Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India

Confederation of Indian Industry

On the occasion of World Environment Day

SYMPOSIUM IN TECHNOLOGIES ENABLING WASTE TO WORTH TRANSFORMATION

06 TH JUNE 2025: NEW DELHI

Shaping a Resilient Tomorrow through a Circular Economy

- Report

Background:

World Environment Day is the UN's leading platform to raise awareness and inspire action for the protection of our environment. Celebrated annually on June 5 since 1973, it highlights urgent issues like pollution, climate change, deforestation, and biodiversity loss. Every year, a host country and a theme are selected to spotlight a key environmental challenge. It mobilizes governments, businesses, schools, and individuals globally through campaigns, clean-ups, tree planting, and educational events—making it the largest environmental outreach event worldwide.

In 2025, World Environment Day will be hosted by the Republic of Korea on Jeju Island, with the theme "**Beat Plastic Pollution**." This year's focus is on reducing single-use plastics, enhancing recycling, and promoting circular economy solutions to combat the plastic crisis.

In support of this, the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** hosted a symposium titled **"Technologies Enabling Waste to Worth Transformation"** under the theme 'Shaping a Resilient Tomorrow through a Circular Economy.' The event aligns with India's Net Zero 2070 target.

The symposium will explore innovations in managing diverse waste streams—from plastics and e-waste to solar panels and tyres. With expert talks, policy updates, and networking, the symposium aims to accelerate sustainable growth and circular economy adoption.

Quote by Dignitaries:

The National Circular Economy Framework is not merely a policy document, it is an industry-led commitment to rethinking material use. If implemented right, it can help India reduce up to 44% of material consumption and drastically cut carbon emissions.
— Mr Masood Mallick, Chairman, CII National Committee on Waste to Worth Technologies, Managing Director & CEO, Re Sustainability Limited

Every ton of waste diverted from landfills to energy not only displaces fossil fuel use and reduces emissions, but also helps us recover valuable materials, showcasing how technology, policy, and investment together can drive economically viable environmental solutions.
— Mr Prashant Sood, Head – Organizational Affairs & Communication, Luthra Group

While policy frameworks are essential, the true transformation lies in the industry taking ownership—driving technology, setting the pace for innovation, and leading global platforms with minimal government intervention, as seen in other international models.
— Mr Amit Verma, Director, NITI Aayog

Recovering a material is not enough—we must ensure its properties match the original application, especially in high-performance sectors like electronics or automotive. The missing piece is often deep research to restore functionality, and that's where we must invest more significantly.
— Mr. R Saha, Senior Advisor, CII

Marking World Environment Day, CII organized a symposium on 'Technologies Enabling Waste to Worth Transformation' with the theme *Shaping a Resilient Tomorrow through Circular Economy*, to promote sustainable solutions and underscore the role of technology in converting waste into valuable resources.

In his Inaugural Address, **Mr. Amit Verma**, Director, NITI Aayog, emphasized the role of industry taking the lead in driving true transformation. He highlighted that as the world comes together to celebrate environmental responsibility, it is crucial for industry to drive innovation and collaboration to accelerate the transition to a circular economy, turning policy goals into meaningful, sustainable actions.

While addressing at the summit, **Mr Masood Mallick**, Chairman, CII National Committee on Waste to Worth Technologies, Managing Director & CEO, Re Sustainability stated that the future of waste management lies not in competition but in collaboration. Solving the crisis requires working together across companies, sectors, and ideologies. He further led a heartfelt pledge, urging everyone to reduce plastic pollution, adopt sustainable practices, protect natural resources, and champion innovation for a cleaner, greener future.

Mr Prashant Sood, Head, Organizational Affairs & Communication Luthra Group mentioned that every ton of waste diverted from landfills to energy not only displaces fossil fuel use and reduce emissions, but also helps us recover valuable materials, showcasing how technology, policy, and investment together can drive economically viable environmental solutions.

The symposium also featured discussions on the National Circular Economy Framework (NCEF) developed by CII as a strategic roadmap for driving circularity and resource efficiency across key sectors in India. Building on eleven focus areas identified by NITI Aayog, this edition outlines milestone targets across sixteen key sectors, including plastics, textiles, and e-waste. By prioritising high-impact materials like Li-ion batteries, scrap metals, and solar panels, the NCEF aims to drive resource efficiency and unlock significant economic and environmental value.

The symposium featured dynamic sessions on advancing circular economy solutions and addressing key waste management challenges, including sustainable plastic-free futures, smarter e-waste, battery management, data-driven municipal waste strategies,

and scalable approaches for managing India's emerging waste streams, highlighting innovation and resilience across sectors.

On the occasion of World Environment Day, participants at the symposium came together in a moment of unity and purpose. Reaffirming their dedication to environmental protection, the Chairman led the gathering in taking the Environment Day Pledge, stating:

"I pledge to reduce unsustainable use of plastics and end single-use items.
I will champion reuse, recycle, and sustainable choices.
I commit to protecting our natural resources—land, water, air, and sky.
Through innovation and leadership, I will support a cleaner, sustainable future.
Together, let's minimise plastic pollution and safeguard our planet for generations to come."

Sectoral Sessions

This half-day symposium brought together industry and government representatives across India, who engaged in thought-provoking discussions on the circular economy, with a focus on reducing, reusing, and recycling throughout product lifecycles. The symposium featured sessions on shaping a sustainable future by embracing the circular economy across various waste streams, including plastic packaging, electronic and battery waste, municipal solid waste, and emerging streams such as textiles, scrap metal, liquid waste, solar panels, gypsum, tyres, and end-of-life vehicles (ELVs), among others.

Session 1: Shaping a Sustainable, Plastic Pollution Free Future Through Circular Solutions

Summary

Panel discussion focused on creating a sustainable, plastic pollution-free future, emphasizing that a "plastic-free" world is unlikely in the near future. Instead, the goal should be to eliminate plastic pollution through innovation and responsible practices. They emphasize that creating a resilient future requires such a mindset, especially when dealing with complex issues like plastic use.

Also, plastics are deeply embedded in modern life and not easily replaced, see this as an opportunity for innovation. Individual responsibility, especially through early education, is vital alongside government and industry roles. The informal sector's dominance in waste collection poses challenges for scaling recycling within formal systems. Moving forward, success depends on shifting mindsets, embracing circular economy principles, fostering public-private cooperation, and developing localized solutions. Strong regulations and inclusive frameworks integrating the informal sector are essential to scale efforts effectively. Despite progress, the recycling industry acknowledges it has acted too little, too late, emphasizing the urgent need for coordinated action.

"Circularity requires integration inclusion innovation and implementation"

Discussion points

- We need to shift our perspective on plastic use. Change is possible—we adapt in many areas of life, so we can adapt our approach to plastics as well.

- Plastics are powerful, versatile materials integral to daily life. The problem lies not in the material itself but in how we use and manage it.
- Sustainability education is lacking, and habits must be shaped early. While plastics are often viewed negatively due to pollution, they are essential and life-saving in sectors like healthcare, aviation, and automobiles.
- We should focus on practical, responsible use of plastics rather than outright elimination.
- The current waste management system overemphasizes downstream solutions like recycling and neglects upstream actions such as reducing usage and changing habits from the start.
- India's Plastic Waste Management Rules (2021) target reduction of plastic use and mandate 30% recycled content in packaging. Despite starting implementation in 2022, progress remains slow, with a gap between policy and execution causing uncertainty for entrepreneurs and investors.
- Significant investments (~₹1000 crores) and infrastructure developments (15 PET recycling plants) have been made, but lack of timely guidelines has delayed their full utilization.
- The top-down, policy-first approach often results in international commitments without adequate ground-level readiness or support.
- PET collection remains a logistical challenge, reminiscent of early hurdles faced by biogas adoption in solid waste management.
- India has the potential to generate 15 million metric tonnes of bio-CNG annually—enough to meet 75% of national gas demand—creating a $50 billion market and nearly 500,000 rural jobs over 25 years.
- Despite early familiarity with biogas, India's sector struggled due to ineffective policies, unclear regulations, unviable pricing, and technological challenges. Imported European technologies often fail in Indian conditions, underscoring the need for localized, simpler solutions.
- The biggest barrier in plastic recycling, especially in the beverage sector, is that waste collection is largely controlled by an informal, cash-driven cottage industry—often overlooked by formal systems.
- India's public procurement system prioritizes lowest cost, which frequently compromises environmental and quality standards, as cheaper bids tend to cut corners.

Suggestions & Way Forward

- Real change begins with mindset shifts and choosing to live sustainably with plastics.
- Rather than eliminating plastics, we must focus on repurposing, recycling, and building adaptive systems around them.
- The future depends on new technologies and entrepreneurial ventures that work responsibly with plastics.

- Plastic can be sustainable, but only if we act with the right mindset and take shared responsibility—starting with individuals.
- Circularity efforts should be demand-driven, supported by stronger community and industry advocacy to accelerate policy implementation.
- The bio-CNG sector is a sunrise industry with immense growth potential. Its success depends on collaboration, open knowledge sharing, and building localized, resilient technologies. There is a need for 1,000+ companies, and the sector's future is "absolutely bright."
- Effective waste management requires regulating the system, enforcing labor laws, and integrating the informal sector into an organized framework.
- Inclusive partnerships and infrastructure involving the informal sector are crucial to scaling recycling efforts from thousands to millions of tons.
- Creating cooperatives that include all stakeholders can foster resource sharing and promote opportunities like upcycling, benefiting the entire ecosystem.
- Strong regulations are essential to establish minimum performance standards and encourage compliance beyond the baseline.
- Reflecting on recycling efforts, the industry's biggest realization is that it has been doing too little, too late, despite the sector's critical importance.

Session 2: Greener Tomorrow Starts with Smarter E-Waste and Battery Solutions

Summary

Since the introduction of the 2016 Solid Waste Management Rules, India has made significant progress in waste segregation and proper disposal through composting, recycling, and recovery. Advances in plastic management guidelines and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) have further strengthened the sector. The 2022 battery waste management rules specifically categorize batteries and clarify responsibilities for producers, refurbishers, and recyclers, helping to formalize recycling and reduce informal sector activities. Government initiatives like Swachh Bharat, the National Clean Air Program, and the Resource Efficiency Policy promote circularity and sustainable waste management, positioning India as a leader in circular economy practices.

Despite these efforts, challenges remain—especially in the informal e-waste sector, where unsafe recycling practices, health risks, and low recovery rates persist. Battery and electronic waste recycling is still underdeveloped, with plastics often overlooked. Collaborative India-EU efforts focus on clean energy technologies and end-of-life EV battery management through joint funding, innovation, and knowledge sharing. Priorities include formalizing informal recyclers, improving traceability via digitalization, promoting eco-design for durable and recyclable electronics, and investing in advanced recycling technologies. Strengthening public-private partnerships and building skilled manpower are essential to closing the resource recovery gap and advancing a sustainable circular economy.

Discussion points

- The informal sector plays a major role in e-waste collection but faces challenges like unsafe recycling, health risks, and resource loss.
- Efforts to formalize informal workers exist but face barriers like taxation and lack of resources; digitalization may improve traceability but informal inclusion remains limited.
- Battery and e-waste recycling in India is neglected despite government initiatives; hazardous materials like mercury and plastics pose serious risks.
- Valuable metals in e-waste have low recovery rates (~20-25%) with many unregistered recyclers and weak cooperation among manufacturers, users, and recyclers.

- Plastics (20% of electronics) are often overlooked in e-waste policies; new partnerships aim to develop closed-loop plastic recycling for electronics.
- Managing gases (e.g., hydrogen) during battery recycling is challenging; pyrolysis is key for recovering hazardous materials like lead.
- Current recycling technologies focus on single components rather than integrated recovery of all battery parts.
- The PSC office leads clean energy tech efforts including marine plastics, hydrogen, and battery waste management.
- End-of-life EV battery management is a high priority in India-EU cooperation, with joint scoping papers targeting battery chemistries, deactivation, sorting, and recycling-friendly design.
- A €10 million EU fund with Indian matching support will launch calls for proposals by 2026-27.
- Exchange programs foster India-EU knowledge sharing on EV battery recycling.
- Holistic circularity approaches emphasize public health, addressing lead poisoning risks from battery waste.
- The India-EU partnership on resource efficiency supports circular economy goals via eco-design, sustainable product rules, and digital product passports, influencing Indian exporters.
- India is expanding e-waste regulations and using digitalization to enhance traceability.

Suggestions & Way Forward

- Initiatives by CSIR and government projects aim to cluster informal recyclers, provide tech access, and aid formalization with financial support.
- Stronger public-private partnerships and formal registration of informal workers are needed for better tracking and reuse of recovered materials.
- Innovative recycling technologies and improved traceability are urgently required; India generates 1.6 million tonnes of e-waste annually, with only ~30% properly processed.
- Emphasize eco-design for repairability, recyclability, and longer product life; support Right to Repair portals and refurbishment certification to boost the second-hand market.
- Develop innovative, component-specific recycling technologies and skilled manpower; India's recycling rates lag behind countries like Switzerland.
- Government support for R&D in advanced battery recycling tech can enhance resource recovery, environmental safety, and employment.
- Securing critical minerals for battery manufacturing and recycling is a strategic priority.
- Continued India-EU dialogue and collaboration will help share best practices, align standards, and foster sustainable manufacturing.
- Global networks like the EPI Alliance aid innovation and knowledge exchange in circular economy efforts.

Session 3: Unlocking the True Value of Waste with Smart Municipal Waste Approaches

Summary

Transforming our approach to waste management requires more than technical fixes—it demands a fundamental shift in mindset. Waste should no longer be viewed merely as a problem to be collected, treated, and disposed of, but rather as a valuable resource containing embedded energy and materials.

This means moving from a linear, disposable model to a circular, regenerative one that emphasizes value recovery over mere disposal. In India, the current system remains heavily focused on downstream solutions like composting and landfill diversion, which often result in resource loss. Despite well-intentioned policies such as the 2016 Solid Waste Management Rules and the stricter 2024 updates, implementation has been hampered by weak enforcement, inadequate infrastructure, and low public participation.

A key challenge lies in the lack of segregation at source, which undermines the entire waste value chain. Achieving sustainable waste management will require decentralized, data-driven systems; supportive policy; community engagement; and, most critically, a shift in individual behavior. When people—especially at the household level—recognize their role and responsibility, systemic change becomes possible. The transition from waste to resource starts not with engineering solutions alone, but with education, early intervention, and a shared commitment to treating waste as a source of value.

Discussion points

- Most solutions are downstream (post-generation), focusing on segregation, composting, or landfill diversion.
- This leads to resource loss rather than value creation.
- Landfills today are filled with textiles, plastics, and food waste—materials that have potential but are treated as useless.
- old systems and habits built over centuries, and instead, build systems that add value at each stage of the waste cycle.
- 2016 Solid Waste Management Rules were a landmark in policy but suffered from poor implementation.
- 2024 Policy Updates emphasize stricter segregation of waste into four categories (wet, dry, sanitary, and others), critical for value recovery.
- Bulk Waste Generators are now more clearly defined (e.g., 100+ kg of waste/day or 5,000+ liters of water use), which includes many large housing societies.

- Segregation at Source is vital likened to catching a river at its origin (Gangotri) rather than downstream (Prayagraj), where waste is too mixed to recover value.
- Waste Characterization is now prioritized, with a suggestion to include packaging material composition alongside nutritional labels to correct misconceptions about recyclables.
- In rural areas, door-to-door collection and new infrastructure are emerging for the first time, offering significant improvements.
- The "polluter pays" principle is essential polluters must bear financial responsibility to enforce accountability.
- Assigning entire projects to one vendor can improve efficiency, but competition among multiple contractors ensures better performance.
- Though the Solid Waste Management Rules (2016) mandate segregation, effective implementation is still lacking.
- Major Challenges: Policy Gaps – Good policies exist but lack enforcement. Infrastructure Deficiency – Inadequate facilities at household and collection levels hamper proper segregation. Behavioral Inertia – Resistance to change, lack of awareness, and poor engagement hinder public participation.
- Many communities oppose waste processing facilities in their neighborhoods due to concerns over odor, health risks, and reduced property value. Ironically, such facilities are often placed in low-income areas, highlighting a social equity issue.
- Waste processing facilities are often sited without proper waste characterization studies, leading to mismatches in capacity, location, and community acceptance. Early and genuine community involvement from the planning stage is critical for project success.
- WTE or incineration should only be used for waste that cannot be repurposed or recycled. An example: 1.7 million tonnes of RDF (refuse-derived fuel) from 25 landfills were used in cement plants, replacing nearly half a million tonnes of coal—highlighting energy recovery potential when waste is well-segregated.
- India has a thriving boiler industry with 10,000–15,000 boilers commissioned annually. These could potentially use repurposed MSW pellets as fuel. Initially, India favoured composting due to its agrarian background, but large-scale composting faced market issues—there were no takers for the compost produced.
- Emphasis is now on segregation at source, development of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), and infrastructure (e.g., local waste handling systems, plastic bag management).
- India's approach is gradually aligning with international trends where industry drives waste management policy.

Suggestions & Way Forward

- The focus must shift from "waste treatment" to "waste valorization." Waste should be recognized for its fuel, energy, and material potential and seen as part of a value chain, not a burden.

- A zero-landfill model should be adopted, emphasizing reduction and segregation at the source.
- A landfill tax could serve as an incentive for cities to pursue decentralized and efficient waste management systems.
- Landfills impose high financial and environmental costs; preventive measures must be prioritized to avoid pollution of air, soil, and water.
- Once waste enters a landfill, its value is effectively lost. Early segregation is therefore imperative.
- Current contracts based on waste volume collection disincentivize proper segregation. These models must be reformed.
- Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and structured models are being developed for collection, transportation, and processing to ensure alignment of economic incentives with environmental goals.
- Municipal authorities must improve enforcement through fines, structured policies, and active community participation.
- Households and domestic workers are key players in segregation at source. They should be empowered as "waste ambassadors" to lead bottom-up behavioral change.
- There is strong potential for using smart bins and sensor-based waste tracking. However, successful implementation requires coordinated efforts between startups, academia, and government institutions.
- Public attitudes must shift from "Not in My Backyard" to "In My Backyard" through inclusive planning and improved facility design.
- Behavioral change is the most critical factor—more important than policy or infrastructure. Waste segregation must begin at the household level with individuals taking personal responsibility.
- Incineration must meet regulatory standards (e.g., maintaining 850°C+ for 2 seconds to avoid toxic emissions like dioxins).
- Waste education should begin early, ideally through integration into school curricula, to instill sustainable habits. Building grassroots-level skills and awareness is essential for a long-term, resilient waste management system.

Session 4: Advancing Circular Economy by Managing India's Emerging Waste Streams

Summary

Adopting a circular economy in sectors like textiles, solar panels, scrap, and end-of-life vehicles presents both challenges and opportunities. A critical distinction exists between pre-consumer and post-consumer textile waste, with the latter posing greater difficulties due to its heterogeneous nature.

Efforts across steel, agriculture, and environmental research sectors are driving progress, such as sustainable farming practices in states like Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, and Haryana, and innovations in textile recycling including fabric traceability and blockchain technology. However, India faces key challenges like inadequate collection and segregation infrastructure, high logistics costs, and cultural resistance to second-hand clothing.

The informal steel scrap sector struggles with taxation and supply issues, while crop residue burning is being mitigated through microbial composting technologies that enhance soil health and reduce pollution. Emerging environmental concerns, including microplastics and heavy metals in compost, are addressed through bioremediation techniques. To scale these initiatives sustainably, policy support, technological innovation, and increased public awareness are essential, alongside localized recycling ecosystems and tailored Extended Producer Responsibility frameworks.

Discussion points

Textile Sector

- Collection and segregation of textile waste remain significant challenges, compounded by the lack of adequate recycling infrastructure across regions.
- India currently has only two major textile recycling hubs—one in the North and one in the South—resulting in logistical inefficiencies.
- High transportation costs make recycling unviable in areas distant from these hubs. For instance, while glass bottles are effectively recycled in Delhi due to proximity to glass industries, in Jammu, similar materials often end up in landfills.
- The National Circular Economy Framework (NCEF) emphasizes critical elements such as traceability, transparency, innovation, and collaboration. While these principles are widely endorsed, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) must be tailored to reflect India's unique textile market and consumer behaviour.

- Cultural perceptions hinder the growth of second-hand clothing markets in India, in contrast to countries like the Netherlands and Japan, where reuse is culturally accepted.
- Traceability innovations have been introduced, including embedding identifiable molecules in fabrics to track origin, complemented by blockchain-based supply chain transparency.

Steel Sector

- Steel scrap recycling is a critical pathway for reducing carbon emissions, particularly when paired with renewable energy sources.
- The steel scrap ecosystem in India remains largely informal, facing taxation bottlenecks and a lack of structured policy support.
- Recommendations include a reduction in GST to facilitate participation from smaller recycling units and strengthen the domestic scrap value chain.
- With increasing restrictions on imported scrap, there is a pressing need to develop forward linkages and enhance domestic sourcing.

Agricultural Sector

- Crop residue management remains a persistent issue, particularly in states like Punjab, Haryana, and Madhya Pradesh, where residue is often burned due to labor shortages and lack of awareness.
- New in-field decomposition technologies have been developed, such as barrel composting, aerobic and anaerobic composting, which enrich soils using indigenous microbial solutions.
- These initiatives aim to reduce environmental harm while improving soil fertility through nutrient-rich compost.

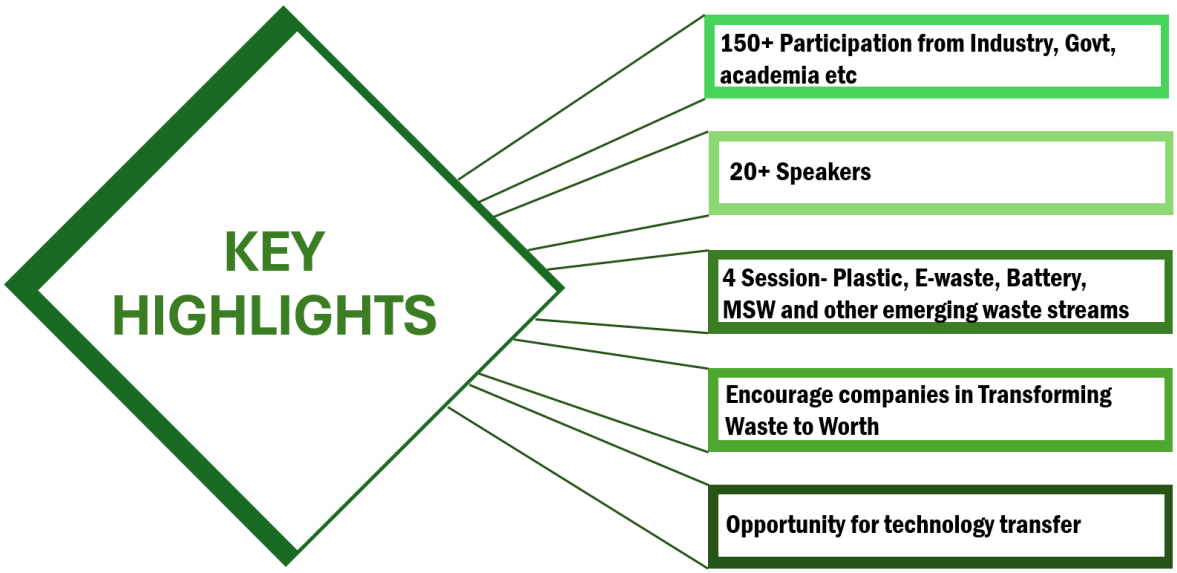
Other Waste Management Sector

- Unlike established sectors such as cement, petrochemicals, and pharmaceuticals, the waste recycling industry in India is relatively nascent and lacks access to international technologies. Organizations have had to develop indigenous research, infrastructure, and workforce capabilities.
- Microplastics present in municipal solid waste pose environmental hazards, particularly when incorporated into compost. Their invisibility and non-segregability present serious contamination risks.
- The presence of heavy metals in compost also poses challenges. While some micronutrients are beneficial in trace amounts, others require careful handling. Bioremediation and microbial treatments are being employed to mitigate toxicity and transform these metals into non-hazardous forms.

Suggestions and Way Forward

- Public awareness of the economic value of waste is essential. As stated, "Jo dikhta hai woh bikta hai"—what is visible and perceived as valuable is more likely to be segregated and recycled.
- Establishment of state-level recycling ecosystems is crucial for reducing transportation costs and enabling localized waste processing.
- Post-consumer textile waste management requires systemic improvements, including incentives and robust collection mechanisms.
- The industry is actively investing in pilot projects for cellulose-based textile recycling, particularly focused on cotton-based fibers, with an aim to scale up to industrial levels.
- EPR policies should be designed to differentiate stakeholders across the value chain and account for variations in textile composition—particularly between biodegradable and synthetic fibers.
- Policy interventions are necessary to formalize and support domestic scrap collection networks, reducing reliance on imports.
- Continued focus on environmentally sustainable solutions, including the use of bioremediation for heavy metal detoxification, will enhance circularity in agriculture and waste sectors.

Key highlights



Top Social Media post and Booklets

CII Waste to Worth Transformation
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World Environment Day 2025 is a global call to action to protect our planet—this year with a strong focus on "Beating Plastic Pollution." Hosted by the Republic of Korea on Jeju Island, the theme highlights the urgency of reducing single-use plastics and embracing circular economy solutions.

In support, CII is excited to invite you to the "Symposium on Technologies Enabling Waste to Worth Transformation", a key event aligned with India's Net Zero 2070 target.

6th June 2025
India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

Under the theme "Shaping a Resilient Tomorrow through a Circular Economy," the symposium will spotlight innovations in:

- Plastic waste & sustainable packaging
- E- waste and Battery waste
- Municipal Solid Waste
- Emerging waste streams: End-of-life vehicle, textiles, agriculture etc

Let's collaborate for a cleaner, more sustainable future.

#WorldEnvironmentDay #CircularEconomy #BeatPlasticPollution #India #CII #NetZero2070 #Sustainability #WasteToWorth #NetZero #WasteToWorth #Innovation #EnvironmentDay2025 #GreenIndia #CIIWaste2Worth #Sustainabledevelopment #Collaboration #Recycling #WasteManagement #GreenFuture

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Multiple Hues of Waste to Worth Symposium

Confederation of Indian Industry

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) works to create and sustain an environment conducive to the development of India, partnering Industry, Government and civil society,through advisory and consultative processes. CII is a non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led and industry-managed organization, with around 9,000 members from the private as well as public sectors, including SMEs and MNCs, and an indirect membership of over 365,000 enterprises from 294 national and regional sectoral industry bodies.

For more than 125 years, CII has been engaged in shaping India's development journey and works proactively on transforming Indian Industry's engagement in national development. CII charts change by working closely with Government on policy issues, interfacing with thought leaders, and enhancing efficiency, competitiveness, and business opportunities for industry through a range of specialized services and strategic global linkages. It also provides a platform for consensus-building and networking on key issues. Through its dedicated Centres of Excellence and Industry competitiveness initiatives, promotion of innovation and technology adoption, and partnerships for sustainability, CII plays a transformative part in shaping the future of the nation. Extending its agenda beyond business, CII assists industry to identify and execute corporate citizenship programmes across diverse domains including affirmative action, livelihoods, diversity management, skill development, empowerment of women, and sustainable development, to name a few.

For 2024-25, CII has identified "Globally Competitive India: Partnerships for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth" as its Theme, prioritizing 5 key pillars. During the year, it would align its initiatives and activities to facilitate strategic actions for driving India's global competitiveness and growth through a robust and resilient Indian industry. With 70 offices, including 12 Centres of Excellence, in India, and 8 overseas offices in Australia, Egypt, Germany, Indonesia, Singapore, UAE, UK, and USA, as well as institutional partnerships with about 300 counterpart organizations in almost 100 countries, CII serves as a reference point for Indian industry and the international business community.

Confederation of Indian Industry
The Mantosh Sondhi Centre
23, Institutional Area, Lodi Road, New Delhi - 110 003 (India)
T: 91 11 45771000
E: info@cii.in * W: www.cii.in

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