

GOVERNMENT

POLICY REPORT

MARCH 2025 EDITION



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SUSTAINABILITY

NTPC Ltd., India's largest integrated power utility, won the Forward Faster Sustainability Award 2025 in the Water Resilience

NTPC Ltd., India's largest integrated power utility, was presented with the Forward Faster Sustainability Award 2025 in the Water Resilience category on February 13, 2025. The ceremony was organized by the UN Global Compact Network India (UN GCNI) in Chennai. The Forward Faster Sustainability Awards recognize organizations making significant sustainability and corporate responsibility strides, aligning with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



This accolade underscores NTPC's commitment to integrating sustainable practices within its operations and contributing to global sustainability objectives. Among the various NTPC's sustainability initiatives, the focus is on water conservation. The company uses Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle principles to optimize water usage. A notable achievement is the implementation of advanced wastewater treatment plants, leading to 100% sweet water self-sufficiency at the Ratnagiri Gas and Power Pvt. Ltd. (RGPPL) facility. These initiatives established new standards for water conservation within the industry.



In addition to its core operations, **NTPC is dedicated to improving community access to clean water.** It has restored local water bodies and promoted conservation awareness, benefiting surrounding communities and contributing to broader environmental sustainability. NTPC contributes approximately one-fourth of India's power requirements. The company boasts an installed capacity exceeding 77 gigawatts (GW), with an additional 29.5 GW under construction, including 9.6 GW dedicated to renewable energy sources. **Aligning with global trends towards cleaner energy, NTPC has set an ambitious target to achieve 60 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2032.**



The diverse energy portfolio of NTPC includes solar, hydro, thermal, and wind power plants for sustainable electricity. Further, it is inclined to adopt the best practices, foster innovation, and embrace clean energy technologies to create a greener future.

NEW BUSINESS AREAS OF NTPC

- **E-mobility solutions**
- **Battery storage system**
- **Pumped hydro storage**
- **Waste-to-energy projects**
- **Nuclear power**
- **Green hydrogen solutions**

The Forward Faster Sustainability Award 2025 serves as a testament to NTPC's unwavering dedication to environmental stewardship and sustainable development. Through its comprehensive initiatives in water resilience and broader sustainability efforts, NTPC continues to play a pivotal role in shaping a sustainable energy future for India.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Kick Started the conclave on 'Waste Recycling & Climate Change 2025'

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), in collaboration with the Recycling and Environment Industry Association of India (REIAI), inaugurated the 'Waste Recycling & Climate Change 2025' conclave on February 18, 2025. The event emphasized India's need to transition from a linear to a circular economy to address growing waste management challenges. Experts highlighted the importance of integrating sustainability into industrial processes and policy frameworks to ensure long-term environmental and economic benefits.



India generates around 62 million tonnes of waste annually, with plastic, electronic, and hazardous materials being major contributors. The traditional 'take, make, dispose' model has strained landfills and natural resources. The conclave highlighted that a circular economy conserves resources, drives innovation, enhances competitiveness, and creates jobs. A shift to sustainable waste management will also contribute to India's global commitments under the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals.



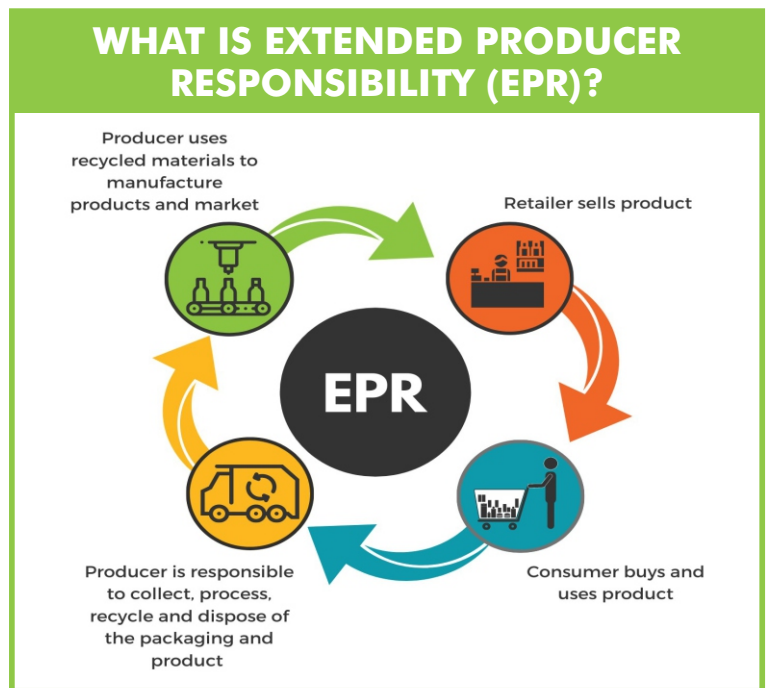
India is advancing its 'waste to wealth' initiative to maximize recycling's economic potential. A circular economy approach—reducing, reusing, and recycling—treats waste as a resource and is key to economic resilience and environmental sustainability. **By 2050, India's circular economy is expected to be worth \$2 trillion and create 10 million jobs.** Industries are encouraged to adopt innovative recycling technologies to reduce reliance on raw materials and imports.

KEY STRATEGIES

REDESIGNING PRODUCTS FOR CIRCULARITY	INVESTMENT IN RECYCLING TECHNOLOGIES	SUPPLY CHAIN COLLABORATION	CONSUMER AWARENESS
Shift from single-use models to recyclable, biodegradable, and reusable designs	Use advanced technologies to improve waste recovery and management	Optimize resources, create closed-loop systems, and boost secondary raw material markets	Engage consumers through campaigns, incentives, and sustainable consumption initiatives

The MoEFCC has also introduced **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulations for e-waste, vehicles, plastic packaging, tyres, batteries, and used oil**. These policies incentivize formal recycling and create financial benefits through EPR certificate sales. Strengthening waste collection and processing infrastructure is crucial to achieving long-term sustainability goals.

The conclave emphasized strategies like product redesign, advanced recycling technologies, supply chain collaboration, and consumer awareness. The recycling industry plays a key role in reducing imports, minimizing environmental impact, and enhancing sustainability. Around 200 delegates, including environmental scientists, waste management professionals, and policymakers, attended, demonstrating a strong commitment to sustainable waste management in India. The discussions reinforced the urgent need for policy action, corporate responsibility, and public participation in building a greener future.



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CARBON MARKET

India Organized the PRAKRITI 2025, the International Conference on Carbon Markets to Discuss Global Trends, Challenges, and Future pathways

India hosted PRAKRITI 2025 (Promoting Resilience, Awareness, Knowledge, and Resources for Integrating Transformational Initiatives), the inaugural International Conference on Carbon Markets, in New Delhi on 24th-25th February 2025. **Organized by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under the Ministry of Power, this two-day event convened global experts, policymakers, industry leaders, researchers, and practitioners.** They have deliberated current trends, challenges, and future pathways of the global carbon market.



The conference was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Power and Housing & Urban Affairs. He emphasized India's commitment to reducing reliance on fossil fuels and advancing renewable energy adoption to meet emission targets. He also highlighted India's rich cultural heritage and traditional practices, such as Ganga Deep Puja and Govardhan Puja, which reflect the deep-rooted ecological consciousness and can complement modern sustainability efforts. Further, **he pointed out the necessity for climate policies that ensure practical, verifiable, and fraud-proof carbon reductions, to make India's sustainability transition effective.**

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES AND THEMES	Development of Carbon Markets	Compliance Mechanisms
	Developing Infrastructure for Functional Carbon Markets	Offset Mechanism and Carbon Credits

PRAKRITI 2025 aimed to provide an in-depth understanding of the functioning and processing of the Indian Carbon Market (ICM) while offering insights into the global carbon market's dynamics, opportunities, and challenges. The conference featured various thematic addresses and plenary sessions led by senior government officials and industry experts.

KEY THEMES UNDER CONFERENCE	Incentivizing Renewable Energy Developers through Carbon Markets
	Developments in Article 6 and Opportunities for India
	Bringing Price Transparency in the Global Marketplace
	Role of Ecosystem-based Interventions in Achieving Net-Zero Goals
	Climate Tech Startups for Sustainable Development
	Leveraging Finance for the Deployment of Clean Technologies

These sessions provided a platform for stakeholders to exchange knowledge and ideas, explore collaborative solutions, and strengthen strategies to accelerate decarbonization and sustainable growth. **International experts, including representatives from the World Bank and the International Solar Alliance (ISA), shared insights on global carbon market dynamics and their implications for the growth of India's carbon market.** Discussions emphasized the importance of aligning domestic carbon markets with international frameworks to ensure competitiveness and compliance with global standards.

PRAKRITI 2025 marked a significant milestone in India's climate agenda, serving as a comprehensive platform for learning, knowledge sharing, and exploring collaborative opportunities in the global effort to combat climate change. It underscored India's dedication to developing a robust carbon market framework, fostering international collaborations, and advancing sustainable economic growth of the country.



TOURISM

Ministry of Tourism to develop tribal home-stays under Swadesh Darshan scheme as part of 'Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan'

The Union Budget 2025-26 has shown an unprecedented commitment to India's tribal development with consistent growth in budget allocation. Earlier, in a landmark decision to enhance the socio-economic fabric of India's tribal communities, the Union Cabinet, under the leadership of the Prime Minister, has also approved the Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (PMJUGA). This comprehensive initiative, with a substantial allocation of Rs 79,156 crore, aims to uplift over five crore tribal individuals across approximately 63,000 villages nationwide.

A pivotal component of PMJUGA is the development of 1,000 tribal homestays under the Swadesh Darshan scheme, orchestrated by the Ministry of Tourism. This initiative seeks to harness the tourism potential of tribal regions while providing alternative livelihood opportunities for tribal households. Financial assistance is structured to support the construction and renovation of these homestays.



New Construction

Eligible tribal households can receive up to Rs 5 lakh for building two new rooms

Renovation

Existing structures can be refurbished with grants of up to Rs 3 lakh

Community Infrastructure

An additional Rs 5 lakh allocated for village-level community requirements

The overarching goal is to establish 5-10 homestays in each village identified for its tourism potential, thereby promoting responsible tourism, and enhancing livelihood opportunities for tribal communities. To ensure the effective implementation of this initiative, the Ministry of Tourism has formulated draft guidelines, which have been disseminated for consultation among stakeholders.

These guidelines emphasize technical upskilling and training for homestays owners, ensuring that the facilities meet quality standards and provide authentic cultural experiences for tourists. **The PMJUGA encompasses a total of 25 interventions, collaboratively implemented by 17 line ministries, each responsible for specific schemes over the next five years.** The mission's objectives are categorized into four primary goals. **To monitor progress and ensure transparency, the tribal villages under this initiative will be mapped on the PM Gati Shakti Portal.**

Empowering Tourism in Tribal Areas through Home Stays

- 1000 tribal homestays to be promoted under Swadesh Darshan, boosting local tourism and livelihoods
- Funding will be provided for constructing 5-10 homestays in tribal villages with tourism potential
- Each household can receive up to ₹5 lakh for new rooms, ₹3 lakh for renovations and ₹5 lakh for village community requirement



PRIMARY GOALS UNDER THE MISSION

Developing Enabling Infrastructure

Promotion of Economic Empowerment

Universalization of Access to Good Education

Healthy Lives and Dignified Ageing

This platform will identify infrastructure gaps, track physical and financial progress, and recognize top-performing districts, fostering a spirit of competitive excellence among regions. The Tribal Homestay initiative under the Swadesh Darshan scheme not only aims to boost local tourism but also aspires to preserve and showcase the rich cultural heritage of India's tribal communities. Under the Swadesh Darshan scheme, as part of the PMJUGA, the tribal homestays intertwine economic empowerment with cultural preservation, paving the way for inclusive growth and sustainable livelihoods in India's tribal regions.

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NORTHEAST CORNER

Swavalambini - a Women Entrepreneurship Programme for Northeast by MSDE and NITI Aayog

In a significant move to foster women entrepreneurship in Northeast India, the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**, in collaboration with **NITI Aayog**, launched the 'Swavalambini' Women Entrepreneurship Programme on **February 7, 2025**. This initiative aims to empower female students across **select Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Assam, Meghalaya, and Mizoram**. Through this, they will be provided with essential entrepreneurial skills, resources, and mentorship, thereby fostering innovation and self-reliance among aspiring women entrepreneurs.



Swavalambini introduces a structured, stage-wise entrepreneurial process encompassing awareness, development, mentorship, and funding support. The program's key objective is to nurture and scale women-led enterprises in India, ensuring that successful ventures are recognized and serve as inspiration for others.

KEY COMPONENTS OF SWAVALAMBINI

Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme (EAP)

A two-day session introducing 600 women to entrepreneurship basics

Women Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP)

A 40-hour training for 300 women on business essentials, plus six months of mentorship

Faculty Development Programme (FDP)

A five-day faculty training on mentoring, industry insights, and incubation

Awards to Rewards Initiative

Recognizes and celebrates successful women entrepreneurs

Additionally, the initiative builds on the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, which emphasizes **skill integration, industry collaboration and hands-on experience**. It will ensure that young women, particularly in the Northeastern states, receive the necessary guidance and financial support to build scalable businesses.

The Programme aspires to create avenues for women in business, aiming for 10% of EDP trainees to launch successful enterprises. By instilling a culture of entrepreneurship within HEIs, this initiative represents a significant step toward uplifting and celebrating the next generation of women leaders in India.

The program aligns with the government's broader commitment to fostering women-led entrepreneurship through key programs like Start-Up India, Stand-Up India, PM Mudra Yojana, and the Women Entrepreneurship Platform. **The Union Budget 2025 further reinforces this commitment with increased funding and policy support for start-ups, including a Rs 10,000 crore fund and an extension of the 100% tax exemption on start-up profits for another five years.**



PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS ACROSS STATES

ASSAM	MEGHALAYA	MIZORAM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gauhati University Dispur College Handique College 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU) Kiang Nangba Government College Ri-Bhoi College 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mizoram University Government Champai College Lunglei Government College



In conclusion, Swavalambini stands as a testament to the government's dedication to empowering women entrepreneurs in India's Northeast region. It will provide them with the tools, mentorship, and support necessary to succeed in their entrepreneurial endeavors. It will also aim to bridge the gender gap in entrepreneurship, enabling women to build sustainable businesses and contribute to India's economic development.

RESOURCES

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