

CONNECT KARO AGENDA 2025

2 - 3 September, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi



September 2 | Tuesday

TIME	SESSIONS	HALL
9.00 am – 9.45 am	Registration	Silver Oak Lobby and Stein Foyer
10.00 am – 11.30 am	<p>Plenary 1 A Place-Based Approach to Leveraging India's Transitional Urbanization <i>India's urban growth is a complex and varied process. This diversity, in both geography and governance, presents unique opportunities. This session will explore a place-based approach to urban transition, focusing on context-sensitive strategies that can unlock economic potential, improve resilience and empower local institutions.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Jamshyd Godrej, Managing Director, Godrej & Boyce Debolina Kundu, Director, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) Amit Prothi, Director General, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) Aparna Subramani, CEO and Chairperson, GRIT Amita Bhide, Professor, CUPG, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) Jagan Shah, CEO, Infravision Foundation Madhav Pai, CEO, WRI India Jaya Dhindaw, Executive Program Director, Sustainable Cities, WRI India</p>	Stein Auditorium
11.30 am – 11.45 am	Tea Break	
11.45 am – 1.00 pm	<p>Powering Through: Making Climate-Resilient Electricity Infrastructure in India <i>Increasing extreme weather events bring significant risks and uncertainty to not just people but also the electric power grid. This session will examine the current vulnerabilities in India's grid, review national and international best practices, and discuss policy and planning approaches for building the resilience of the grid.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Abhishek Ranjan, CEO, BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd Dr. Ramesh Subramaniam, Global Director- Programmes and Strategy, CDRI Gagan Swain, CEO, Odisha Coal & Power Ltd. and Director (Finance), Odisha Power Generation Corporation Ltd. Surbhi Goyal, Senior Energy Specialist, World Bank Shweta Kulkarni, Fellow, Prayas (Energy Group)</p> <p>Financing Transitions: From Low-Carbon Policies to Implementation <i>The proposed roundtable aims to bring together financial institutions and policymakers to develop concrete actionable solutions to help finance India's low-carbon transition. The session will also delve into the mechanisms for operationalizing financial instruments at the state-level for on-ground implementation of low-carbon policies.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p>	Silver Oak 1 Silver Oak 2

<p>Suman Chandra (IAS), Director, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India Laghu Parashar, Senior Transport Specialist, World Bank Lokendra Thakkar, Coordinator, State Knowledge Management Center on Climate Change, EPCO, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh Neha Khanna, Associate Director, Climate Policy Initiative Dr. Alexander Fisher, Director, Indo-German Coordination on Climate Change (IKI Interface India) Venugopal Mothkoor, Senior Specialist (Energy), NITI Aayog Preeti Bhandari, Senior Fellow, WRI India Kedar Sawant, Senior Portfolio Manager (Energy Transition and Water), Agence Française de Développement (AFD) Purnamita Dasgupta, Chair, Environmental Economics, Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) Dr. Amrita Goldar, Senior Fellow, ICRIER Anuradha RV, Partner, Clarus Law Associates Sreyamsa Bairiganjan, Chief of Programmes, Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation Shishir Priyadarshi, President, Chintan Research Foundation Camille Severac, Deputy Director, Agence Française de Développement (AFD) Yeshika Malik, Climate Change Specialist, World Bank Shalabh Tandon, South Asia Regional Head, Operations & Climate Change, International Finance Corporation (IFC) Rajesh Miglani, Senior Climate Business Specialist & Climate Anchor- South Asia, IFC Shreekant Gupta, Visiting Senior Fellow, Centre for Social and Economic Progress Kaushik Deb, Executive Director, Energy Policy Institute, University of Chicago (EPIC India)</p>	
<p>Informing First-Generation Economic Strategies for India's City Regions <i>Historically, India has not had focused strategies for economic development of city-regions. This session will look at the need to bridge the gap between industrial and urban development, deliberate on institutional frameworks to integrate informal and formal urban economies, and explore models of sustainable growth for Indian city-regions in a changing climate.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>D Thara (IAS), Additional Secretary, MoHUA Anshul Mishra (IAS), Additional Director, AIIMS Amita Bhide, Professor, CUPG, Tata Institute of Social Sciences Rana Hasan, Director, Asian Development Bank (ADB) Poornima Dore, Founder & CEO, Dorian Scale Jagan Shah, CEO, Infravision Foundation Abhilesh Babel, ED, AECOM</p>	Jacaranda 1
<p>Realizing Ambition: Pathways for Reducing Transport Emissions in Delhi <i>Transport sector is a key contributor to India's carbon emissions. This session will bring together key decision-makers, domain experts and industry representatives to discuss collaborative mechanisms, global best practices and effective institutional frameworks for significantly reducing India's transport sector emissions.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>Anumita Roychowdhury, Executive Director, Centre for Science and Environment I V Rao, Distinguished Fellow, Transport & Urban Governance, TERI Dr. Harshal Salve, Additional Professor, Centre for Community Medicine, AIIMS Gazala Habib, Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Delhi Pradeep Singh, General Secretary, All India Truckers Welfare Association Anup Patil, CEO, Intangles Dhavala Bhaskara Srinivas, Vice President, Transport Planning DIMTS</p>	Tamarind
<p>Designing an Inclusive Urban Future <i>The session will explore how public spaces can shape inclusive, equitable and user-centered urban development. It will present examples of tactical interventions led by adolescents to transform public spaces. Through inter-generational dialogue, the session will focus on how community-led public spaces can position adolescents as city leaders and examine the potential of mainstreaming inclusive public spaces in urban planning and governance.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>Abhishek Surana (IAS), District Collector and Magistrate, Churu, Rajasthan Guillermo Bernal, Executive Director, The Place Institute Akhila Sivadas, Managing Trustee, Chief Functionary, Centre for Advocacy and Research Shishir Ranjan Dash, Lead, Urban Habitat Initiatives, Tata Steel Foundation Amit Kumar Patjoshi, CEO, Palladium India Madhav Pai, CEO, WRI India</p>	Gulmohar

	Jaya Dhindaw , Executive Program Director, Sustainable Cities, WRI India Prerna Vijaykumar Mehta , Associate Director, Sustainable Cities, WRI India	
	Wings and Waves: Decarbonizing Aviation and Marine <i>The global transportation sector is undergoing a fundamental transformation in response to the climate crisis, with shipping and aviation — two of the most hard-to-abate segments — at the forefront of decarbonization efforts. This session will examine the leading alternative fuel solutions for reducing emissions in maritime and aviation transport.</i>	
	<i>Speakers:</i> Amitabh Kant , former G20 Sherpa and former CEO, NITI Aayog Dr. Christoph Wolff , CEO, Smart Freight Center Jagabanta Ningthoujam , Principal and Director, RMI India Foundation Dr. Anjan Ray , Investment Partner, Navam Capital and Former Director, CSIR-IIP Sachin Chugh , Energy Lead, ARUP Maneesh David Singh , Director, Sustainability, PNGRB Gopi Krishna.C , DDG (Tech), Directorate General of Shipping Arjun Mehta , Director- Growth and Programs, GH2 India Rajeev Nayyer , President, Institute of Marine Engineers (India) Dr. Sampriti Baruah , Program Head, Sustainable Agriculture, WRI India Dr. Guncha Munjal , Senior Program Manager-Hydrogen, WRI India Dr. Sneha Malhotra , Associate Program Director, Energy & Innovation Tech, WRI India Pawan Mulukutla , Executive Program Director, Integrated Transport, Clean Air and Hydrogen, WRI India	Jacaranda 2
	Financing Sustainable Cooling Solutions for All <i>India's sustainable cooling sector presents a \$1.6 trillion investment opportunity by 2040 but unlocking it requires innovative financing models. This session will explore how to make cooling solutions accessible to vulnerable communities, focusing on buildings, cold chains and infrastructure.</i>	
	<i>Speakers:</i> Aafsha Kansal , Business Development Lead, IFC Angshuman Siddhanta , Sustainable Cold Chain Expert, UNEP Abolee Muranjan , Program Manager, Aga Khan Agency for Habitat India Joyita Mukherjee , Managing Director, CoolPact Capital Mini Sukumar , Member, Kerala State Planning Board Ruchira Shukla , Co-Founder and Managing Partner, Synapses VC Dr. Priya Narayanan , Senior Programme Manager, WRI India Gian Modgil , Senior Advisor, India Climate Collaborative and Team Lead, HCL ClimaForce Fund	Juniper
	Financing Urban Adaptation and Resilience – Innovative Financing Models and Notes from the Field  <i>Inadequate planning and unsustainable urbanization is leading to increased climate risk exposure such as high heat stress and frequent floods in India. Estimates suggest that India needs to be investing USD 67 billion annually from 2015 to 2030 in climate adaptation. However, actual investments fall short of these targets. This session will explore practical models for financing urban adaptation and resilience, rooted in real-world experiences from cities across India and the Global South.</i>	
	<i>Speakers:</i> Anant Tiwari , Deputy Vice President, Climate Risk Adaptation and Insurance, K M Dastur Reinsurance Brokers Arti Dhar , Co-Founder, Farmers for Forests Arun Krishnan , Program Director – Climate Finance, WRI India Dulari Parmar , Project Lead - Climate Justice, Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA) Kartik Desai , Founder & CEO, Desai & Associates Leila Surratt , Director of Strategic Partnerships, WRI Ross Center for Sustainable Cities Lingaraj Dinni , Sr. Advisor, Wipro Foundation and Head of Partnerships, LVBL Accelerator Nilesh Rajadhyaksha , Head - Climate Projects Preparation Facility (CPPF), National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) Sudha Ramen (IFS) , Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission Swati Pillai , Climate Change Analyst, World Bank	Marigold
1.00 pm – 2.00 pm	Lunch Break	

2.00 pm – 3.15 pm	<p>Plenary 2 Financing India's Transition <i>From accelerating energy transitions and mobilizing financial resources for addressing climate change to highlighting the role of start-ups in contributing toward SDGs, this session brings together government leaders and experts on one stage to focus on bridging funding gaps, managing risks and ensuring inclusive and sustainable progress for a climate-resilient India. This plenary will also feature the launch of the CI-NERGY Alliance — an initiative anchored by WRI India and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) — focused on steering energy transitions for commercial and industrial (C&I) sectors.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, CEO, NITI Aayog Jamshyd Godrej, Chairman and MD, Godrej & Boyce Shruti Goel, Co-CEO, Upaya Social Ventures Vivek Bhatia, MD and CEO, TKIL Industries Chandni Raina, Advisor, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance (TBC) Sujoy Ghosh, Co-Chairman, Renewable Energy Council, CII- Sohrabji Godrej Green Business Centre Madhav Pai, CEO, WRI India</p>	Stein Auditorium
3.15 pm – 4.30 pm	<p>Plenary 3 Empowering MSMEs for a Green Transition <i>The session will explore the interplay of policy and finance to empower MSMEs for a green transition. Experts will also deliberate on innovative financing approaches to address the unique capital constraints faced by MSMEs and highlight how public, private and philanthropic collaborations can support these enterprises.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>Dhiraj Nayyar, Chief Economist, Vedanta Limited Dr. Vandana Vasudevan, Visiting Fellow, Centre for Social and Economic Progress Dr. Verchezhian VSV, State President, Laghu Udyog Bharati Dr. Abhishek, Manager, National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) Ulka Kelkar, Executive Program Director, Climate, WRI India</p>	Stein Auditorium
3.15 pm – 4.30 pm	<p>Data to Decision: Accelerating Local Climate Action Planning  <i>As India pushes for climate action at the subnational level, many local governments face barriers like limited data and technical capacity. This session introduces ASCENT, a user-friendly Excel-based tool that helps cities and states estimate emissions and plan targeted, data-driven mitigation strategies across key urban sectors.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>Shalini Agarwal (IAS), Commissioner, Surat Municipal Corporation Lokendra Thakkar, Coordinator, State Knowledge Management Center on Climate Change, EPCO, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh Sreyamsa Bairiganjan, Chief of Programmes, Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation Sambhav Ayachi, Deputy Commissioner, Jabalpur Municipal Corporation Naim Keruwala, Regional Director, South and West Asia, C40 Cities Pooja Yadav, Program Associate, WRI India</p>	Silver Oak 1
3.15 pm – 4.30 pm	<p>Towards Zero Waste Burning: Cleaner Air for Delhi NCR <i>This workshop aims to discuss an effective framework for the implementation of zero waste burning strategies in cities and integration of a circular waste management system. It also seeks to identify existing gaps in the waste management value chain across Indian cities and explore practical interventions addressing on-ground challenges.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>Shalini Agarwal (IAS), Commissioner, Surat Municipal Corporation Gaurav Singh Sagarwal (IAS), Commissioner, Gorakhpur Municipal Corporation Dr. V.P. Jeyaseelan (IAS), Joint Commissioner (Health), Greater Chennai Corporation Dr. Vikas Singh, Scientist-E, Commission on Air Quality Management Manoj Verma, Superintendent Engineer, (Engg./DEMS), Municipal Corporation of Delhi Vivek Singh Gill, Chief Engineer, Municipal Corporation of Faridabad Paramita Dutta Dey, Policy Head, Waste, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) Gopal Jagtap, Director and Co-founder, Shristi Waste Management, Indore Jaya Dhindaw, Executive Program Director, Sustainable Cities, WRI India Bharti Chaturvedi, Founder and Director, Chintan Nitesh Chandrakar, Sector Portfolio Manager, Urban and Waste Management, AFD Pankaj Bhushan, Environmental Engineer, Nagar Nigam Agra Swapnil Shukla, Nodal Officer, NCAP and Solid Waste Manager, Vadodara Aniket Chandra, Senior Research Associate, Solid Waste Management and Circular Economy, CSE</p>	Silver Oak 2

<p>Addressing Barriers to Siting Clean Energy Projects and Advancing Equitable Solutions</p> <p><i>India is racing toward a bold target—500 GW of non-fossil fuel energy by 2030. But as solar panels and wind farms rise, so do concerns about biodiversity loss, ecosystem disruption, and community displacement. Can India's energy transition be both rapid and responsible? This session dives into the emerging principles for nature-positive renewable energy development with journalists, policymakers and industry leaders.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>Dr. Ute Collier, Acting Director, Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)</p> <p>Dean Cooper, Global Energy Lead, WWF</p> <p>Kalyan Verma, Senior Expert – Corporate Stewardship (Sustainable Business), WWF India</p> <p>Anuja Malhotra, Policy Manager, ATREE</p> <p>Dr. Ashish Garg, Professor of Sustainable Energy Engineering, Kotak School of Sustainability and Kesavan Center, IIT Kanpur</p> <p>Brajesh Kumar Sinha, Head – People and Processes, Fourth Partner Energy</p> <p>Anna Biswas, Managing Director, India, Forum for the Future</p> <p>Namrata Ginoja, Strategic Policy Lead, Global Resilience Partnership</p> <p>Deepak Krishnan, Deputy Program Director, Energy Program, WRI India</p>		<p>Jacaranda 1</p>
<p>Connecting the Dots: Unlocking Mobility with Shared Digital Infrastructure</p> <p><i>This session will explore how India can move from fragmented mobility solutions to a connected, interoperable public transport ecosystem. It will also focus on the potential of shared, open digital infrastructure co-created by cities, vendors and innovators.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>Roli Agarwal, Head (Product Partnerships), Google India</p> <p>Manish Srivastava, CTO, eGov Foundation</p> <p>Dr. Shiv Kumar, Director General, ITS India</p>		<p>Jacaranda 2</p>
<p>Safer Streets for Tomorrow: Learnings from a Decade of Practice</p> <p><i>This session marks the launch of a landmark report on Mumbai's decade-long journey toward safer streets, offering insights into how pedestrian-first design, policy reform and systemic change can guide Indian cities toward inclusive, climate-responsive urban mobility.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>Sudhendu Jyoti Sinha, Advisor (E-Mobility), NITI Aayog</p> <p>Debolina Kundu, Director, NIUA</p> <p>Gerald Ollivier, Lead Transport Specialist, World Bank</p> <p>Manjunath Sekhar, Director- Sustainable Urban Mobility, GIZ</p> <p>Felipe A. Ramirez Buitrago, Director, Urban Mobility, WRI Ross Center for Sustainable Cities</p> <p>Priyanka Sulkhan, Co-founder & Principal (Urban Design & Mobility), RootBridge Collab</p>		<p>Tamarind</p>
<p>Unlocking Urban Mangroves for Resilience</p> <p><i>Urban mangroves offer flood protection, carbon storage and support community resilience, but they are vanishing from Indian cities. This session unveils the Mangrove Coalition's bold vision to restore and protect these ecosystems through policy reform, community action and science-driven planning.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>Nyrika Holkar, Executive Director, Godrej Enterprises Group</p> <p>Dr. Sejal Worah, Program Director, WWF India</p> <p>Vivek Venkatramani, Associate Director, WRI India</p> <p>Aaran Patel, Climate & Conservation Advisor, Godrej Enterprises Group</p> <p>Dr. Priya Narayanan, Senior Program Manager, WRI India</p> <p>Madhav Pai, CEO, WRI India</p>		<p>Gulmohar</p>

	<p>Data as an Enabler of Flood Management and Planning <i>As Indian cities face increased flood risks, integrated data systems could offer insights for flood risk management. The session will bring together experts, grassroots activists, practitioners and administrators to discuss challenges, effective strategies and the role of data-driven decision-making in strengthening urban resilience.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>Gaurav Singh Sogarwal (IAS), Municipal Commissioner, Gorakhpur Municipal Corporation Dr. Soumendra Nath Kuiry, Associate Professor, Dept. of Civil Engineering, IIT Madras Satarupa Bhattacharya, Programme Director, Oorvani Foundation Nidhi Madan, Director, Raahgiri Foundation Sahana Goswami, Senior Program Manager, Urban Water Resilience, WRI India Dr. Manabendra Saharia, Associate Professor, Dept. of Civil Engineering, IIT Delhi Lovy Agarwal (IES), Deputy Director, Centre for Excellence, Central Water Commission Avinash Pratap Singh, Assistant Municipal Commissioner, Gorakhpur Municipal Corporation Raghuvendra Kumar, General Manager, Jalkal Vibhag, Nagar Nigam Gorakhpur Nilav Karna, Sr. Water Resources Engineer, AECOM India</p>	Juniper
3.15 pm – 4.45 pm	<p>Plenary 3 Empowering MSMEs for a Green Transition <i>The session will explore the interplay of policy and finance to empower MSMEs for a green transition. Experts will also deliberate on innovative financing approaches to address the unique capital constraints faced by MSMEs and highlight how public, private and philanthropic collaborations can support these enterprises.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>Dhiraj Nayyar, Chief Economist, Vedanta Limited Dr. Vandana Vasudevan, Visiting Fellow, Centre for Social and Economic Progress Verchezhian VSV, State President, Laghu Udyog Bharati Dr. Abhishek, Manager, National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) Ulka Kelkar, Executive Program Director, Climate, WRI India</p>	Stein Auditorium
3.15 pm – 5.15 pm	<p>Building a Place-Based Approach for Thriving Eco City-regions <i>The roundtable discussion will convene our partners from across the ecosystem, our ECR geographies, sectoral experts, policy makers and local champions to spotlight and deliberate how place-based thinking and action can support transition towards regenerative development pathways for Indian city-regions.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>Isha Kalia (IAS), Joint Sec. & Mission Director (AMRUT II, NULM & PM SVANidhi), MoHUA (TBC) Sudha Ramen (IFS), Member Secretary, State Planning Commission, Govt. of Tamil Nadu Belkis Jeelani, Chief Town Planner, Town and Country Planning Kashmir Sathyaranayran Shankaran, Urban Strategy Lead, Rainmatter Foundation Vishwanath S, Advisor, Biome Environmental Trust Dr. Poornima Dore, Visiting Professor, XLRI Jamshedpur Sanjay Sridhar, Urban Movement Innovation Fund (UMI Fund) Prof. Pradip Kalbar, Centre for Environmental Science & Engineering (CESE), IIT Bombay Archana Tripathi, CEO, Saahas Pooja Tendulkar, Co-founder, Lemnion Green Solutions Pvt. Ltd. Sandeep Paul, Sr. Urban Designer and Co-founder, The Urban Lab Dr. Sampriti Baruah, Program Head, Sustainable Agriculture, Food Land and Water, WRI India Rejeet Mathews, Program Director, Integrated Urban Development, WRI India Neha Lal, Senior Program Manager, Urban Development, WRI India</p>	Marigold
4.30 pm – 4.45 pm	Tea Break	
4.45 pm – 6 pm	<p>Moving Towards Data-Based Management of Air Quality <i>This session seeks to emphasize the critical role of data in air quality management and aims to carve a pathway for the development of standardized methodologies and integrated systems that promote long-term planning and solution design for air quality improvement.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>N. Subrahmanyam, Joint Director/Scientist D., MoEF&CC Abinaya Sekar, Consulting Research Fellow, Health Effects Institute (HEI) Namita Gupta, Founder and CEO, Airveda Sagnik Dey, Professor, Centre for Atmospheric Sciences, IIT Delhi</p>	Silver Oak 2

<p>Gufran Beig, Chair Professor, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Nimish Singh, Fellow, Air Quality Research, TERI Shriram Manogaran, Portfolio Manager, Data, CAF Sarath Guttikunda, Founder/Director, Urban Emissions Info Vikas Singh, Senior Scientist, CAQM Sumit Sharma, Programme Officer, UNEP G. Rajeswari, Nodal Person, Head ICCC, Greater Chennai Corporation Irfan Kagzi, State Nodal Officer of NCAP, GPCB Leila Surratt, Director, Global Development and Partnerships Avinash Kate, Deputy Municipal Commissioner, Environment and Climate Change Department, BMC</p>	
<p>Making the Last Mile Work: Lessons from Last-Mile Journey <i>Exploring structured approaches to last-mile planning that strengthen metro and bus systems through integration, institutional coordination and sustainable financing, ensuring public transport remains the backbone of urban mobility.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>Jeyakumar Iyamperumal, Member Secretary, Chennai Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority Vijay Vardhan, Joint General Manager, Chennai Metro Rail Limited Lakshman Singh, Chief General Manager, BMRCL (TBC) Gokul T.G., Additional General Manager, Kochi Metro Rail Limited Bapusaheb Gaikwad, Joint City Engineer, Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation GT Prabhakar Reddy, CTMO, Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation Sathyanarayanan Shankaran, Urban Strategy Lead, Rainmatter Foundation Dr. Bhairavi Joshi, Director and CEO, BYCS India Foundation Diksha Choudhary, Program Manager, Toyota Mobility Foundation Manisha Sharma, Senior Associate, The Urban Catalysts Sujata Hingorani, Principal Landscape Architect, Oasis Designs Inc. Narayan Mishra, CTO & Co-founder, TUMMOC Felipe A. Ramirez Buitrago, Director, Urban Mobility, WRI Ross Center for Sustainable Cities</p>	Jacaranda 1
<p>Accelerating Demand-Side Energy Transitions Through Collaborative Governance </p> <p><i>India's ambitious clean energy transition requires transformative shifts in demand-side sectors like transport and buildings. This session will explore actionable pathways to decarbonize these sectors, the critical role of cities and communities, and an analysis of state-level plans and actions across 10 Indian states.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>Abhishek Gupta, Head-International/Strategy/Rooftop Solar/ Appliances/ PE&A, EESL Ashwini Kumar Swain, Fellow, Sustainable Futures Collaborative GP Hari, Former Executive, Kochi Metropolitan Transport Authority Hemanga Deka, Scientific Officer, Assam Energy Development Agency Soumya Prasad Garnaik, India Country Representative, GGGI Sumedha Malaviya, Program Head, Building Decarbonization, WRI India</p>	Jacaranda 2
<p>Strengthening MSMEs for Localizing the EV Value Chain in India </p> <p><i>This session will serve as a platform to showcase and learn from successful state-level efforts for MSMEs in the EV value chain. Discussants will also explore pathways for collaborative action among key stakeholders to accelerate both domestic value creation and an equitable EV transition.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>Arindam Lahiri, Chief Executive Officer, ASDC Vivek Dhawan, Chief Strategy Officer, OSM Ashish Garde, Director, DECPL & Ex-President, CMIA Aanchal Jain, CEO, PMI Electro Mobility Arathi Parigi, Co-founder & MD, Neuton Auto Private Limited P. Ponram, Hon'ble Treasurer, Coimbatore District Small Industries Association (CODISSIA) Anuradha Ranganath, Program Manager, WRI India</p>	Tamarind

<p>Nature-Based Governance: Bridging Climate Action Across Urban and Rural India <i>By highlighting urban and rural case studies, this session will illustrate how nature-based solutions, ecological restoration, social empowerment and financial innovation can together offer pathways to climate-resilient landscapes that protect communities, sequester carbon and sustain livelihoods.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>Roshan Rathod, Senior Manager, HT Parekh Foundation Avinash Madhale, Program Director, CEE Urban, Sr. Fellow, CUPG, TISS Aaran Patel, Climate and Conservation Advisor, Godrej Enterprises Group Anam Hussain, Research Associate, Well Labs Uma Maheshwaran, Urban Resilience Advisor, CDRI Neeraja Kudrimoti, Associate Director, Transform Rural India Foundation Siddharth Edake, Senior Program Manager, WRI India Deepti Talpade, Program Lead, WRI India</p>	<p>Gulmohar</p>
<p>Improving Heat-Health-Housing Outcomes <i>India's escalating heat crisis has exposed deep vulnerabilities in urban health systems, housing infrastructure and governance capacities. This roundtable will convene key stakeholders to explore the intersection of heat, health and housing, bridge knowledge gaps, and strengthen adaptive capacities for equitable urban health outcomes.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>Safi Ahsan Rizvi (IPS), Advisor, National Disaster Management Authority; Executive Director, National Institute of Disaster Management Sudha Ramen (IFS), Member Secretary, State Planning Commission, Govt. of Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambrish Dutta, Additional Professor, Epidemiology, Health Foundation of India Dr. Swati Mahajan, Director - Health System Strengthening, PATH Tanya Kak, Portfolio Lead, Climate & Environment, Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies Shalini Sinha, Home-based Work Sector Specialist & Asia Strategic Lead, Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO) Dhilon Subramanian, Senior Manager Energy Program, WRI India Bhanu Khanna, Senior Manager Geoanalytics, WRI India Lubaina Rangwala, Program Director Urban Development & Resilience, WRI India</p>	<p>Juniper</p>

 **Publication Launch**

September 3 Wednesday		
TIME	SESSIONS	HALL
9.30 am – 10.00 am	Registration	Silver Oak
10.00 am – 11.30 am	<p>Plenary 4 PLENARY: Skilling for a Green Future </p> <p><i>As countries pursue ambitious climate goals, the global shift toward clean energy promises millions of green jobs. Fulfilling that promise depends on developing "green skills." This session will explore how to build a green, future-ready workforce for India and ensure equitable access to skilling for all.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>Nilambuj Sharan, Senior Economic Advisor, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Government of India Shashishekhar Pandit, Chairman and Co-founder, KPIT Technologies Arpit Sharma, CEO, Skill Council for Green Jobs Aditi Jha, Board Director and Head of Legal and Government Affairs, LinkedIn India Gabriel Bordado, Skills & Employability Specialist, ILO Vijeta Ananthkumar, Manager, Research Division, National Skill Development Corporation Sivasankari TP, Founder & MD, AR4 Tech Sanjiva de Silva, Counsellor - Energy & Resources, Australian High Commission Madhav Pai, CEO, WRI India Ashwini Hingne, Associate Program Director, WRI India</p>	Stein Auditorium
11.30 am – 11.45 am	Tea Break	
11.45 am – 1.00 pm		Silver Oak 1

	<p>Building Climate-Resilient Communities: Unlocking Opportunities from Ecosystem Restoration in Gadchiroli, Maharashtra </p> <p><i>This session marks the launch of a new report examining the intersection of sustainable agriculture, tribal livelihoods, and climate resilience in India's rainfed regions. Discussion will focus on the need to strengthen rural resilience for food security, livelihoods and ecological sustainability.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>Ramanshu Ganguly, Associate Director - Climate Insights, Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation</p> <p>Dr. Satish Gogulwar, Convener, Amhi Amchya Arogyasathi</p> <p>Ranjna Santosh Gota, Treasurer, Van Dhan Vikas Kendra, Salhe, Gadchiroli</p> <p>Pravin Mulay, Vice President, Research and Technology, Farmers for Forest</p> <p>Dr. Ruchika Singh, Executive Program Director, Food, Land and Water, WRI India</p>	
	<p>Turning Roofs into Powerhouses: The PM Surya Ghar Story </p> <p><i>(Entry by invite only)</i></p> <p><i>The roundtable discussion featuring research findings will aim to identify actionable policy solutions to accelerate India's ambitious rooftop solar (RTS) deployment. This session will explore the critical bottlenecks that have slowed adoption of RTS despite the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana's push.</i></p>	Silver Oak 2
	<p>Enabling a Fair Transition in Buildings Construction Sector in Cities</p> <p><i>This session will explore the preparedness of the buildings construction sector for a just and inclusive low-carbon transition in cities. Key stakeholders, policymakers, builders and NGOs working with construction workers will exchange insights about the opportunities and barriers.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>Dr. Sailesh Agrawal, Executive Director, Buildings Material and Technology Promotion Council</p> <p>Saswati Chetia, Director, Greentech Knowledge Solutions Pvt. Ltd.</p> <p>W R Harinarayananaraj, CEO – Construction, Skill Development Council of India</p> <p>Bijal Brahmbhatt, Executive Director - MHT (Mahila Housing Trust)</p> <p>Vrinda Kapur, Senior Programme Manager, Porticus</p> <p>Dr. Siji Chako, Senior Lead, Global Climate Resilience Collective, MRC</p> <p>Nidhi Jain, Senior Associate, Net Zero, NIUA</p> <p>Nidhi Gupta, Associate Director, Environmental Design Solutions</p>	Juniper
	<p>Building MSMEs Resilience to Heat and Flood Risks</p> <p><i>This Solution Room session will convene different MSME stakeholders and employ case studies from textile and automotive cluster in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu to explore context-specific solutions and co-develop pathways for climate risk-informed adaptation.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>Vidhya Venugopal, Professor, Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research</p> <p>Shishir Agarwal, Senior Consultant, National Disaster Management Authority</p> <p>Uma Maheshwaran Rajasekar, Urban Resilience Advisor, CDRI</p> <p>Giriraj Amarnath, Research Group Lead, Water Data for Climate Resilience, IWMI</p> <p>Verchezhan VSV, State President, Laghu Udyog Bharati Tamil Nadu, MD, Shri KVS Industries, Chennai</p> <p>Raghav Dalmia, Director, Prayagraj Dyeing & Printing Mills Pvt. Ltd., Surat</p> <p>Aditya Raghwa, Head, Governments & Policy South Asia, Climate Group</p> <p>Jhumki Dutta, Lead, Programmes, Partners in Change</p> <p>Anjana Rajagopalan, Manager, WRI India</p>	Tamarind
	<p>Creating Wins in a Zero-Sum Game: Exploring Productive Use of Renewable Energy to Create Equitable Outcomes</p> <p><i>The session will explore the potential of renewable energy projects in agrifood-livelihood systems. Discussants will focus on the role energy access can play in ensuring equity and improved socio-economic outcomes for people dependent on farm-based livelihoods.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>Biswarup Banerjee, Programme Manager, IKEA Foundation</p> <p>Ganesh Neelam, Director, Sustain Plus</p> <p>Neha Dhingra, Director, CLASP</p> <p>Nitin Akhade, President, Clean Energy Access Network</p> <p>Harsha Meenawat, Head, Energy and Development, WRI India</p> <p>Raman Wadhwa, Director, NRLM, Ministry of Rural Development (TBC)</p>	Gulmohar

1.00 pm – 2.00 pm	Lunch Break	
2.00 pm – 3.15 pm	<p>Plenary 5 Plenary: From Farm to Plate: Unlocking Value Chains to Reduce Losses, Improve Farmer Incomes and Drive Diversification</p> <p><i>This high-level plenary session, "Strengthening Value Chains to Reduce Losses, Improve Farmer Incomes, and Drive Diversification," will examine key strategies and solutions to advance India's transition toward a sustainable, diversified, inclusive, and competitive agricultural system—one equipped to meet the nation's future food, nutrition, and livelihood needs.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>Dr. Alka Bhargava, Senior Policy Advisor, UN Environment Programme Dr. B.R. Premi, Chief General Manager, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Dr. Manzoor Hussain Dar, Global Head, Seeds Systems, ICRISAT Dr. Ranjit Singh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries Sonakshi Tripathi, Head, Sustainability Sourcing, Nestlé</p>	Stein Auditorium
	<p>Shift Transport: Data-Driven Decision-Making for India's Urban Mobility</p> <p><i>The roundtable aims to bring together key stakeholders to identify the types of data essential for efficient mobility planning; explore advanced technologies and methods for data collection; and co-develop robust analytical frameworks that are interoperable and actionable. An Expert Note on a framework to support better decision-making in India's mobility planning will also be launched in this session.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>Tejaswi Surya, Member of Parliament Rajeev Gowda, Former Rajya Sabha Member S.K. Lohia, Retd. Govt. Official, IRSDC Cornelia Stolzenberg, Director Transport-Gender in Green Mobility, GIZ Hiranmay Mallick, CEO & Co-founder, TUMMOC Kailash Gahlot, MLA, Delhi Dr. Sumit Sen, CEO, GISE Hub Dr. Rahul Goel, Professor, IIT Delhi Bhanu Pratap Singh, Director, MoHUA Felipe Ramirez Buitrago, World Resources Institute Leila Suratt, World Resources Institute Sailee Rane, Rainmatter Foundation Ashwini Bhide (IAS), MMRC (TBC) Shivani Singh, Journalist, Hindustan Times, (TBC) Kashmira Dubash, Deputy Director, ITDP Dipak Dash, Journalist, Times of India Abhijeet Lokre, Founder, The Urban Lab Foundation (TBC)</p>	Silver Oak 2
3.15 pm – 4.30 pm	<p>Fireside Chat: Institutionalizing Innovation: From Pilots to Scale</p> <p><i>This fireside chat with G. Mathi Vathanan, Director General, State Administrative Training Institute and Head, Centre for Good Governance, Government of Odisha and Srinivas Katikithala, Secretary, MoHUA, Government of India will highlight how India's states and cities can move from pilots to scale, balance agility with inclusivity, and embed innovation into institutions so reforms endure beyond individual champions.</i></p> <p><i>G. Mathi Vathanan (IAS), Government of Odisha in conversation and Srinivas Katikithala, Secretary Urban Affairs, Government of India with Jaya Dhindaw, Executive Program Director, Sustainable Cities, WRI India</i></p>	Silver Oak 1
	<p>Women in Agriculture: Closing the Gender Gap for Transitioning to Sustainable Agriculture</p> <p><i>This session aims to share the opportunities and challenges experienced by women farmers while securing resource rights, accessing finance and adopting technology. Discussants will also explore the enabling conditions that can empower women in agriculture and allied sectors.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>Dr. Ranjitha Puskur, Principal Scientist, IRRI Dr. Soma KP, National Facilitator, Mahila Kisan Adhikar Manch (MAKAAM) Aniruddha Brahmachari, Director - Programs, Digital Green Trust Sarbani Bose, Lead, PRADAN Shiv Kumari Verma, Farmer Vandana Madavi, Farmer</p>	Gulmohar

	<p>Operationalizing Locally Led Adaptation for Climate Resilient Villages <i>As climate impacts intensify in rural regions, empowering communities to co-create solutions rooted in local knowledge and governance structures has become essential. The session will facilitate a broader understanding of locally led adaptation and rural resilience through the lens of India's Climate Resilient Villages (CRV) models.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>Naresh Kumar, Head and Principal Scientist, NICRA Project, ICAR-IARI Pratim Roy, Director, Keystone Foundation Lokendra Thakkar, Chief Scientific Officer, EPCO Madhya Pradesh Indu Murthy, Sector Head - Climate, Environment and Sustainability, CSTEP</p>	Tamarind
3:15 pm – 5:45 pm	<p>Beyond the Blueprint: Reflecting on the Climate Action Journeys of Indian Cities <i>(Entry by invite only)</i> <i>Several Indian cities have made ambitious climate commitments and are being supported by climate practitioners. This session will provide a platform to reflect on the challenges and learnings of navigating complex sociopolitical systems, institutional capacity constraints and data readiness while also integrating inclusive, bottom-up climate action planning practices.</i></p>	Juniper
4.30 pm – 4.45 pm	Tea Break	
4:45 pm – 6 pm	<p>Accelerating Restoration Economy in India: A Value Chain Approach to Landscape Restoration <i>Through this session, different approaches to working with restoration-linked value chains and local economies will be explored. Experts from across the public, private and non-profit sectors will share insights from their experience of working with these value chains.</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>Dr. K.T. Parthiban, Professor, Department of Agroforestry, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) Dr. Archana Godbole, Director, Applied Environmental Research Foundation (AERF) Dr. Sangeeta Agasty, Regional Director (South Asia), INBAR Dr. Sarika Kulkarni, Founder, Raah Foundation Reuben Gergan, UNEP</p>	Gulmohar

 Publication Launch

Drop by "Stories that Matter," an all-day exhibition to explore inspiring, people-centered solutions for climate action and resilient communities.