

CARING FOR THE EARTH

SPOTLIGHT



EARTH CARE AWARDS



OVERVIEW

Introduced in 2008, the JSW–The Times of India Earth Care Awards serve as a platform to recognise visionaries and innovators who take affirmative action in response to the challenges of climate change. The awards highlight green innovations from industries, enterprises, not-for-profit organisations, non-governmental entities, and grassroots initiatives across the country. The 13th edition put the spotlight on practical, scalable, and innovative solutions designed to tackle the urgent realities of climate change.



CATEGORIES

The awards are presented in six categories—Community-Led Climate Action, Institutional Leadership in Urban Climate Action, Emerging Businesses in Climate Action, Communicators for Climate Action, Women Leaders in Climate Action, and the Young Climate Champions. Last date to submit your entries is 24th November 2025.



JURY

This year's jury is chaired by Dr. Ajay Mathur, professor of practice, School of Public Policy, IIT Delhi; Dr. Arunabha Ghosh, founder and CEO, Council on Energy, Environment and Water; Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, Chairperson, MS Swaminathan Research Foundation; Rajat Gupta, senior partner, sustainability practice, McKinsey & Company; and Shloka Nath, CEO, India Climate Collaborative; Jens Nielsen, Founder and CEO, World Climate Foundation.



There are a lot of changes in vector behaviour due to climate change. While research is ongoing, we already see impacts in the number of cases and people falling sick. When we talk about priorities for making coastal cities like Chennai climate resilient, we should look at its impacts on health

Dr Soumya Swaminathan

Chairperson, MS Swaminathan Research Foundation and Jury Member



India's coastal resilience approach is shifting from isolated projects towards integrated planning. The integrated coastal risk mitigation and resilience programme weaves together risk assessment, ecosystem restoration, community preparedness, geospatial planning. It builds on frameworks like coastal regulation zones and efforts to mainstream adaptation through updated climate missions

Ajay Pandey

Co-Founder and Partner, Thinkthrough Consulting



Focus on a collaborative planning model. Without such an approach, enhancing the resilience of both people and ecosystems to climate change risks is unlikely. There are four different stakeholder groups in coastal zone management: the scientific community, the local community, administrators and planners, and political leaders. They are equally important

Dr V Selvam

Former Director, MSSRF, Coastal Ecologist, Independent Researcher And Consultant



Resilience has never been seen as a separate budget line because it is embedded in development activities. Climate-proofing agriculture is treated as just another activity, making differentiation difficult, and external funding is often unavailable. Some innovative instruments are emerging. For nature-based solutions, the market is not mature. Blended finance offers creative ways

Dr A Nambi Appadurai

Director, Climate Resilience Practice, World Resources Institute

WINNER TESTIMONIAL



Dr Suresh Ayothi
Project Manager,
Coastal
Resilience, Nature
Environment and
Wildlife Society

“With community participation, mangrove afforestation and regeneration are undertaken, along with community nurseries, building capacity among coastal communities to withstand climate change and support livelihoods. After raising awareness about sea-level rise, temperature changes, and fish migration, involvement in mangrove conservation has increased. Green and blue-green infrastructure can resist storms and protect lives.

restoration, community preparedness, and geospatial planning. This builds on frameworks like coastal regulation zones and efforts to mainstream adaptation through updated climate missions. New initiatives, such as incorporating ocean ecological data into national statistics, aim to enhance preparedness and support informed development and investment decisions. In addition to this, many multisectoral and multilateral partnerships are vital to its evolution. This moment calls for harmonising policies and mobilising finance and community-centric action so that resilience is both sustainable and equitable.”

Charting India's Coastal Resilience

At the Chennai session of the 13th JSW–The Times of India Earth Care Awards, experts highlighted the urgent need for integrated strategies combining digital technologies, ecosystem restoration and community-led action to tackle the rising threat of the climate crisis to the country's coastline



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The conversation held in Chennai focused on how coastal cities could adapt to the increasing risks posed by climate change. Chennai's experience is a microcosm of the challenges facing India's coastline, reflecting rapid urban growth, significant wetland loss, frequent flooding, and rising heat stress—all of which pose escalating threats. At the same time, the city offers lessons in resilience, informing strategies and broader action to protect other vulnerable coastal regions. The panellists highlighted the vulnerabilities of urbanising coastal regions, discussed local and global resilience strategies, and examined how policies, funding, and community engagement could drive sustainable coastal development.

India's coastline stretches some 7,500 km, supporting around 170 million people across 70 coastal districts whose livelihoods depend on fisheries, ports, tourism, energy, and the emerging blue economy. The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services has developed a Coastal

These awards are given to people who work in the climate space, whether in mitigation or adaptation. The 2004 tsunami was a real eye-opener for coastal cities like Chennai. I believe it is extremely important for all of us to be present and engaged

Rupa Dawane

Head-Water, Environment and Sanitation, JSW Foundation



Even though we are talking about coastal resilience, we cannot solve problems piece by piece. We have to talk about the poor, the slums, livelihoods. Resilience has to be holistic. The challenge with Indian cities is that implementing solutions is often chaotic. Organisations are many, priorities differ, knowledge translation is slow

Raj Cherubal, Executive Director, Smart City Chennai



It is no longer climate change, it is climate crisis. When we talk about the coastal community, some sections are resilient enough to manage and recover after disasters, but many are vulnerable. Traditional communities are losing access to coastal resources and space. Slum dwellers face poor housing, insecure tenure, low income

Dr P Thamizoli, Social Anthropologist, Ethnographer, Independent Researcher and Consultant



Vulnerability Index and detailed hazard maps, highlighting exposure to sea-level rise, storm surges, and erosion in major urban centres such as Mumbai, Chennai, and Kolkata.

Approximately one-third of the coastline is

considered particularly vulnerable, escalating risks for dense settlements, critical infrastructure, and ecosystems vital to coastal economies.

Alongside these challenges, extensive