

#TMClimateGovernanceSummit

STEERING CORPORATE INDIA TOWARDS CLIMATE ACCOUNTABILITY

BS MARKETING INITIATIVE

AHMEDABAD, BENGALURU, BHOPAL, BHUBANESWAR, CHANDIGARH, CHENNAI, HYDERABAD, JAIPUR, KOCHI, KOLKATA, LUCKNOW, MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, PUNE

DRIVING INDIA'S GREEN TRANSITION

India's economic trajectory, one aiming for global leadership, is now intrinsically linked to its environmental stewardship. The challenge of sustaining rapid growth while honouring the **Net-Zero 2070** commitment requires a decisive shift in corporate strategy, moving climate responsibility from a compliance burden to a fundamental competitive advantage. This urgent need for integrated action formed the bedrock of the inaugural **Climate Governance India Summit 2025 (CGIS 2025)** by Team Marksmen Network.

The summit was conceived to address a critical paradox: despite ambitious

national goals, integrating climate risk into boardroom decision-making remains a challenge. The World Bank's estimate that climate change could reduce India's GDP by up to 2.8% by 2050 serves as a stark warning, reinforcing that governance across policy, finance, and corporate strategy must be unified.

CGIS 2025, presented by **Bootes** and Co-Powered by **Ramboll**, served as the definitive platform for this strategic alignment. It brought together CEOs, regulators, and global thought leaders to establish robust governance frameworks. The focus was clear: how to translate national mandates, such as the goal of

achieving 50% of energy capacity from renewables by 2030, into profitable, scalable corporate initiatives.

The discussions focused on embedding climate risk deep into the corporate ecosystem, accelerating green finance mobilization, and implementing the rigorous SEBI BRSR disclosure mandates effectively. By fostering unprecedented collaboration, CGIS 2025 has provided a clear roadmap for Indian businesses to navigate this dual challenge, ensuring they not only survive the transition but emerge as global leaders in the green economy.

FROM THE CO-FOUNDER'S DESK



The greatest barrier to achieving our national goals is not lack of ambition, but lack of scalable execution frameworks. This Summit dissected those challenges, from supply chain decarbonisation to upskilling the workforce. We prioritized discussions on measurable, replicable solutions that operationalize green commitments, providing leaders with the tools to implement changes that deliver tangible reductions in carbon footprint and simultaneously drive operational efficiency and profitability.

Rajesh Khubchandani



The Climate Governance India Summit represents a necessary shift from discussing intentions to defining actionable governance. Our role is to create the critical interface where policymakers and the C-suite can align strategies. Climate risk is no longer external; it is a fundamental financial and fiduciary responsibility. By convening leaders, we sought to institutionalize resilience, ensuring that environmental accountability is hardwired into every layer of corporate decision-making for sustainable growth.

Akash Tiwari



A successful climate transition must be equitable. We cannot decarbonize at the expense of social stability or job security in fossil fuel-dependent sectors. This Summit addressed the critical pillar of a "Just Transition," focusing on upskilling, community engagement, and creating new green jobs. We champion policies that support workers and vulnerable populations, ensuring that climate action leads to broad societal benefits and inclusive economic growth across all segments of the Indian populace.

◀ Sharad Gupta

FROM THE CEO'S DESK



Given the rapid urbanization and infrastructure build-out in India, ensuring resilience in the built environment is non-negotiable. Our discussions, featuring innovators like our Presenting Partner BOOTES, highlighted the necessity of net-zero engineering, circularity, and climate-proofing physical assets. This focus ensures that India's growing cities and critical infrastructure can withstand rising climate risks while supporting low-carbon economic activity.

◀ Rishi Kapoor

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As a Minister, ensuring that growth is sustainable and aligned with environmental priorities is the biggest challenge.

The Delhi government has been working tirelessly, and the first mission of our government is to provide clean air to the people of Delhi. This is our greatest challenge.

Shri Manjinder Singh Sirsa

National Secretary, Bharatiya Janata Party, Minister of Industry, Food & Supplies and Environment Forest and Wildlife

Government of NCT of Delhi

We are one nation that has implemented its national goals. Whatever we undertook, we implemented. 45% of the energy in India is renewable. By 2070, we will be net-zero. And this is a well-thought out strategy.

Meenakshi Lekhi

Former Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture

Government of India



The partnership between India and China is critical for the green transformation. But India also needs to look at it for its own purposes. I'm confident India can learn, improve on what's happening around the world, and then make in India...this is critical for India's transformation.

Erik Solheim

Former Minister of Climate and the Environment of Norway; former UN Environment Executive Director and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations



I have dealt with so many entrepreneurs, who irrespective of what leaders of a free country might be saying, or whatever banks might be saying, they are looking at it as a massive business opportunity. Because if you can make goods and services that are cheaper, faster, better, and more sustainable, that's sustainable business in a nutshell.

Datin Seri Sunita Rajakumar

Founder – Climate Governance Malaysia and Independent Director, Advisory Board Member, Team Marksmen Network

NET-ZERO INFRASTRUCTURE MATTERS BECAUSE IT ADDRESSES THE HEART OF INDIA'S DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE



> We catch up with **Deepak Rai, Founder & Managing Director, BOOTES,** India's First Net-Zero Engineering Company, to understand why sustainable, climate-responsible development is the way forward

In your opinion, why is Net-Zero Infrastructure Development crucial for India's future?

India is growing at a pace the world has rarely witnessed. Our cities are expanding, our energy demand is rising, and pollution is at its peak. With millions of people moving into new homes, offices, and public spaces every year. In this kind of growth story, the question is no longer "Should we build sustainably?" — it is "Can India afford not to?"

Net-Zero infrastructure matters because it addresses the heart of India's development challenge: how to grow quickly without exhausting the resources future generations depend on. Buildings today consume enormous amounts of electricity and water. If we do not rethink this, the burden on our grids, our groundwater and our cities will only multiply.

The good news is that sustainable, climate-responsible development is no

longer theoretical. India has already shown that Net-Zero can be achieved at scale — and at speed. At BOOTES, we have delivered World's first Net-Zero Library in Jhansi and India's first Net-Zero Cold Storage in Rewari, both built using world-class sustainable technology. These are fully functional public buildings serving communities every day.

Net-Zero is not about fancy add-ons or expensive ideas. It is about designing better, planning responsibly, and using the energy and water we already have more intelligently. When public infrastructure consumes less and delivers more, the nation gains — socially, economically and environmentally.

For a young country with a long journey ahead, Net-Zero is not a choice. It is the foundation of a aatmanirbhar, future-ready Bharat.

What are the key challenges in adopting Net-Zero Infrastructure across

India, and how can the private sector support this transition?

India has taken bold steps in favourable policy creation. The real challenge is aligning execution with intention. Too often, sustainability is treated as a line item in a project, not the philosophy behind it.

The private sector must change this. We need developers and engineering companies who take responsibility from concept to completion, who can demonstrate that Net-Zero buildings are practical, financially viable and beneficial for the community. When people see results, adoption follows.

Another challenge is financing. Traditional lending does not always recognise the long-term savings and value created by Net-Zero design. A building that uses less electricity, recycles its water and demands very low maintenance should naturally be considered a superior asset. As financing models evolve to reward

performance and carbon reduction, we will see wider participation from investors, banks and funds.

At BOOTES, our approach has been simple: deliver outcomes that speak for themselves. Whether it is the Net-Zero Library in Jhansi, the Gita Museum in Kurukshetra, or the newly inaugurated Jhansi Exhibition Centre, our focus has been on creating infrastructure that lasts longer, costs less to operate, and serves people better. These are tangible examples of what Net-Zero can look like on the ground.

India has the opportunity to lead the world in sustainable infrastructure — not by copying global models, but by creating our own. With government policy, private innovation and community participation working together, Net-Zero infrastructure can become not just India's climate strategy, but India's long-term competitive advantage.



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INDUSTRIES COME FULL CIRCLE, **UNLOCKING ECONOMIC VALUE**

Catalysing the circular economy calls for engaging all stakeholders and injecting impetus at a business level

The transformation of India's manufacturing sector, the engine of its economic ascent, is facing a critical architectural challenge. As national commitments solidify (including the goal to achieve 50% of energy capacity from renewables by 2030) the traditional linear industrial model of 'take, make, dispose' is rapidly becoming a financial liability. This tension was the central focus of the CEO Panel at the Climate Governance India Summit 2025, where leaders dissected the transition from conventional to lean, green manufacturing infrastructure.

Moderated by Emily Farnworth, Executive Director of the Climate Governance Initiative, the discussion quickly established that the pivot to green practices is no longer a matter of corporate social responsibility but one of fiduciary duty. The governance question has moved past if a company should embed climate strategy to how fast and how rigorously. Farnworth set the tone, arguing that the board must be the primary driver of this transition.

Certification is the bridge between



Mili Majumdar

Managing Director of GBCI India and Senior Vice President at the U.S. Green Building Council



Moving from efficiency to systemic change, Shalini Bhalla, Managing Director of the International Council for Circular Economy, underscored

the need for manufacturers to fundamentally redesign their production

cycles. She stressed that the true economic value of waste is often lost

in conventional linear processes. Embracing circularity-designing out

waste and keeping materials in use-offers manufacturers a dual benefit:

mitigating resource scarcity risk while creating new revenue streams from

Sustainability in Design and Engineering at Ramboll India. Gupta focused on the built environment, arguing that net-zero thinking must be integrated

from the first stroke of design, not retrofitted later. She advocated for

smarter, more localized infrastructure solutions-from energy storage to

site-specific water recycling-to meet India's rapidly urbanizing needs

The technical reality of this transition fell to Malti Gupta, Head of

The conversation on the business case for sustainability was led by Vishal Sharma, ED & CEO of Godrej Industries, whose perspective illuminated the necessity of commitment from the top. He emphasized that in a competitive market, sustainable choices must deliver quantifiable returns. Sharma detailed the strategic advantage of early adoption, noting that resilience to future carbon taxes and supply chain shocks translates directly to shareholder value. For him, the lean transition is less about altruism and more about optimizing capital and resource deployment.

the long-term cost of

carbon, the company is

managing its finances

Emily Farnworth

the Climate Governance

Executive Director of

The implementation challenge was addressed by Mili Majumdar, Managing Director of GBCI India and Senior Vice President at the U.S. Green Building Council. Majumdar highlighted the critical role of standardized metrics and third-party validation in certifying infrastructural excellence. She argued that certifications like LEED provide the necessary technical blueprint to guide India's immense, complex construction pipeline toward global best practices in efficiency and water management.

> We must stop viewing waste as a disposal problem and start seeing it as a design opportunity. Circularity is the only system that truly aligns sustainability with infinite economic

Climate governance is fundamentally about

corporate resilience. If the board doesn't own

Shalini Bhalla

potential.

Managing Director of the International Council for Circular Economy



without sacrificing climate integrity. The consensus affirmed that for India's manufacturing sector to maintain its global competitiveness, the shift from linear practices is non-negotiable. This lean transition demands rigorous governance, verifiable standards, fundamental design philosophy changes, and a strategic embrace of circular economics. Simply put, in the coming decade, climate competence will be a prerequisite for corporate profitability.



Resilience is engineered, not wished for. For every rupee spent on initial green design, we save manifold in future operational costs

Malti Gupta

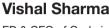
Head of Sustainability in Design and Engineering at Ramboll India

and climate damages.



Sustainability is no longer a separate ledger entry; it is the fundamental underlying assumption

of superior business performance.



ED & CEO of Godrei Industries





RAMBOLL



EYOND EFFICIENCY: HOW CAN POWER THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Sunil Kumar Ojha, Managing Principal, Ramboll Environment and Health, elaborates on how embracing circular economy practices can transform data centers from isolated entities into integrated community assets

As global demand for digital services continues to rise, data centers have become critical infrastructure supporting modern life. While energy efficiency and carbon reduction often dominate sustainability discussions, data centers also hold immense potential to contribute meaningfully to the circular economy, an economic model focused on eliminating waste, extending resource life, and regenerating natural systems.

One of the most impactful opportunities lies in e-waste recycling and resource recovery. Data centers generate substantial electronic waste due to rapid technology refresh cycles. Implementing robust e-waste recycling programs can ensure that old servers, storage devices, and networking equipment are disposed of responsibly and valuable materials are recovered and reused. By implementing structured take-back and recycling programs with certified recyclers, valuable materials such as copper, aluminum, gold, and rare earth metals can be recovered and reintroduced into manufacturing loops.

and lowers the environmental footprint associated with mining

Another key area is hardware refurbishment and reuse. Rather than retiring equipment prematurely, data centers can extend asset life through refurbishment, upgrades, or redeployment for less resourceintensive workloads. Servers and networking hardware can also be donated or resold to educational institutions, smaller enterprises, or developing markets, maximizing their useful life while reducing overall waste.

Heat reutilization is an often underutilized yet highly promising circular strategy. Data centers generate large amounts of waste heat, which can be captured and reused for district heating systems, greenhouses, or industrial processes. This not only offsets fossil fuel usage in surrounding communities but also transforms a lost byproduct into a valuable energy resource.

From a design perspective, adopting

This reduces dependence on raw materials modular and scalable infrastructure supports circularity. Modular components allow for targeted replacements and upgrades rather than entire system overhauls, reducing material consumption and construction waste. This approach also enables future adaptability as technology evolves.

> Integrating life cycle assessment (LCA) into decision-making further strengthens circularity efforts. By evaluating environmental impact across the entire lifespan of data center equipment from manufacturing and transport to operation and end-of-life, operators can make smarter procurement and disposal choices that minimize waste and emissions.

> In addition, software optimization and intelligent workload management play a crucial role. Optimized code, virtualization, and Al-driven capacity management enable better utilization of existing hardware, reducing the frequency of new equipment purchases while maintaining performance

The shift to renewable energy integration also supports circular principles. Beyond reducing emissions, renewable energy investments including on-site solar, wind, and energy storage systems can be designed with circular construction materials and endof-life reuse plans.

Finally, industry collaboration accelerates circular solutions. Partnerships with urban planners, heating providers, construction firms, and electronics manufacturers can unlock cross-sector synergies, where data center by-products and materials become resources for other industries.

By moving beyond efficiency metrics to embrace reuse, recovery, collaboration, and system-level thinking, data centers can evolve into active enablers of the circular economy, transforming their environmental challenges into long-term



Bright ideas.

Sustainable change.



We stand today at an incredible inflection point in history. For the first time, humankind possesses the computational power to see the planet as one living, breathing organism, and to heal its pain.

The climate clock is still ticking. The science is unambiguous. The world has crossed a symbolic, but dangerous threshold, 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels. I speak not as a futurist. This is a lived reality today. We are now in a somewhat dangerous territory, unless we catch up. This is painting a stark picture that we need to rethink, and Al can play a role, for its true value is in turning terabytes into trust.

Shailesh Haribhakti Co-founder & Chairman

Bharat Clean Rivers Foundation

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