



CII-ITC Centre of Excellence
for Sustainable Development



Confederation of Indian Industry

Two Decades of Sustainable Value Creation



Vision

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

Mission

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



2006

CII and ITC join hands for the launch of CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development (CESD)

Recognises excellence in sustainable business practices, through the CII - ITC Sustainability Awards

Raises awareness about sustainability through the global engagement platform 'Sustainability Summit'



2008

Focuses on building capacity in sustainability to emphasize the alignment of sustainable practices with business strategy

Becomes the first 'learning centre' for GRI in South Asia

Launches the Business Leaders Programme

Highlights low carbon economy technologies through the report 'Building a Low-carbon Indian Economy'

Spotlights sustainability as a driver for profit and innovation through the report 'Indian companies with solutions that the world needs'



2009

Climate Change is now at the center of global dialogues and CESD has become a key interlocutor in India for business actions to counter climate change

Participates in Copenhagen Summit

Signs MoU with Brazil's Ethos Institute, to facilitate knowledge transfer

Partners with CDP and the WWF for India's first Carbon Disclosure report

Pioneers the Corporate Sustainability Management for Industry



2014

To create dialogues around embedding sustainable management of biological diversity into businesses, the national platform 'India Business & Biodiversity Initiative' is launched

The financial crisis of 2008 had lasting impact on businesses. The Centre's discourse reorients the boardroom agenda back to sustainability, voluntary reporting, disclosures and inclusive businesses

Organises the UK - India panel discussion on "Indian Economy and the Climate Change Agenda"

Anchors the 'National Conference on Inclusive & Responsible: The Next Face of India Inc'



2010



2018

The Union Budget announces a special scheme to support sustainable farming practices and control air pollution. This is in line with CESD recommendations

To formulate strategies to improve air quality, CII and NITI Aayog jointly launch the Cleaner Air-Better Life initiative

The Centre anchors joint taskforce on: Clean Industry, Clean Fuel, Clean Transportation and Biomass Management



2016



2022

To provide Industry a platform to map climate change as a material risk across value chains and to build resilience, CII Climate Action Charter is designed

Launch of Eco Edge program to help organisations integrate ESG criteria in their value chains

Launch of the CII India Plastics Pact Initiative to create a circular plastics economy in India



2021



2024

Launch of Physical Climate Risk Assessment Framework by Shri Bhupender Yadav, Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change

CII's role as the B20 Secretariat for India's G20 Presidency assumes great importance in the context of sustainable development.

Sustainability is embedded in the B20 agenda through the Task Force on Energy, Climate Change and Resource Efficiency (ECRE) and the Action Council on ESG in Business. CESD anchors policy deliberations in these areas



2023

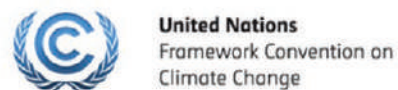
To build India's climate resilience, CII brings together stakeholders for SAARTH - Sustainable Action Alliance for Resilient Tomorrow



2026

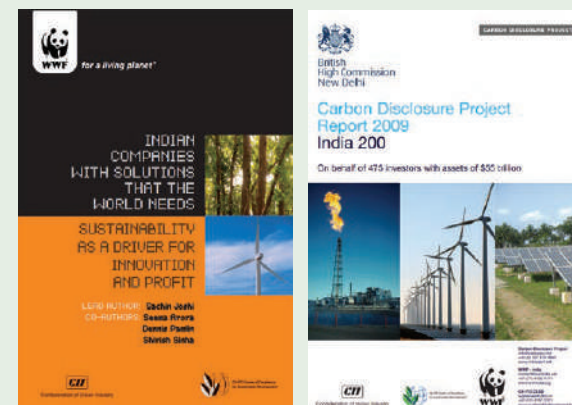
The Journey

Enablers for Catalyzing Sustainable Value Creation



Global Engagements

- Formulated recommendations for four B20 Taskforce reports; suggestions included in G20 New Delhi Leaders Declaration
- Collaborated with 1t.org for research on nature-based solutions
- Partnered with TNFD for India specific Nature Risk Register and Prioritisation Matrix to map risks
- National Communication to UNFCCC through IPPU sector GHG emissions estimation for India's BUR-4 and BTR-1
- Engaged with WBCSD to advance Indian Industry's decarbonisation initiatives
- Developed BRSR & TNFD alignment document for assessing and reporting nature-related risk and opportunity
- Analysed alignment between BRSR requirements and IFRS S1 & S2 across 15 sectors



300+ Industry
recommendations
shared with
governments and
regulatory bodies

Digital Environmental Governance

- PARIVESH 2.0
- Unified Consent and Authorization Management System
- Common EPR Portal

Policy Calibration

- EIA Notification 2006
- Rationalisation of Greenbelt Norms
- Waste Management Rules
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Obligations
- End-of-Life Vehicles (Management) Rules
- SEBI Consultation Paper on Recommendations of the Expert Committee for facilitating ease of doing business with respect to BRSR
- Industry Standards for Reporting on BRSR Core
- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
- NITI Aayog Task Force Reports on Action Plan for Clean Industry



Leading in Thought and Action



Enablers for Catalyzing Sustainable Value Creation

Thought Leadership

- Industry’s voice on sustainability issues
- Supported B20 India Action Councils
- Observer to global plastic treaty negotiations
- Implementation agency for NBSAP’s Target 15
- Anchors industry-led platforms:
 - CII National Committee on Environment
 - CII Climate Change Council
 - India CEO Forum for Clean Air
 - CII India Plastics Pact Initiative
 - India Business and Biodiversity Initiative
 - CII SAARTH



The CII Sustainability Mascot

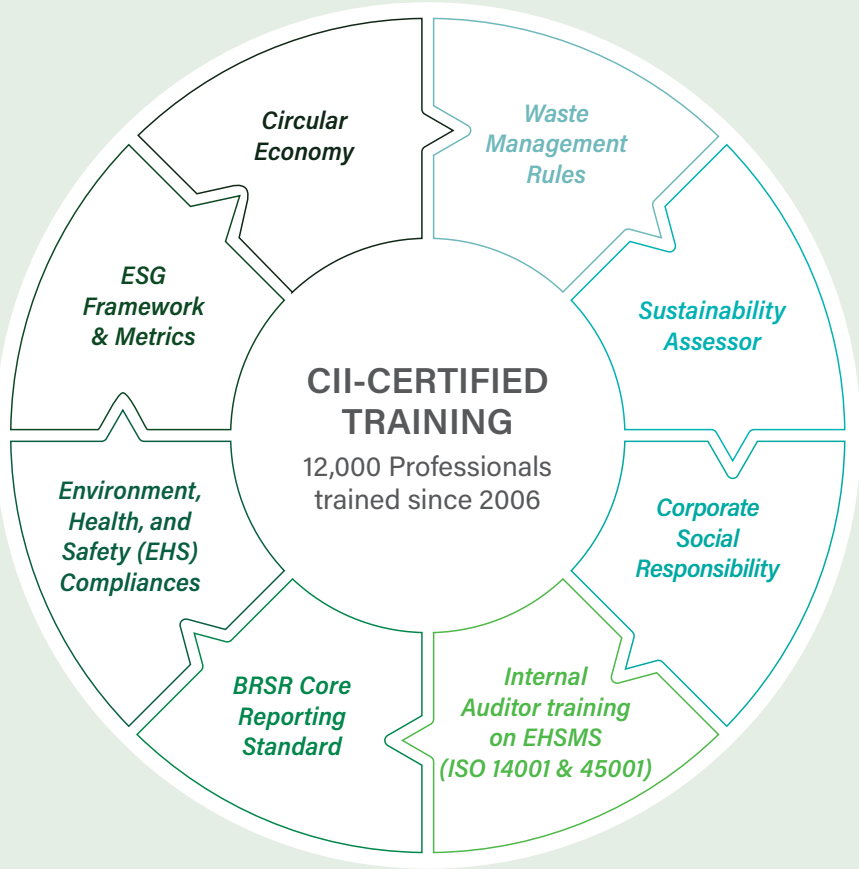
Improved Competitiveness

- Assessment of over 1000 MSMEs and Value Chain Partners
- Engagement with small businesses across 15 industrial clusters

Evidence-based Research

- 2000+ Organisations advised
- Nearly 50 reports released in 2025

Capacity Development



Recognising Industry Actions



Excellence in Sustainable Business

- A symbol of lasting legacy in India’s sustainability journey
- 1400+ Businesses applied
- 500+ Companies recognised
- 250+ Sustainability indicators

The CII-ITC Sustainability Awards are the only third-party assured awards for methodology, technology, governance and process.

The 20th edition of the Awards achieved carbon neutrality in accordance with ISO 14068 Standards.



- Recognises innovations and solutions in plastic packaging to drive India towards a circular plastics economy
- 120+ Applications received for the first two cycles

Intervention Areas

Advancing Creation of a Circular Economy

- 50+ Signatories to the CII India Plastics Pact (IPP) Initiative
- 1/5th Plastic packaging in India under IPP signatories
- 5.6 lakh tonnes of recyclable plastic packaging put out by signatories
- 350+ Sites achieved Single-use Plastic (SuP) free Certification
- 30+ Companies benefited across 10 sectors
- 20,000+ Stakeholders sensitized
- 20+ Industrial sites under assessment for Zero Waste to Landfill (ZWL) Certification
- 15+ Industrial sites certified and 200+ under assessment for Zero Waste to Landfill (ZWL) Certification
- 2.28 million metric ton waste diverted from landfill through ZWL

Facilitating an Enabling Ecosystem for ESG Reporting

- ESG reporting training to 800+ professionals including board members and senior leaders
- Certified training partner for SEBI's National Institute of Securities Markets
- Assessed more than 300+ suppliers from automotive and energy sectors for sustainability performance
- 80+ Vendors certified with the Eco Edge maturity-based certification

Building Climate Resilience

Sustainable Action Alliance for Resilient Tomorrow

- SAARTH is a multi-stakeholder, industry-led alliance that will address climate resilience in India

Physical Climate Risk Assessment Framework

- Implementing framework for organisations in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat; under pilot in two districts in Andhra Pradesh

CII Climate Action Charter

- Capacity building for 1000+ organisations
- 500+ Signatories

Enhancing Solutions for Clean Air

130+ Business Leaders

part of the India CEO Forum for Clean Air

CABL Crop Residue Management

- Reached two lakh farmers
- Spread across 1000+ villages
- Preventing stubble burning on over 90% of 11 lakh acres of paddy fields.

These interventions resulted in

- 22 million kg of PM 10 avoided
- 2.5 million kg of black carbon reduced
- 250 million m3 of irrigation water saved

Accelerating Nature Positive Actions

India Business & Biodiversity Initiative

- 160 IBBI Member organisations united for biodiversity action
- 40 Businesses supported to manage nature-related risks
- 300+ Sites mapped to establish biodiversity baselines
- 3 Ramsar wetlands facilitated with multi-stakeholder conservation initiatives

Fostering Dialogues and Knowledge Exchange

Global Sustainability Summit

- Organised annually since 2006
- 11,000+ Participants
- 1,200+ Thought leaders

Circular Economy Conference

Climate Action Summit

- Launched in 2026
- 25+ Speakers
- 100+ Participants





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 more than 130 years, CII has been engaged in shaping India's development journey and works proactively on transforming Indian Industry's engagement in national development. With its extensive network across the country and the world, CII serves as a reference point for Indian industry and the international business community.

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: Growth, Resilience, Inclusion, Sustainability, Trust" as its theme for 2026-27, prioritising five key pillars. During the year, CII will align its policy advocacy, institutional initiatives, partnerships, and outreach to support Indian industry in strengthening these five interconnected pillars of competitiveness.



CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development

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

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

CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development

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