



CII-ITC Centre of Excellence  
for Sustainable Development



Confederation of Indian Industry



# Two Decades of Creating an Ecosystem for Sustainable Development

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CII-ITC CESD ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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## 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.

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# The Year in Glimpses



# 2024 A Snapshot

With a vision to drive transformation towards sustainable development, the Centre, in 2024, continued to play a focal role in Government - Industry dialogues on national regulations; articulate stakeholder discourses on global policies; put forth Indian industry's stand on macro-economic issues and accentuate the need for sustainable and inclusive transformation.



## Advancing Creation of a Circular Economy

- 60 Recommendations shared with Central Government
- Standards developed with BIS for waste & environmental management
- Worked with CPCB to resolve EPR related challenges
- Hosted the first edition of the CII Circular Economy Conference
- 54 Signatories (39 Members, 15 Supporters) committed to IPP targets
- IPP partnered with All India Plastics Manufacturers' Association (AIPMA) for knowledge sharing, best practices and building the capacity of MSMEs in India
- 85 Sites received Single-use Plastics (SuP) Free certification



## Facilitating an Enabling Ecosystem for ESG Reporting

- **ESG Intelligence & Analytics**
  - Co-developed Standards for Reporting on BRSR Core
  - 500+ Trained under ESG Intelligence & Analytics
- **Eco Edge program**
  - 200+ Suppliers assessed from automotive and energy sectors
  - 45+ Vendors certified with Eco Edge maturity-based certification
  - SaaS based ESG Subscription Service launched
  - Eco Edge Online Assessment Tool unveiled



## Enhancing Solutions for Clean Air

- 123 Business leaders at CEO Forum for Cleaner Air - Better Life
- 500 Villages in Punjab & Haryana support CABL - CRM
- 5 lakh ha farmland under CABL - CRM
- 41 million kg air pollution (PM10 & secondary aerosols) saved through CABL-CRM
- **CRM co-benefits include:**
  - 630 million kg CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent saved in greenhouse gases
  - 1.3 million kg Black Carbon saved
- **City level awareness activities on air quality management in Indore led to:**
  - 8% Increase in sustainable transport usage
  - 6.7% Increase in waste segregation
  - 5% Switched to clean energy sources for cooking
  - 3% Upgraded to BS6 vehicles



## Fostering Dialogues and Knowledge Exchange

- 400 Professionals trained from 300+ organisations through 25 sessions
- 35 Organisations recognized for best sustainable practices at the 18th Sustainability Awards
- Hosted the first edition of 'Quorum by CESD' - the Global Dialogues and Symposium Forum on Sustainable Development.
- Release of first edition of 'Anthology', research articles by national & international experts, industry practitioners and research scholars.
- Launch of 'CESD Engage', a platform consolidating thought leadership and knowledge management.
- 19th Sustainability Summit
  - 2 High-level plenaries
  - 8 Startups exhibited innovative products
  - 14 Panel discussions
  - 75 Speakers
  - 160 B2B meetings
  - 450 participants



## Accelerating Nature Positive Actions

- Contributed towards updating of India's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)
- IBBI designated by the MoEFCC as the responsible agency for Target 15 of India's updated NBSAP.
- IBBI 2.0 launched in the presence Dr Sanjay Kumar Shukla, IFS, Member Secretary, Central Zoo Authority.



## Building Climate Resilience and Low Carbon Economy

- Report on Building Climate Resilience for Indian Industry released by Shri Bhupender Yadav
- CII-led industry delegation participated at the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29)
- Report, "CII at COP29 Negotiations: Indian Industry Expectations," launched at COP29
- 500+ MSMEs assessed and advised for climate vulnerabilities
- CCAC Insights report with findings from 7 clusters released



# Message

## Mr Sanjiv Puri

Chairman, Advisory Council,  
CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for  
Sustainable Development,  
President CII, and  
Chairman & Managing Director, ITC Ltd



“CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development has been at the forefront of driving sustainable development through action in the Indian industry for 2 decades.”

We stand today at an inflection point, navigating a 'TURN' – Turbulence, Uncertainty and Rapid changes that necessitate Novel strategies to reimagine growth. The world is confronted with a multitude of challenges, encompassing geo-political tensions, geo-economic fragmentation, food and nutrition security concerns and social inequities together with tech led disruptions. This is further compounded by the escalating climate crisis, triggering increasingly severe and frequent extreme weather events, a pattern that has been termed has 'global weirding'. Climate change is also adversely impacting economic activity and poses immense risks for businesses. The agricultural sector is also threatened by extreme weather, impacting crop production, water, food, nutrition and livelihood security.

To counter these planetary problems and safeguard global economic growth for both current and future generations, countries need to align sustainability with growth. By adopting practices and solutions that strengthen resilience, build regenerative capacity, embed circularity and protect nature, economies can not only unlock new markets but also reduce vulnerabilities, and build an enduring sustainable future. Additionally, with resources under strain, mindless consumption habits, waste accumulation and growing environmental damage from irresponsible disposal, countries must urgently transition the existing industrial ecosystem from a linear model to a self-reliant circular economy model. This can be achieved by ramping up investments in regenerative and circular business models.

Countries worldwide continue to bear the brunt of climate change impacts. Urgent focus must go to large-scale, long-term strategies such as climate-proofing critical infrastructure, building resilience in agricultural value chains, and scaling nature-based solutions that deliver co-benefits for economies, ecosystems & communities.

I take pride in sharing that India continues to champion the cause of climate action, setting an example for other developing economies to follow. The nation has made strong progress against its climate commitments with its goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2070. Its recent advancements towards launching the the Indian Carbon Market portal and the pioneering

National Adaptation Plan, as well as its stewardship of the International Solar Alliance and the Green Credit Initiative under Mission LiFE are steps in the right direction. Indeed, the Government's Mission LiFE is a visionary initiative that motivates citizens to adopt sustainable lifestyles, transforming individual actions into a collective movement for a circular and greener economy. It is evident that challenges of such magnitude call for concerted efforts from all organs of society, including nations, corporates, communities and citizens.

Enterprises exist to serve societies and have both, an economic and social purpose. Given their presence in the frontline of economic activity, innovative capacity and diverse talent, they are uniquely positioned to champion sustainable and inclusive growth and support the nation's journey towards sustainability. They can play a pivotal role by assessing vulnerabilities to physical climate risks, prioritizing adaptive strategies, conducting site-specific studies for targeted investments, and building regenerative business models. These efforts will not only fortify India against climate risks but also enhance social and economic well-being for communities.

It is indeed heartening that the CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development has been at the forefront of driving sustainable development through action in the Indian industry for 2 decades. Indeed, deliberations held at the 19th Sustainability Summit, the flagship event organised by CESD, have sent out a clear message that every stakeholder must play a role in driving change for a sustainability conscious world. Accordingly, the event brought together Government representatives, industry practitioners and experts to discuss and identify solutions for emerging sustainability related challenges.

The CII Report on Building Climate Resilience for Indian Industry, released at the Summit, has also put forth recommendations for Industry, communities and policy makers. It includes important suggestions to enhance Industry's climate resilience through a physical climate risk

assessment framework that identifies and assesses climate risks from extreme weather events and guides them in building robust adaptive strategies.

The Centre continues to engage with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to facilitate ease in adoption of Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR). To resolve challenges related to the 'ESG Disclosures for Value Chains' (as per the requirements for BRSR Core), the centre organised focused consultations on SEBI's mandate for 75% value chain partner compliance, aimed at re-evaluating the threshold and making it more adaptable for businesses.

As part of SEBI's Industry Standards Forum (ISF), a Core Group was formed during the year, and consultations were held to develop the Standards for Reporting on BRSR Core. The inclusion of the centre's recommendations in SEBI's 'Consultation Paper on Recommendations of the Expert Committee for Facilitating Ease of Doing Business with Respect to BRSR' was a major achievement during the year.

Understanding issues and challenges that inhibit Industry in its pursuit of sustainable transformation requires comprehensive research, surveys and stakeholder engagements. In 2024, CESD launched multiple digital platforms to strengthen knowledge management and stakeholder outreach. Through its evidence-based outlook on national and global regulations, deepening engagements with policy makers and communities, the centre continues to build strong narratives and articulate discourses on new policies and emerging issues. By designing unique collaborative projects and initiatives that encourages sustainable practices and prompts behaviour change, CESD will continue to strengthen its pivotal role as the ecosystem creator for sustainable development.

It is my pleasure to present this edition of the CESD Annual Report. I hope you will find it useful and informative.

## Mr Chandrajit Banerjee

Director General  
Confederation of Indian Industry



“With increasing risks from climate change and evolving global regulations, embedding sustainability within MSMEs and their value chains has become urgent. CII supported this transition by providing tools and guidance to integrate sustainable business practices, reduce climate risks, and enhance resilience.”

Over the past decade, India has made significant progress in sustainable development through focused climate and pro-planet actions. The nation has emerged as a global leader in sustainability leader, driven by the Government’s innovative initiatives, programmes, and schemes.

Industry continues to play a central role in advancing this vision. By driving innovation, adopting responsible practices, and developing scalable solutions that balance growth with environmental stewardship, Indian industry is leading the transition toward a sustainable economy.

For CII, sustainable development has been a core area of work for over three decades. Through practical solutions, tools, capacity building, and knowledge sharing, CII has helped create an ecosystem that supports responsible growth while complementing Government efforts to mitigate environmental impact and build resilience across regions.

Driving this transformation requires continuous engagement on national regulations, global policies, and macroeconomic priorities. During the year, CII accelerated Industry’s shift towards a low-carbon,

resource-efficient, and circular economy. Through extensive stakeholder engagements on waste management, climate action, and ESG, CII worked closely with government bodies and regulators to design frameworks that promote compliance as well as proactive environmental leadership across sectors.

I believe strong voluntary business action is essential to complement policy and regulatory reforms in India’s sustainability journey. CII’s collaborative initiatives—such as the CEO Forum for Cleaner Air – Better Life, the India Plastics Pact, the India Business & Biodiversity Initiative, and the CII Climate Action Charter—have provided platforms for companies to implement practical sustainability strategies across sectors.

A major area of focus this year was MSMEs, which are crucial for India’s economic growth and competitiveness. With increasing risks from climate change and evolving global regulations, embedding sustainability within MSMEs and their value chains has become urgent. CII supported this transition by providing tools and guidance to integrate sustainable business practices, reduce

climate risks, and enhance resilience. During the year, CII worked with more than 1,000 MSMEs and value chain partners around the country in 10 industrial clusters, strengthening their capacity for sustainable and competitive growth.

While much has been achieved, CII recognizes that more needs to be done. As an institution, it remains committed to building awareness, promoting environmental action, and partnering with the Government to establish transparent and responsible mechanisms for sustainable business. The initiatives outlined in this report reflect CII’s continued commitment to sustainability, and I hope they inspire Industry to continue leading India’s sustainability journey.



# Intervention Areas

- Advancing Creation of a Circular Economy
- Facilitating an Enabling Ecosystem for ESG Reporting
- Enhancing Solutions for Clean Air
- Building Climate Resilience and Low-Carbon Economy
- Accelerating Nature Positive Actions
- Fostering Dialogues and Knowledge Exchange



# Advancing Creation of a Circular Economy



## Focus

CESD partners with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) for streamlining implementation of environmental reforms, thereby fostering circular economy, transparency and enhancing natural resource management.

The Centre engages with the following stakeholders for policy calibration, improved implementation of the reforms and enhanced understanding of the policies to facilitate ease of doing business:



During 2024, over 60 recommendations on environmental governance, waste management and circular economy-related policies were submitted to MoEFCC and regulatory agencies to simplify environmental compliance processes and align waste management regulations with broader sustainability goals.

## Key Policy Reforms in 2024

### Exemptions for Non-Polluting Sectors

Non-polluting white-category industries that have obtained Environmental Clearance (EC) are now exempt from obtaining Consent to Establish (CTE) and Consent to Operate (CTO). They are also exempt from dual compliance for EC and CTE when establishing new facilities, thereby reducing procedural overlap.

### Eco Mark Rules, 2024

MoEFCC notified the Eco Mark Rules, 2024, outlining criteria for awarding Eco Marks to products meeting specified environmental standards. The CPCB will oversee certification, compliance, and portal-based monitoring.

### Extended EPR Filing Timelines

Extensions were granted for EPR compliance under the Plastic Waste and E-Waste Management Rules due to technical issues on the centralized portal. This included revised deadlines for annual return submissions and registration processes.

### EPR Portal for Used Oil Management

In June 2024, CPCB launched an EPR portal for used oil management to facilitate registration, compliance monitoring, EPR credit transactions and audit reporting

### Battery Waste Management (Second Amendment) Rules, 2024

The amendment introduced provisions on the minimum percentage of recycled material (by dry weight) to be used in batteries, applicable from the financial year specified in the notification.

## Important Submissions to MoEFCC

- Proposed Standards for the Pulp and Paper Industry – Draft Environment (Protection) Seventh Amendment Rules
- Draft Third-Party Environmental Audit Framework
- Draft guidelines on the Prevention of Greenwashing, 2024
- Draft End-of-Life Vehicles (Management) Rules, 2024
- EPR Credit Price Mechanism under Waste Management Rules
- Draft Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2024
- Draft Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Amendment Rules, 2024 – EPR for Non-Ferrous Metals
- Draft Solid Waste Management Rules, 2024
- Draft Liquid Waste Management Rules, 2024
- Environment Protection (Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging made from Paper, Glass, Metal, and Sanitary Products) Rules, 2024

## Important Submissions to CPCB

-  Technical issues related to the Functionality of the E-Waste Portal
-  Implementation of EPR guidelines under the Plastic Waste Management Rules
-  Draft guidelines for authorisation of EPR Electronic Trading and Settlement Platform Operators
-  New functionalities introduced on the EPR Portal for plastic packaging

### Implementation of EPR Guidelines under Plastic Waste Management Rules

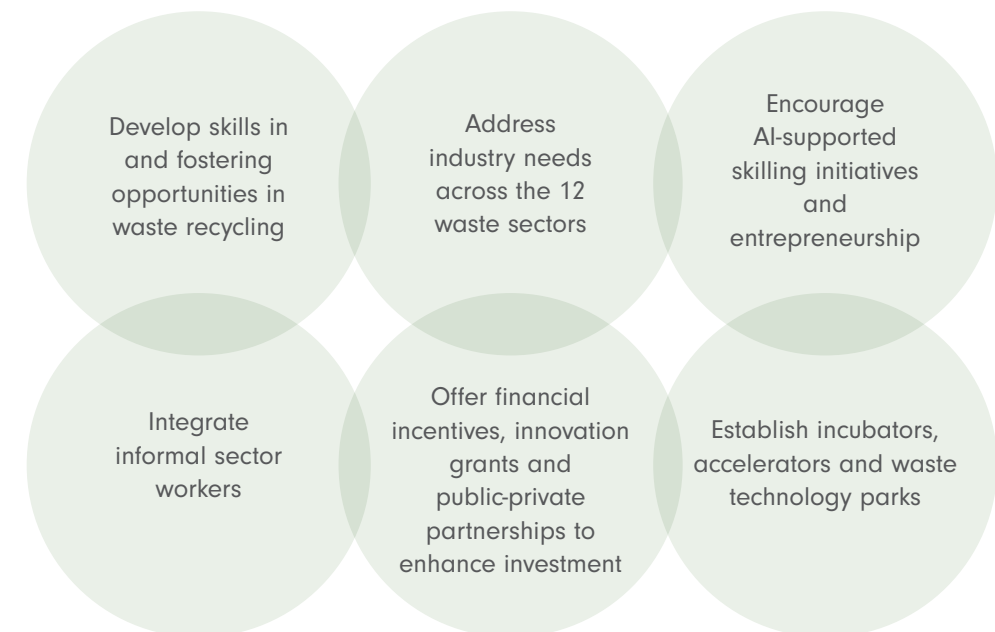
Based on feedback from the Centre, CPCB conducted an interactive session on 6 December 2024 to discuss the implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) guidelines under the Plastic Waste Management Rules. The session focused on industry obligations related to the reuse of plastic packaging and the use of recycled plastic content in the packaging.

The Centre highlighted key industry concerns regarding the practical challenges in meeting EPR

targets, particularly for reuse and incorporation of recycled content. Subsequently, a detailed submission was made to CPCB, outlining these challenges and recommending measures to facilitate effective and compliant implementation of EPR requirements.

### Contribution to the Working Group on Circular Economy

Circular Economy (CE) was a sub-themes for the 4th edition of the 'National Conference of Chief Secretaries' (NCCS). As a contributor to the MoEFCC's Working Group (WG) on CE, CII emphasized on the following suggestions:



## Easing Implementation of Policy Reforms

### Streamlining Green Clearances

In 2023-24, MoEFCC launched the second-generation PARIVESH 2.0 portal to streamline green clearance processes, incorporate feedback from stakeholders. As part of the Centre's efforts to support ease of environmental compliance, a virtual session was held on 30 January 2024 with Dr Sujit Kumar Bajpayee, Joint Secretary, MoEFCC, to discuss updates under PARIVESH 2.0. The session emphasized MoEFCC's ongoing efforts to enhance digital governance in environmental regulation and ensure more efficient, transparent and responsive clearance processes.



Interaction with Dr Sujit Kumar Bajpayee, Joint Secretary, MoEFCC on Streamlining Green Clearances: PARIVESH 2.0

### Collaboration with BIS on Environmental Standards

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) launched the Environment and Ecology Department (EED) to strengthen environmental standards and promote sustainability. CESD collaborated with the Environment and Ecology Division Council (EEDC) to support standardization in the areas of pollution control, sanitation, ecology, climate change, and environmental management and services. In 2024, CESD contributed to the development of over 15 standards through participation in the following BIS committees:

Committee	Subject Area
CHD 8	Occupational Health and Safety
CHD 35	Air Quality
MHD 10	Social Responsibility
EED 1	Environment Management
EED 2	Environment Protection
EED 8	Solid Waste Management



## SuP-free Certification

### Focus

The Plastics-use Protocol (PuP) is a voluntary framework developed by the Centre to help organisations identify, reduce, and eliminate Single-use Plastics (SuPs) within their operations. It supports industry-led efforts to transition towards improved plastic use and circularity by providing guidance on reducing plastic waste, enhancing resource efficiency, and aligning with applicable national and state-level (plastic waste) regulations. It is periodically updated to incorporate learnings and emerging best practices.

In 2024, CESD assisted organisations become SuP-free, based on the PuP framework of verification and certification. During the year, the Centre assisted 85 industrial sites in achieving SuP-free status.



## Zero Waste to Landfill Program

### Focus

Industry and businesses are increasingly adopting circular economy approaches for resource efficiency. Avoiding landfill disposal is an important step in reducing environmental impacts and improving waste circularity. The Centre's Zero Waste to Landfill (ZWL) Certification is based on a framework that evaluates waste diversion rates and applies the 5R waste hierarchy—Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Recover. The certification categorizes operations based on their level of waste diversion and alignment with the 5R principles. The Centre supports industries through technical guidance and facilitation to improve waste management systems.

In 2024, ZWL assessment and verification was initiated across more than 20 industrial facilities and sites, spread across the country.





## India Plastics Pact

### Focus

India Plastic Pact (IPP) is a CII initiative anchored at CESD. It supports the development of circular economy for plastic packaging by facilitating stakeholders across the plastics value chain. IPP is advancing the shift towards adoption of the principles of circularity through awareness sessions, capacity building programmes, research & surveys that together assist signatories in meeting the Pact's four ambitious and time-bound targets. The initiative also supports businesses achieve EPR obligations. IPP signatories together account for 20% of plastic packaging placed on the Indian market.

In 2024, the CII Initiative continued to represent Indian Industry's voices to global stakeholders as an observer to the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA). IPP synergised its energy towards demonstrating the potential for transitioning to recyclable flexible packaging through five industry-led projects. The projects are exploring solutions to place recyclable flexible packaging in the Indian market for five widely used products.

#### Target 1

**3,039 tonnes**  
of problematic or unnecessary plastic packaging was sold by all IPP brands in India in 2023-24

#### Target 2

**71%**  
of all IPP brands' plastic packaging was recyclable in 2023-24

#### Target 4

**1%**  
of all IPP brands' plastic packaging by weight was recycled content in 2023-24

#### Target 3

**25%**  
was the estimated recycling rate of plastics in India in 2020-21

Signatories' Progress and Contribution

## Supporting Development of a Circular Economy for Plastics

### Global Deliberations and Engagements

#### Introducing the Global Plastics Treaty to Indian Industry

A dialogue was organised on 4 April 2024 in New Delhi to introduce the Global Plastics Treaty to Indian Industry. The dialogue aimed to increase awareness of the Global Plastics Treaty among the Indian Industry and relevant stakeholders across the plastics value chain, document and showcase positive action by Indian industry and gather inputs from industry on different aspects of the Treaty, such as access to technology, trade, finance and reporting.



**L to R:** Yashika Singh, Chief Government Affairs and Communication Officer, PepsiCo India; Seema Arora, Deputy Director General, CII; Manish Dedhia, Immediate Past Chairman, All India Plastics Manufacturers' Association and Nandini Kumar, Senior Consultant, CESD during a session on Introducing the Global Plastics Treaty to Indian Industry in New Delhi



Participants during a session on Introducing the Global Plastics Treaty to Indian Industry in New Delhi

## CII at the Global Plastics Treaty Negotiations

In 2024, CII participated in the fourth and fifth sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to develop an international legally binding instrument (ILBI; commonly known as the Global Plastics Treaty) on plastic pollution, including the marine environment, held in Ottawa, Canada, and Busan, Republic of Korea, respectively.

CII led an industry delegation to INC-4 and INC-5. Through engagements, CII presented Indian industry's positive actions to tackle plastics, especially plastic packaging, to an

international audience. It highlighted India's strong policy driven landscape, and provided a networking forum for industry, government, and civil society. CII participated in key side events at both negotiations, sharing insights on voluntary business actions, collaborations, reuse systems and packaging design. At INC-4, CII released the report, Landscape assessment: reuse models in India, which highlights the opportunities and challenges faced by Indian businesses and presents practical examples of reuse from around the world.



**L to R:** Peter Skelton, Strategic Partnerships Manager, WRAP; Seema Arora, Deputy Director General, CII; Hiten Bheda, Chairman, Environment Committee, All India Plastic Manufacturers' Association; Nandini Kumar, Senior Consultant, CESD and Mani Vajipeyajula, Co-founder and CEO, Banyan Nation at a panel discussion, during INC-4 in Canada



**Industry delegation at INC-5 in South Korea. From L to R:** Bipin Odhekar, Head – Sustainability & Operations' Excellence, Marico Ltd; Swaroop K V R, Head-Waste Management, Sustainability & EPR, Srichakra Polyplast (India) Pvt Ltd and Ramnath Vaidyanathan, Associate Vice President, Godrej Good & Green, Godrej Industries Group

## Global Business Innovation Programme

CESD was the implementation partner for Innovate UK's Global Business Innovation Programme (GBIP). This initiative, delivered by Innovate UK, brought 15 UK-based companies with innovative technologies to India, facilitating their growth through collaboration with local industry partners. The programme also sought to identify potential investors, clients, and business partners in India. CESD, along with the CII Western Region office, organised a one-day session, followed by B2B meetings in Mumbai. Over 50 industry members participated in the session and it

was inaugurated by Harjinder Kang, H.M. Trade Commissioner for South Asia and the British High Commissioner for Western India.

CESD, in association with the CII Gujarat State office, organised a one-day session in Ahmedabad, followed by B2B meetings. The session, inaugurated by Stephen Hickling, British High Deputy Commissioner for Gujarat and Rajasthan, saw over 30 industry members participate in the deliberations.



Global Business Innovation Programme in Mumbai



Global Business Innovation Programme in Ahmedabad

## Research on Availability of CE Data

CII has partnered with Circle Economy, a Netherlands based consultancy which specialises in circularity metrics, to develop a Circularity Gap Report for India. The first phase, completed in 2024, focused on assessing the availability and quality of circular economy data in India. This phase provided a comprehensive understanding of the available data related to circular economy and identified existing data gaps. The next phase aims to address these gaps and improve the coverage & quality of available data.

## Building Contours of CE in India

### Capacity Development

To sensitize Indian Industry on the principles of circular economy and encourage its adoption, CESD initiated a CII-certified training session (virtual) – “Circular Economy: Theory to Practice”. Topics covered in the training session included basic principles, the value chain approach, circular business models, and transitioning to a circular economy.

### Circular Economy Conference

To build on circular economy and resource efficiency, CESD hosted the first edition of the CII Circular Economy Conference on 20 November 2024 in New Delhi. The Conference, with the theme, Building the Foundations, aimed to create awareness, discuss practical approaches & challenges and promote practices that promotes circular economy practices in India. It brought together business leaders, policymakers and experts from the sector and highlighted examples of CE in practice, role of metrics in measuring progress, and the relevance of global standards in ensuring accountability.



**L to R:** Amit Verma, IFS, Director – Green Transition, Environment and Climate Change; Economics and Finance, NITI Aayog; Seema Arora, Deputy Director General, CII; R Mukundan, Vice President, CII and Managing Director & CEO, Tata Chemicals Ltd and Sudhanshu Vats, Managing Director Designate, Pidilite Industries Ltd at the CII Circular Economy Conference 2024 in New Delhi

### IPP Advisory Committee Meeting

CESD conducted the ninth meeting of the Advisory Committee of the India Plastics Pact initiative in the CII Western Regional Headquarters in Mumbai. FMCG brands (Hindustan Unilever Limited, Mondelez India Foods Private Limited, ITC Limited, PepsiCo India, and Marico Limited), recyclers (Banyan Nation and Srichakra Polyplast India Pvt Ltd) and packaging producers (Huhtamaki India) that are part of the advisory committee attended the meeting. During the meeting, the Advisory Committee members provided strategic inputs on thematic focus of the Pact. The key agenda points covered during the meeting included recruitment of signatories to the India Plastics Pact, potential funding opportunities, progress towards the targets of the India Plastics Pact. The India Plastics Pact Annual Report 2022-23 and the Solutions for recyclable flexible packaging funded trial were launched during this meeting.



**Ninth meeting of the India Plastics Pact Advisory Committee (2023-24) at CII Mumbai state office**

### IPP Third Annual Conference

Held alongside the 19th Sustainability Summit in Delhi on 17 September 2024, the Conference was attended by representatives from over 50 signatories. It offered an incredible opportunity for Pact signatories to progress on work under the Pact’s 2030 targets, identify new areas of action, engage in interactive sessions, and connect with stakeholders across the plastic packaging value chain.



**India Plastics Pact Signatories (representatives), along with colleagues from WRAP and CESD at India Plastics Pact Third Annual Conference**

### Workshop on Advancing Reuse and Refill

To help industry stakeholders accelerate their progress on reuse, the India Plastics Pact organised a workshop, “Breaking Barriers: Advancing Reuse and Refill”, on 6 November 2024 in New Delhi. Industry representatives and Pact signatories from across the plastics value chain came together to explore the future of plastic

packaging reuse in India. Participants from the workshop came away with an understanding of reuse business models, current landscape of reuse models in India, regulations on packaging reuse, opportunities for action and challenges to be addressed collaboratively, and learnings from reuse pilots across industries.



**Participants at the Breaking Barriers: Advancing Reuse and Refill workshop in New Delhi**



**L to R:** Nandini Kumar, Senior Consultant, CESD; Ayaz Kagzi, Technology Leader – Packaging Development, Pidilite Industries; Rahul Juware, Social Lab, Director, Environmental Solutions and Marwan Abubaker, Co-founder and Director, Hasiru Dala Innovations

Publications and Reports



The India Plastics Pact Annual Report for 2023-24 includes the progress of the IPP signatories to the Pact's 2030 targets, measured through an annual data reporting process.



The report "Small Formats And Sachets: Exploring Challenges, Solutions and Interventions" aims to understand the prominence of small format packaging in India and identify interventions, including elimination, which can help improve the management of waste generated from their use/disposal.



The report "Landscape Assessment: Reuse Models in India" provides an overview of the current landscape of reuse business models (in India and globally), and highlights the economic, social and environmental benefits of reuse in the Indian context.



The technical report "Design for Recycling Guidance for Films and Flexible Packaging" provides the best design practices for brands and converters to make flexible packaging more recyclable in the Indian context.



The report "Golden Rules of Packaging for e-Commerce and Delivery Platforms" highlights the role of e-commerce and delivery platforms as agents for change and lays down a step-by-step guide for such platforms to make their packaging more sustainable.

# Facilitating an Enabling Ecosystem for ESG Reporting



## Focus

*The path to a sustainable and inclusive future for India lies in seamlessly integrating Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles into business strategies and fostering accountability through mechanisms like the Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR).*

*In 2024, CII played a pivotal role in supporting businesses through the transition in ESG disclosure space by engaging with global organisations to highlight the missing Global South perspective and the absence of differentiated rating parameters among others. The Centre continued its engagement with SEBI, BIS and Indian Industry to enhance sustainability reporting, bring in transparency and simplify disclosure requirements for Indian organisations.*

## Supporting ESG Policy Formulation

### Recommendations for SEBI Consultation Paper

Several industry recommendations were submitted to the Securities and Exchange Board of India on the "SEBI Consultation Paper on the Recommendations of the Expert Committee for Facilitating Ease of Doing Business with respect to Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR)" released on 22 May 2024. The first draft of the Sustainability Reporting and Disclosure Requirements Standards by BIS was released in September 2024. Ten of the Centre's twenty recommendations and comments were adopted and incorporated into the second draft, including disclosures related to critical suppliers, revenue breakdown by country, measures to reduce non-compliances, and redefining terms like 'equal opportunity' to encompass all aspects of employment. The second draft was released in November 2024, and comments were submitted in December. The final standards are expected to be released in 2025.

The first draft of the Sustainability Reporting and Disclosure Requirements Standards by BIS was released in September 2024. Ten of the Centre's twenty recommendations and comments were adopted and incorporated into the second draft, including disclosures related to critical suppliers, revenue breakdown by country, measures to reduce non-compliances, and redefining terms like 'equal opportunity' to encompass all aspects of employment.

### Co-development of BRSR Core Standard

As part of SEBI's Industry Standards Forum (ISF), CII along with industry member inputs developed Draft BRSR Core Standard. The objective of the Standard is to help companies comply with the disclosure requirements on BRSR core mandated as per SEBI regulations. The Draft BRSR Core Standard was accepted by SEBI in its Circular dated 20th December 2024, SEBI/HO/CFD/CFD-PoD-1/P/CIR/2024/177. The same shall be applicable to listed entities from FY 2024-25 and onwards.





# ESG Intelligence & Analytics

## Focus

The Centre's ESG Intelligence & Analytics services aim to assist Industry of all sizes and sectors to incorporate ESG aspects into their business strategies and processes to attract ESG investors. This is done through an umbrella of services including capacity building, diagnostic assessment & advisory, roadmap & strategy development, ESG reporting, and peer benchmarking.

## Supporting Industry's Sustainability Initiatives

ESG Intelligence & Analytics Services aim to assist industries of all sizes and sectors to incorporate ESG aspects into their business strategies and processes to attract ESG investors. Through the ESG assessment service, CESD analyses an organization's performance across environment, social, and governance aspects, tailored to its size, industry, and ESG maturity.

### Assessments

The Centre conducts the assessment through a SaaS-based tool; the process includes capacity building, data collection on 80+ indicators, verification, automated scoring, and gap assessment reporting. In 2024, the Centre supported 7 organisations across logistics, chemicals, automotive, healthcare, heating solution, infrastructure and engineering sectors. CESD helped the organisations assess ESG maturity, identify gaps, and enhance sustainability strategies.

### Capacity Development

The Centre successfully conducted 7 in-house training sessions covering diverse topics including, BRSR, ESG frameworks & metrics, sustainability reporting and climate change. In FY 24-25, 500+ professionals were trained from 50+ companies.

### Engagements with CII Members

Aimed at introducing the CII ESG Diagnostic Tool and the Eco Edge programme, a virtual training session on "ESG Tools" was organised, along with CII Vizag State Office on 2 August 2024. Over 49 professionals attended the training highlighted the benefits of using both CII ESG Diagnostic Tool and the Eco Edge programme tool. CII Uttar Pradesh State Office, in partnership with CESD, organised a two-day virtual training session on "Introduction to ESG" on 22 and 23 August 2024.

### MDP with NISM

A Management Development Program (MDP) was organised in collaboration with National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM) - a capacity building initiative of SEBI. Under then MDP, CESD shared insights on the topic "Achieving BRSR Core Compliance for industries".

## Regional Engagements



4th CII-SR Sustainability Summit 2024, held on 23 January 2024 in Chennai



CII Andhra Pradesh ESG Summit held on 21 June 2024 in Visakhapatnam



CII Mysuru Summit held on 13 August 2024 in Mysuru



CII Karnataka ESG Summit, held on 19 January 2024 in Bengaluru

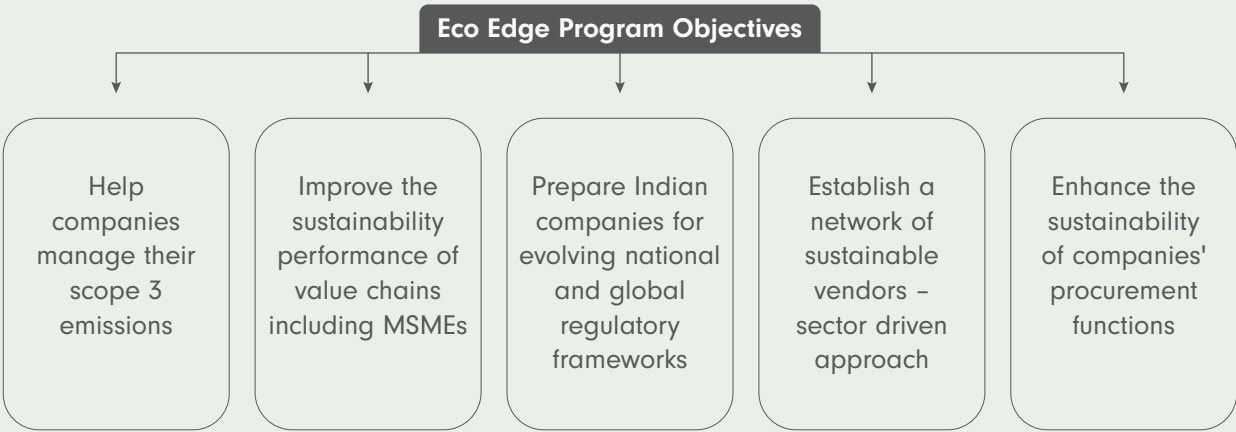


# Eco Edge Program

## Focus

The Eco Edge program aims to integrate sustainability (environmental & social parameters) in value chains of companies (both upstream & downstream) by conducting capacity-building sessions; analyzing vendors' performance; providing gap assessment reports and certifying them basis their performance. The assessment framework includes a dedicated questionnaire for service VCPs, providing a more tailored and relevant evaluation for non-manufacturing partners.

During 2024, the Centre assessed 200+ suppliers from automotive and energy sectors under the Eco Edge program. CESD certified more than 45 vendors with the Eco Edge maturity-based certification.



## Facilitating Sustainable Transformation of Value Chain Partners

### Eco Edge Assessments

Eco Edge successfully completed Phase 2 of the assessment for Škoda Auto Volkswagen India Pvt Ltd, expanding the number of Value Chain Partners (VCPs) assessed from 17 in 2023 to 44 in 2024. The assessed VCPs include both upstream and downstream partners. Eco Edge expanded into the energy sector through Apraava Energy. The project covered 20 upstream VCPs comprising of manufacturing and service-based partners.

### Eco Edge Gap Reports

Post assessments under Eco Edge, 45 detailed gap reports were released during the year. The reports analysed vendor performance, highlighted key gaps, and provided actionable recommendations. The reports also included peer benchmarking to encourage others VCPs to improve their sustainability performance.

### Capacity Development

During the year, 6 capacity building sessions were organised for 70 companies across the energy and automotive sectors. These sessions provided participants with practical insights and knowledge on sustainability, focusing on four key areas: decarbonization, circularity, health & safety and human rights.

### Eco Edge Certification

The second edition of the Eco Edge Felicitation took place on 17 September 2024, during the 19th Sustainability Summit in New Delhi. The ceremony provided certificates to ŠKODA AUTO Volkswagen India Pvt Ltd (OEM) and its 17 Value Chain Partners (VCPs) for their commitment to integrating sustainability into their operations. The felicitation took place in the presence of esteemed dignitaries, including Shri Rohit Kansal, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Textiles.



### About the Eco Edge Certification

Companies were assessed on four key areas—Decarbonization, Circularity, Health & Safety, and Human Rights—encompassing both environmental and social parameters. Based on their maturity in adopting sustainable practices, participants were awarded certifications at three levels: Emerging, Progressive, and Trailblazer, recognizing their efforts in advancing sustainability.

### Roundtable on Sustainable Finance for Value Chains

CESD hosted a roundtable on sustainable finance for value chains on 11 June 2024, in Mumbai, bringing together financial institutions, sourcing companies, and value chain partners. Participants included DBS Bank, Tata Capital, Škoda Auto Volkswagen, TVS Motor, Zomato, ITC, DCM Shriram and H&M Group. The roundtable served as a platform for companies seeking ESG finance and for financial institutions promoting sustainable lending. It fostered discussions on challenges and explored solutions that can align financial strategies for ESG implementation.

### Participation in NHRC's Core Group on Business and Human Rights

CESD participated in the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Core Group Meeting on Business and Human Rights on 11 July 2024. The Centre presented on the topic "Importance and Key Features of Human Rights Due Diligence" and contributed to discussions on "Safeguarding Dignity: Human Rights Due Diligence across Supply Chains." Key topics included gaps and challenges in existing systems, emerging good practices, and the way forward. The meeting featured representatives from organisations such

as Ministry of MSME, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, World Benchmarking Alliance, Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry, UNDP, the Quality Council of India and Aditya Birla Group.

### Assessor Training Program

The 2024 Eco Edge Assessor Training Programme was a two-day certificate-based session (virtual). Held in July 2024, it brought together 14 assessors from diverse sectors and strengthened their understanding of sustainability and the Eco Edge framework.

### Eco Edge Annual Stakeholder Meet

The 1st Annual Eco Edge Stakeholder Meet was held on 18 September 2024, in New Delhi, bringing together 28 participants from diverse sectors, including finance, automobile, auto component manufacturing and FMCG. The session featured insightful discussions on the Eco Edge reassessment process, key findings from past projects, and the launch of the new Eco Edge tool, accompanied by a live demonstration. Sourcing companies, financial institutions, and value chain partners shared key insights on the challenges and opportunities in embedding sustainability, fostering meaningful dialogue for industry-wide progress.



The 1st Annual Eco Edge Stakeholder Meet organized on 18 September 2024, in New Delhi

### Promoting Sustainable Food Systems

CESD and the Food and Agriculture Centre of Excellence (CII-FACE) conducted a workshop on Environmental, Social, Governance and Nutrition (ESGN) in Delhi on 11 December 2024 and Mumbai on 13 December 2024. These workshops aimed to drive sustainable practices and tailor a Benchmarking Tool to address the unique characteristics of India's food systems.



A workshop organised on Environmental, Social, Governance and Nutrition (ESGN) in Delhi on 11 December 2024 and Mumbai on 13 December 2024.

### Jhajjar Supplier Meet

CESD participated in the Jhajjar Power Ltd's Supplier Meeting on 2 December 2024. It delivered the keynote presentation on "Advancing ESG and Green Procurement: Pathways and Actionable Steps for a Sustainable Future" and facilitated a panel discussion on "Strategies for Sustainable Business". The panel discussion focused on opportunities, challenges and innovative strategies for promoting sustainability in the energy sector.



Jhajjar Power Ltd's Supplier Meeting organised on 2 December 2024

## New Initiatives

### Peer Benchmarking & ESG Subscription Service

The ESG subscription service hosts a set of knowledge and analytics-based products that are designed to help organisations reorient and improve their efforts in the space. Through the peer benchmarking module, organisations can evaluate their performance against the industry average on several ESG quantitative and qualitative indicators.

### Eco Edge Tool

Shifting to a tool-based assessment is crucial for enhancing the efficiency and scalability of the Eco Edge framework. By digitising the process, companies and assessors can ensure more consistent, data-driven evaluations while streamlining the overall assessment procedure. This transition also allows for more transparent tracking and reporting. The Eco Edge tool, launched in the presence of Shri Rohit Kansal, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, marks a significant step towards digitising the framework through a SaaS-based tool.

## Publications and Reports



The Centre released the first insights report from the Eco Edge program, titled "Integrating Sustainability in the Automobile Value Chain - Insights from Eco Edge." The report presented key findings from the Eco Edge project, involving three Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) and 150 Value Chain Partners (VCPs). It showcased VCPs' environmental and social practices using select KPIs and highlighted best practices from both VCPs and OEMs.



The "Policy Watch on ESG" addresses aspects of ESG compliance, including the need for "assessment" for BRSR Core disclosure and the adoption of a phased approach for value chain reporting to ease compliance for MSMEs. It also advocates for global ESG standards to be aligned with the contextual imperatives of the Global South.

# Building Climate Resilience and Low Carbon Economy



## Focus

As a nation that is significantly vulnerable to the impacts of climate variability, including extreme events such as heatwaves, floods, droughts & cyclones, prioritising integration of climate concerns (both mitigation and adaptation measures), into India's policy initiatives as well as development planning and priorities, is essential to achieve the nation's goal of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

During 2024, recognising the urgency of addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation, CESD worked on several fronts to spearhead climate action initiatives, drive policy advocacy, and assist industry in its transition to a more sustainable economy. The Centre supported Industry, value chain partners and MSMEs by building capacity and tracking emissions. It promoted sustainable transformation by identifying region-specific vulnerabilities to climate risks, prioritising adaptive strategies and strengthening resilience.

Addressing Climate Risks and Enhancing Adaptation

Representing Industry at COP29 Deliberations

The CII business delegation at COP29 engaged with global stakeholders to promote shared goals, technology-driven climate solutions, and investments for the Global South. The delegation showcased India Inc.'s leadership in addressing climate challenges while exploring opportunities for growth and innovation.

Framework Approach to Building Resilience

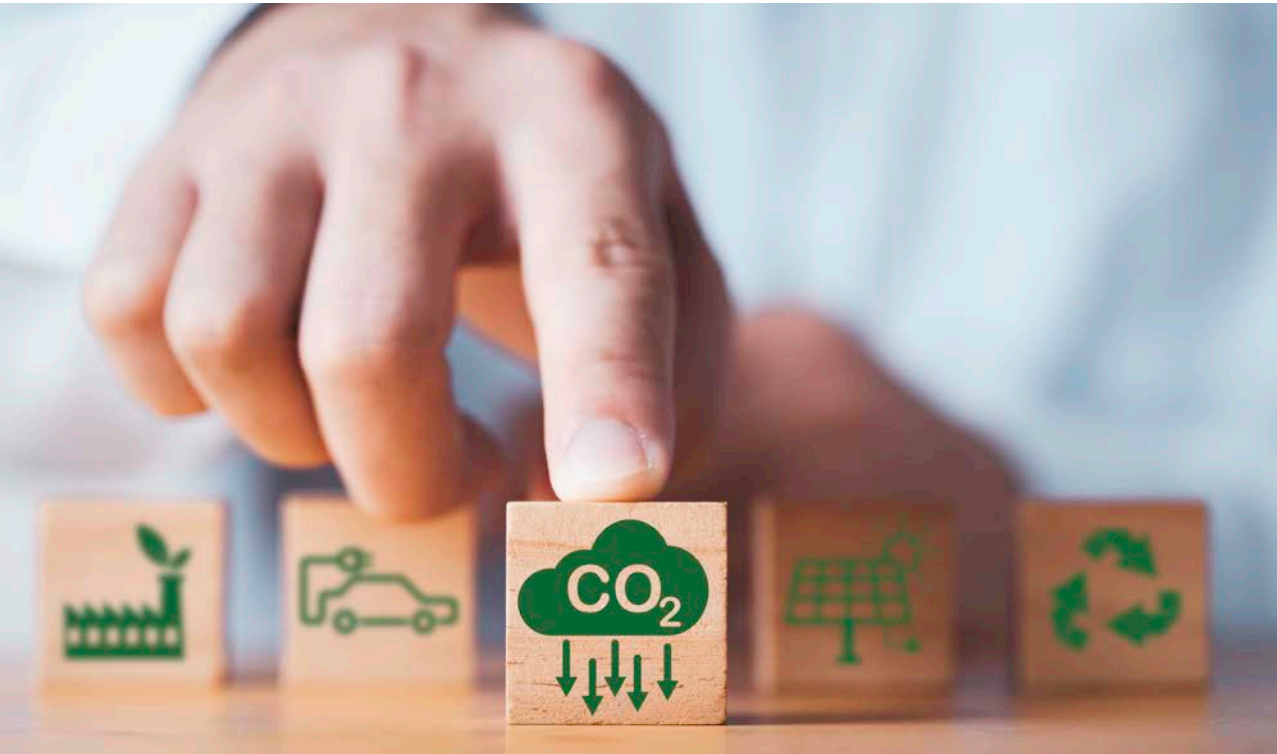
A Physical Climate Risk Assessment Framework (PCRAF), developed by the Centre, was unveiled during the 19th Sustainability Summit in 2024. The framework helps businesses identify risks from climate-related natural events and prioritises effective adaptation actions across sectors and regions based on impact and feasibility. The framework serves as a foundation for national climate risk assessment and management strategy for governments and Industry.

Disaster Resilience Study

Under a CII-AP Taskforce on Swarna Andhra Pradesh, CESD has initiated a study on developing cyclone and flood resilience in districts of West Godavari and Eluru in Andhra Pradesh. Through a multi-faceted approach, the study is evaluating solutions aimed at mitigating risks, reducing vulnerabilities, and enhancing adaptive capacities.

Vision Document for Sustainable Blue Economy

In collaboration with the NITI Aayog, CESD initiated development of a vision document focused on leveraging frontier technologies for a sustainable blue economy in 2024. The vision document will envision measures for transformation of existing and emerging Blue Economy linked sectors that is required to achieve India's vision of a Vikshit Bharat 2047 while also contributing towards the goal of Net Zero 2070.



CII Climate Action Charter

Focus

The CII Climate Action Charter (CCAC) provides a platform for Indian businesses to map Climate Change as a material risk across value chains and develop long-term actions to build resilience. The platform facilitates businesses to lead their sectoral climate actions and showcase best practices for addressing climate risks. The Centre conducts one-on-one audits with Charter signatories to verify the credibility of data captured using the Charter platform tools.

## Prioritising Climate Actions in Industrial Clusters

### Expansion across Sectors

CESD has onboarded 500+ MSMEs to the CCAC platform, extending its reach across diverse industries. The Charter's reach has expanded to over 50 manufacturing sub-sectors, including automotive, aerospace, healthcare, tourism, minerals, and trading sectors. It has partnered with leading organisations such as Ashok Leyland, Rockman Industries, CEAT, PFTI, and RPG Raychem to promote climate action across their value chains.

### Building Awareness

The Centre has raised awareness on climate change among 1,000 organisations and supply chain partners through a series of online and offline sessions, focusing on GHG emission accounting and sustainable business practices.

### Emission Reductions

CESD has partnered with 200 MSMEs to establish baselines and track progress. Several signatories, after onboarding, implemented energy-efficient technologies and processes, resulting in significant cost savings and emission reductions. A subset of these MSMEs achieved Scope 1 emission reduction by 53.65% between 2022 and 2023. For the same period, their Scope 2 emissions declined by 4.62%.

### Regional Outreach

The Centre conducted more than 20 workshops in collaboration with regional CII offices, targeting industrial clusters across 9 states. It partnered with several CII State / Zonal offices, such as Uttarakhand, Punjab, Chandigarh, Indore, and Tirupur, to drive joint engagements on climate action and promote various CII initiatives.



## Emission Measurement and Reduction

### Focus

CESD helps shape the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory for the Industrial Process and Product Use (IPPU) sector for the development of India's Biennial Update Report-4 (BUR-4) and Biennial Transparency Report-1 (BTR-1) for submission to the UNFCCC. This involves active engagement with stakeholders from 35 diverse industries, such as Cement, Lime, Aluminium, Iron & Steel, Ammonia, and Pulp & Paper.

CESD engages with key stakeholders, including the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Ministry of Steel, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals (DCPC), Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of MSMEs, DPIIT, Cement Corporation of India Limited, Cement Manufacturers Association of India (CMA), Ministry of Mines, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG), and Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

### Sop for Emission Inventory

CESD developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the IPPU sector emission inventorisation by streamlining data compilation from multiple sources. The SOPs have set a benchmark for other sectors and MoEFCC is using them as reference document for other sectors.

### Suggestions for NIMS

The Centre played an instrumental role in the development of MoEFCC's National Inventory Management System (NIMS). The portal acts as a standardized platform for inventory compilers, data providers, and the Ministry, enabling efficient tracking of emission reporting and data gathering.



## Publications and Reports



A report titled “Building Climate Resilience for Indian Industry” was launched during the 19th Sustainability Summit organised by the Centre. The report was launched by Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon’ble Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, alongside Mr Sanjiv Puri, President, CII and Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII.



CII launched the report “CII@COP29 Negotiations: Indian Industry's Expectations” during COP 29. The report focused on key priorities such as climate finance through a transparent New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG), expanding renewable energy, clean technologies like hydrogen and carbon capture, and strengthening National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). It also emphasised circular economy practices, natural climate solutions like reforestation and bioenergy, and innovation to support climate-resilient growth and global collaboration.



The sectoral report on Transport Systems explores strategies for India to achieve net-zero emissions in the transportation sector. It evaluates emission reduction levers within two scenarios: a Line-of-sight/Business-as-usual scenario based on current policies and technology trends, and an Accelerated scenario incorporating advanced policies and technology adoption. The report highlights the transport sector's significant carbon footprint, the challenges and costs associated with transitioning to net-zero emissions, and the interdependencies, co-benefits, and trade-offs of decarbonisation. It proposes policy recommendations, financing solutions, and actions for businesses, highlighting the importance of electrification, renewable energy, and innovative technologies in achieving net-zero goals by 2070.



The sectoral report on New and Emerging Technology explores strategies for integrating new and emerging technologies that could be leveraged to achieve India's net-zero emissions goals. It provides an in-depth analysis of the potential of green hydrogen and Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS) technologies within two scenarios: the current policy and technology trajectory (Line of Sight) and an enhanced, Accelerated adoption scenario. The report delves into the technological, financial, and policy challenges of scaling these technologies, emphasising the need for substantial investments and collaborative efforts among stakeholders. It offers detailed policy recommendations, strategic actions for businesses, role in promoting these technologies to ensure India meets its ambitious net-zero goals by 2070.



The sectoral report “Financing Industry Transitions - Roadmap for Achieving Net Zero Transition in India by 2070”, provides an in-depth analysis of the financial strategies and frameworks required for India to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070. It contrasts two scenarios: the Line of Sight (LoS) and Accelerated scenarios, outlining the investment needs, challenges, and potential financial mechanisms to support India's green transition. The document projects the financial outlays necessary for decarbonisation and recommends policy initiatives, banking reforms, and market solutions to mobilize the required investments effectively. It underscores the urgency of establishing robust financing structures, including green banks and carbon markets, to drive the transition towards a sustainable, low-carbon economy by 2070, detailing the economic, environmental, and social co-benefits of such a transition.



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### Visual report on Strategies for Financing the Climate Transition in Indian Industries

The narrative, developed by the CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development (CESD), provides a brief understanding of the science behind estimating climate finance requirements for India under different scenarios. It highlights significant investments required for India to shift to a low-carbon economy and the financial strategies that can be explored.

The findings underscore economic, environmental, and social benefits of transitioning to a sustainable, low-carbon economy. It advocates for supportive policy frameworks to mitigate risks and calls for robust financing structures.

CESD has put together this briefing to bring to light the issues & challenges around raising finance for transition. It is based on the views of global experts, Industry leaders and representatives from Government of India and international agencies. It captures data points from research done by multilateral agencies and development banks.

# Balanced Ecosystems



## Focus

Air pollution is a pressing national challenge with far-reaching and long-lasting consequences. It leads to economic losses, endangers environmental sustainability, availability of natural resources and access to jobs & livelihood. It has a detrimental impact on public health, leading to reduced productivity, premature deaths, a spike in mortality rate, and a decline in the quality of life. Through the national initiative – CII Cleaner Air Better Life (CII CABL) launched in 2018, CESD 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.



## Cleaner Air Better Life

### Focus

In 2024, CESD, through the CABL Initiative, strengthened engagements with citizens, industry leaders, farmers and local governments. The Crop Residue Management (CRM) program, spread across 500 villages in Punjab & Haryana, spread over 5 lakh ha farmland. 41 million kg air pollution (PM10 & secondary aerosols) was saved through the CABL – CRM program and the co-benefits include: 630 million kg CO2 equivalent saved in greenhouse gases and 1.3 million kg Black Carbon saved.

The Initiative's city level awareness activities on air quality management in Indore during the year led to an increase in sustainable transport usage and waste segregation and led to transition towards clean energy sources for cooking and upgradation to BS6 vehicles.



### India CEO Forum for Clean Air

The India CEO Forum for Clean Air is a national alliance of businesses for leading action on air pollution. The Forum was inceptioned in 2019 with 17 founding members. The platform now has more than 120 leaders who have committed to contribute to air quality management through the 'Clean Air Declaration'.

The India CEO Forum for Clean Air met twice in 2024 and brought together a total of 70 business leaders committed to advancing industry-led action on air pollution. The first meeting on 11 March 2024 focused on real-world vehicular emissions and low-emission zone strategies, with expert inputs from ICCT and ITDP, generating strong industry interest in collaborative solutions.

The second meeting, held on 18 October 2024, witnessed CABL Chairperson Ms Shveta Arya presented the CABL annual plan, including new initiatives like the Clean Transportation Alliance and Clean Construction Charter, which were well received by members. The Forum also deliberated on forward-looking themes such as results-based financing (World Bank/Dalberg), real-time air quality monitoring, and sustainable packaging from agricultural residues, marking a year of strong momentum and strategic roadmap building for clean air action. The convening also featured the launch of three key publications: the "Corporate Air Emission Reporting (CAER) Guide", "Crop Residue Management: Clean Air & Healthier Soil", and "Lessons & Learnings from Air Quality Management in Indore".



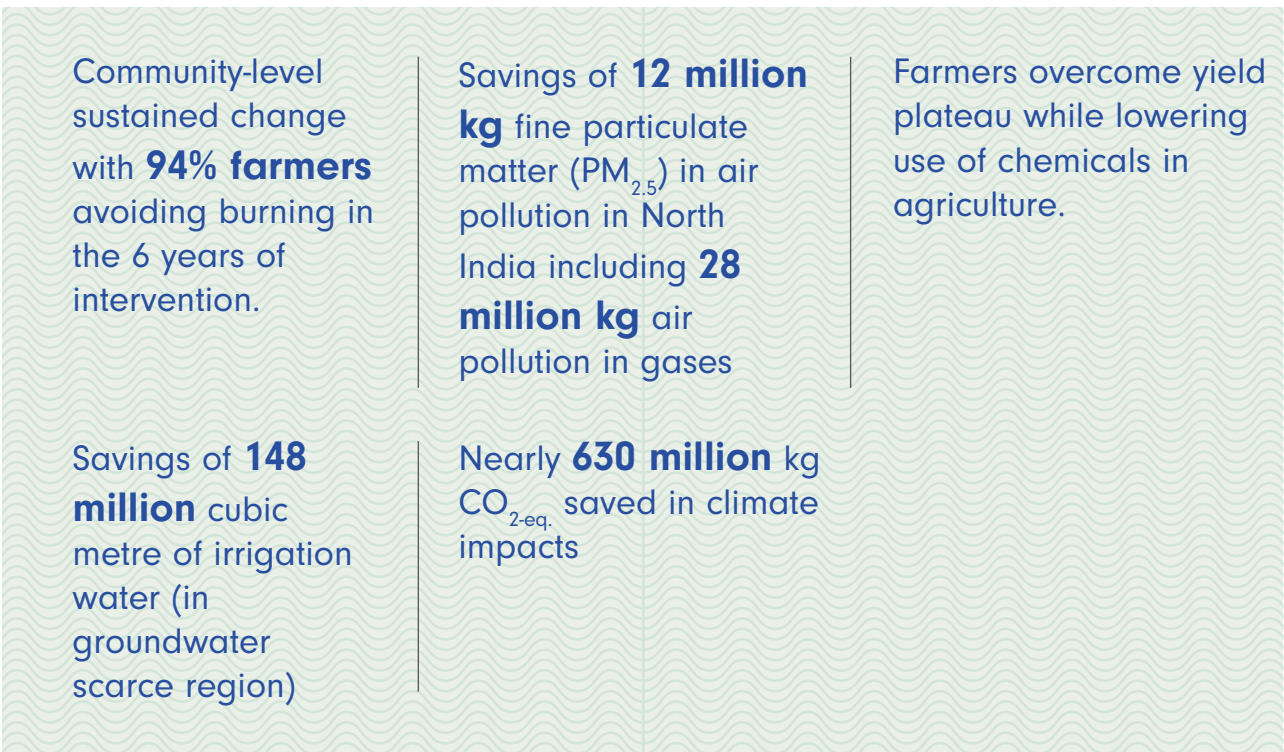
India CEO Forum for Clean Air Meeting

### Crop Residue Management Programme

The CABL Crop Residue Management (CABL: CRM) programme focusses on one of the critical contributors of air pollution - crop stubble burning. Initiated as a pilot in 19 villages as a follow-up to the CII-NITI Action Plan for Biomass Management (2018), the programme has reached out to 1.28 Lakh

farmers in 793 villages in 2024. Devised after an in-depth study and rigorous on-ground deliberations, the crop residue management programme was developed for a zero-stubble burning movement by driving behavioural change and supporting farmers with machinery and technical know-how.

As per the CII CABL report "Cleaner Air Healthier Soil in 2024", the programme has led to:

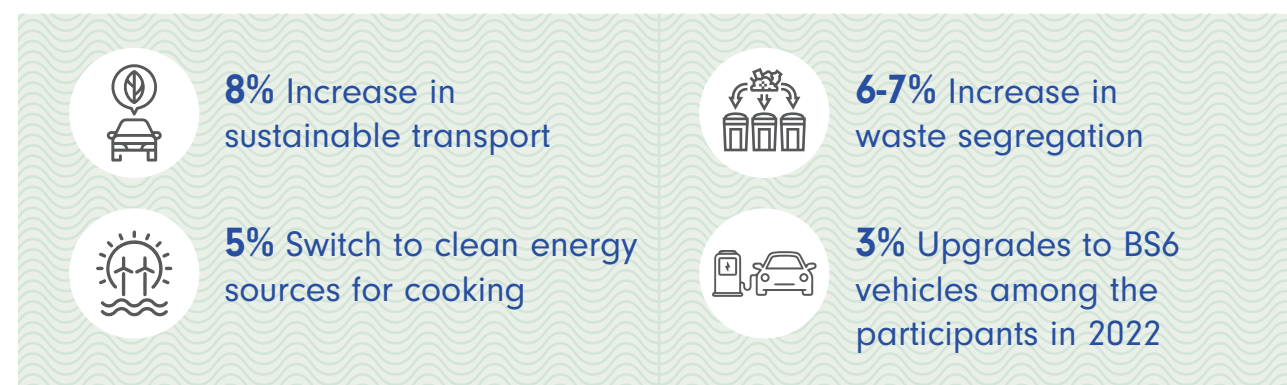


## CABL Indore Chapter

The decentralised Air Quality (AQ) data generated in Indore from PM monitors and AI-model outputs at the city ward level supports the CABL initiative in the city. During 2024, CABL conducted 19 zonal-level awareness workshops and 11 capacity-building sessions, engaging zonal

officers, local counsellors, ASHA workers and local communities with a focus on women and children. The team of field volunteers by Smart City Indore and CII undertook extensive engagement with citizens in local areas for air quality improvement. Indore scored number one on Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan 2023.

### Lessons & Learnings from Air Quality Management in Indore – Highlights



### Suggestions Accepted by the Government

The following Government mechanisms were notified after the release and dissemination of the "Fleet Electrification in India" report (published in 2023), which included these suggestions:

- A dedicated 'single window clearance mechanism' is notified by the Government via the BEE notification dated June 2024 for setting up of Public Charging Station (PCS). This new policy measure is expected to fast-track the process of setting up a PCS by Industry.
- Standards and Protocols for data sharing including the Unified Energy Interface (UEI), Open Charge Point Protocol (OCPP), Open Charge Point Interface (OCPI), and Open Automated Demand Response (OpenADR) was shared through the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) notification dated 17 September 2024, as part of the Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) Guidelines and Standards. The implementation will significantly enhance user convenience by enabling electric vehicle owners to easily locate nearby charging stations.

### Recommendations on Enhancing Private Sector Participation

The Centre suggested that the Government can consider creating an equal partnership fund with the private sector, using a portion of the NCAP grant. The fund could establish the following:

- **Innovation Hubs:** The hubs could work on creating real-time monitoring and management solutions and provide timely data and insights to enable quick action and targeted interventions.
- **Future Mobility Hubs:** Proposed hubs to include urban mobility innovation or future mobility hubs, which work towards creating sustainable transportation solutions that reduce emissions and improve air quality. The hubs can serve as platforms for testing and implementing new technologies and approaches for cleaner and more efficient mobility.
- **Common Infrastructure for MSMEs in Industry Clusters:** By setting up common infrastructure for MSMEs in industrial clusters, Government and Industry can enable MSMEs to adopt cleaner technologies for lower emissions. For example, common boilers based on clean fuels and /or equipped with the latest emission control technologies, thereby helping improve air quality in the vicinity of the clusters.

## Actions to Create A Balanced Ecosystems

### Participation in MHI Working Groups

CII played a crucial role in coordinating three key Working Groups (WGs) with the Ministry of Heavy Industry (MHI) under the newly formed National Electric Vehicle (EV) Task Force through 2024. These are: Battery Swapping, EV Skilling and Rare Earth Magnets. The focus of the WGs included: supporting development of battery swapping ecosystem, plan for skilled EV workforce, and enhancing national resource security for rare earth magnets as important input to all EV motors. CESD supported and facilitated wider industry inputs from around 20 industry members for three WGs reports as part of the national EV roadmap.



MHI Working Group Industry Consultation

### Deliberations on Scaling Zero-Emission Deliveries

A roundtable focused on Scaling Zero-Emission Deliveries was organised on 27 August 2024. A total of 30 diverse stakeholders including delivery platforms, Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), fleet operators, financial organisations, charging infrastructure companies etc. participated in the session. The roundtable underscored the importance of fit-for-purpose solutions in ULM deliveries, innovations in EV financing to gig workers and multistakeholder collaborations to derisk investments for scaled adoption of zero emission fleets.



Scaling Zero Emission Deliveries Roundtable

### Sectoral Discussions

A series of deliberations, titled 'Roundtable Series: Pathways to Clean Air' was organised during the 19th CII Sustainability Summit. Around 35 stakeholders participated in the different sessions that focussed on: Pathways to Private-sector Action for Clean Air, Pathways to Circular Economy for Agricultural Residues, and Pathways to Zero Emission Fleets. The discussions revolved around key challenges and practical solutions in the three areas. The CII CABL Forum members also exhibited various innovative clean air solutions being developed by them.



CII CABL Roundtable Series: Pathway to Clean Air

## Recognition for Impact

CII CABL received the Cummins Excellence Award 2023 for 'Community Impact' on 19 September 2024. The award reflects the Centre's dedication to addressing air pollution and improving public health through innovative solutions and community collaboration.



CII CABL receiving Cummins Excellence Award 2023

## Publications and Reports



The "Corporate Air Emission Reporting (CAER) Guide" is a practical resource aimed at empowering businesses to effectively quantify and report their air emissions. Around 12 CII CABL Forum members became the early adopters of the CAER Guide to improve their sustainability reporting on air emissions.



The "Clean Air & Healthier Soil" report quantifies all environmental benefits and socio-economic benefits of new crop residue management practices which are key factor behind large scale adoption of burning free agriculture in CII-intervened areas. It additionally showcases scalable community-level model for mitigating agricultural burning emissions as championed by the CII CABL Initiative in States of Punjab and Haryana, with latest testimonials of progressive farmers in the region for long-term perspectives on benefits and risks of different sustainable agricultural practices.



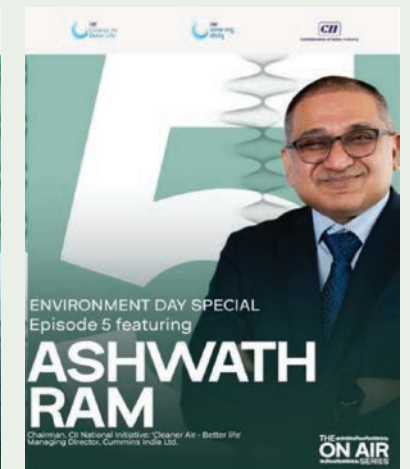
The report "Lessons & Learnings from Air Quality Management in Indore" demonstrates how data-driven and citizen-focused initiatives can deliver success in urban air quality management across Indian cities. Project demonstrated use of dense network of AQ sensors and AI-based model in Indore to generate decentralised data and drive behaviour change in citizen basis this data. The report also estimates the social impact of these interventions and presents learnings for all NCAP cities in India. These efforts contributed to Indore scoring number one on Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan in 2023.

## CABL Outreach

- **On Air Series:** To raise awareness and promote dialogue on air pollution and clean air initiatives, three insightful podcast episodes were released as part of 'On Air Series'.
  - Coinciding with World Health Day on 7 April 2024, a podcast was released featuring Mr Shashi Shekhar, Managing Director, Camfill India, who discussed the critical impact of air pollution on public health and emphasised the importance of collective action. *(World Health Day Podcast)*
  - On 22 April 2024, on the occasion of Earth Day, a special interview podcast was published featuring Mr Tejpreet Singh Chopra, President and CEO,

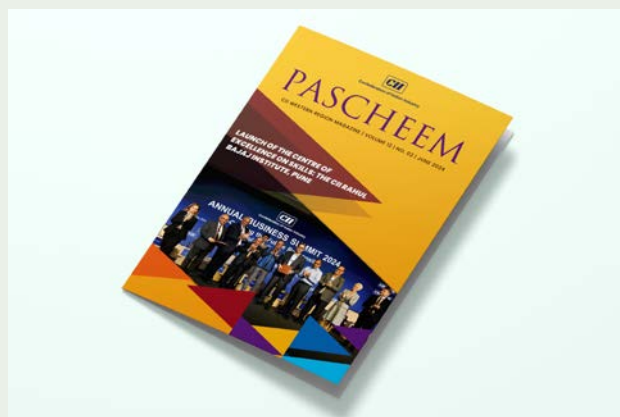
Bharat Light & Power. He shared valuable insights on the significance of transitioning to cleaner energy alternatives to combat air pollution and promote environmental sustainability. *(Earth Day Podcast)*

- On World Environment Day, a podcast was released with Mr Ashwath Ram, Chairman, CII CABL and Managing Director, Cummins India. The interview focused on critical initiatives for cleaner air and sustainable development, exploring the economic benefits of clean air investments and drawing parallels between cleaner interventions and economic returns. *(World Environment Day Podcast)*



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

- **Feature in Regional CII Publication:** A multi-page article was published in the Western region magazine - CII Pascheem. The feature highlights the Centre's ongoing efforts to combat air pollution in the region. It provides a detailed overview of various initiatives under the Cleaner Air Better Life National Initiative, outlining their impacts and progress. The publication is a key part of the communication strategy, raising awareness and engagement among stakeholders in the region.
- The CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development (CESD), through various collective efforts, attempts to ensure air quality management for a healthier today and for more prosperous future. The national initiative CII - Cleaner Air Better Life (CII-CABL) with unique interventions in City Air Quality Management (CAQM) and Crop Residue Management (CRM) demonstrate the crucial role of collaborations for the successful implementation of innovative clean air interventions and effective pollution reduction strategies.



CII Pascheem Magazine June 2022

# Nature Positive Actions



## Focus

The Centre partners with Industry to ensure their policy decisions and future strategies supports actions directed towards ecosystem protection and restoration.

## Recent Policy Update

At the 16th Conference of Parties (COP16) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Cali, Colombia, India launched its updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). Minister of State for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh, launched the NBSAP during a special session on October 30, 2024, focused on achieving the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) targets. The updated NBSAP reflects India's comprehensive approach to biodiversity conservation, combining traditional knowledge with modern governance and emphasising capacity building, resource mobilization, and monitoring.

For more details, you can access the full document here: "<https://ort.cbd.int/nbsaps/my-country/8D6F8524-3F89-5B94-FC00-2927C0F47AF9/view#0.53/45.8/-124.4>" National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), India.



# India Business and Biodiversity Initiative


The India Business and Biodiversity Initiative (IBBI) drives business engagement for biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of ecosystem services. In the last ten years, IBBI has supported businesses in integrating biodiversity into business decision-making and taking measurable action for biodiversity.



## IBBI Tools

**Assessing Nature-related Risk & Opportunity**

- Ecosystem Service Matrix Tool
- Nature-related financial risk an opportunity assessment

**Nature Positive roadmap**

- Biodiversity Baseline
- Nature-related risk management through Ecosystem-based Solution

**Measuring Progress & Disclosure**

- IBBI Biodiversity Index Tool
- Natural Capital Valuation Tool
- Developing nature-related disclosures

## Enhancing Framework for Biodiversity

### Launch of IBBI 2.0

IBBI 2.0 was developed after drawing insights from business commitments on biodiversity. Through IBBI 2.0, Industry can address biodiversity risks and promote sustainable, nature-positive practices in India.

Through this alignment, IBBI can play a critical role in advancing nature-positive practices and ensuring that biodiversity considerations are embedded within corporate governance and risk management frameworks.

### NBSAP Consultations

The Centre participated in consultations held for updating India’s National Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan and for the adoption of National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs) in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. At the 16th Conference of Parties (COP16) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Cali, Colombia, India launched its updated NBSAP. Minister of State for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh, launched the NBSAP during a special session on 30 October 2024, focused on achieving the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) targets.

### NBA Consultations

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) is redrafting the ABS Regulation, 2014 in line with Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023. CESD participated in the consultations with NBA on ABS Regulation 2014. It was part of the consultations for Nutraceutical and Agriculture sector on 19 and 20 December 2024. Members from both sectors participated in the consultation and provided inputs for drafting ABS regulation, streamlining process for benefit sharing and expanding scope for Normally Traded as Commodities (NTC) list.

### Responsible for Target 15 of NBSAP

IBBI has been designated as the responsible agency for Target 15 of India’s updated NBSAP, which calls for business action to address biodiversity risks and opportunities.

### Deliberations on Nature Positive Actions

In a joint session titled ‘Roadmaps to Nature Positive: Accelerating Business Actions on Nature’, held on 25 June 2024, WBCSD and IBBI explored what it takes to lead on nature, drawing on examples from global and regional companies. Organisations from sectors such as Metal & Mining, Agriculture, and Automotive, shared their experiences in target-setting, measuring performance, and progress on nature conservation.

Through breakout discussions, organisations discussed how to integrate key risks into their company roadmaps to contribute to halting and reversing nature loss by 2030, in alignment with the Biodiversity Plan, also known as the Global Biodiversity Framework. The session provided a comprehensive understanding of how companies can lead on nature conservation, set meaningful targets, and effectively manage and disclose their progress.

### Participation in MoEFCC Regional Workshop on Wetlands

As part of India Wetland Coalition (IWC), the JSW Steel and ITC Limited presented the wetlands conservation work in the regional workshops of MoEFCC on Wetlands Conservation.

### CII @ CBD COP16

The IBBI Side Event on Ecosystem Restoration and Species Conservation, held on 25 October 2024, convened global business leaders, environmental experts, and stakeholders to explore the private sector's role in biodiversity conservation. Opening remarks and a keynote video message from the IBBI Chairman emphasised the urgency of aligning business strategies with the Global Biodiversity Framework.

Speakers including Mr Himat Tewari from Tata Power and Dr Mark Johnston from BP Plc shared examples of investments in ecosystem restoration and nature-based solutions. International perspectives were presented by representatives from ASEAN, CEOE, and WWF, focusing on public-private partnerships, industrial strategies, and structured financing for biodiversity. Discussions highlighted the dual benefits of biodiversity investments-mitigating risks and supporting business resilience-while emphasising

alignment with GBF and National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).



IBBI Side Event on Ecosystem Restoration and Species Conservation, organized on 25 October 2024

### Insights from Pilot Testing LEAP

A session was organised on 25 October 2024 to showcase IBBI's work in piloting the TNFD Framework with Indian Industry to integrate nature-related risk management into corporate decision-making. The pilot phase involved seven companies, which was later expanded to 20 organisations. The Centre shared its comprehensive methodology for assessing nature-related risks, demonstrating how businesses can adopt sustainable and nature-positive practices. Insights from the pilot testing highlighted the importance of incorporating nature-related risks to enhance resilience and align corporate operations with global biodiversity objectives.



The session was organised to showcase IBBI's work in piloting the TNFD Framework with Indian Industry at CBD COP16 on 25 October 2024.

## Publications and Reports

The report "Unlocking Private Sector Investment into Natural Climate Solutions in India" is an outcome of an NbS collaboration with World Economic Forum's 1t.org. It highlights the importance of integrating Natural Climate Solutions (NCS) into business strategies. Through a comprehensive survey of India's largest companies, the report explores the potential for private sector investment in NCS, underscoring the economic and environmental benefits.

# Fostering Dialogues and Knowledge Exchange





## Focus

For the last 19 years, CII, through the Sustainability Summit, has engaged with leaders from India and around the world to lay foundations for a sustainability-conscious world. In 2024, the summit with the theme of "Driving Change for a Sustainability Conscious World", sought suggestions to understand the necessary actions needed to make the world become more sustainable. One of the key messages that has emerged from this year's deliberations is that to make sustainability a global movement, it is important to drive it as a culture. Another aspect that emerged from the session is the need for countries have a balanced approach to the three sustainability concerns: ecology, economy and equity, in their long-term goals and strategies.

## Leading the World to a Sustainable Future



In the last one decade, India has emerged as a global leader in fostering a sustainability-conscious world by leveraging unique interventions and campaigns, led by communities from around the world. Significant contributions through global collaborations such as the Global Biofuel Alliance; International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), to name a few, have positioned India as a rapidly developing nation with long-term commitments to a sustainable future.

The 19th Sustainability Summit, held in New Delhi on 18-19 September 2024, saw deliberations on tangible actions in driving sustainable change and implementing sustainability strategies tackling complex challenges and improving the world. The Summit presented inspiring actions by both Government & Industry. By exemplifying the power of innovation, development, and cooperation in shaping a prosperous future for all, the Summit attempted to bring to the fore solutions, suggestions and collaborations for creating a more sustainable future. Through 15

panel engagements and 2 high level plenary sessions, the Summit saw more than 450 participants with discussions around the following areas: climate actions, nature positive actions, responsible actions, ESG and technology & innovation.

Speaking at the Special Plenary on India's Leadership in Driving a Sustainability Conscious World, Shri Bhupender Yadav, Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, highlighted, "our development journey relies heavily on energy and we lead energy-driven life but can the planet survive / continue to exist with this extent of resource depletion; will there be any resources left on this planet if we continue to consume at the same pace?"

Sharing his views about the future course of action, he highlighted the three critical sustainability that, "I'll like to focus on environment sustainability, social sustainability, and economic sustainability. In any policy framework, the Government creates a rhythm of all three issues; by balancing these three

concerns, countries can move ahead on this topic," he suggested. If we want to sustain the planet socially, environmentally and economically, governments around the world should focus on both mitigation as well as adaptation measures, and at the same time, bring a global mindset change in consumption pattern. Consumption cannot be proscribed, but there should be mindful consumption rather than mindless utilisation.

Speaking at the valedictory session, Mr Shombi Sharp, UN Resident Coordinator India, applauded India's achievements in the space of climate, equity and sustainability and said that, "India is quite literally the country that can make the sustainable development goals a reality". He further added that with nearly half of the SDG targets can be achieved in India, which means "as India moves forward, the world quite literally will also move forward." Talking about extreme weather events caused by climate change, Mr Sanjiv Puri, CII President, highlighted the need for countries to

adapt and learn to live in a world that is going to get hotter. "We need to design effective adaptation strategies, and which need to be implemented at multiple levels we need to develop the science behind it, supported by evidence-based policies and driven by data driven risk assessments."

CII has been working on several fronts and is dedicated to spearheading climate action initiatives, driving policy advocacy, and assisting the industry in its transition towards a more sustainable and green economy. "Through our Centres of Excellence (CoEs) on Green Business, Water, Food and Agriculture, Sustainable Development and Competitiveness for SMEs, among others, we have been working closely and proactively with industry to drive forward business-led climate action," said Mr Chadrajit Banerjee, DG, CII, while also sharing that CII has been able to catalyse the Government's unique, innovative and path-breaking initiatives and thanked the Minister for his guidance to the Industry.



## Focussing on Industry's Sustainability



The concept of sustainability has matured from being considered non-financial a couple of years ago, to now being studied / analysed and driven by the financial fraternity globally, owing to its exigent financial implications. Alongside, and in line with these developments, the several ESG frameworks, that have been in existence for over two decades now, are also evolving, collaborating and unifying to deliver the common underlying essence that the reporting is not a burden but an opportunity for companies.

The session titled 'Harmonising National and Global ESG Framework' highlighted that disclosures and frameworks have to support the global transition. Panel members agreed that while the broader goals and principles of ESG are understood and agreed upon, which standard should be followed is a question that Industry continues to struggle with. During the deliberations, panellists pointed out that instead of being overwhelmed by data requirements, ESG frameworks should be seen as guiding forces. The frameworks can help companies understand what are the essential areas that should be focused on when working with value chains.

## Enabling Green Transition of MSMEs

Evolving regulations and increasing emphasis on sustainability necessitate adherence to stringent environmental and social standards. In any country, sourcing companies play a pivotal role in integrating sustainable strategies into the sourcing processes and build more resilient and sustainable value chains which are better equipped to handle disruptions and future challenges. This session titled 'Building Sustainable and Resilient Value Chains', delved into strategies that can be adopted by both sourcing companies and value chain partners. During the discussion, Shri Rohit Kansal, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, highlighted the importance of meeting global norms and spoke about the business case for sustainability and underscored the role of MSMEs in driving these efforts forward.

The session 'Mainstreaming MSMEs for a Sustainable Future' highlighted several challenges that impedes MSMEs from adopting sustainable practices. Panellists agreed that limited access to capital for sustainable investments and high upfront costs for sustainable solutions are some of the most critical issues. Some of the other issues pointed out by panellists were: high risk perception from financial institutions; lack of awareness of financial opportunities; challenges in demonstrating ROI and the need for clear incentives.

Fostering Responsible Actions by Industry

Even as the world is slowly waking up to the fact that sustainability is no longer just a trend but a necessity, industry has the dual responsibility of delivering quality products & services and at the same time, consider the environmental and social impacts of their operations. By integrating sustainability into their core operations, organizations can protect the environment while aligning with the values of today's conscious consumers, achieving both a healthier planet and a stronger bottom line. The session on 'Trailblazers in Sustainability' highlighted the need for educating consumers about the benefits of sustainable products and the role it can play in driving demand and encouraging responsible consumption. It is essential for companies to explore circular business models to reduce waste and enhance resource reuse. The panel members, speaking at the session suggested different approaches to achieve this, includes launching pilot projects aimed at recycling products, developing innovative materials, and initiating programs to reclaim old products.

It is essential to adopt an inclusive culture where everyone has equal access to opportunities and resources. Organizations are taking extra efforts to engage with marginalised stakeholders through various community programs / services such as health services, skill development programmes, agricultural practices, tribal women led enterprises, educational programs to reach to remotest locations through technological advances. Panellists at the session titled 'Social Inclusion: Building Trust and Fostering Equity', highlighted that despite regulatory mechanisms, supply chains are fraught with labour exploitative practices and focusing on this area will help organisations build trustworthiness for their brand and products. The session also highlighted that to understand social inclusion, one needs to understand the layers of exclusion such as gender, ethnicity, economic deprivation, educational attainments, lower self-esteem, digital gender divide, digital urban divide and other kinds of marginalisations.

Imperatives to Climate Actions

A significant portion of the global population confronts unparalleled challenges due to the escalating impacts of climate change in the form of extreme weather events as well as natural disasters. The complexity of the problem stems not only from climate change but also from poor urban planning, rising population density, and aging infrastructure, all of which exacerbate vulnerabilities. The urgency for robust adaptation strategies has never been more critical as millions of people have been affected by natural disasters in the last two decades. The panel discussion 'Building Climate Resilience for Indian Industry' aimed to provide a business perspective and identify opportunities, enabling the industry to better support national efforts in addressing climate adaptation challenges. Panel members at the session highlighted that insufficient planning, availability of finance and unreliable or limited data are some of the chronic issues that have a systematic impact. Availability of reliable data in particular is an important challenge, even for big industry players, the panellists shared.

The path towards a sustainable future aims to reconcile a swift economic advancement with the urgent climate ambitions that includes both mitigation and adaptation. India needs to develop a comprehensive strategy and an integrated policy approach that aligns the country's financial systems with the long-term needs of the economy while incorporating climate risks. There should be robust financing mechanisms and solutions to develop and deploy climate mitigation technologies, promote adaptation, and build resilience. The session 'Financing for Transition' looked at solutions to overcome barriers to access sustainable finance, ensuring that financing a just transition remains a key priority. It also explored collaborations and partnerships that can contribute not only to meet India's climate commitments but also propel the country towards a sustainable future.

Initiating Nature Positive Actions

Ecosystem degradation has become one of the most significant environmental threats over the past few decades. It is crucial to conserve and restore nature for maintaining biodiversity and combating climate change. At the same time, it is imperative for businesses to understand the critical importance of identifying and assessing nature-related risks within supply chains, operations, and investment portfolios.

The session 'Nature Conservation and Restoration' saw panel members discuss strategies through which organisations can prioritize conservation and restoration. The discussions also highlighted the critical importance of identifying and assessing nature-related risks and mainstreaming nature considerations into corporate decision-making processes.

Building a Circular Economy

India's rapid growth is constrained by resources, environmental degradation, and climate change impacts. With material requirements exceeding supply, there is an urgent need for a system that is restorative and regenerative by design and makes effective use of resources. Businesses sit at the heart of the transition to a circular economy and need to collaborate with stakeholders across the value chain to create scalable impact. During the session on 'Business Case for Circular Economy', panel members shared that following the principles of circular economy and developing a standardized metric to measure circularity at enterprise, regional, and national levels will be crucial going forward. Some of the challenges that were identified at the session include: limited, inconsistent and fragmented data on environmental parameters; absence of markets for waste and products made from waste and lack of credible partners & collaborators for expanding circular economy across sectors.





Summit Highlights

Special Address by  
**Shri Bhupender Yadav**  
Hon'ble Minister for Environment,  
Forest & Climate Change

Valedictory Session Address by  
**Mr Shombi Sharp**  
UN Resident Coordinator India

**15 Insightful Sessions**  
spread over two days under five tracks

**India Plastic Pact's  
3rd Annual Conference**  
with 6 Exclusive Sessions

**17 Value Chain Partners**  
Felicitated with  
**Eco Edge Certificate**

**70+ National &  
Global Speakers**

**2 High-level  
Plenaries**

**450+  
Participants**

**160+  
B2B Meetings**

**20  
Summit Partners**

New Initiatives, Launches and Releases

CII Report on Building Climate Resilience for Indian Industry by the Minister
Roundtables Series on 3 Critical Issues under 'Pathways to Clean Air'
8 Startups Showcased Innovative Sustainability Solutions & Products
Special Networking Session for Women in Sustainability
Eco Edge Annual Stakeholder Meet
CII's ESG Subscription Service
Eco Edge Online Assessment Tool
India Business and Biodiversity Initiative (IBBI) 2.0
Global Dialogues and Symposium Forum on Sustainable Development - Quorum by CESD
Release of CII Compendium on Leveraging Technology to Maximise CSR Impact

Key Takeaways

Sustainability as a Social Goal

There is a need for facilitating a change in the culture and shift in community consciousness towards all aspects of sustainability

Climate Preparedness

The Industry should focus on modelling for extreme weather events and estimating not just damages but losses as well. This will be of particular importance for building resilient infrastructure around power, telecom and other key logistics

ESG Best Practices Database

Develop an online repository of best practices, case studies, and success stories that the Industry can refer to for guidance

Site-specific Vulnerability Assessment

For effective site-specific implementation of adaptation strategies, research is required for collecting and examining granular data that can lead to better modelling outcomes that involve all stakeholders

Digitization Programmes

Extend existing CII programmes to include modules on energy savings and sustainable practices, focusing on micro industries

Promoting Blended Finance

Blended finance, which is combined with public and private funds, can help reduce transaction risks and attract more investment into green projects

Net Zero Dashboard

Build a system to track and publish energy savings achieved by MSMEs, creating visibility for their efforts

Focusing on Adaptation Financing

Increasing the focus on adaptation financing can help build resilience against climate impacts

Green Rol

The Industry needs to develop new metrics to measure the effectiveness of adaptation projects that can provide better insights and drive more investment into this area

Making ESG Data Available

For making informed business decisions, enhanced transparency and better monitoring, the Industry needs to invest in integrated data management systems, bring in automation and deploy technologies that allow ESG data collection and facilitate real-time tracking of sustainability metrics across operations

Balancing financial Returns and Green Goals

Financial institutions must channel capital towards green projects and at the same time, take steps to ensure financial market stability and protect depositors



"It is a matter of great pride that India, under the leadership of our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has achieved 2 out of 3 quantitative NDC targets of the Paris Agreement, 9 years ahead of schedule," he said at his address at the 19th Sustainability Summit organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) here.

**पर्यावरण, अर्थव्यवस्था और समानता स्थिरता  
की तीन चिंताएँ हैं : भूपेन्द्र यादव**

71

# Digital Engagements

## LinkedIn Highlights

In order to give the Centre's path-breaking initiatives a stronger media push and engage on issues pertaining to sustainability, social media pages for the CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development were launched in 2011.

Impressions

871509

Reactions

13048

Engagement Rates

18.3%

Members Reached

345477

Followers Increase

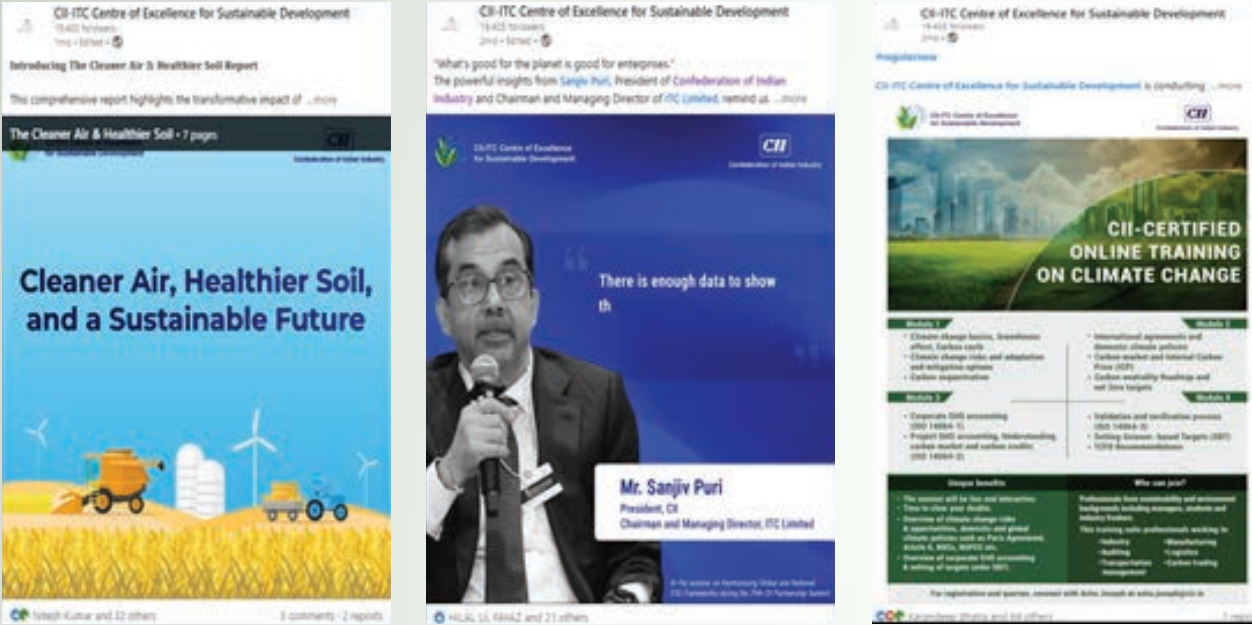
4485

Engagement

148127



## Top 2024 LinkedIn Posts



## Top Twitter Posts for



## Capacity Development

During the year, 400 professionals were trained from more than 300 organisations through 25 sessions

### CII-Certified Training

- BRSR Core Reporting Standards
- Sustainability Reporting
- ESG Framework & Metrics
- Enabling Sustainable Procurement
- Climate Change
- Environment, Health, and Safety (SHE) Compliances
- Waste Management Rules & Their Amendments
- Circular Economy
- Internal Auditor training on EHSMS (ISO 14001 & 45001)
- Lead Auditor training on EHSMS (ISO 14001 & 45001)
- Corporate Social Responsibility
- Sustainability Assessor training
- CAP Assessor training



# Enablers

Policy Calibration
Global Engagements
Creating Social Value
Recognizing Industry Action
Thought Leadership
Knowledge Management



# Policy Calibration and Global Engagements

Area	Partnered with	Position	Contribution towards
Streamline compliance process and implementation of environmental reforms	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	Member, Working Group on Circular Economy	End-of-Life Vehicles (Management) Rules, 2024 Non-Ferrous Metals under Hazardous Waste Management Rules, 2024 Liquid Waste Management Rules, 2024 Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2024
Foster circular economy and enhance natural resource management	Bureau of Indian Standards	Member, Technical Committees	Inputs for development of standards on waste management, sustainability, environmental management and ecological priorities
Foster circular economy and enhance natural resource management	Central Pollution Control Board	Member, CPCB Peer and Core Expert Committee	Solving challenges related to Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) obligations under: Plastic Waste Management Rules; E-Waste Management Rules; Battery Waste Management Rules and Hazardous Waste Management Rules
Building a circular economy for plastic packaging	Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry	Secretariat	Industry inputs for the draft text for an internationally legally binding instrument on plastic pollution were provided.
Adoption of National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs) in alignment with the Global Biodiversity Framework	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	Organizational stakeholder	Suggestions for updating National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. CII has been designated as the responsible agency for Target 15 of India's updated NBSAP
Promote clean transportation solutions	National Electric Vehicle (EV) Task Force, Ministry of Heavy Industry	Member, Working Group on (1) Battery Swapping, (2) EV Skilling, and (3) Rare Earth Magnets	Recommendations for development of battery swapping ecosystem, skilled EV workforce, and for enhancing national resource security for rare earth magnets
Ease adoption of BRSR and BRSR Core reporting	Securities and Exchange Board of India	Member, Industry Standards Forum	Development of standards for reporting on BRSR Core and suggestions on draft consultation papers on BRSR and BRSR Core
Bring in transparency in sustainability reporting	Central Consumer Protection Authority	Member, Stakeholder Council	Guidelines for prevention and regulation of greenwashing and misleading environmental claims

Partnering with	Role	Contribution
Industrial Transitions Accelerator (ITA)	Engaged with Mission Possible Partnership (ITA Secretariat) to explore taking on-ground actions under the ITA in India	To deliver Paris aligned ambitions across heavy industry, transport and energy sectors to keep 1.5C within reach
B20	Secretariat for B20 India Action Council on ESG in Business and B20 India Taskforce On Energy, Climate Change & Resource Efficiency.	Suggestions in the four policy papers found significant alignment in the G20 New Delhi Leaders Declaration. Key projects identified for decarbonizing high-emitting sectors
UNEP	Observer to the negotiation process for an internationally legally binding instrument on plastic pollution and presented India's positive actions to tackle plastics, especially plastic packaging.	To develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution.
Conference of Parties (COP)	Shares Indian industry's thought leadership and perspectives on key issues; participates and hosts dialogues on emerging issues such as climate finance, adaptation finance, carbon markets.	To strengthen countries' ability to deal with the impacts of climate change.
TNFD	Research partner - Developed India specific Nature Risk Register and Prioritisation Matrix to map risks; 7 Companies participate in pilot and 200 Locations screened for nature related risk.	To facilitate Industry's investment in ecosystem restoration
1t.Org (WEF)	Research partner - White paper for 1t.org on 'Unlocking Private Sector Investment into Natural Climate Solutions in India'.	To facilitate Industry's investment in ecosystem restoration
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP	Shares Indian industry's thought leadership and perspectives on key issues; participates and hosts dialogues on emerging issues.	To develop the monitoring framework and advance resource mobilization for the Global Biodiversity Framework

# Creating Social Value and Recognising Industry Actions



## Focus

CESD under its CSR and Social Value initiative, helps companies undertaking CSR activities to identify, develop & design, monitor and evaluate, also analyse the impact of their CSR programs. The services are intended to offer comprehensive and multi-dimensional insights through pre and post social assessments, such as conducting needs assessment, baseline studies, impact evaluations and Social Return on Investment (SROI).

The in-depth studies identify community requirements on the ground, evaluate both tangible and intangible impacts, gather stakeholder feedback and prepared a detailed report highlighting the company's strength in implementation as well as the opportunities they may capitalise on for their new as well as existing CSR projects. Under CSR and Social Value initiative, the Centre has conducted more than 100 assignments, spread across 18 states and assessed over 300 projects across various thematic areas.



## 19<sup>th</sup> CII-ITC SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS 2024

### Excellence in Sustainable Business

Instituted in 2006, the CII-ITC Sustainability Awards recognise and reward excellence in businesses that are seeking ways to be more sustainable and inclusive in their activities. The winners of the Awards are role models that inspire others to follow suit. The Awards are a part of the continued efforts of CESD to create awareness on sustainability practices and to create capacities in business. More than recognition, the Awards measure performance and provide detailed feedback for opportunities to excel.

CII-ITC Sustainability Awards define the science of sustainability performance. Excellence in sustainability is a journey of continuous improvement in processes and results. In the past 19 years, cumulatively, 1276 businesses have applied of which 444 have been recognised. Limited number of applications are accepted to maintain strong competition and high standards of excellence.

The awards ceremony of the 19th CII-ITC Sustainability Awards was held in New Delhi on 10 July 2025. Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, the then Honourable Vice-President of India, recognized and felicitated the winners for excellence in sustainable business at the ceremony.

**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.**

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.



L to R: Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII; Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, the Honourable Vice- President of India; 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; Dr. (Smt.) Sudesh Dhankhar and Dr Ashok Khosla, Chairman, Development Alternatives Group at the 19th CII-ITC Sustainability Awards ceremony on 10 July 2025 in New Delhi.



19th CII-ITC Sustainability Award Winners with Chief Guest Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, the Honourable Vice- President of India on 10 July 2025 in New Delhi

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.

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

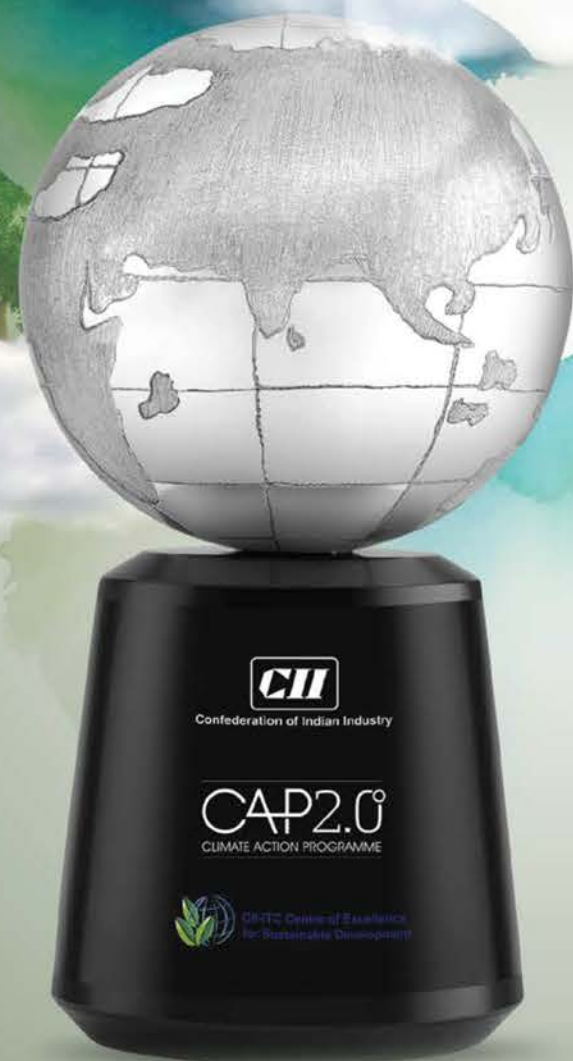
recognized for their excellence in different aspects of business sustainability. Since 2006, CESD has built a talent pool of over 600 sustainability professionals in India especially trained to perform the assessments leading up to the awards.

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.

# CAP2.0

CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAMME

## 5<sup>th</sup> EDITION



In the past 5 years, 95 companies (including MSMEs) applied for the Climate Action Programme 2.0° awards. Out of these, 53 were recognised. Total applications 25 across different categories. 21 organisations were recognised.

### CSR Training

The centre builds capacity of professionals through CSR training programs. These initiatives aim to empower professionals, promote knowledge sharing, and recognise excellence in CSR practices. A two-day in-person training on 'Effective and Sustainable CSR' was conducted in Delhi with 20 participants. Topics such as CSR concepts, legislations, strategy and planning, project implementation, social impact measurement techniques were discussed. The training was a blend of both classroom learning and practical exposure to three unique projects, enabling participants to understand how projects are conceptualised, designed and implemented in a sustainable, and replicable manner. The outcome of the programme is to enhance the existing understanding of participants on CSR and enabling them to design sustainable CSR programs and contribute towards creating measurable impact.

### Supporting Industry's CSR Initiatives

In FY2023-24, the Centre carried out two consulting assignments with companies working in aluminum recycling, and automotive manufacturing company. Some of the key thematic area that were covered as part of the studies were education, healthcare, community development, livelihood, rural infrastructure environment, elderly care and women empowerment. The key highlights and actionable recommendations are delivered to the senior management of the respective companies through detailed presentations. The goal is to inform them about potential activities and strategies that could be implemented to further enhance the effectiveness of their projects.

### Research & Studies

- An impact assessment study was conducted in the northern and western region with the objective to assess the effectiveness of the projects in the thematic area of healthcare, education, skills training, livelihood, women empowerment and elderly care. The study covered areas such as Rajasthan, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh reaching 320 beneficiaries.
- An impact and needs assessment study was conducted Gujarat, Haryana, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand covering the northern, western and southern regions. The study measured the impact of initiatives across education, healthcare and community development, reaching more than 400 beneficiaries.



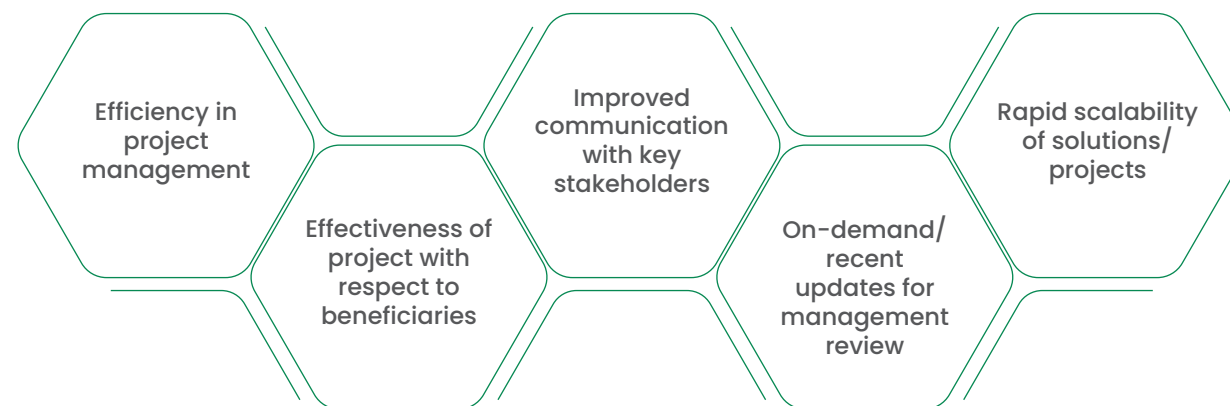
A two-day in-person training on 'Effective and Sustainable CSR' was conducted in New Delhi.

## Publications and Reports

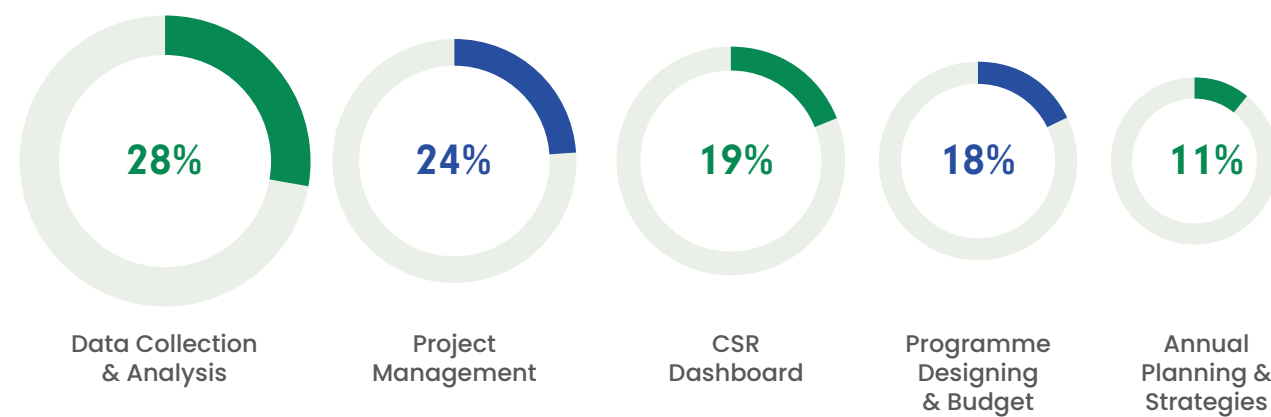
The Centre launched a compendium titled 'Leveraging Technology to Maximise CSR Impact' in the 19th Sustainability Summit. It featured 25 case studies from different industries highlights technology's role in implementation of CSR programs, their monitoring and overall management. In addition to the case studies, a CSR Survey was conducted with 62 companies on 'Understanding the Effectiveness & Challenges of Technology Projects'. This highlighted the key areas where technology is being utilised in CSR projects and management.



### Benefits Associated with Leveraging Technology

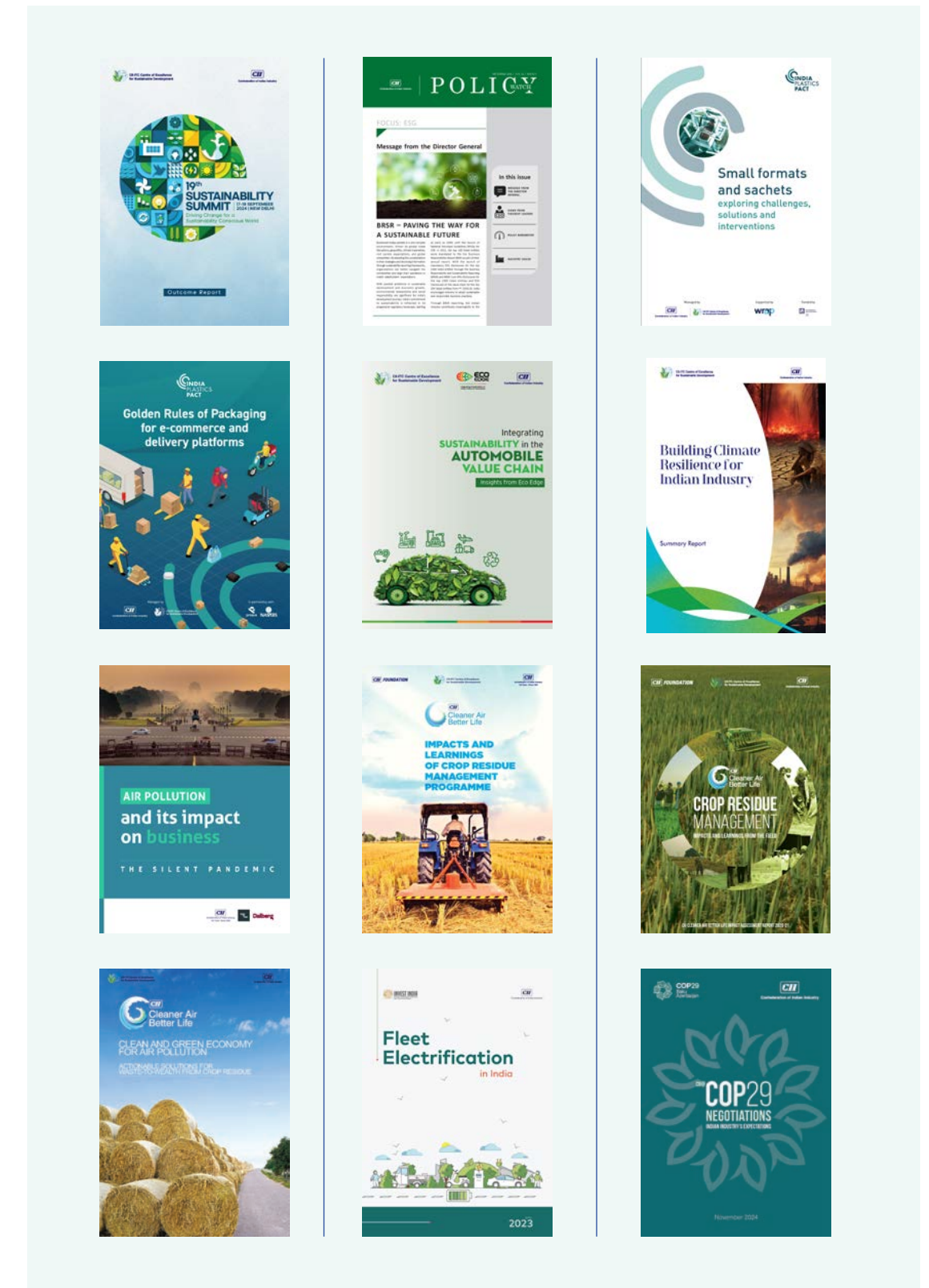


### Technology Application & Solutions



# Thought Leadership and Knowledge Management

## Publications and Reports



## Publications and Reports



## CESD Chronicle

Stakeholder engagements are important for introducing sustainability aspects. It is also critical for involving the stakeholders in the decision-making process. Through the newsletter, CII-ITC Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Development (CII-ITC CESD) shares a brief about policy & regulatory updates, Centre's initiatives and other activities under the domain.



## CESD Engage

Centre's knowledge management and stakeholder outreach platform, featuring articles, interviews, insights and case studies.



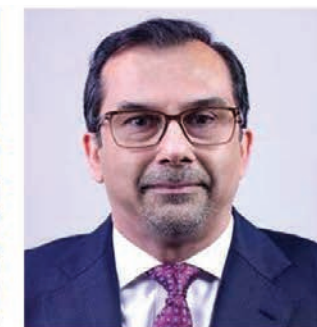
Remarks by Shri Bhupender Yadav, Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India at the 19th Sustainability Summit

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Remarks by Shombi Sharp at the 19th Sustainability Summit

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BRSR – Paving the Way for a Sustainable Future

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### Accelerating India's Sustainable Energy Future by Leveraging BioSolutions


Biotechnology has been proved instrumental in addressing energy needs across the globe. In India's transition to sustainable energy mix, biotech is already playing and will continue to play a pivotal role. In addition,


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### Low Carbon Economy: Disruptions And Actions


As India strikes a delicate balance between economic growth and environmental stewardship, its efforts would serve as an inspiration for others grappling with the challenges of decoupling development


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### Green Growth for MSMEs: Overcoming Barriers and Harnessing Opportunities


The Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector in India is crucial for the country's economic growth and sustainability efforts, contributing 6.1% to the manufacturing GDP and 29.2% to the Gross Value Added (GVA).


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### Sustainable Development through the framework of Indigenous Knowledge


Indigenous knowledge, often considered marginalized and misrepresented in orientalist discourse as primitive, is a dynamic system and culmination of knowledge developed by local communities over generations.


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### Stakeholder Capitalism and ESG: Achieving Climate Finance Goals


The paradigm of corporate governance is experiencing a pivotal shift from shareholder primacy to stakeholder capitalism. This evolution is underpinned by the definition of sustainable development outlined


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### DeepMSWC: Municipal Solid Waste Classification (MSWC) using a lightweight Deep Learning Model

The impact of properly classifying municipal solid waste on waste management is a critical aspect of zero waste landfill (ZWL).

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Perspective

Sustainable development has become a priority for businesses around the world. This collection of articles by CII-ITC Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Development (CII-ITC CESD)

stakeholders, captures the distinct point of views, thoughts and recommendations of Industry Leaders and Experts on some of the pertinent issues that impact global sustainability

In Focus

The shared responsibility of protecting the environment for future generation has to be a constant effort with Industry, Government and Civil Society joining hands and uniting for this cause. The views presented by the CII-ITC Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Development (CII-ITC CESD) through the articles and interviews illustrate the strategies that can be adopted to work together in this direction.

Finding Common Ground

Some of the world's most pressing challenges are focussed on sustainable development. To demystify the complexities behind sustainable development and ease transition of organisations, the CII-ITC Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Development (CII-ITC CESD), through brief narratives on pertinent topics, explains the background, the present and the likely solutions to resolve these issues.

Transition Champions

It is important for organisations to embark on a transformational path and transition to

sustainable practices. This section developed by the CII-ITC Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Development (CII-ITC CESD), informs about organisations who have taken a lead in contributing towards a sustainable and inclusive world.

CESD Insights

Sustainable development requires understanding of challenges that hamper transformation and factors that can encourage it. The CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development (CESD) undertakes research, surveys and stakeholder engagements to understand these issues and explore solutions through roadmaps, collaborations and recommendations. This section spotlights some of these analyses.

Sustainability Terminology

To demystify the complexities behind sustainable development terms, CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development (CESD) explains and shares contextual meaning of words, terms and acronyms related to various themes under sustainable development.

Quorum by CESD

Through the Global Dialogues and Symposium Forum on Sustainable Development, CESD facilitates open dialogue with global leaders on key global issues through conversations at Quorum by CESD. Industry leaders will get an opportunity to listen to the expert's views on the pertinent issues around the topic and also be part of the Q&A session. CESD invites you to be part of these conversations as insights from these interactions will play a significant role in enabling change for a sustainable future.



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## Confederation of Indian Industry

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) works to create and sustain an environment conducive to the development of India, partnering Industry, Government and civil society through advisory and consultative processes.

For 130 years, CII has been engaged in shaping India's development journey and works proactively on transforming Indian Industry's engagement in national development. CII charts change by working closely with the Government on policy issues, interfacing with thought leaders, and enhancing efficiency, competitiveness and business opportunities for industry through a range of specialised services and strategic global linkages. It also provides a platform for consensus-building and networking on key issues.

In the journey of India's economic resurgence, CII facilitates the multifaceted contributions of the Indian Industry, charting a path towards a prosperous and sustainable future. With this backdrop, CII has identified "Accelerating Competitiveness: Globalisation, Inclusivity, Sustainability, Trust" as its theme for 2025-26, prioritising five key pillars. During the year, CII will align its initiatives to drive strategic action aimed at enhancing India's competitiveness by promoting global engagement, inclusive growth, sustainable practices, and a foundation of trust.

With 70 offices, including 12 Centres of Excellence, in India, and 9 overseas offices in Australia, Egypt, Germany, Indonesia, Singapore, UAE, UK, and USA, as well as institutional partnerships with about 250 counterpart organisations in almost 100 countries, CII serves as a reference point for Indian industry and the international business community.

### Confederation of Indian Industry

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### CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development

The CII Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development (CESD), now in its 20th year, drives sustainable, environmental, inclusive and climate-friendly transformation among stakeholders. It is the ecosystem creator for sustainable development in India and builds collaborative initiatives for enhancing actions; designs data-driven digital tools and frameworks for capacity development and advocates for policy reforms to advance responsible business practices.

CESD works towards bringing local and global macro challenges to the centerstage; 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 Facilitating and Enabling ESG Ecosystem Accelerating Nature Positive Actions; Enhancing Solutions for Clean Air; Building Climate Resilience and Low- Carbon Economy and Fostering Dialogues, Engagements & Knowledge Exchange.

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