



WORLD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT 2026

परिवर्तन | TRANSFORMATIONS: VISION, VOICES,
AND VALUES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

February 25-27, 2026, Taj Palace, New Delhi, India

SUMMIT OVERVIEW





The year 2026 marked the 25th edition of the Summit series. In its journey since 2001, the platform has become a focal point for global thought leaders and practitioners to congregate and drive ambition and action for achieving sustainable development, and to address the global challenge of climate change. The Summit series has emerged as the impactful international event based in the Global South on sustainability which focuses on global sustainable futures while keeping an eye on present actions.



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Table of Contents

Chairman's Message	4
From the Director General's Desk	6
Preface by the Summit Curator	8
Acknowledgements	10
Summit Series (2001–2026)	12
Statistics @WSDS 2026	14
International Steering Committee	15
Silver Jubilee Committee	17
Inaugural Address: H.E. Dr Bharrat Jagdeo, Vice President, Cooperative Republic of Guyana....	18
Message: Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India	22
Keynote Address: Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India	24
Silver Jubilee Publication	28
Tracing the Summit Days	30
Inaugural	30
Plenaries	35
Valedictory	73
Him-CONNECT	79
Thematic Tracks	84
Partner Tracks	86
In Focus	94
CEO Forum	94
Dinner of Hope and Launch of LaBL 2.0	97
Act4Earth Manifesto	100
Looking Ahead: Towards the Next Edition	101
Main Summit Agenda	102
Gallery	108
Important Links	121



Chairman's Message



Mr Nitin Desai
Chairman, TERI

The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) began in 2001 as Delhi Sustainable Development Summit, at a time when global discourse on climate change and sustainability was still largely focused on raising awareness. Sustainable development was emerging as an important framework that sought to bring together environmental protection, economic growth, and social equity. The task then was to highlight the scale of the challenge and build a shared understanding of the need for collective action.

Twenty five years later, the situation has changed significantly. Today, awareness is no longer the principal challenge—the science is clear, the risks are widely recognized, and the urgency of the problem is evident. The real challenge before us now is implementation. The question is how commitments can be translated into concrete actions that deliver meaningful results.

Over the past quarter century, the conversations at WSDS have evolved alongside the global sustainability discourse. What began as a platform to emphasize the importance of environmental and developmental concerns has gradually become a forum for deeper engagement on practical pathways to transformation. Discussions increasingly focus on the policies, institutional arrangements, technologies, and financial systems required to make sustainability a reality.

Important global milestones reinforced this transition. The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals by the United Nations created a comprehensive global development agenda that recognized the interconnected nature of social, economic, and environmental challenges. Soon after, the Paris Agreement on climate change established a global framework through which countries committed themselves to collective climate action. These developments helped create a shared direction for global efforts.

Yet progress since then has been uneven. In several parts of the world, political and economic priorities have shifted away from strong commitments to sustainability. Even among those who remain committed, the pace of progress has not

been sufficient to meet the ambitious targets set for 2030. India, in many respects, continues to make steady progress towards the commitments it has made, but the global picture remains mixed.

This situation highlights an important reality. Sustainable development cannot depend solely on national governments. It requires action at multiple levels and from a wide range of actors. Regional governments, corporations, financial institutions, small and medium enterprises, and civil society all play critical roles in shaping development pathways. Equally important are the actions of individuals and communities, whose choices influence patterns of production and consumption.

Encouragingly, there are reasons for optimism. Many corporations today are adopting sustainability strategies and setting ambitious goals. Research institutions and civil society organizations continue to generate new ideas and innovations that support the transition to sustainable systems. The community of stakeholders engaged in sustainability today is far broader than it was twenty five years ago.

Platforms such as WSDS are therefore more important than ever. The Summit provides a space where policymakers, researchers, business leaders, and civil society representatives can come together to exchange ideas and learn from one another. Such dialogue is essential for building partnerships and identifying solutions that are both practical and effective.

The deliberations during this Silver Jubilee edition of the summit reflect the growing recognition that sustainable development requires integrated thinking across economics, technology, and ecology. I hope that the insights and partnerships that have emerged through these discussions will continue to guide our collective efforts in the years to come.

Mr Nitin Desai

Chairman, The Energy and Resources Institute



From the Director General's Desk



Dr Vibha Dhawan

Director General, TERI

The Silver Jubilee edition of the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) marked an important milestone in the journey of a platform that has, for twenty-five years, brought together global leaders, policymakers, researchers, industry representatives, and civil society to deliberate on pathways for sustainable development. What began in 2001 as the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit under the visionary leadership of TERI's Founder Director, Dr R K Pachauri, the Summit has evolved into a globally recognized forum for dialogue and action on climate and sustainability.

Over the years, WSDS has played a significant role in connecting science, policy, and practice. It has provided a space where diverse voices, from governments and businesses to academia, youth, and community leaders, come together to reflect on emerging challenges and identify collaborative solutions. The continued participation and engagement of stakeholders from across the world reflects the credibility and relevance of the Summit.

This year's theme, 'Parivartan | Transformations: Vision, Voices, and Values for Sustainable Development,' captured the spirit of the moment in which we find ourselves. The global landscape is increasingly complex. Climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation, resource constraints, and widening inequalities are unfolding alongside shifting geopolitical realities and growing pressures on financial and human resources. Addressing these interconnected challenges requires more than incremental change; it requires transformational pathways that are inclusive, resilient, and grounded in shared values.

Developing countries, for instance, face different developmental realities and resource constraints. Rather than reinventing solutions, they must build upon existing knowledge and technologies, adapt them to local needs, and accelerate their deployment through collaborative efforts.

The Summit highlighted the growing role of business leadership in driving sustainability transitions. Through the CEO Forum and other dialogues, it became clear that many companies are committed to advancing net-zero pathways.

However, the transition must also make economic sense. The challenge before us is to demonstrate that sustainability is not only environmentally responsible but also economically viable. With rapidly evolving technologies and innovative business models, the notion that green solutions are inherently expensive is increasingly being challenged. Platforms such as WSDS enable business leaders to share experiences, identify opportunities, and strengthen the business case for sustainability.

At the same time, sustainable development must remain deeply rooted in the realities of communities. India's development trajectory, for instance, is closely linked with the progress of its villages. Reliable and affordable energy access continues to be a critical enabler of rural prosperity. The launch of 'LaBL 2.0 – Lighting for Livelihoods' at this year's Summit reflects TERI's commitment to strengthening decentralized renewable energy solutions that can transform rural economies, create livelihoods, and support inclusive growth.

Equally important is the need to safeguard ecologically sensitive regions that are vital for global climate stability. The Himalayas represent one such landscape. Recognizing their significance, TERI has strengthened its engagement through initiatives such as the Centre for Himalayan Studies and collaborative platforms like the Coalition for Himalayan States. The Him-CONNECT initiative, showcased at the Summit, further demonstrated how research and innovation emerging from the Himalayan region can translate into practical solutions for sustainable development.

As we reflect on the deliberations and outcomes of this Silver Jubilee edition, it is clear that the conversations initiated at WSDS must continue beyond the Summit. The ideas, partnerships, and commitments that emerge here must translate into concrete action—across institutions, sectors, and communities.

On behalf of TERI, I extend my sincere gratitude to the distinguished leaders, partners, speakers, and participants who contributed in making WSDS 2026 a meaningful and impactful gathering. I also acknowledge the continued support of our institutional partners, collaborators, and the broader TERI community whose dedication made this Summit possible. The journey of transformation continues, and I look forward to welcoming you again as we build on this shared endeavour in the years ahead.

Dr Vibha Dhawan

Director General, The Energy and Resources Institute



Preface by the Summit Curator



Dr Shailly Kedia
Senior Fellow and
Director, TERI

Since its inception in 2001 as the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit and its evolution into the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) in 2016, the Summit series has established itself as the only independently convened multi-stakeholder platform on sustainable development and climate action based in the Global South. Over the past twenty-five years, the Summit has brought together global leaders, policymakers, researchers, industry representatives, and civil society to deliberate on pathways for advancing sustainable development in an increasingly complex and interconnected world.

WSDS activities are grounded in the theory of constructivism, which posits that socialization leads to the emergence, cascading, and internalization of norms, fostering ambition, commitments, and action. Through sustained dialogue and exchange of ideas, the Summit has helped shape priorities and narratives that influence global sustainability discourse.

Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) remains uneven, and the urgency of the climate crisis continues to intensify. The outcomes of the first global stocktake under the Paris Agreement underline the scale of the challenge. Addressing these challenges will require renewed multilateral cooperation, stronger partnerships, innovative financing, and accelerated implementation. Recent geopolitical tensions and conflicts have further underscored the fragility of global systems. Disruptions in energy markets and supply chains have exposed vulnerabilities in global energy systems and have highlighted the interconnected nature of energy security, economic stability, and climate action. These developments reinforce the need for resilient and diversified systems that can withstand shocks while supporting the climate and sustainable development goals.

The Silver Jubilee edition of WSDS was convened from February 25–27, 2026 in New Delhi under the umbrella theme “Parivartan | Transformations: Vision, Voices, and Values for Sustainable Development.” At the 25th edition, WSDS 2026 provided an opportunity to reflect on twenty-five years of dialogue and

engagement while identifying the transformations required to navigate the challenges that lie ahead.

It was a privilege to curate this milestone edition under the leadership of Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director General, TERI and to continue the legacy of this platform envisioned by Dr Rajendra Kumar Pachauri in 2001.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the International Steering Committee for their guidance and support. I also acknowledge the guidance of Governing Council of TERI, the Silver Jubilee Committee, the Distinguished Fellows of TERI, and the Committee of Directors for their continued encouragement and leadership.

This document presents a concise account of the deliberations and outcomes of WSDS 2026. It provides a bird's-eye view of the Summit programme, including the plenary sessions, thematic tracks, and special events, along with key statistics. Importantly, it highlights the call to action emerging from each plenary session, capturing key messages that can guide policy, partnerships, and implementation. This publication aims to serve as a reference for those advancing sustainable development and climate action.

As WSDS marks its Silver Jubilee, the Summit stands not only as a forum for dialogue but also as a platform for action. The conversations continue. The partnerships deepen. The responsibility to act grows stronger.

Dr Shailly Kedia

Senior Fellow and Director,
The Energy and Resources Institute



Acknowledgements

The Silver Jubilee edition of the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS), the annual flagship event of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), was held from February 25–27, 2026 in New Delhi. The 25th edition of the Summit deliberations centred on the umbrella theme 'Parivartan | Transformations: Vision, Voices, and Values for Sustainable Development', bringing together global leaders, policymakers, industry representatives, researchers, and civil society to advance dialogue and collaboration on sustainable development and climate action.

The Summit was supported by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India, and was co-branded with Mission LIFE (Lifestyle for Environment) as a special initiative promoting sustainable lifestyles and climate-conscious behaviour. We express our sincere gratitude to Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, and Mr Tanmay Kumar, Secretary, MoEFCC, for their continued guidance and support to the Summit.

We also acknowledge the support extended to the Him-CONNECT initiative and thank Ms Nameeta Prasad and her team at MoEFCC for their collaboration in advancing dialogue on Himalayan sustainability and innovation.

We thank our partners: Bloomberg Philanthropies [Star Partner], The International Climate Initiative (IKI), German Government [Premier Partner], Royal Norwegian Embassy [Country Partner], JSW Cement [Senior Partner], Asian Development Bank [Associate Partner], Johnson Controls [Associate Partner], Gentari India [Associate Partner], GRIHA Council [Associate Partner], TERI School of Advanced Studies (TSAS) [Associate Partner], and OTBL [Associate Partner]. We also acknowledge our Co-Associate Partners: Hero Future Energies, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Mercedes-Benz Research and Development India, and the United Nations Development Programme. We also thank our Thematic Track Partners, Shell India and the Ashoka Centre for a People-centric Energy Transition (ACPET), for their support to the Summit discussions.

We extend our appreciation to our Strategic Catalyst Partners: Jindal Steel Limited, Tata Power, International Solar Alliance, and ReNew; and to our Strategic Contributors: The Palladium Group, Grasim Industries Limited, State Bank of India, McKinsey & Company, and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

We also thank our Innovation Partners: AndPurpose, Climate Collective, and Cool The Globe. We express our sincere appreciation to the Summit Outreach Partners: World Sustainable Development Forum, The POP Movement, Foreign Correspondents' Club, Press Club of India, Earth System Governance, Kheoni, and Value 360 Communications.

Finally, we thank NDTV, Sansad TV, TV9/News9, and The Pioneer for their support as Media Partners, for helping amplify the Summit's deliberations and outcomes to a wider global audience.

We thank Mr Nitin Desai (Chairman, Governing Council, TERI) and Dr Vibha Dhawan (Director General, TERI) for their leadership and continued trust in the WSDS team.

We also express our sincere appreciation to the Silver Jubilee Committee, constituted to guide the milestone 25th edition of the Summit. The Committee comprised Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director

General, TERI; Mr Sanjay Seth, Senior Director, TERI; Dr Dipankar Saharia, Senior Director, TERI; Dr Shailly Kedia, Director, TERI; Dr Manish Kumar Shrivastava, Associate Director, TERI; and Mr Arupendra Nath Mullick, Associate Director, TERI.

We would also like to express our sincere gratitude to the International Steering Committee of the Summit, which comprised Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director General, TERI; Mr Amitabh Kant, Former G20 Sherpa, India and Former Chief Executive Officer, NITI Aayog; Ms Leena Nandan, Former Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India; Mr Ashish Khanna, Director General, International Solar Alliance; Prof. Kazuhiko Takeuchi, President, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan; Dr Ash Pachauri, Co-Founder and Director, POP Movement; Ms Kathleen McGinty, Vice President and Chief Sustainability and External Relations Officer, Johnson Controls; Ms Priya Shankar, India Director, Climate and Environment Program, Bloomberg Philanthropies; Mr Rajani Ranjan Rashmi, Former Lead Climate Negotiator, Government of India; Amb. Arne Walther, Former Secretary General, International Energy Forum and Former Chairman, International Energy Agency; Amb. Manjeev Puri, Former Ambassador of India; Dr Annapurna Vancheswaran, Former Senior Director, TERI and Former Managing Director, The Nature Conservancy India; Mr S Vijay Kumar, Former Secretary, Government of India; and Mr Mahendra Singh, Director and Strategic Advisor, Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited.

The Secretariat team acknowledges the colleagues from the Director General's Office—Mr Shyam Sundar Nayar, Officer on Special Duty, TERI; Mr Ritesh Kumar Jha, Officer on Special Duty, TERI; and Dr Kanika Chowdhary, Adviser, TERI—who were instrumental in ensuring timely communication and coordination. We also thank Ms Anuradha Mathur and Ms Praveen Sharma for their administrative support.

We acknowledge with appreciation the contributions of TERI's core coordination teams, including Information and Technology Services, Programme Cell, Communications and Publications, Administrative Services, Human Resources, and the Integrated Finance Unit. A special acknowledgement goes to the extended core team members whose dedication and behind-the-scenes efforts were critical to the planning and successful execution of the Summit: Ms Sonali Mathur, Ms Ritu Ghai, Mr Dinesh Kumar, Mr Varun Prakash Pandey, Mr Rohit Chauhan, Ms Pawandeep Kaur, Mr Vir Bahadur Singh, Mr Rahul Kumar, Mr Vishal Anant, Ms Anupama Jauhry, Dr Ipshita Mitra, Ms Ektaa Malik, Mr Adarsh R Krishnan, Mr Amarshafan M, Mr Neeshu Praveen Srivastava, Mr Sabeel Ahmed, Mr Sachin Bhardwaj, Mr Abhas Mukherjee, Mr Bhavya Bareja, Mr Vijay Nipane, Mr Santosh Gautam, Mr G K Mishra, Mr Anil Gopalakrishnan, Mr Sudhir Singh, Mr Sambath Kumar Nagarajan, Mr Jayakumar V K, Dr Abhilash Kolekar, Dr Partha Kalyan Bhattacharya, Mr Vijay Vikram S Parihar, and Dr Mithu Dey.

While it is not possible to acknowledge every individual contributor, we extend our sincere appreciation to all members of TERI and our extended institutional family whose dedication, collaboration, and support contributed to the successful execution and outcomes of the Summit. We are grateful to the floor managers, rapporteurs, facilitators, emcees, thematic track teams, and youth volunteers, whose dedication and hard work contributed significantly to the smooth conduct of the Summit. We thank the speakers and participants whose insights and engagement enriched the Summit deliberations and made the event possible.

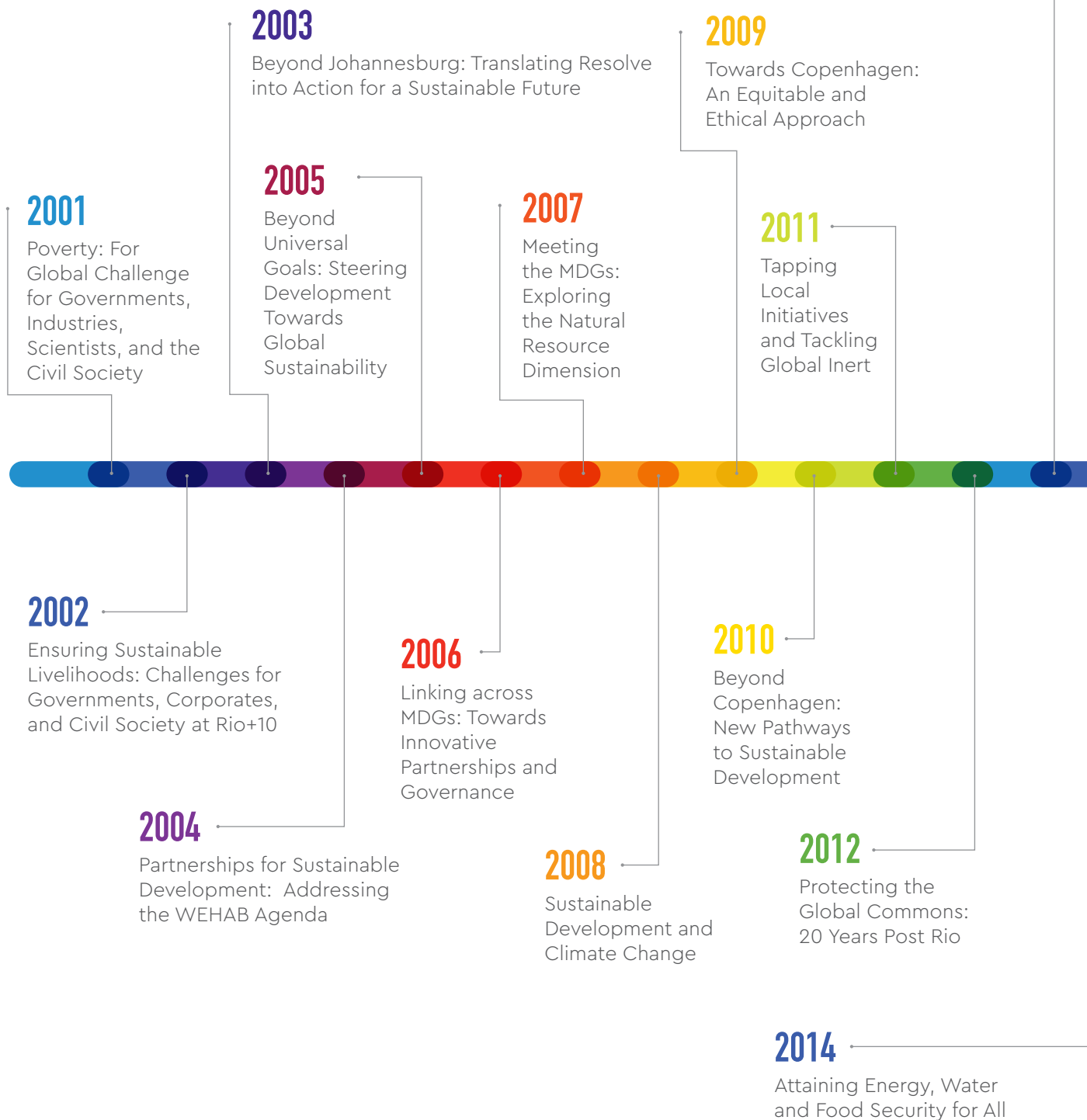
We look forward to hosting the 26th edition of the World Sustainable Development Summit as another milestone towards advancing sustainable development as a shared global goal.

WSDS Secretariat

(Shailly Kedia, Taruna Idnani, Ishita Srivastava, Chandralim Phukan, Ravi Nair, and John Andrus)

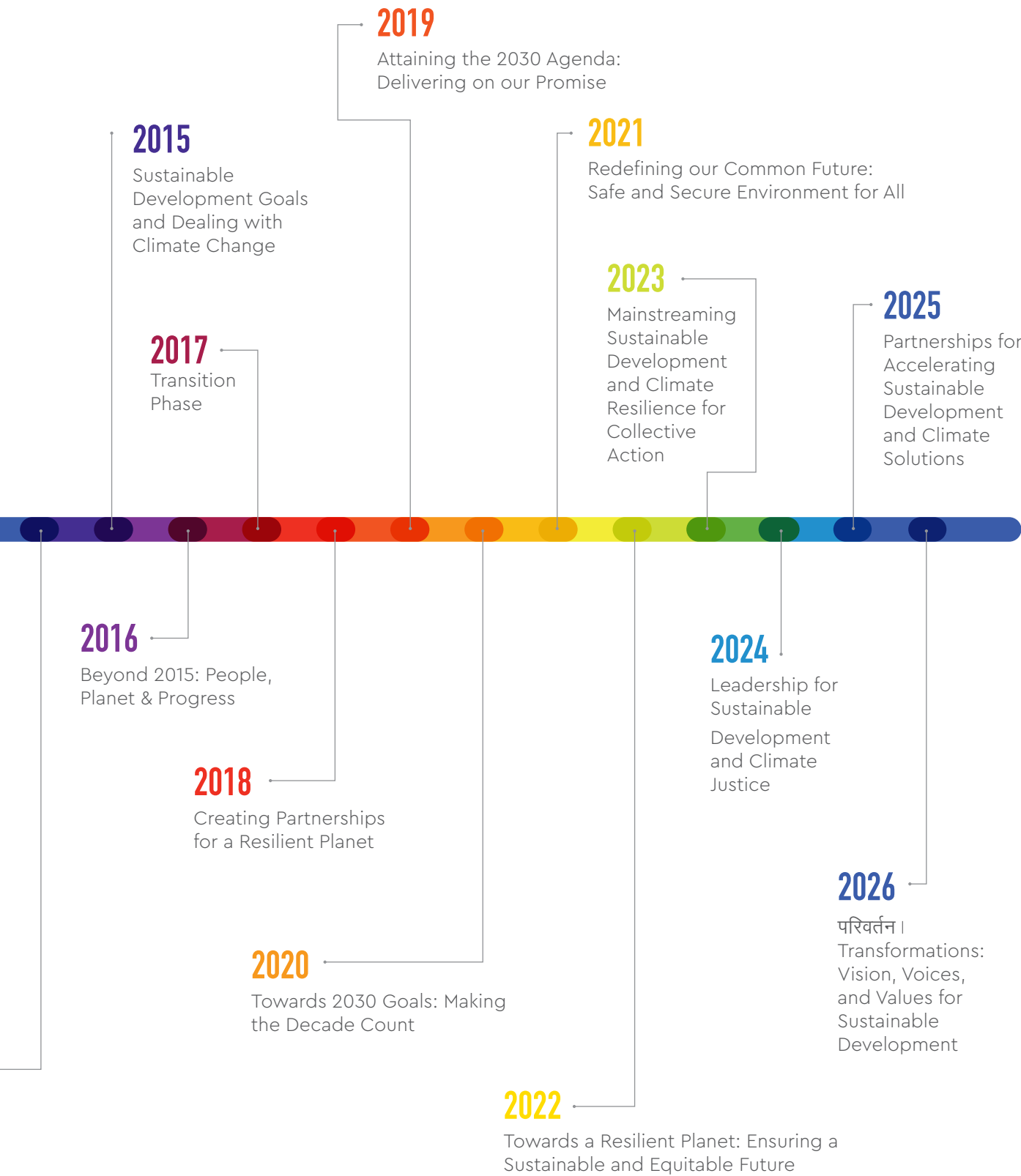


Summit Series (2001–2026)



2013

The Global Challenge of Resource-Efficient Growth and Development



Statistics @WSDS 2026

2,396

In-person Delegates

63

Partners

2

Head of State/ Government

41

Expo Booths

29

Sessions

81

Business & Industry

280

Speakers

1 million+

Social Media Reach

6

Ministers

150,000+

Website Views

40%

Women Plenary Speakers

900+

Media Coverage

International Steering Committee



Dr Vibha Dhawan
Director General, The Energy and Resources Institute



Mr Amitabh Kant
Ex-Sherpa G20 India, Former CEO, NITI Aayog



Ms Leena Nandan
Former Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India



Mr Ashish Khanna
Director-General, International Solar Alliance



Prof Kazuhiko Takeuchi
President, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan



Dr Ash Pachauri
Co-Founder and Director, POP Movement



Ms Kathleen McGinty
Vice President and Chief Sustainability and External Relations Officer, Johnson Controls



Ms Priya Shankar
India Director, Climate and Environment Program, Bloomberg Philanthropies



Mr Rajani Ranjan Rashmi
Former Lead Climate Negotiator, Government of India



Mr Arne Walthert
Former Secretary General of the International Energy Forum & former Chairman, International Energy Agency



Mr Manjeev Puri
Former Indian Ambassador



Dr Annapurna Vancheswaran
Former Senior Director, TERI; Former Managing Director, TNC-India and Resources Institute



Mr S Vijay Kumar
Former Secretary, Government of India



Mr Mahendra Singhi
Director & Strategic Advisor Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited



Silver Jubilee Committee



Dr Vibha Dhawan
Director General, TERI



Mr Sanjay Seth
Senior Director, TERI



Dr Dipankar Saharia
Senior Director, TERI



Dr Shailly Kedia
Director, TERI



Dr Manish Kumar Shrivastava
Associate Director, TERI



Mr Arupendra Nath Mullick
Associate Director, TERI



Inaugural Address



H.E. Dr Bharrat Jagdeo, Vice President, Cooperative Republic of Guyana

First of all, I wish to thank TERI for the tremendous service that they have provided for 25 years. And this could have only happened because of enlightened leadership and commitment. We expect TERI to continue providing guidance and support on the very important issues of our time long into the future.

Now many of us here are operating today in a different context. I have heard whispers in the corridors, but often we are reluctant to confront the biggest issue that is affecting us right now—and that is the need to raise ambition to achieve the climate goals that we have set ourselves. And with the absence of the United States of America at this time when we have to raise ambition, it would be very, very difficult for us to achieve the climate goals without the US participation.

It would have implications for carbon pricing regimes which are crucial for the development of the climate sector. It would have implications for multilateral regimes that are crucial for sustainability. I speak here of aviation and shipping, methane regulations and many other sectors that are so crucial. Without the United States, again, that would be very difficult.

So, I think the challenge before this gathering here and over the next couple of days is to find ways where we can move forward even without the participation of the United States of America at this point in time.

I believe that much could be done within the framework, or at the national level. And so I want to tell you quickly about what is happening in my own country.

In 2009, we launched a low-carbon development strategy. Guyana is about the size of the United Kingdom. Eighty-six per cent of it is covered with primary forests. We have one of the lowest deforestation rates in the world. We set out in 2009 to prove that forest carbon is just as valuable, and often a lower-cost carbon, in our mitigation efforts to achieve climate goals.

The world until today does not value forest carbon the way it values other types of carbon as reflected in the UNFCCC framework. It does not treat forest carbon as an offset. So the markets are largely voluntary markets. Nevertheless, we have been able to prove that it is a good quality product. We sold 30% of our forest carbon for \$750 million. We have 1% of global forest that is tropical forest, and we have been able to raise \$750 million from

30% of our forest carbon. If you were to extrapolate that, it would be about \$2.5 to 3 billion for our entire forest. That is more money than is available to the 99% of the remaining tropical forest at this point in time.

We have been able, because of the quality of our forest carbon, to sell two million credits into the CORSIA market, which is the first formal compliance market. So much can be done at the national level if you pay attention to details and you stay at it long enough.

We just realized that in many parts of the world, including in the United States, many people who are climate sceptics may also be strong supporters of biodiversity protection. They may not believe the climate argument, but the biodiversity argument could be believed.

Guyana just launched a Global Biodiversity Alliance. We have sixty-nine members. It was launched in July last year. TERI is one of those members.

And we believe that we can encourage many countries and organizations to get on board because we have a biodiversity crisis too, along with a climate crisis. So, all of these things can be done at the national level.

We are going to be producing about 1.5 to 2 million barrels of oil within the next three years — per day. And we want to prove that you can do that and still maintain a sustainable strategy within the country. And we are doing it practically on the ground.

And I believe in many countries of the world, if you have strong national leadership, enlightened leadership, and you have good focus like here in India, you can tackle a lot of the climate issues. I think we now need more and more to emphasize the economic arguments around climate issues.

You may have a climate outcome, but it is also good economics. And nobody argues with economics. China is now a leader. India is a leader in solar technology. Electric vehicles (EVs) are now taking over the world. It started off as a solution for climate change, but now by themselves they have become very competitive and profitable ventures. So, I believe much could be done, and I hope that we focus on this.

The next thing that I want to raise here is that we cannot meet here and not talk about Artificial



Intelligence (AI). We cannot say the focus of this summit is on transformation and not examine the challenge that AI will bring to sustainable development.

TERI focuses heavily on climate and development issues. AI will bring great challenges to development, but it can also bring great rewards for development. Consider electricity. Every time you do a prompt, it uses now ten times more power than a Google search.

If you can think about the world in which a phone that you have in another five years will be running a model on it which is smarter than the sum of all human intelligence with the ability to self-learn, what would that mean for development?

We cannot use old frameworks and old thinking to address the development challenges of the future. This is a forum for the Global South mainly to share experience. Many countries in the Global South are of different levels — in size, complexity, and capacity.

India has great capacity. India has done a phenomenal job in building digital infrastructure and having it serve the people of this country. India would be able to build compute capacity and become very competitive globally. India would be able to build its own models.

That is not so for many other countries in Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific. Those countries cannot suffer a new development challenge of a compute and data divide. That will happen if we do not act now.

We need to work out templates for those countries to follow so that they can organize their AI diffusion. Not AI development necessarily, but diffusion efforts so that they can use AI to solve development challenges. Just like how we added a climate variable to national planning in the past, we now need to add an AI variable to national planning.

Countries might spend \$20 million on building a road and they are comfortable with that. But \$20 million spent on introducing AI in the education sector or healthcare may have a bigger impact than that physical road. But if we use old thinking, then we build the road and do not value the impact of AI. So, I believe we need templates now.

We need to work out approaches that countries can take to introduce AI into healthcare, education, and development sectors. Let me give you an example. We have companies now descending on countries around the world. In Guyana's case we bought access to a model to read X-rays, CT scans, and MRIs.

How do you know this is the best model? And the answer was: they came to us. We do not have a system to assess quality. Many of our policymakers do not yet understand the impact of AI on development. And we cannot be at a sustainable development summit and not understand the impact AI will have. Many technical staff are worried because they see the technology as a challenge that may cause their own obsolescence.

So, they resist its introduction. We need to build awareness among technical people — just like how TERI helped build awareness for 25 years around climate issues.

We must now build awareness around AI and its impact on development. We must develop templates for countries to adopt AI solutions. I met a young person here who showed how satellite technology can map every tree in our forests and tell us the species.

We no longer need to send people into the forest. You can track forests and have world-class monitoring systems that are cheaper for countries like ours. So from this summit we must begin thinking about how to help smaller countries in the Global South develop templates and approaches to use AI for development, including climate solutions.

As I was coming here, I got a speech from my foreign ministry. Then I did a prompt on AI and it wrote a better speech than the foreign ministry gave me. So, I was thinking maybe future summits would be where we just get everyone to prompt and see who has the best prompt, and then discuss it rather than reading speeches like this. Maybe we will even change the model of these meetings in the future.

I also want to say that earlier this week I met Prime Minister Modi. We had a discussion and India is really making a big difference in the world. We really appreciate the support that India gives countries like ours.

Thank you very much.



Message: Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India



सायमेव जयते
प्रधान मंत्री
Prime Minister

MESSAGE

It is heartening to learn about the Silver Jubilee edition of the World Sustainable Development Summit – WSDS 2026. The theme of this year's Summit, 'Parivartan'/Transformations: Vision, voices and values for sustainable development' is in tune with the fast-paced changing needs of our times.

In India, nature has always been our first teacher. Our scriptures and traditions remind us - 'पिबन्ति नद्यः स्वयमेव नाम्भः, स्वयं न खादन्ति फलानि वृक्षाः। नादन्ति सस्यं खलु वारिवाहाः, परोपकाराय सतां विभूतयः।।'

It means, 'Rivers do not drink their own water. Trees do not eat their own fruit. Clouds do not consume the harvest that they helped grow. The wealth of the noble exists for the service of others'.

Nature gives. It does not take. Today, that is the ethic humanity must reclaim.

We have always revered the Earth as our mother. Protecting her is not just a policy choice, but our duty. Today, that duty demands decisive climate action to restore a long-disturbed balance.

For more than a decade now, India has acted with purpose, expanding solar capacity more than forty-fold, accelerating wind, green hydrogen, energy efficiency, clean mobility and achieving 40% of installed electricity capacity from non-fossil sources in 2021, nine years ahead of our Paris commitment.

For India, sustainability is not new. It is an ancient philosophy that aligns growth with ecological balance. With today's technology and resources, the task is to direct innovation and investment toward the world's most urgent priorities.

Our approach is guided by *Antyodaya*, the rise of even the most disempowered. Climate action must first protect the vulnerable, the poor and the disadvantaged.

The Global South bears a disproportionate burden of climate change. Yet for them, development is imperative. Climate justice is therefore essential.

Developing nations must eradicate poverty and hunger, while safeguarding the planet. This requires technology transfer, financing options and partnerships. Developed countries bear a special responsibility to move faster, live sustainably and deliver finance and technology at scale.

Let this conference strengthen resolve, deepen cooperation and secure a sustainable future for our planet.

I extend my best wishes for productive and forward-looking deliberations at the Silver Jubilee edition of WSDS.

New Delhi
फाल्गुन 05, शक संवत् 1947
24 February, 2026

(Narendra Modi)

Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

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‘पिबन्ति नद्यः स्वयमेव नाम्भः, स्वयं न खादन्ति फलानि वृक्षाः ।

नादन्ति सस्यं खलु वारिवाहाः, परोपकाराय सतां विभूतयः ।’

It means, 'Rivers do not drink their own water. Trees do not eat their own fruit. Clouds do not consume the harvest that they helped grow. The wealth of the noble exists for the service of others'.

Nature gives. It does not take. Today, that is the ethic humanity must reclaim.

We have always revered the Earth as our mother. Protecting her is not just a policy choice, but our duty. Today, that duty demands decisive climate action to restore a long-disturbed balance.

For more than a decade now, India has acted with purpose, expanding solar capacity more than forty-fold, accelerating wind, green hydrogen, energy efficiency, clean mobility and achieving 40% of installed electricity capacity from non-fossil sources in 2021, nine years ahead of our Paris commitment.

For India, sustainability is not new. It is an ancient philosophy that aligns growth with ecological balance. With today's technology and resources, the task is to direct innovation and investment towards the world's most urgent priorities.

Our approach is guided by Antyodaya, the rise of even the most disempowered. Climate action must first protect the vulnerable, the poor, and the disadvantaged.

The Global South bears a disproportionate burden of climate change. Yet for them, development is imperative. Climate justice is therefore essential.

Developing nations must eradicate poverty and hunger, while safeguarding the planet. This requires technology transfer, financing options and partnerships. Developed countries bear a special responsibility to move faster, live sustainably and deliver finance and technology at scale.

Let this conference strengthen resolve, deepen cooperation and secure a sustainable future for our planet.

I extend my best wishes for productive and forward-looking deliberations at the Silver Jubilee edition of WSDS.

New Delhi

फाल्गुन 05, शक संवत् 1947

24 February, 2026

(Narendra Modi)



Keynote Address



Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India

I have had a long association with TERI and this is the fifth time I am at the World Sustainable Development Summit. So, you can say I am significantly involved in TERI's work myself.

I consider it a privilege to inaugurate the Silver Jubilee edition of the World Sustainable Development Summit. Spanning over five decades, TERI has established itself as a leader in developing evidence-based and science-backed interventions in fields ranging from clean energy and sustainable agriculture to water security, land resource management, air pollution, and low-emission transport systems.

More importantly, over the last 25 years, WSDS has grown into a unique forum from the Global South that brings together governments, industry, academia, civil society, and communities to translate the science of sustainability into policy, partnerships, and practical action.

This is not an ordinary achievement. TERI has indeed been a pioneer of sorts in the field of climate action.

But today is not merely a celebration of legacy. It is a defining moment for humanity and for the planet. The umbrella theme of this Summit—Transformations: Vision, Voices, and Values for Sustainable Development—is a strategic necessity.

The first Global Stocktake under the Paris Agreement has made one reality unmistakably clear: globally, we are not on the trajectory required to limit global warming to 1.5°C. Emission reductions remain insufficient. Adaptation finance remains inadequate. SDG implementation is uneven. This is not a crisis of science. It is a crisis of scale, speed, and systemic alignment.

Transformation, therefore, must move beyond incremental policy refinement. It must alter the architecture of energy systems, economic models, consumption patterns, and global governance frameworks. And this is precisely what परिवर्तन demands.

In English, transformation implies structural change. In Indian thought, परिवर्तन carries deeper meaning—it signifies evolution of consciousness.

For India, sustainability is not a modern negotiation agenda. It is a civilizational ethic. Therefore, when we speak of transformation, we do not speak of abandoning development. We speak of redefining development—within ecological limits—with social justice, and with inter-generational equity.

Vision must be anchored in realism and powered by ambition and India's vision is clear:

- Achieve 500 GW of non-fossil fuel energy capacity by 2030
- Reduce emissions intensity of GDP by 45% from 2005 levels
- Achieve net-zero by 2070
- Advance the National Green Hydrogen Mission
- Build climate-resilient infrastructure

But transformation requires a global vision as well. It seeks:

- Tripling renewable energy globally
- Doubling energy efficiency
- Scaling adaptation finance to match mitigation finance
- Reforming multilateral development banks to unlock trillions in climate finance

Climate ambition and climate finance must advance together. When financial mechanisms are transparent, predictable, and inclusive, transformation moves from promise to practice.

The second pillar of today's theme is Voices.

As one of the independently convened global sustainability platform rooted in the Global South, WSDS reflects an important structural shift in global dialogue. This matters, because the Global South stands at the frontline of climate impacts while continuing its development journey.

India has consistently upheld the principles of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities, climate justice, equitable carbon space, and inclusive carbon markets. These are not negotiating positions—they are foundations of durable cooperation.

The voices of small island states, least developed countries, indigenous communities, and youth must shape global frameworks, not merely respond to them. Because transformation without representation cannot command legitimacy.

The third pillar—Values—is perhaps the most critical.

- Technology can accelerate transformation.
- Finance can enable transformation.
- But values define its fairness.

India's G20 Presidency advanced the principle of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam—One Earth, One Family,



One Future" as a practical guide for global climate governance.

For India, this means that sustainability frameworks—whether carbon border measures, green taxonomies, or evolving supply chain standards—must be fair, transparent, and reflective of different development realities. Climate ambition should enable green growth in emerging economies, not restrict it.

India will continue to advocate that environmental integrity and development equity move together. A just transition must create opportunities—for manufacturing, innovation, clean energy expansion, and livelihoods—across the Global South.

As a responsible nation committed to building a Viksit Bharat, India is advancing systemic reform across four strategic pillars—Energy Transformation, Circular Economy Transition, Nature-Based Solutions, and Digital Environmental Governance.

These are not isolated initiatives, but integrated reforms shaping policy, markets, and institutions. For India, transformation is not theoretical—it is structured, operational, and institutionalized.

The global energy transition will recalibrate industries, capital, and geopolitics. It will test resilience, particularly around critical minerals and new technologies. Transitional pressures are inevitable.

But leadership demands धैर्य (resolve) and दृष्टि (vision).

The Theory of Change highlighted in the Summit—Constructivism, Learning, Transformation—reminds us that norms evolve through dialogue. But the next 25 years must be about execution.

We must move:

- From pledges to performance
- From targets to trajectories
- From ambition to accountability

In India, under the leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, we are redefining prosperity beyond GDP, incorporating natural capital accounting, integrating sustainability into financial systems, and ensuring resilience is embedded in infrastructure.

The Government of India remains firmly committed to advancing global climate action anchored in science, equity, and shared responsibility.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has shared a long and constructive partnership with TERI and with the World Sustainable Development Summit. Over the years, this collaboration has helped bridge the gap between research, policy, and implementation, ensuring that knowledge informs decision-making and that development realities remain at the centre of global sustainability discourse.

And today, I take the opportunity to thank the officials of the Ministry, our partners at TERI, the G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment, the principal investigators, and the exhibitors who have worked together to curate Him-CONNECT.

Their collective effort has helped bring forward innovations and solutions from the Himalayan region and has strengthened the link between research and real-world impact.

I also congratulate TERI for launching the Himalayan Coalition and for advancing the second phase of Lighting a Billion Lives, both of which reinforce the importance of community-centred and inclusive approaches to sustainable development.

In this context, I would like to make a special mention of Him-CONNECT as it has been conceived as a structured platform to translate research supported under the National Mission on Himalayan Studies into solutions that can be implemented at scale. It creates a bridge between science

and society by bringing together researchers, start-ups, entrepreneurs, investors, development agencies, and policymakers.

I would like to thank the 30 exhibitors and initiatives that are participating in Him-CONNECT, representing 13 Himalayan States and Union Territories of India. Your presence here demonstrates the strength of innovation emerging from mountain ecosystems.

Him-CONNECT also aligns with India's broader approach to sustainability, which places communities at the centre of environmental action. Mission LiFE—Lifestyle for Environment—is a key pillar of this approach. It emphasizes behavioural change and sustainable lifestyles as essential complements to technological and policy interventions. More than six crore people across India have already participated in LiFE-related activities, demonstrating that individual and collective actions can create meaningful change.

As I conclude, I would like to say that The Silver Jubilee of WSDS must mark not just continuity—but acceleration.

Let this be remembered as the Summit, where:

- Vision became actionable
- Voices became inclusive
- Values became institutional

Let परिवर्तन not remain a theme. Let it become a global movement.

India stands ready to partner with all nations, institutions, and communities in shaping a sustainable, equitable, and resilient future.

Thank you

Jai Hind



Silver Jubilee Publication



The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) is the annual flagship multi-stakeholder convening organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). The summit series was instituted in 2001 as the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit at a time when sustainable development was still emerging as a unifying global framework to address interconnected environmental and development challenges. The first edition brought forward perspectives from the Global South ahead of two landmark international gatherings—the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg and COP8 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change held in New Delhi. From the outset, the summit sought to advance grounded discussions on equity, development priorities, and environmental responsibility.

Over the years, it has convened heads of state and government, ministers, policymakers, business leaders, scholars, youth representatives, and civil society actors. In doing so, it has fostered partnerships and shaped discourse across climate action, biodiversity conservation, energy transitions, resource efficiency, and sustainable development governance. The Summit has played a catalytic role in strengthening the science–policy interface by translating research on interconnected global challenges into actionable policy conversations.

This Silver Jubilee Publication documents the first 25 editions of the summit and captures the evolution of this collective endeavour. Drawing on decades of archival material and institutional memory,

the volume traces the journey of the summit—from agenda-setting conversations to increasingly solution-oriented engagement. It highlights key milestones, landmark announcements, and flagship initiatives that have shaped global sustainability discourse over the past quarter century.

The publication also acknowledges the visionary leadership that has guided this journey. It honours the foundational contributions of Dr Rajendra Kumar Pachauri, Founder Director General of TERI, and the leadership of Dr Ajay Mathur during his tenure as Director General. It recognizes the guidance of TERI Chairman Mr Nitin Desai and the stewardship of the current Director General, Dr Vibha Dhawan. Special appreciation is also due to Dr Annapurna Vancheswaran, who led the summit for nearly two decades, as well as to the International Steering Committee, the Silver Jubilee Committee, and the wider TERI community whose commitment has sustained and strengthened this platform.

As WSDS marks its Silver Jubilee, this commemorative volume reflects not only on the summit's past contributions but also on the path ahead. By revisiting the ideas, partnerships, and milestones that have shaped the summit over the past 25 years, the publication aims to inspire more transformative, equitable, and implementation-driven approaches to sustainable development in the years to come.



Tracing the Summit Days

INAUGURAL

TITLE OF PLENARY: TRANSFORMATIONS THROUGH VISION, VOICES, AND VALUES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

DATE | DAY: FEBRUARY 25, 2026 | WEDNESDAY



ABOUT THE PLENARY

The Inaugural of WSDS 2026 marked the Silver Jubilee edition of the World Sustainable Development Summit, convened by TERI as a global south anchored platform for solution-oriented dialogue on climate action and sustainable development. The session set the tone for three days of deliberations under the theme "Parivartan | Transformations: Vision, Voices, and Values," emphasizing that the global challenge is no longer awareness, but execution at scale. Speakers highlighted the urgency created by the global stocktake under the Paris Agreement, the widening gap in adaptation finance, and uneven SDG progress, calling for structural transformation of energy systems, economic models, and consumption patterns. India's civilizational ethos of living in harmony with nature was reiterated alongside the need for climate justice, technology transfer, and scaled finance for developing countries. The inaugural also underscored the critical role of inclusive platforms that connect science, policy, and practice, and spotlighted initiatives such as HIM-CONNECT, the Himalayan Coalition, and LaBL 2.0. The session also saw the launch of the Silver Jubilee Archival Publication documenting WSDS's 25 editions and milestones.

SPEAKERS LIST

- **Mr Nitin Desai**; Chairman, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)
- **Mr Siddharth Sharma**; Chief Executive Officer, Tata Trusts
- **Dr Vibha Dhawan**; Director General, TERI
- **Shri Bhupender Yadav**; Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India
- **H.E. Dr Bharrat Jagdeo**; Vice President, Cooperative Republic of Guyana
- **Dr Shailly Kedia**; Curator, World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS)
- **Mr Sanjay Seth**; Senior Director, TERI (Vote of Thanks)

CALL TO ACTION

Move from awareness to execution: The defining challenge is implementation, not recognition of the problem. Governments, corporations, cities, and households must translate goals into measurable action pathways that deliver outcomes by 2030.

Scale transformation beyond incremental change: Climate progress requires structural shifts in energy systems, economic models, and consumption patterns. Parivartan must be treated as systemic redesign, not policy fine-tuning or marginal efficiency gains.

Align ambition with predictable finance: Emissions targets and adaptation goals will remain aspirational unless climate finance becomes transparent, predictable, and inclusive. Reforming multilateral development banks and unlocking trillions is essential to accelerate action.

Put climate justice at the centre: Developing countries must eradicate poverty and hunger while safeguarding nature. Technology transfer, financing options, and partnerships must expand, with developed countries moving faster and supporting action at scale.

Ensure representation shapes legitimacy: The voices of the global south, small island states, least developed countries, indigenous communities, and youth must shape frameworks, not merely respond. Transformation without representation cannot sustain trust or cooperation.

Use national leadership to drive solutions: Even amid global uncertainty, countries can advance credible, detailed national strategies. Forest protection, resilient infrastructure, renewable deployment, and nature-based solutions can deliver progress when executed with consistency.

Treat AI as a development variable: AI will reshape development outcomes and energy demand. Planning must integrate AI alongside climate, including quality assessment systems, diffusion templates for smaller economies, and capacity-building for policymakers and technical staff.

Bridge research to real-world impact: Platforms like WSDS must connect science, policy, investors, and implementers. Initiatives such as HIM-CONNECT and community-centred programmes must translate research into scalable solutions that improve livelihoods and resilience.



Making Words Count @WSDS 2026



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WSDS has evolved from building awareness to driving action. The critical task now is implementation across governments, businesses, cities, and households. Platforms like WSDS matter because they enable exchange, learning, and coordination across sectors to scale practical solutions and strengthen cross-country cooperation for sustainability outcomes.

- Mr Nitin Desai
Chairman, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)

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A global south convening is vital to correct skewed narratives and advance a just transition that protects the vulnerable. Climate action must be democratized beyond boardrooms, rooted in local solutions, and balanced across mitigation and adaptation. India can offer a template where development and environmental protection advance together.

- Mr Siddharth Sharma
Chief Executive Officer, Tata Trusts

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WSDS is a trusted, independently convened platform for the global south, built on TERI's not-for-profit, autonomous mission to deliver real-world impact. The moment demands action, integrated solutions, and partnerships that convert commitments into local outcomes. The summit must strengthen policy pathways and accelerate implementation grounded in trust and long-term impact.

- Dr Vibha Dhawan
Director General, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)

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The global stocktake shows the world is off-track for 1.5°C, making transformation a strategic necessity. India's pathway combines ambition with equity: expanding non-fossil capacity, advancing green hydrogen, circular economy, nature-based solutions, and digital governance. Voices and values must shape fairness, while initiatives like HIM-CONNECT and Mission LiFE mobilize action.

- **Shri Bhupender Yadav**
Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,
Government of India

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With ambition needing to rise amid geopolitical uncertainty, countries must find ways to progress even when major actors disengage. Guyana's low-carbon strategy demonstrates what detail and persistence can achieve, including monetizing high-quality forest carbon and building biodiversity alliances. The next frontier is AI: it will reshape development and must be integrated into national planning.

- **H.E. Dr Bharrat Jagdeo**
Vice President, Cooperative Republic of Guyana

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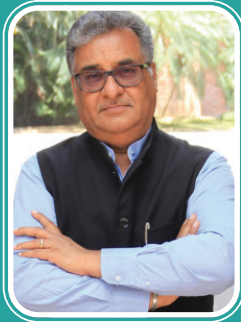
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The Silver Jubilee Archival Publication documents 25 years of WSDS, tracing its evolution from agenda-setting to solution-oriented engagement. The platform has bridged science, policy, and practice, convening diverse stakeholders and shaping sustainability discourse. Reflecting on this journey is intended to honour the past while inspiring more equitable, implementation-driven action ahead.

- **Dr Shailly Kedia**
Curator, World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS)

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The Silver Jubilee edition reflects WSDS's growing global relevance and the power of collaboration across ministries, partners, academia, industry, and civil society. The Prime Minister's message reaffirmed India's sustainability ethic and climate justice. The summit's success rests on teams working behind the scenes and the collective resolve to convert vision into action over the next three days.

- Mr Sanjay Seth

Senior Director, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)

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Tracing the Summit Days

PLENARIES

LEADERSHIP PANEL: TRANSFORMATIONS THROUGH AND FOR NATURE

FEBRUARY 26, 2026 | THURSDAY



ABOUT THE PLENARY

The leadership panel on 'Transformations through and for Nature' at the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2026 focused on redefining development pathways by placing nature at the center of climate action, economic resilience, and sustainable livelihoods. The discussion highlighted that climate change and biodiversity loss are deeply interconnected crises and must be addressed through integrated solutions that restore ecosystems while supporting communities and economies. Central theme of the discussion was the critical role of local communities as custodians of ecosystems.

Speakers emphasized the growing role of nature-based solutions (Nbs)—including forest conservation, mangrove restoration, and sustainable land-use practices—as powerful strategies for climate mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity protection. How, despite their potential, such solutions remain significantly underfunded and often treated as peripheral projects rather than core development strategies, was highlighted during the discussion.



The panel also explored how governance frameworks, innovative finance, and institutional mechanisms can help scale NbS. Discussions underscored the importance of embedding NbS in infrastructure planning, policy frameworks, and economic decision-making, rather than treating them as isolated pilots. International cooperation on forests, oceans, and ecosystem protection was identified as being essential to accelerate global progress.

By aligning policy, finance, science, and community participation, the panel called for a transformative shift in how societies value and protect nature.

Speakers' List

Moderator

- Ms Teena Jha, Sansad TV

Speakers/Panellists

- Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director-General, TERI
- H.E. Ms May-Elin Stener, Ambassador of Norway to India, Royal Norwegian Embassy, New Delhi
- Ms Dechen Tsering, Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- Mr Amit Patjoshi, CEO, Palladium India
- Ms Martina Otto, Head of Secretariat, Climate and Clean Air Coalition, UNEP
- Ms Supriya Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forests, Government of Tamil Nadu

Call to Action

Integrate Climate and Biodiversity Action: Climate change and biodiversity loss must be addressed together. Restoring forests, wetlands, and oceans can simultaneously reduce emissions, strengthen resilience to extreme weather, and sustain livelihoods, making ecosystem restoration one of the most effective climate solutions available today.

Close the Nature Finance Gap: Global financial flows remain heavily skewed towards activities that degrade ecosystems. Governments and financial institutions must increase investment in NbS, reform harmful subsidies, and create transparent disclosure systems that highlight nature-related risks and opportunities.

Mainstream Nature-based Infrastructure: Development planning must shift from purely grey infrastructure to nature-integrated approaches. Mangroves, wetlands, and green landscapes can provide cost-effective protection against climate impacts while delivering biodiversity and livelihood benefits at the same time.

Strengthen Governance for Nature-based Solutions: NbS require strong institutional frameworks, performance metrics, and policy support. Clear governance structures ensure restoration projects deliver measurable outcomes and can attract long-term public and private investment.

Accelerate Action on Short-lived Pollutants: Reducing pollutants such as methane, black carbon and HFCs can rapidly slow global warming. Cutting these emissions acts as an 'emergency brake,' buying critical time for ecosystems to recover and adapt to climate stress.

Protect and Restore Critical Ecosystems: Forests, mangroves, and coastal ecosystems function as natural climate infrastructure. Restoration must be combined with legal protection and landscape planning to ensure these ecosystems continue to provide long-term environmental and social benefits.

Empower Communities as Ecosystem Stewards: Local communities must be seen as partners and custodians of natural resources. When communities have ownership, rights, and economic incentives tied to ecosystem health, conservation initiatives become more sustainable and impactful.

Scale Solutions Through Partnerships: Scaling NbS requires collaboration between governments, financial institutions, scientists, and civil society. International cooperation and knowledge-sharing can help transform successful pilot projects into large-scale, replicable models.

Making Words Count @WSDS 2026



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Nature-based solutions provide a powerful pathway to address the intertwined challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, and sustainable development. Moving forward, these solutions must be integrated into mainstream planning and development processes, supported by enabling policies and institutional mechanisms that allow them to scale effectively.

- Dr Vibha Dhawan
Director General, TERI

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For more than two decades, the World Sustainable Development Summit has served as a platform where leaders from across sectors come together to translate sustainability science into action. Dialogue, partnerships, and collaborative solutions are essential for advancing resilient and inclusive development worldwide.

- Ms Teena Jha
Sansad TV

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Halting and reversing tropical forest loss remains one of the most powerful nature-based solutions to address both climate change and biodiversity decline. International cooperation and financing initiatives must support forest nations while protecting indigenous rights and promoting sustainable land use.

- **H.E. Ms May-Elin Stener**
Ambassador of Norway to India,
Royal Norwegian Embassy, New Delhi

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Nature-based solutions are significantly underfunded despite their immense economic and environmental value. Aligning financial systems with nature-positive outcomes, repurposing harmful subsidies, and increasing investment in ecosystem restoration are critical to closing the global nature finance gap.

- **Ms Dechen Tsering**
Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations
Environment Programme (UNEP)

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Scaling nature-based solutions requires stronger institutional mechanisms, clear performance metrics, and investable project pipelines. When communities are integrated as owners and beneficiaries of ecosystem restoration efforts, these solutions become more sustainable and attractive to private finance.

- **Mr Amit Patjoshi**
CEO, Palladium India

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Rapid reduction in short-lived climate pollutants such as methane and black carbon can significantly slow global warming within decades. Addressing these pollutants also protects ecosystems, food systems, and water resources while improving air quality and public health.

- Ms Martina Otto

Head of Secretariat, Climate and Clean Air Coalition, UNEP

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Mangrove ecosystems are powerful natural defences against climate risks, protecting coastlines and sustaining livelihoods. Conservation efforts succeed when communities are actively involved as custodians of these ecosystems, supported by legal protection, capacity building, and long-term stewardship frameworks.

- Ms Supriya Sahu

Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forests, Government of Tamil Nadu

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Tracing the Summit Days

PLENARIES

FLAGSHIP SESSION: TOWARDS A HIMALAYAN COALITION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

FEBRUARY 26, 2026 | THURSDAY



ABOUT THE PLENARY

Strengthened regional cooperation across the Himalayan region is essential to advance climate resilience, safeguard fragile mountain ecosystems, and secure equitable development pathways for indigenous communities. This session underscored that the Himalayas are not only a biodiversity hotspot and 'water tower' for Asia, but also a high-risk landscape where climate change, seismic vulnerability, glacial lake outbursts, landslides and unplanned infrastructure are converging into systemic threats.

Speakers stressed that sustainable development in the Himalayas must shift from reactive disaster response to anticipatory, risk-informed planning grounded in science, ecological valuation, and community participation. The discussion highlighted the urgent need for coordinated monitoring of glaciers and glacial lakes, inter-operable biodiversity data platforms, basin-level hydrological modelling, and harmonized early warning systems. Panellists also emphasized the importance of

inclusive, people-centric approaches that respect indigenous knowledge, strengthen livelihoods, and address out-migration from mountain regions. Practical examples from Sikkim, Meghalaya and Kaziranga demonstrated how policy innovation, ecosystem service payments, community-led adaptation, and conservation stewardship can be scaled. The session reinforced that a Himalayan coalition must unite institutions, finance, technology, and local voices to protect nature while enabling resilient prosperity across the region.

Speakers' List

Moderator

- Mr Ranjit Barthakur, Founder Forester, Balipara Foundation

Speakers/Panellists

- Mr Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Hon'ble Governor of Manipur
- Dr Pema Gyamtsho, Director General, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Nepal
- Ms Nameeta Prasad, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)
- Mr Durwood Zaelke, Founder and President, Institute for Governance & Sustainable Development (IGSD)
- Ms Sonali Ghosh, Director, Kaziranga National Park, Assam
- Mr Ram Kumar S, Secretary, Planning, Government of Meghalaya
- Mr Mingma Tempa Sherpa, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Planning and Development Department, Government of Sikkim
- Dr Dipankar Saharia, Senior Director, TERI

Call to Action

Risk-informed Development must be the New Standard: Himalayan infrastructure and growth must be guided by scientific risk assessment, hazard zoning, and carrying-capacity studies to prevent cascading disasters and reduce vulnerability across connected river basins and settlements.

Build a Himalayan Risk and Resilience Index: Establish a common index to guide investments, approvals, and fiscal decisions, linking public spending and project clearances to evidence-based climate and disaster risk parameters across the Himalayan states and institutions.

Scale Transboundary Glacier and GLOF Monitoring: With thousands of glaciers and hundreds of potentially dangerous glacial lakes, monitoring must expand dramatically, with shared protocols, open data exchange, and coordinated early warning systems.

Protect Water Security Through Basin-level Cooperation: Springshed revival, hydrological modelling, collaborative water budgeting, and harmonized flood forecasting must become core components of climate planning, recognizing that South Asia's water security depends on Himalayan ecosystem stability.

Cut Short-lived Climate Pollutants to Protect Snow and Ice: Rapid reductions in methane, black carbon, and other short-lived pollutants are among the fastest ways to slow near-term warming and protect the cryosphere, while buying time for deep decarbonization.

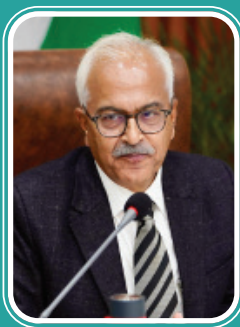
Finance Ecosystem Services and Community Stewardship: Expand innovative financing, such as payments for ecosystem services, carbon-positive restoration, and dedicated mountain climate finance windows to reward communities for safeguarding forests, watersheds, and biodiversity corridors.



Make Sustainability People-centric and Equity-driven: Coalition outcomes must improve livelihoods, reduce distress migration, strengthen women-led adaptation and enterprises, and integrate indigenous knowledge, ensuring conservation and development deliver fair benefits to local communities.

Move Beyond Pilots to Landscape-scale Action: Connect institutions, data systems, and community networks to replicate proven practices across Himalayan landscapes, ensuring that research, technology, and policy translate into large-scale implementation, not isolated demonstrations.

Making Words Count @WSDS 2026



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Risk-informed development must become the foundation of Himalayan planning. The region faces interconnected ecological, economic and social risks from climate change, seismic vulnerability and unplanned infrastructure. A Himalayan council, resilience index, dense monitoring networks, and community-centric carbon finance can shift development from reactive response to anticipatory resilience.

- Mr Ajay Kumar Bhalla
Hon'ble Governor of Manipur

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Transboundary cooperation is no longer optional. With tens of thousands of glaciers and limited monitoring, the region needs shared science, open data, and coordinated action on glacial lakes, wetlands, and upstream-downstream impacts. Disasters cross borders; therefore, institutions, researchers, and governments must communicate and work together across the Hindu Kush Himalayas.

- Dr Pema Gyamtsho
Director General, International Centre for Integrated Mountain
Development (ICIMOD), Nepal

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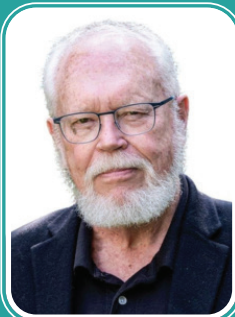


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A Himalayan coalition is urgent because biodiversity, rivers, and atmospheric systems transcend political boundaries. Coordinated monitoring, inter-operable data platforms, early warning systems, and people-centric approaches that value indigenous knowledge are operational necessities. Initiatives like Him-CONNECT, NMHS innovations, and institutional assessments can become the backbone for systematic, evidence-driven governance and scaled implementation.

- Ms Nameeta Prasad
Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment,
Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)

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To protect the Third Pole, rapid cuts in short-lived climate pollutants such as methane and black carbon are among the fastest ways to slow near-term warming. The Montreal Protocol shows how coalitions can start small and scale to universal action. A coalition of mountains and climate-vulnerable regions can champion practical agreements that reduce warming while long-term decarbonization advances.

- Mr Durwood Zaelke
Founder and President, Institute for Governance
& Sustainable Development (IGSD)

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Sikkim's experience shows climate impacts are immediate: glacial lake risks, flash floods, and stress on alpine livelihoods. Yet policy innovations—carbon-negative pathways, early plastic bans, organic farming, social-ecological programmes, and proactive glacial hazard governance—demonstrate what is possible. A Himalayan coalition can scale monitoring, early warning, climate finance, and resilient infrastructure across states.

- Mr Mingma Tempa Sherpa
Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Planning and Development
Department, Government of Sikkim

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Coalition design must go bottom-up, with communities at the centre and information made accessible to them. Meghalaya's green budgeting and payments for ecosystem services demonstrate how public finance can incentivize stewardship at scale. Livelihood-linked solutions like zero-budget natural farming and community-driven programmes can strengthen resilience across fragile, disaster-prone landscapes.

- **Mr Ram Kumar S**
Secretary, Planning, Government of Meghalaya

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If the Himalayas had a voice, it would demand urgent action before glaciers decide for us. The gap is not ideas but scale and coordination. We must build strong institutional partnerships, connect science with communities, and move from pilots to landscape-level programmes. Establishing the Centre for Himalayan Studies can help align efforts and deliver outcomes in the field.

- **Dr Dipankar Saharia**
Senior Director, The Energy and Resources Institute

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Kaziranga's floodplain ecology reflects Himalayan change: reduced migratory bird counts, rainfall deficits, drying wetlands, and pressure from invasive species. Practical adaptation must combine conservation science, community empowerment (especially women-led livelihoods), and partnerships to scale solutions. From river origins to downstream ecosystems, resilience requires cooperation across states and, where relevant, across borders.

- **Ms Sonali Ghosh**
Director, Kaziranga National Park, Assam

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The Himalayas are a strategic frontier and civilizational inheritance, not merely a mountain system. The core question is whether we can align science, institutions and political will into a meaningful coalition? Supporting credible regional mechanisms and translating discussions into case-based action is essential if the Himalayas are to thrive and sustain Asia's future.

- Mr Ranjit Barthakur
Founder Forester, Balipara Foundation

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Tracing the Summit Days

PLENARIES

LEADERSHIP PANEL: GREENING MANUFACTURING AND TRADE

FEBRUARY 26, 2026 | THURSDAY



ABOUT THE PLENARY

The session on 'Greening Manufacturing and Trade' explored how sustainable industrial transformation and green supply chains can redefine global economic competitiveness while supporting climate goals. As countries accelerate their energy transitions, manufacturing systems and trade frameworks are increasingly being reshaped by the need to reduce carbon intensity, enhance resource efficiency, and strengthen resilient supply chains.

Panellists examined how emerging clean technology value chains are creating opportunities for countries in the Global South to position themselves as key players in the low-carbon economy. Speakers highlighted the growing importance of industrial policy, technological innovation, and international cooperation in enabling green manufacturing ecosystems. The discussion emphasized that countries should leverage existing industrial strengths—such as capabilities in metals, machinery, electronics, and chemicals—to build competitive advantages in clean technology sectors.

The panellists also discussed the role of policy frameworks such as carbon markets, emissions trading systems, and carbon border adjustment mechanisms in influencing global trade patterns. While these mechanisms introduce new regulatory requirements, they also offer opportunities for countries to enhance their competitiveness through low-carbon production.

The discussion further highlighted the importance of circular economy models, decentralized manufacturing systems, and innovation in materials recovery to reduce waste and strengthen industrial resilience.

Speakers' List

Moderator

- **Ms Seema Paul**, Programme Director (India), Sequoia Climate Foundation

Speakers

- **Mr Shreyas Shende**, Senior Research Associate, Net-Zero Industrial Policy Lab, Johns Hopkins University
- **Prof. Veena Sahajwalla**, Scientia Professor, University of New South Wales, Sydney
- **Dr Sangita M Kasture**, Advisor and Scientist 'G', Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India
- **Mr Yoshinori Kodama**, Principal Fellow, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)
- **Mr Bob Keefe**, Executive Director, E2
- **Mr Michael Walker**, Chief Executive Officer, STAX Engineering

Call to Action

Green Manufacturing as an Economic Opportunity: Green industrial transitions should be framed not only as climate actions but as economic transformations. Investments in low-carbon manufacturing can create jobs, strengthen domestic supply chains, and enable countries to compete effectively in emerging clean technology markets.

Strategic Industrial Prioritization: Countries should focus on sectors where they already possess industrial capabilities—such as metals, chemicals, electronics, or machinery—rather than attempting to compete across all clean technologies simultaneously. Strategic prioritization enables efficient use of resources and stronger global competitiveness.

Policy Stability Drives Investment: Long-term and predictable policy frameworks are essential for encouraging private investment in clean manufacturing and energy systems. Regulatory uncertainty can undermine investor confidence and slow progress towards low-carbon industrial development.

Circular Economy must be Economically Viable: Circular manufacturing systems must demonstrate strong economic value alongside environmental benefits. Innovations such as micro-factories and advanced recycling technologies can improve materials recovery and enable high-quality inputs to re-enter industrial supply chains.

Collaboration Between Science, Industry, and Policy: Effective green industrial transformation requires close collaboration between research institutions, industry partners, and governments. Early integration of scientific research with industrial application ensures technological innovations meet real-world manufacturing needs.

Global South Leadership in Clean Manufacturing: Developing economies have a significant opportunity to become manufacturing hubs for cleaner technologies. By investing in innovation, strengthening supply chains, and developing skilled workforces, the Global South can shape the future architecture of sustainable trade.



Trade Frameworks Will Shape the Green Economy: Emerging policies such as carbon border adjustment mechanisms (CBAMs) and international carbon markets will influence global competitiveness. Countries must prepare for these shifts by improving transparency, emissions tracking, and low-carbon manufacturing standards.

Decentralized and Localized Manufacturing Systems: Innovative models such as micro-factories demonstrate how decentralized manufacturing can reduce waste, lower logistical costs, and create localized circular supply chains. Such systems can accelerate scalable circular economy solutions in both developed and developing economies.

Making Words Count @WSDS 2026



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“Green manufacturing will redefine global competitiveness. Countries that invest early in low-carbon supply chains, innovation ecosystems, and resilient industrial policies will shape the future of sustainable trade. For the Global South, this transition presents not just a climate responsibility, but a strategic economic opportunity.”

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- Ms Seema Paul
Programme Director (India), Sequoia Climate Foundation



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Countries must understand where their industrial strengths lie when entering clean technology supply chains. Strategic industrial policy can help nations reduce the cost of clean technologies, lock in decarbonization pathways, and position themselves competitively in emerging global markets.

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- Mr Shreyas Shende
Net Zero Industrial Policy Lab, Johns Hopkins University



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Green manufacturing requires deep collaboration between science, industry, and government. Innovation must move beyond the laboratory and demonstrate real-world viability through industrial deployment, supply-chain integration, and technologies that transform waste into high-value resources.

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- Prof. Veena Sahajwalla
Scientia Professor, University of New South Wales, Sydney



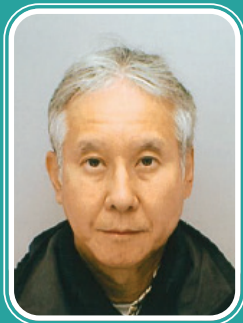
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India is rapidly expanding its renewable energy capacity and strengthening domestic manufacturing ecosystems. Initiatives in bioenergy, geothermal energy, and green hydrogen can support industrial decarbonization while creating new economic opportunities and strengthening energy security.

- **Dr Sangita M Kasture**

Advisor & Scientist 'G', Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India

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Despite geopolitical tensions and economic uncertainty, international cooperation remains essential. Global frameworks such as carbon markets and technology partnerships can support climate action while enabling countries to pursue sustainable economic development.

- **Mr Yoshinori Kodama**

Principal Fellow, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)

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Climate conversations must move beyond environmental narratives toward economic narratives. Clean energy industries are creating millions of jobs and driving investment, but long-term policy stability is essential to sustain this momentum.

- **Mr Bob Keefe**

Executive Director, E2

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Regulatory frameworks can drive innovation when implemented effectively. In the maritime sector, strong emissions regulations have led to the development of technologies capable of dramatically reducing pollution from ships and port operations.

- **Mr Michael Walker**

Chief Executive Officer, STAX Engineering

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Tracing the Summit Days

PLENARIES

HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY: FUTURE TECH FOR PEOPLE, PLANET, AND PROSPERITY

FEBRUARY 26, 2026 | THURSDAY



ABOUT THE PLENARY

The session explored how emerging technologies can accelerate sustainable development while ensuring inclusive growth and environmental protection. As the world grapples with climate change, biodiversity loss, and widening development gaps, the session emphasized on transformative potential of advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, biotechnology, renewable energy systems, smart infrastructure, and digital innovation.

Speakers highlighted that technological innovation must be guided by strong governance frameworks, global collaboration, and equitable access to ensure it benefits both developed and developing nations. They stressed that future technologies can enable rapid decarbonization across sectors including energy, transport, manufacturing, and urban development while strengthening climate resilience and economic competitiveness.

The plenary also underscored the importance of integrating sustainability into infrastructure development, industrial processes, and energy systems. With growing investments in green hydrogen, renewable energy, digital systems, and smart mobility, technological solutions are increasingly shaping pathways towards low-carbon growth.

Participants called for stronger partnerships among governments, industry, academia, and international organizations to accelerate innovation, scale sustainable solutions, and ensure technology-driven transitions deliver tangible benefits for people, the planet, and shared prosperity.

Speakers' List

Moderator

- **Mr R R Rashmi**, Distinguished Fellow, TERI

Speakers/Panellists

- **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal**, Hon'ble Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India
- **Ms Anacláudia Marinheiro Centeno Rossbach**, Executive Director, UN-Habitat
- **Mr Amitabh Kant**, Former G20 Sherpa and Former CEO, NITI Aayog
- **Mr Ashish Khanna**, Director General, International Solar Alliance
- **Dr Charles Ogilvie**, Executive Director and Co-Founder, Ocean Energy Pathway
- **Mr Shankar Iyer**, Director – Transportation, Smart Cities and Sustainable Infrastructure, Johnson Controls India
- **Mr Naveen Ahlawat**, President and Head – Sustainability and Decarbonisation, Jindal Steel Limited
- **Mr Vinit Adarkar**, Vice President and Head – Interior and Exterior Modules, Mercedes-Benz Research and Development India
- **Mr Sudhir Pathak**, Chief Science and Technology Officer, Hero Future Energies
- **Prof. Deo Prasad**, Distinguished Professor (Scientia), University of New South Wales, Sydney

Call to Action

Technology Must Drive Sustainable Transformation: Emerging technologies such as AI, advanced renewable energy systems, and digital infrastructure must be strategically deployed to accelerate decarbonization, improve resource efficiency, and support climate-resilient development across sectors.

Green Hydrogen and Clean Fuels Must Scale Rapidly: Countries must invest in green hydrogen production, sustainable fuels, and low-carbon industrial processes to decarbonize heavy industries, shipping, and transport while building new clean energy value chains.

Ports and Maritime Systems Must Become Climate-Smart: Maritime infrastructure should transition towards green ports, electrified operations, and low-carbon fuels, enabling shipping systems that support global trade while reducing emissions and environmental impact.

Necessity of Global Partnerships for Innovation: International cooperation among governments, research institutions, and industry is necessary to share knowledge, scale technological breakthroughs, and ensure that innovation benefits both developed and developing economies.

Sustainable Urbanization Requires Smart Technologies: Cities must adopt smart infrastructure, efficient mobility systems, and energy-efficient buildings to reduce emissions while improving liveability and resilience for growing urban populations.



Industry Must Lead Decarbonization Efforts: Industrial sectors must integrate digital technologies, circular economy practices, and cleaner production methods to reduce emissions while maintaining competitiveness and creating green jobs.

Policy Frameworks Must Enable Innovation: Governments must establish supportive regulatory frameworks, green finance mechanisms, and innovation ecosystems that enable sustainable technologies to scale rapidly and reach global markets.

Technology Must Deliver Inclusive Growth: Future technologies must be deployed in ways that address social inequity, ensuring access to clean energy, sustainable infrastructure, and economic opportunities for communities worldwide.

Making Words Count @WSDS 2026

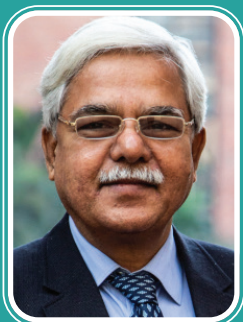


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India's maritime sector is undergoing a major transformation, driven by sustainability, innovation, and global collaboration. Green ports, alternative fuels, and digital technologies are shaping the future of shipping. Sustainable maritime infrastructure will be critical for enabling global trade while reducing emissions and strengthening climate resilience.

- **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal**
Hon'ble Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways,
Government of India

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Future technologies must not only accelerate innovation but also ensure that development pathways remain equitable and sustainable. Harnessing advances in digital systems, clean energy, and smart infrastructure will be critical to addressing climate challenges while supporting economic growth and societal well-being.

- **Mr R R Rashmi**
Distinguished Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute

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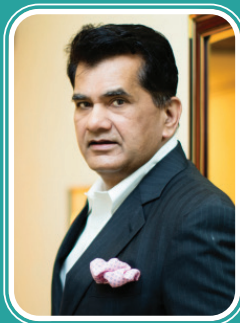


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Future cities must be built around people, sustainability, and resilience. Urban areas are at the center of climate action, and innovative technologies can help transform housing, mobility, and infrastructure to make cities inclusive, climate-resilient, and environmentally sustainable.

- Ms Anacláudia Marinheiro Centeno Rossbach
Executive Director, UN-Habitat

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The global transition towards sustainable development will require bold leadership, innovation, and large-scale investments in clean technologies. Countries must act with urgency to accelerate climate action while ensuring economic growth and development opportunities for emerging economies.

- Mr Amitabh Kant
Former G20 Sherpa and Former CEO, NITI Aayog

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Solar energy represents one of the most scalable solutions for global decarbonization. Expanding solar deployment, strengthening international cooperation, and mobilizing climate finance will be essential to achieving universal access to clean energy while advancing sustainable development.

- Mr Ashish Khanna
Director General, International Solar Alliance

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The oceans hold immense potential for clean energy generation. Harnessing ocean energy technologies can diversify renewable energy systems, support coastal economies, and contribute to global decarbonization pathways while protecting marine ecosystems.

- **Dr Charles Ogilvie**

Executive Director and Co-Founder, Ocean Energy Pathway

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Smart technologies and digital innovation can transform infrastructure systems to be more efficient, resilient, and sustainable. Integrating energy-efficient systems and intelligent building technologies will play a key role in reducing emissions in cities and industrial environments.

- **Mr Shankar Iyer**

Director - Transportation, Smart Cities and Sustainable Infrastructure, Johnson Controls India

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Heavy industries must adopt cleaner technologies and sustainable manufacturing practices to align with global climate goals. Decarbonizing sectors such as steel will require innovation, policy support, and collaboration across supply chains.

- **Mr Naveen Ahlawat**

President and Head, Sustainability and Decarbonisation, Jindal Steel Limited

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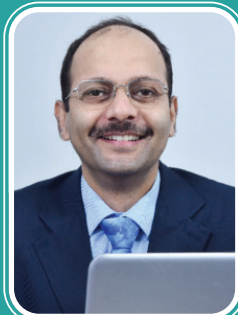
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Innovation in mobility and manufacturing can significantly reduce environmental impact. Sustainable materials, circular design approaches, and advanced engineering solutions are shaping the next generation of environmentally responsible automotive technologies.

- **Mr Vinit Adarkar**

Vice President and Head – Interior and Exterior Modules, Mercedes-Benz Research and Development India

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Technological innovation is essential to accelerating the global energy transition. Advanced renewable energy systems, energy storage solutions, and digital technologies can enable faster deployment of clean energy while ensuring reliability and affordability.

- **Mr Sudhir Pathak**

Chief Science and Technology Officer, Hero Future Energies

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Buildings account for a significant share of global energy consumption and emissions. Sustainable architecture, energy-efficient design, and climate-responsive infrastructure can significantly reduce environmental impacts while improving quality of life in urban environments.

- **Prof. Deo Prasad**

Distinguished Professor (Scientia),
University of New South Wales, Sydney

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Tracing the Summit Days

PLENARIES

MINISTERIAL: MULTILATERALISM AS A FORCE OF HOPE

FEBRUARY 26, 2026 | THURSDAY



ABOUT THE PLENARY

At a time of rising geopolitical fragmentation, eroding institutional trust, and intensifying climate risks, this flagship plenary at WSDS 2026 explored whether multilateralism can still deliver collective progress. Titled 'Multilateralism as a Force of Hope,' the session brought together ministers, climate ambassadors, leaders, and global thinkers to reflect on reforming and revitalizing global cooperation systems.

Speakers emphasized that multilateralism was designed precisely for moments of crisis—when global challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, inequality, and economic instability transcend borders. The discussion underscored the urgent need to rebuild trust through implementation, not rhetoric; to reform institutions to be more inclusive and representative of vulnerable nations; and to translate solidarity into actionable finance, technology transfer, and capacity building.

With strong voices from South Asia, Europe, and global institutions, the plenary highlighted climate justice, regional cooperation through platforms such as BIMSTEC, and the evolving role of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in shaping a rules-based global order. The message was clear—multilateralism remains indispensable—but it must be reformed, responsive, and result-driven to restore hope and deliver impact for people and planet.

Speakers' List

Moderator

- H.E. Mr Manjeev Singh Puri, Former Ambassador of India to the European Union; Distinguished Fellow, TERI

Ministerial Addresses

- H.E. Mr Madhav Prasad Chaulagain, Minister of Forests and Environment, Nepal
- H.E. Dr Dammika Patabendi, Minister of Environment, Sri Lanka
- H.E. Dr Muaviyath Mohamed, Minister of State, Tourism and Environment, Maldives

Keynote Addresses

- Mr Jochen Flasbarth, State Secretary, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Germany
- H.E. Mr Indra Mani Pandey, Secretary General, BIMSTEC
- H.E. Mr Mattias Frumerie, Climate Ambassador, Sweden

Leadership Panel

- Prof. Frank Biermann, Utrecht University
- Dr Tom Rivett-Carnac, Global Optimism
- Ms Patricia Fuller, International Institute for Sustainable Development
- Dr Kira Vinke, German Council on Foreign Relations
- Mr Ovais Sarmad, Vice Chair, Greenhouse Gas Protocol Steering Committee

Call to Action

Implementation Must Replace Rhetoric: Global agreements have meaning only when commitments are fulfilled. Climate finance pledges, SDG targets, and adaptation support must move from negotiation rooms to real-world delivery, particularly for vulnerable nations facing mounting climate impacts.

Climate Justice: Central to Trust: Countries that contributed least to global emissions are bearing most of the brunt. Equitable access to grant-based finance, technology transfer, and capacity-building must anchor future multilateral climate actions.

Reform Global Governance Structures: Institutions designed decades ago must evolve to reflect today's geopolitical realities. Decision-making processes must be more inclusive, giving meaningful voice to small island states, least developed countries, and the Global South.

Strengthen Regional Multilateralism: Regional platforms such as BIMSTEC demonstrate how smaller groupings can accelerate cooperation in energy, disaster management, and climate resilience. Regional convergence can complement and strengthen global negotiations.

Align Finance with Resilience and Adaptation: Mitigation alone is insufficient. Investment in adaptation, resilience-building, and loss and damage mechanisms is critical, especially for island and Himalayan nations confronting sea-level rise and glacial melt.



Combat Misinformation with Science-based Policy: Fact-based dialogue and knowledge institutions are essential to counter misinformation that undermines climate action. Evidence-driven policymaking strengthens accountability and restores credibility in multilateral systems.

Leverage Plurilateral and Sectoral Platforms: Beyond formal COP processes, coalitions on industry transition, carbon pricing, and sectoral decarbonization can accelerate implementation while reinforcing global frameworks.

Translate Solidarity into Shared Ownership: Multilateralism must move beyond donor-recipient dynamics and towards shared stewardship of global commons. Air, oceans, and biodiversity transcend borders; cooperation must reflect that transnational reality.

Making Words Count @WSDS 2026



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If climate change is uppermost in the minds of people around the world today, it is largely because of the multilateral process that has brought it into global discourse. For global issues you need global solutions, and for problems whose answers are not immediately available, countries must continue to talk, cooperate, and work together.

- Mr Manjeev Singh Puri
Former Ambassador to the European
Union & Distinguished Fellow, TERI

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Multilateralism must move from negotiation to engagement. Broken promises—particularly on climate finance—have eroded trust. Equity, institutional reform, and delivery on commitments are essential to restore confidence and safeguard vulnerable mountain ecosystems.

- H.E. Mr Madhav Prasad Chaulagain
Minister of Forests and Environment, Nepal

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Climate vulnerability demands resilience. Adaptation, youth participation, and regional cooperation must anchor sustainability efforts. Multilateralism is not optional—it is the architecture of trust needed to confront interconnected crises and ensure inclusive development.

- **H.E. Dr Dammika Patabendi**
Minister of Environment, Sri Lanka

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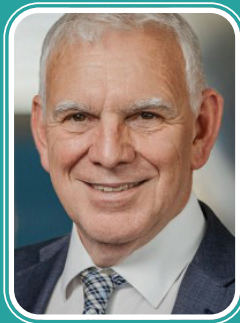


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For small island states, multilateralism is survival. Accessible, predictable, grant-based climate finance and streamlined procedures are critical. Hope must be matched by institutional reform and tangible delivery for those on the frontlines of sea-level rise.

- **H.E. Dr Muaviyath Mohamed**
Minister of State, Tourism and Environment, Maldives

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Multilateralism is under strain but remains indispensable. Countries may choose disengagement, but undermining collective agreements weakens global trust. Fact-based dialogue, solidarity, and sustained climate leadership are essential to protect shared global goods.

- **Mr Jochen Flasbarth**
State Secretary, German Federal Ministry for the Environment,
Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection

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Regional multilateralism complements global frameworks. Organizations such as BIMSTEC demonstrate that smaller groupings can effectively build consensus and deliver practical cooperation in energy, disaster management, and climate resilience.

- **H.E. Mr Indra Mani Pandey**
Secretary General, BIMSTEC

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Climate cooperation must extend beyond COP outcomes. Sectoral alliances, carbon pricing initiatives, and bilateral partnerships can accelerate implementation. Reforming and strengthening the UN climate system is key to delivering ambition through action.

- **H.E. Mr Mattias Frumerie**
Climate Ambassador & Head of Delegation to UNFCCC, Swedish
Ministry of Climate and Enterprise

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Friendship is not defined by sharing the same opinion. Friendship is defined by the ability to listen, to understand, and to value the arguments of others. Multilateralism requires exactly this spirit—countries working together, despite differences, driven by the joint endeavour to make the world a little bit better.

- **Prof. Frank Biermann**
Professor of Global Sustainability Governance, Utrecht University

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When the Paris Agreement was negotiated, climate change was largely insulated from wider geopolitical tensions, which allowed countries to cooperate despite other rivalries. That separation is no longer possible today. In this complex geopolitical environment, we must defend multilateralism but also support smaller coalitions and initiatives that can move faster and later feed into the UN process.

- **Dr Tom Rivett-Carnac**
Co-Founder and President, Global Optimism

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Sustainability can be a pathway to revive multilateralism. The system was created at a time when many voices across the world were not sufficiently represented. Today we are witnessing a shift in global power and a more multipolar world. Protecting the Earth is not a policy choice—it is a duty, and it must be placed at the center of international relations.

- Ms Patricia Fuller
President and Chief Executive Officer,
International Institute for Sustainable Development

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When we talk about reforming the international system, we must consider the risks we are facing. If the Greenland ice sheet melts or the Amazon rainforest turns into a savannah, the impacts will reach far beyond those regions. Climate risks are rising rapidly, and our governance systems must adapt to address this changing risk landscape.

- Dr Kira Vinke
Head of the Center for Climate and Foreign Policy,
German Council on Foreign Relations

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Multilateral institutions continue to embody the hope and aspirations of the international community for collective action. Despite setbacks, there is no alternative to multilateralism. Global challenges—from climate change to development—cannot be solved by any one nation alone; they require cooperation among countries working together.

- Mr Ovais Sarmad
Vice Chair, Green House Gas Protocol Steering Committee

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Tracing the Summit Days

PLENARIES

LEADERSHIP PANEL: THE CLIMATE FINANCE IMPERATIVE

FEBRUARY 27, 2026 | FRIDAY



ABOUT THE PLENARY

The panel on 'The Climate Finance Imperative' explored the urgent need to scale climate finance to support mitigation, adaptation, and resilience-building in developing countries. As climate risks intensify globally, the discussion highlighted the widening gap between the scale of investment required and the financial resources currently available for climate action. While global climate-related financial flows have increased significantly, cross-border climate finance directed towards developing economies remains limited, particularly for adaptation initiatives.

Speakers emphasized that adaptation finance continues to be chronically underfunded despite growing evidence of its economic and social benefits. The panel also highlighted that a large share of climate investments currently originates domestically within countries, underscoring the importance of strengthening national financial systems while expanding international support mechanisms. Experts stressed that innovative financing mechanisms, stronger multilateral collaboration, and enhanced private sector engagement are critical to closing the climate finance gap.

The session also underscored the importance of integrating climate resilience into development planning, infrastructure investment, and financial systems. Panellists highlighted the need for better risk assessment frameworks, improved data systems, and policy reforms that enable scalable investments in climate resilience. Ultimately, the discussion emphasized that climate finance must move beyond incremental increases in funding and instead drive systemic transformation across global and national financial systems to effectively address the climate crisis.

Speakers' List

Moderator

Ms Leena Nandan, Former Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India

Speakers/Panellists

- Mr Dipak Dasgupta, Distinguished Fellow, TERI
- Prof. Benito Müller, Managing Director, Oxford Climate Policy
- Ms Kanmani Chockalingam, Senior Fellow, McKinsey Global Institute
- Ms Frauke Roeser, Founder and Managing Director, NewClimate Institute
- Dr Sujata Gupta, Director of the South Asia Team, Asian Development Bank
- Prof. Anand Patwardhan, Professor, School of Public Policy, University of Maryland
- Ms Valerie Hickey, Group Global Director for Environment, The World Bank
- Dr Annapurna Vancheswaran, Sustainable Development Practitioner
- Mr Amit Prothi, Director General, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure

Call to Action

Bridging the Climate Finance Gap: Global financial flows remain far below the levels required to meet climate goals, particularly for adaptation, in developing countries. Strengthening international cooperation, expanding concessional finance, and mobilizing private capital are essential to bridge this widening climate finance gap.

Adaptation Finance must be Scaled Urgently: Adaptation remains significantly underfunded despite growing climate risks. Governments, development banks, and financial institutions must prioritize investments in climate resilience, especially in vulnerable regions where climate impacts threaten livelihoods, infrastructure, and food security.

Mobilizing Private Sector Investment: Public finance alone cannot meet the scale of climate investment required. Innovative financial mechanisms, blended finance models, and policy incentives are needed to attract private sector capital towards climate-resilient infrastructure and adaptation initiatives.

Integrating Climate Action with Development: Climate mitigation, adaptation, and development priorities must be addressed simultaneously. Integrating climate resilience into national planning, infrastructure development, and economic policies will ensure that climate investments support long-term sustainable growth.

Strengthening Financial Systems and Policy Frameworks: Reforming financial systems and strengthening policy frameworks are essential to mobilize climate finance at scale. Governments must create enabling environments that support green investments, climate risk disclosure, and long-term resilience planning.



Investing in Climate-Resilient Infrastructure: The coming decades will witness unprecedented infrastructure development worldwide. Embedding resilience in infrastructure planning today will significantly reduce future economic losses and strengthen communities against climate-related disasters.

Prioritizing Vulnerable Communities: Climate change disproportionately affect poor and vulnerable populations. Climate finance strategies must prioritize equitable access to resources and ensure that adaptation investments protect livelihoods, food security, and social stability.

Enhancing Climate Risk Data and Decision-making: Effective climate finance requires improved climate risk assessment, data systems, and decision-making tools. Better information and communication will enable governments, businesses, and communities to make informed investments in climate resilience.

Making Words Count @WSDS 2026



Climate finance must shift from discussion to delivery. The scale of climate impacts demands stronger collaboration between governments, financial institutions, and the private sector to ensure that investments reach vulnerable communities and translate into real progress on resilience and sustainable development.

- Ms Leena Nandan,
Former Secretary, Ministry of Environment,
Forest and Climate Change, Government of India



Global financial flows currently amount to nearly \$2.5 trillion annually, yet only a small fraction reaches developing countries as cross-border climate finance. Strengthening financial systems and prioritizing resilience investments are essential to ensure that vulnerable nations can effectively respond to escalating climate risks.

- Mr Dipak Dasgupta
Distinguished Fellow, TERI





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Climate adaptation requires both ambitious commitments and practical cooperation among nations. Progress cannot remain dependent on prolonged multilateral negotiations. Countries must work together pragmatically to advance collective climate action and support vulnerable communities facing increasing climate impacts.

- **Prof. Benito Müller**
Managing Director, Oxford Climate Policy

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Nearly 40% of the world's landmass faces climate hazards affecting billions of people, yet only a small share of the population is adequately protected. Adaptation investments deliver strong societal returns, but innovative financing mechanisms are needed to make them both financially viable and scalable.

- **Ms Kanmani Chockalingam**
Senior Fellow, McKinsey Global Institute

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Scaling adaptation finance is both an ethical and economic imperative. Climate finance must move beyond isolated approaches and recognize the interconnected nature of mitigation, adaptation, and development in shaping resilient and sustainable transition pathways.

- **Ms Frauke Roeser**
Founder and Managing Director, NewClimate Institute

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Developing countries across Asia are already experiencing severe climate shocks, affecting livelihoods and food security. Strengthening national systems, expanding access to concessional finance, and scaling climate-resilient agriculture are critical steps towards building long-term resilience.

- **Dr Sujata Gupta**

Director, South Asia Team, Asian Development Bank

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Climate resilience is no longer a future challenge; it is a present reality. While public finance remains essential, private sector investment must also play a larger role in scaling adaptation efforts ensuring that societies can effectively respond to growing climate risks.

- **Prof. Anand Patwardhan**

Professor, School of Public Policy, University of Maryland

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Adaptation must be understood as an opportunity for growth and modernization rather than merely a defensive strategy. Investments in resilience not only reduce climate risks but also support inclusive development and strengthen economic competitiveness.

- **Ms Valerie Hickey**

Group Global Director for Environment, The World Bank

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Climate action should focus not only on the cost of solutions but also on the cost of inaction. The technologies and knowledge needed for climate solutions already exist. What is required now is greater coordination, alignment, and commitment to implementing them.

- Dr Annapurna Vancheswaran
Sustainable Development Practitioner

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The next two decades will see unprecedented infrastructure development worldwide. This presents a critical opportunity to integrate resilience into infrastructure systems, ensuring that investments today reduce vulnerability and strengthen long-term climate preparedness.

- Mr Amit Prothi
Director General, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure

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Tracing the Summit Days

PLENARIES

LEADERSHIP PANEL: ACCELERATING CLEAN ENERGY SOLUTIONS

FEBRUARY 27, 2026 | FRIDAY



ABOUT THE PLENARY

As a part of the Silver Jubilee edition of WSDS, this leadership panel examined how coordinated action across national, state governments and municipalities, alongside the private sector and civil society, can accelerate clean energy deployment. Speakers underlined that despite record renewable additions and rapid cost declines, the world remains off-track in achieving the climate goals, making the pace of transition the defining challenge.

The discussion highlighted India's growing leadership in clean energy, including innovative procurement models such as round-the-clock renewable auctions, alongside the need for stronger grids and distribution reforms to ensure reliability and equity. Panellists emphasized that transitions must be just between countries and within them and that land, biodiversity, livelihoods, and community consent are now central to planning, especially at sub-national levels where implementation happens. The session showcased practical pathways—responsible renewable siting, repurposing reclaimed mining land, decentralized solutions for ecologically fragile Himalayan

regions, and the expanding role of storage and hybrid systems to make renewables dependable. A strong call emerged for multi-level governance, predictable finance, and large-scale skilling to build an inclusive workforce for the energy transition.

Speakers' List

Moderator

- Ms Priya Shankar, India Director, Climate and Environment Program, Bloomberg Philanthropies

Panellists

- Ms Luísa Salgueiro, Mayor, Municipality of Matosinhos, Portugal
- Ambassador Arne Walther, Former Secretary General of the International Energy Forum and Former Chairman, International Energy Agency
- Ms Ita Kettleborough, Director, Energy Transitions Commission
- Ms Nameeta Prasad, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India
- Mr Sharad Pungalia, Country Head, Gentari India
- Mr Himal Tiwari, Chief Human Resource Officer, Chief Sustainability & Corporate Social Responsibility, Tata Power
- Ms Anjali Acharya, Managing Director, The Nature Conservancy India

Call to Action

Make Renewables Dependable, not only Scalable: Move beyond capacity additions to reliable, on-demand clean power through hybrid systems, storage, and better dispatch planning, ensuring households and businesses receive dependable electricity without compromising affordability.

Strengthen the Last Mile of Power Delivery: Distribution reform and utility health are essential. Without financially viable, well-governed distribution systems, rooftop solar, EV charging, microgrids, and decentralized solutions will not scale equitably.

Accelerate Grid and Transmission Modernization: Remove transmission bottlenecks so clean power can flow across regions. Build inherent flexibility in the grid—through storage readiness, forecasting, and digital controls—to absorb high shares of renewables.

Prioritize Responsible Siting and Land Solutions: Institutionalize science-based siting tools and landscape planning that integrate biodiversity, community needs, and land-use realities. Repurpose underutilized land such as reclaimed mines to reduce conflict and enable local revival.

Scale Sub-national Leadership and City-led Delivery: Cities and states are where implementation happens. Align national ambition with local action through predictable finance, inter-operable data, and continuous dialogue, empowering local authorities to drive faster delivery.

Leverage Innovative Procurement and Policy Design: Build on India's innovations such as round-the-clock renewable auctions and long-term contracting to crowd in investment, reduce risk, and demonstrate replicable models for other countries.

Support Decentralized Solutions for Fragile Regions: Promote small, standalone clean energy systems for the Himalayas and other difficult terrains—linking clean power to livelihoods, water, and local industry—rather than relying on large, disruptive infrastructure.

Invest in Skills for a Just and Inclusive Transition: Scale green skilling rapidly, especially for frontline technicians and installers, with focused opportunities for women and marginalized communities. Workforce readiness is now a core infrastructure of the transition.



Making Words Count @WSDS 2026

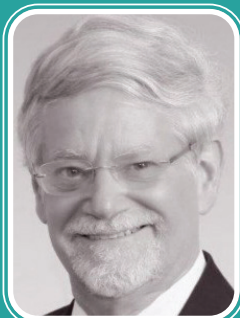


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Clean energy is central to development and climate action, but the pace must accelerate to meet global goals. India's cost reductions and rapid renewable growth offer lessons for the world. This transition will only succeed through collaboration across governments, business, and civil society.

- **Ms Priya Shankar**
India Director, Climate and Environment Program,
Bloomberg Philanthropies

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We have progressed on renewables, storage, and grids, yet we remain far off-track. Geopolitical headwinds and weakened multilateralism complicate action, but coherent policy across national and sub-national levels can raise predictability. A just transition needs finance, technology cooperation, and urgent implementation.

- **Ambassador Arne Walther**
Former Secretary General, International Energy Forum;
Former Chairman, International Energy Agency

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We have the technologies needed, and the economics of clean power are increasingly unstoppable. Electrification and rapid clean power build-out are the beating heart of transition. India's innovation—especially round-the-clock procurement—and the promise of AgriPV can overcome land constraints while benefitting farmers and ensuring water security.

- **Ms Ita Kettleborough**
Director, Energy Transitions Commission

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Cities move faster when they link decarbonization with resilience and justice. Blackouts and storms showed that centralized systems alone are not enough, making rooftops, energy communities, and microgrids critical. Municipal plans that engage people, use strategic procurement, and protect vulnerable households turn neutrality into a deliverable commitment.

- Ms **Luísa Salgueiro**
Mayor, Municipality of Matosinhos, Portugal

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Sub-national leadership is where the transition happens, but it must be responsible and people-centric. Land is now a defining issue, requiring science-based siting and social value considerations. Tools like SiteRight can guide states to low-conflict pathways, including reclaimed mine lands, enabling renewables while supporting biodiversity and just transition outcomes.

- Ms **Anjali Acharya**
Managing Director, The Nature Conservancy India

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For renewables to be dependable, storage must become integral, alongside complementary wind-solar profiles and smarter project configuration. India is ready for hybrid solutions at scale, including round-the-clock systems for green hydrogen. The next step is building dependable clean power that meets on-demand needs without excessive inefficiency.

- Mr **Sharad Pungalia**
Country Head, Gentari India

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The transition depends on a healthy last mile. Distribution reform is a systemic priority, because even decentralized solutions require strong utilities and customer-centric operations. Alongside grid upgrades, demand and load management must evolve to handle new loads such as data centres, while keeping the system reliable and affordable.

- **Mr Himal Tiwari**
Chief Human Resource Officer, Chief Sustainability & Corporate
Social Responsibility, Tata Power

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Himalayan conditions demand local solutions. Through NMHS and Him-CONNECT, the Ministry supports innovative, decentralized clean energy projects that work without heavy grid dependence and can be scaled, once proven. Carbon markets under CCTS, especially the offset market, can help monetize even smaller green energy projects and improve viability.

- **Ms Nameeta Prasad**
Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment,
Forest and Climate Change, Government of India

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Tracing the Summit Days

VALEDICTORY

REFLECTIONS, RESURGENCE, AND RESOLVE FOR OUR COMMON FUTURE

FEBRUARY 27, 2026 | FRIDAY



ABOUT THE PLENARY

The valedictory session of the Silver Jubilee edition of the World Sustainable Development Summit reaffirmed shared commitments to accelerate sustainable development through collective, implementation-focused action. Set against the Summit's umbrella theme, 'Parivartan | Transformations: Vision, Voices and Values,' the session reflected on key takeaways from three intensive days of dialogue, partnerships, and solution pathways across sectors and regions.

Speakers underscored that climate change is no longer an environmental concern alone, but a defining challenge for development, governance, security, and human well-being—requiring science-anchored, equity-aware action. The launch of the Act4Earth Manifesto provided a forward-looking charter to strengthen multilateralism, scale innovation, advance gender-responsive and inclusive transitions, and embed climate resilience across policy and economic systems. The session also highlighted youth leadership through the Mission LiFE Youth Ambassadors Programme and reinforced the need to shift from incremental progress to measurable, accountable delivery. The Summit Report noted record participation and the strong presence of Himalayan voices through Him-CONNECT, emphasizing solutions for vulnerable regions. The session concluded with a call to sustain momentum beyond WSDS and translate commitments into outcomes and livelihoods.



Speakers' List

- Mr Nitin Desai, Chairman, TERI (Chairman's Address)
- Mr Manish Kudale, Editor-in-Chief, Vasundhara Club, TERI School of Advanced Studies (Launch of Vasundhara)
- Ms Prachi Shevgaonkar, Founder, Cool the Globe (Summit Green Actions)
- Ms Priyambada Upadhyaya, Lead, TSAS Volunteer Team (Act4Earth Manifesto)
- Ms Isabelle Tschan, Deputy Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme (Mission LiFE Youth Ambassadors Programme)
- Mr Tanmay Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India (Keynote Address)
- Ms Dia Mirza, Goodwill Ambassador, United Nations Environment Programme (Keynote Address)
- Ms Vaishali Nigam Sinha, Co-Founder & Chairperson, Sustainability, ReNew (Special Address)
- Dr Ash Pachauri, Co-Founder and Senior Mentor, POP (Protect Our Planet) Movement (Special Address)
- Dr Shailly Kedia, Curator, WSDS; Director, TERI (Summit Report)
- Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director General, TERI (Closing Address and Vote of Thanks)

Call to Action

Move from Dialogue to Delivery: WSDS reinforced that awareness is no longer the barrier—implementation is. Institutional mechanisms, partnerships, and measurable action plans must carry Summit outcomes into programmes, investments, and on-ground solutions between one edition and the next.

Equity must Anchor Climate Action: Sustainable development cannot be a uniform template. Justice—both intra and inter-generational—must guide transitions, ensuring those most vulnerable are protected and those most responsible accelerate lifestyle, policy, and systems change.

Make Mission LiFE a Mass Practice: Behaviour change is not symbolic; it is a climate strategy. Mission LiFE can reduce emissions substantially when everyday choices are supported by enabling institutions—turning individual actions into a sustained, scalable and measurable impact.

Finance must Deliver Climate Justice: Climate finance remains skewed and insufficient for those who need it the most. Funding models must stop deepening debt burdens, and move towards fair, transparent, and gender-responsive finance that supports adaptation, loss and damage, and resilience.

Shift from Incrementalism to Transformation: The next decade demands systemic change, not small steps. Scale renewable energy, circularity, and resource efficiency as economic necessities, while embedding accountability and tracking progress so commitments translate into outcomes.

Put Youth Leadership at the Centre: With India's demographic advantage, youth must be positioned as climate leaders, not participants. Programmes such as the Mission LiFE Youth Ambassadors should build a national pipeline of trained changemakers across campuses and communities.

Prioritize Adaptation and Resilience: Mitigation alone is insufficient. National adaptation planning, climate-proof infrastructure, and risk-anticipatory governance are essential to protect livelihoods—especially in regions facing immediate climate shocks and compounding vulnerabilities.

Recognize the Himalayas as Critical Infrastructure: Mountain ecosystems underpin water security and resilience far beyond their geography. Solutions showcased through Him-CONNECT highlight the need for sustained investment in mountain-specific innovation, livelihoods, and climate resilience pathways.

Making Words Count @WSDS 2026



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Sustainable development requires continuous dialogue across government, business, research, activists, and communities—not a one-size-fits-all template. Platforms like WSDS matter because they connect those implementing solutions with those shaping policy, and keep equity central, especially when global commitments face headwinds.

- Mr Nitin Desai
Chairman, TERI

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Climate justice cannot ignore history. Finance is not neutral—it decides whose future is secured. The youth may not have perfect answers, but they are thinking and they care. The dialogue must continue beyond the Summit because the crisis does not pause outside these halls.

- Mr Manish Kudale
Editor-in-Chief, Vasundhara Club, TERI School of Advanced Studies

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WSDS is powerful because it builds community and hope. Climate action becomes real when people walk the talk through everyday choices and partnerships. Remember the room standing together—you are never alone in this work. Small actions compound, and collective belief can make miracles happen.

- Ms Prachi Shevgaonkar
Founder, Cool the Globe

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The Act4Earth Manifesto calls for strengthened multilateralism, science-informed action, inclusive transitions, resilient supply chains, circularity, and ethical governance of innovation. It is a roadmap to move from ambition to execution—centred on equity, gender responsiveness, and climate justice for the Global South and small island states.

- Ms Priyambada Upadhyaya
Lead, TSAS Volunteer Team

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Transformation is driven by people and everyday choices. Mission LiFE places sustainable living at the heart of development, and the Youth Ambassadors Programme will position young people as leaders, build a pipeline of trained ambassadors, and connect behaviour with institutions so daily practice accelerates a circular, resilient economy.

- Ms Isabelle Tschan
Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP

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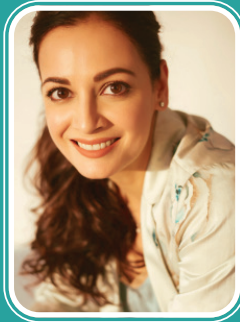
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Climate change is a defining challenge of development and security, demanding science-anchored, equity-aware policy. India is pursuing growth and decarbonization simultaneously—scaling renewables, strengthening governance reforms, advancing Mission LiFE, and building adaptation planning. The future must be secured by intention, justice, and irreversible action.

- Mr Tanmay Kumar
Secretary, MoEFCC, Government of India

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Sustainability is not an abstract agenda—it is love for our children and the basis of dignity and peace. The crisis stems from a fractured relationship with nature, and systemic change is essential: from extractive economies to regenerative ones. Climate justice must be gender justice, with women leading, not only bearing impacts.

- Ms Dia Mirza

Goodwill Ambassador, United Nations Environment Programme

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The next decade will be defined by collective action, not individual commitments. Climate and development are the same agenda, and clean energy is now an economic imperative. Scale must not come without equity, finance must step up, and accountability must be measured. WSDS is a mandate—what matters is what we do between summits.

- Ms Vaishali Nigam Sinha

Co-Founder & Chairperson, Sustainability, ReNew

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Legacy is the footprint we leave on hearts and minds. WSDS and POP are movements—built by people coming together across generations. The window for action is closing fast; the answers are in the room, but they must become action outside it. Today is the first day of the rest of our lives—make it count.

- Dr Ash Pachauri

Co-Founder and Senior Mentor, POP (Protect Our Planet) Movement

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The world is more complex, and resources are constrained and partnerships are the only way forward. Sustainability must be a business case as well as a moral imperative, enabling net-zero pathways, rural energy transformation through LaBL 2.0, and Himalayan resilience through focused coalitions. WSDS outcomes must translate into measurable action, innovations and livelihoods beyond the Summit.

- **Dr Vibha Dhawan**
Director General, TERI

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WSDS 2026 broke records in participation and expanded solution pathways across plenaries, thematic and spotlight tracks. A defining feature was Himalayan voices through Him-CONNECT, showcasing innovation from landslide prediction to clean energy solutions for vulnerable regions.

- **Dr Shailly Kedia**
Curator, WSDS; Director, TERI

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Him-CONNECT

India's journey towards a climate-resilient, low-carbon development future presents a major economic and investment opportunity. Nowhere is this more urgent than in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR), a climate-vulnerable landscape that is also a source of critical ecosystem services, livelihoods, and urban growth. Over the last decade, the National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS), a scheme under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), has supported more than 230 projects in IHR.

MoEFCC, Government of India, in collaboration with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) organized Him-CONNECT, a 2-day event in conjunction with the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) held in Delhi from February 25–27, 2026. The objective of Him-CONNECT was to display technologies, pilots and innovations that have been developed under the National Mission of Himalayan Studies (NMHS) to start-ups and investors, so that these technologies can be upscaled/commercialized. Him-CONNECT also provided a platform for interaction among start-ups, industry partners, investors, and other stakeholders, and facilitate potential collaborations for applications of these developed technologies/pilots to the greater Himalayan region. Him-CONNECT is envisioned as a landmark initiative to bridge the critical gap between scientific research and market-ready solutions in the IHR.

NMHS has supported pioneering research, yielding a wealth of technologies, patents, prototypes, and innovative models addressing the pressing challenges of the Himalayas such as water security, biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods, and waste management.

The technologies/pilots that were showcased during Him-CONNECT focused on eight areas:

1. Waste to wealth
2. Climate-resilient infrastructure development
3. Innovative water management/treatment technologies
4. Agri-innovations
5. Innovations in processing techniques
6. Sustainable utilization of bio-resources
7. Dairying innovations; and
8. Harnessing green energy

Him-CONNECT brought together a strong cohort of 30 organizations and initiatives whose work spans research, innovation, community practice, and development partnerships across the Himalayan and North-Eastern regions.







The climate-tech and innovation showcase was anchored by leading universities and institutes, including the Indian Institutes of Technology at Mandi, Guwahati, Ropar, Roorkee, Jammu, and Jodhpur; National Institute of Technology campuses at Silchar and Yupia; Kumaun University; the University of Kashmir; North-Eastern Hill University; and Central Agricultural University, Imphal. These were joined by specialized national research and knowledge institutions such as CSIR–Central Road Research Institute, CSIR–Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology, the GB Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment, and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), collectively highlighting cutting-edge research, technology development, and policy-relevant innovation for sustainable mountain development.










Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme (EIACP) centres—including HIMCOSTE, the Forest Research Institute (FRI), and centres from Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Sikkim, and Uttarakhand—also had dedicated displays. In addition, projects supported under the Small Grants Programme of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) were featured as part of the exhibition.

Lab-to-market technology linkages were promoted through specially curated interactions among start-ups, investors, and policymakers with participating innovators. These interactions were facilitated by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), TERI, and Summit partners such as AndPurpose and Climate Collective.



Him-CONNECT Stalls

Stall No.	Logo	Exhibit	Principal Investigator	Organization
Theme: Climate-resilient Infrastructure Development				
1		Predictive Modeling of Rainfall-Induced Landslides in Kamand	Prof. Varun Dutt	Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mandi, Himachal Pradesh
2		Unmanned Under Water Vehicle to measure Micro-Environment in Rivers	Prof. Subashisa Dutta	Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati, Assam
3		Eco-friendly Road Construction Technologies	Dr Siksha Swaroopa Kar	CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CRRRI), New Delhi
4		Sustainable Road Pavements using Geosynthetics	Dr G Bharath	CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CRRRI), New Delhi
5		Disaster Resilient Housing Techniques	Dr Aditya Singh Rajput	Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Ropar, Punjab
6		Seismic Assessment of Masonry Structures	Dr Sanjay Chikermane	Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee, Uttarakhand

Stall No.	Logo	Exhibit	Principal Investigator	Organization
Theme: Waste-to-Wealth				
7		Up-cycling Waste Plastic into Carbon Nano-materials	Prof. Nanda Gopal Sahoo	Kumaon University, Nainital, Uttarakhand
8		Use of Treated Wastewater for Vegetable Cultivation through Hydroponics	Dr Lalit Giri	GB Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (NIHE), Almora, Uttarakhand
9		Sericulture Waste into Burn Ointments	Dr Syed Mudasir Ahmad Andrabi	Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir, J&K
10		Transforming Food Waste	Dr Aparna Maitra Pati	CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT), Palampur, Himachal Pradesh
Theme: Harnessing Green Energy				
11		Solar Water and Space Heating System	Dr Lal Singh	Himalayan Research Group (HRG), Shimla, Himachal Pradesh
12		Solar-powered Water Purification and Bio-mineralization	Dr Jaspreet Kaur Randhawa	Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mandi, Himachal Pradesh
Theme: Innovative Water Management / Treatment Technologies				
13		Pine Needle-based Wastewater Treatment System	Dr Vasudha Agnihotri	GB Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (NIHE), Almora, Uttarakhand



Stall No.	Logo	Exhibit	Principal Investigator	Organization
14	 भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान जम्मू INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY JAMMU विद्ययाधनं सर्वधनं प्रधानम्	Solar Energy-based Portable Clean Drinking Water Treatment Unit	Dr Anup Shukla	Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Jammu, J&K
15		Decentralized Wastewater Treatment & Reuse in Agriculture	Dr Deepak Swamy	Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Jodhpur, Rajasthan
Theme: Dairying Innovations				
16		Mechanization of Yak Milk Cottage Cheese (Hard Churpi) Processing	Dr Rakesh Kr. Rajgar	Central Agricultural University (CAU), Imphal, Manipur
17		Interventions for Traditional Milk-based Fermented Foods	Dr Adil Gani	University of Kashmir, J&K
Theme: Sustainable Utilisation of Bio-resources				
18		Bamboo Micron Fibers (BMFs) for low-cost housing	Dr Sudipta Halder	National Institute of Technology (NIT), Silchar, Assam
19		Tea Residue for Biomass Pellets and Herbal By-products	Dr Saikat Kumar Jana	National Institute of Technology (NIT), Yupia, Arunachal Pradesh
20		Use of Packing Leaves as Substitute for Plastic	Dr Ashish Kar	TERI, Guwahati, Assam
21	 Rambans	Agave Plantation in Wasteland	Shri Satish Kandwal	Girish Grih Udyog Evam Resha Utpadan Samiti (GAURAS), Kimsar, Kotdwar, Uttarakhand

Stall No.	Logo	Exhibit	Principal Investigator	Organization
22	Uttarapath Sewa Sanstha	Use of Bamboo Resource and Ringal Handicrafts	Dr Rajendra Pant	Uttarakhand Sewa Sanstha, Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand
23		Livelihood Potential of Wild Growing Stinging Nettle	Dr Vasudha Pant	Green Hills Trust, Almora, Uttarakhand
Theme: Agri-innovations				
24		Shifting Cultivation Improvement & Mine Drainage Treatment	Dr S K Barik	North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong, Meghalaya

Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme (EIACP)		
25	HIMCOSTE and GSDP	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
26	EIACP: Arunachal Pradesh and Assam	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
27	EIACP: Sikkim	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
28	EIACP: GBPNiHE	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Small Grants Programme		
29	Small Grants Programme	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
30	Small Grants Programme	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



Thematic Tracks

GROUP A | FEBRUARY 25, 2026 | WEDNESDAY | 10:00–11:30 (IST)

Track Name	Organizers
Strategic Conservation Planning for Climate-Resilient Landscapes in the Eastern Himalayas	TERI and Conservation International (CI)
Securing Tomorrow: Critical Minerals and Circular Economy for Clean Energy Transition	ACPET, TERI, Collaborative Consortium on Critical Minerals
Brainstorming: Action Priorities for India's Net Zero and Viksit Bharat (Development Transition) Goals	IKI, BMUKN, GIZ
Roundtable on Unlocking Climate Resilience Finance to Strengthen Climate Action in the Global South	Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure

GROUP B | FEBRUARY 25, 2026 | WEDNESDAY | 12:00–13:30 (IST)

Track Name	Organizers
The Next Solar Frontier: Circularity, Resilience & Responsibility	International Solar Alliance
Global Climate Outcomes and Strategic Pathways for India	Natural Resources Defense Council
From Source to Seas: Science-informed Pathways for Transforming Plastic and Chemical Pollution Governance	Royal Norwegian Embassy, MuGamma, NIVA, INOPOL
Global South Collaboration for Clean Mobility and Energy-Efficient Appliances	CLASP & Intent Platform
India's Energy Transition Scenarios in the Age of Security: Navigating Growth, Resilience and Climate Action Across Multiple Possible Futures	Shell

GROUP C | FEBRUARY 25, 2026 | WEDNESDAY | 14:00–15:30 (IST)

Track Name	Organizers
Advancing Towards Net-Zero Higher Education Institutes: A Structured Approach	TERI School of Advanced Studies
Action for the Aravallis: Advancing Restoration, Resilience, and Inclusive Growth	TERI, The Nature Conservancy, GIZ, RECAP4NDC
Accelerating AgriPV in India: From Pilot Projects to Policy-led Scale-up	TERI, ETC, GEAPP, ICC, REI
Green Ports as a Gateway to Decarbonisation	Ministry of Ports Shipping and Waterways, NCoEGPS, TERI
Partnerships for Accelerating EV Skilling Ecosystem in India	Mercedes-Benz Research & Development India

DAY 2: FEBRUARY 26, 2026 | THURSDAY

Track Name	Organizers
10:00–11:30: Innovation Meets Implementation: Swiss Startup Solutions for India's Sustainability Agenda	Swissnex, TERI, WRI India
12:00–13:30: Green and Resilient Built Environment for Viksit Bharat: Opportunities and Challenges	JSW Cement
14:30–16:00: Building Demand for Green Steel in India: Public Procurement as a Lever to Accelerate Decarbonisation	IECC, Climate Catalyst, CII
16:30–18:00: Women at the Frontlines of Climate Action, Biodiversity & Land Restoration: Community-led Pathways to Achieve SDGs	GEF, MoEFCC, UNDP



Partner Tracks

Roundtable Discussion on 'Unlocking Climate Resilience Finance to Strengthen Climate Actions in the Global South' (Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure)



This roundtable examined how financial systems, policy frameworks, and institutional mechanisms can be strengthened to unlock climate resilience finance and accelerate climate action in the Global South. The discussion highlighted the need to align financial flows with development priorities so that climate investments contribute simultaneously to resilience, economic growth, and inclusive development.

Speakers noted that the transition to a net-zero economy represents a transformative development opportunity, particularly for countries with rapidly expanding infrastructure needs. By adopting efficient and low-carbon systems early in the development trajectory, economies can reduce long-term emissions while strengthening resilience to climate risks.

The discussion also emphasized that climate resilience must be embedded within mainstream development planning rather than treated as a parallel agenda. Strengthening institutional capacity among planners, financiers, and local stakeholders was identified as crucial for translating climate ambition into effective action on the ground.

Sectoral opportunities for decarbonization were highlighted across buildings, industry, and urban systems. The building sector was recognized as a major opportunity to reduce emissions through improved building codes, energy efficiency, and the adoption of low-carbon materials and technologies. Scaling these solutions requires innovative financing mechanisms, blended finance instruments, and policy incentives to address cost barriers and encourage wider adoption.

Participants further emphasized the importance of strengthening domestic financial systems to channel long-term capital into climate-compatible investments. Deepening debt markets, mobilizing institutional investors, and expanding development finance mechanisms were identified as critical to bridging the investment gap required for a net-zero transition.

The session also underlined the importance of ensuring that decarbonization pathways remain inclusive. Supporting MSMEs through improved access to finance, data systems, and shared infrastructure will be essential to enable industries to adopt low-carbon technologies while maintaining competitiveness.

Overall, the roundtable underscored that coordinated financial reforms, stronger institutions, and cross-sectoral collaboration are necessary to unlock large-scale climate resilience finance and support sustainable development pathways in the Global South.

India's Energy Transition Scenario in the Age of Security (Shell)



This session examined how India can navigate its energy transition while balancing economic growth, energy security, and climate action in an increasingly uncertain global landscape. The discussion drew on insights from the report—India's Energy Transition Scenario in the Age of Security, which explores multiple pathways to India's energy transition by 2050, highlighting the need to manage expanding energy demand while advancing decarbonization.

Ms Mallika Ishwaran, Chief Economist at Shell, emphasized that electrification will play a central role in reducing energy demand and emissions. She highlighted that electric vehicles are significantly more energy-efficient than internal combustion engines and projected that electrification could rise from around 20% today to 45–60 % of final energy demand over the coming decades.

Mr Ajay Shankar from TERI, pointed to the rapid growth of renewable energy and the expanding role of electric mobility in India. He noted that renewable energy potential is far higher than earlier estimates and emphasized that relying solely on hydroelectric power will not be sufficient to meet the country's growing energy needs.

Mr Sanjay Krishen from Intel Corporation highlighted the emerging role of AI in shaping future energy demand. He noted that AI-driven infrastructure, particularly data centres, will significantly increase electricity demand while positioning India as an attractive global hub for digital infrastructure.

Mr Shankar Iyer from Johnson Controls emphasized that energy transition can be understood through five key actions—generating more energy, reducing waste, improving efficiency, reducing external dependence, and removing carbon from the system. He also highlighted the value of scenario-based planning in navigating complex transition pathways.

Ms Mansi Tripathy from Shell underscored that India's energy transition differs from many advanced economies. Rather than replacing existing systems, India must expand energy supply to meet rising demand while simultaneously building a low-carbon development pathway.

The Next Solar Frontier: Circularity, Resilience & Responsibility (International Solar Alliance)



This session explored the emerging imperative of embedding circularity, resilience, and responsible lifecycle management within the rapidly expanding global solar ecosystem. As solar deployment accelerates and India approaches large-scale domestic manufacturing capacity, the discussion



highlighted the need to move from installation targets towards designing systems that manage materials, technologies, and infrastructure across their entire lifecycle. The session underscored the importance of responsible solar expansion, not only for environmental sustainability but also for strengthening long-term energy security and supply chain resilience.

Ms Suman Chandra, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India emphasized that circularity must be integrated at the design stage rather than treated as an end-of-life solution. She highlighted the importance of standardization and global harmonization to enable scalable recycling systems and material recovery processes across the solar value chain.

Dr Sushil Kumar, CSIR–National Physical Laboratory discussed the technological challenges associated with recycling solar and battery materials, noting that achieving the high purity levels required for re-integration into manufacturing demands significant advances in purification research. He also pointed to the trade-offs between durability and recyclability that must be carefully balanced in product design.

Mr Vinayak Vallambe, Customized Energy Solutions emphasized that recycling remains operationally expensive and currently lacks economies of scale. He highlighted the importance of policy interventions such as rationalized taxation and revenue certainty mechanisms to make recycling projects financially viable.

Dr Amit Kumar Singh from the Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation highlighted the immense potential of second-life batteries to support decentralized energy systems and rural electrification. Ashish Khanna, Director General, International Solar Alliance emphasized that solar circularity represents a major global economic opportunity, particularly in recycling and material recovery.

The session also marked the introduction of global battery recycling guidelines by ISA. Participants emphasized that strengthening policy frameworks, improving traceability, scaling testing infrastructure, and fostering global collaboration will be critical to building a circular and resilient solar ecosystem capable of supporting the next phase of clean energy growth.

Green and Resilient Built Environment for Viksit Bharat – Opportunities and Challenges (JSW Cement)



Start Strong. Grow Stronger.

The session examined how India's rapidly expanding infrastructure and construction sector can align with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 by embedding sustainability, resilience, and resource efficiency into the built environment. The discussion highlighted that India is entering a critical phase of urbanization and infrastructure development, presenting a unique opportunity to integrate climate-conscious design, materials, and construction practices at scale. Participants emphasized that decisions made today will lock in environmental impacts for decades, making it essential to incorporate sustainability considerations from the earliest stages of planning and design.

Shri Kuldeep Narayan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, highlighted that achieving Viksit Bharat requires integrating sustainability into the foundations of infrastructure development.

He also emphasized the importance of improving public awareness in energy performance and sustainability metrics to accelerate market transformation in the building sector.

Mr Manoj Rustagi, JSW Cement stressed that embodied carbon remains embedded in construction materials for decades and therefore must be addressed at the design stage. He noted that India has a significant opportunity to adopt low-carbon construction pathways while expanding its infrastructure.

Mr Tarun Garg, RMI India Foundation and Ms Shabnam Bassi, GRIHA Council highlighted the critical gap in reliable embodied carbon data and national benchmarks. Without consistent measurement frameworks and standardized methodologies, assessing and reducing emissions in the construction sector remains challenging.

Mr Roland Hunziker from the World Business Council for Sustainable Development emphasized that carbon performance must become as central as cost in procurement decisions. Meanwhile, Mr Shrikant Budholiya of Xyento highlighted the role of green finance and aggregated demand in reducing risks for early adoption of low-carbon materials.

The session also featured the launch of GRIHA Infrastructure Rating for logistic parks and warehouses, aimed at integrating sustainability principles into India's rapidly growing logistics and warehousing sector. Participants concluded that stronger data systems, policy frameworks, and financial incentives will be essential to accelerate transition towards a green and resilient built environment in India.

From Source to Seas: Science-Informed Pathways for Transforming Plastic and Chemical Pollution Governance (Royal Norwegian Embassy, MuGamma, NIVA)



The session examined how science-based research, monitoring systems, and policy frameworks can strengthen governance to address plastic and chemical pollution across ecosystems—from terrestrial sources to rivers and oceans. The discussion highlighted the growing urgency of tackling pollution from plastics, persistent organic pollutants (POPs), and emerging contaminants while ensuring that economic growth and industrial development are accompanied by robust environmental safeguards.

Mr Piyush Mohapatra from Toxics Link emphasized that chemicals remain integral to economic development, but effective management systems are essential to minimize risks to human health and ecosystems. He highlighted the importance of aligning national priorities with international chemical governance frameworks while addressing domestic implementation challenges.

Dr Girija Bharat, MuGamma Consultants highlighted the role of collaborative initiatives such as INO POL in strengthening knowledge systems, policy engagement, and institutional capacity building, particularly with state pollution control boards. She also stressed the importance of integrating gender perspectives and social dimensions into environmental governance.



Dr Rachel Hurley, NIVA discussed research findings from river monitoring studies, noting that everyday plastic items continue to contribute to contamination due to gaps in enforcement and compliance with regulatory bans. Similarly, Dr Paromita Chakraborty of SRM University highlighted emerging evidence of increasing levels of persistent organic pollutants in river basins, underscoring the interconnected nature of air, water, and soil pollution.

Dr Smita Mohanty of CIPET stressed the importance of adopting standardized sampling and analytical protocols to ensure credible microplastic data generation. Dr Sissel Brit Ranneklev of NIVA emphasized that science-based monitoring of rivers helps identify pollution sources and pathways, enabling more targeted policy responses.

Three research publications addressing plastic pollution and persistent organic pollutants in Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand were also launched during the session. Participants emphasized that strengthening science-policy interfaces, expanding monitoring systems, enhancing regulatory capacity, and fostering multi-stakeholder collaboration will be critical for transforming pollution governance and protecting environmental and public health.

Global Climate Outcomes and Strategic Pathways for India (Natural Resources Defense Council)



This session traced the evolving global climate landscape and its implications for India's development trajectory. The discussion focused on recent international climate negotiations and explored how India can strategically align its climate commitments with national development priorities, energy security, and long-term economic growth. Participants emphasized that the coming decade will require integrating climate action with broader development objectives, particularly for the Global South that continues to face pressing challenges related to poverty, infrastructure expansion, and energy access.

Dr Acquino Vimal from the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India reflected on recent global negotiations and highlighted that multilateralism continues to play an important role in shaping climate outcomes. He noted that international discussions are increasingly shifting from prolonged negotiations to implementation, with greater emphasis on technology deployment, adaptation planning, transition mechanisms, and financing frameworks.

Mr Shishir Priyadarshi, Chintan Research Foundation emphasized that the climate challenge for developing economies must be understood as a development challenge under the conditions of climate stress. He also highlighted the importance of integrating climate resilience with economic growth, industrialization, and energy access, rather than viewing climate action solely through an emissions reduction lens.

Ms Divya Sharma of The Climate Group highlighted emerging financial frameworks that aim to mobilize large-scale climate finance while encouraging greater participation from coalitions of countries, sub-national actors, and non-state stakeholders in an increasingly complex geopolitical landscape.

Mr Ramesh Subramaniam from the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure emphasized the growing economic costs of climate-related disasters and stressed the need to embed resilience in infrastructure investments from the outset. He noted that resilience must be treated as a central investment criterion in development planning.

Ms Mansi Shah, Self Employed Women's Association highlighted the critical role of women and informal workers in advancing grassroots climate solutions. She stressed on community-driven initiatives that can strengthen adaptation and resilience while expanding financial inclusion and sustainable livelihoods.

The session also marked the launch of a post-COP30 issue brief developed through a collaborative dialogue led by TERI and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). Participants concluded that strengthening climate finance mechanisms, integrating resilience into development planning, and promoting inclusive, community-led approaches will be essential for advancing India's climate and development objectives.

Global South Collaboration for Clean Mobility and Energy Efficient Appliances (CLASP & INTENT Platform)



The session explored opportunities for strengthening collaboration within the Global South to accelerate the adoption of clean mobility solutions and energy-efficient appliances. The discussion highlighted that developing economies are increasingly central to global energy demand growth and therefore, play a decisive role in shaping the trajectory of global energy transition. Participants emphasized the need for coordinated policy frameworks, shared technical standards, and collaborative innovation platforms that enable countries to scale sustainable technologies while supporting economic development.

Mr Bishal Thapa from CLASP noted that the Global South is emerging as the centre of global electricity demand growth. This shift underscores the importance of ensuring that new energy demand is met through efficient technologies and clean energy systems.

Ms Mahua Acharya, Intent Platform highlighted that countries must adapt solutions to their own economic and institutional contexts rather than replicate models from other regions. She emphasized the importance of designing scalable business models that move beyond small pilots and enable large-scale deployment.

Mr Amit Khare of the Sequoia Climate Foundation stressed that energy efficiency must remain central to energy transition strategies, noting that transitions driven solely by new energy supply, risk stagnating without efficiency gains. He also highlighted the role of philanthropic capital in supporting high-impact interventions that unlock systemic changes.

Representatives from NITI Aayog, the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, and Energy Efficiency Services Limited emphasized the importance of policy coordination, standards harmonization, and demand aggregation through procurement models to accelerate market transformation. Discussions also highlighted the role of efficient public transport systems, including electric buses, in reducing fuel import dependence and strengthening long-term energy security.



A South-South Policy Co-Pilot Platform designed to support electric mobility transitions across developing economies was launched in the session. Participants concluded that harmonized standards, collaborative policy platforms, and scalable procurement strategies will be essential to enabling the Global South to drive the next phase of clean mobility and energy efficiency transformation.

Brainstorming: Action Priorities for India's Net Zero and Viksit Bharat (Development Transition) Goals - International Climate Initiative (IKI) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)



Strategic priorities for aligning India's long-term development ambitions with its net-zero target by 2070 were discussed during the session. The discussion emphasized that India's transition towards Viksit Bharat must integrate climate action, economic growth, and infrastructure expansion within a coherent development framework. Participants highlighted that the transition is not only about meeting climate targets but also about strengthening institutions, mobilizing finance and fostering partnerships that support inclusive and resilient growth.

Ms Ulrike Ebeling, Country Director, GIZ India, noted that India's pathway to Viksit Bharat and net zero requires sustained institutional collaboration and systemic transformation. She highlighted the Green and Sustainable Development Partnership between India and Germany as an example of international cooperation supporting climate action and sustainable development.

Mr Venugopal Mothkoo, NITI Aayog highlighted that India's net-zero commitment represents a transformative development opportunity. With a significant share of infrastructure yet to be built, India can adopt efficient, low-carbon systems that simultaneously support economic growth and climate resilience.

Dr Ruchika Drall from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India highlighted that adaptation must be embedded within mainstream development planning. She also stressed on the importance of building institutional capacity among planners, financial institutions, and local stakeholders to translate climate ambition into practical outcomes.

Mr Ashok Kumar Thanikonda, Green Growth Global Institute identified the building sector as a key opportunity for decarbonization, noting that low-carbon construction can stimulate demand for sustainable materials and technologies. Mr Labanya Prakash Jena, Climate and Sustainability Institute emphasized on the need to strengthen domestic financial systems to channel long-term capital towards climate-compatible investments.

Ms Chetna Arora from the Council on Energy, Environment and Water highlighted the importance of supporting industrial decarbonization while maintaining competitiveness, particularly by enabling MSMEs to access finance, data systems, and shared infrastructure. Participants concluded that coordinated policy frameworks, strengthened financial systems, and sectoral innovation will be essential to advance India's development transition towards net-zero and Viksit Bharat goals.

Dr Alexander Fisher, Project Director, IKI India Interface Project, GIZ India moderated the session and Mr Shubhashis Dey, Co-Founder, Solutions for Sustainable Living summarized the outcomes.

Building Demand for Green Steel in India: Public Procurement as a Lever to Accelerate Decarbonization



The session explored how public procurement can play a transformative role in creating demand for green steel and accelerating decarbonization within India's steel sector. As one of the most energy-intensive and hard-to-abate industries, steel manufacturing presents significant challenges for climate action while remaining central to infrastructure development and economic growth. The discussion focused on how policy frameworks, technological innovation, and market mechanisms can support the transition towards low-emission steel production.

Dr Arvind Bodhankar, ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India highlighted that the steel sector has already begun adopting greener production pathways, with certain products now receiving green certification. However, he also noted that fully eliminating fossil fuels from steel production remains difficult and costly, with hydrogen or gas-based production routes currently more expensive than coal-based processes.

Ms Seema Arora, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) emphasized that decarbonizing steel is not only driven by international climate commitments but also by domestic considerations, including workforce expectations and long-term industrial competitiveness. She highlighted the importance of clear policy signals and procurement mandates to encourage investment in low-carbon technologies.

Mr Mohit Bhargava highlighted the role of hydrogen in transforming steel production, noting that early policy decisions and procurement commitments could help create viable markets for hydrogen-based steelmaking technologies. Mr Alok Kansal emphasized that the physical properties of green steel remain identical to conventional steel, suggesting that targeted incentives could help bridge the cost gap and accelerate market adoption.

Experts also noted that renewable electricity procurement through long-term power purchase agreements (PPAs) can help reduce cost volatility associated with fossil fuels, improving the long-term economic viability of green steel production.

The session also featured the launch of two key reports outlining pathways to accelerate green steel adoption in India. Participants emphasized that government procurement mandates, supportive fiscal policies, and technological innovation will be essential to creating a viable market for green steel and enabling the steel sector to contribute meaningfully to India's decarbonization goals.



In Focus

CEO Forum

The CEO Forum 2026 convened at a time when the world faces interconnected challenges including climate change, economic volatility, widening social inequalities, and rapid technological disruption. The discussions emphasized that addressing these complex issues requires transformative approaches rather than incremental progress. Participants highlighted the importance of long-term vision to anticipate risks and opportunities in an increasingly uncertain global landscape, while ensuring that diverse perspectives shape solutions that are inclusive, credible, and grounded in real-world contexts. Strong values anchored in equity, responsibility, and resilience were identified as essential foundations for decision-making.

Aligned with the theme of WSDS 2026, 'Parivartan | Transformations: Vision, Voices, and Values for Sustainable Development,' the Forum brought together business leaders, policymakers, and experts to reflect on the role of transformative leadership in advancing sustainable development. The deliberations underscored the growing responsibility of businesses to drive systemic change, particularly through innovation, investment, and partnerships aligned with climate and development goals.



CEO Forum was organized at the Taj Palace Hotel as a curtain-raiser to WSDS 2026



The CEO Forum in progress



Water-energy nexus discussion at the CEO Forum





Balancing economic growth and sustainable development [BB1.1]



Mr Arupendra Nath Mullick, Vice President, TERI Council for Business Sustainability speaking at the CEO Forum

Dinner of Hope and Launch of LaBL 2.0

The 'Dinner of Hope' and launch of Lighting a Billion Lives (LaBL) 2.0 at the WSDS 2026 marked an important milestone in advancing inclusive and decentralized clean energy transition in India. The first phase of LaBL focused on replacing harmful kerosene lamps by providing clean and reliable lighting solutions to underserved communities. LaBL 2.0 marks the next phase of the initiative, expanding its focus from lighting homes to powering rural livelihoods through decentralized renewable energy.

The programme featured remarks from TERI leadership and representatives of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), followed by the launch of the TERI-MNRE joint policy paper, reflecting a collaborative effort to strengthen decentralized renewable energy solutions and accelerate India's clean energy transition. The evening also introduced the mission, vision, logo, website, and the vision film for LaBL 2.0.

Several initiatives and partnerships were announced, including the Hastinapur Model Solar City, the HUDCO Model Solar Village, and collaborations with industry partners to advance clean energy technologies and sustainable livelihoods. The event also celebrated LaBL's impact in bringing clean lighting solutions to more than 5,100 villages and concluded with the symbolic 'Press the Light for LaBL' pledge, reaffirming a collective commitment to empowering communities through clean energy.



Launch of TERI-MNRE policy paper on livelihoods and renewable energy





Felicitation of community representatives at the 'Dinner of Hope' and launch of LaBL 2.0



Mr Rajan Hussain, along with his six-member troupe presenting a Bundeli instrumental Jugabandi

performance featuring violin, sanjiv, percussion, and dholak



Cultural evening in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, GoI



Act4Earth Manifesto

WSDS 2026 reinforced a shared commitment to move from ambition to execution by scaling solutions and building a climate-secure, resilient, and equitable future, demonstrating that the time for collective action is now.

The Act4Earth framework will emphasize strengthening multilateral cooperation, leveraging technology and innovation, and embedding sustainability across policy and economic systems to enable inclusive transitions.

We pledge to Act4Earth by:

1. Strengthening science-informed and evidence-based action on pollution, biodiversity loss, and climate change by fostering cooperation, dialogue, and capacity building.
2. Advancing collaborative, demand-driven transitions across the Global South by prioritizing adaptation, energy security, and environmental sustainability.
3. Recognizing the Himalayas as critical natural infrastructure essential for climate resilience, water security, and sustainable development.
4. Designing climate-sensitive and transparent supply chains as pillars of global competitiveness, innovation, and shared prosperity.
5. Embedding climate resilience, adaptation, and gender responsiveness at the core of development policy.
6. Aligning finance, policy, and institutions by accelerating clean energy and climate-proofing infrastructure in the Global South.
7. Operationalizing inclusive and gender-responsive climate finance and strengthening South-South cooperation.
8. Advancing circularity and sustainable lifestyles by making technology and institutions responsive to people, planet, and prosperity.
9. Ensuring that AI, renewable energy, and industrial innovation are deployed equitably, powered responsibly, and governed transparently.
10. Championing renewed multilateralism that moves beyond promises to implementation, recognizing climate action as a matter of survival for the Global South and small island states, and committing to reforms that strengthen cooperation, rebuild trust, and deliver climate justice for people and planet.

Looking Ahead: Towards the Next Edition

Following the Summit, the immediate focus will be on amplifying the key messages and outcomes that emerged from the 25th edition of the World Sustainable Development Summit. The insights, recommendations, and call to action articulated by global leaders, policymakers, researchers, industry representatives, and civil society will be disseminated through multiple communication channels. These will include social media, the Summit website, digital newsletters, and targeted mailers. This process will ensure that the ideas and commitments emerging from the Summit continue to inform policy conversations, research agendas, and collaborative initiatives beyond the event itself.

The Summit proceedings, knowledge outputs, and session summaries will also be compiled and shared to capture the richness of the discussions and to make them accessible to a wider global audience. By documenting the deliberations and highlighting key takeaways, the WSDS platform will continue to contribute to evidence based dialogue on climate action, sustainable development, and inclusive transitions.

At the same time, preparations will begin for shaping the thematic direction of the next landmark edition of WSDS scheduled for 2027. This process will involve consultations with stakeholders to identify emerging priorities and critical policy questions. Building on the momentum created by the current Summit, the next edition will aim to deepen global collaboration, showcase scalable solutions, and strengthen pathways for translating ambition into tangible and measurable actions for sustainable development.



Main Summit Agenda

Day 1 25th February 2026 Wednesday	
8:00am – 5:00pm	Registrations
10:00 – 11:30pm	Group A: Thematic Tracks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Conservation Planning for Climate-Resilient Landscapes in the Eastern Himalayas (Jehangir 1) – TERI, and Conservation International (CI) • Securing Tomorrow: Critical Minerals and Circular Economy for Clean Energy Transition (Roshanara) – ACPET, TERI, Collaborative Consortium on Critical Minerals • Brainstorming: Action Priorities for India's Net Zero and Viksit Bharat (Development Transition) Goals (Mumtaz) – IKI, BMUKN, GIZ • Closed Door Roundtable on Unlocking Climate Resilience Finance to Strengthen Climate Action in the Global South (Sheesh Mahal) – Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)
12:00 – 1:30pm	Group B: Thematic Tracks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Next Solar Frontier: Circularity, Resilience & Responsibility (Jehangir 1) – International Solar Alliance (ISA) • Global Climate Outcomes and Strategic Pathways for India (Jehangir 2) – Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) • From Source to Seas: Science-informed Pathways for Transforming Plastic and Chemical Pollution Governance (Roshanara) – Royal Norwegian Embassy, MuGamma, NIVA, INOPOL • Global South Collaboration for Clean Mobility and Energy-Efficient Appliances (Mumtaz) – CLASP & Intent Platform • India's Energy Transition Scenarios in the Age of Security: Navigating Growth, Resilience and Climate Action across Multiple Possible Futures (Sheesh Mahal)
1:30 – 2:00pm	Lunch
2:00 – 3:30pm	Group C: Thematic Tracks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advancing towards Net-Zero Higher Education Institutes: A Structured Approach (Jehangir 1) – TERI School of Advanced Studies (TERI SAS) • Action for the Aravalli's: Advancing Restoration, Resilience, and Inclusive Growth (Jehangir-2) – TERI, The Nature Conservancy, GIZ, RECAP4NDC • Accelerating AgriPV in India: From Pilot Projects to Policy-Led Scale-Up (Roshanara) – TERI, ETC, GEAPP, ICC, REI • Green Ports as a Gateway to Decarbonisation (Mumtaz) – Ministry of Ports Shipping and Waterways, NCOEGPS, TERI • Closed Door: Partnerships for Accelerating EV Skilling Ecosystem in India (Sheesh Mahal) – Mercedes-Benz Research & Development India (MBRDI)
3:30 – 4:30 pm	Networking and Transition to Inaugural

5:00 – 7:00 pm	Inaugural: Transformations through Vision, Voices and Values for Sustainable Development
	<p>Welcome Address</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Nitin Desai, Chairman, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) <p>Special Address</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Siddharth Sharma, CEO, Tata Trusts <p>Theme Address</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director General, TERI <p>Reading of Message by</p> <p>Keynote Address</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change <p>Inaugural Address</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Dr Bharrat Jagdeo, Vice President, Cooperative Republic of Guyana <p>About the Silver Jubilee Archival Pocketbook</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Shailly Kedia, Curator, World Sustainable Development Summit <p>Launch of Silver Jubilee Archival Pocketbook</p> <p>Vote of Thanks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Sanjay Seth, Senior Director, TERI
7:00 – 7:30 pm	Refreshments

Day 2 | 26th February 2026 | Thursday

8:00am–5:00pm	Registrations
9:00am–7:00pm	Him-CONNECT @TerraZone An Innovation Mela from and on the Himalayas by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)
	Expo @TerraZone Showcase of Sustainability Initiatives by WSDS Partners & TERI
10:00am–6:00pm	Spotlight: Thematic Tracks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:00 – 11:30 am: Innovation Meets Implementation: Swiss Startup Solutions for India's Sustainability Agenda – Swissnex • 12:00 – 1:30 pm: Green and Resilient Built Environment for Viksit Bharat – Opportunities and Challenges – JSW Cement • 2:30 – 4:00 pm: Building Demand for Green Steel in India: Public Procurement as a Lever to Accelerate Decarbonisation – IECC, Climate Catalyst, CII • 4:30 – 6:00 pm: Women at the Frontlines of Climate Action, Biodiversity & Land Restoration – Community-Led Pathways to achieve SDGs – GEF, MoEFCC, UNDP



9:30–10:30am	<p>Leadership Panel: Transformations through and for Nature</p> <p>Moderator: Ms Teena Jha, Sansad TV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director-General, TERI • H.E. Ms May-Elin Stener, Ambassador of Norway to India, Royal Norwegian Embassy, New Delhi • Ms Dechen Tsering, Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) • Mr Amit Patjoshi, CEO, Palladium India • Ms Martina Otto, Head of Secretariat of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, United Nations Environment Programme • Ms Supriya Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary to the Government, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forests
10:45–11:45am	<p>Flagship Session: Towards a Himalayan Coalition for Sustainable Development</p> <p>Moderator: Mr Ranjit Barthakur, Founder Forester, Balipara Foundation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Hon'ble Governor of Manipur • Dr Pema Gyamtsho, Director General, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, Nepal • Ms Nameeta Prasad, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change • Mr Durwood Zaelke, Founder and President, Institute for Governance & Sustainable Development • Ms Sonali Ghosh, Director, Kaziranga National Park, Assam • Mr Ram Kumar S, Secretary, Planning, Government of Meghalaya • Mr Mingma Tempa Sherpa, Commissioner cum Secretary, Planning and Development Department, Government of Sikkim • Dr Dipankar Saharia, Senior Director, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)
15 mins	Break
12:15–1:30pm	<p>Leadership Panel: Greening Manufacturing and Trade</p> <p>Moderator: Ms Seema Paul, Programme Director, India, Sequoia Climate Foundation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Bob Keefe, Executive Director, E2 • Mr Yoshinori Kodama, Principal Fellow, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) • Mr Michael Walker, Chief Executive Officer, STAX Engineering • Dr Sangita M Kasture, Advisor & Scientist 'G', Ministry of New and Renewable Energy • Prof. Veena Sahajwalla, Scientia Professor, University of New South Wales, Sydney • Mr Shreyas Shende, Net Zero Industrial Policy Lab, Johns Hopkins
1:30 – 2:30 pm	Lunch

2:30 – 4:00 pm	<p>High-level Plenary: Future Tech for People, Planet, and Prosperity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr R R Rashmi, Distinguished Fellow, TERI (Moderator) • Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Hon'ble Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (Ministerial Address) • Ms Anacláudia Marinheiro Centeno Rossbach, Executive Director, UN-Habitat (Global Leadership Address) • Mr Amitabh Kant, Ex-Sherpa, G20 India and Former CEO, NITI Aayog (Keynote Address) • Mr Ashish Khanna, Director General, International Solar Alliance (Keynote Address) • Dr Charles Ogilvie, Executive Director and Co-Founder, Ocean Energy Pathway (Leadership Address) • Mr Shankar Iyer, Director – Transportation, Smart Cities and Sustainable Infrastructure, Johnson Controls India (Leadership Address) • Mr Naveen Ahlawat, President & Head – Sustainability & Decarbonisation, Jindal Steel Limited (Leadership Address) • Mr Vinit Adarkar, Vice-President and Head – Interior and Exterior Modules, Mercedes Benz Research and Development India Pvt. Limited (Leadership Address) • Mr Sudhir Pathak, Chief Science and Technology Officer, Hero Future Energies (Leadership Address) • Prof. Deo Prasad, Distinguished Professor (Scientia), University of New South Wales, Sydney (Leadership Address)
15 mins	Break
4:30 – 6:30 pm	<p>Ministerial: Multilateralism as a Force for Hope and Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Manjeev Singh Puri, Former Ambassador to the European Union & Distinguished Fellow, TERI (Moderator) • H.E. Mr Madhav Prasad Chaulagain, Minister, Ministry of Forests and Environment, Nepal (Ministerial Address) • H.E. Dr Dammika Patabendi, Minister of Environment, Ministry of Environment, Sri Lanka (Ministerial Address) • H.E. Dr Muaviyath Mohamed, Minister of State, Tourism and Environment, Maldives (Ministerial Address) • Mr Jochen Flasbarth, State Secretary, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (Keynote Address) • H.E. Mr Indra Mani Pandey, Secretary General, BIMSTEC (Keynote Address) • H.E. Mr Mattias Frumerie, Climate Ambassador & Head of Delegation to UNFCCC, Swedish Ministry of Climate and Enterprise (Keynote Address) • Prof. Frank Biermann, Professor of Global Sustainability Governance, Utrecht University (In Conversation) • Dr Tom Rivett-Carnac, Co-Founder and President, Global Optimism (In Conversation)



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Patricia Fuller, President and Chief Executive Officer, International Institute for Sustainable Development (In Conversation) • Dr Kira Vinke, Head of the Center for Climate and Foreign Policy, German Council on Foreign Relations (In Conversation) • Mr Ovais Sarmad, Vice Chair, Green House Gas Protocol Steering Committee (In Conversation)
6:30 – 7:30 pm	Refreshments
7:30 – 9:30 pm	By Invite Only: Dinner of Hope and Launch of LaBL 2.0
	Unveiling of LaBL 2.0 logo Felicitation Announcement of partnerships LaBL 2.0 Pledges Cultural evening

Day 3 | 27th February 2026 | Friday

8:00am – 2:00pm	Registrations
9:00am – 5:00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Him-CONNECT @TerraZone An Innovation Mela from and on the Himalayas by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expo @TerraZone Showcase of Sustainability Initiatives by WSDS Partners & TERI
9:30 – 9:45am	Special Announcement
10:00 – 11:30am	Leadership Panel: The Climate Finance Imperative
	Moderator: Ms Leena Nandan, Former Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Frauke Roeser, Founder and Managing Director, NewClimate Institute • Mr Amit Prothi, Director General, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure • Prof. Anand Patwardhan, Professor, School of Public Policy, University of Maryland • Dr Sujata Gupta, Asian Development Bank • Ms Valerie Hickey, Group Global Director for Environment, The World Bank • Dr Annapurna Vancheswaran, Sustainable Development Practitioner • Mr Dipak Dasgupta, Distinguished Fellow, TERI • Prof. Benito Müller, Managing Director, Oxford Climate Policy • Ms Kanmani Chockalingam, Senior Fellow, McKinsey Global Institute
15 mins	Break

12:00 – 1:30pm	Leadership Panel: Accelerating Clean Energy Solutions
	<p>Moderator: Ms Priya Shankar, India Director, Climate and Environment Program, Bloomberg Philanthropies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Luísa Salgueiro, Mayor, Municipality of Matosinhos, Portugal • Ambassador Arne Walther, Former Secretary General of the International Energy Forum and Former Chairman, International Energy Agency • Ms Ita Kettleborough, Director, Energy Transitions Commission • Ms Nameeta Prasad, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India • Mr Sharad Pungalia, Country Head, Gentari India • Mr Himal Tiwari, Chief Human Resource Officer, Chief Sustainability & Corporate Social Responsibility, Tata Power • Ms Anjali Acharya, Managing Director, The Nature Conservancy India
1:30 – 2:30pm	Lunch
2:30 – 4:00pm	Valedictory: Reflections, Resurgence, and Resolve for Our Common Future
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Tanmay Kumar, Secretary (Environment, Forest and Climate Change), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India • Ms Dia Mirza, Goodwill Ambassador, United Nations Environment Programme • Ms Isabelle Tschan, Deputy Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme • Ms Vaishali Nigam Sinha, Co-Founder & Chairperson, Sustainability, ReNew • Dr Ash Pachauri, Co-Founder and Senior Mentor, POP (Protect Our Planet) Movement • Ms Prachi Shevgaonkar, Founder, Cool The Globe • Mr Nitin Desai, Chairman, TERI • Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director General, TERI • Dr Shailly Kedia, Curator, WSDS; Director, TERI
4:00 – 5:00 pm	Refreshments



Gallery

Him-CONNECT



Inauguration of Him-CONNECT by Shri Bhupender Yadav, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India



Shri Bhupender Yadav visiting various booths at Him-CONNECT



Him-CONNECT as part of WSDS 2026 at Taj Palace



Him-CONNECT booths at WSDS 2026





Ms Nameeta Prasad (Joint Secretary, MoEFCC) at Him-CONNECT interaction zone



Participants at Him-CONNECT interaction zone

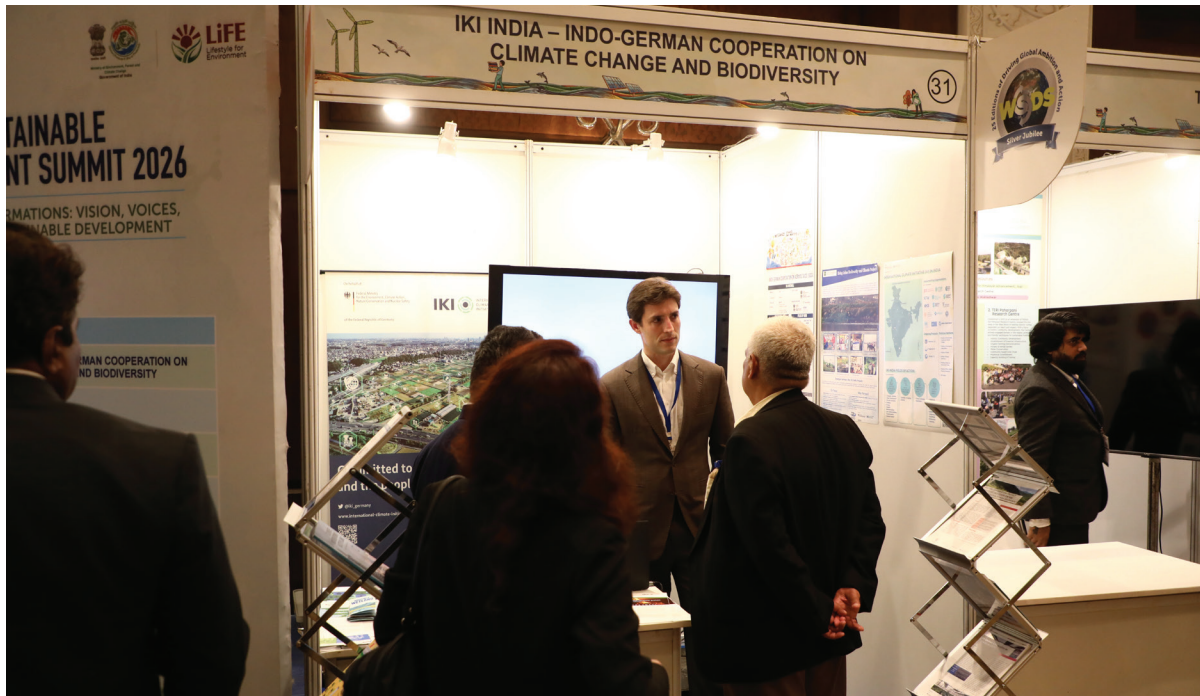


Expo@TerraZone



Food systems interactive zone at Taj Palace





Wall of History: 25 years of WSDS displayed at Taj Palace



Partner booth at TerraZone during WSDE 2026



Expo booths at TerraZone during WSDE 2026



Expo booths at TerraZone during WSDS 2026



Release of Silver Jubilee Archival Pocketbook





Launch of Agri-PV publications during WSDS 2026



Launch of the book Politics of Sustainable Development by Mr Nitin Desai (Chairman, TERI)



Launch of Vasundhara magazine at WSDS 2026



Launch of Mission LiFE Youth Ambassador Programme at WSDS 2026 Valedictory Session





Reading of Act4Earth Manifesto encapsulating the messages of WSDS 2026 by
Ms Priyambada Upadhyaya

Media Interactions



Ms Teena Jha, Sansad TV speaks with Ms Ita Kettleborough, Energy Transitions Commission along
the sidelines of WSDS 2026



Ms Ambika Singh Kahma, NDTV speaks with Dr Kira Vinke, German Council on Foreign Relations and Ms Patricia Fuller, International Institute for Sustainable Development along the sidelines of WSDS 2026

Plenary in Progress



WSDS 2026 Inaugural in progress at Taj Palace





WSDS 2026 Inaugural in progress at Taj Palace



A Plenary Session in progress at WSDS 2026



A Plenary Session in progress at WSDS 2026



Speaker Photos



Important Links

WSDS 2026 Website

<https://wsds.teriin.org/2026>

WSDS 2026 Agenda

<https://wsds.teriin.org/2026/agenda-2026.php>

WSDS 2026 Speakers

<https://wsds.teriin.org/2026/speakers.php>

Act4Earth Manifesto 2026

<https://wsds.teriin.org/2026/act4earth-manifesto-2026.php>

Daily Summit Bulletins

- Day 1: <https://wsds.teriin.org/2026/wsds-2026-day-1-bulletin.php>
- Day 2: <https://wsds.teriin.org/2026/wsds-2026-day-2-bulletin.php>
- Day 3: <https://wsds.teriin.org/2026/wsds-2026-day-3-bulletin.php>

Press Releases

<https://wsds.teriin.org/2026/news-pressrelease.php>

YouTube Playlist

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLA03z8v5VgAHmwYl8hEtuH30JhwW4mkRL&si=unY-Yp_58LjR2Y9k



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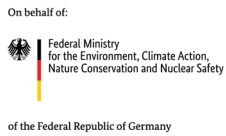
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SUMMIT SERIES (2001–2026)

The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS), launched in 2001 by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) as the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit. WSDS has established itself as a premier agenda-setting platform on sustainable development, rooted in the Global South. Nearing a quarter of a century, WSDS has built a legacy of mobilizing global leadership and thought partners to address pressing environmental challenges. 2026 marked 25 years of the Summit series and the Silver Jubilee edition of the Summit.

As the only independently convened international Summit of its kind, WSDS has brought together an influential assembly of 61 Heads of State and Government, 155 Ministers, 13 Nobel Laureates, 2200+ Business Leaders, 3500+ Speakers, and 42000+ Delegates. The Summit plays a pivotal constructivist role in shaping global discourse, fostering climate ambition, and pioneering solutions through a science-policy interface that connects knowledge with action.

The Summit Overview Document captures key insights from the proceedings, including critical discussions and a 'call to action', offering stakeholders pathways to sustain and amplify the momentum generated at the Summit.

61
Heads of State
and Government

155
Ministers

13
Nobel
Laureates

2239
Business
Leaders

4008
Speakers

44285
Delegates

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