



# WORLD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT 2025

**PARTNERSHIPS FOR ACCELERATING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE SOLUTIONS**

March 5-7, 2025  
India Habitat Centre, New Delhi



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## Sustaining Change: Public-Private Partnerships for Climate-Resilient Eco-Villages

**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025 | **Time:** 1:00-03:30 PM (IST)

**Venue:** Magnolia Hall, India Habitat Centre, Gate no 3, New Delhi

Time	Agenda
1:00 – 1:45 PM	<b>Welcome and Registration followed by Lunch</b>
2:00 – 2:20 PM	<p><b>Welcome Address</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>Opening Remarks from GIZ</b> Meghna Kshirsagar, Senior Advisor Climate Change &amp; Circular Economy at GIZ India</li> <li>◦ <b>Partner Remarks from HUL</b> Mandira Nagrath, Lead - Sustainable Community Development Program (Prabhat), HUL</li> <li>◦ <b>Address by GIZ</b> Gerald Guskowski, Cluster Coordinator Environment, Climate Change Natural Resource Management Cluster, GIZ</li> <li>◦ <b>Address by HUL</b> Amit Thakur, Employee Relations Head, South Asia, HUL</li> </ul>
2:20 – 2:40 PM	<p><b>Ecovillages in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>Learnings &amp; Impact</b> Sankalp Dubey, Junior Advisor, Climate Change &amp; Circular Economy, GIZ India Kaushik Kumar, Pillar Lead - Environment and Sustainability, HUL</li> </ul>

Time	Agenda
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>Community Voices: Real Stories from the Field Led by</b>  Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Executive Director,  Adarsh Seva Samiti  Amardeep Asati, Project Manager,  Parmarth Samaj Sevi Sansthan</li> </ul>
2:40 – 2:50 PM	<b>Launch of the Compendium</b> Mainstreaming Climate Resilience for Rural India: A Compendium of Models and Nomenclatures
2:50 – 3:00 PM	<b>Reflections from Uttar Pradesh</b> Dr. Heera Lal Patel, IAS, Special Secretary, Irrigation and Water Resources Department, Lucknow, Government of Uttar Pradesh
3:00 – 3:25 PM	<b>Panel Discussion: Public-Private Partnerships in Building and Scaling up Climate-Smart Villages</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>Moderator</b>  Ms. Chhaya Bhanti,  CEO and Founder, Vertiver Pvt. Ltd.</li> <li>◦ <b>Panelists</b>  Dr. Upasna Singh, Associate Professor,  School of Public Policy, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi  Vivek Venkatramani, Associate Director, Climate Resilience Practice, World Resources Institute (WRI)  Pranab Nayak, Programme Manager ITC, CSR  Tanya Sharma, Senior Manager, Iora Ecological Solutions Pvt. Ltd.</li> </ul>
3:25 – 3:30 PM	<b>Vote of Thanks &amp; Group Photograph</b>

## Concept Note

### Background & Rationale

Rural communities in India are on the frontlines of climate change, facing mounting challenges such as water scarcity, inefficient waste management, and high carbon footprints. These issues threaten both environmental sustainability and the livelihoods of millions. Addressing these complex challenges requires integrated, scalable solutions that blend innovation, policy support, and community engagement.

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) have emerged as a powerful mechanism to drive sustainable rural development. By combining public sector expertise with private sector innovation and resources, PPPs can create long-term, climate-resilient solutions. The three-year collaboration between GIZ India and Hindustan Unilever Limited has successfully piloted an eco-village model that integrates water positive strategies, zero-waste initiatives, and low-carbon solutions. This event will delve into the impact of this initiative and explore pathways for scaling and institutionalizing such models for broader climate resilience and rural sustainability.

### Objectives of the Thematic Track

This session aims to:

- **Showcase Project Learnings & Impact:** Present key insights, successes, and challenges from the eco-village initiative.
- **Promote Eco-Villages as Scalable Models:** Highlight their role in advancing rural sustainability and climate resilience.
- **Launch the Eco-Village Compendium:** Introduce a comprehensive knowledge resource featuring implementation strategies and policy recommendations.
- **Strengthen Multi-Sector Collaboration:** Facilitate discussions among policymakers, corporate stakeholders, NGOs, and community representatives to enhance the reach and impact of climate-resilient initiatives.

### Key Discussion Questions

1. How can Public-Private Partnerships be leveraged to mainstream climate-smart eco-villages across India?
2. What key policy interventions are needed to support and scale eco-village models?
3. How can local communities be empowered to take ownership of sustainability initiatives?
4. What financing mechanisms can enhance the sustainability and replicability of eco-village projects?

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This thematic track will provide a platform for cross-sectoral collaboration, innovative solutions, and actionable strategies to drive climate-resilient rural development in India. We look forward to engaging discussions that will help shape the future of sustainable eco-villages.

## **About the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS)**

The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) is the annual flagship Track II initiative organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). Instituted in 2001, the Summit series has a legacy of over two decades for making 'sustainable development' a globally shared goal. The only independently convened international Summit on sustainable development and environment, based in the Global South, WSDS strives to provide long-term solutions for the benefit of global communities by assembling the world's most enlightened leaders and thinkers on a single platform. The 24th edition of the annual flagship event of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)—the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS)—will be held from 5-7 March 2025 in New Delhi. The Summit deliberations will focus on the umbrella theme: Partnerships for Accelerating Sustainable Development and Climate Solutions.