

Kashi Samvaad 2025

Towards Viksit Bharat

21–22 November 2025 / Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi

RETROSPECT



Smt Anupriya Patel, Hon'ble Minister of State, Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, **inaugurating the first edition of Kashi Samvaad 2025** on 21 November 2025 at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh



Shri Asim Arun, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Social Welfare, Scheduled Caste and Tribal Welfare, Government of Uttar Pradesh **at the inaugural session of Kashi Samvaad 2025**



CII Woman Exemplar Munni Begum, a grassroots woman leader sharing her on-ground experiences with the audience



Dance Performance by students of Banaras Hindu University at Kashi Samvaad

Kashi Samvaad 2025

OVERVIEW

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) convened **Kashi Samvaad national summit on social development** advancing the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision in Varanasi on 21-22 November 2025.

Conceived as national forum for dialogue, collaboration, and innovation, Kashi Samvaad was organised in partnership with the Department of Social Welfare, Government of Uttar Pradesh; Banaras Hindu University (BHU); the CII Foundation and aligned with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)'s India–AI Impact Summit 2026. It brought together senior government leaders, policymakers, academicians, students, development practitioners, industry leaders, and CSR experts to deliberate on the future of inclusive development.

The objective was to:

- Create a national forum dedicated to multi-stakeholder and cross-sector discussion and collaboration for social and economic inclusion.
- Engage with academia – faculty and students – to sensitize them to facets of social development.
- Enable knowledge exchange on innovation-led solutions for India's development challenges.
- Deepen partnerships between Government, academia, industry, and civil society.
- Strengthen the role of CSR as a vehicle for piloting scalable, high-impact social interventions.
- **Produce actionable recommendations contributing to the Viksit Bharat 2047 agenda.**

The discussions spanned critical themes such as education, healthcare, livelihoods, sustainability, AI and technology, and community empowerment. Eminent speakers and practitioners shared insights on bridging gaps between policy and practice, while participants explored opportunities for partnerships that align corporate social responsibility with national development priorities.

The summit was inaugurated by **Smt Anupriya Patel**, Hon'ble Minister of State, Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, who underscored the centrality of **jan bhagidari** (people's participation) in nation building.

The event concluded with the release of the **Kashi Declaration**—a set of recommendations for social development—and the signing of an **MoU between CII and Banaras Hindu University** to advance collaborative initiatives.

Inaugural Session



The summit was inaugurated and addressed by prominent leaders including:

- **Smt Anupriya Patel**, Hon'ble Minister of State, Health & Family Welfare, Government of India
- **Shri Asim Arun**, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge), Social Welfare, SC & Tribal Welfare, Government of Uttar Pradesh
- **Prof Ajit Kumar Chaturvedi**, Vice Chancellor, Banaras Hindu University
- **Shri Awanish Awasthi**, Chief Advisor to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh
- **Mr B Thiagarajan**, Chairman, CII National Committee on CSR & MD, Blue Star Ltd.
- **Dr Upasana Arora**, Chair, CII Uttar Pradesh and MD, Yashoda Super Specialty Hospitals
- **Ms Smita Vaish Agarwal**, Co-Chair, CII National Committee on CSR and Director & CFO, PTC Industries
- **Mr Umang Sah**, Chairman – CII Varanasi Zone & MD – UP National Manufacturers Ltd
- **Ms Swati Agarwal**, Partner & Leader - Social, Skilling & Entrepreneurship, Deloitte



Smt Anupriya Patel
Hon'ble Minister of State, Health & Family Welfare, Government of India

“Viksit Bharat can only be achieved through *jan bhagidari*. No nation can fulfil big aspirations without people's participation, and our governance model is rooted in this belief.”



Shri Asim Arun
Minister of State (Independent Charge) Social Welfare, Scheduled Caste and Tribal Welfare, Government of Uttar Pradesh

“CSR is not charity—it is an obligation to society. Its true power lies in piloting bold ideas that governments can later scale for the nation.”

Their participation
 signaled strong multi-
 stakeholder
 commitment to
 strengthening inclusive
 development pathways
 for India.



We believe that educational institutions can be engines of growth for social and economic indicators and that while India is making progress across all dimensions, we need to think if it is equitable. Kashi Samvaad is an excellent platform, and I am sure after the two days of discussions we will have salient points and very good recommendations for India's inclusive growth.

Prof Ajit Kumar Chaturvedi
Vice Chancellor, Banaras Hindu University



The dream of Viksit Bharat 2047 rests on the resolve of our youth—their learning, their skills, and their determination to shape the nation's future.

Mr Awanish Awasthi
Chief Advisor to the Hon'ble Chief Minister,
Government of Uttar Pradesh



India Inc's CSR spend has been growing and is expected to touch 1 Lakh crore by 2030. While the spend is growing, it needs to be deployed in a manner that is equitable, reaching out to underserved geographies and communities.

Mr B Thiagarajan
Chairman, CII National Committee on
CSR & MD, Blue Star Ltd.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

a) Healthcare: From Infrastructure to Impact: Experts discussed outreach to remote areas integrating Ayushman Arogya mandirs, primary and community health centres with digital telemedicine to create a new healthy India with a focus on inclusion of mothers, children and elders through community involvement.



b) Education & Skilling: Powering Futures: Themes included 21st-century learning, bridging foundational learning gaps, public-private learning models, and aligning skilling programmes with rural livelihoods.



c) Clean India, Green India & Waste Management: Discussions focused on circular economy solutions such as composting, plastic recycling, waste-to-energy innovations, and strengthening Extended Producer Responsibility systems, along with integrating the informal sector.



d) Technology & AI for Social Transformation: Leaders from IIT BHU and corporates such as IBM, TCS and Microsoft discussed AI-enabled advancements in agriculture, manufacturing and public service delivery. Speakers emphasized inclusive design and ensuring technology reduces digital inequalities.

e) Rural Prosperity: Grassroots to Greatness: Panelists highlighted rural entrepreneurship, inclusive infrastructure, women-led development, local knowledge systems, and community-driven capacity building as essential for rural transformation.



KEY OUTCOMES

a) Release of the Kashi Declaration

A consolidated set of recommendations outlining priorities to accelerate India's inclusive development

b) MoU between CII and BHU

The partnership formalises collaborative work on research, innovation, and development initiatives aligned with inclusive growth.



c) Institutionalisation of Kashi Samvaad

Consensus emerged to develop Kashi Samvaad into an **annual national platform** for dialogue and cross-sector collaboration for social development.

d) Opportunities Identified

- CSR collaboration for health, education, skilling, environmental and other initiatives
- Joint pilot projects between industry, academia, and civil society
- AI-enabled innovations
- Strengthening community-led rural development pathways

PARTICIPATION OVERVIEW

Delegates included representatives from Union and State governments, BHU leadership, faculty and students, industry leaders, CSR heads, NGOs, development practitioners and youth. **The diversity and depth of participation underscore strong national interest in building collaborative and innovation-driven models for inclusive development.**

WAY FORWARD

- Dissemination of the **Kashi Declaration** to ministries, state departments, and partners
- Formation of thematic working groups to advance recommendations
- Joint CII–BHU initiatives on research, innovation, rural development, and digital transformation
- Alignment of outcomes with the **India–AI Impact Summit 2026**
- Preparations for **Kashi Samvaad 2026**, with deeper thematic engagement and expanded partnerships

MEDIA & SOCIAL MEDIA COVERAGE



Glimpses of Kashi Samvaad 2025



Mr Umang Sah, Chairman – CII Varanasi Zone & MD – UP National Manufacturers Ltd at the inaugural session of Kashi Samvaad 2025



Mr Vinamra Agarwal, Vice-Chairman, CII Varanasi Zone & MD, Birjla Engineering at the session on Grassroots to Greatness: Collaborative Innovation for Rural Prosperity at Kashi Samvaad 2025



Ms Smita Vaish Agarwal, Co-Chair, CII National Committee on CSR and Director & CFO, PTC Industries at the inaugural session of Kashi Samvaad 2025



Dr Upasana Arora, Chairperson, CII Uttar Pradesh and MD, Yashoda Super Speciality Hospitals addressing the inaugural session of Kashi Samvaad 2025



Presenting the Kashi Samvaad Memento to Smt Anupriya Patel, Hon'ble Minister of State, Health & Family Welfare, Government of India



Cultural Programme by students of BHU: Celebrating the timeless legacy of Varanasi

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