

Reimagining Sustainability: Resilient. Regenerative. Responsible



धरावा

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The world stands at a critical inflexion point where intersecting crises, including climate change, ecological degradation, and shifting geopolitical and trade dynamics, are challenging traditional models of growth and development. The influence of these evolving global factors offers a unique opportunity to countries to redefine sustainability, not as a trade-off to growth, but as its foundation.

Through conversations under five critical themes, the 20th edition of the CII Global Sustainability Summit charted a forward-looking roadmap that redefines sustainability as the very foundation upon which lasting, inclusive development must be built.

The deliberations brought together global and national leaders, policymakers, sustainability experts, civil society and innovators to co-create a new global sustainability narrative that is grounded in economic and environmental resilience, strengthens regeneration of natural systems, and drives prosperity on shared responsibility.

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 '४Raa' by Shri Bhupender Yadav, Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India. The mascot embodies CII's commitment to nurture a new generation of responsible manufacturers and mindful consumers who are deeply conscious of their sustainability footprints and dedicated to protecting our shared global commons.

Reimagining Growth with Sustainability as the Founding Stone

Shri Bhupender Yadav shared his concerns about growing global challenges and stressed that to regain the global growth momentum, countries need to re-engineer

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Economy, ecology, and environment must move together as the three pillars of India's growth journey. Our aim is to make every sector sustainable, ensuring that development is aligned with both ecological balance and economic opportunity.

Nitin Gadkari

Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India



With the collective commitment and mindset and the effort of 1.4 billion people meeting the aspirations of a young India, one of the youngest countries in the world, I'm very confident that India's future is safe, secure, resilient, and rests on the pillar of sustainability and high-quality cost competitiveness.

Piyush Goyal

Minister of Commerce and Industry, Government of India

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a new development model that supports healthier, inclusive, and resilient growth, integrates developmental priorities, and makes sustainability central to the policy framework. “Countries need to make sustainability foundational to growth by embracing economy-wide solutions that encompass circular economy models, nature-positive actions, green manufacturing, and advancing behaviour change for responsible practices,” he highlighted.

The Minister pointed out that the world needs to look at India's model of growth, as it is the only country that has successfully adapted sustainable growth across the policy landscape through targeted scheme implementation, infrastructure investment, local commitment, and tangible achievements on multilateral commitments. With an expanding leadership

in sustainability and with a growth rate of 7 per cent, India can show the world that economic prosperity and sustainability can go hand-in-hand, he stated.

Talking about India's robust policy framework and initiatives aimed at fostering sustainable and inclusive growth, such as the National Hydrogen Mission, Environment Audit Rules 2025, Green Credit Program, and National Critical Mineral Mission, the Minister said, “India's journey toward a sustainable future is anchored on the pillars of environmental balance, economic resilience, and social equity. Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, we are taking decisive steps to advance this mission. These reforms reflect India's unwavering commitment to harmonising development and environmental sustainability.”



(L-R): Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII; Bhupender Yadav, Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India; and Sanjiv Puri, Immediate Past President, CII, Chairman, CESD and Chairman & MD, ITC Ltd at the 20th Global Sustainability Summit in New Delhi



(L-R): Chandrajit Banerjee; Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India and Sanjiv Puri at the Special Plenary

Shri Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India, emphasised that sustainable progress requires cooperation, coordination, and support from the Industry, particularly in addressing climate change and ensuring a clean environment. He emphasised that if India aspires to be among the world's top three economies, the four pillars 'water, power, transport and communication' will play a decisive role in driving employment, reducing poverty, and ensuring inclusive development.

"India has a unique opportunity today to lead the world in sustainability," said Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister for Commerce & Industry, Government of India. He shared that India has been a very conscious country. "India respects nature, cares for intergenerational equity and believes that natural resources have to be protected, to continue to serve our future generations," he added. He further highlighted that India needs startups and

hackathons across the country to inspire solutions for emerging climate change-led extreme weather events.

Talking about technologies, robust environmental monitoring systems, and democratisation of information,

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Launch of the CII Sustainability Mascot
- 3 high-level ministerial sessions
- 30 interactive sessions
- Over 200 B2B meetings
- Over 80 speakers
- 23 Value Chain Partners Awarded with Eco Edge Certificate
- 3 Reports Released
- More than 50 participating startups
- Over 600 delegates



(L-R): Sanjiv Puri; Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce & Industry, Government of India and R Mukundan, President Designate, CII and MD & CEO, Tata Chemicals Ltd at the Special Plenary

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Sustainability should not be considered as a goal or an objective that has to be achieved. It is a lifestyle choice, an evolving commitment to be resilient by withstanding and adapting to uncertainties of an ever-changing world.

Bhupender Yadav

Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Government of India

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Mr R Mukundan, President Designate, CII and Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Tata Chemicals Ltd, said that India is the only country that has made environment parameters accessible. No other country has been able to execute it, he added.

Mr Sanjiv Puri, Immediate Past President, CII; Chairman, CII CESD and Chairman & MD, ITC Ltd, said that sustainability cannot be just about carbon footprints. “We have to traverse to a regenerative economy; reimagine the way supply chains are formulated; products are manufactured; the way we use the products and distribute them, and reimagine business models completely”, he pointed out. He further added that sustainability is an inclusive process, and a sustainable lifestyle is a prerequisite for sustainable growth.

Shared Responsibility towards Nature Climate Commons

Across countries, climate change and anthropogenic activities are threatening natural ecosystems. India

remains committed to shaping an equitable, resilient, and inclusive global climate agenda. Focused conversations under this track highlighted the Industry’s expectations for COP 30 and beyond; the enablers that can help countries accelerate adaptation; how Industry can embed ecology into corporate strategy; the pillars for building the ecosystem for business sustainability, and understanding the power of purposeful partnerships. Deliberations under this track focused on integrated approaches to conserve and restore natural ecosystems while addressing climate vulnerabilities by leveraging collaborative actions that revolve around local beliefs and practices.

Sharing his thoughts about the participative approach that such solutions entail, H.E. Ambassador André Aranha Corrêa do Lago, President, COP 30 and Former Brazilian Ambassador to India said, “We have to expand the discussion of climate change and take it beyond climate conventions because it is affecting every region and every sector of the global economy.”



(L-R): Dr Ana Toni, CEO, COP 30 & Former National Secretary for Climate Change, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Brazil; Ambassador André Aranha Corrêa do Lago, President, COP 30 and Former Brazilian Ambassador to India and Chandrajit Banerjee

Intersection of Trade and Sustainable Supply Chain

As geopolitical tensions and evolving trade regimes reshape the global economy, alter bilateral relations, and realign the existing world order, there is a need to discuss the effect of these new interrelated dynamics and their subsequent influence on sustainable business practices, climate actions, resilient supply chains, and green investments. To build global resilience and foster responsible growth, the interplay of these geopolitical conditions is essential.

Through discussions around sub-themes such as 'Integrating Sustainability in Value Chains', 'Future of Trade', 'Decoding the Sustainability Puzzle', 'Building Resilience: Supply Chains for a Changing World', and 'From Ambition to Action: Building the Ecosystem for Business Sustainability', panelists explored new trade paradigms and sustainability standards.

Regenerative Industry & Circular Economies

Globally, natural resources are under strain due to the increased level of resource use, which has grown threefold in just half a century. With consumption level expected to increase at an unprecedented rate, a global shift towards industrial transformation and a circular economy is critical. India has provided the policy framework that minimises environmental harm and actively restores resources.

Through focussed conversations on policy innovations and circular economy models under topics such as 'Revalue, Redesign, Regenerate: The Circular Economy

Pathway', 'Rewiring Circularity in the Electronics and Technology Sector', 'Collaboratively Actioning Circularity in Plastic Packaging', 'From Silos to Systems: Unleashing the Power of Energy-Water Nexus', and 'Local Roots, Global Goals: Subnational Pathway for a Sustainable Future', stakeholders deliberated on new approaches that can facilitate in decoupling growth from resource depletion while enhancing competitiveness and industrial resilience.

Future-Ready Transition for the Global South

For the Global South's development strategy, safeguarding environmental concerns while prioritising economic growth is paramount. To contribute to an inclusive and equitable economy where communities have equitable access to technologies, finance, resources and livelihood opportunities, countries need to create an enabling environment.

Dialogues on topics, including 'Turning Barriers into Bridges for a Climate-Ready Global South', 'NextGen Greenpreneurs: Navigating Climate Finance in the Global South', 'Youth-Led Startups Transforming the Green Economy', 'Driving India Forward: Green Mobility, Infrastructure, and Innovation', 'Breathing Better: Solutions for Clean Air', and 'Resilient Urban Infrastructure' looked at India's role and strategic mechanisms for fostering multilateral cooperations. It also explored the emerging transition drivers and focused on bridging the transition gaps by spotlighting innovative financial instruments, skilling initiatives and technology transfer strategies.



(L-R): Jayant Acharya, Joint MD & CEO, JSW Steel Ltd; Peter Bakker, President and CEO, WBCSD and S Sivakumar, Group Head- Agri & IT Businesses, ITC Ltd

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
- 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
- Embrace the principles of responsible competitiveness by using resources conscientiously and by nourishing and preserving them for future use
- 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
- 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
- Adopt innovative sustainable approaches to mitigate environmental impacts, enhance economic competitiveness and generate fresh opportunities for employment, livelihood, and improving quality of life
- 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
- 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
- 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.

LAUNCHES AT SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT

CII Sustainability Mascot धर्रा

धर्रा, the mascot, has been 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.

धर्रा has been designed to symbolise Indian Industry's leadership in sustainability, embodying resilience, adaptability and dynamic progress. It acts as the harbinger of the next phase of CII's sustainability journey. Through this mascot, CII will take forward Indian Industry's sustainable business practices and innovations to businesses and their stakeholders worldwide.



Watch the launch film here - <https://youtu.be/Pghltywog94>

CII - Prosus (2025) Whitepaper: Scaling Zero-Emission Deliveries in India

The report, launched by Shri Nitin Gadkari, highlights the immense opportunity presented by last-mile delivery fleets for zero-emission deliveries, particularly in the 131 cities in India which do not meet the national air quality standard.

It evaluates the technology-cum-policy landscape to present a detailed set of recommendations to scale zero emission deliveries in cities, including supply side measures to improve Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) affordability, structured buybacks on EV models, a level playing field for supporting investments in battery swapping, secondary market development and scaling supporting infrastructure in the cities with PPP.

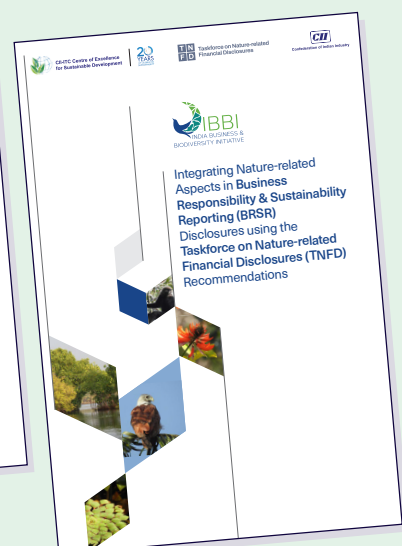
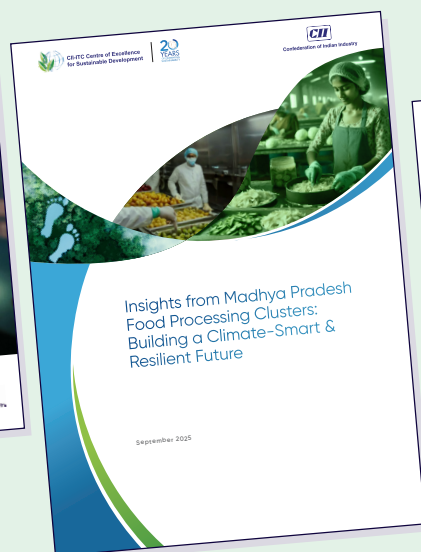
Insights from Madhya Pradesh Food Processing Clusters: Building a Climate-Smart & Resilient Future

The report, based on an in-depth assessment of 28 MSMEs across key food processing clusters in Madhya Pradesh, such as Bhagirathpura, Pithampur, Sanwer Road, and Khargone, among others, offers relevant and scalable strategies to build climate

resilience in the sector. It proposes targeted interventions including solar-powered cold storage, biogas generation, EV integration, and eco-friendly packaging, and lays out a clear framework across five key pillars – climate awareness, emissions management, action strategy, resilience planning, and climate finance. This blueprint not only equips MSMEs to adapt and thrive in a low-carbon economy but also reinforces their leadership in India's green industrial transformation.

Integrating Nature-related Aspects in BRSR Disclosures using the TNFD Recommendations

The report demonstrates how Indian corporates and financial institutions can advance nature-related risk management and disclosure practices by highlighting the convergence between India's Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) and the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD). The report highlights a timely opportunity for Indian businesses to strengthen resilience, enhance transparency, and promote responsible growth. It supports both national and global calls for businesses to assess and disclose their nature-related risks, dependencies, and impacts.



QUOTES



President Lula and Prime Minister Modi believe in multilateralism which has served developing nations in many ways. This is an important year, as countries

will be deciding on their objectives for the next five years.

H.E. Ambassador André Aranha Corrêa do Lago, COP30 President and Former Brazilian Ambassador to India



Climate risks are opportunities, such as risk management strategies, resilience for investors and product innovation. India can lead the world in innovating nature-

based products such as packaging products from seaweeds.

Tony Goldner, CEO, TNFD



In South East Asia, with respect to fast expanding economies, climate-readiness must be a part of our strategy from the beginning. ASEAN region is growing in renewable

energy. Through regional cooperations, we must leave no country behind.

Prof Tetsuya Watanabe, President, ERIA



Green growth needs green capital. India can explore a dedicated institution to provide equity for climate projects, building investor trust, mobilizing FDI, and powering

sustainable infrastructure.

Shaun Kingsbury, CBE, Co-Founding Partner and Co-Chief Investment Officer, Just Climate



Our responsibility is to bring our best ideas, forge stronger collaborations and push sustainability forward. The paths may differ, but the destination is the same - a

resilient, sustainable future.

Peter Bakker, President & CEO, WBCSD



COP30 is time for action. Our action agenda is designed to reinforce multilateralism, accelerate implementation, and connect climate action to real lives.

H.E. Dr. Ana Toni, CEO, COP 30 and Former National Secretary for Climate Change, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Brazil



Responsible sourcing is about relationships. Strong relationships help in recognizing issues, mitigating risks, and creating solutions.

In supply chains, it translates to long-term partnerships between buyers & suppliers.

Linda Kromjong, President, Amfori



Investment isn't just capital, it includes timing, partners, purpose, and performance. India shies away from over-committing, yet over-performs, demonstrating how strategic investment drives real development.

Dr Balakrishna Pisupati, Country Head, UNEP India



If we do good water management, practice conservation and recycling and use water optimally, it is my belief that India can get rid of its water problem.

Nadir Godrej, Chairman and MD, Godrej Industries Ltd and Chairman of Godrej Agrovet Ltd



We need to look at two aspects that can help in scaling adaptation efforts so that we build the necessary resilience among businesses and value chains. The first is

that there has to be a business case for it. The second aspect is to build collaborations across different types of stakeholders.

S Sivakumar, Group Head- Agri & IT Businesses, ITC Ltd



Our goal is to develop solutions that are both economically viable and environmentally sustainable. Renewable energy is a prime example. It makes sense both commercially and ecologically.

Jayant Acharya, Joint MD & CEO, JSW Steel Ltd



It is essential to integrate a forward-looking approach that enables a gradual shift from compliance-based reporting to real-time management. Such a framework is vital for shaping

a future that brings together cleaner air and better lives for citizens, Industry, and governance.

Sunil Desai, Co-chairperson, CII CABL and MD, Richfield Engineering



The foundation of transition finance lies in structure. A well-designed framework ensures that decarbonisation efforts are financially viable while keeping stakeholders

aligned on risks and returns.

Koushik Chatterjee, ED & CFO, Tata Steel Ltd



Corporates should take the central role but at the same time, Government can galvanize and catalyze it. For the star rated products, if these can be integrated with

the GEM portal, we can create massive demand, leading to a huge push for green and sustainable products.

R Mukundan, President Designate, CII and MD & CEO, Tata Chemicals Ltd



Sustainability has to be embedded in corporate strategy. It is a part and parcel of every strategy, action and thought enterprises make; it cannot be just a bolt-on. Only

then will we get the dramatic change that is required to solve the problems that we face.

Sanjiv Puri, Immediate Past President, CII, Chairman, CII CESD and Chairman & MD, ITC Ltd



With continued collaboration, we will see stronger improvements. Industry's adoption of new technologies and sustainable practices will play a decisive role. Together,

we do have the power to make a difference and enable actions that reinforce India's commitment to a cleaner, greener, and inclusive future.

Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII

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