

Connect

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Sunil Misra

CEO
CII Foundation



We held our first flagship program, Greener Tomorrow, in June which brought together stakeholders from industry, civil society, government, academia and the farmer community to drive conversations and action on climate resilience and sustainable development.

As most parts of north India are inundated by monsoon rains, there is unpredictability and loss: intense downpours and erratic rain patterns have become increasingly common – a sign of intensifying climate change. These rains follow a period of intense heat waves, which left many natural water bodies dry across several parts of the country.

Climate change is impacting lives, livelihoods, and ecosystems in profound ways. The urgency to address climate change has never been clearer.

It is against this backdrop that the CII Foundation held its first edition of Greener Tomorrow in June 2025. The program brought together stakeholders from industry, civil society, government, academia and the farmer community to drive conversations and action on climate resilience and sustainable development. The need to build a future that is economically strong but also environmentally sound was stressed. A coffee table book capturing the expanse and impact of our flagship program on crop residue management was released at the program.

Continuing our focus on climate action, the CII Foundation has launched the Sundarbans Mangrove Restoration and Livelihood Generation Project in the climate-sensitive Sundarbans delta.



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This initiative adopts an integrated approach—reviving fragile mangrove ecosystems while empowering women through sustainable livelihoods. In a region facing rapid sea-level rise and biodiversity loss, this project is a step towards both environmental recovery and economic resilience.

One of the key areas identified for intervention is Healthcare. As a pilot project, the CII Foundation rolled out a health systems strengthening program in Uttar Pradesh's Chandauli District with a focus on improving maternal, child and adolescent health.

Another proud milestone was the announcement of the CII Woman Exemplar Award 2025 winners. This initiative continues to spotlight extraordinary women from underserved communities who have emerged as changemakers in their fields. Twenty selected leaders convened in Gurugram for a two-day leadership development workshop, designed to build their capacity and foster collaboration. At the CII Annual Business Summit, four outstanding women were presented the Woman Exemplar Award by Smt. Annpurna Devi, Hon'ble Minister for Women and Child Development, Government of India. Their stories are not only deeply inspiring but also emblematic of the resilience and strength that lies within our communities.

Re-affirming our commitment to women's empowerment, we co-hosted a heartfelt and inspiring program on International Widows' Day. The event brought together voices from the Army Women's Welfare Association (AWWA), international partners, and women with lived experience of personal loss. The message was emphatic: widows deserve inclusion, dignity, and supportive ecosystems that recognise their unique challenges.

A defining event was the announcement of the CII Woman Exemplar Award 2025 winners. The women empowerment initiative continues to spotlight extraordinary women leaders from underserved communities who have emerged as changemakers in their fields. Twenty selected leaders convened in Gurugram for a two-day leadership development workshop, designed to build their capacity and foster collaboration.

The CII Foundation has also strengthened its work around skill development and in Maharashtra, we have inaugurated a state-of-the-art vocational training centre. Equipped with advanced lab infrastructure and an industry-aligned curriculum, the centre is designed to equip rural youth with industry-specific skills— building employability where opportunities are otherwise limited.

Across all our initiatives in the quarter, a common thread emerges; amplifying unheard voices and driving change from the ground up. We believe development is not just about delivering solutions—but about building trust, nurturing leadership, and walking the journey alongside communities.

Thank you for your continued engagement and partnership.

Together, we are helping build a more inclusive and resilient India.



CLIMATE RESILIENCE



CROP RESIDUE MANAGEMENT

World Environment Day serves as a stark reminder that climate change is an urgent issue demanding our collective attention. Among the critical challenges we face is effective crop residue management to protect our environment and secure a sustainable future. With far-reaching consequences for air quality, public health, and soil degradation, crop residue burning continues to be a critical contributor to regional pollution and climate change. Recognising the need for scalable, sustainable solutions, the CII Foundation has been leading a long-term, community-based Crop Residue Management (CRM) initiative since 2018. What began in 19 villages in

Punjab has now expanded to over 1,000 villages across 13 districts in Punjab and Haryana.

Through a combination of awareness generation, farmer training, access to machinery, and promotion of alternative uses for stubble, the initiative focuses on shifting the perception of residue from a waste material to a resource that can improve soil health and generate income. In the April–June quarter, a key highlight was the Greener Tomorrow - CII Foundation's first flagship conference on climate action and sustainable development. Additionally, field activities were scaled up, and a strategic partnership with the Punjab Agricultural University was formalised.

Key Components of the Program

Awareness
Building

Machinery
Support Through
Community
Tool Banks

Farmers' Training
and Farm
Demonstrations

Managing
Biomass through
Ex-situ
Technology

EXPANDING GEOGRAPHIC FOOTPRINT

In a significant development, CII Foundation signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) on 20 May 2025, to promote the "Simultaneous Sowing of Wheat While Harvesting Rice" technology – an innovative method in tackling stubble burning.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Dr. Satbir Singh Gosal, Vice-Chancellor, PAU, and Mr. Sunil Misra, CEO, CII Foundation, along with Mr. Chandrakant Pradhan, Lead - Climate Change Resilience and Mr. Tahir Hussain, Program Officer, CII Foundation.

The MoU outlines a collaborative framework under which CII Foundation will support awareness, training, and outreach activities, while PAU will offer the technical know-how, conduct field demonstrations

and fulfil participatory research component for this technology. Through this MoU, we aim to accelerate adoption of eco-friendly farming solutions like the Surface Seeder Machine that conserve soil, reduce emissions, and enhance crop productivity.



FIELD VISITS AND MEETINGS

CII Foundation in partnership with HDFC Bank organised a volunteer field day in Majhi village, Sangrur district on 20 May 2025. The interactive session brought together project volunteers from both states to share learnings, engage with farmers, and promote sustainable alternatives to stubble burning.

Their presence and participation are key to scaling behavioural change and building trust within farming communities. Through collective effort, this initiative continues to promote clean air, healthier ecosystems, and farmer-led climate stewardship.



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2025: TREE PLANTATION DRIVES

Marking World Environment Day 2025, a large-scale tree plantation drive was conducted in partnership with HDFC Bank across 15 villages in Ludhiana district. A total of 15 volunteers planted approximately 70 trees in the following areas:

- **Khanna Block:** Bija, Goh, Jarg, Jatana, Khattrra, Daheru, Issru
- **Jagraon Block:** Sidhwan, Swaddi, Bardeke, Pabbian, Dangia, Mallah, Cheema, Lakha



The initiative aimed to enhance green cover and build environmental awareness, reinforcing community ownership of natural resources.

In a parallel effort, Goodyear India supported a tree plantation drive in Barnala district, further strengthening climate-responsive action in Punjab's agricultural regions.



URBAN CLIMATE RESILIENCE – RESTORATION OF WATER BODIES AND TREE PLANTATION INITIATIVE

The degradation of traditional waterbodies has led to increasing water scarcity and shrinking biodiversity across rural landscapes. To address this growing concern, the CII Foundation began its waterbody restoration journey in 2023 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. Partnering with Kemin Industries, under the CII Southern Region's Water Alliance Initiative, the Foundation successfully rejuvenated Eswaran Pond, Karuperi Kullam Pond, Panpakkam Pond in Gummudipoondi, and SR Kandigai, Thiruvallur District.

Building on this experience, the Foundation extended its efforts to Haryana with a new initiative to restore 10 waterbodies across five villages—Taj Nagar, Daboda, Basunda, Khandewla, and Hajipur—under a partnership with PTC India Financial Services Limited. By working closely with Gram Panchayats, the project is reviving local ecosystems and promoting water security.

Key Components of the Program

- Enhancing water retention of the waterbodies
- Cleaning clogged inlets and outlets
- Preventing further contamination of community ponds through awareness and behavioural change

Due to project interventions, several waterbodies were restored and bio-diversity greatly enhanced.

Key Achievements of Waterbody Restoration Initiative - 2024



5
waterbodies
restored



20%
increased
water capacity



50%
reduction in
waste
dumping



Enhanced
biodiversity
documented
wildlife return



Expanding on the climate resilience agenda, the CII Foundation launched a large-scale afforestation project in partnership with PTC India Financial Services Limited. As part of the Community Plantation Initiative for Carbon Offsetting, the project aims to plant 1,00,000 native saplings across five villages in the Farrukhnagar block of Gurugram district.

This collaborative initiative not only addresses carbon sequestration but also supports groundwater recharge and soil conservation, in line with broader ecosystem restoration goals.



On 5 June 2025, CII Foundation, in collaboration with PTC India Financial Services Limited, marked World Environment Day through a tree plantation drive in Daboda village, Farrukhnagar Block, Haryana. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from school children, teachers, the Sarpanch, and local stakeholders. By restoring natural ecosystems and planting native trees, the initiative promotes groundwater recharge, biodiversity, and environmental stewardship at the village level.



Environmental Impact of Season 2024

In season 2024, 87% of the intervened land in the 793 villages was saved from stubble burning.

Indicator		Total
Avoided Air Quality Impacts*	Fine Particulate Matter (PM 2.5)	8,699.2 tonnes
Avoided Global Warming Impacts*	Carbon Dioxide (CO2)	18,46,222.3 tonnes
	Water Saving	96.58 billion litres

* Source: CII-CESD analysis based on emission factors from Shrestha et al (2012)

MEDIA COVERAGE – HIGHLIGHTS

A dedicated blog titled “*Combating Climate Change and Air Pollution Through Collaborative Solutions*” was published by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), offering insights on field-level experiences and the broader role of policy and industry in scaling solution through crop residue management.

[Click here to read more](#)



GREENER TOMORROW CONFERENCE: A COLLECTIVE CALL TO CLIMATE ACTION



On 9 June 2025, CII Foundation hosted its flagship Greener Tomorrow conference at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. The event brought together policymakers, industry leaders, grassroots champions, academics, and civil society voices to discuss the path forward on climate resilience.

Present on the occasion were Dr. Bhaskar Chatterjee, Former Secretary, Public Sector Enterprises, Government of India; Dr. Makhan Singh Bhular, Director of Extension Education, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana; Mr Asim Khan, Lead – CSR, Cadence Design Systems; Mr. Jasmeet Singh, Director, Fair Climate Fund; Mr. Rakesh Khatri, Environmental Champion, known as the Nestman of India who shared their perspectives. Dr. Chatterjee highlighted how corporate responsibility in India has progressed from the belief that “charity begins at home” to a structured, board-driven mandate. “As we stand at the intersection of CSR, SDGs, and ESG, we are not just redefining business responsibilities – we are shaping the future of society. It’s time to move beyond compliance, towards commitment, and build a future that is not only economically stronger, but socially just and environmentally sound”.



Key sessions included:

- **Collaboration to tackle stubble burning – A roadmap for 2025:** In this session, experts from Punjab Agricultural University and farmer representatives discussed innovative techniques like Tarr-Wattar Direct Seeding of Rice and nutrient-retentive residue removal.
- **Transformative Action on Ground – Powered by Youth & Grassroots Leaders:** This session spotlighted real-world narratives driving grassroots environmental change.

CII Woman Exemplar Ms. Basmati Gagrai from Jharkhand shared her journey of protecting village forests through community mobilisation. Through lived experiences in crop residue management, plastic and material recycling, and water body restoration, these stories reflected the power of youth-led innovation, local leadership, and community ownership.

- **Masterclass on Village Eco-Restoration:** This session explored a holistic approach to model village development and ecosystem restoration. Speaking at the session, Mr. Jasmeet Singh, Director, Fair

Climate Fund, India "If India is to develop, our villages must lead the way. Carbon markets offer a powerful opportunity, but companies and NGOs must step in to complete the crediting process and ensure rural communities benefit."

- **Reducing plastic burden on the planet – role of community initiatives:** The session focussed on dealing with the piling of plastic waste dumps. Discussion centred around number of innovative initiatives being implemented in various parts of the country. Experts including Swati Singh

of GRID-Arendal highlighted the need for behaviour change and community buy-in to address plastic waste.

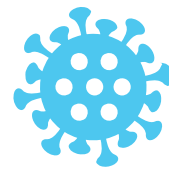
A highlight of the day was the launch of **From Smoke to Solutions: The Zero-Burning Revolution**, a coffee table book chronicling the transformative impact of CII Foundation's CRM initiative.

The event concluded with a felicitation ceremony honouring champion farmers and corporate supporters, whose commitment is driving India's climate action at the grassroots.





DISASTER RELIEF AND REHABILITATION



India's geographic diversity, combined with the mounting pressures of climate change, makes it highly susceptible to natural disasters—ranging from floods and cyclones to landslides and droughts. These events cause large-scale displacement, damage essential infrastructure, and disrupt livelihoods, especially for vulnerable and underserved communities.

Over the past years, the CII Foundation has responded to several humanitarian crises, including the Kerala floods (2018), Assam floods (2022), Cyclone Michaung in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh (2023), and the Wayanad landslides (2024). Through a coordinated, multi-stakeholder approach, the CII Foundation has provided immediate relief—such as food, medicine, and essential supplies—and led long-term rehabilitation efforts to rebuild schools, health facilities, and livelihoods.

Key Components of the Program

Establishing a Robust Disaster Response System using the extensive CII Network

Distribution of Relief Materials such as Food, Ration, and Medicine to Affected Regions.

Rehabilitation Initiatives through Reconstruction of Impacted Infrastructure like Schools and Health Centres, coupled with Livelihood Programs for Affected Communities.

REHABILITATION EFFORTS IN WAYANAD, KERALA

In the aftermath of the floods and landslides that struck Wayanad district in July 2024, the CII Foundation joined hands with the Wayanad District Administration and Orkla India Pvt. Ltd. to implement an integrated rehabilitation programme. The intervention focused on restoring education infrastructure, supporting vulnerable tribal communities, and enhancing the capacity of Anganwadi Teachers.



Anganwadi Refurbishment in Flood-affected Areas

The Anganwadi Refurbishment Project is a focused initiative designed to upgrade the infrastructure and enhance the overall functionality of key Anganwadi Centres across Wayanad District. The project aims to strengthen early childhood care and development services by creating safer, more stimulating, and child-friendly environments. A total of 15 Anganwadis have been selected for refurbishment, spanning across 8 Grama Panchayats and 1 Municipality in Wayanad, following a detailed assessment of 21 Anganwadi Centres in consultation with the Wayanad ICDS office and Nirmithi Kendra—the official technical partner.

These Anganwadi Centres were rendered non-functional due to water damage and structural instability. The CII Foundation initiated refurbishment



of these centres to restore child-friendly learning environments using BaLA (Building as Learning Aid) concepts to create vibrant, interactive spaces for early learners.

Revised infrastructure plans and budgets were developed following joint site visits with Anganwadi teachers, Panchayat members, and ICDS supervisors.

By the end of this quarter, refurbishment work had commenced across the first set of 5 Anganwadi centres. This included civil repairs, improved water and sanitation facilities, enhanced ventilation, installation of BaLA elements, and procurement of age-appropriate elements through wall-art. Periodic quality checks were undertaken to ensure adherence to safety and design standards.

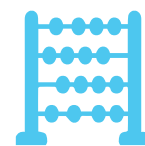
The upcoming quarter will focus on completing refurbishment for the next 10 centres, rolling out the first round of capacity-building for Anganwadi workers, and establishing monitoring and feedback mechanisms to support effective and adaptive implementation.

Livelihood Support for Tribal Communities

A key focus of the programme is to assist marginalised tribal families—particularly bonded labourers from the Paniya community. The CII Foundation in collaboration with Synthite Industries Private Limited facilitated the reconstruction of a community tribal kitchen and recreation centre at the Priyadarshini Tea Estate. This facility is envisioned as a hub for nutrition, cultural preservation, and social well-being, contributing to the long-term empowerment of tribal residents.

Together, these efforts will significantly enhance access to safe educational spaces, support income generation, and restore critical infrastructure in disaster-hit villages of Wayanad.





EDUCATION

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

The early years of a child's life are crucial in shaping their cognitive, emotional, and social development. Quality Early Childhood Education (ECE) not only prepares children for formal schooling but also builds the groundwork for their overall well-being and future learning outcomes.

Despite strong evidence from studies by the Centre for Early Childhood Education and Development (CECED) on the positive impact of ECE, access to quality early education remains limited across many parts of India.

Addressing this gap, the CII Foundation has launched targeted interventions aimed at strengthening ECE delivery systems by engaging governments, industry partners, and grassroots organisations.

The initiative has seen impactful results in Jammu & Kashmir, while new efforts are underway in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh with a focus on developing child-friendly, inclusive learning spaces through model Anganwadi Centres.

Key Components of the Program

Infrastructure
Support to
Develop Model
Anganwadi
Centres

Developing Age
and Culturally
Appropriate
Curriculum

Promoting the
use of Teaching
Learning
Material (TLM)

Capacity
Building of
Anganwadi
Workers

Involving and
Engaging the
Community

ANGANWADI STRENGTHENING PROGRAM, TAMIL NADU

In Tamil Nadu, the CII Foundation in collaboration with CII Southern Region and Kasa India Pvt. Ltd., is supporting early education and health interventions through the transformation of Anganwadi infrastructure.

The Kottaikarai Anganwadi in Gummudipoondi, Thiruvallur District, was selected for refurbishment with a dual focus: upgrading infrastructure and equipping Anganwadi workers with enhanced skills.

The project was formally launched in the presence of representatives from Kasa India Pvt. Ltd., officials from the ICDS Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, Anganwadi staff, and community stakeholders including parents and children—marking the beginning of a more nurturing and engaging environment for early learners.





HEALTHCARE



Improving access to quality healthcare and encouraging community-driven well-being remains central to the CII Foundation's mission. Through a combination of health systems strengthening and school-based awareness initiatives, the Foundation is working to build resilient, informed communities

across rural India. Two flagship interventions in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana reflect this commitment – one focused on strengthening the health and nutrition ecosystem at the village level, and the other on nurturing health-conscious behaviour among school children.

Key Components of the Program

Strengthening
Community
Access to Public
Healthcare and
Nutrition

Strengthening
Infrastructure

Raising Health
Awareness and
Good Practices
Amongst
Children and
Adolescents

Capacity
Building

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING PROGRAM, CHANDAULI, UTTAR PRADESH

CII Foundation in collaboration with Digiswasthya Foundation is implementing a Health Systems Strengthening Program in eight villages - Sisaura Kala, Murali Pur, Mahuji, Medhana, Jigana, Visunpur Khurd, Avahi, and Vira Saray of Dhanapur Block in Chandauli district, Uttar Pradesh. The program aims to enhance the existing health and nutrition ecosystem while promoting early childhood care and education. The intervention ensures that services are accessible, efficient, and inclusive, particularly for women, children, and adolescents.

In April 2025, a Tetanus and Diphtheria (TD) vaccination drive was conducted in coordination with the Health Department. Vaccinations were administered at local schools with support from Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs), ensuring immunisation coverage among school-going children. The month also saw targeted community engagement through meetings with adolescent girls, pregnant women, and lactating mothers. These sessions focused on raising awareness about nutrition, anaemia, and the importance of daily attendance at Anganwadi centres for young children. In parallel, women's groups were mobilised to encourage school enrolment and regular attendance of older children.

Adolescent girls participated in interactive discussions on personal hygiene and were encouraged to take responsibility for escorting younger children to the Anganwadi centres. Children's groups were engaged in identifying local issues within their villages and were guided on expressing these concerns creatively through storytelling—building both awareness and communication skills.



HEALTH AWARENESS PROGRAM IN SCHOOLS, UTTAR PRADESH AND HARYANA

To promote early health literacy and behavioural change, CII Foundation in collaboration with HOPE Initiative has been implementing a Health Awareness Program in rural schools across Sohna, Pataudi, Manesar, Farrukhnagar, and Wazirabad in Haryana; Bindauwa, Bhaundari, Jabrauli, Bani, and Benti in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

The initiative empowers school children to become health ambassadors in their communities through structured awareness sessions and experiential learning.

Throughout April 2025, schools in Mohanlalganj and Sarojini Nagar blocks of Uttar Pradesh, along with Sohna, Pataudi, Manesar, Farrukhnagar, and Wazirabad regions in Haryana, hosted sessions focused on environmental hygiene, menstrual health, balanced nutrition, and overall well-being. Special emphasis was placed on creating safe and informed spaces for adolescent girls, encouraging open dialogue and dispelling myths around menstruation.

On April 7, 2025, to mark World Health Day, the Foundation organised a theme-based awareness programme at Composite School in Jabrauli village, Mohanlalganj. Under the theme "Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Future," over 160 students from Classes 1 to 8 participated in educational and interactive activities promoting preventive health practices.

Later in the month, Earth Day was observed on April 22, 2025, with students engaging in discussions on environmental conservation. Through vibrant poster-making sessions, they conveyed the importance of protecting trees, conserving water, and adopting sustainable practices to protect the planet.

These interventions continue to nurture awareness, inclusivity, and action-oriented community health engagement across multiple levels.





SKILLING AND LIVELIHOOD



CII Foundation continues to strengthen livelihoods across India by equipping individuals—especially women and youth—with practical skills and entrepreneurial opportunities that promote financial independence and long-term resilience.

Through partnerships with industry and grassroots organisations, the Foundation is enabling communities to access dignified work and become self-sufficient.

Key Components of the Program

Rural Livelihood:

Supporting rural women through livelihood initiatives that build on local strengths—such as beekeeping, tamarind processing, and poultry farming.

Skilling of Youth:

Equipping rural and underserved youth with industry-relevant, market driven skills to enhance their employability by leveraging CII Model Career Centres and CII Multi-skill Training Centres

SUNDARBANS MANGROVE RESTORATION AND LIVELIHOOD GENERATION PROJECT

In the climate-vulnerable deltaic regions of Binodpur and Nagenabad (Kultali Block, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal), CII Foundation, in partnership with Joynagar Viewtech Educational Society, has launched the Sundarbans Mangrove Restoration and Livelihood Generation Project. The initiative adopts an integrated approach to restore fragile mangrove ecosystems while empowering women through sustainable livelihoods.

Ecological Restoration

Mangrove afforestation is being carried out through seedbed development, community plantation drives, and ecological fencing. By May 2025, land was allocated, seedbeds prepared and fenced, and work was underway on converting seeds to saplings and establishing potting beds. These efforts are crucial for rebuilding natural buffers against cyclones, mitigating coastal erosion, and restoring biodiversity.

Livelihood Generation

Targeting 120 women beneficiaries from nearby communities, the project delivered structured poultry training sessions, completed by 12 May 2025. In addition to technical training, the program includes mentorship and market linkages to promote sustainable income generation.

Community Engagement

From 21 March to 10 May 2025, eleven outreach camps were conducted across the region, engaging over 750 villagers. Four thematic seminars — held on 11 March, 26 March, 4 April, and 30 April — drew participation from 213 villagers and focused on topics such as cyber security, sanitation, and public health. These were organised with support from local panchayats and police departments.

By integrating climate action with livelihood security, the Sundarbans project sets an example for ecosystem restoration that is rooted in community ownership, economic empowerment, and environmental stewardship.



BEEKEEPING INITIATIVE FOR RURAL WOMEN IN JHARKHAND

CII Foundation in collaboration with Shoshan Surin Foundation launched a beekeeping-based livelihood initiative in Gumla district, Jharkhand. On 3 and 4 April, bee boxes were distributed to participating women, laying the foundation for honey production and income generation.

The project not only creates an alternative source of livelihood but also supports biodiversity and pollination cycles vital to the region's ecology. With ongoing technical support and market linkages, the initiative is designed to help women convert beekeeping into a sustainable microenterprise, positively impacting their families and communities.



EMPOWERING RED CHILLI FARMERS IN BALLARI THROUGH FPO-LED INTERVENTIONS

CII Foundation, in partnership with Orkla India Pvt. Ltd. and technically anchored by CII-FACE, is undertaking impactful interventions in the red chilli value chain through Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in Ballari district, Karnataka.



Stakeholder Consultation for Value Chain Collaboration

On 17 June 2025, a Stakeholder Consultation Meeting was held in Ballari, bringing together experts, FPO leaders, scientists, and agri-business representatives to discuss strategies for a more sustainable and market-oriented chilli value chain. Hosted under the project "Strengthening Sustainability of Spices Value Chain Development through Farmer Producer Companies," the event emphasized multi-stakeholder collaboration, adoption of climate-smart practices, and leveraging government schemes.

Key participants included Mr. Yuvraj Kumar R S, District Development Manager – NABARD, Ballari; Dr. Palaiah P, Head – KVK, Ballari; Dr. Ravi S, Senior Scientist – KVK, Ballari; Dr. B. Krishnarao, Head – ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil and Water Conservation (ICAR-IISWC); Mr. Karnam Veeresh, Agronomist – Coromandel International Ltd.; along with CEOs and Board Members of local FPOs. The discussions focused on the promotion of sustainable input usage in chilli cultivation, challenges in market access and post-harvest infrastructure, and capacity building of FPOs in governance, profitability, and institutional linkages.



VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE INAUGURATED IN MAHARASHTRA

On 2 May 2025, CII Foundation, in partnership with Bluestar Ltd., inaugurated a state-of-the-art vocational training centre in Wada, Maharashtra. Designed to equip young individuals with practical skills in refrigeration and air conditioning, the facility features advanced lab infrastructure, expert-led sessions, and industry-aligned curricula.

The initiative aims to bridge the gap between rural youth and the formal job market, offering them hands-on training and access to employment opportunities in the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) sector. With an emphasis on employability and long-term career growth, the program aspires to enhance the socioeconomic standing of participants and build a skilled workforce for the future.



ANNUAL BUSINESS SUMMIT 2025

Building Trust - India First

Women Leading the Charge for Social Change: CII Woman Exemplar Awards

29-30 May 25

New

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT



WOMAN EXEMPLAR PROGRAM

The CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Program honours grassroots women leaders who are driving transformative change across Education, Health, Microenterprise, and the newly introduced category of Community Strengthening. These awards not only celebrate their contributions but also enhance the visibility and credibility of their work, opening avenues for greater support and outreach.

By equipping these women with capacity-building tools and leadership development opportunities, the program strengthens their ability to lead change at the community level. At its core, the Woman Exemplar

Program identifies, nurtures, and recognizes high-impact women leaders who hold the potential to influence systemic change.

Currently, the initiative supports a network of over 150 women leaders across India, whose efforts collectively impact more than two million lives annually. In the April–June quarter, the winners of the CII Woman Exemplar Award 2025 were announced. All 20 selected exemplars convened at the CII office in Gurugram for a two-day leadership training session designed to build their capacities and promote collaboration among exemplars.

Key Components of the Program



Scan the
Ecosystem for
Exemplars



Award and
Recognize
Women
Leaders



Amplify the
Impact of Work
Through
Leadership
Trainings &
Mentoring



On Ground
Interventions
to Create
New Leaders



Broaden and
Strengthen
the Network

IDENTIFYING THE EXEMPLARS

For the 2025 edition of the Award, over 400 nominations were received from across India. The nominations were screened using a rigorous, multi-level screening process which included personal visits to meet the women to get an in-depth understanding of their work and social impact. From the 20 shortlisted candidates across states, the three winners were selected by a distinguished jury from various sectors such as industry, civil society, media, and the social development sector. This year the jury comprised:

- **Ms Shobana Kamineni**, Chair, Steering Committee and Executive Vice Chairperson, Apollo Hospitals
- **Ms Chetna Gala Sinha**, Co-chair, Steering Committee and Founder MannDeshi Bank
- **Ms Rumjhum Chatterjee**, Co-Founder and Managing Trustee, The Infravision Foundation and Chairperson Feedback Foundation
- **Ms Kaveree Bamzai**, Independent Journalist
- **Ms Radhika Bharat Ram**, Joint Vice Chairperson, The Shri Ram Schools
- **Ms Archana Vyas**, Director of Policy and Communications, Gates Foundation
- **Mr Kamal Bali**, Managing Director, Volvo Group

Meet the 2025 Cohort of Woman Exemplars

Community Strengthening Category



Alamelu V

Salem, Tamil Nadu
Age: 47

Born into bonded labor, Alamelu's childhood was shaped by exploitation and injustice. Forced to work at 10, a teacher's intervention changed her path—and ignited her lifelong fight for justice. In 2005, she founded the Rural Women Development Trust, rescuing 10,000 bonded labourers and empowering 30,000 people through legal rights education. She's built 180 women-led Self-Help Groups, enabling financial independence through microloans and skill training. Despite threats, assaults, and the murder of her brother, Alamelu remains a fearless voice for Arunthathiyar women—leading a movement to end caste slavery and reclaim dignity, livelihoods, and freedom for her community.

[read more](#)



Anisfatima Jafar Shaikh

Mumbai, Maharashtra
Age: 39

Anisfatima Jafar Shaikh is transforming the lives of Mumbai's street vendors. As the force behind Azad Hawkers Union, she has organized and empowered over 17,000 vendors, securing their rights and financial stability.

[read more](#)



Anita Soni

Barmer, Rajasthan
Age: 42

Anita Soni's story is one of strength born from struggle. Married early and subjected to violence, she overcame deep personal trauma to become a fearless advocate for women's rights. In 2014, she founded Mahila Sangathan, tackling issues like domestic violence, child marriage, and girls' education.

[read more](#)



Khushi Rajput

Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
Age: 24

At just 24, Khushi is building a grassroots revolution for girls' safety and empowerment. Orphaned young and a survivor of abuse, she turned her pain into purpose through the power of sport. In 2021, she founded the Bhopal chapter of Tinka Samajik Sansthan, creating safe spaces where girls learn self-defense, build confidence, and reclaim control over their lives.

[read more](#)



Monica Pekra

Jagarnathpur, Chhattisgarh
Age: 55

Monika Paikra is a trailblazing Adivasi leader driving change in Chhattisgarh's tribal and PVTG communities. With over 35 years of grassroots work, she has directly impacted 15,536 lives through governance, healthcare, and financial inclusion.

[read more](#)



Parveennisa Shaikh

Mumbai, Maharashtra
Age: 46

Born on the footpaths of Mumbai, Parveennisa (Parveen) Shaikh has transformed a life of poverty and displacement into a powerful force for change. Over two decades, she has impacted over 25,000 lives—educating 18,000 children, empowering 6,000 women, and resolving 1,000+ domestic disputes.

[read more](#)

Health Category



Farheen Hussain

Mewat, Haryana
Age: 28

In the male-dominated landscape of Nuh, Farheen Hussain has boldly carved out a space for women's empowerment, bringing healthcare to the forefront. Through Radio Mewat, she has reached over 50,000 women across 60 villages, transforming maternal health, menstrual hygiene, family planning, and domestic violence awareness. Her efforts have connected over 80% of women to essential healthcare services, impacting 250,000 people in total. By advocating for women's autonomy over their health and lives, Farheen is not just changing mindsets but reshaping the future of Mewati women, empowering them to take control of their destinies.

[read more](#)



Annapurna Dhore

Aurangabad, Maharashtra
Age: 40

Annapurna's journey from overcoming personal hardships to becoming a formidable leader is a testament to her resilience. Despite facing challenges from inter-caste marriage and domestic struggles, she has spearheaded MGVS' 'Prevention and Control of STD and HIV/AIDS' program since 2012.

[read more](#)



Bulti Dey

Cooch Behar, West Bengal
Age: 36

Bulti Dey from Cooch Behar has turned her personal struggles into a mission to empower women through mental health awareness. In a community where mental health is often sidelined, Bulti has spearheaded efforts to make mental health care accessible, partnering with authorities to bridge gaps in healthcare.

[read more](#)



Lalki Meena

Salumbar District, Rajasthan
Age: 38

Lalki Meena's journey from clinic attendant to Senior Health Worker in rural Rajasthan is a powerful story of resilience and leadership. Overcoming poverty, domestic violence, and a near-fatal HIV diagnosis, she has become a beacon of hope for marginalized women and children.

[read more](#)



Payal Kakate

Nanded district, Maharashtra
Age: 27

Payal Kakate is a trailblazer in Nanded, revolutionizing community health and empowering women to take control of their well-being. Focused on tackling anemia, malnutrition, and maternal health, she founded Arogya Gaths—community health funds that provide life-saving medical aid through women's collective contributions.

[read more](#)

Micro-enterprise



Narmada Jha

Madhubani district, Bihar
Age: 68

Annapurna's journey from overcoming personal hardships to becoming a formidable leader is a testament to her resilience. Despite facing challenges from inter-caste marriage and domestic struggles, she has spearheaded MGVS' 'Prevention and Control of STD and HIV/AIDS' program since 2012.

[read more](#)



Goutami Arika

Seethampetha, Andhra Pradesh
Age: 31

Annapurna's journey from overcoming personal hardships to becoming a formidable leader is a testament to her resilience. Despite facing challenges from inter-caste marriage and domestic struggles, she has spearheaded MGVS' 'Prevention and Control of STD and HIV/AIDS' program since 2012.

[read more](#)



Kashavva Dasharath Kurne

Belgaum District, Karnataka
Age: 51

Bulti Dey from Cooch Behar has turned her personal struggles into a mission to empower women through mental health awareness. In a community where mental health is often sidelined, Bulti has spearheaded efforts to make mental health care accessible, partnering with authorities to bridge gaps in healthcare.

[read more](#)



Revati Shivaji Kangule

Nanded district, Maharashtra
Age: 40

Revati Kangule, who overcame significant personal struggles, including financial hardship and family challenges, is now empowering women in Nanded, Maharashtra, through financial independence and entrepreneurship. As a leader with Swayam Shikshan Prayog, she has helped establish women-led micro-enterprises, focusing on health awareness, income generation, and improving access to better medical care.

[read more](#)



Vimla Kharakwal

Champawat, Uttarakhand
Age: 31

Vimla Kharkwal is a powerful leader from Champawat, Uttarakhand, who has turned personal adversity into a catalyst for change. Overcoming domestic violence and financial struggles, she has empowered over 6,710 women through Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and sustainable, climate-resilient agricultural practices.

[read more](#)

Education Category



Varsha Ankush Patil

Kolhapur District, Maharashtra
Age: 31

Varsha Patil, a 31-year-old trailblazing educator from Abdullat village, is transforming rural education through experiential STEM learning. Growing up in a resource-poor environment, she witnessed how textbook-heavy learning stifled curiosity and problem-solving. Determined to change this, she co-founded Vidyoday Mukhtangan Parivar Foundation in 2016 to bring hands-on, activity-based science education to underserved communities, especially children of migrant workers. Her initiatives—Chote Kalam, Chote Scientist, Sevankur, and Vidyankur—have reached over 6,700 students and 40 teachers, nurturing critical thinking and a scientific mindset.

[read more](#)



Priyanka

Gurgaon, Haryana
Age: 21

Priyanka, a 31-year-old educator from Palra, Haryana, defied deep-rooted gender norms to become a powerful advocate for education. Overcoming early pressure to marry, she pursued her studies and turned her journey into a mission to transform her community.

[read more](#)



Puja Dixit

Deoria, Uttar Pradesh
Age: 24

Puja Dixit, 24, is redefining rural education and skilling through bold, ground-up action. Confronting poverty and gender bias, she launched a vocational training center in Deoria, U.P., offering low-cost, certified courses in computers, accounting, and nursing.

[read more](#)



Reena Shakya

Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh
Age: 40

Reena Shakya, a passionate educator and advocate from Gwalior's SC Kori tribe, is reshaping education for marginalized communities. Inspired by Ambedkar and Savitribai Phule, she founded NEEV Shiksha Jan Kalyan Samiti in 2015 to address systemic barriers to learning.

[read more](#)

RECOGNITION

At the CII Annual Business Summit 2025, the CII Woman Exemplar Awards were presented by Smt. Annpurna Devi, Hon'ble Minister of Women and Child Development, Government of India. Four exceptional grassroots women leaders were honoured for their extraordinary contributions:

Alamelu V – Community Strengthening

Varsha Ankush Patil – Education

Farheen Hussain – Health

Narmada Jha – Micro-enterprise



Alongside them, 16 inspiring Woman Exemplars from across the country were honoured with certificates for their exemplary leadership and commitment to community empowerment.

Their journeys are lighting the path toward inclusive development and lasting change.



I have been working with women in small villages of Haryana to spread awareness about health and child nutrition. I feel happy and grateful to CII Foundation for recognising my work and giving me this platform.

I come from a background where women are not allowed to step out of the house, and girls are often married off at a young age. Despite this, I moved forward and was able to reach people through community radio. This recognition by CII Foundation will help me take my work even further.

Farheen Hussain

Winner, Woman Exemplar Award 2025
Health Category



I have been working for many years to empower women, and today, many of them are standing on their own feet. This is the first time my work has been recognised, and I am truly grateful to CII Foundation for making my dream come true.

Their support and training have not only strengthened my work but also helped me grow as a leader. With this recognition, I now have the opportunity to take my work to national and even international platforms.

Narmada Jha

Winner, Woman Exemplar Award 2025
Micro-Enterprise Category



I work in the education sector to improve the scientific temperament of children, strengthen their language and math skills, and support the overall health and holistic development of students—especially those whose parents are migrant sugarcane cutters.

With the support of CII Foundation, we can now do this work more effectively and scale it up to reach more children. This is a great platform that we have all received to grow as strong and capable leaders.

Varsha Patil

Winner, Woman Exemplar Award 2025
Education Category



Receiving the CII Woman Exemplar Award is an emotional moment for me. I have been working silently for many years and have faced many struggles along the way. Today, our work is finally being recognised.

This award will help bring our efforts to a wider platform. It will enable us to gain more support and solidarity to scale up our work within the Arunthathiyar community. I hope that, with everyone's support, our community will become empowered and enjoy the rights they truly deserve.

Alamelu V

Winner, Woman Exemplar Award 2025
Community Strengthening Category

CAPACITY BUILDING: LEADERSHIP TRAINING AND MENTORSHIP

As part of the Woman Exemplar Program 2025, a two-day leadership training workshop was conducted at the CII Foundation office in Gurugram, bringing together the full cohort of 20 Woman Exemplars. The training focused on leadership development, building trust within the cohort, and strengthening the collective vision of the program.

Participants engaged in a structured process of self-reflection, peer learning, and team-based problem-solving.

The sessions enabled them to articulate their motivations, recognise individual and collective strengths, and understand the importance of collaboration in achieving sustained social impact. Through this process, participants were encouraged to view their leadership journeys with clarity, confidence, and renewed purpose.

The training concluded with reflections on leading with intent, supporting one another, and moving forward as a connected and empowered network of changemakers.



I have been working with out-of-school children to empower them to take action and pursue their dreams. Through the training I received from CII Foundation, I've gained valuable skills in planning, understanding roles and responsibilities, and working effectively as a team.

These learnings will strengthen my work and help me reach more children in need. I am deeply grateful to CII Foundation for believing in me and supporting my journey.

Priyanka

Woman Exemplar 2025
Education Category



I work with young people through the medium of sports. Through the CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Award, I got to meet and interact with so many diverse grassroots women leaders across the country working on different issues. Such interactions have helped me better understand the qualities of being a good leader, how different people approach their unique situations, and the issues in their communities in their own ways. This has been truly inspiring and has taught me a lot.

Khushi Rajput

Woman Exemplar 2025
Community Strengthening Category

AMPLIFYING STORIES OF CHANGE

Mana Mandlekar, CII Foundation Woman Exemplar 2019, Receives the Samya Excellence Award for Gender Champions 2024

Mana Mandlekar, Co-Founder of Tinka Samajik Sanstha, and CII Foundation Woman Exemplar 2019, Education Category has been selected as the winner of the Samya Excellence Award for Gender Champions 2024.

Widely known in her community as the "Iron Girl," Mana holds the distinction of being the first woman graduate from Alampur, Madhya Pradesh. A First Dan Black Belt and international gold medalist in karate, she has represented India on global platforms, breaking multiple gender barriers along the way.

From advocating for her own right to education to training over 76,000 girls and youth in self-defence across rural Madhya Pradesh, Mana's journey is a testament to resilience, purpose, and community leadership.

मना मंडलेकर को सम्या एक्सीलेंस अवॉर्ड : जेंडर चैंपियन 2024 से हुई सम्मानित

लैंगिक समानता और महिला सशक्तिकरण में उत्कृष्ट कार्य पर मिला राष्ट्रीय सम्मान

टिमरनी (मध्यप्रदेश)। तिनका सामाजिक संस्था के सचिव मना मंडलेकर को सम्या एक्सीलेंस अवॉर्ड: जेंडर चैंपियन 2024 से सम्मानित किया गया है। यह सम्मान उन्हें खेल और आत्मरक्षा प्रशिक्षण के माध्यम से महिलाओं और लड़कियों को सशक्त बनाने तथा लैंगिक समानता को बढ़ावा देने के लिए उनके उल्लेखनीय योगदान के लिए प्रदान किया गया है। उल्लेखनीय हो कि देशभर से सैकड़ों आवेदनों के बीच चयन प्रक्रिया के बाद मना मंडलेकर को यह पुरस्कार दिया गया है। पुरस्कार स्वरूप उन्हें 2,00,000 की व्यक्तिगत पुरस्कार राशि भी प्रदान की गई।

पुरस्कार प्राप्त करने के बाद मना मंडलेकर ने कहा, यह पुरस्कार मेरी नहीं, उन सभी बच्चियों और महिलाओं की जीत है, जो आत्मविश्वास के साथ अपने जीवन में आगे बढ़ रही हैं। यह सम्मान



दैनिक
विलियमिस्ट

हमें और अधिक ऊर्जा और ज़म्मेदारी के साथ काम करने के लिए प्रेरित करता है।

टीम तिनका ने इस उपलब्धि को अपने सभी प्रशिक्षकों, ग्रामीण केंद्रों तथा सहयोगी संगठनों को समर्पित करते हुए आभार प्रकट किया है।

Basmati Gagrai, CII Foundation Woman Exemplar 2024, Joins Greener Tomorrow Conference Panel on Youth and Grassroots Leadership

Basmati Gagrai, Woman Exemplar 2024 in the Education category, participated as a panellist at the Greener Tomorrow Conference hosted by the CII Foundation on 9 June 2025 in New Delhi. Speaking during the session "Transformative Action on Ground – Powered by Youth & Grassroots Leaders", Basmati, from the tribal region of Jharkhand, shared a compelling perspective on how forests can be powerful sites of learning.

By involving local children and youth in forest clean-up drives and nature-based learning, she is cultivating a deep connection with the environment and promoting stewardship rooted in tribal knowledge and culture.



MEDIA COVERAGE - HIGHLIGHTS

सकाळ



नई दिल्ली में किया गया सम्मानित रीना को नेशनल विमेंस एग्जांपलर अवार्ड

पत्रिका



एक लाख की राशि दान की
रीना शायब ने धनराशि की है कि सम्मान के साथ मिली एक लाख रुपया की राशि स्वयं पर या कार्य करते हुए फंडोस एवं एजुकेशन फेलोशिप में दान करेगी, तबकि इस राशि का उपयोग महिलाएं में अर्थिक रूप से कमजोर महिलाओं के शिक्षा क्षेत्र में आगे बढ़ने के लिए किया जा सके।

01/06/2025 | Gwalior City | Page : 18
Source : <https://epaper.patrika.com/>

rediff

CII felicitates Varsha Ankush Patil with Woman Exemplar Award 2025
* Kolhapur district's Varsha Ankush Patil was felicitated by the Union Women and Child Development Minister at the CII Annual Business summit last week, the industry lobby grouping said on Monday.

Patil was presented CII Woman Exemplar Award 2025 in the education category, a statement said, adding that the grouping wants to honour women building community resilience against systemic challenges and vulnerabilities.

PTI
NEWS UPDATE

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THEWEEK

THEWEEK MAGAZINE
HOME INDIA WORLD BUSINESS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT MIDDLE EAST HEALTH

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नई दिल्ली में कराटे प्रशिक्षिका खुशी राजपूत को वुमन एक्सम्पलर अवार्ड से नवाजा गया



भोपाल राजा की ब्लैक बेल्ट कराटे प्रशिक्षिका खुशी राजपूत को दिल्ली में वुमन एक्सम्पलर अवार्ड से नवाजा गया। वह तिनका सामाजिक संस्था की शाखा भोपाल में खेलों के माध्यम से लैंगिक समानता और महिला सशक्तिकरण के लिए काम कर रही हैं।
खुशी राजपूत के कार्यों में सुशिक्षित और अनुसंधान स्पर्ष, माहवारी, महिला सुरक्षा, स्वतंत्रता, कर्तव्य और अधिकार जैसे विषयों पर युवाओं को जागरूक करना।
समदाय के साथ काम करके लैंगिक समानता और महिला सशक्तिकरण को बढ़ावा

सकाळ



कोल्हापूर : केंद्रीय मंत्री अरुणो देवी यांचा हस्तें वर्य पाटील यांना 'वुमन एग्झॅंपलर अवॉर्ड' ने सम्मानित केले. यावेळी चंडिका बॅनर्जी, संजय पुरी उपस्थित होते.

'वुमन एग्झॅंपलर अवॉर्ड' ने वर्षा पाटील यांचा सन्मान
कोल्हापूर, ता. ३ : येथील वर्षा अरुण देवी यांना हस्तें वर्य पाटील यांना 'वुमन एग्झॅंपलर अवॉर्ड' ने सम्मानित केले. यावेळी चंडिका बॅनर्जी, संजय पुरी उपस्थित होते.

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भोपाल। ब्लैक बेल्ट कराटे प्रशिक्षिका खुशी राजपूत को दिल्ली में वुमन एक्सम्पलर अवार्ड से सम्मानित किया गया है। वह तिनका सामाजिक संस्था की शाखा भोपाल में खेलों के माध्यम से लैंगिक समानता और महिला सशक्तिकरण के लिए काम कर रही हैं।
खुशी राजपूत के कार्यों में बच्चों को शारीरिक और मानसिक रूप से मजबूत बनाने के लिए कराटे प्रशिक्षण देना - सुशिक्षित और अनुसंधान स्पर्ष, माहवारी, महिला सुरक्षा, स्वतंत्रता, कर्तव्य और अधिकार जैसे विषयों पर युवाओं को जागरूक करना - समदाय के साथ काम करके लैंगिक समानता और महिला सशक्तिकरण को बढ़ावा



देश भर से 440 से अधिक आवेदनों में से 20 महिलाओं का चयन हुआ था, जिनमें नई दिल्ली के होटल ताज पलेस में आयोजित एक गरिमामयी कार्यक्रम में केंद्रीय महिला बाल विकास मंत्री अनुरूप देवी द्वारा सम्मानित किया गया।

लोकमत



वर्षा पाटील यांना सीआयआय 'वुमन एग्झॅंपलर अवॉर्ड' प्रदान
कोल्हापूर : येथील वर्षा अरुण देवी यांना हस्तें वर्य पाटील यांना 'वुमन एग्झॅंपलर अवॉर्ड' ने सम्मानित केले. यावेळी चंडिका बॅनर्जी, संजय पुरी उपस्थित होते.

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पंचमहल केसरी

सी आई आई फाउंडेशन का नेशनल वुमन एग्जांपलर अवार्ड
मिली रीना शायब को वुमन एग्जांपलर अवार्ड से नवाजा गया



एन एस विश्वविद्यालय प्रकाशक 9425734503
कोल्हापूर : येथील वर्षा अरुण देवी यांना हस्तें वर्य पाटील यांना 'वुमन एग्झॅंपलर अवॉर्ड' ने सम्मानित केले. यावेळी चंडिका बॅनर्जी, संजय पुरी उपस्थित होते.

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अन्नपूर्णा संपतराव ढोरे , १लक्ष
रुपयाच्या राष्ट्रीय परस्काराने सन्मानित

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सीआईआई वुमन एग्जेंप्लर
अवॉर्ड से सम्मानित हर्ड फरहीन



और लगन से पूरे मेवात का नाम रक्षा किया है। दिल्ली के ताज पैलेस होटल में कन्फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडियन इंडस्ट्री फ़ाउंडेशन द्वारा आयोजित वृषभ एग्जैम्पलर अवार्ड 2025 में फरहीन को सम्मानित किया गया। इस अवार्ड समारोह में देशभर से 414 महिलाओं ने हिस्सा लिया था जिनमें से फरहीन को उनके उत्कृष्ट कार्य के लिए चुना गया। फरहीन को यह सम्मान भारत सरकार की महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्री अन्नपूर्णा देवी ने प्रदान किया। फरहीन पिछले कई सालों से रैंडियो मेवात के माध्यम से मेवात क्षेत्र में महिलाओं को स्वास्थ्य के प्रति जागरूक करने में अहम भूमिका निभा रही है। फरहीन ने स्नातक कक्ष पढ़ाई की है। स्वाद

ভারতের অনুকরণীয় নারীদের
সম্মানিত করল সিআইআই

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सुदर्शन एक्सप्रेस
Sunday
शनिवार, 01 जून 2025

जरूरतमंद बच्चियों को दी इनाम
में मिली एक लाख रु. की राशि

[illegible]

चार सौ के बीच
चुनी गई रीना

इस अतीवृद्ध के लिए देश भर से कुल 400 से अधिक अभ्यर्थी आए थे जिसमें से सिर्फ़ बार लोको की चुन गये। रीमा जयराव की इस सम्मान के साथ में एक लाख रुपये का नगद पुरस्कार एवं प्रशस्ति पत्र प्रदान किया गया है। ज्ञातव्य हो की रीमा महिला आयोग एवं शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में अतिशुद्ध योगदान कर रही है। ये भी शिक्षा एवं जनजागरण समिति की सदस्य है। उनकी शायद द्वारा उत्कलसम्पन्न महिलाओं और बच्चों की बीच में शिक्षा की योजना चलाये एवं उनके समर्थन में विद्यार्थी के लिए सहायता प्रदान कर रही है।



रविशंकर प्रसाद
हुए कूटनी
काशीराम
समूह प्रमोद
राम
समुहप्रसाद
विशेषज्ञ
राम कानून की प्रणाली को है। इस
रविशंकर प्रसाद का जन्म काशी में
आदिवासी रूप से काशी
काशीवासी के पिता से
राम के पिता का जन्म काशी
काशी में।

किसी भी प्रकार की समस्या, सामाजिक, धार्मिक कार्यक्रम के लिए वाटसएप नंबर 98938-86910 पर पोस्ट करें सबसे।

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CII Woman Exemplar Award 2025: Honoring Grassroots Women Leaders

Deliberate, June 3
(RTN3)—These grassroots women have emerged out of small villages and towns to face challenges to change in a changing India and are shaping India's fate. Anandam Devi, Minister for Women's Development, as the president, presided over the CII Women's Exemplar Award 2025 ceremony at the Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on June 3. The award is given for the charge for Social Change CII Women's Exemplar Award in 2025. The award is given to the women who have played a leading role in the development of the country. The award is given to the women who have played a leading role in the development of the country. The award is given to the women who have played a leading role in the development of the country.



explains Award honoree grassroots women leaders from rural and under-served communities who have overcome disadvantaged social and economic barriers to drive transformative change. This year, a po-

ward category—Community Strengthening—has been announced to honor women who are engaged in community strengthening activities through a range of initiatives. The existing award categories: Health, Education, and Economic Empowerment include a prize amounting to \$10,000 for the program.

Almasia V. from National Aids Network received the award in the Community Strengthening category. Fatima Hassan from the Ministry of Health, Government of Karnataka, India, received the award in the Health category, and Shobha Bhat from the Ministry of Health, Government of Karnataka, India, received the award in the Education category, and Shobha Bhat from the Ministry of Health, Government of Karnataka, India, received the award in the Economic Empowerment category.

Dr. G. S. Kumar, Director of the National Aids Network, said that the award ceremony was held in the presence of the Honorable Minister of Health, Government of Karnataka, India, and the Honorable Minister of Health, Government of Karnataka, India, and the Honorable Minister of Health, Government of Karnataka, India.

organizing grassroots women leaders since 2005. He announced that the women have succeeded in securing a commitment to drive social change and are capable of doing so much more with the right support.

These women executives are new part of a powerful national network of over 150 women's examples, each demonstrating the power of social change in their communities and positively impacting over 2 million people.

The CII Foundation continues to support the examples through a range of initiatives to build leadership and to create social impact.

women are interesting and present in diverse areas of work activity is a reality, research, and policy. The well-known Soviet sociologist and feminist scholar, Vera Kuznetsov, states that in the Soviet Union, as in the United States, women are not only doing the housework but also the heavy work. In the Soviet Union, women are doing the heavy work in the factories and in the fields. In the United States, women are doing the heavy work in the factories and in the fields. In the Soviet Union, women are doing the heavy work in the factories and in the fields. In the United States, women are doing the heavy work in the factories and in the fields.

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Mr. CIL said that the group recognized the need for a new leader since the current one had indicated that he was leaving to pursue a career in the private sector. The group also recognized the need for a new leader since the current one had indicated that he was leaving to pursue a career in the private sector.

2 Garhwal Post

www.garhwalpost.in

Dehradun, 4 June, 2025

Dehradun

CII Woman Exemplar Award 2025

Work of grassroots women is shaping India: Minister Annpurna Devi

Women Leading the Charge for Social Change: CII Woman Exemplar Awards

20-26 June, 2025

Garhwal Post Bureau

NEW DELHI, 3 June: "These grassroots women have emerged out of small villages, overcome many challenges, to become the champions of change and 'self-making' skills," said Annpurna Devi, Minister of Women and Child Development, as she presented the CII Women Exemplar Award 2025 to the winners of a contest to 'Women Leading the Charge for Social Change'. (CII Woman Exemplar Awards) at the CII Annual General Meeting and the Annual Business Summit 2025.

The status of women is a key indicator of a country's progress. The end, adding that

workshop are progressing and greater in diverse areas of work, as 'making' their own lives. Several Government schemes such as Prati Bhavati, Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, to support women, emphasising the Government's vision of women-led development. Women play a pivotal role in building the vision of Vision 2047, the most Ambitious of the world initiatives in supporting and promoting women, will uplift everyone to go forward to support women to meet India's goal of being 'Vishat' India by 2047.

The CII Woman Exemplar Award honours grassroots

women leaders from rural and underrepresented communities who have achieved diverse goals in their lives. The award is given to women who have made significant contributions in their respective fields. This year, a new award category, Community Development, has been introduced to honour women who are fostering change in their communities through a range of initiatives. The existing award categories, such as Education and Women's Empowerment, remain intact.

Annpurna Devi, Minister, Tamil Nadu, included in the award in the Community Development category. Preeti Shukla (from Meerut, Haryana), is the Hindi category. Venka Annapurna Devi

from Karnataka, Maharashtra, in the Education category, and Harima from Madhya Pradesh, in the Women's Empowerment category. Each woman received a certificate, a trophy, and a cash prize of Rs. 2 lakh. Over 500 nominations were received in the Award, and an eminent jury selected the finalists based on their impact, leadership, and potential to create change in their respective communities.

Appreciating the determination and resilience of the women exemplars who have emerged as iconic leaders despite their challenges, Sarita Prasad, CII President, CII said, "These women represent the spirit of India that never gives up."

Chandana Banerjee,

Director, Gender, CII, said, "CII has been recognising grassroots women leaders since 2005. It has showcased that women have done tremendous work to drive social change and are capable of doing so much more with the right support."

These women exemplars are now part of a prestigious national network of grassroots women leaders. CII is committed to supporting and showcasing the contributions of women exemplars, including significant support in their communities and leadership, impacting over 20 million lives annually. The CII Foundation continues to support the exemplars through a range of initiatives to build their capacity, to create social

INTERNATIONAL WIDOW'S DAY: NOT LEAVING WIDOWS BEHIND

EMPOWERING LIVES WITH OPPORTUNITY AND DIGNITY

To mark International Widows' Day 2025, the CII Foundation, in partnership with The Loomba Foundation, hosted a special programme in New Delhi on 23 June 2025. The event brought together voices from international organisations, civil society, the Army Women's Welfare Association (AWWA), and most importantly, women and young adults with lived experience of personal loss, to spotlight the challenges widows face and underline the need for inclusive, dignified support systems.

This program builds on the momentum of Her Skill, Her Future—an initiative launched earlier this year by the CII Foundation and The Loomba Foundation in collaboration with the Women's Collective Forum. The programme aims to equip 1,00,000 widows with livelihood skills, resources, and a path to financial independence.

In her keynote address, Ms. Smriti Irani, Vice President, The Loomba Foundation, Former Union Cabinet Minister, Government of India and Chairperson and Founder, Alliance for Global Good: Gender Equity & Equality, spoke on the need for stronger systems that uphold widows' rights. "From succession rights to mental well-being, widows deserve legal clarity, systemic support, and public recognition," she said.

Mrs. Sunita Dwivedi, President, Army Women's Welfare Association (AWWA), applauded the widows for their strength and resilience and said "Rising again after life's broken pieces is something we all can learn from our brave widow sisters. You are our role models—courageous, resilient, and full of grace." She also shared initiatives by AWAA to help widows, and their dependents lead a life of dignity.

Highlighting the universal nature of the issues that widows face, Ms. Sally Taylor, Minister Counsellor - Development, Climate, Science and Technology at the British High Commission, emphasized the importance of data to ensure an equitable system that would benefit widows. "When we have gender-disaggregated data, we can create policies that are inclusive, evidence-based, and truly equitable. This is essential if we are to leave no one behind."

Bringing a personal lens to the discussion, Ms Kanta Singh, Deputy Country Representative, UN Women India, and Ms Chahavi Moodgal, Founding CEO, IIMA Endowment Fund and Advisor to the IIM Calcutta Endowment shared their lived experiences of losing their fathers and witnessing the social and other barriers their mothers struggled with.



They emphasized the need for building systems and policies that recognise the unique realities of widows to help them lead a life of dignity.

Dr Sandeep Marwah, Founder-President of the Asian Academy of Film and Television and Noida Film City spoke of the need for equity and emphasized the role of media in advancing the voices of widows, while offering his media platforms to amplify the voices.

A deeply moving segment titled "Voices of Resilience: She Rises" featured stories from widows and young adults who had lost a parent. They spoke of grief, resilience, community support, and hope.

The event also included a small felicitation to honour these individuals for their courage and strength.

The programme concluded with a collective call to action, to ensure that the rights, inclusion, and dignity of widows are prioritised across policy and society.





WASTE MANAGEMENT



EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES FOR A GREENER TOMORROW

Rapid urbanisation and population growth have placed increasing strain on local waste systems, with uncollected garbage, plastic-choked drains, and untreated waste harming both ecosystems and public health. Recognising the urgent need for intervention, the CII Foundation is implementing an integrated Waste Management initiative across multiple regions—including Farrukhnagar in Haryana, Kochi in Kerala, and Leh in Ladakh.

The programme adopts a collaborative, community-led approach tailored to local needs. It integrates awareness generation, infrastructure strengthening, and capacity building to create sustainable waste management ecosystems that protect the environment and enhance the dignity and safety of waste workers.

Key Components of the Program

Creating
Awareness and
Catalysing Civic
Engagement

Strengthening
Waste
Management
Infrastructure

Building Skills of
Waste Workers
and Enhancing
their Safety

CHELODE CHELLANAM WASTE MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE, KOCHI, KERALA

In Chellanam, Kerala, CII Foundation has been working with GIC Re and the Chellanam Grama Panchayat to develop a community-led waste management model since March 2024. As part of the World Environment Day 2025 celebration, fruit saplings were planted across public spaces and schools with support from Haritha Karma Sena members and local volunteers.



The event was inaugurated by Shri K. L. Joseph, President of Chellanam Grama Panchayat, who also joined students and residents in the plantation activity. The initiative not only aims to improve green cover but also encourages long-term behavioural change around waste segregation and plastic use.



WASTE MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE, LEH, LADAKH

The CII Foundation, in partnership with HDFC Bank, has been working to strengthen waste management systems in two blocks of Leh district—Kharu and Chuchot. As part of this ongoing initiative, a large-scale clean-up drive was conducted on 5 June 2025 at Chushod Market Zampa, under the theme “Working Towards Ending Plastic Pollution.”

Organised in collaboration with the Block Development Office, the drive saw enthusiastic participation from over 150 volunteers representing civil society groups, educational institutions, and local governing bodies.

The program was inaugurated by Mr. Mirza Hussain, Councillor, Chuchot, who served as Chief Guest. Also present were Shri Ghulam Mohhamed Mir, Block Development Officer, Chuchot; Mr. Nawang Thinley, Former Chairman, CII Foundation; Ms. Deskit Yangdol, Manager, HDFC Bank; Mr. Fayaz Ahmed, President, Merchants Association; Nambardars from Stok, Matho, Chuchot Yokma, and Chuchot Gongma, along with RDD staff and SRMC supervisors.



School students and teachers from Government Higher Secondary School, Chuchot Shamma; St. Peter's School; Imamia Mission School, Chuchot Yokma; and Siddhartha High School, Stok, also participated actively in the drive.

The campaign focused on plastic waste removal, awareness building on the dangers of single-use plastic, and encouraging waste segregation and responsible disposal practices—especially among local shopkeepers and market vendors.

Speakers stressed the importance of community-led solutions to tackle the plastic crisis, particularly in ecologically sensitive mountain environments like Ladakh.

As part of the initiative, certificates of appreciation were awarded to winning schools of the mural painting competition held at the Solid Resource Management Centre (SRMC), Chuchot—celebrating youth engagement and creativity in environmental action.



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For feedback and suggestions please contact Priya Shirali, Head - Communication at Priya.Shirali@cii.in

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