

Connect

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“
Social development is not a destination but a continuous journey that requires collaboration, adaptability, and long-term engagement.”

The beginning of a new year is a good time to pause and reflect on what has been achieved, what lies ahead and sharpen our focus on what still needs to be done.

While India continues to take rapid strides towards Viksit Bharat, several marginalised and grassroots communities continue to grapple with challenges related to quality education and healthcare, livelihood opportunities and environmental resilience. These challenges remind us that social development is not a destination but a continuous journey that requires collaboration, adaptability, and long-term engagement.

At the CII Foundation, we strive to enable and empower industry to fulfil its social responsibility, especially the effective utilisation of CSR funds. Towards this end, we actively reach out to CII members and industry to share the work of the CII Foundation towards social development, which present opportunities for partnership and collaboration.

We are also deeply cognisant of the fact that while industry is driving social transformation, some geographies, despite having high and urgent needs, continue to remain underserved and receive disproportionately low CSR funds. Amongst the states that come to mind immediately are Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Orissa, and West Bengal.

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The CII Foundation is therefore strengthening its efforts to reach these regions, ensuring that support flows where it is needed most. We have made forays into several underserved states such as Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and West Bengal, which is a small but significant step in directing CSR funds to underserved areas.

However, a defining aspect of our approach is the belief that addressing complex development challenges requires more than financial resources. There is a growing need to bring entrepreneurial thinking, innovative solutions, and operational efficiency into the social sector—particularly across education, healthcare, rural development, and environmental sustainability. When these capabilities complement funding, interventions become more sustainable, scalable, and responsive to local realities.

Healthcare continues to be a critical priority as we work to strengthen systems at the community level. Our focus remains on preventive care, nutrition, adolescent health, and capacity-building of frontline workers—ensuring that individuals and families are better equipped to make informed health decisions. By working closely with government systems, healthcare providers, and community institutions, we aim to improve access, awareness, and service delivery in rural and underserved regions.

Equally central to our vision is Skilling and Livelihood, where the emphasis is on enabling dignity, resilience, and economic independence. From equipping youth

The CII Foundation is strengthening its efforts to reach regions where support flows are needed the most. We are working in underserved states such as Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand.

with industry-relevant skills to supporting rural women through locally rooted livelihood initiatives, our interventions are designed to build pathways that last beyond short-term support. Strengthening market linkages, encouraging entrepreneurship, and enabling communities to harness local strengths remain core to this effort.

As we move forward into 2026, we do so with a renewed sense of purpose—grounded in partnership, driven by innovation, and guided by the voices of communities we work with. The year ahead holds promise, and with collective effort, it offers an opportunity to translate intent into meaningful, lasting impact.

We look forward to your being an integral part of this collective effort.



CLIMATE RESILIENCE

BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Climate change continues to reshape local ecosystems through unpredictable weather patterns, water stress, declining soil health, and the loss of natural green cover. Strengthening community resilience against climate change requires integrated action across agriculture, water conservation, and ecological restoration. The CII Foundation is working with government bodies, corporate partners, and local communities to promote sustainable agriculture, rejuvenate water resources and expand green cover so that vulnerable regions and communities are better equipped to manage long-term climate impacts.

CROP RESIDUE MANAGEMENT

Every winter, as fields across North India prepare for a new crop, the air turns grey with smoke. What begins as a quick fix for clearing crop residue becomes a recurring environmental crisis, affecting soil, air, and lives far beyond the fields. Farm stubble burning is more than an agricultural practice; it's a challenge rooted in urgency, cost, and limited alternatives. And addressing it means supporting farmers with sustainable, practical solutions. The CII Foundation has been promoting sustainable agricultural practices in Punjab and Haryana through a multi-stakeholder project working with government, industry, farmer community and other key stakeholders.

Key Components of the Program

Awareness Building

Machinery Support Through Community Tool Banks

Farmers' Training and Farm Demonstrations

Managing Biomass through Ex-situ Technology

The initiative is currently active in over 1,000 villages, enabling more than 2.5 lakh farmers to adopt sustainable agricultural practices and is supported by corporate partners such as Apraava Energy, Cadence, Fidelity International, HDFC Bank Parivartan, PTC India Financial Services Limited, and SBI Card.

Between September and December 2025, CII Foundation intensified its efforts across project areas in Punjab and Haryana, with efforts spanning awareness sessions, outreach with government officials, farmer engagement programs, machinery deployment and training, new partnerships, and extensive message amplification across diverse media platforms.

FIELD VISITS AND MEETINGS



An awareness program was conducted under the project supported by **Fidelity International** at Vivekanand Senior Secondary School, Pillu Khera (Jind), Haryana, on 15 September. Students participated in drawing, slogan writing, essay writing, and speech competitions designed to create awareness and strengthen youth engagement on environmental issues. Winners were recognised for their contributions.

An **HDFC Bank** team led by Nusrat Pathan, Head, Corporate Social Responsibility, HDFC Bank, visited Sangrur, Punjab on 18 September. The team visited various project villages, interacting with farmers, and learning first-hand the on-ground impact of the ongoing project.

A large-scale outreach and awareness event was conducted at Senior Secondary School, Khanna, Punjab, on 16 October. More than 200 farmers and 800 students participated. A rally led by Dr. Baljinder Singh Dhillon (SDM, Khanna) and Smt. Harpinder Kaur (SP, Khanna) highlighted the dual issues of stubble burning and drug abuse. This was followed by interactive sessions and recognition of villages practicing zero stubble burning. The event was graced by Dr. Jyoti Yadav, IPS, Senior Superintendent of Police, Khanna; Dr. Gurdeep Singh, Chief Agriculture Officer, Ludhiana; Dr. Raminder Singh, Agriculture Officer, Khanna; Mr. Vinod Kumar, DSP, Khanna; Dr. Sirtaj Singh, Agriculture Development Officer; Dr. Navjot Kaur, Agriculture Development Officer; Dr. Harpuneet Kaur, Agriculture



Development Officer; Mr. Amanpreet Singh Ghai, Engineer (Agriculture); and Mr. Maninder Singh, Agriculture Engineer Officer. The programs concluded with a collective pledge for a cleaner and drug-free Punjab. Meetings were also conducted on 17-18 October in Dirba, Dialgarh Jejjian, Kamalpur, and Sullar focusing on machinery adoption, residue utilisation, and environmental impacts. These sessions strengthened farmer understanding of sustainable alternatives.

An outreach program on 27 October brought together over 200 farmers, and Shri Surender Singh, SDM Ratia; Dr. Rajesh Sihag, Deputy Director, Department of Agriculture, Fatehabad; Dr. Sandeep Kumar, Block Agriculture Officer, Ratia; Nitin Jain, Cluster Head, HDFC Bank; Yash Narang, Branch Manager, HDFC Bank; Eng. Swetab Singh, Agricultural Engineer, NRFMTTI Hisar; Rahul Chauhan, Agriculture Development Officer, Ratia; and Mangeram Godara, Sarpanch, Village Jallopur. SDM Shri Surender Singh appreciated the visible shift towards sustainable farming and flagged off 22 Super Seeders, 4 Smart Seeders, 5 Roto Seeders, 3 MB Ploughs, and 2 Surface Seeders, marking significant progress in mechanised stubble management. A machinery handover and farmer outreach program was held on 4 November 2025 at Lohakhera village, District Ludhiana, Punjab, bringing together over 200 farmers, 50 students, members of the Lohakhera Farmer Cooperative Society, and district officials. The event was attended by Shri Karn Veer Randhawa, Deputy Registrar,



Sangrur; Shri Lalit Kalra, Branch Head, HDFC Bank; Sardar Tira Singh, Vice Chairman, Lohakhera Farmer Cooperative Society; Shri Malvinder Singh, Superintendent, Deputy Registrar Office; Smt. Gurpreet Kaur, Cooperative Inspector; Shri Prince Singh, Khandhargarh, Sangrur; Shri Lekhum Singh, Assistant Registrar and Shri Jarnal Singh, Sarpanch, Lohakhera

A total of 168 advanced machines will be deployed as part of the initiative, along with the establishment of a pellet plant to convert straw into fuel—creating an alternative income source for the agricultural community. In Khanna, Ludhiana, baling operations covered 600 acres, resulting in 1,250 MT of paddy straw being collected as of 24 October 2025. Of this, 1,000 MT has been stored in a straw bank, and 250 MT has been supplied to industries as renewable fuel—illustrating a functional ex-situ model for residue utilisation.

CII Foundation, in partnership with **JSW Foundation**, organised an extensive awareness drive in District Mansa, Punjab, on 15 October 2025, engaging over 100 farmers from Sadda Singh Wala and Kotli Kalan. The sessions focused on the environmental, soil-health, and public-health impacts of stubble burning, along with demonstrations on in-situ crop residue management practices and machinery. A drawing and slogan competition on 'Clean Air, Better Life' was also held at Government School, Sadda Singh Wala with participation from 60 students, followed by a student rally to enhance village-level awareness. The program was attended by Mr. Vishal and Mr. Ankush from JSW Foundation.



A farmer sensitisation meeting was held on 24 October 2025, with 60–70 farmers in Dhingar village to highlight the adverse effects of stubble burning. Barriers to adopting in-situ machinery were discussed, and the benefits of sustainable residue management were demonstrated. The initiative was supported by members of the Farmer Cooperative, including Sh. Kulwant Singh, Sh. Juginder Singh, Sh. Baldev Singh, and village leaders Sarpanch Sh. Kripal Singh and Pradhan Sh. Ajmer Singh, whose involvement helped strengthen community acceptance of sustainable practices.

At a special program on 22 October 2025, the first batch of Super Seeders were flagged off in the presence of Sub-Divisional Magistrate Mr. Kala Ram Kansal and Chief Agriculture Officer Mrs. Harpreet Pal Kaur. The support of Mr. Vikas Upadhyay, Project Head, JSW Cement (Mansa), was acknowledged for enabling these efforts. Further, six Super Seeder machines were handed over to farmer societies in Ralla, Bhopal, Khiala Kala, and Kotra. The event was attended by community leaders including President Nachattar Singh, Secretary Gurwinder Singh, Sarpanch Kuldeep Singh (Khiala Kala), and President Bhagher Singh (Kotra). The deployment aims to expand the use of in-situ crop residue management technologies and reduce reliance on burning.

In Village Bosti, Fatehabad, Haryana, a field visit was conducted under the initiative supported by Cadence. The CII Foundation team, along with Mr. Asim Khan, Head CSR, **Cadence**, identified and intervened in a potential case of paddy residue burning. Immediate counselling and machinery support were provided, preventing stubble burning and demonstrating an effective model of ex-situ residue utilisation. Five Super Seeders and one Baler were handed over to the farming community on 10 October 2025 at a program which was attended by Mr. Asim Khan, CSR Head, Cadence, along with Dr. Neeraj Naggar, Agricultural Development Officer (Farm Implements), over 50 farmers, and field volunteers. This year's additions,



including 5 Super Seeders, 1 Baler, and 1 Raker extend the project to 15 villages, helping more farmers adopt improved practices and reduce stubble burning.

An awareness session was organised at Government School, Thikriwal, Barnala, Punjab, under the initiative supported by **Goodyear** on 3 November 2025. The session focused on the harmful effects of crop residue burning and encouraged students to become advocates of sustainable farming practices. A drawing competition on 'Clean Air, Better Life' followed the

discussions. The program saw participation from school staff and the Secretary of the Thikriwal Farmers' Cooperative Society.

Under the initiative supported by **SBI Card** in Haryana, door-to-door awareness activities were carried out across multiple villages throughout October. Volunteers engaged directly with farmers to communicate the environmental, health, and soil impacts of stubble burning and to promote sustainable crop residue management techniques.

FARMERS' TRAINING AND FARM DEMONSTRATIONS

The CII Foundation continued its efforts to promote climate-resilient agriculture through a series of training programs, live demonstrations, and technical collaborations held across Punjab and Haryana.

NRFMTTI, Hisar

On 7 November 2025, the CII Foundation signed an MoU with the Northern Region Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institute (NRFMTTI), Hisar, to deepen joint efforts on sustainable agriculture. The programs brought together more than 250 farmers from Punjab and Haryana, dignitaries from NRFMTTI and Haryana Agricultural University (HAU), and 50 agricultural students, reaffirming a shared commitment to eliminating stubble burning.

Prof. (Dr.) B. R. Kamboj, Vice-Chancellor, Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, emphasised water-efficient practices and integrated farming as essential tools for building climate resilience. Dr. Mukesh Jain, Director, NRFMTTI, along with Mr. Sunil Misra, CEO, CII Foundation, outlined the vision for collaboration to scale sustainable farm mechanisation.

Technical sessions were led by Dr. Anil Kumar (HOD, Agronomy) and Dr. Sunita Yadav while Dr. Anil Kumar

(HOD, FMPE) demonstrated advanced sowing techniques and machinery for in-situ residue management. Progressive farmers shared their experiences and the programs concluded with a collective pledge by all participants to end stubble burning.

Demonstration in Khanna, Ludhiana

In collaboration with HDFC Bank and Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana, a live demonstration of PAU's latest technologies—the Mitter Seeder and the 000 Surface Seeding Technique—was organised on 14 November at Village Jatana, Khanna. The event aimed to promote efficient wheat sowing and improved straw incorporation across Ludhiana district.

The program was graced by Dr. Satbir Singh Gosal, Vice Chancellor, PAU; 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 received hands-on exposure to the operational and economic advantages of these technologies, and progressive farmers were recognised for adopting sustainable practices. A live demonstration on the farm of Harjit Singh showcased real-time application of both technologies.



Demonstration in Barnala, Punjab

On 25 October 2025, the CII Foundation, in collaboration with Goodyear, conducted a Super Seeder field demonstration in Barnala, Punjab. The session provided farmers with a practical understanding of how the machine enables efficient in-situ residue incorporation, improving soil fertility while eliminating the need for stubble burning. Local farmers and field representatives participated actively, discussing operational benefits and the applicability of the technology for small and marginal farmers.



Capacity-Building programs in Karnal, Haryana

Under the SBI Card-supported initiative, a training session was held at the Tool Bank in Chaugawan, where more than 40 progressive farmers from 30 project villages participated. Dr. Shyam Singh, Agriculture Development Officer, Assandh, delivered the technical address, highlighting sustainable residue management, government schemes, and the use of modern machinery as practical alternatives to burning. The initiative currently benefits 8,565 farmers across project villages, equipping them with technical knowledge and improved access to sustainable machinery.



STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS – GOVERNMENT INTERACTIONS

Meeting with Hon'ble Chief Minister 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 efforts in the state. The discussion highlighted the large-scale deployment of agricultural equipment, including 10 tractors with balers, 15 MB Ploughs, 25 Rotavators, 30 Smart Seeders, 30 Super Seeders, and 25 Surface Seeders, along with the establishment of community biogas plants in 15 villages across four districts of Punjab.

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

Meeting with Hon'ble Minister, Government of Haryana



As part of efforts to strengthen sustainable agriculture in Haryana, the CII Foundation team met Shri Ranbir Gangwa, Hon'ble Minister for Public Health Engineering and Public Works (Building and Roads), Government of Haryana, on 15 October 2025, to share

updates on the ongoing project being implemented across the state. The discussion focused on collaborative approaches to reduce stubble burning and enhance community resilience against air pollution through sustained field-level interventions.

in Fatehabad and expressed keen interest in strengthening support for the crop residue management programs. Such engagements play a vital role in deepening partnerships and enabling coordinated action for long-term environmental sustainability.

District-Level Review with Deputy Commissioner, Fatehabad, Haryana

A separate review meeting was held with Dr. Vivek Bharti, Deputy Commissioner, Fatehabad, Haryana, on 24 October 2025. The interaction provided an opportunity to present a detailed overview of the crop residue management, waste management, plantation drives, and pond restoration initiatives in Haryana and Punjab. Dr. Bharti appreciated the Foundation's impact



AMPLIFYING THE MESSAGE - HIGHLIGHTS

Reuters Showcases Crop Residue Management Initiative

A Reuters team visited our project villages to interact with community and present the story from the ground.

[Click here to read more](#)

Community Radio Outreach: Gurgaon ki Awaaz

107.8 FM, a local community radio covered the program with farmers, with Dr Mukesh Jain, participating in the 30 minute long program which was aired twice

[Listen to the episode here](#)

Showcasing Program Through CII Platforms

A blog was published on the CII blogsite, and published on CII and CII Foundation SM handles. The CRM initiative has also been featured in CII Monthly Monitor

[Click here to read more](#)

AMPLIFYING REACH - SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH THROUGH CHAMPIONS OF SUSTAINABILITY CAMPAIGN

Launched on 28 November 2025, the Champions of Sustainability campaign celebrates donor contributions to the fight against stubble burning. Through short videos, partner stories, and farmer testimonials, the campaign spotlights how donor-backed efforts are helping farmers shift to sustainable practices and build a cleaner, greener future.

CII FOUNDATION

Champions of Sustainability

Together for Cleaner Air & Sustainable Farming

Crop Residue Management Initiative 2025

- 1003 villages covered
- Thousands of farmers reached
- Machinery distributed
- Cleaner air for communities

URBAN CLIMATE RESILIENCE – RESTORATION OF WATERBODIES AND TREE PLANTATION INITIATIVE

WATERBODY RESTORATION

Water Alliance Project, Tamil Nadu



The CII Foundation, in partnership with Titan Company Limited and CII Southern Region, has launched a Water Alliance project to rejuvenate the Thalapalli water body in Pedathalapalli Village, Krishnagiri District, Tamil Nadu on 23 October 2025.

The initiative aims to restore an 86-acre water body that serves as a lifeline for local communities. The rejuvenation will help improve groundwater recharge, rainwater retention, and biodiversity, while fostering sustainable agricultural practices and resilience against water scarcity.

At the project launch program, 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 & Chief Manufacturing Officer (Watch Division), Titan Company Ltd. were present.

This collaborative effort marks a significant step under the Water Alliance initiative towards creating sustainable water ecosystems through community participation and corporate partnership.

In Gummidipoondi, Thiruvallur, Tamil Nadu, the Thengai Kulam waterbody has been revived with the support of Blue Star Limited. Once affected by heavy siltation, dense vegetation and declining water-holding capacity, the 0.6-acre pond has now undergone comprehensive



rejuvenation with clearing of overgrowth and desilting, construction of proper inlet-outlet systems, deepening of the pond and addition of an access ramp for safer maintenance. These interventions are already translating into meaningful impact – longer water retention, improved irrigation reliability, better crop growth, and reduced dependence on external sources.

Water Project, Maharashtra

The CII Foundation, in collaboration with We Sure and local Gram Panchayats, has initiated a water management and recharge planning project across ten villages in the Khultabad Block of Aurangabad District. The project aims to strengthen water security and climate resilience in Aurangabad through scientific assessments, improved water resource planning, and village-level participation in the restoration and management of local water systems. As part of the project, a Detailed Project Report (DPR) is being prepared to guide long-term interventions for groundwater recharge, storage enhancement, and sustainable utilisation of water resources.

As part of the ongoing groundwork, substantial progress was made on baseline assessments. The well survey reached 80% completion, the household survey was fully completed, and Shivar Pheri (field visits) covered 90% of the identified locations. Data entry for the DPR is currently underway.

TREE PLANTATION INITIATIVE

In Farukh Nagar, Haryana, the CII Foundation continues its effort to expand green cover through large-scale plantations carried out in partnership with PTC India Financial Services Limited (PFS) and local Gram Panchayats. While more than 20,000 saplings have already been planted across three villages in phase 1 in August 2025, the aim is to plant over 1,00,000 saplings on panchayat-owned land, turning underused and degraded spaces into green zones. Community participation remains central, with residents involved in planning, planting, and ongoing maintenance to ensure long-term sustainability.

The initiative is making steady progress across Judola, Tajnagar and nearby panchayats, with a focus on landscape restoration, plantation, and improving green cover. In Judola and Tajnagar, landscape work was carried out across twelve acres, accompanied by weed removal and the planting of four hundred saplings. Fencing work was completed over nine thousand square feet to protect the plantation sites, and three boundary walls were painted to improve the appearance of the area and encourage community participation.



In Tajnagar Panchayat, landscape development extended over eleven acres, where six thousand five hundred saplings representing thirty-six native species were planted. The plantation zones were secured with fencing and freshly painted to ensure better maintenance.

Additional upkeep work, including whitewashing of the plantation site walls in Tajnagar, was completed to maintain the spaces and create a welcoming environment for community members visiting or participating in plantation activities.

PFS Team Visit to Plantation Sites

A team from PTC India Financial Services Limited, led by Mr Sitesh Sinha, Sr. Vice President, PFS, and Shreenivasan Poornaiya, Head HR, PFS, visited the vibrant plantation sites in Taj Nagar and Judola, Farukh Nagar on 25 October 2025. The team also visited Patli Panchayat to assess scope for a potential plantation project across twenty acres of degraded land, which may be taken up as part of future expansion. The visit highlighted our ongoing efforts to convert former waste dumping grounds into lush green zones, fostering sustainability and community pride.





DISASTER RELIEF AND REHABILITATION

India continues to witness frequent natural disasters that disrupt lives, damage infrastructure, and leave people, especially vulnerable communities in urgent need of support. The CII Foundation works with government, industry partners, medical facilities such as hospitals and local communities to respond swiftly to such crises.

Our efforts focus not only on immediate relief but also on long-term rehabilitation.

During the September-December 2025 quarter, the CII Foundation continued its comprehensive rehabilitation work in Wayanad, Kerala, supporting flood-affected 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

REHABILITATION EFFORTS IN WAYANAD, KERALA

Severe floods and landslides in Wayanad in July 2024 created extensive damage impacting infrastructure and disrupting the lives of vulnerable communities. The CII Foundation, together with the District Administration and industry partners, is implementing

an integrated rehabilitation program focused on childcare services, community infrastructure, livelihood restoration for tribal communities and early childhood education.

ANGANWADI REFURBISHMENT IN FLOOD-AFFECTED AREAS



Under the Anganwadi strengthening program supported by Orkla India Private Limited, 15 Anganwadis across eight Grama Panchayats and one Municipality were selected for refurbishment. The refurbishment work focuses on creating safe, engaging, and development-friendly learning environments through the BaLA approach, alongside capacity-building support for Anganwadi Workers (AWWs).

Baseline survey for assessing infrastructure, preschool education, nutrition, health services, growth monitoring, and the capacity of Anganwadi workers have been completed, and service agreements were finalised to support a smooth rollout of activities. Work is progressing steadily as three centres have reached the final stage of refurbishment, and two have completed their artwork. Discussions are ongoing with Nirmithi Kendra to design additional BaLA-based elements, drawing inspiration from similar centres strengthened in Chennai.

LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT FOR TRIBAL COMMUNITIES



The CII Foundation, with support from Synthite Industries, is implementing a project to strengthen nutrition and wellbeing for tribal workers at the Priyadarshini Tea Estate through the construction of a new gruel-cum-recreation centre. The existing kitchen, which serves as the primary meal preparation space for workers, is in a severely deteriorated condition and unable to meet daily needs.

An MoU has been signed with the Estate, and Nirmithi Kendra, Wayanad, has been appointed as the implementing agency. Work is progressing steadily, with the kitchen foundation fully completed, steel structuring and roofing nearing completion at 90 percent, and internal partition work underway at 75 percent. The centre will provide improved access to nutritious meals and a dedicated recreational space, contributing to better health, dignity, and quality of life for the estate's tribal workforce.



EDUCATION

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Early childhood is a critical stage that shapes how children learn, grow, and thrive throughout their lives. Anganwadi Centres are their first point of contact with education, nutrition, and health services. Ensuring that these centres are safe, engaging, and well-equipped is essential to giving children a strong and equitable start.

The CII Foundation works closely with government, industry partners, and local organisations to strengthen early childhood education by improving

infrastructure, enhancing learning environments, and building the capacity of frontline workers. Across states, the focus remains on making Anganwadis vibrant spaces where children can learn through play, exploration, and interaction, supported by confident and well-trained Anganwadi workers. During the September–December 2025 period, the programs expanded to include new Anganwadi Centres, alongside focused capacity-building initiatives to strengthen the skills of Anganwadi workers.

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 partnership with the CII Southern Region and Kasa India Pvt. Ltd., is implementing Project Narumugai to strengthen early childhood education in Anganwadi Centres. The initiative focuses on improving physical infrastructure and creating more engaging, child-friendly spaces. Upgradation work at three Anganwadi Centres is nearing completion, with around 95 percent of the planned activities already completed.

As part of capacity-building efforts under the program, a training session was organised on 22 November 2025 for 30 Anganwadi workers from the project area. The session was facilitated by a trainer from Pratham and focused on strengthening early learning practices

and improving classroom engagement. The training helped reinforce the role of Anganwadi workers in delivering quality early childhood education alongside improved infrastructure support.



ANGANWADI STRENGTHENING PROGRAM, ANDHRA PRADESH



In partnership with Blue Star Limited, the CII Foundation is implementing an Anganwadi strengthening initiative in Tada Mandal, Andhra Pradesh. Under the program, five Anganwadi Centres have been identified and adopted for upgradation based on detailed need-gap assessments. The centres are being developed using the Building as Learning Aid (BaLA) approach to create stimulating, interactive spaces that support early learning and child development.

Alongside infrastructure improvements, the program places strong emphasis on community engagement, encouraging local stakeholders to take ownership of the centres and contribute to their upkeep and effectiveness. Preparatory activities, including assessments and planning for infrastructure development, have been completed to ensure that the upgrades are responsive to local needs.

Under this program, a two-day capacity-building workshop on Early Childhood Care and Education

(ECCE) and Disability Inclusion was conducted for Anganwadi Workers. The workshop focused on strengthening inclusive practices at the Anganwadi level, with sessions on holistic child development, effective centre management, and practical approaches to engaging children with developmental delays.

The interactive training emphasised age-appropriate, play-based learning techniques, early identification of developmental concerns, and strategies to create supportive and inclusive learning environments within Anganwadi Centres. Anganwadi Workers were equipped with practical tools to improve daily classroom practices and better support children's cognitive, social, and emotional development.

The program was attended by Ms. Jyothi Kiran, Child Development Project Officer (CDPO), and Ms. Laxmi Narayanamma, Supervisor, ICDS, who highlighted the importance of inclusive early learning systems. Representatives from Blue Star Climatch Limited, including Ms. Deepthi (HR), Mr. Sunil (Admin), Mr. Vijay (E-Cell), and Mr. Vinant (R&D), also participated in the sessions, reaffirming the partner's commitment to strengthening early childhood education at the grassroots.

This workshop marked an important step in building the capacity of frontline workers to deliver inclusive, child-centred early learning, ensuring that Anganwadi Centres serve as safe, responsive, and enabling spaces for all children.

STEM SCIENCE LAB PROJECT, GUMMUDIPOONDI, TAMIL NADU

To strengthen science learning at the school level, the CII Foundation, in partnership with Kemin Industries, is implementing a STEM Science Lab initiative in Gummudipoondi, Tamil Nadu. The project aims to introduce practical, hands-on science learning environments that encourage curiosity, experimentation, and critical thinking among students.

Six schools have been identified for the intervention, and installation of STEM science lab facilities have been completed in two schools, while work is underway for the other schools. In addition,

customised IEC materials with project branding have been developed to support learning and reinforce key scientific concepts within the classroom environment.



EDUCATION PROJECT, THIRUMUDIVAKKAM, TAMIL NADU

As part of its continued efforts to strengthen school infrastructure, the CII Foundation, in partnership with GH Induction, has initiated an education infrastructure improvement project at the Government Higher Secondary School, Thirumudivakkam, Tamil Nadu. The project aims to create safer, better-equipped learning spaces by renovating five classrooms and improving essential facilities within the school.

The project was formally initiated with a groundbreaking ceremony held on 8 December 2025, marking the start of on-ground work. The event was attended by Mr. Yuthistran from GH Induction, who joined as the chief guest, along with the school Headmaster and other staff members.

Planned interventions under the project include roof waterproofing, repair of doors and windows, tile

flooring, interior and exterior painting, installation of handrails and electrical provisions, minor toilet repairs, and the provision of a printer or desktop computer. Together, these upgrades are expected to significantly enhance the learning environment for students and support the school's day-to-day functioning.





HEALTHCARE

Access to quality healthcare remains a persistent challenge for many rural and underserved communities, where low awareness, limited infrastructure, and uneven availability of services often prevent people from receiving timely care. The CII Foundation works to bridge these gaps through a multi-stakeholder approach that strengthens local health systems, expands preventive awareness, and builds community capacity to make informed health decisions. Working in partnership with government

departments, healthcare providers and the community, the CII Foundation supports initiatives that improve service delivery and healthcare outcomes.

During the September–December 2025 quarter, efforts focused on intensifying community outreach, strengthening school health programs, and deepening village-level engagement across Uttar Pradesh and Haryana.

Key Components of the Program

**Strengthening
Community
Access to Public
Healthcare and
Nutrition**

**Improving
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 continues to strengthen village-level health and nutrition systems through regular outreach, awareness activities, and capacity-building sessions. Implemented in partnership with the Pirojsha Godrej Foundation and supported by DigiSwasthya Foundation, the programs works across eight villages-Sisaura Kala, Murali Pur, Mahuji, Medhana, Jigana, Visunpur Khurd, Avahi, and Vira Saray, with a focus on improving access to healthcare, preventive care and promoting healthy practices among women, adolescents and children.

Immunisation and Nutrition Outreach

On 13 September 2025, a meeting was held with the adolescent girls' group in Baheri village. The session emphasised the importance of safe hygiene practices during menstruation and basic preventive measures for infectious diseases. In Alamkhatopur village, visits to the local school and Anganwadi centre were undertaken, where adolescent girls marked World Mental Health Day through a role-play highlighting stress management, emotional wellbeing, and the need to promote supportive social environments. Their performance was used as a tool to initiate broader conversations around mental health in the community. During a school outreach in Bayanpur village, discussions were held with teachers and students on the issue of low attendance and the underlying reasons contributing to irregular participation. Additionally, in Murali Pur, adolescent girls were trained to perform a mental-health themed role-play intended for wider community awareness. In Medhana village, outreach activities with adolescent girls and women focused on understanding the causes, symptoms, and prevention of vector-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue. The team additionally met with the School Management Committee to discuss regular attendance and safe sanitation practices on campus.



On 15 October 2025, a focused day of outreach was conducted at the vaccination centres. ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers, and ANMs participated in discussions on improving field-level awareness, ABHA ID generation, monitoring newborn weights, and supporting high-risk pregnancies. Children took part in Global Handwashing Day activities, while adolescent girls engaged in sessions on health, development, and their ongoing work plans.

On 16 October 2025, the team visited the Anganwadi centres to review children's attendance and met parents of adolescent girls to seek consent for an upcoming exposure visit. Women's group meetings focused on communicable disease awareness, and school outreach continued through discussions on hygiene and health practices.

Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan

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. The initiative aimed to promote women's health, nutrition, and wellbeing through active community participation.

- 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.
- 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).
- AAA meetings involving CHOs, ANMs, and Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) were held, focusing on HRP, TB, anemia, and nutrition.
- Discussions with adolescent girls addressed anemia, personal hygiene, and menstrual health management.
- Role plays and group meetings were conducted on breast cancer and oral cancer awareness, promoting early screening and behavioral change within the community.



World Mental Health Day

To mark World Mental Health Day on 10 October 2025, adolescent girls presented a role play highlighting the importance of mental health and the need for empathy and support toward individuals experiencing psychological distress.



International Day of the Girl Child

On the occasion of International Day of the Girl Child on 11 October 2025, adolescent girls performed a role play in the community to promote awareness about gender equality and the rights of girls.

HEALTH AWARENESS PROGRAM IN SCHOOLS UTTAR PRADESH AND HARYANA

In partnership with the HOPE Initiative, the CII Foundation has undertaken school-based health awareness programs across Uttar Pradesh, and Haryana, engaging students, teachers, and community members through interactive sessions, thematic activities, and practical demonstrations to promote holistic well-being of children.

On 10 September 2025, a large-scale tree plantation drive was organised at Kashishwar Inter College, Mohanlalganj, in the presence of environmentalist Shri Chandrabhooshan Tiwari (Pedh Baba). More than 3,000 students, 80 teachers, and Principal Shri Satya Prakash Tripathi participated in the event, planting over 85 saplings of Peepal, Guava, Ashoka, Lemon, Amla, and Jackfruit. The drive reinforced the link between environmental protection and community health, encouraging students to adopt eco-conscious habits.

On 25 September 2025, 223 students from GGSSS, Manesar 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.

On 17 October 2025, an awareness session on e-waste management was organised at Government Senior Secondary Girls School, Manesar in collaboration with Namu eWaste Management Ltd., a leading recycling company. The session introduced students to safe disposal practices for electronic waste and the importance of recycling in preventing environmental hazards.

On 25 October, an interactive session on Good Touch and Bad Touch was conducted at ASN Public School, Mohanlalganj. Through discussions, role plays, and activities, students learned to identify safe and unsafe situations, understand consent, and approach trusted adults when needed.





SKILLING AND LIVELIHOOD

BUILDING SKILLS, STRENGTHENING RURAL LIVELIHOODS

Creating sustainable livelihoods in rural India requires more than just skilling - it requires recognising local strengths, improving market access, and enabling communities to adopt practices that increase resilience and income over time. The CII Foundation works with communities to strengthen livelihoods by combining skilling, technical support, and institutional linkages. Through collaborations with government, industry, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), knowledge institutions and other stakeholders, the Foundation supports farmers and rural communities to improve skilling and livelihood outcomes.

During the September–December 2025 period, efforts focused on strengthening farmer capabilities and promoting sustainable agronomic practices, and deepening on-ground engagement. CII Foundation is committed to this vision, strengthening livelihoods across the country by equipping individuals with practical skills, market links, and entrepreneurial pathways that foster financial independence and long-term resilience. Working closely with Government, industry and grassroots organisations, the CII Foundation enables communities to access dignified work, harness local opportunities, and chart their own path to sustainable growth.

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 (FACE), the CII Foundation is implementing an FPO-led initiative to strengthen the red chilli value chain in Ballari district, Karnataka. The intervention is being carried out across chilli-growing regions in Kurgodu, Siruguppa, and Sandur taluks, with a focus on improving farm practices, reducing input costs, and building farmer resilience.

Between September and October 2025, the initiative engaged 1300 farmers across six Farmer Producer Organisations through structured field engagement and capacity-building activities. Five field officers

conducted 131 farmer field visits across 21 villages, providing close monitoring of enrolled plots and carrying out regular scouting for pest and disease incidence

These field efforts resulted in the delivery of 368 field-based advisories to guide farmers' decision-making. To complement this support, village-level training programs were organised creating platforms for farmers to discuss soil health, crop nutrition, and low-input pest control practices. These sessions encouraged peer learning and strengthened farmers' confidence in adopting sustainable cultivation methods

Advancing Sustainable Chilli Farming in Ballari through Integrated Pest Management

Building on field advisories and village-level trainings, the project continued to strengthen the adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices across Ballari district. A structured approach combining classroom-style learning with on-field guidance helped farmers transition away from excessive chemical use towards sustainable, eco-friendly alternatives. Village-level sessions provided farmers with a clear understanding of the complete IPM package, while regular field visits enabled customised, plot-specific guidance based on crop conditions.

Continuous handholding through field visits, phone calls, WhatsApp advisories, and printed recommendations ensured consistency in implementation and reduced the risk of misapplication.



Demonstrations on preparing organic inputs and Farmer Field Schools further reinforced learning through practice. Early feedback from farmers indicates reduced input costs, improved pest management decisions, and growing confidence in sustainable farming methods. These efforts are laying the groundwork for long-term adoption of IPM practices and a more resilient chilli farming system in the region.

Promoting Natural Crop Nutrition through Fish Amino Acid Training

As part of the project, a hands-on training session on the preparation and use of Fish Amino Acid (FAA) was conducted on 30 October 2025 in Madire village, Kurgodu taluk, Ballari district. The training was supported by Farmitopia as the technical partner.

Farmers were trained to prepare FAA using locally available materials such as fish waste and organic jaggery. The session demonstrated how FAA, when fermented for 20–30 days, acts as a natural bio-stimulant that improves vegetative growth, photosynthesis, and overall plant health. The training was particularly relevant given recent excess rainfall in the region, which had affected crop growth. Around 20

chilli farmers participated in the session, gaining practical knowledge on cost-effective and chemical-free crop nutrition methods aligned with IPM practices.



PROMOTING SKILL DEVELOPMENT IN COLLABORATION WITH CII CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE ON EMPLOYMENT AND LIVELIHOOD (CII CEL)



As part of its skilling and livelihood efforts, the CII Foundation, in collaboration with the CII Centre of Excellence on Employment and Livelihood (CII CEL) and with support from Blue Star India, continued to strengthen entrepreneurship ecosystems during the September–December period through focused capacity-building initiatives in Tamil Nadu.

In Chennai, entrepreneurs from diverse sectors participated in the two-day Business 360 Program on 9 and 10 September 2025, which offered hands-on learning across key business functions. The workshop focused on practical aspects of financial management, marketing communication, team optimisation, inventory control, and the integration of AI into

business operations, helping participants simplify complex concepts and apply them to real-world enterprise challenges.

CII CEL also launched the Entrepreneurship Development Forum in Chennai at the event. The forum is designed as a long-term support platform for micro-entrepreneurs, facilitating knowledge sharing, mentorship, market access, and stronger ecosystem linkages. The initiative aims to support over 1,000 micro-entrepreneurs across Tamil Nadu.

Further strengthening on-ground engagement, CII Foundation and CEL, with support from Blue Star India and TIEMA, conducted a Business Excellence Workshop in Thirumudivakkam, Chennai on 19-20 November 2025. The workshop brought together 55 entrepreneurs and focused on adaptability, strategic planning, and people-centric leadership as key drivers of sustainable business growth.

Together, these initiatives reflect a continued commitment to nurturing entrepreneurship, enhancing skills, and enabling resilient livelihood pathways through structured learning and ecosystem support.

SHOWCASING FPO INNOVATION AND MARKET LINKAGES AT THE CII FPO SUMMIT

As part of the CII FPO Summit, a dedicated exhibition was organised to spotlight the products, innovations, and enterprise capabilities of Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and allied stakeholders. The exhibition brought together around 23 stalls, showcasing a wide spectrum of agri-produce, value-added products, services, and technology solutions spanning the agricultural value chain.

The work of the CII Foundation and the Food and Agriculture Centre of Excellence (FACE) with FPOs in Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka was featured prominently, alongside the Foundation's Crop Residue Management initiative in Punjab. The exhibition created a dynamic space for FPOs to engage directly with policymakers, industry representatives, buyers, startups, and development partners.

With over 100 participants visiting the exhibition throughout the day, the platform enabled meaningful interactions, knowledge exchange, and networking.



LIVELIHOOD ON WHEELS



The CII Foundation, in collaboration with Maersk, NeoMotion, Zomato, and Young Indians (Yi), successfully rolled out a disability and livelihood project – “Livelihood on Wheels”. This intervention addressed the dual challenges of mobility and unemployment, enabling Persons with Locomotor Disabilities to achieve financial self-reliance through assistive technology support.

Across Nagpur, Indore, and Jammu, 57 persons with locomotor disabilities were equipped with customized NeoMotion electric wheelchairs (NeoFly/NeoBolt) and onboarded as Zomato delivery executives, the program encompassed beneficiary selection, device handovers, training, onboarding, and rigorous monitoring throughout the year. The project aims ₹50 lakh in cumulative earnings within a year of launch ensuring long-term sustainability by ongoing mentoring, and continuous income opportunities.

JANJATIYA GAURAV DIVAS

HONOURING TRIBAL HERITAGE, STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Janjatiya Gaurav Divas, observed on 15 November to commemorate the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda, honours the legacy, culture, and contributions of India's tribal communities. Marking the occasion in 2025, the CII Foundation organised a series of community-led engagements across Kerala, Jharkhand, and Ladakh, focusing on healthcare access, early childhood development, and livelihood.

EARLY CHILDHOOD ENGAGEMENT AT PADAPURAM TRIBAL ANGANWADI, WAYANAD, KERALA

On 13 November 2025, a preschool engagement programs was conducted at the Padapuram Tribal Anganwadi, Wayanad, to promote early learning and strengthen parent engagement. Ten children and their mothers participated, with activities including a painting competition designed to support preschool skills and creativity. The session also created space for dialogue with mothers on the importance of early childhood education. All participating children were presented with gifts as a token of encouragement.



MEDICAL CAMP FOR TRIBAL COMMUNITIES, WAYANAD, KERALA

A medical camp was organised on 14 November 2025 at the Priyadarshini Tribal Estate, Wayanad, in collaboration with the National Health Mission and the District Medical Team. The programs was inaugurated by Mr. Manoj, General Manager, Priyadarshini Estate.

80 members of the Paniya tribal community participated in the camp, which was supported by a 10-member medical team. The camp focused on health screening, diagnosis, and distribution of medicines for estate workers. Alongside the medical camp, early childhood engagement activities were organised at the Priyadarshini Estate Tribal Anganwadi, where pre-school children and their parents took part in learning-based games and sports

activities. All participating children received gifts in recognition of their involvement.



CELEBRATING BIRSA MUNDA'S LEGACY, GUMLA, JHARKHAND

In Kulburu village, Gumla district, the CII Foundation, in collaboration with the Shoshan Surin Foundation (SSF), commemorated the Janjatiya Gaurav Divas on 15 November. Children from Kusum Playschool, run by SSF, and the SSF-supported GEL Primary School in Lusumtoli participated in creative activities, including painting portraits of Birsa Munda and dressing in traditional attire inspired by him. Teachers shared stories of his life, leadership, and resistance, helping children understand his enduring role in shaping tribal identity and rights.



HONOURING TRIBAL ENTREPRENEURS, LADAKH

In Ladakh, the CII Foundation, in collaboration with HDFC Bank Parivartan, marked Janjatiya Gaurav Divas 2025 by felicitating three tribal entrepreneurs for their contributions to cultural preservation and sustainable livelihoods.

Siachen Naturals, Nomadic Woollen Mills, and Lobi Thikma were honoured by Mr. Akeel Sajad, District Panchayat Officer, and Mr. Nawang Thinles, Former Chairman, CII-Ladakh Region.

- Siachen Naturals was recognised for eco-conscious natural wellness products that support local livelihoods.
- Nomadic Woollen Mills was honoured for preserving Ladakh's traditional pashmina and woollen craftsmanship.

- Lobi Thikma was acknowledged for reviving the traditional art of Thikma (Tie-Dye) and hand-weaving.

These events highlighted how tribal communities play a vital role in sustaining cultural heritage while driving inclusive economic growth in these regions.





WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

WOMAN EXEMPLAR PROGRAM

The Woman Exemplar Program continues to champion grassroots women leaders by identifying, recognising, and supporting their growth through structured training, mentoring, and field-level engagement. Anchored by the CII Foundation in collaboration with the CII Centre for Women Leadership, the program nurtures women leaders working across Education, Health, Micro-enterprise, and Community Strengthening. Over the years, it has built a strong, pan-India network of women leaders who are driving significant change in some of the most underserved regions in the country.

Between September and December 2025, the program made significant progress across multiple fronts. The desk review of nominations for the Woman Exemplar Award 2026, which marks the first stage of the selection process, was completed this quarter. Capacity-building workshops were organised for the 2025 cohort of Woman Exemplars, and new state-level leadership initiatives were launched in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh in partnership with Apraava Energy. A key highlight of the work during July-August was the launch of the Call for Nominations for the Woman Exemplar Award 2026. Capacity building sessions for the woman exemplars were also conducted across diverse geographies during this period.

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

The Call for Nominations for the Woman Exemplar Award closed on 30 September 2025. Over 340 nominations were received from across 26 states of the country.

A rigorous, multi-step process is being followed to assess the nominations received for the Woman Exemplar Award. The first stage included a detailed desk review of all submissions, followed by telephonic

interactions to better understand each woman leader's journey, the challenges she faced, and how she rose to become a force for change in her community. With the shortlist now finalised, the first phase of the selection process stands complete. In the January–March 2026 quarter, due-diligence visits and jury evaluations will be undertaken, leading up to the presentation of the Woman Exemplar Award at the CII Annual Business Meeting.

BUILDING CAPACITY: TRAINING PROGRAM FOR COHORT 2025

The second leadership training for the 2025 cohort brought the Exemplars together for a three-day workshop in the CII Gurugram office, focused on strengthening core skills needed for community leadership. The sessions introduced participants to different leadership approaches, encouraging reflection on their own styles and decision-making processes. They also learned techniques for effective negotiation, helping them address challenges with clarity and confidence.

The workshop placed strong emphasis on communication, with participants exploring tools such

as ChatGPT and Canva to support their work. Through guided exercises, they practised presenting their ideas, building short narratives, and improving how they articulate their goals and experiences.

The training also covered key areas such as legal rights and available redressal mechanisms. A networking activity enabled participants to exchange experiences and strengthen connections within the cohort. The workshop concluded with a proposal development session, where the Exemplars worked on structuring community plans using the skills they had gained during the training.



EXPANDING THE FOOTPRINT: STATE CHAPTERS IN MADHYA PRADESH AND RAJASTHAN

The CII Foundation and the CII Centre for Women Leadership in partnership with Apraava Energy launched the Empowering Champions of Change Program in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan on 25 November. The program builds on the successful implementation of the program in Assam (2023–2025) and this expansion aims to strengthen grassroots women's leadership and create a pipeline of empowered community leaders across the two states. 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 were selected through a participatory, multi-stage process. Over the next 18 months, they will undergo training in leadership development, financial and digital literacy, mentorship, and community-based project design.

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



A two-day workshop was conducted in both states as an introductory orientation for the selected women leaders. The sessions included visioning exercises, leadership development, identification of thematic areas for their work, planning for their 18-month leadership journey, preparing a three-month action plan, baseline survey discussions, and the formation of women's and adolescent girls' groups in their respective villages. The programs booklet was also launched during the workshop.

The event was graced by several officials from Apraava Energy - 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 dignitaries and representatives from community organisations and partner institutions.



Speaking on the occasion, Mr. C. K. Pawar said: "These women leaders are showing what true community strength looks like. We are proud to support a programs that is building women's leadership in different states, and we look forward to seeing more women participate in the smart metering ecosystem. I am very keen to see more women join the work of the Smart Meter Cell, because women bring not only diversity, but also a level of efficiency, and effectiveness that can strengthen the delivery of this technology."

The program marks an important step in strengthening grassroots leadership and equipping women with the skills and support needed to drive meaningful change in their communities.



WASTE MANAGEMENT

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES FOR A GREENER TOMORROW

Effective waste management is essential for protecting public health, preserving natural ecosystems, and ensuring dignity and safety for waste workers. Across diverse geographies, the CII Foundation is working with communities, local administrations, and industry partners to strengthen waste management and promote responsible waste practices. Current interventions are being implemented in Farukh Nagar (Haryana), Kochi (Kerala), and Leh (Ladakh), with solutions designed to respond to each region's unique environmental and

social needs. The focus remains on combining infrastructure support with strong community participation to create lasting change.

During the September–December 2025 quarter, on-ground efforts focused on strengthening door-to-door waste collection systems, organising community clean-up drives, conducting school and Anganwadi awareness programs, distributing cloth bags to reduce plastic use, and organising health camps for waste workers.

Key Components of the Program

Creating Awareness and Catalysing Civic Engagement

Strengthening Waste Management Infrastructure

Building Skills of Waste Workers and Enhancing their Safety

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.

Strengthening Waste Collection



To strengthen structured waste collection in Leh, a coordination meeting was held with Col. 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. The initiative aims to achieve zero waste burning and littering through 100% waste collection from households and institutions in the blocks.

Promoting Zero-Waste Practices at Hemis Monastery



To further reduce plastic usage and promote sustainable consumption, an awareness session and cloth bag distribution drive was organised at Hemis Monastery as part of the initiative. Monks were encouraged to shift away from single-use plastic, and cloth bags were distributed for regular use. On behalf

of all 150 monks, the Head of the Monastery appreciated the efforts of HDFC Bank and the CII Foundation in promoting the vision of a Zero Waste Ladakh.

Strengthening the Well-Being of Waste Workers



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. The project, which includes door-to-door waste collection and community-based user fee systems continues to strengthen a people-centric, sustainable waste management model in the region

CHELLODE CHELLANAM WASTE MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE, KOCHI KERALA

The CII Foundation has been running a waste management initiative in Chellanam, Kochi in partnership with the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re) since March 2024. A series of activities are being undertaken to promote efficient waste management under the project.

As part of the initiative, CII Foundation, in partnership with the CSR Club, Department of Social Work (DSW), Rajagiri College of Social Sciences (Autonomous), conducted a 'Sustainability Education in Schools' programs at St. Mary's School, Kannamaly, Kochi. The session aimed to build awareness and inspire action on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) among school students, using the SDG Toolkit developed by the DSW and engaging young learners through interactive and activity-based methods to make sustainability both relatable and actionable.

EK DIN, EK GHANTA, EK SAATH – SWACHHATA HI SEVA 2025

As part of the nationwide 'Ek Din, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath' initiative as part of the Swachhata Hi Seva 2025 campaign under the theme Swachhotsav, the CII Foundation carried out a series of community-led awareness and cleanliness initiatives across Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, and Punjab, engaging children, farmers, waste workers, and local communities in collective action for cleaner surroundings.

KERALA

In Wayanad, Kerala, on 25 September, in collaboration with Orkla India, a creative colouring-based learning session at Kappaomkolly Anganwadi, Meppadi was organised where pre-school children were introduced to basic concepts of waste segregation through hands-on activities, demonstrations, and interactive play. The session focused on distinguishing biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste, nurturing early habits of environmental responsibility in a joyful learning environment.

On the same day in Kochi, Kerala, a large-scale beach clean-up drive was organised at Kannamaly Beach and Chellanam Harbour Road. 12 volunteers and Haritha Karma Sena members cleaned nearly 600 metres of coastline, removing close to one tonne of waste. At Chellanam Harbour Road, another half tonne of waste was cleared by 10 Haritha Karma Sena members.

A Suchitholsavam (Cleanliness Festival) was also organised at Palluruthy SDPI Boys Higher Secondary School in collaboration with Kochi Municipal Corporation and Haritha Keralam Mission. The program was inaugurated by Division Councillor Mr V. R. Sudheer in the presence of Headmistress Ms K. P. Priya. Interactive sessions led by Haritha Keralam Mission focused on waste segregation, composting, reuse of materials, and the promotion of eco-friendly alternatives such as cloth bags.

In Chellanam, Kerala, a three-day coastal clean-up drive was carried out along the six-kilometre tetrapod stretch as part of Swachhata Hi Seva. Twenty-four Haritha Karma Sena members and local labourers cleared nearly three tonnes of plastic and waste, while plant pots were placed along the walkway to promote environmental care and beautification.

In Mananthavady, Wayanad, on 2 October, in collaboration with Orkla India, a public clean-up drive at Mananthavady Municipal Council was organised. The program was inaugurated by Deputy Chairperson, Mr Jacob Sebastian, and thirty-five Haritha Karma Sena members participated in cleaning activities along the KSRTC Bypass Road, reinforcing the spirit of civic responsibility.

ANDHRA PRADESH

In Tada, Andhra Pradesh, activities were conducted through the Anganwadi Strengthening programs in partnership with Bluestar Limited. Children participated in hygiene-based drawing sessions, while 'Clean Corners' with dustbins and handwashing units were created within Anganwadis. Anganwadi workers were trained to integrate cleanliness into daily learning through storytelling, rhymes, and visual tools, reinforcing healthy habits from early childhood.

KARNATAKA

In Ballari district, Karnataka, Swachhata Hi Seva activities were conducted under the FPO Strengthening initiative in partnership with Orkla India at Devalapura and Madire villages. Farmers, students, and community members participated in awareness sessions on personal hygiene, sanitation, and the dangers of single-use plastics. Cleanliness drives were carried out at the Government Library in Devalapura and the Anganwadi premises in Madire, reinforcing collective responsibility for clean public spaces.

TAMIL NADU

In Gummidipoondi Block, Tamil Nadu, a training session for mothers at the Anganwadi was organised on solid waste management. The session was led by a trainer from Urbaser Sumeet, the waste management agency engaged by the Greater Chennai Corporation. Participants learned about waste segregation, composting kitchen waste, safe disposal methods, and practical ways to reduce plastic use through live demonstrations and interactive discussions.

HARYANA

In Assandh, Haryana, under the crop residue management initiative supported by SBI Card, an awareness session was conducted at Government Middle School, Rangruti Kheda. The programs included a plantation drive, slogan chanting on cleanliness and sustainability, and a poster-making activity. Students, teachers, and volunteers actively participated, spreading awareness on hygiene and environmental protection.

Across Fatehabad district, Haryana, under the crop residue management initiative supported by Cadence, Swachhata Hi Seva activities were organised in multiple locations. A community cleanliness drive was conducted at the village centre in Bosti, Bhuna Block, with participation from volunteers and panchayat members. At Government Middle School, Tharva, an awareness session engaged nearly 50 students and staff. At Government Senior Secondary School, Phull, a large campus clean-up drive and awareness programs involved around 100 students and staff, followed by a rally highlighting environmental protection and sustainable paddy straw management.

PUNJAB

In Malerkotla, Punjab, under the crop residue management initiative supported by Fidelity International, an awareness session was organised at Government School, Banbhaura village. The programs included a tree plantation drive and a student-led drawing competition focused on hygiene and environmental awareness. Teachers and students actively participated in spreading the message of responsibility and sustainability.

Through these diverse yet interconnected efforts, the CII Foundation's efforts through 'Ek Din, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath initiative' reinforced the power of collective action for a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable environment across regions.



OUR KEY SUPPORTERS



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