

Odisha Vikash Conclave 2025

Pathways to Climate-Resilient and People-Centric Development

26th & 27th November 2025

Bhubaneswar

1. Introduction: The Imperative for a New Development Paradigm

As Odisha approaches its centenary in 2036, it stands at a critical crossroads -where ecological integrity, social justice, and economic ambition must converge through a place- based approach considering diverse coastal, tribal and agrarian geographies.

The state's diverse landscapes, from coasts to forested highlands, are vital ecosystems supporting millions of livelihoods. However, these systems are under significant pressure from climate extremes, degradation, and extractive development models.

The Odisha Vikas Conclave (OVC) 2025 is designed to catalyze a new development paradigm. It frames “Balanced Development and Climate Resilience” as the central organizing challenge. The Conclave will foreground the interdependence between forest and coastal restoration, community stewardship, and resilient local economies, exploring how just transitions can protect both people and nature.

2. The Purpose: A Resilient, Equitable, and Regenerative Odisha

OVC 2025 envisions Odisha as a leading climate-resilient state that champions a regenerative future. This vision is founded on the ethos of inclusive development, where governance is people-centred, markets are just, and progress strengthens the living fabric of nature. Key elements of this image include:

- **Restoring and conserving** forests, wetlands, and coastal ecosystems to serve as natural buffers and critical to both climate adaptation and mitigation strategies.
- **Ensuring just transition to climate-resilient economies** built on green skills, local production-consumption loops, and equitable market access.
- **Ensuring technology and data** are used to empower communities, not marginalize them.
- **Anchoring policy** in area-based planning, indigenous knowledge, and adaptive governance structures.

3. Strategic Pillars

The conclave's agenda is structured around five interconnected thematic anchors designed to translate this vision into actionable pathways.

a. Ecosystems Protection & Restoration

This pillar focuses on integrated management of Odisha's natural resource. Key areas include landscape and seascape-based planning, community-led stewardship for mangrove and forest restoration, and linking biodiversity conservation with livelihoods through a suit of initiatives. It also emphasizes that area-based planning is anchored in local food systems rooted in agroecology, indigenous knowledge and local priorities.

b. Climate-Resilient Economies & Livelihoods

This pillar aims to build economic models that are both sustainable and equitable. It will explore green and circular economies that retain value within local communities, the creation of green jobs for youth and women, and the development of adaptive social protection systems for informal and migrant workers. The dialogue will also cover market reforms and innovative financing mechanisms like green bonds and blended finance to align growth with resilience. Odisha being a mining dominated economy, deliberations of just transitions is imperative for thinking about resilient economic mechanisms.

c. Knowledge and Technology for locally-led Innovation and action

This pillar addresses the role of knowledge and technology as democratizing agents for climate action. Discussions will centre on creating public goods that facilitate decentralised planning, responsiveness in governance, lateral communications, effective feed-back loops among different system actors (local communities, market actors, government and civil society) and decision support systems for swift delivery of policy and programmatic action. The goal is to strengthen the pipeline from research to policy and from data to action for more effective and responsive governance.

d. Civic Action & Decentralized Governance

This new pillar focuses on empowering communities as central actors in building a resilient Odisha. It underscores the importance of **decentralized governance** and strengthening local self-institutions and block level coordination apparatus to lead climate action. The discussions will explore pathways for improving citizen-led governance, deepening community stewardship of natural resources, and ensuring effective multi-actor coordination processes for place based and contextually relevant actions.

e. Addressing Vulnerability Multipliers

This pillar tackles the interconnected, cross-cutting issues that amplify vulnerability across the state. The focus is on developing integrated strategies to address systemic challenges such as **disasters, migration, nutrition, and rapid urbanization**. This includes designing adaptive and shock-responsive social protection systems that are

portable for migrant workers and reinforcing nutritional security through climate-resilient food systems.

4. Conclave Approach

OVC 2025 will champion a **regime shift** from reactive, fragmented responses to proactive, integrated systems thinking. To achieve this, the conclave will convene a diverse coalition of stakeholders, ensuring that collective wisdom spanning the **state, market, and people** drives the next generation of policies and partnerships. This inclusive gathering will feature:

- **Grassroots champions** including farmers, fishers, and tribal forest stewards.
- **Civil society organisations**, media actors and women leaders
- **Market and private sector** actors
- **Youths and adolescent**
- **Political and policy leadership** committed to reimagining Odisha's climate governance.
- **Academics and young and early career researchers**

5. Expected Outcomes

The conclave is designed to produce tangible and lasting outcomes that will guide Odisha's journey toward a resilient future. The key deliverables include:

- An **Odisha Climate & Development policy brief** with actionable commitments on ecosystem restoration, livelihood resilience, and digital integration.
- The formation of an **Odisha Climate Action Practitioners' Collective (OCAPC)** to sustain collaborative innovation and provide ongoing policy feedback.
- A **Knowledge Compendium** showcasing scalable models for forest-coastal restoration and climate-resilient livelihoods.
- A **comprehensive policy pitch on liveability space** that provides for climate adaptation, urban and rural resilience, social justice, and human well-being.

OVC 2025 is more than a dialogue; it is a convergence of **ecology, economy, and emotion**, guided by collective wisdom. It is an invitation to Odisha's thinkers, doers, and dreamers to collaboratively build a regenerative development model, where every restored ecosystem, every dignified livelihood, and every informed citizen is a cornerstone of Odisha's resilient century.
