

CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development

Established in 2006 with CII, the CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development (CESD) advances the Triple Bottom Line across Indian industry by enabling Government-industry dialogue on regulations, stakeholder engagement on global policy developments, and thought leadership on macro-economic issues and the sustainability agenda. Key highlights during the year include:

Building Climate Resilience and Low Carbon Economy

- CESD strengthened industry capacity to address climate risks through policy advocacy, research, and capacity building. The Physical Climate Risk Assessment Framework (PCRAF) was enhanced through pilot projects to help businesses assess climate risks across operations and value chains.
- The CII Climate Action Charter (CCAC) supported companies—especially MSMEs—in GHG accounting, decarbonisation pathways, and access to climate finance, while supporting India's transition to a low carbon, climate resilient economy.

Advancing Creation of a Circular Economy

- The Centre promoted circular economy adoption through collaboration with regulators to strengthen Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) frameworks, waste policies, and sustainability standards.
- The CII India Plastics Pact advanced recyclable packaging, reduced virgin plastic use, and increased recycled content through industry partnerships and knowledge-sharing platforms.

Nature Positive Actions

- Through the India Business and Biodiversity Initiative

(IBBI), CESD strengthened corporate engagement on biodiversity conservation and nature-related risks.

- The Centre supported companies in integrating ecological considerations into business decisions and aligning with emerging nature-related disclosure frameworks.

Enhancing Solutions for Clean Air

- CESD led clean air initiatives through platforms such as the India CEO Forum for Clean Air and the Clean Air Better Life, promoting cleaner production, efficient logistics, clean construction practices and agricultural residue management.
- The Centre also enabled cross-sector collaboration and policy support for scalable emission reduction solutions.

Facilitating an Enabling Ecosystem for ESG Reporting

- The Centre contributed to strengthening India's ESG reporting ecosystem by supporting refinements to the Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) framework.
- It also helped companies move beyond compliance through digital solutions to improve ESG governance and data credibility.

Knowledge Exchange and Excellence in Sustainability

- CESD continued as a national hub for sustainability dialogue through forums like the Sustainability Summit. Through training, assessments, and initiatives such as the CII-ITC Sustainability Awards, it enabled organisations to integrate sustainability in their business.



ITC Sangeet Research Academy

The ITC Sangeet Research Academy (ITC SRA) was established by ITC in 1977 as an independent Public Charitable Trust with the aim of 'enabling enduring excellence in the preservation, propagation and education of Hindustani classical music'.

The objective of ITC SRA is to create the next generation of masters of Hindustani Classical Music. The methodology of training is based on the age-old principles of 'Guru Shishya Parampara'. The Academy is modelled as a professionally-run institution that epitomises the teaching of Hindustani Raga music. Through its eminent Gurus, it imparts intensive training in Hindustani classical music to its Scholars. The present Gurus of the Academy are Padma Bhushan Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty, Padmashri Pandit Ulhas Kashalkar, Pandit Partha Chatterjee, Pandit Uday Bhawalkar, Vidushi Subhra Guha, Shri Omkar Dadarkar, Shri Abir Hossain and Shri Brajeswar Mukherjee. Alongside, there are five Musician Tutors teaching Scholars with great dedication, among whom one is visually challenged. The Academy has 48 Scholars engaged in learning music, of which two are visually challenged.

The focus of the Academy remains the nurturing of exceptionally gifted students carefully hand-picked from across India, who receive full scholarship to reside and pursue music education in the Academy's

campus and in other designated locations under the tutelage of the country's most distinguished musicians. The Scholars of the Academy have excelled in many ways, receiving national scholarships given by both the Ministry of Human Resources and the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, and qualifying for other prestigious awards and accolades. They perform in very well attended music festivals organised by the Academy in Kolkata, including the prestigious annual ITC Sangeet Sammelan. Additionally, through collaborations with organisers nationwide, the Academy presents its Scholars and young musicians in ITC Mini Sangeet Sammelans, concerts and Baithaks in various locations like Bidar, Gandhinagar, Jalgaon, Jabalpur, Nashik, Dehradun, Jaipur, Chandigarh, Mangalore, Chennai, Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, etc enabling the Academy to fulfil its avowed objective of preserving and propagating Hindustani Classical Music.

A two-day Thumri Festival in February 2026 commemorating the iconic Thumri virtuoso Vidushi Shobha Gurtu on her centenary, alongside a Malhar Festival in August 2025 were among the Academy's other programmes in Kolkata.

ITC SRA is an embodiment of your Company's sustained commitment to a priceless legacy and national heritage.