

Institute Colloquium

“Is Ever-Growing Consumption on
a Finite Earth Possible?”



**Prof. Chetan Singh
Solanki**

**Founder of Energy
Swaraj Foundation,
Former Professor, IIT Bombay**



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05:00 pm



**Auditorium,
North Campus**

“Is Ever-Growing Consumption on a Finite Earth Possible?”

Prof. Chetan Singh Solanki

Affiliation: - Former Professor, IIT Bombay.

Abstract:

No. Modern society is built on a simple assumption: growth must continue. Economies must expand, consumption must rise, and lifestyles must improve year after year. But this assumption hides a fundamental contradiction—we are trying to grow infinitely on a planet that is finite. In this talk, Prof. Chetan Singh Solanki, drawing from his ongoing 11-year Energy Swaraj Yatra across India, challenges this core belief by connecting climate change directly to our daily consumption. He argues that climate change is not just an environmental issue, but a mathematical consequence of exceeding planetary limits. Using simple examples from everyday life—energy use, mobility, food, and material consumption—the talk reveals how individual choices collectively shape global outcomes. The session moves beyond awareness to action, introducing the idea of Finite Living and practical steps to reduce consumption without compromising well-being. Because the real question is not whether we can afford more— but whether the Earth can afford or not.

Prof. Chetan Singh Solanki

Founder, Energy Swaraj Foundation
Former Professor, IIT Bombay



**THE FINITE EARTH
MOVEMENT**

Finite Earth - Finite Consumption
Because I Can Afford It, But Nature Cannot.

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Energy Swaraj Foundation
Energy by Locals for Locals

Prof. Chetan Singh Solanki is a climate action leader, innovator, and educator who has dedicated his life to tackling the climate crisis through lifestyle change and energy independence. **He has resigned from IIT Bombay in 2025** for his passion for Climate Correction. He has been living and travelling in a solar-powered bus since November 2020 on the 11-year Energy Swaraj Yatra, 100% solar-powered journey across India that will continue until 2030. Though deeply rooted in family life, he has pledged not to return home during this entire period, devoting every single day to the cause of climate correction.

The Yatra, inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's principles, is both a living laboratory and a mass outreach platform. As it approaches its fifth year, he has already covered **70,000 km**, delivered over **1650+ talks** on climate action, directly engaged over **4,10,000 people**, and made more than **2 million individuals energy literate**. Through this outreach, Prof. Solanki has not only spread knowledge but also sparked transformation in people's thought processes toward climate action and sustainability, inspiring them to embrace mindful consumption and energy independence.

From this deep experience of Yatra he has initiated **"The Finite Earth Movement (FEM)** – a global, citizen led public movement for climate correction. FEM has a vision to transform finite living into a global mass movement by mobilizing **1 billion individuals worldwide for climate action by 2027**. FEM is rooted in a simple truth: on a finite planet, consumption itself must be finite. To translate awareness into action, FEM offers a structured Climate Action Framework with practical tools such as the Consumption Literacy, TUPEE Climate Habits, and the AMG Decision Filter – guiding people to adopt daily mindful choices and measurable lifestyle change.

Widely known as the **'Solar Man of India'** and hailed as 'Solar Gandhi' for his Gandhian way of living and message of renewable self-reliance, Prof. Solanki has combined vision with action. At IIT Bombay, he led pioneering initiatives such as the **National Centre for Photovoltaic Research and Education (NCPRE)** and the landmark **SoULS (Solar Urja through Localization for Sustainability)** project, through which **10,000 rural women** were trained and employed in solar product assembly, reaching 7.5 million families with clean lighting solutions. The Govt. of Madhya Pradesh appointed him as its Brand Ambassador for Solar Energy, and his work has been honoured with awards such as IEEE's global grand prize of **US\$100,000**, the **Prime Minister's Innovation Award**, ONGC's Solar Chulha Challenge, three Guinness World Records, national science and technology awards, and accolades including 'Guardian of Humanity,' 'Outstanding Green Activist,' and 'Hero of the Environment.' He has also been named among LinkedIn's Top 15 Must-Follow Thought Leaders.

Prof. Solanki's voice has resonated across the world. He was invited to the United Nations in Geneva to present the Energy Swaraj Model on a global stage. In 2019, he carried his mission across **30 countries**, spreading the message of solar energy worldwide. A TED Speaker and sought-after thought leader, he has addressed leading corporations including Google, Intel, TCS, Shell, and BlackRock. His academic and policy contributions are equally profound: he chaired **CBSE and AICTE** committees for solar curriculum development, served as a member of the National Focus Group on Environmental Education under NEP, contributed to national committees such as NAAC and NIRF, authored 8 books, and published over 100 international research papers, alongside 4 US patents. His book on Global Warming, Sustainability & the Future of Humanity titled **"Climate Change 2100: Survive or thrive?"** has been recently published by Penguin.

Today, through the Finite Earth Movement, Prof. Solanki calls upon every citizen to be a torchbearer of climate correction by practicing finite living because his message is simple yet profound: **'I can afford, but nature cannot.'** Climate correction, he believes, cannot wait for policies or technologies – it begins with the individual. His appeal is to act now, so that we may **'leave behind a livable planet for future generations'**.

