ravi Chauhan, Director and North India Lead, Consulting, Valuations & Risk Advisory, JLL, India Rutul Joshi, Senior Consultant, CUPP, CEPT Research and Development Foundation Madhav Pai, CEO, WRI India Jaya Dhindaw, Executive Program Director, Sustainable Cities and Director, WRI India Ross Center Shrimoyee Bhattacharya, Program Head, WRI India Radha Chanchani, Senior Manager, Sustainable Cities and Transport, WRI India</p>	
3.15 pm - 6 pm	<p>Initiative for Transport Data and Dialogue <i>This session will address the need for sustainable urban public transport systems in India amid rapid urbanization and climate change. It will discuss WRI India's strategies, including the Personal2Public campaign, which aims to enhance public transport reliability and efficiency. These efforts seek to reduce private vehicle use, alleviate congestion, lower pollution, and support India's net-zero emissions goal by 2070.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers: Panel 1</i> Dr. Gitakrishnan Ramadurai, Professor, IIT Madras Roli Agarwal, Head of Strategic Partnerships, Google India* Aishwarya Raman, Executive Director, OMI Foundation Snehl Sinha, Special Correspondent, Hindustan Times Abhinav Rajput, Special Correspondent, The Times of India Cristina Albuquerque, Director, Global Electric Mobility, WRI Ross Center for Sustainable Cities</p> <p><i>Speakers: Panel 2</i> Prabhakar Reddy GT, Chief Traffic Manager, Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation Dr. Pavan Mamidi, Director, Centre for Social Behaviour Change, Ashoka University Manas Das, President, Outer Ring Road Companies Association Rudra Murthy, General Secretary, Auto Rickshaw Drivers Union, Bengaluru Dimpu B C, Founder, The Mobility Agenda</p>	Gulmohar
4:00 pm – 5:30 pm	<p>Cities by Adolescents – Designing an Inclusive Urban Future <i>This session will highlight the crucial role of adolescents in urban development. It will explore how their involvement can drive innovative solutions, support their well-being, and enhance city development processes.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Rogier van den Berg, Global Director, WRI Ross Center for Sustainable Cities Hyun Hee Ban, Chief, Social Policy, UNICEF India Jaya Srinivasan, In-Country Manager, India, Healthy Cities for Adolescents-II, Ecorys UK Limited Joyati Das, Lead, Partnerships & Advocacy, Healthy Cities for Adolescents - II, Ecorys UK Limited Dharitri Patnaik, Founder Chairperson, Humara Bachpan Trust Anshul Tiwari, Founder & CEO, Youth Ki Awaaz</p>	Silver Oak
4.45 pm – 6 pm	<p>Accelerating India's Restoration Economy for People, Nature and Climate <i>This session will explore the potential of a restoration economy in India, focusing on how it can enhance ecosystem services, food security, and resilience. It will highlight successful restoration business models and discuss challenges in financing and capacity-building. The aim is to identify barriers and solutions to scale up innovative restoration efforts and foster collective action.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Mirik Gogri, Managing Partner, Spectrum Impact Shraman Jha, Chief Executive Officer, Hindustan Unilever Foundation</p>	Juniper



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	<p>Starlene Sharma, Founding Partner, Green Artha Manju Vasudevan, Founder, Forest Post Palak Bhatia, Senior AVP, Startup India Dr. Ruchika Singh, Executive Program Director, Food, Land & Water Program, WRI India (Moderator)</p> <p><i>*To be Confirmed</i></p>	
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 Publication Launch