



## India 2047: A Special Edition

April 4, 2025

From March 19–22, more than 180 scholars and global experts convened in New Delhi for one of Harvard's largest international events: **India 2047: Building a Climate-Resilient Future**. Leaders from diverse fields came together for cross-disciplinary conversations on advancing climate resilience in India and beyond. Explore the key takeaways and ongoing dialogue from this landmark event.



“ We believe this sort of dialogue is a promising way to deliver practical, impactful solutions not only in India but around the world.”



CAROLINE BUCKEE, Professor of Epidemiology, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

## EVENT RECAP



## Highlights from India 2047

The four-day convening in New Delhi examined the growing impacts of extreme climate events—especially heat—in the Global South, with a focus on India. The event called for urgent, evidence-based solutions to address environmental, economic, and societal challenges. Hosted by the Mittal Institute and the Salata Institute for Climate and Sustainability at Harvard, in partnership with India’s Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the gathering brought together over 20 Harvard faculty and affiliates, along with researchers across the world including South Asia, Europe and the U.S., as well as leaders from government, nonprofits, philanthropy, and the private sector.

[View photos + read the recap](#)



## ON CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

“ Solutions to climate change require cross-disciplinary collaboration between science, policy, workers, and the private sector. This conference is hopefully the start of a recognition that academic centers have to continue to promote these cross-disciplinary dialogues.”



SATCHIT BALSARI, Associate Professor in Emergency Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Chair of the Scientific Committee of the convening

## RECORDINGS



## Recordings Now Available

Hoping to (re)watch the sessions? View the recordings of Day 1, which includes the following program sessions:

- **Inaugural Session**, featuring Hitesh Hathi, Shri Tanmay Kumar, Tarun Khanna, James H. Stock, Shri Tarun Kapoor, Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh, Shri Suman Berry, and a video address by Alan M. Garber
- **"Preparing for a Warmer Climate,"** a keynote by Dan Schrag
- **"India's Leadership in Preparing for Climate Change,"** a keynote by Tarun Khanna

- A plenary on "Societal Implications"
- A plenary on "Governance"

[View the playlist](#)

#### ON THE SCOPE OF THE ISSUE

“ The scale and complexity of the [climate] problem is really, really striking and hard to appreciate unless you're here on the ground and seeing it.”



DAVID JONES, A. Bernard Ackerman  
Professor of the Culture of Medicine,  
Harvard Medical School

#### PRE-CONFERENCE PROGRAM



## Ahmedabad Immersion Program

In advance of the landmark "India 2047: Building a Climate Resilient Future," conference in New Delhi, nearly two dozen Harvard faculty, affiliates, and friends spent several days in Ahmedabad, India, on an immersion trip to deepen their understanding of the impact of extreme heat on vulnerable communities, as well as the solutions emerging to adapt and prepare for it.

About the immersion trip

ON THE CONFERENCE'S IMPACT

“ My first concern that I'm going to take back to Harvard with me to continue to think about is ensuring that more and more of the conversations about the climate crisis include a discussion of the immediate impacts that workers are experiencing already ... they are on the front lines of their lives being disrupted by rising temperatures, and the more vulnerable the workers are, the more true that is.”



SHARON BLOCK, Professor of Practice,  
Harvard Law School

KEY FINDINGS





# India 2047: Key Learnings Summarized by the Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee presented a summary of key learnings at the closing of the four-day symposium, saying, "We want to underscore how productive it has been to discuss these difficult issues with people from across different sectors. (...) And we look forward to building a community of practice and working with you to face the threats posed by climate change in the coming decades."

[Read the Summary](#)

## ON CONFERENCE MOTIVATIONS

“ We, as climate scientists from around the world, but especially from the USA – a country that has contributed the most historically to causing this problem of climate change – I think we feel an obligation to come here and work together, listen and contribute our ideas and our insights to help forge a path forward for how India will manage this enormous problem.”



DANIEL SCHRAG, Sturgis Hooper  
Professor of Geology, Harvard  
University

## MEDIA COVERAGE



## India 2047: In the News



The  
Harvard  
Gazette

At India Climate Conference, Harvard's South Asia ties take center stage

*Harvard Gazette*

[Read the article](#)



Interview with Tarun Khanna, Professor, Harvard Business School At India 2047 Conference

*India Today Television*

[Watch the interview](#)



India hasn't warmed as quickly but likely to warm faster now: Harvard scientist

*Hindustan Times*

[Read the article](#)

## India 2047: Op-Eds

Lethal heat can also kill millions of healthy people. Shade isn't a solution

*ThePrint* | By Prof. Kaighin McColl

People living in low latitudes, including large parts of northern India, will face the most severe repercussions. Some areas are already nearing these dangerous conditions.



[Read the article](#)



## Record-breaking March heat reminds us that adaptation cannot wait

*Indian Express* | By Prof. David Jones

Doctors from around the world are meeting in Delhi next week to discuss what it will take to confront extreme heat.

[Read the article](#)



## How heat affects informal women workers—loss of income, skin infections, domestic violence

*ThePrint* | By Robert Meade, Felipe González Casabianca, Tess Wiskel, Rajvi Joshipura

Emerging population data have linked elevated temperatures with declines in mental health and increased violence and self-harm.

[Read the article](#)



## How work, and workers, can influence heat action plans

*Harvard Climate Blog* | By Prof. Sharon Block and Raj Nayak

Experts from Harvard Law School share lessons from international and interdisciplinary perspectives on heat adaptation and the climate crisis.

[Read the article](#)

## Field Notes from India: Climate Adaptation from the Ground Up

*Blog* | By Prof. James Salzman

Two days with climate educators in Ahmedabad, India changed my understanding and appreciation of climate resilience.

[Read the article](#)





## Subscribe Now: Climate Digest

At "India 2047: Building a Climate-Resilient Future," the Mittal Institute launched a monthly **Climate Digest**. Subscribe today to stay informed on climate news, global insights, the latest research, and upcoming events and discussions!

[Subscribe Here](#)

## Featured Event

Public Lecture by Distinguished

Artist Fellow Naiza Khan

**Mon, April 14 at 5:30 pm**

CGIS South, Tsai Auditorium

**RSVP**

Please join us for a public lecture by the Mittal Institute's second Distinguished Artist Fellow, **Naiza Khan**. She is an internationally renowned visual artist from Pakistan whose powerful work weaves together themes of land, body, and memory through drawing, sculpture, archival material, and film. *Reception*

following the lecture.

The Lakshmi Mittal and Family  
SOUTH ASIA INSTITUTE  
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

**MF/Boston**

**PUBLIC LECTURE BY  
DISTINGUISHED ARTIST FELLOW  
NAIZA KHAN**

Join us for a public lecture by Naiza Khan, an internationally renowned visual artist from Pakistan whose powerful work weaves together themes of land, body, and memory through drawing, sculpture, archival material, and film.

**WHEN**  
Monday, April 14, 2025,  
5:30-7:00 pm, followed by a reception

**WHERE**  
CGIS South, Tsai Auditorium,  
Cambridge

REGISTER HERE



Photo by Naiza Khan



**Hundreds of Hands Killed**  
10th Venice Biennale, Pavilion of Pakistan, 2018  
Photo: Riccardo Tassile

RSVP

## Upcoming Mittal Institute Events

**Urbanization  
and the Rise  
of the Right  
in India**



**APR  
4**

Urbanization and the Rise of the Right in India – Joint Seminar on South Asian Politics

**TODAY! Fri, April 4 at 2:00 pm**

CGIS South, Room S153

RSVP

**POOJA, SIR!**  
FILM SCREENING  
AND DISCUSSION

**WHEN**  
Monday, April 7, 2025,  
5:30-8:00 pm

**WHERE**  
CGIS South, Belfer S020,  
Cambridge

**SPEAKER**  
**DEEPAK RAUNIYAR**

**MODERATOR**  
**JULIE MALOZZI**



"Pooja, Sir!" Film Screening and Discussion

**Mon, April 7 at 5:30 pm**

CGIS South, Belfer S020

RSVP

"Governance and Sustainability in Global Value Chains" with Syed Babar Ali Fellow Muhammad Ayaz

**Wed, April 9 at 12:00 pm**

CGIS South, Room S354



RSVP



Mittal Institute Annual Symposium:

Media | Climate | Arts

Fri, April 18, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Thompson Room, Barker Center

RSVP

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## Other South Asia events

Friday Tea at the Department of South Asian Studies

TODAY Fri, April 4, 3:00 pm

1 Bow Street

Tamil Aesthetics and Cinema: Landscape and Emotions

TODAY Fri, April 4, 5:00 pm

1 Bow Street

Harvard Film Archive's From the Collection – Satyajit Ray

Various Screening Dates from April 18 - May 18

Harvard Film Archive, 24 Quincy Street

[View the full events calendar](#)

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