

Investing in Climate Justice: Catalysing Actions for Just Transitions in India

Background & Concept

With ambitious targets to increase renewable energy power generation and reduce the emissions intensity of GDP, India's climate actions reflect its desire to both be seen as a global climate leader as well as unlock domestic economic opportunities from mitigation. Yet, some coal-based districts with poor development indicators generate significant revenue from coal mining, while millions of people rely on coal- and other fossil fuel-based industries and services for their livelihoods. India's automotive industry is poised to employ nearly 38 million people by 2022, and is navigating major technological changes as it pivots towards electrification and cleaner fuels. It's clear that India's low-carbon future involves requires restructuring regional economies, while supporting those who stand to lose economically – coal mining regions, automotive hubs, fossil-fuel industries, communities, and workers.

The session titled ***Catalysing Actions for Just Transitions in India***, hosted in partnership with **IKEA Foundation**, aims to delve into the nature of actions needed in this 'decade of action,' while ensuring that no one is left behind. With UNFCCC's COP26 serving as a focal point for climate action globally, this timely event seeks to seed the Just Transition mandate within India's ongoing low-carbon transition. The panel, comprising leading voices from parliament, government, and research, will systematically unpack the problem stream (linked livelihoods, impact on allied economic activity and revenue streams, resources for communities and regions) and deliberate on potential solutions (unearth suggestions on evidence-based models and pathways available for JT in India and invoke the business case for investing in JT).

Event details

Session title	Catalysing Actions for Just Transitions	
Session partner	IKEA Foundation	
Date	11 th October 2021	
Time/duration	7:00 – 8:15 pm IST (75 minutes)	
Session flow	7:00 – 7.05pm	Welcome address and context setting by Shloka Nath, Acting CEO, India Climate Collaborative
	7.05 – 7.15pm	Keynote speech by Anil Jain, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Coal
	7.15 – 7.20 pm	Introduction to session structure and first panel by moderator Shrashtant Patara, CEO, TARA
	7.20 – 7.45 pm	Panel 1 Barriers to Just Transitions – Chandra Bhushan, CEO, iForest;

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SESSION PARTNER:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sandeep Pai, Senior Research Lead, Just Transitions Initiative, CSIS; - Amrita Agarwal, Vice President, Group Strategy, M&M Group.
7.45 – 8.10 pm	<p>Panel 2 Solution Pathways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jaikant Singh, Head, Strategy and Programme Development, National Skill Development Council; - Jiang Lin, Nat Simons Presidential Chair in China Energy Policy at the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab; - Suranjali Tandon, Associate Professor, National Institute for Public Financing and Policy
8.10 – 8.12 pm	Summary by moderator, Shrashtant Patara
8.12 – 8.15 pm	Concluding remarks & vote of thanks by Shloka Nath

Speaker Profiles



Anil Kumar Jain

Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Government of India

Anil Kumar Jain is a 1986 batch IAS officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre. He was the Special Secretary in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. He has held an illustrious career in national energy policy, and has published a number of papers and articles on the energy sector, including a book on natural gas policy framework in India (OUP, Oxford). He has been a Visiting Senior Research Fellow at the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies, Oxford, UK.

He has over three decades of administrative experience at the field and policy formulation levels in various Ministries/Departments in the state and central governments. Between 2003 and 2008, as Director and Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, he was closely involved with policy formulation and implementation on the upstream and downstream development of the gas sector in India, including on exploration, the award of acreages, and the pricing and distribution of natural gas. He has led the NITI Aayog team towards preparation of the long-term energy demand and supply projection tool – IESS, 2047. Anil Kumar Jain holds a BA (Honours) in Economics, an MBA, and a Diploma from the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade.

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Chandra Bhushan

President & CEO, International Forum for Environment, Sustainability & Technology (iFOREST)

Over the past two and a half decades, Chandra Bhushan has engaged in a wide range of environmental issues through research, writing and advocacy, and has been at the forefront of several public policy campaigns. An engineer and environmental planner by training, Bhushan integrates scientific and technical expertise with socio-economic realities to solve multi-dimensional environmental and developmental challenges. His scope of work encompasses both global and local issues, from climate change and energy transformation to rights of mining-affected people and environmental governance. He has authored/co-authored 20 books, more than 60 publications, and numerous articles. He was conferred with the Ozone Award by the UN Environment in 2017 for his contributions towards the framing of the Kigali Amendments to the Montreal Protocol.



Sandeep Pai

Senior Research Lead, Energy Security & Climate Change Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies

Dr. Sandeep Pai is Senior Research Lead with the Energy Security and Climate Change Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). He leads the research work for the Just Transition Initiative, a collaborative project between CSIS and the Climate Investment Funds. His expertise spans the political economy of energy transitions, coal sector dynamics, energy access, and just transitions.

Previously, Sandeep worked as an investigative journalist with leading Indian newspapers such as the Hindustan Times, writing on rural development, energy transition, and political corruption in India and South Asia. In 2016, he was awarded India's most prestigious journalism award, the Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism award, for his series of stories on corruption in state owned enterprises. Recently, Sandeep finished his Ph.D. at the University of British Columbia focusing on how countries can phase-out fossil fuels and ensure just transition for workers and communities.

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Amrita Agarwal

Vice President, Group Strategy Mahindra & Mahindra Group

Amrita Agarwal has had a diverse set of experiences across the private sector and policy space over 15 years. She was with Bain India, working across health, tech services, financial services, infrastructure, and private equity. She has also led the health system design at Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, helping establish and scale up a portfolio of investments on structural reforms in public policy in the healthcare sector of India working closely with national, state governments, international

institutions, and the private sector.



Jaikant Singh

Head, Strategy & Programme Development, National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)

Jaikant Singh has over 25 years of experience in the corporate sector and is a founding member of the National Skill Development Corporation, an apex organization for skill development in India. With over 11 years' experience in developing, managing, and financing skill-development programmes, he has been nominated by several States including Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, West Bengal etc. as a Member/Director of Governing Council & Board of their respective State Skill Development Missions.

His current engagement as Senior Head, Operations & State Business Development and 'WorldSkills India', involves ensuring that states across the country remain at the forefront of skill development & implementation of all government- and industry-sponsored schemes including PMKVY Short Term Training (STT), Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), special projects, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK), other ministry schemes (Like Sikho aur Kamao, MoMA), CSR, NSDC Market Led (Fee-Based) Program, and state-regional-national & international skill competitions.

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Jiang Lin

Nat Simons Presidential Chair in China Energy Policy at the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, Staff Scientist at its International Energy Analysis Department, and an Adjunct Professor at the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of California at Berkeley

Dr. Jiang Lin's research is focused on energy and climate policy, energy and emissions pathways, electricity market and planning, low-carbon economic transition and appliance efficiency issues. From 2007-2016, Dr. Lin was the Director of the Energy Foundation's China Sustainable Energy Program (2007-2013) and Senior Vice President for Strategy and Analysis (2014-2016). Dr. Lin managed the growth of Energy Foundation China into one of the largest international NGOs devoted to promoting clean energy and climate solutions in China.



Suranjali Tandon

Assistant Professor, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy

Suranjali Tandon has worked on several important projects for the Ministry of Finance. She is Chevening financial services fellow 2019 at King's College London and currently leads the work on sustainable finance at the institute. She is a special invitee to the sub-group on Finance and Regulation, Task Force for Sustainable Finance. She co-authored the report on Just Transition Finance Roadmap for India and writes extensively on issues related to green finance.



Shrashtant Patara

CEO, Technology & Action for Rural Advancement (TARA), and Senior Vice President, Development Alternatives Group

Shrashtant Patara has been with the Development Alternatives Group since 1988, providing research expertise, management capability and strategic direction to teams engaged in the dissemination of green enterprise solutions, creation of green jobs, and fulfilment of basic needs in underdeveloped economies. He is a Fellow of The Rockefeller Foundation's Global Program on Social Innovation and a member of several advisory groups, including the

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LafargeHolcim Foundation for Sustainable Construction and Indo-German Expert Group on Green and Inclusive Economy. He has been instrumental in the establishment of several social businesses within the DA Group and leads the team that is incubating the Indian Micro Enterprises Development Foundation.

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