



JANUARY 2026  
EDITION

# SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE

## SECTOR SPECIFIC REPORT





01

# CALL FOR SUSTAINABLE AND CLIMATE-RESILIENT URBAN GROWTH AT CREDAI NATIONAL CONCLAVE 2025

**CREDAI**  
NEW DELHI **NATIONAL  
CONCLAVE**

**19** & **20**  
December, 2025

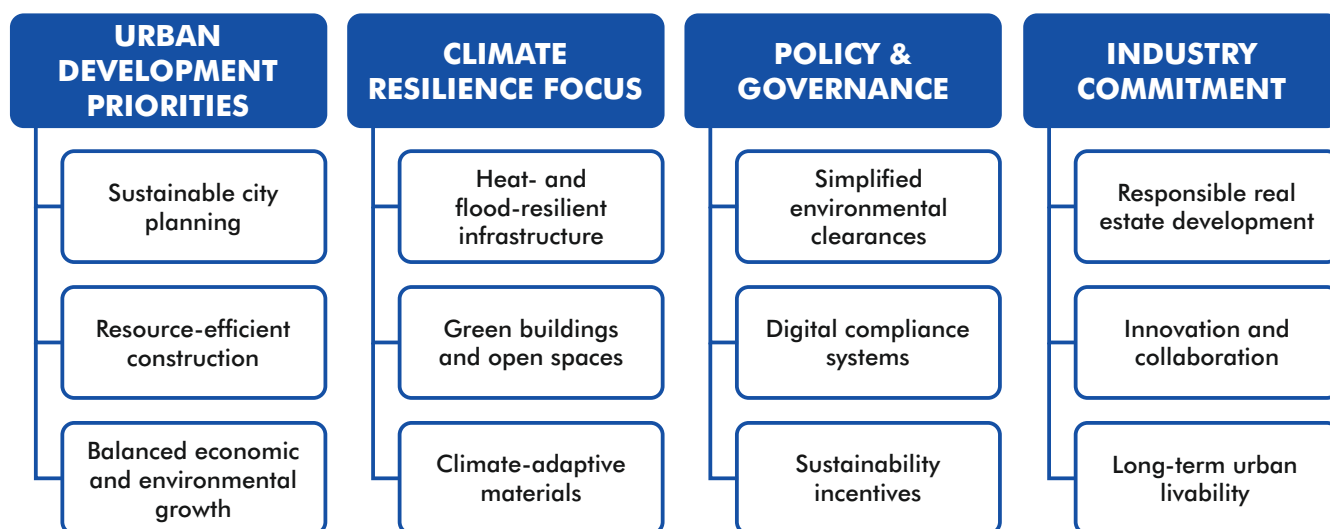
The CREDAI National Conclave 2025 served as a key platform to highlight the **importance of sustainable and climate-resilient urban growth in India's development journey toward Viksit Bharat**. The conclave brought together real estate developers, policymakers, urban planners, and industry stakeholders to deliberate on the future of Indian cities, with a strong focus on **balancing economic expansion and environmental responsibility**. The event reflected growing consensus on redefining urban growth models across regions.



Source: <https://credai.org/event/conclave/conclave-2025/>

Urban development was widely recognized as a critical driver of national progress, but discussions stressed that unchecked growth could intensify environmental pressures. The conclave emphasized that the real estate sector plays a decisive role in shaping energy consumption patterns, land use, and resource efficiency. **Sustainable urban development was therefore presented as an essential strategy for ensuring long-term economic stability and improved quality of life in rapidly expanding cities.** Further, urban inclusivity and social equity were also highlighted as priorities.

## CORE THEMES DISCUSSED AT CREDAI CONCLAVE 2025





Climate resilience emerged as a central theme, with **participants underlining the need for cities that can withstand climate-related risks such as heat stress, flooding, and water scarcity**. The adoption of energy-efficient building designs, climate-adaptive construction materials, enhanced green cover, water-sensitive urban planning, disaster preparedness, and risk mitigation was highlighted as crucial for reducing vulnerability and strengthening urban ecosystems.



Source: <https://credai.org/knowledge-center/credai-reports/reports/47.pdf>

The conclave also focussed on policy reforms aimed at encouraging responsible urban development. **Simplified environmental clearance processes, digital governance systems, and sustainability-linked incentives were discussed** as ways to promote compliance while supporting ease of doing business. Broader initiatives encouraging sustainable lifestyles and green credit mechanisms were cited as enablers of environmentally conscious growth, thereby aiming to foster sustainability and transparency.



Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=2206734&reg=3&lang=1>

**CREDAI reiterated its commitment to advancing sustainable real estate practices through innovation, collaboration, and capacity building.** The conclave concluded with a collective call for stakeholders to embed sustainability, climate resilience, and long-term partnerships at the core of urban planning, ensuring that India's cities remain inclusive, livable, and future-ready for generations to come.



02

## CAQM APPOINTS EXPERT COMMITTEE TO FAST-TRACK POLICY ROADMAP ON VEHICULAR EMISSION-LED AIR POLLUTION IN NCR



The **Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM)** has constituted a **high-level Expert Committee** to develop a focussed policy roadmap for **reducing air pollution caused by vehicular emissions across the National Capital Region (NCR)**. Vehicular pollution remains a dominant contributor to deteriorating air quality, particularly during winter months, necessitating targeted and time-bound interventions to address rising public health and environmental concerns across urban clusters.

The **15-member committee** brings together experts from premier academic institutions, automotive research organisations, environmental think tanks and key government bodies. It has been mandated to comprehensively examine existing clean-mobility policies, emission regulations and fuel-efficiency norms, while identifying gaps that hinder effective reduction of transport-related emissions in the region and limit policy impact on ground-level air quality improvement outcomes.



### Commission for Air Quality Management



Source: <https://knnindia.co.in/news/newsdetails/state/caqm-targets-industries-transport-to-control-air-pollution-in-delhi-ncr>

## KEY TASKS OF THE VEHICULAR EMISSION EXPERT COMMITTEE

POLICY REVIEW	EMISSIONS ASSESSMENT	TECHNOLOGY & INFRASTRUCTURE	INCENTIVE FRAMEWORKS	INTERIM & FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluate current clean-mobility policies, Bharat Stage emission norms and fuel standards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quantify how various vehicle segments contribute to air pollutant loads</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyse infrastructure gaps for EVs and cleaner fuels; assess readiness and costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Propose incentives and regulatory measures to accelerate cleaner vehicle uptake</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consult stakeholders; deliver strategic roadmap within two months</li> </ul>

A key responsibility of the committee is to conduct a segment-wise assessment of vehicular emissions, **analysing the contribution of different vehicle categories to pollutants such as PM<sub>2.5</sub>, nitrogen oxides and carbon monoxide**. This evidence-based assessment is expected to guide differentiated strategies for private vehicles, commercial fleets and public transport systems operating in NCR, ensuring targeted interventions rather than uniform policy prescriptions across sectors and real-time monitoring insights tools.



The committee will also evaluate the technological readiness and infrastructure requirements for accelerating the **transition to cleaner mobility options, including electric vehicles and low-emission alternatives**. Cost implications, implementation challenges and feasibility across vehicle segments will be carefully assessed to ensure that **proposed measures are both practical and scalable for large urban regions like NCR and comparable metropolitan areas**.



Source: <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/delhi/panel-blames-vehicular-emission-for-poor-aqi-in-delhi-ncr/>



Source: <https://lawchakra.in/supreme-court/stricter-norms-for-delhi-improve-air-quality/>

**With a two-month timeline to submit its recommendations, the Expert Committee may provide interim suggestions during stakeholder consultations** involving industry representatives and regulatory agencies. The initiative underscores CAQM's commitment to data-driven policymaking and coordinated action to mitigate vehicular emission-led air pollution, improve public health outcomes and advance sustainable urban mobility in the NCR in a structured and consultative manner nationwide.

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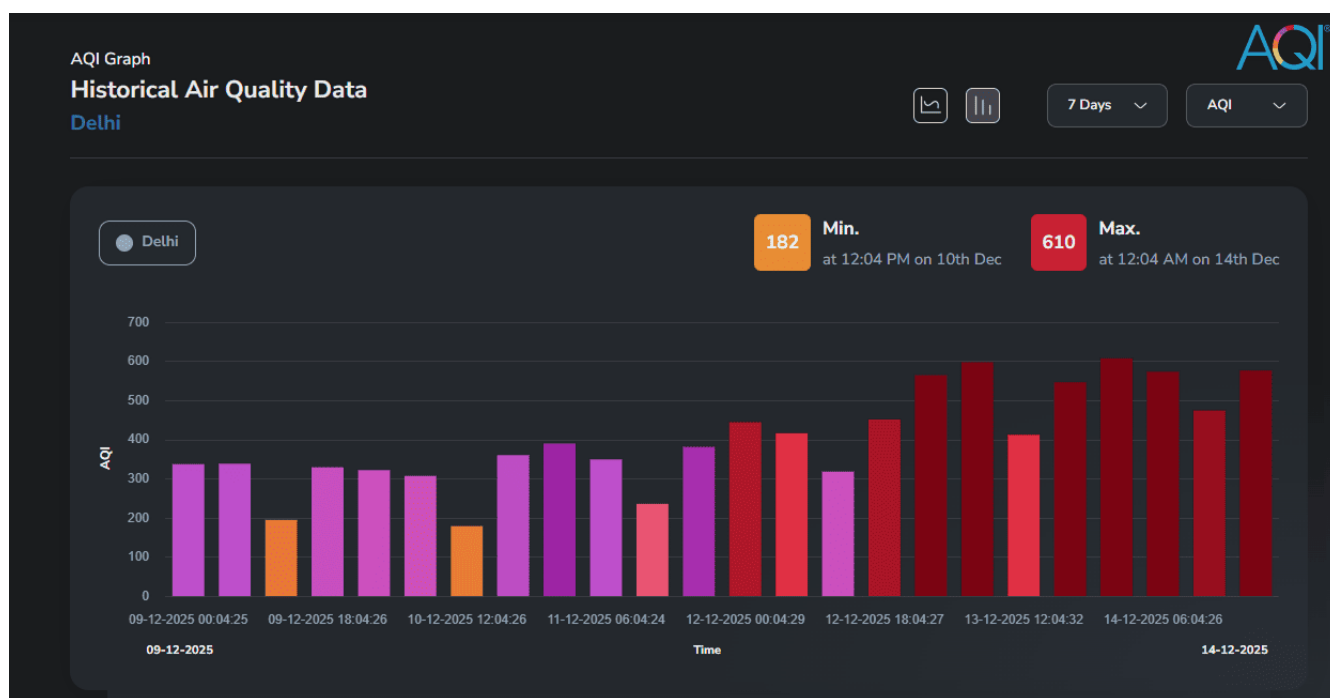
03

## SEVERE AQI SPIKE TRIGGERS STAGE-IV GRAP IN DELHI-NCR





A sharp spike in air pollution levels across Delhi-NCR has prompted authorities to implement **Stage-IV of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)**, reflecting a grave air quality situation. During **December 2025**, the region recorded **AQI levels soaring beyond 450**, with several monitoring stations **reporting readings close to 600**, placing air quality firmly in the *severe to severe-plus* category. Such levels pose serious health risks and necessitate the highest level of emergency response under the GRAP framework.



Source: <https://www.aqi.in/blog/grap-stage-4-delhi-aqi-600-december-2025/>

The alarming rise in AQI has been linked to **unfavourable winter meteorological conditions**, including calm winds, temperature inversion, and reduced mixing height. These factors trap pollutants near the surface, allowing emissions from vehicles, industries, construction dust, and other sources to **accumulate rapidly across urban and peri-urban pockets**. December typically witnesses **intensified pollution episodes** in the National Capital Region (NCR) due to these atmospheric constraints.

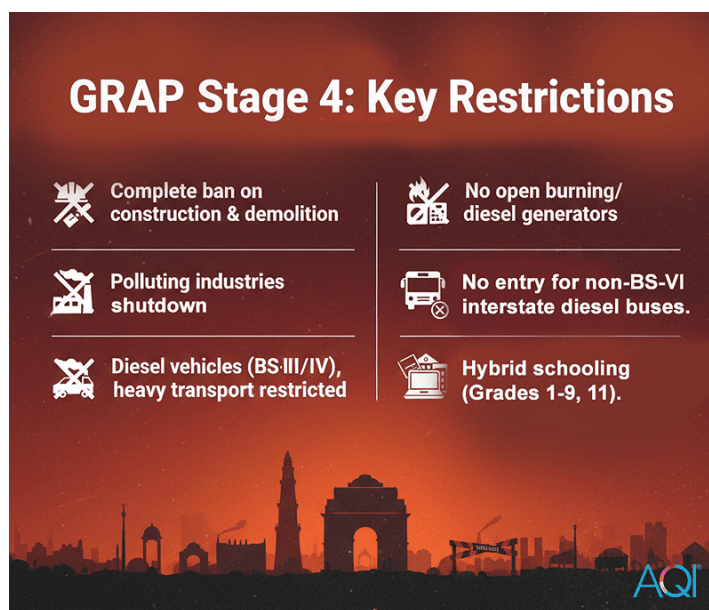


Source: <https://www.aqi.in/blog/grap-stage-4-delhi-aqi-600-december-2025/>

Stage-IV GRAP introduces the **strictest curbs** to arrest further deterioration in air quality. **Non-essential trucks are barred** from entering Delhi unless they carry essential commodities or **operate on cleaner fuels** such as CNG, LNG, electric power, or BS-VI-compliant diesel as mandated under prevailing emission norms across the entire NCR region. **Light commercial vehicles registered outside Delhi face similar restrictions** unless they meet prescribed emission norms.

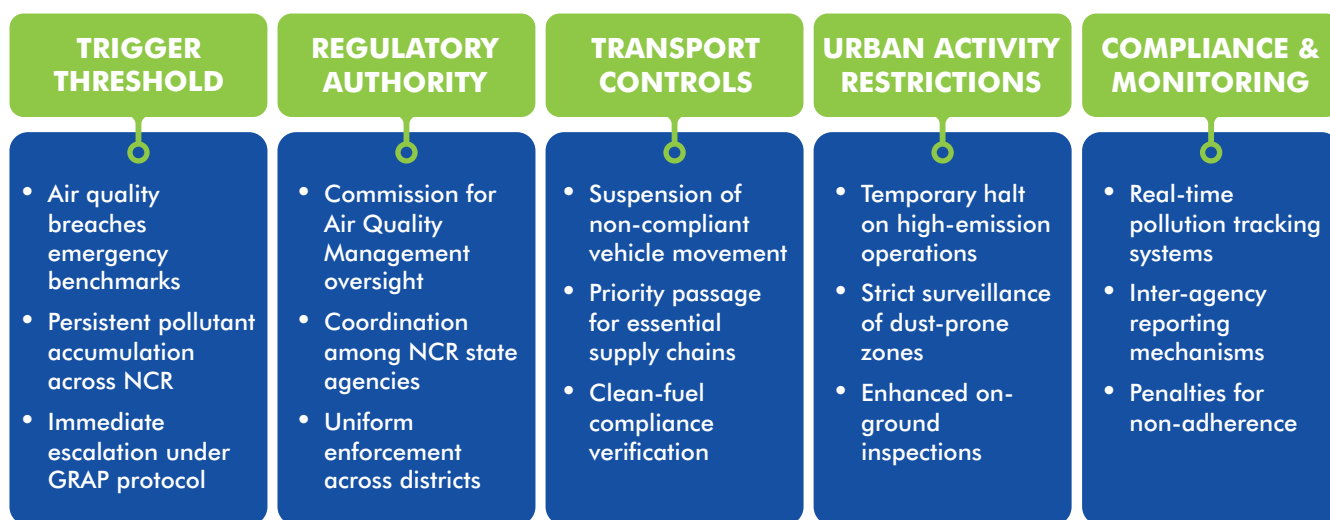
In addition, the movement of **medium and heavy goods vehicles** running on older, more polluting fuels **has been restricted within city limits**.

Authorities have also tightened enforcement on dust-generating activities, including construction and demolition work, while ensuring enhanced vigilance across NCR districts to **ensure consistent on-ground implementation and curb violations** contributing to high AQI levels.



Source: <https://www.aqi.in/blog/grap-stage-4-delhi-aqi-600-december-2025/>

## STAGE-IV GRAP IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK



Health advisories have urged residents to **minimise outdoor activities**, especially when AQI remains in the severe category. Vulnerable groups, including children, the elderly, and individuals with respiratory ailments, have been **cautioned against prolonged exposure**. The activation of Stage-IV GRAP amid extremely high AQI readings once again highlights the **urgent need for sustained regional coordination and long-term structural measures** to combat Delhi-NCR's recurring winter air pollution crisis.



**04**

## **UNION MINISTER HIGHLIGHTS GREEN GROWTH AS A CATALYST FOR INNOVATION AND RESILIENCE AT CII INDIAEDGE 2025**



At the CII IndiaEdge 2025 forum in New Delhi, the **Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India**, highlighted **green growth as a cornerstone of India's economic strategy**, positioning sustainability as a driver of innovation, competitiveness, and resilience across sectors at national and global levels. During the special plenary titled **“Green Growth: Aligning Sustainability with Competitiveness”**, India's development approach was linked with environmental responsibility, policy coherence, and long-term industrial strength.



Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2198136&reg=3&lang=1>

India's transition towards a **low-carbon and resource-efficient economy** was connected with tangible economic outcomes, including employment generation and industrial expansion across regions. **Clean energy, waste management, and circular economy initiatives** were associated with the creation of **over 33 lakh jobs**, reinforcing the role of green sectors in supporting inclusive, decentralized, and future-ready growth. **Sustainable infrastructure and climate-aligned manufacturing were presented as pathways** to reduce climate risks while strengthening economic productivity.

## FLAGSHIP INITIATIVES CITED AT CII INDIAEDGE 2025

**1**

The Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (REPM)

**2**

National Critical Mineral Mission 2025

**3**

Revised Green Credit Programme

**4**

Environment Audit Rules 2025



Fiscal and regulatory frameworks supporting green growth received focussed attention within the broader reform agenda. **GST-related rationalization for environmentally sustainable products and services** was linked with improved market efficiency, better price signals, and reduced compliance complexity. Such fiscal alignment was positioned as an important enabler for accelerating investments in clean technologies and promoting sustainable consumption patterns across industries.



Source: <https://indianmasterminds.com/news/bhupender-yadav-green-growth-cii-indiaedge-2025-165176/>



Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2198136&reg=3&lang=1>

**Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** was highlighted as a central pillar of India's circular economy framework. Producer accountability for post-consumer waste was associated with the expansion of recycling infrastructure, improved material recovery, and innovation in sustainable product design, packaging solutions, and supply-chain traceability. Industry participation in EPR mechanisms was presented as essential for **reducing resource intensity and closing material loops across supply chains**.

Green growth was also connected with **economic resilience and global competitiveness**, including enhanced export potential, sustainable finance mobilization, and long-term industrial stability. Platforms such as **CII IndiaEdge 2025** were highlighted as **critical for aligning public policy priorities with private-sector innovation**, reinforcing sustainability as a competitive advantage in India's evolving growth trajectory.

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**05**

## **NGT REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE 2025 FOCUSES ON COASTAL PROTECTION AND A GREENER FUTURE**





The **NGT Regional Environment Conference 2025** held in Chennai brought critical focus to **coastal protection and fostering a greener future**, emphasizing measurable environmental risks affecting India's **11,098-kilometre coastline**. Scientists and policymakers highlighted that rising sea and air temperatures are increasingly stressing coastal ecosystems, while human activities such as urbanization and industrial expansion further aggravate vulnerability. The conference provided a platform for judicial authorities, environmental experts, and regulators to deliberate on practical strategies to safeguard coastal biodiversity while balancing economic needs.

Organized by the **National Green Tribunal (NGT), Southern Zone**, in collaboration with southern State Pollution Control Boards and Committees, the event stressed the importance of **turning environmental laws into measurable, on-ground outcomes**. Delegates discussed the widening gap between regulations and actual compliance, noting that rapid urbanization and industrial activities are outpacing enforcement mechanisms. Rising



Source: <https://www.theenvironment.in/2025/12/08/ngt-conference-concludes-in-chennai-call-for-coastal-protection-and-sustainable-action/>

temperatures, projected to increase by **1.1°C to 2°C in the near term and up to 3.3°C to 4.8°C later in the century**, were highlighted as accelerating coastal ecosystem degradation.



Source: [https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/india-leads-in-generating-plastic-waste-with-102-mn-tonnes-a-year-study-124090401289\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/india-leads-in-generating-plastic-waste-with-102-mn-tonnes-a-year-study-124090401289_1.html)

A major concern was the **increase in marine pollution**, particularly plastic waste, estimated at **11-12 million tonnes entering oceans annually**. The conference highlighted **405 global “dead zones”**—regions depleted of oxygen due to pollution and warming—posing severe risks to marine biodiversity and fisheries. Judicial and scientific observations stressed that delayed preventive action can lead to irreversible damage, underscoring the need for proactive measures to protect mangroves, coral reefs, and other critical coastal habitats.



## KEY PRIORITIES FOR COASTAL PROTECTION

1

### STRENGTHEN ECOSYSTEM CONSERVATION

- Protect mangroves, coral reefs, and seagrass habitats

2

### REDUCE MARINE POLLUTION

- Limit plastic discharge and industrial effluents into coastal waters

3

### ENHANCE CLIMATE RESILIENCE

- Implement adaptive measures against erosion, flooding, and storms

4

### IMPROVE MONITORING & ENFORCEMENT

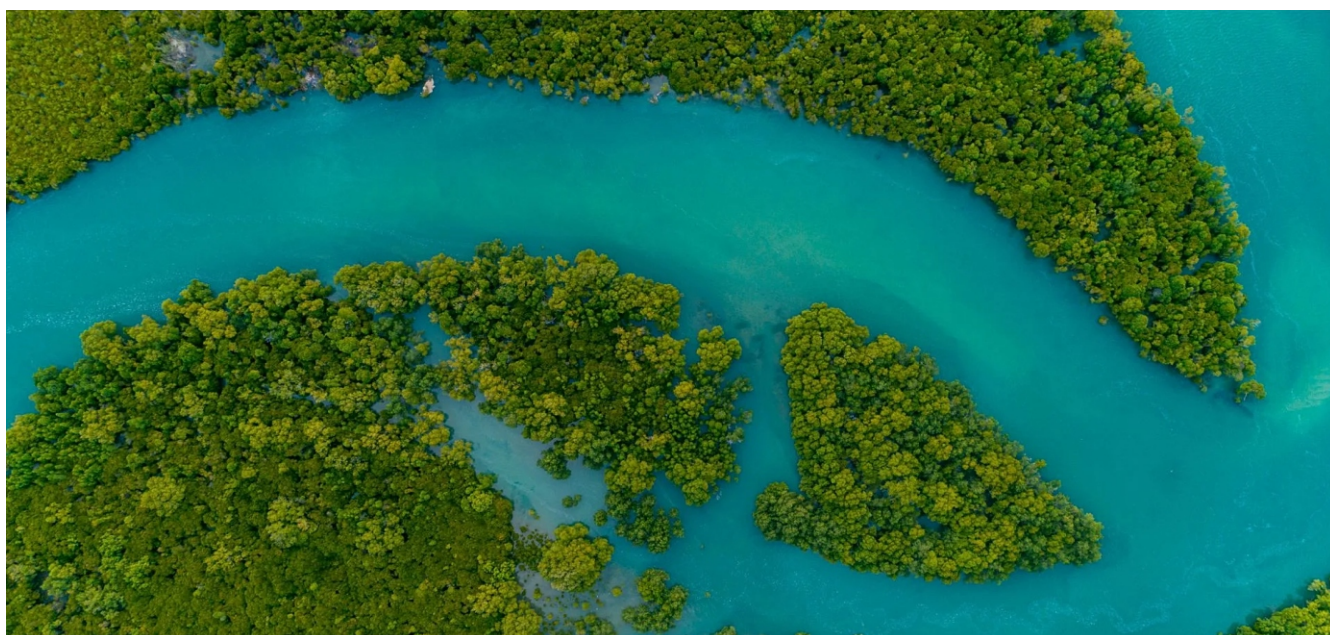
- Ensure compliance with environmental laws and regulations

5

### PROMOTE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Involve local populations in sustainable coastal management

Experts also highlighted **growing climate-related risks to coastal areas**. The decline of mangroves and coral systems was flagged as a critical warning sign, with severe implications for both environmental stability and the livelihoods of millions dependent on fisheries, tourism, and other coastal resources.



Source: <https://ddnews.gov.in/environment-regional-conference-2025-concludes-in-chennai-with-extensive-discussions-on-coastal-protection-and-a-green-future/>

The discussions reinforced **environmental accountability**, particularly for industries in sensitive coastal zones. **Strengthening monitoring mechanisms, enforcing pollution norms, and promoting community participation** were identified as key priorities to **safeguard coastal ecosystems and advance a sustainable, resilient, and environmentally responsible future**.

## EMINENT INSIGHT

**"India stands at a pivotal juncture in its development journey, guided by the ambitious vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. This vision commits us to a low carbon economy, energy independence and a comprehensive sustainable development path that brings immense opportunities alongside inherent challenges. As one of the world's fastest-growing economies, India is positioned not only to shape its own future, but to influence the global trajectory of sustainable growth."**

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





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