

TRANSITION CHRONICLES

UNCOVERING PEOPLE-CENTRIC APPROACH

This newsletter explores India's evolving approach to just transitions, unpacking key developments in coal and power, transport, agriculture, finance and beyond. We delve into insights from government initiatives, grassroots organisations, industry efforts, and other independent analysis by academia and experts.

NATIONAL LEVEL DEVELOPMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LANDMARK JUDGEMENT BY SUPREME COURT RECOGNISES “RIGHT TO BE FREE FROM ADVERSE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE”

April 2024

The Supreme Court in a landmark verdict recognised the serious threat that climate change poses to the lives and welfare of people. In a first, it explicitly linked climate change to the fundamental rights of Indian citizens. The court construed the entitlement of citizens to climate justice by interpreting the right to equality under Article 14 and the right to life outlined under Article 21. This judgement came while reviewing a case on conservation of the Great Indian Bustard. The bench reversed a 2021 blanket ban against overhead powerlines covering large parts of Gujarat and Rajasthan to protect the birds.

[Read more](#)

RBI RELEASES THE DRAFT DISCLOSURE FRAMEWORK ON CLIMATE-RELATED FINANCIAL RISKS, 2024

February 2024

The Reserve Bank of India released a draft framework for addressing climate-related financial risks and opportunities. The proposed framework presents an opportunity for financial entities to proactively address climate-related risks, foster resilience, and sustainability within the financial system. By developing methodologies that incorporates climate risk into credit risk assessment and presenting various scenario assessments, Regulated Entities or REs can evaluate how their investments could be affected under different climate change scenarios.

[Read more](#)

Find the proposed framework [here](#)

MINISTRY OF COAL ENCOURAGING DIVERSIFICATION WITHIN ITS CENTRAL PUBLIC SECTOR ENTERPRISES (CPSEs)

March 2024

The Coal Ministry is actively seeking to encourage and diversify the activities under its CPSEs to be in line with the nation's commitment to diversifying its energy mix portfolio. These activities include establishing pithead TPPs, solar power plants, coal/lignite gasification plants, and involvement in critical mineral exploration.

[Read more](#)

MINISTRY OF COAL'S COMMITMENT TO MISSION LIFE AND A JUST TRANSITION FOR THE COAL SECTOR

February 2024

The Government of India in a press release emphasised its commitment to a sustainable coal sector. The Ministry of Coal acknowledged this commitment and recognised the priority on the concept of a “Just Transition” as part of Vision India@2047. It is also integrating the principles of Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) into the coal sector. The Ministry of Coal has delineated specific objectives to facilitate Just Transition, including initiatives like Community-Centric Initiative of Eco-Mine Tourism and People-Centric Greening Initiative for bio-reclamation and plantation.

[Read more](#)

GOVERNMENT OFFERS 225 CLOSED AND ABANDONED MINES TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR FOR OPERATIONS UNDER REVENUE SHARING ARRANGEMENT

March 2024

Coal Secretary Amrit Lal Meena announced that the government is willing to offer 225 closed and abandoned coal mines to the private sector under a revenue-sharing arrangement. Willing private sector companies can operate these mines to produce coal and give revenue share to Coal India. In case the closed mines have no takers, Coal India will begin planning a final closure in a time-bound manner. 69 mines have already been identified for final closure and some are being evaluated for the possibility of using them for alternative uses such as solar parks and pump storage projects.

[Read more](#)

WITH PLANS TO BE NET-ZERO BY 2046, INDIAN OIL CORPORATION LTD. (IOCL) PLANNING ON UPSKILLING EMPLOYEES FOR GREEN ENERGY ROLES

April 2024

Rashmi Govil, Director of Human Resources of the IOCL, announced that the company is planning to train its employees for the company's green energy initiatives. Under their transition programmes, they are seeking to launch programmes to train their employees to lead teams or businesses in the green energy sphere, as well as offer certification courses to the public.

[Read more](#)

EVENTS

SIDBI PROVIDES SUPPORT TO ETOWALI PROGRAM TO PROMOTE ELECTRIC 3-WHEELERS TO WOMEN ACROSS INDIA



March 2024

The ‘ETOWali’ programme, launched by ETO Motors with MOWO Social Initiatives and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), has a dual objective of raising awareness about EVs among women and providing various financing schemes that shall identify 500 women drivers to own electric 3-wheelers and operate them for a sustainable employment opportunity. The initiative is supported by various State Transport and Women Welfare Ministries.

[Read more](#)

STATE LEVEL DEVELOPMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TAMIL NADU

USE OF CARBON MARKETS TO FUNDING CLIMATE ACTION PROJECTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION AND CREATING GREEN JOBS



April 2024

Supriya Sahu, the Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forests, Tamil Nadu, announced at the Conference on Carbon Neutrality organised by the CII that the state is looking to tap into the carbon market to fund its climate action projects. This includes projects which will help create a large number of green jobs benefiting the local community such as the Wetland Mission, increasing the mangrove cover, and improving the degraded mangrove patches.

[Read more](#)

EVENTS/ INITIATIVES

JHARKHAND

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON 'SUSTAINABLE TRANSITION FOR FUTURE-READY JHARKHAND: GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES & LEARNINGS FOR CLIMATE RESILIENT GROWTH'



February 2024

The Just Transition Task force under the Government of Jharkhand organised a conference for a future ready Jharkhand in association with Center for Environment and Energy Development (CEED and UNDP). Government representatives, experts, and professionals discussed and explored ideas for economic diversification, land reuse, social protection during the transition, green mobility, green economy, training of workforce and pathways to lowering carbon footprints.

Watch the recording [here](#)

[Read more](#)

CHHATTISGARH

BRINGING TOGETHER KEY STAKEHOLDERS ON TRANSITION DISCUSSIONS IN COAL



March 2024

A consultation dialogue on just transitions with key stakeholders in South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) was organised in Bilaspur by the Just Transition Research Centre, IIT Kanpur, in partnership with SECL. The event brought together key stakeholders from coal management and trade unions to discuss SECL's initiatives towards the transition, the challenges being faced and explore future strategies.



[Read more](#)

STORIES FROM THE GROUND

RANTAL: A SETTLEMENT'S JOURNEY FROM INVISIBILITY TO IDENTITY



This inspiring story captures how 42 Munda families, displaced from Bihar in 1980 due to mining and developments projects, migrated to Odisha and found success in community based organic farming. With the help of a CSO, Patang, for technical training and the MNREGA scheme, they created community infrastructure such as wells and ponds to support their farming endeavours.

Click [here](#) to read more

DISPOSSESSED LANDS AND THREATENED LIVELIHOODS: CONCERNS OF COAL MINERS IN ODISHA



This reportage gives a voice to some of the concerns and stories of coal miners and villagers in Angul and Chhendipara region of Odisha. Touching on issues of environmental damage, compensation and rehabilitation, this piece also highlights how contractual workers of coal mines will be disproportionately hit by the transition to green energy.

Click [here](#) to read more

WHY COAL COMMUNITIES ARE MORE WORRIED ABOUT LAND THAN JOBS



This article captures the narratives of community members in the coal mining districts of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand who grapple with income insecurity, multi-dimensional poverty and the major implications by loss of their land. This piece emphasises the need to repurpose used lands and give back productive lands to the locals it was burrowed from originally.

Click [here](#) to read more

FROM FARM LAND TO SOLAR: LESSONS AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR LAND DEALING



This piece captures different perspectives of villagers who sold their farm land in UP's Bundelkhand region for the installation of solar panels. By exploring different narratives, some positive while others negative, it touches on important aspects determining land sale decisions such as climate conditions, land demand and price negotiations. It highlights the implications of land purchase on individuals and families for clean energy projects.

Click [here](#) to read more

GRANT BASED SOLAR MICRO-GRID ENABLES SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN JHARKHAND'S ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICT



This note shows how the installation of 8kW solar micro-grid created new livelihood opportunities and made domestic lives easier in Chinjheria Village, Simdega district in Jharkhand. This piece specifically highlights the financial aspects required to make this initiative viable, including philanthropic grants, subsidy-based electricity provisions and cooperative structure of savings for maintenance and operational costs. It signifies the need for self-sustained business models supported by catalytic financing.

Click [here](#) to read more

OTHER NOTABLE EVENTS

IIT KANPUR AND BUNIYAAD'S WORKSHOP TO ADDRESS JUST TRANSITION CONCEPTS FOR THE BRICK KILN SECTOR

March 2024

The Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur in collaboration with Buniyaad held a workshop on 'Just Transition Dialogues: Empowering Brick Kiln Sector Energy Transition in Uttar Pradesh through Grassroots Engagement'. This workshop is to drive forward evidence-based research particularly for the brick sector to ensure more inclusivity and representation on the this largely informal sector. This workshop is part of their partnership which comes at the backdrop of a movement on climate action and social justice in the brick kiln sector in Uttar Pradesh.

[Read more](#)

ADVANCING PEOPLE-CENTRICITY FOR SUSTAINABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY AT THE RESPONSIBLE RENEWABLE ENERGY SUMMIT



March 2024

Organised by Responsible Energy Initiative India in collaboration NSEFI, the event was attended by stakeholders in the renewable energy sector, including government officials, investors and industry experts. The topics discussed during the Summit highlighted the need to focus on a people- and planet-centric development as we advance renewable energy adoption in India. Aspects such as concerns of land requirement for renewable energy, addressing challenges faced by local communities in deploying renewable energy, protection of biodiversity and dealing with PV waste were discussed during the Summit.

[Read more](#)

MEDIA COVERAGE OF JUST TRANSITION

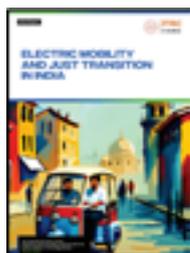
EDITORIALS

- **How challenging ‘Just Energy Transition’ is for Maharashtra** by Geetanjali Minhas published by GovernanceNow on *February 6, 2024*. Click [here](#) to read more.
- **Opinion: Switching to green power justly** by Chandra Bhushan published by Financial Express on *February 13, 2024*. Click [here](#) to read more.
- **Social Challenges Pin Down Just Transition Efforts in Bokaro** by Rahul Singh published at NewsClick on *February 17, 2024*. Click [here](#), to read more.
- **Left out of coal workforce, risky illegal mining is the only option before them** published at NewsGram Desk on *February 17, 2024*. Click [here](#). to read more.
- **Empowering MSMEs in India: Navigating mine repurposing for climate resilience** by Pooja Gupta and Ahamad Hammad Zubair published at India Water Portal on *February 26, 2024*. Click [here](#) to read more.
- **Blog: The just transition to a green economy is gaining momentum in India** by Suranjali Tandon published at LSE Business Review on *March 1, 2024*. Click [here](#), to read more.
- **Jharkhand’s “Just Transition” Remains on Paper as State Opens New Coal Mines, Fails to Shut Old Ones** by Sukriti Vats published at IndiaSpend on *March 4, 2024*. Click [here](#) to read more.
- **Opinion: India’s clean energy transition needs strong women** by Vikrom Mathur published at Observer Research Foundation on *March 7, 2024*. Click [here](#), to read more.
- **Conflict over critical mineral prospecting in Odisha signals need for better community involvement** by Ishan Kukreti published at Mongabay on *March 14, 2024*. Click [here](#) the read more.
- **How unplanned coal mine closures in India are affecting dependent communities, especially women** by Shuchita Jha and Flavia Lopes published at Mongabay on *21 March 2024*. Click [here](#) to read more.
- **Opinion: Rethinking Global Clean Energy Transition: Empowering Grassroots for A Sustainable Future** by Atul K Thakur & Deepak Rauniar published at News18.com on *March 26, 2024*. Click [here](#) to read more.
- **Reassessing India’s forest conservation: Navigating complexities for a just transition?** by Nishant Sirohi and Lianne D’souza published at Observer Research Foundation on *April 03, 2024*. Click [here](#), to read more.
- **Pune at the Vanguard: Charting a Just Transition for Maharashtra’s Automobile Sector** by Neha Raj published at Pune.News as on *April 3, 2024*. Click [here](#) to know more.
- **Climate Finance For Coal States: A Roadmap** by Himanshu Damle & Sandeep Pai published at Outlook on *April 6, 2024*. Click [here](#) to read more
- **India must account for human costs of energy transition, prioritise social justice** by Shantha Venugopal published at The Print on *April 12, 2024*. Click [here](#) to read more.
- **Net-zero targets and the case of construction workers** by Rishabh Shrivastava published at The Migration Story on *April 12, 2024*. Click [here](#) to read more.
- **The challenges of renewable energy** by Sukanya Khar and Kaveri lychettira published at The Hindu on *April 22, 2024*. Click [here](#) to read more.

WEBINARS/TALKS/ PODCASTS

- **Talk: Sustainable Energy Transition** by Mr. Partha Bhattacharyya as part of IIT Kanpur's Just Transition Talk Series on *February 3, 2024*. Click [here](#) to watch.
- **Video: Can there be a 'just transition' from India's coal industry?** Created by filmmaker Pawanjot Kaur and published by The Financial times on *February 26, 2024*. Click [here](#) to watch.
- **Podcast: Energy Transition, Finance and Resource Allocation** with Dr. Amarendra Das as part of The Climate Network's podcast on *April 1, 2024*. Click [here](#) to listen.
- **Webinar: Reporting & Storytelling on Climate Migration and Just Transition**, as part of the series "Where's Public in Public Policy" by Policy & Development Advisory Group (PDAG) on *April 17, 2024*. Click [here](#) to watch.
- **Talk: Transitioning India's Heavy Duty Vehicles** by Mr. Amit Bhatt, as part of IIT Kanpur's Just Transition Talk Series on *April 23, 2024*. Click [here](#) to watch.

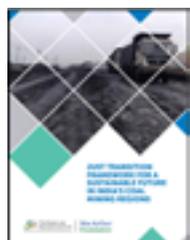
REPORTS LAUNCHED



ELECTRIC MOBILITY AND JUST TRANSITION IN INDIA

Published by : *Just Transition Research Centre (JTRC), IIT Kanpur in February 2024*

Objective: This report captures the challenges faced during the transition in the road transport sector to an EV ecosystem. It outlines certain policy recommendations to improve the transition pathway, and highlights need for worker skill development, stakeholder consultation, green jobs, etc. [Access the full report](#)

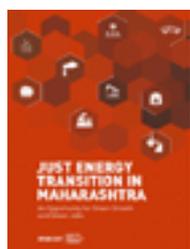


JUST TRANSITION PLANNING FOR FOSSIL FUEL-DEPENDENT REGIONS: A FRAMEWORK FOR ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

Published by: *TERI and supported by MacArthur Foundation in February 2024*

Objective: The report delves into the principles, and strategies to ensure a Just Transition in India's coal sector and suggests a Just Transition Framework for structured transformation to address concerns in regions affected by coal mine closures.

[Access the full report](#)



JUST ENERGY TRANSITION IN MAHARASHTRA: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GREEN GROWTH AND GREEN JOBS

Published by: *iForest in February 2024*

Objective: This report gives an analysis of Maharashtra's prospects and difficulties of a just energy transition over the next thirty years, examining its electricity, fossil fuel and dependent sectors. It advocates using appropriate policy levers and public and private sector investments to capture opportunities during the transition.

[Access the full report](#)



WEST BENGAL'S ENERGY TRANSITION: A ₹62,000 CRORE OPPORTUNITY

Published by: *Climate Risk Horizons* in March 2024

Objective: The Report presents an analysis of the savings, economic opportunities and financial benefits to West Bengal on decarbonising the power system and phasing in renewable, cleaner energy.

[Access the full report](#)



NAVIGATING THE FISCAL IMPLICATIONS OF A JUST TRANSITION

Published by: *The Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA)* in March 2024

Objective: This briefing note presents the potential fiscal implications of the transition for three states: Odisha, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.

[Access the full report](#)



JUST TRANSITION IN INDIA'S AUTOMOBILE SECTOR

Published by: *iForest* in March 2024

Objective: This compendium of 6 reports provides a thorough assessment of what just transition means and entails for India's automobile sector. It examines the transition from ICE to EVs focusing on the challenges, opportunities and impacts to technology, auto manufacturing clusters and the workforce.

[Access the full report](#)



SKILL GAP ASSESSMENT ACROSS GREEN HYDROGEN SECTOR IN INDIA

Published by: *Skill Council for Green Jobs with support of USAID* in March 2024

Objective: This report serves as a comprehensive guide for cultivating skilled workforce in India's green hydrogen industry. By identifying skill gaps to proposing tailored training programs, it offers practical recommendations to meet the evolving demands of this sector.

[Access the full report](#)



EXPLORING DEEP ELECTRIFICATION PATHWAYS TO ABATE EMISSIONS FROM CEMENT MANUFACTURING IN INDIA

Published by: *Vasudha Foundation* in April 2024

Objective: With the deep electrification efforts in industries like fertilisers and cement manufacturing there will be technological shifts to alternate fuels which will result in displacement of workers and need for reskilling. This report delves into recommendations and case studies in the cement industry advocating for policy and financial support.

[Access the full report](#)

ACADEMIC CONTRIBUTIONS

- Kopal Agrawal, Minal Pathak, Kaushik Jana, Jeemol Unni and Priyadarshi Shukla on “Just transition away from coal: Vulnerability analysis of coal districts in India” in Elsevier journal Energy Research and Social Science Volume 108 in February 2024.
- Sujatra Bhattacharyya on “An Analysis of Employment Effect of Projected Clean Energy Transition in India” published in the book ‘Youth in Indian Labour Market’ on March 21, 2024.