



CII-ITC Centre of Excellence
for Sustainable Development



Confederation of Indian Industry

**BUILDING
RESILIENCE
CREATING A
SUSTAINABLE
FUTURE**

Annual report- 2025

Table of Contents

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03

Introduction

Our purpose	05
Industry's growing role in India's green growth architecture - Chairman's notes	06
The year of green advances - Director General's perspective	08
Two decades of ecosystem creation for sustainable development	10
Highlights	12
Lessons from Two Decades	14

15

Supporting India's sustainable transformation

Optimising resource economics	16
Reduced plastics footprint	18
Enhancing global competitiveness	20
Building resilience & improving efficiency	22
Driving ESG excellence across value chains	24
Strategies for sustainable startups	26
Nature-positive action	29

31

Interventions and initiatives

Driving national environmental policy reform	32
Accelerating Indian industry's transition	37
■ Circular economy and resource efficiency	37
■ Waste management solutions	40
Building climate resilience and a low-carbon industrial economy	42
Strengthening ESG governance and enabling sustainable finance	46
■ Enabling ecosystem for sustainability reporting	48
■ Supporting value chain partners' sustainability	50
Promoting nature-positive business action	52
Improving air quality, public health and rural livelihoods	54

61

Enablers for sustainable value creation

20 th Global Sustainability Summit	62
CII Circular Economy Conference	67
CII-ITC Sustainability Awards	68
Sustainable Plastic Packaging Awards	69
Launch of ६Raa - the CII Sustainability Mascot	70
Building capacity	71
■ Training programmes	71
■ Awareness sessions	74
Thought leadership	75
■ Publications	75
■ Media coverage	76
■ Digital outreach	77

78

The CESD team

Our purpose

Mission

To catalyse innovative ideas and solutions, in India, and globally, to enable business, and its stakeholders, in sustainable value creation.

Vision

Be a global leader, in thought and action, to drive transformation, towards sustainable development.

Industry's growing role in India's green growth architecture- Chairman's notes



Mr Sanjiv Puri

Past President,
Confederation of Indian Industry
Chairman, CII-ITC Centre of Excellence
for Sustainable Development
Chairman & Managing Director, ITC Ltd



Sustainability is not merely about mitigating impact, but about building resilient, competitive and future-ready enterprises.

The global landscape is changing rapidly. Volatility is no more sporadic but systemic. The world today is confronted with a multitude of challenges led by the geopolitical tensions, climate change and other structural shifts that are reshaping the future of nations, societies and enterprises. Climate change, in particular, is a pressing reality, threatening societies and economic progress. Resource constraints are becoming more pronounced, and supply chains are under stress.

Sustainability standards are increasingly influencing trade, investment and market access. Social inequities in wealth, nutrition and livelihoods remain an area of concern.

In such a context, it is heartening that India is already being recognised globally as a leader in climate action through landmark initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance, National Green Hydrogen Mission and Mission LiFE, while government programmes in education, healthcare, skilling, livelihoods, women's empowerment and sanitation are enabling grassroots social and economic mobility.

It is abundantly clear that climate action will need to be scaled up manifold. The world must both decarbonise rapidly and adapt at scale, adopt nature-based solutions and advance circularity. All this must be done while ensuring a 'just transition' to a greener economy to safeguard the interests of vulnerable communities. Creating sustainable livelihoods must remain central to this transformation to foster inclusive development.

Businesses must play a vital role in addressing today's challenges, given that they are large economic organs of society. Indeed, enterprises must adopt a paradigm of Responsible Competitiveness that synergises growth with environmental stewardship and sustainable livelihoods.

Recognising this imperative early, ITC and CII came together in 2006 to establish the CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development at a time when sustainability was still peripheral to corporate strategy. The conviction was clear - sustainability is not merely about mitigating impact, but about building resilient, competitive and future-ready enterprises.

For two decades, the CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development has been a catalyst for embedding sustainability into the DNA of Indian business. Evolving from a knowledge institution into a trusted partner to

business, government and global organisations, the Centre has helped shaped policy, built institutional capacity, enabled collaboration and developed practical frameworks that have helped embed sustainability into corporate growth and competitiveness agenda.

In many respects, the Centre's journey mirrors India's sustainability story, progressing from awareness-building to transformative action. Through pioneering frameworks, collaborative platforms and multi-stakeholder partnerships, it has helped advance sustainability across business, policy and finance, creating solutions that deliver impact at scale.

Along with these efforts, the CII-ITC Sustainability Awards have also inspired a culture of excellence and innovation in sustainable action, proving that the pursuit of sustainability strengthens resilience, competitiveness and enduring business success.

In this evolving context, the CII-ITC Centre is well positioned to lead the next decade of integrating and accelerating sustainability initiatives in Indian businesses. The Centre will continue to work with industry and policymakers to accelerate decarbonisation measures across value chains, strengthen adaptation initiative for climate resilience, conserve nature and biodiversity, mobilise sustainable finance and help businesses navigate an increasingly complex global environment. Equally important, it will continue building partnerships that convert ideas into action and innovation into measurable impact.

This Annual Report chronicles the Centre's work in 2025 and reflects on a twenty-year journey of advancing sustainable development, while looking ahead to enriching opportunities that can shape a brighter future for the generations to come.

The year of green advances

- Director General's perspective



Mr Chandrajit Banerjee

Director General
Confederation of Indian Industry



CESD will continue to create platforms where ideas can be tested, partnerships can flourish, and scalable solutions can emerge – helping make sustainability an integral part of India's growth story rather than a parallel agenda.

For meaningful transformation to take root, countries need more than sound policies and committed businesses – they need institutions that can convene stakeholders, build consensus, translate ideas into action, and sustain momentum over time. For the past two decades, the CII ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development (CESD) has sought to play this role precisely. As CESD completes twenty years, this is an opportune moment to reflect not only on what has been achieved, but on how India's sustainability journey has evolved and the role that CII has been privileged to play in shaping it.

When CESD began its journey, sustainability was often viewed through the narrow lens of environmental compliance. Today, it has become central to business strategy, investment

decisions, supply chain resilience, and global competitiveness. CII has been fortunate to contribute to this evolution by helping industry anticipate emerging challenges, understand global developments, and prepare for the future well before these became business imperatives. From cleaner production and resource efficiency to ESG, circular economy, climate resilience, biodiversity, and responsible value chains, our endeavour has always been to stay ahead of the curve and help Indian industry do the same.

One of CESD's most enduring contributions has been its ability to bring diverse stakeholders together around a shared purpose. Over the years, the Centre has built trusted platforms that enable industry, government, regulators, academia, financial institutions, and international organisations to work collectively on practical solutions. Many of the policy reforms, voluntary frameworks, and implementation models that are now part of India's sustainability landscape have emerged through this spirit of partnership and constructive dialogue.

Equally important has been our commitment to bridging the gap between policy and practice. Sustainability transitions succeed only when businesses have the knowledge, capabilities, and confidence to implement change. Through research, capacity building, assessments, demonstration projects, and advisory support, CESD has helped organisations across sectors translate ambition into measurable action. The Centre today supports thousands of businesses, while continuing to strengthen sustainability capabilities across the broader industrial ecosystem.

As the global landscape evolves, the conversation is once again changing. Sustainability is no longer simply about managing environmental impact; it is increasingly about securing market access, strengthening competitiveness, managing risk, and unlocking new opportunities for innovation and growth. Whether it is responding to evolving trade regulations, building climate-resilient supply chains, advancing circularity or enabling MSMEs to participate in global value chains, CII remains committed to ensuring that Indian industry is well prepared for the next phase of transformation.

Looking ahead, the Centre's role will increasingly be that of an ecosystem builder. The challenges before us are too interconnected for any single institution to address in isolation. The next decade will require deeper partnerships, stronger implementation ecosystems, and greater collaboration across sectors and geographies. CESD will continue to create platforms where ideas can be tested, partnerships can flourish, and scalable solutions can emerge – helping make sustainability an integral part of India's growth story rather than a parallel agenda.

This Annual Report captures the breadth of work undertaken during the year. More importantly, it reflects the collective commitment of our members, partners, and stakeholders who continue to demonstrate that lasting transformation is built through collaboration, shared purpose, and sustained action. I invite you to read this report and join us as we shape the next chapter of India's sustainability journey.

Two decades of ecosystem creation for sustainable development



CII-ITC Centre of Excellence
for Sustainable Development



For more than two decades now, the CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development (CESD) has played the role of the ecosystem creator for sustainable development in India. Established well before sustainability gained mainstream momentum, the Centre has shaped the policies, partnerships, and initiatives that now underpin India's transition toward green growth, industrial competitiveness, and environmental stewardship.

It is a national catalyst for embedding sustainability into India's growth model and drives sustainable, environmental, inclusive and climate-friendly transformation among stakeholders through research, data-driven digital tools, frameworks, collaborative initiatives and capacity development. As an industry-led institution, CESD helps build India's foundational frameworks on environmental governance, responsible business conduct, sustainable supply chains, circular economy pathways, climate resilience, and ESG reporting.



Highlights

100+



Recommendations shared with MoEFCC, MoCA, MoF, NITI Aayog, CPCB, DPIIT, SEBI, IICA, RBI and BIS

Structured representations have informed several landmark reforms and notifications from MoEFCC and CPCB.

500+



Companies awarded CII ITC Sustainability Awards

Through an exacting evaluation process, the Centre evaluated more than **1400** applications to identify and award enterprises that integrate sustainability into strategy, governance, and operations.

130+



Business leaders convened through the India CEO Forum for Clean Air

Industry leadership collaborating to pilot, adopt, and scale clean air and low emission solutions across operations and value chains.

350+



Sites certified Single Use Plastic (SUP) Free

Approximately **1,000** tonnes of single use plastics reduced.

12,000



Industry professionals trained on key sustainability topics

The capacity development helped improve the readiness for emerging ESG disclosure norms, environmental regulations, and global supply chain expectations.

3,000+



Companies engaged (including MSMEs and value chain partners)

The Centre strengthened organisational competitiveness by building the capacity to translate sustainability priorities into efficient, market-aligned business strategies.

1,500+



Value chain partners engaged with

The Centre integrates sustainability in the value chains of organisations by evaluating the sustainability performance of both sourcing companies and their chosen vendors.

15



Industrial clusters engaged in 9 states for CII Climate Action Charter

By engaging with enterprises in clusters, Centre driving large-scale sustainable transformation, decarbonization and promoting regional competitiveness.

63 million kg

of air pollution (PM10 and secondary aerosols) avoided through the Cleaner Air–Better Life Crop Residue Management Programme



Reached **200,000** farmers across **1,004** villages; prevented stubble burning on over **90%** of 1.1 million acres. Outcomes include: 22 million kg PM10 avoided; **2.5** million kg black carbon reduced, and **250** million m3 of irrigation water conserved.

2.28 million metric tonnes

of waste diverted from landfill through ZWL initiatives.



Material recycling totals: 11,300 MT processed via authorised recycling partners (plastic 827 MT; dry MSW 8,985 MT; e waste 130 MT; battery waste 48 MT; other industrial waste 1,352 MT), representing India's largest circular diversion pathway in these programs.

Lessons from Two Decades



Seema Arora

Deputy Director General
Confederation of Indian Industry

If there is one lesson we have learnt over the past two decades, it is that sustainability has never stood still. What began largely as an environmental responsibility has evolved into a defining consideration for business—shaping investment decisions, innovation, supply chain resilience and competitiveness. The questions businesses ask today are very different from those they asked twenty years ago, and that is perhaps the clearest measure of how far this journey has come.

The journey of the CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development (CESD) has evolved alongside this shift. Our early efforts focused on helping businesses understand why sustainability mattered and how it could be embedded into

business decisions. Over time, we developed practical frameworks, assessment tools and collaborative platforms that helped companies across sectors turn intent into action.

Perhaps our biggest learning has been that no organisation can make this transition alone. Climate risks, resource security, biodiversity loss and changing market expectations are interconnected challenges. Progress depends as much on partnerships as it does on individual leadership. It requires businesses, governments, financial institutions, technology providers, academia and communities to work together with a shared purpose.

That understanding has shaped the way CESD works today. Alongside technical support, we increasingly bring together diverse stakeholders to co-create solutions, learn from one another and help ideas that work reach many more businesses, sectors and regions.

The stories in the next section reflect that approach. Whether it is strengthening climate resilience, improving resource efficiency, supporting MSMEs, advancing nature-positive practices, working with startups or strengthening ESG across value chains, each initiative demonstrates that practical solutions are possible when knowledge is combined with collaboration.

As we begin our third decade, the challenge is no longer to prove that sustainability works. We know it does. The real task now is to move faster, take what has worked in one place and make it work in many more, and build the partnerships and institutions that can sustain change over time. That is the opportunity before us today, and one to which CESD remains deeply committed.

Supporting India's sustainable transformation

The Centre drives sustainable and resilient industrial growth through action by businesses. Based on research and digital tools, it develops practical frameworks, fosters collaborative initiatives and enhances capability. Together, these efforts enable businesses to take actions that positively impact the environment, nature, and communities.

This new section captures some of our work with industry, under different sustainability domains.

Optimising resource economics

In focus – Adani Airport Holdings Limited

adani

Project overview

Airport operations generate diverse waste streams from passenger terminals, cargo operations, maintenance activities, and infrastructure development. Sustainable management of these waste streams is critical to reducing landfill dependency and promoting responsible waste practices across aviation infrastructure.

Adani Airport Holdings Limited (AAHL), one of India's largest airport operators, has implemented structured waste management systems across its airport network to enhance waste diversion and resource recovery by adopting circular economy principles.

About the CESD intervention

The Centre conducted Zero Waste to Landfill (ZWL) assessments across 7 airport facilities. Certification assessments were completed covering waste generated from terminal operations, food courts, airside and landside activities, maintenance operations, and infrastructure development at:

- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, Ahmedabad,
- Jaipur International Airport, Jaipur,
- Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport, Lucknow,

- Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport, Guwahati,
- Mangaluru International Airport, Mangaluru,
- Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai and
- Thiruvananthapuram International Airport, Trivandrum

Across these facilities, a cumulative operational waste of approximately 9500 MT was generated during the assessment period. Through systematic segregation and diversion mechanisms, the airports achieved high waste diversion rates of up to 99.9%, demonstrating that large aviation infrastructure can significantly reduce landfill dependence through structured waste management systems.

Key actions

- Source segregation across terminals and operational areas
- Authorized recycling partnerships for dry, plastic and hazardous waste
- Organic waste processing through composting and biogas generation
- Reuse of construction and demolition (C&D) waste within airport premises
- Capacity building of key value chain partners involved in waste management

Ahmedabad Airport: A Model for Zero Waste to Landfill

Ahmedabad Airport exemplifies the effective implementation of the 5R approach, showcasing how waste can be managed as a resource across airport operations.

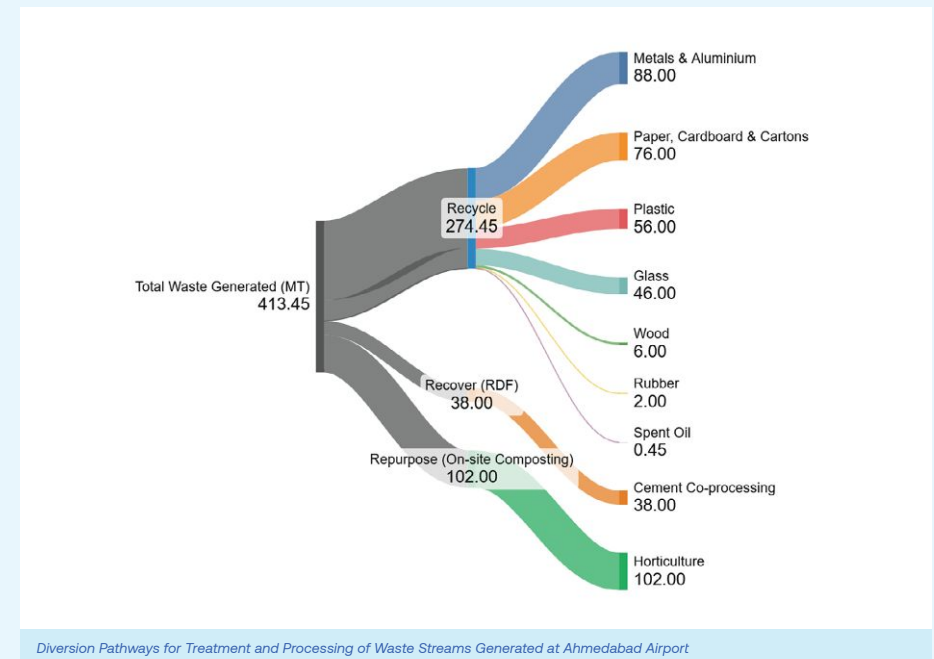
- Reduce – Approximately 62 MT of waste avoided at source through initiatives such as Digi-Yatra (paperless boarding), hand dryers replacing paper towels and replacement of 200 ml PET water bottles with alternative dispensing systems.
- Reuse – Approximately 12,100 m³ of construction and demolition (C&D) waste reused within the airport premises.

- Repurpose – Approximately 102 MT of organic waste processed through on-site composting and further utilized for horticultural applications.

- Recycle – Plastic waste, dry municipal waste, e-waste, battery waste and hazardous waste diverted through authorized recycling channels.

- Recover – Approximately 38 MT of refuse-derived fuel (RDF) recovered from dry waste streams for energy recovery applications.

This example demonstrates how integrated segregation systems, traceable waste diversion mechanisms and resource recovery practices can enable large aviation infrastructure facilities to achieve zero waste to landfill outcomes.



Reduced plastics footprint

In focus - L&T's A.M. Naik Heavy Engineering Complex, Hazira



Project overview

Larsen & Toubro's A. M. Naik Heavy Engineering Complex (AMNHEC) in Hazira, Gujarat, with ~15,000 employees, has been consistently advancing its sustainability journey through multiple initiatives over the years. Continuing this commitment, environmental awareness activity featured a beach-cleaning drive, bringing attention to the growing concern of single-use plastics (SuP).

The campus partnered with CII ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development (CESD) for the Single-Use Plastics Free Verification programme and formed a cross-functional team (Top management, EHS, Stores, Purchase) to drive SuP elimination. Through structured interventions and expert guidance, AMNHEC implemented campus-wide reduction and substitution measures.

Following a rigorous audit, AMNHEC achieved the CII Single-Use Plastics Free Certification in March 2025, becoming L&T's first campus to do so.

Key Actions

- In-house preparation of buttermilk in canteen to avoid procurement in plastic pouches.
- Elimination and substitution of single-use plastics across offices, shops and canteens.

- Replacement of dustbin liners with compostable materials.
- Substitution of tetra packs and plastic straws with recyclable PET bottles.
- Replacement of packaged drinking water with steel bottles and glasses.

Impact



45 metric tonnes of single-use plastic are eliminated annually



Achieved substantial reduction in plastic usage across administrative and canteen operations



Strengthened employee awareness and active participation in sustainability initiatives

With CII CESD's intervention and certification programme, L&T AMNHEC Hazira has set a benchmark for sustainability in the heavy engineering sector, showcasing how structured action can drive measurable environmental impact.



Eliminated Butter milk plastic pouches and started in-house production



“It is an honour to be recognised by CII for SuP-free complex. By embracing sustainable initiatives, our teams have demonstrated their strong commitment to transforming AMNHEC as a role model green complex.”

Anil V Parab
L&T Whole-Time Director &
Senior EVP (Manufacturing)

Enhancing global competitiveness

In focus – Shree Kailash Grain Mills Pvt Ltd



Project overview

Shree Kailash Grain Mills, a CCAC member since 2023, undertook a resilience and sustainability initiative to strengthen its wheat milling supply chain in Indore. The company focused on sustainable sourcing, reducing contamination risks, and improving operational efficiency.

About the CESD intervention

Under **CII Climate Action Charter**, CESD conducted three workshops for employees and suppliers on energy efficiency, climate smart agriculture, and responsible resource use, improving awareness of emissions reduction and sustainable grain handling. Other initiatives include:

- Improved energy efficiency and integrated renewable practices in milling operations.
- Engaged farmers and suppliers to adopt climate smart agriculture and reduce post harvest losses.
- Enhanced water and waste management to meet food safety and environmental standards

Outcome and Impact



15% Reduction in energy use and an estimated 120 tCO₂e annual carbon savings.



Over **200** farmers and suppliers trained, improving supply chain resilience.



Better collaboration and operational efficiency, supporting sustainability and business growth.



Water savings of approx. **5 million litres** annually through improved resource practices.



“From my own experience, closely monitoring energy consumption at various levels within our organization led to a 15% reduction in energy use within a year. This not only improved our ROI but also made us proud of our efforts towards becoming a more sustainable organization.”

Pankaj Goyal

Chairman, CII Malwa Zone

Managing Director, Shree Kailash Grain Mills Pvt Ltd



500 MT/day production with automated processes, strict quality control, and food safety compliance



Careful evaluation and flawless blending by the quality and sourcing team ensure top-quality grains in every batch

Building resilience & improving efficiency

In focus – Disaster risk reduction of Eluru district

Project overview

Eluru District in coastal Andhra Pradesh faces frequent floods and cyclones due to its location near major canals, the Godavari River, and Kolleru Lake. Recurrent monsoon flooding disrupts agriculture, aquaculture, housing, health services, and connectivity, worsened by socio economic vulnerabilities such as marginal livelihoods and poor-quality housing. The project assessed district level risks, mapped high risk mandals, and identified priority resilience interventions.

About the CESD intervention

Through the **CII Physical Climate Risk Assessment Framework**, the Centre conducted a disaster risk assessment using data analysis, field visits, and stakeholder consultations. Engagement with communities and frontline workers helped capture gaps in infrastructure, health systems, livelihoods, and early warning mechanisms, ensuring recommendations grounded in both scientific and local insights.

Outcome and impact

Through a comprehensive intervention, CESD has translated risk insights into actionable resilience planning. By bridging scientific analysis with on-ground realities, the Centre has not only strengthened district-level disaster preparedness but also laid the foundation for scalable, community-centric

resilience models across vulnerable regions. It has enabled a data-driven, community-informed approach to disaster risk reduction by:



Identifying **12** high-risk mandals through multi-hazard and socio-economic vulnerability mapping, enabling targeted planning and resource allocation.



Strengthening preparedness by recognizing the critical gaps in flood shelters, health infrastructure, communication systems, and early warning delivery.



Integrating local coping strategies and frontline worker insights into formal planning processes.



Informing the design of resilient infrastructure, improved early warning systems, and livelihood protection measures.



Prioritizing resilience support for approximately **25,000** flood-prone households, enhancing their capacity to withstand and recover from shocks.

The suggestions and initiatives proposed by the Centre, when implemented, can improve emergency response times by 30–40% and reduce agricultural losses by 10–15% per flood event.



“Climate change is increasingly reshaping the scale and frequency of hydro-meteorological disasters in Andhra Pradesh. While the State has made significant progress in disaster risk management through proactive governance, strong institutions, and community networks, evolving climate risks require continued focus on participatory planning and long-term resilience.”

The ‘Disaster Resilient Framework – West Godavari and Eluru Districts’ provides valuable, evidence-based insights into local vulnerabilities and adaptive capacities. Its emphasis on localized risk assessments, early warning systems, resilient infrastructure, and ecosystem-based solutions will help inform integrated planning and strengthen resilience across both coastal and inland regions of the State.”

Prakhar Jain

Director (Disaster Management) Ex-Officio Deputy Secretary to Government, Revenue (DM) Department, Managing Director (FAC), Andhra Pradesh Disaster Management Authority



Stakeholder Engagement at Velairpadu Mandal, Eluru District



Interaction with Women at Allapadu village, Kaikaluru Mandal, Eluru District

Driving ESG excellence across value chains

In focus - Škoda Auto Volkswagen India Pvt Ltd

ŠKODA | VOLKSWAGEN

ŠKODA AUTO Volkswagen India Private Limited

Project overview

Building on its existing internal sustainability initiatives, Škoda Auto Volkswagen India Private Limited (SAVWIPL) advanced its value chain sustainability efforts through the Eco Edge program developed by the Centre. Through this engagement, the Company conducted baseline ESG assessments of its value chain partners (VCPs) to evaluate current performance and identify opportunities for targeted supplier engagement and continuous improvement.

About the CESD intervention

Eco Edge program is designed to strengthen sustainable value chains through an internally developed, SaaS-based assessment framework. Through the programme, the Centre supports SAVWIPL's sourcing companies in managing Scope 3 emissions; building sustainable vendor networks; improving MSME sustainability performance; strengthening procurement practices and preparing for evolving national and global regulatory requirements.

The assessment framework covers four key focus areas: decarbonization, circularity, health & safety, and human rights, along with sector-specific indicators. It is based on a structured questionnaire of approximately 100 questions, supported by guidance documents,

and aligned with select requirements of BRSR, BRSR Core, CDP, and GRI. The framework is customizable to sectoral contexts and evolving regulations. Programme outputs include individual gap reports for VCPs, a consolidated sourcing company gap report, scorecards, sustainability and BRSR Core dashboards, and maturity-based certifications.

Since 2022, SAVWIPL, through the Eco Edge programme, has assessed 200 value chain partners across three structured phases. The assessed companies include upstream manufacturing and service partners as well as downstream partners, and dealerships. The phased intervention supports the systematic strengthening of ESG governance and performance across value chain, enabling identification of ESG gaps and integration of best practices to drive continuous improvement.

Outcome and Impact



Capacity building

25 targeted capacity-building programmes were conducted for SAVWIPL and its value chain partners to strengthen ESG awareness and implementation capabilities.



Benefits to sourcing company

Over the project period, supported by CESD recommendations, SAVWIPL reported key sustainability actions including:

- Reduction in Scope 1 and Scope 2 GHG intensity through increased renewable energy adoption and transition from conventional to electric forklifts
- Achievement of its first Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) Platinum Certification for a manufacturing warehouse
- Introduction of an Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) to support employee mental well-being
- Value chain initiatives: Within the project timeframe, SAVWIPL implemented sustainability initiatives at select dealerships enrolled under the Eco Edge programme, including installation of solar panels at two dealerships and deployment of an energy-efficiency monitoring project at one dealership to support value chain decarbonization.



Maturity based certificates

45 value chain partners were awarded Eco Edge Maturity Certificates, with 39 classified as Emerging and 29 as Progressive. SAVWIPL also progressed from Emerging to Progressive maturity level based on its own performance.



Positive impact on VCPs

Aggregate ESG benchmarks showed incremental improvement by VCPs, including:

- Renewable energy share increased from **74% to 98%**
- Waste diversion improved from **80% to 99.7%**
- Women workforce representation increased:
 - Middle management: **18% to 25%**
 - Lower management: **45% to 60%**



“Over the past four years, Škoda Volkswagen India has actively partnered with CII under the Eco Edge program to strengthen ESG performance across our value chain. Through structured assessments and capacity-building initiatives, approximately 120 value chain partners have been evaluated, enabling enhanced transparency, improved ESG governance, and progressive supplier maturity.”

The Eco Edge framework has provided a practical and structured approach to engage suppliers on sustainability parameters aligned with evolving regulatory expectations, including BRSR Core. We appreciate CII's role in supporting industry-led value chain ESG transformation and view Eco Edge as a meaningful enabler in this journey.”

Ajay Bhatt

Head of External Affairs, Corporate Communications, Sustainability Strategy and CSR
Škoda Auto Volkswagen India Private Limited

Strategies for sustainable startups

In focus - Pon Pure Speciality Chemical Pvt Ltd



Project overview

Pon Pure Speciality Chemicals Private Limited (PPSCPL), a specialty chemical manufacturing unit of the Pon Pure Chemicals Group, undertook an ESG Gap and Baseline Assessment during FY 2024–25 using the ESG Diagnostic Tool developed by CII–Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development (CII-CESD). Driven by leadership's commitment to sustainability and preparedness for future regulatory and stakeholder expectations, the Company leveraged this assessment to baseline its ESG performance, identify operational gaps across environmental, social, and governance parameters, and integrate best practices into its operations.

About the CESD intervention

The **ESG Diagnostic Tool** is a SaaS-based platform designed by CII to help organizations assess their baseline ESG performance. The tool utilizes a comprehensive questionnaire comprising approximately 95 questions that span across the three core ESG dimensions and 12 key aspects, including corporate governance, risk management, health and safety, supply chain, environmental management, among others. Based on the overall ESG performance score, the organization is awarded a maturity-based certificate, reflecting its current level of ESG integration and readiness.

Based on the Centre's ESG diagnostic assessment, PPSCPL initiated strategic actions to address the identified gaps as part of its sustainability roadmap. The multi-year engagement supports implementation of targeted interventions, including:

- Capacity Building
 - ESG capacity building for leadership and executive teams
 - Training on the Code of Conduct and Ethics
- Governance and reporting
 - Development of Supplier Code of Conduct
 - Development of BRSR report
- Strategy - Materiality assessment
- Climate and Environmental Management
 - Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions computation
 - Climate Risk Assessment
 - Single-Use Plastic-Free Certification
- Supply Chain Sustainability - Eco-Edge sustainability assessment of select key suppliers
- Occupational Health and Safety - Deployment of ISO 45001 Occupational Health & Safety Management System

Outcome and Impact



Establishment of a cross-functional ESG Core Team

A formal ESG Core Team with representation from all departments was constituted to enable coordinated, organization-wide ESG implementation.



ESG priorities and gaps

The assessment identified five key ESG focus areas and 28 gaps, supported by 30 actionable recommendations to guide improvement initiatives.



Capacity Building

On-site training was conducted for leadership and executive teams covering ESG fundamentals, regulatory developments (including BRSR), and integration of ESG into business strategy. Online training was delivered to employees on the Code of Conduct and Ethics, focusing on company expectations and relevant industry best practices.



Strategy

A structured materiality assessment aligned with Global Reporting Initiative Standards 2021 (GRI 3) was conducted, incorporating stakeholder inputs, business alignment, and peer benchmarking, resulting in the identification and prioritization of 11 material ESG topics.



Maturity-based certificate

Based on the ESG Diagnostic Assessment, the Company was awarded the Emerging maturity level, establishing a baseline for its ESG performance



Foundation for a sustainability roadmap

The ESG scorecard informed the development of PPSCPL's two-year sustainability roadmap, providing a structured pathway for continuous improvement.



Governance and Reporting

Development of a Supplier Code of Conduct was initiated to embed ESG criteria, ethical sourcing, and responsible practices into supplier engagement.



Climate and Environmental Management

A Scope 1 and Scope 2 GHG inventory was developed for the FY 2024–25 base year in alignment with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol.



Supply Chain Sustainability

The Eco-Edge Programme was implemented for select suppliers, combining ESG capacity building with performance assessments and improvement roadmaps.

“ At Pon Pure Chemicals, sustainability isn't a standalone initiative — it's embedded in our design thinking. From pioneering green chemistry to minimizing waste across our operations, we've always believed that the only growth worth pursuing is one that's responsible and enduring.



We recognize the pivotal role of CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development in shaping a resilient future. By bringing together industry, policy, and science, CESD is helping forge the partnerships that real progress demands. CESD team's work has been instrumental in raising climate awareness, accelerating ESG adoption, and turning aspirations into measurable impact — including for organizations like ours.

As we move forward, we remain committed not just as a chemical company, but as a catalyst for sustainable planet transformation.”

Suryaprakas M P

Executive Director
Pon Pure Chemical India Pvt. Ltd.



ESG Maturity Certificate presentation during site visit with the CMD on 19 June at Tamil Nadu



On-site ESG capacity building workshop conducted for plant personnel on 19 June at Tamil Nadu

Nature-positive action

In focus - ReNew

ReNew

Project overview

ReNew has adopted a biodiversity policy and committed for reversing biodiversity loss and aligning with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs), and the India Business & Biodiversity Initiative (IBBI). This policy provides a framework to identify, manage, and mitigate biodiversity-related risks and impacts across ReNew's entire value chain.

- Location adjacent to ecologically important ecosystems such as wetlands, forests, and other biodiversity rich habitats
- Presence of IUCN Red List species within or near the project footprint.

Using geospatial analysis, each site was screened for biodiversity sensitivity through coordinate based assessments and a 10 km influence zone. The evaluation enabled a systematic classification of nature related risk levels across the portfolio, aligning with TNFD's Assess stage by capturing potential dependencies and impacts on priority ecosystems and species.

About the CESD intervention

As part of the TNFD aligned LEAP assessment, the Centre developed a robust methodology to support ReNew in identifying and evaluating nature related risks across its diverse portfolio of more than 150 assets spanning wind, solar, hydro, and manufacturing sites. The screening process incorporated ecological sensitivity and biodiversity value, drawing on multiple parameters consistent with TNFD's LEAP approach.

Outcome and Impact

The portfolio level screening identified 27 assets as priority locations requiring detailed nature risk assessments. Site specific assessments were subsequently undertaken for two locations to examine operational risks, ecological pressures, and recommended mitigation measures.

Based on these findings, a cumulative biodiversity action plan was developed to support ReNew's corporate level biodiversity commitments, alongside tailored site specific action plans for high priority assets. These efforts supported ReNew to strengthen its management systems, integrate nature related considerations into operational planning, and align future financial resource allocation with nature positive outcomes and risk mitigation.

Key criteria included

- Direct spatial overlap with Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and Protected Areas (PAs)
- Proximity to KBAs and PAs within a defined 10 km buffer zone

“ At ReNew, we believe the growth of clean energy must also support and protect nature. Guided by our Biodiversity Policy and aligned with global biodiversity goals, we are integrating biodiversity considerations across our renewable energy portfolio.



Using detailed site assessments and data-driven analysis, we identified locations that may face higher nature-related risks and carried out focused studies to better understand local biodiversity challenges and opportunities. These insights are helping us shape action plans at both the project and portfolio level, strengthen long-term resilience, guide investments, and integrate nature into everyday decision-making, ensuring that our growth contributes positively to protecting biodiversity while creating lasting value. ”

Vaishali Nigam Sinha

Co-founder ReNew & Chairperson - Sustainability



Renewable energy assets coexisting with ecosystems

Interventions and initiatives

With a vision to drive transformation towards sustainable development, CESD focuses on the following transformational pathways: Driving national environmental policy reform; Accelerating India's transformation to a circular economy; Strengthening ESG governance and enabling sustainable finance; Building climate resilience and a low-carbon industrial economy; Promoting nature-positive business action; Improving air quality, public health and rural livelihoods.

Driving national environmental policy reform

In 2025, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), and other apex authorities advanced sweeping regulatory reforms. These interventions focused on strengthening environmental governance, accelerating the circular economy, transitioning to digital compliance, and enhancing accountability frameworks.

The CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development (CESD) remained at the forefront of this transition, consolidating industry perspectives, facilitating high-level stakeholder consultations, and submitting evidence-based policy recommendations to ensure frameworks remain practical, implementable, and supportive of economic competitiveness.

Institutional Framework: CII National Committee on Environment (NCE)

CESD serves as the Secretariat for the CII National Committee on Environment (NCE), the premier platform for structured policy dialogue between Indian industry and regulatory bodies.

Chaired by Mr. Shiv Siddhant Narayan Kaul, Managing Director, Nicco Engineering Services Ltd, the Committee comprises over 50 senior industry leaders cutting across diverse sectors. The NCE shaped national discourse on environment by submitting over 130 policy recommendations to central and state governments. To enable deep, focused deliberations, it operated through three dedicated working groups this year:

- Environment and Forest Rules
- Waste Management Rules
- Deposit Refund System (DRS)

Core Policy Interventions & Representations

Through the NCE Secretariat and structured stakeholder engagements, CESD formulated and submitted evidence-based representations to key central and state regulatory authorities to address critical operational bottlenecks and framework designs.

Submissions to MoEFCC

- **Solid waste governance:** Submitted comprehensive industry inputs on the Draft Notification on Solid Waste Management Rules, 2024.
- **Multi-material EPR frameworks:** Drafted strategic recommendations on the Draft Notification on Environment Protection (Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging made from Paper, Glass, Metal, and Sanitary Products) Rules, 2024.
- **Plastic circularity targets:** Addressed critical industry challenges in meeting recycled plastic content and reuse targets mandated under the Plastic Waste Management Rules.
- **Environmental clearance frameworks:** Provided industry perspectives on the Draft Amendment to the Schedule of the EIA Notification, 2006.
- **Global trade alignment:** Assessed and submitted the operational implications of the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) for Indian wood-based industries.
- **Decarbonisation pathways:** Evaluated and responded to the Draft Notification on Greenhouse Gases Emission Intensity Target Rules, 2025.

- **Plastic amendments:** Submitted targeted feedback on the Draft Notification on Plastic Waste Management (Second Amendment) Rules, 2025.
- **Battery lifecycle compliance:** Highlighted ongoing implementation challenges under the Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022 and its subsequent amendments.
- **Market mechanism alignment:** Advocated for the harmonisation of state-level Deposit Refund Schemes (DRS) within the overarching Central Plastic Waste Management Rules and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework.

Submissions to CPCB

- **Plastic packaging EPR:** Submitted resolutions addressing key challenges and operational recommendations regarding EPR obligations under the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016.
- **Technical regulation and exemptions:** Provided strategic feedback on the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Recommendation of Exemption from Minimum 50-micron Plastic Packaging Requirement under the plastic waste management rules.
- **MSME integration:** Advocated for the seamless registration of micro and small-sized packaging suppliers on the centralized EPR portal for plastic packaging.
- **Compliance clarifications:** Secured administrative clarifications related to annual return filings for FY 2024-25 under the prevailing plastic waste management rules.
- **NCR environmental monitoring:** Addressed implementation timelines and technical constraints for Online Continuous Emission Monitoring Systems (OCEMS) requirements in the National Capital Region.

- **Hazardous waste infrastructure:** Assisted in framing standard guidelines for the setup, transportation, operational upkeep, and maintenance of Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities (TSDFs).

Submissions to NITI Aayog

- **Recycling Industry Promotion:** Developed key recommendations on the guidance document for State/UT policies aimed at promoting and scaling the recycling ecosystem.
- **Ease of Doing Business (EoDB):** Outlined the transformation of environmental compliance systems to streamline processes and reduce regulatory friction.

Submissions to other central government ministries and departments

- **Digital Governance & Clearances:** Advocated for strengthening state-level green clearances and approvals through integrated digital systems and coordinated governance frameworks.
- **Regulatory Streamlining:** Proposed systemic regulatory reforms to simplify and streamline daily environmental compliance workflows for industries.

Submissions to State Government

- **Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board:** Formulated and submitted strategic recommendations under the proposed Centre of Excellence on Climate Change and Green & Clean Technology – Rajasthan Green Challenge Fund.

Major Policy Wins

CESD's long-standing advocacy and structured representations bore tangible results, reflected in several landmark reforms and notifications issued by MoEFCC and CPCB:

Policy Area	Regulatory Reform/Policy Win
Mandatory Greenbelt	Rationalised from a rigid 33% to a flexible 10–33% range, scaling directly with industry type, size, and pollution potential.
White Category Expansion	Expanded from 54 to 86 sectors, completely removing compliance burdens for low-pollution, low-impact activities.
PARIVESH Portal	Upgraded with GIS-based mapping, automated data analytics, and streamlined workflows to slash clearance timelines.
EIA Streamlining	Eliminated redundant project presentations before SEIAA following a successful SEAC appraisal.
CETP Exemptions	Granted Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) exemptions from prior Environmental Clearance, unlocking collective pollution control infrastructure.
EC Validity (Zero Period)	Declared that time spent in judicial proceedings constitutes a Zero Period, preventing project delays from eating into EC and CRZ validity.
Digital Integration	Rolled out the pilot framework for the Unified Consent & Authorization Management System (UCAMS) following a key demonstration in late 2025.
Siting Criteria	Introduced standardized, science-based distance norms separating new industries from sensitive zones.
Industrial Classification	CPCB notification (12 February 2025) successfully harmonised and categorised industries into Red, Orange, Green, White, and a new Blue category for Essential Environmental Services.
Consent Mechanisms	Consent Amendment Guidelines introduced perpetual CTO validity and integrated consent mechanisms.
Legislative Amendments	Air and Water Act amendments expanded exemptions directly aligned with White Category classifications.
Forestry Approvals	Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Amendment Rules, 2025 revised and streamlined approvals for afforestation and strategic projects.

Technical Implementation & Standardization Support

Beyond advocacy, CESD actively partnered with apex technical bodies to operationalize regulations on the ground.

Collaboration with CPCB

Non-ferrous metal EPR: Facilitated cross-sectoral stakeholder consultations and submitted actionable frameworks covering registration, stakeholder responsibilities, and target-setting for non-ferrous metal scrap.

- **EPR portal optimization:** Strengthened the Common EPR Portal's functionality by embedding end-to-end traceability, streamlined annual return filing architectures, including Single Sign-On (SSO) integration
- **UCAMS demonstration:** Conducted a joint demonstration of the Unified Consent & Authorization Management System (UCAMS) on 23 December 2025 and consolidated structured industry feedback for submission to CPCB.
- **Hackathon 2025 – Eco-alternatives to Single-Use Plastics (SUP):** Supported the evaluation and selection of innovations aligned with the World Environment Day 2025 theme, promoting sustainable alternatives to Single-use Plastics.

Standardization Roadmap with the Bureau of Indian Standards

CESD actively represented industry interests across committees under the Environment and Ecology Department (EED) of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), mapping national standards to international ISO frameworks. Key contributions include:

- **Global harmonisation:** Participated in ISO/TC 323 deliberations and international Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) discussions, alongside shaping ISO-led global guidelines on sludge deodorization.
- **Circular economy and waste management:** Contributed to the development of national circular economy and sustainability standards, as well as a comprehensive waste management roadmap and strategic framework.
- **Industrial discharge and re-use:** Formulated standardized frameworks for industrial wastewater classification, alongside drafting operational guidelines on biosolids and plastic waste management.
- **Pollution and safety frameworks:** Aided the development and review of foundational standards relating to ambient air, soil, and noise pollution management.
- **Occupational health:** Structured the technical selection criteria for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) utilized in industrial waste handling.

High-level convening at the India Edge 2025

At the flagship CII India Edge 2025 summit (3–4 December, New Delhi), CESD curated a high-profile plenary session titled "Green Growth: Aligning Sustainability with Competitiveness."

Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, addressed the plenary, emphasizing that India's green transition serves as a catalyst for economic competitiveness under the national vision of Viksit Bharat@2047. He called for enhanced industry leadership, deep tech

innovation, and robust integration with MSME supply chains. The session underscored:

- The fundamental importance of circular economy strategies.
- Strengthened global supply chain integration.
- Formal recognition of CII's policy contributions, including EPR frameworks, the Circular Economy PLI scheme, and Green Public Procurement.

The session reinforced the need to align sustainability with economic priorities to strengthen India's global leadership in green growth.



Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII; Shiv Siddhant Kaul, Chairman, CII National Committee on Environment and MD, Nicco Engineering Services Ltd.; Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change and Masood Mallick, Chairman, CII National Committee on Waste-to-Worth and MD & Group CEO, Re Sustainability Ltd. at the Special Plenary on 'Green Growth: Aligning Sustainability with Competitiveness' at IndiaEdge 2025, held on 3 December 2025 in New Delhi.

Accelerating India's transition to a circular economy

Circular economy and resource efficiency

Circularity is a critical theme in CESD's work, and this year saw major progress in advancing business-led circular solutions. The Centre, along with Indian industry, promotes the principles of circular economy and resource efficiency by championing sectoral initiatives in the plastic packaging sector, through policy engagements. The Centre also provides strategic guidance to businesses and during the year, it engaged with 58 organisations to build capacity for circular economy practices.

Representing Indian industry at Global Plastics Treaty negotiations

As an observer to the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), CII continued to represent Indian industry's voices to global stakeholders. In 2025, CII participated in the second part of the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC 5.2) to develop an international legally binding instrument (ILBI; commonly known as the Global Plastics Treaty) on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, held in Geneva, Switzerland from 5 to 14 August 2025.

Through its side event on 4 August 2025, CII presented Indian industry's positive actions to tackle plastics, especially plastic packaging, to an international audience, highlighted India's strong policy driven landscape, and provided a networking forum for industry, government, and civil society. CII also actively participated in key side events at the negotiations organized by WEF, WRAP and EMF, sharing insights on voluntary business actions, collaborations, reuse systems, and packaging design.



From L to R: Dr Nandini Kumar, Principal Consultant, CII; Biswarup Chakrabarty, Vice President and Head – Packaging Development, ITC Ltd; K. Ganesh, Director – Sustainability and Corporate Affairs, Bisleri International Pvt Ltd; Punit Singhal, Director – rPET business, JB Ecotex; Haren Sanghavi, Co-Chairman, All India Plastics Manufacturers' Association, and MD, GMS Plastic Machinery Pvt Ltd; Jerome Stucki, Chief – Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency unit, UNIDO; and Peter Skelton, International Strategic Partnerships Manager, WRAP at the CII session at INC 5.2 in Geneva, Switzerland



Snapshots of the industry delegation and CII representatives speaking at side events hosted by WRAP and the World Economic Forum, respectively, during INC 5.2 in Geneva, Switzerland

Trial on Solutions for Recyclable Flexible Packaging

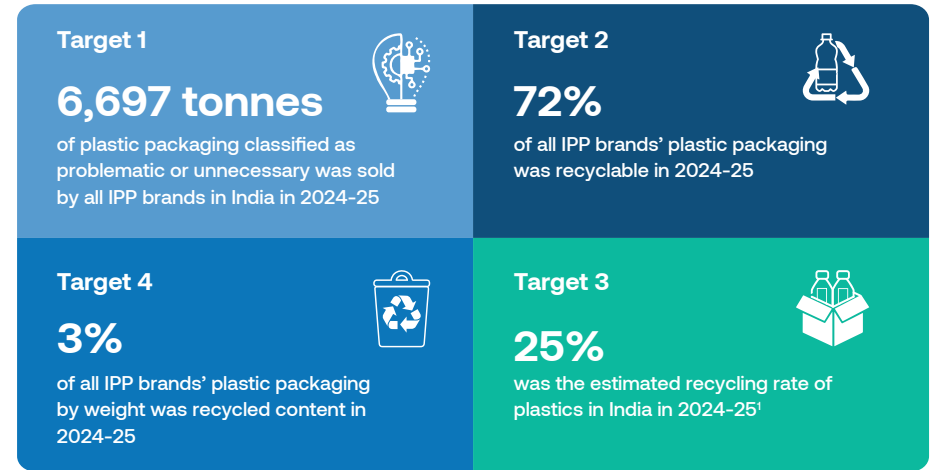
In India, approximately 70 per cent of consumer packaging is comprised of flexible plastics, which largely consists of Multi-Layered Polymers (MLPs). The lack of recyclability of MLPs poses a significant environmental challenge and leads to a loss of valuable resources. The Centre has created a catalysing platform to demonstrate scalable solutions for recyclable flexible packaging. A consortium of FMCG brands, packaging converters, and recyclers are developing new recyclable packaging structures for MLPs. The consortia is led by: Godrej Consumer Products Limited; Huhtamaki India Limited; PepsiCo India Holdings and ITC Limited.



CII Indian Plastic Pact Initiative

The CII India Plastics Pact (IPP) initiative unites businesses, governments, NGOs, and citizens to create a circular plastics economy in India. With a vision is to create a world where plastic is valued and doesn't pollute the environment, IPP focuses on addressing the barriers to circularity in the plastic packaging sector through four ambitious time-bound targets.

IPP has 57 member and supporter organisations (as on December 2025), accounting for 15 – 25 per cent of plastic packaging placed in the Indian market. The Centre engaged with the 58 organisations for: reuse and refill; films and flexibles; understanding citizen behaviour/attitudes; ensuring 25% average recycled content across all plastic packaging and reviewing the list of problematic and unnecessary plastic items.



* Reported using publicly available data.

CII IPP Fourth Annual Conference

The CII IPP Fourth Annual Conference held in New Delhi on 30 October 2025 saw the presence of representatives from over 50 signatories. The Conference offered an incredible opportunity for signatories to share the progress on under the IPP targets and learn from each other's experiences of transitioning to a circular plastics economy and participate in sessions to define the work for the coming year.



Pact signatories interact with panel members during the CII IPP Fourth Annual Conference in New Delhi



Participants at the CII IPP Fourth Annual Conference in New Delhi

Waste management solutions



Single-use Plastics (SuP) Free Certification

CII CESD has developed the Plastics use Protocol to help organisations categorize, identify, quantify, and set up a strategic and action-oriented approach to replace/eliminate SuPs.

This protocol helps organisations reduce their plastic footprint and build their reputation as leaders in sustainability.

Since its launch in 2020, the Plastics-use Protocol (PuP) has targeted a broad spectrum of industries and helped them manage their plastic consumption patterns. Through the SuP free certification, more than 30 different businesses have voluntarily adopted the Protocol across 300+ sites, resulting in a significant reduction of single-use plastic waste across sectors including infrastructure & engineering, automotive & tyres, energy & power, consumer goods & manufacturing, data centers, technology and software.

Certification Progress Since 2020



CII Zero Waste to Landfill (ZWL) Certification Program

ZWL enables organizations to strengthen segregation systems, diversion pathways, and traceable end-use recovery, ensuring waste is recycled, recovered, or reused instead of landfilled. The program is built on the 5R hierarchy, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, Recycle, and Recover, driving organizations to

move waste up the value chain rather than directing it to landfill. The program has been adopted across multiple sectors including ports, airports, energy, and manufacturing, reflecting growing industry commitment to resource recovery and waste valorization.

- 16 Industrial sites certified with high landfill diversion performance.
- Program successfully enabled diversion of 2.28+ million MT of waste from landfill.
- 204 Sites under assessment, supporting system strengthening, traceability, and improved diversion outcomes.
- Diversion of over 17,200 MT of conventional waste annually from landfill through verified diversion pathways across airports, seaports, and thermal power plants.
- Material recycling accounted for the largest share at 11,300 MT, covering dry MSW (8,985 MT). Other industrial waste (1,352 MT), plastic (827 MT), e-waste (130 MT), and battery waste (48 MT) processed through authorized category-specific recyclers.
- Organic waste recovery contributed 2,062 MT through composting, biogas digestion, vermicomposting, and livestock feed channels.
- Hazardous waste totaling 2,313 MT was safely treated through authorized TSDF and recycling facilities ensuring full regulatory compliance.
- Biomedical waste of 1,364 MT was processed through authorized Common Biomedical Waste Treatment Facilities, primarily at seaport operations.
- Construction and demolition waste amounting to 14,588 m³ was reused on-site across airports, with an additional 60 MT recovered at the thermal power plant.
- Separately, the thermal power plant achieved diversion of 2,267,233 MT of industrial by-products, fly ash (21,66,338 MT) and FGD gypsum (1,00,895 MT) supplied directly to cement plants as raw material for clinkers and natural gypsum substitution, with 34.5 MT of RDF directed to waste-to-energy recovery. This stream achieved a diversion rate exceeding 99.9% and is reported independently for cross-sector comparability.

Building climate resilience and a low-carbon industrial economy

The Centre is focused on building climate resilience and advancing a low-carbon industrial economy by catalysing collective action to address climate risks faced by Indian industry. During the year, key focus areas included improving access to climate finance and strengthening India's carbon market readiness; advancing adaptation, physical risk assessment, and disaster resilience; supporting industrial decarbonisation; promoting MSME-led climate action, particularly in food processing clusters; enabling net-zero transitions in hard-to-abate sectors; and fostering international dialogue and exchange of global best practices.

These efforts were supported through a range of initiatives, including tools and collaborations such as the CII Climate Action Charter (CCAC), the Physical Climate Risk Assessment Framework (PCRAF), Indian Carbon Market awareness programmes, and the CII-ITA-BCG collaboration for net-zero projects. Capacity building remained a priority through trainings on climate finance, carbon markets, adaptation, and resilience, along with a

CII-certified climate change training conducted in December 2025. The Centre also strengthened thought leadership through submissions, dialogues, and publications aimed at promoting clean energy adoption and decarbonisation.

Policy advocacy

The Centre advanced India's low carbon transition in 2025–26 through sustained engagement with government, regulators, and industry. Key priorities included advocating for a Green Finance Institution, a Green Tech Expo Fund, and submitting inputs on the India Climate Finance Taxonomy, RBI's Climate Finance Directions, the National Net Zero Portal, and EU CBAM, with a focus on hard to abate sectors and MSMEs. CII's Climate Change Council and Task Force convened policymakers and industry to discuss climate regulations, carbon markets, Net Zero strategies, Green Hydrogen, and CBAM readiness, strengthening government–industry collaboration.



Session on Corporate Opportunities in the Carbon Market in India

Key multilateral engagements

Advancing climate action

CII facilitated direct engagement of Indian industry with COP30 presidency. During the interaction Ambassador André Aranha Corrêa do Lago outlined the action focused vision for COP30, emphasizing President Lula's three part agenda centred on multilateralism, private sector

participation, and broad public engagement. He emphasised COP30 to be solution driven, grounded in the Global Stocktake, and supported by finance and technology. Dr. Ana Toni reinforced COP30 as a "COP of implementation," presenting a six theme Action Agenda. She stressed the importance of countries signing the five year Action Agenda plan.



Advancing Climate Action @COP30 and Beyond – 20th Sustainability Summit on 2 September in New Delhi

Engagement with Sustainable Business COP (SBCOP)

The Sustainable Business COP (SB COP) is a globally supported platform, led by Brazil's CNI. It strengthens private-sector participation in climate action through eight thematic Working Groups endorsed by the COP30 Presidency.

CII served as the Indian Secretariat, nominating industry members in the working groups. These members contributed to the Pre COP Industry Expectations Report and sectoral case studies. Lupin's Green Inhalers, Cipla's Renewable Energy Transition, and CESC Group's Miyawaki Forestation were showcased in the SB COP Digital Booklet at COP30.

Engagement with the Industrial Transition Accelerator

During the year, high level consultations were organised with key ministries and the Andhra Pradesh government on implementing the Industrial Transition Accelerator (ITA) to advance industrial decarbonisation while supporting economic growth and jobs.

Stakeholders stressed aligning ITA with national initiatives like LeadIT 2.0, Mission Innovation, the National Green Hydrogen Mission, and emerging taxonomies, along with the need for policy coherence and scalable, investment ready solutions.

Unlocking India's clean industrialization opportunity

CII hosted a session on “Unlocking India's Clean Industrialization Opportunity” on 4 November with ITA and BCG, bringing together policymakers, industry, and financiers to address

barriers to green industrial projects. Discussions highlighted cluster based approaches and green hydrogen as key enablers, identifying 60 projects worth over USD 150 billion with potential for 200,000 green jobs and emissions reductions of 140–170 Mt CO₂e, supporting India's net zero industrial transition.



Unlocking India's Clean Industrialization Opportunity – a collaborative event with ITA and BCG held on 4 November

Engagement with WBCSD on Sustainability Disclosure

CII and WBCSD co hosted a panel on “Sustainability Disclosure for Businesses” on 26 February during India Connect in Mumbai. The session emphasized the rising importance of sustainability reporting and reviewed major Indian and global frameworks, including the EU Green Deal, CBAM, and the EU Deforestation Regulation.

Speakers introduced WBCSD's CPAS framework and discussed strengthening India's BRSR through better board oversight, assurance, and supply chain transparency. The event brought together industry and policymakers, underscoring the need for businesses to integrate sustainability into core strategy and align with global standards to stay competitive.



CII and WBCSD co-host a panel discussion on “Sustainability Disclosure for Businesses” at India Connect, Mumbai



Work with Subnational Actors

Physical Climate Risk Assessment Framework (PCRAF) Workshops

CESD, along with state offices, held industry workshops on ‘Assessing Climate Risks and Building Resilience’ in Ahmedabad and Pune during the year. The sessions highlighted emerging physical climate risks and the need for climate adaptation.



Assessing climate risks and building resilience industry workshops, in collaboration with the respective CII State Ahmedabad Office

CESD and the Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) launched a study to develop a cyclone and flood resilience framework for the highly vulnerable West Godavari and Eluru districts. CESD engaged with district collectors, communities, and stakeholders in West Godavari and Eluru districts in February, to shape a practical resilience framework. The region faces recurring cyclones, floods, and heat waves. Despite existing early warning systems and shelters, communities pointed to gaps in recovery support and livelihood resilience. The study provides scientifically grounded, locally relevant Disaster Risk Reduction recommendations, offering a replicable model for coastal industrial zones.

Building Climate-Resilient Food Processing MSMEs

The report “Insights from Madhya Pradesh Food Processing Clusters: Building a Climate-Smart & Resilient Future”, launched at the 20th CII Global Sustainability Summit on 3 September, assessed 28 MSMEs and outlined practical strategies such as solar cold storage, biogas, EVs, and eco-packaging, within a framework of climate awareness, emissions management, and resilience planning. It provides MSMEs a roadmap to boost climate resilience, competitiveness, and transition to a low-carbon future.



Assessing climate risks and building resilience industry workshops, in collaboration with the respective CII State Ahmedabad Office



Capacity building session conducted for MP Food Processing Sector

Strengthening ESG governance and enabling sustainable finance

Global investors are now prioritising sustainability-aligned growth, and CESD plays a pivotal role in enabling an ecosystem for ESG reporting by working with industry and engaging with regulatory bodies in India and outside.

Policy & Regulatory Engagements

Industry consultation on the draft BRSR Core Assessment Standard

As part of SEBI's Industry Standards Forum (ISF), the Centre conducted an industry consultation on 14 January 2025 to gather stakeholders' feedback on the draft BRSR Core Assessment Standard. The consultation aimed to refine the assessment methodology to facilitate the ease of adoption and compliance with BRSR and BRSR Core requirements.

Launch of the CII National Mission on Sustainability

The newly instituted CII National Mission on Sustainability (NMS) aims to enable Indian industry, particularly MSMEs and their supply chains, to integrate sustainability into business strategy and operations. Chaired by Mr Sanjiv Puri, Immediate Past President, CII; Chairman, CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development and Chairman and Managing Director, ITC Ltd, the Mission is structured around four key pillars: ESG Frameworks and Disclosures; Climate Transition and Decarbonization; Circular Economy and Climate Adaptation and Nature.

India Sustainability Task Force

CII constituted India Sustainability Task Force (ISTF), under the chairmanship of Mr Jayant Sinha (President, Eversource Capital, Former Minister of State for Finance and Civil Aviation, Former Chairperson, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance) and Mr Ajay Tyagi (IAS and former Chairperson, SEBI) as Co-Chair.

The Task Force aim to provide a cross-sectoral and economy-wide sustainability roadmap for Indian industry, covering themes such as green taxonomy, sustainability reporting and regulatory role, corporate sustainability roadmaps, green finance mechanisms, carbon markets and emission trading, just transition and MSME supply chains.

As part of its deliberations, the Task Force undertook structured interactions with industry leaders (CEOs and CSOs) and senior regulatory authorities, including the Chairperson of SEBI and the Secretary and Additional Secretary of MoEFCC, to gather strategic insights on key thematic areas and the evolving regulatory landscape.

BRSR Mapping with IFRS and GRI

The Centre aims to assist industries of all sizes and sectors to incorporate ESG aspects into their business strategies and processes to attract ESG investors.

A series of stakeholder consultations on aligning ESG disclosures with investment opportunities & expectations were conducted in March, April and June in Delhi and Mumbai with industry members, domestic and foreign institutional investors. The sessions aimed to gather insights on aligning ESG standards with investment requirements and philosophies.

The Centre mapped BRSR indicators with IFRS Foundation and Global Reporting Initiative frameworks across 15 sectors.

Recommendations across 15 key sectors were presented, based on a detailed analysis aligning BRSR with IFRS, GRI, investment philosophies, and India's policy landscape.

Both general and sector-specific suggestions were shared to solicit feedback on improving the relevance and decision-usefulness of ESG disclosures for investors.

The CII report "Assessing the Impact of ESG Standards Alignment on Sustainable Finance in India", presents nine cross-sectoral recommendations along with sector-specific guidance, the implementation of which is expected to enhance data consistency, strengthen investor confidence, and enable increased capital flows toward ESG-aligned enterprises.



India Sustainability Task Force Meeting, 26 July 2025

Enabling ecosystem for sustainability reporting

The Centre, through ESG Intelligence & Analytics, assists industry manage ESG material risks and develop sustainable strategies for organizations. Some of the solutions that the Centre facilitates industry with are:



Capacity building

The Centre individually and in collaboration with other CII Regional offices, successfully delivered 12 in-house training sessions covering diverse topics including, BRSR, ESG frameworks & metrics, sustainability reporting and climate change etc. In FY 25-26, 300+ professionals were trained.



ESG assessment

Conducted via a SaaS-based tool, the Centre's assessment process includes capacity building, data collection on 90+ indicators, verification, automated scoring, and gap assessment reporting. In 2025, CESD supported companies across chemicals, automotive, shipbuilding and FMCG sectors.



ESG advisory

The centre has facilitated with development and implementation of ESG roadmap, materiality assessment, GHG accounting, policy development and development of manuals on EHS management systems for companies from sectors such as financial services, shipbuilding and chemicals.

Stakeholder consultations

Aligning ESG disclosures with investment opportunities

The Centre conducted a stakeholder consultation with industry members, and domestic and foreign institutional investors on 10 March to gather insights on aligning ESG standards with investment requirements and philosophies. The consultation explored the interplay between ESG disclosures and investment approaches and included a mapping exercise between the BRSR framework and IFRS to gather stakeholder perspectives.

Key insights from the discussion included:

- Aligning BRSR with IFRS will enhance global compatibility, enabling Indian companies to meet both domestic regulations and international investor expectations.
- Sector-specific KPIs were identified as critical for capturing material industry issues and providing relevant investor insights.
- Both fundamental indicators and company-specific nuances need to be assessed rather than relying solely on overall scores for better decision-making.

Another consultation was held on the same topic on 30 April at the CII Mumbai State Office, with participation from 20 institutional investors, including banks, asset managers, insurers, and private equity firms. The session focused on aligning India's Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR) with evolving investment expectations.

- Served as a platform for representatives of leading financial institutions to share perspectives on enhancing the relevance and effectiveness of ESG disclosures in India.
- Facilitated comparative mapping of the Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR) with the IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards across 15 priority sectors.



Stakeholder consultation on aligning ESG standard with Investment expectations

To further deliberate on aligning ESG standards with investment requirements, an in-person stakeholder consultation was organised on 12 June in New Delhi, with participation from industry members. This consultation marked the third in a series of engagements convened by the Centre to advance a more material, sector-sensitive, and industry-aligned ESG reporting approach—aimed at enhancing transparency and supporting the mobilization of sustainable finance.

- Recommendations across 15 key sectors were presented, based on a detailed analysis aligning BRSR with IFRS, GRI, investment philosophies, and India's policy landscape.
- Both general and sector-specific suggestions were shared to solicit feedback on improving the relevance and decision-usefulness of ESG disclosures for investors.



In-person stakeholder consultation on aligning ESG disclosures with Investment Opportunities



Supporting value chain partners' sustainability

Through the Eco Edge program, the Centre integrates sustainability (environmental & social parameters) in value chains of companies (both upstream & downstream), by conducting capacity building sessions; developing baseline for vendors; sharing gap assessment reports and performance-based certification.

Program Impact

Baseline assessments

- Eco Edge successfully completed Phase 3 of the assessment for Škoda Auto Volkswagen India Private Limited, expanding the number of Value Chain Partners (VCPs) assessed from 44 in 2024 to 48 in 2025. The 48 VCPs included both upstream and downstream partners. This marks a significant scale-up in engagement and coverage.
- Eco Edge has initiated engagement with Ashok Leyland on the BRSR Core assessment for value chain partners. The scope includes conducting BRSR Core training sessions for 120 suppliers and carrying out assessments and report development for 22 suppliers, in line with the framework rolled out by Ashok Leyland for its supplier base.

Capacity building

These sessions equipped participants with practical insights on BRSR Core reporting for value chains, sustainable procurement practices, the importance of ESG within value chains, and broader sustainability principles. The programs also covered the Eco Edge framework, with a focus on its key pillars: decarbonization, circularity, health and safety, and human rights. In FY 25-26, 250+ professionals were trained.

Gap reports

- 48 detailed gap reports were released, analysing value chain partner performance, highlighting key gaps, and providing actionable recommendations. The reports also included ESG dashboards for VCPs and peer benchmarking to encourage VCPs to improve their sustainability performance.
- Eco Edge SaaS-based tool has been enhanced with ESG and BRSR Core dashboards featuring analytics designed for sourcing companies and their value chain partners. Additionally, sourcing companies can also now access all ESG-related information submitted by their value chain partners directly through their own Eco Edge portal.

Stakeholder engagements

- The 2nd edition of the Eco Edge Stakeholder Meet was held with 55 participants from diverse sectors, including finance, automobile, auto component manufacturing, and energy. The meeting provided an engaging platform for dialogue and learning, with discussions covering CII's work on ESG and Eco Edge, a Masterclass on BRSR Core, a panel discussion on ESG in Finance: A Multi-Faceted Approach, and company insights on driving ESG impact across companies and value chains.



Stakeholder consultation on aligning ESG standard with investment expectations

- As part of the 3rd Edition of the CII Karnataka ESG Summit 2025 on the theme "ESG Leadership 2030: Nurturing Sustainable Ecosystems and Responsible Businesses of Tomorrow", a session on Developing and Enhancing the ESG-Compliant Supply Chain Ecosystem was held on 24 September 2025 at Hotel Taj West End, Bengaluru. The session brought together diverse stakeholder perspectives from the industrials, automobiles and auto components, healthcare, capital goods, and energy sectors. It focused on building resilient, responsible, and future-ready supply chains aligned with ESG principles.



Session on "Developing and Enhancing the ESG-Compliant Supply Chain Ecosystem" at the 3rd Edition of the CII Karnataka ESG Summit 2025

- CII Karnataka organized the Mysuru Edition of INTEGRATE 2025—a Buyer-Seller Meet, Exhibition, and Conference—in partnership with Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association (KASSIA). As part of the conference, CESD participated in the panel discussion titled 'Women-led MSMEs – Powering India's Industrial Growth: Importance of ESG for Businesses and Value Chains – Drivers'. The session held on 22 August in Mysuru discussed the role of women-led MSMEs in India's industrial growth and emphasized the importance of ESG integration as a key driver for business resilience, sustainable value chains, and long-term competitiveness.
- CII – Southern Region (CII-SR) convened the CII Automotive ESG Cluster 2025, a collaborative platform aimed at advancing sustainability, ESG practices, and climate action across the automotive sector. The cluster initiative was moderated by CESD and focused on co-developing actionable solutions to strengthen ESG integration within the industry. As part of the programme, cluster meetings were held on 30 September 2025 and 5 December 2025, bringing together member companies to exchange perspectives and jointly address ESG implementation challenges. Participating organizations included Apollo Tyres, Ashok Leyland, Hero MotoCorp, Nemak, Rane Group, and TAFE, among others.

Promoting nature-positive business action

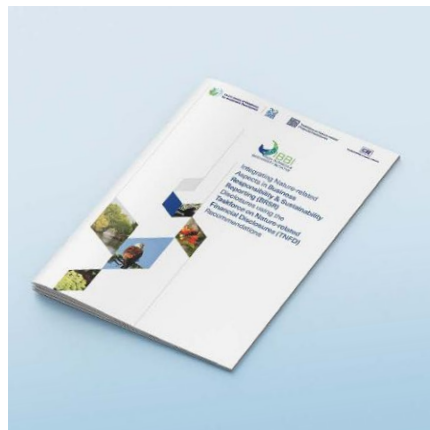
Nature has become a critical pillar for businesses as investors, rating agencies, and global frameworks increasingly integrate environmental considerations into decision-making processes. In this context, IBBI is focused on supporting its members as they prepare for evolving requirements and align with the revised IBBI declaration.

This effort is also consistent with the implementation of Target 15 of India's National Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan (NBSAP) 2024, which reinforces the country's commitments under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). Together, these initiatives aim to strengthen corporate accountability, enhance nature-related disclosures, and promote sustainable business practices.

India's top 1,000 listed companies are mandated to submit annual disclosures under the Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) framework. To further strengthen nature-related transparency, IBBI has partnered with the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) to develop a guidance document aligning BRSR requirements with the TNFD framework.

This alignment aims to help businesses systematically assess, integrate, and disclose their biodiversity related risks, dependencies, impacts, and opportunities within the existing BRSR structure. Notably, India is currently the only country to have created a country specific alignment between its national reporting framework and the TNFD, positioning it as an early mover in driving nature-positive business practices.

Twenty eight IBBI members have conducted biodiversity risk assessments across 400+ operational sites, while 60 businesses have set measurable biodiversity targets. Companies are



also beginning to act on the ground, with 20 investing in species conservation and 10 supporting wetland restoration. Governance practices are strengthening and now 28 businesses have integrated biodiversity risk management plan in place, and 50 have adopted ecosystem based approaches. Capacity building has expanded with 300 trained biodiversity champions, and 10 companies are meeting Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) requirements. Transparency is improving as 20 companies publish nature related disclosure reports that highlight best practices. Overall, the IBBI Declaration is catalysing meaningful progress and mainstreaming biodiversity considerations within India's corporate sector.

TNFD's call for voluntary reporting for FY 2024-2026 is gaining traction in India, with 26 businesses committed for TNFD Adoption, out of which 12 are IBBI business members. 10 Indian companies also released their nature-related disclosure report in 2025 which also underscoring India's growing leadership in nature related reporting.

CII IBBI & IBCA Joint Conference

The joint conference on "Action for Biodiversity Conservation: Investing in People & Planet" held on 3 March in Mumbai was organised to create value of big cat conservation in India and developing private sector partnership for conservation and building resilience. The conference featured a Keynote Address by Dr. S. P. Yadav, Interim Director General, IBCA, followed by a special address by Mr Jamshyd N. Godrej, Past President CII, Chairman, CII Climate Change Council and Chairman & Managing Director, Godrej Enterprises Group, Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Company Ltd. delivered special address to highlight the critical need of wildlife conservation and the benefits it provided to community and business long-term sustainability. The session was concluded by Mr Vishal Kamat, Chairman Maharashtra State Council, CII & Executive Director Kamat Hotels and he highlighted the need of long-term strategic planning for wildlife conservation and adopting nature friendly practices.



Seema Arora; Jamshyd N. Godrej; Praveen Garg and Soumitra Dasgupta



Soumitra Dasgupta, Praveen Garg, and Vishal Kamat

CII IBBI & TNFD Roundtable

Held on the sidelines of CII ITC 20th Global Sustainability Summit, on 3 September, the session, with theme "Emerging Trends in Nature-related Risk & Opportunity Management" brought together 30+ Indian companies for a focused dialogue on the evolving nature related disclosure landscape. Mr. Tony Goldner, CEO, TNFD, highlighted how TNFD recommendations can support integration of nature related issues into BRSR disclosures, and shared updates on global adoption, sector specific guidance, and TNFD's Nature Data Public Facility.

Deliberations focused on Indian businesses' early experiences with TNFD, including challenges around data availability, valuing nature related risks, and embedding them into reporting and decision making. The roundtable served as a valuable platform for peer learning and emphasized the growing importance of addressing nature and climate risks cohesively.

Roundtable on Biological Diversity Act (BD Act) and ABS Regulation 2014

Organised in Nagpur on 15 February and in Pune on 4 March, the initiative was convened in partnership with Dr. Suhas Buddhe, Member, IBBI & CMD, Bio Care India, to guide businesses on compliance with BD Act provisions, ABS regulations, and procedures related to sourcing biological resources. The discussions were prompted by notices issued by the Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board (MSBB) to organic farm input providers. Around 50 MSMEs participated across both sessions.

A virtual session in partnership with TNFD was organised on "Nature related Risks and Opportunities for Businesses" on 26 February, followed by a sector focused session on "Nature related Risks & Opportunities for the Metal & Mining Sector" on 5 August 2025. Global and Indian businesses shared insights and experiences on adopting the TNFD recommendations. Together, both sessions engaged 200+ participants from India and across the world.

Improving air quality, public health and rural livelihoods

The India CEO Forum for Clean Air brings together nearly 140 business leaders for the Cleaner Air Better Life initiative. The forum aims to provide cleaner air and better quality of life to Indian citizens by involving the industries, Government and society to design solutions to curb air pollution at its sources.

Policy advocacy

- A Draft National Mission has been conceptualised and submitted to NITI Aayog, in response to their request for comprehensive inputs from the team. The proposed mission is focussed on four key actionable solutions:

- development of VOC-free fibreboard
- production of green pulp with zero liquid discharge (ZLD)
- manufacturing of low-carbon bio-concrete blocks, and
- generation of biochar through closed-loop pyrolysis.

If adopted, this Draft National Mission will address the utilisation of the remaining one-third of rice straw not covered under existing in-situ management and ex-situ waste-to-energy applications, thereby creating new pathways for sustainable resource use and value addition.

- One third of CABL Task Force recommendations made through 2017-2019 adopted by various agencies in Delhi NCR with half of them partially adopted by various agencies: leading to an average 8.5% improvement in Delhi's air from 2018 level.
- 50% reduction in farm fires in Punjab-Haryana Region in last 6 years with focussed policy support and as a direct policy impact of CII NITI CABL Action plan on Biomass management.
- The CII CABL 2021 Report (Clean & Green Economy Solutions for Rice Straw Management) resulted in 2.5% Rice straw cofiring in 11 thermal power plants in Delhi NCR's airshed by influencing the GoI policy mandate for 5% biomass co-firing
- Key recommendations adopted by the GoI from work on Fleet Electrification (2023) & Scaling Zero-Emission Deliveries (2025)- single window clearance for setting up public charging stations in cities; extension of EV demand incentives to medium-heavy duty freight vehicles; managed & connected charging stations and Battery pack Aadhaar introduced.

CII – CAQM MoU

CII signed the Memorandum of Understanding with Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) on 31 October to jointly work to improve air quality in Delhi. Dedicated efforts are planned to improve citizen awareness on air pollution and inspire positive behavioural change.



CII – CAQM Collaboration

Forum meetings during the year

Through the Forum, the Centre reinforces its commitment to fostering industry-led environmental leadership, aligning innovation with national air quality goals.

The first Forum meeting on 20 June focused on three key areas (i) Innovation in zero-emission deliveries in urban last mile, (ii) Clean & green economy solutions for biomass and (iii) Harnessing data & technology for clean air in cities and industries. Mr Sujit Kumar Bajpayee, Member Secretary, Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and adjoining area addressed the Forum and shared the key actions

undertaken by the commission to improve the air quality in Delhi NCR. The second meeting, held on 14 October, saw a keynote address by Dr. Virendra Sharma, Member (technical), Commission on Air Quality Management, followed by an interactive session with Forum members on hyperlocal air quality monitoring, durable carbon and unlocking economic opportunities for clean air in India. The session saw launch of two publications:

- CII 'Cleaner Air Better Life' Clean Air Healthy Soil Farmer Toolkit 2.0
- CII-CRIA Whitepaper "Unlocking Durable Carbon Removal for India's Clean Air Future".



Meetings of the India CEO Forum for Clean Air 2025

CEO roundtable on circular economy solutions for clean air

Held on 4 February in New Delhi, the session convened industry leaders under the India CEO Forum for Clean Air. Deliberations explored how circular economy-based business models can drive air quality improvements while creating economic value.



CEO Dinner Roundtable on Circular Economy Solutions for Clean Air

Workshop with Byrnihat Industrial Association

The Centre organised a Need Assessment Workshop in Byrnihat on 24 March in collaboration with the Byrnihat Industrial Association (BIA). Bringing together 26 key industry stakeholders,

the session focused on balancing air quality improvement with business continuity for MSMEs in Byrnihat. The discussions explored practical solutions such as common boilers, piped gas infrastructure, and air quality monitoring networks to mitigate industrial emissions.



CII CABL Need Assessment Workshop in Byrnihat

Clean construction practices workshop

Held in Pune on 6 May, the workshop saw builders, developers, architects, and solution providers deliberate on challenges, innovations,

and best practices to reduce emission footprint from construction activities. The workshop called for the adoption of reliable, site-appropriate air quality monitoring technologies, with a focus on ease of use, operational efficiency, and integration into routine project workflows.



CII CABL Clean Construction Workshop - Pune

Session on best practices in managing fugitive emissions

Organised on 3 July in Nagpur, the session explored unintentional releases of particulate matter and gases during material handling and transport in sectors like coal, oil & gas, chemicals, and manufacturing. Panel discussions covered mapping sources, quantifying losses, adopting best practices, and aligning with evolving norms such as CPCB standards, ESG reporting, and others.



Session on "Best Practices for Managing Fugitive Emissions in Nagpur"

Workshop on renewable energy adoption at charging stations

Conducted on 17 July in Pune, the workshop saw the presence of 15 key stakeholders including charging point operators and battery swapping players. Discussions covered green power tariffs, cost factors, regulatory hurdles, and grid stability, leading to plans for ongoing stakeholder engagement, evidence compilation, and policy recommendations to advance renewable energy adoption at charging stations.



CII CABL Workshop on Renewable Energy Adoption at Charging Stations in Pune

CII CABL clean air roundtable series (2 & 3 September)

The roundtable on **"Harnessing Data & Technology for Clean Air in Cities & Industries"** highlighted the importance of new emerging solutions to complement compliance-based air quality reporting to enable real-time, data-driven management using reliable, near-reference grade solutions for better city and industrial air quality management.



CII CABL Roundtable on Harnessing Data & Technology for Clean Air in Cities & Industries

The discussion on **"Financing transition to zero-emission vehicular fleets"** highlighted the need for risk-sharing model, innovative asset management strategies, and multi-sector partnerships to scale zero-emission vehicle adoption.



CII CABL Roundtable on Financing Transition to Zero-Emission Vehicular Fleets

The session on **"Breathing Better: Solutions for Cleaner Air"** highlighted urgent action on clean air and leverage new innovative solutions to improve monitoring and enable evidence-based action.



CII CABL Session on Breathing Better: Solutions for Cleaner Air

Held on 2 September, the session on **"Resilient Urban Infrastructure"** saw discussions focused on emerging solutions and strategies to enhance urban planning for more resilient and sustainable urban centres, emphasising the importance of public-private partnerships and green financing to implement these solutions.



CII CABL Session on Resilient Urban Infrastructure

On Air Series Podcast

To raise awareness and promoting dialogue on air pollution and clean air initiatives, two insightful podcast episodes as a part of 'On Air Series' were released. The first episode of Season 2, coinciding with World Nature Conservation Day on 28 July, featured the Forum member - Airvoice India.

On World Zero Emission Day, another podcast was released with Mr Uday Narang, MD, Omega Seiki Mobility who highlighted the role of electric mobility as one of the key steps in shaping a zero-emission future.



"On Air Series" Podcasts with India CEO Forum for Clean Air Members

CII CABL Whitepaper on Electrifying Progress – Scaling Zero-Emission Deliveries in India

The white paper proposes policy measures along with implementation pathways to accelerate transition to zero emission vehicles across

delivery fleets in Indian cities. The whitepaper highlights the rapid growth of urban last-mile delivery services particularly in the food, grocery as well as wider quick commerce segments and the associated impact on environmental and public health. It emphasises the need for targeted action in the 131 non-attainment cities covered under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

Clean Air Healthy Soil (Farmer) Toolkit 2.0

The toolkit provides guidance on adoption of sustainable solutions of crop residue management including mulching, straw incorporation, collection, crop rotation & various on-farm management techniques that can support farmers improve soil health and generate additional income.



Launch of Clean Air Healthy Soil (Farmer) Toolkit 2.0

CII CABL - Carbon Removal India Alliance (CRIA) Whitepaper

The whitepaper highlights innovative solutions with dual benefit of Clean Air and Durable Carbon Removal such as biochar, bioenergy with carbon capture & storage and enhanced rock weathering.

Impact in numbers

Cleaner Air Better Life: Crop Residue Management (CABL CRM) Programme

- Initiated as a pilot in **19** villages, as a follow-up to the CII-NITI Action Plan for Biomass Management (2018).
- Reached up to **1,004** villages with pooling of industry CSR support.
- The programme has led to community-level sustained change, with 94% farmers avoiding burning in 6 years of intervention.
- The CII CABL programme has so far saved **22 million** kg of air pollution or particulate matter (PM2.5) in North.
- As key co-benefits, the programme saved **250 million** cubic metre of irrigation water in groundwater-scarce regions.
- The programme has helped farmers overcome yield plateau while lowering use of chemicals in agriculture.

India CEO Forum for Clean Air

- Total **136** members Forum in 2026, up from **17** founding members in 2019.
- Emphasizes the important role of the private sector in addressing air pollution.
- Economic impacts of air pollution estimated at 3.5% of national GDP in 2021.

Enablers for sustainable value creation

CESD works towards bringing local and global macro challenges to the centre stage. Through research, data & evidences, and dialogues & deliberations, it builds consensus on critical issues. The Centre strengthens stakeholders' awareness and puts forth their consolidated recommendations on policy & regulatory reforms.

This section includes the enablers (both new and old) that help drive sustainable value creation.

20th Global sustainability summit

For the last two decades, the CII Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development (CII CESD) has been at the forefront of integrating sustainability into the core of Indian business practices and elevating sustainable practices within the collective consciousness of the industry.

By fostering deeper engagements with the Government, facilitating cross sectoral partnerships with Industry, and enabling multi-stakeholder collaborations, CII CESD is advancing India's commitment to a cleaner, greener, and more inclusive future.

The CII Global Sustainability Summit, held on 2-3 September in New Delhi, saw dialogues around the theme 'Reimagining Sustainability: Resilient. Regenerative. Responsible'. Through Industry-led, inclusive, and innovation-driven approaches, panelists evaluated the enablers that can position India as a global leader and solution provider for the Global South's advancement in sustainable and equitable development.

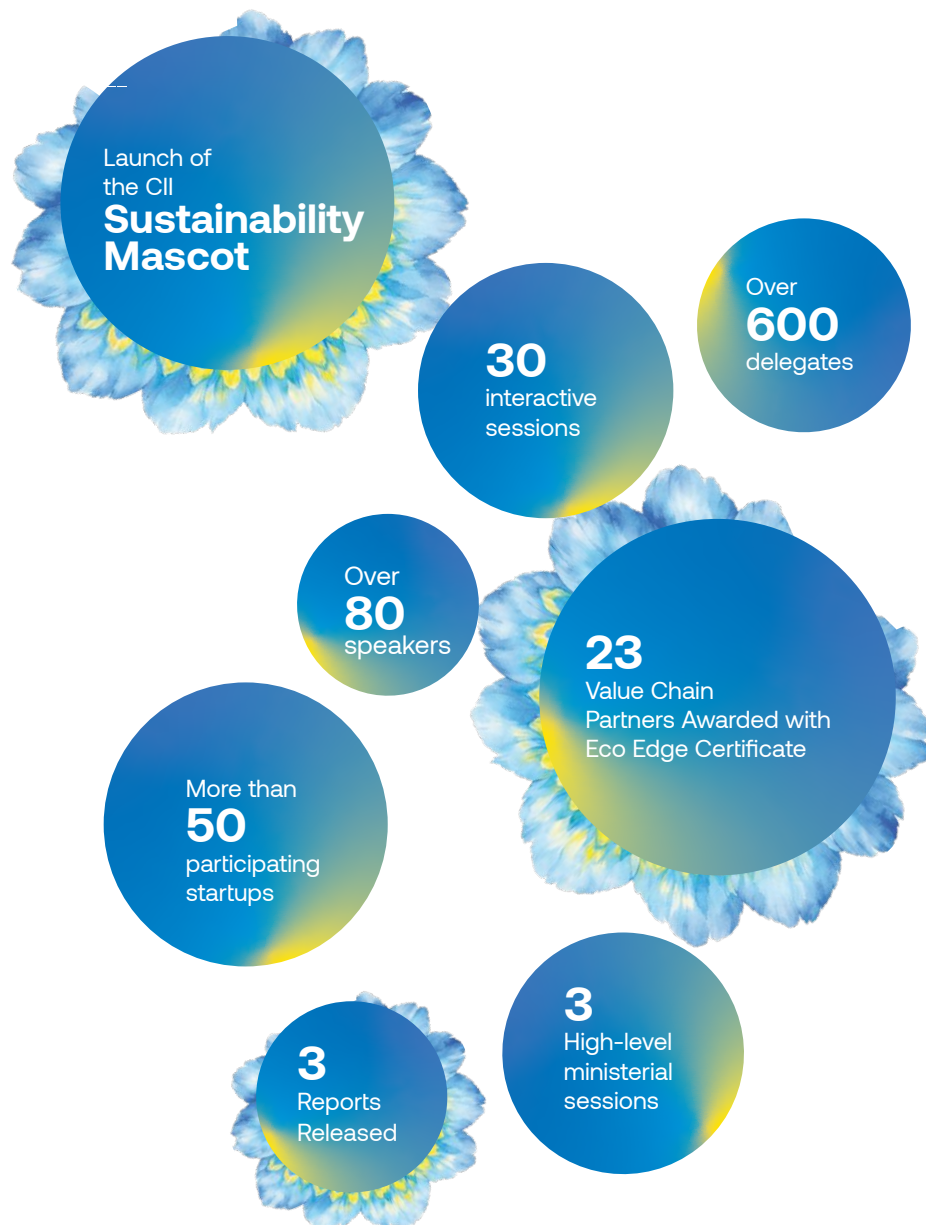
The summit celebrated CII CESD's 20th anniversary with the launch of the CII Sustainability Mascot 'Raa' by Shri Bhupender Yadav, Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India.



Key takeaways

- Make sustainability the foundation of growth by adopting economy-wide solutions such as nature positive actions, circular economy models, green manufacturing, and encouraging behaviour change
- Adopt innovative sustainable approaches to mitigate environmental impacts, enhance economic competitiveness and generate fresh opportunities for employment, livelihood, and improving quality of life
- Take forward Indian Industry's sustainable business practices and innovations to businesses and their stakeholders worldwide, by fostering a new group of manufacturers, MSMEs, and consumers who are aware, responsible, and mindful of their sustainability footprint and respectful of our shared global commons
- Strengthen India's adaptive capacity by proactively reducing vulnerabilities, building resilient economies, and unlocking efficiency through decarbonisation and pioneering circular economy solutions that balance prosperity with responsibility
- Embrace the principles of responsible competitiveness by using resources conscientiously and by nourishing and preserving them for future use
- Embed sustainability as a lifestyle choice by restoring and renewing natural systems and by practising responsible adaptation grounded in accountability and respect for both people and the planet
- Develop a strategic roadmap for green products that ensures economic viability, leverages proven technologies, utilises recycled materials efficiently, and integrates marketability considerations for such products
- Reimagine business models by establishing transparent and accountable mechanisms; promoting responsible, holistic, and forward looking practices across industries; fostering regeneration by reassessing manufacturing processes and supply chains and transforming consumption patterns to transition toward a regenerative economy.
- Build a roadmap for carbon neutrality by 2070 through sector-specific strategies that integrate policies, technologies, skills development, and product innovation to realise the vision of a carbon-neutral India
- Invest in R&D and innovation by harnessing solutions from startups and hackathons. Develop tools to address climate change and extreme weather challenges

Key highlights



Glimpses



Glimpses



CII circular economy conference



Launch of report titled, *Circular economy practice in India: three case studies*

The second edition of the CII Circular Economy Conference, held on 26 November in New Delhi with the theme, 'Vision to Action', saw the presence of Shri Sanjiv, Joint Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and

Industry, Government of India; Shiv Siddhant Narayan Kaul, Chairman, CII National Committee on Environment and Managing Director, Nicco Engineering Services Limited and H.E. Kimmo Lähdevirta, Ambassador of Finland to India, among others.

CII-ITC sustainability awards



Sardar Manjinder Singh Sirsa, Minister of Industries, Environment, Forest & Wildlife, Government of NCT of Delhi, along with recipients of the 20th CII-ITC Sustainability Awards in New Delhi

For over two decades, the CII-ITC Sustainability Awards have established the definitive benchmark for honoring businesses in India that seamlessly integrate sustainability excellence into their strategic vision, governance frameworks, and operational ethos.

Renowned for their rigor, credibility, and transformative impact, these awards have profoundly influenced how industry leaders conceptualize and operationalize sustainability.

The 28 winners of the 20th CII-ITC Sustainability Awards were felicitated by Sardar Manjinder Singh Sirsa, Hon'ble Minister of Industries, Environment, Forest &

Wildlife, Government of NCT of Delhi for achieving excellence in sustainable business practices in New Delhi on 10 April 2026.

Two companies were awarded for Outstanding Accomplishment, and two received Commendation for Significant Achievement in Corporate Excellence. Six businesses were recognised for Excellence and ten received Commendation for Significant Achievement in Environment Management. One company received Excellence and seven awarded Commendation for Significant Achievement in Corporate Social Responsibility.

Sustainable plastic packaging awards



Winners of the 1st CII Sustainable Plastic Packaging Awards in New Delhi

In 2025, the Centre institutionalised the CII Sustainable Plastic Packaging Awards to acknowledge, reward and recognise upstream innovations and changes in design of plastic packaging by businesses, driving the transition towards a circular plastics economy in India. In the first edition, businesses were awarded at two levels (Excellence and Recognition), for innovations to make plastic packaging more recyclable and incorporate recycled content back into packaging.

Of 60 applications received, 40 went through the final evaluation process and 11 made it to the final Award list. The Award ceremony was conducted during the inaugural session of the CII Circular Economy Conference on 26 November 2025.

The ceremony commenced with an address by the jury chair, Dr N. C. Saha, Former Director, Indian Institute of Packaging.



Jury chair, Dr N. C. Saha, addresses the audience during the awards ceremony

Launch of ઇRaa - the CII sustainability mascot



The CII Sustainability Mascot

The Centre's long-standing commitment to sustainable development was symbolically renewed with the launch of ઇRaa - the CII sustainability mascot. It is inspired by the aesthetics and characteristics of the Indian Roller - a vibrant bird found all over the Indian subcontinent and known for its striking colours and agile flight.

Unveiled during CESD's 20th anniversary celebrations by Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, ઇRaa represents the essence of CESD's work: inspiring

responsible manufacturers, sustainability-conscious citizens and mindful consumers. It is a public-facing symbol of CESD's evolution from a pioneering knowledge centre to a national movement-builder, carrying forward the legacy of 20 years into the next era of India's sustainable development journey.

Through the mascot, the Centre will take forward Indian industry's sustainable business practices and innovations to businesses and their stakeholders worldwide.

Building capacity & creating awareness

Training programmes

CSR

In response to the need for a long-term capacity development program for industry professionals working in the CSR ecosystem, Centre launched a virtual CSR Practitioner Programme. The 6-month long programme covered diverse topics and concepts across the entire lifecycle of CSR, addressing current industry needs and expectations. More than thirty mid-and senior-level CSR professionals participated in the programme and a total of ten speakers from industry and CSR practitioners delivered sessions amounting to over 65 hours of learning. The blend of theory

and practice, coupled with peer-to-peer learning and expert insights, enriched their experience and was highly valued by the participants.

Additionally, a two-day online CSR training program was organised with 29 participants. Topics included CSR concepts, legislation, strategy and planning, project implementation, and social impact measurement techniques. The training provided hands-on practice in designing projects and monitoring frameworks, calculating Social Return on Investment and managing stakeholders.

Circular economy

■ With an aim to promote the principles of a true circular economy and support Indian industry to move from intent to implementation, CII conducted three training sessions in 2025 on circular economy. These sessions were designed to build a pool of informed and enabled practitioners who can effectively champion the adoption of circular economy principles within their organisations. Additionally, three technical sessions on circularity were conducted as part of the IISWBM sustainability course for industry. Overall, 75+ professionals from different sectors of the Indian economy participated in the programme.

■ For the first time, an in-person full-day advanced circular economy training session on 17 July in New Delhi. Renowned expert in circular economy and sustainability, Professor Bhavik Bakshi, Julie Ann Wrigley Professor, Arizona State University, joined the session as an expert speaker to share his insights and talk about transformative approaches on advancing sustainability through circular economy principles. Participants at the training was exposed to the fundamentals and principles of circular economy, circular business models, and circularity measurement and assessment.



Glimpses of the in-person CII-certified advanced training on circular economy held on 17 July in New Delhi

ESG

- The Centre conducted a capacity-building session on "Sustainability Aspects in Value Chain" as part of the Sustainable Environment Management Course organised by the Indian Institute of Social Welfare and Business Management (IISWBM) on 25 April.

The session focused on raising awareness about value chain sustainability, its key drivers, and the evolving national and global regulatory landscape. It also showcased the range of ESG-related services offered by the Centre to support organisations in advancing their sustainability journey.

- CESD organised 1-day virtual training session on BRSR Core Reporting Standard on 30 January. The session deliberated India's evolving ESG disclosure framework, particularly the Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR) and the BRSR Core Reporting Standard.

It also explained the structure of the BRSR Core Reporting Standard (Part A and Part B). Discussions highlighted some sector-specific challenges and how companies may address these.

- As a lead-up to the ESG Summit, CII Karnataka, in collaboration with CESD, conducted a CII-Certified Workshop on BRSR in Bengaluru. The workshop saw

participation by 70+ members across industries, focusing on practical insights, regulatory requirements, and best practices in ESG disclosures.

- CESD, in collaboration with the CII Telangana ESG Forum, successfully conducted a one-day training session on "Developing Sustainability Strategy & Reporting" on 22 January in Hyderabad. The session brought together industry professionals and ESG practitioners to deepen their understanding of the evolving sustainability reporting landscape, regulatory requirements, and global best practices. Participants gained insights into conducting double materiality assessments, stakeholder engagement, and formulating robust sustainability strategies aligned with business objectives.



BRSR Core Reporting Standard Training Session



CII-Certified Workshop on Business Responsibility & Sustainability Reporting (BRSR)

Climate change

Held between 3 and 5 December, the CII-Certified training on Climate Change familiarized the participants with climate change risks and opportunities, domestic and global climate policies such as Paris agreement, Article 6, NDCs, NAPCC etc.

EU CBAM

On 25 August, senior management and 15+ supply chain members of Endurance Technologies participated in a focused session on EU CBAM readiness for aluminium and steel sectors. The discussion centered on transitional reporting, compliance requirements, and trade

competitiveness, highlighting the importance of proactive data readiness, robust emission inventories, and supplier engagement for exporters. The leadership expressed interest in an extended certified training for 200+ supply chain partners, covering sectoral case studies, compliance frameworks, and practical decarbonization pathways.



CII-Certified Workshop on Business Responsibility & Sustainability Reporting (BRSR)

Nature-positive actions

- Over 300 participants were trained in a nature-related risk assessment and management program conducted for 12 companies across sectors including renewable energy, mining, tourism, cement, agrochemicals, and agriculture.
- A session was organised on "Driving Business Partnerships for Nature Conservation" during the IBCA Executive

Course on Capacity Building for Wildlife and Conservation Practitioners.

It was held under the ITEC Programme of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, on 9 February in New Delhi. The session highlighted species conservation initiatives led by Indian businesses and engaged 30 global participants in the training.

Awareness sessions



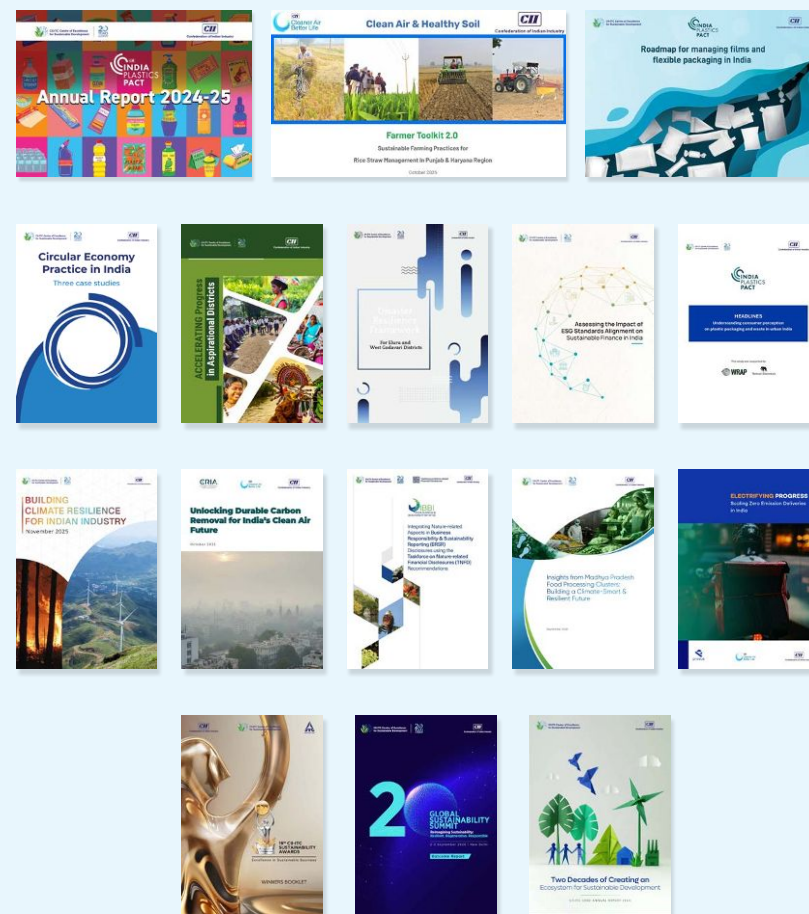
On the occasion of #WorldEnvironmentDay, the Centre conducted an Environmental Awareness Training for the senior management of Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSL) on 3 June 2025 at their Gurgaon Plant



Workshop on Understanding citizen behaviour for India Plastics Pact signatories held on 02 May 2025 at Zomato's office in Gurgaon, Haryana. The workshop was attended by 24 participants with representatives from Pact signatories – Zomato, ITC Limited, L'Oréal, and Godrej Industries

Thought leadership

Publications



Media coverage



Digital outreach

Impressions
673,175

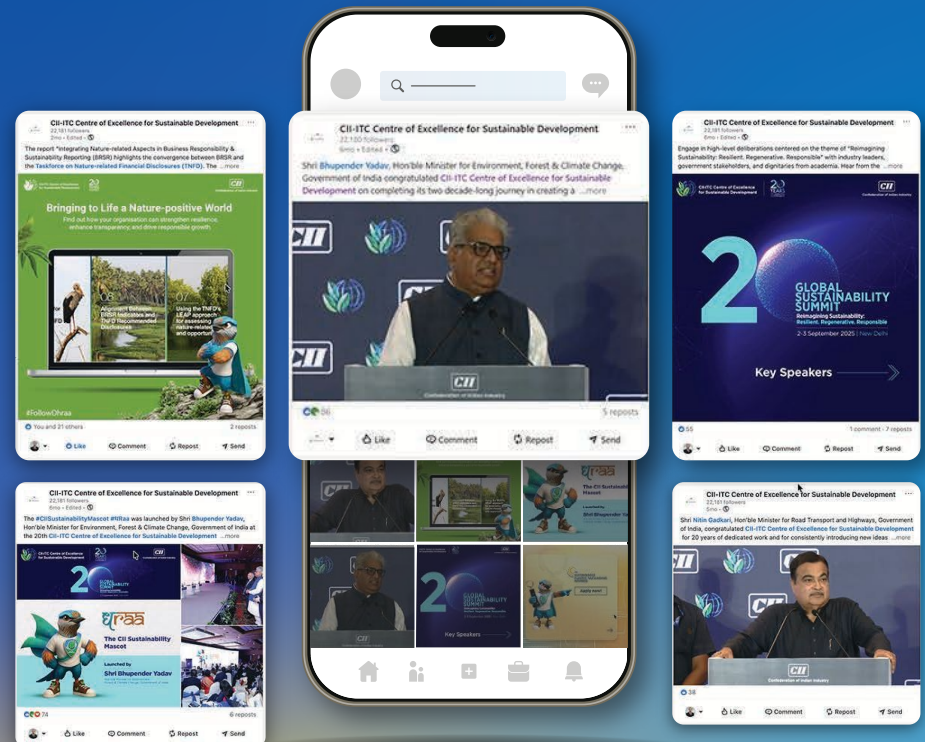
Followers Increase
2,516

Members Reached
214,634

Engagement
55,036

Reactions
10,022

Engagement Rates
13.9%



The CESD team

Aarti Maurya Manager	Mansi Madan Consultant	Puloma Choudhury Associate Counsellor	Soumya Subhrata Nayak Counsellor
Abhinav Singh Senior Consultant	Mayank Singh Associate Counsellor	Saddam Mansuri Associate Counsellor	Stuti Gaur Marketing Executive
Abhishek Pawar Associate Counsellor	Mohit Sharma Senior Counsellor	Santosh Yadav Senior Counsellor	Surabhi Singh Consultant
Akilandeswari Associate Counsellor	Nandini Kumar Principal Consultant	Saurabh Kumar Counsellor	Suraj Ghosh Counsellor
Ankur Parashar Executive	Neeraj Kumar Senior Manager	Seema Arora Deputy Director General CII	Swati Tewari Principal Counsellor
Anoushka Jha Associate Counsellor	Neha Kaul Counsellor	Shama Parveen Executive	Tarika Kumar Deputy Executive Director
Ardra Reba Sam Executive	Neha Kaushik Executive	Sherry Pande Associate Counsellor	Uday Pratap Singh Sustainability Associate
Asha Joseph Consultant	Omkar Gaonkar Associate Counsellor	Shikhar Jain Executive Director CESD	Zaheena Naqvi Executive
Digambar Chavan Counsellor	Pallavi Srivastava Senior Consultant	Shilpa Biswas Associate Counsellor	
Eti Drolia Associate Counsellor	Pawan Kumar Executive	Shourjomay Chattopadhyay Counsellor	
Ishan Sahajpal Counsellor	Pooja Consultant	Shreya Dubey Associate Counsellor	
Jayashree Singha Principal Counsellor	Prashant Rajankar Senior Consultant	Shubham Mishra Senior Associate	
Kavita Kathait Counsellor	Pratyush Pranjal Executive	Sneha Narain Executive	
Kavya Singh Yadav Associate Counsellor	Pravir Deshmukh Senior Counsellor	Sonia Dhamija Manager	
Khushbu Mewara Consultant	Priyanka Choudhary Counsellor		





CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development

The CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development (CESD) is the ecosystem creator for sustainable development in India. As a 20-year-old Industry-led institution within CII, the Centre drives sustainable, environmental, inclusive and climate-friendly transformation among stakeholders through research, data-driven digital tools, frameworks, collaborative initiatives and capacity development.

CESD works towards bringing local and global macro challenges to the centre stage; building policy consensus on critical issues; strengthening stakeholders' awareness and representation on policy & regulatory reforms and enabling actions that positively impact the environment, nature and communities.

With a vision to drive transformation towards sustainable development, CESD continues to play a focal role in Government-Industry dialogues on national regulations; articulating stakeholders' discourse on global policies; putting forth Indian Industry's stand on macro-economic issues and accentuating the need for sustainable and inclusive transformation.

CESD focuses on six transformational pathways: Advancing Creation of a Circular Economy; Facilitating an Enabling Ecosystem for ESG Reporting; Accelerating Nature Positive Actions; Enhancing Solutions for Clean Air; Building Climate Resilience and Low-Carbon Economy and Fostering Dialogues, Engagements & Knowledge Exchange.

Confederation of Indian Industry CII – ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development

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