

Connect

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Seema Arora
CEO
CII Foundation

“
I am happy to share that we have been joined by more corporates and have expanded the crop residue management project coverage from 300 villages in 2022 to 430 villages at the start of this season.

”

The nip in the air as winter approaches is welcome, but with it comes deteriorating air quality due to rising air pollution, especially in Delhi and neighbouring states. The rising AQI levels turn the spotlight, once again, on stubble burning in the states of Punjab and Haryana. While the number of farm fires was low at the start of the season compared to the corresponding period of last year, the numbers escalated later, with Punjab recording over 1000 farm fires in a single day according to the Punjab Remote Sensing Centre. The challenge remains, and we remain committed to mitigating stubble burning using our impactful model of a multi-stakeholder approach that tackles the problem holistically.

I had the opportunity to interact with donors as well as our farmers during the National Workshop on Clean and Green Solutions for Rice Straw Management held in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare on 29th September in Delhi. It is heartening to see how farmers have adopted sustainable agricultural practices promoted under our crop residue management project.



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I am happy to share that this season we have been joined by more corporates and have expanded the project coverage from 300 villages in 2022 to 430 villages. In addition to promoting in-situ management of stubble, we are now also promoting ex-situ management of straw and I look forward to more engagement and participation by the industry to accelerate our zero-stubble-burning movement.

In other areas of work, we launched Kerala's first mobile creche in Vengola, which is home to several migrant workers due to the large number of plywood factories there. The mobile creche will house children between the ages of 6 months to 6 years during the day, giving them a safe haven while their parents work. The creche has also been made child-friendly and has been equipped with learning material to stimulate young minds.

Our community-led and community-managed waste management project in Delhi's Abul Fazal is transforming the area, making it clean and green, and emerging as a role model project. We hosted several CSR Teams from different corporates who engaged with the community and the project team to get an insight into the project model and its success.

We launched Kerala's first mobile creche in Vengola, which is home to several migrant workers to give their children a safe haven while their parents work.

In August, we launched our Call for Nominations for the Woman Exemplar Award 2024 and have been receiving nominations from across the country strengthening our belief in the power of women to drive change.

Our grassroots women leaders, Woman Exemplars, continue to inspire. Over 100 exemplars are driving social change in the areas of Health, Education and Micro-enterprise in their communities by challenging social taboos and norms. It is a tough battle, but their grit and determination carry them forward and we are proud of them. These voices of change are echoing in pockets across India and reverberating to create more ripples of change. In this quarter, we held several workshops and masterclasses to further build the capacity of these women to help them scale up their work in a more impactful way. In August, we launched our Call for Nominations for the Woman Exemplar Award 2024 and have been receiving nominations from across the country strengthening our belief in the power of women to drive change.

We look forward to deepening our engagement with the communities we work with while entering new geographies and areas of work. All this would not be possible without the dedicated support of our donors and other stakeholders, who match our commitment to creating a better world.



CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE

Crop Residue Management

At the onset of winter in India's northwest, the imperative for effective air pollution management becomes increasingly evident. During winter, the quality of air in Delhi and neighbouring states deteriorates to hazardous levels, aggravated by the burning of crop residue in Punjab and Haryana, two of India's major grain-producing regions. Farmers resort to crop residue burning after harvesting the paddy crop driven by a lack of awareness, access to viable and economical alternatives and due to the short window period between harvesting one crop and sowing the next. This annual escalation of crop residue burning poses a significant threat not only to the quality of air but also to the quality of soil, which worsens over time, decreasing farm yield and farmer incomes over the long term.

The CII Foundation initiated a collaborative, industry-led, multi-stakeholder project focused on mitigating farm stubble burning in 2018 in Punjab, based on the findings of a CII NITI Aayog study that identified stubble burning as a significant cause of air pollution. Over the years, the project coverage has been expanded across Punjab and Haryana.

Distinguished by its recognition through the UNDP SDG Action Award and the Global Development Network, the CII Foundation's Crop Residue Management (CRM) initiative is successfully promoting sustainable agricultural practices and creating a zero-stubble-burning movement through a gamut of activities.

Key Components of the Program



During the last paddy season in 2022, as a result of the project interventions, 83% of the total 3,00,000 acres of intervened farmland successfully transitioned to stubble-burning-free practices.

In the last quarter, the CII Foundation intensified its efforts and activities to underscore the advantages of CRM practices and engage with more farmers and other stakeholders.

EXPANDING GEOGRAPHIC FOOTPRINT

The Crop Residue Management Initiative continues to gain momentum with increased corporate support from organizations like Apraava Energy, Birlasoft, Fidelity International, and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL).

In the Amargarh district of Malerkotla, Fidelity International has adopted 20 additional villages, encompassing six Cooperative Societies. This collaborative effort spans across 15,900 acres of farmland, benefiting 2,470 farmers.

Birlasoft has extended its support by adopting 16 villages located in the Dhuri Block of Sangrur District, Punjab. These villages are aligned with four Cooperative Societies and this initiative covers 11,600 acres of farmland and supports 1,300 farmers.

An MoU was signed with Apraava Energy on 29th September to support 5 new villages. Apraava is already supporting the project in 34 villages.



Furthermore, the CII Foundation has strengthened its collaboration with Indian Oil Corporation Limited to combat stubble burning and promote sustainable farming in Punjab. Building on the achievements of the CIIF-IOCL Project Vayu Amrit in Sangrur, IOCL is expanding its support to an additional 16 villages in Patiala District under Project Vayu-Amrit 2.0. This extension will cover 15,439 acres of farmland, benefiting 2,618 farmers covered under seven Cooperative Societies. CII and IOCL signed an MoU on 6th September for Project Vayu Amrit 2.0.



A field event to launch Project Vayu Amrit 2.0 was held at village Bhamna on 5th October. The event was attended by senior officials from the Government such as Ms Sakshi Sawhney, DC Patiala, Ms Anuprita Johal, ADC – Rural Development, Mr Charanjit Singh, SDM – Samana. Other eminent participants included Mr S.K. Kanojia, Executive Director, NRPL, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd; Mr Chandrakant Pradhan, Lead – Climate Resilience, CII Foundation, Mr Harjinder Singh Jauremajra, representative of Shri Chetan Singh Jauremajra, Cabinet Minister, Government of Punjab; Mr Gurnam Singh, Chief Agriculture Officer, Patiala, and Mr Sarbeshwar Singh Mohi, Deputy Registrar, Cooperative Societies.

Addressing the children present at the event, Ms Sakshi Sawhney, DC Patiala, said “We often think that stubble can be easily managed by setting it on fire with a two-rupee matchbox, but we are unaware of the damage it causes, including various skin and respiratory diseases. This problem is becoming a danger for us, for our future, and the future of our children. If you are worried about your future, then turn your parents away from stubble burning; with this, our future can be free from danger.”

She also issued a WhatsApp app number - 7380016070 - for the convenience of farmers to get information about available machinery so that farmers can easily get information from anywhere in their surrounding area to use the machinery as per their requirement.

"Straw is not a problem but a boon for farmers. By using the machines that are being given to the farmers by IOCL, farmers can take advantage of this boon by adopting the straw incorporation methods. These methods will also increase the fertility of the field. I am requesting all the farmers of the adopted villages to use these machines, increase the fertility of the farm and come back from the side of burning," said Mr S.K. Kanojia, Executive Director, NRPL, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd at the event.

With more donors joining hands with the CII Foundation to combat stubble burning, the geographic footprint of the project at the start of Season 2023 was expanded to almost 430 villages, up from 300 villages in season 2022.



PARTICIPATION IN FARMERS FAIR BY PUNJAB AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY

The CII Foundation team participated in the Farmers Fair hosted by the Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana on 14th and 15th September. Accompanied by around 10 farmers from the CRM initiative, the CII Foundation team actively engaged in the fair to explore and gain insights into the latest agricultural technologies.



PROMOTING STRAW-BASED BIOGAS PLANTS



The CII Foundation and Aprava Energy have set up Haryana's first straw-based biogas plants in Sirsa and Fatehabad.

On 12th August, a three-member team from Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agriculture University (CCSHAU) visited the Bhuna cluster of the CRM initiative. The visiting team comprised senior scientists Dr. Yadvika, Sr. Scientist Department of Renewable and Bio Engineering, Dr. Kanishk, SRF, Department of Renewable Energy and Dr. Nitin, SRF, Department of Renewable Energy. They were given a comprehensive tour of these innovative plants. The officials from Haryana Agriculture University appreciated the efforts in addressing the critical issue of crop burning and providing essential support to farmers in the region.

TECHNICAL TRAINING CAMPS TO PROMOTE THE ADOPTION OF MACHINES

The CII Foundation, in collaboration with the Northern Region Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institute (NRFMT&TI) Hisar, organized a one-day training camp in Mohmmadpuria village, part of the Rania cluster in Sirsa. The camp focused on equipment handling, repair, and maintenance, and took place on 17th and 18th August in Rania and Bhuna, respectively.



Approximately 50 farmers from Mohmmadpuria and neighbouring villages participated in the camp, with 65 farmers and women labourers in attendance. The training featured informative sessions led by Senior Technicians Mr. Suresh Kumar, Mr. Vijay Kumar, and Engineer Sachin Sethi. They discussed crop residue management techniques for post-harvest paddy waste and conducted practical demonstrations of various agricultural implements in the field during the camp.

PROMOTING CLEAN AND GREEN SOLUTIONS FOR RICE STRAW MANAGEMENT

A National Workshop on Clean & Green Solutions for Rice Straw Management was organised by CII and the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare in Delhi on 29th September. The workshop brought together the government, industry, agriculture experts, and farmers onto a single platform with the objective of disseminating revised policy guidelines on CRM, deliberating on feasible solutions for CRM and forging mutually beneficial partnerships while promoting peer-to-peer learning leveraging progressive farmers from CII-intervened areas.

Smt. S. Rukmani, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare shared the revised guidelines on crop residue management, saying the Government is now promoting ex-situ management of straw, offering financial assistance for capital cost of machinery through subsidy of up to 65% for projects, while industry will need to contribute 25% towards operational costs. She emphasised that stubble can

be a source of wealth and spoke of the Government's initiative on paddy straw supply chain, promoted in a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model with the purpose of involving industries that can utilize it. She also launched a CII Toolkit– Clean Air & Healthy Soil - for farmers.

Exemplary farmers from zero-stubble burning villages were felicitated for their contribution towards a zero-stubble burning movement at the workshop.



Two technical tracks were held during the day focusing on Actionable Solutions at the Farm-level and Clean and Green Economy Solutions for Rural Areas. Discussions at these sessions centred around long-term benefits and risks of in-situ management practices where farmers shared their experiences; scaling technology adoption with farming communities, the business case for the biomass supply chain to promote green power and process heat from rice straw; sustainable packaging from rice straw; green building materials and collaboration between the private sector and civil society to scale solutions for clean and green economy.



MOBILISING COMMUNITIES TO PROMOTE CLEANLINESS ON SWACHHTA DIWAS

Extensive field activities were undertaken during the Swachhta Diwas Shramdaan on 1st October.

Students enthusiastically participated in drawing competitions organised by the CII Foundation in Khanoura Village, Nabha, Patiala and Government Primary Smart School, Ghulal, in Punjab.

Shramdaan for Swachhta drives were undertaken in several villages in Punjab such as Sangrur, Samna in Patiala District, Harigarh in Barnala District where participants and the CII Foundation team cleaned areas and conducted drawing competitions for school children.

A cleanliness drive was undertaken at the Community Park, village Mehdoodan, Punjab by the people and the CII Foundation team.

The CII Foundation and farmers and their families from Bhuna, Fatehabad, Haryana organised a cleanliness drive.

More than 30 people and the CII Foundation Team participated in a cleanliness drive at the Gurudwara, village Madpur, in Punjab.



Business Line

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Stubble burning cases up 123% in 15 days

Prabudatta Mishra
New Delhi

Incidents of stubble burning after paddy harvest, have more than doubled in September with a substantial rise in Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. There has been a spurt in such events even in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan during September 15-30 compared with the year-ago period.

Nevertheless, the Centre is hopeful of reduction in cases this year at the end of the season due to various measures initiated by it. During September 15-November 30, 2022, the main paddy harvesting period in the north—there was a 24 per cent dip in burning cases to 69,615 compared with 92,047 such incidents reported in the previous year. The highest number of cases were reported in Punjab at 49,922.

According to the Consor-



BURNING ISSUE. The maximum number of cases (174) were reported from Anritsar district in Punjab

tium for Research on Agroecosystem Monitoring and Modelling from Space (CREAMS), which is managed by Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) at Pusa institute, the total number of stubble burning incidents in the country has been recorded at 354 during September 15-30, up from 159 in the year-ago period.

Punjab, which had reported 214 cases of crop residue burning last month against

147 in the year-ago period, has witnessed 81 such incidents on September 30 and 68 on September 29. The maximum cases were reported from Anritsar district (174 cases).

75 INCIDENTS IN HARYANA Haryana has recorded 75 incidents, including 17 in Kurukshetra and 13 in Karnal, whereas in the year-ago period, only one case was observed in Jind. This year, there were 12 incidents in Sonapat,

11 in Ambala, 7 in Yamunanagar, 5 in Fethabad and 3 each in Panipat and Jind. All these districts in Haryana are leading producers of Basmati rice. Experts said that there was a higher demand from commercial dairy farmers last year to collect the residues which is missing this time.

Stubble burning in these States has been continuing in the past few years as farmers prefer to burn the residues rather than spend money to clear it through manual labour and sell it as fodder, because of economic considerations.

Addressing a workshop on Clean & Green Solutions for Rice Straw Management, organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in partnership with Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, on September 29, S Rukmani, a joint secretary in the ministry said that the government is committed to helping farmers to manage stubble.

बिज़नेस स्टैंडर्ड

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पराली प्रबंधन के लिए 600 करोड़ रु

संजीव मुखर्जी
नई दिल्ली, 29 सितंबर

केंद्र ने राज्यों को धान के पुआल के प्रबंधन के लिए 600 करोड़ रुपये आवंटित किए हैं। वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने शुक्रवार को बताया कि धान के पुआल को जलाने का मौसम करीब आने के कारण आपूर्ति श्रृंखला के लिए नई पहल की गई है।

इस क्रम में पराली सबसे ज्यादा जलाए जाने वाले राज्य पंजाब को 105 करोड़ रुपये जारी किए जा चुके हैं। हालांकि हरियाणा को 90 करोड़ रुपये जारी हुए हैं। अधिकारियों ने बताया कि आमतौर पर

सरकार धान के पुआल का प्रबंधन करने वाली उपकरणों जैसे 'हैप्पी सीडर' और 'सुपर सीडर' को सब्सिडी देने के लिए धन मुहैया करवाती थी। लेकिन इस साल फसल अवशेष प्रबंधन (सीआरएम) योजना के दिशानिर्देशों में बदलाव कर दिया गया है।

इस क्रम में धान के पुआल के 'एक्स सीटू' प्रबंधन को भी शामिल किया गया है। ब्यापक तौर पर देखा जाए तो 'इन सीटू' प्रबंधन में जहां कटी हुई पुआल होती है, वहीं पर उसे कृषि यंत्रों जैसे 'हैप्पी सीडर' या 'सुपर सीडर' की मदद से निपटाया जाता है। हालांकि 'एक्स सीटू' प्रबंधन में खेत के बाहर सतत ढंग से पुआल का

प्रसंस्करण किया जाता है।

धान के पुआल के 'एक्स सीटू' प्रबंधन के बारे में अधिकारियों ने बताया कि सार्वजनिक-निजी भागीदारी (पीपीपी) मॉडल के तहत पुआल को आपूर्ति श्रृंखला को अनुदान मुहैया करवाया जाएगा। कृषि और किसान कल्याण के संयुक्त सचिव आर. रुक्मणि ने चावल के भूसे के स्वच्छ व हरित प्रबंधन पर आयोजित सीआईआई की कार्यशाला में कार्यक्रम के इतर चुनिंदा संवाददाताओं को बताया, 'हमें उम्मीद है कि सरकार के 'इन सीटू' और 'एक्स सीटू' दोनों तरीके अपनाए जाने से इस साल पराली जलाने की घटनाओं में कमी आएगी।'

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Centre allots ₹600 crore for paddy straw management

FROM THE FIELDS

Final data for sowing of kharif crops as on September 29 (in million hectares)

Crops	2022	2023	% chg*	Normal area	% chg**
Rice	40.42	41.19	1.9	39.94	3.13
Pulses	12.89	12.35	-4.19	13.97	-11.60
Coarse Cereals	18.47	18.8	1.79	18.19	3.35
Oilseeds	19.63	19.32	-1.58	18.98	1.79
Sugarcane	5.56	5.99	7.73	4.88	22.75
Jute	0.69	0.65	-5.80	0.68	-4.41
Cotton	12.77	12.38	-3.05	12.86	-3.73

*From last year; **From normal area, which is average area of past five years during the same period
Source: Ministry of Agriculture

SANJEEB MUKHERJEE
New Delhi, 29 September

The Centre has allocated ₹600 crore to states for handling of paddy straws that includes its new initiative on ex-situ supply chain management ahead of the stubble burning season this year, senior officials said on Friday.

Of this, around ₹105 crore has already been released to Punjab, which records the highest incidents of stubble burning, while ₹90 crore has been allocated for Haryana. So far, officials said the government usu-

The Indian EXPRESS

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Crop residue mgmt guidelines revised; subsidy on machinery to help check stubble burning

New Delhi: The government has revised guidelines for crop residue management enabling ex-situ management of paddy straw and is also providing financial assistance on the capital cost of machinery, a senior agriculture ministry official said on Friday.

"The Government of India is committed to helping farmers to manage stubble," S Rukmani, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, was quoted as saying in a statement issued by CII.

She was speaking at a National Workshop on Clean & Green Solutions for Rice Straw Management, organised by the CII and the Agriculture Ministry.

"We have launched revised guidelines on crop residue man-

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

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Govt grants ₹600 cr to curb stubble burning

SANDIP DAS
New Delhi, September 29

THE GOVERNMENT IS aiming to substantially reduce the incidence of stubble burning this season through the paddy straw supply chain management programme under public private partnership models, an agriculture ministry official said on Friday.

The ministry has allocated ₹600 crore to Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh this season for 'in-situ' management of paddy straw — the practice of leaving crop residue on the field for decomposition and 'ex-situ' management — removal of agricultural waste from the field for use as compost, animal feed, industrial use, etc, S Rukmani, joint secretary, department of agriculture and farmers welfare



DISASTER RELIEF AND REHABILITATION

Significant shifts in climate - increasing global temperatures, rising sea levels and changing precipitation patterns - are causing extreme weather events such as floods and droughts. India, due to its varied topography comprising hills, deserts, plains, plateaus and a long coastline, is often buffeted by such extreme weather events. Recent floods in Himachal Pradesh caused immense damage, uprooting trees and washing away buildings, leaving thousands homeless. Disasters cause immense damage to infrastructure, the economy, and society as a whole.

Disaster relief and rehabilitation has been a key pillar of the CII Foundation's work over the years. The Foundation actively collaborates with different stakeholders including government bodies, hospitals and other medical facility providers, corporations and civil society organizations for its disaster relief initiatives. For the affected, it not only provides immediate relief by way of food and medical supplies but also undertakes rehabilitation initiatives such as rebuilding infrastructure.

KERALA RELIEF & REHABILITATION

The gushing water of the devastating flood in Kerala in 2018 inundated riverbanks and water bodies, triggering widespread damage. The flood washed away homes and schools, damaged several buildings beyond repair and displaced millions of people, leaving them homeless. It was one of the most catastrophic natural disasters the state had experienced in nearly a century.

CII and the CII Foundation responded with alacrity and collaborated with the Kerala State Government to provide immediate relief to those affected. It later partnered with the State Government for rehabilitation



initiatives. As part of the rehabilitation efforts, the Government Lower Primary School (GLPS) in Kayanad and six Public Health Centres in North Paravoor, Moothakunnam, Chittattukara, Puthuvyppu, Mulavukadu, and Avoly were identified for renovation or reconstruction. Substantial progress has been made with the GLPS in Kayanad rebuilt and handed over to the school administration in January 2022.

In April 2023, four healthcare facilities (Community Health Centre, Moothakunnam; Family Health Centre, Chittattukara; Family Health Centre, Avoly and Family Centre, Mulavukadu) were handed over to the State Government, ensuring the restoration of essential healthcare services in the affected areas..

In this quarter, the Health Minister for Kerala, Smt Veena George visited the Paravoor Taluk Headquarters Hospital and interacted with patients and reviewed the progress of the rehabilitation work done by the CII Foundation. She appreciated the progress made. She



was accompanied by the Paravoor Municipal Chairperson and Hospital Superintendent, other Health officials and Implementation partner COSTFORD on her visit.

It is estimated that 5 lakh individuals will directly benefit from the improved infrastructure and services annually due to the rehabilitation initiatives of the CII Foundation.

MOBILISING COMMUNITIES TO PROMOTE CLEANLINESS ON SWACHHTA DIWAS

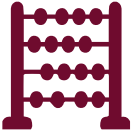
The CII Foundation responded to the call for action for 1 hour of Shramdaan for Swachhta on 1st October under the Swachch Bharat Mission by organising community events towards a garbage-free India.

The CII Foundation organised a session on how waste segregation can be done at homes and schools and created a sanitation club where over 40 students from

Government Lower Primary School, Kayanad, Kerala, participated.

More than 25 students participated in a session on waste segregation in schools and houses in the Government High School, Elamkunnappuzha, Kerala. A sanitation club was also created to further promote cleanliness.





EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Good quality early childhood education and care sets the foundation for life. It is critically important for the proper growth and development of a child. In India, early childhood education and care for children up to 6 years is delivered through Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) program.

Key Components of the Program

- **Infrastructure Support to Develop Model Anganwadi Centres**
Traditional brick-and-mortar Anganwadi infrastructure is transformed into child-friendly learning spaces with wall art and other means under the concept of Building as a Learning Aid (BaLA).
- **Building Capacity of Anganwadi Workers**
The skills and knowledge of Anganwadi workers are enhanced through comprehensive training sessions, workshops, group discussions, and educational videos. They are also trained to monitor the growth of children and provide nutrition counselling for children.

The CII Foundation has adopted a multi-stakeholder approach and works closely with State Governments, industry, and local NGOs to strengthen the delivery of early childhood education and care through its Anganwadi Adoption Program in Jammu and Kashmir and Karnataka.

- **Developing Age-Appropriate Curriculum**
The Foundation supports the development and implementation of a curriculum that is suitable for different age groups. In areas where there is a specific curriculum mandated by the State, the CII Foundation ensures compliance.
- **Engaging the Community**
The community is engaged to achieve the common goal of improving learning outcomes and overall health for children by establishing Anganwadi Samitis and Nutrition Gardens.
- **Developing Parameters and Tracking Outcomes**
The CII Foundation develops comprehensive and user-friendly tools for monitoring and evaluating the performance of Anganwadi Centres.

ANGANWADI ADOPTION PROGRAM, J&K

Phase II of the Early Childhood Education (ECE) program is currently under implementation in J&K in partnership with the Mission Directorate POSHAN, J&K. 1000 Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) have been identified in four blocks across three districts - Banihal and Gool in District Ramban, Breng in District Anantnag and Narwah in District Baramulla to enhance cognitive learning, improve school readiness of children enrolled in the centres and improve nutritional awareness among parents and communities located near AWCs.

A series of initiatives have increased awareness and provided much-needed guidance to Anganwadi Workers on Early Childhood Education (ECE) as a component. The AWWs have now become quite proficient in conducting regular ECE sessions that are both engaging and interactive. They now plan activities in a developmentally appropriate manner, incorporating effective play-way techniques. The importance and progress of ECE is a much-discussed topic at the Anganwadi Support and Monitoring Groups (ASMGs) too. In an ASMG meeting, the Sarpanch highlighted a shift in parental attitudes: parents who previously insisted on sending their children to private playschools have now willingly enrolled their children in the AWCs owing to the quality of ECE being provided.

The positive impact of this transformation is not limited to our 80 Model Anganwadi Centres, but extends to other centres as well due to our successful cascading model.

In the July to September quarter, training sessions and workshops were held to further enhance the skills of AWWs and the delivery of ECE services.

Teaching Learning Material Workshop

A 6 day-workshop on Teaching Learning Material (TLM) Development was conducted in Srinagar from 3-9 August. Dr. Rashim Pal, the Technical Partner for the Project, led the sessions for these six days along with the Implementation Partner, JKASW. Considering the pivotal role of TLM, the endeavour was to create a

“ I was having chai at the corner shop in Banihal where I usually go. A middle-aged man came up to me and said, 'You're the person who goes to AWCs for checking right?' I smiled and explained my role to him. He then mentioned how his child goes to that centre everyday, unlike before, when his child used to stay at home all day. Another man who was also there having chai, chimed in, and said he was very happy with all that his children were learning at the centre because they also come back home with lots of new stories and learnings every day. ”

Muzamil Ahmad Dar

Block Coordinator, JKASW

learning tool with a complete set of developmentally appropriate activities for the holistic development of children, aligned with the NEP 2020, Nanhe Kadam (J&K Curriculum), and informed by Jadui Pitara launched by the Ministry of Education.

To promote learning the play-way method is adopted, and developmentally appropriate material will encourage inquisitiveness, and imagination and promote a sound foundation for learning. Availability and accessibility to a variety of material can support



the child's holistic development which includes physical and motor skills, cognitive skills, language and communication skills, socio-emotional development and creativity.

TLM material was developed during the workshop and post that, a pilot was conducted on the same, followed by a Vetting and Review Consultation with experts from the field of ECE. The TLM kit thus created is beginning to take final shape and will be rolled out in the Model Anganwadi Centres and others soon.

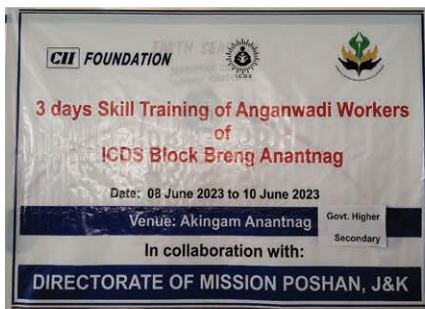


Second Skill Training Session

In line with the program objective to “improve the quality, access and functioning of ICDS Mission Programme through enhanced capacity of ICDS functionaries and strengthening Community institutions (ALMSC) aligned with NEP 2020 in 4 Blocks from Three Districts of J&K”, the second Skill Training session was conducted to empower 40 Master Trainers from all the blocks on the topic ‘Nurturing Knowledge for Better Nutrition and Growth Monitoring of Children’ as well as the induction of the Nutrition Package created by the CII Foundation.

Each day of the training began with energizing activities, followed by an array of topics covered through

engaging, hands-on activities, videos and practical demonstrations. The focus was on the dissemination of crucial knowledge concerning health, hygiene, and nutrition for ICDS target groups, covering the concept of malnutrition and growth monitoring, identifying development milestones and warning signs in children, the procedure for conducting growth monitoring in AWCs, follow-up and management afterward, as well as crucial insights on nutrition for pregnant women and the importance of exclusive breastfeeding. Mr Jahangir Hashmi, DPO, Ramban, briefly attended the Training and appreciated the collaborative efforts in enhancing the capacities of ICDS functionaries.



ANGANWADI ADOPTION PROGRAM, KARNATAKA

The CII Foundation is working with the AWCs in rural Karnataka in Dharwad, Hoskote, Nellamangala and Chamrajnagar supported by the Volvo Group Trust. The project aims to develop 30 model AWCs, setting a benchmark for high-quality Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE).

In Karnataka, substantial progress has been made with respect to Infrastructure Development and Strengthening. Infrastructure support by way of construction of compound walls to enhance safety at the Centres and installation of hand wash sinks to promote better hygiene practices have been provided.

Furthermore, the construction of the resource centre in Hoskote, which will serve as a hub for various ECE services in the region, will soon be completed.

In this quarter, the renovated Anganwadi Centres in Bhommanahalli were inaugurated. Present at the occasion were members from the Volvo team, as well as local state authorities.

On October 3, C.B Colony, Yalachahalli 1, and Yalachahalli 2 Anganwadi Centres were inaugurated. Mr. Kamal Bali, President & Managing Director of Volvo Group India Pvt Ltd, and Mr. Sharath Bachegowda, MLA of Hoskote Assembly Constituency, graced the occasion.

The successful renovation and inauguration of these centres mark a critical milestone in our ongoing efforts to enhance early childhood education and welfare in the region.



LAUNCH OF FIRST MOBILE CRECHE IN KERALA



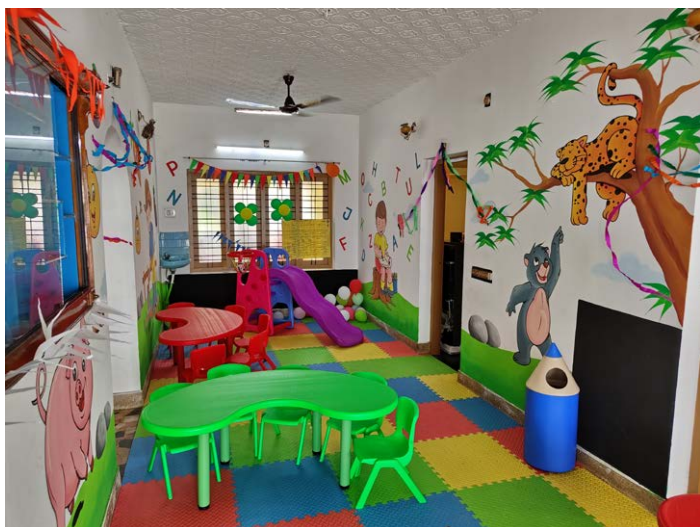
With the growing influx of migrant workers seeking livelihood opportunities in Kerala, especially in Vengola which has several plywood factories, there is a pressing need for support systems for them. Migrant workers are forced to leave their children unattended while they work, exposing their children to risks of various kinds.

The CII Foundation set up Kerala's first mobile creche in Vengola for children of migrant workers. The creche was inaugurated by Umesh NSK, IAS, District Collector of Ernakulam on 7th August. Shri Aju Jacob, Chairman of the CII Kerala State Council and Joint Managing Director of Synthite Industries Pvt. Ltd handed over the key to the mobile creche to Shri Shihab Pallikkal, President of Vengola Gram Panchayat.

This initiative is a move towards improving the lives of children aged between 6 months to 6 years and ensuring their access to quality education and care. With operating hours from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM, the creche will serve as a safe haven for young minds coming from migrant families. The CII Foundation facilitated this multistakeholder initiative, partnering with the Sawmill Owners And Plywood Manufacturers Association (SOPMA), Ernakulam District Administration, ICDS, and the Vengola Grama Panchayat to set up the mobile creche.

In addition to establishing the mobile creche, the CII Foundation is making the creche more child-friendly with learning and play materials and will also be training key workers. The Sawmill Owners' and Plywood Manufacturers' Association has provided the building that houses the creche and is providing the vehicle for the creche.

Through this mobile creche, the CII Foundation aims to foster an environment of learning, care, and empowerment, setting the stage for transformative



GLIMPSES OF MEDIA COVERAGE

അതിമിത്തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ മക്കൾക്കായി ഓണംകുളത്ത് മൊബൈൽ ഡേ കെയർ

പാലക്കാട്ട് • അതിമിത്തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ മക്കൾക്കായി മൊബൈൽ ഡേ കെയർ പ്രവർത്തനം ആരംഭിച്ചു. കേരളം ട്രസ്റ്റ് ഏറ്റെടുത്ത ഈ കേന്ദ്രം, അതിമിത്തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ കുട്ടികൾക്ക് വിനോദപരമായും വിദ്യാഭ്യാസപരമായും സൗകര്യം ഒരുക്കുന്നു. മൊബൈൽ ഡേ കെയർ പ്രവർത്തനം പാലക്കാട്ട് ഓണംകുളത്ത് ആരംഭിച്ചു. കേരളം ട്രസ്റ്റ് ഏറ്റെടുത്ത ഈ കേന്ദ്രം, അതിമിത്തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ കുട്ടികൾക്ക് വിനോദപരമായും വിദ്യാഭ്യാസപരമായും സൗകര്യം ഒരുക്കുന്നു.

പാലക്കാട് പഞ്ചായത്തിലെ ഓണംകുളത്ത് ആരംഭിച്ച ഈ കേന്ദ്രം, അതിമിത്തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ കുട്ടികൾക്ക് വിനോദപരമായും വിദ്യാഭ്യാസപരമായും സൗകര്യം ഒരുക്കുന്നു.

അതിമിത്തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ കുട്ടികൾക്ക് വിനോദപരമായും വിദ്യാഭ്യാസപരമായും സൗകര്യം ഒരുക്കുന്നു.

എറണാകുളം

ചുറ്റുവട്ടം ഇതര സംസ്ഥാന കുട്ടികൾക്ക് ക്രഷ് വെബ്സൈലയിലാണ് പ്രവർത്തനം തുടങ്ങിയത്

asianet news

ഇതര സംസ്ഥാന കുട്ടികൾക്കായി ക്രഷ് പ്രവർത്തനം തുടങ്ങി | Creches | Kechi | Migrant students

Collector, Ernakulam
8 August

അതിമിത്തൊഴിലാളികളുടെയും കുടുംബങ്ങളുടെയും ക്ഷേമവും സുരക്ഷയും ഉറപ്പുവരുത്തുന്നതിനുള്ള നടപടികളുടെ ഭാഗമായി വെബ്സൈലയിൽ മൊബൈൽ ക്രഷ് ആരംഭിച്ചിരിക്കുകയാണ്. അതിമിത്തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ മക്കൾക്കായി ഒരുക്കിയ മൊബൈൽ ക്രഷ് ഒരു തുടക്കമാണ്. ഭാവിയിൽ കൂടുതൽ പദ്ധതികൾ നടപ്പാക്കും.

District Information Officer, Ernakulam
7 August

അതിമിത്തൊഴിലാളികളുടെയും കുടുംബങ്ങളുടെയും ക്ഷേമവും സുരക്ഷയും സർക്കാരും ജില്ലാ ഭരണകൂടവും ഉറപ്പുവരുത്തുമെന്ന് ജില്ലാ കളക്ടർ എൻ എസ് കെ ഉമേഷ് പറഞ്ഞു. അതിമിത്തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ കുട്ടികൾക്കായി ഒരുക്കിയ മൊബൈൽ ക്രഷ് ഉദ്ഘാടനം ചെയ്ത സംസാരിക്കുകയായിരുന്നു അദ്ദേഹം.



അതിമിത്തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ മക്കൾക്കായി വെബ്സൈലയിൽ മൊബൈൽ ക്രഷ് തുടങ്ങി

സംസ്ഥാനത്ത് ആദ്യം

അതിമിത്തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ കുടുംബങ്ങൾക്ക് സുരക്ഷ ഉറപ്പാക്കുമെന്ന് കളക്ടർ

പാലക്കാട്ട് • അതിമിത്തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ മക്കൾക്കായി മൊബൈൽ ഡേ കെയർ പ്രവർത്തനം ആരംഭിച്ചു. കേരളം ട്രസ്റ്റ് ഏറ്റെടുത്ത ഈ കേന്ദ്രം, അതിമിത്തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ കുട്ടികൾക്ക് വിനോദപരമായും വിദ്യാഭ്യാസപരമായും സൗകര്യം ഒരുക്കുന്നു.



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അമ്മമാരുടെ തൊഴിൽ സമയം അനുസരിച്ചാകും പ്രവർത്തിക്കുക

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അതിമിത്തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ മക്കളുടെ സുരക്ഷ, വെബ്സൈലയിൽ മൊബൈൽ ക്രഷ് | Childrens | Mobile Crush



WASTE MANAGEMENT

Clean Abul Fazal Project

Efficient waste management methods are not just critically important for maintaining the cleanliness of areas but also for the well-being of people. Proper waste collection, processing and disposal systems play a crucial role in transforming waste into a valuable product, in sync with the principles of a circular economy. However, as urbanization surges and cities get increasingly populated, many cities are grappling with inadequate and poor waste management.

To tackle the issue of poor urban waste management, the CII Foundation, in collaboration with the PTC Foundation and PTC India Financial Services Limited,

initiated a waste management project in Abul Fazal, a densely populated area of Delhi, in June 2021. This project complements the efforts of the local municipal corporation and promotes efficient waste management using a community-led, multi-stakeholder approach.

The initiative actively encourages civic engagement by fostering close collaboration between local government bodies, residents, and community institutions such as Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs). It disseminates awareness amongst the residents and promotes good waste management practices, thereby creating a collective commitment to cleaner and healthier urban environments.

Key Components of the Program

Creating awareness and catalysing civic engagement

Promoting waste segregation at source and safe waste collection

Promoting recycling waste locally and value-addition in bio-degradable waste with the involvement of RWAs

Segregating and recycling non-biodegradable/dry waste such as plastic

Building skills of waste workers and enhancing their safety

The CII Foundation fortified its ongoing project interventions and introduced new initiatives during the July to September quarter aimed at transforming Abul Fazal into a 'zero-waste' neighbourhood.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

In the month of July, five community meetings were held with a large number of members. These meetings not only reaffirmed the community's commitment to working together towards a cleaner and more sustainable environment but also served as an excellent platform for sharing challenges and learnings. Plans for future activities were formulated to address the specific needs and challenges identified during these meetings.

PLASTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE

Plastic waste is usually found littering areas and is a huge problem, choking drains and adding to the piles of garbage. Under the initiative, an Integrated Plastic Waste Recycling Centre was established earlier this year for efficient plastic waste management, with the capacity to sort, package, and aggregate plastic waste for resale. It also supports small aggregators who play a crucial role in plastic waste collection.

In July, two training sessions were organised to equip the workers with the knowledge and expertise required to operate plastic waste recycling machines. The training sessions covered a spectrum of critical topics from machine operation techniques to safety protocols.

In August, the CII Foundation and SAAF's collective efforts led to the collection of 5.3 tons of plastic waste directly from the community. This waste was processed and subsequently sold to recyclers, thereby closing the loop on plastic waste management.



In August, a joint team from Safai Abhiyan and Aid Foundation (SAAF), an NGO of waste workers, and the Okhla Community Forum (OCF) visited Karawal Nagar, Delhi, where they engaged with a prospective buyer of plastic waste. An important part of this visit involved the submission of a sample of shredded waste that had been processed at the plastic waste recycling facility. During the visit, the buyer offered a competitive rate of 40 rupees per kilogram for the plastic waste. This will encourage the segregation and proper processing of plastic waste.

PROMOTING COMPOSTING & SALE OF ORGANIC COMPOST

Under the initiative, waste segregation at source is being promoted with the active distribution of dustbins and composting bins and creating awareness about the need for segregating dry and wet waste as part of an efficient waste management system. In January 2022, a Community Compost Centre was established which has a daily processing capacity of 4 tonnes, dedicated to converting wet waste into high-quality organic compost. Since its inception, the centre has processed 1,00,544 tonnes of wet waste. The organic compost produced at the centre is now finding its way into the community and beyond. The nutrient-rich compost is now being sold regularly, enhancing soil health and also promoting a circular economy that benefits local agriculture and landscaping.



ABUL FAZAL WASTE MANAGEMENT PROJECT – A ROLE MODEL

On 18th August, the CII Foundation Waste Management Initiative served as a benchmark for CSR teams from diverse companies. During the visit, participants from various companies engaged in a meaningful session with the local community, gaining insights into the project's community-driven approach. Additionally, they had the opportunity to explore a local recycling

facility, witnessing first hand the transformation of waste into valuable resources. This immersive experience left a lasting impact on the CSR teams, inspiring them to consider similar initiatives in their respective organizations and further contribute to sustainable development.



AMPLIFYING THE IMPACT – RADIO OUTREACH

On 17th July, volunteers of the CII Foundation Waste Management Initiative and the Abul Fazal community members came together to discuss and share their valuable experiences regarding the project's contributions towards addressing critical environmental concerns and how the initiative is making the neighbourhood clean and green. This discussion was broadcast on the radio as part of Big 92.7FM's campaign, "Kuch Kar Aur Roz Kar! An Initiative to Protect Mother Earth."



MOBILISING COMMUNITIES TO PROMOTE CLEANLINESS ON SWACHHTA DIWAS

A cleanliness drive was undertaken by the CII Foundation team and participants from Okhla in response to the call for Shramdaan on 1st October. The participants cleaned various parts of the neighbourhood, removing garbage and making the area clean.





WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Woman Exemplar Program

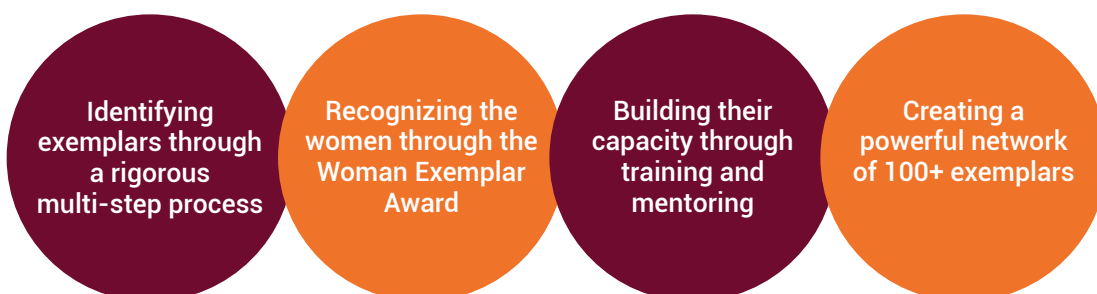
The resilience and grit of grassroots women in the face of adversity and challenges hold valuable lessons for all. Despite the challenges, many move ahead in life determined to overcome all obstacles and carve a new path for themselves out of their crippling circumstances. They become exemplary change-makers in their communities and society at large.

Recognizing their spirit and potential, CII began identifying and awarding grassroots women leaders as early as 2005. The public recognition and award money lent further credibility to their work and paved the way for increased support, enabling them to expand the reach and impact of their initiatives.

In 2011, this award initiative evolved into a more comprehensive program for empowering women called the CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Program. This program's overarching objective is to identify and empower grassroots women, particularly in the sectors of Health, Education, and Micro Enterprise, enabling them to amplify the social impact of the transformative change they are driving within their communities.

The Woman Exemplar Program continues to focus on empowering women by fostering self-belief and upskilling them so that they can realise their full potential to drive social transformation. Today, the program has a pool of 100+ grassroots women leaders from across India who, together, are impacting the lives of over 15 Lakh individuals annually.

Key Components of the Program



The highlight of the initiatives undertaken in the July to September quarter was the Call for Nominations for the Woman Exemplar Award 2024.

CALL FOR NOMINATION

A multi-pronged approach using various channels was adopted to increase outreach and maximise nominations of candidates from across the country.

Social Media Outreach

The Call for Nominations was announced on 29th August with a comprehensive social media campaign #LeadlikeNaari comprising carousel posts, reels and videos that showcased the journey from trials-to-triumph of select exemplars, clearly highlighting the social impact. The campaign aimed to inspire individuals acquainted with women of similar calibre to nominate them for the Woman Exemplar Award 2024. Paid promotions were undertaken for select posts of the Social Media campaign to reach out to newer audiences based on targeted geographies and interests. Each post ended with a call to action seeking nominations.



A special registration page was designed for the CII Foundation website at <https://ciifoundation.in/WEP2024/> with a digitised application form. To further expand outreach, the digitized application form was made available in several languages such as English, Hindi and Bengali. Nominators were also given the option of video uploads to make the process smoother and easier.

Simultaneously, an Electronic Direct Mailer (EDM) was sent out to a large network of social development sector organisations through email. The EDM not only provided comprehensive program details but also featured the inspiring story of a Woman Exemplar, Vanlalruati, to help nominators gain a deeper understanding of the program and the kind of grassroots women leaders to nominate. The EDM was linked to the registration page on the CII Foundation website to enable registrations.

GiveFunds Outreach

The CII Foundation partnered with Giv Funds as the Due Diligence Partner to promote the program and boost nominations.

BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAM

- Recognition & Award
- Capacity-Building
- Access to a network of grassroots women leaders



Meet Zohmangaihi

Winner of The Woman Exemplar Award 2023

- Battling HIV, severe depression, and anxiety, Zoh found a new life with counselling and ART therapy. Widowed with an infant and a malignant disease, Zoh was ostracized from the society on revealing her HIV status.
- A counsellor, community mobilizer and an influencer, Zoh has transformed the lives of over 19,000 HIV+ patients and helped them find a new sense of dignity.

For any queries and to send in your entries, please contact: womanexemplarprogram@cii.in



Woman Exemplars as Outreach Partners

The CII Foundation also leveraged the existing pan-India network of exemplars to invite more nominations. Minakshi Birajdar in Osmanabad, Maharashtra; Kanchan in Jaunpur, Uttar Pradesh; Rama Sharma in Tonk, Rajasthan; Nirmala in Bihar, and Mana in Madhya Pradesh, along with several others played a critical role in reaching out to communities either physically or through other channels of communications to increase nominations for the Award. The exemplars reached out to more than 1000+ women across the 5 geographies.

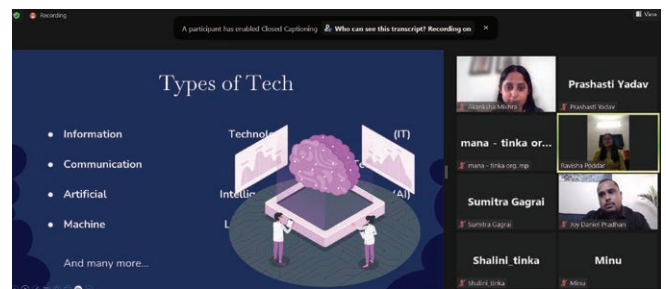
On receiving a tremendous response, the deadline for the Call for Nominations was extended to 20th October.



CAPACITY BUILDING: LEADERSHIP TRAINING AND MASTERCLASSES

The CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Program is committed to empowering women through a diverse array of capacity-building initiatives, which encompass leadership training and mentorship. It also includes Masterclasses, which are meticulously crafted to strengthen the skills of the exemplary women, with professionals from the business and development sectors sharing their knowledge and expertise with the Exemplars, equipping them with the necessary tools to cultivate a new generation of leaders capable of continuing their impactful endeavours.

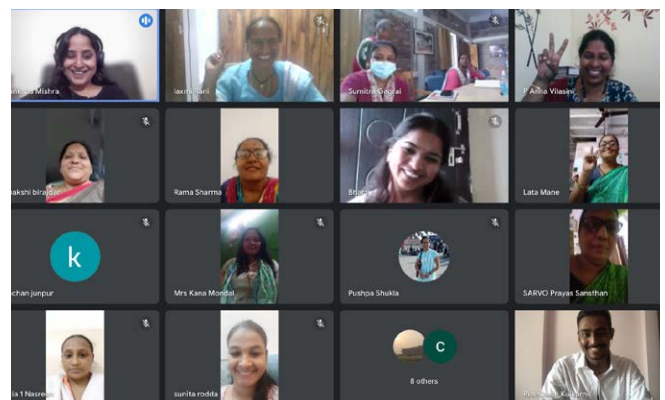
A series of Masterclasses for the Woman Exemplars commenced online on 2nd August with the enlightening 'TechShop for Exemplars' led by Joy Daniel Pradhan, a Media and Outreach Expert from the Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India, and Ravisha Poddar, a seasoned Communication professional. The valuable guidance provided by these experts has encouraged our exemplars to embrace the use of ChatGPT and other AI tools, thus enhancing their work.



The second masterclass, which took place on 22nd August, focused on 'MindMatters.' This session was designed to equip the Woman Exemplars with the knowledge necessary to address mental health challenges within both rural and urban communities. Participants gained insights into the fundamentals of mental health challenges, explored available schemes and support for rural communities, and discussed strategies for reducing the stigma surrounding mental health. The session was facilitated by Sumitra Gagrai, a CII Foundation Woman Exemplar from the 2020 cohort and Program Coordinator at Ekjut, who has made a significant impact in the field of mental health. Dr. Sachin Barbde, Community Mental Health Specialist, Ekjut also joined the session.



The third masterclass, titled "Be a Storyteller – A Creative Storytelling Workshop to Amplify your Work," was held on 9th September. Mr. Rushikesh Kulkarni, an expert in areas such as People Strategy, Managerial and Leadership Development, Entrepreneurship, Non-Fiction, and Fiction Writing, served as the facilitator. During this session, the exemplars had the opportunity to explore the art of storytelling and its potential to elevate their work. While candidly discussing the challenge of overcoming self-consciousness when producing and sharing their stories, the participants found inspiration and guidance from the expert. As a result, the exemplars are now poised to create compelling videos that share their stories and the experiences of the communities they work with.



AMPLIFYING THE VOICES



On 29th July, Rama Sharma from the 2019 cohort of exemplars received the prestigious 'Woman of Wonder Award' in the Social Work category in Jaipur, Rajasthan. This event, organized to celebrate extraordinary women, provided a platform to honour the remarkable achievements of 28 women representing various fields.

Ms Vasundhara Raje, the National Vice-President of the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) and former

Chief Minister of Rajasthan presented Rama Sharma with the award.

In the rural areas of Rajasthan, Rama Sharma is rewriting the destinies of young girls from the most underprivileged communities. Her mission revolves around facilitating their entry into the formal education system while ensuring they receive adequate preparation and support to thrive in mainstream education.

MOBILISING COMMUNITIES TO PROMOTE CLEANLINESS ON SWACHHTA DIWAS

In response to the call for action for 1 hour of Shramdaan for Swachhta on 1st October under the Swachh Bharat Mission, the CII Foundation Woman Exemplars led from the front and organised various cleanliness drives. CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Kana Mandal led a group of 12 women who cleaned a Handicrafts Workshop in North 24 Parganas, West Bengal.

In the remote, hilly areas of Lahaul and Spiti in Himachal Pradesh, Woman Exemplar Poonam Paul led a group of

over 20 women on a cleanliness drive in the area.

Over 30 people led by Woman Exemplar Rama Sharma participated in a cleanliness drive in the Madari Kalandar Samuday in Chaksu District, Rajasthan.

Cleanliness Drive at various spots with the Banjara Community was conducted at Rurka Kalan, Punjab, led by the CII Foundation Woman Exemplar, Jaspreet, where 35 community members participated.



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

For feedback and suggestions please contact Priya Shirali, Head - Strategic Communication at Priya.Shirali@cii.in

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