



iFOREST

INTERNATIONAL
FORUM
FOR ENVIRONMENT,
SUSTAINABILITY
& TECHNOLOGY

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

STATE TRANSFORMATION COMMISSION,
GOVERNMENT OF UTTAR PRADESH

AND

INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR ENVIRONMENT,
SUSTAINABILITY AND TECHNOLOGY
(iFOREST)

ON

RESEARCH, KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT, CAPACITY
BUILDING AND IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT FOR BUILDING
A SUSTAINABLE AND CLIMATE RESILIENT
UTTAR PRADESH

This Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as "MoU") is made on this **07th day of August, 2026** by and between:

State Transformation Commission, Government of Uttar Pradesh (hereinafter referred to as the "STC"), having its office at Yojana Bhawan, Uttar Pradesh Secretariat, Lucknow-226001, (which expression shall unless excluded by or repugnant to the context be deemed to include its successors and assigns) hereinafter referred to as the First Party.

AND

International Forum for Environment, Sustainability and Technology (hereinafter referred to as "iFOREST") having its head office at C-902, 9th Floor, Urbtech Trade Centre, Noida Expressway, Sector-132, Noida-201304, Uttar Pradesh, (which expression shall unless excluded by or repugnant to the context be deemed to include its successors and assigns) hereinafter referred to as the Second Party.

1. BACKGROUND

The State Transformation Commission (STC), Government of Uttar Pradesh, serves as the strategic think tank and delivery support unit of the Government of Uttar Pradesh, driving outcome-based governance to accelerate inclusive, sustainable and resilient development across the State. The Commission supports Government departments through evidence-based policy inputs, outcome monitoring frameworks, inter-departmental convergence, structured review mechanisms and implementation enablement, with a focus on translating the State's long-term development vision into measurable outcomes at the State and district levels.

The International Forum for Environment, Sustainability and Technology (iFOREST) is an independent, not-for-profit research and innovation organisation established in 2019 to identify, promote and scale up solutions to pressing environmental and development challenges in India and other developing countries. Through interdisciplinary research, policy advisory, institutional capacity building and implementation support, iFOREST partners with national and State Governments to develop policies, implementation frameworks and investment roadmaps that accelerate low-carbon, climate-resilient and inclusive development while translating policy ambition into measurable outcomes.

In Uttar Pradesh, iFOREST has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Directorate of Environment, Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of Uttar Pradesh, in 2025 to provide technical support on knowledge generation, capacity building and implementation for air pollution management and climate action.

Going forward, as Uttar Pradesh advances towards its vision of becoming a USD 1 trillion economy, there is a growing need to ensure that economic growth is accompanied by environmental sustainability, climate resilience, resource efficiency and green industrial competitiveness. Achieving this transition requires integrated planning, cross-sectoral coordination, institutional innovation and implementation-focused technical support that brings together government, industry, academia and development partners.



2. PURPOSE OF MoU

The STC and iFOREST recognise the importance of adopting integrated, evidence-based and implementation-oriented approaches to enable Uttar Pradesh to achieve rapid economic growth while strengthening environmental sustainability, climate resilience and resource efficiency. In pursuit of the State's long-term development vision, the Parties agree to establish a framework for technical cooperation to support the design, implementation and scaling up of transformative initiatives across priority sectors.

Under this MoU, the Parties shall collaborate on research, policy advisory, strategic planning, implementation support, institutional strengthening, capacity building, knowledge generation, stakeholder engagement, pilot initiatives and other mutually agreed activities that contribute to the sustainable and inclusive development of the State.

The collaboration shall be guided by the following strategic pillars:

- **Greening Industry** – Advancing industrial decarbonisation, renewable energy adoption, resource efficiency, pollution abatement and green investments.
- **Sustainable Rural Economy** – Building a sustainable rural economy by promoting sustainable agriculture, including agro-ecological practices, sustainable utilisation of residual biomass, agrivoltaics, village sustainability, and climate finance for resilient rural development.
- **Climate-Resilient Cities** – Strengthening urban climate resilience, promoting sustainable heating and cooling solutions, and advancing urban environmental management.
- **Green Growth and Jobs** – Advancing green growth and employment, including green cover, abating pollution, promoting solid waste management, biodiversity, green energy, circular economy, and green skilling and entrepreneurship programmes.

The Parties shall jointly identify priority projects under these strategic pillars and prepare work plans outlining the specific activities, deliverables, implementation arrangements and responsibilities of each Party.

This MoU provides a flexible institutional framework that enables continued collaboration in response to the evolving development priorities of the Government of Uttar Pradesh and supports the State's transition towards a sustainable, climate-resilient and globally competitive economy.

3. ROLE OF PARTIES

3.1. Role of iFOREST

iFOREST shall provide support for the following initiatives:

- Develop a state-wide biomass economy to eliminate crop residue burning while creating rural livelihoods and clean energy value chains, and to promote biomass-based energy and nutrient recycling, including the restoration of soil organic carbon.
- Accelerate industrial decarbonisation through cleaner, energy-efficient and electrified process heat systems.
- Promote the adoption of industrial heat pumps to reduce fossil fuel dependence and enhance industrial competitiveness.



- Facilitate renewable energy adoption across industrial, commercial and rural consumers through policy, market development and implementation support.
- Develop policy and renewable energy adoption for upcoming sectors such as data centres, AI and others.
- Develop climate-resilient cities through integrated heat management, sustainable cooling and resilient urban planning.
- Assess the potential for agrivoltaics across priority geographies and develop implementation pathways to enhance farm incomes, agricultural productivity and renewable energy generation.
- Strengthen urban solid waste and wastewater management through improved planning, monitoring, resource recovery and service delivery.
- Promote the reuse of treated wastewater to improve water security and support sustainable industrial, agricultural and urban development.
- Advance clean air governance through evidence-based planning, institutional strengthening and implementation support.
- Promote circular economy approaches, including sustainable plastics, bioplastics, resource recovery, recycling systems and end-of-life vehicle management (vehicle scrappage).
- Support village sustainability through integrated natural resource management, agro-ecological practices, renewable energy adoption, clean cooking, soil carbon enhancement, climate finance and other climate-positive development initiatives.
- Enhance green cover, protect biodiversity and strengthen conservation efforts.
- Support the development of green skilling, employment and entrepreneurship programmes.
- Undertake any other mutually agreed initiatives aligned with the objectives of this MoU.

The above initiatives may be supported through one or more of the following activities:

- Evidence generation, policy research and knowledge creation.
- Strategic advisory and policy support.
- Technical studies, surveys, assessments and roadmap development.
- Programme design, implementation planning and technical assistance.
- Institutional strengthening and governance support.
- Capacity building, training and knowledge exchange.
- Pilot projects, demonstration initiatives and innovation support.
- Stakeholder engagement, partnerships and investment facilitation.
- Monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment.

3.2. Role of the State Transformation Commission

- Identify strategic priorities for collaboration and jointly finalise the work plan with iFOREST.
- Jointly undertake studies, policy research, pilot projects, training, conferences, workshops, etc.
- Facilitate coordination and convergence among relevant Government departments, agencies, institutions and other stakeholders for the effective implementation of activities undertaken under this MoU.
- Nominate a Nodal Officer to coordinate the implementation of the MoU and facilitate engagement between iFOREST and the concerned departments and agencies.
- Facilitate access to relevant data, information and Government stakeholders, subject to applicable laws, regulations and Government procedures.




- Provide strategic guidance and periodically review the progress of activities undertaken under this MoU to ensure alignment with the State's development priorities.
- Facilitate the dissemination, adoption and mainstreaming of the knowledge products, policy recommendations, implementation frameworks and other outputs developed under this MoU, wherever considered appropriate.
- Encourage participation of relevant Government departments, local bodies, academic institutions, industry and development partners in activities undertaken under this MoU, as appropriate.
- Designate additional departments, agencies or institutions of the Government of Uttar Pradesh to participate in the collaboration, as may be required from time to time.

3.3. Additional responsibilities

- Annual Work Plan: The State Transformation Commission and iFOREST shall jointly prepare an Annual Work Plan outlining the priority initiatives, activities, deliverables, timelines and implementation arrangements under this MoU. The Work Plan may be revised from time to time by mutual agreement.
- Information Sharing: The Parties shall facilitate the exchange of relevant information, data and knowledge, subject to applicable laws, regulations and confidentiality requirements, to support activities undertaken under this MoU.
- Nodal Officer: Each Party shall designate a Nodal Officer to coordinate implementation of the MoU, facilitate communication, and support effective coordination among the concerned departments and stakeholders.
- Review Meetings: The Parties shall hold periodic review meetings to assess progress, provide strategic guidance, identify emerging priorities, and review the implementation of activities undertaken under this MoU.

4. LANGUAGE

All correspondence, documents, reports, knowledge products, meetings, workshops and other activities undertaken pursuant to this MoU shall be conducted in English and/or Hindi, as may be mutually agreed by the Parties.

5. FUNDING, ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMPLIANCE

- 5.1. This MoU is intended to provide a framework for collaboration and does not create any legally binding or enforceable financial or contractual obligations for either Party.
- 5.2. Unless otherwise mutually agreed in writing, each Party shall bear its own costs and expenses arising from activities undertaken pursuant to this MoU. The State Transformation Commission shall have no financial obligation under this MoU.
- 5.3. Funding for projects under this MoU may be secured through one or more of the following modes:
 - iFOREST may undertake projects under this MoU using its own institutional resources or through funds raised from other sources.
 - Subject to mutual agreement and the availability of resources, the STC may provide resources to iFOREST on a nomination basis.

- iFOREST may also apply for STC projects through a competitive process.
- iFOREST and the STC may jointly raise funds for specific projects.
- Any other means mutually agreed upon by the Parties.

5.4. The Parties shall implement this MoU in accordance with the applicable laws, rules, regulations and policies of the Government of Uttar Pradesh, as well as with their respective institutional guidelines.

5.5. Any financial assistance or external funding mobilised by iFOREST for activities under this MoU shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations of the Government of India, including the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999, and any other applicable statutory requirements.

6. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION AND COPYRIGHT

6.1. Any idea, innovation, knowledge, data, training material or documentation arising out of this collaboration shall be the intellectual property of the State Transformation Commission, Government of Uttar Pradesh.

6.2. Neither Party shall disclose confidential information of the other Party to any person or any external institution or use such confidential information for its own purpose at any time without the written consent of the involved Party.

6.3. The organisation or any of its representatives or any other partner contracted by it will not publish or use the related data/report (intellectual property) without the permission of the State Transformation Commission, Government of Uttar Pradesh, nor will it be shared with any other organisation. Further, the organisation shall not undertake any activity that may lead to the misuse of the data/report (intellectual property) received from the First Party in any form.

7. FORCE MAJEURE

Neither Party shall be liable for any failure to perform its obligations under this MoU where such failure results from an Act of God or any other event constituting force majeure.

8. DURATION AND TERMINATION

8.1. This MoU shall come into effect on the date of its execution by the Parties and shall remain valid for an initial period of three years, to be further renewed annual for another two years.

8.2. The activities undertaken under this MoU shall be reviewed periodically by the Parties.

8.3. Either Party may terminate this MoU by giving thirty (30) days' prior written notice to the other Party. Upon termination, the Parties shall endeavour to ensure an orderly conclusion of all ongoing mutually agreed activities.

9. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

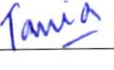
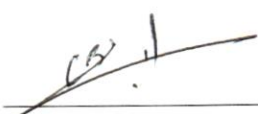
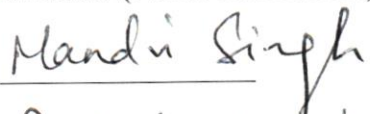
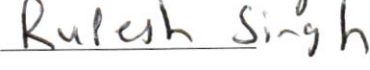
The Parties agree that, in the event of any dispute or difference arising out of or relating to this MoU or the interpretation of any of its provisions, they shall endeavour to resolve such dispute amicably through mutual consultation and discussion within thirty (30) days of the dispute arising.

If the dispute remains unresolved, the matter shall be referred to the competent courts having jurisdiction in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, and each Party shall bear its own costs.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned being duly authorised by their respective institutions have signed this MoU.

For and on behalf of the CEO, STC GoUP

**For and on behalf of the CEO & President,
iFOREST**

 Name: Manoj Kumar Singh Designation: Chief Executive Officer (मनोज कुमार सिंह) मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी, स्टेट ट्रांसफार्मेशन कमीशन उत्तर प्रदेश। Place: Lucknow Date: August 7, 2026 Seal: _____ Witnesses: (Name & Address) 1.  2.  Date: 07/08/2026	 Name: Chandra Bhushan Designation: CEO and President Place: Lucknow Date: August 7, 2026 Seal: _____ Witnesses: (Name & Address) 1.  2.  Date: August 7, 2026
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