This session was organized by TERI Alumni Association. The discussion delved into the aspects of visionary institution building. It reflected on how TERI, as an organization, was ahead of the knowledge curve and contributed to shaping and driving sustainability actions even before the term sustainability became popular. The discussion attempted to create a roadmap for knowledge institutions to achieve the present climate goals.

TERI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ON VISIONARY INSTITUTION BUILDING

Speakers:
- Dr Priyanka Kochhar, President, TERI Alumni Association
- Dr Saroj Pachauri, Public Health Expert
- Dr Veena Joshi, TAA Member
- Dr Akanksha Chaurey, Director, IT Power Private Limited
- Dr Ash Pachauri, Founder, POP Movement
- Dr Rajiv Chhibber, Vice President, Sahajanand Medical Technologies Ltd
- Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director General, TERI

Venue: Stein Auditorium

SPECIAL SESSION

PLENARY

DR SAROJ PACHAURI
Public Health Expert

When he (Dr Pachauri) started, he started in a small room in Jor Bagh with nothing. With a lot of hard work, a lot of sweat, he built a world-class institution which TERI is today.

DR AKANKSHA CHAUREY
Director, IT Power Private Limited

Under the leadership of Dr Pachauri, TERI was ahead of its curve. In 2008, when Dr Pachauri asked me to start a programme on solar lantern, words such as energy access and sustainable energy for all were not even coined. He knew that 1.2 billion people have no access to electricity, and at that time, the magnitude of the problem was not even recognized, but TERI had that vision to target that project.

DR ASH PACHAURI
Founder, POP Movement

Dad’s vision was that the 1.8 billion youth of the world must take knowledge-inspired action to protect our planet and that’s how the POP movement was born.

DR RAJIV CHHIBBER
Vice President, Sahajanand Medical Technologies Ltd

Today, when we hear our global leaders talk about Viksit Bharat or Bharat@100, those were things that TERI envisioned way beyond its time.
The session saw many experts talking about efforts their organization has taken towards climate change impacts including climate change extreme events and those particularly taken in the maritime sector and for sustainability of oceans. The representation at the session was diverse with several bilateral initiatives between India and Norway were also discussed and how these two countries have shared knowledge in terms of technology transfer, manufacturing, financing, etc. Representative from CDRI pointed out the need for collaboration through South–South cooperation.

Representative from EU and WMO pointed out the need for collaboration and EU’s role in sharing good practices. Several bilateral initiatives between India and Norway were also discussed and how these two countries have shared knowledge in terms of technology transfer, manufacturing, financing, etc. Representative from CDRI pointed out the need for incorporation of disaster planning into financial planning, i.e., the need to plan for a future disaster in the initial investment phase of any project and the need for building holistic resilience of the entire system—not just ports but also the connected logistics. There is also a need for incorporating grant capital/philanthropic capital into financing projects, taking up digital solutions and making donations to funds such as loss and damage more accessible to everyone.

The eminent panel touched upon various aspects ranging from protecting nature, ecosystems and protected areas, market systems and sustainability to nearly 100% renewable energy-based grid conducted power by 2030.
Ecosystem protection requires regional cooperation because every major ecosystem cuts across national boundaries.

TERI has contributed and worked along with the Ministry of Jal Shakti for the sustainable water supply and expects the work to continue in future as well.

We blame everything on climate change but we are not taking responsibility for the skewed development policies that we have in place and how we correct these.

When we do renewables, we need to do it in a people-centred way and have a very detailed level of planning as the main constraint for solar and wind is land.

The world is suffering from the actions of small minority who put their interest above the planet health and the poorest are bearing the brunt of the damage.

We need to set up water use benchmarks for various kinds of industries.

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16TH CONVOCATION CEREMONY

The 16th convocation of TERI School of Advanced Studies (TSAS) was held at the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS), 2024. The Chief Guest for the day was Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India, who implored students and all those present to continuously upgrade and upskill towards sustainability.

Dr Shailesh Nayak, Chancellor, TSAS, while awarding 230 masters degrees and 18 doctoral degrees, advised students to be sincere and mature individuals contributing towards growth of nation.

Thanking Prof. Sood for his enthralled and motivating speech, Prof. Arun Kansal, Officiating Vice-Chancellor, TSAS spoke about the legacy that TERI SAS carries as an institute and how it’s the collective responsibility of all including the outgoing students to add new feathers to the institute’s cap.
The study undertakes investigation of anticipated demand and mid-century. With the objective of informing key stakeholders, opportunities in the decarbonization pathways leading to understanding of the critical issues, challenges and near-term. Appropriate choices not only in the long-term but also in the country needs to be built up at much higher scale with practices.

Carbon markets can play an integral role in facilitating the achievements of India’s enhanced NDC targets and future NDC goals, along with mobilizing a significant portion of investments in clean technology.

Realizing this potential requires a carefully designed framework by driving climate action and green investments in India. Operationalizing India’s carbon market demands robust systems (for data integrity and verification), clear trading rules, and adequate market liquidity. Collaboration across government, industry, and civil society is crucial, both for effective market design and to address challenges like technology transfer and community engagement. Attracting both domestic and international investments requires transparent pricing mechanisms, risk mitigation instruments, and alignment with global trends under the Paris Agreement. Technological innovation plays a critical role in enhancing data management, improving project development, and driving market efficiency. Balancing national priorities with international integration, strategically prioritizing emission reduction versus removal, and leveraging both voluntary and compliance-based mechanisms are essential. However, carbon markets cannot achieve decarbonization alone; they must be part of a broader strategy that includes complementary policies and investments in clean technologies and sustainable practices.

India is at a critical juncture in its energy transition journey. To meet the anticipated growth in demand for electricity in the coming years, the electricity system infrastructure in the country needs to be built up at much higher scale with appropriate choices not only in the long-term but also in the near-term. TERI’s report, “India’s Electricity Transition Pathways to 2050: Scenarios and Insights,” seeks to provide a comprehensive understanding of the critical issues, challenges and opportunities in the decarbonization pathways leading to mid-century. With the objective of informing key stakeholders, the study undertakes investigation of anticipated demand and development needs.
supply scenarios including a stylized scenario on the supply side namely ‘No Fossil-fuel Scenario’ (NFS) which has a bearing on India’s power sector achieving net zero. The significance of this study lies in its potential to guide strategic decision-making. The report’s findings are expected to contribute to the discussions on electricity sector decarbonization pathways to make informed decisions that will define the trajectory of India’s electricity sector landscape.

The thematic track aimed to deepen discussions on the critical issues underlined in TERI’s report – ‘India’s Electricity Transition Pathways to 2050’. It provided actionable insights and targeted recommendations, fostering collaboration among stakeholders for effective implementation and targeted recommendations, fostering collaboration.

The report’s findings are expected to contribute to India’s power sector achieving net zero. The significance of this study lies in its potential to guide strategic decision-making. The report’s findings are expected to contribute to the discussions on electricity sector decarbonization pathways to make informed decisions that will define the trajectory of India’s electricity sector landscape.

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pollution. Discussions highlighted state-level strategies, such as those implemented by the Uttar Pradesh government, including using mechanical road sweepers to manage road dust and adopting gas-based tandoors in hospitality sectors as cleaner alternatives. On-ground pilot studies showcased effective measures, including pollution monitoring units and strategies for tackling municipal waste burning.

Best practices for dispersed source management were emphasized, with examples such as clean construction pilots and wet processes to mitigate road dust re-suspension. Case studies from Bihar highlighted successful strategies, such as removing dust and garbage from public lands, greening barren spaces, and implementing technology-enabled solutions for road dust mitigation.

The key takeaways from the session emphasized the importance of tailored interventions and collaborative efforts between government bodies, local communities, and stakeholders. Implementing targeted strategies, coupled with continuous evaluation and adaptation based on monitoring data, emerged as critical factors for achieving NCAP targets and sustaining the progress in air quality management.

The thematic session titled, “Technologies for a Net Zero Iron & Steel Sector” was held as part of the annual flagship event of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2024. The session aimed to achieve net zero by mid-century, global emissions from industry and the steel sector need to fall by over 95% by 2050, this industry sector crucial to transition because cement, iron, and steel industry cause 70% of the emissions alone. Material efficiency and process efficiency is key to reducing steel sector emissions, innovative near zero emissions technology already make in-roads by 2030 and will play an even larger role after 2030. Innovation in technologies is very much required and many pilots are going on for growing economies. Discussions ranged around the need to reduce the emissions immediately by targeting the low hanging fruits like moving from thermal to renewable energy sources. In Indian context we are at a very critical juncture where our economy is growing very fast, but we need to focus on emission reduction simultaneously. In this session, the IEA set out the pace and scale of transition required in the steel sector, with the aim of establishing a green steel ecosystem. With the government and private sector joining hands and leading together, India can aim to gradually decrease the greenhouse gas intensity in steel.

Recently we have added Biochars, exploring how biochar can be used in steel making and solutions are being looking forward to in different aspects targeting up to 2030 and goals beyond 2030. There’s a broad range of policy tools that will be needed across the world and here in India as well, governments have been starting to look into these all these different acting tools which are needed to setting of overall framework of the targets and policies that set the direction of things. And we also need some really specific policies to target to address some really specific challenges of the industry sectors.

Very key for a country like India is to create demand for Green Steel.
The thematic—"Reducing Plastic and Chemical Waste in the Marine Environment"—was held as part of the annual flagship event of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2024. The session aimed at sharing and building knowledge and capacities to tackle plastic and chemical pollution and its associated social, economic, and environmental impacts and identifying opportunities associated with reducing plastic and chemical waste in the marine environment.

Discussions ranged from persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and its impact on water bodies, to the existing pilot projects that work towards reducing the same as well as other innovative solutions. The discourse encouraged development of new strategies to approach the issue. It also encouraged organizations and academia to realign their goals and objectives to rethink and reapproach into tackling this issue.

One of the major highlights of the session was the discussion on India-Norway cooperation project on capacity building for reducing plastic and chemical pollution in India (INOPOL). This included sharing some light on the background of the project, the approach and motivation, case studies in Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, and Uttarakhand (pilot), macroplastic and microplastic monitoring, and certain social and policy dynamics involved with the project.

The session also witnessed a book launch titled "Managing Persistent Organic Pollutants in India: A Case Study on Vapi and Surat" by the dignitaries on the dais. Furthermore, there were discussions on monitoring riverine macroplastic pollution, microplastics pollution, challenges associated with monitoring, lack of standardised methods, harmonisation and the future of monitoring.

Today, we do not have any Indian company who really produces bioplastics and we are still importing from abroad. The major thing with bioplastics is that these functional properties are somewhat less than the conventional plastics, so once it enters recycling stream, it becomes really difficult and it actually acts as a contaminant for the normal recycling stream. So, they need to be treated separately, need to be collected separately, and they need to be collected along with the garbage so that they can be composted. So, that is how it needs to be managed.

Different organs are impacted by different kinds of POPs. There are different receptors which these POPs can find and then based on those receptors, like what kind of hormone mimicking might happen, we can target like what diseases can come up. So, it is quite an elaborative study and that is how we should be doing it.

The vast majority of microplastics that we observe in our environment is actually these kind of fragments which are hard to actually link to a particular source and these are actually derived from the breakdown of large pieces of plastic and microplastics, and so it is important to monitor these microplastics as well so we can make a meaningful advancement in reducing microplastic pollution in the environment.

It took us 15 years to build this momentum on persistent organic pollutants and plastic waste management.

There were deliberations during the panel discussion on bioplastics, health impacts of plastics and microplastics, and efforts needed at community level. Discussions involved perspectives from both organizations and academia and the steps that can be taken to reduce plastic generated pollution from oceans as well as rivers.
The thematic session titled, “Enhancing Planning, Institutional Frameworks and Capacities on Adaption and Resilience” was held as part of the annual flagship event of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS). The discussion in the session focused on adaptation and resilience as key to address welfare and poverty in developing nations, with India as a prime example. The panel also highlighted the involvement of local communities in managing and protecting their resources playing crucial roles as custodians. Their ownership and intimate knowledge enabled the use of natural resources into national and regional planning, underscoring the need for social, economic, and environmental considerations. The discussion also emphasized on the importance of gathering and utilizing data from various sources, along with blending different knowledge systems for informed decision-making. This holistic approach aimed to improve the resilience and adaptability of both people and infrastructure. It required a synthesis of scientific insight, community engagement, and sustainable practices. By fostering ownership among local communities and leveraging their understanding, coupled with a science-based framework, the goal is to create a sustainable, resilient framework that supports the welfare and eradication of poverty in developing countries. The major takeaway was the understanding that this comprehensive method not only promotes environmental stewardship but also enhances the socioeconomic well-being of these communities but also ensuring a sustainable and prosperous future.

Resilience is not a static goal, rather a continuous process of adapting to changing conditions and finding synergies between different development objectives. Self-help groups and extension services can improve natural framing practices. Critical for us to de-link between energy usage and emissions.

Tamil Nadu has one of the longest coastlines in India, in one sense it’s an opportunity, it’s a boon but at the same time it’s a bane because of the challenges. For coastal resilience Tamil Nadu has setup a Special Purpose Vehicle, which is India’s first green climate company.
The partner thematic session titled, "Climate Finance: Catalyst for India's Energy Transition" was curated by Tata Capital. The discussion was centred around climate finance as a catalyst for economic growth and innovation and the possible mechanisms to raise money for energy transition. The industry experts analysed the nuances of climate finance and its role in steering India towards sustainable energy. The discourse spanned the essence and urgency of climate finance, instruments of green finance, strategies for climate mitigation through financial channels, and the synergy of collective endeavours. The discussion explored the current landscape of India's renewable energy sector, the government's active policies, and the green finance mechanisms at play. Technology stabilization, flow of public resources in project preparation, along with instruments of credit enhancement, blended finance and multidisciplinary actions can provide a seamless transition of energy in India. The necessity of climate finance was underscored as critical for India to meet its ambitious renewable energy objectives, transitioning effectively from conventional fossil fuels to greener alternatives. The dialogue further explored the imbalance between the supply of and demand for these funds, stressing the need for bridging this gap through strategic initiatives and policy frameworks. The conversation highlighted the government's current initiatives and schemes designed to bolster the renewable market, alongside discussing the potential of green finance instruments in mobilizing necessary funds.

The panel advocated for integrated actions among stakeholders—governments, financial entities, and the corporate sector—to amplify the impact of climate finance. This collaborative approach is envisioned to accelerate India's transition to renewable energy, aligning with global efforts to combat climate change and promoting a sustainable and resilient energy future. A pronounced need for a robust legal framework with central laws in place of policies for energy-related projects was highlighted with the creation of a 2-way credit system where participation of retail investors are encouraged and integrated into the ecosystem.

The session concluded by underscoring the imperative of climate finance as not just a financial mechanism, but as a transformative force driving India's energy transition, spotlighting the intertwined challenges and prospects within the renewable sector and beyond.

Venue: Magnoila

CLIMATE FINANCE: CATALYST FOR INDIA'S ENERGY TRANSITION

Moderators:
- Mr Pankaj Sindwani, Chief Business Officer, Cleantech Finance, Tata Capital and Managing Partner, Tata Capital Cleantech AIF
- Mr P R Jaishankar, Managing Director, India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited
- Mr Paraj Sharma, Founder and CEO, O2 Power
- Mr Virender Pankaj, CEO, Assem Infrastructure Finance
- Mr Saurabh Kumar, Vice President - India, The Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet
- Mr Sanjeev Aggarwal, Chairman, Hexa Climate

Speakers:
- Mr P R Jaishankar
- Ms Veronica Tomei
- Dr Farran Redfern
- Dr Andrew Singh Tukana
- Mr P Mudalige
- Ms Taina Dyckhoff
- Mr Pankaj Sindwani
- Mr Muddassar

Welcome Address

Ms Taina Dyckhoff, German Embassy

I firmly believe that the key to locking India’s energy transition lies in collaboration between public and private sector, between financial institutions and policymakers and between local communities and global investors.

Moderator

MR P R JAISHANKAR
Managing Director, India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited

Climate finance probably is going to be an integral part of every activity an economy performs. In other words, it will be the spinal cord.

Mr Pankaj Sindwani
Chief Business Officer, Cleantech Finance, Tata Capital and Managing Partner, Tata Capital Cleantech AIF

Right instruments have to be employed to minimize risks.

MR SAURABH KUMAR
Vice President - India, The Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet

I firmly believe that the key to locking India’s energy transition lies in collaboration between public and private sector, between financial institutions and policymakers and between local communities and global investors.

MR P MUDALIGE
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways, Fiji

One of the challenges we face is lack of availability of data to form policies at national level.

DR ANDREW SINGH TUKANA
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways, Fiji

We’re all in the same boat, and if we don’t all paddle in the same direction—if even one paddles in the opposite direction—we’ll all sink.

MS TAINA DYCKHOFF
German Embassy

This year, WSDS arrives at a crucial time. With half of the 2030 agenda timeframe passed, it’s becoming clear that global efforts need to be significantly ramped up. Today, we will discuss how synergies between climate action and SDG implementation can be maximized.

Mr P Mudalige
Director General (Planning), Ministry of Environment, Sri Lanka

National Environmental Action Plan in alignment with SDGs and National Environmental plan by Sri Lankan government includes nine thematic areas.

DR FARRAN REDFERN
Secretary, Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Energy, Kiribati

One of the challenges that we face is lack of availability of data to form policies at national level.

Venue: Marigold

SYNERGISTIC ACTIONS FOR SDGs AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Welcome Address

- Ms Taina Dyckhoff, German Embassy
- Dr Pradip Dhyani, Distinguished Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute
- Mr P Mudalige, Director General (Planning), Ministry of Environment, Sri Lanka
- Mr Andrew Singh Tukana, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways, Fiji
- Ms Nidhi Madan, Associate Director, Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation
- Ms Veronica Tomei, BMUV-India Head of Division and Commissioner for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Speakers:
- DR Andrew Singh Tukana
- Mr P Mudalige
- Ms Taina Dyckhoff
- Mr P R Jaishankar
- Dr Farran Redfern
- Mr Pankaj Sindwani
- Mr Saurabh Kumar
- Mr P MUDALIGE

Synergistic Actions for SDGs and Climate Change" explored how synergies between climate action and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) framework can be maximized by exploring guidance from the SDGs, interconnectivity of systems leading to guided growth of economies. Discussions ranged around the need of alignment of SDGs to the environmental policies and procedures of small island nations such as Sri Lanka and Fiji, which are more affected with the climate change crisis. While investments in mitigation, especially in the emerging economies is more crucial than the developed
nations but a synergy in acting towards a common goal is the main imperative that all need to work on. Climate change and capacity building are two things that go hand in hand to provide opportunities for sustainable development. Another key takeaway was movement from linear economy to circular economy to mitigate and minimize the effect of resource depletion. International cooperation plays a very crucial role in moving forward for collaborative global growth. Economy-wise planning was stressed over sector-wise planning while reporting on SDGs and their effective implementation at all levels. A synergistic approach at all levels for better coordination between strategies and plans is needed for effectively delivering sustainable, resilient, and innovative solutions. Discussions around different SDGs and their interconnectedness was emphasized by the speakers showing how they play together for showing a complex interconnected model. For instance, SDG 14 and 15 are related to capacity of biodiversity to sequester carbon from environment naturally that is created by different sources on land. There was a mutual agreement on the need of more collaborative solutions, innovation, and technological transfer between different economies of the world.

The partner thematic session titled, “Challenges and Solutions for Reducing Marine Plastic Pollution” was focussed on the formidable challenges encountered in the battle against marine plastic pollution. The discourse emphasized the need for comprehensive solutions spanning upstream, midstream, and downstream processes to

Venue: Silver Oak 1

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS FOR REDUCING MARINE PLASTIC POLLUTION

Welcome Remarks
• Mr Atul Bagai, Head UNEP (India office)

Special Address
• Mr Erlend Dragnet, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Climate and Environment, Norway

Panellists
• Dr Suneel Pandey, TERI (Key challenges for implementation of PWM rules)
• Mr Pranav Pasricha, CHUK (Manufacturing of alternatives to banned SUP)
• Mr Ankit Gupta, ITC Limited (Implementing sustainable packaging solutions & EPR)
• Ms Annapurna Mattu Ahli, TOMRA (Solutions for plastics waste segregation)
• Mr Sourabh Manuja, GIS (Digital portal for monitoring of MRF operations)
• Ms Pratibha Sharma, UNDP (Effectiveness of MRFs)

Chair
• Dr Sumit Sharma, UNEP

Royal Norwegian Embassy and UNEP
effectively manage this waste. The panel brought together distinguished representatives from the industrial sector, packaging industry, and other relevant fields to delve into these issues.

A significant portion of the discussion was dedicated to exploring potential solutions, highlighting the critical role of legal frameworks. Key measures such as the ban on Single Use Plastics (SUPs) and the introduction of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) were thoroughly debated. The session also marked the introduction of an online portal for EPR, a move aimed at enhancing the management and reduction of plastic waste. Furthermore, the panel engaged in an in-depth analysis of single-layer and multi-layer packaging, evaluating their impacts and exploring sustainable alternatives. The impact of Material's Recovery Facilities (MRFs) on waste management and recycling efforts was also discussed. MRFs serve as crucial nodes in the recycling process, where various types of recyclable materials collected from households, businesses, and collection points are sorted, cleaned, and prepared for sale to or use by, manufacturers as raw materials for new products. Operation of digital portal for monitoring MRF operations which is a national digital platform to monitor recycling and reuse of marine waste was also shown.

The session highlighted the vital role that the REDD+ mechanism can play in protecting and restoring natural ecosystems, as well as securing the rights and livelihoods of local communities that heavily depend on forests. Additionally, REDD+ has the potential to generate extra revenue and facilitate the transfer of technologies, knowledge, and expertise, all while contributing to the global reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

The thematic track on “The Just Transition Framework” aimed at enhancing the management and reduction of plastic waste, understand the whole cycle and take measures keeping in mind the cost and understand the implications of it that might occur in the later stage and then make a commitment to it.

**THEMATICAL TRACKS GROUP A**

**MacArthur Foundation**

**JUST TRANSITION FRAMEWORK FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE IN INDIA’S COAL MINING REGION**

Keynote Address

Shri Anmit Lal Meena, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Coal

Speakers

- Mr Binay Dayal, Former Director (Technical) & Adjunct Professor, IIT-Bombay
- Ms. Sabina Dewan, President and Executive Director, Jutptob Network
- Mr Ashim Roy, General Secretary, Hindu Mahasab Kisan Panchayat
- Mr Vinod K Pandey, GM (Environment), CPMIDKES
- Mr Madhuban Pandey, Co-Founder, SCORE Livelihood Foundation

**THE ENERGY AND RESOURCES INSTITUTE**

Creating Innovative Solutions for a Sustainable Future

**APPROACH FOR OPERATIONALIZING STATE LEVEL SUB-NATIONAL REDD+ IN INDIA**

Chair and Moderator

- Dr Jagdish Khush, Asia Pacific Regional Coordinator, Coalition for Rainforest Nations (CRIN)

Speakers

- Shri Valeiembemal PCCF and JHOF, Manipur
- Dr. Jagdish Khush, Director, India Gandhi National Forest Academy
- Mr. Vargheese Paul, Deputy Director, Environment and WASH, USAID
- Mr Kundan Bumwal, Senior Advisor, Climate Change, GIZ India
- Dr. Jitendra Vir Sharma, IPS (Retd.) Programme Director, Land Resources, TERI

**A ROADMAP FOR MAINSTREAMING INCLUSIVE CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING IN URBAN LANDSCAPES**

Speakers

- Ms Deboldina Kundo, Acting Director, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)
- Dr. Renju Khoisla, Director, Centre for Urban and Regional Excellence (CURE) India
- Dr Meenakshi Dhote, Dean (Academic), School of Planning and Architecture, Delhi
- Shri B. Srinivas, Retired Town and Country Planning Organization (TOPO), Consultant Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)

The session began with a discussion on the challenges of climate change, emphasizing historical changes and the need for urban planning to address uncertainties. Highlighting the urgency of mitigating carbon emissions, the panelists stressed on the vital role of city governments. Issues of planning disparities and the importance of coordination were discussed, along with the need for inclusive planning to address social disparities in urban areas.

India’s commendable steps in climate change, including the Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework, were acknowledged. Following this, the Urban Act project was introduced as a regional initiative, focusing on multi-level governance, participatory methods, and evidence-driven tools for climate-sensitive urban planning.

In conclusion, the session underscored the importance of inclusive climate action planning, learning from global experiences, and collaborative efforts for sustainable and resilient cities.
The recent rise in the geopolitical conflict globally has added another dimension to the world order grappling with multiple challenges, from an ever-threatening climate crisis to sliding back of key sustainable development goals. The adverse impact of extreme weather events, especially in a conflict situation, is usually felt the most by the vulnerable. This Media Roundtable on Leadership for Sustainable Development and Climate Justice attempted to understand the policy perspectives, address the need for determined national and global leadership, and techniques to promote climate justice in the contemporary context.

The thematic session highlighted the multifaceted approach required to achieve decarbonization of freight in India, emphasizing the adoption of electric and hybrid vehicles, investment in efficient logistics infrastructure, and the promotion of alternative fuels.

The discussion outlined the significant strides made by the railways in achieving freight loading targets, with a focus on electrification. Government initiatives to reduce logistics costs and promote clean freight were also highlighted, along with the importance of modal shifts to meet emission reduction targets.

The session marked the launch of a report, titled 'Comprehensive Environmental and Social Sustainability Assessment of Bio-CNG as a Vehicular Fuel in India.' This report signifies the culmination of TERI's exercise aimed at assessing the potential of Bio-CNG as a green energy not only in mobility, but also in producing sustainable by-products that can replace fossil-based fertilizers used in agricultural activities, among others.

The thematic track was structured to cater to all automotive manufacturers, highlighting the broader implications that the utilization of Bio-CNG has in facilitating circularity for the automotive sector in India, promoting a sustainable and environmentally conscious approach. The event presented a thorough overview and illustrated the research outcomes across the broad study heads undertaken in the report, highlighting Bio-CNG's potential to play a significant role in India's transition towards more sustainable and environment-friendly mobility.

The thematic session signified a transformative approach to CSR that aims to transcend the conventional silos, fostering a holistic and synergistic integration of CSR, ESG, and philanthropy initiatives. The discussion underscored that companies need to integrate sustainability into their core business models, by incorporating responsible practices into decision-making processes. ESG considerations should be embedded in corporate governance, ensuring ethical conduct and environmental stewardship. Philanthropy efforts must be aligned with broader societal goals, creating a more strategic and impactful footprint. In essence, this integrated impact approach heralds a new era—where businesses become catalysts for positive change by contributing to a more sustainable and equitable future.
MOBILIZING FINANCE FOR LOW-CARBON TRANSITION IN INDIA: ROLE OF GREEN BONDS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Session Chair and Moderator:
• Dr Dipak Dasgupta, Distinguished Fellow, TERI

Panelists:
• Ms Chandini Raina, Economic Advisor, Climate Change Finance Unit, Dept of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance
• Mr Pradeep Tharakak, Director Energy Transition, Asian Development Bank
• Mr Manasi Puri, Senior Professional, New Development Bank
• Mr Gagan Sidhu, Director – Centre for Energy Finance, Council on Energy, Environment and Water
• Ms Neha Khanna, Senior Manager, Climate Policy Initiative
• Mr Prumit Mukherjee, Associate Research Fellow, Observer Research Foundation

Sustainable Agriculture for Food Security: Exploring Climate Action and SDG Synergies

Key Speakers:
• Dr Asha Ram Sihag, Distinguished Fellow, TERI
• Dr Alka Bhargava, Senior Policy Advisor, UNEP, The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB)
• Dr Malancha Chakraborty, Senior Fellow and Deputy Director (Research), Observer Research Foundation (ORF)
• Ms Pradnya Patilnakur, Head of Unit, Climate Change, Resilient Food Systems and DRR, World Food Programme (WFP)
• Dr Arvind Kapur, Distinguished Fellow, Sustainable Agriculture, TERI
• Dr Arindam Datta, Senior Fellow, TERI
• Ms Surekha Bhadwal, Senior Fellow and Director, Earth Science and Climate Change Division, TERI

Moderator:
• Ms Marit Marie Strand, Counselor and Head of Cooperation, Norwegian Embassy, New Delhi

This thematic session aimed at understanding the role that unique financial instruments, like green bonds and partnerships, can play in mobilizing the climate finance needs of the country. The deliberations revolved around challenges faced by the Indian bond market and the green financial sphere, in terms of taxonomy and standardization, alongside the fiscal and policy requirements. Various innovative solutions and potential policy interventions were discussed to overcome these bottlenecks. While the domestic market needs to be catalysed to absorb the existing climate finance, partnerships and the support of multilateral development banks shall be key to unlocking foreign capital flows. India’s capital market and its potential for green growth provides significant opportunities to leverage green finance and holds the promise to grow enormously in the future.

For this thematic session, the panel consisted of five distinguished members who discussed on how the impact of climate change is not just on agriculture as a sector, but on a humanitarian level as well. They emphasized that the processing systems need to be developed and installed where the crops are produced. An amalgamation of multiple crisis stops us from achieving the SDGs. The session touched upon how farmers are under the misconception that using excess amount of fertilizers will lead to excess production. However, this has severe impacts on the nutrition of the soil and thereby, on the nutrition of the produced crops. The discussion underlined the many challenges that would come along for the agriculture sector on its journey to be climate resilient. A primary area of concern was that the farmers need to be aware of what the climate information is, along with being trained to make decisions to adapt. Since, farming as a profession is witnessing a huge decline—owing to the decrease in their income—the need for an increase in real investments was highlighted. The session concluded that governments play a significant role in making policies and need to make real investments in the agriculture sector.

The discussion was primarily carried out on the fact—to achieve net zero by mid-century, global emissions from industry—and the steel sector—need to fall by over 95% by 2050. This includes a rapid scale-up of new technologies that can produce low and near zero emissions iron and steel. By 2030, the IEA estimates that there should be over 100 Mt that can produce low and near zero emissions iron and steel. This includes a rapid scale-up of new technologies that can produce low and near zero emissions iron and steel. By 2030, the IEA estimates that there should be over 100 Mt that can produce low and near zero emissions iron and steel. By 2030, the IEA estimates that there should be over 100 Mt that can produce low and near zero emissions iron and steel. In the session, the IEA will set out the pace and scale of transition required | as the sector decarbonizes. The session was composed of Government of India representatives who gave their opinions on the latest developments banks shall be key to unlocking foreign capital flows. India’s capital market and its potential for green growth provides significant opportunities to leverage green finance and holds the promise to grow enormously in the future. The session concluded that governments play a significant role in making policies and need to make real investments in the agriculture sector.

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TREATMENT NET ZERO POSSIBILITIES IN TEXTILE WASTEWATER TREATMENT

Inaugural Address
• Mr G Ashok Kumar, IAS, Director General
• Mr Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, IAS (Ret'd) (Virtual Message)

Keynote Address
• Mr Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, IAS (Ret'd), Former Director-General, National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India and Advisor, MUCO-TERI Cell on Water Reuse (NTCDE)

Policy and Strategy Perspective
• Ms Prajakti L. Verma, IAS, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India

Regulator's Perspective
• Mr Nishant Goyal, Senior Director – ESG, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas

Environment Perspective
• Mr Priyadarsini Choudhary, Executive Director, Mahratta Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture

Textile Industry's Perspective
• Mr Dinabandhu Gouda, IAS (Ret'd), Former Director General, National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India and Advisor, MUCO-TERI Cell on Water Reuse (NTCDE)

Moderator
• Dr Nupur Bahadur, Industrial Estate Manager, TERI

Panelists
• Ms Chandrima Chatterjee
• Ms Sarita Bhattacharya
• Ms Palak Kalita
• Mr Chirag Dev
• Mr Prateek Garg
• Ms Pratibha Agrawal
• Ms Meeta Mohapatra

Panelists also discussed technological requirements to improve energy efficiency and conservation, and how policies need to be better aligned to create an ecosystem.

Industrial Area, Kanpur. The TADOX® plant, operating at a treatment capacity of 20,000 Liters per day, has demonstrated remarkable efficacy in removing colour and various pollutants, ensuring compliance with stringent norms. This success has prompted discussions on proposing TADOX® as a retrofittable solution at the pre-biological treatment stage of existing CETPs, aiming to achieve Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) compliance while alleviating the burden on downstream treatment processes. The integration of TADOX® with ZLD systems offers promising prospects for enhanced treatment efficacy and environmental sustainability, as highlighted by Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) studies showcasing significant reductions in Global Warming Potential (GWP). Moreover, the potential integration of renewable energy sources like solar power could further enhance the technology's sustainability and significantly reduce operational costs, moving towards a net-zero emission solution. Hence the study recommends policy shifts to encourage advanced oxidation adoption like TADOX®, ZLD guideline revisions to include TADOX® use, and renewable energy integration within treatment systems. These actions, aimed at the major regulatory bodies like the CPCB and SPCB in the country, are crucial steps toward fostering sustainable industrial frameworks. Also this initiative would strongly support the industry’s shift towards sustainable wastewater management practices, offering a viable solution for meeting ZLD requirements in National Mission like Water Vision 2025 and Namami Ganajayi, where the core objective of rejuvenation of rivers and in particular achieving the goal of ‘Nirmal Dhara’, the ‘Unpolluted Flow’ will be achieved.

The thematic session titled, “Net Zero Possibility in Textile Wastewater Treatment” was held as part of the annual flagship event of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)’s, World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS). The session aimed at delivering key insights and outcomes regarding the successful pilot demonstration of TADOX® technology. The project, funded by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt. of India, represents a groundbreaking initiative globally, addressing the treatment of textile effluent at a Textile CETP, Rooma

The plenary session titled,”High Level Convening of Industry Charter for Near Zero Emissions by 2050” was held as part of the annual flagship event of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS). The session aimed at channelizing how operationalizing net-zero goals of the Indian industry will require participation of all key actors of the sector, ranging from well-established industrial houses to the MSMEs. Further, this session deliberated on the key levers that will enable decoupling industrial growth from emissions, and focused the need to enhance sharing of best practices among signatory companies, including leading industries, technology providers and sectoral associations, especially of MSMEs. The session also discussed the financing needs of the industries to decarbonize their operations. Panelists also discussed technological requirements to improve energy efficiency and conservation, and how policies need to be better aligned to create an ecosystem.

The thematic session titled, “Just Transitions for Land-based Climate Action in India” was held as part of the annual flagship event of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS). The session aimed at understanding the socio-economic context and associated vulnerabilities where land-based measures are identified or being implemented. The issues of risks and benefits, principles of equity, inclusivity, suitability of adaptation measures, and trade-offs and synergies arising at different scales were discussed for assessing the transitional risks for climate action for meeting the net-zero targets. The panel further deliberated on the solutions that could possibly assist in reducing these risks on societies and ensuring well-being.

The high level convening of industry charter for near zero emissions by 2050 was held as part of the annual flagship event of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS). The session aimed at understanding the socio-economic context and associated vulnerabilities where land-based measures are identified or being implemented. The issues of risks and benefits, principles of equity, inclusivity, suitability of adaptation measures, and trade-offs and synergies arising at different scales were discussed for

JUST TRANSITIONS FOR LAND-BASED CLIMATE ACTION IN INDIA

Session Chair and Moderator
• Ms Surekha Bhadwal, Director, Earth Science and Climate Change Division, TERI

Panellists
• Dr Archana Chatterjee, IAS, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India
• Mr G Ashok Kumar, IAS, Director General, TERI
• Dr Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, IAS (Ret'd), Former Director General, National Mission for Clean Ganga, Government of India
• Mr Rajiv Goyal, Executive Director, MUCO-TERI Cell on Water Reuse (NTCDE)
• Mr Chaitanya Prakash, Senior Director – ESG, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas
• Mr Indrajit Bhattacharya, Director, Earth Science and Climate Change Division, TERI

Panelists
• Ms Sambita Ghosh
• Dr Archana Chatterjee
• Ms Sambita Ghosh
• Mr G Ashok Kumar
• Ms Sambita Ghosh
• Dr Archana Chatterjee

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This thematic session opened by underlining the fact that buildings consume over one-third of India's electricity: a figure which is escalating with rapid urbanization. Therefore, implementing advancements in construction not only improves quality, efficiency, safety, sustainability and value for money, but essentially enhance building performance. However, such sustainable construction faces a primary challenge in the form of accessing knowledge about advanced building materials and design. The session underscored how such problems hinder progress and widespread adoption of new, clean, and green practices. Such a gap impedes the Smart Cities Mission and its goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2070.

As a probable solution to this problem, a web-based knowledge portal being developed by TERI (as part of a research study under the A2K+ Studies scheme by the DSIR) was introduced in the session. This tool aims to share valuable information on advanced building materials and energy-efficient design.

The thematic session served as a pivotal platform for a comprehensive discussion, aiming to leverage the potential of the younger generation for a sustainable and environmentally conscious future. It sought to position schools as centres for change, advocating for environmental education and promoting behaviour change for greater impact. The first panel highlighted children's leadership roles, education and promoting behaviour change for greater school as centres for change, advocating for environmental and environmentally conscious future. It sought to position children not only improves quality, efficiency, safety, sustainability and value for money, but essentially enhance building performance. However, such sustainable construction faces a primary challenge in the form of accessing knowledge about advanced building materials and design. The session underscored how such problems hinder progress and widespread adoption of new, clean, and green practices. Such a gap impedes the Smart Cities Mission and its goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2070.

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The discussions in this event provided critical inputs and insights in developing the roadmap that will guide for the path to be taken, and the policies, standards and safety and framework development to ensure a smooth transition towards sustainable marine fuels and engines. The deliberations on reducing the policy gaps between India and other countries and the overall scope for short- and long-term collaboration opportunities were critically assessed.

The panel discussion unravelled synergies, showcased successful models, and charted a sustainable course for an agro-revolution that harmonizes environmental stewardship and agricultural prosperity. Under the theme "FPOs and Biofuels: Empowering Agriculture, Energizing Tomorrow," this dialogue envisioned a future where collective action and eco-friendly energy solutions can pave the way for a thriving agricultural sector.

The discussion revolved around the development, challenges, and future of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) Carbon Projects in India within the framework of Voluntary Carbon Markets (VCMs). VCMs enable carbon emitters to offset their emissions by investing in projects aimed at reducing or removing greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. NbS projects, which focus on the sustainable management of natural resources such as forests, agricultural landscapes, and wetlands, are gaining attention due to their cost-effectiveness and sustainable approach to climate change mitigation. These projects can significantly contribute to global climate mitigation goals at a fraction of the cost compared to technological solutions, especially in developing countries.

The Sustainable Buildings Division at TERI and Mahindra Lifespaces Developers Ltd. jointly convened a thematic session on "Advancing Sustainable Building Practices: Role of Laboratories and State-of-the-Art Infrastructure to Enhance Energy Efficiency & Thermal Comfort." A pool of distinguished experts representing government bodies, academia, green building rating agencies, architects, industry associations and other key stakeholders engaged in discussions revolving around the collaborative initiative undertaken by the Mahindra-TERI Centre of Excellence (MT-CoE) to foster innovation and develop solutions tailored to the Indian building sector and climates.

The session "Meeting of Chief Sustainability Officers" highlighted the need for making transparency about economic, environmental, and social impacts a fundamental component in effective stakeholder relations, investment decisions, and other market relations, against the backdrop of the urgency and magnitude of the risks and threats to our collective sustainability, alongside increasing choice and opportunities. Discussions focused on the changing and evolving environmental, social, and governance (ESG) and ESG ratings landscape in India, the need for adopting sustainability standards and metrics with respect to the produced goods and services in the context of international trade and global market access, and the role of quality data for enhanced sustainability-focussed capital deployment, along with perspectives on the evolving workforce skills and green jobs and the need to address the widening skill gap with respect to the demand for green skills and availability of green talent that needs to be addressed in the global green economy regime.
The thematic track presented the findings of the TERI study in the report titled, ‘Pumped Storage Plants – Essential for India’s Energy Transition’ that recommends inter alia preparation of standard bidding documents, measures for identification of new sites, bidding for projects with capacity charge and energy charge, utilization of exhausted mines and another report titled, ‘Concentrated Solar Power Plants with Storage: Deployment Essential Now,’ which seeks to develop projects based on the learnings from National Solar Mission for development of solar parks.

CULTURAL EVENING

A cultural evening followed by a cocktail dinner was hosted by Johnson Controls International at The Hub. A cultural performance by the students of The Modern School ECNCR, Delhi in cooperation with Act Now, was enjoyed by the attendees.

Bhangra Dance by TAB Events
Certificate

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BGreenly certifies that the organisation
THE ENERGY AND RESOURCES INSTITUTE
has a Certificate of Sustainable Event, for the event
WSDS 24 - World Sustainable Development Summit
which takes place in New Delhi, India
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TERI was awarded the ‘Certificate of Sustainable Event’ by BGreenly

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