



Time	Subject	Speaker
13:15-13:20	Introduction to the Theme of Program	Dr. J.V. Sharma, Senior Director, TERI
13:20-13:30	India's Approach towards Ecorestoration and Halting Land Degradation	Shri Ramesh Kumar Pandey, ADGF Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India
13:30-13:40	Aravalli Green Wall Project: Convergence for Conservation	Shri R Raghu Prasad, IGF Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India
13:40-13:50	Initiatives of Rajasthan State: From Policy to Action	Smt. Shikha Mehra, PCCF Development, Rajasthan Forest Department, Government of Rajasthan
13:50-13:58	Community based conservation approaches for livelihoods and landscape restoration	Dr. Dipankar Saharia, Senior Director, TERI
13:58-14:06	Landscape Restoration in India: Approach of RECAP4NDC Project	Shri Kundan Burnwal, Deputy Project Director, RECAP4NDC Project
14:06-14:14	Technology and Tools Aiding Aravalli Green Wall Project	Shri Aniruddh Soni, Fellow, TERI
14:14-14:28	Q&A session	
14:28-14:30	Vote of Thanks	Shri Aniruddh Soni, Fellow, TERI



## UN FORUM ON FORESTS - 21st Session SIDE EVENT

RESTORE LANDSCAPES	SECURE WATER	EMPOWER COMMUNITIES	BUILD CLIMATE RESILIENCE
--------------------	--------------	---------------------	--------------------------

### Aravalli Green Wall Initiative: India's Landscape Ecological Restoration Programme for Climate Resilience and Inclusive Growth

**Organisers**  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,  
Government of India  
and  
The Energy and Resources Institute, New Delhi, India



TOGETHER, LET'S BUILD A RESILIENT FUTURE THROUGH RESTORED LANDSCAPES, STRONGER COMMUNITIES AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH.



May 15, 2026, Friday, 1315 - 1430 hrs (GMT - 4 hrs)  
Venue: Conference Room No. 8, UN Headquarters, New York, USA

For any queries, please contact:  
The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)  
Tel: +91-11-2468 2100 | Email: info@teri.res.in | Website: www.teriin.org

#### OBJECTIVES OF THE SIDE EVENT

This side event aims to position the Aravalli Green Wall as a replicable integrated model of forest landscape restoration at the dryland-urban interface. The session will:

##### Showcase a Scalable Restoration Model for Semi-Arid Landscapes:

Present how the Aravalli Green Wall integrates ecological restoration, water security, urban resilience, and community participation across four states; offering a replicable approach for regions facing desertification and climate stress.

##### Demonstrate Innovative Public-Market Financing Mechanisms:

Highlight how convergence of public schemes, blended finance, and the Green Credit framework are mobilising private and community participation while ensuring ecological integrity.

##### Explore Governance Models for Landscape-Scale Convergence:

Examine how multi-tier coordination and inter-ministerial collaboration enable accountable, measurable restoration at scale.

## Speakers



### Shri Ramesh Kumar Pandey, Additional Director General of Forests, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India

He has around 30 years of experience in the fields of policy making, forest management, wildlife conservation, protected area management, and environmental governance. He is currently serving as Additional Director General of Forests & Director, Wildlife Preservation in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India.



### Shri R Raghu Prasad, Inspector General of Forests, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India

He is the national focal point to UNFF from India. He has more than 25 years of experience in the field of environmental management and conservation. He is responsible for overseeing the implementation of various environmental laws and policies in the country.



### Smt. Shikha Mehra, PCCF Development, Rajasthan Forest Department, Government of Rajasthan

She has held several senior leadership roles within the department, including assignments related to forest conservation, regulatory oversight, and wildlife administration. In her present role, she leads forest development initiatives, oversees externally aided forestry programmes and supports institutional strengthening for sustainable forest management across Rajasthan.



### Dr. Jitendra Vir Sharma, Senior Director, Land Resources Division, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi, India

He is a retired officer of Indian Forest Service with more than 40 years of experience of forest management, climate change and policy making.



### Dr. Dipankar Saharia, Senior Director, Social Transformation and Strategic Alliances, TERI, New Delhi, India

He has been formerly a member of the Assam Civil Services and has around 30 years of experience. His expertise lies in the areas of biotechnology, natural resource management and rural development.



### Mr. Aniruddh Soni, Fellow, Land Resources Division, TERI

He is a sustainability professional with nine years of experience. He has worked on diverse projects related to natural resources management, climate change, forest carbon finance, land restoration, sustainable development, ecosystem services valuation and monitoring and evaluation.



### Mr. Kundan Burnwal, Deputy Project Director, RECAPANDC Project

Kundan Burnwal is a seasoned climate change mitigation and climate policy professional with over 18 years of experience in the development, implementation, and evaluation of projects related to forestry, climate change, carbon markets, MRV (Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification), and sustainability. He currently serves as a Senior Advisor at GIZ (German Development Cooperation) India, where he leads initiatives focused on carbon markets, climate change mitigation, and forestry.

## ABOUT ARAVALLI GREEN WALL INITIATIVE

The Aravalli Range is one of the world's oldest mountain systems and among India's most ecologically significant dryland landscapes. Extending approximately 692 km across Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana and the National Capital Territory of Delhi, the Aravallis form a critical ecological barrier against desertification, support groundwater recharge, regulate microclimates, and sustain biodiversity in north-western India.

Like many dryland forest systems globally, the Aravallis is facing continuous pressures from land degradation, rapid urbanization, fragmentation, unsustainable extraction, and climate variability. These challenges threaten ecosystem services essential for water security, soil stability, biodiversity conservation, and human well-being, particularly in densely populated peri-urban and semi-arid regions. The Aravalli has been identified as one of the key priority zones to be taken up for greening under India's target to restore 26 million hectares (mha) of its land.

A Detailed Action Plan on Aravalli Landscape Restoration was unveiled by the Honorable Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shri Bhupender Yadav in May 2025.

## ARAVALLI GREEN WALL (AGW) INITIATIVE

India has launched the Aravalli Green Wall (AGW) Initiative, a landscape-based restoration initiative covering nearly 6 million hectares within a 5 km buffer zone across four states. AGW adopts a science-based, multi-sectoral approach to restore degraded forest and non-forest lands, strengthen climate resilience, and promote inclusive green growth.

## ROLE OF CENTRE AND STATES - A COLLABORATIVE MECHANISM

CENTRE	STATES	JOINT MECHANISM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy &amp; Guidelines</li> <li>Funding &amp; Schemes</li> <li>Technical Support</li> <li>Monitoring &amp; Evaluation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning &amp; Implementation</li> <li>Convergence of Schemes</li> <li>Capacity Building</li> <li>State-level Monitoring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aravalli Coordination Committees</li> <li>Knowledge Sharing</li> <li>Resource Convergence</li> <li>Outcome Tracking</li> </ul>



Access Detailed Action Plan for Aravalli Landscape Restoration

## OBJECTIVES AND SALIENT FEATURES ARAVALLI GREEN WALL

- Improve ecological health of the Aravalli range
- Enhance carbon sequestration, biodiversity, and ecosystem services using native species
- Improve wildlife habitat and water quality and availability
- Promote sustainable livelihoods via afforestation, agroforestry, and community participation
- Enable multi-stakeholder implementation with strong coordination and resources
- Contribute to global commitments (UNCCD, CBD, UNFCCC) and strengthen India's environmental leadership
- Ecological restoration focus
- Science-based planning
- Multi-tier governance & convergence
- Blended finance model
- Community engagement & inclusion
- Mass public participation
- Climate resilience contribution

692 km	~6 million ha	4 States	2.61 billion+
Length of the Aravalli Range	Landscape under AGW Initiative	Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi	Saplings mobilised under Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam

Desertification/ Land Degradation Status Map of Aravalli Region (2011-13)

