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One-fifth population face influence of climate change



Rajesh Tiwari
Publisher
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At least one in five people globally felt a strong climate change influence every day from December 2024 to February 2025, a fact that is very concerning.

The new analysis by Climate Central reveals that human-induced climate change — driven primarily by the burning of coal, oil, and methane gas — raised temperatures and increased extreme heat across the globe over the past three months.

In half of the 220 countries analyzed, the average person experienced temperatures strongly influenced by climate change for at least a month (30 days or more), according to the report by Climate Central, a non-advocacy, non-profit science and news organization providing authoritative information to help the public and policymakers make sound decisions about climate and energy.

In 287 cities worldwide, residents felt the influence of climate change on temperatures for at least a month (30 days or more).

Nearly 394 million people were exposed to 30 or more days of risky heat added by climate change, 74% of whom live in Africa. Risky heat days are defined as days with temperatures hotter than 90% of local temperatures recorded from 1991 to 2020.

"Climate change is not a distant threat but a present reality to millions," said Kristina Dahl, VP of Science at Climate Central.

"The increasing frequency and severity of heat events around the world reveals a dangerous pattern of


heat exposure that will only worsen if the burning of fossil fuel continues," Dahl said.

India ranked fifth in the top 10 countries in Asia with the highest average temperature anomalies.

From December 2024- February, over 358 million people across 12 states in India experienced daily average temperatures that were strongly influenced by climate change (defined as CSI 2 or higher) for at least one-third of the season (30 or more days).

More than 150 million people in the Indian states of Maharashtra and Mizoram experienced average temperatures that were 1.6°C above their 1991-2020 normals, the highest across India.

Humans have caused global average temperatures to increase by 1.2°C (2.2°F) since 1850. But people do not experience global average temperatures. Instead, we mainly experience climate change through shifts in the daily temperatures and weather patterns where we live. Climate Central's Climate Shift Index (CSI) system quantifies the local influence of climate change on daily temperatures around the world.

The CSI is grounded in peer-reviewed attribution science and was launched by Climate Central in 2022. The data is accessible via our free map tool — explore the map for temperatures today, tomorrow, and any day this past year. 

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Godrej Paves the Way for a Sustainable Future with Water-Saving Innovations

Ahead of World Water Day, Godrej Enterprises Group (GEG) reaffirmed its commitment to enhancing climate resilience and preserving natural ecosystems vital for global water security. Aligning with this year's theme—Glacier Preservation—the company focuses on mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, a primary driver of glacier melt, to protect freshwater sources and dependent ecosystems. Recognizing the industrial sector's pivotal role in combating climate change, Godrej has integrated sustainability into its operations through emission reduction, resource conservation, and eco-conscious practices.

Tejashree Joshi, Head of Environmental Sustainability, Godrej Enterprises Group emphasized, "Water has always been the lifeline of communities and economy from ancient ages to date. Preserving precious resources and their sources is both a social and economic imperative. Recognizing this, Godrej has been at the forefront of implementing innovative water conservation strategies, setting benchmarks in the industry. Our early adoption of rainwater harvesting and wastewater recycling not only preserves precious resources but also ensures that communities and ecosystems thrive. By integrating sustainability into our operations, we are actively creating pathways to secure the planet and people thereby contributing to the economy's growth."

Water conservation is a key aspect of Godrej's sustainability initiatives. The company has achieved over 50% reduction in specific water usage

across its operations since it started accounting for its water footprint way back in 2010-11. Notably, the company has also implemented robust rainwater harvesting systems across its facilities in India, collecting runoff from rooftops and open spaces to replenish underground aquifers. At its Vikhroli campus in Mumbai, the company boasts an annual recharge capacity of over 4,25,000 cubic meters.



Godrej Enterprises Group Effluent Recycling at Khalapur

In addition to rainwater harvesting, Godrej recycles wastewater from its operations. Since 2010-11, the combined volume of recycled wastewater and harvested rainwater exceeds 20 billion litres. This large-scale groundwater replenishment plays a vital role in water-stressed regions where several of the company's factories and residential townships are located.

In rural communities, Godrej's water conservation programs have supplied over 100 million litres of water, benefiting regions in Maharashtra, Punjab, and Tamil Nadu. Collaborations with local communities have led to the restoration of ponds and construction of check-dams, enhancing water availability and supporting agriculture. GODREJ's

sustainability efforts extend to energy and emissions. The company has achieved a 50% reduction in specific energy use and has facilitated over 650 green buildings across India, covering more than 320 million square feet. These structures collectively reduce energy consumption over 610,000 MWh annually, significantly curbing emissions that contribute to glacial melt. Additionally, the large tract of mangroves at Vikhroli that the company conserves, sequesters about 60,000 equivalent tonnes of carbon dioxide every year, presently holding over 12 lakh tonnes of carbon dioxide in its biomass. Looking ahead, Godrej has set ambitious sustainability targets for 2032, that includes being 2X water positive, and reducing carbon emissions intensity by 60%.

India faces a severe water crisis, with per capita water availability nearing scarcity levels. With government initiatives like Jal Jeevan Mission for rural water access, Namami Gange for river rejuvenation, and incentives for industries to adopt sustainable water practices and promoting wastewater recycling, rainwater harvesting, and stricter groundwater regulations, continuous efforts are being made to curb the crisis. As climate change accelerates, Godrej's proactive water management and sustainability initiatives play a crucial role in ensuring water security for communities and safeguarding ecosystems. Continued collaboration between policymakers, industries, and communities remains vital for ensuring long-term water security thereby contributing positively to the Indian economy.



Movate Technologies in Partnership with The Ma Foi Foundation launches Advanced Generative AI Lab at Mount Carmel College, Bangalore

Empowering the Next Generation of AI Leaders, the state-of-the-art lab will serve as a hub for AI education, research, and real-world application fostering AI-driven innovation and talent readiness

In a pioneering initiative to equip students with industry-relevant AI expertise, Movate Technologies Private Limited, a leading provider of technology and digital transformation services, has partnered with The Ma Foi Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to skill development and employability, to launch, a state-of-the-art Generative AI Lab at Mount Carmel College, Bangalore. This initiative, introduced as part of Movate's CSR commitment, aims to bridge the gap

between academic learning and real-world AI applications, ensuring that India's next-generation workforce is prepared for the rapidly evolving digital economy.

The Generative AI Lab is designed to empower students with cutting-edge AI capabilities in key domains such as Natural Language Processing (NLP), Computer Vision, Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs), and AI Ethics. With AI adoption accelerating across industries, there is a critical need for skilled

AI professionals who can drive innovation and develop transformative solutions. This initiative addresses that demand by providing structured training, hands-on research opportunities, and direct industry mentorship from Movate's AI experts. By integrating academic knowledge with practical exposure, the lab aims to cultivate a highly skilled AI talent pool capable of shaping India's AI-driven future.

Key Highlights of the Generative AI Lab:

- **Research & Development:** Students will explore advanced AI models such as GPT, BERT, VAEs, and Diffusion Models to work on next-gen AI applications.
- **Skill Development & Training:** A structured 15-hour AI curriculum covering NLP, Computer Vision, and AI Ethics will equip students with practical AI implementation skills.
- **Industry Mentorship & Career Readiness:** Movate's AI professionals will actively mentor students, providing insights into real-world AI challenges and career pathways.
- **Hands-On Learning & Certification:** Students will engage in AI-driven projects and receive industry-recognized certifications upon successful completion.
- **Ethical AI Development:** A strong emphasis on bias mitigation, fairness, and responsible AI innovation ensures that students develop AI solutions that align with ethical standards.

Speaking about the initiative, Gourishanker Jha, Chief Transformational Officer, Movate, said: "The rapid evolution of Generative AI is reshaping industries, unlocking new possibilities, and redefining the future of work. At Movate, we recognize that talent readiness is the key to ensuring India remains at the forefront of this transformation.



The launch of this Generative AI Lab, in collaboration with The Ma Foi Foundation, is our commitment to bridging the gap between academic learning and real-world AI applications. By providing students with hands-on experience, cutting-edge resources, and mentorship from

industry experts, we aim to nurture the next generation of AI professionals who can innovate, lead, and create impactful solutions. This partnership is an important step in democratizing AI education and building a strong talent pipeline that will drive India's digital economy forward."

Adding to this, Latha Rajan, Managing Trustee, The Ma Foi Foundation, said "AI is no longer just a technological advancement, it is defining force shaping industries and economies worldwide. There is a pressing need for structured AI education to ensure that students graduate with job-ready expertise. The Ma Foi Foundation has been a key enabler of skill development, impacting over 26,000 individuals during the current financial year across diverse sectors. In Bangalore over 1,000 students have undergone specialized training, with more than 700 securing meaningful employment, further impacting 5,000+ indirect beneficiaries. This Generative AI Lab extends this mission by bringing AI education to the forefront, ensuring that students are not only equipped with AI expertise but also positioned for high-impact careers in India's booming digital ecosystem".

Chartered Speed aims to operate Over 900 E-Buses across 13 cities under Pradhan Mantri e-Bus Sewa Scheme

Chartered Speed, one of the leading bus passenger mobility companies operating in the B2G, B2B, and B2C sectors in India, announced that it has been awarded the contract to operate more than 900 electric buses by Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL).

The company will procure, operate, and maintain these buses under the Pradhan Mantri e-Bus Sewa Scheme across 13 cities in three states in India, company aims to serve more than 2.9 Lakh passengers daily and create employment for over 2,000 people, contributing to both the transportation and job markets.

The company aims to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles in public transport, aligning with its vision to

provide better and safer transportation solutions for India. As part of this initiative, the company intends to supply and operate E-Buses for intracity travel across 13 cities: Raipur, Durg-Bhilai, Bilaspur, Korba, Ajmer, Alwar, Bikaner, Bhilwara, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Kota, Udaipur, and Shillong, located in the states of Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, and Meghalaya.

Sanyam Gandhi, Whole-Time Director, Chartered Speed, said, "This milestone underscores our commitment to building a greener and efficient transportation network across India. Through our participation in the Pradhan Mantri e-Bus Sewa Scheme, we are transitioning from a traditional engine vehicle to a cutting-edge fleet of electric buses, revolutionizing urban

mobility with cleaner, more sustainable solutions. Our goal is to lead the shift toward a low-carbon future, reducing emissions and providing millions of commuters with greener travel options. With this initiative, we aim to help in shaping a cleaner, more connected, and future-ready India."

The company is transitioning its fleet from internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles to green fuel-powered buses. These initiatives align with the company's vision of making contributions to sustainable transportation in the coming years. Chartered Speed operates a robust fleet of over 1800 buses across Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Assam, serving more than 3.5 Lakh passengers daily, supported by a workforce of over 4,800 employees.



200 Women from Delhi NCR to Graduate in Hospitality Skills under Diageo India's 'Learning for Life' Program

Diageo India recently celebrated the graduation of 200 students from Delhi NCR, trained in hospitality and QSR skills through its 'Learning for Life' program, in collaboration with TSL Foundation. The convocation ceremony was held in the presence of Devashish Dasgupta, Director, Corporate Relations, Diageo India and Sahil Arora, CEO, TSL Group, and recruiters from the hospitality industry.

The 'Learning for Life' program comprises of over 300 hours of skills-based training provided by academia and industry professionals for employment in hospitality, tourism, and allied industries. The comprehensive curriculum offers students training in Front Office Administration and Food and Beverage services along with interpersonal skills and digital literacy. In addition to this, Industry/Government approved certification provided through this program ensures graduates are job-ready

and equipped with expertise that is highly valued in the hospitality sector. Post completion of the program, students are employed by placement partners including Hilton Inn, Crowne Plaza, JW Marriott and Le Meridien, all of whom have come together to build a more inclusive hospitality industry.

As part of Diageo India's 'Spirit of Progress' ESG action plan, the company has committed to ensuring that 50% of the beneficiaries of its CSR and community impact initiatives are women. This initiative is a step towards driving inclusion & diversity, while providing women employable skills in the hospitality, tourism, and allied industries.

Devashish Dasgupta, Director, Corporate Relations, Diageo India said, "We are pleased to partner with TSL Foundation as part of our Learning for Life programme and are delighted by the successful graduation of 200 girls from 9 batches in Delhi NCR. This initiative is aligned to our 'Spirit of Progress'

goals, and we will continue efforts to make a positive impact on society, enhancing employability & improving livelihoods through our skill-building initiatives. Being a part of the ceremony today and hearing their stories of impact motivate us to stay committed to this program."

Sahil Arora, CEO, TSL Group, "We are immensely proud of our successful partnership with Diageo India in empowering 200 young women through skill development in the hospitality sector. This collaboration reflects our shared commitment to fostering inclusivity, creating opportunities, and driving meaningful change in the communities we serve. Together, we are not only equipping these talented girls with the skills to thrive in the hospitality industry but also paving the way for a brighter, more equitable future. This milestone is a testament to the power of partnerships that prioritize social impact, and we look forward to continuing this journey of transformation with Diageo India."

Kavita, a student part of the 'Learning for Life' program said, "Being a part of the 'Learning for Life' program has been a life-changing experience for me. The training not only enhanced my technical

skills in hospitality but also boosted my confidence and communication abilities. Today, I feel prepared to step into the industry with the right knowledge and expertise. I am grateful to Diageo India for this incredible

opportunity to build a brighter future."

Till date, over 5000 youth have been trained for business and hospitality sector under Diageo India's Learning for Life programme.

A "Peoples Plan" for conserving the Biodiversity of Arunachal Pradesh launched today

The "Arunachal Pradesh State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan: People's Plan" was launched by the Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu in Itanagar.

The Action Plan has been developed by the Arunachal Pradesh Biodiversity Board and WWF-India to guide the state to sustainably utilise its rich biodiversity while ensuring a harmonious balance between development and nature conservation.

Khandu said, "I am happy to see such a detailed plan with three clear goals, 15 targets and 140 action points. We commit to implementing this Plan and also ensure that regular monitoring of its implementation is undertaken."

Several dignitaries from the Government of Arunachal Pradesh including Wangki Lowang, Minister, Environment and Forests; Wanglin Lowangdong, Advisor to Minister, Environment and Forests; Manish Kumar Gupta, Chief Secretary; P. Subramanyam, PCCF & HoFF, Environment, Forests and Climate Change; and Koj Rinya, Member Secretary, Arunachal Pradesh Biodiversity Board were present at the launch.

Ravi Singh, Secretary General & CEO, WWF-India, present at the launch, said, "The Arunachal Pradesh State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan will be a springboard for future conservation actions for the state. It provides targets and actions to conserve biodiversity while addressing challenges. The new Action Plan is also a good

repository of information on Arunachal Pradesh's biodiversity, including agrobiodiversity, highlighting some key ecologically rich sites".

Koj Rinya, Member Secretary, Arunachal Pradesh Biodiversity Board, stressed the need for a new State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (SBSAP) to enhance recognition of "Nature Free Services". She said that the state is privileged to strengthen the strong cultural and traditional practices linked to preserving and protecting nature by the local communities of Arunachal Pradesh.

She also added that The "Arunachal Pradesh State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan: People's Plan" is also the first SBSAP that has included district-level action plans for each district, highlighting key sites and species to be conserved and specific actions that need to be implemented. It also aligns with the State Action Plan on Climate Change and the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and will contribute to India's National Biodiversity Targets.

Vishaish Uppal, Director, Governance, Law & Policy, WWF-India, said, "India has updated its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) to align with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). The NBSAP and revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) provide clear direction for conserving biodiversity and mainstreaming it across sectors. Hence, a state as rich in biodiversity as Arunachal Pradesh needed to develop its new State

Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (SBSAP) to prioritise conservation and address the challenges of conserving nature. The Plan provides a clear roadmap to ensure that people's needs are integrated along with nature protection while taking care of traditional customs and practices of local communities".

A key feature of this Plan is that it has been developed in an inclusive and participatory manner by holding consultations across all state districts. The Plan has been developed with insights from community members, Zilla Parishad members, village elders, and other stakeholders. Thus, it enables ownership by the people of the state and promotes community-led conservation.

With clear action points, the Plan will help promote community-led conservation and support empowerment and capacity enhancement of the 1806 Biodiversity Management Committees in the state. It has also suggested innovative funding mechanisms—like conservation themed license plates, local nature funds, payment for ecosystem services, wildlife conservation bonds, and conservation easements to augment the mobilisation of resources for conservation.

The "Arunachal Pradesh State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan: People's Plan" will be a guiding framework for policymakers, conservationists, researchers and local institutions to collaboratively conserve biodiversity and address conservation challenges through the active participation of local communities.



CMAI Strengthens Sustainable Fashion with the SU.RE Website & Supply Chain Directory, Connecting 600+ Vendors Across Key Categories

The Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI) has launched the SU.RE website and the SU.RE Sustainable Supply Chain Directory, marking a significant step in India's sustainable fashion movement. The website serves as a comprehensive platform to facilitate the Indian apparel industry's transition to sustainable practices, while the directory features 600+ verified vendors across key categories such as fabric manufacturers, recyclers, sustainable packaging experts, and certification bodies. These initiatives provide brands with valuable resources, foster collaborations, and enable responsible sourcing with ease.

The SU.RE - Sustainable Resolution website offers education, resources, and a collaborative space for brands, manufacturers, and stakeholders. It

provides valuable insights through news articles and case studies, showcasing industry leaders' sustainability efforts. The Open Source Supply Chain Directory connects brands with sustainable vendors specializing in fabrics, trims, manufacturing, packaging, and recycling, enabling seamless sourcing and best practice sharing. The platform also facilitates knowledge exchange and transparent communication through dedicated sustainability initiatives and events.

Developed in collaboration with the Centre for Environment Education (CEE) and the Global Alliance for Textile Sustainability (GATS), the SU.RE Sustainable Supply Chain Directory serves as a one-stop platform to facilitate knowledge-sharing, innovation, and accessibility in sustainable sourcing. By streamlining connections between fashion

brands and eco-conscious suppliers, it fosters a seamless transition to greener production processes. This initiative is particularly crucial as the Indian sustainable fashion market is projected to grow at a CAGR of 45%, expanding from INR 2,700 Cr in FY24 to INR 25,000 Cr in FY30.

Sustainability is no longer a choice but a necessity, as the fashion industry continues to grapple with environmental and ethical challenges. For instance, washing clothes 200 times a year consumes nearly 15,000 liters of water and energy, while less than 50% of textile waste is reused or remanufactured. Adopting mindful laundry habits and implementing sustainable production processes can significantly reduce this impact. Moreover, the Indian fashion industry also faces ethical concerns, including lack of transparency and

weak enforcement of labor laws, particularly in informal sectors. Addressing these issues through responsible sourcing and ethical manufacturing practices is critical for the industry's long-term sustainability.

The SU.RE (Sustainable Resolution) initiative is India's largest voluntary commitment to sustainability in the apparel industry. An initiative of CMAI, jointly with Reliance Brands Limited (RBL) and supported by the United Nations in India, SU.RE has driven industry-wide efforts since 2019 to promote responsible sourcing, eco-friendly materials, and ethical manufacturing. At its core,

SU.RE follows a five-point manifesto guiding the industry's transition towards sustainability:

1. **Environmental Awareness** – Understanding the environmental impact of garment production.
2. **Sustainable Sourcing** – Prioritizing certified raw materials with a positive environmental impact.
3. **Responsible Decision-Making** – Ensuring sustainability across the value chain through traceable, renewable materials and processes.
4. **Transparent Communication** – Engaging consumers and media through product labeling, social media, and in-store messaging.

5. **Long-Term Commitment** –

Aiming for a significant shift towards sustainability by 2030, addressing climate change and supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

With the introduction of the SU.RE website and the Sustainable Supply Chain Directory, CMAI is equipping brands with the tools and resources to drive meaningful change in the fashion industry. The website and directory were officially launched at Bharat Tex 2025, marking a major milestone in India's journey toward a more responsible and globally competitive apparel sector.

Firstsource in S&P Global Sustainability Yearbook 2025 for second consecutive year

Firstsource Solutions Limited (NSE:FSL, BSE:532809), an RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group company, announced its inclusion in the prestigious S&P Global Sustainability Yearbook for the second consecutive year—this time with an even greater impact, earning recognition as an “Industry Mover” and achieving a “Top 5% S&P Global CSA Score” for FY2025. Further solidifying its ESG leadership, Firstsource achieved an S&P Global Sustainable1 ESG Score and CSA Score of 81—a significant 19-point increase from 2023—featuring in the top 99th percentile, and a top performer in the ‘Professional Services’ category.

Companies that demonstrate an improvement of at least five percent in their S&P Global Corporate Sustainability Assessment (CSA) Score – representing the strongest performance enhancement within their industry – are considered “Industry Movers”. In addition, the “Top 5% S&P Global CSA Score” recognition is awarded to companies whose scores rank within 1% to 5% of the industry's top-performing organization.

Dr. Sanjiv Goenka, Chairman of RPSG Group and Firstsource, shared, “Being recognized in the top 99th percentile, as an ‘Industry Mover’ and ranking in the ‘Top 5% S&P Global CSA Score’, among those featured in the S&P Global Sustainability Yearbook is a proud moment for Firstsource. This achievement reaffirms our commitment to embedding sustainability at the core of our business strategy – where responsible growth, innovation, and long-term value creation go hand-in-hand. As we continue to advance our ESG initiatives, from climate action to stronger

governance and social impact, we remain focused on driving meaningful change for our clients, employees, communities, and the environment.”

At Firstsource, sustainability is embedded into their operations through FirstConscious - their holistic ESG framework that drives responsible growth and long-term impact. Over the past year, Firstsource has accelerated its ESG journey by achieving key milestones, including:

- Strengthened GHG Inventory & Assurance – Enhancing transparency and accountability in emissions reporting
- Comprehensive Climate Risk Assessment – Evaluated climate risks across geographies to build resilience
- Committed to SBTi and achieving NetZero emissions by 2050, with validation process currently underway.
- Adopted the Taskforce on Climate related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) framework to ensure transparency in climate-related risks and opportunities.
- Strengthened ESG Policies & Processes – Embedding sustainability deeper into governance and operations
- Aligning towards UN Global Compact's Ten Principles on human rights, labor, environment, and anti-corruption

The S&P Global Sustainability Yearbook identifies industry leaders demonstrating outstanding corporate sustainability performance. Companies are rigorously evaluated through S&P Global's Sustainable1 Corporate Sustainability Assessment (CSA), and only the top performers within each sector earn a place in the Yearbook. Out of over 7,690 companies across 62 industries that were assessed for this year's Sustainability Yearbook, only 780 are Yearbook Members.



PVR NEST host Special Screening of Acclaimed Laapataa Ladies for Women from Delhi Shelter Homes & Non-Profit Organizations

Celebration of International Women's Month Through Big Screen Experience Bringing Joy & Inspiration

In an unforgettable celebration of women, PVR NEST, the CSR arm of PVR INOX Limited, Balaji Switchgears Private Limited, and Business Community Foundation organized a special screening of the critically acclaimed film *Laapataa Ladies* for over 200 women from Delhi shelter homes including Salaam Balak Trust, Udayan Shalini, Janpahal, Sofia, and SPYM. The screening, held to commemorate the International Women's Month, offered the women a transformative experience filled with joy and empowerment.

Laapataa Ladies, India's official entry for the Oscars and an IIFA Award winner, captivated the audience with its beautiful narrative of self-discovery and resilience. Hosted at PVR INOX Anupam in

Saket at New Delhi, the screening was designed to bring the magic of a big screen experience to women providing them with a space to connect and reflect. The film resonated deeply with the attendees, many of whom were seeing a movie on the big screen for the first time.

Speaking on the occasion, Deepa Menon, Founder-PVR NEST and Senior Vice President- Corporate Communications at PVR INOX Limited said "At PVR NEST, through our initiatives such as SAHAS, Pink Centers, and Garima Grih, we are committed to creating safe spaces for women, where they can access essential services and build the foundation for their growth and empowerment while aligning with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

We also recognize that creating meaningful dialogue through such screenings is an important aspect of these safe spaces. To see 300 women reflecting and feeling empowered by this story of courage was truly humbling for us."

The day also offered a platform for dialogue and connection with gender empowerment leaders such as Ms Akhila Sivadas, Managing Trustee and Chief Functionary at Centre for Advocacy and Research. Ms Sivadas motivated the audience while sharing her own experiences and expertise.

"Balaji Switchgears Private Limited is committed to women empowerment. We feel cinema has the unique ability to uplift and inspire, and we are thrilled to be part of an initiative that brings hope and a sense of empowerment to these women. By supporting this event, we believe we are contributing to creating a space for positive change

and fostering dialogue” said Saloni Garg, General Manager- Strategy and Marcom at Balaji Switchgears Private Limited.

Speaking at the screening, Amita Joseph, Director- Business Community Foundation said “Mobilizing girls and ladies from

low-income colonies, Delhi shelter homes, including Udayan Shalinis and several other not-for-profit organizations for this special screening was an incredible opportunity to offer them a space for connections and conversations. Cinema and films are powerful tools that can transcend

boundaries and provide a sense of belonging. Through this initiative, we aimed to create not just a viewing experience, but a moment where these women could momentarily escape their challenges, feel inspired, and be part of a community of strength and hope.”

Jindal Steel & Power Secures Two Prestigious Honors at the 7th ICC Social Impact Awards 2025

Jindal Steel and Power (JSP) has been honoured with Winner's Trophy and Special Jury Award at the prestigious 7th Social Impact Awards 2025, organised by Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) at Kolkata. The awards were presented by Agnimitra Paul, MLA, Assansole South; Anshu Gupta, Magsaysay Award Winner; and Shekhar Mehta, Former Global President of Rotary International.

JSP received the Winner's Trophy in the Education category for its flagship programme Jindal Asha, and the Special Jury Award in the Health category for its innovative Kishori Express programme. While Jindal Asha supports children with special abilities in their education and social mainstreaming, Kishori Express programme plays a pivotal role in improving health and wellbeing of adolescent girls by addressing anaemia and other health challenges.

Inspired by the Vision of the Chairman and 3rd Time Member of the Parliament Shri Naveen Jindal for building an equitable Society and equipped with the leadership of Jindal Foundation's Chairperson Smt. Shallu Jindal, the sustainable community development programmes of JSP has been empowering the underprivileged communities through inclusive education, healthcare, and skill development.



SHALLU JINDAL
Chairperson, Jindal Foundation

Commenting upon the achievement Shallu Jindal, the Chairperson, Jindal Foundation, said, "We are deeply honoured to receive this recognition of being honoured under two categories at the 7th ICC Social Impact Awards. These awards are a testament to our commitment for making a tangible difference in the lives of vulnerable communities. We will continue to drive positive changes through our social initiatives, focusing on empowerment of the vulnerable and underserved, quality education, and universal health care to create a brighter and more inclusive future for all."

Over the past year, Jindal Foundation has reached over 14.6 million lives through health, education, livelihood and community development programs across India. These initiatives have significantly improved livelihood outcomes in the region, with measurable reductions in poverty, hunger, unemployment and increased awareness of various aspects in the community.

This award is a significant milestone for JSP and its social arm Jindal Foundation, underscoring the company's role as a leader in corporate social responsibility. Jindal Foundation remains dedicated to its mission of driving positive change through strategic initiatives that address critical social issues.





Marico Innovation Foundation Honours Seven Game-Changing Innovators at the Tenth Edition of Indian Innovation Icons 2025

Make in India, Technology for Good Emerge as Key Themes for Innovation in 2025

Marico Innovation Foundation (MIF), a leader in driving impactful innovations in India, successfully hosted the 10th edition of the Indian Innovation Icons at the Jio World Convention Centre, today. Seven game-changing innovators were identified through two rigorous jury rounds led by business and social impact experts.

Selected from over 1,000 entries spanning diverse sectors, the winners are revolutionising industries with their breakthrough ideas. The winners in the business category include Astrome Technologies, advancing wireless telecommunication services in rural and remote areas using India's first commercial product in E-band spectrum, Chara Technologies, developing rare-Earth magnet-free electric motor systems

for EVs and industrial machinery, Indra Water, utilising a decentralised and modular water treatment system to recycle sewage/ industrial wastewater and Skyroot Aerospace, providing cost-effective and on-demand access to space for global satellite operators. In the social category, AssisTech Foundation incubates innovative disability technology start-ups, Rocket Learning enhances early childhood education at the grassroots with a focus on upskilling Anganwadi workers, and People's Archive of Rural India (PARI) preserves rural India's stories through a digital archive. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) won the Global Game-Changer Award for democratising digital payments in India and globally.

Harsh Mariwala, Chairman, Marico Limited and Founder, Marico

Innovation Foundation said, "What sets Indian Innovation Icons apart is its ability to identify and recognise innovators at a time when their sectors are still emerging. Across nine editions and 70 winners, we are proud that over 80% of the innovators felicitated have stood the test of time and their innovations have gone on to create real socio-economic or environmental impact in India. Congratulations to the winners of Indian Innovation Icons 2025, who represent the creativity and diversity of services and products emerging from India."

Speaking on the occasion, Amit Chandra, Honorary Chairperson, Governing Council of Marico Innovation Foundation added, "Our long-standing commitment to innovation is evident by the fact that we are in the tenth edition of the awards. With the new identity of MIF's Indian Innovation Icons, we are further strengthening this commitment to game-changing ideas."

Innovation for Infrastructure and Economic Growth

The winners in the business segment share a focus on strengthening India's infrastructure, vital for India's ambition to become a global economic leader. Innovations in clean energy, wastewater management, space technology, and telecommunications are laying the foundation for a sustainable and inclusive future. Technologies like high-speed wireless network systems and electric motors for EVs are crucial for enhancing connectivity and promoting India's leadership in sustainable solutions. These breakthroughs will make infrastructure more accessible, cost-effective, and future-ready, helping India meet its growth targets while reducing its environmental impact.

Social Equity and Inclusivity at the Core

The Indian Innovation Icons 2025 also highlight a strong commitment to social equity and inclusivity. Winners in the social category are addressing needs of underserved communities and ensuring the benefits of innovation reach all sectors of society.

Turning Plastic Waste into an Opportunity: A Collaborative Sustainable Future

A key highlight of the event was a panel discussion on Turning Plastic Waste into an Opportunity: A Collaborative Sustainable Future. The discussion called for collaborative strategies for the FMCG sector to foster circular economies. With increasing pressure on companies to act sustainably, the panellists, consisting of Harsh Mariwala, Chairman, Marico Limited and Founder, Marico Innovation Foundation, Prabha Narasimhan, Managing Director, Colgate Palmolive (India) Ltd, and Masood Mallick, Managing Director & Group CEO, Re Sustainability Limited, and moderated by Anubha Bhonsle, Founder, Newsworthy.Studio shared actionable insights for an integrated end-to-end model bringing community and citizens together, with commercially viable, brand to brand circularity.

Beyond Recognition: Scaling Innovators for Greater Impact

Demonstrating its commitment to supporting innovation beyond the event, the Foundation will continue to mentor the Icons. In addition, the innovations will be displayed on MIF's InnoWin Day to be held on April 3.

"This platform is more than an event—it is a movement to propel India's most promising innovators forward," said Suranjana Ghosh, Head of Marico Innovation Foundation. "With a sharp eye for spotting high-impact innovations early on, every edition not only recognises bold ideas but actively builds an ecosystem that nurtures and accelerates their success."



Ambuja Cements champions rural health movement to combat rising non-communicable diseases in Chandrapur

Ambuja Cements, the cement and building material company of the diversified Adani Portfolio, is driving a health movement in Chandrapur through its CSR efforts to combat rising non-communicable diseases (NCDs) including hypertension and diabetes. Through screenings, risk assessments, nutrition awareness, and fitness programmes, the initiative has impacted over 20 villages and 11 health centres, mobilising Sakhis (community health volunteers) and frontline health workers to create lasting behavioural change.

In Chandrapur, Vinod Thamke, once unaware of his high blood pressure risks, has transformed his lifestyle with support from the CSR team. After attending a village screening camp and receiving personalized counselling, he joined walking groups and adopted healthier eating habits, leading to stabilised blood pressure and improved energy levels.

Similar interventions—including annual screenings, kitchen gardening programmes, open-air gyms, and tobacco cessation initiatives—have helped identify high-risk individuals and connect them to healthcare services, ensuring continuous follow-ups and preventive care.

Ambuja Cements' CSR team is creating a sustainable health movement in rural Maharashtra by addressing both prevention and management of NCDs. Through continued efforts in screening, early detection, and lifestyle interventions, the Company remains committed to fostering healthier communities and combating lifestyle diseases at the grassroots level.

SaveLIFE Foundation along with Mercedes-Benz India Pvt Ltd enhances trauma care in Nizamabad to prevent avoidable fatalities

SaveLIFE Foundation, in partnership with Mercedes-Benz India Pvt Ltd, is enhancing trauma care resources in the Nizamabad district of Telangana, as part of its Zero Fatality Corridor program.

This initiative, supported by Mercedes-Benz India Pvt Ltd under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts, focuses on transforming high-risk highways into safer corridors using advanced crash data analysis, community engagement, improved trauma care, and capacity building.

As part of this initiative, a special event was organized at the Area Hospital in Armoor on 6th March, 2025, where advanced trauma care equipment was handed over to the facility. The upgraded facility will provide essential life-saving interventions for trauma patients, reducing delays in medical assistance and preventing avoidable deaths before patients are transferred to higher medical centers.

The event was attended by several distinguished guests including Dr Ravi Kumar, Medical Superintendent, Area Hospital, Armoor; Dr Amruthram Reddy, Resident Medical Officer, Area Hospital, Armoor; Dr Shivshankar, Medical Superintendent, Area Hospital, Bheemgal; and representatives from SaveLIFE Foundation.

Dr Kumar said, "The upgradation of emergency care services and equipment by SaveLIFE Foundation is a significant step towards improving the healthcare infrastructure in our district. With enhanced response capabilities and state-of-the-art equipment, we are not only improving survival rates in critical



L_to_R Pushpendra Kaushik from SaveLIFE Foundation, Dr Amruthram Reddy, RMO & Dr Ravi Kumar, Medical Superintendent from Area Hospital, Armoor

situations but also empowering our healthcare professionals to provide better care to those in need. This collaboration strengthens our commitment to building a more resilient and responsive healthcare system."

The newly upgraded facility now offers vital trauma care, including resuscitation tools for airway management, respiratory support, shock prevention, hemorrhage control

and orthopedic surgical instruments for fracture management. These upgrades will help stabilise patients before they are transferred to advanced medical centers for further treatment, minimising preventable deaths caused by delayed emergency medical responses.

Tewari said, "Specialised emergency care services are crucial in reducing road crash fatalities.

Together with Mercedes-Benz India, we are ensuring quicker, more efficient responses, ultimately saving lives and making our roads safer for all." This initiative underscores SaveLIFE Foundation's continued commitment to improving road safety and emergency response mechanisms across India, making highways safer and reducing the burden of road crash fatalities.



SaveLIFE Foundation enhances trauma care in Nizamabad

India advocates its sustainable farming success story at an international forum



Soluble fertilisers have emerged as a critical component in India's agricultural transformation, playing a pivotal role in enhancing nutrient efficiency, improving soil health, and ensuring residue-free crop production. With the sector witnessing steady growth, driven by research-backed innovations and evolving regulatory frameworks, India is strengthening its position as a key player in the global fertiliser landscape.

Against this backdrop, the Soluble Fertilizer Industry Association, India (SFIA India), was invited to present a case at CAC China 2025, the world's largest trade forum for agrochemicals, organised by the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT).

This 25-year-old annual event serves as a crucial platform where global agro-input companies converge to secure their supply chains and explore emerging trends. The invitation extended by CCPIT to SFIA India underlined India's growing influence in the international fertiliser market. At the conference, Rajib Chakraborty, National President,

SFIA India, presented India's success story in developing sustainable farming through SOMS Fertilizers (SOMS, Soluble Fertilizer, Organic Fertilizer, Micronutrient & Bio Stimulants), a pioneering approach that integrates multiple nutrient sources to achieve high-yield, nutrient-rich, and environmentally sustainable agriculture. A key highlight of SOMS is its potential to drastically reduce reliance on subsidised fertilisers, offering a cost-effective and efficient alternative for both farmers and governments worldwide.

"SOMS is a scientifically structured approach that not only enhances nutrient use efficiency and ensures environmental sustainability, but also significantly reduces dependency on conventional subsidised fertilisers. This shift has major financial implications for governments globally, helping optimise subsidy expenditures while promoting long-term soil health," said Rajib Chakraborty.

SFIA India's presence at CAC China 2025 reinforced its commitment to policy advocacy, research collaborations, and supply chain stabilisation within the soluble

fertiliser sector. Engaged with over 50 universities, ICAR, CSIR, and multiple research institutions, SFIA India continues to drive regulatory advancements, product innovation, and global partnerships. Notably, a recent collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, National Research Centre for Grapes, is evaluating SOMS as a viable alternative to traditional fertiliser subsidies, with results expected by mid-2025.

With rising global demand for residue-free and high-efficiency fertiliser solutions, India's contributions, particularly through SOMS, are increasingly recognised as models for sustainable agricultural development. By reducing fertiliser subsidies and ensuring optimal nutrient management, SOMS presents a scalable solution for governments worldwide striving for cost-effective, environmentally responsible agricultural policies. SFIA India remains dedicated to fostering industry collaboration, strengthening India's footprint in the agro-input sector, and shaping the future of sustainable farming.



UNICEF YuWaah and Gigin AI enter strategic partnership to provide youth in 15-29 age group with employment and skilling opportunities

In a strategic collaboration that promises to recalibrate India's employment infrastructure, UNICEF YuWaah's YouthHub and Gigin AI have joined hands to provide young people aged 15 to 29 with access to employment, skilling, and volunteering opportunities. Since November 2024, Gigin's AI integration into YouthHub has already facilitated over 500 verified job placements, reinforcing the initiative's commitment to reach youth in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities as well as those from lower economic strata.

YouthHub, developed by UNICEF YuWaah, is a digital

platform designed to bridge the gap between emerging talent and the opportunities needed to thrive in today's competitive job market. The platform leverages advanced AI-driven job matching to offer personalized recommendations based on an individual's skills, experience, and interests, ensuring that every user finds the opportunity best suited to their potential.

Beyond job placements, YouthHub also connects users with a diverse range of employment listings spanning multiple sectors. The platform enriches its offerings by providing volunteering opportunities that

enable young people to give back to their communities while gaining valuable experience, as well as free training courses designed to build both technical and soft skills essential for the modern workplace. Available in nine Indian languages, YouthHub is committed to inclusivity and accessibility across India's diverse regions.

This strategic partnership between YouthHub and Gigin AI represents a significant leap forward in addressing the dual challenges of access to employment opportunities in one place and the skills gap in India. By merging Gigin's AI extensive and

reliable job verification technology with YouthHub's comprehensive suite of career development resources, the collaboration creates an integrated ecosystem that transforms the learning-to-earning journey of a young person.

Surinder Bhagat, Founder & CEO of Gigin AI, said, "Our collaboration with YouthHub is a commitment to ensuring that every young talent in India can access verified, meaningful employment opportunities that truly match their aspirations. By connecting skill development with the job market, we are opening doors to a future where each individual's potential is recognized and nurtured. The intent is to break down the barriers that have kept so many from reaching their full potential and giving young adults the tools

and confidence they need to thrive in a fast-changing world."

YouthHub has set an ambitious goal of reaching 2 million young individuals in the near term and a long-term vision of empowering 300 million by 2030 by fostering collaboration between governments, private organizations, academia, and civil society. The integration of Gigin AI is a critical step in this journey, ensuring that the benefits of advanced technology and personalized career guidance extend to every corner of the nation, particularly in underrepresented Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.

Abhishek Gupta, COO - UNICEF YuWaah said, "At UNICEF YuWaah, we believe that every young person deserves the opportunity to realize their potential. Our partnership

with Gigin AI is a step towards enabling access to economic pathways through skill development and meaningful opportunities. By integrating technology, innovation, and our commitment to inclusivity, we are bridging the gap between talent and access, ensuring that no young person, whether from a bustling city or a small town, is left behind in building a brighter future."

As YouthHub and Gigin AI continue to evolve their collaboration, their unwavering commitment to redefining youth employment in India remains clear. By harnessing the power of technology to create a seamless transition from education and skill-building to job placement, this partnership is setting a new standard for economic empowerment and social progress across the nation.

Bajaj Electricals Empowering Women Entrepreneurs Through Sustainability & Upcycling

Bajaj Electricals Foundation, the CSR arm of Bajaj Electricals strives to create real, lasting impact by fostering sustainable change within communities. With environmental responsibility and women's entrepreneurship at the heart of our mission, the foundation is taking meaningful steps to empower women artisans and drive positive environmental change through innovative initiatives, that promote financial independence and sustainability.

Watch the film here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nubh1vCaiS4>

One such initiative is the development of a digital platform that provides rural women artisans with access to wider markets, enabling them to showcase and sell handcrafted products made from upcycled plastic waste. This platform is set to benefit over 400 women artisans in Kutch, Gujarat, helping them achieve greater financial stability while embracing eco-conscious practices.

At the same time, the foundation is championing an upcycling initiative in Pune, where around 25 women from low-income backgrounds are learning traditional charkha and handloom techniques to weave discarded plastic into beautiful, handcrafted products.

By partnering with organisations that ethically source plastic waste from rag-picker communities, this initiative not only fosters skill development but also contributes to a cleaner environment.

Pooja Bajaj, Executive Director – CSR, Bajaj Electricals, shared her perspective on the impact of these initiatives, "At Bajaj Electricals Foundation, we are deeply committed to building a sustainable future by empowering women with the tools they need to thrive and gain financial independence. Through initiatives like the digital platform and upcycling projects, we are not just fostering entrepreneurship but also addressing environmental concerns in a meaningful way. This Women's Day, we celebrate the strength, resilience, and creativity of women artisans who are redefining economic independence while preserving traditional craftsmanship."

As we mark Women's Day, these initiatives serve as a testament to the power of women-led sustainability efforts—where economic growth and environmental consciousness go hand in hand. Bajaj Electricals Foundation remains dedicated to expanding these efforts, ensuring more women have the opportunities, resources, and support to build a brighter, self-reliant future.



NTT DATA Partners with The Akshaya Patra Foundation to Enhance Mid-Day Meal Delivery in Bengaluru

In a significant boost to the mid-day meal program in Bengaluru, NTT DATA, a global digital business and technology services leader, partnered with The Akshaya Patra Foundation, an implementing partner of the PM POSHAN program, to donate a specialized meal delivery vehicle. NTT DATA has been supporting the mid-day meal program from the last few years and last year we supported solar lights for their Mangalore kitchen. This donation is part of the ongoing collaboration, which includes supporting the mid-day meal program in Bengaluru for past few years. Last year, we provided solar lights for their Mangalore kitchen.

The meal distribution vehicle is a Tata 510 equipped with 141 insulated stainless-steel vessels, will serve up to 5,500 meals daily to 20 schools in the HKH region of Bengaluru. This contribution highlights NTT DATA's

commitment to community welfare and educational initiatives. Through this partnership, approximately 1.2 million meals will be delivered annually, reinforcing our shared goal of eradicating classroom hunger and promoting education.

Vinod Sudhakar, Chief Information Technology Officer, The Akshaya Patra Foundation, said, "We are immensely grateful to NTT DATA for their commitment and generous support. Partnerships like these are crucial in scaling our efforts and reaching more children. This initiative not only helps in logistical expansion but also instils hope and encouragement within the community. Together, we are driving change and nurturing the future of our nation."

Gauri Bahulkar, Senior Director of Global Corporate Social Responsibility at NTT DATA, stated, "NTT DATA remains steadfast

in its commitment to education and eradicating hunger, recognizing these as fundamental pillars of a brighter future. We are proud to support the meals program and donate a food distribution vehicle to ensure that students in government schools receive nutritious meals, fostering their well-being and academic focus. Our partnership with The Akshaya Patra Foundation enables us to expand our reach, bringing quality education and essential nutrition to more students, empowering them to achieve their full potential."

This partnership represents a scalable model of corporate engagement with NGOs, aiming to foster sustainable solutions for social challenges. The Akshaya Patra Foundation extends its heartfelt gratitude to NTT DATA for their generous support and looks forward to more collaborative efforts in the future.

India will need to grow by 7.8 percent on average over the next 22 years

A new World Bank report notes that India will need to grow by 7.8 percent on average over the next 22 years to achieve the country's aspirations of reaching high-income status by 2047.

The new India Country Economic Memorandum titled 'Becoming a High-Income Economy in a Generation,' finds that this target is possible. Recognizing India's fast pace of growth averaging 6.3 percent between 2000 and 2024, the report notes that India's past achievements provide the foundation for its future ambitions. Getting there however would require reforms and their implementation to be as ambitious as the target itself.

"Lessons from countries like Chile, Korea and Poland show how they have successfully made the transition from middle- to high-income countries by deepening their integration into the global economy," said Auguste Tano Kouame, World Bank Country Director. "India can chart its own path by stepping up the pace of reforms and building on its past achievements."

The report evaluates three scenarios for India's growth trajectory over the next 22 years. The scenario which enables India to reach high-income status in a generation, requires a) achieving faster and inclusive growth across states; b) increasing total investment from current 33.5 percent of GDP to 40 percent (both in real terms) by 2035; c) increasing overall labor force participation from 56.4 percent to above 65 percent; and d) accelerating overall productivity growth.

"India can take advantage of its demographic dividend by investing

in human capital, creating enabling conditions for more and better jobs and raising female labor force participation rates from 35.6 percent to 50 percent by 2047," said Emilia Skrok and Rangeet Ghosh, co-authors of the report.

In the past three fiscal years India has accelerated its average growth rate to 7.2 percent. In order to maintain this acceleration and attain an average growth rate of 7.8 percent (in real terms) over the next two decades, the Country Economic Memorandum recommends four critical areas for policy action:

1. **Increasing investment:**

More private and public investment (increasing the real investment rate from around 33.5 percent of GDP to 40 percent by 2035) will be fundamental to long-term growth. The report notes actions such as strengthening financial sector regulations, removing constraints to formal credit for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and simplifying foreign direct investment (FDI) policies will be critical.

2. **Fostering an environment to create more and better jobs:**

Overall labor force participation rates have remained low in India (56.4 percent) compared to countries like Vietnam (73 percent) and Philippines (around 60 percent). The report recommends incentivizing the private sector to invest in job-rich sectors like agro-processing manufacturing, hospitality, transportation, and care economy. This requires targeted strategies for labor-intensive sectors, a bigger skilled workforce, greater access to finance and

fostering an innovation-driven economy.

3. **Promoting structural transformation, trade participation and technology adoption:**

Currently the share of agriculture in employment is 45 percent. Allocation of land, labor and capital to more productive sectors, like manufacturing and services, can help raise firm and labor productivity. Strengthening infrastructure, adopting modern technology, streamlining labor market regulations and lowering the compliance burden on firms will further drive productivity and competitiveness. These steps will help India catch up to peers like Thailand, Vietnam and China in Global Value Chain (GVC) participation rates.

4. **Enabling states to grow faster and together:**

The report argues for a differentiated policy approach whereby less developed states could focus on strengthening the fundamentals of growth (health, education, infrastructure, etc.), while more developed states could prioritize the next generation of reforms (better business environment, deeper participation in GVCs, etc.). The center can facilitate this growth process through more incentive-driven federal programs such as the recently announced Urban Challenge Fund to support better performance in lagging districts and states. More incentives and capacity building will help low-income states improve efficiency of public expenditure and enable them to catch up with the leaders.

83% tech companies reported spending more than 2% of their total spends on CSR – Nasscom and Nasscom Foundation Report

Over the past decade, CSR has empowered millions through education, skilling, and sustainability, with the Indian tech industry driving progress by aligning digital solutions with national priorities and global goals. To deep dive into the evolving trends in India's CSR landscape, Nasscom and Nasscom Foundation in partnership with Bod Consulting, today unveiled their report titled, 'Tech Industry and CSR: Insights and Impactful Stories of Change'. The findings are based on an analysis of over 270 companies across tech and non-tech domains and interactions with top CSR leaders.

In FY23, corporate participation in CSR activities saw a significant rise, with the number of companies engaged in CSR growing by 22% compared to FY22. Total CSR spending also witnessed a 13% increase over the previous year, reflecting a stronger commitment to social responsibility. Additionally, the proportion of companies allocating more than 2% of their profits to CSR initiatives grew from 64% in FY19 to 74% in FY23, highlighting a steady shift toward higher corporate contributions to social impact.

Tech companies contribute significantly to corporate social responsibility, accounting for 23% of CSR spending among India's top 20 contributors. In FY23, 75 leading tech companies spearheaded over 2,610 CSR projects, driving large-scale impact across key areas such as education, healthcare, environmental sustainability, skilling, and climate

change. With a majority adopting foundation-based models, 83% of tech companies reported spending more than 2% of their profits on CSR—1.27 times higher than non-tech companies—underscoring their strong commitment to social impact.

According to the survey findings, 41% organizations are allotting top priority to CSR goals that align with SDGs and national agenda. Key national priorities include employment creation, skilling, and social justice, while SDGs focus on quality education, gender equality, and good health. In response, Nasscom Foundation has designed multiple programs to accelerate progress toward these goals, offering organizations strategic opportunities to direct their CSR investments into impactful initiatives like the Aspirational Districts Programme and Aspirational Blocks Programme. Notably, CSR spending in aspirational districts, home to 17.5% of India's population, has surged over 5 times from FY19 to FY23, though its share remains low, rising from 1.2% to 4.5% of total CSR expenditure.

Speaking on the report, Achyuta Ghosh, Senior Director and Head Insights, Nasscom, said, "The measurement of CSR impact in India is undergoing a significant shift, moving beyond traditional metrics such as absolute spending value and urban vs. rural distribution. New impact assessment approaches now focus on marginalized lives reached, overall lives impacted, and carbon footprint reduction. The tech industry has been instrumental in this

journey, leveraging its capabilities to drive innovation and efficiency in CSR through tech-enabled solutions that are accelerating progress towards national priorities and global goals. As we move forward, addressing challenges in equitable distribution and building stronger collaborations will be key to unlocking the full potential of CSR and amplifying its transformative impact across India."

The adoption of technology in CSR initiatives is accelerating, with approximately 65% of projects in 2024 classified as tech led. This integration has significantly enhanced impact, with 90% of such projects reporting greater scalability, efficiency, and meaningful outcomes. Companies are leveraging key tools such as AI-driven monitoring and optimization solutions, digital finance platforms, digital learning platforms for curated courses, and advanced teacher training mechanisms to drive social change. Additionally, tech companies are developing proprietary tech stacks for real-time data collection, processing, analysis, decision-making, and dissemination, further amplifying the effectiveness and reach of their CSR efforts.

Jyoti Sharma, CEO, Nasscom Foundation, added, "The evolution in the Indian CSR landscape since 2014 has been instrumental. It is encouraging to see key trends such as investments in aspirational districts, social innovation, skilling, and women entrepreneurship, reshaping the CSR landscape today. At Nasscom Foundation, we have been at the forefront in enabling organizations

to undertake targeted efforts to scale social impact through our TechForGood initiatives. As part of the Nasscom ecosystem, we are committed to leveraging technology to drive inclusive growth, through community level programs and drive systemic change. We look forward to continued collaboration with stakeholders, ensuring that social impact remains a priority and that together, we drive a more inclusive and transformative change at scale.” However, challenges remain in ensuring effective implementation and maximizing impact. Large corporations face hurdles in fostering collaboration, broadening their CSR focus beyond traditional areas, and identifying the right partners, while smaller companies

require streamlined fund management, alignment of priorities, and simplified administrative and legal frameworks to drive meaningful change. At the project implementation level, resistance to technology adoption, lack of coordinated efforts, and persistent social issues continue to pose challenges.

As CSR priorities shift, companies are focusing on long-term, high-impact projects with greater stakeholder engagement and capacity building. Skill development and employability creation are emerging as key focus areas for both tech and non-tech organizations. Additionally, social innovation is gaining prominence, with companies stating an increased focus from 6% to 8% over the next 3–5 years. Tech companies

are also set to enhance their efforts in disaster relief and WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene), while non-tech organizations are prioritizing climate change initiatives.

To further enhance CSR effectiveness, a multi-stakeholder approach is essential. According to the report, the government can play a pivotal role by facilitating collaborations, easing compliance regulations, and providing strategic direction. NGOs must enhance operational efficiency, promote transparency, and build capacity for greater impact. Companies, on their part, should increase collaboration, adopt strategic fund allocation for focused outcomes, prioritize sustainable, long-term interventions, and invest in skill-building to create a lasting social impact.

A Healthier Tomorrow: ‘Sakhi’ Initiative by Wagh Bakri Tea Group and Bal Raksha Bharat Supports Menstrual Hygiene for Tea Workers

On the occasion of International Women’s Day, Wagh Bakri Tea Group, in collaboration with Bal Raksha Bharat (Save the Children), has launched ‘Sakhi – Safe Periods for Tea Workers’, a transformative initiative aimed at improving menstrual health and hygiene among women and adolescent girls in the Oating and Sotai Tea Gardens of Assam.

This initiative seeks to break the stigma surrounding menstruation by providing access to menstrual health awareness, capacity building, and sustainable menstrual hygiene products. The project will engage 650 women and girls, alongside men and boys, to foster an inclusive community dialogue on menstrual health. Through awareness sessions, health camps, and life-skills training, ‘Sakhi’ aims to empower

adolescent girls and women to manage their menstrual health with dignity, confidence, and safety.

Susan Thomas, Governing Council member of Bal Raksha Bharat and Kritanjali Kashyap,

Manager-Programme Operations, Bal Raksha Bharat, Assam, emphasized the importance of the initiative, stating, “Women in tea gardens work tirelessly, yet their access to healthcare and hygiene remains limited, and their children often lack educational resources. This collaboration with Wagh Bakri Tea Group will provide much-needed support and create meaningful opportunities for these communities.”

By integrating with government programs such as Rashtriya Kishori Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK), the project ensures long-term sustainability and scalability. The initiative reinforces the belief that empowering women and girls strengthens entire communities, paving the way for better health, gender equality, and improved livelihoods.



Wagh Bakri Tea Group and Bal Raksha Bharat launch ‘Sakhi Safe Periods for Tea Workers’, a transformative initiative for women and adolescence



Virtusa Foundation Champions Wildlife Conservation: Installs 10 Solar-Powered Borewells in Amrabad Tiger Reserve

Water for Wildlife, Peace for Chenchu Tribal Community: Solar Solutions End Drought and Conflict

In a significant stride toward wildlife conservation and environmental sustainability, Virtusa Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Virtusa Corporation, has successfully installed 10 solar-powered borewells in the heart of the Amrabad Tiger Reserve in Telangana. Spanning 2,611 square kilometers across Nagarkurnool and Nalgonda districts, the Amrabad Tiger Reserve is a haven for unique flora and fauna. These solar-powered borewells

are installed across the Mannanur, Amrabad, and Maddimadugu forest ranges, ensuring sustainable water sources in the region and underscoring Virtusa's commitment to environmental stewardship and community engagement.

These automated borewells, powered by clean energy, operate at sunrise and shut off at sunset without manual intervention to provide a consistent water supply for the reserve's wildlife—home to tigers, wild boars, nilgai, and blackbuck,

enabling them to thrive in their natural habitat. Strategically placed along animal corridors, they help overcome water scarcity, especially during dry seasons, and reduce carbon footprint. By reducing human-animal conflicts, this initiative fosters improved coexistence between local wildlife and the Chenchu tribal community, whose traditional livelihoods have long been hampered by restricted forest access.

Amit Bajoria, Chief Financial Officer of Virtusa, commenting on the initiative, said, "This project marks a milestone in our efforts toward biodiversity conservation and our commitment to building a more sustainable future that enhances

community welfare and empowers local population. At Virtusa, we believe in the power of renewable energy to create long-term positive environmental transformations that are vital to our collaborative approach toward achieving a net-zero future."

Through these impactful initiatives, Virtusa demonstrates how

businesses can effectively reduce their carbon footprint while uplifting local communities. As a company, Virtusa has achieved CDP A-ratings for climate change disclosure for three consecutive years and EcoVadis Gold medal for two consecutive years, alongside recent validation of its greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets by the Science

Based Targets Initiative (SBTi). This validation, encompassing Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions, highlights Virtusa's unwavering commitment to addressing climate change. Virtusa aims to create lasting environmental benefits and inspire future generations to protect the planet by prioritizing ecological sustainability, education, and community empowerment.

Airtel Payments Bank Expands Women Business Correspondents Network to 100,000, Advancing Financial Inclusion and Empowerment

Airtel Payments Bank is committed to empowering India with accessible and inclusive banking. With women at the heart of this mission, the Bank ensures that women are central to driving financial inclusion across the nation. This International Women's Day, Airtel Payments Bank recognises the pivotal role women play in expanding financial access, particularly through the remarkable work of women business correspondents (BCs) who are bridging the gap between banking and underserved communities. The Bank announced that it now works with over 100,000 women business correspondents, reinforcing its commitment to financial inclusion and economic empowerment.

Over the years, Airtel Payments Bank has been taking banking services to the deepest rural pockets with its largest banking network comprising over 500,000 neighborhood-banking points. These banking points are managed by business correspondents, who are trained and authorized to offer banking services. In key markets, the Bank has seen significant growth, offering financial services to millions of unbanked and underbanked individuals.

As a part of its larger goal of fostering financial inclusion, Airtel Payments Bank has placed a strong focus on empowering women entrepreneurs to drive this change.

The women business correspondent (BC) network has been instrumental in providing doorstep banking services, including account opening, fund transfers, bill payments, and micro-loans, to people who previously lacked or had limited access to basic banking services. The expansion of Airtel Payments Bank's women BC network to over 100,000 marks a significant milestone in the company's journey to create a more inclusive financial ecosystem. Over 80% of

these correspondents work in Tier 3 and beyond towns.

"Women have always been at the heart of our mission to bring financial services to every corner of the country," said Ganesh Ananthanarayanan, COO of Airtel Payments Bank.

"Through our women BC network, we are not only promoting financial inclusion

but also empowering women to become change makers in their communities. This International Women's Day, we celebrate their incredible contributions to advancing banking access, especially in remote areas. We are committed to growing this network even further and bringing more women into the financial mainstream." As part of its ongoing efforts, Airtel Payments Bank plans to continue training and upskilling more women to take on roles as business correspondents, providing them with opportunities for entrepreneurship and economic independence.



Grade 11 Student Leads First-Ever Women's Safety Workshop for Healthcare Professionals at HN Reliance Hospital



In an inspiring and unprecedented event, Rachit Gianchandani, a Grade 11 student from Dhirubhai Ambani International School, conducted a specialized workshop for female healthcare professionals at HN Reliance Foundation Hospital today. This marked the first time ever

that a student has organized and led such a crucial session aimed at empowering women in the healthcare profession with essential safety skills and self-defense techniques.

The workshop was held in response to Rachit's deep concern for the safety of women, particularly

those who work in healthcare, a field often characterized by long and irregular hours. Drawing from his personal experiences and the influence of the women in his life—his mother and sister, both healthcare professionals—Rachit was inspired to take action after being disturbed by the numerous incidents of violence and harm faced by women in healthcare settings, such as the infamous Nirbhaya case and the alarming incidents at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College.

With a clear vision of enhancing safety, Rachit designed the workshop to provide female doctors, nurses, and healthcare staff with both theoretical and practical knowledge on self-defense. However, his approach went beyond traditional self-defense training. Rachit emphasized the importance of awareness, situational assessment, and the ability to respond strategically in various threatening situations. He strongly believes that defense is not solely about physical combat but about the capacity to think clearly in a crisis, escape harm, and, when necessary, use smart defense techniques.

The workshop covered critical aspects such as mental resilience, situational awareness, physical strength, and the development of quick reflexes to protect oneself in moments of danger. Rachit's belief that women should feel empowered through knowledge, strength, and presence of mind was a central theme throughout the session.

Commenting on the initiative, Rachit shared, "For the longest time, I've wanted to protect my mother and sister from such situations, and today, I feel incredibly content knowing that my efforts are helping not just my family but many others who are part of the healthcare workforce. This is just the beginning of what I hope will be a movement towards a safer environment for women in healthcare."



K Raheja Corp hosts 'Wheels of Kindness' through its 'Time Off for Volunteering' Policy

Reinforcing its commitment to social responsibility, K Raheja Corp, India's leading real estate conglomerate, recently hosted 'Wheels of Kindness', a unique employee initiative under its 'Time off for Volunteering Policy'. The initiative brought employees together to assemble wheelchairs, which were subsequently donated to Cheshire Homes, an NGO that has supported more than 2,000 individuals with disabilities across India since its inception, enhancing mobility and independence for recipients. Designed in collaboration with Korelate Learning, a leading team-building establishment, the initiative brought together employees from Mindspace Business Parks REIT, Chalet Hotels Ltd., Inorbit Malls and K Raheja Corp Homes. Over 30 volunteers across departments including HR, Architecture, ESG, IT, Leasing, Tenant Relations among others, came together to

assemble 7 wheelchairs in 4 hours using the given tools, while engaging in challenges that added a dynamic, problem-solving element to the activity. Expert guidance was available, to ensure an impactful experience for all.

"Beyond its CSR impact, 'Wheels of Kindness' played a vital role in fostering teamwork, enhancing employee engagement, and strengthening bonds within our organization," said Urvi Aradhya, CHRO of K Raheja Corp. "At K Raheja Corp, we are committed to creating meaningful

change in the community through impactful initiatives. This unique experience saw our people come together, enjoy the process, and contribute to a cause that truly makes a difference by providing wheelchairs to those in need."

Siddharth Chaudhary, Co-founder, Korelate Learning said, "We are pleased to partner with K Raheja Corp for the 'Wheels of Kindness' initiative. Programs like these not only drive meaningful change but also provide essential support to those in need. The activity fostered values



of teamwork, empathy, and compassion among participants, creating a deeply fulfilling experience. The donation of completed wheelchairs to beneficiaries from Cheshire Homes further reinforced the program's purpose, making a tangible difference in their lives"

Expressing his gratitude, Ajay Kumar from Cheshire Homes (NGO) said, "On behalf of our organization, we deeply appreciate

the generosity and support of K Raheja Corp through the 'Wheels of Kindness' initiative. These 7 wheelchairs will make a meaningful difference in the daily lives of the 15 disabled individuals at Cheshire Homes, offering them greater mobility and independence. It's inspiring to see businesses like K Raheja Corp not only supporting communities but also actively contributing to create a positive change."

The experience was filled with laughter, camaraderie, and, most importantly, a sense of fulfilment as participants came together to create a meaningful impact. Through this initiative, K Raheja Corp not only empowered its employees to give back to the community but also reinforced its core values of social responsibility and employee well-being, further solidifying its commitment to driving positive change.

ITC's YiPPee! Better World Program Hosts Science Mela in Bengaluru

With the aim of contributing to a cleaner, greener, and healthier tomorrow Sunfeast YiPPee! together with NGO partner 'Way for life' is creating awareness amongst students on plastic waste management. YiPPee! Better World Science Mela, is one such initiative to generate wider awareness amongst students. The mela was held today at Government Higher Primary School, Whitefield, Bengaluru.

The Science Mela was inaugurated in the presence of Dr. Agatha Betsy, Head - Nutrition Sciences ITC Ltd., Mr. Muthu Krishna Moorthy, GM & Head - ICML Malur ITC Ltd and H. Vijayalakshmi, Head Master, Government Higher Primary School.

The event featured a science exhibition which focused on the 3R principles—Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, where students from the Government Higher Primary School presented innovative projects. A drawing competition was organised to encourage artistic expression on sustainability themes and student-run stalls were put up, promoting eco-conscious products. Further, 100 benches and desks made from recycled plastic waste were also deployed in the school, strengthening the program's mission to promote

YiPPee! Better World Program has reached out to over 14 lakh school students across 3000 schools in 85 cities in the country to create awareness on plastic waste management this year.

16,600 Kgs of plastic waste are being recycled into 908 benches and desks & other useful items to be given to students.

circular economy and responsible waste management.

Through the YiPPee! Better World Program, launched in 2022, ITC has successfully engaged with over 21 lakh students across 4,000+ schools in India, educating them on responsible waste management. The initiative has gone beyond awareness, delivering tangible impact—collecting over 58,000 kg of plastic waste and deployed more than 4000 desks & benches made from recycled plastic. This also aligns with ITC's larger commitment to plastic neutrality,

in partnership with government and civic bodies.

Kavita Chaturvedi, COO, Snacks, Noodles & Pasta, ITC Foods, commented on the initiative: "In line with ITC's commitment to sustainability, The YiPPee! Better World Program has spearheaded initiatives to instill environmental responsibility in young minds while actively working towards a cleaner future. By inculcating the habit of waste-segregation and recycling waste into useful resources for schools, we are not only promoting plastic waste management but also empowering the next generation to become champions of sustainability."

Beyond YiPPee! Better World program, ITC has been sustaining its Plastic Neutrality status since FY 2021-22 through implementation of multiple large-scale models of solid waste management, designed on the principles of circular economy, across the country. In FY 2023-24, ITC collected and sustainably managed around 70,000 tonnes of plastic waste across India, which is more than the total plastic packaging utilised by the Company. ITC's flagship 'Well-Being Out of Waste' (WOW) program has reached over 25 million citizens across 6.4 million households, 6.7 million school children and over 2,200 corporates, since its inception.



Women SHG members turned professional decorative paint applicators

AkzoNobel's Indradhanush women entrepreneurs paint a more inclusive future in rural India

Imagine a professional painter. Is it a man or a woman? Now imagine a world free from gender stereotypes. This International Women's Day, AkzoNobel India is celebrating its 'Indradhanush' women who are challenging the status-quo in the male-dominated industries of decorative painting with the transformative power of paint.

In under four years, AkzoNobel's social initiative, Project Indradhanush has created a new sustainable livelihood-driven ecosystem for more than 3,100 rural women in more than 940 villages across seven states of India. Noteworthy that over 2,100 women are now vocationally trained, financially independent professional painters while another 1,000 women are successful paint-preneurs.



Kashmira Begum, our Indradhanush paint retailer now better supports her family with the incremental income in Horwah, West Bengal



Our Indradhanush women paint entrepreneur in Ujjain district of Madhya Pradesh

Celebrating every Indradhanush woman, Rohit Totla, Executive Director of AkzoNobel India said,

"At AkzoNobel, we believe that communities flourish when women thrive. The true magic of Project Indradhanush lies in harnessing the untapped potential of rural women — from introducing opportunities in the paint industry and helping them develop livelihood-linked vocational skills to providing necessary resources for their success. What we're most proud of is seeing our Indradhanush women carve out new careers and paint the future, both for themselves and their families. A future that's more equitable, empowered and colourful for all."

For thousands of women, like 40-year-old Avanti Bai Dhakad — a seasonal agricultural labourer

from Nagari village in Ratlam district, Madhya Pradesh — Project Indradhanush has been life-changing. Through decorative painting, she found not only a source of stable income but also a newfound sense of confidence and independence. Likewise, Anil and Antim Bala's dream of growing their income from their small general store is now a reality. After becoming paint-entrepreneurs, their monthly income has increased by 70%, giving them the hope and means

to build a brighter future for their young children.

Initiated in Darrang, an aspirational district in Assam in 2021, Project Indradhanush has since then rapidly expanded, touching more lives with each passing year. Today, the initiative empowers rural women across nearly 270 villages in Villupuram, Thiruvallur and Kanchipuram districts of Tamil Nadu; over 480 villages in Howrah, Bankura, West Bardhaman, Purulia, East Midnapore districts

of West Bengal; nearly 120 villages in Ujjain, Ratlam and Mandasaur districts of Madhya Pradesh; 30 villages in East Singhum, Jharkhand; and in the Nuh district in Haryana.

Akzo Nobel India is present in India for 70 years. In 2008, the company became a member of the AkzoNobel Group. With an employee strength of around 1,500, AkzoNobel India has five manufacturing sites, two RD&I centers, regional offices and a distribution network spread across the country.

Zydus, supported by the Gates Foundation, to develop the world's first combination vaccine to offer protection against shigellosis and typhoid for infants and children

Zydus Lifesciences Limited (including its subsidiaries/affiliates hereafter referred to as "Zydus") an innovation-led global lifesciences company, announced its focus on the development of a combination vaccine against shigellosis and typhoid. This combination vaccine, being developed for the first time in the world, underscores India's innovation capabilities with the potential to provide protection against deadly enteric diseases - Typhoid and Shigella.

Zydus will carry out early-stage development, animal immunogenicity studies and regulatory pre-clinical toxicology studies for this combination vaccine. The project is expected to get underway in March 2025, and is being supported by the Gates Foundation.

Zydus, a global lifesciences company specialising in novel, affordable and highly impactful vaccines will collaborate with a partner for the

research and co-development of a combination vaccine using Zydus' WHO prequalified Typhoid conjugate vaccine (ZyVac™ TCV) and Shigella Vaccine from Zydus' partner.

Vaccination remains the most effective way of preventing and controlling the disease. The TCV-Shigella combination vaccine aims to protect children below 5 years against shigellosis, a diarrhoeal disease caused by the Shigella bacteria and typhoid fever, caused by salmonella bacteria in areas where both the diseases are endemic. This combination of vaccines, if found successful, will safeguard children against two lethal enteric diseases of global relevance and potentially offer a viable solution in a scenario where childhood immunization schedules are becoming increasingly crowded, expensive, and unsustainable.

Speaking on this development, Dr. Sharvil Patel, Managing Director, Zydus Lifesciences Limited said,

"We welcome this opportunity to collaborate with Gates Foundation and our partner on the development of the TCV Shigella combination vaccine. It marks yet another step towards our ongoing commitment to addressing critical gaps through innovation. By collaborating with key partners and leveraging our research and development capabilities to provide novel solutions, we can bridge unmet needs through high-quality, and affordable vaccines that can create a sustainable impact in global public health."

M Hari Menon, Country Director, Gates Foundation, added, "The Gates Foundation has always supported efforts that help save children's lives. We are excited about supporting this initiative by Zydus, which would leverage India's science and innovation expertise, and has the potential to contribute significantly to protecting children, not just in India, but also in other parts of the world."

Shipbuilders of the nation, Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Safeguards 2,800 schoolgirls with Cervical Cancer Vaccination

Signs India's first district-level MoU with Satara Zilla Parishad through CSR implementation partner Jivika Foundation for Cervical Cancer vaccination

Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), India's leading ship-building company, has signed India's first-ever district-level Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Satara Zilla Parishad, through their CSR implementation partner – Jivika Foundation to vaccinate 2,800 schoolgirls against cervical cancer.

The immunization drive covered schools across four districts - Gadchiroli, Satara, Raigad, and Mumbai, mobilizing over 50 medical professionals and operational staff to ensure smooth and efficient vaccine administration. This initiative is part of the flagship Cervical Cancer Mukta Bharat Abhiyan by Jivika Foundation.

Ahead of the vaccination drive, an extensive awareness campaign was conducted across 50+ schools, engaging over 1000 teachers, reaching more than 5,000 students and 5000 parents. The objective was to educate students, parents, and educators on cervical health, early screening, and prevention. Meticulous healthcare protocols of Jivika Foundation ensured written consent from parents before vaccinating their wards.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Amit Nabira, CSR Head Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, said, "At MDL, we are committed not just to strengthening India's maritime capabilities but also to making a positive impact on society. Through

this initiative, we aim to protect young girls from cervical cancer and raise awareness about preventive healthcare. We are honoured to collaborate with Satara Zilla Parishad and Jivika Foundation in this important mission."

Smt. Yashni Nagrajan, Chief Executive Officer of Satara Zilla Parishad, stated, "Mission Tejaswini is a crucial step in protecting women's health and reducing the cancer burden. Appreciate MDL's



support in immunisation program to achieve our endeavour for cancer free Satara."

Mr. Jignesh Patel, Founder & Director, Jivika Foundation, commented, "Preventive healthcare is the need of the hour, and cervical cancer is one of the most preventable diseases with timely vaccination. Through this initiative, we are not only providing protection but also spreading awareness among students, teachers, and parents. Our team ensured a seamless and safe

vaccination process, reaching even the most remote schools to maximize impact."

At vaccination sites, Jivika Foundation ensured seamless logistics with a safety-first approach, AEFI (Adverse Events Following Immunization) preparedness, and a team of qualified doctors, nurses, and counsellors on-site to ensure safety and risk mitigation. Additionally, robust cold chain logistics and last-mile delivery mechanisms enabled vaccine access to even the most remote schools while maintaining efficacy. Jivika Foundation is working towards eliminating cervical cancer from India by working with corporates across India. So far the not-for-profit

has been successful in vaccinating more than 30000 girls from lower economic strata in states of Maharashtra, Delhi, Haryana, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka.

Mission Tejaswini is Satara Zilla Parishad's flagship initiative aimed at cancer

prevention, early screening, and free treatment at government hospitals. As part of this mission, Jivika Foundation is actively raising awareness and administering HPV vaccinations to schoolgirls, reinforcing its commitment to public health.

This initiative marks a significant step towards safeguarding young girls against cervical cancer, demonstrating the collective commitment of Satara Zilla Parishad, MDL, and Jivika Foundation in advancing public health and well-being. 🌱

Jagannath Prasad,
CEO, Aluminium
Recovery Business,
Runaya



RUNAYA REACH STRENGTHENS THE FOUNDATION OF EDUCATION IN ODISHA

In the heart of rural India, a quiet revolution named Runaya Reach, the CSR arm of Runaya—a sustainable manufacturing venture—is leading change by blending education, sustainability, and women’s empowerment. The initiative is uplifting underserved communities and proving that corporate responsibility can drive meaningful social progress. From enhancing educational infrastructure to championing women’s financial independence and fostering environmental

stewardship, Runaya Reach is creating ripples of hope across regions often left behind.

Building pathways to education

Education was once an unattainable dream for many children in villages such as Banjari, Purna, and Dalki. Runaya Reach is changing that narrative. By adopting six government schools, Runaya Reach has transformed these institutions into active centers of education and develop-

ment. Libraries filled with engaging books promote a love for learning, upgraded kitchens provide students with nutritious meals, and enhanced sanitation facilities ensure safe and hygienic environments. Recognizing the connection between health and learning, the initiative has also focused on improving hygiene infrastructure. Clean restrooms, hand-washing stations, and better sanitation have led to higher attendance and improved overall well-being, allowing students to excel both academically and socially.

A standout initiative under this mission is Project Laadli, which has reintegrated over 4,500 out-of-school children into formal education. The program offers scholarships and mentoring for young women pursuing engineering and M.Tech degrees through partnerships with institutions such as IIT Madras, encouraging them to break barriers in traditionally male-dominated fields.

Runaya Reach’s commitment to empowering the next generation ensures that education is not just about academics but about creating opportunities for gender equality and empowerment. Through these impactful steps, Runaya Reach is laying the foundation for a sustainable and equitable future for Orissa and the nation.

Speaking about the power of education, Jagannath Prasad, CEO—Recycling Business, Runaya, shared, “Education is the foundation upon which a stronger, more equitable future is built. Through Runaya Reach, we aim to bridge the gap for communities where education was once a distant dream. Programs such as Project Laadli not only provide access to education but also open doors to opportunities, enabling individuals to rewrite their destinies.”

Empowering women to lead change

Recognising that women are the



cornerstone of sustainable communities, Runaya Reach emphasises their empowerment through skill-building programs. From tailoring and craftwork to digital literacy, these workshops equip women with practical tools, enhancing their employability and boosting financial independence. Beyond skill development, the initiative creates safe spaces where women can connect, share experiences, and build supportive networks. These networks foster collective strength and solidarity, enabling women to emerge as changemakers in their families and communities.

Elaborating this, Jagannath shared, “Empowering women is essential for the holistic growth of any community. At Runaya Reach, we believe that when a woman is educated, skilled, and supported,

she doesn’t just transform her own life—she transforms the lives of everyone around her. Our programs are designed to create not just skilled individuals but confident leaders who can drive change.”

Sustainability at the core

Runaya Reach’s commitment to environmental sustainability is evident in its efforts to instill ecological awareness and practices. In Dadra & Nagar Haveli, the initiative has impacted over 400 lives



by promoting green practices and educating the younger generation on the impact of conservation. Plans are underway to plant more than 600 trees by FY25, reinforcing the importance of environmental stewardship in creating a healthier planet. Children are at the forefront of these efforts, learning the value of tree planting and ecological responsibility through engaging educational sessions. By fostering environmental consciousness, Runaya Reach is nurturing a generation ready to prioritise sustainability.

A vision for the future

Runaya Reach’s journey is far from over. With plans to expand its educational programs, empower more women, and deepen its environmental impact, the initiative is committed to creating lasting change. Future goals include introducing innovative engagement strategies, forming stronger community partnerships, and scaling efforts to impact even more lives.

Speaking about the program’s overall journey, Jagannath shared, “Runaya Reach is a reflection of our belief that sustainable development begins with empowered communities. By combining education, sustainability, and inclusivity, we are hoping to start a wave of lasting impact and build stronger, self-reliant communities across India. This initiative is not just about providing resources; it’s about creating opportunities and enabling people to realise their potential. Every story of change, whether it’s a young girl stepping back into a classroom or a woman starting her own business, reinforces our commitment to driving meaningful change and fostering a better future for generations to come.”

As success stories from the program inspire others, Runaya Reach continues to light the way for a future defined by hope, opportunity, and resilience. 🌱



The World Resources Institute, a global research centre, said India would have to increase its lithium battery recycling capacity 60-fold to keep up with the battery demand likely to be generated by its ambitious 2030 electric vehicle goal. *Image: Stefan Hajdu, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Flickr.*

INDIA'S US\$4-BILLION BET TO SECURE CRITICAL MINERALS

India launched a US\$4 billion initiative to secure critical minerals amid a global race pushed by the clean energy transition, reports **Thomson Reuters Foundation**

As the world rushes to secure minerals critical for rapidly-expanding clean energy technologies, India is joining the fray to try to meet its ambitious green energy goals. India said in January the government and state mining companies would spend 343 billion Indian rupees (US\$3.94 billion) to boost local production, recycling and imports of critical minerals in a bid to secure enough for its energy transition, in an initiative coined the “National Critical Mineral Mission.”

While India produces some of the copper and graphite it uses at home, it fully imports several critical minerals used in green technologies including lithium, cobalt, and nickel.

The government has also mapped out new reserves for critical minerals, but there tends to be a lengthy time-lag between the discovery of new reserves and when mining can start. India’s push is part of a global race for minerals needed for renewable technologies, which is likely to ramp up this year, with demand for ‘net zero’ minerals set to almost triple by 2030, according to the International Energy Agency.

Here is what you know about India’s critical minerals ambition:

Why are critical minerals important for India?

India aims to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2070. To meet this goal, demand for copper and nickel is expected to grow rapidly, said the Centre for Social and Economic Progress, an Indian think tank. It expects demand for copper to grow nearly 6-fold and for nickel 11-fold by 2047. Copper and nickel are widely used in green energy storage technologies, solar panels and electronics among others.

India also aims to make 30 per cent of its vehicles electric by 2030 — an ambitious goal given that electric vehicles only represented 1 per cent of total vehicle sales in India as of

November 2023, according to government data.

How reliant is India on the import of critical minerals?

While India produces some of the copper and graphite it uses locally, it remains highly dependent on imports for several critical minerals.

India imported 100 per cent of the lithium, cobalt and nickel it used in 2020, as well as 60 per cent of the graphite it utilised that year, according to the latest available data published by the Ministry of Mines in 2023.

India remains “largely dependent” on imports of critical minerals such as cobalt, copper, graphite, lithium and nickel which play a “central role in the energy transition and are found in few countries,” said the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA), a think tank, in a 2024 report.

“With ambitious climate goals in place, India’s demand for critical minerals is likely to grow exponentially in the coming years,” it said.

China, the world’s top processor of critical minerals, was the biggest exporter of critical minerals to India in 2024, according to local media.

India remains “largely dependent” on imports of critical minerals such as cobalt, copper, graphite, lithium and nickel which play a “central role in the energy transition and are found in few countries.

What is India doing to ensure supply of critical minerals?

Under the “National Critical Mineral Mission” initiative launched in January, the government will provide financial incentives to firms aimed at boosting mining, processing, recycling and imports.


In 2023, the government also simplified laws to boost critical mineral exploration, for example by allowing private firms to participate in the mining and exploration of critical minerals. Previously, only state companies could do that in the country.

India is also mapping out its own reserves of critical minerals and has already identified 164 million tonnes of copper and 210 million tonnes of graphite to be explored, the IEEFA report showed. India put 48 blocks of mineral reserves up for auction last year. The mining minister said half of these were successful, according to local media.

The IEEFA report said there were also many cancellations due to unclear data, inadequate capacity from Indian firms and limited technology, among other reasons.

India’s recycling ambition

In addition to boosting domestic production, India has put recycling at the centre of its strategy to reduce import reliance. But given its ambitious targets, its nascent recycling industry may struggle to keep up. India has said it wants to ensure that 20 per cent of all new batteries are made from recycled materials by 2030 and will aim to recover 90 per cent of all battery materials from EVs by 2027.

The World Resources Institute, a global research centre, said India would have to increase its lithium battery recycling capacity 60-fold to keep up with the battery demand likely to be generated by its ambitious 2030 electric vehicle goal. 

(SOURCE: <https://www.eco-business.com/news/indias-us4-billion-bet-to-secure-critical-minerals/>)

FAMILY PHILANTHROPY IS RESHAPING INDIA'S GIVING LANDSCAPE THROUGH PERSONAL GIVING AND CSR FROM FAMILY BUSINESSES;

could unlock additional INR 50,000–55,000 crore in the next five years

Private sector funding is expected to accelerate to 10%–12% annual growth over the next five years, driven by family philanthropy and CSR

India's social sector funding has grown at a steady rate of ~13% over the last five years, approximately INR 25 lakh crore (\$300 billion) in FY 2024. Despite this growth, the sector is ~INR 14 lakh crore (\$170 billion) short of estimates by NITI Aayog. The gap is projected to increase to ~INR 16 lakh crore (\$195 billion) by FY 2029.

India's social sector spending is projected to increase to approximately INR 45 lakh crore (USD 550 billion; 9.6% of GDP) by FY 2029, with public funding continuing to account for about 95% of this. The spending is rapidly growing in the healthcare segment, bolstered by higher post-pandemic allocations while education spending is expected to grow at a more moderate pace.

According to the latest India Philanthropy Report 2025 (IPR) by Bain & Company and Dasra, released

today, private sector funding grew by a modest 7% in FY 2024, reaching INR 1.3 lakh crore (\$16 billion). Looking ahead, private sector funding is expected to accelerate to 10%–12% annual growth over the next five years, largely driven by family philanthropy from ultra-high-net-worth individuals (UHNIs), high-net-worth individuals (HNIs), affluent individuals, and CSR.

“Private sector funding, particularly from India's ultra-high-net-worth individuals and family-owned businesses, is not just about giving—it's about driving transformative change. As we see an increasing number of families committing to long-term, strategic giving, the potential for this sector to address both underfunded and niche causes has never been greater. With the right support and infrastructure, private sector funding can play a central role

in reshaping India's social landscape, driving sustainable impact for generations to come” said Arpan Sheth, partner at Bain & Company.

Family-owned/run businesses remain central to India's CSR landscape, championing social responsibility long before the 2014 legal mandate. These businesses account for 65%–70% of private sector CSR spending annually—totaling approximately INR 18,000 crore (\$2.2 billion), within the broader 85% contribution from private sector companies. Notably, the top 2% of family-owned/run businesses contribute 50%–55% of the total CSR funding from this segment, underscoring the outsized role of a few key players.

“For generations, families have shaped India's progress through values-led giving. With the right support, families in India and the

diaspora can scale high-impact non-profits, drive social innovation, and position India as a global leader in development,” said Neera Nundy, co-founder and partner at Dasra, and co-author of the report.

CSR spending, including contributions from both private sector and family-owned/run firms, has increased its share of domestic private giving to 25% in FY24 from 23% in FY19 and is expected to grow at an annual rate of 10–12% over the next five years. On the other hand, overall giving from HNIs and affluent givers grew by 11% in FY24 driven by an increase in HNI and affluent population. Their giving is expected to grow at 12–14% annually over the next five years. In contrast, UHNIs—who typically donate in large blocks—are expected to see a faster annual growth rate of 22–24% over the same period.

Emerging insights from GivingPi, based on in-depth conversations with philanthropic families, highlight key shifts in the giving landscape. Families are increasingly supporting underfunded and niche causes such as gender, equity, diversity, and inclusion (GEDI), climate

action, arts & culture, and animal welfare. They are also strengthening the philanthropy infrastructure by investing in collaboratives and building narratives, sector capacity, and institutions.


Notably, 55% of families have women anchoring their giving priorities and 33% of families have Inter-gen and Now-gen givers shaping their philanthropy, signaling a shift towards more inclusive, diverse, and forward-thinking decision-making. Family philanthropy is also becoming more structured, with 65% of families employing dedicated staff to manage their philanthropy. Additionally, grant-making is emerging as the preferred approach, with 41% of families focusing solely on grant-making, while 23% combine grant-making with direct program implementation.

Growing need to strengthen philanthropy support infrastructure.

Growth in families’ wealth is reflected through a sevenfold growth in family offices from 45 in 2018 to 300 in 2024, which can build momentum towards institutional-

ized, multi-generational and value-driven philanthropy. Currently, 40% of philanthropy support organizations cater to families. More strategic services and structured support for family philanthropy could unlock INR 50,000-55,000 crore (\$6–\$7 billion) in additional family philanthropy over the next five years.

Beyond domestic giving, India’s growing diaspora—expanding from 18 million in 2019 to 35 million in 2024—presents a significant opportunity to channel global philanthropic capital towards the country’s social sector. However, a lack of awareness and limited philanthropy infrastructure remain key barriers. Strengthening the philanthropy support ecosystem will be crucial in bridging these gaps and mobilizing greater contributions from both domestic and global donors.

As India emerges as a hub for scalable, cost-effective social innovation, patient and risk-tolerant - family philanthropic capital can be a powerful force. Strengthening philanthropy infrastructure will be key to unlocking this potential and advancing India’s vision for Viksit Bharat 2047. 


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WMO REPORT

DOCUMENTS SPIRALLING WEATHER AND CLIMATE IMPACTS



he clear signs of human-induced climate change reached new heights in 2024, with some of the consequences being irreversible over hundreds if not thousands of years, according to a new report from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), which also underlined the massive economic and social upheavals from extreme weather.

WMO's State of the Global Climate report confirmed that 2024 was likely the first calendar year to be more than 1.5°C above the pre-industrial era, with a global mean near-surface temperature of 1.55 ± 0.13 °C above the 1850-1900 average. This is the warmest year in the 175-year observational record.

WMO's flagship report showed that:

- Atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide are at the highest levels in the last 800,000 years.
- Globally each of the past ten years were individually the ten warmest years on record.
- Each of the past eight years has set a new record for ocean heat content.
- The 18 lowest Arctic sea-ice extents on record were all in the past 18 years.
- The three lowest Antarctic ice extents were in the past three years.
- The largest three-year loss of glacier mass on record occurred in the past three years.

- The rate of sea level rise has doubled since satellite measurements began.

"Our planet is issuing more distress signals — but this report shows that limiting long-term global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius is still possible. Leaders must step up to make it happen — seizing the benefits of cheap, clean renewables for their people and economies - - with new National climate plans due this year," said United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres.

"While a single year above 1.5 °C of warming does not indicate that the long-term temperature goals of the Paris Agreement are out of reach, it is a wake-up call that we are increasing the risks to our lives, economies and to the planet," said WMO Secretary-General Celeste Saulo.

The report said that long-term global warming is currently estimated to be between 1.34 and 1.41 °C compared to the 1850-1900 baseline based on a range of methods – although it noted the uncertainty

ranges in global temperature statistics. A WMO team of international experts is examining this further in order to ensure consistent, reliable tracking of long-term global temperature changes to be aligned with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

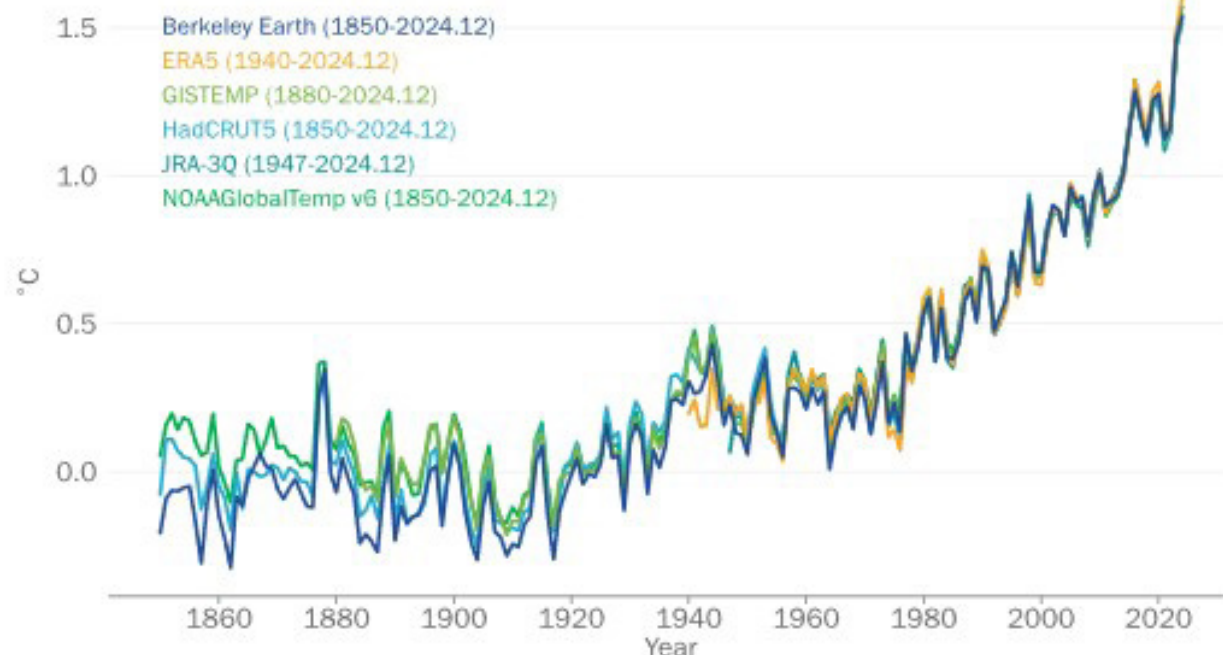
Regardless of the methodology used, every fraction of a degree of warming matters and increases risks and costs to society.

The record global temperatures seen in 2023 and broken in 2024 were mainly due to the ongoing rise in greenhouse gas emissions, coupled with a shift from a cooling La Niña to warming El Niño event. Several other factors may have contributed to the unexpectedly unusual temperature jumps, including changes in the solar cycle, a massive volcanic eruption and a decrease in cooling aerosols, according to the report.

Temperatures are just a small part of a much bigger picture.

"Data for 2024 show that our oceans continued to warm, and sea

Global mean temperature 1850-2024 Difference from 1850-1900 average



Annual global mean temperature anomalies relative to a pre-industrial (1850–1900) baseline shown from 1850 to 2024

Source: Data are from the six datasets

levels continued to rise. The frozen parts of Earth's surface, known as the cryosphere, are melting at an alarming rate: glaciers continue to retreat, and Antarctic sea ice reached its second-lowest extent ever recorded. Meanwhile, extreme weather continues to have devastating consequences around the world," said Celeste Saulo.

Tropical cyclones, floods, droughts, and other hazards in 2024 led to the highest number of new displacements recorded for the past 16 years, contributed to worsening food crises, and caused massive economic losses.

"In response, WMO and the global community are intensifying efforts to strengthen early warning systems and climate services to help decision-makers and society at large be more resilient to extreme weather and climate. We are making progress but need to go further and need to

go faster. Only half of all countries worldwide have adequate early warning systems. This must change," said Celeste Saulo.

Investment in weather, water and climate services is more important than ever to meet the challenges and build safer, more resilient communities, she stressed.

The report is based on scientific contributions from National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, WMO Regional Climate Centres, UN partners and dozens of experts. It includes sidebars on monitoring global temperature for the Paris Agreement and understanding the temperature anomalies in 2023 and 2024. It includes supplements on climate services and on extreme weather. It is one of a suite of WMO scientific reports which seek to inform decision-making. It was published ahead of World Meteorological Day on 23

March, World Water Day on 22 March and World Glaciers Day on 21 March.

KEY INDICATORS

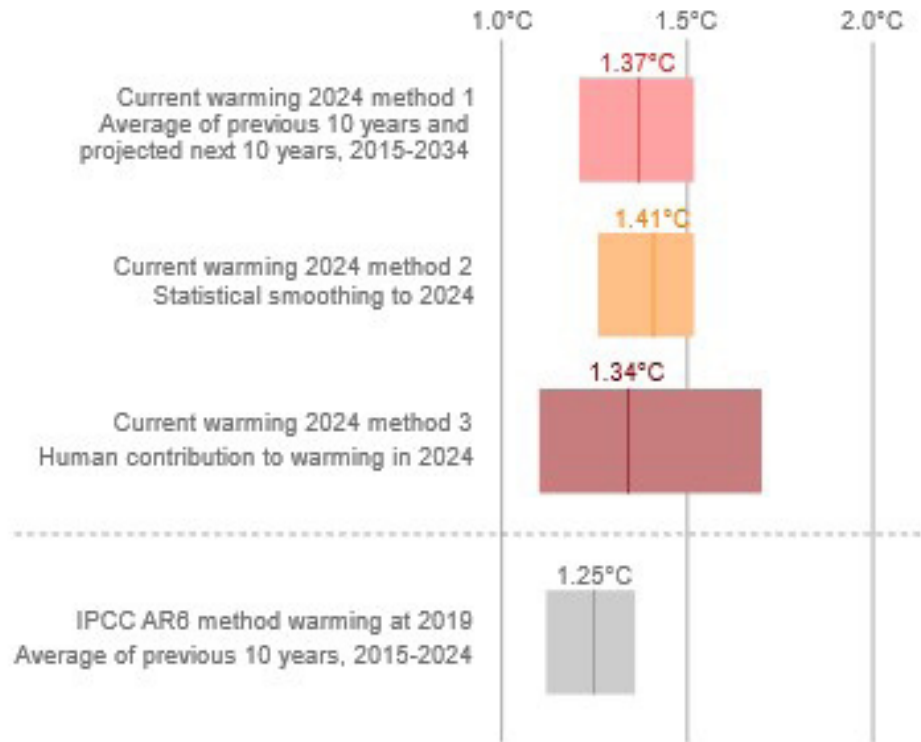
Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide

Atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide, as well as methane and nitrous oxide, are at the highest levels in the last 800,000 years.

Carbon dioxide concentrations in 2023 (the last year for which consolidated global annual figures are available) were 420.0 ± 0.1 parts per million (ppm), 2.3 ppm more than 2022 and 151% of the pre-industrial level (in 1750). 420 ppm corresponds to 3,276 Gt – or 3.276 trillion tonnes of CO₂ in the atmosphere.

Real-time data from specific locations show that levels of these three main greenhouse gases continued to increase in 2024. Carbon dioxide remains in the atmosphere for generations, trapping heat.

Best estimates of current global warming remain below 1.5°C



Three methods for establishing an up-to-date estimate of current global warming as of 2024, compared with the IPCC AR6 method, which uses averages over the previous 10 years and is representative of warming to 2019. The best estimate resulting from each method is shown as a dark vertical line, and the uncertainty range is shown by the shaded area.

Global Mean Near-surface Temperature

In addition to 2024 setting a new record, each of the past ten years, 2015-2024, were individually the ten warmest years on record.

The record temperature in 2024 was boosted by a strong El Niño which peaked at the start of the year. In every month between June 2023 and December 2024, monthly average global temperatures exceeded all monthly records prior to 2023.

Record levels of greenhouse gases were the primary driver, with the shift to El Niño playing a lesser role.

Ocean Heat Content

Around 90% of the energy trapped by greenhouse gases in the Earth system is stored in the ocean.

In 2024, ocean heat content reached its highest level in the 65-

year observational record. Each of the past eight years has set a new record. The rate of ocean warming over the past two decades, 2005-2024, is more than twice that in the period 1960-2005.

Ocean warming leads to degradation of marine ecosystems, biodiversity loss, and reduction of the ocean carbon sink. It fuels tropical storms and contributes to sea-level rise. It is irreversible on centennial to millennial time scales. Climate projections show that ocean warming will continue for at least the rest of the 21st century, even for low carbon emission scenarios.

Ocean Acidification

Acidification of the ocean surface is continuing, as shown by the steady decrease of global average ocean surface pH. The most intense regional

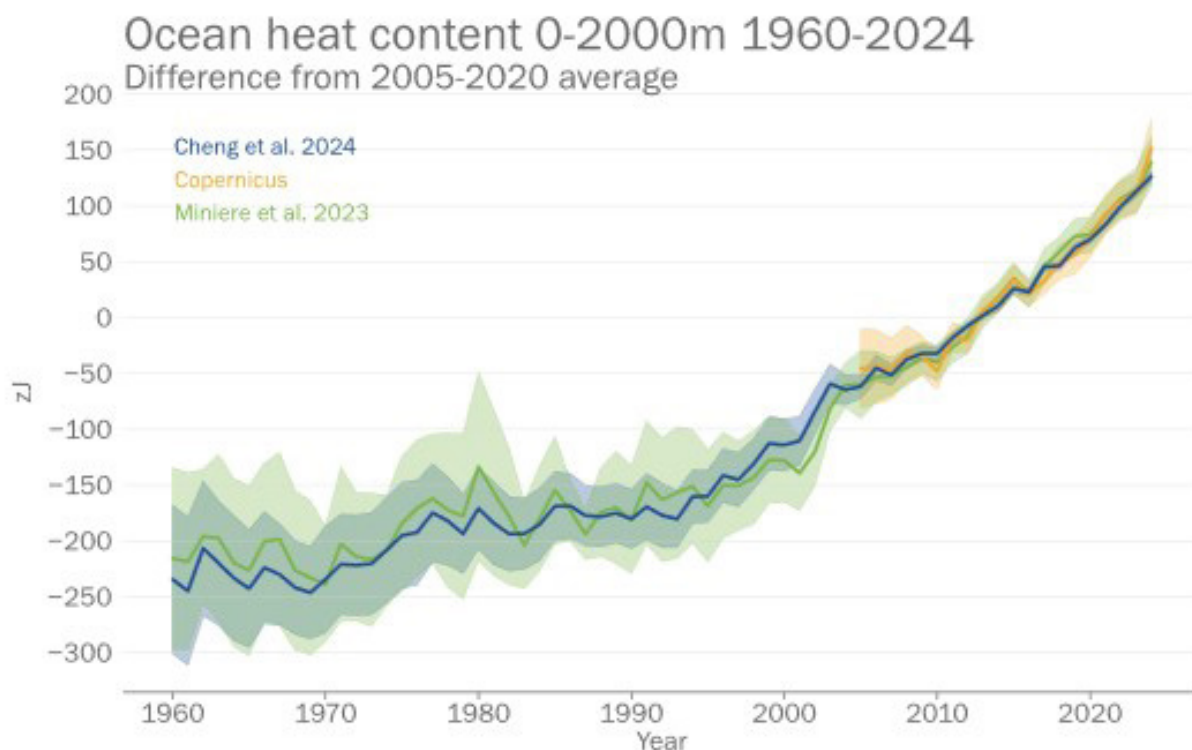
decreases are in the Indian Ocean, the Southern Ocean, the eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, the northern tropical Pacific, and some regions in the Atlantic Ocean.

The effects of ocean acidification on habitat area, biodiversity and ecosystems have already been clearly observed, and food production from shellfish aquaculture and fisheries has been hit as have coral reefs.

Projections show that ocean acidification will continue to increase in the 21st century, at rates dependent on future emissions. Changes in deep-ocean pH are irreversible on centennial to millennial time scales.

Global Mean Sea Level

In 2024, global mean sea level was the highest since the start of the satellite record in 1993 and the rate of increase from 2015-2024 was double



Annual global ocean heat content down to 2000 m depth for the period 1960–2024, in zettajoules (10²¹ J). The shaded area indicates the 2-sigma uncertainty range on each estimate.

that from 1993–2002, increasing from 2.1 mm per year to 4.7 mm per year.

Sea level rise has cascading damaging impacts on coastal ecosystems and infrastructure, with further impacts from flooding and saltwater contamination of groundwater.

Glacier Mass Balance

The period 2022–2024 represents the most negative three-year glacier mass balance on record. Seven of the ten most negative mass balance years since 1950 have occurred since 2016.

Exceptionally negative mass balances were experienced in Norway, Sweden, Svalbard, and the tropical Andes.

Glacier retreat increases short-term hazards, harms economies and ecosystems and long-term water security.

Sea-ice Extent

The 18 lowest Arctic sea-ice mini-

um extents in the satellite record all occurred in the past 18 years. The annual minimum and maximum of Antarctic sea-ice extent were each the 2nd lowest in the observed record from 1979.

The minimum daily extent of sea-ice in the Arctic in 2024 was 4.28 million km², the 7th lowest extent in the 46-year satellite record. In Antarctica, the minimum daily extent tied for the 2nd lowest minimum in the satellite era and marked the 3rd consecutive year that minimum Antarctic sea-ice extent dropped below 2 million km². These are the three lowest Antarctic ice minima in the satellite record.

Extreme events and impacts

Extreme weather events in 2024 led to the highest number of new annual displacements since 2008, and destroyed homes, critical infrastructure, forests, farmland and biodiversity. The compounded effect of various

shocks, such as intensifying conflict, drought and high domestic food prices drove worsening food crises in 18 countries globally by mid-2024.

Tropical cyclones were responsible for many of the highest-impact events of 2024. These included Typhoon Yagi in Viet Nam, the Philippines and southern China.

In the United States, Hurricanes Helene and Milton in October both made landfall on the west coast of Florida as major hurricanes, with economic losses of tens of billions of dollars. Over 200 deaths were associated with the exceptional rainfall and flooding from Helene, the most in a mainland United States hurricane since Katrina in 2005.

Tropical Cyclone Chido caused casualties and economic losses in the French Indian Ocean island of Mayotte, Mozambique and Malawi. It displaced around 100,000 people in Mozambique. 🌱



Regions near the equator, such as sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, would see the greatest declines in potential crop diversity – decreasing “on more than 70 per cent of the cropland area if global warming exceeds 2°C”, according to the study. Image: ILO Asia-Pacific, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Flickr.

HALF OF GLOBAL CROPLANDS COULD SEE A DROP IN SUITABLE CROPS AT 2°C OF WARMING

More than half of global cropland areas could see a decline in the number of suitable crops under a warming scenario of 2°C, new research finds, writes **Yanine Quiroz**

The study, published in *Nature Food*, projects how climate change will modify the areas suited for growing 30 major crops under four scenarios, ranging from 1.5 to 4°C of global warming. It finds that under just 1.5°C of warming, more than half of the studied crops would suffer from an overall loss of potential suitable cropland, compared to the current climate.

While warming would decrease crop diversity in the tropics, it would increase in areas far from the equator, “offering opportunities for climate change adaptation”, the authors write.

One scientist, who was not involved in the study, tells *Carbon Brief* that expanding research beyond just staple crops is “essential to understand[ing] the full impact of climate change on agriculture”, adding that “it is exciting to see more work in this space”.

Declining ‘safe’ space for crops

Cultivating a diverse range of crops contributes to a more stable and diverse food supply.

For example, having a wide variety of crops allows farmers to select the crops that will be most resilient to extreme events, such as drought.

In order to understand how climate change will affect future potential crop diversity, the researchers identify the “safe climatic space” – or climate “niche” – for 30 major crops. This approach “maps the current climatic space of the major production areas of each crop”, based on annual rainfall, biotemperature and aridity.

(Biotemperature is the average of monthly average temperatures above 0°C and below 30°C, and is a method of considering both temperature and growing season.)

Using the “safe climatic space” approach, the authors calculate crop diversity by counting the number

of crops that could be grown in a specific area in the future.

Then, the researchers project how these areas would change under the four future warming scenarios of 1.5°C, 2°C, 3°C and 4°C above pre-industrial levels, compared to the current climate (1990-2020).

The study finds that under a 1.5°C warming scenario, more than half of the 30 crops analysed would see a net decrease in their global potential cropland area. The most affected crops are wheat, barley, soya beans, lentils and potatoes.

Beyond 2°C warming, the declines in suitable areas for the 30 crops become more pronounced – in some cases approaching and passing 50 per cent, the study notes.

In a 3°C scenario, all of the 30 crops studied would have their suitable cropland area reduced.

The chart below shows the percentage changes in global potential cropland area for all the crops under the four warming scenarios examined. Each colour represents a level of global warming. The 30 crops were classified into five groups: cereals, fruits and vegetables, oil crops, pulses and starchy roots.

Dr Dale Rankine is an applied climate scientist at the University of the West Indies. The expert, not involved in the study, tells *Carbon Brief* that the wide range of crops analysed in the research is “commendable” and that the findings are largely in line with previous work.

Dr José Clavijo Michelangeli, chief product officer at Praedictus Climate Solutions, an agricultural data and forecasting company, notes that most studies on agriculture and climate change only focus on the impacts to main staple crops, such as maize, wheat, rice and soya beans. Clavijo Michelangeli, who was also not involved in the study, tells *Carbon Brief*:

“Studies expanding to other crops are essential to understand the full impact of climate change on agri-

culture and it is exciting to see more work in this space.”

He points out that although the findings are consistent with previous understanding of the impacts of climate change on cropping systems, the climate data used to define the “safe climatic spaces” may not “align” with the responses to temperature of the crops currently grown there. He tells *Carbon Brief*:

“This has the potential to over or underestimate the potential change in suitability of the crop in that region.”

Unequal impacts

The study also reveals that climate change impacts on crop production and diversity will vary across regions.

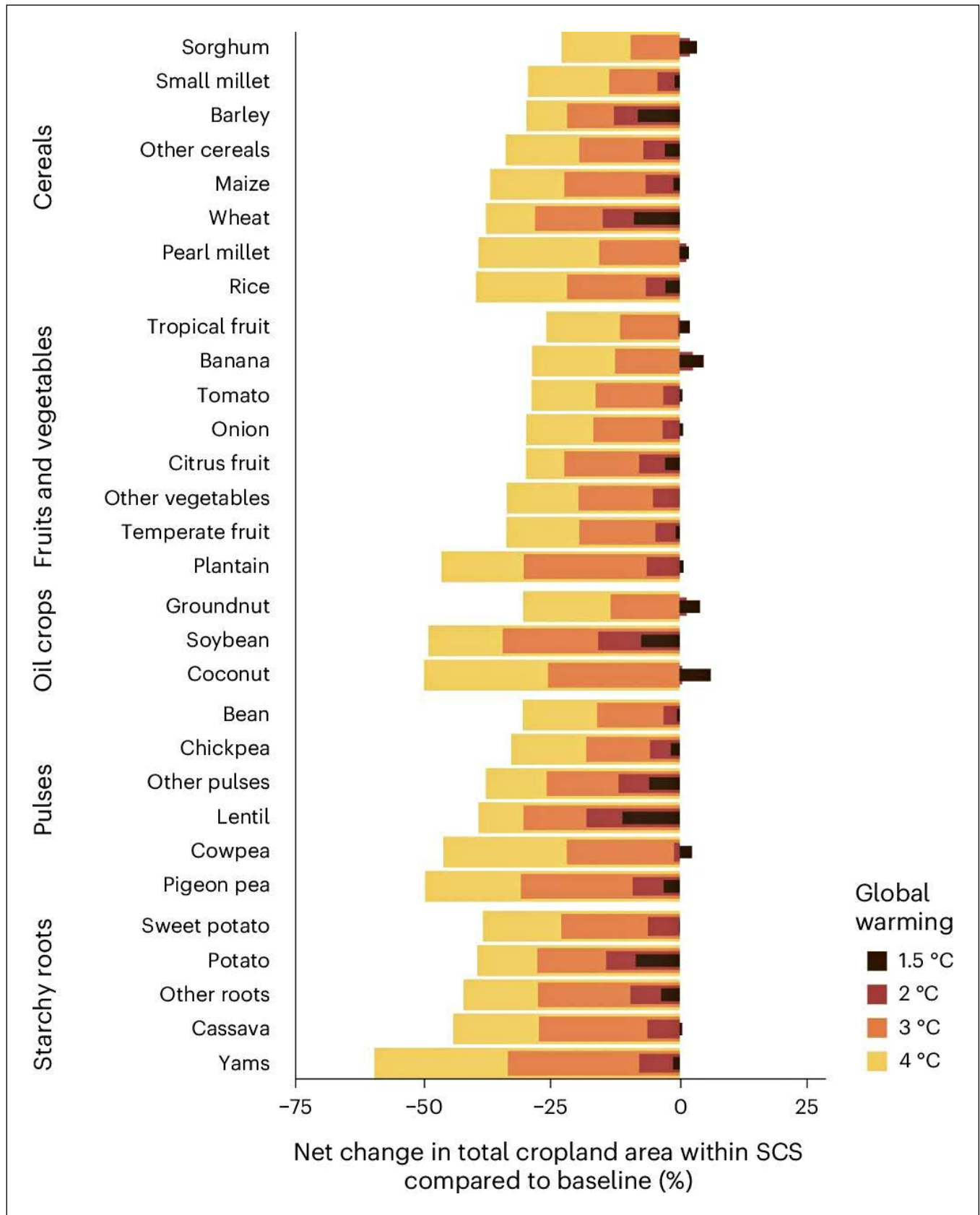
Regions near the equator, such as sub-Saharan Africa and south Asia, would see the greatest declines in potential crop diversity – decreasing “on more than 70 per cent of the cropland area if global warming exceeds 2°C”, according to the study.

By contrast, global warming could increase the diversity of crops in other regions – such as North America, Europe, central Asia and Latin America. In these regions, crop diversity would increase – or see no change – on more than half of the cropland area under warming levels of up to 3°C, the study says.

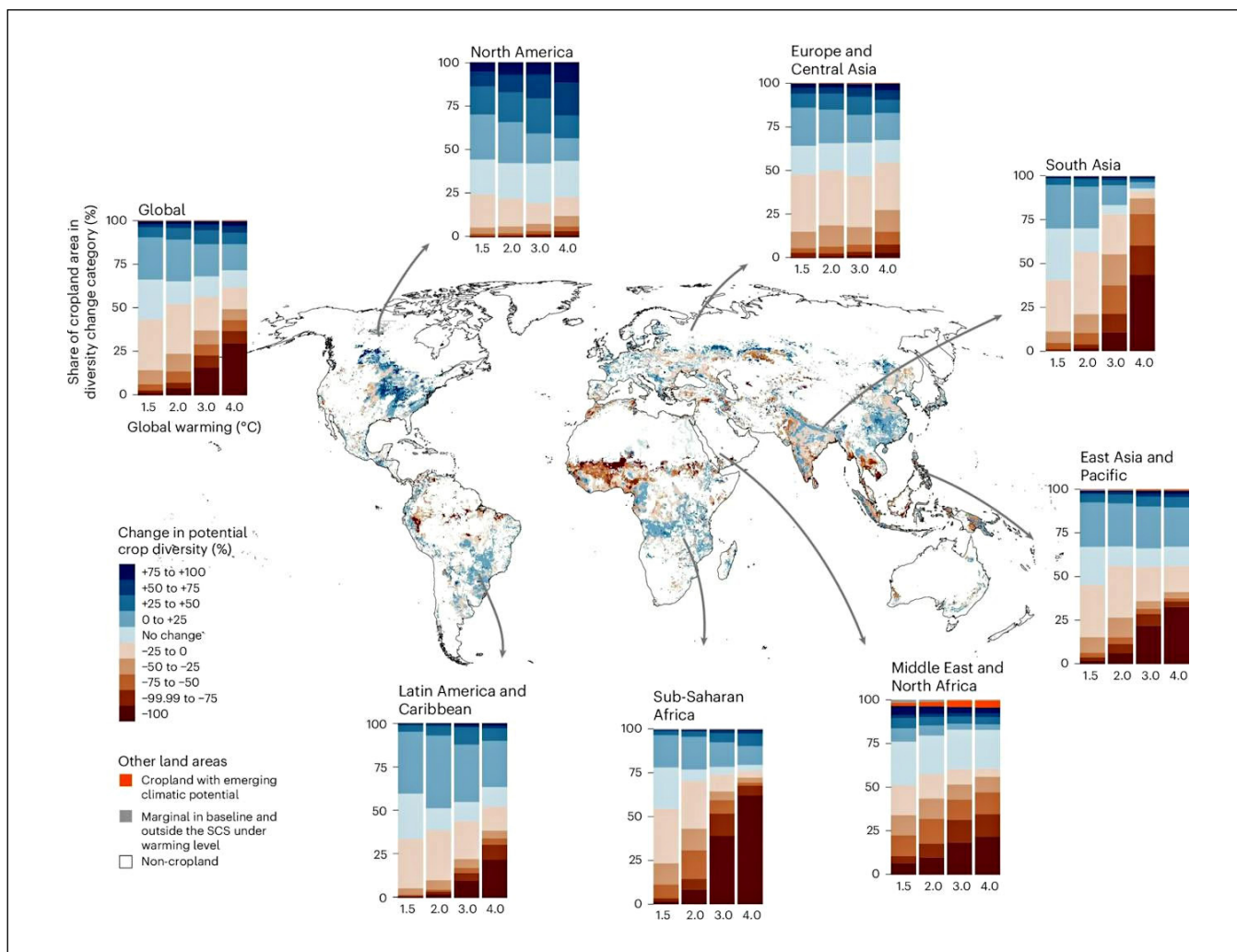
The map below shows the potential changes in crop diversity at 2°C of warming. The inset charts show crop-diversity changes divided by regions and global warming levels, with the x-axis of the charts representing the four warming scenarios. Areas in brown represent places where crop diversity is projected to decrease, while those in blue are areas where crop diversity is projected to increase.

Adaptation opportunity

For areas that could see an increase in crop diversity, this creates “opportunities for climate change adaptation”, the authors say.



The net percentage change in global potential cropland area with a safe climatic space (SCS) for the 30 crops analysed, under four global warming scenarios: 1.5°C (brown), 2°C (light red), 3°C (orange) and 4°C (yellow), compared to the current (1990-2020) climate. The crops are divided into five categories: cereals, fruits and vegetables, oil crops, pulses and starchy roots. Source: Heikonen et al. (2025)



The percentage changes in potential crop diversity under 2°C of warming, with blue (brown) colours showing increases (decreases) in future crop diversity. The inset maps show crop diversity changes by regions and global warming levels, from 1.5 to 4°C. The y-axes show the percentage of cropland area experiencing a given change. The darker the blue colour, the bigger the increase in crop diversity. Conversely, the darker the brown colour, the bigger the decrease in crop diversity. Source: Heikonen et al. (2025)

Clavijo Michelangeli says that the overall pattern of where the highest or lowest risks lie is in line with prior research. He adds:

“It is very likely that warming temperatures will not only increase diversification – which is in fact already happening – but also productivity of higher-latitude systems.

“The work is also very important in continuing to emphasise the need to do more research in tropical systems.”

Rankine warns that the benefits of increased crop production in temperate climates should not come at the expense of working to adapt agriculture in tropical climates. He

argues that if future production centers on temperate countries, it could result in “a disinterest in tropical crops”.

He tells Carbon Brief that an uptick of extreme events in temperate areas in the future could endanger global food security:

“If [temperate regions] become the hub for food production, this could lead to global food shortages... This would amount to maladaptation, the opposite of diversity.”

The study calls to limit global warming to 2°C “to avoid detrimental impacts on food production”, especially in the tropics, where many of the world’s most-vulnerable

nations are located. Sara Heikonen, the study’s lead author and a doctoral researcher at Finland’s Aalto University, says that any negative effect on agriculture in these regions would impact global food networks. Therefore, she says, “international collaboration and support for countries that need help with adaptation” will be critical for “developing new agricultural practices to adapt to these difficult conditions”.

This story was published with permission from Carbon Brief.

(Source: <https://www.eco-business.com/news/half-of-global-croplands-could-see-a-drop-in-suitable-crops-at-2c-of-warming/>)



As of 24 February 2025, 44 countries and the EU had submitted national biodiversity strategies and action plans, or “NBSAPs” to the UN, while 124 parties had submitted national targets. Image: Terry Allen, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Flickr.

MORE THAN HALF OF NATIONS FAIL TO PROTECT 30% OF LAND AND SEA IN UN NATURE PLANS

More than half of countries have not committed to protecting 30 per cent of their land and sea for nature by 2030 in plans submitted to the UN – despite signing a global agreement to do so less than three years ago, an analysis by Carbon Brief’ experts **Daisy Dunne, Patrick Greenfield, Giuliana Viglione, Yanine Quiroz**

In December 2022, nearly all nations agreed to protect “30 per cent of Earth’s land and sea for nature” by the end of the decade. This commitment – referred to as “30 by 30” – is the flagship target of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), often likened to the “Paris Agreement for nature”.

But, 70 out of the 137 (51 per cent) countries that have submitted UN plans outlining how they will meet the targets of the GBF do not commit to “30 by 30” within their borders, according to analysis of these documents by Carbon Brief and the Guardian.

Instead, these countries either pledge to protect a lower percentage of their territory for nature or fail to explicitly commit to a numerical target at all.

Countries failing to commit to “30 by 30” in UN plans represent just over one-third of Earth’s land surface, the analysis shows.

The list includes some of the most nature-rich nations on Earth, such as Indonesia, Peru and South Africa, along with developed countries such as Finland, Norway and Switzerland.

Speaking to Carbon Brief and the Guardian, one nation said that meeting “30 by 30” within its borders would be “extremely challenging” to achieve, while another said that developing countries in particular should not face an “unnecessarily heavy burden” in reaching the global goal.

The investigation shows that “many countries have not been ambitious enough with their domestic conservation commitments and, as a result, we are collectively not currently on track to meet the global 30 by 30 target”, one expert said.

A third of Earth

At the COP15 nature summit in 2022, countries agreed to the GBF, a broad set of targets and goals with

an overall aim to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030.

Target 3 of the GBF – which says countries should ensure “at least” 30 per cent of Earth is in protected areas or governed by other conservation measures by 2030 (“30 by 30”) – is considered by many to be the flagship aim of the agreement and has been likened to the 1.5°C temperature goal of the Paris Agreement in articles and speeches stressing its importance.

All countries were asked to submit plans to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity outlining how they will meet the targets of the GBF within their territories ahead of the COP16 nature summit in 2024. These are called national biodiversity strategies and action plans, or “NBSAPs”.

A separate Carbon Brief and Guardian investigation last October found that 85 per cent of countries missed the deadline to submit their NBSAPs, with some arguing that the deadline was too challenging or that they were not able to access funds to help prepare their documents.

Countries unable to produce their NBSAPs were asked to instead submit national targets to the UN. These are simple lists of targets that countries will aim for without an accompanying plan of action.

As of 24 February 2025, 44 countries and the EU had submitted NBSAPs to the UN, while 124 parties had submitted national targets. (As some countries submitted both national targets and NBSAPs, it means that, overall, 137 countries have put forward a plan of some kind.) To investigate whether countries have committed to the “30 by 30” pledge within their borders in these plans, Carbon Brief and the Guardian analysed the full text of each NBSAP, as well as any target that had been tagged as relating to target 3 of the GBF.

The analysis finds that, of 137 countries that have submitted plans to the CBD, more than half – 70 coun-

tries, or 51 per cent – do not commit to protecting 30 per cent of their land and sea by 2030.

Of these, 21 countries did not supply a numerical target for protecting their land area, 26 set targets for land protection that were less than 30 per cent and eight set land targets of or greater than 30 per cent, but sea-protection targets less than 30 per cent.

Of the remaining countries, 13 did not submit any targets relating to coverage of protected areas. Two others set goals further in the future than 2030.

A further 10 countries, or 7 per cent, do not make it clear from the plans that they submitted whether or not they have a pledge that meets the conditions of 30 by 30. This includes: countries that specify that they will protect 30 per cent of “areas of particular importance”; countries that gave a target for improvement, but did not provide a baseline; and countries that submitted only one or two targets.

Just 42 per cent of countries – 57 in total – commit to protecting 30 per cent of both land and sea by 2030.

The chart below shows the countries that have submitted NBSAPs and/or national targets to the UN. On the chart, countries are clustered by the percentage of land they have pledged to protect and the size of each bubble represents their land area. (Countries clustered around the 30 per cent line and outlined in grey all have pledges to protect 30 per cent of land area.)

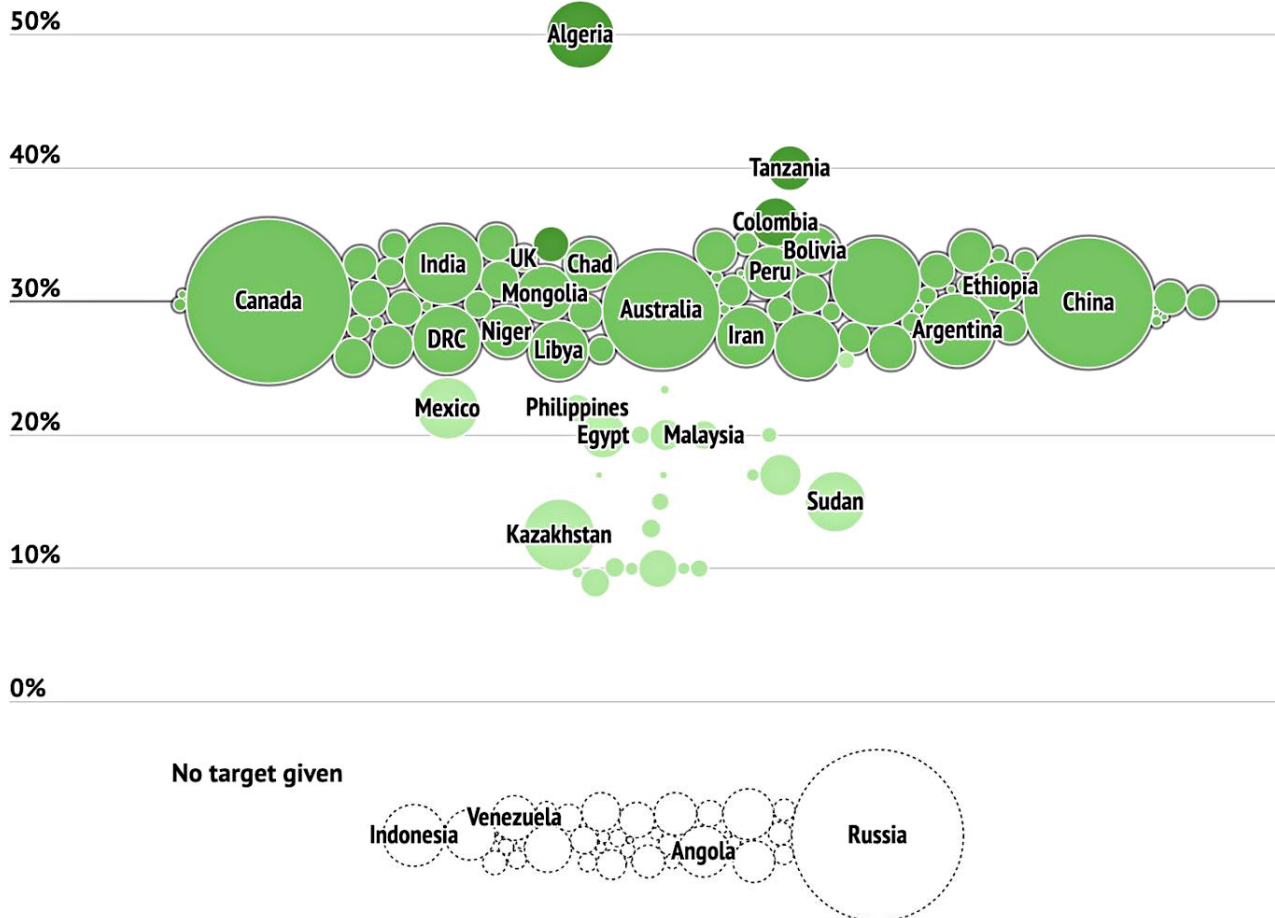
Countries clustered below “no target” are those that have not pledged a numerical target for protecting their land or those who have produced a plan, but have not included a protected area target.

The analysis shows that, collectively, more than one-third of the Earth’s land area is covered by a pledge that does not fulfil the “30 by 30” target, while around half is covered by a “30 by 30” pledge.

More than half of nations do not plan to protect 30% of land for nature

The percentage of land targeted for protection for nature by different countries.

Circles proportional to country land area.



Source: National biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) and national targets submissions to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. UN Food and Agriculture Organization.

CarbonBrief
CLEAR ON CLIMATE

The various pledges made by countries when it comes to protecting a proportion of their land for nature. Chart by Tom Pearson for Carbon Brief. Data source: UN CBD NBSAPs and national targets. Land area data from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization.

Seven of the 17 “megadiverse” countries – which together provide a home to 70 per cent of the world’s biodiversity – have not committed to 30 by 30, the analysis finds. This includes Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, the Philippines, South Africa and Venezuela.

A further 61 countries have not submitted an NBSAP or national targets and so have not been assessed in the analysis. This includes the

world’s most biodiverse nation, Brazil. The figures also do not include the US, which – although a megadiverse country – is not party to the CBD and, therefore, is not subject to the goals and targets of the GBF.

Former US president Joe Biden committed the country to the “30 by 30” pledge. However, the “Project 2025” policy blueprint – which Donald Trump is largely following – calls for the target to be scrapped.

The EU submitted an NBSAP that covers its 27 member states and commits to 30 by 30.

However, individual countries are also party to the CBD and are expected to submit their own national plans. For the purposes of this analysis, EU member states were only considered to be meeting “30 by 30” if they submitted their own NBSAP or national target that did so.

'Extremely challenging'

Carbon Brief and the Guardian reached out to megadiverse countries and developed nations to ask why they had chosen not to commit to "30 by 30" in their UN plans.

Indonesia, a megadiverse country that is home to the world's third-largest rainforest, did not give a numerical target for how much of its territory it is able to protect for nature in its NBSAP.

A government spokesperson says that it is Indonesia's view that "it is not essential to explicitly state that the 30 per cent protection target is for terrestrial and marine areas" in its territory, explaining:

"Indonesia is of the view that all of us need to understand that the GBF is indeed global. And, by being global, it is natural that this framework should be implemented globally and collectively, without putting an unnecessarily heavy burden on some of us.

"Indonesia is committed to ambitious yet practical targets for the GBF, with an emphasis on the fact that not all parties are at the same level if targets are assessed numerically." The spokesperson adds that "managing biodiversity is not an easy task" and that the "balance of economic, social and environmental aspects must be maintained, particularly for developing countries like Indonesia".

In its NBSAP, megadiverse nation Mexico commits to protecting 30 per cent of its oceans, but only 22 per cent of its land.

Dr Andrea Cruz Angón, coordinator of biodiversity strategies and policies at Conabio, the federal government's biodiversity commission, says that the targets are still "being reviewed and adjusted" by the appropriate federal agencies.

She adds that the targets were produced after workshops were held "with subnational governments, youth, Indigenous peoples and Afro-Mexican communities" to identify

"barriers and opportunities for these actors to make voluntary commitments to the targets".

Finland, one of the EU's member states, has not yet released an NBSAP, but submitted its national targets for meeting the goals of the GBF to the UN in August 2024. In these plans, Finland does not commit to "30 by 30".

A spokesperson for the Finnish government says it was still preparing its NBSAP and, as a result, none of its targets are final, but adds:

"Achieving a 30 per cent increase in protected area by 2030 would be extremely challenging, as to reach this target, for example, the protected area in land areas would have to increase by about over 700,000 hectares per year."

In its NBSAP, Norway committed to protecting 30 per cent of its land for nature by 2030 – but says it was still assessing its ocean protection target and "will come back with a plan for how a future goal can be achieved in a way that also facilitates the sustainable use of Norwegian marine areas".

A spokesperson for Norway says the nation is "committed to contribute towards the 30 by 30 target", adding:

"A national conservation target for Norwegian sea areas has not yet been concluded. This is due to an ongoing national process to assess which marine areas that can be recognised as protected through 'other effective area-based conservation measures' (OECM), in accordance with [UN biodiversity] criteria.

"The conclusion of this process will clarify the current conservation status of Norwegian waters, and consequently enable us to set a national target."

'Go back to the drawing board'

Inger Andersen, executive director of the UN Environment Programme, tells Carbon Brief and the Guardian that "30 by 30" is a "global target and

how countries take that on board at the national level will be different across the world, depending on national circumstances".

She points to the Protected Planet Report 2024, which shows that only 17.6 per cent of land and 8.4 per cent of the ocean is currently being conserved for nature – with just five years to go until the "30 by 30" deadline, adding:

"As the world faces a nature and biodiversity loss crisis, it is clear we must go much further, much faster. This will not be possible without financial, technical and capacity support for many countries."

Responding to Carbon Brief and the Guardian's investigation, Brian O'Donnell, director of the Campaign for Nature, a group advocating for the 30 by 30 target, says:

"Many countries have not been ambitious enough with their domestic conservation commitments and, as a result, we are collectively not currently on track to meet the global '30 by 30' target. This is troubling and action must be taken to put the world on track."

To get on track for "30 by 30", developed nations must "directly fund" the target to enable developing countries to protect more of their territories for nature, he says, adding that the "30 by 30" pledge also needs to be championed at a higher level by global leaders and the UN.

He adds that countries not committing to "30 by 30" in their UN plans "should go back to the drawing board and update their plans with ones in which conservation is commensurate with the challenge of biodiversity loss and the needs of communities". 🟩

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(Source: <https://www.eco-business.com/news/revealed-more-than-half-of-nations-fail-to-protect-30-of-land-and-sea-in-un-nature-plans/>)

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professionals

Smile Train empowers local medical professionals with training, funding, and resources to provide free cleft surgery and comprehensive cleft care to children across the country. We advance a sustainable and scalable global health model for cleft treatment, drastically improving children's lives, creating both an immediate and long-term impact.



Let your CSR Program transform lives and create lasting impact.

Join us to change India, one smile at a time.

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