



Aironomics 2025

Unlocking India's Blue Skies Economy

Date: May 31, 2025 | Location: ITC Maurya, New Delhi

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PLENARY DISCUSSIONS

08:00 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:20	<p>Welcome Address and Lighting the Lamp</p> <p>1. A Breath of Fresh Ambition: Aligning Clean Air, Climate Action, and Shared Prosperity</p> <p><i>Set the tone for Aironomics 2025—a flagship convening designed to unite political, institutional, and corporate leadership in India's fight against air pollution. Illustrate the interlinkages between air pollution, climate, and development through shared solutions, and highlight economic, health, and equity co-benefits and identify integration as a priority for cross-sectoral action and investment.</i></p> <hr/> <p>Welcome Address:</p> <p>Dr. Ashwani Mahajan, Member, Board of Governors, Council For International Economic Understanding (CIEU)</p> <p>Inaugural Address:</p> <p>Shri Gopal Arya, National Convenor of RSS Paryavaran Vibhag</p>
09:20 – 09:30	<p>Setting the Stage</p> <p>2. The Moment, the Mandate: Framing India's Clean Air Opportunity</p> <p><i>Frame the convening as a platform to unlock clean air as both an economic and cross-sectoral opportunity—spanning climate, health, and nature. Set the agenda for scaling high-impact solutions that deliver transformative outcomes across systems and regions</i></p> <hr/> <p>Jagjeet Singh Sareen, Area Chair, Climate Initiatives, CIEU; Partner, Dalberg Advisors</p>
09:30 – 10:00	<p>Firestarter</p> <p>3. Green Growth and Livable Cities</p> <p><i>Reinforce air pollution as a persistent, year-round crisis with severe health impacts and disproportionate effects on vulnerable populations. Highlight its wide-ranging economic, reputational, and productivity costs—including missed opportunities for investment and growth.</i></p> <hr/> <p>Panel Members:</p> <p>Soumya Swaminathan, Chairperson, M S Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF)</p> <p>Seema Arora, Deputy Director General, CII</p>

	<p>Mikiko Tanaka, Director and Head of the UN ESCAP Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia (moderator)</p>
10:00 – 10:15	<p>Featured Speech 4. Blue Skies in Viksit Bharat</p> <p><i>Explore reforms required to strengthen inter-agency coordination and embed accountability across jurisdictions. Address how public policy and administrative mechanisms can be realigned to move towards sustained, year-round clean air governance</i></p> <hr/> <p>Mr. Arun Duggal, Chairman and Independent Director, ICRA Limited</p>
10:15 – 11:00	<p>Immersive Discussion 5. Finding Facts: Cracking the Code on Pollution Sources</p> <p><i>Highlight the diverse and cross-geographic sources of air pollution, spanning sectors like transport, industry, and agriculture. Address the lack of robust source apportionment studies, the uncertainty it creates, and showcase global best practices for policy-relevant attribution.</i></p> <hr/> <p>Panel Members:</p> <p>Sachchida Nand Tripathi, Professor, IIT Kanpur</p> <p>Sumit Sharma, Program Officer, UNEP</p> <p>Anju Goel, Associate Director, TERI</p> <p>R Subramanian, Sector Head Air Quality, CSTEP</p> <p>Dr. Sachin S Gunthe, Professor, IIT Madras (moderator)</p>
11:00 – 11:30	<p>Firestarter 6. Powering the Air Quality Action Forum (AQAF)</p> <p><i>Showcase how cross-sector leadership, corporate commitment, and multilateral partnerships can come together through AQAF to drive scalable solutions, unlock financing, and institutionalize clean air action across India.</i></p> <hr/> <p>Panel Members:</p> <p>Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati, Head, UNEP India</p> <p>Vijay Shekhar Sharma, CEO, Paytm</p> <p>Atul Bagai, Former Country Head (India), UNEP (moderator)</p>
11:30 – 11:45	<p>From Policy to Possibility: Building India's Ecosystem for Clean Air Solutions 7. Keynote Address</p> <p><i>Highlight how India's financial institutions, particularly public sector banks, are stepping up to finance the transition to cleaner technologies that address both climate and air pollution. Explore how banks can enable access to capital for solutions such as electric mobility, industrial pollution control, and green technology adoption among MSMEs.</i></p> <hr/> <p>Ashwini Tewari, MD and Board Member, SBI</p>

11:45 – 12:20	Opportunity Showcase 8.A Clean Air + Green Gains: Synergizing India's Blue Sky – Green Growth Economy <p>Showcase scalable, market-ready clean air solutions across key sectors including transport, solid waste, residential heating, and agriculture. Highlight innovations like EV fleets, biogas plants, clean cookstoves, and biochar, with potential for carbon and plastic credit-linked financing.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Transport: Hanif Qureshi, Additional Secretary, MHI (Ministry of Heavy Industries)</u></p> <p><u>Solid Waste: Annupa Mattu Ahi, TOMRA</u></p> <p><u>Residential cooking and heating: Ankit Mathur, Co-founder and CEO, Greenway Grameen Infra</u></p> <p><u>Agriculture: Swapan Mehra, Founder and CEO, Iora Ecological Solutions</u></p>
12:20 – 12:45	Opportunity Showcase 8.B From Legacy to Leadership: Retooling India's Core Sectors for Clean Air <p>Highlight critical system upgrades across urban planning, and monitoring to reduce air pollution at scale. Emphasize solutions like dust control measures and data-driven tools for real-time tracking and accountability.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Urban Planning: Sree Kumar Kumaraswamy, Program Director – Clean Air Action, Sustainable Cities & Transport, WRI India</u></p> <p><u>Monitoring: R Subramanian, Sector Head Air Quality, CSTEP</u></p>
12:45 – 13:00	Blueprint in Action: Clean Air Model from Uttar Pradesh 9. Keynote Address <p>Highlight Uttar Pradesh's approach, including its urban air quality action plans, brick kiln reforms, and push for electrification in transport and industry.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Manoj Singh, Retired Additional Chief Secretary, Environment and Climate Change, Uttar Pradesh</u></p>
13:00 – 13:45	Lunch
13:45 – 14:00	10. From the Ground Up: A Public Mandate for Clean Air Keynote Address <p>Highlight the role of political will in delivering clean air outcomes, and how grassroots leadership, citizen engagement, infrastructure upgrades, and responsive governance can together chart a path to healthier, more resilient cities.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Manoj Tiwari, Member of Parliament – Delhi (North-East)</u></p>
14:00 – 15:00	Keynote + Immersive Discussion 11. One Air, Many Bosses: Building Institutions for Integrated Climate and Clean Air Action <p>Reflect on the goals, achievements, and evolving priorities of the National Clean Air Programme. Examine governance and institutional models that enable coordinated, multisectoral action across air quality, climate, and development. Highlight the roles of government, regulators, and judiciary in driving enforcement, alignment, and scalable airshed-based approaches.</p> <hr/> <p>Keynote Address:</p>

	<p>Dr. Virinder Sharma, Member (Technical), Commission for Air Quality Management</p> <p>Panel Members:</p> <p>Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel, Former Chairperson, National Green Tribunal (NGT) India</p> <p>Arvind Nautiyal, Member Secretary, CAQM</p> <p>Prashant Gargava, Former Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)</p> <p>Sutapa Choudhury, Deputy Head, Indo Pacific Regional Department (IPRD)</p> <p>Shirish Sinha, Executive Director of Programmes, Clean Air Fund (moderator)</p>
15:00 – 15:30	<p>Opportunity Showcase</p> <p>12. Clearing the Air: Transforming Power and Industry</p> <p><i>Highlights cutting-edge upgrades in India's industrial and thermal power sectors to reduce air pollution at scale. It will spotlight cleaner production technologies and critical retrofits in thermal power plants, such as flue gas desulfurization (FGD) and advanced emission controls.</i></p> <hr/> <p>Industry: <u>Sunil Desai</u>, Co-Chairman, CII National Initiative: 'Cleaner Air - Better life'</p> <p>Thermal Power Plants: <u>Ujjwal Bhattacharya</u>, Former Director (Projects & Technical), NTPC Limited</p>
15:30 – 16:30	<p>Immersive Discussion</p> <p>13. Turning the Tide: Delhi's Moment to Lead on Clean Air</p> <p><i>Reaffirm Delhi's political will to lead on clean air while acknowledging the governance complexity across multiple jurisdictions. Emphasize the need for an airshed approach to tackle shared pollution sources and reflect on why past efforts have struggled to deliver lasting, regional impact.</i></p> <hr/> <p>Panel Members:</p> <p>Manjinder Singh Sirsa, Minister of Food & Supplies, Industry, Forest & Environment, Delhi</p> <p>Bhupinder Bhalla, Former Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)</p> <p>Keshav Chandra, Chairperson & Member, New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC)</p> <p>Ashwani Kumar*, Commissioner, Municipal Corporation of Delhi</p> <p>Sanjiv Kumar, Chairman, Delhi Pollution Control Committee</p> <p>Ambuj Sagar, Deputy Director (Strategy & Planning), IIT Delhi (moderator)</p>
16:30 – 16:45	<p>Beyond the Borders: Advancing Airshed Action for Clean Skies</p> <p>14. Keynote Address</p> <p><i>Reinforce the case for embedding airshed management into national strategies—turning India's regional air quality challenges into an opportunity for cooperative leadership and scalable, systems-level solutions.</i></p> <hr/> <p>Auguste Tano Kouamé, Country Director for India, World Bank</p>
16:45 – 17:45	<p>Immersive Discussion</p> <p>15. AirGPT: Data & Technology at the Heart of Air Quality Management</p> <p><i>Highlight the transformative role of emerging technologies—AI, geospatial tools, and digital platforms—in enabling smarter air quality monitoring, enforcement, and planning. Explore how</i></p>

	<p>product innovations, such as next-gen electric vehicles and cleaner industrial systems, help reduce emissions at source. Showcase innovations that enhance institutional capacity and explore pathways to scale tech-driven solutions across sectors and cities.</p> <hr/> <p>Panel Members:</p> <p>Rajan Handa, Managing Director, OK Play</p> <p>Rai Mahimapat Ray, Senior Digital Specialist, South Asia Region, The World Bank</p> <p>Ronak Sutaria, Founder & CEO, Respirer Living Sciences</p> <p>Suwarn Pant, Head Product Planning, EV, Tata Motors</p> <p>Nishant Idnani, Managing Director, Vaultus Green Funding (moderator)</p>
17:45 – 18:00	<p>Keynote Address</p> <p>16. Cultivating Change: Punjab's Path to Clean Air</p> <p>Showcase Punjab's approach, including its efforts to tackle stubble burning through in-situ and ex-situ solutions, district-level clean air action plans, and emerging initiatives in managing industrial and vehicular emissions.</p> <hr/> <p>Dr. Adarsh Pal Vig, Former Chairman, Punjab Pollution Control Board</p>
18:00 – 18:45	<p>Immersive Discussion</p> <p>17. Clean Air Starts with Us: People-Led Pathways to Cleaner Air</p> <p>Explore how citizen engagement and local leadership are driving sustained clean air outcomes across sectors. Highlight behavior change strategies and community-led initiatives that have scaled through trust, incentives, and enabling policy platforms.</p> <hr/> <p>Panel Members:</p> <p>Bharati Chaturvedi, Founder and Director, Chintan</p> <p>Indrajit Chaudhuri, CEO and Country Director, PCI</p> <p>Emani Kumar, Deputy Secretary-General of ICLEI and Executive Director, ICLEI South Asia</p> <p>Rakesh Thukral, CEO APAC, Edelman (moderator)</p>
18:45 – 19:00	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>18. One Air, One Agenda: The Power of Partnership for Clean Skies</p> <p>Highlight the urgent need for whole-of-system collaboration to effectively address air pollution—an issue that transcends boundaries. Explore how multi-level and multi-sectoral partnerships—spanning UN bodies like UNESCAP, WHO, UNEP, and UNDP, alongside governments and the private sector—can drive unified, scalable clean air action.</p> <hr/> <p>Shombi Sharp, UN Resident Coordinator, India</p>
19:00 – 19:45	<p>Keynote + Immersive Discussion</p> <p>19. Air Is Free, Cleaning It Isn't: Making Clean Air Investable</p> <p>Address the funding gaps and barriers limiting private capital flow into clean air solutions. Highlight innovative financing models like RBF and blended finance, along with success stories that demonstrate scalable public-private investment.</p> <hr/>

	<p>Keynote Address:</p> <p>N K Singh, Chairman, 15th Finance Commission</p> <p>Panel Members:</p> <p>Ann Jeannette Glauber, Environment Manager, World Bank</p> <p>Shirish Sinha, Executive Director of Programmes, Clean Air Fund</p> <p>Satyendra Kumar, Director, NITI Aayog</p> <p>Jagjeet Singh Sareen, Area Chair, Climate Initiatives, CIEU; Partner, Dalberg Advisors, (moderator)</p>
19:45 – 20:00	<p>Continuing the Momentum</p> <p>20. A New Air Agenda: Pathways for Scale and Systemic Impact</p> <p><i>Reflect on key insights and priority solutions emerging from the convening, with a focus on actionable roadmaps for scale. Identify cross-cutting enablers and reinforce collective commitment to translate ambition into sustained, system-wide impact.</i></p> <hr/> <p>Ministerial Valedictory Address</p> <p>Rekha Gupta, Chief Minister, Delhi</p>
20:00 onwards	Welcome Dinner

TECHNICAL ROUNDTABLES

13:00 – 13:45	Lunch
14:00 – 15:00	<p>A.1 Roadblocks & Runways: Steering India's Mobility Toward Clean Air</p> <p><i>Identify major sources of transport-related air pollution and highlight solutions like EV fleets, scrappage programs, and clean logistics. Unpack barriers to adoption and explore pathways to scale through procurement, policy incentives, and private capital.</i></p> <p>Knowledge Partner:</p> <p>ICCT, Amit Bhatt, Managing Director India</p>
14:00 – 15:00	<p>A.2 Rags to Riches: Turning Trash into Clean Air Opportunity</p> <p><i>Examine the role of unmanaged waste and landfills in driving urban air pollution. Highlight scalable solutions like biogas plants and MRFs, while exploring policy, finance, and PPP models to overcome systemic barriers and accelerate adoption.</i></p> <p>Knowledge Partner:</p> <p>Chintan, Bharati Chaturvedi, Founder and Director</p>
15:15 – 16:15	<p>B.1 Fires We Can't See: Cleaning the Air in Indian Households</p> <p><i>Understand how biomass and kerosene use contribute to residential air pollution, particularly in rural and peri-urban areas. Highlight clean cooking solutions and explore pathways to scale through market-based models, gendered distribution, and carbon-linked financing.</i></p> <p>Knowledge Partner:</p> <p>Intellecap, Santosh Singh, Partner and Managing Director</p>
15:15 – 16:15	<p>B.2 Fields of Smoke: Rethinking Agriculture for Cleaner Air</p> <p><i>Examine agriculture's contribution to air pollution through stubble burning and biomass waste. Highlight scalable alternatives like biochar and bioenergy, while exploring reforms, incentives, and cooperative models to drive adoption.</i></p> <p>Knowledge Partner:</p> <p>Iora Ecological Solutions, Swapan Mehra, Founder & CEO</p>
16:30 – 17:30	<p>C.1 Factories of the Future: Clean Production and Competitive Industries for a Cleaner India</p> <p><i>Identify key industrial sources of air pollution and highlight solutions such as cleaner technologies, emissions controls, and efficiency upgrades. Unpack barriers to compliance and explore strategies to scale through regulations, finance, and tech partnerships.</i></p> <p>Knowledge Partner:</p>

	CII, Mohit Sharma, Senior Counsellor
16:30 – 17:30	C.2 Smoke and Power: Retrofitting India's Energy Backbone <p><i>Understand the air quality impact of emissions from thermal power plants and the potential of retrofit solutions like FGD and cleaner fuels. Address key challenges and explore institutional and financial levers to accelerate sector-wide transformation.</i></p> <hr/> <p>Knowledge Partner:</p> <p>Envirocatalyst, Sunil Dahiya, Founder and Lead Analyst</p>
17:45 – 18:45	D.1 Designing Out Dust: Rethinking Urban Planning for Clean Skies <p><i>Identify major urban pollution sources such as road dust and construction activity, and highlight practical solutions like mechanical sweepers, construction compliance systems, and green landscaping for dust and heat mitigation. Explore barriers to implementation and discuss how municipal leadership and regulatory innovation can drive scale.</i></p> <hr/> <p>Knowledge Partner:</p> <p>Air Pollution Action Group, Mohit Beotra, Co-founder and CEO</p>
17:45 – 18:45	D.2 What Gets Measured Gets Breathed: Building the Air Intelligence Layer <p><i>Examine critical gaps in air quality data, monitoring systems, and public transparency. Highlight emerging solutions like low-cost sensors and open platforms, and explore pathways to scale through digital infrastructure, community science, and institutional adoption.</i></p> <hr/> <p>Knowledge Partner:</p> <p>CEEW, Abhishek Kar, Senior Programme Lead</p>

About the organizers

Bharat Climate Forum: The Bharat Climate Forum is a national platform dedicated to unifying stakeholders from policy, industry, finance, and research to accelerate cleantech manufacturing in India. It was launched on 10th January 2025. The forum aims to position India as a global leader in clean tech manufacturing, fostering self-reliance (Atmanirbharta) as the cornerstone of its journey toward a Net-Zero and Viksit Bharat.

Council for International Economic Understanding (CIEU): The CIEU is committed to fostering comprehensive research, facilitating dialogues, and curating innovative ideas that address the needs of diverse communities. In today's era of rapidly evolving progressive economies, emerging markets seek pathways from economies of scale to economies of scope. With a team of accomplished professionals and industry experts, the CIEU identifies and cultivates opportunities to support policymakers in reconstructing economies centred on true equity and citizen empowerment. The CIEU provides actionable solutions that serve as blueprints for global economies.

Dalberg Advisors: Dalberg Advisors is a strategic advisory firm that combines the best private sector strategy skills and rigorous analytical capabilities with deep knowledge and networks across emerging and frontier markets. Through systemic change, Dalberg helps solve the most pressing challenges of our time. Dalberg works collaboratively across the public, private, and philanthropic sectors to fuel inclusive growth and help clients achieve their goals. Dalberg partners with and serves communities, governments, and companies worldwide, providing an innovative mix of professional advisory services. Dalberg's expert advisors are entrepreneurs, innovators, designers, creative problem solvers, thinkers, and doers. Dalberg Advisors has presence and country offices in the Asia-Pacific, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas.



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Understanding**

Council for International Economic Understanding (CIEU) is an independent research oriented think-tank based out of New Delhi. We look forward to encouraging in-depth research, exchange dialogues, curate ideas leading to resolving the issues of the last man standing

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Dalberg Advisors is a strategic advisory firm combining the best of private sector strategy skills and rigorous analytical capabilities with deep knowledge and networks across emerging and frontier markets. We work collaboratively across the public, private and philanthropic sectors to fuel inclusive growth and help clients achieve their goals.

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