

Connect

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“CII Foundation began integrating sports into its work across village project locations this quarter, leveraging its insights and robust on-ground connections to bring communities together, strengthen local sports infrastructure and nurture sporting potential in rural areas.”

As economies evolve, progress is no longer measured only by financial growth, but by the overall wellbeing of communities reflected in improvements in areas such as health, education and the aspirations people hold for themselves. In many ways, this evolution mirrors Maslow's hierarchy of needs: as basic needs are met, individuals and communities begin to seek avenues for participation, recognition, and advancement.

India today stands at such an inflection point.

The country's ambition to host the Olympics, something that may have seemed distant even a decade ago, is a powerful indicator of this shift. It signals not only confidence on the global stage but also a deeper recognition of the role sports can play in nation building.

For organisations working in the social development space, this shift presents an excellent opportunity to go beyond project-centric interventions and create larger platforms that bring communities together to accelerate their developmental journey.

It is with this lens that the CII Foundation began integrating sports into its work across village project locations this quarter, leveraging its insights and robust on-ground connections. The aim is to bring communities together, strengthen

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local sports infrastructure, and nurture the often untapped sporting potential in rural areas. Beginning with a focus on kabaddi, football, and athletics, four sports programmes were organised—two in Punjab, one in Haryana, and one in Uttar Pradesh—with a strong emphasis on engaging youth, especially girls.

Communities participated enthusiastically, cutting across age groups and social segments, creating a shared sense of involvement and demonstrating the potential of sport as a unifying force.

The insight is clear: sport is not an adjunct to development; it is an enabler of it. It promotes physical wellbeing, instils discipline, builds confidence, and fosters teamwork. Just as importantly, it provides a platform through which community engagement and critical messages around health, inclusion, and social responsibility can be communicated more effectively. In doing so, it strengthens the impact of our existing interventions and deepens community connect.

The potential of sports for social development turns the spotlight once again on the imbalance within the CSR ecosystem: while areas such as health and education continue to receive significant attention and CSR funds, equally deserving areas such as sports, arts, culture, and heritage remain relatively under-supported. A similar imbalance persists in the geographical distribution of CSR investments with resources concentrated in select regions, leaving many deserving geographies underserved. A more holistic approach to development requires a broader lens and strategy.

The CII Foundation has been consciously working to address this gap by expanding its work to bring to the forefront areas such as sports and also work in underserved geographies such as Kulburu in Jharkhand, Chainpurva and Satrikh in Uttar Pradesh, Chuchot and Kharu blocks in Leh; Nagenabad and Binodpur in South 24 Parganas, West Bengal to name a few.

As we expand both thematically and geographically, the question of effectiveness becomes even more critical.

While the CSR ecosystem has evolved over the years, there remains significant scope to strengthen

An NGO Capacity Building Workshop was convened in April – an effort to learn, share, and collectively reflect on practices around fundraising, project management, and sustainability.

governance, enhance transparency, and improve the deployment and impact of funds. Encouragingly, there is growing recognition of these challenges, and early steps are being taken across the ecosystem to strengthen systems and build greater accountability. In this context, we convened an NGO Capacity Building Workshop this April—an effort to learn, share, and collectively reflect on practices around fundraising, project management, and sustainability. Through this initiative, we hope to support mid-sized NGOs transform into credible, investment-ready CSR partners.

If we are to maximise the true potential of CSR, we must move towards more balanced investments, stronger institutions, and deeper community engagement.

In other areas of work this quarter, an eminent jury selected the winners of the prestigious Woman Exemplar Award which recognizes grassroots women leaders who are driving social transformation within their communities. The Awards will be presented at the forthcoming CII Annual Business Summit.

As we move into the coming quarter, our focus will be on both expanding our reach and deepening the impact of our engagement. The continued support of our stakeholders—particularly government, industry, and the communities we serve—adds purpose and strength to this journey.



SPORTS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT THROUGH SPORTS IN VILLAGES

Support has a unique ability to bring people together, cut across barriers, and build trust within communities. With this belief, the CII Foundation launched an initiative on community engagement through sports, using play as a powerful point to connect with underserved groups, especially youth.

The community sports initiative is a collaborative effort between the CII Sports vertical and the CII Foundation and is being rolled out with the support of CII Foundation, leveraging its on-ground presence and work. Beyond the field, the initiative enables meaningful engagement with communities and

deepens our work across areas such as climate change, education, health, and livelihoods, creating pathways for sustained social impact.

The initiative is designed keeping in mind that village youth have immense passion and talent for sports but lack the facilities and support that can help them realise their potential.

Program Coverage

The program primarily covers three sports – Football, Kabaddi, and Athletics – across villages in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh in the first phase.

Key Components of the Program



Village-based, sports-specific interventions



Sports kits and equipment support



Regular and structured sports training



Nutrition and physical wellbeing support



Talent identification and pathway development



Intra-community competitions

Special attention is being given to ensuring the inclusion of girls, enabling them to step forward, participate, and benefit equally from opportunities that sports can offer.

Importantly, these efforts go beyond one-time events. By embedding sports within the broader development framework, the CII Foundation is enabling sustained engagement, nurturing grassroots talent, and encouraging communities to view sports as an integral part of wellbeing and social cohesion.

Kabaddi Match, Village Ghulal, Ludhiana, Punjab



The Village Sports Initiative brought together over 100 young participants and community members for a day centred around Kabaddi and collective engagement. The program, held on 14 March, was graced by the presence of Mr. Anupam Goswami, CEO, Mashal Sports & League Commissioner, Pro Kabaddi, who interacted with the participants and encouraged them to pursue



sports with discipline and dedication. The program featured a Girls National Kabaddi Match and a Boys Circle Kabaddi Match, highlighting both talent and inclusivity. Sports kits and equipment were distributed to support aspiring athletes, followed by an awards ceremony celebrating participants and winners.

Kabaddi Tournament, Kotla Kalan, Mansa, Punjab



On 15 March a Kabaddi tournament was organised in Kotla Kalan, Mansa, in partnership with JSW Foundation, bringing together 110 young athletes from the community in a spirited display of sportsmanship.

The event featured U-16 girls Kabaddi matches, where participants demonstrated remarkable energy, coordination, and teamwork. Mr. Anupam Goswami, CEO, Mashal Sports & League Commissioner, Pro Kabaddi, was present at the tournament and encouraged participants. The initiative also focussed on enabling access to basic sports resources through the distribution of sports kits and equipment, ensuring that enthusiasm for sports is supported with the right tools. The program concluded with an awards ceremony recognising the efforts and achievements of the participants. Through such engagements, the Foundation continues to promote healthy lifestyles, build leadership qualities, and position sports as a powerful medium for community cohesion and youth development.

Khel Se Khushi: Powering Rural Youth Through Sports, Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh



The CII Foundation, in partnership with TaraSri Foundation and supported by HELL ENERGY, hosted the 'Khel for Khushi' – Sports for Youth Initiative on 20 March at Satrikh Mini Stadium, Barabanki. The program brought together young participants, community members, and key stakeholders to celebrate sports and inclusion.

The initiative was inaugurated in the presence of Ms. Akanksha Gupta, Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Barabanki, who attended as the chief guest and

encouraged young participants to actively engage in sports for their overall development.

A key highlight of the initiative was the inauguration of sports facilities at the stadium, along with the distribution of sports kits covering disciplines such as volleyball, cricket, badminton, basketball, and table tennis, aimed at strengthening access to structured sports infrastructure and promoting physical wellbeing among the youth. An engaging table tennis (TT) match, which saw enthusiastic participation, added to the spirit of sportsmanship and inclusion.

Further strengthening the initiative's impact, sports kits were formally handed over to young participants, enabling sustained engagement in sports and encouraging regular physical activity.

The initiative aims to promote physical wellbeing and create access to sports opportunities for underserved youth, especially girls, who often lack adequate facilities.

Expanding Access To Structured Sports Engagement, Kabaddi Coaching Centre, Ganaur, Sonipat, Haryana



A Kabaddi tournament was organised at Nagar Palika Ground in Ganaur, Sonipat, supported by HELL ENERGY.

The tournament witnessed enthusiastic participation from six teams – Rajpur, Khewra, Purkhas, Shekhpura, Gumar, and Ganaur Stadium – competing in a knockout format and creating a vibrant, high-energy sporting atmosphere.

The event was graced by distinguished dignitaries including Mr. Manoj Yadav, DSO, Sonipat; Mr. Balbir Singh, President, Kabaddi Association, and Mr. Kuldeep Singh, Secretary, Kabaddi Association;

along with renowned Kabaddi players Mr. Ashu Malik, Captain, Dabang Delhi K.C.; Mr. Vijay Malik, Captain, Telugu Titans Team, and Mr. Surender Duhan, Coach, Haryana Kabaddi Team. From the CII Foundation, Mr. Sunil Misra, CEO; Mr. Chandrakant Pradhan, Lead, Climate Change Resilience and Ms. Poonam Dikshit, Consultant at CII were present. The program also included:

- Distribution of 40 sports kits which included t-shirts, shorts and track suits, 200 pieces of kabaddi mat, cones, and hurdles to encourage and support players and for strengthening their sports infrastructure
- Installation of a water cooler at the ground to ensure access to clean drinking water
- Awards and recognition for winning and participating teams

The Ganaur Stadium team emerged as the winner, showcasing outstanding skill and teamwork.



CLIMATE RESILIENCE

BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Climate change is increasingly impacting rural and semi-urban landscapes through erratic weather patterns, depleting water resources, and growing stress on agricultural systems and natural ecosystems. Building resilience in the face of these challenges calls for integrated, community-driven approaches that address both environmental restoration and sustainable livelihoods.

The CII Foundation continues to work closely with government, corporate partners, and local communities to strengthen climate resilience through initiatives focussed on crop residue management, restoration of waterbodies, and expansion of green cover. These efforts aim to support sustainable practices, enhance resource efficiency, and enable communities to adapt to evolving climate realities.

Key Components of the Program



Awareness Building



Machinery Support Through Community Tool Banks



Farmers' Training and Farm Demonstrations



Managing Biomass through Ex-situ Technology

CROP RESIDUE MANAGEMENT

Across North India, the narrow window between harvesting and sowing continues to shape how crop residue is managed. For many farmers, the pressure of time, cost, and access to alternatives makes stubble burning a persistent reality—one that impacts not just farm productivity but also air quality and public health at a regional scale. Addressing this challenge requires solutions that are practical, timely, and aligned with farmers' needs on the ground.

CII Foundation's efforts in crop residue management are focussed on enabling this transition by promoting awareness around sustainable alternatives, providing appropriate machinery and strengthening local-level support systems. The crop residue management initiative is currently active across over 1,000 villages, reaching more than 2.5 lakh farmers, and is supported by corporate partners including Apraava Energy, Cadence Design Systems, Fidelity International, Goodyear, HDFC Bank, JSW Foundation, and SBI Card. Through sustained on-ground engagement, the initiative is supporting farmers in adopting practices

that help retain soil health, reduce environmental impact, and make residue management a more viable and sustainable part of the cropping cycle.

In the January-March quarter, meetings and field programs strengthened community engagement.



FIELD VISITS AND MEETINGS

Farmer Appreciation and Felicitation Program, Haryana



Recognising and celebrating farmers who are leading the shift towards sustainable practices is a key part of driving behavioural change on the ground. CII Foundation, in collaboration with Cadence Design Systems, organised a Farmers' Appreciation program

on crop residue management at Village Bhodi, Tohana Tehsil, Fatehabad. The program brought together over 200 farmers and acknowledged their collective efforts in reducing stubble burning and adopting sustainable alternatives.

Dr. Ajay Dhillon, Subject Matter Specialist, Department of Agriculture, Tohana, highlighted the environmental implications of stubble burning and appreciated the collaborative efforts supporting this transition across the region. Dr. Rameshwar Das, Subject Matter Specialist, Department of Agriculture, underscored the long-term impact of crop residue burning on soil, water, and air quality.

The program concluded with the felicitation of progressive farmers through the distribution of certificates and mementoes—reinforcing a shared commitment towards sustainable agriculture and climate resilience.

Farmer Appreciation and Felicitation Program, Punjab



A Farmer Field Day was successfully organised in Khanna block, Ludhiana, Punjab by the CII Foundation, in collaboration with HDFC Bank under its Parivartan initiative. During the program, all cooperative societies from Khanna block were honored with appreciation certificates and agricultural pumps in recognition of their outstanding contributions toward reducing crop residue burning and promoting environmentally responsible practices.

Participation in Krishi Darshan Expo 2026

CII Foundation participated in the Krishi Darshan Expo 2026 held at the Northern Region Farm Machinery Training & Testing Institute (NRFMTTI), Hisar—one of the region’s key platforms bringing together farmers, institutions, industry players, and policymakers to showcase emerging agricultural technologies and innovations.

As part of this engagement, around 200 farmers from Sirsa, Fatehabad, Rohtak, and Jhajjar attended the expo and interacted with experts, explored modern farm machinery, and gained exposure to sustainable agricultural practices. Such platforms play a critical role in bridging the gap between innovation and on-ground adoption.

The event was attended by Dr. Mukesh Jain, Director, NRFMTTI, and Mr. Tavinder Singh, Project Head, Agri India Exhibitions, underscoring the importance of enabling farmer access to knowledge ecosystems that support informed decision-making and long-term resilience.

The Chief Guest for the occasion, Shri Tarunpreet Singh Sond, Minister of Rural Development and Panchayats, Government of Punjab, lauded the efforts of the farmers and cooperative societies, emphasizing the importance of collective action in addressing environmental challenges and appreciating the role of such initiatives in driving meaningful change at the grassroots level.

Other distinguished dignitaries present at the event included Dr. Gurdeep Singh, Chief Agriculture Officer, Ludhiana; Mr. Gautam Dhall, Chair, CII Ludhiana Zone; Mr. Rishi Gupta, Vice Chairman, CII Ludhiana Zone; Mr. Jagmeet Bedi, Director, CII Punjab; and Mr. Ashish Goyal, Branch Manager, HDFC Bank, Khanna. The dignitaries highlighted the importance of adopting crop residue management techniques and encouraged farmers to continue embracing sustainable agricultural practices for a cleaner and healthier environment. Over 350 farmers participated, making it a significant step toward promoting sustainable agriculture in the region.



URBAN CLIMATE RESILIENCE – RESTORATION OF WATERBODIES AND TREE PLANTATION INITIATIVE

WATERBODY RESTORATION

Water Project, Maharashtra

The CII Foundation, in collaboration with Standard Chartered Bank's WeSURE (Water for Enabling Sustainable Reforms) community project and local Gram Panchayats, is implementing a water security project across ten villages in Khultabad Block of Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar District. The initiative focuses on strengthening water management through scientific assessments and community participation, including the development of Village Water Security Plans to guide sustainable water resource use.

The project promotes climate-resilient livelihoods and improved water availability in drought-prone areas of the Sambhajnagar District. Key interventions include the construction of thirty-two

sericulture rearing houses across nine villages, installation of rooftop rainwater harvesting structures in five schools, and farmer capacity-building initiatives to support sustainable agriculture and water conservation practices.



Wetland Conservation and Restoration Project, Haryana



The CII Foundation, in partnership with Jhajjar Power Limited, has initiated a Wetland Conservation and Restoration Project in Jhajjar district, Haryana to rejuvenate wetlands, beginning with the Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary. This is a Ramsar-recognised wetland of national and international importance, supporting migratory birds, rich aquatic biodiversity and native ecosystems.

The initiative, launched on 10 March, focuses on restoring ecological balance of the Bhindawas wetland, improve habitat quality while strengthening climate resilience in the region.

Through activities such as removal of invasive weeds, fish stocking, native tree plantation, and improved monitoring support for forest staff, the project contributes to habitat improvement and biodiversity conservation. The initiative also promotes environmental awareness among visitors and surrounding communities, ensuring long-term protection and sustainable management of this important wetland ecosystem.



More than six lakh fish have been released into the wetland during the month of March to support the aquatic food chain and bird populations.

On World Sparrow Day, 20 March, a program was held at the site with fish released in the wetland in the presence of Mr. Rajesh Chahal, Forest Inspector at Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary, Jhajjar, Haryana.



TREE PLANTATION INITIATIVE

Large-scale Plantations, Haryana

The CII Foundation is implementing a tree plantation initiative in Farukh Nagar in collaboration with PTC India Financial Services and local Gram Panchayats to enhance green cover and strengthen local climate resilience.

Under the project, over 1 lakh trees will be planted on Panchayat wasteland over a 3 year period, promoting community participation in restoring degraded landscapes while contributing to long-term ecological sustainability in the region.

As part of the ongoing intervention, plantation activities are being carried out across identified sites and more than 20,000 saplings have already been planted, with a survival rate of 90%.

Sixty acres of land is under preparation for planting more trees.

By engaging local residents and nearby panchayats, the project aims to ensure higher survival rates of plantations while fostering a sense of ownership towards environmental conservation and sustainable land management.



Mangrove Restoration, West Bengal

The CII Foundation, in partnership with Joynagar Viewtech Educational Society and local Gram Panchayats in Binodpur and Nagenabad villages of South 24 Parganas District in West Bengal is supporting Mangrove restoration efforts in the ecologically sensitive Sunderbans through the plantation of 30,000 saplings. The initiative contributes to strengthening coastal resilience, restoring critical ecosystems, and protecting vulnerable communities from climate-induced risks such as cyclones, tidal surges, and coastal erosion.





DISASTER RELIEF AND REHABILITATION

Across India, frequent natural disasters continue to impact lives and livelihoods, causing widespread damage to infrastructure and placing vulnerable communities at heightened risk. The CII Foundation works with government, industry and medical facilities such as hospitals to provide relief to those impacted by disaster. Going beyond immediate relief, rehabilitation interventions are undertaken to help communities rebuild their lives.

During January-March, the CII Foundation continued its comprehensive rehabilitation efforts to help rebuild lives.

REHABILITATION EFFORTS IN WAYANAD, KERALA

Severe floods and landslides in Wayanad in July 2024 created extensive damage impacting infrastructure and disrupting the lives of people. The CII Foundation, together with the District Administration and industry partners is implementing an integrated Wayanad Rehabilitation Project focussed on childcare services, community infrastructure, livelihood restoration, and capacity building for tribal communities.

Key Components of the Program



Establishing a Robust Disaster Response System using the extensive CII Network



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



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

Anganwadi Refurbishment in Flood-affected Areas



Under the Anganwadi strengthening program supported by Orkla India Private Limited, 15 Anganwadi Centres across eight Gram Panchayats and one Municipality were selected for refurbishment.

On 16 January, six refurbished Anganwadi centres were inaugurated and the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) training program launched in Wayanad—marking a key milestone under the Wayanad Rehabilitation initiative.

The six centres were refurbished using the Building as a Learning Aid (BaLA) approach focusing on creating safe, engaging, and development-friendly learning environments.

Teaching–learning material kits were also distributed to support the delivery of quality early childhood education to children at the Anganwadi centres.

Under this initiative, capacity-building training on ECCE for Anganwadi workers was conducted across the Wayanad district. The program was carried out in four blocks - Kalpetta, Mananthavady, Panamaram, and Sulthan Bathery - through 15 training batches, each consisting of two days of structured training starting from 23 February. Over 844 Anganwadi workers have been trained in ECCE methodologies and the effective use of Teaching Learning Material (TLM) techniques within Anganwadi centres.

By investing in frontline capacity, we are strengthening the foundation of early childhood development, ensuring quality learning experiences for young children across communities.

As part of the project, more centres are being refurbished. This initiative reflects a collaborative effort to restore essential social infrastructure while investing in the capacity of frontline functionaries, ensuring that young children have access to safe spaces and quality elementary learning.

Livelihood Support for Tribal Communities



With the support of Synthite Industries, the CII Foundation is implementing an initiative at the Priyadarshini Tea Estate aimed at improving the nutrition and wellbeing of tribal workers. The project includes the construction of a dedicated gruel-cum-recreation centre, which will provide a space for the preparation and distribution of nutritious food while also serving as a community area for workers and their families.

The centre was inaugurated on 13 March by Shri Athul Sagar, IAS, Sub Collector of Wayanad. Present on the occasion were Division Counsellor, Mr. Jubair K. V.; Paniya Tribal leader, Shri Balan Veran; Priyadarshini



Society Directors, Smt. Sharatha and Smt. Shanta; Smt. Sudha, Secretary, Priyadarshini Tea Estate and Shri 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 will directly benefit around 180 workers daily and indirectly support nearly 120 families residing in the estate by providing access to hygienic and nutritious food prepared in a clean environment. In addition to serving meals, the centre will also serve as a community space where workers can gather, interact, and engage in recreational activities.



EDUCATION

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

When early childhood is nurtured with care, stimulation, and security, children are better prepared not only for school, but for life. Across India, Anganwadi Centres remain the cornerstone of this foundational support – serving as safe spaces where young children receive early learning, nutrition, and essential health services.

The CII Foundation partners with Government, corporates and communities to transform Anganwadi

Centres into vibrant, child-friendly environments that inspire curiosity and confidence.

During the January to March quarter, we continued our work towards strengthening early childhood education, with the handing over of several refurbished Anganwadis.

Key Components of the Program

Infrastructure Support to Develop Model Anganwadi Centres

Developing Age and Culturally Appropriate Curriculum

Promoting the use of Teaching Learning Material (TLM)

Capacity Building of Anganwadi Workers

Involving and Engaging the Community

ANGANWADI STRENGTHENING PROGRAM, TAMIL NADU

In Gummidipoondi block of Thiruvallur district, the CII Foundation, in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry Southern Region and Kemin Industries South Asia Pvt. Ltd., is implementing Project Narumugai to strengthen early childhood education in Anganwadi Centres. The initiative focuses on enhancing learning environments through the BaLA (Building as Learning Aid) approach, while also building the capacity of Anganwadi Workers for effective implementation of the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), with emphasis on nutrition, health, Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), and community mobilization for women and children.

Three centres - in Gummidipoondi, Thiruvallur District (Thervoy Kandigai, Chithoor Natham, and Panathumettu Kandigai), Tamil Nadu - were formally handed over by 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. The ceremony was attended by Ms. Mogana, Child Development Project Officer, Gummidipoondi, Anganwadi Supervisors, teachers, parents, and children.

A capacity-building program for 35 Anganwadi Workers was held in Gummidipoondi. The training focussed on strengthening the implementation of ICDS services, including 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 expanding its interventions under Project Narumugai, the CII Foundation, in partnership with BorgWarner Cooling Systems India Private Limited, has initiated the construction of a new Anganwadi building in Thirumangalam, Sriperumbudur, in Kanchipuram district. A ground-breaking ceremony was held in the presence of Mr. Sathish from BorgWarner Cooling Systems India Private Limited, Mr. Kandhan – Project Officer & Ms. Bhavani – CDPO from the ICDS Department, Anganwadi supervisors, panchayat leaders, parents, and community representatives.

As part of the initiative, the Anganwadi facilities were comprehensively strengthened to create safe, child-friendly, and engaging learning environments.



ANGANWADI STRENGTHENING PROGRAM, ANDHRA PRADESH



The CII Foundation, in partnership with Blue Star Limited, is implementing an Anganwadi strengthening initiative in Tada, Andhra Pradesh to enhance early childhood care and education. In this project,

five Anganwadi Centres have been identified and adopted for upgradation based on detailed need-gap assessments.

The Centres have been upgraded using the Building as a Learning Aid (BaLa) approach, creating safe and child-friendly learning spaces aligned with the principles of the NEP 2020.

The centres were inaugurated on 13 January in the presence of representatives from Blue Star Limited, the CII Foundation, officials from Integrated Child Development Services, including Ms. Jyothi Kiran, CDPO – Sullurupeta, along with local leaders and community stakeholders.

STEM SCIENCE LAB PROJECT, GUMMUDIPOONDI, TAMIL NADU



To strengthen elementary science learning, the CII Foundation, in partnership with Kemin Industries South Asia Pvt. Ltd., is implementing a STEM Science Lab initiative in Gummudipoondi. The project aims to introduce practical, hands-on science learning environments, encouraging curiosity, experimentation, and critical thinking among school students.

On 11 February, marking the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, the CII Foundation, with the support of Kemin Industries South Asia Pvt. Ltd., expanded its education initiative by establishing STEM laboratories in eight Government Higher Secondary Schools. As part of



the rollout, a dedicated Training of Trainers (ToT) program was conducted for teachers to ensure effective utilisation of the labs. The training focussed on hands-on engagement with STEM models and on integrating experiential learning into everyday classroom teaching.

By making science education more interactive, practical, and engaging, the project aims to inspire curiosity and strengthen learning outcomes, while also building the capacity of educators to sustain experiential STEM learning for more than 5,000 students each year.

EDUCATION PROJECT, THIRUMUDIVAKKAM, TAMIL NADU



With the aim of creating safer, better-equipped learning spaces, the CII Foundation, in collaboration with GH Induction, has initiated an education infrastructure improvement project at the Government Higher Secondary School, Thirumudivakkam, Tamil Nadu.

In December 2025, work commenced on the renovation of five classrooms and the improvement of essential facilities at the Government Higher Secondary School, Thirumudivakkam, laying the foundation for a comprehensive upgrade of the school's infrastructure. The renovated classroom block was formally inaugurated on 4 March. The ceremony was attended by Mr. R. V. Chari, Chairman, CII Chennai Zone and Managing Director, GH Induction



India Pvt. Ltd.; Ms. J. Gnanaselvajothi, Headmistress, GHSS Thirumudivakkam; representatives from Namma School Namma Ooru Palli under the Tamil Nadu School Education Department; community leaders; and representatives from the Confederation of Indian Industry and the CII Foundation.

The project includes a series of infrastructure improvements such as roof waterproofing, repairs to doors and windows, installation of tile flooring, interior and exterior painting, electrical upgrades, installation of handrails, minor toilet repairs, development of sports area and the provision of a printer or desktop computer. These interventions are aimed at creating a safer, more functional, and student-friendly learning environment that supports effective teaching and learning.

DIGITAL LITERACY PROJECT, UTTAR PRADESH



Across centres in Barabanki, Lucknow, and Lakhimpur Kheri, CII Foundation implemented a Digital Literacy Program for adolescent girls aged 16-25 years. Conducted across 7 centres, the program engaged

600+ youth, many of whom are using a computer for the first time. Through structured sessions, they are building digital skills such as using MS Office tools, learning internet basics, and understanding online safety and cyber hygiene. Many participants have also begun creating their resumes and setting up their social media profiles.

By strengthening these core skills at a formative stage, the initiative aims to improve employability readiness while nurturing self-belief and decision-making confidence, helping young women step forward with greater clarity about their futures.



HEALTHCARE

India's healthcare system has seen significant growth, driven by initiatives like Ayushman Bharat and expansions in digital health services. Despite progress, challenges persist, especially for underserved communities in rural areas, which face acute disparities in both access and quality of health services. Patients often travel up to 100 km for healthcare. Limited infrastructure, personnel shortages and social and financial barriers exacerbate inequities.

The CII Foundation plays a critical role here, strengthening health systems through infrastructure

upgrades, capacity building of healthcare workers and community-centred programs in states such as Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, partnering with Government, industry, the medical ecosystem and the communities to deliver healthcare in the last mile.

During the January-March quarter, efforts focussed on intensifying community outreach, strengthening school health programs, and deepening village-level engagement across Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, with some programs ending in the quarter.

Key Components of the Program



Strengthening Community Access to Public Healthcare and Nutrition



Strengthening Infrastructure



Raising Health Awareness and Good Practices Amongst Children and Adolescents



Capacity Building

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING PROGRAM CHANDAULI, UTTAR PRADESH



In Dhanapur block of Chandauli district, the CII Foundation is making village health systems more informed, responsive and community-led. The initiative strengthens last-mile delivery of health and nutrition services through consistent outreach, behaviour-change communication, and hands-on capacity building with frontline stakeholders.

Supported by the Pirojsha Godrej Foundation and implemented on ground by DigiSwasthya Foundation, the healthcare strengthening program currently covers eight villages— Sisaura Kala, Murali Pur, Mahuji, Medhana, Jigana, Visunpur Khurd, Avahi, and Vira Saray. The focus is clear: promote preventive healthcare, address adolescent health needs, and foster active community participation so that healthier practices are sustained from within the village itself in the long run.



Strengthening Maternal and Child Health Systems

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

A focussed 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.

Under the Vitamin A supplementation campaign, eligible children received the required dose, with CII Foundation supporting the mobilisation of caregivers and children to ensure their participation. Caregivers were also counselled on the role of Vitamin A in strengthening immunity and preventing deficiency-related complications. Adolescents— both boys and girls—were sensitised to the importance of the Tetanus and Diphtheria (TD) vaccine, following which vaccination was administered by the health department. CII Foundation supported community mobilisation efforts to encourage participation and improve coverage. Routine immunisation services were delivered by frontline health workers in line with the Due List to ensure timely and complete coverage.

At the immunisation centre, pregnant women underwent essential health check-ups, including monitoring of weight, height, and blood pressure. Iron and Calcium tablets were distributed to support maternal health. Registration for the Golden

Ayushman Card was also facilitated to enhance access to healthcare benefits. In addition, discussions were held on the identification, care, and management of undernourished children, reinforcing the community's role in improving nutrition outcomes.

National Youth Day Celebration

On the occasion of National Youth Day, children presented a role-play on Swami Vivekananda, showcasing his life and teachings. During the Child Journalists' meeting, participants learned about National Youth Day and discussed story ideas around emerging village issues, focussed on girls' education and local cleanliness. An adolescent girls' group meeting was also held to discuss nutrition and health.

Project Impact

The project concluded in March this year. Through these integrated efforts, we have strengthened grassroots health systems while ensuring that mothers, children, and adolescents receive timely, preventive, and curative care.

Empowerment and Leadership of Adolescent Girls

Adolescent girls who were earlier hesitant to participate in community activities are now actively engaging in meetings, voicing their needs within families and communities, and motivating their peers.

Enhanced Community Participation and Women's Decision-Making

Women's participation in institutional and community-level platforms has increased significantly, with women and community members collectively articulating their demands to service providers. This collective engagement has strengthened community ownership, accountability, and responsiveness within local systems.

Improved Trust and Utilisation of Public Health Services

Community trust in Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAMs) and other government health services has grown steadily, leading to increased service utilisation, including by residents of surrounding villages. Engagement between communities and frontline health workers—Community Health Officers (CHOs), Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANMs), Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs), and Anganwadi Workers—has become stronger and more collaborative.

Strengthened Anganwadi Functioning and Child Development Outcomes

Improved community involvement has contributed to better functioning of Anganwadi centres, including enhanced service delivery and monitoring. Improved attendance and better participation of children is being witnessed.

Under a CII Foundation's Public Healthcare Facility Strengthening initiative, a Digital Fixed X-ray Mastro 500MA HF system with dual flat-panel detectors was deployed at Arignar Anna Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Institute, Regional Cancer Centre, Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu. Supported by BorgWarner Cooling Systems India Pvt. Ltd., the equipment was formally handed over in the presence of Mr. Raj Kumar N., Operations Head; Mr. Kumaresan S., Manager, Finance; Mr. Sathish Kumar L., Deputy Manager, HR, and Dr. Saravanan, Director of the hospital.

This advanced system enables high-quality imaging for accurate diagnosis, faster processing

to reduce patient waiting time, and high-frequency technology to minimize radiation exposure, strengthening patient safety, operational efficiency, and overall quality of care.



HEALTH AWARENESS PROGRAM IN SCHOOLS, UTTAR PRADESH AND HARYANA



Collaborating with the HOPE Initiative, CII Foundation has rolled out comprehensive health education programs in schools across Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. The initiative reaches beyond classrooms to involve teachers and local communities, using participatory workshops, themed campaigns, and practical demonstrations to build awareness, encourage preventive practices, and foster lasting improvements in health behaviour.

A parent counselling session was held at one of the schools in Haryana, engaging around 50 parents of middle school students. The session focussed 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, reflection, and shared learning, reinforcing the importance of supportive parenting during the formative adolescent years.

A post-intervention assessment is being conducted to evaluate students’ understanding of the topics covered, using the questionnaire both to measure knowledge gains and reinforce key learnings.

In Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, during the course of the project, a number of activities were undertaken to enhance sanitation and hygiene awareness, promote healthy lifestyles, and provide essential educational tools to students and school staff.

With the successful completion of all planned sessions across the 30 participating schools, a post-intervention assessment was conducted to gauge students’ understanding of the topics covered. The questionnaire served as a reflective tool to measure knowledge gains and reinforce key learnings.

Students participated enthusiastically, demonstrating strong engagement and thoughtful responses. Many shared their perspectives on the issues discussed during the sessions, reflecting both awareness and a growing willingness to adopt healthier and more responsible practices in their daily lives.

To mark the formal conclusion of the program and acknowledge the school’s invaluable cooperation, a token of appreciation was presented to the Principal. The gesture recognised the school leadership’s continued support and underscored the collaborative partnership between the institution and the CII Foundation team in driving meaningful change.

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





SKILLING AND LIVELIHOOD

BUILDING SKILLS, STRENGTHENING RURAL LIVELIHOODS

To strengthen skilling and livelihood opportunities for the underserved, the CII Foundation adopts a focussed approach to design initiatives aligned with local realities. Focussing on women and youth, the initiatives build practical skills, enhances employability, and promotes entrepreneurship.

Working closely with government, industry, the CII Skills vertical and grassroots organisations, CII Foundation strengthens livelihoods through skilling and market linkages to create sustainable income pathways. In the January to March quarter, key activities centred around skilling and training.

Key Components of the Program



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



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

STRENGTHENING RED CHILLI FARMING IN BALLARI, KARNATAKA



In collaboration with Orkla India Private Limited and with technical support from the CII Food and Agriculture Centre of Excellence, CII Foundation is implementing an FPO-led initiative to strengthen the red chilli value chain in Ballari, Karnataka. Anchored in key chilli-growing taluks, the initiative focuses on improving farm practices, optimising input use, and enhancing farmer resilience through structured, on-ground engagement.

During the initial phase, CII Foundation engaged farmers across multiple FPOs through targeted capacity-building and field-level interventions. These efforts were complemented by village-level training sessions that created platforms for knowledge exchange on soil health, crop nutrition, and sustainable pest management practices.

Advancing Market Readiness and Institutional Strengthening for Chilli FPOs

Building on its ongoing efforts in Ballari, in partnership with ICAR–National Research Centre on Integrated Farming Systems a 3-day Capacity Building and

Exposure Program was conducted in Rajahmundry from 7–9 January.

The program focussed on strengthening FPO governance and leadership, enhancing post-harvest practices, and improving export readiness through quality-led, compliance-driven approaches. A key outcome was the launch of a Technical Bulletin on Chilli Post-Harvest Management, offering practical guidance on scientific drying, hygienic storage, grading, and quality standards aligned with domestic and international markets.

Covering six FPOs across 37 villages, the project is enabling over 1,500 smallholder farmers to adopt sustainable, residue-free, and market-linked practices. A major milestone this quarter was the facilitation of an IPM-based trade worth ₹35 lakhs. Farmers received a premium of ₹2,000 per quintal for EU-compliant produce, demonstrating the financial benefits of sustainable practices.

The quarter concluded with a multi-stakeholder training on export requirements, engaging Spices Board, APEDA, and FSSAI to build FPO capacity in certification, traceability, and food safety standards. The initiative has strengthened institutional capacities and built confidence among farmer groups to engage with structured markets. By fostering stronger linkages and enabling knowledge-driven practices, CII Foundation continues to advance resilient farmer institutions, strengthen the spices value chain, and create sustainable, inclusive income opportunities for smallholder farmers.

STRENGTHENING LIVELIHOOD IN SUNDARBANS, WEST BENGAL



Advancing its commitment to climate-resilient livelihoods, CII Foundation, in partnership with Joynagar Viewtech Educational Society, is implementing an integrated initiative across the Sundarbans, working closely with Gram Panchayats in Binodpur and Nagenabad villages of South 24

Parganas. The initiative combines mangrove ecosystem restoration with sustainable livelihood generation, marked by the plantation of 30,000 mangrove saplings in vulnerable riverbed areas. Complementing these efforts, poultry-based interventions are being introduced to support women-led households with alternative, reliable income sources.

As part of this initiative, chicks were distributed to 120 women beneficiaries, alongside structured training and continuous handholding support to strengthen poultry farming practices. Community-led awareness camps and village-level engagements have further enabled knowledge sharing and adoption of sustainable practices.

ADVANCING REHABILITATION THROUGH SKILLS AND MARKET LINKAGES IN TAMIL NADU

Under the Titan-CII Foundation Prison Project, CII Foundation is advancing a structured approach to rehabilitation by equipping women prisoners with livelihood skills and linking them to real income opportunities. Focussed interventions across prison institutions are enabling participants to transition from skill acquisition to practical application through market-facing platforms. This two-pronged of combining in-prison training with external market exposure helps translate skills into sustainable livelihoods.

On 23 January, the Freedom Tailoring Shop was inaugurated outside the Special Prison for Women, creating a direct pathway for rehabilitation and income generation for women prisoners. Operated by trained inmates, the shop enables public access—bridging in-prison skilling with real market opportunities and allowing participants to translate their tailoring skills into sustainable earnings.

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 Major J. J. Dominic, Head, CSR, Titan Company Ltd. along with Ms. Rithika Gandhi, Vertical Lead and Deputy Group Manager & Mr. S V Mallikarjuna, Deputy Manager CSR from Titan Company Ltd., reflecting strong multi-stakeholder collaboration to promote dignified livelihoods.

Baking Training and Unit Setup for Sustainable Livelihoods

On 27 January, a comprehensive baking training program and unit setup was completed at the Special Prison for Women, benefiting 30 women prisoners. The training covered a wide range of bakery and confectionery products, including multiple variations of cookies, muffins, breads, cakes, pastries, and pizza base preparation, alongside advanced skills such as fondant work and cream-based finishes.

Upon completion, 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; Major J. J. Dominic, Head, CSR, Titan Company Ltd.; Ms. Rithika Gandhi, Vertical Lead & Deputy Group Manager, Titan Company Ltd.; and Mr. S. V. Mallikarjuna, Deputy Manager – CSR, Titan Company Ltd., marking a significant step towards structured skilling, rehabilitation, and long-term livelihood creation.



PROMOTING SKILL DEVELOPMENT IN COLLABORATION WITH CII

The CII – Rahul Bajaj Centre of Excellence on Skills and CII Foundation have jointly implemented several CSR-led skilling initiatives in partnership with leading organisations, focussed on enhancing employability, improving income opportunities and strengthening livelihood pathways for youth, particularly from marginalised communities in underserved urban areas and villages.

The initiatives are being implemented through CII CoE's multi-pronged skill delivery vehicles - CII Model Career Centres (CII MCCs) and CII Multi Skill Training Institutes (CII MSTIs).

Industry-Linked Skilling & Placement under Project Rhino

Under this project, youth mobilisation, counselling, and industry-aligned training is being undertaken 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 been expanded through **Project Sankalp** to Bihar, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh, and through **Project Kafal** to Uttarakhand.

Skilling Initiatives in Chhindwara

At CII MSTI Chhindwara, 340 candidates have been trained over the past three months under CSR-supported skill development programmes across industry-relevant trades including LHP Genset Repair & Maintenance, Civil Foreman Site Supervisor, Hospitality, Four Wheeler Mechanic, Field Technician Air Conditioner (FTAC) and Two Wheeler Technician.





WASTE MANAGEMENT

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES FOR A GREENER TOMORROW

Waste management sits at the intersection of public health, environmental sustainability and the safety of sanitation workers. Recognising this link, the CII Foundation works closely with communities, local administrations, and industry partners to strengthen waste management.

The CII Foundation's initiatives are being implemented across varied geographies such as Leh, Ladakh; Farukh Nagar, Haryana, and Kochi, Kerala. Our efforts

are not only strengthening the waste management systems but also encouraging responsible waste practices to drive sustainable and long-lasting change.

During the January–March quarter, grassroots efforts focussed on strengthening community awareness and engagement with students interning under the project to drive constructive change in waste management practices.

Key Components of the Program



Creating Awareness and Catalysing Civic Engagement



Strengthening Waste Management Infrastructure



Building Skills of Waste Workers and Enhancing their Safety

WASTE MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE LEH, LADAKH



In Leh district, where plastic waste is a growing concern due to increased tourism, the CII Foundation, in partnership with HDFC Bank, is strengthening



community-led waste management systems across Kharu and Chuchot blocks.

Meeting With Government Officials



To apprise the Additional Commissioner of Development (ACD), Mr. A.G. Zargar and District Panchayat Officer (DPO), Mr. Akeel Sajjad, representing the Rural Development Department of the waste management project, the team met them in January.

Recognising the contribution of the project in improving waste management practices in Leh, the Additional Commissioner of Development (ACD) felicitated representatives of CII, Ms. Rachna Jindal, Regional Director, CII Northern Region and Mr. Khurshid Maqbool Dar, Deputy Director, CII, along with Ms. Deskit Yangdol, Manager, HDFC bank, with certificates of appreciation. The interaction with district authorities reinforced a shared commitment to continue advancing people-centric, sustainable waste management solutions through close coordination and collaborative efforts towards impactful, people-centric interventions in the future.

From Classroom to Community: Students Interning for Sustainable Waste Management

Students of Eliezer Joldan Memorial College (EJM College), Leh, promoted efficient waste management through an internship under the project. They conducted door-to-door awareness campaigns and cleanliness drives, while gaining hands-on experience in scientific waste management at the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) Centre.

A Certificate Distribution and Felicitation Ceremony was held on 10 March at the college, where 22 students were recognised for completing a 60-hour internship over 45 days. The certificates were awarded in the presence of Chief Guest Ms. Bhanu Prabha, Secretary, Higher Education, UT Ladakh, who

appreciated their efforts and encouraged continued contributions to environmental and community initiatives.



Felicitation Program to Honour Sanitation Workers



A felicitation program was organized on 31 March at the Chuchot SRMC Centre to recognize and appreciate the dedicated efforts of sanitation workers and stakeholders involved in waste management initiatives in Ladakh.

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, Mr. A.G. Zargar; DPO, Akhil Sajjad; BDO (Chuchot), Mr. Ghulam Mohammad and BDO (Kharu), Mr. Kunzang

Dolma. The dignitaries appreciated the impactful work in addressing waste management challenges in Ladakh. They also recognized the dedication and consistent efforts of supervisors from both Chuchot and Kharu blocks.

The program emphasized the importance of recognizing grassroots workers and encouraged continued collaboration towards sustainable waste management practices in the region.





WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

WOMAN EXEMPLAR PROGRAM

The women empowerment initiatives of the CII Foundation are rooted in the belief that grassroots women leaders are critical drivers of inclusive and sustained community development. Through the CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Program, grassroots women leaders are identified and recognised for their work in areas such as Education, Health, Micro-enterprise, and Community Strengthening, and empowered with the visibility, skills, and networks required to scale their impact.

Over the years, the Program has identified and empowered over 150 grassroots women leaders,

creating a powerful network of nation builders who are driving change through their efforts. Collectively, they are impacting over 2 million lives annually, creating ripples of change.

During the January-March quarter the program intensified its efforts to help identify the cohort of 2026 through due diligence visits to see the work and impact of the nominees for the Woman Exemplar Award 2026.

Key Components of the Program



Scan the Ecosystem for Exemplars



Award and Recognize Women Leaders



Amplify the Impact of Work Through Leadership Trainings & Mentoring



On Ground Interventions to Create New Leaders



Broaden and Strengthen the Network

Identifying the Changemakers for the Woman Exemplar Award 2026

Following the closure of the Call for Nominations for the Woman Exemplar Award on 30 September 2025, 347 entries from 26 States and 1 Union Territory across the country were received. The program has since progressed through a rigorous, multi-stage evaluation process, beginning with a detailed desk review of all applications and followed by telephonic interactions to assess each nominee's journey, impact, and leadership. This led to the finalisation of a defined shortlist, marking the completion of the first phase of the selection process.

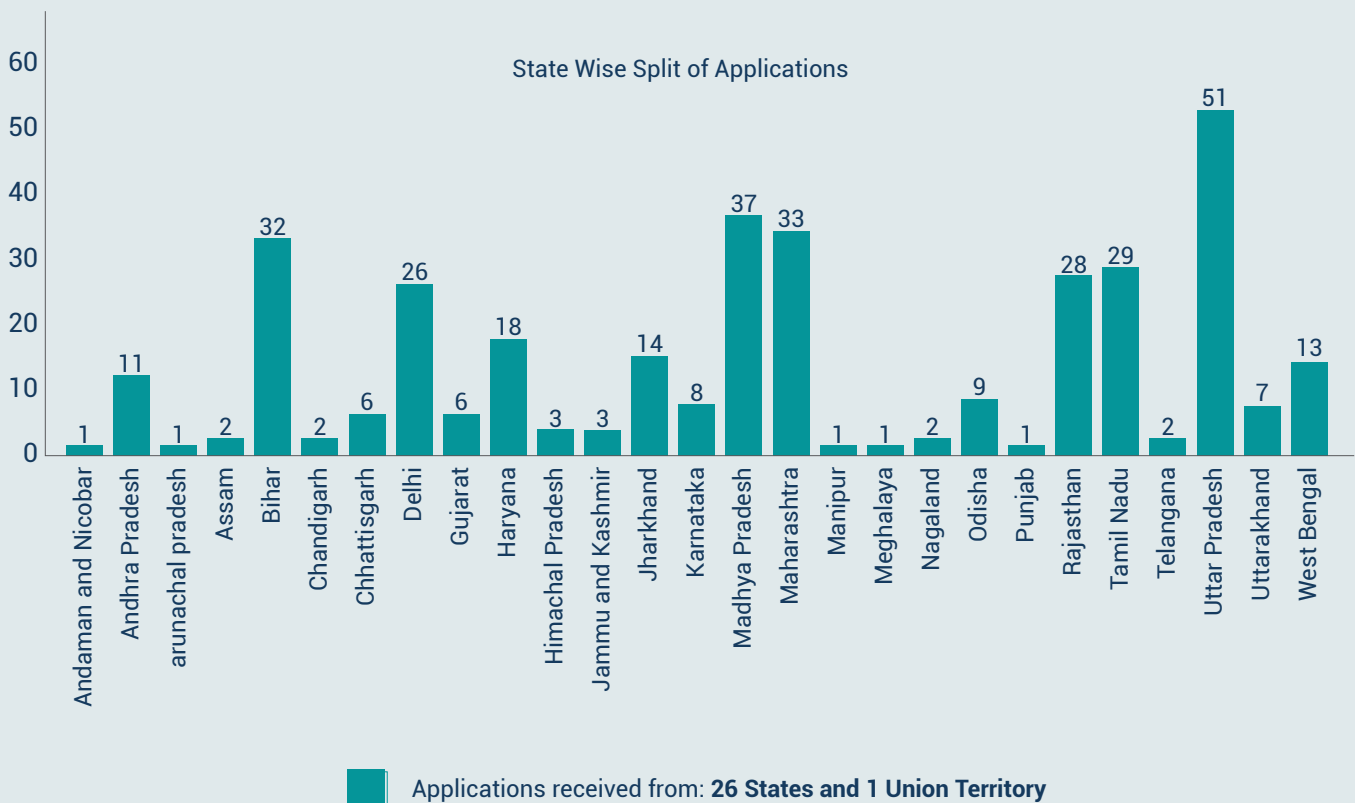
Building on this momentum, the program progressed into a critical next stage during January–March with due diligence visits. Over the course of a month,

the team travelled extensively across 12 states, using multiple modes of transport, to conduct on-ground assessments of all 20 shortlisted nominees. These visits enabled direct engagement with the women leaders in their communities, offering a first-hand understanding of their work, challenges, and the scale of impact they have created.





The insights gathered during these field visits will play a pivotal role in the final stage of the selection process, ensuring a comprehensive and evidence-based evaluation. The winners of the CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Award 2026 will be announced and honoured at the upcoming CII Annual Business Summit in May.

Application Spread 2026

Total applications received this year: **347**



CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Cohort 2026

 Community Strengthening	 Education	 Health	 Micro Enterprise
Anita Vishwakarma	Saba Khan	Babita Rathod	Arundhati Patil
Bhavana Waghmare	Deepali Chougule	Lakshmi Say	Gitasree Das
Bimla Vishwapremi	Hemlata Rajput	Poonam Kumari	Laxmipriya Parida
Kanchan Jha	Jasmeen Hussain	Shalini	Nirmala
Kranti	Nirmala Sharma	Shubhangi Bhoite	Pushpa Oraon

EXPANDING THE FOOTPRINT: STATE CHAPTERS IN MADHYA PRADESH AND RAJASTHAN

In collaboration with Apraava Energy, the CII Centre for Women Leadership and the CII Foundation launched the Empowering Champions of Change (ECC) Program in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan following the successful implementation of the program in Assam (2023-2025). This footprint expansion aims to strengthen grassroots women's leadership and broaden the horizon of empowered community leaders across the two states.

As part of the ECC Program, for over 18 months, training sessions would be conducted in leadership development, financial and digital literacy, mentorship, and community-based project design to fifteen women leaders from 10 districts of Madhya

Pradesh—Bhopal, Datia, Shivpuri, Sehore, Hoshangabad, Dewas, Betul, Shajapur, Guna, and Gwalior and 10 districts of Rajasthan - Baran, Jhalawar, Dholpur, Sawai Madhopur, Barmer, Jalore, Jaisalmer, Bikaner, Jaipur, and Phalodi; who were selected through a participatory, multi-stage process.

The program emphasises experiential learning, peer circles, and actionable, community-led initiatives. Two Woman Exemplars from the national network, Mana and Rama, are anchoring the program in MP and Rajasthan, bringing experience-based leadership to the field.

Training Sessions in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh

Under the Empowering Champions of Change (ECC) program, a 2.5-day training program was organised in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

In collaboration with Woman Exemplar Mana Mandlekar, the training brought together 15 women leaders from 10 districts of the state and focussed on key themes such as safety mapping, violence against women and digital and financial literacy, with sessions led by domain experts.

In Rajasthan, a 2-day training program was organised in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. The training was imparted by experts on nutrition, nutri-gardening and digital and financial literacy.

Representatives from Apraava Energy also attended the trainings, interacting with participants and supporting the initiative. An exposure visit to KVK Pokhran was organised as part of the program,

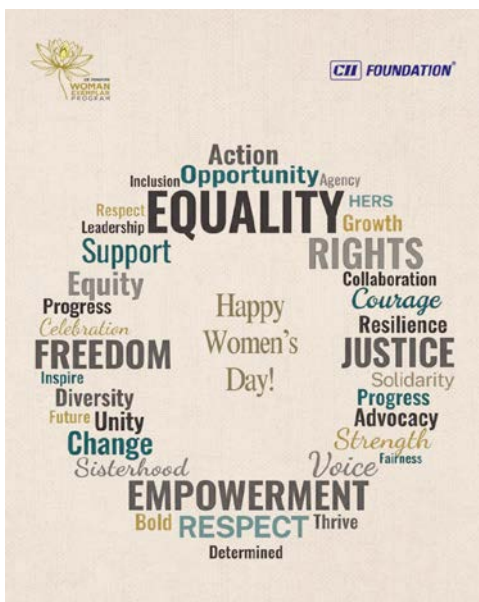
providing practical insights on nutri-gardens and enabling women to explore how such models can be adopted in their own communities.

Following the training, participants would be undertaking small, community-led projects on nutrition and digital/financial inclusion in their villages.

CELEBRATING THE POWER OF WOMEN ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY

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.

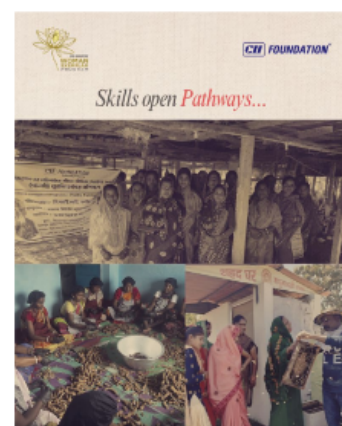
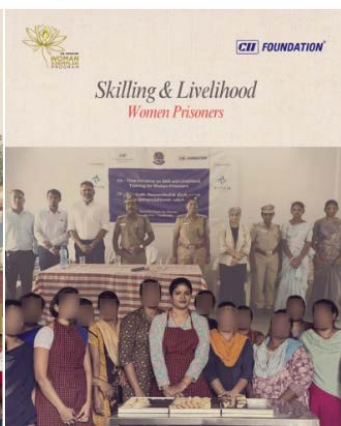
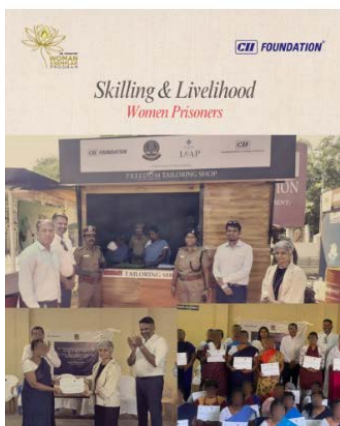


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14,447 followers
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Beyond Expectation, Beyond Barriers - Post 7 of 12
Second chances are built through opportunity, dignity, and support. Women prisoners in Tamil Nadu are being skilled through a ...more

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Beyond Expectation, Beyond Barriers - Post 4 of 12
Skills open pathways to livelihood, confidence, and agency. For women, access to skilling opportunities can transform not just individual futures, but entire ...more



NGO CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM 2026

An Initiative designed and curated by CSR Heads and Indian School of Development Management (ISDM) to transform mid-sized NGOs into credible, investment-ready CSR partners.

WHY THIS PROGRAM MATTERS?



81% of CSR leaders highlight the need for stronger leadership within NGO partners



77% prioritize technology-enabled organizations



Nearly **50% of NGOs** face challenges in project documentation and compliance



Only 17% use licensed operational software

OBJECTIVES

01

Strengthening Organizational Capacity

02

Improving Project Management and Reporting Skills

03

Enhancing Fundraising, Networking and Advocacy

04

Strengthening Implementation and Sustainability

PUNE SETS THE STAGE: NATIONAL NGO CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM LAUNCHED

The NGO Capacity Building Program 2026 commenced in Pune with a focused, three-day workshop bringing together a select cohort of mid-sized NGOs. Blending virtual and in-person engagements, the program combined regulatory insights with hands-on learning.

The virtual session covered CSR regulations, compliance, and financial reporting, while the in-person workshops focused on designing results-based interventions, proposal development with outcome-linked budgeting, and strengthening implementation and monitoring practices. Sessions on reporting and impact communication added further practical depth.

A key highlight was the Mock Pitch Session with CSR Heads, where participants presented their projects and received actionable feedback to refine their approach and positioning.

As the first in a national series, the Pune edition sets the tone for what lies ahead. With limited seats and a curated format, the program will soon travel to other cities, extending this opportunity to more organisations.



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OUR KEY SUPPORTERS



To know more about CII Foundation [Click Here](#)

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