

**PRESS RELEASE**

***“Climate action is not a choice. It's the only option, it's a necessity, and an increasing business opportunity.”***

***“CII-ITC Sustainability Awards serve as a reminder that ‘everyone has to perform’ for achieving sustainability ambitions. These Awards have emerged as a platform for dialogue and a crucible for transformation.”***

**Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, the Honourable Vice-President of India**

**NEW DELHI, 10 July 2025:** **Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, the Honourable Vice- President of India** recognised and felicitated the winners for Excellence in Sustainable Business at the ceremony of the 19th CII-ITC Sustainability Awards in New Delhi on 10 July 2025.

Talking about Indian Industry, he recognised its role as torch bearer of this green revolution going on to say that sustainability, now a global buzzword among corporates, governments and international organisations, has been deeply embedded in our [India’s] ethos for millennia.

He noted that the Global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development could not succeed without India's participation, contributions, vision for leadership and proactive affirmative stance.

Mr Sanjiv Puri, Immediate Past President, Confederation of Indian Industry, Chairman, Advisory Council, CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development and Chairman & Managing Director, ITC Ltd congratulated the winners and highlighted the economic and social purpose of enterprises. He noted the enormous potential that businesses have for social impact due to their access to resources and how it also adds to their competitive advantage.

Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII reflected upon the organization’s long-standing contribution to government policy, advocacy and dedicated work on different aspects of sustainability carried out at its four Centres of Excellence.

**Winners of the 19th CII-ITC Sustainability Awards include two companies for Outstanding Accomplishment, and four companies received Commendation for Significant Achievement in Corporate Excellence. Five companies were recognised for Excellence and seven companies received Commendation for Significant Achievement in Environment Management. Six companies received Excellence, and seven companies were awarded Commendation for Significant Achievement in Corporate Social Responsibility; and three companies won Excellence in Biodiversity.**

This year, 72 applicant companies underwent a rigorous evaluation process including an on-site assessment by a team of CII-certified sustainability assessors, who spent approximately 1,000 man-hours per application over a period of six months. Over the past 18 years, cumulatively, 1199 businesses have applied and 410 have been recognized for their excellence in different aspects of business sustainability. Since 2006, CESD has built a talent pool of over 600 sustainability professionals in India especially trained to perform the assessments leading up to the awards.

The uniquely credible Awards cover 16 aspects and 250 indicators related to the governance, ecological, biodiversity, and social dimensions of doing business. These awards are particularly impactful for their recognition of all facets of sustainability that business incorporate into their operations.

To get more information about the CII-ITC Sustainability Awards please visit: [Excellence in Sustainable Business](https://sustainabledevelopment.in/brands/cii-itc-sustainability-awards-20th/)

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