ICC 25 CLIMATE TORCHBEARERS AWARDS 2025

Awards Guidelines

Event: India Climate Conclave 2025 (ICC25) | Awards Ceremony Date: 19 December 2025 | Venue: NDMC Convention Hall, New Delhi
Hosted by: Net Zero Horizon

1. About ICC25 & the Climate Torchbearers Awards

India Climate Conclave 2025 (ICC25) is a national platform that brings together government, public sector undertakings (PSUs), industry, innovators, researchers, youth and civil society to advance India's journey towards a Carbon Conscious Bharat, Net Zero 2070 and Viksit Bharat 2047.

The Climate Torchbearers Awards 2025 are the official recognition platform within ICC25. The awards celebrate organisations and individuals who are:

- Turning **Dialogue** into actionable climate commitments
- Using **Data** to drive transparent, measurable impact
- Embodying **Dharma** – India's civilisational duty towards nature

Awardees and finalists will be featured across ICC25 sessions, digital platforms and knowledge outputs, including the NetZero Climate Commitment Index, the Climate Action Findings Paper and the Digital Forest Pledge ecosystem.

2. Objectives of the Awards

The Climate Torchbearers Awards aim to:

- Recognise climate champions across sectors who demonstrate measurable impact and leadership.
- Encourage organisations and communities to adopt science-based, data-backed climate action.
- Showcase replicable and scalable models that can inspire policy, finance and technology support.
- Integrate on-ground action with ICC25's broader ecosystem of dialogue, policy momentum and citizen engagement.

3. Award Categories

The Climate Torchbearers Awards 2025 honour outstanding climate leadership across 12 categories.

Each nomination must be submitted under one category. Multiple nominations are allowed.

3.1 Climate Innovation Excellence Award

- Clean energy innovations
- Mobility & EV ecosystems
- Circular economy tech
- AI climate tools

3.2 Policy Leadership Impact Award

- Climate-positive policy frameworks
- Regulatory reforms
- Adaptation & resilience policies

3.3 Corporate Climate Champion Award

- Net Zero strategies
- ESG reporting
- Supply chain decarbonisation

3.4 Community Climate Warrior Award

- Community-led climate adaptation
- Behavioural change
- Nature-based solutions

3.5 Youth Climate Leader Award

- Youth-led climate campaigns
- Climate education
- Sustainability action

3.6 Green Finance Pioneer Award

- Green bonds
- Climate finance products
- Carbon market innovation

3.7 Renewable Energy Excellence Award

- Solar, wind, hydro leadership
- Grid integration
- RE rural solutions

3.8 Sustainable Agriculture Champion Award

- Climate-smart agriculture
- Water-efficient irrigation
- Regenerative farming

3.9 NetZero PSU Leader Award

- PSU climate governance
- Large-scale decarbonisation

3.10 CSR for Climate Action Award

- Climate-focused CSR projects
- Afforestation & water conservation

3.11 Academic & Research Excellence Award

- Climate research
- Climate datasets & tools
- Policy impact

3.12 Climate Communication & Awareness Award

- Climate storytelling
- Behavioural change campaigns
- Films & digital media

4. Eligibility Criteria

4.1 Who Can Apply?

Eligible entities include (but are not limited to):

- Public Sector Undertakings (Central & State PSUs)
- Private sector companies & MSMEs
- Startups & innovators
- Non-profits, NGOs, community-based organisations
- Academic and research institutions, think tanks
- Youth groups and community collectives

4.2 Project / Initiative Requirements

- The nominated initiative must have a significant climate focus (mitigation, adaptation, resilience, or climate justice).
- The initiative should have at least one cycle of implementation with documentable outcomes (pilots allowed where evidence exists).
- Work must be carried out in or for India. Cross-border collaborations are welcome with clear India-related impact.
- Self-nominations and third-party nominations (by partners, networks, clients, etc.) are both accepted.
- An entity may submit multiple nominations for different initiatives/categories, provided each is clearly distinct.

5. Nomination Process

5.1 Step 1 – Online Nomination Form

Fill the ICC25 Awards nomination form with basic details:
Category of nomination
Organisation / individual details
Brief summary of the initiative
Geography and duration of work
Primary contact information

5.2 Step 2 – Upload Supporting Documents

Nominees must submit evidence demonstrating measurable climate action, such as:

- Quantitative data (emissions reduced, energy saved, people impacted, etc.)
- Reports, dashboards, case studies
- Photos, videos, media articles
- Certifications or third-party verifications

5.3 Step 3 – Screening & Eligibility Check

The ICC25 Secretariat will validate:

- Completeness of the nomination
- Alignment with award category
- Basic eligibility criteria
- Verification of submitted documents

Incomplete or ineligible applications may not proceed further.

5.4 Step 4 – Jury Review & Shortlisting

A multidisciplinary jury evaluates all eligible entries using the Evaluation Matrix based on:
Climate impact
Innovation
Governance
Alignment with Dialogue · Data · Dharma

The jury then finalises:
Shortlisted nominees
Category winners

5.5 Step 5 – Final Winner Selection

Based on jury scoring and deliberation, winners are selected directly.
There is no additional round after shortlisting.

5.6 Step 6 – Awards Ceremony

Winners are felicitated at the:

■ **19 December 2025**
■ **NDMC Convention Hall, New Delhi**
■■ **Climate Torchbearers Awards Ceremony (Evening Plenary)**

Winners receive:

Trophy

Citation

Media visibility

Feature in ICC25 publications and digital platforms

6. Evaluation Matrix

Nominations will be evaluated on a transparent, evidence-led scoring framework aligned to Dialogue · Data · Dharma.

Indicative weightages:

- **Climate Impact (~35%)**
  Quantified reduction in GHG emissions, pollution, resource use, or climate risks; scale of co-benefits; number of people/communities/ecosystems positively impacted.
- **Innovation & Replicability (~25%)**
  Novelty of the approach, technology or model; potential for replication; cost-effectiveness and feasibility.
- **Governance & Participation (~20%)**
  Quality of leadership, governance and accountability; inclusion of communities, workers, women, youth and marginalised groups; partnerships and stakeholder engagement.
- **Alignment with Dialogue · Data · Dharma (~20%)**
  Contribution to climate dialogue; strength of data systems, monitoring, reporting and openness; integration of values, ethics and long-term stewardship of nature.

Note: The jury may additionally consider geographic balance, sectoral diversity and transformational potential.

7. Timelines

(Indicative – final dates will be announced on ICC25 channels.)

- Call for Nominations Opens: TBA 2025
- Last Date for Submissions: TBA 2025
- Screening & Jury Evaluation: TBA 2025
- Shortlist Announcement: TBA 2025
- Awards Ceremony: 19 December 2025 – ICC25, NDMC Convention Hall, New Delhi

8. Nomination Fee

To support high-quality curation, expert jury evaluation and documentation, a nominal nomination fee is applicable for ICC 25 Awards 2025.

The fee is per nomination (each distinct initiative/category submitted).
Payment must be made online via the official ICC25 / Net Zero Horizon payment link:
https://www.netzerohorizon.com/product-page/icc-awards-2025

A nomination is considered complete only after successful fee payment and submission of the online form.
Fee details, exemptions (if any) and GST invoicing information will be provided on the payment page.

9. Terms & Conditions

Accuracy of Information

All information submitted must be accurate and verifiable to the best of the nominee's knowledge. The organisers reserve the right to request additional documentation or clarifications.

Right to Verify & Reject

ICC25 Secretariat and jury may independently verify claims made in the application. Any nomination found to contain misleading information may be rejected.

Use of Content

By submitting a nomination, the applicant grants ICC25 & Net Zero Horizon the non-exclusive right to use submitted material (with credit) for awards communication, case studies and publications. Any sensitive data will be used only with prior consent.

Jury Decision

The jury's decision regarding shortlisting and final selection will be final and binding. The organisers may decide not to confer an award in a category if entries do not meet minimum standards.

Change in Timelines / Format

The organisers reserve the right to change timelines, ceremony format (physical/hybrid/virtual) or guidelines if required due to unforeseen circumstances. Updates will be communicated on official channels.

Travel & Logistics

Shortlisted nominees will be informed separately about travel, passes and any possible support for attending ICC25 in person.

10. Benefits for Winners & Finalists

- Trophy and official Climate Torchbearer 2025 citation
- Visibility during ICC25 plenary sessions and digital channels
- Feature in ICC25 Climate Action Findings Paper and related publications (where relevant)
- Opportunity to engage with ministries, PSUs, investors and ecosystem partners
- Digital badges and communication toolkits for sustained storytelling

11. Contact & Support

For any queries regarding eligibility, categories, submissions or partnerships:

ICC25 Awards Secretariat – Net Zero Horizon

■ Email: **events@netzerohorizon.com**
            netzerohorizon@gmail.com
■ Web: **www.netzerohorizon.com**
■ Venue: **NDMC Convention Hall, New Delhi**