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Issue Focus

“Community-Led Environmental Restoration: Building a Greener Tomorrow”

CSR spotlight SBI Foundation opens Asha Scholarship 2026–27 SBI Foundation has launched the Asha Scholarship programme for students from Class 9 to postgraduate level, with support of up to ₹15 lakh.

Thought of the month

“True impact begins when purpose inspires partnership”

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“Building Partnerships That Create Lasting Impact”



Corporate Social Responsibility today is about creating measurable impact through meaningful partnerships. As organizations increasingly align their CSR initiatives with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and ESG principles, collaboration between corporates, communities, and non-profit organizations has become key to driving sustainable development and creating lasting change. At **Strugence Benevolent Foundation (SBF)**, we are committed to contributing to this vision through initiatives that promote environmental conservation and community engagement.

In **July 2026**, we successfully conducted our **2nd Seed Ball Activity**, dispersing **over 10,000 seed balls** in the **Titwala Forest** with the support of **15 volunteers**, while also donating **stainless steel water bottles** to Government school students and conducting a school outreach programme. Building on this momentum, we are preparing for our **3rd Seed Ball Activity** on **22nd August 2026**, with a goal of bringing together **30–40 volunteers** to disperse **20,000 seed balls**. We hope this edition of the **CSR Noble Communique** inspires collaboration and showcases how collective action can create lasting environmental and social impact.

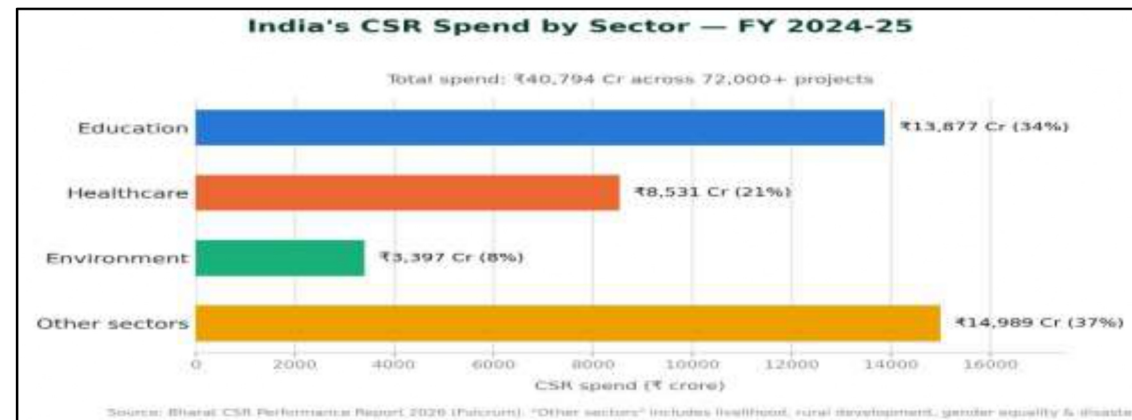




“India Inc. CSR Spending Hits Record ₹40,794 Crore”

Corporate India's CSR spending has reached an all-time high of ₹40,794 crore, reflecting increased investments in education, healthcare, livelihoods, environment and community development. The report also highlights a growing shift toward measurable impact and ESG-aligned CSR programmes.

- ₹40,794 Cr Total CSR Spend
- 72,000+ CSR Projects
- Focus: Education | Health | Environment | Livelihood



“Environment Receives Only 8.4% of CSR Spending”

Despite growing corporate focus on ESG and net-zero commitments, environmental initiatives continue to receive a limited share of CSR funding. According to Sattva Consulting, corporate environmental spending reached **₹17,377 crore in FY 2023–24**, Accounted for only **8.4% of total CSR outlay**. In comparison, education and healthcare together receive over 60% of CSR funding

- **Short-term focus:** Preference for visible, immediate outcomes over long-term ecological restoration.
- **Emissions disconnect:** High carbon emitting sectors allocate only **5–7%** of CSR budgets to environmental initiatives.
- **Geographic gap:** **30 of India's 50 most climate-vulnerable districts** received only **1% (₹106 crore)** of environmental CSR funding over three years.
- **Limited focus areas:** Environmental funding remains concentrated in **water management (15%)** and **renewable energy (12%)**, while areas such as air quality receive only **5%** of high-value project funding.

With India requiring an estimated **\$2.5 trillion** to meet its 2030 climate commitments, CSR can play a far greater role in bridging the climate-finance gap. Moving from short-term, small-ticket initiatives to **multi-year, outcome-driven climate partnerships** will be critical to building long-term environmental resilience.





“Amazon Achieves Water Positive Status in India, Ahead of 2027 Target”

Amazon has announced it is now water positive in India, returning more water to communities than it consumes across corporate offices, fulfilment centres and data centers — reaching its 2027 goal a year early. The company said it returned 120% of the water used across direct operations in 2025, and has invested over ₹62 crore in water stewardship projects across six states, including pond rehabilitation and watershed work around Hyderabad and Mumbai carried out with partners such as WaterAid and Water.org



“Indus Towers & Northern Railways Expand Women's Hygiene Access to 175 Stations”

Under its Nari Samman CSR programme, Indus Towers, in partnership with Northern Railways, has installed 500 IoT-enabled sanitary napkin vending machines across 175 railway stations in five divisions. The initiative has dispensed nearly 3 crore sanitary napkins, providing women travellers with free, 24/7 access to menstrual hygiene products. Aligned with the Government’s Menstrual Hygiene Scheme, the programme highlights how technology-enabled CSR interventions can help advance women’s health, dignity and accessibility in public spaces.



“BIMTECH Advances Zero-Plastic Campus with Bisleri's "Bottles for Change”

Birla Institute of Management Technology (BIMTECH) has strengthened its zero-plastic-waste campus movement by joining Bisleri's "Bottles for Change" initiative, reinforcing institutional commitments to responsible waste management and sustainability on campus as part of a broader push by Indian educational institutions to embed circularity into everyday operations.





Leadership Insights - “Embedding Sustainability into Business Strategy”

Insights from Anshuman Magazine - Chairman & CEO – India, South-East Asia & Middle East, CBRE

"Sustainability is no longer a standalone initiative—it is becoming a fundamental driver of long-term business value. Organizations that embed ESG principles into their operations today will be better positioned to create resilient businesses and meaningful social impact."

Key Takeaway

1) ESG Must Be Embedded into Business Strategy

Environmental and social responsibility should be integrated into core business decisions rather than treated as independent CSR initiatives.

2. Collaboration Drives Sustainable Impact

Meaningful change is achieved when corporates, implementation partners, governments, and communities work together towards common sustainability goals.

3. Measuring Impact Builds Credibility

Organizations are increasingly expected to demonstrate measurable outcomes through transparent reporting and long-term environmental commitments.

4. Employee Volunteering Creates Shared Value

Volunteer engagement strengthens CSR initiatives by connecting employees directly with community and environmental programmes.

Why This Matters

Across India, companies are increasingly seeking CSR initiatives that deliver measurable environmental and social outcomes while actively engaging employees and local communities. This shift reflects the growing importance of ESG-aligned programmes that combine sustainability with meaningful stakeholder participation.

SBF Perspective

At **Strugence Benevolent Foundation (SBF)**, these principles are reflected in our environmental initiatives. Our Seed Ball Activities bring together volunteers, communities, and corporate partners to restore native green cover while encouraging active participation in environmental conservation. As we prepare for our **3rd Seed Ball Activity** on **22 August 2026**, we continue to believe that lasting impact is created through collaboration, measurable action, and shared responsibility. We encourage corporate volunteers to join in this momentum.

Please find the link for the above interview - <https://www.cbre.co.in>