



CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION

Annual Report
2023 - 2024

CEE

Centre for Environment Education

CEE Northeast Regional Office organised a plantation drive at the Garbhanga Reserve Forest as part of World Environment Day. The event was supported by ESAF Foundation and was in collaboration with Guwahati University's NSS Cell and Forest Department.

Annual Report

2023-2024

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1. Education for Children

1.1 Planet Discovery Centre

During the academic year 2023-24, the children of the Planet Discovery Centre (PDC) experienced hands-on nature exploration and nature-based activities significant to their growth and understanding. The children in addition to the curriculum developed physical skills, enhanced their sensory awareness through forest trails and cultivated social skills by interacting in small groups.

PDC held teachers training programmes for Gem Genesis International School and Shivashish World School. Through field trips to Serenity Botanical Garden, Sundarvan and Symphony Park the children learned about the nature and various species of plants.

The centre also celebrated events like the World Environment Day, Grandparents Day, Handprint Day, Annual Sports Day to engage children in extra-curricular activities as well. The Joy of Learning Fest (JOL) received an overwhelming participation from the parents. This year an adventure night camp was also organised where the children were shown the stars, moon and other components of our galaxy.

1.2 Environment Service Scheme

The Environment Service Scheme (ESS) is a programme of the Environment and Climate Change Department, Government of Maharashtra. CEE has been functioning as the state nodal agency for ESS since 2011. The state government decided to upscale and expand the reach of ESS, and a Government Resolution was issued in March 2024 with the modalities of implementation of ESS across all 36 districts in the state. The plan is to reach 1500 schools every year in the next five years, totalling 7,500 secondary schools.

The aim is to strengthen understanding of environmental issues and promote direct actions for sustainable management of natural resources with the participation of the local community. Under the scheme, participating schools are provided guidance materials and training in environmental education and climate change, a teachers' manual, through division-wise workshops by Master Trainers.

The scale-up of ESS is being promoted through the Majhi Vasundhara programme of the state government by 'awarding marks' to the participating villages or cities in an annual campaign. Online orientation about ESS is provided under Majhi Vasundhara to staff from the education department, local body officials and school staff Indicators. Majhi Vasundhara 100 marks have been given to schools for participation in the Majhi Vasundhara Abhiyan to be implemented in all 36 districts of the state from the year 2023-24.

Over 10,000 schools, including government-supported and private schools, and over 48,000 representatives of ULBs, school supervisors, and trainers, have participated in the online orientation events. Over 1,000 teachers have registered to participate in ESS, while 915 schools have submitted an online report of the action activities implemented at the school and community in 2023-24. 3000 schools have been shortlisted for the academic year 2024-25.

In 2024-25, it is planned to conduct hands-on teacher training workshops at the division and taluka levels. Based on the progress report and evaluation of the said schools, the schools will be evaluated based on the activities for the Global Warming and Climate Change Action Olympiad.

1.3 Child Friendly School Project

CEE supported implementation of 'Child Friendly School' project in Jaipur. This was a joint initiative of Lady Bamford Charitable trust (LBCT) and CEE. As part of the initiative, a visualisation workshop on child friendly school was held in five government schools from July 10-14, 2023. It involved the participation of schools' teachers, principal, students, members of school management committee, parents and other community members. The objective of workshop was to introduce the concept of child friendly school among the local educators/teachers and to provide the necessary help to let them achieve the goal and convert their schools into a child friendly school. During the workshop, a visualisation exercise was done on components of child friendly school systems through multiple stakeholder involvement and technical assessment was done by architects for proposed infrastructure along with an interactive session with students to know about their views for their dream school.

1.4 Green Schools Programme

The JSW-CEE Green Schools Programme titled 'Strengthening Environment Education in School System' is being implemented in 187 schools with support from the JSW Foundation in Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Tamil Nadu. As part of the programme, CEE is conducting capacity-building workshops and field visits, creating school aspiration plans, and environment learning kits for students on four themes Water, Waste, Biodiversity, and Energy.

In 2023-24, the CEE team carried out an analysis of textbooks for all four states. Learning material on biodiversity focusing on seven species was prepared including state-specific booklets for students in four regional languages, English and Hindi. The materials were developed and delivered at each school.

CEE has conducted a Rapid Situation Analysis at each of the eight locations. The analysis includes a baseline survey of the school facilities, a profile of the principal, and teachers, and information on student projects. During the year, 187 Baseline surveys were conducted, and 174 HM profiles, 166 teachers' profiles and 123 student projects have been recorded. Teacher training workshops were completed. 31 principals, 83 serving teachers and 221 new teachers were oriented, and 118 volunteers were engaged. The programme had an outreach to 183 Schools, 49,227 students, and nine districts, in about 130 villages.

1.5 Air quality flags programme

The Air Quality Flags programme is an Air Quality Index (AQI) based health risk communication for the sensitive groups being run in Pune by CEE Urban since 2019. The programme aims to communicate the health risks associated with different air pollution levels along with advisories for precautions to safeguard people sensitive to increasing levels of air pollution. Children are more sensitive to air pollution and hence vulnerable to health impacts. The programme offered to the schools and colleges in Pune has a two-pronged approach, including:

- Creating awareness among the school community about AQI, daily forecast and health advisories and display of AQI flags on school campuses and safeguarding the health of children, a vulnerable group, during bad AQI days, and
- Educating children about air pollution, its sources and health impacts, and promoting mitigation measures for taking sectoral actions (e.g. waste, transport, etc) for abating air pollution emissions at the individual and community levels.

The activities undertaken in 2023-24 were:

- The launch of the air quality flags programme for 2023 with AQI flags and posters by the Higher and Technical Education Minister of Maharashtra in May 2023.
- Orientation of teachers from more than 80 schools about the programme and use of flags for communication of daily AQI forecasts and health advisory in collaboration with the Pune Climate Warrior programme.
- Dissemination of kits including a set of five AQI flags and four posters to 200 schools and 25 colleges in Pune.

The programme was initiated in collaboration with the National Resource Defence Council (NRDC) US, the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) Pune, Indian Institute of Public Health (IIPH) Gandhinagar, Alleima Foundation Pune and the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC). It was part of the Pune Air Information and Response (AIR) Plan developed by CEE and NRDC for PMC as a public health advisory communication strategy to support the Pune City Action Plan (CAP) on air quality under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) for communication and outreach for improving air quality.

1.6 Paryavaran Mitra Programme

Paryavaran Mitra programme is a national level initiative of CEE which was launched in 2010 in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India. It is a nationwide initiative to create a network of young leaders from schools across the country, who have the awareness, knowledge, commitment, and potential to meet sustainable development challenges in their own spheres of influence. The Paryavaran Mitra (PM) programme primarily seeks to reach students from classes 6 – 12 (age group 11-18).

The programme was initiated in 2008-09 with a national-level campaign on Climate Change Education and evolved into a flagship school programme that brings together CEE's experience of three decades in Environmental Education (EE) and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). The programme follows the Explore, Discover, Think, Act and Share (EDTAS) pedagogical approach.

Through this approach students engage in problem solving by taking part in implementation of action projects. These projects may or may not lead to immediate or significant improvement, but would definitely lay the foundation for sustained efforts through learning outcomes in the form of knowledge, disposition, competencies and behaviour. In Project Based Learning (PBL), action project/s is an extensive task undertaken by a group of students to apply or illustrate classroom learning. This extends the boundary of education from information to experience.

Resource materials for the programme are provided to the schools to carry out action projects focusing on local environmental issues in the five themes of the programme, viz; Water & Sanitation, Biodiversity and Greening, Energy, Waste Management and Culture & Heritage. Schools took up the activities in their campuses by involving the students and submitted their learning and achievements in the form of reports to CEE.

During the year 2023-24, following activities were conducted under the PM programme with schools.

Wipro earthian

Wipro earthian initiative of Wipro Foundation and the Paryavaran Mitra initiative of CEE joined hands in 2013-14 to work in collaboration for promoting and strengthening environmental education and

sustainability education across schools. Through a chosen theme, the programme aims to engage teams of students and faculties from schools in a set of activities to understand water, biodiversity and waste in their local context and explore sustainability linkages. The programme was implemented in the states of Bihar, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. CEE has also reached 13 other states including Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Telangana, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, Punjab, Delhi, Haryana, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu and Jammu & Kashmir through its PM school network.

CEE organised a total of 26 teachers training workshops where 1,309 teachers were training on sustainability education. At national level five online workshops and in different locations 21 face to face workshops were conducted. Over 1,173 teachers were trained from five project states along with 136 teachers from 13 states and UTs covering over 136 districts. The online trainings were organised in English, Hindi, Gujarati and Bengali languages. After the workshops, teachers were guided to implement activities in the selected themes through regular meetings and one to one discussion. A total of 453 activity reports were received from participating schools. Total 86 school report submissions were selected and shared with the national evaluation committee.

Out of twenty national level winner schools, five schools were selected from shortlisted reports shared by CEE. While four submissions were selected for the shortlisted category at national level. Over 18 submissions were recognized with regional level winner awards.

State wise activities

Bihar and Uttar Pradesh: CEE's office based in Lucknow coordinates programmes and initiatives in Northern States. The existing network of schools under Paryavaran Mitra, Dolphin Conservation Education, Children's Forest, Clean Ganga Programme and Eco Club initiatives were used for publicizing the programme. District level education department officials were contacted who have shown interest in participation of the government schools from their districts. Letters were sent to officials, eco club master trainers, teachers and principals about the programme and workshop announcements. NGO partners in different districts were informed about the programme inviting them to engage the local schools.

Gujarat: Two teams collaborated to engage with schools across the state. The first team, from the Sundarvan Nature Discovery Centre based in Ahmedabad, focused on reaching out to rural schools. The second team, involved in the Eco-Schools programme, in collaboration with the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, conducted in person workshops in Vadodara and Mehsana districts. These workshops centered on climate science and the approach of the earthian PM to mitigate its effects.

Rajasthan: The CEE team based in Jaipur contacted the school network in the state announcing the programme. The school network of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya schools, eco club programme National Green Corps and Paryavaran Mitra were contacted for the programme announcement. School teachers were sent instruction from the state nodal agency of eco club programme Bharat Scouts and Guides to all the eco club school teachers for participation in training.

Capacity building workshop were also organised at three districts: Ajmer, Barmer and Pali. Around 100 teachers participated in these face-to-face workshops at these locations. Online mode of teacher training workshop was adopted to reach out remaining districts of the state.

West Bengal: CEE continued its partnership with the local organisation 'Paribesh Unnayan Parishad' (PUPA). The organisation was very instrumental in bringing out the reach to the local schools and implemented the programme with dedicated support to schools. Local volunteers related to science-

based programmes helped in reaching out to schools in the State. Series of workshops were done in different zones with the support of various institutions and schools.

Other States: As the programme was being implemented through online mode, the Paryavaran Mitra schools in other States of the country also showed interest this year to take part in the programme. Schools from over 11 states, 1 UT and 1 NCT took part in training and had also submitted their reports.

Eco Schools India Programme

CEE is the national operator for the Eco-Schools Programme in India. Eco-Schools is a sustainable school campus and educational programme run by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) which encourages students of classes 1-5. Eco-Schools Programme aims to encourage these students in the awareness about sustainable development and environmental issues. The programme starts with the classroom engagement and expands to the community by engaging the next generation in action-based learning.

Internationally this programme is being implemented in 81 countries. In India, it was launched in 2014-15 and CEE was designated as national operator of the programme. The aim of the programme is to provide young people a sense of accomplishment from participating in their schools' environmental management policies through this programme, which ultimately leads to certification and the prestige that comes with receiving the "green flag" award.

The programme follows a seven-step process to implement and to bring behavioural changes where the students go through the process of moving from awareness to action. The programme helped teachers make connections between five themes and the Sustainable Development Goals by emphasizing the significance of working on the SDGs. The programme is open to a wide diversity of schools following different curriculums in India. These include State Board schools and schools following the national curriculum and international schools.

Outreach and Activities

Eco-Schools India is a robust environmental education initiative, actively engaging over 280 schools across 18 states in the country. This expansive network includes more than 3,000 teachers and boasts the participation of over 90,000 students. The programme has established significant collaborations and partnerships with 10 national and 5 international organizations, enhancing its reach and impact.

Programme Implementation and Resources

Schools that enroll in the Eco-Schools programme gain access to a wealth of resources designed to support their environmental action projects. These resources include:

- Comprehensive guides and educational content tailored to various environmental themes.
- Tools for evaluating and documenting progress on action projects.
- Focus on addressing local environmental issues through five key themes: Biodiversity, Waste, Energy, Healthy Living and Water with interlinkages to the theme of Climate Change.

Stitching the Circle: A School Project on Circularity in Textiles

In an initiative to address textile waste and promote sustainability, the GIZ and ABFRL, in partnership with the CEE, launched the project "Stitching the Circle." This project, under the broader programme

"Approaches for Circular Textiles and Apparel Industry in India," aims to upcycle textile waste and reintroduce it into the circular economy, thus alleviating the burden on waste management systems.

The project was inaugurated at ASN Senior Secondary School, New Delhi, on August 24, 2023. The event marked the commencement of an extensive awareness campaign and textiles collection drive. The "Stitching the Circle" initiative was launched in collaboration with the School Team and EMG of CEE, setting the stage for a series of engaging activities aimed at students across various cities.

To introduce students to the concept of circularity in textiles, a variety of competitions and workshops were organised. These activities spanned multiple schools in five cities: Delhi, Surat, Ahmedabad, and Chennai. Highlights include:

- Online Competitions (August): Various online competitions were held, fostering creativity and understanding of circularity among students.
- Offline Competitions: Poster making and quiz competitions were conducted at the venue, drawing enthusiastic participation.
- Panel Discussion and Exhibition: Students led a panel discussion and showcased an exhibition, which became the highlight of the event, demonstrating their grasp of the concepts and their creative approaches to textile upcycling.

Generation for Climate ActionN (GenCAN) Initiative

HCL Foundation and CEE collaborated and initiated a national level sustainability and climate change education programme aimed at promoting and improving climate literacy and action in the schools. The initiative was mutually agreed to be branded as 'Generation for Climate ActionN' (GenCAN).

This national-level initiative was launched in an event held in April 2023 at New Delhi which was attended by over 300 students and 50 teachers from local schools. Key dignitaries were Vice President, Global CSR & Director, HCL Foundation; Head, Dept. of Education in Science and Mathematics, NCERT; Chairman, Development Alternatives, WASH, Sustainability and Climate Change Specialist, UNICEF India and Chief of Youth, Education and Advocacy Unit, UNEP and Director CEE. A student panel was facilitated to highlight the thinking of youth with regard to changing climate and their role as young leaders. With the launch of the programme, schools were invited to register for the programme. First year programme was done as a pilot model involving over 60-70 schools.

Training of Teachers

After registration of schools, CEE conducted two-day online teachers training workshops in English and Hindi. The training included two interactive modules with four technical sessions aimed to help teachers effectively communicate sustainability and climate change concepts to students. A total of 65 teachers from 54 diverse schools across 15 Indian states participated. The sessions covered climate change science, impacts, required handprint actions, and detailed challenge implementation steps. Teachers gained knowledge and shared their experiences and plans. To ensure ongoing support and implementation, monthly follow-up meetings were scheduled to review progress of each challenge and discuss the problems and their potential solutions at school level.

Students Orientation Sessions

Online orientation sessions were also organised for the climate leaders' team of students. Two sessions of 1.5 hours each were conducted in English and Hindi aimed at building knowledge and understanding of students about climate change science, its impacts, and what can be done at school

and individual levels to reduce our carbon footprint. Over 300 students from different schools joined these sessions which helped them to clarify their doubts with experts and plan what can be done at the school level to become a climate-friendly campus.

Climate Literacy Quiz and Awareness Week

In August 2023, GenCAN school students participated in a national online climate literacy quiz, marking the first step in the climate action leadership challenge. The quiz assessed students' understanding of Earth's climate, climate change impacts, and mitigation strategies. Over 525 students from 16 Indian states, representing both urban and rural areas, enthusiastically took part. This online quiz covered three key main categories: Climate Science and Factors; Environmental Impact and Conservation and Climate Action and Mitigation. After the quiz, student teams organized various awareness activities in their school to spread climate awareness for all students, staff and community members. Bulletin boards, climate assemblies, competitions, rallies, street plays, and video screening were conducted.

School Carbon Footprint Estimation

School teams were guided to conduct an audit of electricity and water consumption, transport modes used and waste generated. Data was collected by students and was filled on the web portal to estimate the school's carbon footprint.

GenCAN Youth Leaders' Summit

A virtual Youth Climate Leaders' Summit was held in September 2023. Climate Leader students interacted with experts from HCL Foundation, CEE and ClimAct Foundation who encouraged students to lead by example and believe in the power of collaboration. Students engaged with experts, discussing green careers, sustainable lifestyles, and environmental consciousness.

Climate Action Project Implementation

As part of challenge 3, each school team decided on a 3-4 months climate action project in their schools linked to saving electricity, water conservation and waste management to reduce carbon emissions. Climate actions taken by schools could reduce 35,983 tonnes of carbon emission.

Reporting by schools and Evaluation

School teams documented their journey of taking up this challenge and submitted it to CEE. Schools were evaluated based on reports submitted through the school dashboard for all four challenges. A total of 44 schools completed all 4 challenges, from which 13 were shortlisted. The CEE team presented the work of these 13 schools to a panel of jury members during a meeting held at the HCL head office in Noida. Based on this presentation and the schools' overall performance, the committee selected 6 national level winners.

ACCU – CEE Collaboration for Exchange Programmes

Online MUN Bridge Conference Students Exchange

In 2023, ACCU organised the Asia-Pacific Model United Nations Online Conference for high school students from five countries—Japan, Mongolia, Korea, Thailand, and India. The goal was to develop the next generation of leaders who can thrive in diverse societies through interactions and collaborative learning with Japanese and other Asian students. The theme of the conference was "Face Myself, Know Others, Meet the New World."

The workshops were designed to deepen participants' understanding of "self, others, and society" by exploring questions without definitive answers and engaging in meaningful dialogue. These workshops provided opportunities for participants to reflect on the theme using a variety of engaging methods tailored to their interests.

As the implementation partner from India, CEE selected six students from across the country to participate in the exchange program. The programme included exchanging ideas, working on policy presentations, and presenting in Model United Nations discussions. This experience enhanced the students' understanding of and engagement with global issues. Participation in the conference allowed a group of 48 students from the five countries to improve their skills, raise awareness, and build confidence. Their transformations were highly impactful and served as a valuable example for other students.

Teachers Exchange Programme

The 2023 Invitation Programme for Teachers from India took place from September 17-24, 2023, in Tokyo and Tochigi, Japan. Twelve teachers, including two representatives from CEE officials, had the opportunity to visit various schools and educational as well as cultural institutions. This initiative was designed to facilitate exchanges between Indian and Japanese teachers and students, enriching educational pedagogies and promoting cultural understanding.

The Ambassador of India in Japan engaged with the Indian teachers, emphasizing the importance of such initiatives in strengthening Indo-Japan friendships, particularly through educational and cultural exchanges. Shri Manoj Singh Negi, First Secretary at the Indian Embassy in Japan, welcomed the teachers and shared insights into Japan's educational practices.

During their visit, the Indian teachers interacted with principals, vice principals, and school coordinators, gaining valuable insights into the pedagogy, daily schedules, and co-curricular activities in Japanese schools. Following the visit, the schools facilitated online exchange classes between their students and Japanese students, fostering long-term relationships between teachers from both countries.

Climate Resilient Schools Initiative in Chhattisgarh

CEE North in partnership with LTIMindtree Foundation initiated a project on building climate resilience in schools of Chhattisgarh. The project aimed to engage young minds through environmental education to build climate resilience towards sustainability in schools and communities. The project was initiated in May 2023 with the selection of a project team. The activities under the project covered 50 schools which were from two aspirational and climate-vulnerable districts of Bijapur and Kanker in Chhattisgarh. A school cluster was formed of 25 schools in each selected district.

The CEE team contacted District authorities for nomination of schools for the project. District Education Officers of respective districts nominated a cluster of 25 schools from each district. Each nominated school was visited for a meeting and conducted a baseline survey.

A teacher's training workshop was planned and conducted in September 2023 for cluster school teachers to build their capacity to implement the programme. Over 100 teachers were trained through one-day teacher training workshops in each district. They were guided to revive eco clubs and plan an activity calendar focusing on climate change adaptation, mitigation activities, and environmental education.

The team conducted eco club orientation for students on the initiative, their roles and responsibilities etc. Series of interactive sessions were conducted in each school during the visit on local environmental problems, climate change, its impacts and action ideas on building resilience within the school campus. From 100 school eco clubs, over 1,600 students and more than 600 teachers were given orientation who further took ground-level action.

Eco club events were conducted on Gandhi Jayanti by organising a cleanup drive and plantation in schools and on International Day of Climate Actions where a painting competition was organised on “R” Mantras of waste management. A nature trail to the nearest wetland site was organised for the project school to commemorate the World Wetland Day 2024 at both Bijapur and Kanker districts.

The CEE team conducted orientation sessions for students to develop green skills based on the school-specific action plans. Different approaches like games, experiments, demonstration etc. were used. Handholding support was provided by the project team during the implementation of the activities, like developing a kitchen garden, creating a waste management system on the campus (demonstration of a twin bin system and composting of wet waste), energy conservation in the school campus and demonstrating fuel-efficient cook stove for MDM preparation, wastewater management with proper drainage system and soakage pits.

Each school selected their action project focusing on greening, waste management, energy conservation and kitchen gardening. Through its various awareness and action activities more than 25,000 stakeholders were reached through eco clubs.

Type of Action Project	No. of Schools
Kitchen Gardening	44
Plantation on the school campus	4
Waste Management System - Segregation of Waste (Blue-Green Dustbins)	50
NADEP Composting System	6
Switching to LED lighting	10
Fuel-efficient cook stove for MDM	4
Wastewater management system (water channelization and soakage pit)	5
Eco Club Resource Corner (environment books, games, soft board, bamboo racks, display posters etc.)	50

EE for Food Ecosystem Programme

With support from Toast.org and Give2Asia, CEE has embarked on a 'Food Ecosystem' initiative aimed at sustainable agriculture and at addressing issues related to climate, food wastage, and dietary habits. The project was officially launched in Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat during October and November 2023 with the establishment of nutritional gardens at six schools of Lucknow and Sanand districts of UP and Gujarat.

In Lucknow, three government schools of visually impaired students were engaged in the programme. CEE conducted orientation sessions with students, teachers and supplied the schools with gardening resource materials, including tools, native plants and seeds, to facilitate the creation of a nutrition garden. They were also provided a variety of vegetable seeds, saplings, manure and useful gardening equipment. Students, teachers and supportive staff actively participated/involved in tending to these gardens, gaining valuable hands-on experience and contributing to their schools sustainability efforts.

In Gujarat, three Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) girls' residential schools located in Vasodara, Madhavnagar, and Rajoda within the Sanand District were selected for the project. CEE conducted informative orientation sessions and supplied the schools with gardening resources, including tools, native plant saplings, and seeds, to facilitate the creation of accessible garden beds. As all three hostels cum schools are in industrial areas, we also provided them with soil and manure regularly. From garden beds to grow bags, various solutions were used to address the challenge of polluted soil and water.

Through guided in-person meetings with teams of 80 students in each school, the students successfully harvested vegetables such as spinach, beans, and fenugreek. The students are now actively involved in tending to these gardens, gaining valuable hands-on experience and contributing to their school's sustainability efforts.

EE in Curriculum

The NEP 2020 emphasises the importance of holistic and multidisciplinary education, which includes fostering environmental awareness and sustainable living practices among students. In line with this vision, the NCFSE 2023 has incorporated comprehensive guidelines to enhance environmental education across all grade levels. A subject textbook for Grade 10 on environmental education and an elective on Sustainability and Climate for Grades 11 and 12, proposed in NCF 2023 are steps towards realizing these objectives. These subjects aim to provide students with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to become environmentally conscious citizens.

Constitution of Curricular Area Group (CAG) Environmental Education (EE)

The National Syllabus and Teaching-Learning Material Committee (NSTC) under the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE) 2023 constituted the CAG EE in December 2023 with the goal to ensure the seamless and joyful integration of Environmental Education into our new school textbooks—across school stages and subjects.

NCFSE was developed under the guidance of National Steering Committee and released by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) to serve as the reference point and guiding roadmap for the syllabus and textbook developers for school education all over the country, in alignment with the recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The Group will work on following areas:

- Prepare a guideline document for other CAGs that lays out some of the facts and principles that should ideally be integrated into each subject at each stage.
- Develop syllabi and corresponding Teaching Learning Material (TLMs) including activity books, workbooks and Teacher's Handbook for Grades 10, 11 and 12 as per the NCF-SE-2023.

Development of Syllabus and Textbook

Weekly meetings of the CAG have been held since January 2024. Two in-person workshops held at Ahmedabad in January 2024 and February 2024. In addition to working towards developing the syllabus, textbooks and TLM for Grades 10 and 11-12, CAG EE provided inputs to other CAG groups on integration of EE in respective subjects. The group reviewed the syllabus of other subjects and gave input notes on how and where EE concepts and contents can be integrated.

The CAG EE has developed the detailed syllabus for the proposed compulsory EE subject for Grade 10 which will be introduced in schools in the academic year 2025-26. The approach and syllabus are based on the guidelines given in NCFSE 2023. The textbook consists of four units spread over 14 chapters. The first three units of the course are to be conducted over 100 periods, grouped into 50 sessions of two periods each. In addition, there are 32 periods for unit four which is Action projects. Each period is 40 to 50 minutes depending on the school.

1.7 “TVS Greening Minds” - Nature Conservation Education Programme

Environmental education is now an indispensable part of the school curriculum, and students usually learn these principles within the four walls without any field experience. As a result of a strong collaboration between TVS Motor Company, Mysore, and CEE South, the "Greening Minds"- Nature Conservation Education Programme was implemented for sixth-grade students from six government schools in the vicinity of TVS Motor Company Mysore.

The path of learning began with an introduction to the Teachers during the Teachers Orientation Programme to engage themselves with the students, focusing their attention on earth changes and their climatic impacts with the support of the training and Teacher's Manual provided during the program. Also, the targeted 110 students (same group of students trained in 2023) were invited to the Students Orientation Programme to gain insight into how to become the next change makers, and they were given a Student's Activity Book to actively increase their knowledge through activities. The opportunity to study the causes of climate change and pollution spurred young minds to seek answers as visualising the water treatment plant & steps taken at industrial level to protect environment.

The Outreach programme broadened their understanding of how climate change and pollution are gradually affecting individuals and the environment. Through activities, it raised awareness about how to conserve natural resources and take modest steps at home or school to create a greener future.

1.8 ECOZONE Learning with Nature

TKM established an experiential environment learning center – Ecozone. It is a biodiversity rich center developed in 2017 at the TKM premises. 2019-20 onwards, the Ecozone has been open for experiential learning visits. It includes 17 theme parks under the initiative 'Harmony with Nature'.

CEE provided support towards TKM's vision of promoting environment awareness among schools and started this programme. The programme aims at bringing behavioural change among the visitors, who carry the responsibility of building a society in harmony with nature. Through Ecozone education programme we have reached out to 40,809 school children so far.

In the FY 2023 – 2024, 147 schools were covered in which 10,790 students were trained on various environmental issues of the time. Totally 110 schools have implemented the project in their schools

among 147 target schools in which 315 projects were successfully completed by school's students in 2 themes such as Water Management and Waste Management.

Under the water management theme students have submitted 52 projects in which 44 projects on ground water recharge pits, 2 projects on rainwater harvesting pond and 6 projects are models/charts related to the theme.

Under the waste management theme students have submitted 263 projects in which 187 projects on best out of waste, 65 projects on compost pit and 11 projects on segregation bins.

2. Education for Youth

CEE's youth programmes involve young persons in environmental awareness and action by providing opportunities of participation in several programmes and campaigns. Youth participation is built into many of CEE's initiatives where youth take leadership roles in influencing change.

2.1 Young Reporters for Environment (YRE)

YRE, an award-winning global initiative coordinated by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) is active in over 45 countries involving around 3,60,000 youth. YRE gives young people aged 11-25 a platform to research environmental issues and promote solutions through investigative reporting, photography, and video journalism. CEE is the national operator for YRE for eight years providing a platform for youth in India for creative communication on environmental issues of concern to them.

During the year 2023-24, the YRE programme was further strengthened to enhance participation by youth and improve engagement with them. 90,000 students and youth and 240 mentor teachers participated in the YRE programme. It implemented new strategies by introducing Mentorship Programmes, where the school teachers train their students into becoming young reporters for the environment. As a result, YRE is currently working with around 195 schools along with 20 universities across India with more than 7,500 students who are trained under YRE.

Subsequently, in the months of July-August 2023, YRE held about three online orientations for the mentors all across India. Moreover, in the months of October-December 2023, Photography and Videography Workshops were assembled in order to encourage and promote young enthusiasts by enhancing their skills into making an environmental impact.

2.2 Tide Turners Plastic Challenge

Focusing on the role of young people as leaders in the fight against plastic pollution, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) introduced a global campaign called the Tide Turners Plastic Challenge. The campaign educated young people about the dangers of single-use plastic, equipping them with a basic understanding of advocacy, and motivating them to put their knowledge into action in their communities. CEE and WWF are working as knowledge and implementation partners with UNEP India for the implementation of the campaign in India from 2019.

Looking at the success of the past four phases, UNEP joined hands with CEE and WWF to initiate phase five spreading from January 2023 till March 2025. For the initiation of the phase, CEE and WWF reviewed the entire content and challenge strategy.

This year TTPC organised sessions for the government schools of Delhi, partnered with Tamil Nadu government for their Green Fellow Programme and Manjapai Movement and with NCC teams across India.

In 2023-24, a total of 48 training sessions were organised across India. Additionally, three training sessions were held for Bhutan, and one international training session was conducted for Bangladesh and Sri Lanka to implement the TTPC programme in their countries.

Ecological Hotspot Events

From April 2023 to March 2024, various environmental awareness events focused on reducing plastic waste and promoting sustainability. Key initiatives included Bihar Scouts and Guides' campaign on International Plastic Bag Free Day, distributing cloth bags and raising community awareness. CEE organised a cleanup at Thol Lake on International Youth Day collecting 80 kg of plastic waste. Clean-up drives at CEE campus, Isabella Thoburn PG College, and judicial premises on Green Consumer Day further emphasised waste reduction.

Gandhi Jayanti featured riverbank clean-ups in Bihar, while a youth leadership workshop marked National River Ganges Dolphin Day. During National Wildlife Week (1-7 October), a beach cleanup at Bhawani Beach, Gujarat, was led by TTPC Champions. An Ambod cleanup on October 18, 2023, by Karnavati University students inspired local waste segregation efforts. Global Handprint Day (25th November) focused on upcycling at CEE campus, and Kartik Purnima Fair saw plastic pollution awareness activities.

In early 2024, Kerala Scouts and Guides organized clean-ups at Mangalam Dam and Kadappara-Alingal Waterfalls, collecting significant amounts of plastic waste. World Wetland Day featured a social media outreach to schools and colleges, promoting environmental awareness.

Phase 5 launch

Phase 5 formal launch event held in April at Delhi bringing together people from different countries where TTPC is being implemented. A physical summit was planned for schools who joined as per the partnership with the Delhi Government. The event brought together the top 30 schools and three best-performing schools, who demonstrated their outstanding efforts to reduce plastic pollution.

The TTPC Phase 5 Delhi Summit took place in June 2023, in Delhi, in association with the Directorate of Education GNCT of Delhi and UNEP with its implementing partners CEE and WWF-India, showcasing the remarkable efforts and achievements of schools in combating plastic pollution. The Director, Directorate of Education, and Programme Management Officer and Deputy Head of UNEP India, recognised the 194 champion schools for their outstanding contributions.

Livelihood Impacts

This phase engages rural youth to develop enterprises that upcycle, recycle plastic waste, or find plastic alternatives, addressing single-use plastic issues and providing income. CEE selected villages to assess local conditions and identify interested youth. Community meetings and planning sessions were held to involve them.

The CEE team visited villages in Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh, holding discussions and orientations to form youth groups. These sessions explained starting small businesses to reduce plastic consumption and guided youth in assessing local single-use plastic usage. Training for Bartan Bank and Cloth Bag initiatives was completed, and participants are now independently implementing these projects.

The programme could outreach and mobilise over 1,17,889 youth to join TTPC. The rural livelihood initiatives aimed at reducing the use of single-use plastic have been implemented in Bahraich village, Uttar Pradesh, and Ghumasan village, Gujarat.

- In Bahraich, the introduction of a Bartan bank facilitates the borrowing of reusable utensils, minimizing the need for single-use plastic utensils during events.
- In Ghumasan, a Cloth Bag unit has been established to produce various cloth bag products from waste cloth, effectively reducing the village's reliance on polythene bags.

TTPC in Bhutan

CEE was invited to support the Royal Academy Bhutan as part of the UNEP's Tide Turners Plastic Challenge in implementation of the programme. CEE facilitated discussions and conducted training for master trainers and teachers. TTPC toolkit and other resources were adapted for Bhutan with the inputs from CEE and UNEP as well. An online workshop was conducted for over 560 students and teachers from 23 Bhutan schools. It served as a platform to educate and empower youth about the pressing issue of single-use plastics in Bhutan. Through engaging discussions and activities, we shed light on the environmental impacts of such plastics and inspired these young minds to take collective action for a cleaner and greener future.

2.3 Youth Water Stewardship

Youth Engagement and Water Stewardship (YEWS) is a programme of the Government of Maharashtra's Higher and Technical Education Department, which is being implemented by UNICEF Maharashtra, ACWADAM Pune, CEE Pune and Why Waste? Bengaluru.

The programme's objective is behaviour change among youth towards water conservation. Over three years the aim is to reach 7,10,000 youth in 13 districts of Maharashtra. The programme started with identifying and training Master Trainers from Higher and Technical Education. CEE developed a training manual for Master Trainers and also delivered two days of residential training to about 290 Master Trainers in April-May 2023.

About 1,500 Green Clubs are established in higher and technical education institutes in 13 programme districts, through which along with water conservation, youth are taking initiatives and activities about climate change and associated thematic areas like solid waste management, energy management and bio-cultural diversity conservation. For capacity building of Green Club youths, district-wise one-day Green Club Nurturing workshops were organised.

2.4 Maharashtra Youth for Climate Action

Maharashtra Youth for Climate Action (MYCA) is a youth platform. Maha Youth for Climate Action was established for youth to access knowledge, have exchanges, collaborate for climate action on the field, and climate policy advocacy. The initiative is in partnership with UNICEF Maharashtra.

The MYCA network now connects over 400 youth across the state to share individual and community climate actions, network with like-minded youth in the state and access information on green skilling opportunities and jobs. The programme has outreach through social media like Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn and We Naturalists.

The courses developed under the initiative are made available in English and Marathi. By end of March 2024, over 99,000 youth had enrolled for these courses and over 53,000 had completed the courses and earned certificates.

In 2023-24, a Green Skill Webinar Series was conducted for youth. Majhi Vasundhara, an initiative of the Government of Maharashtra's Environment Department has included the completion of these courses by youth as part of the assessment criteria of urban and rural local bodies.

2.5 Project Eco School

This project is designed to enhance environmental and health awareness within schools and their surrounding communities through a comprehensive and collaborative approach. By working closely with the school and local residents, the initiative will raise awareness through targeted events and training sessions for Bal Sansad Members, Eco-Club members, teachers, and students. The project will also involve the creation of IEC materials such as posters and banners to support awareness and event activities. The project aims to strengthen community engagement, improve school facilities, and promote sustainable practices, ultimately contributing to a healthier and more environmentally conscious school environment.

The project eco school highlights comprehensive efforts to enhance educational environments and promote sustainability within schools. Key initiatives include developing child-centric educational materials and resources aimed at behavioural change. The project actively involves students, school staff, parents, and the community to strengthen institutional frameworks and implement an effective waste management system, contributing to student health and well-being. Greening efforts through plantations and a kitchen garden enhance the school environment, while a compost pit manages organic waste. Integration of smart classrooms enriches learning experiences with interactive technologies. Additionally, upgrading water facilities ensures reliable supply for hygiene and consumption needs, collectively fostering a sustainable and supportive educational setting. Total 110 students benefited from this project.

Project Benefits

- Ongoing efforts include the development of innovative child-centric educational materials and need-based resource materials for various stakeholders, aiming to foster behavioral change.
- Institutions are being strengthened through the active engagement and participation of students, school staff, parents, and the local community.
- A waste management system is currently in place, contributing to the overall health and well-being of the students by ensuring proper waste disposal.
- Ongoing plantations are leading to the greening of the school area, while the introduction of a kitchen garden serves both educational and nutritional purposes within the school.
- The implementation of a compost pit is helping manage wet waste and garden waste in the school campus, contributing to effective waste management practices.
- The project includes the integration of smart classrooms, leveraging technology to enhance the learning experience for students and facilitate interactive and engaging educational sessions.

2.6 Project Saksham

The Project Saksham is a corporate social responsibility (CSR) project of UNM Foundation (Torrent Pharma Group) in partnership with CEE for implementation, which aims to establish and strengthen Vocational training centre which will be a key to improving productivity, employability and income earning opportunities, promoting environmentally sustainable economic development and livelihoods for women in the rural villages Project Saksham aims towards efforts to achieve the SDG (Sustainable Development Goals no.5 – Gender Equality and 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth mainly. This project also aims holistic development of the targeted community- the rural women who does not have any specific skill for income generation and thus to become economically independent. Project Saksham also facilitates to cover the community under relevant govt scheme benefits which will serve the purpose of comprehensive approach of the project. The strategy of the project implementation is through collective strength which is formation, development and maturity of SHGs (Self Help Group), during each phase of SHG, relevant activities and trainings will take place.

Total coverage area of this project is five villages (Rajpur, Irana, Indrad, Untva and Laxmipura) of block Kadi in Mehsana District of state Gujarat. Rajpur is the Hub Centre and other village centres are as Sub Centres where sewing machine training is being given to selected women trainees. At Hub centre Industrial Sewing Machine Training gets provided and at all Sub Centres motorized Sewing Machine training will be provided. Out of total four sub centres, at Irana Sub centre total 40 women trainees are getting trained under motorised sewing skill sets. Under this project Saksham targets to train total 200 rural women of total five project villages and to make capable total 50 women to earn minimum Rs 5,000 a month through getting job work or through placement in any nearby garment factory.

This project has been initiated from the January 1, 2024, and having duration of one and half year whereby the work is being proceed be as per quarterly plan. As per first quarter one Hub centre at Rajpur and one Sub centre at Irana Village has been set up, total 80 potential trainee women have been selected and under training process. Project launch and inauguration of total two training centres have been taken place in the month of April 2024 and total 80 rural women are getting trained.

Parallel to training women trainees of Hub Centre & Sub Centre have successfully completed the stitching job work of total three different products like Gomukhi, Kediya, and fabric carry bag.

3. Higher Education

3.1 RCE Lucknow

RCE Lucknow in partnership with eight organisations established a network of RCE on ESD in Lucknow. The key areas of RCE Lucknow focused on biodiversity conservation and school education programmes. The target groups for these activities are students, teachers, NGOs, communities, youth etc. CEE North as a nodal point for RCE Lucknow initiated the ESD activities with its RCE partners in the region. The activities done by RCE Lucknow are as under:

- School events based on various environment related themes were organized where students and teachers from schools of Lucknow participated.

- Biodiversity focused ESD initiative being done in Uttar Pradesh with the help of formal education Institutions University of Lucknow and non-formal education institutions Education and Forest Department, Schools, etc.

3.2 SDG Handprint Lab - Sustainability Leadership Programme

SDG Handprint Lab offered by CEE is an initiative to increase youth participation in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the local level. The programme challenges the students to understand the goals and targets in a selected geographic area and think of solutions and Handprint actions that could lead to achieving the goals. The concept of Handprint that emerged from one of CEE's programmes symbolises positive and tangible actions taken towards sustainability. Exploring the themes of the SDGs is an excellent way to get the students to link their education and skills with real-life problems in the wider community and environment.

Ahmedabad: SDG Handprint Lab programme, now renamed as the Sustainability Leadership Programme, was conducted for the 1st Year BBA students of the Nirma University. The programme follows unique methodology combining theory session and field work. This year total 120 students from three classes were engaged in the programme. They visited slums in Naroda and Narol area of the city, where CEE already has some presence due the community learning centres set up under one of its projects. The students worked on the SDGs such as water-sanitation, health, education, gender, decent livelihoods and waste management.

Pune: The SDG Handprint Lab was offered as an elective course for master's students at the PVP College of Architecture, Pune from February 2024 to March 2024. Nine students of second-year MArch Urban Design attended the course. The course introduced students to the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. Students were engaged in a project on child and adolescent road safety in Pune district. It enhanced their learning and fieldwork opportunities. The course covered the following aspects:

- Orientation on road safety and application of the "safe systems approach" for improving road safety for children through classroom interactions.
- Introduced to the IRC standards and codes and road safety audit for the school zone through expert sessions and interactions.
- Practising tools for stakeholder interactions, infrastructure mapping and field-level data collection through traffic and pedestrian counts, user interviews, measurements and observations.
- Surveys of school zones on road safety needs near and enroute to schools.

Under this course, students studied road safety scenarios in school zones of three school locations, two in urban areas of Pimpri Chinchwad and Pune and one of Shikrapur in rural Pune. They analysed road safety for students in the school zones at the three schools and framed recommendations for improving the safety of students coming to school by walking, cycling, school transport vehicles or by parents' drop, looking at the infrastructure including footpaths, pedestrian crossings, cycle paths, road signages and markings, etc. They took note of safe behavioural practices of wearing child helmets, use of Child Restraint Systems (CRS) or seat belts being followed by the parents.

Students came up with the following outputs from the course:

- Reports of the road safety analysis with recommendations for the three schools.
- Slide decks with the analysis and suggested measures for road safety improvements in the school zones.

- School-specific posters on road safety requirements and infrastructural and behavioural measures for improving road safety for students.

3.3 Rural Internship Programme for PDEU students

CEE DO along with CEE west team conducted Rural Internship Programme for about 150 students from doing Bachelors in liberal studies at PDEU. This was a 10 days rigorous training programme that introduced students to various socio-environmental issues through theory and field sessions. Two batches of the RI programme were conducted over the year.

3.4 Course on Sustainable Environment and Natural Heritage Management

Dr Janki Shah, Programme Director, CEE, conducted a 1.5 credit course titled "Sustainable Environmental and Natural Heritage Management" for the master's programme in Heritage Management at Ahmedabad University. This is the second subsequent year when this course is being offered.

3.5 CEE Academy: Transformative Learning for Sustainable Development Management

The CEE academy is set up with the purpose of offering courses that provide knowledge, tools and skills for transformative learning to educators and teachers, practitioners across sectors – rural, urban, corporates, decision-makers, and young people to deal with the triple planetary crisis humanity faces. CEE brings to the academy its rich experience and expertise in Environmental Education and training across sectors and stakeholders, and through partners.

The academy offers courses online, in-person and in hybrid mode. Courses are also offered in partnership with universities and institutions in India and internationally. Faculty from CEE, its alumni, and partner organisations have enriched the courses being planned and offered under the academy.

Certificate Course on Strategies for Social Media in the Development Sector

This online course was designed for professionals in the development sector on the use of social media strategies in their area of work. It explored various tools and provided insights into the nuances of the effective use of social media for communication.

A Comprehensive Course on Canva

The immersive online course engaged the participants to delve into learning designing through Canva designing software. The course was offered in response to the interest from participants for the social media course in learning about Canva to use as a part of their work. The course provided the participants with an opportunity to create their own reels, static posters, graphs, infographics, and using these tools for powerful visual storytelling and impressive presentations that inspire and engage. Information on royalty free audios, vectors, fonts, graphics and Canva's Grant for Nonprofits was provided.

Master class on ‘Exploring Traditions with SDG Framework’

The CEE academy initiated a series of Master Classes and lectures on key topics. The Traditional Knowledge Systems and the importance of understanding their key role in sustainable development was the topic for the Master Class. The session explored what role can traditional practices play in addressing the most pressing issues of our time such as climate change, food security and biodiversity.

Leadership training workshop for women from the Indian Academy for Self-employed Women (SEWA)

CEE academy organised a two-day interactive workshop at the CEE campus in Ahmedabad. The workshop focused on the issue of single-use plastics and renewable energy, providing an interactive activity-based learning opportunity for the participants, and developing action plans to deal with these issues in their work area and their neighbourhood.

Green Clubs – Build Youth Leaders for a Sustainable Future

CEE academy launched a 3-day online certificate course on Green Clubs as part of CEE’s Green Teacher programme on EE and ESD. The course held from October 11 – 13, 2023 was joined by 21 educators from across India, representing schools, colleges, NGOs, and CSR foundations. The course content was delivered using interesting teaching and learning techniques covering the fundamentals of Environmental Education, Sustainable development, pedagogical approaches for Green Clubs including Project-Based Learning (PBL). Implementation plans were also developed by learners for achieving specific SDG targets using the club approach.

The CEE academy page on the CEE website was updated to reflect the courses and invite the participants to join the fee-based courses. Social media posts and outreach through CEE networks helped share information on the courses.

3.6 Journal of Education for Sustainable Development

Journal of Education for Sustainable Development (JESD) is a peer reviewed, international academic journal published by SAGE and managed and edited by CEE. It provides a platform for presenting research, debating ideas and showcasing success stories in the emergent and multidisciplinary field of ESD.

During the current year, one issue of JESD was published with research articles from across the globe and on varied subjects.

4. Experiencing Nature

4.1 Sundarvan: A Nature Discovery Centre

Sundarvan, established in 1978 and recognised as a Mini Zoo by the Central Zoo Authority of India, continues to lead the way in nature education and conservation. The Reptile Awareness and Snake Awareness programmes remain among the most impactful initiatives, educating visitors on snake diversity, reptile conservation, and safety measures.

The Reptile Awareness Programme at Sundarvan covers general information about reptiles, snake diversity, morphological characteristics, venomous and non-venomous snakes, precautions to avoid snake bites, treatment, making of anti-venom, myths and facts, and the importance of conservation. The training and awareness programme was organised for Torrent Power Ltd.

In 2022-23, Sundarvan welcomed 101,940 visitors, including 41,933 children and 60,007 adults. By July 2024, it had recorded 25,451 visitors (8,653 children and 16,798 adults). The Snake Awareness Programme, which has detailed scientific information for medical student training, continues to reach various institutions, with visits from Aarihant Ayurvedic Medical College and Research Institute, Gandhinagar, with 104 participants. And Dr. Vasant Parikh Ayurvedic Medical College, Vadnagar, Mehsana (Gujarat) with 70 participants.

Sundarvan has played a vital role in educating school students through guided visits: In 2023, total 265 schools visited, with 19,450 students. Whereas In 2024, 118 schools visited, bringing approximately 4,515 students to the center till July 2024.

World Dugong Day Celebration: Experts from the Wildlife Institute of India organized an awareness session at Sundarvan to celebrate World Dugong Day 2024. The researchers educated around 250 locals about conserving dugongs, seagrass, and marine snakes in the Gulf of Kutch, featuring interactive activities such as a selfie stand and souvenir distribution.

World Environment Day 2024: The World Environment Day celebration was held at Sundarvan with a community-driven cleanliness drive focused on environmental preservation.

In addition, Sundarvan organises night camps for children in summers and winters. Activities like bird feeding, nature trails, snake awareness, and species diversity were conducted for them, where the participants learned about the importance of urban biodiversity. Training programmes, photography competitions, cleanliness drives, and Green Birthday celebrations were some of the other activities organised at the facility.

Sundarvan continues to be a beacon of conservation education, combining scientific knowledge with hands-on learning experiences for schools, corporations, and the general public.

5. EE through Interpretation

5.1 Shivamogga Smart City Ltd, Karnataka Nature Interpretation Centre and Science Park

As part of CEE's ongoing commitment to environmental education and sustainable development, we are proud to highlight the progress of the Nature Interpretation Centre and Science Park in Shivamogga, Karnataka. This project exemplifies our mission to foster a deeper understanding of biodiversity and conservation among local communities.

Innovative Educational Tools

The Nature Interpretation Centre is equipped with a variety of educational resources, including photo-text panels that provide detailed information about local ecosystems. Life-size and scaled dioramas, along with interactive panels, create an engaging learning atmosphere for visitors of all ages.

Augmented Reality Features

To further enhance the visitor experience, the Centre incorporates augmented reality installations. These features allow guests to explore the biodiversity of the region in an immersive manner, bridging the gap between information and interaction.

Comprehensive Outdoor Signage

Strategically placed outdoor signage throughout the park serves as a guide for visitors, offering key insights into the various species and habitats present, thus enriching their understanding of the environment.

We are excited to report that the fabrication of the outdoor interpretation elements has been successfully completed. The content for the photo-text panels has been finalised, and the installation of dioramas has been accomplished. We eagerly anticipate the upcoming grand opening of the Nature Interpretation Centre and Science Park to the general public. This facility will serve not only as an educational hub but also as a vital resource for promoting conservation awareness within the community.

5.2 Developing the Chaibasa Nature Interpretation Centre

CEE played a crucial role in establishing the Chaibasa Nature Interpretation Centre (NIC) through a structured and community-focused approach.

Research and Planning

CEE began by engaging with local communities, conservationists, and the Jharkhand Forest Department to assess the ecological, cultural, and educational needs of the region. This collaborative effort led to a well-defined vision for the NIC.

Design and Thematic Development

With a focus on creating an interactive and educational space, CEE's team designed the NIC as an octagonal building, blending it with the natural landscape. Each of the eight rooms was thematically developed to spotlight aspects such as the biodiversity of Saranda Forest and the cultural heritage of the Adivasi communities. CEE incorporated visual storytelling, interactive displays, and dioramas to engage visitors effectively.

Implementation and Training

CEE managed the project meticulously, overseeing the installation of exhibits and ensuring quality standards. Training sessions were conducted for local staff to operate and maintain the interactive components, fostering a sense of community ownership.

In summary, CEE's systematic approach combining research, innovative design, has resulted in a vibrant hub for environmental education in Chaibasa, inspiring visitors to appreciate and protect the region's natural heritage.

6. Coastal and Marine Programme

6.1 Blue Flag India

The Blue Flag international eco-label award programme of the Foundation for Environment Education (FEE) operates around 4,200 beaches in 50 countries. As the FEE member in India, CEE functions as the National Operator body for Blue Flag through the Society for Sustainable Urban Development. CEE has supported local authorities in maintaining the Blue Flag award criteria through 2023-2024 at the sites Shivrajpur (Gujarat), Ghoghla (Diu), Eco Beach (Kasarkod), Padubidri (Karnataka), Kappad (Kerala), Eden (Puducherry), Kovalam (Tamil Nadu), Rushikonda (Andhra Pradesh), Golden (Odisha), Sunapur (Odisha) and Radhanagar (Andaman). In addition, CEE guided applicants for two new sites - Tannirbhavi (Karnataka) and Chal (Kerala) as pilot beaches.

During this year, CEE continued coordinating with the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change (MoEFCC) for comprehensive monitoring and evaluation. The team conducted online and offline training sessions with the beach managers and team. Control visits and meetings were held with the respective Beach Management Committee (BMC) members and nodal officers. The National Jury members were also facilitated to visit the beaches and their suggestions facilitated with the BMCs.

Some of the key achievements include the emergence of place-based learning activities and events at the Blue Flag sites - e.g. the managers of Golden Beach, Puri organise beach-based outdoor education activities and have a dedicated educator's team and space on the beach. Biodiversity has been well conserved along with dune vegetation. Ghoghla Beach (Diu) managers hosted an international beach sports event in collaboration with the Sports Authority of India. Events to observe various environmental days, including G20 events and beach clean-up events with citizen action have been organised at Blue Flag beaches. Waste management is streamlined with recycling tie-ups emerging. Managers of Padubidri, Shivrajpur, and Golden Beach have also come up with a self-sustaining revenue model involving the local community benefits. A waterside beach safety committee has been constituted at Shivrajpur Beach as part of the state and local government's larger mission to formulate a safe water sports policy in Gujarat. A collaboration with experts and institutions has been initiated by the Rushikonda Beach managers to improve beach accessibility, especially for the elderly and disabled visitors.

7. Climate Change

7.1 Greening Education Partnership- School Surveys

The Greening Education Partnership (GEP) is a global initiative that takes a whole system approach to support countries to tackle climate crisis by harnessing the critical role of education. GEP which focuses on the four pillars of Greening Education. India was chosen by UNESCO to be a champion country to review and assess aspects of this partnership through a global lens.

As a part of this initiative, CEE conducted a pilot programme to gain insights from select schools in India on the comprehensive set of standards for "Greening Schools" that have been developed by UNESCO.

7.2 UNESA's International Forum of University Rectors (UNIFUR)

4th "UNESA's International Forum of University Rectors (UNIFUR)" 2023 and final meeting on "Promoting Teacher Education for Climate Change Education through Collaboration between Asian Centres of Excellence on Education for Sustainable Development (ATECCE)" was organised at Universitas Negeri Surabaya (UNESA) in Surabaya, Indonesia from November 15-18, 2023. This collaborative endeavour was co-hosted by Universitas Negeri Surabaya and Okayama University, in partnership with UNESCO Bangkok, UNESCO Beijing, and Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU), and was supported by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. The aim of the initiative was to craft an Asian framework for teacher education in CCE. During the meeting, participants presented and discussed ongoing efforts and future visions of teacher education for CCE. Ms Sweta Purohit and Ms Priyanka Sinsinwar participated from India and presented their experience, learnings and challenges on the Teachers' Training Module for Climate Change Education in Schools in India.

7.3 Preliminary Meeting on Solar Energy for CCES

UNICEF Rajasthan office in the new country programme cycle has additionally aligned its focus to Climate Change and Environment Sustainability (CCES) to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change on children through policy & advocacy, capacity building, demonstration and knowledge management. Acknowledging the potential of renewable energy alongside the current barriers in the State, UNICEF Rajasthan organised a roundtable discussion on October 11, 2023, with key stakeholders from Government line departments, NGO, Private sector and Research organisations as a first step to understand the critical challenges at the last mile and to further explore the scope of required action. It aimed at defining the scope of solar energy for CCES in ensuring rights of children and women at the last mile and to understand the gaps and challenges in solar energy sector of the State. Ms Priyanka Sinsinwar, Senior Programme Coordinator, participated in the same and shared her experience and views for present scenario, gaps, current issues and allied impacts among students in schools and Anganbaris. Other key stakeholders were representatives from Rajasthan Electricity Regulatory Commission (RERC), Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation (RREC), Centre for Energy, Environment and People (CEEP), Vatsalya and UNICEF Rajasthan.

7.4 Strengthening Multi-Stakeholder Approaches for Effective Implementation of KSAPCC

In 2023, CEE conducted a study focused on creating a "Roadmap for Engaging Non-Governmental Organisations in KSAPCC Localisation in Water and Agriculture Sectors." This study emphasises the pivotal role of NGOs in climate action through case studies and underscores the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration, equity, transparency, and accountability. Engaging NGOs in Karnataka's climate action enhances public awareness, policy development, joint action, accountability, and decision-making.

As a part on-going study on KSAPCC, "State Level Workshop" was organised on July 11, 2023 at Regenta Place, Cunningham Bangalore to unveil the working paper titled "Roadmap for Engaging Non-Governmental Organisations in KSAPCC Localisation in Water and Agriculture Sectors". Totally 68 participants attended the workshop and gained knowledge on the role of NGOs in climate action in the state and also learned to tackle climate change issues through adaptation and mitigation strategies.

To enhance the effectiveness of the Karnataka State Action Plan on Climate Change (KSAPCC), particularly in the areas of Sustainable Agriculture and Integrated Water Resource Management, it is essential to establish a unified monitoring system to track the implementation status of action points. With this aim, we conducted a qualitative study, gathering inputs from District Government Officials, including representatives from the Karnataka State Department of Agriculture, Zilla Panchayat Office, and Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, in Uttara Kannada District and Raichur District. These districts were selected based on the water vulnerability report titled “Mapping Climate Change Vulnerability: An Assessment of Water Resources Sector Across Different Districts of Karnataka” prepared by EMPRI.

After the qualitative study, CEE developed a working paper title “Evolving a Monitoring Framework for the KSAPCC Implementation in Water and Agriculture Sectors” that proposes a unified monitoring system as a G2G e-governance initiative by the Government of Karnataka to track the progress of KSAPCC. The prerequisite for such an integrated information system is the inter-departmental coordination in furnishing the real-time data to visualise concurrent progress in outlay spending, outputs and outcomes.

Working Paper on Monitoring Framework was circulated among all the stakeholders such as, State Government Officials and representatives from Water and Agriculture Departments, Non-Governmental Organisations, and Knowledge Partners (like Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Divecha Centre for Climate Change, IISc Campus, Bengaluru & University of Agricultural Science, GKVK, Bengaluru etc).

Above highlighted events happened in the 3rd phase of the project. From January 2024 the 4th phase of the project started with background work.

8. Environment Management

8.1 Green Key India

Green Key, an international certification scheme for hotels and tourism facilities, was officially launched in India in New Delhi on August 8, 2023, by Mr Daniel Schaffer, CEO, Foundation for Environment Education (FEE). In India, the certification is being implemented by CEE, a member organisation of FEE. Shri Kartikeya V Sarabhai, Director, CEE; Dr Sanskriti Menon, Senior Programme Director, CEE; Dr Jagat Mangaraj, National Operator, Green Key and other eminent people were present at the launch.

Green Key certified establishments meet a set of high standard environmental requirements. Green Key certification can be for different categories of tourism establishments (hotels and hostels, campsites and holiday parks, small accommodations, conference centres, restaurants, and attractions) covering the 13 critical criteria. These criteria focus on reducing carbon footprints, conserving water, managing food waste, improving biodiversity, and engaging in corporate social responsibility. During this year Green Key India received enough support from the management of Accor hotels in India for its implementation.

In the year 2023-24, 19 hotels applied for the certification and five were awarded with the prestigious Green Key certification.

8.2 Approaches for Circularity in Textile and Apparel Sector in India

To strengthen the capacities of the Indian Textile and apparel industry to impart and implement circular approaches, a joint project “Approaches for Circular Textiles and Apparel Industry in India” was conceived between Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Ltd (ABFRL) under BMZ’s public-private partnership programme (DeveloPPP.de). CEE is the implementation partner for the project.

The project aims to strengthen Circular Economy mechanisms throughout the textile value chain, develop circular business practices guidelines, harmonize textile clusters and create a Circular Economy ecosystem in India’s Textile and apparel sector. It will allow the sector to achieve its SDG goals and aid in competing with international textile hubs across the globe.

The intended development impact of this project is a contribution to a less wasteful, less polluting Textile and apparel industry. The project follows a four-fold approach as detailed below:

The introduction and strengthening of circular business practices within ABFRL and Textile & Apparel industry in the areas of

- Reducing use of harmful substances through material innovation,
- Increasing textile-to-textile recycling
- Alternatives to plastic packaging and
- Traceability through the different demonstration projects.

Creation of voluntary circular business guidelines for the Indian textile industry. It is a compendium of good industry practices, key performance indicators (KPIs), and metrics that guide Indian brands and their supply chains from the current status quo to more circular business practices. It acts as a benchmarking tool. The guidelines would include environmental and social aspects and business practices required for a circular textile economy.

Building and strengthening capacities in areas including 1) use of sustainable materials, 2) recycling, 3) use of renewable resources and inputs in production and 4) implementation of internationally applicable social and working conditions within textile supply chains.

Knowledge Products Launch

- Baseline Assessment Report Launch at ICEF 2023
- Innovation Booklet Launch at BharatTex 2024

Innovation Challenge

The Innovation Challenge attracted entries from 87 startups worldwide. Through two rigorous selection rounds, nine startups were shortlisted.

Training Modules on Circularity

Three distinct training modules have been developed, covering the following topics:

- Circular Economy Concept
- Circularity in the Textile Value Chain
- Circular Business Models & Strategies
- Practicing Circularity while Avoiding Greenwashing

These modules have been used to train over 300 stakeholders across various clusters in India

9. Sustainable Rural Development

9.1 Disaster Risk Reduction Education in Flood-Affected Villages

With support from Give2Asia, CEE implemented the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Education initiative in Gobarha Gram Panchayat of Ramnagar Block of Barabanki District in Uttar Pradesh. In a short duration of six months, the project covered six flood-affected villages of the panchayat to raise awareness among the community and schools towards DRR. The community interventions focused on building capacity for DRR preparedness and strengthening the communities' livelihood system to prepare them to come up with the impacts of the devastation of floods. Around 2,000 community members including farmers, youth, and women members and 100 school students have reached out during the implementation of project activities.

Education and awareness on disaster preparedness and response- To build upon the previous work and spread education and awareness on disaster preparedness, CEE organised village-level community meetings and Chaupals. The capacity of community members was built through a session on disaster response as a mock drill where they got information related to risk mapping, building resilience in their livelihood and agriculture, and enhancing their skills in DRR preparedness.

Handholding support for Climate Resilient organic farming practices- Along with skill and capacity building of the flood-affected communities, handholding support to climate-resilient farming, backyard farming, and developing kitchen gardens was done in the project village. For this seasonal vegetable seeds and fruit plant saplings were provided to the community members.

School Education and Awareness: Village schools and community members were made aware of disaster-related preparedness along with water, sanitation, and hygiene practices, rescue, relief, and first aid. Around 50 students built their capacity on disaster-related preparedness, water, sanitation and hygiene, rescue, relief, and first aid. These skills indirectly reached around 250 family and community members.

Distribution of Rescue and Relief Kit: The project location encountered a weeklong huge rainfall due to which a flood situation emerged in July 2023 during our project implementation. Looking at the field situation in the project village and also the request raised by the village community members, CEE decided to prepare and distribute a rescue and relief kit for the needy people who lost their houses during previous floods and currently residing in the huts and mud houses. Similar needs emerged from Bahraich district where CEE has implemented the DRR project with the Support of Give2Asia. A total of 60 families (300 individuals) directly benefited from the rescue and relief kit where 20 members were from different villages.

Project Outcomes and Impact

More than 250 community members including youth, women, and students of project villages directly benefited through education and awareness, skill development and capacity building on DRR preparedness, handholding support for climate resilient organic farming, and distribution of rescue and relief kits. During the handholding support nutritional support directly reached to more than 100 families (around 500 individuals) in the form of fruit plant saplings and vegetable seeds. Based on the needs that emerged from the field during a weeklong heavy rainfall that occurred in July, CEE prepared and distributed a rescue and relief kit among the affected community members.

9.2 Climate Action in Rural Economy (CARE) Project

The project Climate Action in the Rural Economy (CARE), which was implemented from December 2022 to March 2024 builds on the project 'Green and Socially Sound Recovery' supported by the New Venture Fund, Washington. It includes preparing DPRs to set up renewable energy systems, processing units, marketing links and appropriate institutional structures. The main objectives of the project are to evolve a framework for CARE - Climate Action in the Rural Economy, continue site-based green recovery initiatives, develop communication materials and training modules for different actors, and foster collaborative, multistakeholder transformative approaches.

Under this project in the past year, the CARE framework encompassing linkages of carbon, climate variability, resilience, natural resource base, livelihoods, inclusivity, institutions, technologies, multi-stakeholder and multi-scalar ecosystem transitions is being developed. It will be useful to design and review projects, programmes and schemes at multiple stakeholder levels such as communities, Government Departments and Financing Institutions among others. In field-based activities, the exposure visit of tour operator group to Mangalajodi Ecotourism, Odisha; training programme of custard apple and tomato farmers on FPC registration and governance and exposure visit to Sahyadri Farms, Nashik; exposure visit of fishers to fish seed market in Naihati, West Bengal and sustainable fishing in Gondia, Maharashtra; training of fishery group on low cost sustainable cage structures for fish seeds; exposure visit of wild honey harvesters to Manghar, Mahabaleshwar (India's first honey village) have been conducted.

Apart from this, IEC material on the impact of climate change on agriculture and other rural economy sectors; mitigation and adaptation strategies to combat climate change; agro-product processing technologies; manual for various stakeholders to calculate GHG emission in agriculture etc. is being developed. CEE is supporting the farmers/fishers/honey harvester's collectivisation and the process of FPC registration of four clusters has been initiated. This project is also aimed at developing DPR preparation of selected agriculture commodities and other rural economic activities and training module development on collectivisation approaches, appropriate technologies, eco-tourism and project and programme designing using the CARE framework. The case studies on various climate-resilient initiatives are also being documented along with green energy technology assessment.

Bihar: Building upon past experiences of assessing cooling needs, production systems and GHG emissions and value addition potential studies, the CARE project aimed to develop pathways towards sustainable transformation of the rural economy.

For developing the CARE Framework, a three-day long internal brainstorming workshop of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Bihar team members were conducted to share field learnings and experiences and further develop the CARE framework and detail out areas of interest. It includes the main document containing imperative and guidelines under lenses of environmental, social, and economic sustainability and also section on education and training; and a supplementary document which contains details of imperative and guidelines with certain examples.

IEC materials for communities and farmers on climate change realities, livelihoods, resilience, technologies and multi-level ecosystem transition pathways. Poster on local banana varieties in Bihar and their characteristics. A flipchart on good practices in the inland fishery in Bihar Indigenous fish varieties in Bihar. A manual in Hindi on step-by-step process of making low-cost bamboo cage and pen structures for fish fingerling development and fish feed management.

Short Video Messages: Five short films were developed on the themes of climate change impacts on the inland fishery, dairy sector, beekeeping and farmer's collectivization and its challenges, promotion of sustainable practices in local varieties-based banana farming in Bihar.

DPR preparation for rural livelihood enterprises: DPR preparation was processed for two thematic areas Sustainable Fisheries and Sustainable Banana Production in Bihar.

Training and exposure visits on FPOs, sustainable practices, and green technologies.

Programme	Location and Theme	Participants
Exposure Visit	Kash hatchery and fisheries, East Champaran, Bihar	19 fishermen
Exposure Visit	Navsari University and Happy Face Foundation to see banana fiber extraction, paper making and fertilizer unit, various FPCs in Gujarat and Aga Khan Rural Support Program-Regional Tribal Training Centre	4 farmers
Exposure Visit	Taruwar Agro Industries Ltd to learn Banana Fibre extraction process unit	10 farmers
Exposure Visit	chips-making unit in Jamui, Bihar	7 banana farmers
3 days Training and Field visits	ICAR Research Station, KVKs, District nodal officer of ATMA - Vermicomposting of banana farming residue and focus group meetings were conducted in Bihar Vaishali and Muzaffarpur districts.	24 banana farmers

Field Demonstration: Field demonstrations were done in consultation with farmers' groups focusing on promoting climate-resilient agricultural practices and sustainable livelihoods. Demonstration of intercropping of spinach, safflower, ajwain, onion, beetroot with Banana in banana orchards of six farmers and vermicomposting of banana farming residue in farmland of four banana farmers.

Low-cost bamboo-based cage making demonstration was conducted with 25 fishers in Jandaha cluster. Banana farmers exhibited a stall of handmade banana chips at an exhibition organised by the Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA), Vaishali. Three Farmer's Interest Groups (FIG) of fisher groups in Jandah and Sariya and banana farmers in Pirapur Lalganj formed, and registered with ATMA with access to banking. FIG of fishers in Jandaha raised capital of Rs 50,000.

A survey of 25 milk producers was conducted in Saraiya block to understand the impact of climate change on the livestock population. A pilot setup of Trichoderma based fertiliser and fungicide production unit in Vaishali cluster and of ICAR PUSA STFR soil testing mini-lab in the Vaishali cluster.

9.3 Green and Socially Sound Recovery in the Farm and Rural Sector

'Green and Socially Sound Recovery in the Farm and Rural Sector' is a study project supported by New Venture Fund, Washington implemented in Maharashtra, Bihar and Gujarat. The main objectives were to study the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic-induced economic slowdown on the rural economy sector; the sources and quantum of greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions in the agriculture production system of selected crops and other rural economic service sectors and to

propose sustainable and socially sound solutions for rural economy sector and in rural industrialisation.

In Maharashtra, the study was conducted in Pune, Aurangabad and Ahmednagar districts and GHG emissions and value chain of tomato, custard apple, bajara, tourism, inland fishery, wild honey, free-range goat and chicken rearing were studied. The study mapped the sources and quantum of GHG emissions and it was found that the indirect emissions from the use of electricity for irrigation, application of synthetic fertilisers and transportation from farm to market are the main contributors to GHG emissions in agriculture. The study proposes measures like conducting recharge zone studies of watersheds at the village level, watershed development, promoting the use of solar pumps, establishing soil testing labs at the village level, encouraging the scientific application of synthetic fertilisers, promoting the use of organic fertilisers and greening of farm to market transportation. The mitigation strategy also includes promoting the collectivization of farmers in the form of farmer's interest groups or farmer's producer companies in order to foster the processing of harvested produce to reduce the wastages at the farmgate and increase the share of farmers in the total profit.

A study of the wild honey value chain found that communities involved in the collection like the Katkari and their livelihood are vulnerable to various environmental, social and market forces related factors. Based on the study, recommendations for further work include promoting sustainable harvesting of wild honey and supporting the communities in other sources of livelihood such as beekeeping of *Apis cerana* (indigenous domesticated wild honey), fishery and collection and sale of minor forest produce. Similarly, a study of bajara-centric agriculture bhil tribes in drought-prone areas of Aurangabad found that conservation of local resilient varieties of bajara, value addition to fishery, free range goat and chicken rearing would strengthen community livelihoods.

9.4 Project Aarohan

Through Aarohan, during phase 2 various activities were implemented, including water infrastructure development, formation/strengthening of Farmers Clubs, SHGs, promoting sustainable farming practices, and establishment of 10 Gram Shiksha Kendras (GSKs) in 10 villages.

GSK (Gram Shiksha Kendra) focus on, foundation literacy, life skill development and environment education through nature trails, nature camps, exposure visits and celebrations of important days, eco club activities. The eco-club initiative includes 18 Eco-Clubs engaging 1,200 students, with a total of 370 sessions. Impressively, 15,798 participants have been involved in these eco-school activities. Under the Apraava scholarship initiative Rs 19,71,000 has been disbursed as scholarships to 219 students in project villages.

Water storage capacity increased by 52 million litre which impacts on 28,978 beneficiaries through various water resource management like pond deepening, borewell recharge, pipeline work, water tank, farm pond, cattle trough etc. 28 scheme consultations were conducted which covers the farmers and women, resulting in a total of 2,288 applications being filed. Out of these, 1,608 applications were approved, amounting to a total worth of Rs 57,13,205.

Two Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) were established with 340 members, achieving a combined turnover of ₹ 33,28,000 with a profit of ₹1,70,560 with a various food and non-food products range i.e. Prickley pear juice, Pickles, Khakhra, Heena powder, Herbal Bath soap, Spices, Cattle feed and agro nutrients.

Aarohan facilitated the formation of 98 SHGs, benefiting 1,025 women, their cumulative saving is Rs 43,74,577 and achieved the financial access through loan worth Rs 40,00,000 and developed 51

livelihood enterprises, generating a turnover of Rs 41,41,161 from various sources of sales, including Melas. 25 farmer clubs with 1,250 members motivate the 2,039 farmers to use the bacterial solutions in the farm to replace the chemical fertilisers.

The project aims to foster sustainable development practices in water, livelihood and education, in rural communities surrounding the operational areas of Apraava Energy. This project is implemented in 24 villages and it works in 2 clusters i.e. Mahidad and Samana for better effectiveness with funding by Apraava Energy. The project has made a positive impact on 33,746 beneficiaries across 24 villages

Water: The water sector interventions have been instrumental in addressing critical water challenges within the project area. Significant investments totaling Rs 2,507,262.77 have been made in constructing ESR and GLC tanks, installing pipelines, and reviving wells, resulting in improved access to clean drinking water for communities. These initiatives have not only enhanced water availability but also contributed to the preservation of water resources and increased agricultural productivity. The social value created by these interventions is substantial, with enhanced health outcomes, improved livelihoods, and strengthened community resilience evident across the project area.

Education: In the education sector, comprehensive initiatives have been implemented to promote learning and skill development among individuals. Investments totaling Rs 8,406,051.88 have been directed towards establishing Gram Shiksha Kendra (GSKs), organizing science and math activities, and providing scholarships to students.

These efforts have resulted in increased enrolment, improved academic achievement, and enhanced career prospects for beneficiaries. The transformative impact of education on individual lives and broader community advancement. 10 Gram Shiksha Kendra (GSKs) already established, providing regular monthly activities in schools are helping to raise environmental awareness among 800 plus children directly through remedial classes while connecting with community science centres covering more than 2,400 students from 24 schools.

Livelihood: The livelihood sector initiatives have focused on empowering individuals and communities through economic opportunities and capacity building interventions. Establishing Self-Help Groups (SHGs), providing training in value addition and entrepreneurship, and facilitating access to government schemes.

98 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) have been formed covering 1,025 women members and out of that 500+ members have been trained on value addition in enterprise development, 600 +beneficiaries covered in digital and financial literacy training while 140+ members trained on leadership and managerial aspects along with record keeping of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and cumulative saving of all the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) is Rs 43,74,577 lakhs.

24 Farmers Club formed/strengthened and 2 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) were formed as umbrella organisation covering 1,250 farmers. 51 livelihood enterprises have successfully demonstrated through livelihood marketing support, that their micro-enterprises were able to generate a total of Rs 41,41,161 income. Rs 57,13,205 of convergence was brought through the government schemes and programmes.

9.5 Watershed, Farmers Producer Organisation and GI Tagging Projects

CEE implements three watershed projects viz. Goma watershed in Bhoyara village, Ghelo watershed in Fulzar village and Barwada watershed in Barvala village of Rajkot district, with financial support from NABARD. During each capacity building phase approximate 50 farmers has direct benefited and

approximate 500 farmers has indirectly benefited. The watershed project offers a holistic solution by focusing on conserving rainwater, rejuvenating water bodies and promoting sustainable land management practices. By harnessing rainwater effectively, it not only ensures water security but also enhances agricultural productivity, supports livelihoods, mitigates soil erosion, and fosters ecosystem resilience. Furthermore, the project empowers the local community through participation, knowledge sharing, and skill development, fostering self-reliance and community ownership in sustainable resource management.

In 2023-24, since the capacity building phase (CBP) of all three watershed projects has been completed which consists of soil and moisture conservation measures on common land and farm lands for 100 hectares in each project. The type of activities was scattered and continuous contour trenches (CCTs, SCTs), grass seedling, plantation, loose boulder structures (LBS) and gabions on common land while earthen farm bunds, outlets and farm ponds were constructed on farm lands while, water harvesting structures on drainage line has been done so far. The member farmers were mobilised to increase awareness on benefits of watershed activities and importance of their contribution in project implementation which is nearly 16% of the activity cost.

Watershed Project

The activities undertaken across the Barvala, Goma, Ghelo, and Budhanpuri watersheds demonstrate a comprehensive approach to watershed management, emphasizing community involvement, sustainable practices, and meticulous planning of soil and water conservation. For all three watershed projects, total 150 farmers are direct benefited, 450 farmers are indirect benefited during the Capacity Building Phase (CBP). In Barvala watershed, the completion of the Capacity Building Phase (CBP) and the preparation of the Feasibility Survey Report with community and student intern assistance led to a detailed analysis of demographical, agricultural, livestock, and soil data. This data informed the development of income assessments and intervention plans for both private and common lands. Activities such as constructing loose boulder structures and staggered contour trenches, along with agroforestry recommendations, are poised to improve soil and water conservation in hilly areas. Community engagement events, including village meetings and environmental awareness programs, further solidified the project's foundation and garnered local support.

Similarly, the Goma and Ghelo watersheds witnessed significant progress during their capacity building phases, marked by the construction of various soil and water conservation structures. In Goma watershed, staggered contour trenches and loose boulder structures were instrumental in reducing runoff and gully formation, while farm bunds, farm pond helped conserve soil and water on private lands. The completion report for Ghelo highlighted substantial interventions such as farm bunds, recharge pits, and farm ponds, which enhanced rainwater storage and groundwater recharge. Monitoring visits by NABARD officials and active participation from local farmers underscored the success of these efforts. Meanwhile, in Budhanpuri watershed, the focus was on securing necessary approvals, with steps taken to address observations from NABARD and the Gujarat State Watershed Management Agency.

The watershed management initiatives in Barvala, Goma, Ghelo, and Budhanpuri have significantly enhanced livelihood development and soil and water conservation. Through comprehensive planning and community involvement, these projects have introduced effective measures such as farm bunds, recharge pits, staggered contour trenches, and agroforestry. These interventions have successfully reduced soil erosion, improved water retention, and boosted agricultural productivity, directly

benefiting local farmers. Additionally, the active participation and awareness programs have empowered communities, fostering a sense of ownership and commitment to sustainable natural resource management. Overall, these watershed projects have laid a strong foundation for improved livelihoods and environmental sustainability.

Table: Current Status of the all-watershed project and its details

S. N.	Name of watershed	Location	Project commenced time	Villages covered	Area under watershed (ha)	HHs covered	Population coverage	Status as on date	Funding support
1	Goma watershed	Vinchhiya block, Rajkot	March 21	2	914	1105	6084	CBP completed and FSR submitted	NABARD
2	Ghelo watershed	Vinchhiya block, Rajkot	July 22	1	1138	465	2651	CBP completed	NABARD
3	Barwada watershed	Jasdan block, Rajkot	Nov 21	1	1055	299	1700	CBP completed and FSR submitted	NABARD
4	Budhanpari watershed	Chotila block, Surendranagar	-	2	1135	522	3369	Proposal submitted for Pre CBP	NABARD

Farmer Producer Company Limited

The Farmer Producers Organisation has significantly impacted the lives of small farmers by offering comprehensive support, ranging from inputs and technical services to processing and marketing. Over the past three years, with the backing of Centre for Environment Education, five farmer producer's organisations in the Rajkot district (Mahidad, Pragatisheel, Hingolgadh, Sukhbhadar and Keri Farmer Producers Organisation) and two farmer producer's organizations in Amreli districts (Kalubhar and Khareshwar farmer producer's organisation) have been supported. Business development grant is financial support provided by the NABARD as per the amount collected by shareholder members. For business development grant, we completed documentation work to release business development grant to Mahidad farmer producer's organisation. On June 19, 2024 we received business development grant amount of Rs 2,28,000 lacs to Mahidad farmer producer's organization. In the financial year 2023-24, Mahidad farmer producer's organization achieved a total turnover of approximately Rs 39 lakhs in seed, fertiliser, cattle feed, and FMCG business, underscoring the positive outcomes of this comprehensive support system for small farmers.

CEE facilitate two farmer producer's organisations at Babra block of Amreli district. During the financial year 2023 – 24, we conducting project monitoring and review committee meeting of all two farmer producer's organizations to claim pending budget from NABARD in the presence of DDM, Amreli, farmer producer's organisation committee members and farmer beneficiaries at Vavda village. These two farmer producer's organisations make business from seed and fertiliser business, which makes farmer producer's organisations profitable.

Project on GI tagging of Patari Handicraft

Geographical Indication (GI) is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or reputation that are due to that origin. The Geographical Indication (GI Tag) of Indian handicraft resembles that the product belongs to a particular place of origin. There are many

unique Indian Handicraft items that have got this recognition and it continues to get such tags with the geographical indications. Patari handicraft is Indian traditional handicraft, famous of his uniqueness on small patari work. This patari handicraft only manufacture in Jasdan area of Rajkot district. With this uniqueness of patari handicraft, CEE took an initiative to provide a geographical indication to patari handicraft.

The registration of the Patari Craft Foundation and the corresponding legal documentation were completed due to Centre for Environment Education continuous follow-up. On October 12, 2023, the foundation was successfully registered under the Bombay Public Charitable Trust Act. Subsequent legal documentation, research work and audio-video documentation were completed under the guidance of the entrepreneurship development institute of India. Entrepreneurship development institute of India then successfully filed a geographical indication (GI) application, with file No. 1194, on March 12, 2024. Photography and videography of the manufacturing work and its instruments has been carried out and submitted to the entrepreneurship development institute of India. Conducting two project monitoring and review committee meeting on March 16 and June 5, 2024 in presence of district development manager, Rajkot and entrepreneurship development institute of India officers at Jasdan field office.

Project monitoring and review committee meeting of Patari handicraft in the presence of district development manager, Rajkot at Jasdan field office on March 16, 2024. During this meeting, members discuss about committee registration process, financial support received till date from NABARD and proposed to submit remaining claim work to NABARD.

10. Urban Development

10.1 Safer Roads for Safer Childhood (SRSC)

In the year 2023-24, the project focused more on scaling up of the project strategies and converging with stakeholders for future collaborations. The project also did some engineering improvements of second junction and near to schools. It was also featured in international conference at Kigali, Rwanda, East Africa. Some of the key results of the project are as follows:

Project Outcomes

- Another vulnerable junction was made safe through hardware engineering by providing railings over the footpaths, speed humps, marking school zone, installing signages of school ahead, speed, major roads etc.
- City level consultation workshop on child road safety in Lucknow was conducted which was participated by NCC students, five schools, civil bodies and road safety departments.
- Consultation state level workshop was conducted which was participated by different CEE offices team, Transport Department, Police Department, different organisations, lawyer's schools and colleges where opportunities, challenges and future coarse was discussed.
- 40 PWD Engineers had a refresher training on road designs, road safety measures, planning and construction.
- Cycle rally was organised for promotion of sustainable mobility and safe cycling within the Municipality roads and 120 cyclists participated along with District Transport Officer and Police officials.
- SRSCs impacts was focused on media through a media consultation workshop.

- 40 NCC Cadets were trained on road safety topics.
- SRSC impacts was presented in an International Conference at Kigali in Rwanda, East Africa.

10.2 Urban Ocean Programme for Municipal Waste Management

The Urban Ocean programme is a global capacity-building and accelerator initiative that champions circular economy principles, raises awareness of ocean plastic pollution, assesses waste management systems, and supports cities in developing projects that tackle the interrelated challenges of plastic waste and urban resilience. This programme is coordinated by the Resilient Cities Network, the Ocean Conservancy, and The Circulate Initiative, with technical support from the University of Georgia (US). It is implemented through collaboration with interested city governments and Local Implementing Partners. In India, the programme is being implemented in Surat, Pune, Mumbai, and Chennai, with CEE serving as the local implementation partner in Surat, Pune, and Mumbai, working alongside respective local authorities.

In Mumbai, the project was implemented from February 2022 to April 2024, and involved litter transects, product assessments, and stakeholder interactions to gather comprehensive data on municipal solid waste management. This assessment led to the identification of various projects for implementation. A GAP Assessment and participatory workshops were conducted to pinpoint and address deficiencies in current waste management practices. A workshop for dry waste centers, involving 40 DWC operators and BMC officials was arranged in February 2024. A detailed draft contract for collaboration between BMC and DWC was prepared to formalise their partnership. Additionally, project proposals and city profiles were developed to support targeted interventions, with the goal of enhancing waste management efficiency and effectiveness in the city.

In Surat, CEE had earlier conducted studies using the litter transect methodology from the University of Georgia, in 2021-2022. Using these studies and further explorations to understand the city's waste management profile, in 2023-2024, CEE produced project proposals to facilitate interventions to boost waste management efficiency and effectiveness. CEE also presented a comprehensive opportunity statement to the Surat Municipal Corporation to direct future solid waste management (SWM) initiatives. The project was implemented from September 2021 to September 2023.

In Pune, a brief pilot initiative under the Urban Ocean program explored how to support formalisation of scrap recyclers and enhance plastic recycling processes. Activities, conducted from March 2023 to July 2023 included:

- A meeting with the municipal Health Officer.
- Meetings with scrap shop workers, owners, traders, and aggregators.
- Preparation of posters meant for waste entrepreneurs with information on financial instruments, waste handling protocols, plastic policy and EPR, insurance and health.
- Roundtable discussion with informal sector actors on social, economic and environmental challenges of recycling low-value flexible plastics and single-use plastics
- Recommendations based on insights from the roundtable and other discussions for managing multi-layered plastic packaging waste.

10.3 Project Jalnidhi

With the support of Alleima India Pvt Ltd, CEE initiated the Jalnidhi project Phase-II in five villages of Kadi taluka in Mahesana District. This project promotes sustainable development by addressing critical issues such as water conservation, waste management, education, and women

empowerment. By establishing community-based water harvesting structures and providing training and education on environmental issues, digital literacy, and science equipment to students and teachers, the project aims to create a more informed and empowered community. Additionally, the project will focus on providing skills-based training and forming new self-help groups for women, and improving Plastic waste management practices through community engagement and recycling efforts. The project targets youth, students, women, girls, and adults in key communities such as farmers and livestock managers to create a lasting impact on the environment and the livelihoods of the people. Through liaison with related government departments, the project seeks to build good relationships and gain support and guidance to achieve its objectives effectively.

The Jalnidhi project in five villages of Mehsana Block, Gujarat, showcases a multifaceted approach to enhancing education and promoting sustainability. Key initiatives included a Computer Literacy Programme, benefiting 302 students by equipping them with essential digital skills, and the strengthening of Eco Clubs in schools to foster environmental awareness among 640 students across 10 schools. Behavioral change activities engaged children and youth in adopting sustainable practices, with celebrations of World Water Day, Yoga Day, and Environment Day enriching their learning experiences. The development of a mobile library, set up every fifteen days in schools and public community places, further supported holistic student development and community engagement, benefiting 2,792 people.

In addition to education and sustainability, the project focused on women's empowerment. It facilitated the formation and strengthening of self-help groups (SHGs), benefiting 200 women, and provided sewing and beauty parlour classes to 160 women, enabling them to become self-reliant. An exposure tour and participation in a rural exhibition were organized for 64 women, offering valuable insights into market dynamics and the garments business.

The project also addressed plastic waste management by developing a village-level model that included bi-monthly plastic collection, rewarding villagers with soap for every kilogram of plastic collected. This initiative resulted in the collection of over 5,000 kg of plastic, which was recycled into eco-benches installed in panchayats and schools. Awareness activities, sessions, and clean drives involving 2,010 people further raised awareness about plastic waste management. Overall, the Jalnidhi project successfully enhanced education, promoted sustainability, empowered women, and improved waste management practices, contributing to a more resilient and thriving community.

Benefit to the community

- Implemented community-based water harvesting structures significantly enhanced water availability and security in the targeted villages.
- Introduced and conducted waste management training initiatives, leading to improved practices in handling and disposing of plastic waste, contributing to a cleaner environment.
- Addressed limited educational opportunities by implementing initiatives that promoted access to education, benefiting the overall development of the local communities.
- Through targeted programs, empowered women by providing them with skills-based training, breaking down barriers to education, and fostering greater independence and self-sufficiency.
- By addressing water safety, security, and waste management, the project had a positive impact on the local environment, promoting healthier and more sustainable living conditions.

10.4 Natural Resource Defense Council Project

CEE and the Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC) have embarked on a commendable collaboration to tackle crucial environmental challenges in India. The three pivotal projects undertaken by this partnership – Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC), Air Quality Improvement, and Cool Roofs Initiative, each aimed at fostering sustainability and mitigating climate change.

Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC): ECBC emphasising energy savings, thermal comfort, and climate-responsive designs. This project actively supports national and international climate targets, including the 2030 Paris Agreement. Collaborating with the Government of Gujarat and the Department of Climate Change, CEE and NRDC are working to support the ECBC's implementation in Gujarat. Their efforts are dedicated to raising awareness and educating stakeholders in the construction industry to ensure the code's swift adoption and execution.

A workshop was organised on 'Fostering sustainability with ECSBC Implementation' to promote the adoption of the ECSBC and energy efficiency in commercial buildings. It facilitated discussions among industry professionals on topics such as Decoding the ECSB Code and Best Practices for Energy Conservation. The goal was to accelerate sustainable practices in the building sector, attracting over 50 attendees from various backgrounds including real estate developers and architects.

Air Quality Improvement: Air pollution is an alarming situation in Ahmedabad, designated as a non-attainment city under the National Clean Air Programme. Efforts to improve ambient air quality are already underway, but there is a pressing need to address industrial air pollution emissions in the city and its surrounding areas. To combat this issue, CEE and NRDC have drafted a policy perspective on community steam boilers.

Cool Roofs Initiative: The Cool Roofs Initiative in Junagadh is a proactive step towards sustainable living. It involves creating demonstration models and empowering local communities through education and engagement.

An event on 'Making Junagadh a cool city' in Junagadh with the objective of the Cool Roof Awareness Workshop organised by CEE, NRDC, and Junagadh Municipal Corporation was to educate and engage various stakeholders, including municipal authorities, community members, and real estate developers, about the benefits and potential of cool roofs in Junagadh. The workshop aimed to showcase practical insights and compelling case studies to drive sustainable urban development initiatives, emphasising the importance of community education and collaboration in implementing cool roof solutions.

10.5 AmdaVadma

AmdaVadma project has conducted various events like training, workshops and drives regarding the three major aspects that is Greening, Traffic and Mobility, and Solid Waste Management, we have launched 'Hariyalu Amdavad under "Azadai ka Amrit Mohatsav"' with collaboration and support of AMC and State Government of Gujarat, Tree Plantation training and workshops was carried out with Educational, corporate and Private Institutions, Composting Workshop and various awareness was organized successfully under AmdaVadma.

Recently, as a part of Environment Day celebration at the CEE campus, Workshop was organised which welcomed large number of participants, including school students, college students, eco-club members, and nature enthusiasts and NGO'S who volunteered and participated. During this

workshop, participants received training making seed ball making of forest tree plants, with a, primarily focus on fruit trees species. The technical aspects of tree planting, including potting mixtures, fertilisation, and proper placement for these forest tree species, were also covered.

Natural trails along with native trees identification and eco education-based activities were carried out with students and nature enthusiasts on regularly bases. AmdaVadmA project also played a major in designing, implementation and establishment of Miyawaki forest as CSR initiative for a corporate. AmdaVadmA intends to continue organising workshops in the future to raise awareness and emphasize the importance of expanding the green cover of Ahmedabad City. Our future plans include reaching out to educational institutions, eco clubs, and nature conservation NGO's, government bodies and enthusiasts within Ahmedabad and National level to unite them under the banner of 'AmdaVadmA.' Together, we aim to host more events and training programmes, working toward making Ahmedabad a greener, safer and more sustainable place to live.

10.6 Child and Adolescent Road Safety in Pune District

The project timeframe was September 2023 to March 2024 and UNICEF Maharashtra, RISE Infinity Foundation were the partners. The government agencies associated were Pune District Road Safety Committee, Pune District Administration, Pune Municipal Corporation, Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation and the concerned departments and institutions.

Road safety for children is a major concern in India. Children below 18 years of age, with 31% of India's population, form one of the largest vulnerable road users (VRU) group. According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) 77,386 children were killed in road crashes in five years during 2018 to 2022. In other words, more than 40 young lives are being lost per day to road crashes in India. Road crash fatalities in the age group below 18 years increased by 10.45% in a year, from 14,875 in 2021 to 16,443 in 2022. The irony is that these deaths are preventable. In 2022, total 30,971 road crashes occurred near a school/college/educational institution stressing on the need for prioritising road safety improvements near and on routes to schools.

Initiative

The project "Child and Adolescent Road Safety" was taken up in Pune District by CEE with support from UNICEF and RIF. The project aimed at creating institutional mechanisms and capacity, demonstrating the "Safe Systems" approach by improving road safety around the schools and drafting an action plan for Pune district and a policy brief focused on child road safety.

Objectives

- Engage with key stakeholders and adopt a vision for child road safety in Pune District
- Assessment of child road safety in Pune district
- Develop a training module on child road safety with safe systems approach
- Train and orient representatives from local government institutions, departments and civil societies
- Develop IEC materials on child road safety and the safe systems approach
- Demonstrate institutional, infrastructural and behavioural measures to improve road safety around three schools in the district, one each in Pune rural, Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad municipal authorities
- Prepare a draft of action plan on child road safety for Pune district
- Draft a policy brief on child road safety for the state government

Activities and Achievements

1. A Visioning workshop was conducted on child road safety in Pune district under the aegis of the Pune District Road Safety Committee (DRSC) in Nov 2023, chaired by the District Collector Pune and attended by the member and concerned departments, civil society groups, NGOs and road safety experts. A vision for Pune district was adopted drawing from the national target of halving the road crash deaths and fatalities by 2030, in all age groups in Pune district. School Transport Committees (STC), set up at the schools under the Maharashtra Motor Vehicles Rules were identified as the appropriate mechanism to institutionalise child road safety at the local level. Initiatives already underway were documented for identifying areas of synergy.
2. An assessment of the Child and Adolescent Road Safety in Pune District was conducted based on secondary data and reports, interactions with stakeholders and users and visits to some of the schools in the district. A report was compiled based on the study with identification of areas for improvements. Stakeholders with their roles were also mapped with regard to child road safety in the district.
3. A Training Module for Local Governments – Towards Safer Mobility for Children and Adolescents was developed seeking inputs from the master trainers of Education Department and DIET Pune. The content covered were concepts of child road safety, Safe Systems approach, school zone safety, roles of concerned departments and stakeholders and planning way forward for institutionalisation of road safety at school level through School Transport Committees. Methodologies were slide presentations, videos, expert talks, field visits, worksheets, group discussions and planning.
4. Three two-days training workshops on Child and Adolescent Road Safety and Safe Systems Approach were organised to train and orient representatives from education, roads (NHAI, PWD, MSRDC) and health departments of district and municipal authorities, traffic police, RTOs, public transport operators, local planning authority and from NGOs, civil society organisations and schools including sustainable and road safety experts. About 83 delegates were oriented in these workshops.
5. IEC materials including posters on creating and managing safe systems for child safety, handbook for STC and video film were developed for adults responsible for safety of children including parents, teachers and other caretaker.
6. Demonstrations of child road safety measures were undertaken at three schools in the Pune district, one each in Pune rural, Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) and Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC). These school demonstrations included institutional, infrastructural and behavioural aspects of child road safety in the school zones.
 - 6.1 Participatory road safety audits were conducted by the certified auditors at the three schools to identify and recommend the areas for improvement in child road safety around schools.
 - 6.2 Orientation sessions were conducted with the School Transport Committees members at each schools sharing the audit outcomes and recommendations based on the Indian Road Congress (IRC) standards and codes.
 - 6.3 A Tactical Urbanism was undertaken at Shri Mhalsakant Vidyalaya in PCMC to highlight the school zone and safety for school students walking, crossing and cycling by colour painting.
 - 6.4 Based on the audit report, road signages and markings were installed on the National Highway at the Zilla Parishad Primary School in Shikrapur, which is a rural school located adjacent to National Highway. Signs on school zone, speed limit, pedestrian crossings, drop-off points and other warning signs were installed.
- 6.5 Teachers were trained in First Aid and First Respondent training by an Apada Mitra.

- 6.6 The school road safety audit reports were submitted to the local road departments/ authorities to undertake the full measures suggested for improving road safety in the school zone.
7. A Road Safety Action Plan focused on children and adolescents was drafted for Pune District. Plan consists of required actions for making schools and school journeys safer for children under the pillars of Safe Systems approach. It indicates targets that can be broken down yearly to achieve in the five years the vision of 50% reduction. It identifies the departments and their role as well as other stakeholders, resources require and indicators to measure the progress. It includes engagement of main departments which would coordinate with stakeholders. Plan is open for discussions and course corrections.
8. A Policy Brief on Child and Adolescent Road Safety is drafted based on the learnings of this project. It highlights the key aspects of the project including the approach, aim, activities, outcomes and outputs and key learnings with recommendations for way forward. It proposes recommendations to be undertaken at the district and state levels with regard to improving the child road safety.

Learnings

There is an urgent need to implement safe school zones, prioritizing schools in high-risk areas such as along highways through scientific road safety audits, speed management in school zones, implementation of safe walking, crossing and cycling infrastructure facilities, enhancing shared modes in school transportation, enforcement of road safety equipment including child helmets and child restraint systems and equip emergency response and trauma care systems for children.

- Schools and colleges can play an important role in engaging families, school staff, communities and institutional stakeholders in child road safety and adopting the safe systems approach.
- Teaching traffic rules to young children may not be enough to keep them safe due to the physical and mental development stages they are in.
- Strengthening understanding about the “Safe Systems” approach among institutional actors, especially members of the District Road Safety Committees is key to driving the change.

9. Water and Sanitation

11.1 Lake Restoration and Development Project

CEE in collaboration with JCB-LBCT is working on lake restoration and development for five lakes across different locations of India. A community pond was selected near Nevta in Jaipur. The structure lies in vicinity of an old temple and in a devastated condition owing to unplanned development and other environmental issues. A meeting was held with the representative of block and panchayat development authority of Nevta to discuss the idea of revival and eco-development of the site.

11.2 Supporting Resource Material Development under ‘Sujalam Project’ on Grey Water Management in School

Effective management of greywater can help not only saving water but will also help school to ensure clean environment and cost saving. As a technical partner of UNICEF, CEE supported development of a guidance booklet for Schools on Greywater Management for Water Conservation. Basis the

experience of Project Prajwala, Ms Priyanka Sinsinwar and Mr Ayub Shersiya supported the development of technical design for structures like soak pit, magic pit, leach pit and kitchen garden as Grey Water Management Techniques for schools.

10. Waste Management

12.1 SWM-focused Education Programme in Surat Municipal Schools

The Urban Ocean Programme is a unique initiative, jointly implemented by The Circulate Initiative, Ocean Conservancy and Resilient Cities Network to implement scalable waste management solutions that prevent ocean plastic and advance resilient, circular economies by working with leading cities and partners willing to invest in change at scale. A study has been done in Pune, Surat, and Mumbai by CEE which included litter transects, product assessments and stakeholders' interactions to gather information about municipal solid waste management in Surat and to identify various opportunities for improvement.

With an objective of understanding current scenario of waste management and WASH in school, CEE carried out a need assessment drive in seven selected schools of Surat, covering all administrative zones on April 11-12, 2023. Mr Ayub Shersiya and Ms Priyanka Sinsinwar conducted the assessment followed by an education project in these schools in the next academic session.

12.2 Solid Waste Management Project in NOIDA

The Solid Waste Management project under 'My Clean City programme' initiated by the HCL Foundation was aimed by enhancing urban cleanliness and sustainability in Noida (UP). The programme was launched with the vision of creating cleaner and more environmentally conscious cities, and focuses on the implementation of advanced waste management technologies, extensive community education, and active engagement with various stakeholders.

Promotion of Waste Management Practices: The project emphasises dry and wet waste management through waste segregation and composting respectively. Comprehensive Information, Education and Communication campaigns were organised to promote such practices and drive behavioural changes in Noida. Significant efforts were made to set up horticultural composting systems in the community parks. Beautification projects such as wall paintings were also undertaken to enhance the visual appeal of the sectors in which project activities were being implemented.

1. **Capacity Building:** Frequent in-house capacity building sessions for CEE as well as HCLF project team were held on Solid Waste Management, Single use Plastic Free Market and Composting. Training Sessions were conducted for a wide range of stakeholders, including residents, domestic helpers, workforce, shopkeepers, gardeners and teachers to promote understanding of solid waste management practices, the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle), and the elimination of single-use plastics. From June 2023 to April 2024, a total of 281 training and awareness-raising sessions were conducted, effectively educating over 10,000 stakeholders on solid waste management.
2. **Behaviour Change Campaigns:** The project employed a multi-faceted approach to foster behavioural change. This includes providing Door-to-Door or spot guidance on waste segregation and composting. The Door-to-door awareness campaigns reached around 20,000 households, providing direct guidance on proper waste segregation and management.

3. Technical Advisory and Monitoring: The technical advisory and monitoring was provided on:
 - a. Horticultural Composting: Gardeners were educated about horticultural composting so that they could convert park waste, such as dry leaves, into compost. The composting sites were regularly monitored by the team to ensure quality production.
 - b. Rainwater Harvesting: The effectiveness of rainwater harvesting systems in the designated areas was evaluated. Data collected during the rainy season (June-August) reveals that approximately 500,000 litres of rainwater were harvested at just two locations.
 - c. Garbage Vulnerable Points (GVPs): GVPs were regularly monitored so as to ensure their cleanliness and prevent the establishment of new ones.

The ongoing project successfully increased community involvement and understanding of garbage management. Tight oversight, behavior modification programs, and capacity-building projects greatly improved waste segregation procedures and stakeholder participation.

12.3 Urja Chetana

CEE East is implementing the Urja Chetana programme supported by Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation Limited (CESC Ltd) as part of their CSR initiatives. Urja Chetana is an Environment Sustainability Education programme in 10 selected schools in and around Kolkata. The specific objectives of the programme are to focus on increased awareness on energy conservation, waste management, water conservation and biodiversity linking all the themes towards increased action on improving environment scenario of the region. The activities are aimed to increase environmental skill development capacities of teachers and students on air pollution, waste, water, energy and biodiversity thus integrating in an overall umbrella of climate change education.

During the reporting period, the Urja Chetana initiative undertook several important activities to enhance environmental education and community engagement. A significant component was the baseline survey conducted to assess the existing environmental infrastructure in these schools. This comprehensive audit served as a strategic foundation for planning future interventions in the schools. Capacity building played a crucial role in empowering students and teachers. The sessions spreading over entire year, focusing on waste management, air quality, water harvesting, and greening initiatives, a total of 1,026 students and 77 teachers were benefited.

Educational exposure visits to the Garden Reach thermal power station provided firsthand learning experience for 41 students and 10 teachers. These visits highlighted the processes of electricity generation from coal and ore, alongside measures for environmental pollution control during electricity production and distribution. A reflective essay competition was arranged involving these students to spread the information to other students at the school.

Parental engagement was another cornerstone of the initiative's success. A total of 352 parents actively participated in engagement sessions across the schools, where they were briefed about the Urja Chetana project and encouraged to support its implementation by students and teachers. Infrastructure enhancements were implemented to bolster environmental initiatives within the schools.

In-situ electricity free, manual composting systems were provided to facilitate effective waste management involving 200 students who were able to divert approximately 225.04 kg of food and garden waste from going to landfill through composting, yielding 172.75 kg of nutrient-rich compost. Additionally, 1,800 ml of leachate as byproduct was obtained for utilisation in school gardens.

Rainwater harvesting systems installed under the project utilised 4,17,900 liters of rainwater, complemented by the introduction of vertical gardens in schools facing space constraints, thereby promoting green spaces and biodiversity conservation. A total 527 plants are surviving in the various schools which indicate the survival of 60% of the provided plants in the span of one year with the support of 80 students. In terms of community outreach, Earth Day and World Environment Day celebrated with impactful events such as plastic clean-up drives and awareness campaigns. These activities, involving students and community members aimed to educate and mobilise the community towards sustainable practices, reached around 630 community members directly. The culmination of efforts was marked by the annual Bal Urja Chetana Diwas, celebrating the achievements of students and educators in promoting environmental sustainability through innovative projects and initiatives.

12.4 Sustainable Waste Management and Community Health Initiative in Haridwar (SWACHH)

The SWACHH project, implemented by CEE and Crown Agents, India, and funded by Roche Pharmaceuticals, aims to manage organic waste in-situ. The project collaborates with communities and institutions generating over 100 kg of MSW per day, known as Bulk Waste Generators (BWGs). Nagar Nigam Haridwar is the collaborating partner and has been extending all necessary facilitation and support for smooth implementation of the project. The objective is to install electricity free manual bio-composters in premises of bulk waste generators to produce compost and divert organic waste going to landfills. This process aims to reduce carbon emissions and generate income through the sale of compost by BWGs, local self-help groups and sanitary workers.

Over eight months, 240 bio-composters were successfully delivered to Haridwar Nagar Nigam with the capacity to convert 312 tonnes of organic waste into 124 tonnes of compost annually. Climate modeling by experts of Crown Agents using the SWEET tool predicts the SWACHH methodology, if used in full capacity, has potential to reduce Haridwar's CO₂e emissions by 2.7% in the first year and 19.9% by the tenth year.

IEC engagement has sensitized approximately three lakh people citywide, utilising printed and audio-visual materials in the local language to ensure effective communication and community involvement. Over 2,172 people, including sanitary inspectors, BWG management, teachers, youth, and SHGs, received training. Community events like cycle rally, cleanup campaign, street plays, SHG mehndi competition event, reached around 5,00,000 people. A garbage van jingle was developed and broadcasted on Haridwar's Kuda Gadi, funded by the local government. Training videos on operation of bio-composters was created for BWGs to operate bio-composters effectively. Health screening for informal waste workers was also conducted in project in collaboration with Nagar Nigam. Teachers training programme along with ganga vahini workshop was also part of the IEC activities under the project to sensitise the mass on various aspects of waste management. The project received media coverage in 30 newspapers and endorsements from seven government bodies. Programme branding and key messages were prominently displayed at ashrams, dhabas, religious places, community centers, open spaces, and residential colonies during Safai Abhiyan events and health screenings for waste workers at government PHCs. Bio-composters were branded with boards at BWGs and roadside dhabas.

Compost samples from five BWGs were analysed at government-accredited lab. Results showed no harmful toxins or heavy metals, significant carbon content, which indicates the dedicated effort of

segregation by the BWGs prior putting the organic waste into bio composters. This first compost testing result provided further suggestions for improving the practice.

The project will have a dissemination workshop in the month of July 2024 which will mark the culmination of this phase of the project.

12.5 Environmental Health Initiatives: Healthcare Waste Management Consultancy

Ms Reema Banerjee was empanelled as technical consultant - healthcare waste management (HCWM) expert and was awarded a contract to evaluate and suggest country wide solution for HCWM for healthcare establishments of Malawi country. The initiative is under Crown Agents UK's ongoing UNICEF project on technical solution for healthcare waste management in Middle, East, North African and least developing countries. The consultancy period served as a good global exposure for Implementing the learnings of HCWM that CEE has done over the years. The 60 days consultancy involved remote work (India) and country visit to Malawi. Ms Banerjee assessed the present healthcare waste management situation in 27 HCEs of Malawi and travelled to nine regions of the country visiting remote primary healthcare facilities. The detailed assessment report with recommendation and technical solution was presented to the government of Malawi in June 2023 and the training of trainers was conducted in July 2023 by the expert team.

12.6 Rural & Urban Landscape Free of Dry & Plastic Waste

HDFC Bank-CEE are implementing the project 'Rural & Urban Landscape Free of Dry & Plastic Waste' in six Urban Cities and 3 Rural Districts across India. This initiative began in 2021, it is designed to partner in Urban (cities & towns) and Rural (village- panchayat -block-districts) areas to synergise the efforts with the Urban/Rural Local Bodies, State Pollution Control Boards, Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate change Department (MoEFCC), Safai Mitras, Service Providers, Recyclers, Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) and Swachh Survekshan (an initiative of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) & other stakeholders to minimise negative impacts and risks to the environment and the citizen's health. So far, the project has made progress:

- The HDFC project successfully did a total outreach of 346,173 individuals across various regions, significantly raising awareness and engagement in waste management practices.
- A total of 892 awareness camps were conducted under the project, generating awareness on Dry plastic waste.
- The project organized 132 training sessions aimed at building the capacities of local stakeholders, including Safai Mitras and community leaders, in effective waste management techniques.
- A total of 27 health camps were held, focusing on the well-being of community members.
- The project engaged with 151 Self-Help Groups (SHGs), empowering local women and communities to participate actively in waste management initiatives and sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- The project supported 1,037 Safai Mitras, providing them with the necessary tools, training, and support to enhance their role in keeping communities clean and safe.
- A total of 244 villages were brought into the project's fold, expanding the reach and impact of the waste management initiatives to rural areas.
- The project successfully engaged 379 bulk waste generators, enabling targeted interventions to manage large volumes of waste more effectively.

The Material Recovery Facility (MRF) and Material Recycling Centre (MRC) at Bastar, Chhattisgarh were inaugurated by Sh. Vishnu Deo Sai, Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, on January 25, 2024. The inauguration was conducted at Burundwada Semra, Jagdalpur, Bastar, along with the introduction of 83 E-rickshaws to assist Swachhata Didis in waste collection. During the inaugural event, the following products were launched in the presence of approximately 10,000 community members:

- A comprehensive case study on Bastar showcasing the project strategy and model adopted, including details on rural and urban convergence.
- A project video, highlighting the project's impact and success.

The MRF was digitally inaugurated on March 12, 2024, by Sh Ashok Singhal, Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Govt of Assam, with participation from other dignitaries, including Shri Mrigen Sarania, Mayor, and Smt Smita Roy, Deputy Mayor. On March 10, 2024, the MRF at Adabari, Guwahati, was inaugurated by Shri Mrigen Sarania, Honourable Mayor of Guwahati.

Shri V Srinivas Goud the Minister of Prohibition & Excise, Sports & Youth Services, Tourism & Culture and Archaeology of Telangana and Shri Ravi Gugulothu IAS, District Collector in October 2023 inaugurated MRF in Mahabubnagar.

Sh Allola Indrakaran Reddy, Minister of State for Endowments, Law and Forest, Environment, Science and Technology of Telangana, along with District Collector & Commissioner inaugurated MRF in Nirmal.

CEE Delhi collaborated with the Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department of the Government of Telangana to showcase project achievements (Mahabubnagar & Nirmal) at the Smart Cities Expo at Pragati Maidan, 2024.

Under the project, a state level workshop was organised "Roadmap for Dry & Plastic Waste Management in Jharkhand" on January 5, 2024, attended by 180 participants from all 24 districts of Jharkhand.

12.7 EcoGram Project

The EcoGram Project is a collaborative initiative of the Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC), Hyundai Motor India Foundation (HMIF), and CEE. They signed an agreement on May 1, 2024, and the project aims at enhancing waste management practices in Guwahati, Assam. The project focuses on establishing a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) and a Waste to Wealth Park, supported by comprehensive baseline studies, stakeholder engagement, and community outreach. Key activities include obtaining necessary approvals and land allotments from GMC, developing and deploying IEC materials, and organizing awareness sessions in schools, residential welfare associations (RWAs), and Self-Help Groups (SHGs). Recently, the project conducted an awareness program in one of the local schools.

12.8 Integrated Waste Management Project

The Integrated Waste Management Project in Shirwal, Satara, Maharashtra, led by CEE in collaboration with ACG Care foundation, agreement got signed March 29, 2024 focuses to establish a sustainable integrated waste management system in Shirwal Gram Panchayat, ensuring environmental sustainability and social responsibility through strategic stakeholder engagement and infrastructure development. Key activities include the completion of a baseline study and waste characterization, which will guide the project's next steps. Significant progress has been made,

including the finalization of the Bill of Materials (BOM) for the construction of the Material Recovery Facility (MRF), with construction set to begin shortly. Parallel to these developments, ongoing meetings with Satara district officials and Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) representatives are being held to ensure alignment and support for the project's objectives.

12.9 Integrated Paper & Plastic Waste Management in Kagaznagar, Telangana

The project, in collaboration with CEE and JK papers, started in 2023 is an initiative in Kumuram Bheem Asifabad District aimed at promoting sustainable practices and environmental awareness. The project has successfully engaged the local community through extensive outreach, including direct engagement with over 26,000 people, awareness campaigns, and social mapping exercises. Key initiatives such as the Badlaav Campaign, door-to-door sensitization, and the establishment of tailoring units and cloth vending machines have significantly contributed to reducing plastic waste and promoting eco-friendly alternatives. Additionally, the introduction of the Bartan Bank and other community-driven activities have reinforced the importance of sustainability.

Progress of Project

- The project has successfully reached 12,751 individuals through various awareness and engagement activities, including door-to-door awareness campaigns, community events, road rallies, and the Swachhta pledge.
- These efforts have resulted in engaging 33% of the population in Kagaznagar and the surrounding 11 Gram Panchayats.
- Three tailoring units have been established in Chintaguda, Vanjari, and Bareguda Gram Panchayats, operated by SHGs, producing reusable cloth bags from waste materials.
- Four CVMs have been installed, providing opportunities for citizens to purchase reusable cloth bags, contributing to a reduction in the demand for single-use plastic bags.
- A system for renting steel utensils for community events to reduce the use of disposable items, managed by SHGs.
- Conducted 11 social mapping exercises across 11 villages, engaging 540 community members to identify waste hotspots and community resources.
- Directly sensitized 4,587 households, reaching 19,266 individuals, about waste segregation and responsible disposal practices.
- Engaged 9,677 individuals through IEC activities and additional 78 community awareness campaigns, with active participation in road rallies and Swachhta pledges.
- Successfully collected 1.16 tonnes of plastic and paper waste on Global Recycling Day 2024 with school children's participation.

Project Impacts

- Collected over 5,000 kgs of dry waste through awareness campaigns and local leadership efforts.
- CVM initiative reduced the demand for 3,23,000 single-use plastic bags annually, contributing to reducing 1,615 kgs of plastic waste.
- Reduction in CO₂ emissions by 4,400 kgs annually through plastic waste reduction and 2,588 kgs through the Bartan Bank initiative.
- 40% of trainees from Vanjari GP became independent entrepreneurs, increasing their monthly income by 11%.
- The sale of cloth bags generated an additional income of Rs. 8,730/- for SHG women members.

- Increased community awareness and participation in sustainable practices, reaching a significant portion of the population in Kagaznagar and surrounding areas.
- Reuse of 60+ kilograms of discarded cloth materials in CVM and tailoring units, contributing to better resource utilization.
- 1,316 individuals pledged to adopt sustainable practices, indicating a shift towards responsible waste management behaviors.
- Over 31 local media coverages, highlighting the project's impact and promoting waste segregation at the source as a valuable resource.

12.10 Project Rochak

The project focuses on establishing an efficient plastic waste management system in Jotana, a village in Mehsana District, Gujarat. Targeting schools and the community, the project will be collaboratively implemented with the village community, gram panchayat, and key stakeholders to ensure active participation. The project involves sensitizing communities to segregate dry and wet waste at the household level through awareness activities. To motivate cooperation, villagers will receive a soap bar for every kilogram of plastic collected. This segregated plastic waste will be regularly collected, stored at a collection center, and then sold to recyclers and made Eco benches from waste plastic. The long-term goals of Project Rochak include enhancing system efficiency and convenience, changing waste handling culture through mass education programs, developing and implementing innovative solutions, and utilizing advanced technology for everyday operations. The project aims for systematic waste management by analysing and reducing waste generation sources and implementing various waste management steps.

1. Sensitise the community, including schools, teachers, children, youth, villagers, and women about the importance of segregating dry and wet waste at the household level.
2. Motivate villagers to actively participate in waste segregation and collection by offering incentives, such as soap bars, for every kilogram of plastic waste collected.
3. Regularly collect segregated plastic waste from households and store it at a designated collection centre.
4. Work collaboratively with the village community, gram panchayat, and key stakeholders to ensure effective implementation and community engagement.

The project focuses on plastic waste management, targeting schools and the community. The project process involved several key activities: conducting awareness activities to sensitize the community about segregating dry and wet waste at the household level, organising bi-monthly plastic waste collection, and setting up a waste collection centre where the collected plastic was stored and subsequently sold to recyclers. To incentivise participation, villagers received soap bars for each kilogram of plastic collected. The recycled plastic was used to create eco-benches installed in the village. Achievements of Project Rochak include collecting 1,620 kg of plastic and organising two major clean drives. The project launch event, plastic waste collection system, awareness activities, clean drives, and flag-off event were significant milestones, visually documented through project glimpses. Future goals aim to continue the project for 1,000 days to ensure sustainable waste segregation practices, empower the community, enhance local capacities, and create a replicable model for other regions.

Project Benefits

- Community members are currently being made aware and trained through ongoing waste management training and awareness activities, fostering a collective understanding of proper waste disposal practices.
- A collection center has been set up for the organised gathering of plastic waste, facilitating efficient waste management and encouraging responsible disposal practices within the community.
- The ongoing clean drive initiative is actively improving the visual aesthetics of the village, inspiring villagers to take pride in maintaining cleanliness and contributing to a more visually appealing environment.
- As a result of these initiatives, health and hygiene habits among community members are currently improving, leading to an overall enhancement in the quality of life for the villagers.

11. Biodiversity Conservation

13.1 Community-Centric Ecosystems Approaches for Conservation and Green Economy

CEE Central is implementing value chain analysis and green economy pathways development under two projects supported by New Venture Fund, USA. These include natural resources in agriculture, forests and fishery sectors. It is developing ecosystem approaches using communities' knowledge and practices towards assessment and sustainable utilisation planning, for

- Wild honey collectors in Maharashtra including the northern Western Ghats region, Satpura and Vidarbha and Bastar ecoregion.
- Designing eco-tourism experience packages around Sacred Groves, Wild Edible and local communities' bio-cultural heritage.
- Local varieties of millet, poultry and fishes.
- Local varieties of banana in Bihar viz. Muthwa, Chinia, Battisa, Malbhog, Barsain.

These initiatives are helping create institutional capacities in areas of eco-restoration and sustainable economy.

13.2 Trees for Tomorrow (TFT)

CEE and EPAM India are conducting Climate Change Warrior programme, which includes a series of webinar followed by action projects. This programme aims to prepare the Climate Change Warriors of EPAM (environmentally responsible).

As a climate change mitigation effort, CEE South launched the "Trees for Tomorrow" (TFT) project for 2023-24, aiming to plant 6,000 native tree saplings across Bangalore, Hyderabad, Chennai, Gurugram, and Pune. This initiative addresses climate change driven by globalisation, population growth, and food demands by enhancing urban carbon sequestration. The project focuses on restoring ecosystems, enhancing biodiversity, and combating climate change, with specific ecological goals such as creating butterfly gardens in Pune and conserving Western Ghats species in Bengaluru.

The selection of diverse planting locations, collaboration with forest departments, and the planting of 208 tree species in 21741.16 sq.mt area highlight the initiative's comprehensive strategy to enhance green cover and biodiversity while tackling specific ecological challenges in each location.

Beyond environmental conservation, TFT embodies a holistic approach to sustainable development, tailored to meet the unique environmental needs of each locality, extending efforts beyond mere tree planting.

13.3 People's Biodiversity Register

CEE played a pivotal role as the Technical Support Group (TSG) for the Gujarat Biodiversity Board (GBB), Gandhinagar. Under the auspices of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) of India, CEE is dedicated to the successful implementation of People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) projects across various districts in Gujarat.

The People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) is a vital documentation tool that captures the extensive biodiversity found within local communities. It plays a crucial role in the sustainable management and conservation of biological resources at the grassroots level. As a cornerstone of our conservation efforts, the PBR fosters a stronger bond between people and nature, ensuring that the richness of our biodiversity is not only recorded and preserved but also celebrated for future generations. This register is meticulously crafted to document the knowledge and practices of local communities concerning their natural surroundings, encompassing various aspects of the environment they inhabit. The layout of the PBR is below.

- **Flora and Fauna:** Detailed records of plant and animal species within the area.
- **Traditional Knowledge:** Insights into local uses of biodiversity, including medicinal plants, traditional agricultural practices, and cultural significance.
- **Ecosystem Dynamics:** Observations on the interactions within local ecosystems and their seasonal variations.

This initiative supports the conservation of biodiversity by involving local communities in the inventorying and monitoring processes, thereby fostering a deeper connection between people and their natural heritage.

Process of Developing the PBR

The PBR is divided into 28 Formats including Agriculture, Domesticated and Wild biodiversity. Creating a PBR is a community-driven process that typically involves the following steps:

1. **Community Engagement:** Initial meetings with local residents to introduce the concept of the PBR and gather support.
2. **Training and Capacity Building:** Workshops and training sessions to equip community members with the skills needed to document and monitor biodiversity.
3. **Data Collection:** Systematic collection of data through surveys, interviews, and field observations, often involving local schools, youth groups, and elders.
4. **Documentation and Compilation:** Organizing the collected data into a structured format, often involving the use of digital tools and traditional documentation methods.
5. **Validation:** Verification of the information through community review and expert consultations to ensure accuracy and completeness.

Benefits of the PBR

PBR provides critical benefits to local communities and wider conservation efforts. It empowers communities to actively steward their natural resources, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility. The PBR also plays a vital role in preserving traditional knowledge and cultural practices related to biodiversity, ensuring these legacies endure. Additionally, it offers valuable data

to inform local and regional biodiversity management plans and policies, making them more effective and community-focused. Moreover, the PBR enhances biodiversity awareness and understanding, particularly among the younger generation, nurturing a deeper appreciation and commitment to conservation.

Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA): CEE successfully conducted PRA training in 80 villages as part of the PBR initiative. This training, coordinated with each village's Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC), involved broad community participation, including Panchayat members, BMC representatives, women, and people from various age groups and castes.

Flora and Fauna Documentation: In the second phase of the PBR development, the CEE recorded Agriculture, wild and domestic species, detailing their local uses and associated traditional knowledge. Community members were educated about the various species and their significance to local livelihoods.

Community Engagement Activities: To raise awareness about local biodiversity, CEE organised a variety of activities with schools, Aanganwadis, and women's groups. These included initiatives like "Biodiversity Around Me," "Web of Life," "Post Card Activity," "Traditional Seed Identification and Collection," "Treasure Hunt," "Find and Segregate," and "Recitation on Biodiversity." These activities were designed to educate participants about their local biodiversity and gather traditional knowledge. Additionally, students and community members were taught how to create herbarium specimens.

Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS): CEE also educated Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) about Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS), which ensures that local communities receive a share of the benefits when species from their region are commercially utilized by other organizations or industries. This awareness empowers communities to assert their rights and secure benefits from their biodiversity resources.

Comprehensive Biodiversity Management: Overall, CEE's efforts in each PBR village have focused on the identification, awareness, documentation, management, and conservation of local biodiversity. This comprehensive approach has enhanced the community's capacity to protect and sustainably use their natural resources.

12. Training and Capacity Building

14.1 CCES School features & Eco-Friendly Schools in Jharkhand

Jharkhand Education Project Council launched Climate Resilient & Environment Sustainable (CCES) School features & Eco-Friendly Schools programme. The programme focuses on strengthening schools for climate resilience through improved practices of WASH including SLWM and formation of Eco Clubs for ensuring environmental education. Initially 3,000 schools across the state had been selected, which will be later scaled up.

CEE was invited to share their wide experience in strengthening eco-clubs. Ms Priyanka Sinsinwar, Senior Programme Coordinator took a session for orientation of district level officials of State Education Department as master trainers on eco-club initiative. Her session included detail discussion on components of Eco-club: genesis, formation, functioning, approaches, activities and

benefits of Eco-club. These master trainers will impart training to eco-club in-charges in their respective districts.

Ms Kiran Kumari Passi, State Project Director, Ranchi; Dr Kanika Mitra, CFO, UNICEF Ranchi; Shri Jayant Mishra, Administrative Officer JEPC; Dr Pratibha Singh, WASH Specialist, UNICEF New Delhi; Dr Laxmi Saxena, WASH Officer, UNICEF Ranchi were present in the programme.

14.2 Voluntary Engagement Programme

CEE conducted one such voluntary engagement programme for a group of about 50 employees of a multinational corporation. In the half day workshop, the volunteers painted cotton cloth bags, prepared hand rolled paper pens and some teaching learning materials for the school. The same was distributed to a rural school.

14.3 Training Sessions

- Ms Reema Banerjee from CEE East facilitated one-day training on Environment & Climate Change for CINI's senior managers and employees on February 20, 2024, at CINI Training Unit, Pailan, Kolkata. The sessions covered basics of Environment Education, Climate Change, Pollution & Health, Waste Management, and Gender & Climate Change. The training was well-received, focusing on enhancing understanding and practical application of environmental concepts. Approximately 30 senior employees of CINI from various eastern states attended the session.
- CEE East team, in collaboration with Lake Gardens Women and Children Development Center, conducted a Youth Capacity Building Workshop on Waste Management at IITD, Thakurpukur on July 15, 2023, under the project 'Local to Global - Strengthening, Capacity Building and Networking of Youths to promote their right for a clean and healthy environment,' benefiting 50 youths.
- CEE East team visited three schools as part of the UNICEF partnership for developing a compendium of best practices on clean and green/eco-friendly/climate resilient schools. The team conducted visits to Children Welfare Association High School for Girls and Tiljala High School in Kolkata along with Khairbani Ashram School in Mayurbhanj, Odisha for the evaluation. The visits aimed to fill out questionnaires, conduct interviews with key stakeholders, document activities through photography, and compile two-page case studies.
- To celebrate Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, a Government of India initiative, three BEd colleges of Bardhaman district of WB-Chatta PTTI, Uttaran College of Education and Upasana College of Education, hosted a workshop on April 27, 2023 on Solid Waste Management. Representative of CEE East gave a brief overview on regulatory framework and overall management of solid waste through usage of solid waste management kit developed under SUDA project. Around 100 college students and 10 faculty members attended this sensitisation programme.

13. Material Development and Publications

15.1 Towards Responsible Use of Plastics: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle - A Manual for Schools

The book is an updated version of the resource kit developed by CEE in 2018 on the occasion of the World Environment Day. Bisleri International Pvt Ltd supported the updation and reprint of the book. Further, the book is being translated into seven other languages.

14. Events

16.1 World Environment Day

- CEE North conducted a three-day clean-up drive campaign with youth from colleges, universities, and the local community, at a Forest reserve near Lucknow, as part of TTPC activities on the occasion of World Environment Day. Focusing on the theme of the day 'Solutions to Plastic Pollution', CEE organised a clean-up drive in Kukrail Forest Reserve, Lucknow. Over 200 youth and other members participated in the cleanup, and 375 kg of plastic debris was collected and turned over to the Lucknow Municipal Corporation.
- CEE-YEN, in collaboration with RPG, organised a World Environment Day event where over 300 students and teachers to engage in various enriching activities. The participants were oriented on the year's environmental theme and inspired to integrate handprint actions—positive actions for the environment—into their daily lives, promoting a sustainable and better future.
- CEE Goa State Office in association with the Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB) organised various events to mark the event. Activities include quiz competitions for the state and industry representatives, best practices in environmental management in Industries etc.

16.2 Global Handprint Day

CEE organised a campaign to celebrate Global Handprint Day in November by engaging school students in awareness campaigns, cooking competitions, food sharing activities, interactive workshops and art and craft activities on the theme of Millets for Sustainability.

16.3 World Meteorological Day

CEE joined hands with South Asian Meteorological Association (SAMA) to observe World Meteorological Day 2024 in March through an online event on the theme of 'At the Front Line of Climate Action'. Prof Coleen Vogel, Distinguished Professor, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, delivered the keynote address.

16.4 Manohar Parrikar Vignan Mahotsav

Since 2019, the Department of Science, Technology and Waste Management, Government of Goa celebrates 13 December as Manohar Parrikar Vignan Mahotsav. CEE Goa is a partner in the event as one of the scientific institutions and helps the department to identify and facilitate the speakers. In

2023, 20 eminent scientists of international repute were invited and delivered talks benefitting more than 7000 students.

15. Facilitating, Networking and Participation

15.1 Facilitating

Paryavaran Edutech

Paryavaran Edutech was established by CEE as a Section 25 Company (currently Section 8 Company) under the Companies Act. EDUTECH is a not-for-profit company which disseminates publications and products developed and produced by CEE, a Centre of Excellence set up by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India in 1984. The income generated by PARYAVARAN EDUTECH is utilised to generate programmes and activities in the field of Environmental Education for the benefit of the general community.

PARYAVARAN EDUTECH also undertakes the design and printing of brochures/booklets/greeting cards, etc. as well as the development of customized products that promote conservation education and awareness. These products include calendars, T-shirts, seminar bags, notebook/note pads etc with environmental messages.

CEE Nature Shop

The CEE Nature Shop is managed by Paryavaran Edutech and is located on CEE's lush green campus at Thaltej Tekra, Ahmedabad. CEE Nature Shop seeks to provide a platform that enables the popularisation and sale of organic, natural, handicrafts and livelihood products developed by farmers and community organizations and agencies. The Nature Shop also promotes environmental education resource materials developed by CEE and like-minded organisations working in this field.

The Nature Shop arranges and handles the sale of such materials and maintains an inventory of the stocks on a regular basis. You can also order our publications and products online from <https://www.ceeindia.org/nature-shop/>.

CEE HAAT- A Farmers Market

CEE Haat an initiative aimed to promote sustainable consumption and lifestyles among the general community while also creating awareness about climate change, 'Handprint action' and nature conservation. The Haat seeks to promote the concept of 'urban green' by bringing the urban consumer in touch with nature. It provides an entire range of natural, eco-friendly, organic and educational products under one roof. The Haat was inaugurated on December 14, 2019.

The Haat also serves as a platform for products developed by educational and livelihood focused programmes of community groups, partner NGOs and CEE's own programmes. It seeks to support farmers and small business entrepreneurs.

The CEE Haat offers an array of exciting activities and attractions for visitors of all ages. People can explore the farmer's market, filled with fresh, locally grown produce that nourishes both the body and the environment. They can discover the goodness of farm-fresh fruits, vegetables and other

organic delights, brought in by farmers from Halvad, Mehsana, Anand and other places. Handcrafted items made with eco-friendly materials and natural skincare products are some of the attractions for those seeking sustainable alternatives and ethically sourced products.

The Haat also serves traditional Kathiyawadi delicacies. Home chefs too get a platform to showcase and sell their products, which include a variety of pickles, khakhra and other snacks. Special seasonal drinks are made available at the Haat, like takmariya sharbat, findla juice, varyali sharbat, aam panna in summer.

Currently, the Haat is hosted every Friday from 8 am to 2 pm.

15.2 Networking- SASEANEE Connect

SASEANEE (South and Southeast Asia Network for Environmental Education) aims to build a dynamic global network of organisations committed to enhancing environmental literacy and stewardship in South and Southeast Asia. Through outreach efforts, the initiative provides invaluable resources, expertise, and strategic insights to youth, educators, local communities, government bodies, and partner organisations, promoting green education, capacity building, and sustainable living.

Launch of SASEANEE Connect

The SASEANEE Connect initiative and web platform were officially launched at ICSE, New Delhi, on 19th September 2023, in the presence of environmental leaders, including Mr. Sam Barratt (UN Environment) and representatives from CEE and the Mobius Foundation. The web platform introduced the network's vision, objectives, and components. Website updates included a membership registration feature and the addition of curated regional resources.

Partnerships and Networking

- A Core Committee was established, including global partners such as FEE, NAAEE, GEEP, Earth Charter International, IUCN-CEC, Mobius Foundation, and CEE. Two online meetings (November 2023 and January 2024) focused on network expansion, collaboration strategies, and technological.
- SASEANEE hosted a side event at the World Environment Education Congress (WEEC) in January 2024, engaging regional environmental leaders and expanding partnerships. Two new global partners, WWF and EEASA, joined the network.
- Collaborative initiatives included partnerships with the South Asian Meteorological Association (SAMA), where SASEANEE participated in World Meteorological Day celebrations. Additionally, the network facilitated UNEP's Tide Turners Plastic Challenge in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.
- Plans for a SASEANEE session on Greening Education at the CEE International Conference on Educating for Sustainability Action in January 2025.

15.2 Participation

Ms Preeti R Kanaujia

- Ms Kanaujia was invited to participate in the Greening Education Partnership consultation workshop held at UNESCO Delhi along with Ms Gayatri Dave.

- She was nominated as a member of the Curriculum Area Group (CAG) on Environmental Education for development of syllabus, textbooks and TLMs in Environmental Education formed by NCERT.

Mr Neeraj Pal

- Mr Pal represented CEE in the executive and steering committee under State Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), Uttar Pradesh. As a member, he provided inputs in planning conservation education interventions in the State.
- He participated in a two days training workshop on ESG and sustainability and its applicability to non-profits organised by HCL Foundation at Lucknow.

Ms Gayatri Dave

- Ms Dave led a group of teachers for the ACCU International Teachers Exchange, organising an in-person visit to Japan. This role involved managing the selection process, orienting the participants, and preparing them for the classes.
- She facilitated a session during the online BRIDGE Across Asia programme, facilitating a student exchange among five countries.
- She also facilitated a two-day workshop with the Climate Change group on the Saksham Shala programme at Gandhinagar in collaboration with UNICEF and SSA. This workshop was designed for BRCs and CRCs from various districts of Gujarat.

Ms Priyanka Sinsinwar

- Attended the same and shared views and experiences on development and democracy at a regional round table conferences 'Delivering Democracy: Retrospect and Prospect' in June 2023 at Jaipur.
- Participated in workshop on "Brainstorming for collective efforts for better Management and Development of Shamalat (commons)" in December and "Women & Common" on February 1-2, 2024 held at Jaipur.

Mr Vipin Verma

Mr. Verma represented CEE in a programme organized by the Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change – Government of Uttar Pradesh, GIZ, and Hindustan Unilever Limited on Public Private Partnership (PPP) "From Local to Global: creating a model for eco-villages". CEE shared its insights from the baseline study of this project.

Mr Jitendra Patel

Mr Patel participated in a two days national conference organized by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti on JJM and SBM, in February 2024 at Lucknow.

Mr Sreyas Sajeevan

- Delivered an expert talk at various programmes at the GIIS Science Carnival Ahmedabad during the annual science carnival. He also evaluated student projects, emphasizing innovation and sustainability.

- Conducted a session at LJ University during the "World Around Us" event under the Mission Life scheme on the topic of "Youth for Environment".
- Shared his expertise at Navrachna School in Vadodara, where he spoke about the significance of eco clubs.
- As a guest speaker at the Green Conference in Udupi, he addressed the annual meeting of the Udupi Association of Schools on sustainable schools.
- He along with Mansi Jani, spoke to class 10 students at Shivashish School in Ahmedabad on the occasion of world environment day.
- Conducted workshops at various Kendriya Vidyalayas in Ahmedabad Cantt., Shahibaug, Gandhinagar Cantt., and Gandhinagar Sector 1. Collaborating with Utsav and Mansi, he led sessions on zero waste, plastic literacy, and waste management in schools.

Mr Utsav Modi

Mr Modi represented CEE in the event of "Engaging youth through education and advocacy for solutions to Plastic Pollution through UNEP's Tide Turners Plastic Initiative" held in 5th International Conference on Sustainability Education (5th ICSE 2023) at India Habitat Center, New Delhi, Delhi, India.

Mr Gyanendra Dixit

Mr Dixit along with Mr Pal represented CEE in the HCL Partner Conference and shared inputs and discussed partnering experiences, talked about challenges and issues and set expectations and specific steps for project implementation in the coming year.

16. CEE Offices

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17. CEE Governing Council

Chairman

Shri Ashok Khosla

Development Alternatives
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Members

Nominees of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt of India

Secretary

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change
New Delhi- 110 003

Additional Secretary & Financial Advisor

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change
New Delhi- 110 003

Nominees of Department of Forest and Environment Govt of Gujarat

Additional Chief Secretary

Government of Gujarat
Department of Forests & Environment

Representative of Nehru Foundation for Development Ahmedabad- 380054

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Shri Prasad R Menon

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East Guwahati- 781 001

Representative of Karmakshetra Educational Foundation (KEF)**Shri Tridip Suhrud**

Governing Council, Darpana Academy of Performing Arts
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Ex-Officio members from associate institutions of NFD, Ahmedabad**Shri Dilip Surkar**

Director- VIKSAT and Executive Director- Vikram A Sarabhai Community Science Centre (VASCSC)
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Shri D N Surati

Secretary
Nehru Foundation for Development
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Centre for Environment Education
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(Registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860)

Regd. No. GUJ/1043 (Ahmedabad)

(Also registered under the Foreign Contributions (Regulation) Act, 1976
vide registration no. 041910044 with Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
2022 – 2023

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of **NEHRU FOUNDATION FOR DEVELOPMENT- CENTRE FOR ENVIORNMENT EDUCATION ("Society")**, which comprise the Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2024, and the Income and Expenditure Account for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

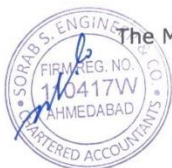
In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the financial statements give a true and fair view in conformity with the accounting principles generally accepted in India of the state of affairs of Society as at March 31, 2023 and its surplus for the year ended on that date.

We conducted our audit of the financial statements in accordance with the Standards on Auditing prescribed by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India ("ICAI"). Our responsibilities under those Standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of Society in accordance with the Code of Ethics issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the ICAI's Code of Ethics. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion on the financial statements.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of these financial statements that give a true and fair view of the financial position and financial performance of Society in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in India, including the applicable Accounting Standards. This responsibility also includes maintenance of adequate accounting records for safeguarding the assets of Society and for preventing and detecting frauds and other irregularities; selection and application of appropriate accounting policies; making judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and design, implementation and maintenance of adequate internal financial controls, that were operating effectively for ensuring the accuracy and completeness of the accounting records, relevant to the preparation and presentation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing Society's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate it or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.



The Management is responsible for overseeing Society's financial reporting process.

MUMBAI • BENGALURU • KANPUR • SAVARKUNDLA

SORAB S. ENGINEER & CO. (Regd.)

Auditor's Responsibility

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with SAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal financial controls relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances but not for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the effectiveness of the internal financial controls.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on Society's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause Society to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

Materiality is the magnitude of misstatements in the financial statements that, individually or in aggregate, makes it probable that the economic decisions of a reasonably knowledgeable user of the financial statements may be influenced. We consider quantitative materiality and qualitative factors in (i) planning the scope of our audit work and in evaluating the results of our work; and (ii) to evaluate the effect of any identified misstatements in the financial statements.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



SORAB S. ENGINEER & CO. (Regd.)

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

Further, we report that:

- a) We have sought and obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit.
- b) In our opinion, proper books of account as required by the Act have been kept by Society so far as it appears from our examination of those books.
- c) The Balance Sheet, the Statement of Income and Expenditure dealt with by this Report are in agreement with the relevant books of account.

For **Sorab S. Engineer & Co.**
Firm Registration No. 110417W
Chartered Accountants

Chokshi Shreyas B.

CA. Chokshi Shreyas B.
Partner
Membership No. 100892
UDIN: 24100892BJZXXF9399



Ahmedabad
September 27, 2024

31-03-2023 FUNDS & LIABILITIES		Sch.	Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 2024		Sch.	31-03-2023 ASSETS		Sch.	31-03-2024	
12,88,000	CORPUS FUND		12,88,000			MOVABLE AND IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES				
	Balance as per last Balance Sheet					Immovable Properties (At cost)				
	OTHER EARMARKED FUNDS					Buildings:				
	Depreciation Fund					Balance as per Last Balance Sheet	5,87,24,393		5,87,24,393	
2,34,93,736	Balance as per last Balance Sheet		2,48,25,707			Less: Written off/Disposed off/transferred during the year	-		76,42,923	
13,32,971	Addition during the year		21,06,540						5,12,81,470	
2,48,25,707	ANY OTHER FUND		2,69,32,247			MOVABLE PROPERTIES (At cost)				
18,63,91,326	Balance as per last Balance Sheet	A	19,31,71,691			Office equipments, Vehicles, Library Books etc.,	8,45,03,455		8,64,51,735	
9,64,734	Addition during the year		60,33,660			Balance as per last Balance Sheet	20,53,516		60,23,660	
29,985	Interest Credited during the year		29,011			Addition during the year	8,75,56,969		9,24,85,395	
70,88,880	Add: Transferred from Income & Expenditure A/c		-			Less: Written off/Disposed off/transferred during the year	11,05,234		9,24,85,395	
19,44,76,923	Less: Fund reduced by the cost of Assets written off/Disposed off/transferred during the year		19,94,34,362				14,51,74,338		14,37,66,865	
11,05,234			2,04,56,528							
19,33,71,691			17,83,77,834			Vehicle on Loan from Dy. Collector Guberga for Champ Project	16,42,834		16,42,834	
	GRANT BALANCES					Less: Liability for Vehicle on Loan from Dy. Collector Guberga for Champ Project	16,42,834			
31,170	Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India, New Delhi Balance as per last Balance Sheet		31,170							
9,18,10,271	Projects, Programmes, Workshops, Seminars etc.,	B	7,96,25,438			DEPOSITS				
	Bank Overdraft (Secured against pledge of FDR as Collateral, Secured)					For Services, Rent, Projects, etc.	25,00,000		25,00,000	
26,60,730	Indian Overseas Bank, Thaltej Branch		7,96,56,608			LOANS				
	LIABILITIES					To Staff & Others (One year old Rs. 7817/-)	18,368		7,817	
4,66,63,949	For Expenses		2,96,95,624			ADVANCES				
10,65,734	For Duties & Taxes		42,94,127			To Staff (One year old Rs. 916031/- Previous year Rs. 619309/-)	17,21,137		28,27,668	
1,37,55,365	Amount Payable to NGOs & others		5,39,843			To Suppliers and Contractors for Projects expenses (One year old Rs. 74,75,913/- Previous year Rs. 1000004/-)	2,11,05,641		1,80,48,841	
14,74,87,585	For Others		6,23,85,015			To Others (One year old Rs. 3832818/- Previous Year Rs. 1034881/-)	68,18,012		1,93,70,013	
20,89,73,243			5,69,44,608			Income Tax deducted at source (TDS) receivable	2,96,46,851		4,02,46,522	
						GST Recoverable	67,42,399		1,23,11,204	
							8,61,509		10,84,258	
						AMOUNT DUE/RECEIVABLE				
						For Projects, Programmes, Workshops, Seminars etc.	5,14,38,771		1,04,20,645	
						Project Grant Balance	1,34,00,000		3,40,58,192	
						(One year old Rs. 780153/-)	4,46,38,771		4,45,18,837	
						CASH AND BANK BALANCES INCLUDING FIXED DEPOSITS:				
						As per Schedule "D"	10,30,82,887		12,80,05,517	
						INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT				
						Balance as per last balance sheet	17,62,91,735		16,76,10,865	
						Surplus from Income & expenditure A/c during the year	86,80,872		15,62,57,588	
							16,76,10,863		1,13,56,277	
52,76,60,812	TOTAL		52,76,60,812						52,76,60,812	

Notes on Accounts as per Schedule "B"

The above Balance Sheet to the best of our belief contains a true account of the funds and liabilities and of the property and assets of the Society.

D. N. Surati
Chief Accounts Officer

Date: 27/09/2024



Kartikya V. Sarabhai
Director

As per our report of Even Date

For Sorab S. Engineer & Co.
Firm Registration No. 110417W

Chartered Accountants

C.A. Chokshi Shreyas B.

Partner

Membership No. 100892

Place: Ahmedabad

27 SEP 2024



NEHRU FOUNDATION FOR DEVELOPMENT-CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION (SOCIETY)

Thaltej, Ahmedabad 380054

[A Society, Registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1960. Registration No. GUJ/1043/Ahmedabad.]

[Also Registered with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi, under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976.

Registration No. 041910044 dated 2nd March, 1985.] [Designated Bank Account with State Bank of India, NDMB, 11, Parliament Street, New Delhi 110001 A/c No. 40137182929.]

SCHEDULE IV

[See Rule 9(1)]

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ending on 31st March, 2024

Year 2022-23	EXPENDITURE	Current Year 2023-24	Year 2022-23	INCOME	Current Year 2023-24
	EXPENDITURE ON OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY			INTEREST EARNED	
	On Programmes and Projects (Own activity as well as sponsored by Governmental and Non-governmental organisations)			On Savings Bank Accounts and Term Deposits with Nationalised and Scheduled Banks	43,38,868
1,40,08,051	Own Projects & Programmes	1,70,44,275	28,33,091	Other interest (income-tax refund & security deposits)	14,508
16,28,50,523	Out of Local Funding	2,81,78,234	28,33,091	Less: Interest allocated to Special Funds & Projects	27,390
4,22,50,685	Out of Foreign Contribution	3,53,60,597	3,82,682		43,25,986
21,91,09,259	Projects & Programme Expenses out of CSR Fund	31,40,61,407	24,40,209		
13,59,71,278				Projects & Programme Income out of Grants from GOs/NGOs, CSR and own Activities inclusive of FC Projects	
35,50,80,537				Own Projects & Programmes	1,73,62,293
	ESTABLISHMENT EXPENSES			Out of Local Funding	2,91,78,234
	Salary:			Projects & Programmes out of CSR Fund	31,40,61,407
4,72,48,342	Staff Salaries	5,07,67,912		Out of Foreign Contribution	3,53,60,598
12	Remuneration to the Office Bearers	12			39,49,62,531
4,72,48,354				OTHER INCOME	
1,49,40,256	Administrative and other Expenses	97,09,244		Donation	11,59,305
	Professional Fees:			Educational Fees, Royalties and Other Contributions	4,05,767
1,05,000	Legal Fees	67,500		Recoveries/Reimb. of Exps. from Projects/programmes	8,03,31,896
1,47,500	Audit Fees	1,47,500		Other Infrastructure usage Income including sale proceeds of Assets	10,62,897
1,51,92,756					8,29,59,865
	Amount Written off MOEFCC Grant Receivable	1,34,00,000		Amt. Transfer from Emf-for Gratuity Payable (Moef)	1,62,34,696
	Amount Written off MOEFCC Project Grant	67,96,112		Profit from Sales of South (BLR) Land	13,92,78,919
13,32,971	DEPRECIATION			Excess of Expenditure over Income carried over to Balance Sheet	
	AMOUNT TRANSFERRED TO RESERVE OR SPECIFIC FUND				
20,88,880	Earmarked for Immovable/Movable Properties	38,70,077			
50,00,000	Earmarked Fund for Staff Terminal amount payable	0			
70,88,880					
86,80,872	Excess of Income over Expenditure carried over to Balance Sheet				
43,46,24,370	TOTAL	63,77,61,998	43,46,24,370	TOTAL	63,77,61,997

Notes on Accounts as per Schedule "B"

D. N. Surati
Chief Accounts Officer

Date: 27/09/2024



Kartikya V. Sarabhai
Director

As per our report of Even Date

For Sorab S. Engineer & Co.

Firm Registration No. 110417W

Chartered Accountants

C.A. Chokshi Shreyas B.

Partner

Membership No. 100892

Place: Ahmedabad

27 SEP 2024



RECEIPTS	Rs.	31.3.2024	Rs.	PAYMENTS	Rs.	31.3.2024
OPENING CASH AND BANK BALANCES		103082887		MOVABLE PROPERTIES		
IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES		142500010		Acquired during the year out of own Income & Project		
Sale proceeds out of Bangalore land				Grant		6033660
Out of Grant from Locally Funded/Foreign Funded and Own Programme				MOVABLE PROPERTIES		
Sponsored Projects/Programmes	39008006			Out of Grant from Locally Funded/Foreign Funded and Own Programme		
Out of Foreign Contributions	35360598			Own Activity / Own Project & Programmes	17044275	
Projects & Programme out of CSR Donations	314061407			Locally Funded	28178234	
Own Programmes	17362293			Project & Programmes out of CSR Donation	314061407	
OTHER RECEIPTS				Foreign Contributions	35360597	
Interest on Bank Accounts (Net)	4325986			ESTABLISHMENT AND OTHER OFFICE EXPS		
Infrastructure Usage & Misc. Income	1062897			Salaries	67736249	
Educational Fees. Royalty and other Contribution	405767			Other Administrative Expenses	9303201	
Donation	1159305			Professional fees	67500	
Educational Fees, Recoveries & Reimbursements of Salaries & Overheads	80331896			Audit Fees	147500	
Recovery against Loan to Staff	10551			Micro Processor Maintenance	406043	
Change in balance of Suppliers & Contractors for project	3056801			Payment of BANK OVERDRAFT		77660493
Security Deposit	3198393			GST		2660730
Deposits for services, rent, projects, etc.	2485036			OTHER PAYMENTS		222749
				Change in balance of Advances to NGO's & Others for Projects	13156122	
				Payment of Tax Deducted at Source	5568805	
				Project grant balance	20698192	
				Change in balance of Advances to Others	97654581	
				Advance to Staff	1106471	
				CLOSING CASH AND BANK BALANCES		138184171
						128005517
Total Rs.....		747411833		Total Rs.....		747411833

We have examined and found correct the above account as per the books of account, vouchers etc. produced before us and as per the information and explanations given to us.

D. N. Surati
 Chief Accounts Officer
 Date: 27/09/2024



Kartikeya V. Sarabhai
 Director



As per our report of Even Date
 For Sorab S. Engineer & Co.
 Firm Registration No. 110417W
 Chartered Accountants

For Sorab S. Engineer & Co.
 Firm Registration No. 110417W
 Chartered Accountants
 CA. Chokshi Shreyas B.
 Partner
 Membership No. 100892
 27 SEP 2024

NEHRU FOUNDATION FOR DEVELOPMENT-CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION (SOCIETY)
 Thaltej, Ahmedabad: 380 054, Gujarat

SCHEDULE 'D' ATTACHED TO AND FORMING PART OF THE BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH, 2024

TOTAL				Amount (In Rs.)
31.03.2023	Sr. No.	CASH AND BANK BALANCES	Account No.	TOTAL
				31.03.2024
		A. CURRENT ACCOUNTS		
3,60,869	1	ICICI Bank Ltd. Drive-in Road Br, Ahmedabad	6405000152	20,48,944
9,37,325	2	ICICI Bank Ltd. Pune	7305001057	9,86,678
36,739	3	ICICI Bank Ltd. Hyderabad	805002152	36,739
-	4	ICICI Bank Ltd. Bangalore	625205013670	
6,50,653	5	Central Bank of India, S.M.Road Branch, Ahmedabad.	1100053053	36,055
43,195	6	Bank of India, - Gulbarga (CHAMP)	8793	43,195
-	7	Bank of India, - Gulbarga (CHAMP) 848520110000406	848520110000406	
65,431	8	State Bank of India, Bangalore	35386580718	65,431
-	9	State Bank of India, lucknow	36008048813	
3,59,947	10	Indian Overseas Bank, Thaltej Branch, Ahmedabad	374	15,515
5,00,000	11	HDFC Bank CSR A/c	50200077923722	1
29,54,159		Sub-total "A"		32,32,558
		B. SAVINGS BANK ACCOUNTS		
76,467	1	Bank of India, Basaveswaranagar Branch, Bangalore. (A/c 6056)	6056	76,467
1,27,224	2	Bank of India, Cantonment Branch, Bangalore. (A/c 8435)	8435	54,934
1,40,344	3	Bank of India, Gulbarga	5855	1,40,344
11,08,921	4	State Bank of India, Satellite Road Branch, Ahmedabad-Core	56388003005	1,06,048
87,357	5	State Bank of India, Satellite Road Branch, Ahmedabad-Projects	56388004010	2,61,462
47,855	6	State Bank of India, Satellite Road Branch, Ahmedabad-SDF	56388002943	49,164
4,14,886	7	State Bank of India, Satellite Road Branch, Ahmedabad-SWF	56388002954	4,26,227
		State Bank of India, Satellite Road Branch, Ahmedabad-		
42,75,093	8	CAPART	66011979366	25,15,817
14,74,302	9	HDFC Bank - Drive in road Branch, Ahmedabad CEE-IPP	50100130550280	8,58,939



37,704	10	Corporation Bank, Virajpet Branch, Virajpet.	16068	37,704
30,764	11	State Bank of India, Dharampur Branch	10713663782	30,764
67	12	ICICI Bank Ltd. - in the name of CEE-ICEF Project Account, Delhi	22401000905	67
79,740	13	ICICI Bank Ltd. - DEL-RHSDP Project	34301002177	79,740
8,55,884	14	ICICI Bank Ltd. - Guwahati	634301031898	13,64,856
3,54,750	15	ICICI Bank Ltd. Drive-in Road Br, Ahmedabad(CMU & Zoo)	6401026926	1,41,007
77,404	16	ICICI Bank Ltd. Drive-in Road Br, Ahmedabad(Do Future)	6401026940	1,09,402
2,24,158	17	ICICI Bank Ltd. Drive-in Road Br, Ahmedabad (Industry)	6401026927	14,67,964
33,135	18	ICICI Bank Ltd. Drive-in Road Br, Ahmedabad (NCB)	6401026929	18,15,737
8,28,544	19	ICICI Bank Ltd. Drive-in Road Br, Ahmedabad (RPG & West)	6401026928	13,97,480
7,82,488	20	ICICI Bank Ltd. Drive-in Road Br, Ahmedabad (Studio)	6401026925	15,14,080
6,03,960	21	ICICI Bank Ltd. Drive-in Road Br, Ahmedabad (YEN & PM)	6401026924	9,24,258
14,670	22	ICICI Bank Ltd. Drive-in Road Br, Ahmedabad (WARM)	6401026950	8,542
19,52,365	23	ICICI Bank Ltd. Drive-in Road Br, Ahmedabad (Society)	6401028495	1,95,183
33,73,540	24	ICICI Bank Ltd. Drive-in Road Br, Pune	187801000158	24,07,284
88,10,132	25	ICICI Bank Ltd. Lucknow	628101053040	1,38,11,478
11,843	26	ICICI Bank Ltd. Bhubneshwar	6101020666	11,843
1,50,268	27	ICICI Bank Ltd. Delhi	629401125698	10,48,910
6,15,113	28	ICICI Bank Ltd. Guwahati	634301013835	8,42,016
9,730	29	ICICI Bank Ltd. Coimbatore	1601026712	9,730
8,41,445	30	ICICI Bank Ltd. Goa-Panaji	1501011691	2,25,477
94,08,814	31	ICICI Bank Ltd. Pune	007301045285	55,14,083
11,30,645	32	ICICI Bank Ltd. Bangalore	5455	8,20,486
11,89,234	33	HDFC Bank Ltd. - Srinagar Branch	415110000034	67,45,198
43,36,164	34	HDFC Bank Ltd. - Delhi Branch	3191110000028	3,21,173
50,14,438	35	State Bank of India, ESS Project	31857158451	2,80,22,463
24,282	36	State Bank of India, WG Project	31857154401	24,282
28,253	37	ICICI Bank Ltd. Delhi(CSR a/c)	39601002445	28,253
5,31,118	38	Kotak Mahindra bank Nfd cee a/c camps	412742543	24,119
49,38,952	39	Kotak Mahindra bank Nfd cee a/c west	412742567	16,19,272
39,259	40	Kotak Mahindra bank Gulbarga	412057937	39,259



Page 2 of 4

5,196	41	AXIs Bank Ltd. -CEE A/c EMG	919010036912887	5,517
5,94,358	42	AXIs Bank Ltd. -CEE A/c STUDIO (1362134+3218062.57)	919010037062950	45,80,197
2,036	43	Indian Overseas Bank-Parampara	45002000001876	2,036
	44	ICICI-SA-006401033120	006401033120	21,30,863
5,46,82,902		Sub-total "B"		8,18,10,123
		TOTAL (A+B)		8,50,42,682
		C. Foreign Contribution Account with:		
41,47,789	1	Indian Overseas Bank, Thaltej Branch, Ahmedabad	45001000002931	9,33,584
16,835	2	State Bank of India, Satellite Road Branch, Ahmedabad-R T T	33286906660	17,295
2,31,57,023	3	State Bank of India, Satellite Road Branch, NDMB, New Delhi	40137182929	17,94,798
2,73,21,647		Sub-total "C"		27,45,676
8,49,58,708		Sub -total (A+B+C)		8,77,88,358
		D. FIXED/SHORT TERM DEPOSIT ACCOUNT		
	D1	In Term Deposit Account in the name of Centre for Environment Education with:		
1,34,470	1	State Bank of India, Satellite Branch, Ahmedabad -(NLR Fund)		1,41,950
1,85,509	2	State Bank of India, Satellite Branch, Ahmedabad (Solar Energy society)		1,95,828
6,28,145	3	State Bank of India, Satellite Branch, Ahmedabad		6,28,145
-	4	FDR with ICICI Bank A/c - 628101053040		25,64,413
50,00,000	5	ICICI Bank Ltd. A/c 006401026926		56,12,736
2,476	6	ICICI Bank Ltd. A/c 006401026928		-
14,57,072	7	ICICI Bank Ltd.A/c 007305001057		-
15,00,000	8	ICICI Bank Ltd.A/c 5455		30,00,000
18,19,732	9	ICICI Bank Ltd. A/c 007301045285		1,10,00,000
8,75,535	10	ICICI Bank Ltd. A/c 26925		9,77,775
19,00,000	11	Central Bank of India (SNC Fund)		51,00,000
6,60,000	12	Central Bank of India (Food for SNC)		6,19,060
-	13	FDR WITH Kotak Bank-2567		20,00,000
10,00,000	14	Axis Bank Ltd, Ahmedabad Studio A/c 2950		10,22,060
	15	FDR with ICICI 28495- against Land Fund		1,81,658
1,51,62,939		Sub-total "D1"		3,30,43,625



Page 3 of 4

		In Term Deposit Account in the name of Centre for Environment Education A/c.Foreign Contribution Fund with:		
29,56,400	D2	1 Indian Overseas Bank, Thaltej Branch, Ahmedabad		71,33,907
29,56,400		Sub-total "D2"		71,33,907
1,81,19,339		Sub-total "D"		4,01,77,532
0	E.	CHEQUES ON HAND		-
4,840	F.	CASH ON HAND		39,627
10,30,82,887		TOTAL "A" TO "F"		12,80,05,517

[Signature]
D. N. Surati
Chief Accounts Officer
Date: 27 /09 / 2024

Place: Ahmedabad



[Signature]
Kartikeya V. Sarabhai
Director

As per our report of Even Date
For Sorab S. Engineer & Co.
Firm Registration No. 110417W
Chartered Accountants
[Signature]
C.A. Chokshi Shreyas B.
Partner
Membership No. 100892

27 SEP 2024



NEHRU FOUNDATION FOR DEVELOPMENT- CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION (SOCIETY)
(Registered under The Societies Act, 1860) Regd.No.GUJ/1043(Ahmedabad),Thaltej Tekra,Ahmedabad.380054.

SCHEDULE "B"

NOTES ATTACHED TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2023-24

- 1.5 **Investments**
Long-term investments are carried at cost less any other than temporary diminution in value, determined separately for each individual investment. Current investments are carried at lower of cost and fair value.
- 1.6 **Inventories**
Inventories are valued at lower of Cost or net realizable value.
The consumable stores and spares are charged to expenses at the point of their purchases.
- 2 The Society's buildings are constructed on the land of Nehru Foundation for Development.
- 3 Debit/Credit balances of parties are subject to confirmations. Necessary adjustment, if any, will be made in the accounts on settlement of the respective accounts.
- 4 Corresponding figures of the previous year have been regrouped to make them comparable with figures of current year, wherever necessary.

As per our report of Even Date

For Sorab S. Engineer & Co.
Firm Registration No. 110417W
Chartered Accountants
[Signature]
C.A. Chokshi Shreyas B.
Partner
Membership No. 100892
Place: Ahmedabad
Date: 27 SEP 2024

[Signature]
D. N. Surati
Chief Accounts Officer
Date: 27/09/2024



[Signature]
Kartikeya V. Sarabhai
Director



SCHEDULE "B"

NOTES ATTACHED TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2023-24

1 Significant Accounting Policies followed:

- 1.1 The accounts are maintained on accrual system of accounting subject to following exceptions.
- a. The amount advanced to various Governmental and Non-Governmental agencies for projects and programmes activities are shown under the head "Amount due/Receivable for Project expenses" and the same will be adjusted in the books on receipt of the statements of accounts from respective agencies.
 - b. Liabilities in respect of employees' benefits such as gratuity, leave encashment, etc., are accounted for as and when paid.
 - c. Advances given to employees for travel, for project expenses and are accounted for as and when bills for respective expenses are submitted by concerned employees.

1.2 Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles in India requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent liabilities on the date of the financial statements. Actual results may differ from those estimates. Any revision to accounting estimates is recognized prospectively in current and future

1.3 Fixed Assets

Fixed Assets are stated at cost. Cost means purchase price and / or erection / commissioning charges of fixed assets and other charges directly attributable to the cost of fixed assets.

1.4 Depreciation:

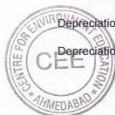
The Society has started providing for depreciation on assets from the financial year 2003-04 based on the directions given by the Centre's Finance Committee based on the recommendation of Indian Audit & Accounts

Depreciation is calculated on Straight Line method on Society's Own Assets and Assets acquired out of MoEF Grant except on Building. The depreciation is accumulated under the head Depreciation Fund.

Asset	Rate (%)
Furniture and Equipment	10.00
Computer & Peripherals	20.00
Vehicle	20.00
Library Books	10.00

Depreciation on additions has been provided for the full year irrespective of date of acquisition.

Depreciation provision has not been made on assets acquired out of Projects/Programme Funding.



CEE

Centre for Environment Education

Centre for Environment Education

Thaltej Tekra, Ahmedabad- 380 054

Phone : 91-79-26858002 to 05 Fax : 91-79-26858010

Email: cee@ceeindia.org Website: www.ceeindia.org

**Founded as a Centre of Excellence of the Ministry of Environment, Forest
and Climate Change, Government of India**

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