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IKI
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INDIA



THE ENERGY AND
RESOURCES INSTITUTE
Creating Innovative Solutions for a Sustainable Future

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IKI India

& Climate Policy Newsletter



CLIMATE WORLD IN NUMBERS: STEEL

Parameters	India	Germany
Emissions from steel industry (2022) » Absolute: » Percentage of total national emissions:	296.72 Mt CO₂e 12%	51 Mt CO₂e 7 %
Planned carbon neutrality of steel sector	By 2070	By 2045
Specific primary energy consumption per ton of crude steel (2022)	25.1 GJ/tonne of crude steel	18.2 GJ/tonne of crude steel
Specific primary energy-related CO ₂ emissions per ton of crude steel (2022)	2.6 t CO₂/tonne of crude steel	1.4 t CO₂/tonne of crude steel

The [Indo-German Support Project for Climate Action in India](#) is working with the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) on a Techno-Commercial Feasibility Study to enhance resource efficiency and for green hydrogen integration in steel production. The study will be conducted as a pilot for one of SAIL's steel plants and aims at supporting SAIL in its decarbonisation efforts.



MITIGATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Delhi's Green Migration – 320 new electric buses join fleet, nearing 2,000 mark: The Delhi Government has added 320 electric buses to its public transportation fleet, bringing the total to 7,683 buses, including 1,970 electric buses. The government is also investing \$178.6 million to electrify 60 depots. This addition reflects the government's commitment to a greener Delhi, with plans for 80% of the city's public buses to be electric by 2025. Since January 2022, Delhi's electric buses have saved over 91,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide, and further expansion is expected to save 0.47 million tonnes annually. [Know more](#)

100% Renewable Energy Utilization by Visakhapatnam Port: The Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA) has achieved the significant milestone of utilizing 100% renewable energy, making it the leading major port in India in this regard. This accomplishment is part of the Green Port initiative launched by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, Government of India. Key measures include the establishment of a solar power plant and the introduction of CNG buses. These efforts align with the broader Amrit Kaal Vision 2047, which aims to reduce carbon emissions in Visakhapatnam City to zero. [Know more](#)

The expert committee on climate finance submitted its first report on transition finance to the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)¹ chairperson: This report, responding to the Prime Minister's call for sustainable finance during India's G20 presidency, outlines a roadmap for the IFSCA to develop a climate finance ecosystem at Gujarat International Financial Tech-city (GIFT) International Financial Services Centres (IFSC), focusing on Transition Finance. Chaired by Shri Dhruva Purkayastha, the committee includes experts from various sectors. The report covers the scope and definition of Transition Finance, policy and regulation, and financial mechanisms and instruments, emphasizing investment in hard-to-abate sectors crucial for India's net-zero goal by 2070. The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) will develop a framework based on these recommendations. [Know more](#)

ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Govt to Spend \$300 Million to Mitigate Floods: The Government of India will invest approximately \$300 million over the next two years in seven cities, including Bengaluru and Mumbai. This initiative will focus on expanding water bodies, building stormwater drains, and implementing early-warning systems. The funding allocation will be INR 5 billion each for Mumbai, Chennai, and Kolkata, and INR 2.5 billion each for Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Pune, and Ahmedabad. The goal is to improve water management and mitigate flood risks in these high-priority cities. [Know more](#)

50,000 Villages across 310 districts – Government's Plan for Climate-adaptive Farming Unveiled: The Union government is set to launch a framework to enhance climate-resilient agriculture in 50,000 villages across climatically vulnerable districts. This initiative, part of a national programme, aims to promote drought and pest-resistant crop varieties and implement water conservation and fertilizer management practices. The selected villages will be from 310 districts across 27 states, with significant numbers in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. The project will span five years, leveraging existing funding mechanisms and includes plans for a voluntary carbon market for sustainable agriculture practices. [Know more](#)

¹ The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) is a statutory authority established by the Government of India for the development and regulation of financial products, financial services and financial institutions in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in India. IFSCA has been established on April 27, 2020 under the International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019.



Cabinet Approves \$1.6 Billion for Agricultural Modernization and Climate Resilience: The Indian Cabinet has approved seven schemes totalling 1.6 billion USD to modernize agriculture and enhance climate resilience. Key initiatives include the Digital Agri Mission with 0.3 billion USD for digital infrastructure, and a 0.4 billion USD scheme focused on crop science and climate resilience. Other schemes cover agricultural education, livestock health, and natural resource management. These measures aim to boost productivity, ensure food security, and support farmers through technology and innovation. [Know more](#)

National Rice Research Institute (NRRI) has developed three new rice varieties to combat climate change impact: In Odisha, the National Rice Research Institute (NRRI) has developed three new rice varieties—CR Dhan 108, CR Dhan 810, and CR Dhan 416—designed to be resilient to climate change. These varieties offer improved tolerance to high temperatures, reduced water availability, and resistance to pests and diseases. CR Dhan 108 is drought-tolerant and suited for Odisha and Bihar, CR Dhan 810 is submergence-tolerant for rain-fed areas in Odisha, West Bengal, and Assam, and CR Dhan 416 is ideal for salt-affected regions in West Bengal, Maharashtra, and Gujarat. These developments aim to enhance productivity and food security amid increasing climatic challenges. [Know more](#)

Wetland Conservation for Climate Resilience – India’s Teal Carbon Initiative: India’s first ‘teal carbon’ study at Keoladeo National Park emphasizes wetland conservation as a key to climate adaptation. Teal carbon, stored in non-tidal freshwater wetlands, can help mitigate climate change by regulating greenhouse gases. However, degradation from pollution and land-use changes threatens this potential. The study suggests biochar and better vegetation management to reduce methane emissions and enhance teal carbon pools. Globally, freshwater wetlands hold 500.21 petagrams of carbon, highlighting the need for urgent conservation efforts to improve ecosystem health and resilience. [Know more](#)

CONSERVING FORESTS AND NATURAL CARBON SINKS

Over 520 Million Trees Planted Nationwide under 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' (A Tree in Mother's Name) Campaign: The 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign which translates to “A Tree in Mother's Name” campaign, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on World Environment Day (June 5, 2024), has led to the planting of over 520 million trees across India. The Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav, announced this achievement on social media. The campaign encourages citizens to contribute to environmental conservation and sustainable development by planting trees in honour of their mothers. [Know more](#)

Green India Mission – Advancing Eco-Restoration Efforts: The Green India Mission, part of the national climate action framework, focuses on protecting, restoring, and enhancing forest cover to combat climate change. Launched in 2015–16, the initiative has released over \$107.2 million to 17 states and one union territory to date, leading to eco-restoration over 155,130 hectares. States have made significant progress in afforestation, with notable achievements in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and Madhya Pradesh. The mission engages local communities in sustainable forest management and contributes to ecological restoration efforts across forest and non-forest areas, strengthening India’s climate resilience. [Know more](#)

Himachal Pradesh Tightens Forest Protection with Licensing and Reforestation Efforts: In a bid to combat illegal logging and protect forests, Himachal Pradesh will soon enforce licensing for tree-cutting tools. The government also plans to engage local women’s groups in tree planting and conservation projects, prioritizing fruit-bearing species over fire-prone pines. Additionally, new policies allow residents to remove fallen trees with

¹ Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in India are government-owned entities in which at least 51% of the stake is held by the Government of India or state governments.



authorization, ensuring responsible resource use. The state is seeking compensation for its ecological services through a Green Bonus appeal. These initiatives reflect a broader strategy to preserve natural resources and address the growing challenges posed by climate change. [Know more](#)

PROTECTION OF BIODIVERSITY

Karnataka Launches \$99 Million Project to Create Plastic-Free Coastline and Boost Marine Conservation:

The Karnataka Strengthening of Coastal Resilience Economy (K-Shore) project, funded by the World Bank with a budget of \$99 million, aims to make Karnataka's 320-km coastline plastic-free. Approved by the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) on August 19, 2024, the project involves various initiatives led by the Forest, Fisheries, and Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) departments. These efforts focus on combating pollution, addressing sea erosion, and enhancing marine conservation, particularly protecting Olive Ridley turtles and dolphins. [Know more](#)

Invasive Species Threaten India's Ecosystems: Invasive species, whose expansion is partly caused by changing conditions due to climate change, are increasingly disrupting India's ecosystems, threatening biodiversity and human livelihoods. A recent study reveals that 66% of India's natural systems are impacted, with invasive plants outcompeting native species. These invaders alter habitats, reduce resources for herbivores, and jeopardize apex predators like tigers. The economic impact is severe, with costs estimated at \$182.6 billion. [Know more](#)

India to Sign Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement: The Union Cabinet has approved India's signing of the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement, a significant step for marine biodiversity conservation in the high seas. This international treaty, under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, establishes mechanisms for sustainable use and equitable sharing of marine resources. By signing the BBNJ Agreement, India aims to enhance its strategic presence in international waters, strengthen marine conservation efforts, and promote scientific collaboration, contributing to the health and resilience of global oceans while supporting sustainable development goals. [Know more](#)



CURRENT PROJECTS



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PERSONNEL IN PARTNER MINISTRIES/AGENCIES

- After general elections 2024, Urban Act Project political partner – Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has got new leadership
 - » Mr Manohar Lal is the new Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs
 - » Mr Tokhan Sahu is the new Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs
 - » Mr Katikithala Srinivas has been appointed as Secretary (MoHUA) and
 - » Mr Rahul Kapoor has been appointed as Joint Secretary (Smart Cities)
- Mr Tarun Kumar Pithode has joined the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India, as Director, Climate Change. He is responsible for matters related to the UNFCCC, the State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC), the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), etc. In these areas, he will report to the Joint Secretary, Mr Neelesh Kumar Singh. Mr Pithode is also in charge of the Carbon Market, Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, the Green Credit Programme, and all GIZ projects. For these matters, he will report to Ms Nameeta Prasad, Joint Secretary.
- Mr Amit Raj, Director (International Cooperation), MoEFCC, is responsible for overseeing all multilateral cooperation, including UNEP, G20, G7, BRICS, SCO, SACEP, and other UN agencies. He also handles bilateral cooperation, such as MoUs, Agreements, and JWG's, and reports to the Joint Secretary, Mr Neelesh Kumar Singh.
- Dr Satyendra Kumar, Director of HSMD, is responsible for Hazardous Substances Management and the Circular Economy. In these areas, he will report to Mr Naresh Pal Gangwar, Additional Secretary, MoEFCC. Dr Kumar also oversees the India Cooling Action Plan in selected states, for which he will report to Ms Rajasree Raj, Economic Adviser, MoEFCC.
- Ms Ruchika Drall, Deputy Secretary in the Climate Change Division, is responsible for the Leadership Group for Industry Transition (Lead-IT), the National Adaptation Plan, Adaptation Communication, the Adaptation Fund, the National Adaptation Fund on Climate Change, the Global Goal on Adaptation, and matters related to Loss and Damage. She reports to Ms Rajasree Ray, Economic Adviser, MoEFCC.



- Mr Amandeep Garg has joined the MoEFCC as Additional Secretary. He is responsible for Mission LIFE, biosafety, ease of doing business, wetlands and the Ramsar Convention, the Amrit Dharohar initiative, impact assessment, work related to the National Green Tribunal (NGT), and environmental policy and law.

IKI INDIA PROJECT UPDATES

India Sustainable Mobility Initiative

The India Sustainable Mobility Initiative highlights key achievements from the IKI project. The Institute for Transportation and Development Policy's (ITDP) analysis of Pimpri Chinchwad's municipal budget (2022–2025) revealed a 31% rise in transport spending, with doubled investments in walking and cycling infrastructure. While 55% of the transport budget is now allocated to sustainable modes, more funding for public buses is needed. In Chennai, major streets are being revamped under the Complete Streets Programme to prioritize pedestrians. Additionally, ITDP, in collaboration with Association of State Road Transport Undertaking (ASRTU) and Central Institute of Road Transport (CIRT), has trained over 250 State Transport Undertaking officials on electric bus planning, branding, and communication to enhance public transport services. [Know more](#)

Living Lakes Biodiversity and Climate Project (LLBCP)

The Living Lakes Biodiversity and Climate Project (LLBCP) by the Nature Environment and Wildlife Society (NEWS) is empowering local communities through various initiatives. From July 2–5, 2024, a capacity-building programme trained women in bamboo and water hyacinth crafts. A youth training from July 9–11 enhanced skills in communication and storytelling for nature tourism. On July 30–31, a poultry farming workshop provided sustainable livelihood training for women. World Elephant Day was celebrated on August 12, raising awareness about wildlife conservation. Additionally, workshops on biodiversity-friendly agriculture and integrated wetlands management were conducted. The third Sustainability Leadership Journey also took place in South Africa, fostering global collaboration in wetland conservation. [Know more](#)

Transformative Climate Action using Participatory Data Driven Decision-Making Platforms (T-CAP)

The T-CAP project's Visakhapatnam-Prajamukhi Urban Living Lab (V-PULL) is driving urban climate action through community engagement in Visakhapatnam. Focusing on urban flooding in Ward 41, V-PULL conducted workshops in August 2024, training volunteers in observational mapping and geotagging. Participants surveyed flood-prone areas and collaborated with residents in a Social Cartography session to document flood challenges and brainstorm solutions, including improved stormwater management and de-silting. A foresight workshop with marginalized women further explored urban heat risks and co-created solutions, emphasizing the community's role in fostering sustainability and climate resilience. [Know more](#)

Restore, Conserve and Protect Forest and Tree Cover for NDC Implementation in India (RECAP4NDC)

The Restore, Conserve and Protect Forest and Tree Cover for NDC Implementation in India (RECAP4NDC) partnered with the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (DEER) to host the Restoration Academy in Ahmedabad from August 21–23, 2024. This event gathered experts and advocates in Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, State Forest Departments, and



RECAP4NDC partners to exchange knowledge on ecosystem restoration. Participants explored FLR concepts, funding mechanisms, and communication strategies. This sixth edition of the Restoration Academy, following events in El Salvador, Rwanda, Nigeria, and Tanzania, aims to contribute to the #GenerationRestoration movement. [Know more](#)

Urban-Act: Integrated Urban Climate Action for Low-Carbon & Resilient Cities

In July 2024, the Urban Act Project launched the report “Assessing India’s Enabling Framework Conditions for Subnational Climate Finance,” detailing the findings from the pilot application of the CCFLA/Urban-Act National Assessment Tool. This report, developed with inputs from UN ESCAP, CCFLA, GIZ, NIUA, and TERI, emphasizes the importance of policy reforms, data advancements, and innovative financing to empower Indian cities in climate action. Additionally, Urban Act team members participated in a stakeholder consultation on Uttar Pradesh’s Urban Greening and Park Development Policy. The project also hosted an Ideation Workshop in Coimbatore on climate-sensitive urban planning, paving the way for future collaborative initiatives. [Know more](#)

Wetlands Management for Biodiversity and Climate Protection

On August 8, a consultation workshop was held for Wular Lake, India’s largest freshwater lake and a Ramsar Site, organized by the Wular Conservation and Management Authority, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, GIZ’s Wetlands Management for Biodiversity and Climate Protection project, and Wetlands International South Asia. The workshop gathered over 70 stakeholders to discuss past management actions and future strategies for a revised integrated management plan, emphasizing community involvement and cross-sectoral collaboration. Concurrently, under the Indo-German Support Project for Climate Action, a methodology is being developed to evaluate the climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction co-benefits of wetland management, piloted across various wetland types. [Know more](#)

NDC Transport Initiative for Asia

The 2024 Regional Conference of the NDC Transport Initiative for Asia (NDC-TIA) convened key stakeholders, including NITI Aayog, to discuss the necessary transformations for achieving zero-emissions in the transport sector by mid-century. Spanning three days with a site visit, the event featured 16 sessions, six workshops, and over 60 speakers, fostering collaboration among government, civil society, and the private sector. Additionally, the India closing workshop for Phase I highlighted progress in low-carbon transport solutions, launching a Project Video Compendium and a report on Financing Dialogues. Phase II will focus on freight decarbonization and zero-emission trucks, paving the way for a sustainable transport future in India. [Know more](#)

Conservation Seagrass Ecosystems – Safeguarding Food Security and Resilience in Vulnerable Coastal Communities

From April and August 2024, the OMCAR Foundation conducted three Drone Photogrammetry Workshops in the Palk Bay region, training students, researchers, and Tamil Nadu Forest Department officials in drone mapping of seagrass and mangrove ecosystems. Seagrass and Dugong Awareness Programmes were also held in schools across Mallipattinam, Rajamadam, and Kollukadu, educating over 100 students on the ecological value of seagrass and the importance of dugong conservation. Additionally, a two-day Palmyra Handicraft Training empowered local women to create eco-friendly crafts from palmyra leaves, promoting sustainable livelihoods and contributing to local economic growth. [Know more](#)



Protecting Aquatic Ecosystems in India's Northeastern Himalaya Region

The NERAQ pilot project in Chandel district, Manipur, has empowered communities to safeguard the Chakpi River through the formation of a community-based River Monitoring Team and River Protection Task Force. This initiative equips local volunteers and authorities to monitor the river's health and promote sustainable management. A new "Handbook on River Monitoring for Chakpi" provides vital tools for these efforts. In June 2024, a workshop at NEHU, Shillong, launched a regional knowledge hub to support aquatic ecosystem management across Northeast India, fostering collaboration among researchers, policymakers, and communities for biodiversity conservation. [Know more](#)

Energy Efficient Cooling

District cooling is emerging as a key solution for energy conservation in urban areas. At the ASHRAE Region XV Conference in Udaipur, GIZ, as a knowledge partner, highlighted how district cooling systems (DCS) can cut energy and water consumption by up to 40%. With initiatives like the District Cooling Hub and collaborations with the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, GIZ aims to scale DCS across India. In Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh, a regional workshop explored DCS implementation, highlighting a \$5 billion energy transition opportunity. The government's partnership with Tabreed targets reduced cooling energy demand by 50%, and promoted sustainable urban cooling systems. [Know more](#)

Indo-German Support Project for Climate Action in India

On July 18, 2024, GIZ and TERI hosted an IKI India Community Exchange to strengthen collaboration among IKI India projects. Dr Alexander Fisher was introduced as the new head of the IKI India Interface Project. Updates on the IKI India website, Discussion Forum, and upcoming events were shared. From July 18–19, the Indo-German Support Project for Climate Action (CAP) visited Pune to identify urban forestry pilot sites, meeting with forest officials to gather data for climate co-benefit (CCB) methodologies. Consultations in Tamil Nadu on August 7 focused on implementing CCB methodologies in the single-use plastic ban policy and urban forestry, with the state government identifying pilot locations. In late August, CAP representatives attended a workshop on Just Energy Transitions in Karnataka, discussing international collaboration for India's energy transition. The project team visited Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)'s steel plant in Bhilai (central India) in September, as a part of the Techno-Commercial Feasibility Study for enhancing resource efficiency and integration of green hydrogen in steel production. [Know more](#)



INTERVIEW WITH SHRI AMIT VERMA



Shri Amit Verma currently serves as Director at NITI Aayog, where he leads the Green Transition, Environment, and Climate Change vertical, as well as the Economics & Finance vertical. With a wealth of experience in various key areas at NITI Aayog, he has worked on Trade & Commerce, Disinvestments, Strategic Economic Dialogue, G20, Circular Economy, and the Energy sector, with a particular focus on renewables and Green Hydrogen. Shri Verma has also held notable positions, including Private Secretary to the Honourable Vice Chairman, and served in the office of the CEO at NITI Aayog. His expertise spans sustainability, climate-resilient natural resource management, energy transition, and environmental law, making

him a key figure in public policy formulation and implementation. He is deeply involved in promoting sustainable development through his work on sustainable livelihoods, community outreach, and project evaluation.

In his interview he discussed key aspects of India's climate and energy policies. He emphasizes the importance of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency's Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS), advocating for robust regulatory frameworks, transparency, and alignment with international standards. On circular economy initiatives, Shri Verma highlights their role in reshaping India's climate policy by promoting resource efficiency and waste minimization, with promising collaboration opportunities with countries like Germany. Additionally, he stresses the need for sustainable practices in solar energy, particularly around critical minerals, advocating for recycling and reuse to ensure energy security. Finally, Shri Verma discusses India's climate financing needs, underscoring the importance of mobilizing both domestic and international resources, while advocating for concessional finance to prevent fiscal strain. [Know more](#)



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