

एकम dialogues
संवाद से निर्माण



**Building Regional Resilience for
India's Resource-Rich Heartlands**



AGENDA

8 - 9 April 2026 | Ranchi, Jharkhand





EKAM Dialogues: Snapshots

Day 1 | 8 April 2026 Anchors & Architects of Resilience - Vision & Voices of the Heartland

Day 1 of EKAM Dialogues sets the vision and philosophical foundation of the platform, positioning India's resource heartlands as leaders in shaping resilient and inclusive development pathways. The day begins with a high-level inaugural plenary that reframes resilience as an integrated agenda spanning livelihoods, governance, culture, and economic systems.

This is followed by the EKAM Samman, a powerful celebration of grassroots changemakers, bringing lived experiences and community-led innovations to the forefront. Together, these sessions establish both strategic direction and human stories that anchor the dialogues.

As the day progresses, the focus shifts from vision to experience through the EKAM Cultural Confluence—an immersive evening that brings resilience to life through art, craft, storytelling, and regional cuisines. Designed as a space for reflection and connection, it enables participants to engage with the cultural and ecological richness of the region in an experiential format.

Overall, Day 1 blends thought leadership with grassroots inspiration, setting the tone for deeper, action-oriented conversations.



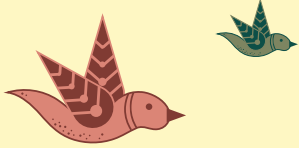
Day 2 | 9 April 2026

Bridging Samvaad and Nirmaan – Conversations, Collaboration and Collective Action

Day 2 moves from vision to action, focusing on translating dialogue into tangible pathways for resilience-building. It begins with a synthesis of key insights from Day 1, followed by plenary sessions that highlight grassroots journeys and explore how local innovations across sectors like climate, health, education, and livelihoods can scale into systemic change. These sessions create a bridge between lived experiences and broader development frameworks, grounding the day in both practice and possibility.

The core of Day 2 lies in the thematic dialogue forums - parallel, solution-oriented sessions that delve into governance, community-led resilience, culture, financing, transition pathways, and narrative building. Designed as collaborative platforms, these discussions bring together diverse stakeholders to exchange ideas, identify scalable models, and foster partnerships. The day concludes with a valedictory session that synthesizes key takeaways and outlines collective commitments, ensuring that the conversations evolve into sustained action and collaboration beyond these two days.





Session Details

Day 1

8 April 2026



Samvaad 1

Inaugural Plenary: Oneness in Action- Reimagining India's Resource Heartlands

Venue: GBR Hall, Ground Floor

Time: 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

The inaugural plenary sets the foundation for EKAM Dialogues by positioning India's resource heartlands - Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Bihar - as critical drivers of resilient and inclusive development. The session aims to reframe resilience as a cross-sectoral paradigm that integrates livelihoods, governance, culture, and economic systems. It will catalyse a shared vision for collaborative, community-led and future-ready pathways, while fostering alignment between policy, practice, and innovation to guide long-term regional transformation.



Shri Sanjay Seth
Hon'ble Minister of State for Defence
Government of India



A. K. Rastogi, IFS (Retd.)
Chairman - Just Transition
Government of Jharkhand



Jagadananda
Mentor & Co-Founder
CYSD, Odisha



Sanjeev Kumar, IFS
PCCF and HoFF
Government of Jharkhand



Ramapati Kumar
Chief Executive Officer
CEED



Arun Kumar Pandey, IFS
PCCF and CWLW
Government of Chhattisgarh



Sameer Shisodia
Chief Executive Officer
Rainmatter Foundation

Tea Break: 3:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Samvaad 2

Stewards of Resilience – Celebrating Community Wisdom and Action

Venue: GBR Hall, Ground Floor

Time: 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

This flagship recognition segment celebrates grassroots changemakers through EKAM Samman, highlighting how resilience is built through lived experiences, local leadership, and community innovation. The session aims to elevate stories of transformation rooted in indigenous knowledge, environmental stewardship, and social solidarity, inspiring replication and scaling of such initiatives across regions.

Through EKAM Samman, we celebrate these individuals not only for their achievements, but for the values they represent - care for the land, commitment to community, and the belief that meaningful change begins with local action. EKAM Samman brings these stories to the forefront - celebrating those whose work reflects courage, stewardship, and a deep commitment to people and place.

Architects of Change



Aparna Kumari

Renewable Energy Innovator | Founder, ARD Electricals | Leader, “Kumari Girls”
Jharkhand



Ashok Kumar Raut

Wetland Conservationist | Community Mobiliser
Odisha



Bhau Rao Godbole

Traditional Healer | Biodiversity Conservationist | Keeper of Indigenous Knowledge
Chhattisgarh



Damodar Kashyap

Community Leader | Forest Guardian | Advocate of Collective Stewardship
Chhattisgarh



Dr. Manoj Kumar

Teacher | Environmental Steward | Community Mobiliser
Jharkhand



Dropadi Devi

Women's Collective Leader | Agricultural Entrepreneur
Bihar



Francis Munda

Community Teacher | Grassroots Educator | Youth Leader
Jharkhand



Jhumuk Lal Merawi

Traditional Healer | Guardian of Medicinal Forest Knowledge
Chhattisgarh



Kalawati Didi (Kalawati Kashyap)

Community Leader | Champion of Women's Livelihoods | Guardian of Forest-Based Economies
Chhattisgarh



Lekesh Bai Jain

Progressive Farmer | Pioneer of Integrated Farming Systems | Champion of Climate-Resilient Agriculture
Chhattisgarh



Lokanath Nauri

Seed Conservator | Champion Farmer | Advocate for Indigenous Agriculture
Odisha



Mahadev Mahto

Teacher | Forest Guardian | Founder of the Vriksh Raksha Bandhan Movement
Jharkhand



Neelima Mishra

Urban Sustainability Leader | Founder, Ceiba Green Solutions
Odisha



Prabhat Kumar Mahato

Cultural Artist | Manbhum Chhau Performer | Keeper of Folk Traditions
Jharkhand



Prabhat Mishra

Social Thinker | Environmental Advocate | Champion of Community Stewardship
Chhattisgarh



Raimati Ghiuria

Farmer | Seed Conservator | Millet Champion
Odisha



Rajendra Baghel

Master Artisan | Keeper of the Dhokra Metal Tradition
Chhattisgarh



Ravi Kumar Singh

Rural Development Practitioner | Champion of Water Security & Community-Led Resilience
Chhattisgarh



Sangita Devi

Progressive Farmer | Agripreneur | Champion of Women's Livelihoods
Jharkhand



Sanjay Kacchap

Educator | Founder, Community Library Movement | "Library Man of Jharkhand"
Jharkhand



Shibani Padhy

Environmental Innovator | Youth Climate Leader | Founder, Project Dolphin
Odisha



Shyam Lal Rajwaade

Water Conservationist | "Pond Man" of Koriya | Champion of Community Resilience
Chhattisgarh



Subham Kumar

Environmental Activist | Founder, Being Helper Foundation | Youth Leader for River Conservation
Bihar



Surendra Prasad Singh

Teacher | Folk Voice for Forests | Community Conservation Advocate
Jharkhand



Tarun Kumar

Social Worker | Founder | Youth & Community Advocate
Jharkhand



Upendra Pandey & Satwinder 'Sona' Pandey

Social Entrepreneurs | Founders, Polythene Daan Abhiyaan | Champions of Circular Living
Jharkhand



Virendra Singh

Water Conservationist | Environmental Activist | Champion of Community-Led Restoration
Chhattisgarh



Punita Kumari

A renowned Sohrai artist, preserves and carries forward the region's tribal heritage through her work, and is the artist behind the design of the EKAM Samman award



Stewards of Resilience – Celebrating Community Wisdom and Action through EKAM Samman

Following the conferment of the EKAM Samman to the changemakers, the session will feature congratulatory remarks by Sanjeev Kumar, IFS, PCCF & HoFF, Government of Jharkhand, followed by closing reflections from Rajendra Singh, Founder - Tarun Bharat Sangha. The session will conclude with a vote of thanks by Arvind Kumar (CEED), acknowledging all delegates and participants.

Speakers



Rajendra Singh
'Water Man of India'
Founder, Tarun Bharat Sangh



Sanjeev Kumar, IFS
PCCF and HoFF
Government of Jharkhand



Dr. Arta Trana Mishra, IFS
PCCF & WLDB
Government of Jharkhand



Ravi Ranjan, IFS
PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW)
Government of Jharkhand



Shrishty Pallav
Director - Policy and Partnerships
CEED



Arvind K Thakur
Director - Research & Knowledge Management
CEED



EKAM Evening – The Cultural Confluence

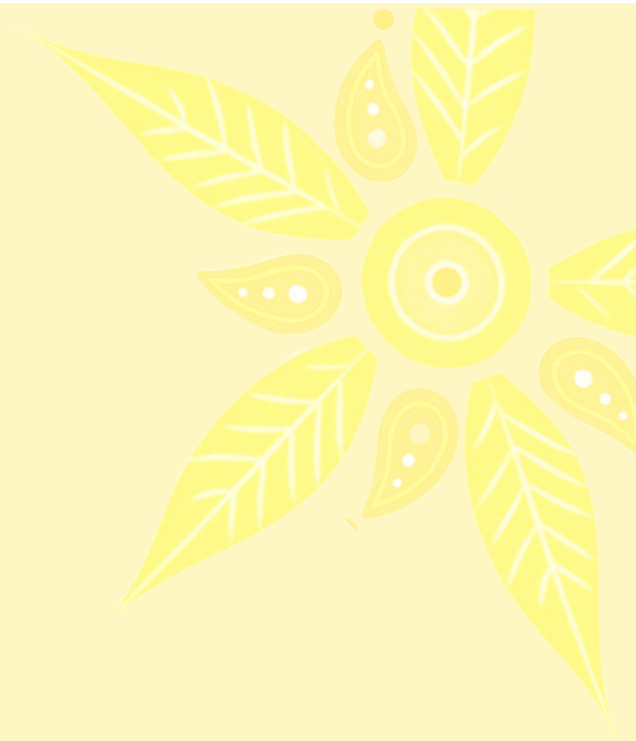
Venue: Aura, Pool Side

Time: 7:00 PM onwards

This immersive cultural experience and experiential setting celebrates resilience through art, craft, food and storytelling traditions of the region. Designed as a “living system,” it showcases how culture embodies ecological wisdom, sustainable practices, and identity, fostering a deeper emotional and experiential understanding of resilience.

The experience will be complemented by a specially curated dinner that showcases authentic local cuisines from Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Bihar. The culinary spread will celebrate the diversity of the region’s food traditions—rooted in local ingredients, seasonal practices, and indigenous knowledge systems—offering participants a taste of the heartland’s cultural richness while reinforcing the link between food, sustainability, and community resilience.





Session Details

Day 2

9 April 2026



Bridging Samvaad and Nirmaan – Conversations, Collaboration and Collective Action

Reflections & Framing the Day

Venue: GBR Hall, Ground Floor

Time: 9:30 AM – 10:00 AM

This session synthesizes key insights from Day 1 and sets the direction for action-oriented discussions. It aims to bridge a dialogue with implementation by aligning participants around key themes of resilience, collaboration, and systems transformation.



Arvind K Thakur

Director - Research & Knowledge Management
CEED



Samvaad 3

Journeys in Resilience – Voices from the Ground

Venue: GBR Hall, Ground Floor

Time: 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

This session spotlights grassroots changemakers driving climate resilience across the region. It brings forward how local innovation, traditional knowledge, and adaptive practices are strengthening ecosystems and livelihoods on the ground. Through a moderated dialogue, the session captures the journeys, insights, and lived experiences of changemakers who have sustained community action and experimentation in the climate space. It recognises and celebrates the contributions of farmers, conservationists, clean energy entrepreneurs, and environmental practitioners whose persistent efforts are shaping a more resilient and sustainable future for these four states.

Moderator



Johnson Topno
Executive Director
PHIA Foundation

Speakers



Aparna Kumari
Clean Energy Entrepreneur
Jharkhand



Lekesh Bai
Farmer and Organic Agriculture Practitioner
Chhattisgarh



Dr. Manoj Kumar
Environmentalism
Jharkhand



Amulya Pratap Lakra
Kisan Sathi Foundation
Odisha



Bhau Rao Godbole
Biodiversity Conservator
Chhattisgarh



Subham Kumar
River Conservator
Bihar

Tea Break: 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM



Samvaad 4

Resilience in Practice: From Local Action to Larger Change

Venue: GBR Hall, Ground Floor

Time: 12:00 PM – 1:15 PM

This session explores how localized efforts by changemakers are driving systemic transformation across sectors such as education, health, livelihoods, and social inclusion. Framed as a moderated conversation, it brings together diverse voices from across social sectors to unpack how community-led innovations evolve into scalable models for broader development impact. The discussion will highlight cross-sector learnings, interlinkages, and pathways for translating grassroots action into institutional change.

Moderator



Rekha Kumari
Member
Kaushalya Foundation

Speakers



Phoolbasan Bai Yadav
Social Worker, Padma Shri Awardee
Chhattisgarh



Rajkumari Devi
Farmer, Padma Shri Awardee
Bihar



Ranjan Kumar Panda
Co-Founder, Youth4Water
Odisha



Pankaj Roy
Agripreneur & Farmer Educator
Jharkhand



Dr. Mohammad Imran Ali
State Facilitator - NCNF
Odisha



Rambriksh Murmu
Mukhiya, Gomia
Jharkhand

Lunch Break: 1:15 PM - 2:15 PM

Thematic Dialogue Forums Block | Parallel Sessions

The thematic dialogue tracks under this block serves as the core technical and collaborative engine of EKAM Dialogues. These parallel sessions are designed to move beyond traditional silos, focusing on how resilience is built through an integrated, region-specific approach that connects people, institutions, and economies.

Samvaad 5

Systems that Sustain: Scalable Impact through Effective Governance

Venue: GBR Hall, Ground Floor

Time: 2:15 PM – 3:30 PM

This session examines how governance systems can embed resilience into planning, institutions, and public service delivery to enable scalable and sustained impact. It will spotlight institutional innovations, policy frameworks, and convergence models that are strengthening resilience across sectors. Designed as a cross-learning platform, the session will facilitate exchange of experiences and best practices from Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Bihar—highlighting what works, what can be adapted, and how state-led approaches can be strengthened through shared learning and collaboration.

Moderator



Jagadananda
Mentor & Co-Founder
CYSO, Odisha

Speakers



Dr. Arta Trana Mishra, IFS
PCCF & Executive Director WLDB
Government of Jharkhand



Ravi Ranjan, IFS
PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW)
Government of Jharkhand



Arun Kumar Pandey, IFS
PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW)
Government of Chhattisgarh



Dr. Aseem Prakash
Campus Director,
TISS - Hyderabad



Dr. Piyush Kant Pandey
Vice Chancellor
Amity University, Raipur



Samvaad 6

Governed by the Ground: Building Community Led Resilience

Venue: Aura, Pool Side

Time: 2:15 PM – 3:30 PM

This session explores how community institutions are at the forefront of building resilience through participatory governance, local planning, and stewardship of natural resources. It will highlight how panchayats, women's collectives, and grassroots networks are not just beneficiaries but active co-creators of development—shaping priorities, driving implementation, and ensuring accountability. The discussion will bring forward real-world models of community-led adaptation, showcasing how local knowledge, collective action, and inclusive decision-making can deliver sustainable and context-specific solutions. It will also examine pathways to strengthen these institutions and integrate community voices into formal governance systems.

Moderator



Richa Chaudhary

Programme Technical Advisor: Policy and Partnership
PHIA Foundation

Speakers



Budhri Tati

Tribal Social Reformer, Padma Shri Awardee
Chhattisgarh



Shelly Kerketta

GM - Minda Charitable Trust
Jharkhand



Anita Shil

Team Coordinator - PRADAN
Bihar



Sanjay Kacchap

Educator
Jharkhand



Bimal Lakra

Tribal Social Entrepreneur
Odisha



Gulab Chandra Prajapati

Director, Panch Sutra Foundation
Jharkhand



Francis Munda

Grassroots Social Worker
Jharkhand



Samvaad 7

Culture as Living Wisdom: Knowledge, Identity and Local Enterprise

Venue – Hibiscus, Business Center (BC) level

Time: 2:15 PM – 3:30 PM

This session positions culture as a living system of knowledge that underpins ecological balance, community identity, and sustainable livelihoods. It explores how traditional practices, indigenous knowledge systems, and cultural expressions are not only repositories of wisdom but also powerful drivers of local enterprise and economic resilience. The discussion will highlight pathways to preserve, revitalise, and integrate cultural assets into contemporary development models—enabling communities to build dignified livelihoods while safeguarding heritage. It will also examine how culture-led enterprises can be scaled, supported, and linked to wider markets without diluting authenticity.

Moderator



Ashish Satyavrat Sahu

Fashion Designer & Founder – Johargram

Speakers



Anup Ranjan Pandey

Cultural Artist, Padma Shri Awardee
Chhattisgarh



Lipsa Hambram

Tribal Fashion Entrepreneur
Odisha



Aruna Tirkey

Tribal Cuisine Researcher
Jharkhand



Avinash Karn

Madhubani Painting Artist
Bihar



Gourav Anand

Sustainability Entrepreneur
Jharkhand



Manoj Konbegi

Archery Coach
Jharkhand



Amitava Ghosh

Founder and President - Kalamandir
Jharkhand

Tea Break: 3:30 PM - 3:45 PM

Samvaad 8

People Centric Transition Pathways: Powering a Resilient and Low-Carbon Heartland

Venue: Aura, Pool side, Fitness Center (FC) Level

Time: 3:45 PM – 5:15 PM

This session explores pathways for a just and people-centric transition in resource-dependent states of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha & Bihar, where the shift toward low-carbon development must be balanced with economic security, livelihoods, and regional equity. It will examine how decarbonisation can be aligned with growth by advancing renewable energy, green industrialisation, sustainable mobility, and diversified local economies. The discussion will also highlight the role of data, technology, and forward-looking planning in enabling resilient energy systems and climate-informed decision-making. With a strong focus on implementation, the session aims to identify actionable strategies that ensure the transition is inclusive, locally grounded, and scalable across the heartland.

Moderator



Tirthankar Mandal
Associate Director - Energy
WRI India

Speakers



Ashwani Ashok
Director - Just Transition
CEED



Vivek Chandran
Founding Partner and Executive Director
Sustainable Solutions for Living (SoSuL)



Subhendu Goswami
AVP - Business Development
Husk Power Systems



Abhishek Anand
Scientist 'D'
IMD, Ranchi



Nivit Kumar Yadav
Programme Director
Centre for Science and Environment



Mayuree Bankar
Associate Practitioner
TRI



Puneet Khandelwal
Programme Head - Utilities & Finance
WRI India



Samvaad 9

Aligning Finance with the Future: Pathways for Resilient Development

Venue: Hibiscus, Business Center (BC) level

Time: 3:45 PM – 5:15 PM

This session explores how evolving finance systems are shaping pathways for resilience and low-carbon development across India's resource heartlands. Moving beyond conventional funding approaches, it will examine how governments are integrating sustainability and equity into fiscal planning through tools such as climate-informed budgeting and inclusive financial frameworks. At its core, the discussion will focus on how innovative and forward-looking financial approaches can enable livelihood diversification, ecosystem restoration, and community resilience. It will also explore how state-level financial planning can be better aligned with local realities, data-driven insights, and scalable outcomes—ensuring that investments are not only efficient, but also inclusive and transformative for the region's future.

Moderator



Pamli Deka

Programme Head - Energy Transition Finance
WRI India

Speakers



Shrishty Pallav

Director - Policy and Partnerships
CEED



Sameer Shisodia

Chief Executive Officer
Rainmatter Foundation



Labanya Prakash Jena, CFA,

Director, Climate and Sustainability
Initiative (CSI)



Dr. Harishwar Dayal

Associate Professor (Economics)
St. Xavier's College, Ranchi



Gaurav Upadhyay

Energy Finance Specialist
IEEFA, India



Samvaad 10

Shaping the Narrative: Media, Storytelling & Public Perception

Venue: GBR, Ground Floor

Time: 3:45 PM – 5:15 PM

This session examines the critical role of media and storytelling in shaping how resilience is understood, communicated, and acted upon. It will explore how narratives influence public perception, policy priorities, and collective action—particularly in the context of underrepresented regions like India’s resource heartlands. The discussion will focus on building authentic, ground-up narratives that move beyond deficit framing to highlight solutions, local voices, and lived realities. It will also unpack the role of digital media, journalism, and creative storytelling in amplifying impact and driving behaviour change.

Moderator



Prachur Goel
Co-founder & CEO
Momentum Shifts

Speakers



Dr. Himanshu Dwivedi
Editor-in-Chief, Haribhoomi Group
Chhattisgarh



Antara Bose
Founder - The Viral Company
Jharkhand



Aditi Agrawal
Lead- Narrative Building
Dasra, Mumbai



Munna Jha
Director - State Climate Action
ASAR, Jharkhand



Anuj Das
Climate & Environmental Journalist
Odisha



Shambhu Nath Chaudhary
President - Ranchi Press Club
Jharkhand



Samvaad 11

Valedictory Session

Collective Commitments: From Samvaad to Shared Action

Venue: GBR Hall, Ground Floor

Time: 5:30 PM – 6:15 PM

The closing session synthesizes key insights emerging from the dialogues and identifies collective priorities for advancing resilience across India's resource heartlands. Leaders and participants will reflect on the most important ideas and partnerships that emerged over the two days and outline concrete next steps for collaboration, including knowledge sharing platforms, policy engagement, and regional partnerships.



Smt. Roshni Khalkho
Hon'ble Mayor
Ranchi Municipal Corporation



Shrishty Pallav
Director - Policy and Partnerships
CEED



Usha Vishwakarma
Founder - Red Brigade
Lucknow



Dr. Devyani Sharma
Associate Director - Climate
CEED

High Tea: 6:15 PM onwards



