

WORLD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT 2026

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

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



WORLD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT 2026

Silver Jubilee Edition

(25-27 February 2026)

Taj Palace, Diplomatic Enclave, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi

DRAFT AGENDA

All timings in Indian Standard Time (IST)

Version – 26th February 2026

The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) is the annual flagship multi-stakeholder event organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). As the only independently convened international summit on sustainable development and the environment based in the Global South, WSDS provides a unique platform for global leaders and thinkers to come together and address pressing global challenges. Since its inception, WSDS has convened 59 Heads of State and Government, 149 Ministers, 13 Nobel Laureates, 2,158 Business Leaders, 3,730 Speakers, and more than 41,000 Delegates representing a diverse base of ecosystem actors from around the globe.

The Summit aims to deliberate on solutions for the benefit of global communities. WSDS plays a critical role in fostering dialogue that reinforce and strengthen commitments at all levels. This approach aims to enhance ambition and drive meaningful action, creating a pathway toward a more sustainable and equitable world for both present and future generations.

The urgency for transformative action cannot be overstated. The first global stock-take has revealed that achieving the ambitious temperature goals will require a 43% reduction in global emissions by 2030. Similarly, the 2025 Report on Sustainable Development Goals show that only 35 per cent of SDG targets with available trend data are on track or show moderate progress. Nearly half are moving too slowly or making only marginal progress, while 18 per cent have regressed. Incremental change will no longer suffice. What is required now is transformative action that can catalyse systemic and paradigm shifts across sectors and societies. The complex challenges facing the world today are deeply interconnected—spanning climate, development, equity, and resilience—and demand long-term vision, diverse voices, and values-based leadership to enable the scale and pace of transformation needed for sustainable development and effective climate action.

The 2026 edition of the WSDS marks the Silver Jubilee of this global platform. The 25th edition of the Summit will be held from 25–27 February 2026 at the Taj Palace, New Delhi, under the umbrella theme: परिवर्तन | Transformations: Vision, Voices, and Values for Sustainable Development—bringing together leaders, practitioners, and thinkers to shape pathways for a more just, resilient, and sustainable future.

Day 1 25th February 2026 Wednesday	
8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Registrations
10:00 – 11:30 pm	<p>Group A: Thematic Tracks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Conservation Planning for Climate-Resilient Landscapes in the Eastern Himalayas (<i>Jehangir 1</i>) – 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 – 1:30 pm	<p>Group B: Thematic Tracks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Next Solar Frontier: Circularity, Resilience & Responsibility (<i>Jehangir 1</i>) – International Solar Alliance (ISA) Global Climate Outcomes and Strategic Pathways for India (<i>Jehangir 2</i>) – 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 – 2:00 pm	Lunch
2:00 – 3:30 pm	<p>Group C: Thematic Tracks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advancing towards Net-Zero Higher Education Institutes: A Structured Approach (<i>Jehangir 1</i>) – TERI School of Advanced Studies (TERI SAS) Action for the Aravalli's: Advancing Restoration, Resilience, and Inclusive Growth (<i>Jehangir-2</i>) – 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	<p>Inaugural: Transformations through Vision, Voices and Values for Sustainable Development</p> <p><i>Welcome Address</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Nitin Desai, Chairman, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) <p><i>Theme Address</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director General, TERI <p><i>Special Address</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Siddharth Sharma, CEO, Tata Trusts <p><i>Keynote Address</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change <p><i>Inaugural Address</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H.E. Dr Bharrat Jagdeo, Vice President, Cooperative Republic of Guyana <p><i>About the Silver Jubilee Archival Pocketbook</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr Shailly Kedia, Curator, World Sustainable Development Summit <p><i>Launch of Silver Jubilee Archival Pocketbook</i></p> <p><i>Vote of Thanks</i></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	
8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Registrations
9:00 am – 7:00 pm	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
10:00 am – 6:00 pm	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, MoEF&CC, UNDP
9:30 – 10:30 am	Leadership Panel: Transformations through and for Nature
	<p>Moderator: Ms Teena Jha, Sansad TV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 – 11:45 am	Flagship Session: Towards a Himalayan Coalition for Sustainable Development
	<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 – 1:30 pm	Leadership Panel: Greening Manufacturing and Trade
	<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 (tbc) (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) • Ms Mansi Madan Tripathy, Country Head, Shell Lubricants India Cluster (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) • 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	<p>By Invite Only: Dinner of Hope and Launch of LaBL 2.0</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shri Santosh Kumar Sarangi, Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy • Mr Nitin Desai, Chairman, TERI • Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director General, TERI • Dr Dipankar Saharia, Senior Director, TERI • Dr Amit Kumar Thakur, Senior Fellow, TERI <p><i>Cultural evening</i></p>

Day 3 27th February 2026 Friday	
8:00 am – 2:00 pm	Registrations
9:00 am – 5:00 pm	<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 – 9:45 am	TERI Alumni Association Special Session
10:00 – 11:30 am	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 – 1:30 pm	Leadership Panel: Accelerating Clean Energy Solutions Moderator: Ms Priya Shankar , India Director, Climate and Environment Program, Bloomberg Philanthropies <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 • Mr Manu Srivastava, Additional Chief Secretary, New & Renewable Energy Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh • Mr Sharad Pungalia, Country Head, Gentari India • Mr Himad Tiwari, Chief Human Resource Officer, Chief Sustainability & Corporate Social Responsibility, Tata Power • Ms Anjali Acharya, Managing Director, The Nature Conservancy India
1:30 – 2:30 pm	Lunch
2:30 – 4:00 pm	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 • Dr V. Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Adviser, Government of India • 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