

CSR TODAY

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Nearly half of India witnessed extreme rainfall in monsoon 2025



Rajesh Tiwari
Publisher
rt@iccsr.org

The monsoon 2025 caused severe flooding and landslides in India, particularly in the northern states, leading to thousands of deaths, widespread displacement, and extensive infrastructure damage.

Climate change has been making the southwest monsoon wetter, with five out of the last 10 seasons settling with above-normal rainfall – and in 2025 nearly 45% of the country's landmass experienced extreme rainfall, according to a new analysis by Climate Trends.

This comes as a major cause of concern as rains even continue in some places in the second fortnight of October 2025.

The southwest monsoon 2025 recently concluded with 'above-normal' rainfall to the tune of 108% of the long-period average (LPA). This is the second consecutive year in the last decade to record above normal rains. Climate change has a critical role in driving the rainfall on the higher side, according to experts.

In the last 10 years from 2016-2025, five years have registered above normal rainfall, two years recorded normal rainfall and three years witnessed below normal.

India Meteorological Department (IMD) classifies 'normal' rains when the actual monsoon is between 96-104 per cent of the long period average (LPA), while rains over 104 per cent of the LPA are classified as 'above-normal'.

Of India's 727 districts, 328 recorded normal rainfall this season, 186 saw excess, and 67 reported large excess, while 134 faced a deficit and another 67 experienced severe shortfall.

According to meteorologists, the rainfall data over the years clearly shows that most of the rainfall is realised in the form of heavy rainfall. The data depicted below shows that most of the rainfall in the last 12 years has shown an upward trend.

"Monsoon seasons are not the same anymore. The last 10 years have recorded normal to above normal rainfall, with the latter being more prominent. Monsoon amplification and intensification are directly linked to global warming. Global warming has become the biggest driver of the monsoon now. The influence of El Niño and La Niña has been decreasing

in the global warming era. The number of rainy days has decreased, but the quantum of rainfall has increased. Daily quantum of rainfall has undergone a significant change," said KJ Ramesh, former Director General, India Meteorological Department.

"Behavioural patterns of monsoon systems have changed drastically, altering rainfall patterns as well. We now see low pressure areas spending more numbers of days than its average period over the land that too maintaining the strength. This is mainly because of the increased and continuous moisture feed over the land as well. Not just extreme rainfall events have increased but there has also been a rise in cloudburst like conditions as well. This was not the case earlier," said Mahesh Palawat, Vice President, Meteorology and Climate Change, Skymet Weather.

"The present dispensation of disasters across the places situated along the southern rim of the western Himalayas is of serious significance. It is the cumulative addition of precipitation from monsoon, local orographic sources/interactions and glaciers. The series of floods and fury witnessed during the monsoon 2025 is not very common over the region during the monsoon season. It is a combined effect of various effects and impacts of climate change," added Prof A P Dimri, Director, Indian Institute of Geomagnetism.

The monsoon 2025 caused severe flooding and landslides in India, particularly in the northern states, leading to thousands of deaths, widespread displacement, and extensive infrastructure damage.

Several river basins that had remained dormant for years experienced a renewed surge in water levels.

During the four-month-long southwest monsoon season (June-September 2025), a total of 55 sites recorded incidents of Highest Flood Level (HFL) breaches. However, the total number of breach events stands at 59, as four of these sites experienced two separate breaches within the same period. 

Contents

CSR TODAY

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32 | Cover Story

Overshoot: Exploring the implications of meeting 1.5°C climate goal 'from above'



CSR OBITUARY

40 Earth's greatest champion: Conservation world mourns Dr Jane Goodall



CSR INTERVIEW

42 ZEISS on a green mission



CSR LEADERSHIP

45 Suzlon becomes India's first energy company to commit to power all manufacturing facilities with 100% renewable energy by 2030



CSR SUSTAINABILITY

48 IIT Madras and Coal India Limited Launch Centre for Sustainable Energy to Drive India's Net-Zero Transition

AND MORE...

REGULARS:

03 Publisher's note | **05** CSR News | **22** CSR India United |

29 News You Can Use

Robotic Rehabilitation Revolution: Kerala Sets National Example by Installing 'G-Gaiter' at Noolpuzha FHC

This achievement was realized with the installation of the state-of-the-art Robotic Assisted Gait Trainer, 'G-Gaiter', at the Noolpuzha Family Health Center (FHC) in Wayanad district. The facility was officially inaugurated by the Minister for Health Veena George.

George said "Today, we are proud to introduce the advanced version of G Gaiter, which is designed to support both adult and pediatric rehabilitation. During my interaction with a patient named Jagatheesh from Tamil Nadu, I could see the spark in his eyes as he experienced the joy of walking again after a long period. It was a truly moving moment that reflects the impact of such innovations in transforming lives."

This transformative project is being implemented as part of the Chief Minister's Wayanad Special Rehabilitation Package. Given that over 50% of the population in the Noolpuzha Panchayat belongs to tribal communities, the introduction of this advanced medical facility exemplifies social justice and inclusive healthcare. Specialized rehabilitation services, which were previously limited for this community, will now be accessible locally.

Dr. Dahar Mohammed V. P., Medical Officer, Noolpuzha FHC added "The Noolpuzha Family Health Center (FHC) is located in a very backward region. For the people here, approximately 50% of whom belong to the tribal community and



Minister for Health, Smt. Veena George, Government of Kerala at the inauguration of G-Gaiter at Noolpuzha Family Health Center (FHC)

the rest to the most marginalized sections of the general public, we are proud to have made available state-of-the-art robotic rehabilitation facilities, including the G-Gaiter."

Developed by Genrobotics Innovations, a Kerala-based startup that has garnered global attention, the 'G-Gaiter' is a testament to India's burgeoning robotics capabilities in the healthcare sector.

This innovative gait trainer is suitable for both children and adults and is set to revolutionize rehabilitation for patients recovering from gait-related disabilities such as stroke, spinal cord injuries, and cerebral palsy. By providing robotic assistance, the system ensures substantial improvements in natural walking style, balance, coordination,

and functional recovery. This technology has already been in use for over a year at the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PMR) department of Thiruvananthapuram General Hospital.

Dr. Arun John, PMR Consultant, General Hospital, Thiruvananthapuram, stated: "In a prospective crossover study involving 36 stroke patients, significant progress was found in balance and gait function. To date, over 80 patients have benefited from this system."

By incorporating such advanced robotic rehabilitation technology at the primary healthcare center level, the state is strengthening its equitable and progressive healthcare system, ensuring the benefits of modern treatment reach every citizen.

Nagaland University Researchers reveal strong link between Land Use and Water Pollution in Loktak Lake Catchment in Manipur

A Nagaland University study has sounded an environmental alert for Loktak Lake, one of India's most iconic freshwater ecosystems and a designated 'Ramsar Site' in Manipur.

Researchers found that changes in land use — particularly agriculture, settlements, and shifting cultivation — are directly deteriorating the water quality of rivers feeding into the lake, threatening its biodiversity and the livelihoods of local communities.

Loktak Lake is home to 132 plant species and 428 animal species, and supports hydropower, fisheries, transport, and tourism. However, in recent decades, the lake has been listed under the Montreux Record — a global warning list for wetlands undergoing serious ecological damage. Reduced fish populations, rising pollution levels and increased sedimentation have now become growing concerns.

A Ramsar site is a wetland designated to be of international importance under Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. These sites are recognised for their ecological significance, such as supporting biodiversity or providing critical habitat for waterfowl. The convention was signed in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran.

The study was undertaken by Dr. Eliza Khwairakpam of Nagaland University. The findings were published in the *International Journal of Environment and Pollution* (<https://doi.org/10.1504/IJEP.2025.148717>), a peer-reviewed journal publishing

research on environmental contaminants and their impact on health and ecosystems.

Highlighting the need for such studies, Prof. Jagadish K Patnaik, Vice Chancellor, Nagaland University, "Nagaland University takes great pride in the significant research contribution made by our faculty and scholars, revealing the strong link between land use and water pollution in the Loktak Lake catchment area of Manipur.



This study highlights the pressing environmental challenges arising from agricultural runoff, human settlements, and shifting cultivation, which are directly impacting the river water quality in the region. Nagaland University remains committed to promoting research-driven environmental stewardship that informs policy, fosters sustainable livelihoods, and safeguards our natural ecosystems."

To understand the root cause, Nagaland University researchers conducted field sampling across nine major rivers — Khuga,

Western, Nambul, Imphal, Kongba, Iril, Thoubal, Heirok and Sekmai — that drain into Loktak Lake.

Using detailed Land Use Land Cover (LULC) maps, Dr. Eliza Khwairakpam compared different types of land activities such as agricultural areas, dense and degraded forests, settlements, Jhum cultivation and water bodies, against water quality indicators like dissolved oxygen (DO), biological oxygen demand (BOD) and temperature.

Elaborating on the key findings, Dr. Eliza Khwairakpam, Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Science, Nagaland University, said, "Our study confirms that land use decisions across villages and forest landscapes upstream are directly impacting water quality downstream. This makes community-based land management and stricter control of agricultural runoff and waste discharge crucial for restoring Loktak Lake."

Further, Dr. Eliza Khwairakpam added, "Land management is not just an environmental concern but a livelihood protection strategy for the people of Manipur. Catchment-wide land regulation, sustainable agriculture practices and controlled Jhum cycles will be vital for protecting India's only floating national park and the endangered Sangai deer habitat within the lake."

The Nambul River was identified as the most polluted, with low oxygen levels and high organic contamination, directly linked to

47% agricultural land and 11% settlement areas in its sub-catchment. The Khuga River showed the second poorest water quality, despite having higher forest cover. Researchers attribute this to extensive Jhum (shifting) cultivation,

which was recorded at 42% in the region. In contrast, rivers such as Iril and Thoubal, which flowed through greater forest-dominated landscapes, displayed better water quality, highlighting the protective role of natural vegetation.

The research was supported by the Forest Department, Government of Manipur, which provided LULC maps, and the Manipur Pollution Control Board for field assistance. The study was jointly supported by Nagaland University and IIT Delhi.

EIB Global announces more than 5 200 crore in new financing to accelerate water, sustainable transport and green energy projects across India

The European Investment Bank's development arm, EIB Global, is strengthening its longstanding partnership with India with three new financing packages to support clean water, sustainable urban mobility and climate action. Together, the transactions exemplify EIB Global's commitment to India's national development priorities alongside with advancing the EU Global Gateway strategy.

These financing announcements form a key part of EIB Vice-President Nicola Beer's business trip to India in October 2025, aimed at reinforcing strategic partnerships and scaling up sustainable investments across the country. During this visit, Vice-President Beer engaged with government stakeholders, private sector leaders and financial partners to promote innovative financing solutions that support India's green transition, economic growth and development objectives aligned with the EU Global Gateway strategy.

€289.5 million (around Rs 3 040 crore) to support sustainable metros in Nagpur and Pune

EIB Global is providing €240 million for the Nagpur Metro extension and a €49.5 million top-up loan for the Pune Metro. These investments will

facilitate a modal shift to efficient public transport, reduce congestion and pollution, and improve daily commuting for millions of urban residents. The full commissioning in Nagpur is projected to cut transport sector CO₂ emissions by 22%, while Pune's network continues expanding access for over 100 million passengers to safe, green mobility.

\$191 million (around Rs 1 695 crore) loan to upgrade water infrastructure in Uttarakhand

EIB Global is lending \$191 million to the government of India to expand and modernise water supply and sanitation services in the fast-growing state of Uttarakhand. The project will benefit around 900 000 people, including underserved and poor households, by providing new connections, reliable clean water and sanitation, reduced leakage, and improved monitoring .

\$60 million (around Rs 532 crore) investment in India Energy Transition Fund

EIB Global is committing up to \$60 million to the India Energy Transition Fund, managed by EAAA Alternatives, a new private sector initiative targeting a total fund

size of \$300 million. The fund will invest in renewable energy, energy efficiency, transmission, battery energy storage, electric vehicles and circular economy projects. The expected lifetime impact includes approximately 298 million tonnes of CO₂ reduction and the creation of around 38 million job-years for India's future workforce.

These major financing agreements were announced at high-level meetings in New Delhi, in the presence of EIB Vice-President Nicola Beer and senior Indian government officials.

"These three new operations demonstrate the full strength and breadth of EIB Global's partnership with India, delivering real impact across clean water, sustainable transport and the green energy transition. By supporting state-of-the-art metro systems, modernising vital water infrastructure and leveraging new private capital for climate action, we are helping India build resilient, healthy and connected communities for the future. These investments show how Team Europe and the EU Global Gateway strategy are joining forces with Indian partners to unlock sustainable growth, tackle climate change, and improve daily life for millions of people," said EIB Vice-President Nicola Beer.

Girl Rising expands its gender and life skills curriculum in India following global merger reaching 2.5 lakh adolescents over 3 years

Rooted in NEP 2020, the integration responds to rising challenges to girls' rights and education equity reaching adolescents, especially girls, in both in-school and out-of-school settings

Girl Rising, an international nonprofit dedicated to advancing girls' education, has announced its merger with She's the First, a nonprofit focused on girls' rights and mentorship. The merger brings together two proven approaches: education in schools and leadership development in communities to build a more unified, long-term strategy for supporting adolescent girls in India. This marks a strategic step forward to growing their presence, strengthening local partnerships, and delivering long-term sustainable impact.

In 2025, Girl Rising reached over 55,000 adolescents in-person across Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, and engaged nearly 29 lakh adolescents and two lakh teachers digitally through a partnership with the Andhra Pradesh government. Since 2015, the organization has worked across schools and communities in India, delivering storytelling-based programmes that build gender equity, social-emotional learning and life skills. Building on this momentum, the merged nonprofit is now poised to expand into new regions and strengthen its footprint in existing



states through deeper collaboration with local and state governments.

The merger comes at a critical moment. Around the world and in India, progress on gender equity is at risk due to widening funding gaps, rising social pushback and the growing complexity of challenges adolescent girls face. The unified organization responds to these challenges with a more integrated approach that supports girls not only in classrooms but also in their homes and communities. "In the last 10 years, the world has made real progress in getting more girls into classrooms. But access alone is not enough," said Nidhi Shukla, President, Girl Rising. "For lasting change, we need to shift mindsets and build vital life skills so girls can navigate their futures with confidence, resilience and self-reliance.

This merger brings together a shared commitment to ensure every girl has the support to learn and lead with continuity, dignity and purpose."

In India, Girl Rising will continue to deliver life skills education through a dual approach that combines in school programming with community-led mentoring. The curriculum is rooted in the principles of the National Education Policy (NEP 2020), with a focus on social-emotional learning, digital and financial literacy, climate awareness, and gender equity. Programmes are implemented in collabora-

tion with district education departments, teachers and grassroots partners, ensuring that adolescents receive consistent support across the ecosystems that shape their lives.

Looking ahead, the Girl Rising will deepen its presence in India by expanding into new geographies, strengthening partnerships with local governments and tailoring its programmes to the evolving needs of adolescents. By combining school-based education, community engagement and girl-centered leadership development, the organization aims to create a more inclusive, resilient, and future-ready generation. At a time when collaboration is both necessary and overdue, this merger sets out a new standard for how mission-aligned organizations can come together to drive long-term change.

Public-Private Skilling Success: AM/NS India Graduates Honoured at Kaushalya- The Skill University's First Convocation

ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India celebrated the graduation of employees and trainees, who received degrees and diplomas at the first-ever convocation of Kaushalya - The Skill University (KSU), Government of Gujarat.

The landmark ceremony, marking the first convocation since KSU's establishment, was held at the AURA Auditorium, Gujarat National Law University Campus in Gandhinagar.

Distinguished Attendance Highlights Significance of Industry Skilling

The monumental achievement of the AM/NS India graduates was celebrated in the presence of several prominent dignitaries, underscoring the state's commitment to industry-academia partnerships. The convocation was graced by Balvantsinh Rajput, Hon'ble Cabinet Minister – Industry, MSME, Cottage, Khadi & Rural Industries, Civil Aviation, Labour & Employment,

Government of Gujarat, who served as the Chief Guest.

Pankaj Joshi, Chief Secretary, Government of Gujarat & President of Kaushalya – The Skill University, presided over the ceremony.

Ashutosh Telang, Director & Vice

President - HR & Administration, AM/NS India, served as the Guest of Honour at the ceremony. Other distinguished guests included Dr. Vinod Rao, Principal Secretary, Labour, Skill Development & Employment Department, and Chairman, Board of Management, and Dr S P Singh, Director General, Kaushalya – The Skill University.

The significant presence of AM/NS India's graduates, nurtured through its specialized Academy for Skill Development, underscores the success of the company's dedicated Work Integrated Learning Programs (WILPs) designed to create a future-ready workforce for the industry.

Graduating Students & Industry-Aligned Programs: A total of 184 AM/NS India employees and trainees from the company's Academy for Skill Development received their qualifications from KSU:

- Bachelor's Degree in Steel Technology: 107 graduates
- Bachelor's Degree in Green & Renewable Energy: 36 graduates
- Post Graduate Diploma in Steel Technology: 41 graduates



Godrej Properties ranked #1 amongst global residential developers for its ESG practices by the Global Real Estate Sustainability Benchmark, (GRESB)

The Mumbai-based real estate developer has received its highest score of 100 points this year

Godrej Properties Limited, one of India's leading real estate developers, has achieved its highest score of 100 points in the 2025 Global Real Estate Sustainability Benchmark (GRESB).

Godrej Properties has been ranked No. 1 amongst global residential developers, marking a significant milestone and recognition within the industry. The company has participated in the benchmark assessment since 2013. The company's ESG disclosures are prepared in accordance with Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) requirements and are externally assured to meet the highest standards of transparency and integrity.

GRESB is an organization that provides Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) benchmarks for real estate organizations across the world. Each year, GRESB recognizes and celebrates participants from across the world with the expectation that these organizations will help drive ESG improvements across the industry.

Pirojsha Godrej, Executive Chairperson, Godrej Properties Limited, said, "We deeply appreciate this global recognition of Godrej Properties' commitment to environmental, social, and governance principles. We believe that embracing sustainable practices is not only our responsibility but essential to building a better future. We remain fully committed to continuously raising our ESG standards and driving positive change for our communities and the planet."



Hon'ble Minister for Transport and Electricity, Thiru S.S. Sivasankar and Secretary Home, Thiru Dheeraj Kumar, IAS, graced the MoA signing ceremony between Transport Department, Government of Tamil Nadu and Maruti Suzuki to automate 10 driving license test tracks in the state. The MoA was signed by the Transport and Road Safety Commissioner, Tmt. R. Gajalakshmi, IAS and Mr. Tarun Agarwal, Senior Vice President, CSR, Maruti Suzuki.

Maruti Suzuki's Automated Driving Test Track Network in Tamil Nadu



Maruti Suzuki signs Memorandum of Agreement with the Transport Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, to automate 10 driving test tracks under its CSR initiative

Maruti Suzuki India Limited signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Transport Department, Government of Tamil Nadu to set up 10 Automated Driving Test Tracks across the state.

These ADTTs will be located at Marthandam, Tirunelveli, Coimbatore (Central), Madurai (North), Tuticorin, Krishnagiri, Dindigul, Tiruvannamalai, Sivagangai, and Trichy (West) in Tamil Nadu. The locations are based on recommendations from the Transport Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, taking into account the high volume of driving licenses issued and their connectivity to

Automated Driving Test Tracks (ADTTs) to be set up across 10 cities for Light Motor Vehicles (LMV) and Two-Wheelers (TW) driving license testing

Tracks equipped with advanced video analytics, Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) and Harnessing Automobiles for Safety (HAMS) technologies for standardized, technology-driven testing process

nearby cities. The MoA signing ceremony was graced by S.S. Sivasankar, Minister for Transport and Electricity and Dheeraj Kumar, Home Secretary. The MoA was signed by R Gajalakshmi, Transport and Road Safety Commissioner and Tarun Agarwal, Senior Vice President, CSR, Maruti Suzuki.

The ADTTs use video analytics, Radio Frequency Identification (RFID), and Harnessing Automobiles for Safety (HAMS) technologies to enable a technology-enabled, standardized, and objective driving license testing process. This ensures zero human intervention, promotes transparency and adherence to the Central Motor Vehicle Rules.

EnglishHelper and Headword Publishing Partner to Bring AI-Powered English Literacy Solutions for language and subject learning to 400,000 Students Across 7,000 Schools

English Helper Education Technologies Pvt. Ltd. (EnglishHelper) and Headword Publishing Company Pvt. Ltd. (Headword) have signed a landmark agreement to transform English-based learning for school students across India.

Through this collaboration, EnglishHelper's Reading & Comprehension Assistant (RCA) program – an AI-powered, English learning solution – will be integrated into Headword's widely distributed NCERT-aligned educational textbooks. The initiative aims to reach over 400,000 students in 7,000 schools, offering them access to engaging, curriculum-oriented technology-enabled tools that improve students' foundational English literacy skills.

As part of the agreement, students will receive access to their grade-appropriate learning material. Students can practise listening, speaking, reading, writing, and grammar in the context of their syllabus, using RCA. Students receive instant feedback allowing them to understand what they have to do to improve. Students have the option of buying the complete set of grade-appropriate learning material at an affordable annual fee. Teachers will also receive complimentary access to support classroom instruction.

In addition, the partnership introduces AI-powered Subject-Based Learning (SBL), starting with the Science Series for Grades 3 to 8. SBL empowers students to learn their



Deepak Verma, CEO, English Helper

subjects in the language of their choice, enhancing comprehension and improving learning outcomes across the board. SBL leverages RCA's proven learning science features for learning all subjects. Offered to students through an affordable subscription model, the SBL pilot will enable both organizations to assess uptake and plan for expansion across subjects and grades in the coming years.

Speaking on the partnership, Deepak Verma, CEO of EnglishHelper, said, "The collaboration with Headword is a significant step forward in our mission to democratize English learning. By embedding RCA into Headword's trusted ecosystem, we are ensuring that students from all communities can access high-quality, affordable English education. With SBL,

students who are less proficient in English can also learn their subjects with extensive mother-tongue support, making education more inclusive and enabling across-the-board improvement in learning outcomes."

Yash Mehta, CEO of ABP Education, said, "This collaboration marks a transformational moment for education in India. By offering RCA and the pioneering SBL, students will not only strengthen their English literacy but also gain the ability to learn other subjects in the language of their choice. This dual focus on language and subject comprehension represents the future of inclusive education. Together, Headword and EnglishHelper are shaping a learning ecosystem that is innovative, accessible, and aligned with the aspirations of 21st-century learners."

Mahesh Srivastava, President of Headword Publishing, added, "Headword has always believed in combining strong pedagogy with innovation. Our partnership with EnglishHelper empowers teachers and students with future-ready tools. With the introduction of SBL, we are opening new pathways for students to study in the language they are most comfortable with, leading to stronger understanding and better learning outcomes."

This collaboration reflects the shared vision of EnglishHelper and Headword to harness technology, purposeful partnerships, and innovation to reshape learning outcomes for India's next generation.



K Raheja Corp's 'Time Off for Volunteering' Strengthens Inclusion through Tactile Braille Card Making for the Visually Impaired

KRaheja Corp, one of India's leading real estate conglomerates, recently hosted a heartwarming volunteering initiative under its flagship 'Time Off for Volunteering' policy. Bringing together its people from across group companies - Mindspace Business Parks REIT, K Raheja Corp Homes, Inorbit Mall and Chalet Hotels Ltd, the initiative - Tactile Braille Card Making for the Visually Impaired - reinforced the company's commitment to community inclusion, empathy, accessibility, and social impact.

During the workshop, employees explored tactile creativity using threads, textures, toothpicks, ice cream sticks and other materials to craft interactive Braille learning cards depicting animals, fruits, flowers, vegetables, and other everyday objects. These cards are designed to

help visually impaired children engage with the world through touch.

Adding a moving dimension to the session, visually impaired youth joined the event to experience and 'test the accuracy' of the cards firsthand.

Ajay, one of the participants, shared, "Braille is how we see, read,

and connect with the world, it's our language of independence. It felt wonderful to see corporate India take the time to create these cards and understand what they mean to us. Being part of this session was a lovely experience of sharing my world with everyone, and being part of theirs. I love reading Braille





books, and I'm happy that these cards will help younger children begin their own journey with Braille."

The atmosphere turned even more joyful when another visually impaired participant played music during the session, a touching reminder that inclusion is not just about participation, but shared joy and understanding.

Urvi Aradhya, CHRO, K Raheja Corp, said, "At K Raheja Corp, we

believe that meaningful change begins with empathy and participation. This initiative is a perfect example of how creativity and collaboration can make a tangible difference. Seeing our people come together to create learning tools for visually impaired youth truly reflects our culture of care, inclusion, and social responsibility."

Gargi Modi, COO, ConnectFor, added, "It is inspiring to see K

Raheja Corp's people so deeply engaged in understanding accessibility and creating tools that genuinely make a difference. This initiative goes beyond volunteering, it's about building empathy, connection, and a shared sense of community."

The tactile Braille cards were gifted to the NGO for further use.

Through its 'Time Off for Volunteering' policy, K Raheja Corp encourages its people to turn compassion into action, offering paid time off to contribute to causes close to their hearts. Over the years, employees have come together to clean coastlines, paint schools, assemble wheelchairs, design colourful shoes, and much more, creating lasting connections between individuals, communities, and the causes that truly matter.

Reimagining Rebranding: GCI Gives Legacy Waste a Second Life

Transforms outdated brand materials into educational kits for underprivileged children in Mumbai

In a pioneering move that blends brand transformation with environmental and social impact, Generali Central Insurance Company Limited, the newly formed joint venture between Generali Group and Central Bank of India, has launched 'Rebrand with Purpose', a first-of-its-kind initiative that repurposes legacy branded materials into educational kits for underprivileged children.

As part of this sustainability-led rebranding exercise, GCI has

upcycled old stationery, brand collaterals, signages, paper, and other branded materials bearing its previous brand identity into 1,000 thoughtfully curated educational kits. These include notebooks, pencil sets, and learning tools, now being distributed to children in underserved communities across Mumbai.

Commenting on the initiative, Ruchika Malhan Varma, Chief Marketing, Customer and Impact Officer, Generali Central Insurance said: "At GCI, sustainability isn't a checkbox, it's a value we embed deeply into our culture, our strategy, and the way we operate every day. As responsible corporate citizens, we believe that meaningful transformation must reflect not just

in what we say, but in our everyday actions. Rebrand with Purpose is our way of turning legacy into impact - repurposing our past to uplift communities and shape a more sustainable future."

In partnership with NGO Environment Seva, GCI upcycled and recycled legacy branded materials into 1,000 educational kits. These kits were distributed to underprivileged children at a school in Chembur by Mr. Anup Rau, MD & CEO, Generali Central Insurance alongside other leaders of the organization. The initiative reflects GCI's commitment to sustainability and social impact, turning corporate waste into meaningful resources for young learners.



Alakh Pandey's PhysicsWallah Partners with BSF to Extend Educational Support to Families of Serving, Retired, and Martyr Personnel

Education company PhysicsWallah (PW) has partnered with the Border Security Force (BSF) to make quality learning opportunities more accessible for the families of BSF personnel. The collaboration is aimed at enabling children and dependents of serving, retired, and martyred personnel to pursue academic goals through structured scholarships and fee waivers.

Under this initiative, dependents of BSF martyrs and personnel who lost their lives in service will receive a complete tuition fee waiver for PW's online and offline courses. For families of serving and retired BSF members, scholarships of 35% on offline courses and 25% on online programs will be available. The partnership also seeks to ensure transparent verification,

with applications jointly reviewed by BSF and PW teams.

Eligible candidates can apply for support across multiple exam preparation programs, including JEE, NEET, UPSC, SSC, Banking, and other competitive tests offered through PW's digital learning platforms and nationwide network of offline centres.

Alakh Pandey, Educator, Founder and CEO of PhysicsWallah, said, "The Border Security Force represents one of the nation's strongest symbols of service and duty. During my travels, I had the opportunity to speak with an armed forces personnel who shared how, despite their tireless commitment at the borders, many worry about their children's education back home. That conversation stayed with me. This initiative is our humble effort to recognise their

sacrifice by extending educational support to their families. We believe that learning can be a lasting way to empower their children and honour the legacy of BSF personnel."

Daljit Singh Chaudhary, Director General of BSF, shared, "BSF has always focused on welfare initiatives that help BSF families move forward with strength and stability. Through our association with PhysicsWallah, we are creating a channel for our children to access quality education and a wide range of digital and classroom resources that can support their academic aspirations."

Through this collaboration, PW will work towards providing sustained learning pathways that span its diverse academic offerings, ranging from test preparation and skill development to higher education and overseas education programs.

Dabang Delhi K.C. Launches Special Green Jersey Showcasing Team's Commitment to a Sustainable Future

This Pro Kabaddi League season, Dabang Delhi K. C. (DDKC) took a bold step towards sustainability by wearing a special green jersey, becoming the first team in PKL history to do so as part of their groundbreaking partnership with Aavashyak GAME. This first-of-its-kind initiative directly connects on-field kabaddi moments with real-world environmental action, reflecting the team's deep commitment to a greener future.

The Raid for Green campaign transforms every Dabang Delhi K.C. raid point into a tangible impact; every successful raid results in a tree being planted in high-pollution, low-green-cover zones across the NCR. Dabang Delhi K. C. has planted 295 trees so far.

The initiative also aims to inspire fans to join the movement. The "Green Fan of the Match" segment will recognize supporters who share their personal eco-actions, honouring them with a sapling and a digital acknowledgment during home games. A green game for the climate was hosted during the first match of the Delhi leg of the tournament, featuring real-time green metrics and fan pledges.

Speaking about the initiative, Prashant Mishra, CEO of Dabang Delhi K. C., said, "At Dabang Delhi K. C., we've always believed that the power of sport extends beyond the mat. With the Aavashyak GAME initiative, we're turning our kabaddi moments into a force for good, where every raid, every cheer, and every fan action contributes to a cleaner, greener tomorrow. This green jersey is more than just a colour; it's a symbol of our



commitment to climate-positive change." In a thrilling encounter yesterday, Dabang Delhi K.C. entered the mat in their special green jersey, symbolizing their commitment to a greener future, against Puneri Paltan. Despite the absence of captain Ashu Malik, Dabang Delhi's raiders rose to the occasion, showcasing teamwork and determination.



Ajinkya Pawar led the charge with a brilliant Super 10, with the support of Neeraj Narwal, while other raiders contributed crucial points to keep the contest neck-and-neck. The match ended in a nail-biting finish with the scores being Dabang Delhi 38-38 Puneri Paltan.

The special green jersey match during the Delhi leg was the highlight of this campaign, celebrating both the team's strong performance and their success in promoting environmental awareness.

With this initiative, Dabang Delhi K. C. aims to set a new benchmark in Indian sports by positioning kabaddi as a climate-positive sport, showing that small, everyday actions by fans, players, and communities can add up to meaningful, measurable change.



Government of Himachal Pradesh and redBus Join Hands with VisionSpring Foundation to Bring Clear Vision to Remote Himalayan Communities

Government of Himachal Pradesh along with redBus, the world's largest online bus ticketing platform, and VisionSpring Foundation, are extending vision care services to underserved Himalayan communities, aiming to reach 5,000 people through eye screenings, eyeglasses dispensing, eye care referrals, and awareness campaigns in Himachal Pradesh, India.

Government of Himachal Pradesh and redBus is supporting this initiative, which is part of VisionSpring Foundation's broader mission to

address the 55-crore people across India who lack the eyeglasses they need to see clearly, including 30 lakh people in Himachal Pradesh with limited or no access to eye care. Eyeglasses are a proven, cost-effective solution, increasing earning potential by up to 33.4% and boosting productivity by up to 32%. Clear vision can also enhance learning outcomes for children in schools and make roads safer for drivers and transport workers.

From 9 October to 18 October 2025, VisionSpring Foundation team, government officials, eye health

experts, and school children from across the world will trek across the Himalayas, visiting important and remote areas in Shimla and Kinnaur districts such as Shimla, Rohru, Jiskun, Jakha, Rupin Pass, Reckong Peo, and Sangla. The eye-screenings will also be conducted for communities in Chitkul, which is the first village of India, and for drivers on some of the most dangerous roads in the world across the two districts, especially near Reckong Peo. The objective is to take the gift of clear vision through eyeglasses and eye care to these remote and underserved

and raise awareness about the importance of clear vision in the state. The intervention has already started and will continue after the completion of the trek.

Through this initiative, VisionSpring Foundation will provide eyeglasses as part of its: See to Earn program - Equipping working-age adults to increase productivity and income; See to Learn program - helping students improve academic performance; See to be Safe program - Helping commercial vehicle drivers and allied transport workers to drive safely on the mountainous roads.

Building on the Legacy of Clear Vision

The trek also marks a return to the roots of VisionSpring's mission. Jordan Kassalow, the founder of the mission, first began his journey through a trek in the mountains almost two and a half decades ago. This is where he got the inspiration to help people see well by providing them access to eyeglasses. The trek reaffirms the commitment of the VisionSpring mission to ensure that every person has the simple but life-changing gift of clear vision.

Dr. Jordan Kassalow, Founder of VisionSpring's Mission, said: "For more than two decades, VisionSpring's mission has been driven by a simple belief: everyone has the right to see clearly, no matter where they live. The Clear Vision Trek will bring life-changing eyeglasses across some of the most challenging terrain on earth to reach people who need it the most. Every step we take through the Himalayas will not only test our strength but remind us of the greater purpose we share. We're grateful to the Government of Himachal Pradesh, and other partners for helping us turn the spectacular Rupin Pass into a pathway of hope and clear vision for thousands of people."

The Clear Vision Trek - Himalayas (Rupin Pass 2025) was launched

▶ **Eye-Screening of thousands will be conducted across Shimla and Kinnaur districts and eyeglasses will be provided to those who require them.**

▶ **Awareness on the need for clear vision will be created across the state of Himachal Pradesh.**

▶ **The program was launched on World Sight Day 2025 at an event in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, attended by ministers, senior government officials, the private sector, and medical experts.**

▶ **To screen more than 5,000 people in remote Himalayan Communities.**

at an event in Shimla by the Honourable Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Shri Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu. The event was a part of the World Sight Day 2025 celebration in the state. World Sight Day is observed annually on the second Thursday of October (October 9 for 2025) and is a global event meant to draw attention to blindness and vision impairment. The event was attended by ministers, senior government officials, corporates, NGOs, eye care professionals, medical experts, healthcare fraternity, and important dignitaries. The Government of Himachal Pradesh, National Programme for Control of Blindness & Visual Impairment (NPCBVI), redBus, VisionSpring Foundation, World Health Organization (WHO), and Indiahikes are some of the key partners in this initiative.

Anshu Taneja, Managing Director, VisionSpring Foundation, said:

"People in the remote communities in the Himalayas have limited access to eye care, with the majority of people never having had their vision screened before. As we trek across the majestic Rupin Pass, we're excited to take the gift of clear vision to thousands of people, most of whom will receive eyeglasses for the very first time. Eyeglasses are a simple but life-changing intervention, and we're proud that through this initiative will provide the wonder of clear vision to those who need it the most."

Honorable Chief Secretary of Himachal Pradesh, Shri Sanjay Gupta, said: "We commend the efforts of such reputed organisations in partnership with the Government of Himachal Pradesh to conduct eye-screenings and provide eyeglasses to those who need them in some of the most hard-to-reach communities in Himachal Pradesh. Clear vision is essential to help enhance productivity, efficiency, and learning outcomes. It is also vital to maintain quality of life and ensure road safety, particularly in a hilly state like ours. This initiative will not only make a real difference to thousands of people but also create mass awareness in the state about the need for eye-screening, eyeglasses, and eye health. Our government is glad to partner on this important noble initiative, and we wish the trekkers and the eye-screening teams a safe and productive adventure."

Prakash Sangam, CEO, redBus said, "At redBus we have always been committed to innovation and inclusion in ground transport, and these core principles are extended in this initiative. We are very pleased to support Vision Springs in this worthy cause, as they focus on helping underserved communities. We hope that this trek helps in creating a future where people from the Himachali communities receive the tools and support they need to thrive."



CSR as a Strategic Investment: India Inc. Sitting at 1.2Lakh Core Potential

New report shows the emergence of a new ethos in Indian CSR – collaborative, bold, and systemic – to create a multiplier effect in development outcomes

Ten years after CSR was written into law, India Inc stands at a crossroads. CSR has evolved significantly to become a strategic lever for pressing development challenges. By 2035, CSR spending is projected to treble and exceed ₹1.2 lakh crore annually – making it the largest pool of philanthropic capital in the country. This presents a historic opportunity - to reimagine CSR as investment capital to drive systemic change.

Today, The Convergence Foundation (TCF) and its network organisation SCALE launched their report, India Inc. for Building Bharat: How Systemic CSR is Building Enduring Impact for Tomorrow, co-authored with India Impact Sherpas. The event was held at The Quorum in Mumbai, with over 50 corporate

and CSR leaders in attendance. The report documents emerging trends in corporate philanthropy, highlighting the rise of catalytic funding directed to organisations which support governments in strengthening public systems. It analyses 13 CSRs/CSR foundations which have adopted systemic giving models by aligning a proportion of their grantmaking or operating strategy. These foundations have created non-linear impact by using approaches which design proof-points for scale, build ecosystems and capacities, and develop public goods or technology platforms.

CSR spend in FY 2024 was Rs 30,000 crore, whereas the government has had a dominant role as a funder for the social sector, with a Rs 25.7 lakh crore annual social sector spend (8% of India's GDP). In light of

this and the expected growth of the CSR funding pool in the next 10 years, the report argues that CSR can inform government expenditure by enabling innovation among Systems Support Organisations – an emerging cadre of nonprofits which work on finding systemic solutions and provide strategic support to governments.

Unveiling the report, Ashish Dhawan, Founder-CEO of The Convergence Foundation, said “CEOs can set a bold vision by treating CSR as a long-term investment that creates non-linear social returns. To create large-scale impact, hiring a strong CSR leader with a genuine commitment to social impact is one of the most important decisions a business leader can make.” Dhawan called upon CEOs and business leaders to apply a portfolio lens to their entire CSR spend. “A company's CSR can be treated as a portfolio, including a mix of direct, programmatic initiatives, and more systemic initiatives which tackles root causes of social issues. As the corpus of CSR grows in the next

few years, companies can aspire to allocate 10-20% of their portfolio towards long-term bets on systemic initiatives,” Dhawan said.

The report launched at the event highlighted a few critical enablers for systemic CSR:

1. Promoters/business champions personally engaged in shaping philanthropic decision-making

- Cipla promoters shaped Cipla Foundation’s focus on improving the palliative care ecosystem and shaping sector-wide standards of care.
- Bajaj Finserv’s “Skillserv” program – a skilling initiative in the financial sector – was closely shaped by the promoters, and is currently implemented in 400 colleges across 23 states.

2. Robust measurement mechanisms to track the effectiveness and systemic impact of CSR Programs

- Reliance Foundation uses a comprehensive Climate Resilience Index to measure the impact of its Rural Transformation programmes, which has cumulatively reached 21.3 million people over years, on awareness and adoption, strong community networks, and ecosystem restoration.
- Cisco Foundation’s systems strengthening framework measures direct and indirect impact of their programs, especially for its multi-funder initiative – the Future Right Skills Network.

3. Partnerships with governments and other funders to scale CSR initiatives & amplify impact

- HUL’s Project Circular Bharat has a range of partnerships with governments, community organisations, recyclers, startups, and knowledge experts.
- HSBC’s experience with the collaborative model of the Skills for Life programme became a replicable model which informed India’s first Skill Impact Bond with NSDC, for which HSBC also became one of the outcome funders.

“CSR has matured significantly over the last few years, particularly since becoming a legal mandate in 2013. In its second innings over the next decade, there is an opportunity to use CSR as a strategic investment and act as a vehicle for transformative change”, said Govind Iyer, Chair of the CSR Committee at Infosys, and a member of the advisory board at TCF. “This report has spotlighted the journeys of 13 select CSR foundations, creating a powerful precedent that systemic impact is possible through CSR. There are many actionable learnings from the profiled models which are applicable to a wider business and CSR agenda”, he said.

Here’s how Tata Power’s Anokha Dhaaga is Empowering 25,000 Women to Weave Their Dreams into Reality

Navratri is more than just a festival, it is a celebration of the divine feminine, of energy, strength, and creativity that women embody. It is this very spirit that Tata Power’s Anokha Dhaaga nurtures and honours, turning everyday skills into catalysts for real change.

For countless women, whose life once meant being confined to household responsibilities, with limited opportunities to step outside and earn, dependence on others curtailed their confidence and choices. But through Anokha Dhaaga, these women have discovered a new identity, stitched with



resilience, dignity, and self-reliance. What began in 2015 with just 19 women has today grown into a movement of over 25,000 women, 2700

groups, and 19 skill centres. From stitching and beadwork to baking, block printing, and crafting handmade treasures, these women have created their own thriving ecosystem of enterprise.

Their products, including handmade rakhis, torans, nachani biscuits, cookies, chocolates, bags, candles, jackets, and more, now find markets at exhibitions, housing societies, and community events. Festivals like Ganesh Chaturthi, Diwali, and Rakshabandhan have opened even wider doors, with festive demand giving them both income and recognition. This year alone, they proudly supplied over 2,500 rakhis. The earnings from these ventures now fund children’s education, healthcare, and household needs, reducing financial stress while igniting self-confidence. Beyond money, Anokha Dhaaga has given these women what they longed for most, an identity, a voice, and the dignity of being contributors to their families and society.

Anokha Dhaaga is not just about financial empowerment, it is about weaving dreams and restoring dignity. It shows us that empowerment does not always begin in big offices or industries. Sometimes, it begins with a single stitch, a single thread, that becomes the thread of change.

World Sight Day: School eye tests and on-the-spot reading glasses could see India gain ₹3.6 trillion each year, research reveals

To mark World Sight Day on the 9th of October, world-first research reveals that delivering six simple, cost-effective eye health priorities like eye tests in schools and distributing on-the-spot reading glasses could unlock a Rs 3.6 lakh crore for the Indian economy every year, with a Rs 16 return for every Rs 1 invested.

The global Value of Vision report by IAPB, Seva Foundation and Fred Hollows Foundation, was launched during the United Nations General Assembly at a high-level meeting hosted by IAPB and The United Nations Friends of Vision Group.

For World Sight Day, IAPB's Love Your Eyes campaign has launched the exclusive national data showing how India can benefit from prioritising eye health, urging everyone to love their eyes by getting an eye test.

Approximately 70 crore people in India live with avoidable sight loss. The personal and economic costs of sight loss are wide-ranging, including unemployment, lower educational attainment, reduced income, increased caregiving burden that predominantly falls to women, mental ill health, and increased risk of injury and illness.

For India, a Rs 22,100 crore investment in delivery would generate annual gains of over Rs 3.6 lakh crore, including:

- A Rs 2.27 lakh crore boost from improved occupational productivity
- A Rs 78,700 crore boost from increased employment
- Education gains are equivalent to 9,60,000 extra years of schooling

- A Rs 40,800 crore boost from averted caregiving
- Over 827,000 fewer people living with depression
- 65,000 transport injuries and mortalities averted

Behind these figures are real people whose lives are changed when they gain access to sight-saving care. Tula, 19, from Phangulgavhan, Maharashtra, had to drop out of college due to his poor vision before regaining his sight with a pair of glasses.

"When I could not see the blackboard, I thought my dream of studying was over. The day I received my glasses, I felt like I had been given my life back," says Tula.

The report lays out six priority areas for governments to prevent sight loss: early detection through vision screenings in the community, giving out reading glasses on the spot where needed, increasing capacity in the eye health workforce, boost surgical productivity and teams, removing barriers to accessing eye health like cost, distance and stigma, and making cataract surgery even better with innovative training techniques, wider use of biometry and stronger minimum post-operation care standards.

Elizabeth Kurian, Chief Functionary and Trustee of Mission for Vision, India, says:

"Nearly 1 billion people live daily with avoidable sight loss, especially in low- and middle-income countries, limiting their productivity and potential. Investing in vision is not just charity; it is smart economics.

At Mission for Vision, we see every day how a pair of glasses or cataract surgery can restore livelihoods and lift families out of poverty. If we are serious about sustaining growth and equity, eye health must move from the margins to the mainstream of national policy. India's National Programme for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment is a great example of the innovation, financing, and commitment that this landmark case for investment into eye health is calling for."

Peter Holland, CEO of IAPB, says:

"Sight loss is a truly universal problem that impacts every part of our lives. But we have clear solutions. Most sight loss can be prevented with simple and affordable interventions like expanding sight tests, providing glasses and improving cataract surgery. This World Sight Day, we urge everyone, from governments and businesses to schools and families, to make eye health a priority. The evidence is clear: by investing in vision, we invest in our future."

In a world where around 1 billion people live with avoidable vision loss, protecting and prioritising eye health has never been more important. Regular eye checks remain one of the simplest ways to safeguard sight, while broader systemic solutions are essential to ensure everyone, everywhere, has access to the care they need. By valuing our vision and encouraging others to do the same, we can help drive change, unlock human potential, and build a healthier, more productive future.



HungerBox Partners with Great Lakes Institute to Launch 'Bin to Bite' Sustainability Drive

HungerBox, a leading food-tech platform, has partnered with Great Lakes Institute of Management to launch 'Bin to Bite', an innovative sustainability campaign aimed at promoting responsible waste management and recycling on campus. This initiative transforms recyclable waste into rewards, fostering a culture of environmental responsibility among students and staff.

The campaign kicked off with a Mega Launch Event featuring a sapling plantation ceremony led by institute leadership and collection stalls for various waste categories, including paper, plastics, e-waste, and metals. The first 100 participants received vouchers redeemable on the HungerBox app, while others were awarded goodies like saplings and snacks. All contributors

received certificates, reinforcing their commitment to sustainability. Periodic collection drives will continue monthly or bi-monthly at canteen, hostel, and library kiosks, accompanied by awareness activities like quizzes and talks.

Sandipan Mitra, Co-Founder & CEO of HungerBox, stated: "At HungerBox, we believe technology and sustainability can go hand in hand. Through our partnership with Great Lakes on the 'Bin to Bite' initiative, we're taking this belief beyond digital cafeteria management—towards building a culture of responsibility and conscious living. Together, we're making small but meaningful changes that reduce waste, promote recycling, and inspire communities to care for the environment."

Col. Ranjan Prabhu (Retd), Director Administration, Great Lakes

Institute of Management, stated: "At Great Lakes, we see sustainability not as a choice, but as a way of life. With our 'Bin to Bite' initiative, we're making it easy for students and staff to turn the everyday act of recycling into a habit that truly matters. Each piece of waste that gets recycled is more than just trash kept out of a bin—it's a step toward saving resources, cutting down waste, and keeping our surroundings clean. Our goal is simple: to build a campus that doesn't just talk about sustainability but lives it and carries this spirit forward and shapes a future where caring for the planet comes naturally."

The campaign is expected to significantly reduce campus waste sent to landfills, conserve natural resources, and instill lifelong recycling habits. Great Lakes strengthens its reputation as a sustainability-driven institute, while students gain practical insights into the circular economy. Post-event impact reports will highlight collected waste volumes and environmental benefits, sustaining motivation across the campus community.

CSR INDIA UNITED

MoEFCC and MoE Launch Multi-State E-Waste Awareness and Reduction Campaign in Collaboration with UNICEF YuWaah and Bajaj Foundation



As India confronts the challenge of managing an estimated 1.4 million metric tons of electronic waste in FY 2024–25, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), in collaboration with the Ministry

of Education (MoE), YuWaah at UNICEF, and the Bajaj Foundation, on 9th October Bajaj launched the next phase of the E-Waste Awareness and Reduction Campaign under the Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) initiative, marking

World E-Waste Day. Building on the success of the earlier campaign across Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu, which engaged more than 70,000 students across 13 cities, this new phase expands to four states—Haryana, Punjab, Assam, and Rajasthan—and one Union Territory, Chandigarh.

The initiative aims to deepen environmental education and encourage young people to translate awareness into action through school-based engagement, community outreach, and e-waste collection drives that promote responsible consumption and recycling.

Abhishek Gupta, Chief Operating Officer, YuWaah at UNICEF, said: “Building on the success of our earlier campaign, this phase marks a powerful expansion of our partnership with MoEFCC and the Department of School Education and Literacy. Together with the Bajaj Foundation, we are empowering young people as changemakers—translating awareness into meaningful, large-scale climate action for a circular and sustainable future.”

Shohini Dutta, Chief Philanthropy Officer, Bajaj Foundation, shared: “Every child who learns about e-waste today can inspire a family, a school, even a city tomorrow. Our collaboration with MoEFCC, DoSEL, UNICEF YuWaah, and the Meri LiFE platform reflects our shared belief that true change happens when awareness turns into action. Through this initiative, we aim to transform knowledge into collective responsibility and everyday choices into a nationwide movement for a cleaner, more conscious India.”

Pankaj Bajaj, Founder and Director, Bajaj Foundation, added: “The circular economy thrives when citizens and systems work together. Our role is to support and strengthen MoEFCC’s mission by mobilizing communities and schools to make responsible consumption and recycling a part of everyday life.”

India's First LinkedIn Experience Zone launched at Chandigarh University

Chandigarh University, in collaboration with LinkedIn, launched India's first LinkedIn Experience Zone at its campus.

This pioneering initiative transforms university spaces into dynamic career launchpads that empower students to build their professional identities, enhance employability and prepare them for the future of work.

The Experience Zone was inaugurated in the presence of Ruchee Anand, Country Head & Senior Director, Talent Solutions, LinkedIn India, Saba Karim, India Head, Public Sector, Education & Government at LinkedIn, Dr SS Sehgal Pro-Vice Chancellor (Operations) and Registrar, Chandigarh University and Anmol Wahi, Product Marketing Manager, LinkedIn among other dignitaries from LinkedIn team and varsity officials.

The LinkedIn Experience Zone is a first-of-its-kind interactive space that gives students hands-on exposure to AI-driven career tools, guidance on building impactful professional profiles, and access to skill-building resources. This initiative reflects Chandigarh University's commitment to holistic, future-ready education, while leveraging LinkedIn's global platform of over 1.2 billion professionals to connect students with opportunities worldwide.

Ruchee Anand, Country Head & Senior Director, Talent Solutions, LinkedIn India, said, "Many students have the technical training and skills but often lack guidance on presenting themselves effectively to employers. The LinkedIn Experience Zone bridges that gap - helping students create strong profiles, explore AI-powered tools like Interview



Ruchee Anand, Country Head & Sr. Director, LinkedIn India along with Chandigarh University Officials Inaugurating 'LinkedIn Experience Zone at Chandigarh University

Prep and Career Coach and gain industry-relevant skills through LinkedIn Learning. This initiative will support students in unlocking opportunities and become future-ready professionals."

Satnam Singh Sandhu, Member of Parliament and Chancellor Chandigarh University said, "Chandigarh University has collaborated with LinkedIn to launch India's first LinkedIn Experience Zone, designed to professionally guide our students especially freshers who often lack clarity on the latest in-demand skills, how to build a strong online profile, or how to seize opportunities in the job market. This first-of-its-kind initiative will not only help students understand the value of a strong professional profile but also equip them to create one thereby enhancing their employability prospects multifold. It indeed marks a significant step in bridging the gap between academia and industry by integrating technology, experiential learning and global collaboration, empowering our students to become future-ready professionals, prepared to thrive in the age of AI and digital transformation."

Saba Karim, India Head, Public Sector, Education & Government

at LinkedIn said, "LinkedIn has been empowering campuses by providing insights into the world of work, guiding students in upskilling, showcasing emerging trends and helping them acquire the skills needed for the future of work. LinkedIn Experience Zone is your one-stop destination to upskill, build a strong social profile, connect with professionals and create meaningful content. In the Experience Zone, the students will be able to discover top trending skills, align themselves with employability needs and learn from what peers are exploring."

Exhorting students to make the most of the LinkedIn Experience Zone, Karim said, "Make sure to use this space to brainstorm, identify key skills and even try out LinkedIn's AI role-play features to strengthen your professional presence. This is where LinkedIn Campus Ambassadors will guide you in using LinkedIn to build a strong professional profile. Your skills and your personal brand are your superpowers. Keep flexing it, every single day. Do visit LinkedIn at least once a week. Share something fun or insightful about what you're learning or experiencing. It doesn't always have to be serious."



Vedanta Transforms lives of 6 Lakh Women, Catalyses ₹26 Crore in Rural Transformation for Viksit Bharat

Vedanta Limited reaffirmed its decade long commitment to rural women's empowerment, marking the International Day of Rural Women, with a compelling milestone: 6 lakh women have been enabled to transition into micro-entrepreneurship, generating Rs 26 crore in cumulative economic impact.

Vedanta's integrated approach addresses the foundational barriers rural women face: access to capital, capacity development, and market linkages. With initiatives across the country, Vedanta is enabling rural women's transition from economic dependence to enterprise ownership, creating sustainable livelihoods and building resilient communities.

Nearly ₹3 Crore in microfinance loans have been disbursed through over 6,000 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and 10 federations across multiple states such as Rajasthan, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, etc., with a remarkable 95% loan repayment rate that reflects the agency and accountability women exercise when given genuine opportunity. These women have simultaneously received market-relevant skill training through strategic partnerships with institutions including Krishi Vigyan Kendra, and other international organisations, ensuring they move from unemployed to skilled entrepreneurs. Vedanta's Nand Ghar programme engages 2.5 lakh women with early childhood education, nutrition, healthcare, and skill-building

opportunities, ensuring women's empowerment extends to strengthening entire families.

Economic empowerment must be accompanied by social transformation. Through the Bharosa and Uthori folk theatre programmes, Vedanta addresses gender-based social issues head-on. Lakhs of individuals have been reached with awareness campaigns on domestic violence, child marriage, female foeticide, and women's legal rights. The program has formed dedicated groups of adolescent girls focusing on health, education, hygiene, safety, and child rights.

At the heart of Vedanta's women empowerment journey is an expansive SHG-led movement that is enabling women to take charge of

their livelihoods. Hindustan Zinc's Sakhi Project in Rajasthan and Uttarakhand exemplifies this transformation at scale. The project has generated nearly ₹150 crore in credit and savings. Women entrepreneurs under Sakhi have launched brands such as Daichi (edibles) and Upaya (textiles), achieving about lakhs in online sales through popular e-commerce platforms. Sakhis now operate BPCL's first women-run petrol pump in Udaipur, breaking barriers in traditionally male-dominated sectors.

Across other business units, Vedanta continues to catalyse women-led enterprise and community wealth creation. Vedanta Cairn Oil & Gas has enabled rural women in Rajasthan and Assam through the Maru Udaan and Unnati projects,

supporting micro-enterprises such as the Jiji Bai SHG which produces millet cookies, and reviving traditional weaving in Assam, where artisans have seen a 25% rise in income.

In Odisha, Vedanta Aluminium's Subhalaxmi Udyogini empowers SHGs through enterprises like Vedamrit (honey) and VedMurtika (terracotta), while Project Jeevika in Lanjigarh links them to social security schemes. Project Adikala has revived the traditional Etikoppaka lacquerware craft, training women artisans and connecting them to national and online platforms.

Vedanta's commitment to rural women's empowerment transcends individual programs; it embodies a transformative movement that is reshaping India's socio-economic landscape. Through an integrated

approach encompassing financial inclusion, skill development, and market linkages, Vedanta has not only enhanced household incomes but also fortified economic resilience, creating a ripple effect that uplifts entire communities.

By investing in women, Vedanta demonstrates that sustainable development hinges on empowering individuals, not merely allocating resources. This model of community-led development aligns seamlessly with India's vision of a "Viksit Bharat," where inclusive growth and grassroots leadership are paramount. As these empowered women continue to drive change, they are not just participants in development, they are its architects, laying the foundation for a prosperous and equitable future for all.

Mondelez India strengthens its sustainability agenda with climate-tech investment in Promethean Energy

Mondelez India has announced an investment in Promethean Energy, a homegrown climate-tech company focused on decarbonizing industrial heat. The move underscores Mondelez India's commitment to advancing scalable, innovative solutions that address industrial emissions and support the transition to a low-carbon economy.

Promethean Energy leverages proprietary, IoT-enabled technology to capture and reuse waste heat, significantly reducing industrial greenhouse gas emissions. To date, the company's platform has helped abate over 100,000 tons of CO₂ emissions across diverse sectors.

Speaking about the investment, Ophira Bhatia, Vice President, India & Lead, AMEA, Corporate & Government Affairs, Mondelez International, said "At Mondelez, sustainability is embedded into every aspect of our business strategy—it's not an isolated priority. Our investment in Promethean Energy reflects our belief in the power of innovation to accelerate climate action. As we expand our sustainability footprint, we remain focused on measurable progress and long-term impact for both people and planet."

Mr. Ashwin Krishna K P, Head-Energy Efficiency from Promethean Energy Pvt. Ltd. said, "At Promethean, our mission has always

been to decarbonize industrial heat at scale. This partnership with Mondelez is a strong validation of our technology and vision. Together, we will accelerate the transition to low-carbon facilities, showing that sustainability and competitiveness can go hand in hand."

This investment is being made through Sustainable Futures, Mondelez International's global impact investment platform that backs early-stage ventures driving social and environmental innovation. It builds on earlier partnerships such as the Circulate Capital Ocean Fund and reflects Mondelez's broader ambition to embed sustainability across its global value chain.



EnglishHelper Partners with Anko Sourcing and VIDYA Schools to Empower Students with AI-Powered English Learning Solutions

EnglishHelper has partnered with Anko Sourcing to implement the Reading & Comprehension Assistant (RCA) program for students across VIDYA's network of schools in Delhi NCR. The AI-powered English learning platform will benefit 645 students from Grades 4 to 10. This year-long initiative is designed to strengthen English language proficiency and build confidence among learners from underserved communities in Delhi NCR, aligned with NCERT curriculum and CEFR standards.

EnglishHelper is building similar associations with universities, institutions serving underserved communities, corporates, and state governments, extending the impact

of AI-powered English learning to more classrooms and professionals across the country.

Developed by EnglishHelper, the RCA platform uses Artificial Intelligence to deliver structured and personalized learning aligned with both national (NCERT) and international (CEFR) standards. The platform helps students improve reading fluency and comprehension while also building essential language skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

“At EnglishHelper, we believe that every child deserves access to quality education and the opportunity to thrive through language,” says Deepak Verma, CEO of EnglishHelper. “Our continued

partnership with Anko Sourcing and VIDYA Schools reflects our shared commitment to empowering students with the tools they need to succeed on a global stage. The Reading & Comprehension Assistant program is more than a learning solution, it is a step toward bridging the educational equity gap and building brighter futures.”

The program is being implemented in three phases. Phase I enrolled 163 students from Grades 8 and 9 and officially launched on December 30, 2024, followed by an in-person orientation on January 24, 2025. Phase II added 409 learners in April 2025, while Phase III, now underway, will onboard the remaining 73 students by mid-year.



Arjun Puri, CEO, Anko Global



Deepak Verma, CEO, English Helper



Ms. Ila Sarin, Principal, Vidya School

To support multisensory learning, EnglishHelper has equipped VIDYA Schools with 75 high-quality headphones with microphones, enabling students to fully benefit from RCA's interactive features.

A Grade 9 student shared, "Before I joined the RCA program, I struggled with speaking and communicating. Now I can use better vocabulary in daily conversations, improve my pronunciation, and perform better in exams. I have gained the confidence to speak in front of many people."

As part of the rollout, Phase I learners completed placement assessments to establish baseline proficiency levels, mapped to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). They were classified as beginner (A1–A2), intermediate (B1–B2), or advanced (C1–C2) levels to ensure personalized learning.

Early results are highly encouraging. Most students began at an intermediate level, and within a short time nearly 75% improved by at least one CEFR level. Speaking practice showed strong links between frequency and performance, while writing scores reflected high effort and sustained engagement, with many students consistently

achieving strong results. VIDYA Schools, which has long championed education and empowerment, has already seen the benefits. "Language is the foundation of learning and empowerment," said Ila Sarin,

Principal, Vidya School "Through this initiative, our students are gaining access to innovative tools that are transforming how they learn and express themselves."

The program's success has also been made possible through Anko Sourcing's support. Anko Sourcing is the direct sourcing arm of Kmart Group Australia who operate the iconic retail brands, Kmart and Target, much loved by Australian families. Anko Sourcing is committed to give back and contribute to the communities which it operates in by enabling initiatives that create meaningful social impact. "We take pride in supporting charitable organizations like VIDYA in enabling programs that create lasting social impact," said Arjun Puri, CEO of Anko Global. "This collaboration goes beyond teaching English; it builds confidence and opens new opportunities that enable a brighter future for children"

With Phase I learners settling well with the learning, and students from younger grades being enrolled in appropriate programs, EnglishHelper is demonstrating how technology, purposeful partnerships, and innovation can reshape learning outcomes for underserved communities.

- ▶ **645 students from Grades 4–10 in VIDYA Schools, Delhi NCR to benefit from the initiative.**
- ▶ **RCA platform by EnglishHelper uses AI to deliver structured, personalized English learning aligned with NCERT curriculum and CEFR standards.**
- ▶ **As a global edtech company, EnglishHelper is driving local partnerships with universities, corporates, and governments to make accessible English learning & communication opportunities across India.**

Adani Foundation at ACC Bargarh supports rural women towards self-reliance through MSMM programme

ACC, the cement and building materials company of the diversified Adani Portfolio, along with the Adani Foundation is driving empowerment for rural women in Odisha through its Meri Sangini Meri Margdarshika (MSMM) programme. One such inspiring story is that of Soudamini Biswal, a resident of Bargaon village in Bargarh district, Odisha, who has emerged as a pillar of support for women in her community while securing her own livelihood.

Coming from a middle-class rural family of four, Soudamini studied up to the 10th standard and managed household responsibilities with quiet determination. Her life took a transformative turn when she joined the Meri Sangini Meri Margdarshika (MSMM) programme as a Sangini. In this role, she began assisting her gram panchayat with Aadhaar enrolment drives, supporting eligible families in accessing government schemes, and guiding local Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in availing credit facilities.

Today, Soudamini earns between Rs 8,000 and Rs 10,000 per month and has become a trusted resource for women in her village. Her efforts have enabled SHG members to move towards financial independence, while her own journey stands as an example of how grassroots interventions can transform lives. By supporting women like Soudamini, ACC continues to strengthen rural communities and promote inclusive development in Odisha.





DPIIT and Thermo Fisher Scientific Launch BioVerse Challenge

Thermo Fisher Scientific in collaboration with the Startup India, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has launched the BioVerse Challenge - a nation-wide program to fast-track 500 high-potential biotech startups across India over the next three years.

The program, launched at the 7th Biopharma Conclave under the Bharat Startup Grand Challenge, aligns with the Government of India's vision of building a \$300 Billion bioeconomy by 2030 and strengthening India's position as a global technology hub. Thermo Fisher signed a MoU with DPIIT to collaborate on enabling scientific innovation and commercialisation as part of the launch.

"We are privileged to support India's aspirations to build a strong bioeconomy by 2030," said Tony

Acciarito, President, Asia Pacific & Middle East, Africa, Thermo Fisher Scientific. "Through the BioVerse Challenge in collaboration with DPIIT, we continue to empower startups with cutting-edge technologies, expertise, and scientific networks. Together, we are inspiring breakthroughs, strengthening local capabilities, and creating lasting impact for communities across the country."

India has over 10,075 biotech start-ups. They have helped accelerate the bioeconomy to \$80 billion in 2023, and are expected to raise that amount to \$150 billion by the end of this year.

"Through our partnership with Thermo Fisher Scientific, we are fostering deeper collaboration between startups and industry leaders in the biotechnology space," said Shri Sumeet Kumar Jarangal, Director, DPIIT. "Thermo Fisher's

global expertise, combined with Startup India's growing network of recognized biotech startups, will accelerate innovation pipelines, and strengthen our commitment to enable product-focused startups to solve India's healthcare and biotechnology challenges."

The BioVerse Challenge will support early-stage start-ups across biopharma, med-tech, agri-tech, food tech and allied bio-based sectors. Over three years, 100 winning start-ups will receive access to on-site training at Thermo Fisher's upcoming Customer Experience Center (CEC) and Bioprocess Design Center (BDC) in Hyderabad's Genome Valley, both opening by year-end 2025. An additional 400 start-ups will receive off-site mentorship through workshops conducted at research institutes and incubators across the country.

"The BioVerse Challenge reflects our commitment to working closely with early-stage start-ups and bio-incubators across India," said Srinath Venkatesh, Managing Director, India & South Asia, Thermo Fisher Scientific. "Through our upcoming facilities in Genome Valley, we will give founders access to technologies and guidance that can help them move from prototype to product faster. It will enable them to compete globally. In addition, we will support the start-ups through our existing Centers for Innovation at Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Guwahati and Bhubaneswar. The centers have been set up in partnership with leading bioincubators in DBT-supported biotech parks."

A distinguished Advisory Board comprising leaders from business, policy, research, academia, and investment community will guide the BioVerse Challenge's implementation. The board will serve as judges for applications, provide ongoing guidance, and help establish a network of mentors across the country to maximize impact for participating start-ups.

Somaiya Vidyavihar University's REACH Fellowship Focuses on Water Stewardship in Rural India



Somaiya Vidyavihar University (SVU) has launched two rural water projects under its 2024–25 REACH Fellowship, a field-based initiative that places students in underserved communities to lead scientific and sustainable development work. Anchored by the University's Centre for Achieving Sustainable Climate Action, Development and Engagement (CASCADE) and institutionalised under the Somaiya Institute for Research and Consultancy (SIRAC), the 2024–25 cycle is focused on one urgent theme: Water Stewardship.

REACH, short for Rural Engagement for Action through Community-led Holistic Development, is designed to bridge academic research with grassroots realities. The 12-month, full-time, on-location fellowship places students in remote villages within the Somaiya ecosystem, where they work closely with community members to co-develop context-specific, sustainable solutions.

Each project is led by a REACH Fellow (a research-trained SVU student) and a Rural Anchor (a

local community facilitator). While Fellows bring technical insight and field research experience, Anchors ensure local ownership and long-term continuity. Together, they identify issues, gather data, and implement interventions that are both scalable and community-managed.

“The REACH Fellowship reflects what higher education should truly

stand for, relevance, responsibility, and rootedness. It equips students to listen, engage, and co-create solutions with communities. We're not just building researchers, but changemakers who can drive impact where it's needed most, at the grassroots.” Said Dr. V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai, Vice Chancellor, Somaiya Vidyavihar University



This year, two such projects are underway in Palghar (Maharashtra) and Kachchh (Gujarat). One involves the construction of a 10,000-litre ferro-cement rainwater tank and a proposed 18-lakh-litre community farm pond in Haladpada's tribal hamlets. The other focuses on improving water quality in Mota Varnora through pond revival, borewell recharge, natural filtration systems, and awareness campaigns in schools using water testing kits.

The fellows behind these projects — Bhakti Narsale and Prathmesh Gahandule — describe the experience as deeply transformative, both technically and personally. Working in unfamiliar geographies, navigating language barriers, and building trust from the ground up challenged them to step out of their comfort



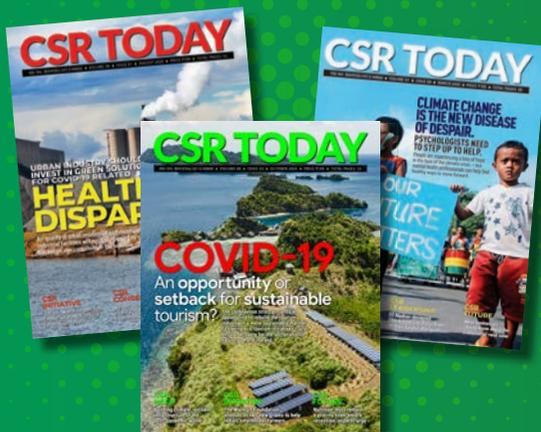
zones and into roles of responsibility. Reflecting on her journey, Bhakti Narsale shared, “We came in as researchers, but we’re leaving with

far more. The REACH Fellowship challenged how we think, how we lead, and how we listen. It taught us that real solutions are never one-size-fits-all; they’re built through trust, empathy, and constant adaptation.” Prathmesh Gahandule further reflected on the experience, adding, “If you want to learn what impact actually looks like, step into the field. Programmes like REACH aren’t just about rural development, they’re about personal growth, about learning to collaborate, and about turning your skills into something that truly serves.”

Both Fellows are working in close collaboration with Anchors, local panchayats, and regional mentors to ensure each solution is technically sound, community-led, and designed for long-term impact.

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OVERSHOOT

EXPLORING THE IMPLICATIONS OF MEETING 1.5°C CLIMATE GOAL 'FROM ABOVE'

THE FIRST-EVER INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE CONTENTIOUS TOPIC OF "OVERSHOOT" WAS HELD IN OCTOBER IN A PALACE IN THE SMALL TOWN OF LAXENBURG IN AUSTRIA, WRITES CECILIA KEATING & ROBERT MCSWEENEY

Nearly 200 scientists and legal experts met to examine the feasibility, risks and legal implications of exceeding the 1.5°C global warming limit – and what it would take to bring temperatures back down. Image: Nadeem Choudhary, CC BY-SA 3.0, viaUnsplash.

The three-day conference brought together nearly 200 researchers and legal experts to discuss future temperature pathways where the Paris Agreement's "aspirational" target to limit global warming to 1.5°C is met "from above, rather than below".

Overshoot pathways are those which exceed the 1.5°C limit – before being brought back down again through techniques that remove carbon from the atmosphere. The conference explored both the feasibility of overshoot pathways and the legal frameworks that could help deliver them.

Researchers also discussed the potential consequences of a potential rise – and then fall – of global temperatures on climate action, society and the Earth's climate systems.

Speaking during a plenary session, Prof Joeri Rogelj, a professor of climate science and policy at Imperial College London, said that "moving into a world where we exceed 1.5°C and have to manage overshoot" was an exercise in "managing failure".

He said that it was "essential" that this failure was acknowledged, explaining that this would help set out the need to "minimise and manage" the situation and clarify the implications for "near-term action" and "long-term [temperature] reversal".

Below, Carbon Brief draws together some of the key talking points, new research and discussions that emerged from the event.

DEFINING OVERSHOOT

The study of temperature overshoot has grown in recent years as the prospects of limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C have dwindled.

Conference organiser Dr Carl-Friedrich Schleussner – a senior research scholar at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) – explained the event was designed to bring together different research communities working on a "new field of science".

He told Carbon Brief:

"If we look at [overshoot] in isolation, we may miss important parts of the bigger picture. That's why we also set out the conference with very broad themes and a very interdisciplinary approach."

The conference was split between eight conference streams: mitigation ambition; carbon dioxide removal (CDR); Earth system responses; climate impacts; tipping points; adaptation; loss and damage; and legal implications. There was also a focus on how to communicate the concept of overshoot.

In simple English, "overshoot" means to go past or beyond a limit.

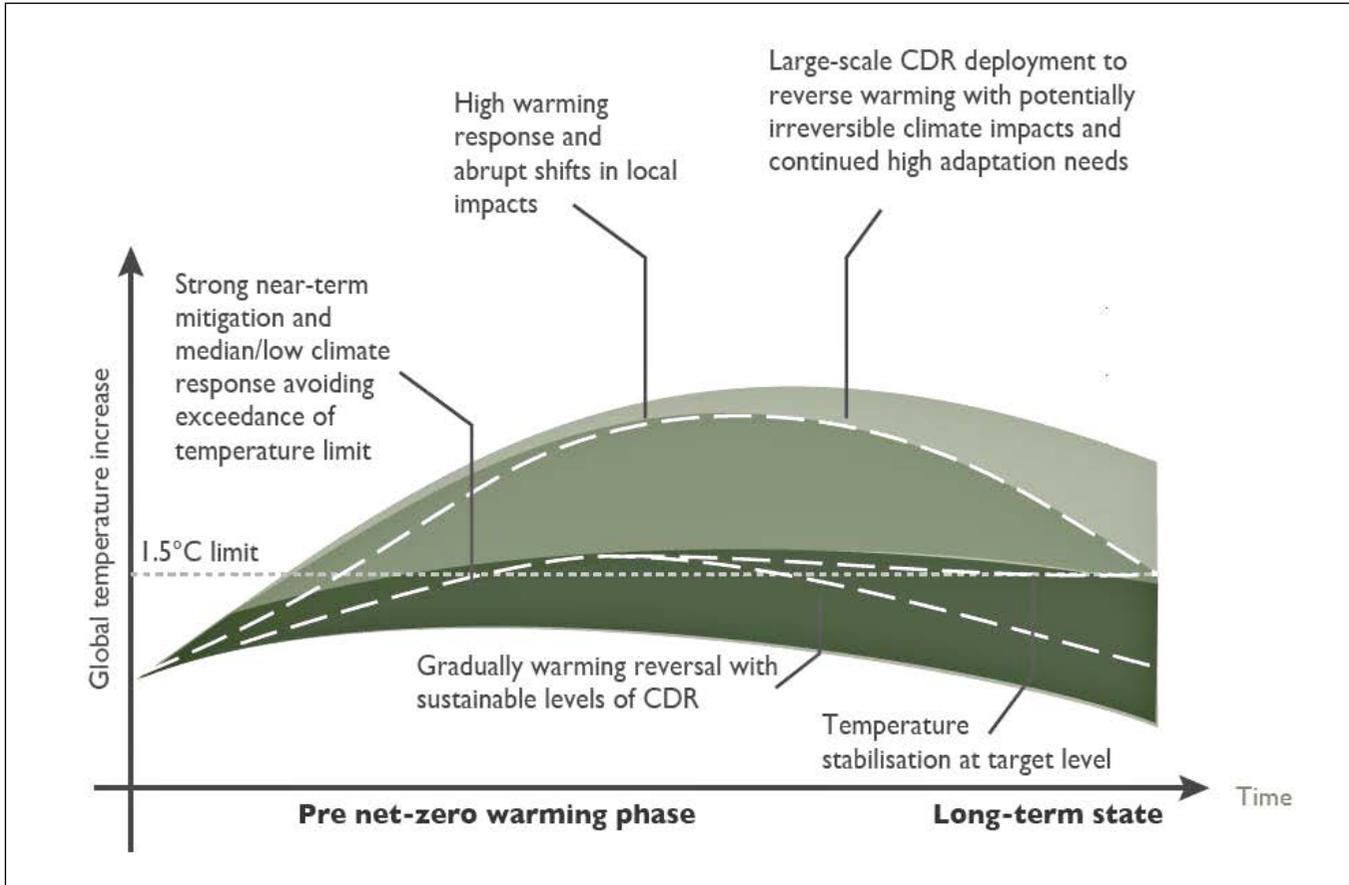
But, in climate science, the term implies both a failure to meet a target – as well as subsequent action to correct that failure.

Today, the term is most often deployed to describe future temperature trajectories that exceed the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C limit – and then come back down.

(In the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC's) fifth assessment cycle, completed in 2014, the term was used to describe a potential rise and then fall of CO₂ concentrations above levels recommended to meet long-term climate goals. A recent "conceptual" review of overshoot noted this was because, at the time, CO₂ concentrations were the key metric used to contextualise emissions reductions).

The plot below provides an illustration of three overshoot pathways. The most pronounced pathway sees global temperatures rise significantly above the 1.5°C limit – before eventually falling back down again as carbon dioxide is pulled from the atmosphere at scale.

In the second and third pathways, global temperature rise breaches



Credit: Amended from Schleussner et al (2024).

the limit by a smaller margin, before either falling enough just to stabilise around 1.5°C, or dropping more dramatically due to larger-scale carbon removals. In an opening address to delegates, Prof Jim Skea, who is the current chair of the IPCC, acknowledged the scientific interpretation of overshoot was not intuitive to non-experts.

“The IPCC has mainly used two words in relation to overshoot – “ex-

ceeding” and “limiting”. To a lay person, these can sound like opposites. Yet we know that a single emissions pathway can both exceed 1.5°C in the near term and limit warming to 1.5°C in the long term.”

Noting that different research communities were using the term differently, Skea urged researchers to be precise with terminology and stick to the IPCC’s definition of overshoot:

“We should give some thought to communication and keep this as simple as possible. When I look at texts, I hear more poetic words like “surpassing” and “breaching”. I would urge you to keep the range of terms as small as possible and make sure that we’re absolutely using them consistently.”

In the glossary for its latest assessment cycle, AR6, the IPCC defines “overshoot” pathways as follows:

Overshoot pathways
AR6

Pathways that first exceed a specified concentration, forcing, or global warming level, and then return to or below that level again before the end of a specified period of time (e.g., before 2100). Sometimes the magnitude and likelihood of the overshoot are also characterised. The overshoot duration can vary from one pathway to the next, but in most overshoot pathways in the literature and referred to as overshoot pathways in the AR6, the overshoot occurs over a period of at least one decade and up to several decades.

IIASA's Schleussner stressed that not all pathways that go beyond 1.5°C qualify as overshoot pathways:

“The most important understanding is that overshoot is not any pathway that exceeds 1.5°C. An overshoot pathway is specific to this being a period of exceedance. It is going to come back down below 1.5°C.”

MITIGATION AMBITION AND 1.5°C VIABILITY

Perhaps the most prominent topic during the conference was the implications of overshoot for global ambition to cut carbon emissions and the viability of the 1.5°C limit.

Opening the conference, IIASA director general Prof Hans Joachim Schellnhuber shared his personal view that “1.5°C is dead, 2°C is in agony and 3°C is looming”.

In a pre-recorded keynote speech, Ralph Regenvanu, Vanuatu's minister for climate change, called for a rejection of the “normalisation of overshoot” and argued that “we must treat 1.5°C as the absolute limit that it is” and avoid backsliding. He added:

“Minimising peak warming must be our lodestar, because every tenth of a degree matters.”

Prof Skea opened his keynote with some theology:

“I'm going to start with the prayer of St Augustine as he struggled with his youthful longings: ‘Lord grant me chastity and continence, but not yet.’ And it does seem that this is the way that the world as a whole is thinking about 1.5°C: ‘Lord, limit warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, but not yet.’”

Referencing the “lodestar” mentioned by Regenvanu, Skea warned that it is light years away and, “unless we act with a sense of urgency, [1.5°C is] likely to remain just as remote”.

Speaking to Carbon Brief on the sidelines of the conference, Skea added:

“We are almost certain to exceed 1.5°C and the viability of 1.5°C

is now much more referring to the long-term potential to limit it through overshoot.”

Schleussner told Carbon Brief that the framing of 1.5°C in the conference is “one that further solidifies 1.5°C as the long-term limit and, therefore, provides a backstop against the idea of reducing or backsliding on targets”.

If warming is going to surpass 1.5°C, the next question is when temperatures are going to be brought back down again, Schleussner added, noting that there has been no “direct” guidance on this from climate policy:

“The [Paris Agreement's] obligation to “pursue efforts” [to limit global temperature rise by 1.5°C] points to doing it as fast as possible. Scientifically, we can determine what this means – and that would be this century. But there's no clear language that gives you a specific date. It needs to be a period of overshoot – that is clear – and it should be as short as possible.”

In a parallel session on the “highest possible mitigation ambition under overshoot”, Prof Joeri Rogelj, professor of climate science and policy at Imperial College London, outlined how the recent ruling from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) provides guidance to countries on the level of ambition in their climate pledges under the Paris Agreement, known as “nationally determined contributions” (NDCs). He explained:

“[The ruling] highlights that the level of NDC ambition is not purely discretionary to a state and that every state must do its utmost to ensure its NDC reflects the highest possible ambition to meet the Paris Agreement long-term temperature goal.”

Rogelj presented some research – due to be published in the journal *Environmental Research Letters* – on translating the ICJ's guidance “into a framework that can help us to assess whether an NDC indeed is follow-

ing a standard of conduct that can represent the highest level of ambition”. He showed some initial results on how the first two rounds of NDCs measure up against three “pillars” covering domestic, international and implementation considerations.

In the same session, Dr Oliver Geden, senior fellow and head of the climate policy and politics research cluster at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs and vice-chair of IPCC Working Group III, warned that the concept of returning temperatures back down to 1.5°C after an overshoot is “not a political project yet”.

He explained that there is “no shared understanding that, actually, the world is aiming for net-negative”, where emissions cuts and CDR together mean that more carbon is being taken out of the atmosphere than is being added. This is necessary to achieve a decline in global temperatures after surpassing 1.5°C.

This lack of understanding includes developed countries, which “you would probably expect to be the frontrunners”, Geden said, noting that Denmark is the “only developed country that has a quantified net-negative target” of emission reductions of 110 per cent in 2050, compared to 1990 levels. (Finland also has a net-negative target, while Germany announced its intention to set one last year. In addition, a few small global-south countries, such as Panama, Suriname and Bhutan, have already achieved net-negative.)

Geden pondered whether developed countries are a “little bit wary to commit to going to net-negative territory because they fear that once they say -110 per cent, some countries will immediately demand -130 per cent or -150 per cent” to pay back a larger carbon debt.

CARBON REMOVAL

To achieve a decline in global temperatures after an initial breach of 1.5°C would require the world

to reach net-negative emissions overall. There is a wide range of potential techniques for removing CO₂ from the atmosphere, such as afforestation, direct air capture and bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS). Captured carbon must be locked away indefinitely in order to be effective at reducing global temperatures.

However, despite its importance in achieving net-negative emissions, there are “huge knowledge gaps around overshoot and carbon dioxide removal”, Prof Skea told Carbon Brief. He continued:

“As it’s very clear from the themes of this conference, we don’t altogether understand how the Earth would react in taking carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere. We don’t understand the nature of the irreversibilities. And we don’t understand the effectiveness of CDR techniques, which might themselves be influenced by the level of global warming, plus all the equity and sustainability issues surrounding using CDR techniques.”

Skea notes that the seventh assessment cycle of the IPCC, which is just getting underway, will “start to fill these knowledge gaps without prejudging what the appropriate policy response should be”.

Prof Nebojsa Nakicenovic, an IIA-SA distinguished emeritus research scholar, told Carbon Brief that his “major concern” was whether there would be an “asymmetry” in how the climate would respond to large-scale carbon removal, compared to its response to carbon emissions.

In other words, he explained, would global temperatures respond to carbon removal “on the way down” in the same way they did “on the way up” to the world’s carbon emissions.

Nakicenovic noted that overshoot requires a change in focus to approaching the 1.5°C limit “from above, rather than below”.

Schleussner made a similar point to Carbon Brief:

“We may fail to pursue [1.5°C] from below, but it doesn’t relieve us from the obligation to then pursue it from above. I think that’s also a key message and a very strong overarching message that’s going to come out from the conference that we see...that pursuing an overshoot and then decline trajectory is both an obligation, but it also is well rooted in science.”

A common refrain throughout the conference was that CDR should not be pursued at the cost of efforts to cut carbon emissions. In a parallel session, Dr Geden noted that “we have to shift CDR from being seen as a barrier to ambition to an enabler of even higher ambition, but not doing that by betting on ever more CDR”.

Among the research presented in the parallel sessions on CDR was a recent study by Dr Jay Fuhrman from the Joint Global Change Research Institute at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory on the regional differences in capacity to deploy large-scale carbon removal. Ruben Prütz, from the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, presented on the risks to biodiversity from large-scale land-based CDR, which – in some cases – could have a larger impact than warming itself.

In another talk, the University of Oxford’s Dr Rupert Stuart-Smith explored how individual countries are “depending very heavily on [carbon] removals to meet their climate targets”. Stuart-Smith was a co-author on an “initial commentary” on the legal limits of CDR, published in 2023. This has been followed up with a “much more detailed legal analysis”, which should be published “very soon”, he added.

IMPACTS OF OVERSHOOT

Since the Paris Agreement and the call for the IPCC to produce a special report on 1.5°C, research into the impacts of warming at the aspirational target has become commonplace. Similarly, there is an abundance of

research into the potential impacts at other thresholds, such as 2°C, 3°C and beyond.

However, there is comparatively little research into how impacts are affected by overshoot.

The conference included talks on some published research into overshoot, such as the chances of irreversible glacier loss and lasting impacts to water resources. There were also talks on work that is yet to be formally published, such as the risks of triggering interacting tipping points under overshoot.

Speaking in a morning plenary, Prof Debra Roberts, a coordinating lead author on the IPCC’s forthcoming special report on climate change and cities and a former co-chair of Working Group II, highlighted the need to consider the implications of different durations and peak temperatures of overshoot.

For example, she explained, it is “important to know” whether the impacts of “overshoot for 10 years at 0.2°C above 1.5°C are the same as 20 years at 0.1°C of overshoot”.

Discussions during the conference noted that the answer may be different depending on the type of impact. For heat extremes, the peak temperature may be the key factor, while the length of overshoot will be more relevant for cumulative impacts that build up over time, such as sea level rise. Similarly, if warming is brought back down to 1.5°C after overshoot, what happens next is also significant – whether global temperature is stabilised or net-negative emissions continue and warming declines further. Prof Schleussner told Carbon Brief:

“For example, with coastal adaptation to sea level rise, the question of how fast and how far we bring temperatures back down again will be decisive in terms of the long-term outlook. Knowing that if you stabilise that around 1.5°C, we might commit two metres of sea level rise, right? So, the question of how far we can

and want to go back down again is decisive for a long-term perspective.”

One of the eight themes of the conference centred specifically on the reversibility or irreversibility of climate impacts.

In his opening speech, Vanuatu's Ralph Regenvanu warned that “overshooting 1.5°C isn't a temporary mistake, it is a catalyst for inescapable, irreversible harm”. He continued:

“No level of finance can pull back the sea in our lifetimes or our children's. There is no rewind button on a melted glacier. There is no time machine for an extinct species. Once we cross these tipping points, no amount of later ‘cooling’ can restore our sacred reefs, it cannot regrow the ice that already vanished and it cannot bring back the species or the cultures erased by the rising tides.”

As an example of a “deeply, deeply irreversible” impact, Dr Samuel Lüthi, a postdoctoral research fellow in the Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine at the University of Bern, presented on how overshoot could affect heat-related mortality.

Using mortality data from 850 locations across the world, Lüthi showed how projections under a pathway where warming overshoots 1.5°C by 0.1-0.3°C, before returning to 1.5°C by 2100 has 15 per cent more heat-related deaths in the 21st century than a pathway with less than 0.1°C of overshoot.

His findings also suggested that “10 years of 1.6°C is very similar [in terms of impacts] to five years of 1.7°C”.

Extreme heat also featured in a talk by Dr Yi-Ling Hwong, a research scholar at IIASA, on the implications of using solar geoengineering to reduce peak temperatures during overshoot.

She showed that a world where a return to 1.5°C had been achieved through geoengineering would see different impacts from a world where 1.5°C was reached through cutting emissions. For example, in

her modelling study, while geoengineering restores rainfall levels for some regions in the global north, significant drying “is observed in many regions in the global south”.

Similarly, a world geoengineered to 1.5°C would see extreme nighttime heat in some tropical regions that is more severe than in a 2°C world with no geoengineering, Hwong added. In short, she said, “this implies the risk of creating winners and losers” under solar geoengineering and “raises concerns about equity and accountability that need to be considered”.

After describing how overshoot features in the outlines of the forthcoming AR7 reports in his opening speech, Prof Skea told Carbon Brief that he expects a “surge of papers” on overshoot in time to be included.

But it was important to emphasise that a “lot of the science that people have been carrying out is relevant within or without an overshoot”, he added:

“At points in the future, we are not going to know whether we're in an overshoot world or just a high-emissions world, for example. So a lot of the climate research that's been done is relevant regardless of overshoot. But overshoot is a new kind of dimension because of this issue of focus on 1.5°C and concerns about its viability.”

ADAPTATION

The implications of overshoot temperature pathways for efforts to prepare cities, countries and citizens for the impacts of climate change remains an under-researched field.

Speaking in a plenary, Prof Kristie Ebi – a professor at the University of Washington's Center for Health and the Global Environment – described research into adaptation and overshoot as “nascent”. However, she stressed that preparing society for the impacts associated with overshoot pathways was as important as bringing down emissions.

She told Carbon Brief that there were “all kinds of questions” about how to approach “effective” adaptation under an overshoot pathway, explaining:

“At the moment, adaptation is primarily assuming a continual increase in global mean surface temperature. If there is going to be a peak – and, of course, we don't know what that peak is – then how do you start planning? Do you change your planning? There are places, for instance when thinking about hard infrastructure, [where overshoot] may result in a change in your plan.”

IIASA's Schleussner told Carbon Brief that the scientific community was only just “beginning to appreciate” the need to understand and “quantify” the implications of different overshoot pathways on adaptation.

In a parallel session, Dr Elisabeth Gilmore, associate professor in environmental engineering and public policy at Carleton University in Canada, made the case for overshoot modelling pathways to take greater account of political considerations.

“Not just, but especially, in situations of overshoot, we need to start thinking about this as much as a physical process as a socio-political process...If we don't do this, we are really missing out on some key uncertainties.”

Current scenarios used in climate research – including the Shared Socioeconomic Pathways and Representative Concentration Pathways – are “a bit quiet” when it comes to thinking about governance, institutions and peace and conflict, Gilmore said. She added:

“Political institutions, legitimacy and social cohesion continue to shift over time and this is really going to shape how much we can mitigate, how much we adapt and especially how we would recover when adding in the dimension of overshoot.”

Gilmore argued that, from a social perspective, adaptation needs are

greatest “before the peak” of temperature rise – because this is when society can build the resilience to “get to the other side”. She said:

“Orthodoxy in adaptation [research] that you always want to plan for the worst [in the context of adaptation, peak temperature rise]... But we don’t really know what this peak is going to be – and we know that the politics and the social systems are much more messy.”

Dr Marta Mastropietro, a researcher at Politecnico di Milano in Italy, presented the preliminary results of a study that used emulators – simple climate models – to explore how human development might be impacted under low, medium and high overshoot pathways.

Mastropietro noted how, under all overshoot scenarios studied, both the drop to the human development index (HDI) – an index which incorporates health, knowledge and standard of living – and uncertainty increases as the peak temperature increases.

However, she said “the most important takeaway” from the preliminary results was around society’s constrained ability to recover from damage.

“This percentage of damages that are absorbed is always less than 50 per cent. So, even in the most optimistic scenarios of overshoot, we will not be able to reabsorb these damages, not even half of them. And this is considering a damage function which does not consider irreversible impacts like sea level rise.”

Meanwhile, Dr Inês Gomes Marques from the University of Lisboa in Portugal, shared the results of an as-yet-unpublished study investigating whether the Lisbon metropolitan area holds enough public spaces to offer heatwave relief to the population under overshoot scenarios. The 1,900 “climate refugia” counted by researchers included schools, museums and churches. Marques noted that most of the population were

found to be within one kilometre of a “climate refugia” – but noted that “nuances” would need to be added to the analysis, including a function which considers the limited mobility of older citizens.

She explained that the researchers were aiming to “establish a framework” for this type of analysis that would be relevant to both the science community and municipalities tasked with adaptation. She added:

“The main point is that we need to think about this now, because we will face some big problems if we don’t”.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND LOSS AND DAMAGE

Significant attention was given throughout the conference to the legal considerations of the breach of – and impetus to return to – the Paris Agreement’s 1.5°C warming limit.

This included discussions about how the international legal frameworks should be updated for an “overshoot” world where countries would need to pursue “net-negative” strategies to bring temperatures down to 1.5°C.

There were also discussions around governance of geoengineering technologies and the fairness and justice considerations that arise from the real-world impacts of breached targets.

The conference was being held just months after the ICJ’s advisory opinion that limiting temperature increase to 1.5°C should be considered countries’ “primary temperature goal”.

IIASA’s Shleussner told Carbon Brief that the opinion provided “clarity” that countries had a “clear obligation to bring warming back to 1.5°C”. He added:

“We may fail to pursue it from below, but it doesn’t relieve us from the obligation to then pursue it from above.”

Prof Lavanya Rajamani, professor

of international environmental law at the University of Oxford, insisted that “1.5C was very much alive and well in the legal world”, but noted there were “very significant limits” to what could be achieved through the UN Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) – the global treaty for coordinating the response to climate change – both today and in the future.

Summarising discussions around how countries can be pushed to deliver the “highest possible ambition” in future climate plans submitted to the UN, Rajamani urged delegates to be “tempered in [its] expectations of what we’re going to get from the international regime”. She added:

“Changing the narratives and practices at the national level are far more likely to filter up to the international level than trying to do it from a top-down perspective.”

In a parallel session, Prof Christina Voigt, a professor of international law at the University of Oslo, pointed out that overshoot would require countries to aspire beyond “net-zero emissions” as “the end climate goal” in national plans.

Stabilising emissions at “net-zero” by mid-century would result in warming above 1.5°C, she explained, whereas “net-negative” emissions are required to deliver overshoot pathways that return temperatures to below the Paris Agreement’s aspirational limit. She continued:

“We will need frontrunners. Leaders, states, regions would need to start considering negative-emission benchmarks in their climate policies and laws from around mid-century. There will be an expectation that developed country parties take the lead and explore this ‘negativity territory’.”

Voigt added that it was “critical” that nations at the UNFCCC create a “shared understanding” that 1.5°C remains the “core target” for nations to aim for, even after it has been exceeded. One possible place for

such discussions could be at the 2028 global stocktake, she noted.

She said there would need to be more regulation to scale up CDR in a way that addresses “environmental and social challenges” and an effort to “recalibrate policies and measures” – including around carbon markets – to deliver net-negative outcomes.

In a presentation exploring governance of solar radiation management (SRM), Ewan White, a DPhil student in environmental law at the University of Oxford, said the ICJ’s recent advisory opinion could be interpreted to be “both for and against” solar geoengineering.

Countries tasked with drawing up global rules around SRM in an overshoot world would need to take a “holistic approach to environmental law”, White said. In his view, this should take into account international legal obligations beyond the Paris Agreement and consider issues of intergenerational equity, biodiversity protection and nations’ duty to cooperate.

Dr Shonali Pachauri, research group leader at IIASA, provided an overview of the equity and justice implications that might arise in an overshoot world.

First, she said that delays to emissions reductions today are “shifting the burden” to future generations and “others within this generation” – increasing the need for “corrective justice” and potential loss-and-damage payments.

Second, she said that adaptation efforts would need to increase – which, in turn, would “threaten mitigation ambition” given “constrained decision-making”.

Finally, she pointed to resource consumption issues that might arise in a world of overshoot:

“The different technologies that one might use for CDR often depend on the use of land, water, other materials – and this, of course, then means competing with many other uses [of resources].”

A separate stream focused on loss and damage. Session chair Dr Sindra Sharma, international policy lead at the Pacific Islands Climate Action Network, noted that the concept of loss and damage was “fundamentally transformed” by overshoot – adding there were “deep issues of justice and equity”.

However, Sharma said that the literature on loss and damage “has not yet deeply engaged with the specific concept of overshoot” despite it being “an important, interconnected issue”.

Sessions on loss and damage explored the existence of “hard social limits” under future overshoot scenarios, insurance and the need to bring more factors into assessments of habitability, including biophysical and social-economic constraints.

COMMUNICATION CHALLENGES AND NEXT STEPS

At the conference, scientists and legal experts collaborated on a series of statements that summarised discussions at the conference – one for each research theme and an overarching umbrella statement.

IIASA’s Schleussner told Carbon Brief that the statements represented a “key outcome of the conference” that could provide a “framework” to guide future research.

Nevertheless, he noted that statements are a “work in progress” and set to be “further refined” following feedback from experts not able to attend the conference.

At the time of going to press, the overarching conference statement read as follows:

“Global warming above 1.5°C will increase irreversible and unacceptable losses and damages to people, societies and the environment.

“It is imperative to minimise both the maximum warming and duration of overshoot above 1.5°C to reduce additional risks of human rights violations and causing irre-

versible social, ecological and Earth system changes including transgressing tipping points.

“This is required by international law and possible by removing CO₂ from the atmosphere and further reducing remaining greenhouse emissions.”

Conference organisers also pointed delegates to an open call for research on “pathways and consequences of overshoot” in the journal *Environmental Research Letters*. The special issue will be guest edited by a number of scientists who played a key role in the conference.

Meanwhile, communications experts at the conference discussed the challenges inherent in conveying overshoot science to non-experts, noting potential confusion around the word “overshoot” and the difficulties in explaining that the 1.5°C limit, while breached, was still a goal.

Holly Simpkin, communications manager at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, urged caution when communicating overshoot science to the general public:

“I don’t know whether ‘overshoot’ is an effective communication framing. It is an important scientific question, but when it comes to near-term action and the requirements that an ambitious overshoot pathway would ask of us, emissions are what are in our control.

“We could spend 10 more years defining this and, actually, it’s quite complex...I think it’s better to be honest about that and to try to be more simple in that frame of communication, knowing that this community is doing a wealth of work that provides a technical basis for those discussions.” 

This story was published with permission from Carbon Brief.

(Source: <https://www.eco-business.com/news/overshoot-exploring-the-implications-of-meeting-15c-climate-goal-from-above/>)



The world mourns Dr Jane Goodall, whose groundbreaking research on chimpanzees and tireless advocacy for conservation, human rights and hope inspired millions across generations. Image: World Bank Photo Collection, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Flickr.

EARTH'S GREATEST CHAMPION CONSERVATION WORLD MOURNS DR JANE GOODALL

Global conservation leaders honour Goodall's legacy as a scientist, humanitarian and advocate who redefined species conservation and empowered millions through her message of hope.

Dr Jane Goodall, founder of the Jane Goodall Institute, a United Nations Messenger of Peace and world-renowned primatologist, conservationist and humanitarian, died on 2 October, at the age of 91. She passed away in her sleep from

natural causes, the Jane Goodall Institute confirmed.

"Dr Jane Goodall was a remarkable example of courage and conviction, working tirelessly throughout her life to raise awareness about threats to wildlife, promote conservation, and inspire a

more harmonious, sustainable relationship between people, animals and the natural world," the institute said in a statement.

Goodall was best known for her groundbreaking 65-year study of wild chimpanzees in Gombe, Tanzania, where she discovered

that chimpanzees use tools. Over the decades, her work expanded far beyond primatology. She became a leading global advocate for animal welfare, human rights, environmental protection and youth empowerment through her Roots & Shoots programme. Founded in 1991 and now with over 60 chapters globally, Roots & Shoots has served as an incubator of sorts, empowering young people to effect positive change in their communities.

Tributes for Goodall have poured in from conservation leaders, policy-makers and global advocates.

“With deep gratitude and sorrow, we say goodbye to Jane Goodall – a woman whose life was a living testament to compassion, courage and tireless hope,” said Christiana Figueres, former UN climate chief and architect of the Paris Agreement. “She taught us to listen to the voices of the forest, to honour the lives of all beings, and to remember that every small action matters. Her legacy is not only in the chimpanzees she so lovingly studied, but in the millions of hearts she awakened to reverence for nature and responsibility for our shared future.”

Mark Suzman, chief executive of the Gates Foundation, said: “Jane Goodall was a true champion for our planet and all of its inhabitants. Jane may have been best known for her groundbreaking work with animals, but I was always inspired by her unwavering advocacy for the health of people, from protecting the natural world to fighting for polio eradication efforts. Her legacy will live on in the millions she reached with her work.”

Ani Dasgupta, president and CEO of research nonprofit World Resources Institute, added: “Today, we mourn one of Earth’s greatest champions. Dr Jane Goodall’s life reminds us that curiosity, courage, and compassion can change the world. From her groundbreaking discoveries about chimpanzee



Dr Jane Goodall forever changed how people think about, interact with and care for the natural world. Her passing is a profound loss for our movement and our planet.

– DR DANIELA RAIK
Interim CEO, Conservation
International

behaviour in Gombe to founding the Jane Goodall Institute and inspiring generations through Roots & Shoots, she showed us how deeply humans and nature are intertwined.”

Kaveh Madani, director of the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health, noted Goodall’s global solidarity: “Beyond her groundbreaking research and conservation leadership, Dr Goodall used her voice to stand with those defending the environment in the most difficult circumstances. She was a steadfast advocate for Iranian environmentalists during their unjust imprisonment, giving them visibility and hope at a time of great hardship.”

Azzedine Downes, president and CEO of the International Fund for Animal Welfare, called her “an everlasting force for good.” He said: “Dr Goodall has ignited a global movement spanning continents and touching generations, where compassion and the fundamental power of hope form the pillars of our collective humanity.”

Conservation International also paid tribute. “Jane Goodall forever changed how people think about, interact with and care for the natural world. Her passing is a profound loss for our movement and our planet,” said interim CEO Dr Daniela Raik. “Her legacy lives on, not just through memories and accolades, but in the sense of belief she inspired in many: that we can reverse climate change, halt biodiversity loss and repair the natural world.”

Born in London in 1934 as Valerie Jane Morris-Goodall, she arrived in Tanzania in 1960 under the guidance of paleoanthropologist Louis Leakey, who encouraged her early research despite her lack of formal academic training. Her observations evolved into one of the longest-running wildlife studies in history, and her work has since inspired countless scientists, conservationists and young activists.

Throughout her career, Goodall received some of the world’s highest honours, including being named a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire, a United Nations Messenger of Peace, and a recipient of the US Presidential Medal of Freedom. She authored 27 books, appeared in major documentaries, and continued to travel and campaign well into her later years, including her 90th birthday “Hope” global tour last year across Asia, including Singapore and Malaysia. Earlier this year, she appeared on the cover of Vogue Philippines and Tatler Singapore.

Her enduring message – that “every single one of us makes a difference every day – it is up to us as to the kind of difference we make” – continues to guide the work of the Jane Goodall Institute, Roots & Shoots, and countless individuals inspired by her life. 🌱

(Source: <https://www.eco-business.com/news/earths-greatest-champion-conservation-world-mourns-dr-jane-goodall/>)



DHAVAL RADIA
Chief Financial Officer (India)
ZEISS Group

ZEISS ON A GREEN MISSION

In an exclusive interview with **CSR Today**, **Dhaval Radia**, the Chief Financial Officer, ZEISS India, passionately speaks about multiple initiatives of the company right from sustainability, greening mission, education, healthcare.

Q Sustainability is no longer a strategic option but an operational necessity. How does ZEISS view this in the Indian context, especially for sectors with significant environmental impacts?

A At ZEISS, we firmly believe that the era of intention has passed, and we must now take measurable action. As

a company owned by a foundation, we aim to integrate sustainable added value into our business activities, focusing on innovative solutions that support positive societal development and enable long-term profitable growth. In sectors such as manufacturing and infrastructure, where environmental impact is substantial,

setting clear emission reduction targets and incorporating them into core business strategies is crucial.

Q Could you elaborate on how CSR fits with your global values and recent initiatives?

A Our CSR efforts are centered on three primary areas: Education,

Healthcare, and Environment & Sustainability. The initiatives in India align with our global values. Over the last few years, we have focused on making our local corporate social responsibility and sustainability programs meaningful and impactful. With our fast-expanding manufacturing operations in India, a major priority has been the sustainability of our environmental footprint. We also aim to contribute to the well-being of communities near our manufacturing and office locations.

Q Can you tell us about a recent environmental project ZEISS has started in India, especially given the increasing manufacturing footprint?

A One important project we recently initiated is creating a forest cover in Pali - a degraded area in Rajasthan. As India's manufacturing footprint expands, not just for ZEISS but for the entire ecosystem, it is essential to increase tree plantation and forest development, particularly in areas facing pollution and land degradation. We identified and collaborated with Enviro Creators, an agency responsible for establishing Miyawaki forests across India, to develop a Miyawaki forest on nearly 2 acres of barren land in Pali, Rajasthan.

Miyawaki forests enable 30x more carbon sequestration compared to monoculture plantations and require intensive care only for the first 2-3 years (watering, mulching, occasional weeding). After this, the plantation becomes self-sustaining and expanding. Notably, Miyawaki method of forestation are denser, faster-growing, more biodiverse, and more climate-resilient than typical single-species or sparse plantations. They are like a "forest time machine" - compressing decades of growth into just a few years.

Q Why was Pali, Rajasthan, selected for this Miyawaki Forest initiative?

A Pali has a rich history of textile



Scale of the afforestation project. As far as you can see.



The emerging ZEISS ReLeaf project - Miyawaki forest. The "current" picture.



ZEISS Forest. Early growth in 3 months.

manufacturing, which has, regrettably, caused significant pollution and compromised the health of local rivers and soil due to the uncontrolled release of dyes and chemicals. This has led to severe environmental degradation in the region. This project is part of a collective effort by various companies, including ZEISS, to restore vegetation and heal the ecosystem in this heavily exhausted area. We are contributing to the conservation of two acres by planting around 32,000 trees and funding their maintenance for three years, after which the forest will become self-sustaining.

Q Are there other environmental initiatives ZEISS India is pursuing beyond reforestation?

A Yes, we also have a unique program focused on resource efficiency and waste reuse. A large part of our raw materials arrives in wooden boxes. Instead of discarding them, which would contribute to landfills, we have partnered with local vendors to transform these wooden boxes into school benches. We donate these benches to government schools, particularly around our operations in Karnataka, where such facilities are often lacking. This effort not only reduces waste but

also provides essential support for educational infrastructure.

Q Could you elaborate on your healthcare initiatives, especially for underserved communities?

A One of ZEISS’s major healthcare initiatives in India focuses on providing quality eye care in rural and underserved regions. Through the Aloka Vision Programme by ZEISS, a dedicated full-time entity, the team of optometrists conduct extensive eye screening camps in collaboration with 25+ NGOs across India. This program has facilitated around 3.5 million screenings, offering free eye exams and subsidized frames and lenses to those in need, directly addressing a significant healthcare gap in many communities.

We have also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Karnataka for the two-year “Vidya Drishti” eye-testing campaign. This joint effort will deploy optometrists from both ZEISS and the state government, along with the “ZEISS Aloka Van – a mobile eye screening unit” in the Kalaburagi district. The goal is to screen approximately 532,000 schoolchildren aged 5 to 16 and provide them with prescription glasses. Additionally, the drive aims to reach around 600,000 underprivileged individuals over 39, further strengthening ZEISS’s impact on public health in the area.

Q How is ZEISS contributing to education for underprivileged children?

A We have a successful and innovative program that repurposes laptops from our offices that are no longer in use. Instead of letting them become electronic waste, we extend their life by donating them to bright and deserving children in government schools near our operations. This helps close the digital divide, giving these children access to education, information, and awareness. Over the last year, we have distributed nearly 100 laptops



The team. In white is Dr. R.K. Nair, the man known to have planted 129 Miyawaki forests - highest in the world.



Barren, polluted land everywhere. The “before” picture.



On the right is ZEISS plantations. On the left is how regular, barren soil is in this area.

through this program, generating considerable excitement within local schools and communities.

Q Given ZEISS’s remarkable nearly three-decade journey in India, what insights and advice would you share with other organizations in India to help them enhance their social impact?

A At ZEISS India, we have learned that lasting social impact isn’t about quick solutions; it comes from deep and ongoing engagement with communities. Our approach starts with listening carefully and co-creating solutions that are grounded in local realities and needs. We design initia-

tives that truly empower communities, moving beyond mere short-term support. Sustainability is a key principle in all our work, ensuring long-term benefits. Collaborating with governments, NGOs, and other organizations significantly enhances the scale and effectiveness of our solutions. Strong governance is crucial for ensuring accountability and achieving tangible results. By embedding social responsibility into our organizational culture, we encourage purpose-driven innovation and a strong commitment to these efforts. At ZEISS India, social impact is a continuous journey driven by empathy, intent, and shared responsibility. 



SUZLON BECOMES INDIA'S FIRST ENERGY COMPANY TO COMMIT TO POWER ALL MANUFACTURING FACILITIES WITH 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY BY 2030

Joins the prestigious RE100 Initiative by Climate Group and Carbon Disclosure Project, strengthening global leadership in sustainable manufacturing

Suzlon Group, India's No.1 Wind Energy Solutions provider, has become the first Indian energy company to join the prestigious RE100 Initiative—a global movement led by Climate Group in partnership with CDP (Carbon Disclosure Project). Suzlon has pledged to use 100% renewable energy by 2030

at all 15 manufacturing facilities, reinforcing its leadership in clean, responsible manufacturing.

This milestone is part of Suzlon's broader decarbonization roadmap — achieving Carbon Neutrality (for Scope 1 and 2 emissions) by 2035 and Net Zero (Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions) by 2040. Scope 1 covers direct operational emissions, Scope

2 covers indirect emissions from purchased electricity, and Scope 3 spans the entire value chain — from suppliers to the lifecycle of products. With this commitment, Suzlon is embedding sustainability into the very core of its operations, staying true to its founding purpose of combating climate change.

JP Chalasani, CEO Suzlon Group said, "Joining RE100 is a powerful affirmation of our belief that true leadership in renewable energy begins at home — in how we run our own operations. We are not just delivering clean power to the world; we are ensuring that every megawatt we produce is backed by a manufacturing process powered entirely by renewables. This commitment is both a responsibility to the planet and a promise to future generations — to lead by example, to innovate without compromise, and to embed sustainability into the DNA of everything we do."

Over the last year, Suzlon has made significant progress in advancing its ESG goals, with clear and measurable achievements. The company reached 92.87% carbon neutrality at even plant level in Rotor Blade Unit, Dhule being powered by 100% renewables, reflecting its strong commitment to environmental stewardship. It achieved a 17.19% reduction in energy intensity compared to FY 2023–24 and has cut Scope 1 and Scope 2 emission intensity by 88.51%. Furthermore, renewable energy consumption increased by 80.7%, highlighting Suzlon's dedication to sustainable and efficient growth.

RE100 comprises over 400 of the world's most prominent companies across industries, all unified by the ambition to transition to 100% renewable electricity. Suzlon has been included as first Gold Member from India advancing its commitments towards low carbon, sustainable future. 



SUSTAINABILITY TRENDS 2025

82% of organizations now plan to increase investment in environmental sustainability in the next 12–18 months as a core future-proofing strategy

The majority of organizations have been affected by climate disruption, yet executives are struggling to actively prepare for increased climate risks

The fourth edition of the Capgemini Research Institute's report, "A world in balance 2025: Unlocking resilience and long-term value through environmental action," finds that organizations remain committed to sustainability despite global uncertainty. In fact, three quarters of them say it is a core future-proofing strategy for their organizations to drive long-term competitiveness, innovation, and resilience. However, the report reveals a gap between perceived

preparedness and actual resilience, suggesting organizations are confusing planning with concrete climate adaptation.

Organizations continue to prioritize sustainability despite global uncertainty

More than 4 in 5 organizations are planning to increase investment in environmental sustainability, up 8pp since last year. Compliance with regulations remains the lead factor driving sustainability initiatives, followed by business value – such

as profitability, cost savings, and operational efficiency. Despite the business case, two thirds of executives say they are under increasing pressure to demonstrate credible, science-based progress. Yet only 21% of organizations have developed detailed transition plans with interim targets and capital allocation. Internally, progress is hindered by budget constraints, inadequate data and measurement systems and operational silos. Externally, nearly two thirds of executives agree that geopolitics is currently slowing

down sustainability investments and projects, a share that is stable since last year.

Climate strategies are in place, but execution remains limited across organizations

In today’s global environment characterized by global warming and climate disasters, organizations are feeling the strain of climate impacts,

“Although sustainability regulations are putting less pressure on organizations, business leaders still see sustainability as a core driver of business value. However, with global uncertainty and constrained budgets, many companies are facing a reality check,” says Cyril Garcia, Head of Global Sustainability Services and Corporate Responsibility, and Group Executive Board Member at Cap-

sustainability, AI has its own environmental impact. 57% of executives acknowledge that generative AI’s (Gen AI) environmental impact is being discussed in boardrooms, but less than a third report having taken steps to mitigate it. The research indicates that there is a growing caution around its environmental footprint, with the number of executives believing that the benefits of Gen AI outweigh its environmental costs dropping from 67% in 2024 to 57% in 2025.



So far, only



with more than seven in ten executives reporting disruptions to supply chains, noting further disruptions to production, and suffering from raw material shortages. Additionally, two-thirds foresee difficulties in managing insurance or financial risks. While the majority say they prioritize climate adaptation, more than half consider their organization underprepared for the impacts of climate change. The disconnect between perceived readiness and actual resilience suggests that few organizations are taking adequate tangible action, with only 38% upgrading infrastructure, 31% shifting production to less climate-vulnerable regions and only 26% redesigning products.

gemini. “With climate risks increasingly high on the corporate agenda, business leaders need to adopt a pragmatic, operational approach and urgently implement concrete, financed transition and adaptation measures. This will not only build true resilience, but also fuel innovation and competitiveness.”

AI’s environmental footprint under closer scrutiny

AI is playing a significant role in advancing sustainability, with nearly two thirds of executives reporting that their organizations use AI to achieve their sustainability agenda. However, despite its ability to process data, reduce resource consumption and create efficiencies to help drive

A widening credibility gap between brands and consumers

On the consumer front, skepticism is rising sharply – more than six in ten (62%) consumers believe companies are engaging in greenwashing, up from a third in 2023 and over half in 2024. Further, more than three quarters believe corporations should do more to reduce GHG emissions. This highlights the need for transparent and evidence-backed sustainability communication. In addition, only a quarter of consumers consider sustainable products affordable, and just 16% feel they have access to sufficient sustainability information.

Report Methodology

The Capgemini Research Institute conducted a global survey in June and July 2025, reaching 2,146 executives from 716 organizations – each with over \$1 billion in annual revenue and a combined annual revenue of approximately \$10.7 trillion – across 13 countries in North America, Europe, and Asia-Pacific, and spanning 12 industries and sectors. Additionally, the Institute surveyed 6,566 consumers aged 18 and over across the same countries and conducted interviews with 15 senior executives from leading organizations worldwide.



Representatives from IIT Madras and Coal India with the MoU at CIL Office in Kolkata on 22nd Oct 2025.

IIT MADRAS AND COAL INDIA LIMITED LAUNCH CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY TO DRIVE INDIA'S NET-ZERO TRANSITION

This strategic partnership will establish a world-class centre of excellence focusing on low-carbon energy innovation, leveraging coal assets for India's energy security and sustainability goals

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) is partnering with Coal India Limited (CIL) to launch a Centre for Sustainable Energy to accelerate India's transition toward

a low-carbon and sustainable energy future.

This strategic collaboration will focus on ensuring India's long-term energy security while supporting the national commitment to achieve Net-Zero Emissions by 2070.

The Centre for Sustainable Energy will serve as a Centre of Excellence, fostering cutting-edge research, innovation, and technology development for sustainable energy solutions. It will bring together institutions and industries



Prof V Kamakoti (3rd L), Director, IIT Madras & Mr Achut Ghatak, Director (T) & Mr P M Prasad, Chairman, Coal India, & exchange MoU at CIL Office in Kolkata on 22nd Oct 2025.

from across India and the world to develop economically viable and environmentally responsible pathways for the optimal use of India's energy resources, both in the short and long term.

An MoU for this collaboration was signed on by Prof. V. Kamakoti, Director, IIT Madras, and Mr Achut Ghatak, Director Technical in the presence of P. M. Prasad, Chairman, Coal India Limited and the leadership and stakeholders from both organizations.

Welcoming this partnership, Prof. V. Kamakoti, Director, IIT Madras, said, "Industry-academia collaborations have been a cornerstone of IIT Madras' journey toward leading India's transition to a low-carbon economy. Our partnership with Coal India Limited epitomises our commitment to this cause. Together, we aim to develop scalable and impactful solutions that support our nation's sustainable energy future."

"This MoU marks a historic step in Coal India's journey toward sustainable growth. Through this collaboration with IIT Madras, Coal India aims to generate indigenous solutions that

ensure energy security, decarbonization, and socioeconomic progress," said Prasad.

This new centre will be led by Prof. Satyanarayanan Seshadri, Head, The Energy Consortium, IIT Madras, and Prof. Rajnish Kumar, Head, The School of Sustainability, IIT Madras.

The Centre will focus on establishing excellence in sustainable energy, positioning itself as a world-class hub addressing the complex challenges of India's energy transition. It aims to keep the future of Coal India and the country's broader energy security and development agenda at the core of all research and innovation activities.

Coal continues to form the foundation of India's energy security, contributing to over 85 percent of the nation's energy needs. However, it also holds the key to enabling India's transition toward sustainability.

As the country's pre-eminent energy resource provider, Coal India Limited is uniquely placed to evolve into an energy provider of the future by leveraging its vast

assets, including land for renewable energy projects, spent mines for innovative repurposing and storage, and coal resources as feedstock for clean fuels, chemicals, and high-value materials.

The Centre's research will span four major focus areas:

1. Sustainable Materials and Circular Economy,
2. Mine Repurposing and Fleet Electrification,
3. Environmental Remediation and Pollution Control, and
4. Materials for Energy Storage from Coal.

The initial phase of projects will include the development of sustainable polymer composites using coal additives, recovery of valuable minerals and metals from solar panel and battery recycling, safe electrification of vehicles and mining equipment, assessment of mine-to-data centre conversions, exploration of energy storage opportunities in mined-out zones, and feasibility studies for Micro Modular Nuclear Reactors (MMR).

Other research efforts will focus on bio-based micromotors for the photocatalytic removal of pollutants from coal mine wastewater, and the development of coal-derived bulk and two-dimensional graphenic materials for advanced electrodes and membranes. These efforts aim to create futuristic materials such as bipolar plates, carbon paper, and carbon felt for next-generation clean energy applications.

By combining Coal India's industrial scale and operational experience with IIT Madras' research and innovation leadership, the Centre will develop solutions that are technically feasible, economically viable, environmentally sustainable, and socially responsible. This partnership represents a historic opportunity to redefine India's energy landscape and position Coal India Limited as a global leader in innovation-driven sustainability. 

TRUSTWORTHY SUSTAINABILITY DATA IS VITAL, SAY GLOBAL BODIES

ACCA and the Internal Audit Foundation have issued joint research that highlights how robust and accurate data underpins organisations' sustainability strategies and identifies steps for success

In a world of data, which information to trust and in what circumstances is a key business issue, especially when it comes to sustainability-related data.

The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and the Institute of Internal Auditors' (IIA) Internal Audit Foundation have explored the issues and opportunities for businesses and other organisations and have prepared a practical report that offers recommendations and an action plan.

The new report Internal control over sustainability data reveals that there is a real opportunity for accountancy, finance and internal audit professionals to drive the sustainability agenda by applying internal control principles to sustainability-related data. Together they can deliver strategically important, meaningful work and make a strong contribution to building sustainable businesses, which are essential for the future of the capital markets, the global economy and the planet.

Helen Brand OBE, chief executive of ACCA, said: 'Trust in sustainability data is vital if we're going to be successful in driving forward a more sustainable world, and a robust and effective approach to internal controls inside businesses is crucial to achieving this. Through this leading-edge research, we're equipping

accountancy, finance and internal audit professionals with the knowledge they need for the evolving sustainability landscape.'

Anthony J. Pugliese, President and CEO of The Institute of Internal Auditors, said: 'By focusing on how we apply internal controls to sustainability data, our professions can collectively strengthen trust, support better decisions, and help build truly sustainable businesses. This report offers a clear path forward and a compelling call to action for accountancy, finance, and internal audit professionals to lead the way.'

By focusing on how we apply internal controls to sustainability data, our professions can collectively strengthen trust, support better decisions, and help build truly sustainable businesses.

Drawing on interviews with more than 50 accountancy, finance and internal audit professionals, along with responses from over 900 survey respondents, the report has three key messages:

- The nature of the process flows related to sustainability data require a reappraisal of the accepted internal control concepts to ensure they are applied appropriately.
 - Successful implementation of internal control over sustainability data fundamentally relies upon the executive and management of the organisation embedding sustainability objectives as core strategic objectives, monitored by robust key performance indicators (KPIs).
 - Data ownership that embraces internal control must be established, especially in areas where control consciousness is not fundamental to personal conduct, and all those involved in internal control must have the appropriate skill sets to fulfil their responsibilities.
- The research was conducted as part of a long-standing memorandum of understanding between ACCA and The Institute of Internal Auditors (The IIA). Under the agreement, the two bodies are focused on advancing their members' careers, enhancing governance practices, and serving the public interest. 

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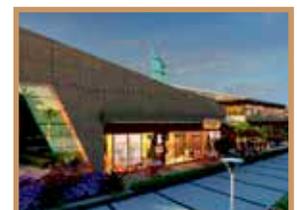
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