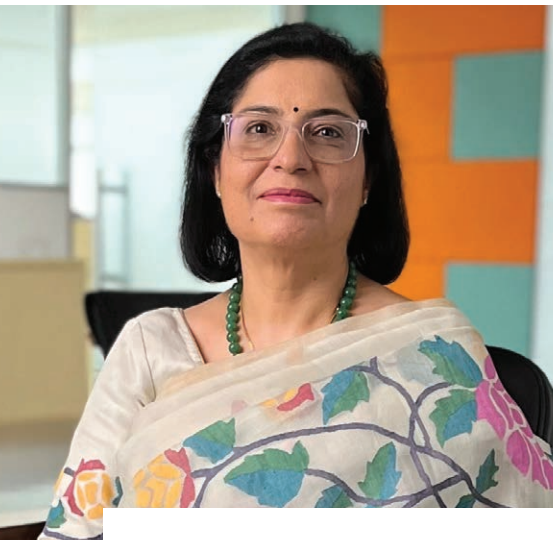


Connect

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Seema Arora
CEO
CII Foundation

“
As I look back at 2024, I am proud of the achievements of CII Foundation and see tremendous potential to accelerate our journey of driving impactful change.
”

The beginning of the year is the perfect time to pause and reflect on our collective journey, celebrate milestones, and renew our commitment with hope and determination to create more meaningful impact. As I look back at 2024, I am proud of the achievements of CII Foundation and see tremendous potential to accelerate our journey of driving impactful change. We have scaled up our projects and expanded our geographic footprint, pushing the envelope with the help of our supporters and partners.

The crop residue management program which combats air pollution and promotes sustainable agriculture by mitigating stubble burning has made significant strides. From engaging with 432 villages in 2023, the initiative expanded its reach to 793 villages in 2024, amplifying its impact on farmers and communities. While scaling solutions, we strengthened focus on ex-situ management of stubble. This transformed the perception of stubble from being a waste to a resource with economic and environmental value by utilizing it to produce biogas and bio-compost.

Jatana village in Punjab has emerged as a model village with zero stubble burning with CII Foundation's interventions.

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A key highlight of the year gone by was the visit of a distinguished delegation with senior officials to the village, including Smt. S. Rukmani, Joint Secretary (M&T), Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, and Shri Arvind Nautiyal, Member Secretary, Commission for Air Quality Management. The delegation observed the remarkable impact of the initiative, and the visit underscored the transformative power of collaborative efforts, providing validation for our approach and inspiring further innovation.

The CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Program continues to empower grassroots leadership among women across India. For the Woman Exemplar Award 2025, we received an overwhelming 420 nominations from diverse corners of the country, reflecting the program's growing reach and resonance. Adding to the momentum, a fourth category of awards was introduced, expanding the scope of recognition and empowerment for greater social good. To further build the capacity of the woman exemplars, a new Peer Learning Exchange Program was launched last year. Leveraging the knowledge and expertise of our woman exemplars, the program enabled peer-to-peer learning through a comprehensive curriculum.

Our Waste Management initiatives are growing steadily, addressing critical challenges of waste disposal and environmental sustainability. The project is gathering pace in Leh, Ladakh; rural Gurugram in Haryana and Kochi in Kerala. In a significant milestone, the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh inaugurated a solid waste management facility in Leh, a step forward in ensuring cleaner environments. We continue to strengthen Anganwadi Centres for effective delivery of early childhood education and have added Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu to our project areas.

As India moves towards achieving the vision of 'Viksit Bharat', every initiative, every effort is a building block and the CII Foundation remains committed to working on social and environmental challenges through a collaborative approach, leveraging the expertise and support of multiple stakeholders including government, industry, academia and the communities we work with.

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We begin our journey in 2025 with optimism and a sense of purpose. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our partners and supporters for their steadfast support and look forward to having more committed corporates and individuals join us as together we can achieve so much more.

Wishing you all a successful and fulfilling 2025!





CLIMATE CHANGE

CROP RESIDUE MANAGEMENT

Air quality in Northern India has become a recurring concern, especially during winters, as smog blankets the region. In the national capital, the Air Quality Index (AQI) has frequently hovered between 'severe' and 'very poor,' often surpassing 400—a level deemed 'hazardous' by the World Health Organization.

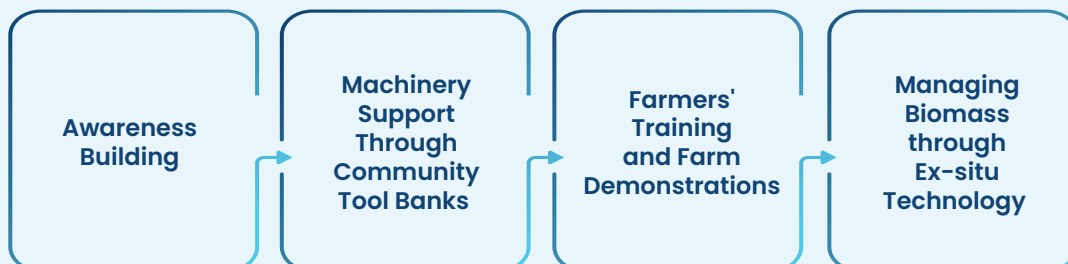
A major factor fuelling the rise in air pollution is crop residue burning, a practice that intensifies in October and November when farmers in Punjab and Haryana prepare their fields for the next planting season. It not only worsens air pollution, but also depletes soil quality by killing vital micro-organisms, and reduces

soil fertility leading to lower farm yields and farmer incomes over the long term.

To address this pressing issue, the CII Foundation launched its Crop Residue Management (CRM) initiative in Punjab in 2018, collaborating with government, industry, and farming communities.

In the October-December 2024 quarter, a critical period for stubble burning, the groundwork was intensified with extensive awareness campaigns, machinery and training support to farmers for sustainable stubble management. The geographic footprint of the project was also significantly expanded to 793 villages across Punjab and Haryana.

Key Components of the Program



EXPANDING GEOGRAPHIC FOOTPRINT

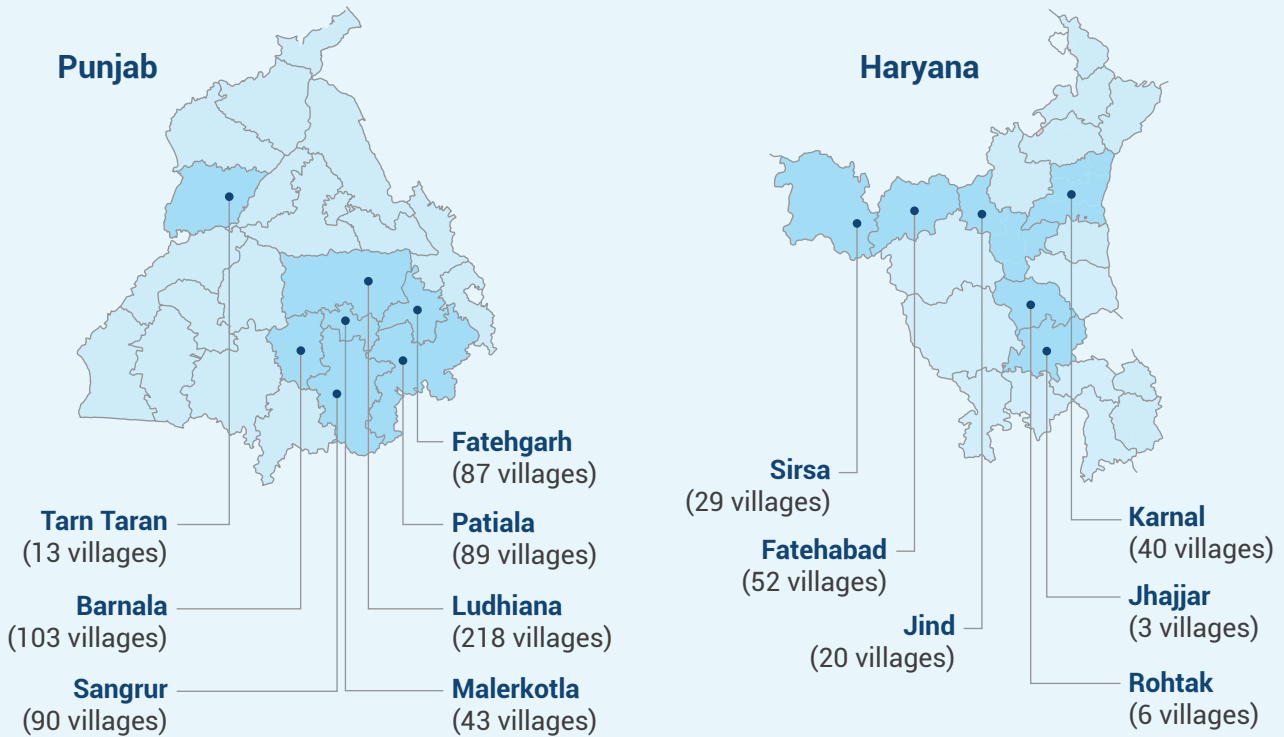
CII Foundation, in collaboration with HDFC Bank under its CSR brand Parivartan, launched a Crop Residue Management initiative in Bhawanigarh, Sangrur district, Punjab, on 28th October 2024, bringing sustainable solutions to stubble burning across 65 villages, covering 55,935 acres of farmland and supporting 7,095 farmers. This effort adds to the existing 134 villages in Ludhiana, Punjab, and 30 villages in Fatehabad, Haryana, expanding the total to 229 active project villages.

The event, held at Gurudwara Sahib in Majhi Village, was attended by over 350 farmers, students, and key dignitaries including Mrs. Narinder Kaur Bharaj, MLA, Sangrur; Mr. Sandeep Rishi, Deputy Commissioner, Sangrur; Mr. Rajwinder Kumar Bansal, Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Bhawanigarh; Mr. Rajwant Singh Ghuli, In-charge of the CM Camp Office; Mr. Harbans Singh Chehal, Chief Agriculture Officer, Sangrur and senior representatives from HDFC Bank, including Mrs. Bharti Kapoor, Zonal Head; Mr. Sumesh Grover, Cluster Head; Ms. Anjali Puri, Regional Head for Government-Sponsored Schemes and Ms. Anjali Thakur, Project Manager for CSR.

The event featured community engagement activities, including a flag-off ceremony, project briefings, and machinery demonstrations. Students from Government Senior Secondary School led a rally, held a drawing competition, and performed a nukkad natak (street play) to raise awareness about the impact of stubble burning. The event also honoured Secretaries from 23 farmer cooperative societies for promoting sustainable agricultural practices.



Project Coverage in 2024-25: 793 Villages



FARMER OUTREACH EVENTS



A series of farmer outreach events were held in October in Ludhiana and Fatehabad in villages supported by HDFC Bank, under its CSR brand Parivartan, and CII Foundation to mobilize farmers in mitigating stubble burning and adopting environmentally friendly crop residue management practices.

On 23rd October 2024, a farmer outreach event was held in Khanna, Ludhiana. The event was graced by prominent figures, including Chief Guest Mr. Baljinder Singh, SDM, Khanna; Mrs. Navjot Kaur and Mrs. Harpuneet Kaur, Agricultural Development Officers (ADOs), Khanna; Mr. Kulwant Singh and Mr. Avtar Singh, representatives from MLA Mr. Tarunpreet Singh Sond's office; Mr. Kuldeep Singh, Sarpanch of Village Goh and Mr. Baldev Singh, President of the Cooperative Society, Village Goh.

The event spotlighted a presentation by Gursimran Singh, a class 8 student from Government Middle School in Village Goh, Khanna. His 3D model illustrated the harmful effects of straw burning and offered alternative solutions, inspiring participants. Other students showcased creatively designed posters promoting environmental awareness, while teachers were honoured for promoting environmental education. Farmers also shared their experiences, highlighting the benefits of sustainable practices and the positive impact on their livelihoods.

In season 2024, 53 machines were provided to support small and marginal farmers, enabling them to adopt improved straw management techniques. At the Khanna event, three additional machines were distributed.

Another event was held on 24th October 2024 in Bhunderwas, Ratia, Fatehabad district graced by key dignitaries including Mr. Jagdish Chander, SDM, Ratia;



Dr. Pawan Jayani, Assistant Agriculture Engineer (AAE), Fatehabad; Dr. Sandeep Kumar, Block Agriculture Officer and Mr. Pankaj Sethi, Senior Technician, Northern Region Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institute (NRFMTTI), Hisar who addressed the gathering, emphasizing the urgent need to adopt sustainable alternatives to stubble burning.

At the event, a flag-off ceremony was held for the in-situ machines, followed by field demonstrations showcasing their functionality, with SDM Mr. Jagdish Chander personally driving a tractor to promote the use of in-situ machinery in the field.

The CII Foundation and PTC India Financial Services Limited (PFS) in collaboration with the District Administration of Fatehgarh Sahib, organized a farmer field day on 24th October 2024 at Sanghol Village, Punjab, engaging over 150 farmers to promote sustainable agricultural practices.

Present on the occasion were Mrs. Manreet Rana (PCS), Sub Divisional Magistrate, Khamanon; Mr. Jaswinder Singh, Agriculture Officer, Khamanon; Mrs. Harpreet Kaur, Assistant Registrar, Khamanon; Dr. Lovleen Bains, Dean of Extension Cell at Guru Nanak National College, Doraha and other local officials.

Students from Guru Nanak National College and Government Boys High School led an awareness rally, distributed pamphlets, and performed a nukkad natak (street play) on sustainable farming practices. Demonstrations of advanced agricultural machinery and the PUSA Decomposer which aids in rapid crop residue degradation provided practical alternatives to stubble burning.



Since 2019, CII Foundation and PFS have been implementing CRM initiatives in the region. In season 2024 the efforts were expanded to an additional 50 villages in the Khamanon cluster, benefiting 3,015 farmers across 30,006 acres who were also provided 48 in-situ machines.

CII Foundation, in collaboration with Cadence organized a Farmer Outreach Event in Bhuna, Fatehabad, on 25th October 2024. Held at the Community Centre in Dullat village, the event brought together over 150 farmers and dignitaries including Dr. Bhim Singh Kulharia, Sub Divisional Agriculture Officer (SDAO); Dr. Pawan Jayani, Assistant Agriculture Engineer (AAE), Fatehabad; Mr. Rajesh Sain, Block Agriculture Officer (In-charge of Soil Testing); Mr. Pankaj Sethi, Senior Technician, Northern Region Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institute (NRFMTTI) Hisar; Mr. Mohammad Asim Khan, Head-CSR, Cadence Design Systems and other local officials. They shared valuable insights on CRM techniques, government schemes, and technical support for sustainable practices.

In season 2024, Cadence and CII Foundation supported 1,520 farmers across 15,400 acres in Fatehabad.



SETTING NEW BENCHMARKS

MODEL VILLAGE IN PUNJAB VISITED BY AGRICULTURE MINISTRY DELEGATION

On 14th November last year, a distinguished delegation from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Commission for Air Quality Management visited Jatana village, Punjab, to witness the impact of CII Foundation's crop residue management initiative in partnership with HDFC Bank under its CSR brand, Parivartan. Led by Smt. S. Rukmani, Joint Secretary (M&T), Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, and Shri Arvind Nautiyal, Member Secretary of the Commission for Air Quality Management, along with other officials, the team observed firsthand the transformative impact of our efforts.

Adopted by CII Foundation in 2023, Jatana has emerged as a model village with no reported cases of stubble burning in season 2024. The use of advanced machinery like Happy Seeder and Super Seeder has enhanced soil health, reduced air pollution, and boosted agricultural productivity. The support and guidance from government agencies have been instrumental in driving this change. The delegation was impressed by the village's commitment to sustainable practices and the tangible results achieved.



SHOWCASING CRM AT THE CII AGROTECH 2024



The CII Foundation showcased its CRM initiative at AgroTech India - Krishi Bharat 2024, held from 15th–18th November 2024 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

As part of the event, the Foundation facilitated a 'Kisan Goshthee' on 16th November which brought together over 550 farmers, experts, and innovators to discuss environment-friendly crop residue management and sustainable agriculture. The session was led by Mr. Chandrakant Pradhan, Lead - Climate Resilience, CII Foundation, with Mr. Asim, Head CSR, Cadence Design Systems; Mr. Gursewak Bawa, VP, Dashmesh Group; Mr. Dipesh Kumar, Sales Representative, Ecostan India Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. Sukhvinder Singh, an award-winning farmer from Sirsa; Mr. Kuldeep Singh, a drone entrepreneur and farmer leader from Rohtak and Mr. Rajpal Singh, a progressive farmer from Patiala participating.

They shared their perspectives on the environmental impact of stubble burning, available CRM technologies, government subsidies, and the role of collaborative

efforts in promoting sustainable agriculture. Farmers shared their successful experiences, and an interactive Q&A session provided clarity on CRM practices.

In addition to the Kisan Goshthee, a special stall showcased the efforts under CII Sustainable Development Initiatives. This included the work of the CII Business Support Unit for Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), in collaboration with CII-FACE (CII Food and Agriculture Centre of Excellence), aimed at strengthening FPOs by enhancing market access, building capacity, and promoting innovative farming practices, along with the CRM initiative.



CELEBRATING WORLD SOIL DAY



World Soil Day 2024 was celebrated with great enthusiasm on 5th December 2024 by marking the significant achievement of zero stubble burning in the village of Polo Majra, Fatehgarh Sahib district, Punjab. This remarkable milestone was the result of collaborative efforts between the District Administration, PTC India Financial Services Limited (PFS), CII Foundation, and the farmers of Polo Majra.

The event was graced by several key dignitaries, including Mrs. Manreet Rana (PCS), Sub Divisional Magistrate, Khamanon; Mr. Dharmenderjit Singh Sidhu, Chief Agriculture Officer, Fatehgarh Sahib; Ms. Shinaaz Mittal and Ms. Suchrit Kaur Cheema, Deputy Registrars of Fatehgarh Sahib and Ropar, respectively; Mrs. Harpreet Kaur, Assistant Registrar, Khamanon; Superintendent Surpinder Kaur; Mr. Jaswinder Singh, Agriculture Officer, Khamanon and Mr. Navpreet Singh, Cooperative Inspector.

Addressing the gathering, Mrs. Manreet Rana lauded the efforts of the village, stating, "Burning stubble neither increases income nor benefits farms. Instead, it degrades soil and pollutes the environment. Polo Majra's success in achieving zero stubble burning is a step towards healthier soil and a cleaner environment."

The event recognized and honoured farmers who embraced eco-friendly stubble-management practices.

AMPLIFYING MESSAGING THROUGH MEDIA OUTREACH

To amplify the message of zero stubble burning through media, media familiarisation trips were organized with teams from leading media such as Door Darshan News and Financial Express. They were taken to the field to see first-hand the project interventions and speak to farmers and other on-ground stakeholders.



सीआईआई फाऊंडेशन और कैडेंस ने फतेहाबाद के भूना में फसल अवशेष प्रबंधन किसान जागरूकता कार्यक्रम किया



सवेरा न्यूज/ह.स. फतेहाबाद : सीआईआई फाऊंडेशन ने कैडेंस डिजाइन सिस्टम्स के साथ मिल कर फतेहाबाद जिले के भूना ब्लॉक में अपने फसल अवशेष प्रबंधन (सीआरएम) पहल को विस्तारित करने के लिए एक किसान जागरूकता कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया। यह कार्यक्रम म दुलत गाँव के सामुदायिक केंद्र में आयोजित किया गया, जिसमें 150 से अधिक स्थानीय किसान और गणमान्य लोग उपस्थित थे। इस अवसर पर बोलते हुए, एसडीएम, डॉ. भीम सिंह कुल्हारिया ने कहा कि सीआईआई फाऊंडेशन की सीआरएम पहल पराली जलाने की गंभीर समस्या को संबोधित करने का एक सराहनीय प्रयास है। किसानों को आवश्यक उपकरण और ज्ञान देकर, हम वायु प्रदूषण को काफी हद तक कम कर सकते हैं और मिट्टी के स्वास्थ्य में सुधार कर सकते हैं। एएई डॉ. पवन ज्यानी ने कहा कि सरकार की

रतिया, 25 अक्टूबर (ज़ेडई): उप मंडलाधीश जगदीश चंद्र की अध्यक्षता में गांव भूदंडवास में आयोजित कार्यक्रम सी.आई.आई. फाऊंडेशन ने 14 किसानों को सुपर सीडर विक्रीत किए। इस दौरान एस.डी.एम. ने स्वयं खेतों में सुपर सीडर चलाकर इन-सीट करने के लिए किसानों को जागरूक किया। उन्होंने फसल अवशेष प्रबंधन के प्रभावी उपयोग के बारे में जानकारी प्रदान की व फसल अवशेष प्रबंधन बारे में बताया। उन्होंने बताया कि प्रोत्साहन राशि के लिए कृषि तथा किसान कल्याण विभाग के पोर्टल पर पंजीकरण करें। उन्होंने कहा कि फसल अवशेष को खेतों में मिलाने के साथ-साथ उसकी गंठे बनाने पर भी किसान को 1,000 रुपये प्रति एकड़ प्रोत्साहन राशि दी जाएगी। इससे पहले डा. पवन ज्यानी ने किसानों के लिए सी.आर.एम., आपूर्ति श्रृंखला और सब्सिडी से संबंधित सरकारी योजनाओं पर उन्हीं किसानों को सी.आई.आई. फाऊंडेशन द्वारा प्रदान किए उपकरणों को अपनाने और उपयोग करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया। ब्लॉक कृषि अधिकारी डा. सदीप कुमार ने सी.आई.आई. फाऊंडेशन की भूना में पिछली परियोजनाओं और कोविड-19 महामारी के दौरान इसके समर्थन पर चर्चा की। उन्होंने किसान कल्याण के प्रति फाऊंडेशन की प्रतिबद्धता की सहानुभूति की और रतिया ब्लॉक में स्टबल न अवसर पर एन.आर.एफ.एम.टी. आई हिसार के वरिष्ठ एग्रीकल्चरल प्रोफेसर सेठी ने संस्थान की प्रशिक्षण, मशीनरी परीक्षण और किसानों के लिए विभिन्न कार्यक्रमों की भूमिका पर प्रकाश डाला। उन्होंने किसानों को बायोमास का प्रबंधन करने और स्टबल जलाने से बचने के लिए कुशल प्रौद्योगिकी और मशीनरी अपनाने के लिए प्रेरित किया। इस मौके पर कृषि विभाग के अधिकारी व अन्य

पराली की समस्या से निपटने के लिए एकजुट हुए पीटीसी इंडिया फाइनैशियल सर्विसेज लिमिटेड और सीआईआई फाऊंडेशन



सीआईआई फाऊंडेशन और एचडीएफसी बैंक ने संगरूर में सस्टेनेबल क्रॉप रेसिड्यू मैनेजमेंट के लिए प्रोजेक्ट लांच किया

सवेरा न्यूज संगरूर, 29 अक्टूबर: एचडीएफसी बैंक ने अपने सीएसआर ब्रांड परिवर्तन के तहत और सीआईआई फाऊंडेशन ने मिलकर संगरूर जिले के भवानीगढ़ ब्लॉक में गुरुद्वारा साहिब, माझी गाँव में एक व्यापक फसल अवशेष प्रबंधन पहल शुरू की। इस दौरान नरिंदर कौर भारज (विधायक भवानीगढ़), सदीप ऋषि (डिप्टी कमिश्नर, संगरूर), राजविरंद कुमार बंसल (एसडीएम, भवानीगढ़) की उपस्थिति में हुआ। राजवंत सिंह गुली (प्रभारी, सीएम कैप कार्यालय), हरबंस सिंह चेहेल (मुख्य कृषि अधिकारी, संगरूर) सपिंदर कौर (सहायक रजिस्ट्रार, सहकारी समितियाँ, भवानीगढ़) भी उपस्थित रहे। इसके अलावा एचडीएफसी बैंक के वरिष्ठ अधिकारी, भारती कपूर, जोनल हेड, एचडीएफसी बैंक, सुमेश प्रोचर कलस्टर हेड, एचडीएफसी बैंक; अंजलि पुरी रीजनल हेड गवर्नमेंट सॉल्यूशंस एचडीएफसी बैंक; अंजलि ठाकुर प्रोजेक्ट मैनेजर, सीएसआर, एचडीएफसी बैंक और



सीआईआई फाऊंडेशन के प्रतिनिधि, चंद्रकांत प्रधान कार्यक्रम प्रमुख, क्लाहमेट चेंज टीम ने भी इस कार्यक्रम में भाग लिया। इस कार्यक्रम में 350 से ज्यादा किसान, 50 स्कूली छात्र और अन्य स्टेकहोल्डर्स शामिल हुए। इस इनिशिएटिव का उद्देश्य किसानों को 64 इन सीट मशीनों उपलब्ध कराकर और जागरूकता तथा बिहेवियरल चेंज प्रैक्टिस को बढ़ावा देकर क्षेत्र में पराली जलाने की दर को कम करना है। यह परियोजना भवानीगढ़ ब्लॉक के 65 गाँवों को कवर करती है, जिससे लगभग 55,935 एकड़ कृषि भूमि प्रभावित होती है और 7,095 से ज्यादा किसान लाभान्वित होते हैं। संगरूर के डिप्टी कमिश्नर (डीसी) सदीप ऋषि ने कार्यक्रम की सराहना करते हुए कहा कि सीआईआई फाऊंडेशन और एचडीएफसी बैंक की पहल सरकार के टिकाऊ कृषि के दृष्टिकोण के अनुरूप है। उन्होंने कहा कि इस ब्लॉक में रणनीतिक हस्तक्षेप के माध्यम से पराली जलाने की दर में 50 प्रतिशत की कमी आई है। एचडीएफसी बैंक के कलस्टर हेड सुमेश प्रोचर ने कहा कि हमारे सीएसआर प्रोजेक्ट्स किसानों और एचडीएफसी बैंक के बीच रिश्तों को मजबूत बनाते हैं। एचडीएफसी बैंक पराली जलाने जैसी समस्याओं से निपटने और किसानों के लिए स्वच्छ हवा और बेहतर जीवन सुनिश्चित करने में किसानों का समर्थन करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है।

सवेरा न्यूज/स.ह. डिवीजनल मैजस्ट्रेट मनरीत राणा (पीसीएस), खमनोन के कृषि अधिकारी जसविंदर सिंह, खमनोन की सहायक रजिस्ट्रार हरप्रीत कौर, गुरु नानक नेशनल कॉलेज, दोराहा के एक्सटेंशन सेल की डीन डॉ. लवलीन बैस, संघोल गाँव के सरपंच श्री पुशन राणा, सीआईआई के प्रधान सलाहकार सुनील कुमार मिश्रा और संघोल सहकारी समिति के उपाध्यक्ष दविंदर सिंह सहित प्रमुख अधिकारियों ने सक्रिय रूप से भाग लिया तथा इस मुद्दे के महत्व के बारे में विस्तृत जानकारी दी। सब डिवीजनल मैजस्ट्रेट मनरीत राणा (पीसीएस) ने वायु प्रदूषण से मानव स्वास्थ्य पर होने खतरों के बारे में बात की, जो खेतों में पराली जलाने के कारण और भी बढ़ गया है। इस अवसर पर खमनोन की सब



सीआईआई फाउंडेशन रोहतक जिले के 6 गांवों में सक्रिय

सलाह

उत्तरी गुजरात में इस समय सरसों की बुवाई का काम पूरा कर

सीआईआई फाउंडेशन और एचडीएफसी बैंक ने संगरूर में सस्टेनेबल क्राप रेसिड्यू मैनेजमेंट के लिए प्रोजेक्ट लांच किया

लोकल न्यूज ऑफ इंडिया, सगरूर। एचडीएफसी बैंक ने अपने सीआईआई फाउंडेशन के सहित और सीआईआई फाउंडेशन ने मिल कर रोहतक जिले के अग्रणी कृषि क्षेत्रों में प्रस्तावित, मज्जी गांव में एक नए प्रकार के सस्टेनेबल क्राप रेसिड्यू मैनेजमेंट प्रोजेक्ट का शुभारंभ किया। यह कार्यक्रम श्रीमती नरिंदर कौर भाउर (विचारक अग्रणी), सीआईआई फाउंडेशन, रोहतक, श्री राजवेंद्र कुमार शंकर (एचडीएफसी बैंक) की उपस्थिति में हुआ।



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हरियाणा वाटिका/ब्यूरो फतेहाबाद, 01 नवंबर। सीआईआई फाउंडेशन ने कैडेंस डिजाइन सिस्टम्स के साथ मिल कर फतेहाबाद जिले के भूना ब्लॉक में अपने फसल अवशेष प्रबंधन (सीआरएम) पहल को विस्तारित करने के लिए एक किसान जागरूकता कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया। यह कार्यक्रम भूना गांव के समुदायिक केंद्र में आयोजित किया गया, जिसमें 150 से अधिक स्थानीय किसान और नपानन लोग उपस्थित थे। 2019 में शुरू की गई सीआईआई फाउंडेशन की सीआरएम पहल फसल अवशेष प्रबंधन के क्षेत्र में



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CII Foundation and Cadence Conduct a Crop Residue Management Farmer Outreach Event in Bhuna, Fatehabad

FATEHABAD: The CII Foundation, in partnership with Cadence Design Systems, today organized a Farmer Outreach Event to expand its Crop Residue Management (CRM) initiative in the Bhuna block of Fatehabad district. The event, held at the Community Centre in Dullat village, brought together over 150 local farmers and dignitaries. Launched in 2019, the CII Foundation's CRM initiative has already made a significant impact. This year, the project is further expanding its reach and the CII Foundation and Cadence Design Systems will support an additional 1,520 farmers across 15,400 acres in Fatehabad. The primary goal remains to reduce stubble burning and promote sustainable agricultural practices. To further strengthen the initiative, 10 new in-situ machines will be distributed this year. In addition to the 36 machines already provided. Speaking at the occasion, SDAO, Dr. Bhim Singh Kulhara said "The CII Foundation's CRM initiative is a com-



लोकल न्यूज ऑफ इंडिया, फतेहाबाद, 01 नवंबर। सीआईआई फाउंडेशन ने कैडेंस डिजाइन सिस्टम्स के साथ मिल कर फतेहाबाद जिले के भूना ब्लॉक में अपने फसल अवशेष प्रबंधन (सीआरएम) पहल को विस्तारित करने के लिए एक किसान जागरूकता कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया। यह कार्यक्रम भूना गांव के समुदायिक केंद्र में आयोजित किया गया, जिसमें 150 से अधिक स्थानीय किसान और नपानन लोग उपस्थित थे। 2019 में शुरू की गई सीआईआई फाउंडेशन की सीआरएम पहल फसल अवशेष प्रबंधन के क्षेत्र में

PTC India Financial Services Limited and CII Foundation Lead Farmer Campaign in Fatehgarh Sahib

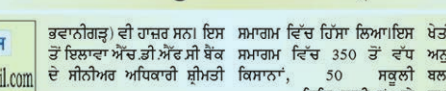
Fatehgarh Sahib - PTC India Financial Services Limited (PFS) and the CII Foundation, in partnership with the District Administration of Fatehgarh Sahib, have intensified their efforts to mitigate farm stubble burning and promote sustainable agricultural practices through comprehensive field campaigns in the region. Today over 150 farmers gathered in Fatehgarh Sahib to launch the campaign. Key authorities including Mrs. Manreet Rana (PCS), Sub Divisional Magistrate, College, Doraha; Mr. Pushan Rana, Sarpanch of Sangholi Village, Mr. Sunil

CII foundation and HDFC Bank conduct project launch event

ANGRUR: HDFC Bank, under its CSR brand, Parivartan, and the CII Foundation launched a comprehensive Crop Residue Management (CRM) initiative in the Bhawanigarh block of Sangrur district at Gurudwara Sahib, Majhi Village on 28th October 2024. The event took place in the presence of Mrs. Narinder Kaur Bharaj - MLA Bhawanigarh, Mr. Sandeep Rishi - Deputy Commissioner, Sangrur, Mr. Rajwinder Kumar Bansal - SDM, Bhawanigarh; Mr. Rajwant Singh Ghuli - Incharge, CM Camp Office; Mr. Harbans Singh Chehal - Chief Agriculture Officer, Sangrur; Mrs. Sapinder Kaur - Assistant Registrar, Cooperative Societies, Bhawanigarh. The senior leaders from HDFC Bank, Mrs. Bharti Kapoor - Zonal Head, HDFC Bank; Mr. Sumesh Grover - Cluster Head, HDFC Bank; Anjali Puri - Regional Head for Government sponsored schemes, HDFC Bank; Anjali Thakur - Project Manager, CSR, HDFC Bank and representative from CII Foundation, Mr. Chandrakant Pradhan - Programme lead, Climate Resilience team were present on the occasion. The event brought together more than 350 farmers, 50 school students, and other stakeholders for the program. This initiative aims to reduce stubble burning in the region by providing 64 in-situ machines to farmers and promoting awareness

सीआईआईआई फाउंडेशन और कैडेंस डिजाइन सिस्टम्स ने फतेहाबाद के भूना में फसल अवशेष प्रबंधन किसान जागरूकता कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया

हरियाणा वाटिका/ब्यूरो फतेहाबाद, 01 नवंबर। सीआईआई फाउंडेशन ने कैडेंस डिजाइन सिस्टम्स के साथ मिल कर फतेहाबाद जिले के भूना ब्लॉक में अपने फसल अवशेष प्रबंधन (सीआरएम) पहल को विस्तारित करने के लिए एक किसान जागरूकता कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया। यह कार्यक्रम भूना गांव के समुदायिक केंद्र में आयोजित किया गया, जिसमें 150 से अधिक स्थानीय किसान और नपानन लोग उपस्थित थे। 2019 में शुरू की गई सीआईआई फाउंडेशन की सीआरएम पहल फसल अवशेष प्रबंधन के क्षेत्र में



इस कार्यक्रम में 350 से ज्यादा किसान, 50 छात्रों का सहित और 7,095 से ज्यादा किसान शामिल हुए। इस कार्यक्रम का उद्देश्य किसानों को 64 इन सिटू मशीनें उपलब्ध कराना और जागरूकता तथा विनिर्देशित प्रथाओं को बढ़ावा देना है। यह प्रोजेक्ट सीआईआई फाउंडेशन के सहित और एचडीएफसी बैंक की सहित सहित प्रथम कार्यक्रम प्रमुख, सस्टेनेबल क्राप रेसिड्यू मैनेजमेंट के 65 गांवों को कवर करती है।

सीआईआईआई फाउंडेशन और कैडेंस डिजाइन सिस्टम्स ने फतेहाबाद के भूना में फसल अवशेष प्रबंधन किसान जागरूकता कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया

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पारली की समस्या से निपटने के लिए एकजुट हुए पीटीसी इण्डिया फाउंडेशन और सीआईआई फाउंडेशन

लोकल न्यूज ऑफ इंडिया, फतेहाबाद साहिब। पीटीसी इण्डिया फाउंडेशन और सीआईआई फाउंडेशन ने फतेहाबाद जिला प्रशासन के साथ साझेदारी में क्षेत्र में व्यापक क्षेत्रीय अभियानों के माध्यम से खेतों में पीटीसी जलाने की समस्या को कम करने और टिकाऊ कृषि प्रथाओं को बढ़ावा देने के लिए अपने प्रयासों को तेज कर दिया है। संघोल गांव में 150 से अधिक किसान एकजुट हुए, जहां उन्हें जागरूकता बढ़ाने वाली गतिविधियों और फसल अवशेषों (पारली) के मैनेज करने के लिए स्थायी तरीकों के प्रदर्शनों में शामिल किया गया। इस अवसर पर खमनोन की सब डिवाइजनल मजिस्ट्रेट श्रीमती मनरीत राणा (पीसीएस), खमनोन के कृषि



राणा, सीआईआई के प्रधान सलाहकार श्री सुनील कुमार मिश्रा और संघोल सहकारी समिति के उपाध्यक्ष श्री दुबिंदर सिंह सहित प्रमुख अधिकारियों ने सक्रिय रूप से भाग लिया तथा इस मुद्दे के महत्व के बारे में विस्तृत जानकारी दी। किसानों को सम्बोधित करते हुए, उन्होंने कहा हमने कोविड-19 के दौरान खुरद को वापस से बचाने के लिए मार्कर पहना था, लेकिन जब हम जिस हवा में सांस लेते हैं वह भी उतनी ही हानिकारक है, ऐसी स्थिति में अभी से कदम उठाना जरूरी है। उन्होंने सहकारी समितियों को दान

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



The CII Foundation has partnered with PTC India Financial Services Limited (PFS) to restore 10 waterbodies across five villages in Farrukhnagar, Gurugram, Haryana and undertake a tree plantation project in rural Gurugram.

Under this initiative, a field visit across five villages in Farrukhnagar was undertaken on 3rd December 2024 to assess ongoing restoration and plantation initiatives while gathering community feedback to enhance project outcomes.

In Taj Nagar, Sarpanch Sh. Shiv Taj, community members, and the Mandir Committee facilitated the site visit. Key sites visited included a restored waterbody, the designated plantation area for the coming year, and a waste management site. The local engagement highlighted the community's commitment to sustainability and conservation.

In Daboda village, the team reviewed a 7-acre plantation site and the waterbody alongwith Sarpanch Sh. Surinder, MNREGA workers, and other beneficiaries. Key suggestions included focusing on plant care to prevent losses by ensuring water and fertilizer availability.



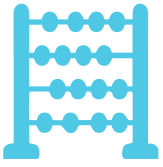
In Basunda village, Sarpanch Sh. Pawan and members of the Mandir Committee facilitated the site visit to a 3-acre plantation area. The interaction reinforced the importance of ensuring continuous maintenance for the success of plantation efforts.

At Khandewla village, Sarpanch Sh. Kuldeep and local residents shared their experiences, offering valuable insights into the project's impact on the 30-acre plantation site and waterbody. The discussions echoed concerns raised in Daboda, with interim measures for waterbody accessibility and protection identified as immediate priorities.

The visit concluded in Hajipur village, where Sarpanch Sh. Dharampal accompanied the team to the waterbody site. The local feedback reinforced the need for short-term solutions, including the installation of signboards and pathways, to enhance accessibility and protect restoration efforts.

Across all five villages, the field visits showcased commendable community participation, with active involvement from Sarpanches, MNREGA workers, local residents, and groups like the Mandir Committees. The collaborative spirit underscored the collective commitment to preserving waterbodies and sustaining plantation efforts.





EDUCATION

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

The early years of a child's life are critically important as they lay the foundation for cognitive and emotional development. In India, early childhood care and education (ECCE) for children up to age 6 is delivered through Anganwadi Centres. However, many Centres offer tremendous opportunities to improve infrastructure and the quality of education and care for children by training and upskilling Anganwadi workers (AWWs).

Recognizing the critical importance of early childhood education (ECE) in shaping a child's potential and

aspirations, the CII Foundation is committed to creating joyful and nurturing spaces for children at the Anganwadi Centres. Through a collaborative, multi-stakeholder approach, the CII Foundation partners with state governments, industry leaders, and local NGOs to enhance infrastructure, equip educators, and foster impactful on-ground change. Between October and December 2024, the program expanded its outreach, adopting additional Anganwadi Centres across new states and intensifying efforts to build the capacity of AWWs.

Key Components of the Program



ANGANWADI STRENGTHENING PROGRAM, KARNATAKA

In the October to December 2024 quarter, the CII Foundation, supported by Volvo Group Trust, expanded its ECE project to four Anganwadi Centres in Chamarajanagar, Karnataka, taking the total number of Centres in Karnataka to 27. These centres were transformed into vibrant learning spaces using the Building as a Learning Aid (BaLA) concept, which transforms traditional brick-and-mortar infrastructure

into dynamic, child-friendly learning environments through engaging wall paintings and other interactive educational art that helps in cognitive and sensory development. Beyond infrastructure upgrades, the program has garnered community involvement, encouraging collective efforts to improve learning outcomes and overall child well-being.



ANGANWADI STRENGTHENING PROGRAM, ANDHRA PRADESH

In partnership with Blue Star Limited, the CII Foundation has launched an Anganwadi strengthening initiative in Tada Mandal, Andhra Pradesh. Under this program, five Anganwadi Centres have been adopted and upgraded with Building as Learning Aid (BaLA)-aligned infrastructure, creating vibrant and engaging learning environments for children. The initiative also emphasizes community involvement, ensuring that local stakeholders actively contribute to the program's success.

highlighted the use of locally sourced, culturally relevant Teaching Learning Material (TLM) offering practical, resourceful solutions for classrooms.

Under this program, an impactful three-day Skill Training Workshop was held in December 2024 for all the AWWs of Tada Mandal. The workshop was conducted in two batches, focusing on ECE. The training brought together 60 enthusiastic AWWs to explore key child development domains and learn innovative ways to make learning engaging and effective. The sessions

The AWWs loved the storytelling session, discovering how simple, locally available material can bring stories to life. The training sparked excitement and readiness to implement these creative techniques in their centres.

Ms. D. Shardamba, Child Development Project Officer (CDPO), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), and representatives from BlueStar ClimaTech Limited, who were present on the occasion appreciated the initiative and CII Foundation's commitment to nurturing early childhood education.

The CII Foundation remains committed to fostering holistic development in young learners by continuing to enhance infrastructure, build capacity, and engage communities across India.





മാലിന്യ സംസ്കരണത്തിനായ്.

- മാലിന്യം നീക്ഷപിക്കാനുള്ള നീക്ഷപമാകാനുള്ളതാണ്
- നല്ല പരിസ്ഥിതി എന്റെ അപകാരം!

WASTE MANAGEMENT

COMMUNITY-LED WASTE MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE

Garbage on roadsides, plastic waste obstructing drainage systems and untreated waste contaminating water bodies are a major health and environmental hazard. In urban densely populated clusters, waste management practices are often inadequate for efficient waste management, posing a risk to human health.

Recognizing the critical need for effective urban waste management, the CII Foundation initiated a community-focussed waste management program in June 2021 in Abul Fazal, Okhla, Delhi. Designed as a collaborative effort with multiple stakeholders, the initiative worked alongside local authorities and the

community to implement comprehensive and impactful solutions in the area.

Building on the success of the Okhla project which ended in 2023, the CII Foundation launched the community waste management program in Farrukhnagar in Haryana; Kochi in Kerala, and Leh in Ladakh. The initiative emphasizes safe waste collection methods and encourages the local recycling of plastics and other material, aiming to establish sustainable waste management systems. These efforts are designed to mitigate environmental pollution and contribute to enhancing the overall quality of life for communities in the project areas.

Key Components of the Program



WASTE MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE IN LEH, LADAKH

The waste management initiative in Leh, undertaken by CII Foundation in collaboration with HDFC Bank under its CSR brand Parivartan, and the Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Department, U.T. of Ladakh, spans 25 villages across Chuchot and Kharu blocks of Leh. It is a holistic program aimed at enhancing community awareness, building capacities,

and strengthening infrastructure to manage waste effectively. Aligned with the objectives of the Swachh Bharat Mission, the project seeks to establish community-managed local recycling solutions for plastic and organic waste, paving the way for 'zero waste villages'.

Inauguration of a Solid Resource Management Centre at Leh



The inauguration of a Solid Resource Management Centre in Chuchot Block, Leh, was held on 30th November 2024. The ceremony was graced by Brig. (Dr.) B.D. Mishra (Retd.), Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, who inaugurated the centre.

Present on the occasion were notable dignitaries, including Dr. Pawan Kotwal, IAS, Advisor to the LG, Ladakh & Chief Secretary; Ms. Shashanka Ala, IAS, Administrative Secretary, RD&PR, UT Ladakh; Lt. Gen. Jai Prakash Nehra, Principal Advisor, CII and senior representatives from Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh, and HDFC Bank. Village development committee members and SHG representatives from 25 project villages also attended the event, reflecting strong community participation.

Speaking on the occasion, Brig. (Dr.) B.D. Mishra (Retd), Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, said that the environment of the Himalayan ranges is very fragile and poor waste management, especially plastic waste which is non-biodegradable, could cause immense damage to the environment. Appreciating the initiative, he urged everyone present to support the project, emphasizing that maintaining cleanliness and the environment was a collective responsibility.



Mr. Tahir Ahmed Khan, Vice President, HDFC Bank, Leh, emphasized the Bank's commitment to environmental sustainability and said that HDFC Bank will continue to add value to the ecosystem of Ladakh through its CSR initiatives adopting a collaborative approach.

A key highlight of the event was the recognition of waste management champions, who were honoured with mementos for their outstanding contribution.

This initiative reflects the collaborative efforts of multiple stakeholders working together to address the pressing issue of waste management in Ladakh, creating a cleaner and healthier environment for its communities.



CHELLODE CHELLANAM WASTE MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE IN KOCHI, KERALA



The CII Foundation has been running a waste management initiative in Chellanam, Kochi in partnership with the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re). A series of activities are being undertaken to promote efficient waste management under the project.

As part of the Chelode Chellanam waste management initiative, the CII Foundation conducted several school level awareness programs on waste management and conducted activities to promote the 3R's concept – reduce, reuse and recycle - which the children could practice to reduce waste. Six programs in six schools were conducted with more than 500 students. In each school, cloth bags were also distributed so that segregated plastic waste could be stored, which would be later collected by the Haritha Karma Sena members of the waste management initiative.

A Students' Parliament was organized in collaboration with the Panchayat and Ward Councillors. This forum provided a platform for students from different schools to actively discuss and highlight critical waste management issues affecting their schools and surrounding areas. During the session, participants identified key challenges, shared their observations, and proposed actionable solutions to address these problems. The event also emphasized the importance of community involvement, as students collectively urged the Panchayat to take prompt and concrete steps to implement their recommendations. This initiative aimed to foster civic responsibility among students while strengthening the partnership between educational institutions and local governance in tackling environmental concerns.



Glimpses of Media Coverage



NEWS THAT MATTERS
From Your State In Your Language

'My Dream Is to Make Ladakh Number One UT in Five Years', Says Lt Governor Ladakh

Ladakh's Lt Governor Brig (Dr) B.D. Mishra (Retd) said that the Himalayan ranges must remain undisturbed so that future generations do not face environmental challenges.

Will the football in this year's Maha Kumbh Mela create an all-time record?

Yes
 No
 Can't Say

Latest

- Jan 15, 2025, 4:10 PM IST - International
Palestinian Prime Minister Says Palestinian Authority Should Run Gaza in Future
- Jan 15, 2025, 4:09 PM IST - Bharat
Delhi Assembly Elections 2025: Arvind Kejriwal Files Nomination From New Delhi Constituency
- Jan 15, 2025, 4:08 PM IST - State
International Kite and Sweet Festival 2025 Held in Grand Manner in Hyderabad
- Jan 15, 2025, 4:08 PM IST - State
Uttarakhand Drunk Driving Government Official Runs Over 3 Teenage Girls in Nainital; 1 Killed
- Jan 15, 2025, 4:03 PM IST - Bharat
Bakery Worker From UP Held For Sexually

By ETV Bharat English Team
Published: Nov 20, 2024, 5:21 PM IST | Updated: Nov 20, 2024, 6:19 PM IST

Left: To promote environmental sustainability, a state-of-the-art Waste Material Recovery Facility was inaugurated by Lt Governor, Ladakh, Brig (Dr) B.D. Mishra (Retd) at Chushot Yokma, Solid Resource Management Centre today.

The Earth
Vol: 02 | Issue: 286 | RNI No: LDENG/2022/86643 | Month

'Preserving fragile trans-Himalayan env for future generations our duty'
LG Mishra Inaugurates Community Waste Management Initiative

UoL gets Mishra's Amendment Nod for State University

Ladakh Adventure

Mishra felicitates Rinchen Youdol

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEI: Calling Ladakh a beautiful and pristine region, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) B.D. Mishra (Retd) said it is our duty to preserve the fragile trans-Himalayan environment for the sustenance of current and future generations.

The LG emphasized the UT Administration's role in preserving the fragile trans-Himalayan environment and taking immediate measures to rectify the issue to keep the region undisturbed and uninterfered.

LG Mishra inaugurated the Community Waste Management Initiative at Solid Resource Management Centre, Block 10-B of Chushot Yokma, Leh.

The Community Waste Management Initiative is a joint initiative of CII Foundation and HDFC Bank in partnership with Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department. The initiative aims to develop a model for government and industry partners to promote waste management and other community welfare initiatives in Ladakh. It will benefit 25 villages in Chushot and Kharni blocks.

Speaking at the event, the LG highlighted the importance of keeping ourselves healthy and the role of managing solid waste and wastewater.

Terming cleanliness as the foremost behaviour of home-owners, the LG mentioned that waste management is a part of cleanliness. He also mentioned the impact of non-biodegradable waste such as plastic on the environment and new techniques being introduced to address the issue of waste management. He commended new companies and institutions that are coming forward to tackle the issue of waste management through their Corporate-Social-Responsibility (CSR) initiatives.

He highlighted the role of every citizen in cooperating to keep the region clean and free from litter in their homes.

Stating that the mission to make solid waste management initiatives successful to make Ladakh a developed society should be the assembled at the function, the LG mentioned that the inauguration of the initiative is a step towards a healthy society.

He cited the example of Prime Minister Narendra Modi who advocates the elimination of single-use plastic in India and took the responsibility to clean the Mallaigram beach.

He emphasized using plastic waste to our advantage by using it in the construction of roads and home insulation purposes.

The LG also inspected the wet waste collector and the solid waste management centre in which waste is segregated into biodegradable and non-biodegradable and further into wet and dry waste followed by composting, sorting, shredding and storage, recycling. He also facilitated officials and members of NGOs responsible for making the solid waste management centre for Chushot and Kharni blocks successful.

Executive Councilor, IADDC Leh, Tashi Namgyal Yakjee appreciated the LG of the implementation of the waste management centres under Project Trianga in Leh district out of which 14 are currently fully functional to tackle the issue of solid waste management along with the issues faced in its successful implementation, including the shortage of dedicated staff to keep the waste management centre functional.

Tashi Ahmed Khan, from HDFC Bank informed the audience about various initiatives taken by them under their CSR activities.

Earlier, Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department, Ms. Shashanka Ala, IAS, welcomed the guest while Principal Advisor, C.I. I. Gen. P. N. Sharma gave the concluding remarks.

EC, IADDC Leh, Tashi Namgyal Yakjee, Advisor to the LG, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, IAS, Councilor, Chushot, Mitra Prasad, officials from CII, HDFC Bank, RDMPR Department, present officials, village from Chushot and Kharni, members of NGOs and school students were present during the event.

LEI: Underwriting the influence of air connectivity for Ladakh of winters when road access is severely restricted, Acting Lieutenant Governor (LT) Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, focused on ensuring smooth and efficient operations of the winter months.

The Advisor shared high level meeting to try and address critical aspects of connectivity and winter infrastructure in Ladakh other day.

LEI: Asking the concerned officers to check the applicability of domicile law for state universities of Goa and Karnataka along with a state university in Northeast India, the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) B.D. Mishra (Retd) chaired a meeting at the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat (LGS) for the Department of the University of Ladakh Act, 2015.

Commissioner, Secretary, University of Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, and other officials were present during the meeting.

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Confederation of Indian Industry



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

WOMAN EXEMPLAR PROGRAM

The pivotal role of women in uplifting society is undeniable, particularly for grassroots women from economically and socially disadvantaged backgrounds, whose contributions often go unrecognized. To recognize and empower such unknown grassroots women leaders, CII launched the Woman Exemplar Award in 2005. The award became an integral part of the CII Foundation in 2011 and was subsequently integrated into a broader women's empowerment program in 2017, known as the CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Program (WEP). This program aims to identify and empower grassroots women to amplify the social impact of the transformative change they are driving within their communities.

Each year, the Woman Exemplar Program receives hundreds of nominations for the Award, from which 15 exceptional women are shortlisted through a rigorous multi-step selection process. This process includes

desk reviews, followed by telephonic interviews of the nominated women to shortlist deserving candidates. An eminent jury, comprising leaders from various sectors, carefully evaluates the shortlisted nominees' contributions towards social transformation to select the winners. For the Woman Exemplar Award 2025, a new category of award was introduced – community resilience – in addition to the three existing categories namely Health, Education, and Micro-enterprise, taking the total number of categories to 4. The winners are recognized at a prestigious national event, drawing attention and support for their work.

During the October-December 2024 quarter, the focus was on shortlisting grassroots women leaders for the Woman Exemplar Award 2025, while also focusing on building the capacity of the current exemplars to enhance their leadership and further strengthen their impact.

Key Components of the Program



WOMAN EXEMPLAR PROGRAM 2025 – IDENTIFYING THE CHANGE MAKERS

The call for nominations for the Woman Exemplar Program 2025 closed with an overwhelming response of 420 applications from across the country. Notably, over 50% of these applications came from new nominators, reflecting the growing reach and impact of the program.

To evaluate the nominations, the CII Foundation team focussed on the desk reviews and telephonic interviews during the October-December 2024 quarter. They spoke to the nominated women to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges they faced such as crushing poverty, lack of education and in several cases social ostracization. They learnt how the women overcame these challenges to emerge as community leaders, empowering several other women in their community to fight against the odds and emerge as victors, rather than victims of their circumstances. Through the in-depth telephonic interviews with over 300 applicants the team shortlisted 20 semi-finalists.

In the January to March 2025 quarter, due diligence visits will be undertaken followed by jury evaluations and the final award presented around April.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Leadership Training

The 2nd Leadership Training of the Woman Exemplar Program held from 23rd to 25th October 2024 brought together woman exemplars for three days of transformative learning. This intensive training focussed on building essential skills for personal and community leadership. Participants learned the art of narrative building as a tool to drive change, weaving their personal stories to inspire and motivate. They were introduced to ChatGPT and LinkedIn, enhancing their digital communication skills with practical tips for drafting proposals, email responses, and social media engagement.



A session on legal literacy empowered participants with knowledge of women's and children's rights, including guidance on filing Public Interest Litigations (PILs) to advocate for community needs. Self-defence techniques using home-based tools and financial literacy sessions—covering savings, e-banking, and investment basics—further enhanced the learning of the participants. The training concluded with a session on personal branding, inspiring each woman to share her unique journey with confidence, increasing their visibility and impact.

Peer Learning Exchange Program – Pioneering a New Learning Model

A new Peer Learning Exchange Program was launched, replacing the earlier Mentorship Program, to introduce peer-to-peer learning, drawing on the experience of shared challenges and learnings. This innovative program identifies host organizations led by our inspiring woman exemplars, who curate and facilitate immersive learning exchanges for the woman exemplars. Over the course of two days, the host exemplars design a comprehensive curriculum that combines field visits and stakeholder interactions, fostering meaningful, hands-on learning experiences.

Each host is visited by 3-5 exemplars from similar fields of work such as Education, Health or Micro-enterprise, providing them with valuable insights that they can adapt and integrate into their own program modules.





Based on a preliminary survey, exemplars are carefully paired with relevant hosts, ensuring clearly defined learning outcomes and actionable takeaways.

The program is designed to offer meaningful inputs for woman exemplars, enabling them to learn from one another, address common challenges, and design their work for greater impact.

The inaugural exchange program was hosted by Ranjita Pawar, our 2024 Education category winner. Ranjita leads an organization on foundational literacy for tribal children in Maharashtra. During the two-day



visit, participants engaged in knowledge sharing on the scope and impact of Ranjita's NGO programs for Laman Banjara children. They explored the organization's origins and the historical context of the marginalization faced by the DNT Laman Banjara Tribe. Key learnings included the implementation of foundational literacy and remedial classes, as well as insights into infrastructure, resources, and community engagement. Interactions with stakeholders, including parents, and government school officials, further enriched the experience, providing a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and successes in this critical area.

EMPOWERING CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE, ASSAM

From 2nd-4th December, 2024, 15 women leaders from eight districts of Assam, under the Empowering Champions of Change Program, came together at the Chitrang Training Centre, Rangjul, for a three-day workshop organized by CII Foundation in collaboration with Apraava

Energy, Seven Sisters Development Assistance (SeSTA), and Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF).

The workshop focused on enhancing digital literacy and cyber safety awareness, starting with skills in operating digital tools, navigating social media, and recognizing cyber threats.

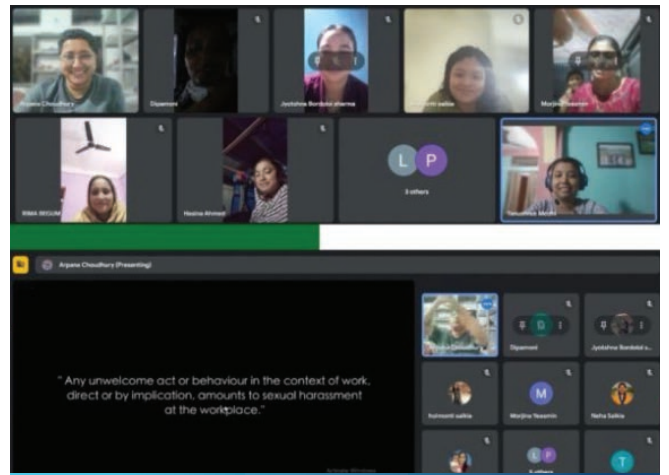


It also addressed community needs through street plays on cyber fraud and explored digital payment platforms. The workshop concluded with participants developing training modules and action plans, committing to act as Sochnapreneurs- information agents empowering their communities with vital knowledge.



CELEBRATING 75TH CONSTITUTION DAY: ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY

To commemorate the 75th Constitution Day of India, an impactful session on gender equality and empowerment was held for the 15 Change Champions under the CII Foundation Empowering Champions of Change Program, supported by Apraava Energy and facilitated by Seven Sisters Development Assistance (SeSTA). The session, led by SeSTA, began with discussions on understanding gender, sex, societal stereotypes, and expected roles. The Change Champions are now prepared to generate awareness within their communities by sharing their newfound knowledge and experiences, fostering a culture of gender equality and empowerment.



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

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