

Deepening Impact Expanding Reach



Activity Report 2025-2026





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Touching Every Stage of Life



Building Resilient Communities through Climate Action Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation, Women Empowerment, Skilling and Livelihood, Healthcare



Digital Literacy, Healthcare, Sports



From a child's first steps to dignified ageing, CII Foundation works across every stage of life to build resilient individuals, empowered families, and sustainable communities.



Early Childhood Education

Driving Impact Across India

The CII Foundation was set up by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in 2011 and works across India through a collaborative approach, partnering with Government, corporates, civil society and NGOs, academic institutions, and other key stakeholders to drive social change.

The Foundation undertakes projects in diverse areas, often on a pilot basis initially, and presents a successful model of engagement that is replicable and scalable to amplify impact. Each initiative is led by a committed team of dedicated stakeholders who bring different expertise to the initiative for maximum impact.

The CII Foundation is uniquely placed to leverage the vast network of CII's Membership to transform lives.



Lift to discover much more



Jamshyd N Godrej

Chairperson, CII Foundation and
Chairman & Managing Director
Godrej Enterprises Group

Message from the Chair of the Board

India's development journey is taking place at a time of considerable global change. Geopolitical uncertainty, climate change and technological disruption are reshaping economies and societies across the world. India has demonstrated remarkable resilience in this environment and continues to create new opportunities for growth.

As we look towards *Viksit Bharat @2047*, however, the quality and resilience of that growth will be as important as its pace. Economic progress must translate into stronger communities, greater opportunities and improved quality of life, while ensuring that development is environmentally sustainable.

Indian industry has an important contribution to make to this journey. Corporate Social Responsibility has evolved considerably over the past decade. The opportunity before us now is to move beyond individual projects towards addressing development challenges more systematically, combining finance with technology, innovation, institutional capability and partnerships to create solutions that can endure and grow.

At the CII Foundation, this has increasingly shaped our approach.

During 2025–26, we expanded our presence in underserved regions, including parts of Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand, recognising the need for development investments to reach geographies and communities where gaps remain significant. Equally important, our endeavour has been to work with communities and local institutions to build capabilities that remain long after an individual intervention concludes.

Climate resilience has become an increasingly important part of this work. The extreme weather events witnessed across India are a reminder that climate change is no longer a challenge of the future. Its consequences are already being felt by communities, particularly those whose livelihoods depend most directly on natural resources.

Our Crop Residue Management initiative demonstrates how an intervention can evolve as our understanding of a problem deepens. What began with promoting alternatives to farm stubble burning has expanded from in-situ management to exploring productive uses for agricultural residue and supporting circular-economy approaches. During the year, the initiative expanded to more than 1,000 villages across Punjab and Haryana. Its evolution demonstrates the potential of bringing together farmers, industry, government, technology and markets around a common environmental challenge.

We have also continued to explore new ways of strengthening individuals and communities. The launch of our Sports for Development initiative in January 2026 reflects this thinking. Sport can do much more than promote physical well-being. It can build leadership, teamwork, confidence and resilience among young people, create opportunities for girls to participate more fully, and strengthen social cohesion within communities.

Similarly, through the Woman Exemplar Program, we have seen the extraordinary capacity of grassroots women leaders to solve problems within their own communities. The launch of State Chapters in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh during the year is an effort to strengthen networks between such leaders, enabling them to learn from one another and extend their influence.

As CSR in India continues to grow, we have an opportunity to ask a more ambitious question: not simply how many people or communities an intervention reaches, but what changes because of it, whether that change can endure, and whether the solution can eventually travel beyond the boundaries of the original project.

Technology and data can strengthen this effort considerably, enabling better understanding of needs, improving programme delivery and measurement, and allowing successful approaches to reach many more people. But technology alone cannot create lasting development. Solutions must ultimately be grounded in the realities of communities and strengthened through partnerships and local ownership.

The role of the CII Foundation, therefore, is not only to implement programmes, but also to learn from them – to bring together industry, government, civil society and communities; test approaches to difficult development challenges; and help promising solutions evolve and scale.

I am grateful to the companies and foundations that have placed their trust in the CII Foundation, including the new partners who joined us during 2025–26, and to our government, civil society and community partners who make this work possible.

As we look ahead, our ambition must remain to create development that is inclusive, environmentally sustainable and enduring and to ensure that the capabilities of Indian industry contribute meaningfully to that endeavour.



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Chandrajit Banerjee

Managing Trustee
CII Foundation and
Director General
Confederation of Indian Industry

Message from the Managing Trustee

As India moves towards its vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047, two ideas must drive our actions: the need to strengthen collaboration across Government, industry, institutions, civil society, and social development organizations and the need to look at economic development and social development, not as parallel journeys but deeply intertwined, with social development as an integral part of economic development.

In this journey of transformation, the role of Indian Industry has become more significant. While remaining the driver of economic growth, Indian industry must shape strong pathways for social progress by creating livelihoods, enabling innovation, and addressing critical development challenges. Its contribution to nation-building must extend beyond creating economic value to creating an ecosystem for growth that is inclusive, sustainable, and reaches communities across the length and breadth of the country.

Recognising the need to create structured avenues for industry participation in social transformation, CII established the CII Foundation in 2011 to serve as a powerful platform that brings together diverse stakeholders, including government, industry, academic institutions, and communities – each bringing their own strength and expertise to create transformative social change at the grassroots level.

Since its inception, the CII Foundation has been working across diverse areas such as climate action, women empowerment, skilling and livelihood, and healthcare, and has impacted the lives of millions across India. It has emerged as a credible and trusted platform for industry, government, and civil society to design and implement impactful, scalable interventions. The Foundation's work is closely aligned with national priorities and reflects a commitment to building resilient and equitable communities.

During 2025–26, we continued to deepen this approach while expanding into new geographies and strengthening existing programmes. Our Crop Residue Management initiative reached 1,003 villages, where 85 per cent of the straw generated was prevented from being burnt, while simultaneously encouraging waste-to-wealth solutions such as bio-compost and biogas. Greener Tomorrow, the Foundation's first flagship conference on climate action and sustainable development, created a new platform for industry, government, academia, civil society, and grassroots leaders to collectively examine pathways for stronger climate action.

Our work with women at the grassroots also continued to grow. Twenty new grassroots women leaders joined the Woman Exemplar network during the year, taking this community to more than 150 women who are creating change within their communities and demonstrating the power of women's leadership in local development.

We also broadened our work in education, from strengthening Anganwadi Centres and early childhood learning, to building digital capabilities among adolescent girls and promoting experiential science learning among school students. Across these initiatives, our endeavour has been not merely to deliver individual interventions, but to strengthen the ecosystems around people and communities so that progress can sustain beyond the life of a project.

At the heart of these efforts lies the strength of partnerships. The active participation of industry partners has enabled the mobilisation of resources, expertise, and innovation, making it possible to design solutions that are both scalable and sustainable. The support from Government is invaluable in framing the challenge and the feasibility of solutions, and the participation and insights from the communities help shape and drive meaningful change.

The CII Foundation's role in bringing diverse partners together to deliberate, experiment, learn, and translate promising ideas into action for India's inclusive growth underscores our vision of going beyond implementing on-ground projects to creating social

development models that are impactful, scalable, and will shape the social development ecosystem.

The Activity Report 2025–26 captures the progress made through these collective efforts and highlights the transformative impact of partnerships.

We look forward to continued collaboration with all stakeholders as we work together to build a more inclusive, resilient, and future-ready India.



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VISION

Enable Industry for infusing inclusive development

MISSION

The CII Foundation works towards inclusive development by designing and implementing high-impact projects to cover some of the most marginalised communities, working closely with marginalized communities and donors, especially the Corporate Sector.

Areas of Intervention



Climate Change Resilience



Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation



Education



Healthcare



Skilling and Livelihood



Sports



Waste Management



Women Empowerment

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Every initiative at the CII Foundation is strategically aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), reflecting our commitment to development priorities.



Climate Change

Take Urgent Action to Combat Climate Change and its Impacts



Skilling and Livelihood

Promote Sustained, Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth, Full and Productive Employment and Decent Work for All.



Disaster Relief & Rehabilitation

Make Cities and Human Settlements Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable.



Waste Management

Ensure Availability and Sustainable Management of Water and Sanitation for All.



Early Childhood Education

Ensure Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education and Promote Lifelong Learning Opportunities for All.



Women Empowerment

Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls.



Healthcare

Ensure Healthy Lives and Promote Well-being for All at All Ages.





Climate Change Resilience

13 CLIMATE ACTION



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Crop Residue Management: Clearing the Air

Air pollution continues to pose a significant challenge across North India with crop residue burning identified as a key contributor, particularly in the Indo-Gangetic plain. Addressing this complex issue requires scalable, farmer-centric solutions that are both economically viable and environmentally sustainable.

The CII Foundation launched a crop residue management (CRM) initiative in 2018 under the aegis of CII's 'Cleaner Air, Better Life' program. Anchored in a collaborative, multi-stakeholder approach to mitigate stubble burning and enable the transition to sustainable agricultural practices, the program is rolled out with farmers, government institutions, research bodies, and industry partners as key stakeholders to drive behavioural change and promote the adoption of alternative technologies.

In season 2025, the program was scaled to 1003 villages, covering 11.33 lakh acres and reaching 2.08 lakh farmers across Punjab and Haryana—up from 793 villages, 8.73 lakh acres of farmland and 1.47 lakh farmers in 2024-25. Key interventions included strengthening in-situ (on-field) straw management and ex-situ (off-field) solutions such as biopelletisation and biocomposting of straw.

With continuing support from industry partners such as Fidelity, Goodyear, HDFC Bank, Jhajjar Power and SBI Card, the CII Foundation expanded its partner base with organisations including JSW Foundation and Cadence Design Systems coming onboard this year. Technical support from agricultural universities in Punjab and Haryana, along with the engagement of youth volunteers, has further strengthened efforts to build a robust zero-stubble burning ecosystem.



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Key Components of the Program



Awareness Building



Machinery Support Through Community Tool Banks



Farmers' Training and Farm Demonstrations



Biomass Management Alternatives - Mechanised In-situ & Ex-Situ Straw Management and Composting

Key Supporters



Pehel

Locations



Punjab
Haryana



Awareness Building: Engaging Farmers and Mobilising Communities

Sustained awareness and community engagement remain central to driving behavioural change and advancing the transition towards zero stubble burning. During 2025-26, the program adopted a multi-layered outreach approach—combining farmer interactions, school-based engagement, volunteer participation, and institutional collaboration—to strengthen understanding of sustainable crop residue management practices and build community ownership.

Field-based engagements played a critical role in fostering trust and enabling peer learning.



A volunteer field day organised in Majhi village, Sangrur district in Punjab on 20 May 2025, in partnership with **HDFC Bank**, brought together farmers and project volunteers from multiple locations to interact, exchange learnings, and promote alternatives to stubble burning. Similar engagements, including visits to project villages in Ratia, Fatehabad and Sangrur, enabled donor representatives and volunteers to gain first-hand insights into program implementation while strengthening community connect. Notably, an HDFC Bank team led by Nusrat Pathan, Head, Corporate Social Responsibility, HDFC Bank, visited project sites to engage with farmers and understand on-ground impact.



A Farmer Field Day was organised on 31 March 2026 in Khanna block, Ludhiana district, Punjab, in collaboration with HDFC Bank under its Parivartan initiative, with participation from around 350 farmers. Co-operative societies were recognised with appreciation certificates and agricultural pumps for their contributions to reducing crop residue burning.

The Chief Guest for the occasion, Shri Tarunpreet Singh Sondh, Minister of Rural Development and Panchayats, Government of Punjab, lauded the efforts of the farmers and Co-operative societies.

School-based awareness initiatives emerged as a key channel for deepening community engagement and nurturing long-term behavioural change. Interactive sessions across schools—including Government Middle School, Goh, Khanna; Vivekanand Senior Secondary School, Pillu Khara, Jind, and Government School, Thikriwal, Barnala—engaged students through competitions such as poster making, street plays, drawing, essay writing, and model building. These platforms encouraged students to internalise environmental stewardship and act as catalysts of change within their communities. Programs were supported by partners including **Fidelity International** and **Goodyear**, with active participation from educators, volunteers, and local stakeholders.



Large-scale outreach events further strengthened farmer mobilisation and cross-sector collaboration. A major awareness program held at Senior Secondary School, Khanna on 16 October 2025 brought together over 200 farmers and 800 students. The event featured a rally led by Dr. Baljinder Singh Dhillon,

Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Khanna and Smt. Harpinder Kaur, Superintendent of Police, Khanna, alongside participation from key officials including Dr. Jyoti Yadav, IPS, Senior Superintendent of Police, Khanna; Dr. Gurdeep Singh, Chief Agriculture Officer, Ludhiana; and other district representatives. These engagements were complemented by village-level meetings across Dirba, Dialgarh Jejjian, Kamalpur, and Sullar, focusing on machinery adoption, residue utilisation, and environmental impacts.

Targeted outreach efforts were also undertaken in collaboration with partners to address localised challenges and strengthen adoption. In Mansa district, Punjab, an awareness drive conducted on 15 October 2025 in partnership with **JSW Foundation** engaged over 100 farmers from Sadda Singh Wala and Kotli Kalan through demonstrations and sensitisation sessions. Similarly, farmer meetings in Dhingar village facilitated discussions on barriers to adopting in-situ technologies, supported by active involvement of farmer cooperatives and village leadership.



On-ground interventions also demonstrated the effectiveness of timely engagement in preventing stubble burning. In Village Bosti, Fatehabad, Haryana, under the initiative supported by **Cadence Design Systems**, a potential case of residue burning was averted through immediate counselling and machinery support—highlighting the importance of responsive, field-level action.

Door-to-door campaigns and direct farmer outreach continued to complement these efforts. Under the initiative supported by **SBI Card**, volunteers engaged with farmers across multiple villages in Haryana, raising awareness on the environmental, health, and soil impacts of stubble burning while promoting sustainable alternatives.

Collectively, these initiatives have strengthened farmer awareness, enhanced community participation, and contributed to a gradual but visible shift towards the adoption of sustainable crop residue management practices.

Machinery Support through Community Tool Banks



Access to specialised machinery for crop residue management continues to remain a challenge for small and marginal farmers due to high capital costs and limited availability. To address this gap, the CII Foundation has operationalised Tool Banks—a shared economy model designed to provide affordable and timely access to mechanised solutions.

Established in partnership with Farmer Co-operative Societies and Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), these Tool Banks house a range of advanced equipment for efficient crop residue management, which are made available to farmers at affordable rental rates. This model enables equitable access to both in-situ and ex-situ technologies, supporting wider adoption across farming communities.



During the year, 248 Tool Banks have been established in collaboration with Societies/FPOs. The equipment pool includes Happy Seeders, Super Seeders, Rotavators, Straw Balers, and Mulchers, ensuring comprehensive support for sustainable residue management practices.

By decentralising access to farm mechanisation, the initiative has significantly improved the ability of farmers—particularly small and marginal landholders—to adopt sustainable alternatives to stubble burning, while also enhancing operational efficiency and reducing input costs.





Farmers' Training and Farm Demonstrations

The CII Foundation continued to strengthen farmer capacities through structured training programs, field demonstrations, and technical collaborations across Punjab and Haryana. These efforts focused on promoting climate-resilient agriculture by enabling farmers to adopt sustainable crop residue management practices and advanced farm mechanisation solutions.

On 7 November 2025, CII Foundation signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Northern Region Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institute (NRFMTTI), Hisar, to deepen collaboration on sustainable agriculture and farm mechanisation. The program brought together over 250 farmers, along with dignitaries from NRFMTTI and Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, and 50 agricultural students.



Prof. (Dr.) B. R. Kamboj, Vice-Chancellor, Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, emphasised the importance of water-efficient practices and integrated farming systems in building climate resilience. Dr. Mukesh Jain, Director, NRFMTTI, along with Mr. Sunil Misra, CEO, CII Foundation, outlined a shared vision to scale sustainable mechanisation. Technical sessions were led by Dr. Anil Kumar, Head of Department (HoD), Agronomy, and Dr. Sunita Yadav, demonstrating advanced sowing techniques and machinery for in-situ residue management. The program concluded with a collective pledge by participating farmers to eliminate stubble burning.

In Khanna, Ludhiana, a live demonstration was organised on 14 November 2025 in collaboration with HDFC Bank and Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) to showcase advanced technologies, including the Mitter Seeder and Surface Seeding techniques. The program was graced by Dr. Satbir Singh Gosal, Vice Chancellor, Punjab Agricultural University;



Dr. Baljinder Singh Dhillon, SDM, Khanna; Dr. Gurdeep Singh, Chief Agriculture Officer; Dr. Makhan Singh Bhullar, Director of Extension Education, PAU; and Dr. Jasbir Singh, Scientist, PAU.

Farmers gained hands-on exposure to the operational and economic benefits of these technologies with live demonstrations conducted on the farm. Progressive farmers adopting sustainable practices were also recognised, reinforcing peer learning and community-level adoption.

A Super Seeder field demonstration was conducted on 25 October 2025 in Barnala, Punjab, in collaboration with Goodyear. The session enabled farmers to understand the practical application of in-situ residue management, highlighting improvements in soil fertility and reduced dependence on stubble burning.

Under the initiative supported by SBI Card, training sessions were conducted in Karnal, Haryana, including a training session at the Tool Bank in Chaugawan. The program engaged over 40 progressive farmers from 30 project villages, focusing on sustainable residue management practices, government schemes, and access to modern machinery.

Dr. Shyam Singh, Agriculture Development Officer, Assandh, Haryana, delivered the technical session, emphasising practical, scalable alternatives to stubble burning. The initiative currently benefits more than 8,500 farmers, strengthening their technical knowledge and improving access to farm mechanisation solutions.



Strengthening Partnerships: Government Interactions

Strategic engagement with government stakeholders remained integral to advancing the CRM program and enabling convergence across policy, implementation, and on-ground action. During the year, the CII Foundation actively engaged with state and district administrations to strengthen collaboration, share progress, and align efforts towards sustainable agriculture and air quality management.

Engagement with Government of Punjab

The CII Foundation team met Shri Bhagwant Mann, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Punjab, at the Punjab Vidhan Sabha on 10 October 2025 to present ongoing post-flood restoration and stubble management initiatives in the state. The discussion highlighted large-scale deployment of agricultural machinery, including tractors with Balers, MB Ploughs, Rotavators, Smart Seeders, Super Seeders, and Surface Seeders, along with the establishment of community biogas plants.

The meeting was also attended by Shri Aman Arora, Hon'ble Minister for IT and Renewables; Ms. Seema Bansal, Vice Chairperson, Punjab Development Commission; and Mr. Rajinder Gupta, Chairman Emeritus, Trident Ltd., reflecting strong government-industry collaboration towards sustainable agriculture and climate action.



Engagement with Government of Haryana

In Haryana, the CII Foundation team met Shri Ranbir Gangwa, Hon'ble Minister for Public Health Engineering and Public Works (Buildings and Roads),

Government of Haryana, on 15 October 2025. The interaction focused on sharing updates on program implementation across the state and exploring collaborative approaches to reduce stubble burning and strengthen community resilience to air pollution through sustained field-level interventions.



District-Level Review with Deputy Commissioner, Fatehabad, Haryana

At the district level, a review meeting was held with Dr. Vivek Bharti, Deputy Commissioner, Fatehabad, Haryana, on 24 October 2025. The Foundation presented a comprehensive overview of its interventions, including crop residue management, waste management, plantation drives, and pond restoration initiatives across Punjab and Haryana.

Dr. Bharti acknowledged the program's impact in the district and expressed interest in further strengthening institutional support for CRM interventions. Such engagements play a critical role in fostering convergence, enabling coordinated action, and scaling sustainable solutions through government partnerships.





Biomass Management Alternatives



While in-situ crop residue management through farm mechanisation continued to remain the core of the program, focused efforts were undertaken during the year to strengthen and scale ex-situ (off-field) straw management solutions.

The CII Foundation intensified its promotion of biomass utilisation approaches, including composting and biogas production, enabling the conversion of agricultural residue into valuable resources. These interventions not only help mitigate environmental impact but also enhance farm efficiency and create additional value streams for the farming community.



Complementing these efforts, the program also advanced pelletisation and straw aggregation models, including the development of straw banks and supply linkages with industry. These systems enable the organised collection, storage, and utilisation of crop residue as renewable fuel, thereby reducing dependence on burning while supporting circular economy approaches within the agricultural ecosystem.

Across Haryana and Punjab, the CII Foundation has installed:

- **24 Straw-based Biogas Plants** – Transforming waste into clean energy, and reducing reliance on fossil fuels.
- **3 Straw-Based Biocompost Plants** – Converting crop residue into organic compost to improve soil health.
- **3 Bio-Pelletization Units** – Producing bio-pellets as a sustainable fuel alternative.



Expanding Geographic Footprint: Strengthening Partnerships

The CII Foundation continued to strengthen and expand its (CRM) program through strategic partnerships and institutional collaborations, enabling the introduction of innovative solutions and scaling outreach across new geographies.

In a significant step towards advancing sustainable agricultural practices, CII Foundation signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) on 20 May 2025 to promote the adoption of the 'Simultaneous Sowing of Wheat While Harvesting Rice' technology. The MoU was formalised in the presence of Mr. 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.



This collaboration establishes a framework wherein CII Foundation will lead awareness generation, training, and outreach activities, while PAU will provide technical expertise, undertake field demonstrations, and support participatory research. The partnership aims to accelerate the adoption of eco-friendly technologies, including the Surface Seeder Machine, contributing to improved soil health, reduced emissions, and enhanced crop productivity.

Further expanding its geographic footprint, CII Foundation partnered with JSW Foundation to scale the CRM program in Punjab. On 11 August 2025, an MoU was signed between Mr. R. Pavithra Kumar, CEO, JSW Foundation, and Mr. Sunil Misra to launch a three-year initiative covering villages in Mansa district.

This collaboration marks the first partnership between the two organisations and reflects a shared commitment to reducing stubble burning, improving soil health, and promoting sustainable farming practices at scale.

Restoration of Water Bodies

Environmental degradation and the declining health of traditional waterbodies continue to pose significant challenges to water security, biodiversity, and climate resilience across rural landscapes. In response, the CII Foundation has been implementing integrated initiatives focused on waterbody restoration, wetland conservation, groundwater recharge, afforestation, and community-led natural resource management across multiple geographies. Through partnerships with corporates, local administrations, and Gram Panchayats, these initiatives aim to strengthen ecological systems, improve water availability, promote sustainable livelihoods, and build long-term climate resilience within communities.

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

Water Alliance Project, Tamil Nadu

The CII Foundation continued to strengthen its water conservation and ecosystem restoration efforts in Tamil Nadu through multiple initiatives under the Water Alliance project. Building on its waterbody restoration journey that began in 2023 in Chennai in partnership with Kemin Industries and the CII Southern Region, the Foundation successfully rejuvenated Eswaran Pond, Karuperi Kullam Pond, Panpakkam Pond in Gummidipoondi, and SR Kandigai in Thiruvallur district. These interventions focused on enhancing water retention capacity, clearing clogged inlet and outlet channels, and preventing further contamination through community awareness and behavioural change initiatives. The restoration efforts have contributed towards improved biodiversity and strengthened local water security.





Further expanding the Water Alliance initiative, the CII Foundation, in partnership with Titan Company Limited and CII Southern Region, launched a project on 23 October 2025 to rejuvenate the Thalapalli waterbody in Pedathalapalli Village, Krishnagiri district. Spread across 86 acres, the waterbody serves as a critical resource for surrounding communities. The restoration initiative aims to improve groundwater recharge, enhance rainwater retention, support biodiversity, and strengthen resilience against water scarcity while promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

The launch program was attended by Mr. Dinesh Kumar, IAS, District Collector of Krishnagiri; Ms Kavitha, Project Director – DRDA, Krishnagiri; Mr. N. E. Sridhar, Chief Sustainability Officer, Titan Company Ltd; and Mr. G. Manohar, Chairman, CII Hosur District Council and Chief Manufacturing Officer (Watch Division), Titan Company Ltd.



Waterbody Restoration and Wetland Conservation, Haryana



The CII Foundation expanded its environmental sustainability initiatives in Haryana through integrated program focused on waterbody restoration, afforestation, and wetland conservation.

In Farukh Nagar block, Gurugram district, the Foundation, in partnership with PTC India Financial Services Limited and local Gram Panchayats, initiated the restoration of ten village waterbodies across Taj Nagar, Daboda, Basunda, Khandewla, and Hajipur villages. The project aims to strengthen local ecosystems and improve water security through measures such as enhancing water retention capacity, cleaning clogged inlet and outlet channels, and promoting community awareness to prevent contamination of ponds and waterbodies.



The Foundation also initiated a Wetland Conservation and Restoration Project in Jhajjar district in partnership with Jhajjar Power Limited, beginning with the Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary – a Ramsar-recognised wetland of national and international importance known for its migratory birds and aquatic biodiversity.



Launched on 10 March 2026, the initiative focuses on improving habitat quality, restoring ecological balance, and strengthening climate resilience through activities such as removal of invasive weeds, fish stocking, native tree plantation, and enhanced monitoring support for forest staff. During March, more than six lakh fish were released into the wetland to strengthen the aquatic food chain and support bird populations.



On the occasion of World Sparrow Day on 20 March 2026, a programs was organised at the sanctuary in the presence of Mr. Rajesh Chahal, Forest Inspector at Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary, during which fish were released into the wetland.

Water Project, Maharashtra

The CII Foundation, in collaboration with Standard Chartered Bank's WeSURE (Water for Enabling Sustainable Reforms) initiative and local Gram Panchayats, initiated a comprehensive water security and recharge planning project across ten villages in Khultabad Block of Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar district, Maharashtra.

The initiative aims to strengthen climate resilience and improve water resource management through scientific assessments, village-level planning, and community participation. As part of the project, Village Water Security Plans and a Detailed Project Report (DPR) are being developed to guide long-term interventions for groundwater recharge, storage enhancement, and sustainable utilisation of water resources.

Significant progress has been made in baseline assessments, with household surveys completed, well surveys reaching 80% completion, and Shivar Pheri (field visits) covering 90% of identified locations. Data entry and consolidation for the DPR are currently underway.

The project also supports climate-resilient livelihoods and improved water availability in drought-prone areas through interventions such as construction of thirty-two sericulture rearing houses across nine villages, installation of rooftop rainwater harvesting systems in five schools, and farmer capacity-building programs on sustainable agriculture and water conservation practices.





Tree Plantation Initiative



Rapid urbanisation, land degradation, and declining green cover continue to intensify the impact of climate change and ecological imbalance across vulnerable regions. In response, the CII Foundation has been implementing large-scale afforestation and ecosystem restoration initiatives aimed at enhancing biodiversity, strengthening climate resilience, and promoting sustainable community-led environmental stewardship. Through partnerships with corporates, Gram Panchayats, local institutions, and community stakeholders, the Foundation is restoring degraded landscapes, improving ecological health, and encouraging long-term conservation practices through the plantation of native and climate-resilient species.

In Haryana, the CII Foundation, in partnership with PTC India Financial Services Limited and local Gram Panchayats, launched the Community Plantation Initiative for Carbon Offsetting to plant over 1,00,000 native saplings across villages in the Farukh Nagar block of Gurugram district. The initiative supports carbon sequestration, groundwater recharge, soil conservation, and biodiversity enhancement while transforming degraded and underutilised panchayat land into sustainable green spaces through active community participation.

On World Environment Day, 5 June 2025, a plantation drive was organised in Daboda village with participation from school children, teachers, local

representatives, and community members. The initiative promoted environmental awareness and collective responsibility towards restoring natural ecosystems and strengthening green cover at the village level.

Further strengthening these efforts, a large-scale plantation drive was organised on 23 August 2025 in Village Judola, Farukh Nagar block, bringing together community members, schoolchildren, NSG personnel, CII volunteers, and local leadership. The program was attended by Jagdish Prasad Maithani, Group Commander (Garrison), NSG Manesar; Mr. Shishant Sharma, Sarpanch, Village Judola; Mr. Shiv Taj, Sarpanch, Village Taj Nagar; Mr. Dharampal, Sarpanch, Village Hajipur; and Mr. R K Panwar, Principal, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, among others. The event included plantation activities as well as awareness-building programs such as painting, photography, and cultural performances to encourage environmental consciousness among children and local communities.



The afforestation initiative continued to expand across Judola, Tajnagar, and nearby panchayats, where more than 20,000 saplings planted during Phase I in August 2025 with a reported survival rate of nearly 90%. Landscape restoration and plantation activities were undertaken across multiple sites, including fencing, weed removal, and site development measures to support long-term sustainability of the plantations. In Tajnagar Panchayat alone, plantation activities covered eleven acres with the planting of 6,500 saplings representing thirty-six native species.

On 25 October 2025, a team from PTC India Financial Services Limited led by Mr. Sitesh Sinha, Senior Vice President, and Mr. Shreenivasan Poornaiya, Head – HR, visited plantation sites at Taj Nagar and Judola to review the ongoing interventions. The team also visited Patli Panchayat to assess the potential for expanding plantation activities across additional degraded land parcels. These efforts reflect the Foundation's continued focus on converting wastelands and dumping grounds into thriving green ecosystems through community participation and sustained ecological restoration.

Beyond Haryana, the CII Foundation also expanded ecosystem restoration efforts in the ecologically sensitive Sundarbans region of West Bengal. In partnership with Joynagar Viewtech Educational Society and local Gram Panchayats in Binodpur and Nagenabad villages of South 24 Parganas district, the Foundation initiated a mangrove restoration program involving the plantation of 30,000 saplings. The initiative aims to strengthen coastal resilience, restore fragile ecosystems, and protect vulnerable communities from climate-induced risks such as cyclones, tidal surges, and coastal erosion. By actively engaging local communities and panchayats, the project seeks to improve plantation survival rates while fostering long-term ownership towards environmental conservation and sustainable land management.





Wetland Conservation and Restoration

Wetlands play a vital role in sustaining biodiversity, regulating local hydrology, and strengthening ecological resilience. Recognising their importance, the CII Foundation, in partnership with Jhajjar Power Limited and the Haryana Forest Department, undertook the Wetland Conservation and Restoration Project at Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary in Jhajjar, Haryana. The project was implemented under the Amrit Dharohar Scheme, with the objective of improving the ecological and hydrological health of the wetland, enhancing biodiversity, and strengthening its resilience through a multi-stakeholder approach.

Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary, a Ramsar-recognised human-made freshwater wetland and the largest wetland in Haryana, provides an important habitat for resident and migratory birds and diverse aquatic and wildlife species. The wetland also contributes to maintaining the regional water table through groundwater recharge and serves as a natural flood buffer.

During 2025–26, the project focused on a combination of ecological restoration, biodiversity enhancement, monitoring support and awareness-building interventions. Ten acres of wetland area were cleared of invasive water hyacinth,



helping improve water quality and habitat conditions. To strengthen the aquatic food chain and support bird populations, 31 lakh zero-size fish seed were procured and released into the wetland. The initiative also supported habitat restoration through the plantation of 438 native tree saplings, including fruit-bearing species, along with tree guards to support their survival and growth.

To strengthen the capacity of the Forest Department, 15 monitoring and rescue instruments, including snake rescue kits, binoculars, walkie-talkies and laser range finders, were procured and handed over to the Forest Inspector's office. An electric cart was also provided to facilitate eco-friendly mobility, patrolling and routine monitoring within the sanctuary. In addition, three awareness sign boards were installed to promote environmental education, responsible behaviour and greater stakeholder participation in wetland conservation.

Community and stakeholder engagement formed an important part of the initiative. On World Sparrow Day, 20 March 2026, an awareness program was organised at the sanctuary, bringing together Jhajjar Power Limited, the Haryana Forest Department, CII Foundation, local community members and visitors. The program included the distribution of 155 sparrow nesting boxes, a plantation drive and fish stock release, linking awareness with tangible conservation action.

Through these interventions, the project seeks to strengthen the ecological health of Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary while building institutional capacity and community stewardship for its long-term conservation. The initiative demonstrates how corporate-government collaboration can support nature-based solutions for biodiversity conservation and climate-resilient ecosystem management.



Greener Tomorrow: Converging Expertise for Sustainability

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.”*



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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.
- 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.





Change on the Ground: From Numbers to Narrative

85%
farmland

of farmland saved from burning in 1003 intervened villages in Season 2025

Zero stubble burning achieved in 8 villages of Ludhiana, Punjab.

Expanded ex-situ straw management practices to enable efficient aggregation and conversion of farm biomass into value-added products such as biogas, biofertiliser, and bio-pellets.

Environmental Impact 2025 - 2026

Area managed by adoption of sustainable practices 10.43 lakh acres	Straw managed from being burnt 92%	Water Saving 110 billion litres
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Avoided Global Warming Impacts*

Carbon Dioxide (CO ₂) 2.35 million tonnes	Methane (CH ₄) 18,510 tonnes	Black Carbon (BC) 1,234 tonnes
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Avoided Air Quality Impacts*

Fine Particulate Matter (PM 2.5) 11,087 tonnes	Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) 13,497 tonnes	Ammonia (NH ₃) 7,905 tonnes
Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx) 3,760 tonnes	Sulphur Dioxide (SO ₂) 559 tonnes	

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

Voices of Impact

Along with machinery, the project also provided technical knowledge and training, which proved extremely helpful. With this support, I successfully adopted the non-burning method for managing crop residue. It has saved me both time and money. Earlier, I used to spend around ₹1800 per acre on residue management, but now my cost has reduced to about ₹700 per acre. The affordable rental rates have especially benefited small farmers like me who cannot afford expensive machinery.

Farmer Shushil
Dharoli village, Jind, Haryana

I was able to obtain the CRM machinery from co-operative society at a far lower cost than private vendors, and it was in good working order. The project also provided me with knowledge and training, which helped me a lot. I have been able to use the non-burning method to manage my crop residue on time which has not only helped reduce air pollution but has also not damaged the soil quality.

Farmer Ankit
Bhurain village, Jind, Haryana

I cultivate 25 acres of land, and earlier, I used to burn the paddy stubble across my entire farmland due to lack of alternatives. With the introduction of the baler through the support to our co-operative, I was able to eliminate stubble burning. The Baler not only helped manage residue on my own fields but also enabled me to support other farmers in the village by providing baling services. Through the sale of baled straw, I gained an additional source of income and generated a total of 150 quintals of bales this season.

Farmer Kuljeet Singh
Ludhiana, Punjab

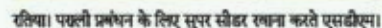
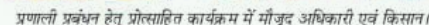
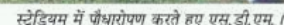
I strongly believe in sustainable farming practices and am fully committed to continuous improvement. By next year, I aim to make 100% of my farmland completely free from stubble burning, further advancing my journey toward climate-friendly agriculture. Before the project intervention, smog-related accidents were common in our area. However, with the significant reduction in stubble burning this year, such incidents have also decreased noticeably. Not only have I benefited, but the entire village of Thuthianwali has also seen substantial progress in overcoming the problem of stubble burning due to their support.

Farmer Bakshish Singh
Thutianwali village, Mansa, Punjab





संविद्य। कृषि विभाग, सोसाइटी फंडेशन व एचडीएससी परिवर्तन के सम्बन्ध में गांव वार्ड स्तर पर पशुधन प्रबंधन जागरूकता बैठक आयोजित किया गया। इस दौरान सोसाइटी फंडेशन ने किसानों को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए 50 रुपए सोईर निःशुल्क वितरित किए और 60 गांवों को गेहूँ वितरित। एसएमएम सुपुर्ब सड़क ने मालती को हठी झड़ी दिखकर अभिनय को शुरूआत की और किसानों से फसल अवरोध न जताने का आग्रह किया। खंड और अधिकारी संदीप व सहकर्म अधिकृत पवन कुमार ने पशुधन प्रबंधन, भूदा व्यवस्थ्य व पर्यावरण संरक्षण पर जागरूकता दी। कार्यक्रम को कोऑर्डिनेटर अश्विनी बागड़ी, प्रशिक्षण वृक्षक कपूर व सार्वजनिक शिक्षा मंत्री ने खोजे।



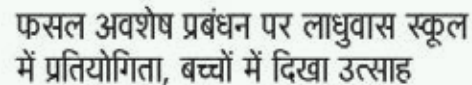
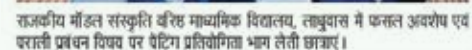
रतिया, 10 अक्तर (शेलेन) :
 कृषि विभाग फल-बाद,
 सी.आई.आई. फार्कडेशन न
 एच.डी.एच.सी. परिवर्तन के सहाय
 से रात रातिका में परती प्रधन
 जासुकाता के पा आयेजन किया
 गया। फार्कडेशन द्वारा किसानों को
 परती प्रधन लेव प्रोसासित करने
 के उदेश्य से निशुल्क 50 सुपर
 सोडर वितरित किए गए तथा 60
 गाँवों को गोशिया गया।
 कार्यक्रम में एस.डी.एम. सुन्दर

सिंह ने कहा कि ये कृषि यंत्रों के
 मिलने से किसानों को बेहतर फसल
 उत्पादन में सहायता करेगी।
 उन्होंने गाँव रातखेड़ा स्टेटियम
 परिसर में पौधारोपण किया तथा
 किसानों को नि:शुल्क वितरित किए
 गए। सुपर सोडर को हरी जूडी
 दिखाना परती प्रधन अभिप्राय के
 लिए बताया गया। उन्होंने कहा कि
 कृषि यंत्रों का प्रयोग करके किसान
 अपने खेत से अधिक पैसावा ले
 सकातें। किसानों से आभान किया

कि किसान फसल अवशेष न जलाएँ
 तकि पर्यावरण दूषित न हो। खेतों में
 फसल अवशेष जलाने से रोकने के
 लिए गठित कमेटी द्वारा विशेष
 निगरानी का ज रही है।

संदीप कुमार खण्ड कृषि
 अधिकारी ने किसानों को फाली
 प्रधन योजनाओं की बारे में
 विस्तारपूर्वक जानकारी दी। पवन
 कुमार, सहायक कृषि अभियंता,
 फलबाद एवं नरेंज, कृषि विकास
 अधिकारी (धाम यंत्र), फलबाद

ने किसानों को फसल अवशेषों के
 स्थल प्रबंधन हेतु प्रभावी रणनीतियों
 के बारे में बताया।
 उन्होंने मूल स्वास्थ्य सुधार, वायु
 प्रदूषण नियंत्रण एवं कृषि उत्पादकता
 बढ़ाने में परती प्रबंधन की महत्वपूर्ण
 भूमिका पर प्रकाश डाला। इस अवसर
 पर कार्यक्रम में अतिथि बागडू, रातखेड़ा प्रधन प्रचार राजेश कुमार,
 रातखेड़ा सरपंच अरविन्द सहाग तथा गाँव रातखेड़ा एवं अजीत नार के
 अनेक किसान उपस्थित रहे।

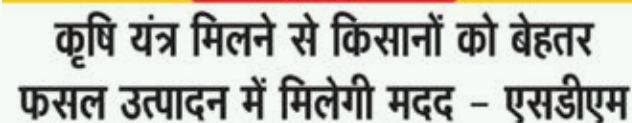


सखेरा नूज/संगता राणी भूजा २४ अगस्त सीआईआई फाउंडेशन और एडवोकेसीबी बैंक के संयुक्त इस्तेमाल में राजस्थी मॉडल सेंट्रल बौद्ध धर्मधर्म विद्यालय, लाधुवाथ में फसल अवसर एवं पहली इत्रचन विषय पर चर्चा, स्थान, और विषय प्रभावित प्रतियोगिता का आयोजन किया गया। यह कार्यक्रम कवीर एयर, वेटर लाइफ रीजिओन के सहित आयोजित हुआ, जिसका उद्देश्य नून जलन (जोरी बर्बियो) को बढ़ावा देना है। कार्यक्रम का मंत्र संकलन शुक्राच चंद ने पेश किया। प्रतियोगिता में बड़ी संख्या में विद्यार्थियों ने भाग लिया और वर्षभर सराया को लेकर अपनी रचनात्मकता दिखाई। प्रतियोगिता के बाद विद्यार्थियों के लिए छो-छो वरदानकारण दीसी खेल प्रतिस्पर्धा भी आयोजित की गई, जिनमें बच्चों ने बहुत रुचिकार हिस्सा लिया। वेक्टर प्रदर्शन करने वाले प्रतियोगियों को सम्मानित किया गया। इस अवसर पर सीआईआई फाउंडेशन की ओर से विद्यालय को दो घंटे एवं नौ शतरंज मैट पेड उपहार दिए गए। विद्यालय के प्राचार्य हार्दिक कुमार वाग्गी ने मुख्य अतिथि पर सहीत सभी अंगतुकों का अप्पर बक्ष क्रिया और विद्यार्थियों को स्वरूप पहचानने बनाए रखने का संदेश दिया। कार्यक्रम में सीआईआई फाउंडेशन से अनुपल्पा सिरोकी, अकिश वाग्गी, नितीला जात्री, हेमा झाझिया आदिमन रहे। वहीं स्कूल स्टायक से समुद्र सिंह, अतोकि कुमार, रोमी पीदीआ, कालकर सिंह, विजन, मनजीव, जसविंदर खौर, अंजू रानी, लीलज, सुरेश कुमार और मुत्तसिम सिंह मौजूद रहे।

Mon, 25 August 2025
epaper.dainiksaveratimes.in/c/78



रताखेड़ा गांव में सीआईआई फाउंडेशन द्वारा जागरूकता कैंप का आयोजन





Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Rebuilding Lives: From Relief to Recovery

Natural disasters continue to pose significant challenges to communities across India, often striking without warning and causing widespread damage to infrastructure, agriculture, and essential services. India's diverse geography, combined with the increasing impacts of climate change, has heightened the frequency and intensity of natural disasters, severely affecting underserved populations. Floods, cyclones, landslides, droughts, and extreme weather events continue to disrupt livelihoods, displace families, and place immense pressure on local administrations and relief systems, particularly in vulnerable rural and remote regions with limited access to resources and resilient infrastructure.

Disasters such as the landslides in Wayanad, Kerala, in 2024 underscore the need for sustained and collaborative response mechanisms that not only provide immediate relief, but also support long-term rehabilitation efforts to help communities rebuild their lives.

The CII Foundation adopts a multi-stakeholder approach, working closely with governments, industry, medical institutions, and civil society to deliver timely relief while enabling long-term recovery through infrastructure restoration, livelihood support, and community resilience-building.

Last year, while rehabilitation efforts in Wayanad, Kerala, gathered pace, communities affected by the landslides in Himachal Pradesh were also supported through the construction of Temporary Relief



Centres. In addition to emergency shelter and essential supplies, efforts were directed towards restoring dignity and stability for affected families through access to healthcare, sanitation, educational support, and psychosocial care. Recognising that disaster response must extend beyond immediate relief, CII Foundation continues to strengthen community preparedness and resilience through capacity-building initiatives, local engagement, and sustainable rehabilitation interventions aimed at helping vulnerable communities recover stronger and better prepared for future crises.

Key Components of the Program



Establishing a Robust Disaster Response System

Utilizing the extensive CII network to effectively execute disaster relief efforts, empowering numerous touch points across the country, facilitating a comprehensive rehabilitation process.



Distribution of Relief Material

Providing essential aid such as food, ration, and medicine to affected regions.



Rehabilitation Initiatives

Undertaking the reconstruction of impacted infrastructure like schools and health centres, coupled with livelihood programs for affected communities.



Key Supporters

Pool-funded project supported by multiple CII Members

Locations



Pan India



Kerala Relief and Rehabilitation

The floods and landslides that struck Wayanad district, Kerala, in July 2024 caused widespread damage to infrastructure and significantly disrupted the lives of vulnerable communities, particularly in tribal regions. In the months that followed, the CII Foundation, in partnership with the Wayanad District Administration, Orkla India Pvt. Ltd. and Synthite Industries came together to support a structured and sustained rehabilitation effort, empowering the affected communities and facilitating a comprehensive rehabilitation process.

A key component of the rehabilitation program has been the strengthening of early childhood education through Anganwadi Centres and the capacity-building of Anganwadi workers.

A community kitchen and recreation facility at the Priyadarshini Tea Estate in Wayanad were also reconstructed as part of the initiative.

Strengthening Anganwadi Centres in Flood-Affected Areas

The CII Foundation, in collaboration with the District Administration, Orkla India Private Limited, and technical partner Nirmithi Kendra, initiated a structured Anganwadi strengthening intervention. Based on a detailed assessment of 21 Anganwadi Centres in consultation with the Wayanad Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) office and Nirmithi Kendra, 15 Anganwadi Centres were identified in Kalpetta Municipality, Muttill Grama Panchayat, Padinjaraathara Grama Panchayat, Meppadi Grama Panchayat, Poothadi Grama Panchayat, Vengapally Grama Panchayat, Thariyode Grama Panchayat and Moopainad Grama Panchayat.

As part of the project, a comprehensive baseline assessment was undertaken to evaluate infrastructure, preschool education, nutrition, health services, growth monitoring, and the capacity of Anganwadi workers. Many of these centres had become non-functional due to water damage and structural instability. Upgradation efforts were therefore designed to create safe, child-friendly, and engaging environments using the Building as Learning Aid (BaLA) approach, which integrates educational elements such as alphabets into the physical spaces of the centres.



Following joint site assessments with Anganwadi workers, Panchayat representatives, and ICDS officials, revised infrastructure plans were developed, and efforts commenced across the centres, including civil repairs, improved water and sanitation facilities, ventilation enhancements, and installation of interactive learning elements.

The infrastructure was upgraded using the Building as Learning Aid (BaLA) concept and renovation work—covering flooring, truss repairs, kitchen renovation, construction of child-friendly toilets, painting, and educational artwork—was initiated in 15 centres.

By January 2026, refurbishment activities had advanced significantly, with multiple centres nearing completion and artwork finalised in select locations. A key milestone was achieved on 16 January 2026 with the inauguration of six upgraded Anganwadi centres, alongside the launch of a district-wide Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) training program.

Capacity building of Anganwadi workers were organised in 15 batches covering eight ICDS blocks which benefited more than 870 Anganwadi workers. The program helped strengthen the participants' understanding of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) concepts and improved the effective use of Teaching Learning Materials (TLMs) which were distributed and used in preschool classrooms. It also enhanced the confidence of Anganwadi workers in delivering engaging and child-friendly learning experiences.



Livelihood Support for Tribal Communities

Strengthening livelihoods for affected tribal communities remained a key focus of the Wayanad rehabilitation efforts. In July 2025, the CII Foundation, in partnership with Synthite Industries Private Limited, initiated the reconstruction of a community kitchen and recreation facility at the Priyadarshini Tea Estate in Wayanad. Established in 1984, this tea estate is a co-operative society with a rich and meaningful history and was part of a large-scale rehabilitation initiative aimed at providing land and employment to tribal communities, and it continues to play a vital role in sustaining livelihoods.

With a focus on supporting marginalised families in the Pilakavu, Mananthavady area, particularly from the Paniya community, this intervention was envisioned to promote nutrition, wellbeing, and community rehabilitation.

The CII Foundation engaged Nirmithi Kendra, Wayanad, as the implementing agency to undertake construction of a dedicated nutrition and community space.

Construction progressed steadily through January 2026, with the foundation completed, steel structuring and roofing nearing 90% completion, and internal partition work advancing to 75%. A key milestone was achieved with the inauguration of the centre on 13 March 2026 by Mr. Athul Sagar, IAS, Sub Collector of Wayanad. Present on the occasion were Division Counsellor, Jubair K V; Paniya Tribal leader, Mr. Balan Veran; Priyadarshini Society Directors, Smt. Sharatha and Smt. Shanta;



The CII Foundation adopts a multi-stakeholder approach, working closely with governments, industry, medical institutions, and civil society to deliver timely relief while enabling long-term recovery through infrastructure restoration, livelihood support, and community resilience-building.

Smt. Sudha, Secretary, Priyadarshini Tea Estate and Mr. Sajith O K, Executive Secretary, District Nirmithi Kendra, Wayanad, along with members of the tribal community and workers of the Priyadarshini Tea Estate.

The facility, designed to provide access to free hygienic and nutritious midday meals, while also creating a safe space for interaction and recreation, is expected to benefit around 180 workers daily and support nearly 120 families.

The initiative reflects a continued commitment to enabling resilient livelihoods and fostering inclusive community development in disaster-affected regions.



Disaster Relief in Punjab

The floods of 2025 severely affected agricultural communities across Punjab, leaving large tracts of farmland covered with silt and debris and disrupting farming operations during a critical agricultural season. Recognising the need to restore productive assets and enable farmers to resume cultivation, the CII Foundation undertook a community-led agricultural restoration initiative.

With support from Manu Yantralay, Agrasen Engineering Industries Pvt. Ltd., Kanchan Metals Pvt. Ltd., Danish Power Limited, Sharp Chucks, T K Steel Roll, Gilard Electronics Pvt. Ltd., Samtel Avionics Limited, Pritika Auto Industries, Kangaro Industries Limited, Anand Automotive Private Limited, JREW Engineering Ltd., Avon Cycles Limited, and JK Cement Limited, five tractors were procured and handed over to Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) and Village Panchayats for shared community use across flood-affected areas.

The machinery enabled farmers to undertake land levelling, desilting, debris removal, and soil preparation, helping restore more than 1,190 acres of agricultural land across five districts—Ludhiana, Tarn Taran, Fatehgarh Sahib, Gurdaspur, and



Pathankot—and benefiting 276 farmers. By facilitating timely preparation of flood-damaged fields, the intervention helped farmers resume cultivation within the cropping season, reducing delays in sowing and mitigating potential livelihood losses.

Beyond immediate restoration, placing productive assets under community ownership strengthened local institutions and improved access to affordable farm mechanisation. The initiative demonstrates how coordinated industry support and community-led asset management can contribute to faster post-disaster recovery while strengthening the long-term resilience of agricultural communities.



Disaster Relief in Himachal Pradesh

Incessant rainfall/cloudburst severely affected Thunag, Gohar, Dharampur, and Kasong areas of Mandi District, with Thunag Sub-Division being the worst affected. Continuous rainfall thereafter further aggravated the situation.

To address this urgent humanitarian need, CII Foundation partnered with District Disaster Management Authority, Mandi, and supported the construction of Temporary Relief Centres near Government Primary School, Rahkot in Block Janjehli, to ensure safe shelter for the disaster-affected families.

Change on the Ground: From Numbers to Narratives

3600
People

Impacted annually through Wayanad rehabilitation efforts

Early childhood education strengthened in Wayanad District by refurbishing Anganwadis and training of Anganwadi workers.

Tribal communities supported and empowered through the reconstruction of a kitchen and recreation centre.

Voices of Impact

Our Anganwadi was functioning in an estate building with very limited facilities, and no major improvements was made for several years. Children were studying in poor conditions. After the support from CII Foundation, the centre has been completely renovated and transformed into a safe, child-friendly space. Now, more children are joining, and it has become a model Anganwadi in our area.

Fawsia
Anganwadi Teacher, Kadoor 2 Anganwadi No- 51, Wayanad, Kerala

Seeing this gruel centre makes us very happy. Now we can eat food from a clean and hygienic place. Earlier, the condition of the gruel centre was very poor. When we were tired from work, it was difficult for us to eat, as we had to sit on the mud floor. Now everything has changed.

Balan Veran
Paniya Tribal Leader, Wayanad, Kerala

Sincere appreciation is extended to CII Foundation for its valuable financial support and commitment towards the establishment of the Community Relief Centre at Rahkot, Sub-Division Thunag. The facility is providing safe shelter and relief to affected families and stands as a meaningful contribution towards community welfare and resilience. The support and cooperation of CII Foundation in humanitarian initiatives is highly commendable.

District Disaster Management Authority
O/o Deputy Commissioner Mandi.





Education

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



EDUCATION



Education: Nurturing Minds to Unlock Potential

Early childhood forms the foundation of lifelong learning and development, shaping the trajectory of a nation's future. Ensuring access to quality education, along with adequate nutrition, care, and stimulating environments, is critical for children's cognitive, emotional, and physical growth. These formative years have a lasting influence on learning outcomes and overall well-being.

In India, Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme serve as a critical platform for delivering Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) services to children from 0-6 years, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating mothers. However, gaps persist, particularly in infrastructure quality, community awareness and capacity of Anganwadi Workers to deliver engaging, age-appropriate learning experiences.

Addressing these challenges, the CII Foundation is working through an integrated Hub-and-Spoke model of infrastructure improvement, capacity building of ICDS functionaries on early childhood education, nutrition, health, WASH and engaging communities for better ownership. This will be complemented by the effective utilisation of Teaching Learning Materials, BaLA, growth monitoring equipment, nutrition gardens and play resources to enhance the quality of service delivery and improve early childhood development outcomes.

During 2025-26, the Foundation's Anganwadi strengthening interventions scaled in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh and got established in Uttar Pradesh.

Additionally, STEM labs initiative in schools in Tamil Nadu and the Digital Literacy initiative in Uttar Pradesh were implemented to strengthen learning outcomes beyond early childhood, extending CII Foundation's support across different stages of the education lifecycle—from foundational learning to future-ready skills.

Strengthening Early Childhood Education in Andhra Pradesh



Strengthening early childhood care systems through collaborative action, the CII Foundation, in partnership with Blue Star Limited, has been implementing the Anganwadi Strengthening Program in Tada, Andhra Pradesh. Anchored in a detailed need-gap assessment, five Anganwadi Centres were identified for comprehensive upgradation, ensuring that interventions under the project remain responsive to local requirements and aligned with community priorities.

The project commenced with preparatory assessments and planning exercises, laying the foundation for infrastructure development and

Key Components of the Program



Infrastructure Support to Develop Model Anganwadi Centres

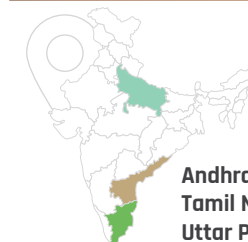


Developing Age and Culturally Appropriate Curriculum



Promoting the use of Teaching Learning Material (TLM)

Locations



Andhra Pradesh
Tamil Nadu
Uttar Pradesh



Capacity Building of Anganwadi Workers



Involving and Engaging the Community

Key Supporters



BORGWARNER



KEMIN



capacity-building efforts. The selected centres have since been upgraded using the BaLA approach, transforming them into safe, engaging, and child-friendly environments that foster early learning. Designed in line with the principles of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, these spaces leverage interactive elements that promote cognitive, social, and emotional development, empowering young children.

Complementing infrastructure improvements, the Anganwadi strengthening program has placed strong emphasis on strengthening the capacities of frontline functionaries. A two-day capacity-building workshop on ECCE and Disability Inclusion was organised for Anganwadi workers, focusing on inclusive and child-centric service delivery. The sessions covered key aspects -holistic child development, effective centre management, early identification of developmental delays, and practical strategies to engage children through age-appropriate, play-based learning methodologies. The training also introduced tools and techniques to support children with diverse developmental needs, enabling workers to create more inclusive and responsive learning environments.

The workshop witnessed the participation of Ms. Jyothi Kiran, Child Development Project Officer (CDPO), Sullurupeta, and Ms. Laxmi Narayanamma, Supervisor, ICDS, who highlighted the importance of strengthening inclusive early learning systems at the grassroots.

Representatives from Blue Star Climatech Limited, including Ms. Deepthi, HR; Mr. Sunil, Admin; Mr. Vijay, E-Cell; and Mr. Vinant, R&D; also engaged actively with participants, reaffirming the organisation's commitment to advancing early childhood education through sustained partnerships.

A significant milestone under this Anganwadi Strengthening Program was the formal inauguration of the upgraded Anganwadi Centres on 13 January 2026 in the presence of representatives from Blue Star Limited, the CII Foundation, officials from the Integrated Child Development Services, local leaders, and community stakeholders. This marked the transition from planning to on-ground impact, with strengthened infrastructure and enhanced worker capacities contributing to improved program implementation.

By integrating infrastructure enhancement with capacity building and community engagement, the initiative is enabling Anganwadi Centres to evolve into inclusive, responsible, and stimulating spaces. CII Foundation will continue to reinforce the shared commitment of Blue Star Limited and local stakeholders towards building strong early learning foundations and ensuring holistic development outcomes for children at the grassroots level.

Strengthening Early Childhood Education in Tamil Nadu



The CII Foundation, in partnership with CII Southern Region and Kasa India Pvt. Ltd. launched a project in April 2025 to transform Anganwadi Centres into safe, engaging, and development-oriented spaces for young children, while simultaneously strengthening the capacities of frontline workers delivering critical services under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) framework.

Kottaikarai Anganwadi in Gummidipoondi block, Thiruvallur district was identified for upgradation and a formal ceremony held on 4 April 2025 marked the start of the initiative, bringing together representatives from Kasa India Pvt. Ltd., and officials from the ICDS Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, and members of the local community.

The upgradation included repairing the roof, renovation of sanitation facilities, painting, electrical and plumbing work, installation of mosquito nets, and repairs to doors and windows. The premises were further enhanced through the development of paver block pathways, installation of fencing with a name board, and the creation of dedicated indoor and outdoor play areas. And incorporated the Building as Learning Aid (BaLA) approach to further enhance the functionality of Anganwadi spaces as interactive learning environments.

The upgraded Anganwadi Centre was inaugurated on 16 July 2025 in the presence of key dignitaries including Mr. R.V. Chari, Convenor, MSME Panel, CII Tamil Nadu and Managing Director, GH Induction India Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. Sankar Ganesh G, AVP, Finance, Kaleesuwari Refinery Private Limited; Mr. Karu Thiruman K, General Manager, Kasa India; and Ms. Mogana, Child Development Project Officer, Gummidipoondi.

Recognising that infrastructure alone cannot drive sustained impact, the program places significant emphasis on strengthening the capacities of Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Helpers (AWHs). A comprehensive training program was conducted for 35 workers from the Gummidipoondi block,

Thiruvallur district of Tamil Nadu, focusing on both early childhood education and nutrition. The sessions covered key aspects such as physical, cognitive, and language development; activity-based learning approaches including circle time and free conversation; and awareness modules on child safety. In parallel, training on nutrition included growth monitoring, hygiene practices, identification and management of nutritional deficiencies, and strategies for community engagement. The participation of district officials, including the Child Development Project Officer, reinforced the importance of integrating these learnings into daily Anganwadi operations. Another training session was conducted on 22 November 2025 for 30 Anganwadi workers from the project area. Facilitated by a trainer from Pratham, the session focused on enhancing classroom engagement and strengthening early



learning practices, further reinforcing the role of Anganwadi workers as key enablers of quality early childhood education.

To further strengthen the learning environment, educational kits were distributed across 20 Anganwadi Centres. These included a wide range of age-appropriate materials such as flash cards, finger puppets, stacking toys, musical instruments, puzzles, sensory books, building blocks, and bilingual charts in English.

Building on these efforts, the program expanded in 2026 through new partnerships and an increased focus on integrating innovative approaches.

A capacity-building program for 35 Anganwadi Workers was conducted in Gummidipoondi, with an emphasis on strengthening the delivery of ICDS services. Key areas included improved growth monitoring, promotion of the Poshan Abhiyaan initiative, and the use of digital tools to enhance service delivery for women and children at the community level.

Further, geographic expansion of this initiative was implemented as part of the project, with the commencement of a new Anganwadi building in Thirumangalam, Sriperumbudur, in Kanchipuram district, supported by BorgWarner Cooling Systems India Private Limited. The inaugural ceremony brought together representatives from the ICDS Department, including Child Development Project Officer, along with panchayat leaders and community members, earmarking the continued collaborative approach of the intervention.

Further strengthening the program's impact, three additional Anganwadi Centres in Thervoy Kandigai, Chithoor Natham, and Panathumettu Kandigai in Gummidipoondi block, Thiruvallur district, were upgraded and formally handed over in partnership with Kemin Industries South Asia Pvt. Ltd.

The upgraded centres were inaugurated in the presence of Dr. Sureshkumar Rajaram, President, Kemin Industries South Asia Pvt. Ltd., and Mr. George Joseph, Vice President, Kemin Industries South Asia Pvt. Ltd., along with their team. Also, representatives from the ICDS Department, Anganwadi staff, and local communities were present at the program. These centres were comprehensively strengthened to ensure safe, inclusive, and stimulating environments for young children, while also reinforcing community ownership.

Across all interventions under Project Narumugai, the integration of infrastructure development, capacity building, and community engagement has contributed to strengthening ecosystems for early childhood care and education.

By fostering collaborative partnerships with industry and government stakeholders, the CII Foundation continues to support the delivery of quality services at the grassroots level, ensuring improved learning outcomes, better nutrition awareness, and stronger community participation in the development of children.





Education

Strengthening School Infrastructure in Thirumudivakkam, Tamil Nadu



Strengthening access to safe and conducive learning environments remains a key priority for the CII Foundation. In line with this commitment, an education infrastructure improvement initiative is being undertaken at the Government Higher Secondary School in Thirumudivakkam, Tamil Nadu, in partnership with GH Induction. The project focuses on enhancing the overall quality of school infrastructure to create spaces that are both functional and supportive of effective learning.

The initiative was formally set in motion with a ceremony held on 8 December 2025, marking the commencement of on-ground work. The program was attended by Mr. Yuthistran from GH Induction as the chief guest, along with the school Headmaster and faculty members, reflecting a shared commitment to strengthening educational infrastructure through collaborative efforts.

Work began shortly thereafter on the upgradation of five classrooms and the improvement of essential facilities within the school premises. The scope of interventions was designed to address both structural and functional needs, including roof waterproofing, repairing doors and windows, installation of tile flooring, and comprehensive interior and exterior painting. Additional improvements such as electrical upgrades, installation of handrails, minor toilet repairs, and the provision of a printer or desktop computer were also incorporated, as part of the intervention, to support day-to-day school operations.

Building on this progress, the upgraded classroom block was formally inaugurated on 4 March 2026. The ceremony was graced by Mr. R. V. Chari, Chairman, CII Chennai Zone and Managing Director, GH Induction India Pvt. Ltd.; Ms. J. Gnanaselvajothi, Headmistress, Government Higher Secondary School, Thirumudivakkam; representatives from Namma School Namma Oru Palli under the Tamil Nadu School Education Department; community leaders; and representatives from the Confederation of Indian Industry and the CII Foundation.

This partnership also included the development of a designated sports area, further contributing to a more holistic learning environment. Collectively, these interventions have contributed to the creation of safer, more accessible, and better-equipped classrooms, fostering an environment that enhances student engagement while enabling teachers and supporting effective teaching and learning.

Stem Science Lab Project, Gummudipoondi, Tamil Nadu



Strengthening science education through experiential learning, the CII Foundation, in partnership with Kemin Industries South Asia Pvt. Ltd., has been implementing a STEM Science Lab initiative in Gummudipoondi. Designed to move beyond traditional classroom instruction, the intervention focuses on creating hands-on learning environments that nurture curiosity, experimentation, and critical thinking among school students.

The initiative began with the identification of six schools, where the installation of STEM laboratory facilities was initiated. By January 2026, laboratories had been successfully set up in two schools, with work progressing across the remaining schools. To complement the physical infrastructure, customised IEC material with project-specific branding was also developed, supporting learning among students and engaging more effectively with key scientific concepts within the classroom environment.

The initiative saw a significant expansion on 11 February 2026, commemorating the International Day of Women and Girls in Science. On this occasion, STEM laboratories were established across eight

Government Higher Secondary Schools, further strengthening the reach and impact of the initiative. Recognising the importance of educator readiness, a dedicated Training of Trainers (ToT) was conducted for teachers. This capacity-building effort focused on hands-on engagement with STEM models and equipping educators to integrate experiential learning methodologies into their regular teaching practices.

By fostering an interactive and application-based approach to science education, the project not only enhances student learning outcomes but also builds sustained institutional capacity, enabling more than 5,000 students annually to benefit from engaging and practical STEM education experiences.

Digital Literacy Project, Uttar Pradesh



In partnership with Infosys Foundation, the CII Foundation is implementing a Digital Literacy Program for 600+ youth, with a focused emphasis on girls aged 16 and above across Barabanki, Lakhimpur Kheri, and Lucknow districts of Uttar Pradesh. Rolled out as a year-long intervention, the program delivers structured, hands-on training in computer fundamentals, including MS Word, PowerPoint, and exposure to emerging AI tools such as ChatGPT.

Designed with a strong focus on employability readiness, the program equips participants with practical digital skills that are directly relevant to academic and professional settings. For many participants, this marked their first interaction with a computer. Over the course of the training, they progressed from learning basic computer operations to independently creating resumes, preparing presentations, drafting documents, and navigating

essential digital tools with confidence. These foundational skills have significantly enhanced their confidence and preparedness for higher education and future employment opportunities.

Through a combination of digital literacy modules, practical skill-building sessions, and continuous mentorship, the program strengthened confidence, enhancing career readiness, and enabling young minds to meaningfully engage with evolving digital literacy, thereby supporting pathways to future opportunities. With such futuristic interventions, CII Foundation will continue to strengthen the digital literacy landscape in a consistent effort towards bridging the digital divide in India, thereby empowering young people with a focus on girl child education and holistic development.





Change on the Ground: From Numbers to Narratives

22,000
children
impacted
across
intervened
areas.

- Created safe, child-friendly spaces across intervened Anganwadi Centres.
- Included training on early-detection of developmental delays in children.
- Enabled experiential and spatial learning for students on STEM and ECE.
- Bridged the digital divide for youth.
- Created sustainable Teaching-Learning Materials (TLMs) using locally available resources.

Voices of Impact

Earlier, I didn't know how to use a mouse or keyboard. Through the Digital Literacy Program, I got the opportunity to learn computer skills. Today, I can confidently use a computer and work on MS Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. As I learned, I also encouraged children around me to learn. I hope this program continues to empower many more people.



Chandni
Participant, Digital Literacy Program
Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

The ECCE training conducted by CII Foundation was extremely insightful and practical. It helped us understand a range of activities that can be introduced to support children's learning across the five key developmental domains. While we have attended similar trainings in the past, this program offered a fresh perspective and a more engaging approach to early childhood education. I am confident that the knowledge and skills gained through this training will help us better nurture the growth and development of children in our Anganwadis.



Gracy
Anganwadi Worker
Wayanad, Kerala

Media Coverage - Highlights

ग्रामीण बेटियों ने तीन माह की कंप्यूटर शिक्षा प्राप्त कर बढ़ी आत्मनिर्भरता की ओर

कैमिजि टाइम्स संवाददाता

श्रीकान्त सिंह शाक्य
लखीमपुर। तीन महीने की निष्ठा और लगन से पूरी की गई कंप्यूटर प्रशिक्षण ने ग्रामीण क्षेत्र की बेटियों के जीवन में नया आत्मविश्वास भर दिया। दूर-दराज के गांवों से आयी उन बेटियों ने कंप्यूटर सीखा, जिन्हें पहले इसके बारे में कोई जानकारी नहीं थी। अब वही बेटियाँ शानदार परिणाम के साथ आगे बढ़ने को तैयार हैं। त्रैमासिक प्रशिक्षण के उपरान्त परिणाम बेहद उत्साहजनक रहे। 220 छात्राओं में से 3 छात्राओं ने अपनी मेहनत से 100 प्रतिशत अंक प्राप्त किए, जबकि आधे से अधिक बेटियाँ 80-90 प्रतिशत अंक हासिल करने में सफल रहीं। यह उपलब्धि न केवल उनके परिश्रम का प्रमाण है, बल्कि ग्रामीण शिक्षा में हो रहे सकारात्मक बदलाव की भी दर्शाती है। एम ट्यूट द्वारा संचालित डिजिटल लर्निंग सेन्टर रतहरा तथा लखीमपुर के लीला कुआँ में प्रमाण पत्र वितरण समारोह का आयोजन किया गया। इस अवसर पर बेटियों के चेहरे पर खुशी और आत्मविश्वास साफ झलक रहा था।



लखीमपुर में आयोजित कार्यक्रम में मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में जिला पंचायत सदस्य सुमन वर्मा और जिला पंचायत इंटर कॉलेज की शिक्षिका रेखा वर्मा उपस्थित रहीं। साथ ही रतहरा क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय के कार्यक्रम में मुख्य अतिथि ब्लॉक नोडल बालिका शिक्षा सलीम अहमद उपस्थित रहे। संस्था निदेशक संजय कुमार व कार्यकारी निदेशक प्रीति उपाध्याय माया सिंह वाई न कस्तुरबा गांधी आवासीय बालिका विद्यालय मितौली, प्रो० संजय कुमार वाईडीपीजी कालेज ने बेटियों को प्रमाण पत्र वितरित कर उनका उत्साहवर्धन किया।

यह तीन महीने का कंप्यूटर कोर्स सीआईआई फाउंडेशन, एम ट्यूट, खेन कोड, ऑडिस और इन्फोसिस के सहयोग से संचालित किया गया। इस प्रशिक्षण का मुख्य उद्देश्य बेटियों को डिजिटल साक्षरता के साथ-साथ जाँव के लिए तैयार करना था, ताकि वे भविष्य में नये अवसरों को प्राप्त कर आत्मनिर्भर बन सकें। मुख्य अतिथि सलीम अहमद ने कार्यक्रम को सम्बोधित करते हुए कहा कि ऐसे कार्यक्रम समाज में बालिकाओं को जाईडीपीजी कालेज ने बेटियों को प्रमाण पत्र वितरित कर उनका उत्साहवर्धन किया।

25 वर्षों से लगातार बच्चों की शिक्षा, स्वास्थ्य, सुरक्षा व पोषण पर कार्य कर रही एम ट्यूट की यह पहल ग्रामीण क्षेत्र की बेटियों के लिए एक नई दिशा साबित हो रही है, जहाँ शिक्षा के साथ आत्मनिर्भरता का सपना भी साकार हो रहा है। जब बालिकाएँ शिक्षित होती हैं, तो वे समाज की प्रगति में योगदान देती हैं। एक शिक्षित महिला स्वस्थ परिवारों का पालन-पोषण करेगी, आर्थिक विकास में योगदान देगी और गरीबी के दुष्पंचक को तोड़ेगी। आइए हम सभी अभिभावकों और समुदायों को प्रत्येक बालिका की शिक्षा को प्राथमिकता देने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करें। यह केवल एक व्यक्तिगत उपलब्धि नहीं है, बल्कि राष्ट्रीय विकास की दिशा में एक कदम है। मुझे उम्मीद है कि जिन लड़कियों को परिस्थितियों का सामना करना पड़ता है, वे मजबूत और आत्मविश्वासी बनेंगी और खुद पर भरोसा रखेंगी। जब आप अपनी शिक्षा जारी रखती हैं तो सब कुछ संभव है। कार्यक्रम में सोमन, रामचन्द्र, नाज, इंदरीश, ग्रामीण क्षेत्र के अभिभावक व बालिकाओं ने प्रतिभाग किया।

कम्प्यूटर की शिक्षा से आत्मनिर्भर बन रहीं बेटियाँ

विद्युत्समर्ता संवाददाता

लखीमपुर खीरी। तीन महीने की निष्ठा और लगन से पूरी की गई कंप्यूटर प्रशिक्षण ने ग्रामीण क्षेत्र की बेटियों के जीवन में नया आत्मविश्वास भर दिया। दूर-दराज के गांवों से आयी उन बेटियों ने कंप्यूटर सीखा, जिन्हें पहले इसके बारे में कोई जानकारी नहीं थी। अब वही बेटियाँ शानदार परिणाम के साथ आगे बढ़ने को तैयार हैं। त्रैमासिक प्रशिक्षण के उपरान्त परिणाम बेहद उत्साहजनक रहे। 220 छात्राओं में से 3 छात्राओं ने अपनी मेहनत से 100 प्रतिशत अंक प्राप्त किए, जबकि आधे से अधिक बेटियाँ 80-90 प्रतिशत अंक हासिल करने में सफल रहीं। यह उपलब्धि न केवल उनके परिश्रम का प्रमाण है, बल्कि ग्रामीण शिक्षा में हो रहे सकारात्मक बदलाव की भी दर्शाती है। एम ट्यूट द्वारा संचालित डिजिटल लर्निंग सेन्टर रतहरा तथा लखीमपुर के लीला कुआँ में प्रमाण पत्र वितरण समारोह का आयोजन किया गया। इस अवसर पर बेटियों के चेहरे पर खुशी और आत्मविश्वास साफ झलक रहा था।



लखीमपुर में आयोजित कार्यक्रम में मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में जिला पंचायत सदस्य सुमन वर्मा और जिला पंचायत इंटर कॉलेज की शिक्षिका रेखा वर्मा उपस्थित रहीं। साथ ही रतहरा क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय के कार्यक्रम में मुख्य अतिथि ब्लॉक नोडल बालिका शिक्षा सलीम अहमद उपस्थित रहे। संस्था निदेशक संजय कुमार व कार्यकारी निदेशक प्रीति उपाध्याय माया सिंह वाई न कस्तुरबा गांधी आवासीय बालिका विद्यालय मितौली, प्रो० संजय कुमार वाईडीपीजी कालेज ने बेटियों को प्रमाण पत्र वितरित कर उनका उत्साहवर्धन किया।

ग्रामीण बेटियों ने तीन माह की कंप्यूटर शिक्षा प्राप्त कर बढ़ी आत्मनिर्भरता की ओर

कैमिजि टाइम्स संवाददाता

लखीमपुर। तीन महीने की निष्ठा और लगन से पूरी की गई कंप्यूटर प्रशिक्षण ने ग्रामीण क्षेत्र की बेटियों के जीवन में नया आत्मविश्वास भर दिया। दूर-दराज के गांवों से आयी उन बेटियों ने कंप्यूटर सीखा, जिन्हें पहले इसके बारे में कोई जानकारी नहीं थी। अब वही बेटियाँ शानदार परिणाम के साथ आगे बढ़ने को तैयार हैं। त्रैमासिक प्रशिक्षण के उपरान्त परिणाम बेहद उत्साहजनक रहे। 220 छात्राओं में से 3 छात्राओं ने अपनी मेहनत से 100 प्रतिशत अंक प्राप्त किए, जबकि आधे से अधिक बेटियाँ 80-90 प्रतिशत अंक हासिल करने में सफल रहीं। यह उपलब्धि न केवल उनके परिश्रम का प्रमाण है, बल्कि ग्रामीण शिक्षा में हो रहे सकारात्मक बदलाव की भी दर्शाती है। एम ट्यूट द्वारा संचालित डिजिटल लर्निंग सेन्टर रतहरा तथा लखीमपुर के लीला कुआँ में प्रमाण पत्र वितरण समारोह का आयोजन किया गया। इस अवसर पर बेटियों के चेहरे पर खुशी और आत्मविश्वास साफ झलक रहा था।

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भ्रमण के दौरान मौजूद विभा. प्रिया शेराली व अन्य।

अमृत विचार

विकास के लिए खेल और शिक्षा अनिवार्य

बाराबंकी, अमृत विचार : ताराश्री फाउंडेशन प्रोजेक्ट अंतर्गत साआईआई फाउंडेशन दिल्ली कम्युनिकेशन विभाग हेड प्रिया शेराली ने सतरिख स्थित स्टैडियम व कंप्यूटर प्रशिक्षण केंद्र का भ्रमण किया। इस अवसर पर ताराश्री फाउंडेशन की संस्थापक विभा भी मौजूद रहीं। भ्रमण के दौरान उन्होंने स्टैडियम परिसर में बन रहे टेबल टेनिस कक्ष, वॉलीबॉल और बैडमिंटन कोर्ट का अवलोकन किया और कहा कि खेल और शिक्षा दोनों युवाओं के सर्वांगीण विकास के लिए आवश्यक हैं। प्रिया शेराली ने छात्रों को डिजिटल शिक्षा के महत्व और कंप्यूटर ज्ञान के जरिए नए अवसरों के बारे में जानकारी दी। उन्होंने कहा कि यह प्रशिक्षण केवल प्रमाण पत्र के लिए नहीं, बल्कि कौशल और ज्ञान बढ़ाने के उद्देश्य से लिया जाना चाहिए। यह प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम ताराश्री फाउंडेशन द्वारा सीआईआई फाउंडेशन के सहयोग से संचालित किया जा रहा है, जिसका उद्देश्य युवाओं को डिजिटल कौशल प्रदान कर उन्हें सशक्त बनाना है।





Healthcare

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



HEALTHCARE



Creating Healthy, Resilient Communities

Strong healthcare systems are the backbone of resilient communities. Improving health awareness, upgrading infrastructure, and building capacity of healthcare workers are not parallel efforts – they are interconnected drivers of social and economic stability.

In 2023–24, Healthcare was adopted as a priority area of work by the CII Foundation. Pilot projects were launched in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana with the support of Government and in partnership with industry, medical facilities/NGOs and the community.

Building on the success of the pilot projects, in 2025–26, the program transitioned to structured, scale-led implementation designed to strengthen healthcare infrastructure service delivery and institutional capacity.

Through this approach, the CII Foundation is building sustainable, community-centred healthcare systems across India.

Health Awareness Program for Schools in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana

The Health Awareness program, implemented by the CII Foundation in partnership with the HOPE Initiative, is designed to drive behavioural change by building health consciousness among school-going children.

Implemented across 50 government schools in rural districts of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, the program



covered Sohna, Pataudi, Manesar, Farukh Nagar and Wazirabad in Haryana, and Lucknow, Mohanlalganj (Bindauwa, Bhaundari, Jabrauli) and Sarojini Nagar (Bani, Benti) in Uttar Pradesh.

Adopting an interactive, engagement-led approach, skits, debates, quizzes, audio-visual modules and facilitated discussions were used to encourage students to critically examine everyday health practices and adopt healthier lifestyle choices. Structured workshops and thematic sessions conducted through the year reinforced key messages around nutrition, WASH, menstruation, environment consciousness, and overall well-being, preparing children to be health ambassadors within their families and communities.

Beginning April 2025, structured health awareness sessions were rolled out across participating schools in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. The sessions focused on WASH, environmental awareness, menstrual health, balanced nutrition, mental well-being, and preventive health practices. Special emphasis was placed on creating safe, informed spaces for adolescent girls – encouraging open dialogue and building confidence through accurate health information.

Key Components of the Program



Strengthening Community Access to Public Healthcare and Nutrition



Raising Health Awareness and Good Practices amongst Children and Adolescents



Strengthening Infrastructure



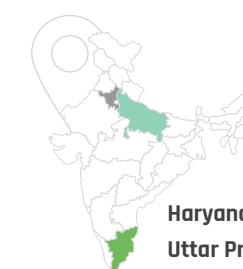
Capacity Building

Key Supporters



BORGWARNER
PIROJSHA
GODREJ
FOUNDATION

Locations



Haryana
Uttar Pradesh
Tamil Nadu



In Uttar Pradesh, World Health Day, 7 April 2025, was observed at the Composite School in Jabrauli, Mohanlalganj, under the theme “Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Future.” More than 160 students from Classes 1–8 participated in interactive learning modules promoting preventive healthcare and personal responsibility. Environmental stewardship was integrated as a core health determinant. On Earth Day, April 22, students engaged in discussions on environmental conservation, and vibrant poster-making sessions, conveying the importance of protecting trees, conserving water, and adopting sustainable practices to protect the planet.

A district-level panel discussion on Partnerships for Community Health Awareness held in Lucknow on 17 July 2025 brought together sector experts and community representatives, underscoring the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration in advancing inclusive health outcomes. The event was marked by the launch of two books by Dr. Gourdas Choudhuri — *The Unwritten Chapter: Stories to Shape Your Journey* and *The Unwritten Chapter: Self-Help Stories and Tools to Propel Your Growth* — both capturing real-life experiences and tools for personal and societal transformation.

In August, an environmental awareness drive was led by environmentalist. Shri Chandrabhooshan Tiwari (Pedh Baba) who inspired students to plant trees and care for the environment. The campaign’s message — *Ped Lagao, Dharti Bachao* (Plant Trees, Save the Earth) — resonated across classrooms and playgrounds, linking environmental stewardship with community well-being. A large-scale tree plantation drive was organised at Kashishwar Inter College, Mohanlalganj, in September in the presence of the environmentalist. More than 3,000 students, 80 teachers, and the Principal participated in the event, planting over 85 saplings of Peepal, Guava, Ashoka, Lemon, Amla, and Jackfruit.

In October, an interactive session on Good Touch and Bad Touch was conducted at ASN Public School, Mohanlalganj.

With the successful completion of all planned sessions across the 30 participating schools, a post-intervention assessment was conducted. Students participated enthusiastically and many shared their perspectives on the issues discussed.

The completion of the program in Uttar Pradesh marks an important step in strengthening school-based awareness and preventive learning.

In Haryana, a series of diverse activities were undertaken to create awareness and strengthen healthcare delivery. An awareness session on e-waste management was organised at Government Senior Secondary Girls School Manesar on 17 October 2025 in collaboration with Namo eWaste Management Ltd., a leading recycling company. The session introduced

In the “Balloon of Emotions” exercise, parents explored how emotions build up when ignored or suppressed, and how healthy expression can prevent emotional outbursts. Another activity, “One Word for My Child,” encouraged parents to pause, reflect, and reconnect with how they truly perceive their child.



students to safe disposal practices for electronic waste and the importance of recycling in preventing environmental hazards. School-based health awareness sessions were organised, including a Program at Mount Olympus School, Sector 47, Gurugram, Haryana, where more than 100 children learned to identify safe and unsafe touch, and how to respond assertively. The session encouraged open dialogue and empowered children with essential safety knowledge.

A parent counselling session was held at Kiitjee School in Haryana, engaging around 50 parents of middle school students. The session focused on helping parents better understand adolescent stress, emotional changes, and the pressures teenagers navigate today. Parents were guided on modelling healthy technology habits at home and introducing practical stress-coping strategies to support their children more effectively.

The session included reflective and experiential activities. In the “Balloon of Emotions” exercise, parents explored how emotions build up when ignored or suppressed, and how healthy expression can prevent emotional outbursts. Another activity, “One Word for My Child,” encouraged parents to pause, reflect, and reconnect with how they truly perceive their child—fostering empathy and stronger parent-child bonds. The interactive format created a safe space for dialogue.

Students from GGSSS, Manesar, Haryana completed post-session questionnaires, marking the culmination of all four health modules delivered under the program. Their reflections captured key learnings on hygiene, nutrition, mental well-being, and environmental responsibility. The program concluded with key learnings and a deeper understanding of the importance of healthcare.

Health Systems Strengthening Program in Uttar Pradesh

The Health Systems Strengthening Program in Dhanapur Block, Chandauli district, Uttar Pradesh, marked a strategic step by the CII Foundation, in partnership with the Pirojsha Godrej Foundation and implementing partner DigiSwasthya Foundation, to build resilient and community-centred rural healthcare systems.

The program was implemented across eight villages namely Sisaura Kala, Murali Pur, Mahuji, Medhana, Jigana, Visunpur Khurd, Avahi, and Vira Saray.

Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs), Anganwadi Workers, Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs), and Community Health Officers underwent structured, hands-on training in maternal and child health, nutrition, sanitation, and early childhood development. The objective was to move from basic service provision to informed, quality care responsive to local health needs.

Infrastructure strengthening complemented capacity building. Select Anganwadi Centres were revitalised using BaLA (Building as Learning Aid) principles to create safe, child-friendly, and hygienic spaces that support both health and early learning outcomes. These improvements also encouraged greater community ownership of early childhood care and development.

The program integrates sustained community engagement through door-to-door outreach, nukkad natak, and partnerships with local leaders to reinforce behaviour change at the household level.

By combining capacity enhancement, infrastructure revitalisation, and community mobilisation, the initiative advanced a shift from fragmented interventions to systemic strengthening — laying the foundation for durable health outcomes in rural Chandauli.



In April, a Tetanus and Diphtheria (TD) vaccination drive was conducted in coordination with the Health Department, with vaccinations administered at local schools by ANMs.

Routine immunisation efforts were reinforced through due-list tracking, door-to-door mobilisation, and targeted outreach to families previously hesitant to access services. Vitamin A supplementation and maternal health check-ups — including monitoring of weight, blood pressure, and high-risk pregnancies — were conducted at immunisation centres, ensuring continuity of care.

Frontline coordination was strengthened through AAA meetings involving Community Health Officers (CHOs), ANMs, and Anganwadi Workers, focusing on anaemia, tuberculosis screening, high-risk pregnancies, and nutrition. Generation of Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) IDs and facilitation of Golden Ayushman Card registration improved access to formal healthcare entitlements.

Behaviour change communication remained central to the program. Engagements with adolescent girls, pregnant women, and lactating mothers addressed menstrual hygiene, breastfeeding, anaemia, communicable diseases, and mental health. World Breast Feeding Week, Global Handwashing Day, World Mental Health Day, and the Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan were leveraged as catalytic platforms for community mobilisation.

As part of World Breastfeeding Week, from 1-8 August, informative sessions were organised across all eight villages under the project. These sessions focused on key topics related to breastfeeding and were attended by pregnant women, lactating mothers, and other community women.

As part of the Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan from 17 September to 2 October 2025, a series of awareness and health promotion activities were organised across Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) under the project.





Orientation and awareness sessions were conducted with adolescent girls on menstrual hygiene, personal health, and nutrition, along with a writing competition to encourage self-expression on these themes.



A Tuberculosis (TB) screening and awareness camp was organised to enhance early detection and prevention. Additionally, Tetanus and Diphtheria vaccination was administered to 576 adolescent girls.



A Health Risk Pregnancy (HRP) check-up camp was conducted at the HWC with the support of Community Health Officers (CHOs) and Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs). During which 50 High-Risk Pregnancy (HRPs) were identified and counselled.



AAA meetings involving CHOs, ANMs, and Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) were held, focusing on HRP, TB, anemia, and nutrition.

In January 2026, the healthcare initiatives continued to focus on strengthening village-level systems and improving maternal and child health outcomes through structured outreach and service delivery.

A focused discussion was conducted on the causes and prevention of High-Risk Pregnancies (HRP), enabling frontline workers and community members to better identify early warning signs and adopt timely preventive measures. During the Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Day (VHSND), key processes such as preparation of the Due List were reviewed to ensure that no beneficiary is left behind. Deliberations were also held on effective implementation of Home-Based Newborn Care (HBNC), reinforcing the importance of follow-up care during the critical postnatal period.

School outreach under the School Chalo Abhiyan and Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Days (VHSNDs) reinforced enrolment, sanitation practices, and early childhood attendance at Anganwadi centres.

The Healthcare Strengthening Project in Chandauli district has demonstrated how collaborative efforts can enhance the quality, accessibility, and resilience of public healthcare systems. By strengthening infrastructure, building the capacities of healthcare providers, and improving service delivery, the initiative has contributed to better health outcomes for communities across the district. The project has laid the groundwork for sustainable improvements that will continue to benefit generations to come.

Change on the Ground: From Numbers to Narratives

39,000+
lives

impacted through
integrated health,
nutrition, and
community
interventions

- Reached 1,557 adolescent girls, 330 pregnant women, and 8,980 young children with health, nutrition, and wellbeing services.
- Supported 1,400+ families through targeted outreach, counselling, and access to essential services.

Strengthening Healthcare Infrastructure in Tamil Nadu

Under the CII Foundation Public Healthcare Facility Strengthening Project, supported by BorgWarner Cooling Systems India Pvt. Ltd., a Digital Fixed X-ray Mastro 500MA HF system with dual flat-panel detectors was installed at the Arignar Anna Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Institute, Regional Cancer Centre, Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu. The system was formally handed over in the presence of senior representatives from BorgWarner and Dr. Saravanan, Director of the hospital.



This advanced imaging system enhances diagnostic capabilities through high-quality imaging and faster processing, reducing patient waiting time. Its high-frequency technology minimizes radiation exposure, improving patient safety. The digital interface enables seamless workflows, quick

examinations, and efficient storage and sharing of images. Together, these features contribute to improved patient care, operational efficiency, and cost-effective diagnostic services across departments.



Voices of Impact

Earlier, when meetings were held, girls would run inside their homes when called.

We felt we should stay indoors and not step out. But now, through role-plays facilitated by DigiSwasthya and CII Foundation, me and my friends have the chance to stand in the community and raise awareness.

We are spreading messages on hygiene, health, and education. Being part of this project has removed our hesitation, made us aware of our rights, and given us confidence. Now I feel I can contribute to my village, and I am always ready to raise awareness among community members.

Sonali
Age 10
Village Bahedi, Chandauli, Uttar Pradesh

One day, a Tetanus and Diphtheria (TD) vaccination drive was organised in our school. I was in class that day, but I was terrified – I didn't want to get the injection. I had never heard of this vaccine before and didn't know why it was important.

Then, the project team visited our school and explained everything clearly. They told us that the TD vaccine protects us from serious diseases and is very important for our health. After listening to them, I decided to get vaccinated. I was no longer afraid – in fact, I felt proud that I had done something good for my health.

Aanchal
Age 11
Village Mahuji (Basti), Chandauli, Uttar Pradesh

I had lost interest in studies and stopped going to school for many months. But one day, Shyam Sir from DigiSwasthya came to our Basti and spoke to children about the importance of education.

His words motivated me to return to school. Now I attend regularly and enjoy studying. I want to perform well, work with my teachers and family, and build a bright future.

Sahil
Age 12
Village Mahuji (Basti), Chandauli, Uttar Pradesh

The awareness sessions have helped me adopt healthier habits and make positive changes in my daily life. I learned the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle through nutritious foods such as milk, curd, fruits, and green vegetables. The sessions also increased my understanding of environmental issues, including water and air pollution caused by industrial waste, chemicals, smoke, and the burning of plastic and other waste materials. These learnings have made me more conscious of both my personal well-being and my responsibility towards protecting the environment.

Sameer
Age 13
Badshahpur, Gurugram, Haryana

Through the awareness sessions conducted at our school, I learned the importance of personal hygiene and maintaining cleanliness in our surroundings. The sessions helped me understand the proper use of washrooms, the need to keep our environment clean, and the importance of changing undergarments daily to stay healthy. The activities were both informative and engaging, making it easier for us to learn and adopt healthy hygiene practices in our daily lives.

Kavita
Age 12
Fazilpur Badli, Gurugram, Haryana

Before the awareness sessions, the use of plastic bags was common in our household. Through the sessions, I learned about the harmful impact of plastic on the environment and the importance of reducing its use. I shared these learnings with my parents and encouraged them to switch to reusable cloth bags. Today, my family has significantly reduced the use of plastic bags and carries reusable bags while purchasing vegetables and other household items. It makes me proud to know that even small changes can contribute to protecting our environment.

Anjali
Age 11
Jacubpura, Gurugram, Haryana

Through the sessions, I learned a great deal about menstrual hygiene and personal health. I now understand the importance of maintaining cleanliness, drinking sufficient water, and adopting healthy habits. The sessions also helped me learn how to manage common menstrual challenges and the importance of changing sanitary pads every 4–6 hours. This knowledge has made me more aware and confident about taking care of my health and well-being.

Komal
Age 13
Sector 56, Gurugram, Haryana





Skilling and Livelihood

8 DECENT WORK
ECONOMIC GROWTH



SKILLING AND LIVELIHOOD



Expanding Opportunities to Strengthen Livelihoods

Building sustainable livelihoods in rural India goes beyond skill development—it calls for harnessing local strengths, expanding access to markets, and enabling communities to adopt practices that enhance resilience and generate steady incomes over time. The CII Foundation adopts an integrated approach, combining skilling with technical support and strong institutional linkages to strengthen livelihood ecosystems.

During 2025–26, pilot initiatives were rolled out across select geographies with a strong emphasis on women's economic empowerment, while parallel efforts focused on equipping youth with industry-relevant skills and improving employability outcomes.

Project Sundarbans: Livelihood Generation & Mangrove Restoration

In the climate-vulnerable delta regions of Binodpur and Nagenabad in Kultali Block, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal, the CII Foundation, in partnership with Joynagar Viewtech Educational Society, initiated the Sundarbans Livelihood Generation and Mangrove Restoration Project. The project adopts an integrated approach to address both ecological fragility and livelihood challenges, combining the restoration of degraded mangrove ecosystems with efforts to create sustainable income opportunities for women in local communities.

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 the CII - Rahul Bajaj Centre of Excellence on Skills and CII Centre of Excellence on Employment and Livelihood (CII CEL).

Key Supporters



Multiple Donors

Locations



Pan India



Restoration efforts began with land preparation, seedbed development, and sapling cultivation. By September 2025, 15,000 mangrove saplings had been planted along vulnerable riverbanks, strengthening natural coastal defences, reducing erosion, and supporting biodiversity. By March 2026, plantation efforts scaled to 30,000 saplings, reinforcing climate resilience in the region.

Alongside ecological interventions, 120 women were supported through poultry-based livelihoods. The distribution of chicks, structured training, followed by ongoing handholding and market linkage support, has enabled participants to build sustainable income streams.

Community engagement formed a critical component of the initiative, with eleven outreach camps conducted between 21 March and 10 May 2025, reaching more than 750 villagers. Additionally, four





focused seminars were held between 11 March and 30 April 2025, engaging 213 participants on key themes including sanitation, public health, and cyber security, in coordination with local panchayats and police departments.

Ongoing village-level engagements and awareness efforts have enabled the adoption of sustainable practices, strengthening both ecological restoration and community resilience. The initiative demonstrates a replicable model that integrates environmental restoration with livelihood security through sustained community participation.

Promoting Rural Livelihoods through Beekeeping



To enable low-investment, sustainable income opportunities, the CII Foundation initiated beekeeping programs in Chainpurwa, Barabanki District, Uttar Pradesh, in partnership with Kayakalp Foundation and in Gumla District, Jharkhand, with Shoshan Surin Foundation, leveraging local biodiversity and strengthening community-based enterprise models.

Under the initiative in Uttar Pradesh, 70 participants were supported with technical skills and the distribution of 70 bee boxes. This enabled seasonal honey production of up to 30 kg with market linkages.

In Gumla, Jharkhand, 100 bee boxes were distributed to 38 households on 3–4 April 2025 post-sensitisation.

Under the project, training in honey extraction, packaging, and market engagement has enabled participants to integrate into the value chain, supporting income diversification and long-term resilience.

Empowering Red Chilli Farmers through FPO-led Interventions in Karnataka

In Ballari, Karnataka, the CII Foundation, with support from Orkla India Ltd. and technical guidance from CII-Jubilant Bhartia Food and Agriculture Centre of Excellence (CII-FACE) has launched the Strengthening Sustainability of Spices Value Chains through Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) project to strengthen the red chilli value chain through FPOs. The project adopts a farmer-centric and institution-led approach, positioning FPOs as key drivers of sustainable production and market integration.

Currently, the initiative engages



Structured planning and stakeholder convergence to ensure relevance, scalability, and long-term impact have been the bedrock of the project.

A multi-stakeholder consultation was held on 17 June 2025 in Ballari, which convened National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Indian Council of Agricultural Research – Indian Institute of Soil and Water Conservation (ICAR–IISWC), Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), FPO leaders, and industry stakeholders to align priorities across sustainable production, efficient input use, post-harvest management, and market access, while informing intervention design through baseline-driven insights.



Building on this foundation, the project focused on strengthening farmer capabilities.

On 8 July 2025, a specialized training on improved agronomic practices in red chilli cultivation was conducted at ICAR–IISWC, Ballari. The program enabled direct knowledge transfer from leading scientists, Dr. B. Krishna Rao, Dr. Anusha N M, Dr. Pallaiiah P, and Dr. Ravi S, to farmers and FPO representatives. This was complemented by over 15 village-level training programs promoting Integrated Pest Management (IPM), scientific crop practices, and improved post-harvest handling. Continuous field advisories further supported farmers in making informed, real-time decisions.

To advance low-cost and climate-resilient practices, a hands-on training on Fish Amino Acid (FAA) was conducted on 30 October 2025 in Madhire village, Kurgodu taluk, in partnership with Farmitopia. Farmers were trained to produce FAA using locally available inputs such as fish waste and jaggery through a 20–30-day fermentation process. This intervention enhanced plant health and crop resilience, particularly under excess rainfall conditions, while reducing dependency on chemical inputs.

During the CII FPO Summit held on 12 December 2025, a dedicated exhibition featuring approximately 23 stalls showcased FPO products, services, and innovations, enabling direct engagement with buyers and strengthening market linkages.



As the project progressed, the focus expanded towards strengthening FPO capacities and market readiness. From 7–9 January 2026, a three-day Capacity Building and Exposure Program was organised in Rajahmundry in collaboration with ICAR–National Institute of Research on Commercial Agriculture (ICAR-NIRCA). The program strengthened FPO governance, post-harvest management systems, and export readiness. A key output was the release of a Technical Bulletin on Chilli Post-Harvest Management, providing practical guidance on scientific drying, hygienic storage, grading, and compliance with domestic and international quality standards.

A strong compliance framework has been a critical pillar of the intervention. Farmers and FPOs were



sensitized on pre-harvest intervals, residue management, and aflatoxin prevention. Chilli sampling and laboratory testing were conducted across four villages representing three FPOs. Out of 13 samples tested, 6 met European Union export compliance requirements, marking an important step towards establishing quality-assured production systems. Concurrently, comparative analysis between compliant and non-compliant farmers is generating actionable insights to scale best practices.

Further strengthening export readiness, a training program on 'Export Requirements for FPO Management Teams' was conducted in Ballari on 25 March 2026. The program brought together experts from key institutions, including Mr. N. Sundaresan from Spices Board of India; Mr. Vadiraj, Retired Scientist, Spices Board, Dr. Pooja B. K. from Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), and Mr. Anand Chetter from Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), who shared insights on export protocols, compliance requirements, and global market opportunities.

The project has already delivered tangible economic outcomes. A key milestone was the facilitation of an export-quality chilli trade valued at approximately ₹35 lakhs, enabling farmers to realize a premium of ₹3,80,000 from this transaction. This demonstrates the direct income benefits of linking quality compliance with market access.

Looking ahead, the initiative is focused on consolidating gains and scaling a replicable model for sustainable value chain development. As part of the next phase, soil testing for 1,500 farmers will be undertaken to generate soil health report-based advisories, enabling more precise nutrient management, improving input-use efficiency, and reducing the cost of cultivation by eliminating unnecessary application of fertilizers.

By strengthening FPOs as key institutional mechanisms and promoting sustainable agricultural practices, the initiative is contributing to improved productivity, reduced input costs, and enhanced resilience among farmers.





Empowering Apple Farmers through FPO-led Interventions in Himachal Pradesh

The CII Foundation, in partnership with the CCII-Jubilant Bhartia Food and Agriculture Centre of Excellence (CII-FACE) and supported by Blue Star, implemented a structured capacity-building program for apple-based Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) in Himachal Pradesh under the FPO Business Support Unit (BSU) initiative. Over the last three years, the initiative has focussed on strengthening farmer and FPO capabilities through targeted skilling, institutional development, and technology enablement to improve climate resilience, productivity, and market competitiveness.

Given the increasing vulnerability of apple cultivation to climate variability and declining soil health, the program placed strong emphasis on building technical knowledge at the farmer level. Farmers were trained on scientific orchard management practices, including pruning, canopy management, and balanced nutrient application, enabling them to adopt more climate-resilient and productivity-enhancing approaches. These trainings were designed to be practical and field-oriented, helping farmers transition from traditional practices to more scientific, data-driven decision-making.



In parallel, the program invested in strengthening the managerial and governance capacities of FPO leadership. Dedicated sessions were conducted for CEOs and Board members on topics such as business planning, aggregation models, financial management, and institutional governance. This helped position FPOs as more professional, service-oriented, and sustainable business entities capable of delivering value to their members.



A key component of the skilling effort was the introduction of digital soil diagnostics. Soil testing machines were deployed across six FPOs, and FPO teams were trained to operate these systems and interpret results. Over 450 soil samples were tested, enabling the generation of site-specific nutrient advisories. This not only enhanced farmers' understanding of soil health but also built FPO capacity to provide ongoing, localised advisory services—embedding technical knowledge within the institution.

The program directly engaged around 700 farmers across six FPOs, with over 300 farmers, including women farmers, receiving focussed training on orchard management. Additionally, 40+ FPO leaders across six FPOs were trained on institutional and business aspects. Exposure to technology, combined with hands-on training, strengthened both individual farmer skills and the collective capacity of FPOs.

Beyond production, the program also supported capacity building in value addition and post-harvest management. Technical guidance was provided to operationalise processing infrastructure at an FPO, including training on processing, quality control, and product development. This enabled one of the FPOs to initiate pilot production and take early steps toward value-added market participation.

Overall, the initiative created a strong foundation for long-term capacity building by equipping farmers with practical skills, strengthening FPO leadership, and institutionalising access to technology and advisory services—thereby enabling more resilient, knowledge-driven, and market-oriented apple value chains in Himachal Pradesh.

Strengthening Skills: Centre Inaugurated in Maharashtra

In a step towards strengthening skilling pathways for rural youth, CII Foundation, in collaboration with Bluestar Ltd., inaugurated a modern vocational training centre in Wada, Maharashtra, on 2 May 2025. The centre has been established to deliver specialised training in refrigeration and air conditioning, supported by advanced laboratory infrastructure, industry-relevant curriculum, and sessions led by experienced practitioners.

This intervention was designed to address the disconnect between rural talent and formal employment opportunities by equipping young individuals with practical, job-ready skills aligned to the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) sector.

Vocational Training Centre Inaugurated in Maharashtra



In August 2025, CII Foundation, in partnership with SEIL Energy India Ltd., initiated an Industrial Coating and Painting Training Program in Nellore, Andhra Pradesh. Launched on 11 August, 2025, the program aims to train 100 candidates, and training for the first batch of 42 trainees commenced during the same month. The intervention integrates structured technical modules, safety protocols, and industry-oriented practices to align participants with current workforce requirements. The launch was marked by an inauguration ceremony followed by a detailed orientation and is supported by a mentorship framework to ensure continuous guidance, hands-on exposure, and applied learning.

Livelihoods of Women Prisoners across Tamil Nadu

Efforts to strengthen rehabilitation and enable sustainable livelihoods for women prisoners in Tamil Nadu have been steadily advanced through a partnership between CII Foundation and Titan Company Ltd. Anchored in the belief that skill development and personal transformation are critical to reintegration, the initiative has focused on equipping women inmates with vocational capabilities, confidence, and access to income-generating opportunities.



Launched in September 2025, the project commenced with Phase 1 across prison institutions in Trichy, Coimbatore, and Vellore. Over a six-month period, women prisoners underwent intensive skill development and personality enhancement training. To ensure continuity beyond training, participants were further supported with machinery and raw materials for a year, enabling them to practise their skills and move towards self-reliance.

Building on these outcomes, Phase 2 has been initiated across Trichy, Madurai, and Chennai, expanding the project's footprint while continuing its emphasis on capacity building, vocational training, and awareness generation for long-term empowerment.

By early 2026, the initiative evolved to integrate skilling with market linkages, creating pathways for participants to translate their learning into sustainable livelihoods. A key milestone in this journey was the inauguration of the Freedom Tailoring Shop on 23 January 2026, located outside the Special Prison for Women in Trichy.

Operated by trained inmates, the shop serves as a bridge between in-prison training and real market engagement, enabling women to earn incomes while gaining practical exposure. The inauguration was





attended by Mr. Palani, Deputy Inspector General, DIG, Trichy Prison; Mr. Ajay Jayaraj, Chairman, CII Trichy Zone & CEP, Jayaraj Group; Ms. Rukmani Priyadharshini, Superintendent, Special Prison for Women, Trichy; and representatives from Titan Company Ltd., including Major J. J. Dominic, Head, CSR; Ms. Rithika Gandhi, Vertical Lead and Deputy Group Manager; and Mr. S. V. Mallikarjuna, Deputy Manager, CSR, reflecting strong multi-stakeholder collaboration.

Further strengthening livelihood avenues, a comprehensive baking training program and unit setup was completed on 27 January 2026 at the Special Prison for Women, Madurai, benefiting 30 women prisoners. The training covered a diverse range of bakery and confectionery products, including cookies, muffins, breads, cakes, pastries, and pizza bases, along with advanced techniques such as fondant work and cream-based finishes.

Post the training, participants were awarded certificates in the presence of Mr. Ashwin Desai, Chairman, CII Madurai Zone & Managing Director, A&T Video Networks Pvt. Ltd.; Ms. Neelamani, Superintendent, Special Prison for Women, Madurai, Government of Tamil Nadu; and representatives from Titan Company Ltd.

Through a phased and collaborative approach, the initiative continues to demonstrate how structured skilling, combined with market access, can enable dignified rehabilitation and create sustainable livelihood pathways for women prisoners, supporting their journey towards reintegration into society.

Skilling with CII - Rahul Bajaj Centre of Excellence on Skills



Advancing its commitment to inclusive growth and workforce readiness, CII Foundation and CII – Rahul Bajaj Centre of Excellence on Skills have jointly implemented several CSR-led skilling initiatives in partnership with leading organisations, collectively training over 50,000 beneficiaries across India. These efforts are designed to equip youth from diverse and underserved backgrounds—including women, SC/ST/OBC communities, unemployed graduates, tribal populations, and rural and urban youth—with future-ready skills, career guidance, and access to sustainable employment opportunities. The initiatives are being implemented through the CII Centre of Excellence multi-pronged skill delivery vehicles - CII Model Career Centres (CII MCCs) and CII Multi Skill Training Institutes (CII MSTIs).

Project Rhino

Under Project Rhino, CII Foundation and CII are facilitating youth mobilisation, counselling and industry-aligned training across the Northeast, including Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim and Tripura. Placement support is being provided in sectors such as IT, retail, hospitality, healthcare and manufacturing. Leveraging CII's nationwide industry network and NSQF-aligned training frameworks, the initiative has counselled over 37,800 youth and facilitated placements for more than 10,800 candidates, creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for underserved communities. The program has also expanded through Project Sankalp to Bihar, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh, and through Project Kafal to Uttarakhand.

Project Sampann

Project Sampann, in collaboration with Infosys Foundation, is being implemented in 11 states across 16 locations, providing training in Excel and soft skills. In July–August 2025, over 2,700 youth were enrolled, 2,651 trained, and around 1,300 placed in various industries. The program was expanded to 22 states and 44+ locations by March 2026, benefiting over 31,440 candidates with industry-relevant skills and employment opportunities across multiple sectors.

Project Saksham Yuva Pariyojana: Employment-Oriented Skill Development for Youth

CII Foundation, supported by HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Ltd. (HRRRL) is providing employment-oriented skill development for youth in Jalore and Barmer, Rajasthan, and Kutch, Patan, and Banaskantha in Gujarat. The program offers expert career guidance, industry-oriented training in high-demand sectors, hands-on workplace learning, and dedicated placement support. During July–August 2025, around 800 youth were mobilised, 115 trained, and approximately 100 were offered jobs.

Skilling Initiatives in Chhindwara:

At the CII MSTI in Chhindwara, 340 candidates have been trained over three months across industry-relevant trades such as LHP Genset Repair and Maintenance, Civil Foreman Site Supervision, Hospitality, Four-Wheeler Mechanics, Field Technician Air Conditioner (FTAC), and Two-Wheeler Technology. The project is aligned with market demand and designed to enhance employability through practical, job-oriented training.

Skilling with CII Centre of Excellence on Employment and Livelihood



Strengthening livelihoods through collaborative skilling and entrepreneurship remained a key focus area for the CII Foundation with sustained efforts

undertaken in partnership with the CII Centre of Excellence on Employment and Livelihood (CII CEL) and leading industry stakeholders.

Between September and December 2025, targeted capacity-building initiatives were implemented across Tamil Nadu with the support of Blue Star India, aimed at equipping micro-entrepreneurs with practical tools and knowledge to navigate evolving business environments.

In Chennai, a two-day Business 360 Program conducted on 9–10 September 2025 brought together entrepreneurs from diverse sectors for an intensive, hands-on learning experience. The program addressed critical aspects of enterprise management, including financial planning, marketing communication, inventory control, team optimisation, and the integration of artificial intelligence into business processes.

By simplifying complex business concepts and linking them to real-world applications, the initiative strengthened operational efficiency and decision-making of the participants. During the same engagement, the Entrepreneurship Development Forum was launched as a long-term institutional mechanism to support micro-entrepreneurs through mentorship, knowledge exchange, and improved access to markets and networks, with a projected outreach of over 1,000 entrepreneurs across the state.

Building on this momentum, a Business Excellence Workshop was conducted on 19–20 November 2025 in Thirumudivakkam, Chennai, in collaboration with Blue Star India and TIEMA. The workshop engaged 55 entrepreneurs and focused on strengthening adaptability, strategic thinking, and people-centric leadership as essential components of sustainable enterprise growth. Together, these interventions are nurturing resilient entrepreneurship ecosystems through continuous learning and ecosystem linkages.

Collectively, these interventions underscore the CII Foundation's commitment to fostering inclusive growth by strengthening skills, enabling entrepreneurship, and building sustainable livelihood pathways through strategic partnerships and industry-driven approaches.





Livelihood On Wheels



Initiated in January 2026, the Livelihood on Wheels project was implemented by the CII Foundation in collaboration with Maersk, NeoMotion, Zomato, and Young Indians (Yi), with a focus on addressing the interconnected challenges of mobility and unemployment among Persons with Locomotor Disabilities. Designed as a sustainable livelihood intervention, the project enabled beneficiaries to achieve financial independence through the provision of assistive technology and structured employment opportunities.

Across Nagpur, Indore, and Jammu, 57 individuals with locomotor disabilities were supported with customised NeoMotion electric wheelchairs (NeoFly/NeoBolt) and subsequently onboarded as delivery executives with Zomato.

The intervention was executed through a comprehensive approach that included beneficiary identification and selection,

distribution of assistive devices, capacity building and training, and facilitated onboarding into the workforce.

Over the course of implementation through March 2026, the project continued to maintain a strong emphasis on continuous engagement, supported by regular monitoring and mentorship to ensure sustained participation and income generation.

With a projected cumulative earning potential of ₹50 lakh within the first year of rollout, the initiative underscores a scalable model of inclusive livelihood creation. By integrating mobility solutions with employment pathways, Livelihood on Wheels demonstrates the impact of cross-sectoral partnerships in advancing accessibility, dignity, and long-term economic resilience for persons with disabilities.

Voices of Impact



Through the support of CII Foundation and Maersk, I received a NeoMotion mobility device, which enabled me to work as a Zomato delivery partner. Today, I earn between ₹25,000 and ₹30,000 every month, allowing me to meet my family's expenses and support my children's education.

Beyond the financial stability, this opportunity has given me confidence and a sense of independence. I also receive encouragement and appreciation from customers and fellow delivery partners, which motivates me to keep moving forward

Sandhya Sonare
Nagpur, Maharashtra



I received a NeoMotion mobility device through the Livelihood on Wheels initiative by Maersk and CII Foundation. Since then, I have been working as a Zomato delivery partner while also running my agarbatti business.

Having the mobility to work has made a significant difference in my life. Today, I am able to earn a livelihood, manage my household with greater confidence, and look towards the future with hope.

Kanchan
Chandrapur, Maharashtra



Through the support of CII Foundation and Maersk, I received a NeoMotion mobility device, which enabled me to work as a Zomato delivery partner. Today, I earn between ₹25,000 and ₹30,000 every month, allowing me to meet my family's expenses and support my children's education.

Beyond the financial stability, this opportunity has given me confidence and a sense of independence. I also receive encouragement and appreciation from customers and fellow delivery partners, which motivates me to keep moving forward

Meenakshi
Inmate, Madurai, Tamil Nadu



Being a part of this initiative has given me a great sense of fulfilment and increased my confidence to take the next step towards starting my own tea stall for sustainable livelihood. The knowledge, skills, and encouragement received through this training have motivated me to become more independent and improve my economic well-being.

M Indrani
Inamte, Madurai, Tamil Nadu

Change on the Ground: From Numbers to Narratives

55,000+
People

**beneficiaries
benefited**

Livelihoods are built around local resources and existing skills, enabling sustainable enterprises such as beekeeping, tamarind processing and poultry farming.

Market-aligned skill training enhances employability, preparing youth and women for dignified employment and sustainable income opportunities.



Sports

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Accelerating Social Development Through Sports

Sports is more than physical activity—it is a powerful instrument for social transformation. Across geographies and cultures, it fosters discipline, teamwork, resilience, and a sense of belonging. For young people, especially in rural India, sports can be a gateway to improved health, confidence, leadership, and even livelihood opportunities. The Government has placed significant emphasis on promoting sports as a national priority with initiatives such as the Khelo India program and the Fit India Movement to build a culture of fitness across communities.

Aligned with this national vision, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has consistently championed sports as a catalyst for nation-building through policy advocacy and on-ground initiatives.

Building on this, the CII Foundation launched a focused Sports for Development program in January 2026 to accelerate social development by strengthening grassroots sports in villages by leveraging its on-ground presence and work.

The program is rooted in the understanding that rural youth possess immense passion and untapped talent for sports, yet often lack access to facilities, structured training, and mentorship. By addressing these gaps, the initiative aims to create meaningful engagement with communities while strengthening outcomes across education, health, and livelihoods.



Beyond facilitating play, the initiative is designed to embed sports within the broader development framework—encouraging sustained participation, nurturing talent, and positioning sports as a key driver of wellbeing and social cohesion.

In its first phase, the program primarily focusses on two sports—kabaddi and athletics—across select villages in Punjab and Haryana, and promoting sports and strengthening sports infrastructure in Uttar Pradesh. These sports have been chosen for their strong local relevance and accessibility.

A key focus area is gender inclusion. The initiative actively encourages the participation of girls, ensuring equitable access to opportunities, resources, and platforms. By doing so, it seeks to challenge social barriers and empower young women through sports.

Importantly, the program goes beyond one-time events. It emphasises continuity, structured engagement, and integration with ongoing community development efforts—ensuring that sports become an enduring part of rural life.

Key Components of the Program



Sports Initiatives in Punjab

Punjab has a rich sporting legacy with games like athletics and kabaddi deeply embedded in its cultural fabric and community life. The CII Foundation's sports initiatives in the state aim to channel the natural enthusiasm of rural youth into structured opportunities for growth and development. These efforts focus on strengthening grassroots engagement, improving access to basic sports infrastructure, and creating inclusive platforms for participation. Importantly, it encourages the participation of girls, helping to break barriers and promote gender inclusion in sports.

As part of the 2025–26 program, CII Foundation organised a Kabaddi Tournament on 14 March 2026, bringing together over 100 young participants and community members. The event featured a Girls' National Kabaddi Match and a Boys' Circle Kabaddi Match, promoting both gender inclusion and the region's sporting traditions. The tournament was graced by Mr. Anupam Goswami, CEO, Mashal Sports and League Commissioner of Pro Kabaddi, who encouraged the young athletes and appreciated their dedication. Sports kits were distributed to the participants, and the winning teams and outstanding performers were felicitated, further motivating children to participate in sports and strengthening community engagement through grassroots sporting activities.

Initiatives in Village Ghulal, Ludhiana



During FY 2025–26, CII Foundation strengthened an existing community-led sports initiative in Village Ghulal, Ludhiana, where nearly 100 children were already actively participating in sports activities. Local coaches had been voluntarily training the children in National Kabaddi and Athletics. To ensure the continuity and sustainability of the program, CII Foundation provided financial support to the coaches, supplied sports kits and training equipment, and facilitated structured coaching sessions throughout the year to enhance the skills and overall development of young athletes.

Initiatives in Village Kotra Kalan, Mansa

During FY 2025–26, CII Foundation launched the Village Sports Initiative in Village Katra Kalan, Mansa, to promote grassroots sports and encourage youth participation through structured coaching and competitive sporting events. Recognizing the existing interest in sports among nearly 110 children in the village, the Foundation built upon this momentum by introducing a structured Circle Kabaddi program.



Dedicated coaches were engaged to conduct regular coaching sessions, bringing greater consistency and technical guidance to the children's participation. To ensure the continuity and quality of training, CII Foundation provided financial support to the coaches, distributed sports kits and training equipment, and organised tournaments to preserve the traditional sport while identifying and nurturing emerging talent.

As part of the Village Sports Initiative, CII Foundation organised a Kabaddi Tournament on 15 March 2026 in Village Katra Kalan. The event brought together young athletes for Under-16 Girls' and Boys' Kabaddi matches, showcasing their skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship. The tournament was graced by Mr. Anupam Goswami, CEO, Mashal Sports and League Commissioner of Pro Kabaddi, along with Mr. Chushpinderbir Chahal, Chairman, Zila Parishad Budhlada, Mr. Gurjot Singh Toni, Sarpanch, Village Katra Kalan, and Mr. Lovepreet, President, Local Youth Club. During the event, sports kits and equipment were distributed to the participants, and the program concluded with an awards ceremony recognizing the achievements of the young athletes. The initiative strengthened community participation, encouraged grassroots sports, and inspired children to pursue excellence in Kabaddi.

A key focus area is gender inclusion. The sports initiative actively encourages the participation of girls, ensuring equitable access to opportunities, resources, and platforms. By doing so, it seeks to challenge social barriers and empower young women through sport.

Sports Initiatives in Haryana

Haryana has long been recognised as a powerhouse of Indian sports, producing some of the country's finest athletes across disciplines, particularly in wrestling, boxing, and Kabaddi. Building on this strong sporting culture, the CII Foundation's initiatives in the state aim to deepen grassroots engagement by creating structured opportunities for rural youth, especially girls. The focus is on strengthening access to training, equipment, and organised platforms that can help channel talent into consistent performance.

Initiative in Village Ganaur, Sonipat



CII Foundation launched the Village Sports Initiative in Ganaur, Sonipat, Haryana, to strengthen grassroots sports infrastructure and support young athletes pursuing National Kabaddi during the 2025–26 program period. At the time of the program's initiation, nearly 40 students were regularly training at the Nagar Palika Stadium, Ganaur. To enhance the quality of coaching and provide a better training environment, CII Foundation distributed 40 sports kits comprising T-shirts, shorts, tracksuits, and sports shoes. The Foundation also provided 200 pieces of Kabaddi mats, along with cones and hurdles for structured training sessions. To further strengthen the sports infrastructure, a multipurpose gym was installed to support strength and fitness training, while a water cooler was provided to ensure access to safe drinking water for the players during practice sessions.

As part of the Village Sports Initiative, CII Foundation, with the support of HELL Energy, organised a Kabaddi Tournament at Nagar Palika Stadium, Ganaur. The tournament witnessed enthusiastic participation from six teams—Rajpur, Khewra, Purkhas, Shekhpura, Gumar, and Ganaur Stadium—competing in a knockout format that



created an exciting and highly competitive sporting environment. The Ganaur Stadium team emerged as the tournament winner, demonstrating exceptional skill, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

The event was graced by distinguished dignitaries, including Mr. Manoj Yadav, District Sports Officer (DSO), Sonipat; Mr. Balbir Singh, President, Kabaddi Association; Mr. Kuldeep Singh, Secretary, Kabaddi Association; Mr. Ashu Malik, Captain, Dabang Delhi K.C.; Mr. Vijay Malik, Captain, Telugu Titans; and Mr. Surender Duhan, Coach, Haryana Kabaddi Team. Representing CII Foundation were Mr. Sunil Misra, CEO; Mr. Chandrakant Pradhan, Lead – Climate Change Resilience Initiatives; and Ms. Poonam Dikshit, Consultant. The tournament strengthened community participation, promoted grassroots Kabaddi, and reaffirmed CII Foundation's commitment to creating better sporting opportunities and infrastructure for young athletes.

Sports Initiatives in Uttar Pradesh



In Uttar Pradesh, the CII Foundation supported a sports initiative in Satrikh Dehat, a village in Barabanki District, Lucknow with the support of Hell Energy and in collaboration with TaraSri Foundation. The initiative focused on strengthening access to sports infrastructure and encouraging active participation among rural youth.

On 20 March 2026, young participants, community members, and local leaders came together at the Mini Stadium, Satrikh, to celebrate the spirit of sports and inclusion. Sports facilities were inaugurated and sports kits distributed across volleyball, cricket, badminton, basketball, and table tennis—enabling greater access to structured sporting opportunities.

Ms. Akanksha Gupta, SDM, Barabanki, along with key stakeholders reinforced the importance of sports in fostering confidence, discipline, and holistic development among young people. With a strong emphasis on inclusion—especially encouraging girls' participation—Khel Se Khushi continues to create pathways for youth to engage, grow, and thrive through sports.

Through its Sports for Development initiative, the CII Foundation is creating pathways for holistic community engagement. As India continues to invest in sports as a pillar of national development, such efforts at the grassroots will play a critical role in building healthier communities, nurturing talent, and shaping a more inclusive and empowered future.

Voices of Impact

I work as a Kabaddi Coach and have been training young Kabaddi players in our village. Earlier, Kabaddi training was not very regular, and both players and coaches faced many challenges due to limited facilities and lack of support. It was difficult for children to train seriously, and for coaches, it was also challenging to give full time to sports while managing financial responsibilities. After the involvement of CII Foundation, we have seen a very positive change. Because of CII Foundation, the training environment has improved significantly, and players now attend practice regularly with more discipline and motivation. Along with supporting the players, CII Foundation is also helping us financially by providing a monthly salary/honorarium to the coaches. This financial support is very important for us, as it allows us to focus fully on coaching and developing the players without financial stress.

Harjeet Singh Chahal

Age 40
Kabaddi Coach
Village Ghulal, Ludhiana, Punjab

I am a Bronze Medalist at the Junior National Kabaddi Championship from Village Agwanpur, Sonipat, Haryana. CII Foundation, in collaboration with HELL Energy, has played an important role in improving our training facilities at the Nagar Palika Stadium, Ganaur, Sonipat, Haryana, where we train regularly. They provided us with complete sports kits including T-shirts, shorts, tracksuits, and shoes, which helped us train with confidence and professionalism. One of the most important contributions was the availability of a professional Kabaddi mat. Earlier, we used to practice on open ground, but training on a proper mat has helped us improve our techniques and prepare according to real match conditions. This support has made a clear difference in our overall performance.

Ankush Duhan

Bronze Medalist at the Junior National Kabaddi Championship

I play Kabaddi (National Style), and Kabaddi is something I truly love and enjoy. I am very thankful to CII Foundation for the support they are giving to children like me. Because of their help, we receive proper sports kits, which make us feel confident and happy when we come for practice. We also get a nutritious diet, which helps us stay strong, healthy, and active every day. Earlier, our classes were not regular, but now, with the support of CII Foundation, our training sessions are held regularly and in a proper way. This has helped me learn better, improve my game, and believe more in myself.

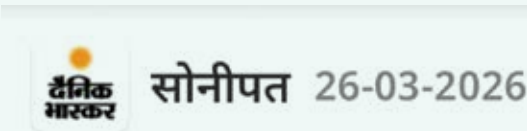
During the 2025–26 tournament, we felt very motivated when Mr. Anupam Goswami, CEO – Mashal Sports and League Commissioner of the Pro Kabaddi League, made a special announcement. He said that the girls' team that wins the tournament will be invited to the upcoming Pro Kabaddi League, where they will get the opportunity to meet top Kabaddi players.

Gurnoor Kaur

Age 11
Village Kotra Kalan, Mansa, Punjab



Media Coverage - Highlights



कबड्डी: गन्नौर ने राजपुर को 24-16 के अंतर से हराया

महेश्वर न्यूज़ गन्नौर

खेलों के क्षेत्र में प्रदेश की प्रतिभाओं को निखारने के लिए खेल स्टेडियम में कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया गया। सीआईआई फाउंडेशन ने हेल एनर्जी ट्रिंक के सहयोग से सीएसआर फंड के तहत स्टेडियम के खिलाड़ियों को कबड्डी 200 मैट, जिम का सामान, वाटर कूलर, 40 टैकसूट, 40 प्लेइंग किट, जूते और नी-कैप सहित खेल किट भेंट की।

इस अवसर पर एक रोमांचक कबड्डी टूर्नामेंट का भी आयोजन हुआ, जिसमें गुमड़, राजपुर, गन्नौर स्टेडियम, खेवड़ा, पुरवास समेत 8 टीमों ने दमकम दिखाया। फाइनल मुकाबला गन्नौर स्टेडियम और राजपुर के बीच खेला गया, जिसमें गन्नौर स्टेडियम ने 24-16 के अंतर से जीत दर्ज कर ट्रॉफी पर कब्जा जमाया। फाउंडेशन के सीईओ सुनील कुमार मिश्रा ने कहा कि

हरियाणा के खिलाड़ियों ने अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर देश का मान बढ़ाया है। खिलाड़ियों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए यह इनिशिएटिव दिया गया है, जिससे भविष्य में और भी बेहतर परिणाम देखने को मिलेंगे। वहीं, डीएसओ मनोज यादव ने इसे एक सफलतापूर्ण पहल बताते हुए कहा कि बेहतर सुविधाओं से खिलाड़ी उच्च स्तर पर प्रदर्शन कर पाएंगे। कोच सुरेंद्र दहान ने बताया कि स्टेडियम में मूलभूत सुविधाओं की कमी को दूर कर दिया है। कार्यक्रम में प्रो-कबड्डी खिलाड़ी विजय मलिक और आनू मलिक की मौजूदगी ने युवा खिलाड़ियों का उत्साह दोगुना कर दिया। इस अवसर पर सोनीपत मुख्यालया गन्नौर स्टेडियम और राजपुर के बीच खेला गया, जिसमें गन्नौर स्टेडियम ने 24-16 के अंतर से जीत दर्ज कर ट्रॉफी पर कब्जा जमाया। फाउंडेशन के सीईओ सुनील कुमार मिश्रा ने कहा कि



खेल संस्कृति, युवाओं की भागीदारी बढ़ी



खिलाड़ियों को फिट टैरा श्री फाउंडेशन की संस्थापक विभा और प्रयास सिंह। सलम

लखनऊ। जिलों में खेलों को बढ़ावा देने और सामुदायिक सहभागिता को सशक्त करने के उद्देश्य से 'खेल से खुशी: युवाओं के लिए खेल' पहल के तहत सतरिख मिनी स्टेडियम में बच्चों, किशोरों और स्थानीय समुदाय की जम्कर भागीदारी की।

यह पहल सीआईआई फाउंडेशन द्वारा संचालित है, जिसे हेल एनर्जी और तारा श्री फाउंडेशन के साथ सहयोग में लागू किया जा रहा है। कार्यक्रम की शुरुआत तारा श्री फाउंडेशन की संस्थापक विभा और प्रयास सिंह ने युवाओं के विकास के लिए खेल अवसरों की अहमियत पर जोर देकर की।

कार्यक्रम में उप-जिलाधिकारी अकांक्षा गुप्ता और खंड विकास अधिकारी प्रीति वर्मा मौजूद रहे। कार्यक्रम के दौरान स्टेडियम में नई खेल सुविधाओं का उद्घाटन किया गया और बालीबॉल, क्रिकेट, बैडमिंटन, बास्केटबॉल तथा टेबल टेनिस के लिए स्पोर्ट्स किट वितरित की गई। सीआईआई फाउंडेशन के मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी सुनील मिश्रा ने कहा कि खेल युवाओं के सर्वांगीण विकास का मजबूत माध्यम है। (ज्यो)



Lucknow: A community-driven sports initiative aimed at promoting youth development and social inclusion was organised at Satrikh Mini Stadium on Friday, bringing together children, adolescents and local stakeholders in a day-long celebration of sport and wellbeing.



Titled "Khel Se Khushi: Sports for Youth," the programme was led by CII Foundation with support from Heli Energy and in collaboration with TaraSri Foundation.

TaraSri Foundation founders Vibha Singh and Ipsha Singh highlighted the importance of accessible sports infrastructure in shaping youth development. A cultural performance titled "Armaan Hoon Main" by fellowships participants set an aspirational tone.

Chief guests- sub-divisional magistrate, Barabanki Akanksha Gupta, and block development officer, Haraidh block, Preeti Verma- encouraged partici-



न्यूज़ डायरी

48 हजार से अधिक पुस्तिकाएं जांची गई

बाराबंकी। जिले में युवा खेड़ परियोजना के तहत पुस्तिकाओं का मूल्यांकन कार्य तेजी से जारी है। जिले के दो मूल्यांकन केंद्रों पर अब तक 48 हजार से अधिक कॉपीयों की जांच पूरी कर ली गई है। इसके लिए कुल 1431 परीक्षकों की ड्यूटी लगाई गई थी, हालांकि इनमें से केवल 800 परीक्षक ही उपस्थित रहे। शुक्रवार को जिलाईआई केंद्र पर इंटरमीडिएट की 12,604 उपर पुस्तिकाओं का मूल्यांकन किया गया। यहां 830 परीक्षकों की ड्यूटी निभाई गई, लेकिन मात्र 482 परीक्षक ही उपस्थित होकर मूल्यांकन कार्य में शामिल हुए। वहीं, सीआईआई केंद्र पर इंटरमीडिएट की 11,366 कॉपीयों की जांच की गई। इस केंद्र पर परीक्षक 601 परीक्षकों में से 319 परीक्षक ही उपस्थित रहे। (संवाद)

मिनी स्टेडियम में बांटी गई किट

हरिद्वार। सतरिख मिनी स्टेडियम में शुक्रवार को खेल से खुशी स्पोर्ट्स फंड चैज कार्यक्रम का अंतिम एक दिवसीय सत्रका द्वारा किया गया। कार्यक्रम में अतिथि एसडीएस अकांक्षा सिंह ने कहा कि शिक्षा के साथ खेलकूद भी अत्यंत आवश्यक है, जिससे बच्चों का सर्वांगीण विकास संभव होता है। इस अवसर पर खेल सुविधाओं का उद्घाटन किया गया तथा टेबल टेनिस बैथिपनशिप का अवरोजन हुआ। खिलाड़ियों को सम्मानित किया गया। प्रतिभागियों को स्पोर्ट्स किट भी वितरित की गई। (संवाद)

खेल संस्कृति को बढ़ावा देने पर दिया गया जोर



कार्यक्रम के दौरान मौजूद अतिथि, फाउंडेशन की संस्थापक विभा और सुनील मिश्रा ने अपने संबोधन में सहायिकी की शिक्षा और खेलों के महत्व पर जोर देते हुए 2036 में भारत में ओलंपिक आयोजन की संभावनाओं का बड़ा उल्लेख किया। इस अवसर पर खेल सुविधाओं का उद्घाटन किया गया।

गणपति एगो के निदेशक अतुल कुमार सिंह, उपविभाधिकारी अकांक्षा गुप्ता, खंड विकास अधिकारी प्रीति वर्मा और क्षेत्रीय युवा कल्याण अधिकारी समुद्रि यादव ने खेलों के जरिए सर्वांगीण विकास और बालिकाओं को प्रोत्साहन देने की बात कही। सीआईआई फाउंडेशन की ओर से सर्वानों और युक्ति ने खेल संस्कृति को बढ़ावा देने पर जोर दिया। कार्यक्रम में तारा मेमोरियल टेबल टेनिस बैथिपनशिप आयोजित हुई, जिसमें विजेता और उपविजेता को ट्रॉफी तथा अन्य प्रतिभागियों को प्रमाण पत्र दिए गए। खिलाड़ियों को बैडमिंटन, क्रिकेट और टेबल टेनिस की स्पोर्ट्स किट भी वितरित की गई। अंत में भारत जैन ने आभार व्यक्त किया। कार्यक्रम में बंके जैन, डॉ. रमेश लता, अक्षय नाथुर, श्रीकांत, सहायन, रमा सोयल, जया, अनीता, सुनीता यादव, कुसुम सहित लगभग 40 युवा उपस्थित रहे।

Barabanki खेल से खुशी पहल: बाराबंकी के सतरिख मिनी स्टेडियम में खेल सुविधाओं का उद्घाटन और किट वितरण

बाराबंकी में 'खेल से खुशी' पहल के तहत सतरिख मिनी स्टेडियम में खेल सुविधाओं का वितरण किया गया। SDM अकांक्षा गुप्ता और BDO प्रीति वर्मा की मौजूदगी में स्पोर्ट्स किट बांटी गई।



प्रारम्भ न्यूज़ व्यूरो, बाराबंकी

उत्तर प्रदेश के बाराबंकी जिले में युवाओं के सर्वांगीण विकास और खेलों के प्रति रुचि जगाने के लिए 'खेल से खुशी' पहल के अंतर्गत सतरिख मिनी स्टेडियम में एक भव्य कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया गया। इस कार्यक्रम के माध्यम से न केवल खेल सुविधाएं बांटी गईं, बल्कि स्थानीय बच्चों और किशोरों को मुख्यधारा के खेलों से जोड़ने का सशक्त प्रयास भी किया गया।



प्रमुख संस्थाओं का साह्य प्राप्त

यह महत्वपूर्ण पहल सीआईआई (CII) फाउंडेशन द्वारा संचालित की जा रही है, जिसे हेल एनर्जी का वित्तीय सहयोग प्राप्त है। धराराल पर इस परियोजना को तारा श्री फाउंडेशन के साथ साझेदारी में लागू किया जा रहा है।



उद्घाटन एवं सांस्कृतिक झलक

कार्यक्रम का शुभारंभ तारा श्री फाउंडेशन की संस्थापक सुशी विभा एवं सुशी इप्शा सिंह के संबोधन से हुआ। उन्होंने युवाओं के जीवन में खेल खेल सुविधाएं बांटी (Sports Infrastructure) की अनिवार्यता पर जोर दिया। इसके उपरान्त, फेलोशिप कार्यक्रम की प्रतिभागियों ने 'अरमान हूँ मैं' गीत की प्रस्तुति दी, जिसने उपस्थित जनसमूह में उत्साह का संचार किया।



अधिकारियों ने बढ़ावा युवाओं का होसला

समारोह में मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में उपस्थित सुशी अकांक्षा गुप्ता (SDM, बाराबंकी) और सुशी प्रीति वर्मा (BDO, हरदोय ब्लाक) ने बच्चों और किशोरों का मार्गदर्शन किया। इन दोनों अधिकारियों ने कहा कि खेल केवल शारीरिक व्यायाम नहीं, बल्कि अनुशासन और नेतृत्व क्षमता विकसित करने का एक सशक्त माध्यम है।



कार्यक्रम की मुख्य विशेषताएं और वितरण

कार्यक्रम के दौरान स्थानीय खिलाड़ियों के लिए संसाधनों की कमी को दूर करने हेतु कई ठोस कदम उठाए गए।

खेल सुविधाओं का उद्घाटन: स्टेडियम में नवनिर्मित खेल सुविधाओं को औपचारिक रूप से शुरू किया गया।

स्पोर्ट्स किट वितरण: युवाओं को बालीबॉल, क्रिकेट, बैडमिंटन, बास्केटबॉल और टेबल टेनिस की आधुनिक किट प्रदान की गई।

तारा मेमोरियल टेबल टेनिस बैथिपनशिप: प्रतियोगिता के विजेताओं को ट्रॉफी और सभी प्रतिभागियों को प्रमाण पत्र देकर सम्मानित किया गया।

विशेषज्ञों के विचार: ओलंपिक 2036 का लक्ष्य

सीआईआई फाउंडेशन के मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी सुनील मिश्रा ने भविष्य की दृष्टि साझा करते हुए कहा कि भारत वर्ष 2036 में ओलंपिक की मेजबानी की दिशा में कदम बढ़ा रहा है। ऐसी जमीनी पहलें बाराबंकी जिले से प्रतिभाओं को खोजकर वैश्विक मंच तक पहुंचाने में मौल का फलर साबित होंगी।

इस अवसर पर गणपति एगो के निदेशक अतुल कुमार सिंह ने भी विचार रखे। कार्यक्रम का समापन CII के उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य प्रमुख एवं निदेशक आलाक शुक्ला के धन्यवाद ज्ञापन से हुआ।

पहल का मुख्य उद्देश्य

"खेल से खुशी" परियोजना का लक्ष्य केवल खेल सामग्री बांटना नहीं, बल्कि बच्चों और किशोरों (विशेषकर बालिकाओं) के लिए समान अवसर सृजित करना। उनमें खेलों के माध्यम से आत्मविश्वास और 'लाइफ स्किल्स' का विकास करना। साथ ही सामुदायिक सहभागिता के जरिये बाराबंकी में खेल संस्कृति को पुनर्जीवित करना है।





Waste Management

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



WASTE MANAGEMENT



From Waste to Worth

India's rapid urbanisation has brought with it a mounting waste management challenge—one that poses serious risks to both environmental sustainability and public health. In many areas, piles of garbage line roadsides, plastic clogs drains, and untreated refuse contaminates water bodies, degrading the ecosystems and heightening the risk of disease outbreaks.

The CII Foundation has adopted a collaborative and community-driven approach to develop scalable and sustainable waste management solutions. In June 2021, in partnership with PTC Foundation and PTC India Financial Services Limited, the Foundation launched its first intervention in Abul Fazal, Okhla, New Delhi—a densely populated urban settlement, followed by a project in Kochi, Kerala. The project set out to transform the locality into a zero-waste neighbourhood by building awareness, strengthening waste management infrastructure and enabling the efficient processing of waste to reduce the burden on landfills.

Building on the success of these interventions, the CII Foundation expanded its waste management initiatives in 2025-26 to diverse geographies across the country: Leh in Ladakh and Farukh Nagar in Haryana with each intervention customised to the specific needs of the region. The waste management program seeks to strengthen existing municipal systems while fostering active participation from Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs), industries, and local communities—ensuring that waste management becomes a shared responsibility and a sustainable practice.

Waste Management Initiative, Ladakh



The fragile Himalayan ecosystem of Ladakh is increasingly under pressure from changing consumption patterns, rising tourism, and expanding urban activity. In Leh, where the natural environment is particularly sensitive, the growing volume of waste—especially non-biodegradable material—has emerged as a critical concern. Limited infrastructure and logistical constraints make waste collection and processing difficult and in the absence of adequate systems, improper disposal threatens local water bodies, wildlife, and the delicate ecological balance of the region.

To address these challenges, the CII Foundation undertook consultations and field assessments with local stakeholders in 2024 to understand the gaps in waste management systems and identify sustainable solutions suited to the unique terrain and socio-economic context of Ladakh.

Based on these insights, the CII Foundation, in partnership with HDFC Bank Parivartan, launched a Community Waste Management Initiative in Leh on 28 March 2024, covering 25 villages across two blocks.

Key Components of the Program



Creating Awareness and Catalysing Civic Engagement



Strengthening Waste Management Infrastructure



Building skills of waste workers and enhancing their safety

Key Supporters



Locations





Creating Awareness and Catalysing Civic Engagement

A key priority during the initial phase of the initiative was to build awareness and encourage community participation in responsible waste management. A series of stakeholder consultations and community meetings were held with local institutions and residents to promote behaviour change and strengthen systems for waste segregation, collection, and processing.

A meeting was held with Colonel Prateek, Station Staff Officer (SSO), to streamline waste management from Station Headquarters Kharu, which generates nearly one tonne of mixed waste per day. The discussion focused on strengthening segregation practices, training personnel, and transporting the waste to the SRMC (Material Recovery Facility) at Kharu. The meeting was attended by the Block Development Officer (BDO) Kharu, Panchayat Secretary Kharu, and the CII Foundation Leh team, reflecting strong institutional collaboration.

Community engagement remains central to the 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 Mr. Ghulam Mohammed Mir, Block Development Officer, Chuchot; Ms. Deskit Yangdol, Manager, HDFC Bank; Mr. Fayaz Ahmed, President, Merchants Association; Nambardars from Stok, Matho, Chuchot Yokma, and Chuchot Gongma, Mr. Nawang Thinley, Former Chairman, CII Foundation; along with Rural Development Department (RDD) staff and Solid Resource Management Centre (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.

In August, a cloth bag campaign was flagged off and two new waste collection trucks for Chuchot and Kharu Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) at Sindhu Ghat, Leh, were handed over as part of the Mission

Indus Cleanup. Present on the occasion were Advocate Tashi Gyaltsen, Chief Executive Councillor, Leh; Romil Singh Donok (IAS), Deputy Commissioner, Leh; Dr. Pawan Kotwal, Chief Secretary, UT of Ladakh; Ms. Dieskit Yangdol, Manager, HDFC Bank, Leh, district officers, heads of religious bodies, representatives from the Indian Army and Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), and other key stakeholders. A clean-up drive was carried out across 15 villages in Chuchot and Kharu blocks, reflecting a strong community commitment to sustainable practices, reduced plastic usage, and improved waste management.

To further reduce plastic usage and promote sustainable consumption, an awareness session and cloth bag distribution drive was organised at Hemis Monastery where Monks were encouraged to shift away from single-use plastic.



A series of stakeholder consultations and community meetings were held with local institutions and residents to promote behaviour change and strengthen systems for waste segregation, collection, and processing.

Strengthening Waste Management Infrastructure



A key component of the initiative has been the introduction of innovative solutions to manage plastic waste in high-footfall locations. Automated PET bottle crushing machines have been installed at Thiksey Monastery and Hemis Monastery—two important cultural and tourist destinations in the region. These machines enable the collection and on-site crushing of plastic bottles, making it easier to channel the material for recycling while reducing the volume of plastic waste generated at these sites.

Under the project, two solid resource management centres in Chuchot Block and Kharu Block, respectively, have been set up.

Building Skills of Waste Workers and Enhancing their Safety

Alongside environmental action, the initiative also prioritises the health and well-being of waste workers.

On 15 October, in collaboration with the Smile Foundation, a comprehensive health check-up camp was organised for workers at the Kharu Material Recovery Facility. The camp included blood pressure checks, sugar level testing, cholesterol and uric acid tests, along with free medicine distribution. This intervention reflects a holistic approach to waste management by supporting both environmental sustainability and worker welfare. As the session concluded, participants shared their feedback and concerns, including issues like mixed waste from households, challenges in disposing of glass and sanitary napkin waste, and the need for additional economic opportunities. The discussions provided valuable insights for future program enhancements.

A felicitation program was organised on 31 March 2026 at the Chuchot SRMC Centre to recognise and appreciate the dedicated efforts of sanitation



workers and stakeholders involved in the project. Sanitation workers received 29 Borosil bottles and mementos as a token of appreciation for their continued support and service.

The program was graced by dignitaries including ACD A.G. Zargar, DPO; Akhil Sajjad, BDO Ghulam Mohammad (Chuchot), and BDO Kunzang Dolma (Kharu) who appreciated the impactful work and the dedication of the supervisors from both Chuchot and Kharu Blocks.

Engaging Youth Through Internships



Students of Eliezer Joldan Memorial College (EJM College) Leh actively contributed to promoting efficient waste management through an internship program under the project. As part of the internship, they ran door-to-door awareness campaigns and community cleanliness drives, and learnt about the practical aspects of waste management, especially scientific waste management practices through hands-on exposure at the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) Centre. To recognise the contribution of the students, a Certificate Distribution and Felicitation Ceremony was organised on 10 March 2026 at the college. Twenty-two students who successfully completed a 60-hour internship over 45 days under the project received certificates and were felicitated in the presence of Chief Guest Ms. Bhanu Prabha, Secretary, Higher Education, UT Ladakh, who appreciated the students' dedication and encouraged them to continue contributing to initiatives that benefit society and the environment.

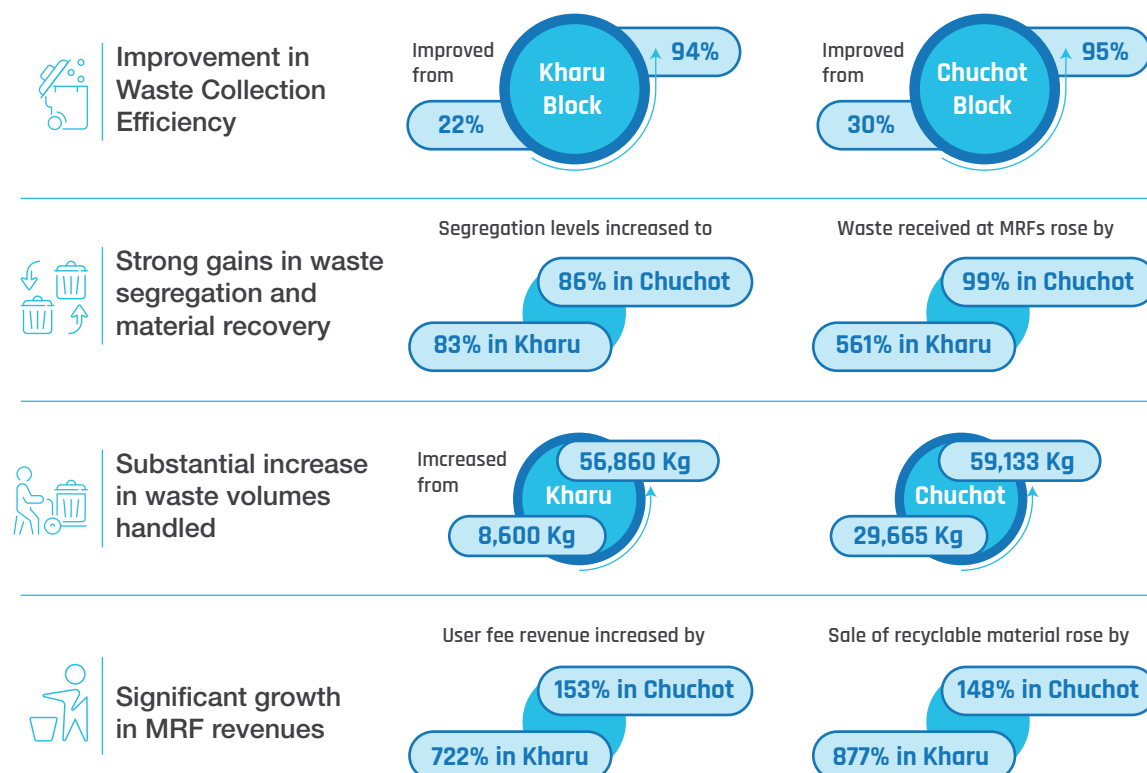


In January 2026, the project team met the Additional Commissioner of Development (ACD), A.G. Zargar, and District Panchayat Officer (DPO) Akeel Sajjad, representing the Rural Development Department to apprise them of the project and its impact. Recognising the contribution of the project in improving waste management practices in Leh, the Additional Commissioner of Development (ACD) felicitated Ms. Rachna Jindal, Director, Northern Region, CII, and Mr. Khurshid Maqbool Dar, Deputy Director, CII, along with Ms. Deskit Yangdol, Manager, HDFC Bank, with certificates of appreciation.



Result and Impact

In Ladakh the project has led to a significant transformation in community-led waste management.



Received Certificate of Appreciation from Rural Development Department



Waste Management Initiative, Haryana



Farukh Nagar, a town in Gurugram district of Haryana, faces persistent challenges in the management of solid waste. Preliminary field visits and consultations with local stakeholders highlighted several gaps in the existing waste management framework.

To address these challenges, the CII Foundation launched Project Adarsh Village in Farukh Nagar, Gurugram, in July 2023. Since its inception, the project has focused on strengthening waste management systems through field assessments, community engagement, and sustained awareness campaigns that encourage responsible waste disposal and the adoption of sustainable waste management practices.



The CII Foundation undertook various activities in project areas. These focused on creating awareness about efficient waste management practices, strengthening waste management infrastructure by way of distributing dustbins and training waste workers. These helped accelerate community participation for improving surroundings and contributing to sustainable development.

To commemorate World Environment Day on June 5, students from Government Girls Middle School, Patli in Farukh Nagar participated in a drawing competition organised by the CII Foundation. These young eco-warriors showcased their vision for a clean and green future, learning the importance of taking care of our planet.

The CII Foundation continues its efforts to improve waste management in the project areas.



Change on the Ground: From Numbers to Narratives



Waste collection from households in village

100%



**Waste segregation
at household level.**

65%

Voices of Impact



The waste pick-up service has changed our lives and our environment. This cloth bag campaign is a wonderful initiative to reduce the PP bags we get in market to buy anything. The house is full of those plastic bags. Thank you!

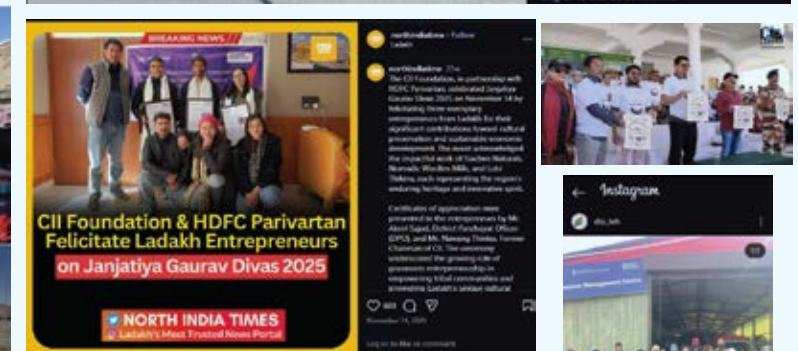
Rigzen Chondol & Tsewang Chosdon
Residents of Stakna Village, Leh



I appreciate the project and express my gratitude to CII Foundation and HDFC Bank Parivartan for their efforts in strengthening waste management initiatives. Following the ceremony, a cleanup drive was carried out across 15 villages in the Chuchot and Kharu blocks, reflecting our collective commitment to environmental conservation.

Tashi Gyaltsen
Chief Executive Councillor, Ladakh
Autonomous Hill Development Council

Media Coverage - Highlights





Women Empowerment

5 GENDER EQUALITY



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT



Woman Exemplar Program: Empowering Grassroots Women Leaders

Women's empowerment at the CII Foundation is anchored in the belief that grassroots women leaders are central to driving inclusive and sustained community development. Across underserved regions, women continue to navigate structural barriers that limit access to resources and opportunities; yet, with the right support, they emerge as powerful agents of change, strengthening communities, institutions, and local economies.

Building on this vision, the CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Program (WEP) has evolved into a flagship program that identifies, recognises, and nurtures grassroots women leaders working across Education, Health, Micro-enterprise, and Community Strengthening. Since its inception, the program has combined recognition with capacity building, equipping women with the skills, visibility, and networks required to deepen and scale their impact.

Each year, a rigorous multi-step process is undertaken to identify grassroots women leaders, who have faced crippling challenges and hardships, yet emerged as leaders.

The growing network of woman exemplars today has 150+ change makers who are driving social change and collectively impacting millions of lives across diverse geographies.

During 2025-26, the focus was on strengthening the cohort of woman exemplars and mid-year efforts focused on expanding outreach and strengthening the pipeline of leaders, with the launch of the Call for Nominations for the 2026 WEP Awards and continued capacity-building engagements across states. Between September and December, the



program advanced into the next stage of selection through a rigorous desk review process, alongside the rollout of state-level leadership initiatives in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh in partnership with Apraava Energy.

During January-March 2026, on-ground due diligence visits were undertaken to assess nominees for the 2026 cohort, reinforcing the program's robust and multi-step selection process. An eminent jury selected the winners of the Woman Exemplar Award 2026, recognising their outstanding contributions to social and economic transformation at the grassroots. The awards were presented at the prestigious CII Annual Business Session, one of India's foremost industry gatherings, attended by a distinguished audience of business leaders, policymakers, and other eminent dignitaries. Receiving the award on this esteemed platform not only honoured the winners' exceptional work but also brought national visibility to their efforts in driving inclusive and sustainable development. Through sustained partnerships, sectoral collaboration, and a strong industry connect, the Woman Exemplar Program continues to foster a dynamic ecosystem of women leaders who are driving transformative change at the grassroots.

Key Components of the Program



Identification and Recognition



Capacity Building and Mentoring



Amplifying Stories of Change



Strengthening the Woman Exemplar Network

Key Supporters



Locations



Identification and Recognition

The CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Program follows a comprehensive and rigorous multi-stage selection process to identify and celebrate grassroots women leaders creating meaningful change in their communities. The process begins with a Call for Nominations, through which NGOs and development sector organisation nominate inspiring women changemakers.

Each nomination is then carefully assessed through detailed desk reviews and telephonic interactions, followed by on-ground field visits. During these visits, the team engages with the nominees, community members, proposers, and government officials to better understand and evaluate the depth and scale of their impact. The final selection is undertaken by an eminent jury comprising distinguished leaders from industry, media, and the social sector.

Call for Nominations and Outreach



The Call for Nominations for the Woman Exemplar Award 2026 was launched on 1 August 2025, inviting grassroots women leaders to apply.

The eligibility criteria included:

- A minimum of three years of experience in their respective field of work.
- Active contribution towards improving the lives of women and children in underserved communities.

- Engagement through diverse roles—such as leading their own initiative or organisation, working with a non-profit, serving as an individual volunteer (e.g., ASHA, community mobiliser), or contributing within local governance systems (e.g., Sarpanch, Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM), Anganwadi Worker).
- No prior receipt of state-level, national, or corporate awards.

On 1 August 2025, a multilingual digital campaign, *#LeadLikeANaari*, was launched to promote the program, highlight eligibility, and showcase stories of past exemplars. Through videos, creatives, and targeted bilingual outreach, the campaign encouraged applications from diverse regions, resulting in over 1,600 registrations by 15 September 2025.

To further strengthen outreach and transparency, CII Foundation partnered with GivFunds as the Due Diligence Partner, and a series of webinars were conducted to guide applicants through the application process and build awareness around the Program's value.

347 Nominations received for Woman Exemplar Award 2026

Education	87
Health	66
Micro Enterprise	98
Overlapping across categories	96

The application form was available in 9 languages: Hindi, English, Tamil, Marathi, Bengali, Kannada, Assamese, Odia, and Gujarati.

Screening and Selection Process

The Call for Nominations for the Woman Exemplar Award closed on 30 September 2025. From October to December 2025, the CII Foundation team evaluated the submissions of over 340 forms from across 26 States.

The first stage included a detailed desk review of all submissions, followed by telephonic interactions to better understand their profiles. Following these interviews, 20 semi-finalists were shortlisted.

Between January and March 2026, the team conducted due diligence field visits, meeting the woman leaders in person community members and local government officials to understand the impact of their work.

A jury of eminent leaders then evaluated the applicants understanding their struggles and achievements, selecting one winner from each category for the CII Woman Exemplar Award.

Jury Members

Kamal Bali
Committee Chair
President & Managing Director
Volvo Group, India

Chetna Gala Sinha
Committee Co-Chair
Founder, Mannadeshi Bank

Rumjhum Chatterjee
Co-Founder & Managing Trustee of the Infravision Foundation

Radhika Bharat Ram
Joint Vice Chairperson
The Shri Ram Schools

Kaveree Bamzai
Independent Journalist

Archna Vyas
Director of Policy & Communication
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Narayan Devanathan
President and Chief Strategy Officer
Dentsu South Asia

Award Ceremony and Recognition

The CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Award 2026 was presented to the winners by Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Government of India, during the session on 'Women Leading the Charge for Social Change: CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Awards' at the CII Annual Business Summit 2026 held on 12 May 2026.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan described the awardees as not only trailblazers and grassroots leaders, but also as 'Matrushakti' — creators and nurturers who have developed impactful



models for social change. Appreciating their journey and contributions, he said, "The confidence and clarity with which they presented their thoughts is remarkable."

Kranti from Indore, Madhya Pradesh, received the award in the Community Strengthening category; Jasmeen Hussain from Nuh, Haryana, in the Education category; Shalini from Salem, Tamil Nadu, in the Health category; and Arundhati Patil from Kolhapur, Maharashtra, in the Micro-enterprise category. Each winner received a trophy, a certificate, and a cash prize.

Speaking at the event, Mr. Rajiv Memani, President, CII, said, "Hearing the stories of each of these women was truly inspirational. These are the stories that make a real difference to Bharat."

Highlighting the importance of promoting women's leadership and social development, Mr. Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII, said that the Woman Exemplar Program recognises and supports grassroots women leaders who create meaningful impact within their communities. He noted that collectively, these grassroots leaders impact the lives of over 2 million people annually across some of the most vulnerable regions of the country.

The 2026 cohort of the Woman Exemplar Program comprises 20 grassroots women leaders from across India, each driving transformative change in her community. These exemplars are now part of a growing national network of over 150 women leaders collectively impacting millions every year.

The CII Foundation continues to support and empower the Woman Exemplars through sustained initiatives aimed at strengthening leadership capabilities and expanding their social impact.





Meet the Winners of the CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Award 2026



Community Strengthening



Education



Health



Micro-Enterprise



Kranti
Indore, Madhya Pradesh

Kranti from Indore, Madhya Pradesh, grew up in a Scheduled Caste family witnessing systemic discrimination associated with caste and gender. Her turning point came with the belief that dignity and respect are core for any change to be successful, whether ending manual scavenging or addressing gender-based violence faced by women engaged in the task. Through her work with the Garima Abhiyan, Kranti has mobilised communities across 32 villages to end manual scavenging among 230 families and supported 40,000 women facing violence and exclusion through trainings. She has enabled demolition of dry latrines, supported families to shift to alternative livelihoods, and provided legal aid to more than 3,400 women. Her work has also ensured access to social security and labour rights for over 1 lakh individuals, while engaging 6,000 young people in prevention and awareness efforts.



Jasmeen Hussain
Nuh, Haryana

Jasmeen, from Nuh, Haryana, works on addressing deep-rooted gender norms, low female literacy and systemic barriers to girls education in orthodox religious communities. She is changing the education system by integrating mainstream education within the religious centres of learning. By working closely with religious leaders and educators, she introduces scientific thinking while building trust. She has worked across 16 villages and 8 religious centres to identify out-of-school children through household mapping and counselling, supporting the re-enrolment of over 4,000 children and facilitating enrolment for 2,000 new students. Her approach integrates remedial education and home-based learning support, reaching over 1,000 children, while also engaging with families and communities to shift attitudes around the education of girls.



Shalini
Salem, Tamil Nadu

Shalini from Salem, Tamil Nadu, a person living with HIV, has navigated stigma, mental health struggles, and systemic exclusion to shape the lives of people living with HIV. She transformed her personal experience into leadership by launching the HEAL initiative, an integrated HIV care model that embeds structured mental health support and life skills counselling within clinical treatment for persons living with HIV. Shalini has directly supported over 5,700 individuals and indirectly reached more than 7,000 people. She has conducted 1,051 counselling sessions and supported 1,054 HIV-positive individuals to improve treatment adherence. By institutionalising HEAL in government hospitals across Salem, Shalini is driving systems-level change. Her work reduces stigma, normalises mental health care in HIV treatment, and builds a survivor-centred public health ecosystem rooted in dignity and compassion.



Arundhati Patil
Kolhapur, Maharashtra

Arundhati Patil, based in Kolhapur, Maharashtra, is an agri innovator who has developed a nursery-based income model, training women to raise saplings using full germinators. Each nursery now generates an annual income of 5 - 6 lakh. Recognising that income is the first step to agency, she organised women into collectives and anchored them in sustainable agriculture. She has organised nearly 45,000 farmers across 52 villages into collectives to pursue organic farming improving access to inputs, markets, and government schemes. Her work in organic farming and vermicomposting has helped 1500 women farmers increase profits while creating local livelihoods. Her work stands out for combining grassroots innovation with collective action enabling small farmers to reduce costs, improve incomes, and build resilient, sustainable farming systems.





Meet the 2026 Cohort of Woman Exemplars



Community Strengthening



Anita Vishwakarma

Age: 50
Education: B. Com
Proposing Organisation:
Global Concord Foundation
Location: Kurla West, Mumbai

Anita Vishwakarma from Kurla, Mumbai, has spent over a decade strengthening access to justice, education, and livelihoods for marginalised women and girls. Growing up in a low-income family, she witnessed public harassment by a police officer, shaping her resolve to make public institutions more accessible and accountable. Anita has built community-led platforms that bridge gaps between communities and government systems, addressing domestic violence, school dropout, and lack of legal awareness. Reaching over 7,000+ community members directly, she has mobilised over 1,200 women through 110 Self-Help Groups, supported 5,000 at-risk girls to access education, and conducted safety and awareness sessions with 1,500+ children.



Bhavana Murlidhar Waghmare

Age: 44
Education: 12th Standard
Proposing Organisation:
Shakya Samajik Sanstha
Location: Kalyan and Thane,
Maharashtra

Bhavana Murlidhar Waghmare from Kalyan, Maharashtra, works to bridge critical gaps in documentation and entitlements, ensuring women are visible within systems that shape their rights and opportunities. Growing up with the dual burden of poverty and caste ostracization, her lived experiences shaped her approach. Through Shakya Samajik Sanstha, Bhavana has mobilised 9,000 women workers and has worked with them to secure identity documents, enabling over 3,500 women from nomadic and tribal communities to access entitlements. She has also organised 1,200 women into collectives and trained 150 women leaders. With her focus on collectivisation and systems engagement, Bhavana is ensuring that women access services, build leadership and agency to participate in decision making and claim their rights.



Bimla Vishwapremi

Age: 50
Education: 10th Standard
Proposing Organisation:
Parvatiya Mahila Vikas Trust
Location: Kangra, Himachal
Pradesh

Bimla Vishwapremi from Kangra, Himachal Pradesh, has spent over three decades addressing caste-based discrimination. Shaped by exclusion and personal loss, she chose a path rooted in awareness, solidarity, and justice. Through her organisation Parvatiya Mahila Vikas Trust, Bimla has organised 3,200 women across 200 villages, provided legal counselling and mediation to over 2,500 women, facilitated action under the SC ST Act to create safe spaces for survivors of violence, and used community theatre and cultural mobilisation to enable dialogue on discrimination, gender-based violence, and reproductive health for 1,000 women. Bimla is helping women move from silence and isolation to confidence and leadership, realigning gender and power norms in rural India.



Kanchan Jha

Age: 37
Education: 9th Standard
Proposing Organisation: BAIF
Location: Supaul, Bihar

Kanchan Jha from Supaul, Bihar, enables women to engage with systems, access entitlements, and confidently participate in decision-making processes. Having experienced early marriage and disrupted education herself, she brings a deeply contextual understanding to her work. Over the last 15 years, Kanchan has mobilised women into collectives and strengthened linkages with public systems. She has supported over 2,500 women and girls in education, connected 1,500 women to health and violence redressal services, and led sanitation initiatives across 26 panchayats, reaching 26,000 people. She has also enabled women to access government schemes while building digital and financial awareness. Her work reflects a sustained effort to build self-reliant communities where women are informed, confident, and actively shaping decisions that affect their lives.



Education



Deepali Chougule

Age: 39
Education: Master of Social Work
Proposing Organisation: Kalidas
Shinde, Independent Writer &
Professor
Location: Kolhapur

Deepali Chougule from Kolhapur district, Maharashtra, works to ensure uninterrupted education for children of migrant families, particularly sugarcane workers. Her work addresses learning disruptions caused by seasonal migration and builds systems that enable continuity in education. As the first girl in her village to complete a Master's in Social Work, she brings both lived experience and professional commitment to this issue. Through her initiatives, Aas and Aarambh, Deepali has developed hyper local, context-responsive learning models for children at migration sites, supporting over 1,500 children directly while building linkages with formal systems such as Samagra Shiksha. By partnering with government schools, she reached 15,000 children, increasing enrolment by 20%. Deepali has created a model that is both adaptable and scalable across migration-affected regions.



Hemlata Rajput

Age: 47
Education: Masters of Arts
(Sociology)
Proposing Organisation: Shreejan
Location: Mahasamund,
Chhattisgarh

Hemlata Rajput from Mahasamund district, Chhattisgarh, has dedicated over two decades to ensure that girls from vulnerable backgrounds are able to enter, continue, and benefit from education systems. Navigating early personal responsibilities and social barriers, she continued her education and built a long-term commitment to community-based learning. Through her organisation Shreejan, Hemlata has identified school dropouts, counselled families, and enabled re-enrolment. Since 2002, she has helped establish 52 community-supported coaching centres supporting 271 children, created safe residential arrangements for girls to continue their education, and advanced adult literacy for over 2,000 women. Through system strengthening at the district-level she has reintegrated 4,000 adolescents into formal education systems and secured 2,000 new admissions. Hemlata is building a robust ecosystem for learning through community-based education models.



Nirmala Sharma

Age: 43
Education: Bachelor of Science
(Mathematics)
Proposing Organisation: Language
and Learning Foundation
Location: Pali, Chhattisgarh

Nirmala Sharma from Pali, Chhattisgarh, is a government school teacher who has focused on strengthening foundational learning through activity-based pedagogy, teacher capacity building, and deep community engagement. Her journey began in a remote primary school with minimal infrastructure and low student attendance. Through sustained efforts, she revitalized Chowkpara Primary School, increasing student attendance from just 15 to over 100 within a year, while improving school infrastructure through community support. As a Master Trainer under the Multi Grade Multi Level (MGML) program, she has trained over 9,000 teachers and developed over 100 locally relevant Teaching Learning Materials. Her work with SCERT has contributed to curriculum development, including textbooks, bridge courses, and activity-based learning resources. Nirmala's approach combines classroom innovation with system-level strengthening.



Saba Khan

Age: 31
Education: MA in Child Psychology;
Masters in Social Work
Proposing Organisation: ATMA
Location: Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

Saba Khan from Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, has over 16 years of experience in addressing gaps in foundational learning in underserved urban settlements, especially among first-generation learners and adolescent girls. Her work centres on making reading and learning accessible beyond formal schooling systems. Starting with a single library in a low-income settlement, Saba has built a network of 11 community libraries and 11 school libraries across Bhopal, reaching over 30,000 community children. These libraries are also active learning environments with read-aloud sessions and creative writing. She has supported school dropouts re-enroll, guided adolescents on careers, and conducted over 70 capacity building training program for teachers and volunteers in child-centred and library-based learning approaches. Saba is creating accessible and engaging learning environments to support long-term educational outcomes.



Meet the 2026 Cohort of Woman Exemplars

 Health



Babita Rathod
Age: 42
Education: 12th Standard
Proposing Organisation: Samartha Kalyankari Sanstha
Location: Omerga, Osmanabad, Maharashtra

Babita Rathod, based in Osmanabad, Maharashtra, works to strengthen menstrual and reproductive health among marginalized communities, particularly Denotified Tribe groups. Through her organisation, Samartha Kalyankari Sanstha, Babita has designed and implemented structured school-based program reaching over 2,000 adolescent girls across 19 schools. She has trained 90 teachers and worked with government officials to improve school sanitation systems. She has also engaged about 2,000 mothers across 20 villages and over 14,000 adolescent boys and men to build supportive community environments, trained ASHAs, Anganwadi workers, and ANMs, enabling 14 community leaders to run program independently, and supported the distribution of over 6,000 menstrual hygiene kits. Babita's efforts are enabling long-term change where menstrual health becomes a supported and normalized part of community wellbeing.



Poonam Kumari
Age: 51
Education: 12th Standard
Proposing Organisation: Ekjut
Location: Jharkhand

Poonam Kumari from Jharkhand works with Ekjut and is a public health practitioner with over 13 years of experience in improving the uptake of essential health services by building the capacity of health workers and bridging the gap between communities and government systems. An early marriage, multiple pregnancies, and health challenges shaped her commitment to improving healthcare. Poonam has directly reached over 6,000 individuals, and indirectly more than 36,000 people across multiple states including Jharkhand. As a National Master Trainer since 2016, she has trained over 6,000 frontline health workers through Training of Trainers models across India, and worked with Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups to drive behaviour change by engaging traditional healers and developing 15 tribal community health champions.



Lakshmi Say
Age: 41
Education: 12th Standard
Proposing Organisation: Ekjut
Location: Odisha and Jharkhand

Lakshmi Say, based in Mayurbhanj, Odisha, works with tribal communities to improve maternal, child, and adolescent health outcomes. With over 16 years of experience, she focuses on challenging harmful superstitions and building trust in scientific health practices across remote regions of Odisha and Jharkhand. Through her work with Ekjut, Lakshmi has reached over 36,000 individuals directly and more than 55,000 indirectly through community-based health interventions. In recent years, she has reached 12,000 beneficiaries through high-risk pregnancy and malnutrition interventions, personally supporting critical cases and facilitating treatment for 19 severely malnourished children. She has also trained 180 frontline workers to strengthen last-mile health delivery. Lakshmi has successfully created behaviour change within deeply rooted cultural contexts by combining community trust with scientific approaches.



Shubhangi Bhoite
Age: 38
Education: Master's Degree; Diploma in Sanitary Inspection
Proposing Organisation: Foundation for Mother and Child Health (FMCH)
Location: Thane & Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra

Shubhangi Bhoite from Mumbai, Maharashtra, has been working since the last 20 years on improving healthcare for underserved urban communities. She has built a prevention-focused model that prioritizes early intervention, consistent counselling, and system strengthening directly impacting over 64,000 community members. She has provided nutrition counselling to over 60,000 women and trained 4,029 frontline workers, while co-developing NuTree, a digital tool for real-time growth monitoring and risk identification. Her approach integrates capacity building with technology to improve service delivery within Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) systems. Her work stands out for embedding sustainable, data-driven practices within public systems, ensuring continuity of care and long-term impact. Shubhangi is shifting maternal and child healthcare from reactive to preventive care.

 Micro-Enterprise



Gitasree Das
Age: 30
Education: BA (H) Education
Proposing Organisation: Rupantaran Foundation
Location: Namkhana, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal

Gitasree Das works in the climate-vulnerable Sundarbans where communities have long depended on relief due to repeated cyclones, flooding, and salinity intrusion. To reduce this cyclical dependency, Gitasree has enabled women farmers to transition towards climate-resilient livelihoods through training in salinity reduction, rainwater harvesting, organic inputs, and integrated pond-based farming. Gitasree mobilised resistant communities through sustained household-level engagement, demonstrating livelihood improvements to secure Panchayat buy-in. She organised 10,000 women farmers into collectives, developed leaders across 400 groups, and promoted climate-resilient agriculture, increasing women's incomes by 7,000 – 20,000. She integrated legal and buddy support for domestic-violence survivors, reducing cases by 50–60% and anchored the work through a three-tier Pyramid Leadership Model supported by 8,130 community meetings on women's rights.



Nirmala
Age: 28
Education: Masters in Social Work
Proposing Organisation: Educate Girls
Location: Badaun, Uttar Pradesh

Nirmala works in rural Budaun, Uttar Pradesh, where women contribute significantly to agriculture and household labour but lack financial independence and decision making. Drawing from her own experience of early marriage, economic vulnerability, and social stigma, she views livelihood as a pathway to dignity, identity, and protection. Since 2016, she has strengthened over 500 SHGs across 15 blocks, enabling 15,000+ women to access financial literacy, savings, credit systems, and collective governance. She has supported women in building micro-enterprises – from tailoring and livestock to service-based work - leading to steady incomes and improved household resilience. Her work prioritises inclusion of marginalised women and strengthens financial transparency within SHGs, ensuring that collectives function as sustainable, independent institutions driving long-term economic empowerment.



Laxmipriya Parida
Age: 50
Education: Masters in Social Work
Proposing Organisation: Indian Grameen Services
Location: Odisha

Laxmipriya Parida from Kandhamal, Odisha, a single mother of two children, knew very early that financial independence was crucial for women to become decision makers. Facing rejection, isolation and mental torture in her marriage, Laxmi's work reflects her own journey. She has enabled over 3,000 women to diversify income streams across agriculture, livestock, eco-tourism, and non-farm enterprises, raising household incomes by over 50%. By mobilising women into SHGs and producer groups, she strengthened access to finance, savings, and formal markets. Her work has created sustainable livelihood opportunities for over 65 households directly and 250 indirectly through eco-tourism in Similipal, while also promoting cluster farming, vermicomposting, and orchard-based income models linked to government schemes and market systems.



Pushpa Oraon
Age: 36
Education: 12th Standard
Proposing Organisation: PRADAN
Location: Lohardaga, Jharkhand

Pushpa Oraon works in Lohardaga, Jharkhand, where tribal communities face chronic poverty, seasonal migration, and low agricultural productivity. Coming from a low-income Adivasi household and navigating early financial hardship herself, her journey from saving ~20/month in an Self-Help Group (SHG) to building a livelihood ecosystem reflects the transformative power of collective action. She has strengthened 275 SHGs covering over 3,500 women, enabling access to savings, credit, and government entitlements. Moving beyond collectives, she mobilised nearly 1,200 women farmers into Farmer Producer Organisation (FPOs), improving market access, reducing input costs, and increasing incomes by Rs 10,000-25,000. By promoting financial security through livelihoods and building women-led institutions, she is creating community-owned livelihood systems for tribal women.





Capacity Building and Mentoring



Within the CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Program, capacity-building forms a core pillar, equipping women exemplars with critical skills, broadening their perspectives, and enabling them to scale their impact. Through focused training sessions, leadership development, and peer-learning platforms, the program supports their continued personal and professional growth.

Training and Leadership Development



As part of the Woman Exemplar Program 2025, a two-day leadership training workshop was conducted at the CII office in Gurugram, bringing together the cohort of 20 Woman Exemplars. The training focused on leadership development, self-reflection, peer learning, and team-based problem-solving. Through interactive sessions and group discussions, participants reflected on their leadership journeys, recognised individual and collective strengths, and strengthened bonds within the cohort. The workshop

encouraged the Exemplars to move forward with greater clarity, confidence, and a shared commitment towards creating sustained social impact.

The second leadership training for the 2025 cohort brought the Woman Exemplars together for a three-day workshop at the CII Gurugram office, focused on strengthening core skills for community leadership. Key sessions included understanding different leadership approaches, negotiation skills, digital communication tools such as ChatGPT and Canva, proposal development, legal rights and redressal mechanisms, and networking exercises.

Participants also engaged in narrative-building and presentation exercises to improve communication and effectively articulate their experiences, ideas, and community goals.

Exemplar Exchange Program, Rajasthan



In the last week of July, grassroots women leaders from across states came together at Jatan Sansthan, Udaipur, Rajasthan, for a three-day session on Menstrual Health Management (MHM). The program, inaugurated by Dr. Lakshmi Murthy, Co-founder and President of Jatan Sansthan, encouraged open dialogue on menstrual health, stigma, and access to reproductive and child health services. Participants explored myths and realities around menstruation, discussed the environmental and health impact of disposable sanitary products, and learned about sustainable alternatives. The exchange also introduced inclusive educational tools such as Braille Menstruation Boxes, Kavad books, menstrual wheels, and comic guides. Interactive sessions highlighted innovative awareness-building approaches, including using sports to engage adolescents.

Hands-on training in stitching reusable menstrual products strengthened practical skills, while group

discussions helped participants develop action plans to promote sustainable, stigma-free menstrual health practices within their communities.

Exemplar Exchange Program, Maharashtra



From 18–20 August 2025, an Exemplar Exchange Program was organised in Osmanabad in partnership with Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP), bringing together women from the 2025 cohort who were running or aspiring to start micro-enterprises. The three-day training focused on strengthening entrepreneurial skills, scaling community enterprises, and encouraging more women to participate in entrepreneurship.

Participants engaged in sessions on financial literacy, business management, and the 3E model – Entrepreneurship, Enterprise, and Entrepreneur. Women entrepreneurs shared their journeys, highlighting challenges, resilience, and lessons from building successful enterprises. The program also included field visits to understand soybean cultivation and value-added products.

A key component of the exchange was the development of individual business plans and 10-day action plans to help participants initiate and strengthen enterprises in their communities. The workshop also created space for interaction with Woman Exemplars from the 2017 and 2019 cohorts, encouraging peer learning and stronger cross-cohort connections.

Amplifying Stories of Change

The CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Program not only identifies and supports grassroots women leaders but also amplifies their stories, enabling their voices to inspire wider social change. Through various platforms and engagements, the Woman Exemplars share their journeys, advocate for inclusive development, and highlight the transformative impact of investing in women.

As they continue to challenge barriers and create new possibilities, they are driving meaningful change within their communities and beyond.

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



Basmati Gagrai, Woman Exemplar 2024 from 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.





Empowering Champions of Change Program: Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan Chapter

In partnership with Apraava Energy, the CII Centre for Women Leadership and the CII Foundation expanded the Empowering Champions of Change (ECC) Program to Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, building on the successful implementation of the initiative in Assam between 2023–2025. The expansion seeks to further strengthen grassroots women's leadership and nurture a wider network of empowered community leaders across both states.

Over a period of 18 months, the ECC Program conducted training sessions on leadership development, financial and digital literacy, mentorship, and community-based project design for 15 women leaders selected through a participatory, multi-stage process. The participants represented 10 districts in Madhya Pradesh – Bhopal, Datia, Shivpuri, Sehore, Narmadapuram, Dewas, Betul, Shajapur, Guna, and Gwalior – and 10 districts in Rajasthan – Baran, Jhalawar, Dholpur, Sawai Madhopur, Barmer, Jalore, Jaisalmer, Bikaner, Jaipur, and Phalodi.

The program focused on experiential learning, peer engagement, and community-led action. Two Woman Exemplars from the national network, Mana Mandlekar and Rama Sharma, played a key role in anchoring the initiative in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, bringing field-based experience and grassroots leadership to the program.

Training Sessions in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh

As part of the Empowering Champions of Change (ECC) Program, introductory two-day workshops were organised in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh for the selected women leaders. The sessions focused on leadership development, visioning exercises, identification of thematic areas of work, and planning the participants' 18-month leadership journey. Women leaders also developed three-month action plans, participated in baseline survey discussions, and initiated the formation of women's and adolescent girls' groups within their villages. The program booklet was launched during the workshops.

The workshops were attended by representatives from Apraava Energy, including Mr. C. K. Pawar, GM –



Smart Metering Cell; Mr. Inayat Ali Khan, DGM, Dr. Priyesh Modi, Head, CSR, Ms. Manali Gupta, Manager; Mr. Manoj Dwivedi, Senior PRO; Mr. Gagan, and Mr. Saahas, along with representatives from community organisations and partner institutions. Speaking at the event, Mr. C. K. Pawar highlighted the importance of women's leadership and greater participation of women in the smart metering ecosystem. The workshops marked an important step in strengthening grassroots leadership and equipping women with skills and support to drive community-level change.

Further training sessions under the ECC Program were organised in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, and Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. In Madhya Pradesh, a 2.5-day training conducted in collaboration with Woman Exemplar Mana Mandlekar brought together 15 women leaders from 10 districts and focused on safety mapping, violence against women, and digital and financial literacy through expert-led sessions. In Rajasthan, a two-day training in Jaisalmer covered nutrition, nutri-gardening, and digital and financial literacy.

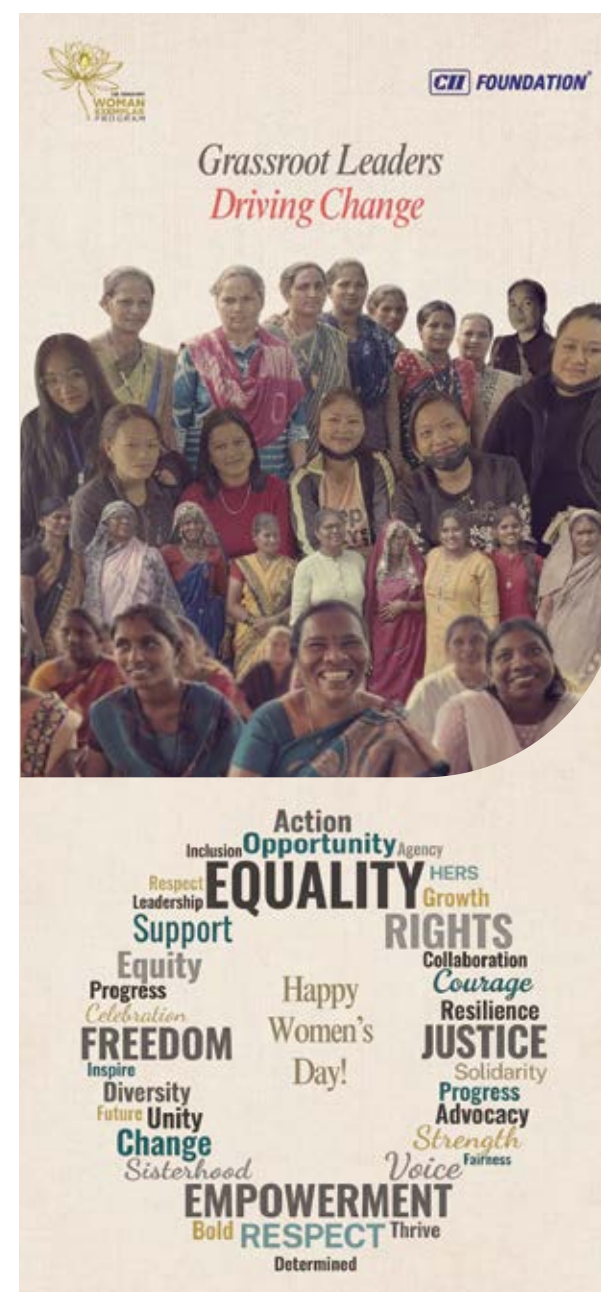
Representatives from Apraava Energy also participated in the trainings and interacted with the women leaders. An exposure visit to KVK Pokhran was organised as part of the Rajasthan program, enabling participants to gain practical insights into nutri-gardens and explore ways to adapt similar models within their communities. Following the trainings, participants initiated small community-led



projects focused on nutrition and digital and financial inclusion in their villages.

At CII Foundation, we see women empowerment not as a slogan, but as action that removes barriers and expands opportunities. In the month of March, CII Foundation organised special programs for young girls and women to celebrate womanhood and women leaders in ongoing programs, as part of the campaign.

A month-long social media campaign celebrating women was launched titled 'Beyond Expectations, Beyond Barriers' showcasing the journey of resilience, determination and transformation of women from different geographies and walks of life.



Leading with Finance – A Pathway to Power



Financial agency is an important pathway to women's empowerment. Recognising this, the CII Foundation, with support from PROSUS PayU and in partnership with CWL, is implementing Leading with Finance – A Pathway to Power, a 12-month program to strengthen financial and digital literacy among 16,000 grassroots women across 10 districts in Maharashtra and Rajasthan.

The program uses a community-led Training of Trainers (ToT) model, equipping 33 local women leaders as Master Trainers who in turn train women within their communities. This approach builds on existing trust and grassroots networks, while creating a cadre of women who can continue to support others beyond the program.





The intervention combines digital and financial literacy with leadership and livelihood orientation. Women are supported to build practical skills in budgeting, savings, banking, digital payments and financial safety, while also gaining awareness of insurance and government schemes. The program further strengthens self-confidence, communication, decision-making, leadership and entrepreneurship skills, helping women move from awareness to independent action.

Early program insights point to both the opportunity and the need for this approach. While most women reported having access to a bank account, many still faced challenges in using them independently or confidently managing digital financial tools. A limited number had experience with digital finance apps or maintaining written budgets, indicating gaps in day-to-day financial practice. At the same time, a strong interest in starting or expanding small businesses emerged, highlighting the potential to translate growing financial awareness into meaningful livelihood opportunities.

During the first round of training, 6,000 women were reached by May 2026, supported by 33 Master Trainers across 130 villages. The program also identified 173 women already engaged in livelihood activities, creating a foundation for deeper enterprise and entrepreneurship support.

By building financial confidence alongside digital skills, leadership capabilities and livelihood

orientation, Leading with Finance seeks to enable women to make informed financial decisions, access opportunities and participate more actively in their families, livelihoods and communities. The longer-term vision is to build a self-sustaining network of women leaders and entrepreneurs, creating a ripple effect of knowledge, confidence and opportunity within communities.

Widows Empowerment



In January 2025, the CII Foundation, in partnership with The Loomba Foundation and the Women's Collective Forum, launched Her Skill, Her Future, a transformative initiative aimed at equipping 1,00,000 widows with skills, resources, and opportunities to build sustainable livelihoods. The launch was marked



by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the CII Foundation and The Loomba Foundation, formalising a shared commitment towards advancing the social and economic empowerment of widows.

The initiative was launched in the presence of Ms. Cherie Blair, CBE, KC, Founder of the Cherie Blair Foundation for Women; Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Vice President of The Loomba Foundation; Lord Raj Loomba, CBE, Founder and Chairman Trustee of The Loomba Foundation; Mr. Sunil Kant Munjal, Past President, CII, Chairman, Hero Enterprise and Co-Chairman, Leadership Pipeline Initiative; and Mr. Shombi Sharp, UN Resident Coordinator. The dignitaries underscored the importance of financial independence, dignity, and livelihood opportunities in enabling widows to lead empowered lives and contribute meaningfully to society.

The initiative seeks to identify and mobilise widows from communities across the country and support them through livelihood skill development, entrepreneurship opportunities, and community-based support systems. By promoting financial independence, confidence, and social inclusion, the program aims to enable widows to lead dignified and self-reliant lives.

International Widows Day: Not Leaving Widows Behind

To commemorate International Widows Day 2025, the CII Foundation, in partnership with The Loomba Foundation, organised a special program in New Delhi under the theme Not Leaving Widows Behind: Empowering Lives with Opportunity and Dignity. The event brought together representatives from international organisations, civil society, the Army Women's Welfare Association, widows, and young adults who have experienced personal loss to raise awareness about the challenges widows continue to face.

The program featured Smt. 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; Mrs. Sunita Dwivedi, President, Army Women's Welfare Association (AWWA); Ms. Sally Taylor, Minister Counsellor - Development, Climate, Science and Technology at the British High Commission; Ms. Kanta Singh, Deputy Country Representative, UN Women India; Ms. Chhavi Moodgal, Founding CEO, IIMA Endowment Fund and Advisor to the IIM Calcutta Endowment; and Dr. Sandeep Marwah, Founder-President of the Asian Academy of Film and Television and Noida Film City.





The discussions highlighted the need for greater social inclusion, legal awareness, livelihood opportunities, and institutional support for widows. A key highlight of the event was Voices of Resilience: She Rises, where widows and young adults shared personal stories of loss, resilience, and hope. Widows and young adults who had experienced personal loss were also felicitated in recognition of their courage and strength.

The program concluded with a collective call to action for policymakers, institutions, industry, and citizens to champion the rights and inclusion of widows and work towards creating a more supportive and equitable environment for them.

Change on the Ground: From Numbers to Narratives

160+
network

of Woman Exemplars.

Impacting over 30 lakh people annually through the network.

Voices of Impact



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

Advancing Livelihood Opportunities for Widows in Vrindavan



Building on the Her Skill, Her Future initiative, the CII Foundation and The Loomba Foundation launched a new skilling intervention at Shri Krishna Janmashtami Ashram, Vrindavan, focused on training 1,000 widows and their youth as General Duty Assistants (GDAs) in the healthcare sector.

The program was attended by Lord Raj Loomba, CBE, Founder and Chairman Trustee, The Loomba Foundation, along with representatives from partner organisations and community stakeholders. The initiative aims to create sustainable livelihood

opportunities by equipping participants with industry-relevant skills and improving access to employment in the growing healthcare sector.

Through targeted skill development and livelihood support, the initiative seeks to promote economic independence, restore dignity, and strengthen social inclusion for widows and their families, while contributing to India's healthcare workforce.



developed models that create meaningful change in society despite significant challenges. "The confidence and clarity with which they presented their thoughts is remarkable," he added.

Kranti from Indore won in Community Strengthening, Tasmeen Hussain from Nuh in Education, Shafiq from Salem in Health, and Arundhati Patil from Kolhapur in Micro-enterprise. Each received a trophy, certificate, and cash prize.

The awards received 347 nominations. CII President Rajiv Meenani and Director General Chandrabir Banerjee highlighted the inspirational stories of the 20 women leaders in the 2026 cohort, who collectively impact over two lakh lives annually and join a national network of more than 150 exemplars.

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इंदौर। मध्य प्रदेश के इंदौर की सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता क्रांति को प्रतिष्ठित सीआरआई फाउंडेशन बुमरा एकमेवलेस्तर अर्बाई 2026 से सम्मानित किया गया है। यह सम्मान उर्वर भारत सरकार के शिक्षा धर्म प्रथम ने नई दिल्ली में आयोजित सीआरआई वार्षिक व्यापार सिखार सम्मेलन 2026 के दौरान प्रदान किया। क्रांति को यह राष्ट्रीय सम्मान उनके गरिमा अभियान के तहत किए गए जमीनी सामाजिक कार्य के लिए मिला। उन्होंने समाज के वंचित वर्ग के बीच काम करते हुए 32 वर्षों के 230 परिवारों में हाथ से फैला देने की अमानवीय प्रथम को समाप्त कराने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई। साथ ही उन्होंने महिलाओं को उनके अधिकारों, गरिमा और पुनर्वास के प्रति जागरूक करने का व्यापक अभियान चलाया। पिछले कुछ वर्षों में क्रांति ने प्रशिक्षण, जागरूकता और परामर्श कार्यक्रमों के माध्यम से 40,000 से अधिक महिलाओं तक पहुंच बनाई। उन्होंने हिंसा और भेदभाव का सामना कर रही 3,400 से ज्यादा महिलाओं को कानूनी सहायता भी उपलब्ध कराई। क्रांति के प्रयासों से एक लाख से अधिक लोगों को सामाजिक सुरक्षा योजनाओं और श्रम अधिकारों तक पहुंच मिली।

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संसू जागरण • नयागांव सारण :
सोनपुर प्रखंड के गोपालपुर पंचायत

अंतर्गत महदलीचक गांव की बा
पूनम कुमारी को समाज सेवा औ
महिला सशक्तीकरण के क्षेत्र
उल्लेखनीय कार्य के लिए राष्ट्रीय स्त
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18 वर्षों से स्वास्थ्य एवं समाज सेव
के क्षेत्र में सक्रिय हैं। वर्तमान में वह
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से जुड़कर कार्य कर रही हैं।

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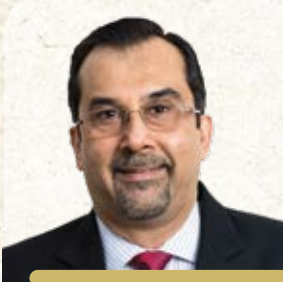
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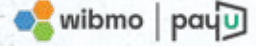














The CII Foundation was set up by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in 2011 and works across India through a collaborative approach, partnering with the government, corporates, civil society, and NGOs, academic institutions, and other key stakeholders to drive social change. The Foundation undertakes projects in diverse areas, often on a pilot basis initially, and presents a successful model of engagement that is replicable and scalable to amplify impact. Each initiative is led by a committed team of dedicated stakeholders who bring different expertise to maximize impact.

The CII Foundation works in the areas of Climate Change, Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation, Early Childhood Education, Healthcare, Skilling and Livelihood, Women Empowerment, and Waste Management. In this effort, the Foundation works together with corporates, governments, communities and civil society institutions to channelize their collective resources towards social and community development.

The CII Foundation

Confederation of Indian Industry
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