

Brief Bio of

## Prof. Chetan Singh Solanki

[www.energyswaraj.org](http://www.energyswaraj.org)

Prof. Chetan Singh Solanki is an educator, researcher, and innovator who is currently on unpaid leave from IIT Bombay. He has undertaken **Energy Swaraj Yatra through a solar bus for 11 years, until 2030**. In this yatra, Prof. Solanki has pledged not to go home until 11 years and stay in the solar yatra bus. In the wake of serious and catastrophic climate change, this Energy Swaraj Yatra is designed with a purpose to **create public movement** towards the adoption of 100% solar energy.

He has been honored with the **Brand Ambassador of Solar Energy of the Madhya Pradesh Government**.

Prof. Solanki has also been referred to as **“Solar Man of India”** by Times of India, The Hindu, and India Today. Some people also call him **“Solar Gandhi.”**

Prof. Solanki has led major solar projects at IIT Bombay. Through his SoULS project, he has reached 7.5 million families providing them clean light. There are several awards to his credit, these awards include IEEE’s **global grand prize of US100,000\$**, Prime Minister’s innovation award for SoULS project, first prize in Solar Chulha Design Challenge by ONGC, three Guinness World Record, two Young Scientist awards, Outstanding Green Campaigner, Excellence in RE Skilling, “Outstanding Green Activist”, and many more.

Prof. Solanki **has written 7 books and published over 100 research papers** in reputed international journals. He has 4 US patents to his credit

Following Gandhian ideals, **he has coined the word ‘Energy Swaraj.’** his energy Swaraj Movement is a stepping stone towards energy access, energy sustainability, and climate change mitigation. To establish Energy Swaraj globally, he has founded the Energy Swaraj Foundation (ESF).

During 2019 Prof. Solanki traveled across the world covering **30 countries** to spread the message of solar energy. In his ongoing Energy Swaraj Yatra, he has already traveled 5000kms reaching over 15000 people across 3 Indian states. The 11 years yatra is expected to cover about 200,000 km across 28 Indian States, crisscrossing the country 8-10 times.



*Prof. Chetan Singh Solanki*  
*Professor at IIT Bombay*

*Founder of Energy Swaraj Foundation*  
*Brand Ambassador of Solar Energy for MP Govt.*  
*Also referred as “Solar Man of India” or “Solar*

## **Brief about Prof. Chetan Singh Solanki' Talk and Energy Swaraj Bus**

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### **Energy Swaraj – an Essence of Sustainability**

Energy is Everything and Everything is Energy. Gandhiji's statement that "Earth has enough for everybody's need but not for anybody's greed" is as fundamental as the fact Sun rising from the East. However, in contradiction, the world economies are increasingly trying to produce more and consume more. This contradiction is fuelled mainly by fossil energy(80-85%), leading to another contradiction wherein increasing energy consumption is required to maintain economic growth, while rampant use of fossil energy is causing climate change.

Climate change is threatening not only sustainable life but the sustainability of life on the planet. We have only 8-10 years left before we reach global warming of 1.5°C (IPCC report). Therefore "drastic" and "immediate" actions are required to mitigate climate change. The solution lies in adopting Energy Swaraj or generating and consuming energy locally. Adopting Energy Swaraj will also help in skill development, livelihood creation, energy independence, local economy strengthening, and of course, climate change mitigation. To create a public movement and establish Energy Swaraj across, an 11 years long Energy Swaraj Yatra (2020-30) through a solar bus is undertaken by Prof. Chetan S. Solanki, IIT Bombay.

The talk covers philosophical, technical, economic, social, and environmental aspects of energy and climate change, along with a demonstration of the Energy Swaraj bus having facilities for working, meeting sleeping, cooking, washing, and training.

### **About Energy Swaraj Yatra Bus**

Dr. Chetan Singh Solanki, a professor from IIT Bombay, brand ambassador of Solar Energy for Govt. of MP, and Founder of the Energy Swaraj Foundation, has pledged not to go home until 2030 and live & travel in the solar bus. Prof. Solanki lives in the bus. It is his mobile home. The bus has the facilities to go through all daily activities. Energy Swaraj Yatra bus will be demonstrated after the talk. The bus is fitted with 3.2 kW solar panels and 6 kWh of battery storage. It has a 3 kVa inverter. Lights, cooler, cookstove, TV, AC, laptop charging inside the bus are all solar-powered. The engine of the bus runs on diesel.

