

Climate Impact Residency

Emerging Leaders Cohort



10th–11th June 2026

Mumbai _____

Index

Executive Summary	1
Welcome Address	2
Setting the Context: Climate Action, Sustainability and the Learning Journey of CIR 2.0	3
Reimagining Climate and Sustainability Through Collective Action	4
Nature-based Solutions: Harnessing Ecosystems for Climate Resilience and Sustainable Development	5
Circular Cities: Rethinking Waste, Climate and Urban Growth in India	6
New Currency of Sustainability: Carbon, Water, Biodiversity and the Future of Climate Finance	7
Catalysing Collective Impact: The Convergence of Policy, Technology and Sustainability	8
New Architecture of Sustainability: Collective Action for Basin and Landscape Resilience	9
Restore, Conserve and Protect Forest and Tree Cover for NDC Implementation in India	10
Climate Adaptation and Rural Resilience: The Next Frontier for CSR and ESG	11
The Collective Action Studio: Designing What Collaboration Looks Like in Practice	12
From Dialogue to Action: The CIR Closing Forum	14
Way Forward	15
Key Findings & Recommendations	16
Implementation & Collective Action	17
Finance, Measurement & Learning	18
Annexure A: Speakers' Profile	19
Annexure B: Participants' Profile	25

Executive Summary

The Climate Impact Residency 2.0, held on 10–11 June 2026 in Mumbai, brought together leaders from the CSR, sustainability, development, and policy ecosystems to explore practical pathways for advancing climate resilience through collaborative action. Building on the foundation established by the inaugural cohort, the residency enabled deeper deliberations on translating climate ambition into implementable, scalable, and locally relevant solutions.

Through discussions on Nature-based Solutions, climate adaptation, collective action, climate finance, and policy convergence, participants examined the evolving role of climate resilience in shaping development outcomes. The conversations highlighted that climate considerations can no longer remain confined to environmental interventions alone. Instead, they must be integrated into areas such as livelihoods, water security, agriculture, urban development, governance, and community well-being.

A recurring theme throughout the residency was the need to move beyond isolated interventions towards

integrated, partnership-driven approaches capable of delivering long-term impact. Participants explored emerging opportunities in adaptation finance, environmental markets, landscape restoration, and multi-stakeholder collaboration. The discussions also reflected on the evolving role of CSR and sustainability functions in responding to climate risks and supporting resilient development pathways.

More than a knowledge-sharing platform, CIR 2.0 created a collaborative space for dialogue, reflection, and co-creation. By bringing together diverse perspectives, lived experiences, and sectoral expertise, the residency strengthened the collective capacity of practitioners to design programmes that are climate-responsive, resilient, and future-ready. In doing so, it reaffirmed that addressing the complexity of climate change requires sustained collaboration, shared learning, and collective action across sectors.



Welcome Address

CIR 2.0 was convened at a time when climate considerations are increasingly shaping development priorities, business strategies, and public policy. While discussions around sustainability, ESG, net-zero commitments, and climate resilience continue to evolve, the impacts of climate change remain most pronounced for communities whose livelihoods, health, and well-being are intrinsically linked to natural ecosystems. This calls for integrated approaches that bridge environmental priorities with long-term social and economic development.

In his welcome address, Mr. Bhomik Shah, reflected on the journey that led to the inception of the Climate Impact Residency and the evolution of its vision. He shared that CIR 1.0 established a foundation for dialogue on climate resilience by bringing together diverse stakeholders to exchange ideas, challenge conventional approaches, and explore emerging pathways for sustainability. Building on the momentum of the inaugural cohort, CIR 2.0 was conceived to move the conversation beyond awareness towards action, with greater emphasis on implementation, collaboration, and

scalable models for impact. He highlighted that climate change is no longer a standalone environmental concern but a cross-cutting development challenge that influences agriculture, water security, livelihoods, health, urbanisation, and economic resilience. Addressing these interconnected issues, he noted, requires deeper convergence between governments, businesses, development organisations, academia, and local communities.

Positioning CIR as a platform for collaborative learning and action, Mr. Shah emphasised CSRBOX's commitment to strengthening the climate ecosystem through knowledge exchange, peer learning, and cross-sector partnerships. He encouraged participants to leverage the residency as an opportunity to co-create practical solutions, strengthen institutional collaboration, and collectively shape more resilient and climate-responsive development pathways.

— Mr. Bhomik Shah,
Founder & CEO, CSRBOX



“ Climate resilience is no longer a sectoral agenda; it is the foundation of resilient development. ”

Setting the Context:

Climate Action, Sustainability and the Learning Journey of CIR 2.0

CIR 2.0 was convened during a period of significant evolution in the climate, sustainability, and CSR landscape. Since the first edition of the residency in 2024, several policy, regulatory, and market developments have reshaped the way organisations approach environmental stewardship and sustainable development. In India, the operationalisation of the Green Credit Programme has introduced a new framework for incentivising voluntary environmental action. At the same time, the country's Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS) has begun transitioning from policy design to implementation, establishing compliance obligations for energy-intensive sectors and laying the foundation for a domestic carbon market.

Complementing these developments, SEBI's revised Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) framework has expanded the scope of environmental disclosures through voluntary reporting on Green Credits and stronger value-chain sustainability assessment requirements. The Government of India has also released the draft Climate Finance Taxonomy to channel capital

towards climate-aligned economic activities and accelerate investments in climate adaptation and mitigation. Globally, the biodiversity agenda has also gathered momentum. The Biodiversity COP16 process concluded with agreements to mobilise USD 200 billion annually for biodiversity conservation by 2030, alongside the launch of the Cali Fund, a pioneering mechanism designed to channel resources from the commercial use of genetic data towards biodiversity protection.

These developments have further accelerated global conversations around nature-positive finance, ecosystem restoration, and the integration of biodiversity considerations into financial and corporate decision-making. Amid this evolving landscape, CIR 2.0 brought together a diverse cohort of CSR, ESG, sustainability, and development professionals to examine the practical implications of these emerging developments. The residency explored how evolving environmental markets, Nature based Solutions, water stewardship frameworks, climate finance mechanisms, and collective action approaches can be translated



into impactful programmes and investments on the ground. Amid this evolving landscape, CIR 2.0 brought together a diverse cohort of CSR, ESG, sustainability, and development professionals to examine the practical implications of these emerging developments.

The residency explored how evolving environmental markets, Nature-based Solutions, water stewardship frameworks, climate finance mechanisms, and collective action approaches can be translated into impactful programmes and investments on the ground. Designed as an immersive and practitioner oriented learning experience, the residency combined expert-led sessions, case studies, collaborative discussions, interactive diagnostics, and peer learning. It began with a participatory assessment of

participants' familiarity with concepts such as environmental credits, blended finance, collective action, and Nature-based Solutions, establishing a common learning foundation before progressing to deeper discussions on policy frameworks, implementation models, financing mechanisms, and ecosystem restoration strategies. By bringing together practitioners from corporate CSR functions, philanthropic institutions, conservation organisations, and development agencies, CIR 2.0 fostered meaningful exchange of perspectives and practical experiences. More importantly, it served as a collaborative platform to help participants navigate the rapidly evolving sustainability landscape and identify actionable pathways for advancing climate-resilient and nature-positive development outcomes.

Reimagining Climate and Sustainability Through Collective Action

The sessions at CIR 2.0 explored the evolving climate and sustainability landscape, highlighting the need for integrated approaches that address climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, water security, and sustainable development. Discussions examined the potential of Nature-based Solutions, climate finance, environmental markets, water stewardship, and collaborative governance frameworks in driving long-term impact. A recurring theme across the residency was the importance of convergence between policy, technology, finance, and community-led action.

Speakers emphasized that addressing complex climate and development challenges requires moving beyond fragmented interventions towards systems-oriented approaches that create shared value for communities, ecosystems, and economies. The sessions also reflected on the growing role of CSR, ESG, and sustainability practitioners in catalysing collective action, mobilising resources, and scaling innovative solutions. Collectively, the sessions provided practical insights, emerging perspectives, and actionable frameworks to support more resilient, inclusive, and future-ready climate and development interventions.



Nature-based Solutions:

Harnessing Ecosystems for Climate Resilience and Sustainable Development

The session introduced participants to the evolving concept of Nature-based Solutions (NbS), emphasizing that while the terminology may be relatively new, communities and conservation practitioners have long relied on nature to address environmental and developmental challenges. Drawing from over three decades of experience working across the Himalayas and Central Asia, Dr. Bhatnagar reflected on how many interventions that are today recognized as Nature-based Solutions emerged organically through conservation practice, community engagement, and ecosystem stewardship.

The session explored the fundamental question of what differentiates Nature-based Solutions from traditional conservation efforts. Dr. Bhatnagar highlighted that Nature-based Solutions are not solely about protecting ecosystems; they are interventions that address societal challenges while simultaneously generating benefits for biodiversity and human well-being. He stressed that the true value of Nature-based

Solutions lies in their ability to create multiple outcomes, including climate resilience, livelihood enhancement, ecosystem restoration, and long-term social and economic benefits. Citing examples from the Trans-Himalayan landscape like Project Snow Leopard, he illustrated how conservation can generate tangible social and economic benefits when local communities are placed at the centre of intervention design. The session also underscored the role of ecosystems as critical natural infrastructure. Mangrove ecosystems were highlighted for their capacity to buffer coastal communities against cyclones and storm surges while simultaneously supporting biodiversity, fisheries, carbon sequestration, and livelihoods. Such examples reinforced the value of ecosystem services in building resilience and reducing climate-related risks.

A key focus of the discussion was the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions, which provides a robust framework to assess whether interventions genuinely deliver



benefits for both people and nature.

The framework emphasizes addressing societal challenges, generating measurable biodiversity gains, ensuring inclusive governance, balancing trade-offs, and demonstrating long-term viability. The session concluded with a call to move beyond fragmented environmental interventions and adopt integrated approaches that recognize ecosystems as strategic assets for

resilience and sustainable development. For CSR and sustainability practitioners, Nature-based Solutions offer a pathway to create interventions that generate lasting environmental, social, and economic value while contributing to broader climate and development goals.

— **Dr. Yashveer Bhatnagar,**
Country Representative, IUCN India

Circular Cities:

Rethinking Waste, Climate and Urban Growth in India

In the session, the interconnected challenges of urbanisation, climate resilience, and resource management were examined, highlighting that India's urban transition presents a critical opportunity to embed sustainability into the foundations of future growth. Mr. Pai noted that much of the country's recent urban expansion has taken place beyond municipal boundaries, often without adequate

infrastructure, governance, or environmental planning. This pattern, he noted, has intensified vulnerabilities such as flooding, heat stress, resource inefficiencies, and declining ecological resilience.

Drawing on WRI India's research and implementation experience, he demonstrated the importance of adopting systems-based approaches

to urban development. Spatial analytics and geospatial technologies were presented as powerful tools for understanding urban growth patterns, identifying climate vulnerabilities, and enabling evidence-based planning. Through examples from the Mumbai Climate Action Plan, Mr. Pai illustrated how integrating climate adaptation with urban planning can strengthen resilience through blue-green infrastructure, urban greening, heat mitigation, and community participation.

Initiatives such as the Marol Urban Forest, climate budgeting, the Nashik Blue-Green Infrastructure Project demonstrated how cities can transition from reactive infrastructure investments to nature-positive and climate-responsive planning.

The discussion further explored the role of circular economy principles in shaping more sustainable urban systems. Case studies on battery traceability through the Battery Aadhaar Framework, food loss

reduction, prevention of open waste burning, clean energy transitions for Mumbai's bakeries, and decentralised waste management highlighted the importance of designing resource-efficient systems that reduce emissions while generating economic value. The session emphasised strengthening material recovery, improving traceability, addressing waste at source, and developing localised solutions that respond to the unique needs of different urban contexts.

Mr. Pai emphasised that the transition towards climate-resilient and circular cities will require integrated planning, evidence-based decision-making, and innovative financing. Equally important is a collective action approach that brings together governments, businesses, research institutions, and communities to co-create solutions capable of delivering long-term environmental, economic, and social outcomes.

“
The cities of tomorrow will be shaped not by how they expand, but by how they regenerate.”

Mr. Madhav Pai,
Chief Executive Officer, WRI India

New Currency of Sustainability:

Rethinking Waste, Climate and Urban Growth in India



“The future of climate finance lies where resilient ecosystems and sustainable investments converge.”

As climate finance continues to evolve, carbon, water, and biodiversity are increasingly being recognised as strategic environmental assets capable of unlocking large-scale investment for ecosystem restoration and sustainable development. Building on this premise, Dr. Tanya Sharma positioned Nature-based Solutions as a critical pathway for long-term climate resilience.

She emphasised that durable climate mitigation will depend not only on reducing emissions but also on strengthening natural carbon sinks and

restoring ecological systems. The discussion explored the growing significance of voluntary carbon markets as mechanisms for financing scalable Nature-based Solutions.

Well-designed projects in afforestation, agroforestry, wetland restoration, sustainable agriculture, and ecosystem regeneration can generate measurable environmental outcomes while creating sustainable livelihood opportunities and enhancing biodiversity. Realising this potential, however, requires robust project design, transparent monitoring and

verification systems, long-term stewardship, and governance frameworks that ensure environmental integrity and equitable benefit sharing.

The conversation also addressed the challenge of moving beyond fragmented pilot projects towards landscape-scale implementation. Barriers such as fragmented land ownership, lengthy project gestation periods, certification costs, evolving regulatory standards, and the complexities of community engagement continue to constrain scale.

It was highlighted that technical feasibility alone is insufficient. Building trust among stakeholders, aligning financial incentives, and establishing credible monitoring systems are equally important to creating investable and enduring climate solutions. Attention was also drawn to the growing role of biodiversity and ecosystem service markets alongside carbon finance. As sustainability priorities evolve beyond carbon neutrality towards nature-positive

development, biodiversity conservation, watershed restoration, and ecosystem resilience are emerging as complementary value streams. Integrating these co-benefits into climate finance frameworks can strengthen project viability while delivering wider environmental, social, and economic outcomes.

The conversation ultimately pointed towards a broader shift in climate finance, from funding individual interventions to investing in resilient ecosystems and landscapes. Achieving this transition will require stronger institutional capacity, innovative financing models, advances in monitoring and verification, and greater collaboration among governments, corporates, financial institutions, and local communities. By aligning diverse stakeholders around shared environmental outcomes, collective action can unlock the scale and investment needed to advance Nature-based Solutions.

Dr. Tanya Sharma,
Carbon Project Development
Expert, IORA Ecological Solutions

Catalysing Collective Impact:

The Convergence of Policy, Technology and Sustainability

A compelling vision for achieving sustainable and inclusive growth through the convergence of policy, technology, and collaborative governance was presented during the session. Positioning Telangana Rising 2047 as a blueprint for long-term transformation, Shri. Ranjan outlined how the state's development strategy integrates economic competitiveness, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability to advance its aspiration of becoming a USD 3 trillion economy by 2047.

At the heart of the vision is a commitment to inclusive growth, with targeted interventions focused on empowering farmers, women, and youth. He highlighted the role of technology and innovation in enhancing agricultural productivity, expanding livelihood opportunities, and equipping young people with future-ready skills through market-oriented education, career guidance, and entrepreneurship. These priorities, he noted, are central to building a resilient and globally competitive economy.

The session underscored sustainability

as a fundamental driver of development rather than a parallel objective.

Shri. Ranjan shared Telangana's ambitious commitment to achieving Net Zero by 2047, supported by initiatives such as the electrification of public transport, development of green industrial parks, adoption of sustainable urban infrastructure, and circular resource management practices. These interventions illustrate how climate action can be embedded within broader economic planning while strengthening long-term resilience.

A key message throughout the discussion was the importance of collaborative governance in translating vision into action. Drawing on Telangana's experience, he highlighted the role of partnerships with academic institutions, industry, technical experts, and development organisations in shaping evidence-based policies and accelerating implementation. He emphasised that complex development challenges demand coordinated action across sectors,



“
Policy creates direction.
Technology creates capability.
Partnerships create impact.”

supported by innovation, institutional capacity, and shared accountability.

Concluding the session, Shri. Ranjan called upon corporates, CSR leaders, and development practitioners to contribute scalable solutions that align with public priorities and create lasting social, economic, and environmental value. The session reinforced that

transformative development is driven not by individual institutions, but by ecosystems of collaboration capable of delivering impact at scale.

— **Shri. Jayesh Ranjan,**
 IAS, Special Chief Secretary,
 MA&UD and Sports Department,
 Government of Telangana

New Architecture of Sustainability:

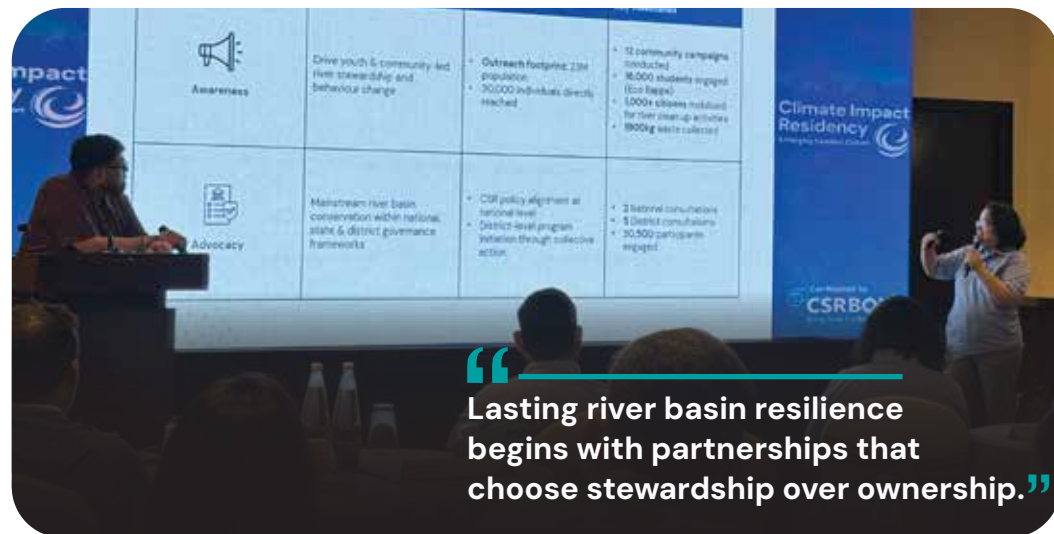
Collective Action for Basin and Landscape Resilience

The session traced the evolution of The Godavari Initiative (TGI) from a collective action concept introduced during CIR 1.0 into a structured, basin-scale platform for river and landscape resilience.

Demonstrating how an idea has evolved into a scalable model, TGI was showcased as a practical example of aligning governments, corporates, civil society organisations, academic institutions, and local communities around a shared vision for restoring the ecological health of the Godavari basin. At the core of the discussion was the need to shift from fragmented, project-based interventions to landscape-level planning. Using the Godavari basin as a case study, the team illustrated that river systems cannot be managed within administrative or funding boundaries alone. Instead, basin resilience requires coordinated interventions across interconnected geographies, enabling diverse stakeholders to work towards common ecological outcomes while contributing through their respective institutional strengths.

A key focus of the session was the role of science and evidence in enabling collective action. TGI has developed basin diagnostics, customised assessment frameworks, and standardised metrics to establish measurable ecological baselines and track progress over time. Rather than evaluating individual projects in isolation, the initiative measures cumulative improvements in basin health, creating a common evidence base that guides investments, strengthens accountability, and aligns stakeholders around long-term outcomes.

The session also highlighted the initiative's implementation model, which prioritises alignment over resource pooling. Interventions across watershed restoration, climate-resilient agriculture, WASH, waste management, sustainable tourism, livelihood diversification, water literacy, and ecosystem conservation are designed to complement one another within a shared basin framework. This integrated approach is supported by



“Lasting river basin resilience begins with partnerships that choose stewardship over ownership.”

policy engagement, government partnerships, capacity building for NGOs and industries, behaviour change initiatives, and an impact aggregation dashboard that captures contributions across the landscape

achieved through shared vision, scientific rigour, and coordinated action, offering a scalable model for basin and landscape resilience that can be replicated across river systems in India.

Reflecting on TGI's journey since CIR 1.0, the team shared how the initiative is now transitioning into an independent Section 8 organisation, reinforcing its long-term sustainability and institutional strength. The session demonstrated that meaningful ecological restoration is

**Ms. Manasi Diwan &
Mr. Adarsh Trivedi**

The Godavari Initiative Team

Restore, Conserve and Protect Forest and Tree Cover for NDC Implementation in India (RECAP4NDC)

Landscape restoration is increasingly emerging as a critical strategy for achieving India's climate, biodiversity, and sustainable development commitments.

Against this backdrop, the RECAP4NDC programme was presented as a collaborative model that combines policy alignment, scientific planning, and blended finance to enable restoration at scale. Drawing on GIZ's experience in facilitating multi-stakeholder partnerships, Mr. Saurabh Babu demonstrated how restoring landscapes requires moving beyond project-level interventions towards approaches that recognise the interdependence between forests, agricultural systems, water resources, livelihoods, and local communities.

Introducing the concept of Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR), he explained the importance of planning at a landscape scale rather than treating ecosystems in isolation. Restoration efforts, he noted, must balance ecological objectives with competing land uses, livelihood needs,

water security, and local development priorities. Such an integrated approach enables restoration strategies that are both environmentally effective and socially inclusive.

The RECAP4NDC programme brings together government agencies, technical institutions, and knowledge partners to prepare restoration plans across priority landscapes in India.

These plans identify restoration opportunities, estimate long-term investment requirements, and outline pathways for mobilising finance through public programmes while creating opportunities for CSR, private sector participation, carbon finance, and sustainable value chains. Rather than positioning private investment as an alternative to public action, the programme demonstrates how corporate expertise, innovation, and supply chain engagement can complement government-led restoration efforts.

Drawing on examples from Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, and other



“Landscape restoration succeeds when ecosystems, institutions and communities are restored together.”

project landscapes, the discussion illustrated how restoration strategies are tailored to local ecological contexts. Interventions ranged from mangrove restoration and agroforestry to invasive species management, sustainable agriculture, and community-based value chains. Equally important was the focus on strengthening governance systems that enable institutions to coordinate investments, share responsibilities, and scale successful models across landscapes. The conversation positioned landscape restoration as a shared responsibility requiring

sustained collaboration across governments, businesses, financial institutions, technical experts, and local communities. By aligning diverse stakeholders around common ecological and development objectives, collective action can help transform fragmented restoration efforts into scalable, long-term solutions that strengthen climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable livelihoods.

Mr. Saurabh Babu,
Climate Change Advisor, GIZ India

Climate Adaptation and Rural Resilience: The Next Frontier for CSR and ESG

Climate adaptation is increasingly emerging as one of the most pressing priorities for India's development agenda, particularly for rural communities whose livelihoods remain closely linked to natural resources. Against this backdrop, Mr. Sanjeev Rohilla examined the widening gap between adaptation needs and available financing. While mitigation initiatives such as renewable energy and electric mobility have attracted significant investment, he observed that adaptation continues to receive comparatively limited attention despite its critical role in building long-term resilience.

Drawing on NABARD's experience in rural development and climate finance, he outlined the structural barriers that have constrained investment in adaptation. Unlike mitigation projects, which often present clear commercial opportunities, interventions such as watershed restoration, afforestation, ecosystem regeneration, and climate-resilient agriculture require patient capital, coordinated public

investment, and sustained institutional support. To address this gap, he advocated for blended finance models that combine public funding, concessional capital, CSR investments, and development finance to make adaptation initiatives viable at scale.

The conversation also examined the evolving role of CSR in strengthening climate resilience. Rather than functioning as a substitute for government programmes, CSR can serve as a catalyst by supporting landscape-scale initiatives that generate long-term environmental and social value. Mr. Rohilla encouraged greater convergence between corporates, financial institutions, governments, and development organisations to mobilise resources and accelerate implementation.

Illustrating this approach, he highlighted NABARD's Climate Change Fund and Green Lending Facility as mechanisms that provide financial and technical support for adaptation projects, green enterprises, and

climate-focused innovations. These platforms create opportunities to scale interventions across watershed management, sustainable agriculture, green livelihoods, waste management, and climate-resilient infrastructure. The session concluded with a call to reposition climate adaptation as a strategic investment in India's development trajectory. He reinforced

that building resilient rural economies will require stronger institutional collaboration, innovative financing mechanisms, and a shared commitment to scaling solutions that safeguard both livelihoods and natural ecosystems.

— **Mr. Sanjeev Rohilla,**
Chief General Manager,
Department of Climate Action
and Sustainability, NABARD



**“Investing in adaptation today
is investing in resilient
communities tomorrow.”**

The Collective Action Studio:

Designing What Collaboration Looks Like in Practice

The residency culminated in The Collective Action Studio, an interactive exercise designed to help participants apply the concepts and frameworks explored over the two days to real-world sustainability challenges. Working in four thematic groups: Water, Waste, Energy, and Sustainable Supply Chains, participants developed collective action models that demonstrated how collaboration can be translated into practical and scalable interventions. Each group was tasked with designing a comprehensive implementation

framework. This included defining a shared vision, identifying key stakeholders, establishing governance mechanisms, outlining financing models, developing implementation pathways, and identifying measurable outcomes. Building on insights from the preceding sessions, participants integrated elements such as government convergence, blended finance, community participation, scientific planning, and cross-sector partnerships into their proposed models before presenting them for peer review.



- **Under the theme of Waste**, the team developed a decentralised waste management model centred on source segregation, circular resource recovery, Panchayat-led governance, and community participation. The model aimed to significantly reduce landfill waste through behaviour change and strengthened local ownership.
- **Under the theme of Water**, the team developed Jal Samriddhi, a watershed restoration initiative aimed at strengthening groundwater security in industrial landscapes. The model combined catchment restoration, community-led governance, and convergence with government programmes supported by blended finance mechanisms.

- **Under the theme of Sustainable Supply Chains,** the team developed Aam Bana Khas, an integrated mango value chain model for Ratnagiri. It combined sustainable agricultural practices, water stewardship, infrastructure development, value addition, and market access to enhance farmer incomes while promoting environmental sustainability.
- **Under the theme of Energy,** the team developed Suryashakti, a renewable energy initiative focused on installing solar infrastructure across municipal schools. The model positioned schools as demonstration sites for clean energy adoption while reducing operational costs and fostering climate awareness among students.



The Collective Action Studio demonstrated that effective collaboration extends well beyond financial contributions. It requires shared governance, complementary capabilities, and long-term institutional commitment.

More importantly, the exercise encouraged participants to move beyond standalone CSR projects and design systems-oriented solutions that integrate business priorities, community needs, government programmes, and environmental outcomes. By

simulating real-world decision-making and collaborative problem-solving, the Studio reflected one of the residency's central messages: lasting impact is created when diverse stakeholders align around a shared vision and work collectively towards common goals.

From Dialogue to Action: The CIR Closing Forum

In the concluding remarks for CIR 2.0, Adarsh Trivedi reflected on the collective journey of the two-day programme, bringing together the diverse themes explored across climate finance, Nature-based Solutions, landscape restoration, water stewardship, circular economy, and collaborative governance. He noted that while each session offered a distinct perspective, they converged around a common message: addressing complex sustainability challenges requires integrated thinking, shared ownership, and sustained collaboration across sectors.

He emphasised that the true value of the residency lies not in the exchange of ideas alone, but in the ability to translate knowledge into action.

He encouraged participants to view the relationships, insights, and practical frameworks developed during the residency as the foundation for future collaboration. The conversations initiated during CIR 2.0, he remarked, are intended to continue beyond the residency through partnerships that mobilise resources, strengthen institutional capacities, and scale solutions across landscapes and sectors.

The session concluded with a call to carry forward the spirit of collaboration that defined the residency. More than a platform for dialogue, CIR 2.0 reaffirmed that meaningful climate action is built through collective leadership, long-term commitment, and the willingness to co-create solutions that are resilient, inclusive, and capable of delivering impact at scale.

Way Forward

As climate challenges become increasingly complex and interconnected, the need for collaborative, systems-oriented approaches will continue to grow. Strengthening climate resilience will require sustained convergence between policy, finance, technology, science, and community-led action, supported by partnerships that can translate ambition into measurable outcomes on the ground.

The discussions and collaborative exercises at CIR 2.0 reaffirmed that meaningful progress lies in moving beyond isolated interventions towards integrated models that create long-term environmental, social, and economic value. For CSR, ESG, and development practitioners, this presents an opportunity to embed climate considerations more deeply into programme design, investment strategies, and cross-sector partnerships.

CIR 2.0 represents another step in an evolving journey to strengthen the climate ecosystem by fostering dialogue, knowledge exchange, and collective action. As new opportunities emerge across climate finance, Nature-based Solutions, landscape restoration, and adaptation, the conversations initiated during the residency are expected to continue through partnerships, collaborative initiatives, and future engagements, further advancing the shared objective of building climate-resilient and nature-positive development pathways.



Key Findings & Recommendations

Policy & Governance

1. Climate resilience should be integrated into mainstream development planning through stronger convergence between public policy, private sector capabilities, and community priorities.
2. Landscape- and basin-level planning should be adopted to address interconnected challenges related to water, biodiversity, livelihoods, and climate adaptation.
3. Public policy should enable collaborative governance models that create clear roles, shared accountability, and long-term institutional partnerships across sectors.
4. Climate finance policies should encourage investments in adaptation, Nature-based Solutions, and ecosystem restoration alongside mitigation initiatives.



Implementation & Collective Action

1. Collective action platforms can help align diverse stakeholders around shared environmental outcomes, enabling greater scale and long-term impact than standalone interventions.
2. Nature-based Solutions should be designed to generate multiple co-benefits, including climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, water security, and sustainable livelihoods.
3. Scientific assessments, geospatial tools, and standardised impact frameworks should guide programme design, implementation, and adaptive management.
4. Community ownership, local institutional capacity, and behaviour change should be embedded within programme design to ensure long-term sustainability.



Finance, Measurement & Learning

1. Blended finance models can unlock greater investment in climate adaptation, landscape restoration, and ecosystem resilience by combining public, private, philanthropic, and development finance.
2. Robust monitoring, verification, and impact measurement systems are essential for building credibility, improving decision-making, and attracting long-term investment.
3. CSR and ESG investments should increasingly support collaborative, landscape-scale initiatives that complement government priorities and generate measurable environmental and social outcomes.
4. Continuous knowledge exchange, peer learning, and cross-sector collaboration are essential to accelerate innovation and strengthen the climate action ecosystem.



Annexure A: Speakers' Profile*



Shri. Jayesh Ranjan,

Special Chief Secretary, MA&UD Department and Sports Department, Government of Telangana

Jayesh Ranjan is one of India's most respected civil servants, recognised for his leadership in economic development, investment promotion, governance reform, and public policy. A 1992-batch IAS officer and the All India topper of his batch, he has over three decades of experience driving transformative initiatives across sectors including industry, information technology, tourism, urban development, and public administration. He currently serves as Special Chief Secretary, MA&UD Department and Sports Department, Government of Telangana. In these roles, he leads strategic initiatives to strengthen investment, institutional coordination, and sustainable development while positioning Telangana as a global hub for innovation and enterprise. An accomplished academic, Shri. Ranjan holds degrees from the University of Delhi, IIM Calcutta, and the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, with executive training from Harvard University, the London School of Economics, and the University of Birmingham. He continues to champion collaborative governance that brings together government, industry, academia, and civil society.



Mr. Madhav Pai,

CEO, World Resources Institute India

Mr. Madhav Pai is the Chief Executive Officer of WRI India and a leading voice in sustainable urban development, climate action, and mobility transformation. A civil engineer with a Master's degree in Transport Planning from the University of California, Berkeley, he brings more than two decades of experience in shaping resilient and inclusive cities. Having joined WRI India as part of its founding team in 2008, he has held several leadership roles, including Interim CEO and Executive Director of the Sustainable Cities Program. Under his leadership, WRI India has contributed to landmark initiatives such as the National Electric Bus Program, support to India's Green Hydrogen Mission, and city-level interventions on clean air, sustainable transport, and climate resilience. Madhav has also been associated with pioneering projects including the Indore Bus Rapid Transit System, the Raahgiri movement, and BusKaro, which have influenced urban mobility across India. His work continues to advance systems-based approaches that integrate policy, innovation, and evidence to build climate-resilient cities.



Mr. Sanjeev D. Rohilla,

Chief General Manager Department of Climate Action & Sustainability, NABARD

Mr. Sanjeev D. Rohilla is a senior development banker with over three decades of experience at NABARD, where he has played a pivotal role in advancing rural development, financial inclusion, and institutional innovation. Since joining the organisation in 1992 after completing his postgraduate studies in Economics from Punjab University, Chandigarh, he has led diverse portfolios across Jammu & Kashmir, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Meghalaya, spanning credit planning, data analytics, fundraising, human resources, financial technology, and corporate communications. He was instrumental in launching India's first Aadhaar-enabled Kisan Credit Cards for Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks and later served as the founding CEO of NABFOUNDATION, where he led transformative initiatives in livelihoods, gender equality, water security, and community well-being. Currently, as the head of NABARD's Department of Climate Action and Sustainability, Shri Rohilla is steering the institution's climate strategy to strengthen resilience and promote sustainable rural growth. He also serves on the boards of NCDEX, NABCONS, NABFOUNDATION, and chairs NeML.





Mr. Saurab Babu,
Climate Change Advisor, GIZ India

Saurab Babu is a climate finance and landscape restoration expert with extensive experience in advancing nature-based solutions, climate adaptation, and sustainable land-use strategies. At GIZ India, he leads private sector engagement under the RECAP4NDC programme, strengthening partnerships through CSR, carbon finance, and value-chain initiatives that support both ecological restoration and rural livelihoods. His work spans climate policy, restoration economics, and sustainable agriculture, with notable contributions including the development of a ₹150-crore National Adaptation Fund proposal for climate-resilient tea-growing communities and landscape restoration planning for the National Capital Region. Saurab has also advised organisations on corporate decarbonisation, internal carbon pricing, and net-zero strategies while supporting capacity building on climate policy and carbon markets. Through previous roles with the Global Green Growth Institute and Tea Board India, he has promoted climate-smart agriculture and ecosystem restoration. His work focuses on mobilising finance and partnerships that enable scalable, climate-resilient, and nature-positive development.



Dr. Yash Veer Bhatnagar,
Country Representative, IUCN India

Dr. Yash Veer Bhatnagar is a renowned conservation scientist whose work has significantly advanced biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management across India and the Himalayan region. As the Country Representative of IUCN India, he leads efforts to develop science-driven and inclusive conservation approaches that balance ecological priorities with sustainable livelihoods. With over three decades of experience, he has built strong collaborations among governments, research institutions, local communities, civil society, and the private sector to address complex environmental challenges. Prior to joining IUCN India, Dr. Bhatnagar spent nearly two decades with the Nature Conservation Foundation, where he also served as India Programme Director for the Snow Leopard Trust. His international contributions include coordinating landscape management under the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program across Central and South Asia. Combining rigorous scientific research with extensive field experience, Dr. Bhatnagar continues to champion landscape-scale conservation models that strengthen biodiversity, climate resilience, and community participation.



Dr. Tanya Sharma,
Senior Manager, IORA Ecological Solutions

Dr. Tanya Sharma is a climate and carbon markets specialist with expertise in developing market-based solutions that deliver measurable environmental and social outcomes. As Senior Manager – Carbon Project Development at IORA Ecological Solutions, she leads the design and implementation of carbon projects aligned with globally recognised standards, including Verra's Voluntary Carbon Standard, Gold Standard, and SD VISta. Her work focuses on translating climate commitments into scalable interventions that reduce emissions while strengthening community resilience and sustainable livelihoods. Before joining IORA, she worked with an international carbon project developer, gaining experience in project compliance, stakeholder engagement, sustainable development assessments, and business development across multiple sectors. A PhD scholar from TERI School of Advanced Studies, Dr. Sharma has also collaborated with government ministries, bilateral agencies, and development organisations on initiatives related to clean energy, waste management, and climate resilience. She combines research, technical expertise, and implementation experience to advance practical solutions in carbon finance and climate action.



Annexure B: Participants' Profile*



Mr. Adarsh Trivedi,
AVP and Co lead TGI

The **Godavari**
Initiative

Adarsh Trivedi works at the intersection of government systems, technology, corporate social responsibility (CSR), and development, enabling collaborations that translate public priorities into scalable impact. As Associate Vice President – Government & Technology at CSRBOX, he leads strategic initiatives that strengthen partnerships between governments, corporates, and development institutions.

His work focuses on building convergence between public systems and private resources through technology-enabled solutions, institutional partnerships, and place-based development approaches. He currently co-leads The Godavari Initiative (TGI), a multi-stakeholder platform that brings together government, industry, philanthropy, and knowledge partners to advance resilient and sustainable river basin development. Through his work, Adarsh continues to champion technology, evidence-based planning, and cross-sector collaboration as essential drivers of long-term, systemic social impact.



Ms. Ahona Ghosh,
General Manager – Sustainability (Good & Green), Godrej Consumer Products Limited

 **GODREJ
CONSUMER PRODUCTS**

Ahona Ghosh is a sustainability and partnerships specialist with extensive experience in building collaborative initiatives across the corporate and development sectors. As General Manager – Sustainability (Good & Green) at Godrej Consumer Products Limited, she drives programmes that advance inclusive growth, environmental responsibility, and community well-being. Her career includes leadership roles at Educational Initiatives, World Vision India, Samhita Social Ventures, and Youth Business International in London, where she worked closely with businesses, nonprofits, and ecosystem partners. Ahona is recognised for leveraging strategic partnerships and innovation to deliver scalable solutions that create measurable social and environmental value.



Mr. Akhil Airan,
Regional Manager – Social Impact (India APAC & EMEA), NetApp

 **NetApp**

Akhil Airan is a seasoned sustainability and social impact leader with more than two decades of experience across the insurance, information technology, and automotive sectors. As Regional Manager – Social Impact (India, APAC & EMEA) at NetApp, he leads initiatives focused on digital inclusion, education, environmental sustainability, and community development. Throughout his career, he has established impactful cross-sector collaborations and delivered large-scale programmes that drive measurable social outcomes. His contributions to corporate responsibility have earned national recognition, including India's highest CSR honour conferred by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and presented by the Hon'ble President of India.

*Names are listed in alphabetical order



Ms. Arti Shinde,
Manager – CSR, Godrej Consumer Products Limited

 **GODREJ
CONSUMER PRODUCTS**

Arti Shinde is a CSR and development professional with over 15 years of experience across the corporate, consulting, government, and nonprofit sectors. As Manager – CSR at Godrej Consumer Products Limited (GCPL), she leads initiatives spanning public health, livelihoods, water stewardship, environmental sustainability, and community development. Her diverse career includes roles at Deloitte, Save the Children India, Godrej Agrovet, and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, where she contributed to urban livelihood and poverty alleviation programmes. A PMP-certified professional with expertise in data analytics, Arti adopts an evidence-based approach to designing and evaluating high-impact social initiatives.

*Names are listed in alphabetical order



Ms. Bhagyashree Patil,
Sr Specialist, Community Relations & India CSR Lead, Honeywell

Honeywell

Bhagyashree Patil is a CSR and sustainability professional with over six years of experience in research, compliance advisory, project management, and impact assessment. An alumna of IIT Bombay, she has supported corporates and development organisations in designing responsible social investment strategies, strengthening CSR governance, and measuring programme outcomes. Her previous association with CSRBOX provided exposure to diverse sectors and stakeholder ecosystems, enabling her to contribute to evidence-based and results-oriented interventions. Bhagyashree combines analytical expertise with practical implementation experience to advance sustainable and inclusive development through strategic corporate engagement.



Mr. Bhomik Shah,
CEO & Founder, CSRBOX

CSRBOX
GROUP

Bhomik is a CSR & sustainability professional with over 15 years of experience in handling CSR and social impact advisory services for a few of the largest companies in India. Bhomik was selected for the Commonwealth Fellowship in 2012 which he chose to decline, to continue his work for social impact platform creation in India. After spending a few years with India's leading media houses ETV and Zee Group, he set up CSRBOX group in 2014 to help India INC design and deliver impact-driven CSR projects and account for sustainability principles in their CSR strategy. Bhomik intensively engages with state leaderships and systems for creating collaborative projects in education, employability and environmental sustainability. He is an expert Consulting Group member of the Innovation and Science@Bharat, anchored by the Principal Scientific Adviser, Government of India.



Ms. Divya S,
CSR Specialist, Rakuten India Enterprise Private Limited

Rakuten

Divya S is a corporate philanthropy and social impact practitioner with expertise spanning grantmaking, employee engagement, programme management, and strategic advisory. In her role as CSR Specialist at Rakuten India, she develops initiatives that strengthen community partnerships and create meaningful social value. Her earlier experience with Sattva Consulting, Zerodha, and the Rainmatter Foundation equipped her with a strong foundation in social impact strategy, philanthropic partnerships, and ecosystem development. By combining consulting insight with implementation experience, Divya helps organisations build scalable programmes that respond effectively to evolving community needs.



Mr. Gaurav Chaudhari,
CSR professional, Schaeffler India

SCHAEFFLER

Gaurav Chaudhari is a CSR practitioner with experience delivering development programmes across climate action, livelihoods, education, healthcare, and community development. At Schaeffler India Limited, he leads CSR initiatives across the western region, managing projects that promote sustainable livelihoods, natural resource management, carbon offsetting, and employee volunteering. He has worked closely with NGOs, government institutions, and grassroots organisations to strengthen programme delivery and impact measurement. Earlier roles with THDC India Limited and Antarang Foundation have provided him with valuable field experience, enabling him to combine strategic planning with practical implementation.



Mr. Giresh Mohan,
General Manager – Operations, Social Investments, ITC Limited

Giresh Mohan serves as General Manager – Operations, Social Investments at ITC Limited, where he oversees one of India's largest corporate social investment portfolios. His work focuses on advancing rural livelihoods, climate resilience, natural resource management, and inclusive community development through scalable interventions. With extensive experience in designing and implementing development programmes, he has contributed significantly to strengthening sustainable outcomes across underserved regions. Holding a Master's degree in Forest Economics and Management from the Forest Research Institute, Dehradun, Giresh brings deep expertise in environmental stewardship and community-centred development to his leadership.



Mr. Gourab Majumder,
Zonal Manager – CSR, HDB Financial Services Limited

Gourab Majumder is a CSR professional with nearly a decade of experience managing community development initiatives across western and central India. As Zonal Manager – CSR at HDB Financial Services, he oversees project identification, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation across multiple states, ensuring programmes deliver sustainable and measurable outcomes. His expertise spans grant management, NGO due diligence, CSR compliance, employee volunteering, and impact assessment. Holding a Post Graduate Diploma in Corporate Social Responsibility, Gourab is particularly passionate about documenting and communicating the transformative outcomes of responsible corporate investments through compelling impact narratives.



Ms. Manasi Diwan,
CPO and Lead TGI

Manasi Diwan is a seasoned Development and Environment Sector professional with a master's degree in environmental and development management from the Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal. With over 14 years of experience, Manasi specializes in research and consultancy for Development, CSR, Impact Evaluation, Environment, Healthcare, Education, and Sustainability projects. Currently, she serves as Vice President of Impact Advisory Services at CSRBOX, managing large-scale impact assessment projects. Her previous roles include Principal at Chrysalis Services and Consultant at VRAC Global Services and ClayRoot EcoSolutions. Manasi is recognized for her expertise in project management, data analysis, SROI evaluation, and report writing. She has also contributed to various initiatives through content development, proposal writing, and mentoring interns. Based in India, she is celebrated for her comprehensive approach to sustainable development and impactful research.



Ms. Neelam Gupta,
Vice President – Head of Global Sustainability CoE, Capgemini Technology Services India Limited

Neelam Gupta is a technology and sustainability executive with more than 25 years of leadership experience in digital transformation and responsible business innovation. As Vice President and Head of the Global Sustainability Center of Excellence at Capgemini, she leads the development of sustainability-driven solutions that help organisations integrate ESG priorities into their business and technology strategies. Having built and scaled global cloud, data, and digital transformation practices, she now focuses on enabling decarbonisation through technology-led innovation. Neelam is equally passionate about mentoring talent and building collaborative teams that drive sustainable business growth.





Mr. Nikhil Jogdand,
CSR Project Lead India, Tenneco Clean Air India Limited

Nikhil Jogdand is a CSR and development professional with over a decade of experience in programme management, social research, impact assessment, and community development. As CSR Project Lead – India at Tenneco Clean Air India Limited, he oversees the design and execution of initiatives that generate measurable social outcomes through effective stakeholder engagement and project management. His earlier work with the National CSR Hub at Tata Institute of Social Sciences involved evaluating CSR portfolios and advising organisations on community needs assessments and strategy. Backed by multidisciplinary academic qualifications, Nikhil brings an evidence-driven approach to responsible corporate engagement.



Mr. Prashant Tiwari,
VP & Chief Sustainability Officer, Amara Raja Group

Prashant Tiwari is a sustainability and ESG leader with more than two decades of experience integrating environmental responsibility into business strategy across manufacturing, mining, automotive, consumer goods, and energy sectors. As Vice President & Chief Sustainability Officer at Amara Raja Group, he drives the organisation's sustainability agenda, advancing initiatives in renewable energy, circular economy, climate action, and resource efficiency. His leadership experience includes senior roles at Hindustan Zinc, Vedanta, Hindustan Unilever, Tata Motors, and The Coca-Cola Company. Prashant also contributes to the broader sustainability ecosystem through his association with the United Nations Global Compact India Network.



Ms. Pratima Harite,
Head Corporate Citizenship, Asia Pacific, Lenovo

Pratima Harite is a corporate citizenship leader with nearly three decades of experience shaping philanthropy and community investment across the Asia-Pacific region. As Head – Corporate Citizenship, Asia Pacific at Lenovo, she leads initiatives that promote STEM education, digital inclusion, and youth empowerment through technology-enabled learning. Her distinguished career includes leadership positions at Reliance Capital, Wadia Group, Credit Suisse, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, and Standard Chartered Bank, where she established governance frameworks, strengthened nonprofit partnerships, and advanced employee volunteering programmes. Pratima is widely recognised for building collaborative initiatives that generate sustainable and inclusive social impact.



Ms. Pritika Chand,
Corporate Head – CSR, Jindal Stainless Limited

Pritika Chand is an accomplished CSR leader with nearly two decades of experience driving corporate social investment and community development initiatives. As Corporate Head – CSR at Jindal Stainless Limited, she leads the organisation's social impact strategy, fostering programmes that create sustainable value for communities while supporting responsible business practices. Her career spans both advisory and implementation roles, including close to a decade at KPMG India, where she guided leading organisations on CSR strategy, governance, programme design, and impact measurement. A graduate of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, she also completed the Swedish Institute Executive Management Programme in CSR & Sustainability.





Ms. Roshni Acharya,
CSR Manager, Sandvik Coromant India Private Limited



Roshni Acharya is a development practitioner with over ten years of experience in corporate responsibility, stakeholder engagement, and community programme management. As CSR Manager at Sandvik Coromant India, she leads initiatives that strengthen strategic partnerships, employee volunteering, and inclusive development across diverse thematic areas. Her professional journey combines grassroots implementation with corporate leadership, enabling her to manage programmes from concept to execution while fostering collaboration with government agencies, academic institutions, NGOs, and industry partners. Passionate about people-centred development, Roshni focuses on creating practical solutions that generate enduring value for both communities and organisations.



Ms. Ruchi Birla,
EHS Lead – India Commercial and R&D, Medtronic India



Ruchi Birla is an Environment, Health, Safety, and Sustainability professional with over 15 years of experience advancing sustainability transformation across multinational organisations. As EHS Lead for India Commercial and R&D at Medtronic, she oversees initiatives focused on environmental stewardship, workplace safety, regulatory compliance, and organisational resilience. Previously at Marico, she played a key role in shaping sustainability strategy, lifecycle assessments, resource efficiency programmes, and reporting aligned with global standards. A certified trainer and auditor, Ruchi combines technical expertise with operational leadership to help organisations embed sustainability into everyday business practices.



Ms. Sadhana Pandey,
Sustainability Manager, Capgemini Technology Services India Limited



Sadhana Pandey is an environmental sustainability professional with over 13 years of experience integrating responsible business practices across multiple industries. In her role as Sustainability Manager at Capgemini, she oversees sustainability reporting, ESG data management, environmental compliance, carbon management, and initiatives supporting the company's net-zero ambitions. Her career spans information technology, manufacturing, mining, infrastructure, automotive, and pharmaceuticals, where she has led projects in biodiversity conservation, water stewardship, energy efficiency, and environmental management systems. Sadhana is recognised for developing practical, data-driven sustainability solutions that strengthen organisational resilience and long-term environmental performance.



Ms. Shreya Sudhir,
HOD CSR (India), Bajaj Electricals Limited



Shreya Sudhir has over two decades of experience leading corporate social responsibility and sustainability initiatives across diverse industries. As Head – Corporate Social Responsibility (India) at Bajaj Electricals Limited, she oversees the organisation's CSR strategy, governance, partnerships, and flagship programmes. Earlier, she spearheaded CSR and sustainability efforts for SLB across India and Bangladesh and played a foundational role in institutionalising the CSR function at Bisleri International. With a Master's degree in Social Work, Shreya remains committed to expanding access to safe drinking water, empowering women, strengthening education, and fostering resilient communities.



Mr. Siddhartha Iyer,
CSR professional

Siddhartha Iyer is a social impact professional with more than 19 years of experience in programme strategy, monitoring and evaluation, stakeholder engagement, and partnership development. Throughout his career, he has collaborated with corporates, philanthropic institutions, and nonprofit organisations to design and strengthen initiatives that address complex development challenges. His expertise spans programme design, NGO due diligence, impact assessment, and organisational effectiveness, ensuring accountability and long-term value creation. An Aspire Circle Fellow, Siddhartha champions evidence-based approaches and collaborative action to bridge corporate priorities with community aspirations and deliver sustainable development outcomes.



Ms. Sonal Mehta,
CSR Lead, Mondelez International

With over 15 years of experience across corporate, foundation, and nonprofit sectors, Sonal Mehta has built a strong track record in designing and delivering impactful development programmes. As CSR Lead at Mondelez International, she steers community engagement and social investment initiatives through strategic partnerships and scalable interventions. Her leadership journey includes significant roles at L'Oréal India, Reliance Foundation, NALCO Foundation, and Sterlite Technologies, providing broad exposure to diverse development priorities. Sonal is committed to creating collaborative solutions that combine strategic vision with effective implementation to achieve meaningful and lasting social impact.



Mr. Sumit Kumar,
Head- CSR & Sustainability, Vivo Mobile India Private Limited

Sumit Kumar is a sustainability and social impact leader with over 17 years of experience spanning CSR strategy, ESG integration, climate finance, and development partnerships. As Head – CSR & Sustainability at vivo Mobile India, he leads initiatives that align business priorities with long-term social and environmental value creation. His work has supported corporations, government institutions, and development organisations across sectors including education, healthcare, livelihoods, governance, and gender inclusion. Equipped with advanced training in Climate Finance and Sustainability, Sumit is recognised for developing integrated strategies that strengthen organisational resilience while delivering measurable impact at scale.



Ms. Vidhi Thukral,
Head – ESG, Axis Max Life Insurance Limited

Vidhi Thukral is an environmental law and ESG professional with expertise in sustainability governance, regulatory compliance, and responsible business practices. As Head – ESG at Axis Max Life Insurance, she leads the organisation's ESG strategy, overseeing policy development, sustainability reporting, stakeholder engagement, and governance frameworks. Her professional journey includes key legal and regulatory roles with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board, where she worked on landmark environmental matters. With qualifications in law, environmental policy, commerce, and corporate governance, Vidhi brings a multidisciplinary perspective to advancing sustainable business leadership.



Notes

Notes

Author

Rashi Shukla

Associate Fellow–CEO's Office,
CSRBOX

Contributors

Adarsh Trivedi

Associate Vice President
Government & Technology,
CSRBOX

Designed By

Gatin Juneja

Associate – Communications,
CSRBOX

Atharva Parate

Graphic Designer,
CSRBOX



The Godavari
Initiative

 **CSRBOX**[®]
Doing Good in a Better Way

