

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CIRCULAR ECONOMY
(ICCE)

Empowering Progress, Purpose & People, for a Regenerative Future

Annual Report - 2024-25



International Council For Circular Economy

2025 Annual Report

Section-8 Company under the Companies Act of 2013

Ministry of Corporate Affairs

**ICCE's Supervisory Board hereby respectfully
submits this Annual Report for 2024-25**

New Delhi, India, 8th June'25

On behalf of ICCE's Supervisory Board

Shalini Goyal Bhalla,
Founder & Managing Director

Ravindra Dahiya,
Co-Founder & CFO

Registered Office

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What is ICCE?

The pioneer Indian Think-Tank: INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CIRCULAR ECONOMY (**ICCE**) has played a transformative role in India. We recognize local challenges, identify gaps, and collaborate with our partners to develop effective solutions. ICCE completes its 5 years in July'25. Our offices are situated in New Delhi and Gurgaon.

- We collaborate with local partners across India
- As the voice of the Global South, we engage with global partners
- We aim to enhance India's well-being and foster sustainable economic growth

As a not-for-profit, Section-8 company, our funding primarily comes from- Training programs, Capacity building, Certified courses, Memberships, and Sponsorships.

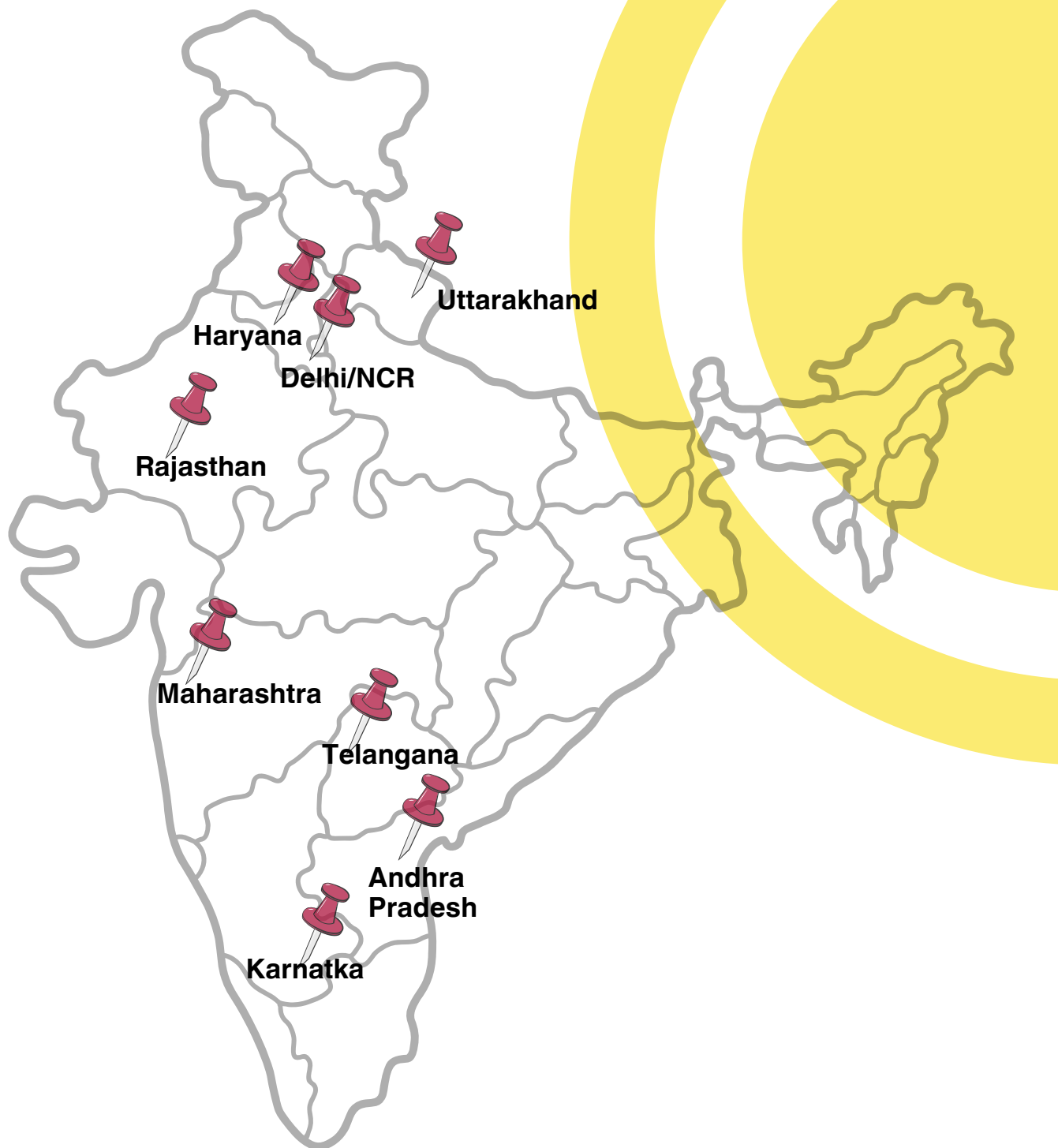
ICCE's approach focuses on enabling future-readiness through strategic foresight, option of practical models—from zero-waste livelihoods and climate-smart policies to circular business practices and green skills training. These efforts are not only helping Indian industries, cities, and institutions transition towards circularity but are also offering scalable models for fellow nations in the Global South.

Our strategy is based on three key pillars:

- **Knowledge and Innovation:** Developing insights, tools, and frameworks that empower stakeholders to act on circular opportunities.
- **Collaboration and Capacity:** Building ecosystems through multi-sectoral partnerships, institutional collaborations, and grassroots empowerment.
- **Action and Implementation:** Piloting bold ideas and replicable solutions that deliver both environmental and socio-economic outcomes.

A brighter future requires action today.

ICCE in India



ICCE globally



01

Statement of Advisory Board

As members of the Advisory Board of the International Council for Circular Economy (ICCE), we are proud to acknowledge the remarkable journey and impact of ICCE over the past five years. What began as a pioneering vision to mainstream circular economy in India has grown into a nationally and globally recognized institution—anchoring transformative change across policy, practice, and people.

ICCE has demonstrated an exceptional foresight in recognizing circularity not merely as an environmental imperative, but as a strategic pathway for inclusive development and long-term resilience. Its ability to connect grassroots realities with top-level policy frameworks has positioned it uniquely in India's sustainability landscape. From driving zero-waste livelihood models in rural India to influencing national and international dialogues on climate action, resource efficiency, and circular economy, ICCE has consistently bridged gaps that often hinder systemic change.

Over the years, ICCE has worked relentlessly to build institutional capacity, influence legislative discourse, and promote innovation across sectors. Its close collaboration with ministries, academic institutions, corporations, and civil society reflects a deep commitment to fostering partnerships that drive results. Notably, ICCE's involvement in policy advisory roles, its development of knowledge frameworks, and the successful hosting of the India Circular Economy Forum have created a lasting impact on the transition towards a regenerative and circular economy.

Equally commendable is ICCE's emphasis on skilling the youth—our future change agents. Through carefully designed capacity-building programs, university collaborations, and online learning platforms, ICCE has prepared a new generation of professionals equipped with the knowledge and tools to lead in the circular economy transition. In a world where green jobs and sustainable thinking will shape the next economic frontier, this investment in human capital is not only timely but visionary.

Looking ahead, we firmly believe ICCE is well-positioned to continue playing a leadership role for India and the wider Global South. It has set a high benchmark in action-oriented thought leadership, and its work will be indispensable in realizing a just, circular, and climate-resilient future.

We extend our deepest appreciation to the ICCE leadership, team members, partners, and supporters who have contributed to this impactful journey.

Thank you for your continued support and belief in our mission.

Sincerely,

The Advisory Board
International Council for Circular Economy (ICCE)

Mr. Bhaskar Chatterjee, Former IAS, Independent Consultant- CSR & Sustainability

Mr. S. Ramasundaram, Retired IAS Officer, 1979 Batch, Tamil Nadu Cadre

Mr. Pooran Chandra Pandey, Fellow, Central European University, Brussels & Budapest

Mr. Edward Clarence-Smith, Sr. Advisor on Circular Economy, Austria

Mr. Piotr Barczak, Program Manager, ACEN Foundation

Mr. Axel Daurt, European & International Affairs Advisor, Circular Economy

India | 30th June



Prominent People



Padmashree Dr. Vasudevan
Plastic Road Man of India

I am very happy and excited to write a special note for the 5th annual report of the ICCE. As we all aware that the International Council for Circular Economy ICCE is a company committed to accelerate a transition to a Circular Economy that is restorative and regenerative by design. I am thrilled to visualize the expansion of ICCE in various Fields of activities throughout these 5 years. The expansions provide guidance for the future of India. My heartfelt congratulations to the whole team of ICCE, a special mention to Ms. Shalini.

The annual report clearly exhibits the ultimate goal of collaboration, innovation (indovation) and strong regularity frameworks, which helps in the development of the cornerstones of activity. I am also happy to observe that the book titled “I am circular” acts to provide representation of Indians innovation potential in the domain of circular economy. It is a great thought to be promoted with fascination to develop India. The MOU ICCE has signed with Association of Indian Universities will certainly help to bring the true knowledge about circular economy among the budding younger Indians.

Being a team member of ICCE, I pray the Lord Srikrishna to bless all of us in moving forward and to take ICCE to a greater height, which would form the light house of the India’s future developments. All the best. Thank you

Dr.R.Vasudevan (Padma Shri Awardee)
TCE EIACP PC RP – Coordinator, Prof. of Chemistry
Advisor, ICCE



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a word from the Chair

As I reflect upon the journey of the International Council for Circular Economy (ICCE) over the past five years, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude. From our inception in August 2020, ICCE has steadfastly pursued its mission to embed circular economy principles across India's diverse sectors, even amidst unprecedented global challenges.

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic tested our resilience, compelling us to adapt swiftly to a rapidly changing environment. Simultaneously, geopolitical shifts underscored the urgency of building sustainable and self-reliant systems. Despite these hurdles, ICCE emerged stronger, expanding its reach and deepening its impact across the nation and the Global South.

Our commitment to fostering a circular economy has manifested in several key initiatives:

- **Policy Engagement and Thought Leadership:** ICCE has actively contributed to national policy dialogues, including participation in NITI Aayog's committees on transitioning from a linear to a circular economy. Our involvement in the India Circular Economy Forum (ICEF) has facilitated critical discussions on circular practices, with support from ministries such as the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

- **Capacity Building and Education:** Recognizing the pivotal role of education in driving systemic change, ICCE has launched certified courses in collaboration with institutions like All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). Our efforts have also led to the integration of circular economy principles into university curricula, exemplified by our Memorandum of Understanding with the Association of Indian Universities.
- **Industry Collaboration and Innovation:** ICCE has partnered with industry leaders to promote sustainable practices. Our workshops, such as those conducted with ABFRL, JSW Cement, have empowered industries to adopt circular strategies. Additionally, our publications, including the 'I Am Circular' coffee table book, showcase 30 innovative circular economy solutions from India, inspiring stakeholders nationwide.
- **Youth Engagement and Skill Development:** Understanding that the youth are the torchbearers of sustainable change, ICCE has prioritized skill development programs, enabling young professionals to become champions of circularity in their respective fields.

Our endeavors have not been confined to India alone. ICCE's participation in international forums and collaborations, such as the Green Strategic Partnership with Denmark, has positioned India as a leader in the global circular economy movement.

As we look ahead, our vision remains clear: to catalyze a transition towards a regenerative, inclusive, and resilient economy. The path is challenging, but with collective effort and unwavering commitment, we can redefine growth and prosperity for India and the Global South.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated team, partners, and stakeholders who have been instrumental in this journey. Together, we will continue to drive transformative change for a sustainable future.



Shalini Goyal Bhalla
Founder & Managing Director
International Council for Circular Economy

03 vision

Redefining lives by embracing and spreading global change to make the dawn of a new circular era.



**REGENERATE
NATURAL
SYSTEMS**

**DESIGNING OUT
WASTE AND
POLLUTION**

**SECONDARY
AND TERTIARY
RESOURCE USE**

mission

At ICCE, we aim to drive a circular transition that delivers environmental, economic and social benefits. In doing so, we work to actively improve the link between the circular economy and wider global issues. These include reducing greenhouse gas emissions, mitigating the Climate Change impact, building resilient supply chains, promoting circular business models and decarbonization.



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Strategic Goals

1. Mainstream Circular Economy in Policy

Influence national and state-level policies to integrate circular economy principles across key sectors, enabling regulatory transformation and long-term resilience.

2. Strengthen Industry Transition

Facilitate sector-specific circular economy roadmaps and partnerships to support Indian industries in adopting sustainable, resource-efficient business models.

3. Empower the Workforce of the Future

Equip over 1 million students and professionals across India with circular economy knowledge and skills through certified courses, training programs, and academic partnerships.

4. Foster Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Support the development and scale-up of innovative circular solutions and startups, especially from the Global South, that address local and systemic sustainability challenges.

5. Enable Grassroots Livelihoods and Inclusion

Drive inclusive circular economy projects that generate dignified livelihoods, especially for women, youth, and marginalized communities, through zero-waste and regenerative models.

6. Advance Knowledge and Foresight

Develop high-impact research, tools, and thought leadership to guide stakeholders in future-readiness, systems thinking, and climate-responsive circularity.

7. Position India as a Global South Leader

Strengthen India's voice and leadership in international circular economy forums, fostering South-South cooperation and showcasing replicable Indian solutions.

Solutions for India

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Pioneering Circularity in world's biggest democracy



In a time of complex environmental, social, and economic challenges, India stands at a pivotal moment in redefining development through the lens of circularity. At the International Council for Circular Economy (ICCE), we are committed to shaping a sustainable and inclusive future by unlocking transformative solutions that emerge from within India and resonate across the Global South.

Our work is firmly grounded in the realities of today while shaping the systems of tomorrow. We serve as a catalyst for change by connecting policy, industry, education, and communities—guiding them toward a shared vision of resource efficiency, regenerative growth, and long-term resilience. Every initiative led or supported by ICCE is a step toward embedding circular economy principles into mainstream development.

The transition to a circular economy requires collective ambition. ICCE continues to work hand-in-hand with governments, corporations, academia, and communities—bridging silos to co-create solutions that are locally anchored and globally relevant.

As we look ahead, our mission remains clear: to ensure that India leads the Global South in turning sustainability challenges into opportunities for inclusive progress. By nurturing innovation, fostering foresight, and investing in shared success, ICCE is laying the foundation for a just, circular, and regenerative future—starting HERE, starting NOW.



A word cloud of sustainability and development terms on a yellow background. The words are arranged in a loose, organic shape. The colors of the words vary, including shades of brown, purple, and grey. The words are: biodiversity, circular-design, textiles, management, capacity-building, food, electronics, skilling, net-zero, msme, waste, education, plastics, decarbonization, and agriculture.

biodiversity circular-design
textiles management
capacity-building food
electronics skilling
net-zero msme waste
education plastics
decarbonization
agriculture

Key Focus Areas

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Global Action, Local Solutions

**Industrial Transition
to Regenerative
Circular Business
Models**

**Fostering Innovation
and Entrepreneurship
for Contextual, Local
Solutions**

**Skilling and
Building Capacity to
enable scalable
Solutions**



Key Projects in the Past Year

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Expanding the Circular Dialogue through Strategic Collaborations

Throughout the year, ICCE has amplified engagement in the circular economy transition in MSMEs by building a strong network of influencers, mentors, institutional members, and collaborators. These voices have contributed meaningfully to shaping inclusive and forward-looking conversations on the future of sustainability in India and the Global South.

Empowering Over 2,00,000 Students with Circular Economy Skills

ICCE has successfully trained more than 2,00,000 students across India in circular economy principles, equipping them with future-ready skills to lead in sustainable industries. These youth leaders are now positioned to drive long-term change through innovation and climate-responsive thinking.

Shaping Future Leadership through Strategic Training Programs

ICCE has played a pivotal role in cultivating leadership for a sustainable future. From contributing to India's Fourth National workshop taken by the Hon'ble PM to training officials at Pollution Control Boards, Vice Chancellors, and industry executives—ICCE's programs have strengthened decision-making capacities at multiple levels.

Contributing to the National Policy Agenda

By providing critical recommendations to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Ministry of Textiles (MoT), Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), and Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), ICCE has actively shaped India's circular economy policy framework, aligning it with global best practices and local needs.

Guiding Measures to Combat Biodiversity Loss

Over the past two years, ICCE has undertaken extensive research and advocacy on biodiversity conservation. Our two recent reports provide actionable insights on fostering a regenerative economy that respects biodiversity and supports ecological resilience, contributing to national and global dialogues on nature-based solutions.

Focus on the Global South as per the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration

Following extensive consultations with the Government of India and international stakeholders, ICCE is working extensively Global South on Circular Economy and related areas. This initiative focusses on driving inclusive, circular, and sustainable development across emerging economies, positioning India as a key enabler of global circular transformation.

Unique initiatives fostering an innovative environment

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The “**I Am Circular**” Challenge 2024 stands as a landmark initiative by the International Council for Circular Economy (ICCE), in strategic collaboration with the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** (MeitY) and the **Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA)** to the Government of India. This nationwide program was conceived to identify, celebrate, and scale innovative circular economy solutions that address pressing sustainability challenges across sectors.

Empowering Innovation Across Three Pillars
The challenge invited applications from startups, enterprises, and innovators whose products or services aligned with one or more of the following themes:

- **Design to Last:** Focusing on durable, repairable, and enduring innovations that reduce the need for frequent replacements.
- **Work with Nature:** Promoting solutions that harness natural processes, materials, and systems, fostering a harmonious relationship with the environment.
- **Using Existing Resources:** Encouraging products or services that creatively repurpose or recycle materials, minimizing waste and maximizing resource efficiency.

The initiative was open to both Indian and international entities across all sectors and industries, aiming to spotlight solutions that are scalable, inclusive, and aligned with circular economy principles.

Celebrating Innovation: The 'I Am Circular' Coffee Table Book

Culminating the challenge, MeitY hosted the release of the 'I Am Circular' Coffee Table Book on April 23, 2025. Curated by ICCE, this publication showcases 30 of India's most promising circular economy innovations identified through the challenge. These innovations span areas such as electronic waste recycling, IoT-based circular solutions, green materials, and digital repair platforms, reflecting a future where resources are used responsibly, waste is minimized, and technology and sustainability converge.



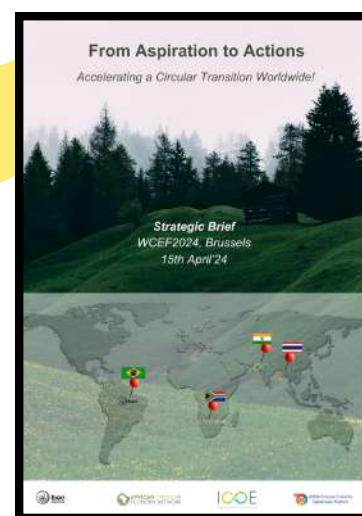
"This initiative aligns with MeitY's vision of integrating technology for responsible growth and inclusive development. The 'I Am Circular' book stands as a proud representation of India's innovation potential in the domain of circular economy."

Shri Abhishek Singh,
Former Additional Secretary
MeitY



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As a member of the International Council for Circular Economy (ICCE) family, I am proud to reflect on a year that has witnessed remarkable momentum in India's transition toward a regenerative, inclusive, and resource-efficient future. Circular economy is no longer a peripheral concept—it is becoming the core strategy for achieving India's sustainable development goals, green industrialization, and climate resilience.

The International Council for Circular Economy (ICCE), has now established itself as a pioneering institution rooted in India yet operating with global vision, and has made significant strides in embedding circular economy principles into mainstream development discourse and public policy. We have done well to amplify the message that 'waste is a resource' and that the future lies in designing out waste, keeping materials in use, and regenerating natural systems. Circularity is not just an environmental necessity; it is an economic and social opportunity, particularly for a nation as youthful and resource-rich as India.

A cornerstone of our efforts this year has been youth engagement. With over 65% of India's population below the age of 35, the youth are the change makers who will reimagine production and consumption systems. Through fellowships, innovation challenges, circular design labs, and grassroots outreach, ic-ec has catalysed a youth-led movement towards sustainable entrepreneurship, circular start-ups, and localized circular solutions.

These engagements not only empower youth with green skills but also embed systems thinking and lifecycle perspectives into their worldviews.

I am particularly impressed with the fact that ic-ec has continued and deepened its work with policymakers and industry leaders to craft roadmaps that blend innovation, policy and grassroots impact. The future of Indian industry is circular—not just through a half hearted adoption of sustainability through green washing or CSR, but in circularity lies a core strategy rooted in systemic redesign and value retention. Moreover, the ic-ec's continued advocacy has catalysed the incorporation of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in key sectors, incentivized regenerative business models, and encouraged industries to adopt science-based targets. The team has also been reasonably successful in the integration of circular economy principles in public procurement, making sustainability not an add-on, but a competitive advantage.

Where linear economies have historically excluded marginalized communities, circular models are driving livelihood regeneration. Whether through community-based repair cafés, decentralized material recovery facilities, bio-economy innovations, or digital platforms for sharing economies, circularity is unlocking dignified livelihoods and resilient local economies. Our council continues to build partnerships that ensure women, informal workers, and rural youth are central to this transformation.

As India navigates a new developmental trajectory, the circular economy must evolve from isolated projects to a national movement, deeply embedded in and integrated with economic planning, industrial strategy, and grassroots action. The future demands not only minimizing waste or managing resources better, but restructuring how we produce, consume, and distribute value chain, in a way that ensures social upliftment, economic inclusion, and long-term environmental sustainability. For me, circularity in India must focus on five key enablers:

1. Mainstreaming Circular Thinking in Policy and Governance:

Circular economy should be integrated across all relevant national and state-level policies—including waste management, MSME development, rural livelihoods, and industrial policy. Enabling legislation around green jobs, EPR expansion, regenerative agriculture, and circular procurement can provide the institutional backbone for circular practices to thrive. Special economic zones for circular startups and fiscal incentives for businesses adopting resource-efficient technologies will accelerate adoption at scale.

2. Empowering Socially Responsible Enterprises and MSMEs:

The next wave of circular transformation lies in empowering small and medium enterprises that form the majority of India's production base. By providing them access to green finance, digital tools, reverse logistics, and sustainable design support, we can de-risk circular innovation for MSMEs. These businesses can become local engines of employment, especially in sectors like repair and reuse, sustainable textiles, renewable energy, and agri-waste valorisation. Social enterprises and women-led cooperatives should be prioritized in this transformation, ensuring that social equity is woven into economic progress.

3. Investing in Green Skills and Youth Engagement:

Our youth are not just future leaders—they are today's innovators. Scaling circular education, vocational training, and skill certification in

schools, colleges, and skilling programs will create a workforce equipped for the green economy. Youth must be given platforms to design, test, and scale community-based circular solutions. From circular fashion to community composting, their ideas must be matched with mentorship, funding, and recognition.

4. Strengthening Community Participation and Livelihood Generation:

Circular economy must work for the people and with the people. Community engagement is essential—particularly among informal workers, waste pickers, artisans, and rural micro-entrepreneurs. ic-ec's model of inclusive circular innovation, where local knowledge is combined with circular design, must be scaled across India.

5. Building Collaborative Ecosystems:

Achieving a circular future is not the job of one sector. Academia, industry, civil society, government, and citizens must co-create ecosystems of innovation, regulation, and behaviour change. Platforms like the International Council for Circular Economy are critical for enabling cross-sectorial collaboration, knowledge sharing, and impact-driven partnerships. These networks can also connect Indian circular innovators with global markets, amplifying India's leadership in the sustainability space.

As we look forward with hope for a more circular and sustainable future, our vision remains clear: to make India a global model for circular development—where materials flow in closed loops, economies flourish within planetary boundaries, and every citizen becomes a steward of sustainability.



Mr. Bhaskar Chatterjee
(Retr. IAS Officer)
Advisor, ICCE

Our Team



Padmashri
Dr. Rajagopalan Vasudevan
Plastic Man of India



Padmashri
Dr. G.D. Yadav
Former VC, ICT Mumbai



Mr. Bhaskar Chatterjee
(Retr. IAS Officer),
Independent Consultant- CSR & Sustainability



Mr. Pooran Chandra Pandey,
Fellow, Central European University,
Brussels & Budapest



Mr. S. Ramasundaram
Retr. IAS Officer,
TN Cadre



Mr. Piotr Barczak
CE-Program Manager
ACEN Foundation



Mr. Edward Clarence-Smith
Sr. Advisor on CE
Austria



Mr. Axel Daurt
Founder, Circlearth
Netherlands

Board of Directors



Ravinder Dahiya
Co-Founder &
Chief Finance Officer



Shalini Goyal Bhalla
Founder &
Managing Director



Preety Chinda
Chief Technical Officer



Sandeep Chinda
Chief Strategy Officer

Council of Prominent People

The International Council for Circular Economy has two well-renowned people on our Board. They are our chief mentors. They met the board once in the year 2024-25.

Padmashri Dr. Rajagopalan Vasudevan, also popularly known as the Plastic Man of India and Padmashri DR.G.D.Yadav, Former Vice Chancellor ICT, Mumbai, India.

Board of Directors

ICCE's Board of Directors met six times in 2024-25. The members of the Board of Directors are- Ravinder Dahiya, Co-Founder and Chief Finance Officer (Master in Business Administration), Shalini Goyal Bhalla, Founder and Managing Director (M.Sc. in Environment and Ecology), Sandeep Chinda, Chief Strategy Officer (Bachelor in Technology), and Preety Chinda, Chief Technical Officer (Bachelor in Technology).

The Board of Directors prepares the matters to be taken to the Advisory Board and is responsible for the overall management of the council.

Board of Advisors

ICCE's Board of Advisors met two times in 2024-25. The task of the Advisory Board is to supervise ICCE's administration and decide on its operational principles.

Mr. Bhaskar Chatterjee, Former IAS, Independent Consultant- CSR & Sustainability

Mr. S. Ramasundaram, Retired IAS Officer, 1979 Batch, Tamil Nadu Cadre

Mr. Pooran Chandra Pandey, Fellow, Central European University, Brussels & Budapest

Mr. Edward Clarence-Smith, Sr. Advisor on Circular Economy, Austria

Mr. Piotr Barczak, Program Manager, ACEN Foundation

Mr Axel Daurt, European & International Affairs Advisor, Circular Economy

Auditors

Sunita Rana & Co.

Chartered Accountants





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TOGETHER WE CAN CHANGE

Waste to Wealth | Refused to Reused | Linear to Circular

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