



**FKCCI  
GLOBAL CSR &  
SUSTAINABILITY  
SUMMIT - 2026**  
Sustainability at Scale

PURPOSE LOCAL ACTION GLOBAL IMPACT

Conference | Awards



Government of  
Karnataka



Estd. 1916



Network India

**ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಮಹಾಸಂಘ**

**Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry**

in association with

**UN Global Compact Network India**

# FKCCI GLOBAL CSR SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT 2026

## EVENT REPORT



Thursday  
**JULY 23, 2026**



**Sir M V Auditorium, FKCCI**  
K.G. Road, Bengaluru

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## Executive Summary

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The FKCCI Global CSR and Sustainability Summit 2026, themed “Sustainability at Scale” was organised by the Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI) third edition of its CSR and sustainability conclave, and the first to be held as a fully global platform. The summit brought together the Government of Karnataka, the United Nations Global Compact Network India, diplomatic representatives, industry leaders, academic institutions, non-governmental organisations and corporate CSR practitioners for a day of keynote addresses, data-led presentations, panel discussions, leadership dialogues and an awards ceremony recognising excellence in CSR and sustainability practice.

The summit was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka, Shri D.K. Shivakumar, who used the occasion to issue a clear policy direction to Karnataka's corporate sector: that CSR spending in the state estimated by the Chief Minister at more than ₹10,000 crore annually should prioritise the adoption and infrastructure upgrading of government primary schools, particularly in rural and peri-urban Karnataka, ahead of other categories of spend. The Chief Minister also released an MSME ESG readiness report prepared by FKCCI's research partner, underscoring the state's intent to extend ESG and sustainability disclosure practices down to the MSME segment.

FKCCI Research Centre presented original data on the Karnataka CSR landscape, highlighting that while Karnataka contributes close to 9% of India's GDP, it receives only around 6.5% of the country's CSR spend a gap of approximately 2.4 percentage points relative to its economic weight alongside significant gaps in district-level CSR reporting and a concentration of CSR spend within the education and skilling sector relative to other priority areas

The proceedings were welcomed by Ms. Uma Reddy, President, FKCCI, and opened with remarks from Mr. Keerthan Kumar M, Chairman of FKCCI's CSR Committee. The summit featured addresses from Mr. Ratnesh, Executive Director, UN Global Compact Network India; Mr. Girish Luthra, Chairman, Luthra Group and Chairman, MSME/CSR at FICCI; a video address from the United Nations Resident Coordinator's office in India; and a special address from Her Excellency Ms. Orli Weitsman, Consul General of Israel to South India. Panel discussions covered artificial intelligence for social impact, healthcare beyond hospitals, quality education and future-ready skilling, and sustainable urban development, while a dedicated leadership dialogue track showcased women leaders in industry and education. The day concluded with the Global CSR and Sustainability Excellence Awards 2026, in which a 20-member independent jury evaluated 127 submissions from corporates, NGOs, MSMEs and educational institutions across 11 categories, recognising 45 awardees.

This report documents the proceedings of the summit for the record and for submission to set a policy-relevant observations arising from the day's discussions, intended to support continued collaboration between the Government of Karnataka and Karnataka's corporate and CSR ecosystem.

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## About the Summit

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The FKCCI Global CSR and Sustainability Summit is an annual initiative of the Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry's CSR Committee, chaired by Mr. Keerthan Kumar M with Professor Abhishek Ranjan serving as Advisor to the CSR Committee. The summit has grown in scope across three editions: the first edition was convened as a Karnataka-focused CSR summit; the second was expanded to a pan-India CSR conclave; and the 2026 edition the subject of this report was convened as the first fully global edition, incorporating international speakers, jury members and delegates.

The 2026 edition was preceded by a curtain-raiser event on 16 April, and by a pre-conference masterclass on artificial intelligence for the social sector. The main-day proceedings comprised an inaugural session, a masterclass and panel track through the day, a leadership dialogue segment, and a closing awards ceremony in the evening the Global CSR and Sustainability Excellence Awards 2026.

## Institutional Partners

The summit was convened in association with the UN Global Compact Network India and was supported by the following partners:

- Knowledge Partner: India CSR
- MSME ESG: We School Welingkar - Research Partner
- Platinum Sponsor: CleanMax
- Diamond Sponsor: Satsang Foundation
- Silver Sponsors: Surya Institute of Management and Science; Sairam Institutions; KindCart; MSIL

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## 1. Inaugural Session

The inaugural session was opened with the welcome of dignitaries onto the dais, including the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka, Mr. Ratnesh (Executive Director, UN Global Compact Network India), Mr. Girish Luthra (Chairman, Luthra Group and Chairman, MSME/CSR at FICCI), Ms. Uma Reddy (President, FKCCI), Mr. B.P. Shashidhar (Vice President, FKCCI), Mr. Keerthan Kumar M (Chairman, CSR Committee, FKCCI) and Professor Abhishek Ranjan (Advisor, CSR Committee, FKCCI).

### 1.1 Welcome Address - President, FKCCI



**Ms. Uma Reddy, President, FKCCI**, delivered the formal welcome address, describing the summit as a landmark conference on corporate social responsibility, ESG and sustainability, and welcoming the Chief Minister, the diplomatic and UN dignitaries, past FKCCI presidents and philanthropists in the audience, and delegates who had travelled from Pune, Chennai, Surat and Delhi for the event.

Ms. Uma Reddy noted that CSR spend in Karnataka had grown by approximately 45.8% since 2024-25, to a figure she cited as approximately ₹396 crore for the preceding year. She framed ESG as having “moved from margins to the mainstream” and CSR as having “evolved from philanthropy to strategic nation-building,” and welcomed the Chief Minister’s call for industry to adopt government schools as “a shining example of that philosophy,” committing FKCCI to partner with the Government of Karnataka on the initiative. She also congratulated Mr. Keerthan Kumar M and Professor Abhishek Ranjan for organising the summit, and acknowledged FKCCI’s sponsors and the many past presidents who have taken up CSR and philanthropic work independently.

### 1.2 Opening Remarks - Chairman, CSR Committee, FKCCI

**Mr. Keerthan Kumar M**, Chairman, CSR Committee, FKCCI, gave the opening remarks and prelude to the summit, tracing its origin to a curtain-raiser held on 16 April 2026 at Vikasa Soudha, inaugurated by Shri Ishwar Khandre, Hon'ble Minister for Forest and Ecology, Government of Karnataka. He cited national data that corporate CSR investment in India touched almost ₹40,000 crore in the preceding year, with education receiving the largest single share at approximately ₹14,000 crore, and noted that Indian MSMEs contribute nearly 31% of GDP, close to half of exports, and employ over 32 crore people.

Mr. Keerthan Kumar M set out the evaluation process behind the summit's awards: FKCCI received approximately 130 registrations, of which 127 applications across the healthcare, education and skilling, livelihood and poverty elevation, water/sanitation/hygiene, and women's empowerment categories were scrutinized by an independent jury chaired by Professor P.D. Jose of IIM Bangalore, with members drawn from IIM Tiruchirapalli, IIM Lucknow, IMT Ghaziabad, and universities in the United Kingdom and United States. He also highlighted FKCCI-led initiatives including an ESG readiness report compiled jointly with an academic B-school research partner and the UN Global Compact Network India, a planned ESG certification programme for MSMEs, a skilling programme that has reached more than 50,000 students with ₹70 lakh in Government of Karnataka support, and FKCCI's work promoting women's entrepreneurship and support for farmers through agri-tech partnerships.



### 1.3 Karnataka CSR Landscape



**Professor Abhishek Ranjan**, Advisor to the FKCCI CSR Committee, presented findings from FKCCI Research Centre's original analysis of the Karnataka CSR landscape, describing Karnataka as consistently ranking among the top three CSR-receiving states in India, while also identifying a structural gap between the state's economic contribution and the CSR funding it attracts.

#### Key Data Points Presented

- Karnataka contributes close to 9% of India's GDP but receives only around 6.5% of national CSR spend an estimated gap of 2.4 percentage points.
- CSR inflow into Karnataka grew by approximately 64.9% year-on-year, with roughly half of this spend concentrated in the education and skilling sector, leaving the remaining nine focus areas under FKCCI's tracking framework to share the balance.

- By Contrast, Delhi's CSR receipts (around 6% of the national total) exceed its GDP contribution (around 4%), illustrating uneven distribution of CSR relative to states' economic weight.
- A large share of CSR filings on the Government of India's disclosure platform did not specify the district of implementation, limiting visibility into where CSR funds are actually being spent within Karnataka.
- Karnataka recorded 2,328 CSR project entries in the relevant reporting year, with the top ten contributing companies accounting for roughly 27% of total spend.
- Several of Karnataka's designated aspirational districts, including parts of the Kalyana Karnataka region, were found to be under-represented in reported CSR spend.

Professor Ranjan noted that this research had been shared with the Chief Minister's office at the Chief Minister's request, and framed it as the evidence base for a coordinated roadmap between industry, chambers of commerce, non-profits and civil society to improve both the volume and the district-level targeting of CSR investment in Karnataka.

#### 1.4 Keynote Address, UN Global Compact Network India

**Mr. Ratnesh**, Executive Director, UN Global Compact Network India, opened his address by situating Karnataka's CSR data within the global sustainability picture, noting that progress toward the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) remains off track on most indicators globally, constrained by conflict, debt distress in the Global South and a widening climate finance gap. He observed that corporate disclosure standards are nonetheless converging globally around a common architecture of accountability, consistent with the UN Global Compact's Ten Principles.

Mr. Ratnesh highlighted that India had achieved its COP26 pledge of 50% installed power capacity from non-fossil sources five years ahead of its 2030 target, achieving this milestone in 2025, and noted Karnataka-specific achievements including the planting of 1.5 million native saplings in a single day and state initiatives on groundwater management and green data centers. He offered four recommendations for corporate CSR and ESG practice going forward:

- Move ESG oversight from sustainability teams to the boardroom, treating climate and social risk as financial risk.
- Invest directly in MSME suppliers' capability to adopt ESG frameworks, rather than relying solely on audits and reporting requirements.
- Treat disclosure frameworks (such as BRSR, GRI and TCFD) as strategic tools rather than compliance checkboxes.
- Invest in shared learning platforms across companies and sectors to scale what is already working.

"What sustainability at scale today's theme asks for us in the discipline to connect the two: to turn gigawatts into governance, and pledges into practice."

-Mr. Ratnesh, Executive Director, UN Global Compact Network India

#### 1.5 Video Address Office of the UN Resident Coordinator, India

A recorded video address was played from the office of the UN Resident Coordinator in India, which framed India's development trajectory including its progress on digital transformation, financial inclusion, renewable energy and climate action as significant to global progress on the SDGs given India's population share. The address positioned the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision as reflecting an opportunity for inclusive, resilient and sustainable growth, and called for continued partnership between government, industry and the United Nations system to scale CSR-driven solutions.

#### 1.6 Special Address Consul General of Israel to South India

Her Excellency **Ms. Orli Weitzman**, Consul General of Israel to South India, addressed the gathering on the theme of innovation as a driver of sustainable development, drawing on Israel's experience in water

conservation, precision agriculture, digital health and climate technology under resource-constrained conditions. She referenced the work of MASHAV, Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation, and highlighted India-Israel collaboration in entrepreneurship and sustainability as a model for advancing the SDGs through partnership between governments, businesses and research institutions.

### 1.7 Keynote Address Luthra Group / FICCI

**Mr. Girish Luthra**, Chairman, Luthra Group, and Chairman of the MSME/CSR vertical at FICCI, addressed the gathering on the role of MSMEs in India's sustainability transition, reinforcing the summit's emphasis on extending ESG adoption beyond large corporates into the MSME supply chain.

### 1.8 Special Address Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka

The **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka, Shri D.K. Shivakumar**, formally inaugurated the third edition of the summit and used the address to set out a clear policy direction for CSR spending in the state. Describing CSR as "a strategic investment in sustainable development" rather than charity, the Chief Minister noted that Karnataka receives more than ₹10,000 crore in CSR funds annually and directed that corporates prioritise the following:

#### Chief Minister's Policy Directive on CSR

- First priority for CSR funds should be primary education specifically, the adoption and infrastructure upgrading of existing government schools (rather than construction of new private institutions), particularly outside Bengaluru and other municipal headquarters, in Karnataka's rural and peri-urban areas.
- Corporates are requested to build CBSE/central-school-standard infrastructure at adopted government schools, with government providing land through Deputy Commissioners' offices, and the school retaining its government status while carrying the sponsoring institution's name.
- Establishments in Bengaluru and other towns charging school fees above ₹50,000 annually are requested to compulsorily adopt a government school and provide supporting staff, given an existing shortfall of over 50,000 teachers in government schools.
- A dedicated state monitoring team is to be constituted to track CSR fund utilisation and address instances of CSR fund misuse or under-reporting.
- Healthcare and other sectors are to follow as second-priority areas once the primary-education initiative is under way.

In support of this directive, the Chief Minister cited Karnataka's rapid urbanisation noting that the state's urban population share has risen from around 31% to 43%, and that Bengaluru's population has grown from approximately 70 lakh to 1.44 crore, alongside 1.35 crore vehicles now on the city's roads as a rationale for strengthening rural education and reducing migration pressure on Bengaluru. He also cited Karnataka's position as a national leader in IT talent (approximately 26 lakh IT professionals) and medical education (71 medical colleges, producing over 13,900 doctors annually) as a foundation the state intends to extend into smaller towns and rural areas through the CSR-funded education push. The Chief Minister formally released FKCCI's MSME ESG readiness report during this session and reaffirmed the Government of Karnataka's commitment to ease of doing business for FKCCI members.

The inaugural session of the **FKCCI Global CSR and Sustainability Summit 2026** concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by **Mr. T. Sairam Prasad, Senior Vice President, FKCCI**. He expressed gratitude to the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka**, the **Consul General of Israel to South India**, representatives from the **United Nations**, keynote speakers, dignitaries, and industry leaders for their valuable presence and contributions. Appreciation was also extended to the release of the **MSME ESG Report**, the summit's sponsors, knowledge and outreach partners, the Government of Karnataka, the UN Global Compact Network India, delegates, exhibitors, media representatives, and the FKCCI Secretariat for their support in organizing the event. The inaugural session was formally concluded, and participants were invited to remain for the day's panel discussions, expert presentations, and knowledge-sharing sessions on CSR and sustainability.



## 2. Pre-Conference Masterclass: AI for the Social Sector

Ahead of the formal summit proceedings, FKCCI convened a masterclass on artificial intelligence for the social sector, delivered by Mr. Gopala Krishnan, Founder, KindCart Inc, and former Vice President, PayPal (California, USA). Mr. Gopala Krishnan subsequently moderated the day's opening panel discussion, "AI for the Underserved Billions," which examined how artificial intelligence can be deployed to extend the reach of social-sector programmes to under-served populations rather than widening existing gaps in access.

## 3. Panel Discussions

The summit's afternoon programme comprised four themed panel discussions, each convened around one of FKCCI's CSR focus areas and moderated by a named chair, with panelists drawn from corporates, start-ups, academia and civil society.

### 3.1 AI for the Underserved Billions



This opening panel was moderated by **Mr. Gopala Krishnan**, Founder, KindCart Inc, and former Vice President, PayPal (California, USA), with panellists Mr. Guru Bhatt (Senior Director, Google Bengaluru), Mr. Manoj Balachandran (Country Head, Promptier.ai), **Mr. Sujith Kumar** (Founder and Managing trustee, Maaathram Foundation) and **Ms. Natasha Das** (Director Impact and operation, Samhita Social Ventures).

Mr. Bhatt opened by noting that all Indian languages together account for under 0.5% of the data used to train large language models, and described Google's participation in initiatives such as Project Vani (voice-data collection across India's 773 districts), the AI Bharat effort led by IIT Madras, and Bhashini, India's digital public infrastructure for AI translation, as efforts to close this gap. Ms. Das discussed how AI-enabled tools can help build trust with beneficiary communities around data collection and credit scoring, describing Samhita's use of

alternative, livelihood-based credit scoring for women without conventional financial records. Mr. Kumar drew on his work with Maaathram Foundation to argue that AI's threat to entry-level jobs makes domain-specific, industry-linked skilling rather than broad digital literacy alone the priority for CSR-funded education programmes, citing India's Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education of approximately 30% (compared with roughly 42% for Karnataka) as the scale of the challenge. Mr. Balachandran closed by setting out five practical steps for NGOs adopting AI: reframing cost as investment, clearly defining the problem before choosing a tool, collaborating rather than building large in-house AI teams, building a regular practice of experimentation, and keeping impact focused on frontline beneficiaries rather than head-office use alone.

### 3.2 Health Beyond Healthcare: Prevention, Mental Wellness and Workplace Excellence



This panel was chaired by **Dr. Pratima Murthy** (former Director and Senior Professor, NIMHANS Bengaluru), with panelists **Dr. B.S. Srinath** (Managing Trustee, Shri Shankara Cancer Foundation), **Ms. Ragini Rao** (Co-founder, Infinumgrowth), **Ms. Jayita Naha** (Vice President–CSR, NIIF Infrastructure Finance Limited), **Mr. Venkatesan Natarajan** (Treasurer, Satsang Foundation) and **Ms. Shilpashree Muniswamappa** (Director-ESG and Communications, Colgate-Palmolive India).

Dr. Murthy framed the discussion around a shift from illness-focused to prevention- and wellness-focused healthcare, and from communicable to non-communicable disease risk factors. Dr. Srinath argued that wellness should be built into childhood environments “free of the fear of disease.” Ms. Rao made the case for emotional intelligence and self-awareness to be taught from school age, citing the International Labour Organization's red/amber/green framework for workplace mental health and cautioning that most organisations over-invest in the “red zone” (acute illness) relative to prevention. Ms. Naha described CSR-funded preventive health programmes run by NIIF, including door-step ophthalmic screening camps in Bihar and a partnership with Tata Memorial Centre to build cancer-care capacity in India's Northeast, away from metros. Mr. Natarajan spoke about Satsang Foundation's food-security and citizen-building programmes, framing health holistically across physical, mental, emotional and spiritual dimensions. Ms. Muniswamappa described Colgate-Palmolive India's employee-wellbeing practices, including the removal of formal timesheets, a 12-week paternity leave policy and a dedicated family-care leave category, framing employees as an organisation's most important brand ambassadors. Dr. Srinath closed with reflections from his own oncology practice on the barrier's social stigma, poverty, and conflicting public messaging such as government tobacco revenue alongside anti-tobacco health campaigns that prevent rural communities from seeking preventive care.

### 3.3 Quality Education, Future Skills and Job-Ready Workforce



This panel was moderated by **Mr. Keerthan Kumar M** (Chairman, CSR Committee), FKCCI, with panelists **Dr. Ramesh B** (Vice Chancellor, Bangalore City University), **Mr. Siddharth Jhatti** (Founder, Jaatti Foundation), **Dr. Manish Kothari** (Founder and President, ISBR Business School), **Ms. Vishnavee Maanay** (Head–Marketing, BNM Institute of Technology) and **Dr. Anthony Nellissery** (Vice President-CSR, Sterlite Electric, Resonia and Serentica EDU India Foundation).

Dr. Ramesh B described the tension between industry demand for immediately “job-ready” graduates and universities' mandate to build broader cognitive capacity, and outlined steps Bangalore City University has taken under India's National Education Policy 2020 and Karnataka's state policy, including placement and skill-development centers and stronger industry involvement in curriculum design. Mr. Jhatti cited McKinsey Global Institute estimates that raising India's employability rate from around 47% to 73% could add roughly USD 200 billion to the economy, and argued that foundational skills particularly English communication remain a bigger constraint than vocational skilling alone, citing Gujarat's 80-hour “finishing school” model as one replicable approach; he noted employability of around 45% for ITI graduates and 36% for polytechnic graduates, against approximately 78% for engineering and computer science graduates. Dr. Kothari described ISBR Business School's “LEAD” pedagogical model (Learning, Experiment, Apply, Design), crediting it with a 97% MBA placement rate, and argued that the real question for management education is not whether MBAs remain relevant but whether they teach what is currently relevant. Ms. Maanay called for mandatory, standardised disclosure of average (not just headline) placement packages so that prospective students and parents can make informed decisions, and highlighted the value of building social-emotional skills alongside technical ones. Dr. Nellissery argued that foundational learning gaps with only 50-55% of school-age children reading at grade level compound into a “vicious circle” by the time students reach higher education, and called for a stronger focus on teacher training as the highest-leverage intervention.

### 3.4 Sustainable Cities and Communities



This panel was chaired by **Professor Abhishek Ranjan** (Advisor, CSR Committee, FKCCI) with panelists **Ms. Janet Joseph** (CSR Lead, Mercedes-Benz Research and Development India), **Mr. Peter York** (Senior Strategy and Marketing Leader, Suntec Business Solutions), **Dr. Leena James** (Professor of Management, Christ

University), **Dr. Usha Gopinath** (Country Director, Practical Action) and **Mr. Victor Sundararaj** (Associate Vice President, Infosys Limited).

Professor Ranjan opened by citing UN projections that 68% of the world's population will live in cities by 2050 (up from 56% today), that India alone will add 400 million urban residents in the coming decade, and that Bengaluru has lost roughly 60 of its 260 lakes recorded in 1960. Ms. Joseph described Mercedes-Benz R&D India's "OnRoute" initiative a multimodal public-transit journey-planning platform built with Bengaluru's transit agencies (BMTCL, BMRCL) which recorded a 6% shift from single-occupancy car bookings to public transit within three months of launch and has since expanded to other Indian cities. Mr. York argued that sustainable behaviour change must be built at the grassroots and from school age, describing Suntec employee-driven beach-cleaning programmes on the Thiruvananthapuram coastline. Dr. James described Christ University's Centre for Social Action, running since 1995, which embeds community engagement and a "learner-centered approach" directly into the curriculum across roughly 11 cities and 112 adopted villages. Mr. Sundararaj described Infosys's carbon-neutral campus operations (achieved twenty years ahead of the relevant UN target) and the Infosys Springboard digital-skilling platform, which has reached approximately 15 million of a 2030 target of 20 million learners with around 20,000 free courses, arguing that skilling initiatives must be explicitly linked to livelihood outcomes rather than treated as an end in themselves. Dr. Gopinath closed the panel by describing Practical Action's work on heat-resilience for MSMEs and street vendors in north Karnataka (including Bijapur and Bidar, where temperatures exceed 45°C) and low-cost plastic-recycling livelihood models developed for informal settlements, cautioning the panel and the wider summit against "greenwashing" and calling for solutions that are checked against real outcome data.

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#### 4. Leadership Dialogues

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A dedicated segment of the summit was devoted to leadership dialogues featuring senior women leaders from industry and education, reflecting the summit's stated view that women's leadership in CSR and sustainability is, in the words of the closing remarks, "an economic necessity" rather than a matter of representation alone.

##### 4.1 Ms. Manasi Tata, Vice Chairperson, Toyota Kirloskar Motor Private Limited

Ms. Tata's address centered on empathy as the foundation of effective CSR and leadership, drawing a distinction between statutory compliance under Section 135 of the Companies Act and genuinely need-led CSR design. She argued that effective CSR programmes begin not with the question "how much should we spend?" but with "what does this community truly need?" reframing CSR from an exercise in expenditure to one of partnership with the communities it serves.

##### 4.2 Ms. Aishwarya D.K.S. Hegde, Trustee-Secretary, National Education Foundation

Ms. Hegde, addressing the summit shortly after becoming a mother, spoke on leadership as responsibility rather than position, and set out three calls to action for the CSR and sustainability community: first, to make decisions whose impact is judged over 20 years rather than for applause on the day; second, to shift CSR "from charity to capacity" investing in teachers as a multiplier for student outcomes, rather than only in physical infrastructure; and third, to treat CSR beneficiaries as participants in change rather than passive recipients of it. She cited World Bank data that 273 million school-age children globally are out of the classroom, that 53% of children categorised as "educated" cannot understand a simple story after completing primary school, and that roughly 173 million students had their education disrupted by climate-related events in 2024 alone, with South Asia the worst affected region. Responding to audience questions, Ms. Hegde argued that "life skills" must be defined differently for urban and rural children, that AI and social media should not be subject to blanket age restrictions but should be used to build "connection" rather than "socialising," and that reviving structured value and moral education rooted in storytelling could help address the erosion of traditional joint-family value transmission in urban India.



#### 4.3 Ms. Anandi Iyer, Director, Fraunhofer Office India; Member, India-Germany CEO Forum

Ms. Iyer, who chaired the G20 Women in STEM leadership programme during India's G20 presidency, spoke on structural barriers to women's leadership in science and technology. Drawing on Fraunhofer's own scale (75 institutes across Germany, around 35,000 employees and an annual research volume of approximately €3.6 billion), she described the “leaky pipeline” for women in STEM in India a roughly 20% drop-off before college, a further 50% drop after graduation as women move into less technical roles or exit the workforce, and a final 20% drop at the point of entry into managerial positions, often linked to caregiving responsibilities. She set out G20-era policy recommendations including gender-neutral job postings, remote and flexible work options for those in caregiving roles, and verified, safe childcare co-located with workplaces, while cautioning that women's workforce participation should be framed as an economic necessity India has more than 1,200 women for every 1,000 men in the population rather than a “diversity card.”

#### 4.4 Dr. Nagesh N.S., Former Professor & Head of Department - Surgical Gastrometerology & Liver Transplat: Bangalore Medical College & Research Institute

Dr. Nagesh N.S., former Professor and Head, Department of Surgical Gastroenterology and Liver Transplant, Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute, described building India's only standalone government gastroenterology institute offering free liver transplants, funded substantially through CSR. The institute began with an initial CSR contribution of ₹26 crore mobilised by Dr. Nagesh's family and network, matched by ₹16 crore from government, to convert a 40-year-old nursing school building into a 120-bed hospital that has since treated approximately 2.5 lakh patients and performed 33 liver transplants free of cost (against a typical private-sector cost of ₹25–45 lakh per transplant). He reported that the Azim Premji Foundation has since pledged ₹1,000 crore in CSR funding to build a 1,000-bed organ transplant hospital on the same campus, of which 700 beds will be entirely free, with a further ₹350 crore per year committed to staff salary costs. Dr. Nagesh closed by arguing that sustainable CSR-funded institutions require “purpose before position” and strong leadership discipline to outlast the tenure of any single founder or donor.

## 5. Awards Ceremony

### 5.1 Excellence in Education & Skill Development (Morning Session)

As part of the inaugural session, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka presented CSR Awards for Excellence in Education and Skill Development to nine organisations:

| Organisation                               | Category  |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------|
| JSW Foundation                             | Corporate |
| Sansera Engineering Private Limited        | Corporate |
| ENPOWER                                    | Corporate |
| CleanMax Enviro Energy Solutions Limited   | Corporate |
| Seventh Sense People Development Solutions | MSME      |

|                                    |                         |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Shri Sairam College of Engineering | Educational Institution |
| SCIKRAFT                           | NGO                     |
| Desh Pande Educational Trust       | NGO                     |
| Navshayog Foundation               | NGO                     |

## 5.2 Evening Welcome and Special Addresses



**Ms. Uma Reddy, President, FKCCI**, delivered the evening's welcome address, reflecting on the day as one of extended conversation, discussion and learning, and describing the proceedings as both a valedictory to the day's conference and, in her words, an opening of "the canvas to new beginnings." On behalf of FKCCI, she welcomed **Dr. Prabha Malikarjun**, Member of Parliament from the Davanagere Lok Sabha constituency.

Ms. Uma Reddy welcomed her fellow office bearers Mr. T. Sairam Prasad (Senior Vice President) and Mr. B.P. Shashidhar (Vice President) and thanked Mr. Keerthan Kumar M and Professor Abhishek Ranjan for organising the conference. She welcomed jury member Dr. P.K. Biswas of Nalanda University, noted the absence of fellow jury member Professor P.D. Jose and of Dr. Tejaswini Anand Kumar, and thanked FKCCI's NGOs, corporates, industry leaders, managing committee members, past presidents, government department representatives and media, along with the members of the CSR and Sustainability Committee who organised the summit.

She revisited the day's proceedings, recalling the Chief Minister's morning address on primary education and describing the day's panel discussions as producing thought-provoking exchanges and practical ideas for advancing CSR as a driver of inclusive development rather than mere compliance. Ms. Uma Reddy closed by describing her privilege in presiding over the summit and expressing pride that this year's edition was, in her words, "the beginning of many more."

**Dr. Prabha Malikarjun, Member of Parliament, Davanagere**, opened by congratulating FKCCI on more than a century of service as a voice for Karnataka's enterprise, and the UN Global Compact Network India for its work advancing ESG and CSR practice aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. She complimented Ms. Uma Reddy on her tenure as FKCCI's first woman president in the organisation's history, framing barriers to women's leadership as, in her words, "only in the mindset," and also acknowledged Dr. Tejaswini Anand Kumar as a fellow woman achiever present at the summit.

Describing her own path into public life, Dr. Malikarjun said she had never set out to become an elected representative, and that her journey began instead through grassroots NGO work with the SS Care Trust and SS Janakalyana Trust, working with women and government-school students in her constituency.

As a dentist, she described a school dental-screening initiative run through two dental colleges affiliated with her trust, aimed at achieving full screening coverage across government schools in her constituency and following up with parents and school administrations on required treatment, alongside women's health screening for cervical and breast cancer, CPR and first-aid training, and voluntary blood-donation drives that she said had collected approximately 5,000 units of blood to date.

She described a student volunteer wing run across her trust's affiliated institutions, conducting around a dozen community programmes each year, including visits to an orphanage, tree-plantation drives, and outreach to devadasi women, children living with HIV and students at a school for the blind.

In her role as Joint Secretary of the Bapuji Educational Association, spanning around 35 institutions, she described bringing rural government-school students into her institutions for computer training, life-skills sessions and campus exposure visits, and cited CSR-funded partnerships in Davanagere providing free placement training, free civil-services coaching and free competitive-examination coaching for government-school students, which she said had saved participating families tens of thousands of rupees each in course and accommodation costs while benefiting several hundred students.

Dr. Malikarjun described effective CSR as requiring all stakeholders to fit together like pieces of a puzzle toward a shared outcome, and said she had raised questions in Parliament regarding the utilisation of CSR funds at the grassroots level. She invited corporates to partner with her constituency, including on skilling women through self-help groups, and closed by congratulating the jury and award winners and thanking FKCCI for the opportunity, before the summit proceeded to the Global CSR and Sustainability Excellence Awards 2026.

### 5.3 Global CSR and Sustainability Excellence Awards 2026

The evening hosted the Global CSR and Sustainability Excellence Awards 2026, presented by **Dr. Prabha Mallikarjun**, Member of Parliament, together with FKCCI office bearers. Professor Abhishek Ranjan described the evaluation process: a 20-member independent jury, drawn from institutions including IIM Bangalore, IIM Lucknow, IIM Tiruchirappalli and universities in the United Kingdom, the United States and Germany, reviewed 127 submissions from corporates, NGOs, MSMEs and educational institutions against criteria agreed at a jury meeting held earlier in the month, ultimately recognising 45 awardees across 11 categories. FKCCI noted that the jury exercised full autonomy in the selection process, including the discretion to withhold awards in categories where no submission met the bar, and that this year's awards were conducted in partnership with the Government of Karnataka and the United Nations.

The table below lists the awards and awardees as announced during the ceremony, organised by category:

| Sector                                                 | Sub Category | Winner                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------------|
| Excellence in Healthcare                               | Education    | Indian Institute of Technology, Madras |
| Excellence in Healthcare                               | Education    | Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur |
| Excellence in Healthcare                               | Education    | Maruti Suzuki India Limited            |
| Excellence in Healthcare                               | Corporate    | Bhagwan Mahaveer Jain Hospital         |
| Excellence in Healthcare                               | Corporate    | SPARSH Foundation                      |
| Excellence in Healthcare                               | Corporate    | ITC FILTRONA LIMITED                   |
| Excellence in Healthcare                               | Corporate    | Brigade Foundation                     |
| Excellence in Healthcare                               | NGO          | Prashanti Balamandira Trust            |
| Excellence in Healthcare                               | NGO          | TELRAD Foundation                      |
| Excellence in Women Empowerment, Diversity & Inclusion | Corporate    | MSPL                                   |
| Excellence in Women Empowerment, Diversity & Inclusion | Corporate    | Peekay Steel Castings Pvt Ltd          |
| Excellence in Women Empowerment, Diversity & Inclusion | Corporate    | HLL Management Academy                 |

|                                                                               |                 |                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Excellence in Women Empowerment, Diversity & Inclusion                        | Spl Recognition | Kempegowda International Airport Foundation                            |
| Excellence in Women Empowerment, Diversity & Inclusion                        | NGO             | Wildfire SOS                                                           |
| Excellence in Carbon Mitigation and Climate Change Management                 | Corporate       | Tata Consultancy Services                                              |
| Excellence in Carbon Mitigation and Climate Change Management                 | Corporate       | Reach Much Higher Academics Foundation                                 |
| Excellence in Carbon Mitigation and Climate Change Management                 | NGO             | Accion Fratema Ecology Centre                                          |
| Excellence in Waste Management                                                | Corporate       | Hitachi Energy India Limited                                           |
| Excellence in Waste Management                                                | Corporate       | Colgate Palmolive (India) Ltd                                          |
| Excellence in Special Categories (Senior Citizens, Differently-Abled & Other) | Corporate       | SBI Foundation                                                         |
| Excellence in Special Categories (Senior Citizens, Differently-Abled & Other) | PSU             | Bharat Electronics Limited                                             |
| Excellence in Special Categories (Senior Citizens, Differently-Abled & Other) | NGO             | The National Association for the Blind, Karnataka                      |
| Excellence in Special Categories (Senior Citizens, Differently-Abled & Other) | NGO             | SCODWES - Sahyadri Community Development and Women Empowerment Society |
| Excellence in Water Management                                                | NGO             | COODU-Community Organisation for Oppressed and Depressed Upliftment    |
| Excellence in Water Management                                                | NGO             | SANKALAPA Rural Development Society                                    |
| Excellence in Water Management                                                | NGO             | Sarva Rural Development Society                                        |
| Excellence in Water Management                                                | Corporate       | Alternica Limited (Formerly known as Manjushree Technopack Limited)    |
| Excellence in Water Management                                                | Corporate       | Blue Yonder India Private Limited                                      |
| Excellence in Water Management                                                | NGO             | CREDIT-I                                                               |
| Excellence in Rural Development & Infrastructure                              | Corporate       | LTM Limited                                                            |
| Excellence in Rural Development & Infrastructure                              | Corporate       | Marvell India Private Limited                                          |
| Excellence in Livelihood & Poverty Alleviation                                | NGO             | Udhyam Learning Foundation                                             |
| Excellence in Livelihood & Poverty Alleviation                                | NGO             | St Joseph University                                                   |
| Excellence in WASH (Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene)                             |                 | Redington Foundation                                                   |
| Excellence in Energy Management                                               | Corporate       | Global IEEE Institute for Engineers-IEEE India                         |
| Excellence in Energy Management                                               | Corporate       | Orkla India Limited                                                    |

### 5.3 Jury

The jury panel included Dr. P.K. Biswas, former Vice Chancellor, Jagran Lakecity University and Nalanda University; Dr. Vinay Kandpal; Dr. Nagendra; Dr. Nandish; and Dr. Brahm Sharma, among others, with Professor P.D. Jose of IIM Bangalore serving as Jury Chair.

## 6. Sponsors and Partners

FKCCI recorded its appreciation for the following organisations that supported the 2026 summit:

| Role              | Organisation                              |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Platinum Sponsor  | CleanMax                                  |
| Diamond Sponsor   | Satsang Foundation                        |
| Silver Sponsor    | Surya Institute of Management and Science |
| Silver Sponsor    | Sairam Institutions                       |
| Silver Sponsor    | KindCart Inc                              |
| Silver Sponsor    | MSIL                                      |
| Knowledge Partner | India CSR                                 |
| MSME ESG          | We School Welingkar - Research Partner    |

FKCCI also acknowledged CleanMax's community initiative, under which the sponsor pledged a donation of ₹1 lakh each to ten NGOs in Karnataka, tied to a step-count engagement activity conducted with delegates over the course of the summit.

## 7. Closing Ceremony

The closing ceremony was opened with a welcome address by the President, FKCCI, and included remarks from Dr. P.K. Biswas (jury member and former Vice Chancellor, Jagran Lakecity University and Nalanda University), Professor Abhishek Ranjan and Mr. Keerthan Kumar M, Chairman, CSR Committee, FKCCI, who delivered the closing remarks and vote of thanks.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Keerthan Kumar M summarised the day's proceedings from the opening masterclass on AI for the social sector, through the sessions on preventive healthcare, quality education and future-ready skilling, sustainable urban development, and women's leadership, to the release of the MSME ESG report by the Chief Minister and the evening's awards ceremony. He noted that the 127 organisations evaluated by the jury had voluntarily submitted their work, expenditure and beneficiary data for independent scrutiny, describing that willingness to submit to scrutiny as itself a marker of good CSR practice, regardless of whether an award was ultimately received.

Mr. Keerthan Kumar M thanked the Government of Karnataka, the UN Global Compact Network India, the Consul General of Israel to South India, the summit's jury (drawn from IIM Bangalore, IIM Lucknow, IIM Tiruchirappalli, and universities in the United Kingdom, United States and Germany), FKCCI's research and knowledge partners, sponsors, exhibitors, panelists, volunteers and the FKCCI Secretariat team for their contribution to the summit.

