

GREENER TOMORROW

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY CONFERENCE

Date: 9 June 2025

Venue: Silver Oak Hall, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

CII Foundation is organising a conference of environment champions on 9 June 2025 anchored with the **World Environment Day** celebration. The **2025 United Nations theme #BeatPlasticPollution**, underscores the need for urgent, inclusive action for the future of the planet and its people. The conference aims to unite stakeholders for celebration of their exemplary work on the ground and deliberate ways to champion environmental solutions in key areas such as plastic pollution, waste management, air pollution, rural transformation and climate adaptation.

CII Foundation and various CII units are actively engaged in a range of impactful on-ground initiatives addressing key environmental issues across the country, often in partnership with local governments and businesses, and empowering local communities, women, youth, and farmers etc.

The conference will spotlight innovations, strategies, and best practices in environmental stewardship, reinforcing CII's commitment to people and planet positive action that is inclusive, scalable, and impactful.

Program Agenda

(Monday, 9 June 2025)

Venue: Silver Oak Hall, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

Time (IST)	Session
11:00 – 11:30	Registration
11:30 – 12:30	Inauguration – Lighting of Lamp Welcome Address by Sunil Misra, CEO, CII Foundation Address by Seema Arora, Deputy Director General, CII Keynote Address by Guest of Honour Dr. Bhaskar Chatterjee, <i>Chairman, MSD 10, BIS. Former DG & CEO -IICA</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Documentary – <i>Karwan Swachh Hawa Ka</i> – on CII's initiative being executed across 1000 villages in Punjab & Haryana in partnership with key industry partners (5 mins)• <i>From Smoke to Solutions: The Zero-Burning Revolution</i> (Release of Coffee Table Book) Vote of Thanks by Chandrakant Pradhan, Program Lead, CII Foundation
12:30 – 13:45	Collaboration to tackle stubble burning – A roadmap for 2025

	<p>This session will explore to effectively tackle stubble burning – for which a multi-pronged collaborative approach is essential. This includes developing effective communication that resonate with farmers; scaling up and making accessible technological solutions and innovations in in-situ and ex-situ management of stubble; fostering research and development collaborations between agricultural universities, startups, and industries to drive tailored solutions to local contexts. Furthermore, the success of this roadmap hinges on strengthening enforcement mechanisms and accountability at all levels, coupled with ensuring seamless coordination between central and state governments to create a unified and effective policy framework. This framework must include streamlining subsidy schemes and making them effectively accessible to farmers to incentivize the adoption of sustainable practices, all within the context of developing clear and consistent long-term policies that provide farmers with the stability and confidence needed to invest in and embrace these alternatives.</p> <p>A number of corporates in partnership with CII are championing a field initiative covering 1000 villages in Punjab and Haryana to address farm stubble burning in a holistic manner.</p> <p>Panel Discussion</p> <p><u>Panellists</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dr. Makhan Singh Bhular, Director of Extension Education, Punjab Agriculture University, Ludhiana</i> • <i>Dr. Mukesh Jain, Director, Northern Region Farm Machinery and Training and Testing Institute NRFMTI, Hisar</i> • <i>Mr. Shubham Singh, Co- Founder & CEO, Craste</i> • <i>Ms. Tania Chatterjee, Head, Sustainability & CSR, NatWest</i> • <i>Mr. Sandip Das, Financial Express</i> • <i>Name- Dr. Kanishk Verma Designation- Senior research fellow Department of Renewable and Bio energy, Haryana Agriculture University, Hisar</i> • <i>Mr. Ramesh Kumar Chauhan, Farmer & President, Thakur Agriculture Multiple Society (Custom Hiring Center), Fatehabad, Haryana</i> • <i>Mr Amandeep Singh, Innovative Farmer, Ludhiana, Punjab</i> • <i>Mr. Arshvir Singh Saini, Student Eco Champion</i> <p><i>Moderated by Mr. Niraj Singh, IOCL</i></p>
13:45 – 14:30	LUNCH & NETWORKING
14:30 – 15:15	<p>Masterclass on Village Eco-restoration</p> <p>This session explores a holistic approach to model village development and ecosystem restoration. Through interactive sessions, attendees will learn integrated planning, regenerative practices, community engagement, and scalable frameworks to foster sustainable, self-reliant villages. The goal is to create skilled trainers who can drive rural transformation with ecological and social resilience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr. Swapan Mehra, Founder & CEO, Iora Ecological Solutions (Design of Integrated Nature Based Projects)</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Amit, Sarpanch, Jalaun, Uttar Pradesh • Ms Asphia Taimur, Associate Counsellor, CII IGBC (Green Village Rating System) • Dr Prashant R Chauhan, Associate Professor, Developmental Studies & Social Work, Amity University • Dr Ranjana Ray Chaudhuri, Head and Associate Professor, Coca-Cola Department of Regional Water Studies, TERI School of Advanced Studies • Mr Surinder Saini, Sarpanch, Village Daboda, District Gurugram • Mr. Jasmeet Singh, Director, FCF India (Carbon Market Opportunity for Village Eco-restoration) <p><i>Moderated by Chandrakant Pradhan</i></p>
15:15 -15:30	Tea Break
15:30 – 16:00	<p>Transformative Action on Ground – Powered by Youth & Grassroots Leaders</p> <p>This segment will spotlight real-world narratives driving grassroots environmental change, with a special focus on the role of Gen-Z changemakers. Through lived experiences in crop residue management, plastic and material recycling, and water body restoration, these stories will reflect the power of youth-led innovation, local leadership, and community ownership. The segment will showcase how the passion and creativity of Gen-Z—working hand-in-hand with communities—are building a resilient and sustainable future from the ground up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ms. Basmati, CII Women Exemplar Awardee, environmental champion protecting her village forest through community involvement, Odisha</i> • <i>Mr. Anuj Agarwal, Chair - Climate Change Committee, CII Young Indians</i> • <i>Mr. Rakesh Khatri, environmental champion known as the “Nestman of India”</i> • <i>Mr. Asim Khan, Lead - CSR, Cadence</i> <p><i>Moderated by Tahir Hussain</i></p>
16.00 -16.30	<p>Reducing plastic burden on the planet – role of community initiatives</p> <p>Cities and villages are struggling to deal with the piling of plastic waste dumps. A number of innovative initiatives are being implemented in various parts of the country.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr. Abhishek Kushwaha, (Zero Waste RWA in Delhi) Head of Strategy Growth, WhyWasteWednesdays Foundation</i> • <i>Ms. Swati Singh, Senior Circular Economy and Partnership Expert, GRID Arendal</i> • <i>Ms. Nandini Kumar – Senior Consultant, CII-CESD</i> • <i>Mr. Shishant Sharma, Sarpanch, Village Judola, Farukhnagar, District Gurugram</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Mr. Vivek J M, Environmental Policy and Resource Efficiency Advisor, Climate Change and Circular Economy, GIZ India</i>• <i>Video Documentary - CII Foundation's Initiative on Community led Plastic Waste Management in Kochi, Kerala & Leh, Ladakh</i> <p><i>Moderated by Jibran Zakir</i></p>
16:30 – 17:00	<p>Concluding Session & Felicitation of Green Champions</p> <p>Address by the Chief Guest Shri Ram Chander Jangra, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Felicitation of Green Champions• Felicitation of Program Stakeholders <p>This special segment will honour individuals, communities, and organisations demonstrating exemplary leadership in environmental stewardship. From pioneering rural sustainability efforts to driving climate innovations, these champions represent the spirit of collaboration and commitment at the heart of India's green transition.</p> <p><i>Vote of Thanks - Priya Shirali</i></p>