



एकम dialogues
संवाद से निर्माण



Building Regional Resilience for India's Resource-Rich Heartlands

Ekam Dialogues is a region-first convening rooted in the idea of **oneness**, bringing together people, practices, and perspectives to reimagine resilience in India's Eastern and Central heartlands. Envisioned as a multi-state, regional platform and inaugurated through its first edition in Jharkhand, Ekam recognises that resilience is not only about climate, it is about people, livelihoods, culture, governance, and shared futures.

Designed as both a dialogue and a process, Ekam moves from **Samvad** (collective conversations) to **Nirman** (co-creation of pathways), blending indigenous wisdom with contemporary policy, technology, and finance. Over two days, participants will experience a thoughtfully curated journey, one that celebrates regional identity, engages with lived realities, and collectively imagines future-ready solutions.





Day One: Anchors & Architects of Resilience : Vision & Voices of the Heartland

Inaugural Plenary: “Oneness in Action: Reimagining India’s Resource Heartlands”

The inaugural session sets the tone for EKAM Dialogues — situating the region at the heart of India’s development story and foregrounding the idea of oneness as lived reality, not abstraction. This session reflects on the region’s historical, cultural, and economic contributions, and frames resilience as something that has long been practiced here through community, culture, and continuity.

The dialogues begin with a collective framing of Ekam’s purpose and long-term vision. This opening plenary establishes Ekam as a multi-year regional platform dedicated to strengthening resilience where it is lived and governed - at the state, district, city, and community levels.

The session introduces the **Samvad-Nirman** framework - a platform for **listening deeply, engaging across differences, and building together**, and situates Eastern and Central India not as peripheral geographies, but as critical leaders in shaping India’s climate-resilient, inclusive future. It also marks Ekam’s commitment to sustained engagement, collaboration, and action beyond the conference itself.

Stewards of Resilience - Celebrating Community Wisdom and Action

This session recognises individuals and collectives whose work has quietly but powerfully strengthened communities and ecosystems across the region. These changemakers working across sustainability, livelihoods, governance, culture, and innovation, demonstrate how locally rooted ideas can create lasting impact.

Rather than focusing on scale alone, this session honours **intent, ingenuity, and commitment to place**. It celebrates changemakers who work with communities, respond to local realities, and inspire others through action.

The session is both a moment of recognition and an invitation to learn from these journeys and to carry their spirit forward.



EKAM Cultural Evening: “Rhythms of the Heartland”

EKAM opens with an evening that honours the cultural pulse of Eastern and Central India. This is not a prelude, but a foundation, recognising culture as the first language of resilience.

The evening brings together the art, music, food, craft, and storytelling traditions of the region, creating a shared space to reconnect with indigenous knowledge systems, seasonal rhythms, and collective memory. Through lived expressions of folklore, craft, and cuisine, participants are invited to experience how identity, ecology, and community have long been intertwined across the heartland.

Designed for informal interaction and reflection, the Cultural Evening sets the tone for EKAM - grounded, inclusive, and deeply rooted, allowing conversations to begin organically before formal dialogues unfold.



Day Two: Bridging Samvaad and Nirmaan: Conversations, Collaboration and Collective Action

Plenary Session 1: Journeys in Resilience - Voices from the Ground

This plenary brings together selected changemakers to share their journeys - the challenges they faced, the choices they made, and the lessons they learned along the way. Designed especially for a youth audience, the session foregrounds stories of courage, experimentation, and persistence.

The focus is not on success alone, but on process - how change unfolds on the ground, and how young people can find purpose and agency within their own contexts.

Plenary Session 2 : Resilience in Practice – From Local Action to Larger Change

Continuing the conversation, this session invites changemakers to reflect on what lies ahead - for their work, their communities, and the region at large. It opens up honest conversations around uncertainty, adaptation, and hope, encouraging young participants to think critically about their role in shaping resilient futures.

Together, the two plenaries aim to **inspire without idealising**, and to remind young audiences that meaningful change is built step by step, in conversation with people and place.

Thematic Dialogue Forums: Designing the Resilience Architecture

These parallel sessions explore how resilience is built across people, institutions, and economies, moving beyond silos to integrated, region-specific approaches.

Governed by the Ground – Building Community Led Resilience

This dialogue foregrounds community leadership as the backbone of regional resilience. From Panchayats and women's collectives to indigenous leaders and youth networks, the session examines how trust, participation, and lived experience can shape decision-making and strengthen governance. It explores how communities move from being beneficiaries of development to **co-creators of resilient futures**, and what it takes to strengthen governance systems that are responsive, inclusive, and rooted in place.



Systems that Sustain – Scalable Impact through Effective Governance

Focusing on villages, districts and cities as key action units, this session looks at how resilience can be embedded into everyday planning, across infrastructure, ecosystems, disaster preparedness, and development priorities. It highlights the importance of data, institutional capacity, and cross-sector convergence in translating regional realities into scalable action while remaining sensitive to local contexts and constraints.

Culture as Living Wisdom: Knowledge, Identity and Local Enterprise

This session positions culture not as heritage alone, but as living wisdom. Through stories of art forms, food traditions, folklore, and indigenous resource practices, including GI-tagged crafts and foods, it explores how cultural capital sustains local economies, preserves biodiversity, and anchors climate-resilient ways of life. The dialogue celebrates community custodianship as central to shaping place-based futures.

At its core, the session celebrates communities as custodians of knowledge, and culture as a foundation for place-based futures.

Innovation Rooted in Reality - Youth, Technology and Ground Up Solutions

Looking ahead, this session explores how data, AI, digital tools, and youth-led innovation can strengthen climate resilience across landscapes, whether through early warning systems, resource mapping, governance platforms, or storytelling tools. It focuses on how technology, when guided by context and community, can amplify impact rather than abstract it.

The session asks a critical question: **how can innovation remain grounded, accessible, and accountable to the people it aims to serve?**

Capital with Commitment: CSR, Philanthropy & Impact Capital for India's Heartland

This session explores how CSR, philanthropy, and impact capital can move beyond short-term projects to support long-term regional resilience—strengthening livelihoods, ecosystems, and community institutions through collaborative, committed partnerships. ✨



Closing: From Dialogue to Direction

Valedictory Session: “Collective Commitments - From Samvad to Shared Action”

EKAM concludes by bringing threads together - reflecting on shared insights, emerging priorities, and collective commitments. This closing synthesis captures how conversations translate into pathways, partnerships, and next steps, reinforcing EKAM’s purpose as an ongoing regional process rather than a one-time event.

The session also outlines what comes next: future editions of EKAM, sustained collaborations, and a growing ecosystem working together to strengthen resilience across India’s heartlands.

