

CARING FOR THE EARTH

SPOTLIGHT

Call for collective climate action

The keynote conversation featured Dr Arunabha Ghosh, CEO, Council on Energy, Environment and Water in discussion with Ashutosh Sinha, senior editor, The Economic Times. A globally respected climate policy expert and jury member for the Earth Care Awards, Dr. Ghosh emphasized the urgency of viewing climate change as a present, not future, crisis.

As COP30 approaches, Dr. Ghosh laid out three pillars for India's climate legacy by 2047: circularity of resources, behavioral change, and risk-taking. "We must develop while decarbonizing – something no advanced economy has managed before," he said.

"We are already living with the consequences of climate change—from erratic rainfall and floods to heatwaves and public health burdens. The question is no longer whether to act, but how quickly and inclusively we can act," he said.

Dr Ghosh underlined the need for solutions that are not only innovative but also people-centric: "Unless communities feel ownership of the transition—whether it's cleaner fuels, resilient crops, or safer housing—we cannot achieve scale. Climate action must be designed with people, not just for them." He also noted that India has the potential to be a global leader in climate solutions, provided the country leverages its innovation ecosystem while ensuring inclusivity and equity.



This year's jury is chaired by Dr. Ajay Mathur, Professor of Practice, School of Public Policy, IIT, Delhi, and includes leading experts such as Dr Arunabha Ghosh, CEO, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), Dr Soumya Swaminathan, chairperson, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Rajat Gupta, senior partner, McKinsey & Company, Shloka Nath, CEO, India Climate Collaborative, and Jens Nielsen, Founder and CEO, World Climate Foundation.

Earth Care Awards 2025

Dialogues for Climate Action Sets the Ball Rolling in Delhi

As climate action seeks to be a wider part of policy-related conversations, the dialogue on how it could impact health and livelihoods for the people was stimulating

Neha Sareen

Community-led climate action is the need of the hour. With COP30 scheduled round the corner, Earth Care Awards 2025 brought together stakeholders to deliberate on what should be on the agenda for the policymakers and negotiators so that meaningful action can be taken.

Since its inception in 2008, Earth Care Awards have served as a pioneering platform to recognise and celebrate climate innovators across South Asia. Over 12 editions, the Awards have honoured more than 100 individuals, organisations, and community-led initiatives working on climate adaptation and mitigation.

"Over the years, we have witnessed stories of incredible courage and innovation – farmers reviving water systems, communities adopting clean energy, and organisations reimagining sustainable business models. The Awards are not just about recognition; it is about amplifying these stories, so they inspire action at scale," said Rupa Dawane, Head, Water, Environment and Sanitation, JSW Foundation.



For 13th edition, entries are open in six categories; Community-led Climate Action, Institutional Leadership, Emerging Businesses, Communicators for Climate Action, Women Leaders Climate Action, and Young Climate Champions.

CLIMATE ACTION AT THE CROSSROADS

A panel discussion that followed brought together Anumita Roychowdhury, executive director – Research and

Advocacy, Centre for Science and Environment (CSE); Dr. Preeti Negandhi, additional professor, Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI); and Dr. Bhuvaneswari Balasubramanian, country director, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN India). The session was moderated by Ajay Pandey, co-founder and partner, Thinkthrough Consulting.

The discussion delved into how climate resilience must be embedded in India's development priorities — spanning urban design, agriculture, healthcare, and food systems. The experts agreed that climate adaptation must also address inequality, gender, and livelihood security to ensure sustainable impact. Roychowdhury highlighted the rising vulnerability of cities to climate shocks such as heatwaves and

flooding. "Urban resilience must be built through inclusive planning, sustainable mobility, and affordable housing. Without these, the urban poor will continue to bear the brunt of climate stress," she cautioned. Dr. Negandhi focused on the link between public health and climate change, warning of growing threats from vector-borne diseases and malnutrition. "Health systems must be prepared for the shocks ahead—climate resilience must extend into our hospitals and community health programs," she said.

Adding to the discussion, Dr. Balasubramanian pointed to the growing intersection between climate change and nutrition security. "Every drought or flood disrupts crops and supply chains, translating into malnutrition. Building resilience in agriculture is also building resilience in nutrition and equity," she noted. Pandey concluded that collaboration is key to impact. "What we've heard today is clear—climate change is not a standalone issue. It cuts across health, nutrition, gender, and livelihoods. That's why it is critical to build cross-sectoral alliances to accelerate action," he said.

YOUTH AT THE FOREFRONT

The event also featured a session by environmentalist Abhiir Bhalla, who spoke about the critical role of young people in shaping climate solutions.

The launch event underscored that climate change is no longer a siloed environmental issue but one that cuts across health, nutrition, gender, and urban development. The Earth Care Awards, through its upcoming outreach and recognition, aim to highlight scalable solutions and encourage cross-sectoral collaboration. Last date to submit your entries is 24th November 2025.



Climate change is no longer a distant health issue—it is already here, reshaping patterns of disease, nutrition, and mental health. Health systems must

adapt, not react. Building climate resilience into hospitals and community programs is a necessity, not a choice

Dr. Preeti Negandhi

Additional Professor, Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI)



Climate change is not a single-issue problem—it touches health, gender, livelihoods, and development

Ajay Pandey

Co-Founder And

Partner, Thinkthrough Consulting



Every climate shock—whether drought, flood, or heatwave—has a ripple effect on food and nutrition security. Resilient agriculture is the foundation of

resilient nutrition. Climate action must prioritize food and nutrition equity

Dr. Bhuvaneswari Balasubramanian

Country Director, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN India)



Our cities are at the frontline of climate impacts. Every flood, every heatwave exposes the fragility of our urban systems. Without inclusive planning, the urban

poor will always bear the greatest climate burden. Resilience must begin with equity

Anumita Roychowdhury

Executive Director – Research and Advocacy, Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)



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Rupa Dawane, Head, Water, Environment and Sanitation, JSW Foundation



Youth are not leaders of tomorrow; we are stakeholders of today. Our voices must be heard in spaces where climate decisions are made

Abhiir Bhalla, Youth Environmentalist