



Editor's Note

January's chill factor did not impede the frenetic activity at The Infravision Foundation. A roundtable on agri exports, the first initiative by CAIRA; a report on high speed rail; and plans to present the findings of the report on CAMPA to key institutional heads. TIF hopes to continue as it began.

WORKSHOP ON **TREES OUTSIDE FORESTS >>**


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Workshop on Trees Outside Forests

Targeted policy interventions, standardized certification processes, market development strategies, and collaborative frameworks designed to overcome critical barriers and establish Trees Outside Forests (TOF) products as a foundation for sustainable and climate-resilient construction practices in India. These were among the key recommendations of a project where The Infravision Foundation (TIF) collaborated with the Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF) to support one of the major objectives of the Trees Outside Forests in India (TOFI) programme. TOFI is a joint initiative of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Ministry of Environment,

Forests, and Climate Change (MoEFCC), that aims to expand the area under trees outside forest while enhancing livelihoods and ecosystem services in seven Indian states. TIF's role is to promote the integration of wood-based materials sourced from TOF into construction projects across public and private sectors. A key element of this effort has been extensive stakeholder engagement, including a Consultation Workshop held on December 16, 2024, at the India International Centre, New Delhi, where leading stakeholders and industry experts convened to deliberate on policy reforms, technical innovations, and market strategies for mainstreaming TOF products, while refining a draft advisory for MoEFCC.



TIF will be organising a high-level roundtable on a topic of national importance, Boosting India's Agri Exports by Transforming Infra, under the aegis of its new initiative, the Centre for Agri Infrastructure Research and Action (CAIRA). The roundtable will be attended by key stakeholders in the agri infra space, among them Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Dr Subrata Gupta; DG, Directorate General of Foreign Trade Santosh Sarangi; and Country Chairman SATS India Siraj Chaudhry. Siraj Hussain, chairman of CAIRA's governing council, will be presenting a paper highlighting the urgent need for improved infrastructure to support global supply chains originating in India. The event will take place at the India Habitat Centre on January 18, 2025.

Welcome Aboard



TIF welcomes **Khurshed Daruvala** as Founding Patron. Daruvala is MD. Sterling and Wilson, which has gone from being an electrical contractor in the 80s to being the subcontinent's largest MEP (Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing) and Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) business. As a Founding Patron, Daruvala also joins the Council of Advisers.



TIF welcomes **Cyril Shroff** as a member of its Council of Advisers. Shroff has been Managing Partner of Cyril Amarchand Mangaldass since 2015, and has 43 years of experience in a range of areas, including corporate and securities law, disputes and bankruptcy.

InfraKatha #8: Can Public Private Partnerships in Infra Be Revitalised?

The eighth edition of InfraKatha, in partnership with India Habitat Centre, was an insightful discussion between **Montek Singh Ahluwalia** and TIF Founder Vinayak Chatterjee on whether Public Private Partnerships (PPP) can be revitalised. As former Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission Montek Singh Ahluwalia said, the government has to invest in health, education and research, plus defence. So it has limits on fiscal capabilities. There are areas which are crying out for privatisation like Railways which clearly needs a review. "Each ministry should be asked for its privatisation plan," he said, adding that India



faces a problem of stigmatised capital in the words of former Chief Economic Adviser Arvind Subramanian. Ahluwalia also noted that the environmental clearance of projects is a mess. Add to that, he said, foreign investors have no assurance that agreements will be respected. While Chatterjee gave the audience a quick history of PPP in infrastructure development in India, Ahluwalia provided insight into how the political perception of PPP has evolved.

You can see it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ukODX0IIH7o>



TIF@Media

TIF has undertaken a research study, in collaboration with TERI, on the subject of Compensatory Afforestation. The study was undertaken to understand existing policies. Founder and Managing Trustee Vinayak Chatterjee wrote at length in Business Standard on how the implementation has been poor and patchy and needs significant overhauling so that India's robust development agenda is not pitted against serious environmental degradation.

Business Standard NEW DELHI | FRIDAY, 20 DECEMBER 2024

Forests await better compensation

A National Green Tribunal (NGT) in India on December 5, 2024, stated that the compensation mechanism for afforestation under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPFA) rules is failing to meet its intended purpose. The NGT directed the CAMPFA to take steps to improve the mechanism.

The CAMPFA rules were introduced in 1990 to regulate the diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes. The rules require that for every hectare of forest land diverted, one hectare of land must be afforested. The rules have been revised multiple times, with the latest update in 2022.

One of the key issues highlighted by the NGT is the lack of effective monitoring and enforcement of the rules. The CAMPFA has been unable to ensure that the compensation provided is equivalent to the loss of forest land. This has led to a significant backlog of cases pending before the tribunal.

The NGT has directed the CAMPFA to take several steps to improve the compensation mechanism. These include:

- Improving the monitoring and enforcement of the rules.
- Ensuring that the compensation provided is equivalent to the loss of forest land.
- Developing a more transparent and accountable process for compensating forest land.
- Ensuring that the compensation provided is used for the benefit of local communities.

The CAMPFA has agreed to take these steps, but the NGT has emphasized that the compensation mechanism must be improved to meet its intended purpose.

TIF@CII

TIF Co-founder Rumjhumi Chatterjee anchored a session on women at the Rising Rajasthan summit in Jaipur. Among those who spoke at HerStory: Advancing Inclusive Societies were Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari; author and academic Shwetanshu Bhushan; Secretary, Women and Child and Development; Minister of State, Women and Child Development; noted handicraft designer and social worker Ruma Devi; businesswomen Sminu Jindal and Nimisha J Vadakkan. The session was also graced by Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma.



TIF@UnionBudget

TIF CEO Jagan Shah was among the key stakeholders from the infrastructure, energy and urban sectors, who presented their inputs in the pre-Budget consultations chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

TIF@Workshop

TIF CEO Jagan Shah participated in a workshop in IIT-Delhi on the subject: 'Gendered Resilience in Transport – Enhancing Adaptation to Extreme Heat in Delhi'.



TIF Work Updates

- Champions' Lab on Land Value Capture (LVC) in Mumbai:** TIF submitted the final report on the proceedings to the World Bank.
- High Speed Rail:** Dr. Ramakrishnan T. S submitted a white paper to TIF titled 'The Economic, Environmental, Technological, and Societal Case for Developing High-Speed Rail Corridors and Prioritizing Routes in India'.
- Ropeways:** TIF has initiated a study titled 'Relieving Urban Congestion and Promoting Tourism: The Case for Urban Ropeways in India' in partnership with Infrastructure Development Corporation (Karnataka) Limited (iDeCK). The study will describe the potential to use ropeways in targeted and location-specific projects in the hugely diverse urban landscape of India, to supplement and, wherever appropriate, substitute the dependence on road-based transportation and relieve congestion, thereby improving the economic performance of cities.

How Much Do You Know About Infra?

- Horror films are good business for old forts in India. Which old fort was the venue for much of the shoot of Bhool Bhulaiya 3?
- China approved construction of the world's largest hydropower project in December 2024. On which river will it be?
- How many devotees is the Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj expected to attract?
- What percentage of Indian Railway tracks can now handle speeds of 130 km an hour?
- Where is the world's highest tunnel being built?



- Jahangir Mahal, Orchha, Madhya Pradesh
- The Yarlung Tsangpo (or Zangbo) river in Tibet. On completion, the 60,000 MW project will have the capacity to produce three times the amount of electricity as the world's largest hydro project, the Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze in central China.
- 40 crore
- One fifth, or 23,000 truck km
- At a height of 15,800 feet under the forbidding Shinkun Pass in Ladakh.



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