



THE INSTITUTE OF
Company Secretaries of India

भारतीय कम्पनी सचिव संस्थान

IN PURSUIT OF PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Statutory body under an Act of Parliament

(Under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Corporate Affairs)

Vision

"To be a global leader in promoting good corporate governance"

Motto

सत्यं वद। धर्मं चर। इच्छते तेन त्वापि, एतद्वाह लोकैः।

Mission

"To develop high calibre professionals facilitating good corporate governance"

ESG CATALYST

A JOURNEY TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



The ICSI has always promoted good corporate governance, environmental sustainability, and social responsibility among stakeholders including its members as well as students' community.

The "ESG Catalyst" is a bimonthly initiative launched by the ICSI to build awareness about the ESG amongst the professionals by sharing key ESG term, write-up, promising practices and latest developments in ESG domain with professional fraternity.

Company Secretaries are vital in ESG reporting, ethical governance, and stakeholder engagement. By implementing ESG initiatives in their organisations, the Company Secretaries can drive positive change towards a more sustainable, equitable, and resilient future.

Through this initiative of ICSI, we urge upon the professional's fraternity to take a lead in prioritising and setting the ESG agenda in their respective organisation in alignment with the sustainable development goals.

To embark on this journey, the ICSI will continuously mentor the professionals by sharing knowledge on concepts, sustainable practices and latest developments in ESG.



Futuristic Marine and Space Biotechnology

Emerging research in marine and space biotechnology leverages the untapped potential of deep oceans and outer space to advance biological discovery, develop novel materials, and innovate manufacturing processes. Marine biotechnology focuses on exploring microorganisms, algae, and other marine organisms to uncover bioactive compounds, enzymes, biomaterials, food ingredients, and bio stimulants. These species have adapted to thrive under extreme conditions such as high pressure, salinity, low light, and nutrient scarcity. In parallel, space biotechnology investigates how microorganisms, plants, and human biological systems operate in environments characterized by microgravity and radiation. India, with its long coastline and an Exclusive Economic Zone spanning over 2 million sq. km, possesses rich marine biodiversity and biomass. Strategic investments in marine biomanufacturing could unlock new opportunities for producing food, energy, chemicals, and biomaterials, while reducing dependence on terrestrial land, freshwater, and conventional agriculture. Similarly, space biotechnology is vital for India's long-term space exploration ambitions, enabling safe food production, health management, and biological manufacturing in extreme extraterrestrial settings. Together, advancements in marine and space biotechnology can elevate India as a global leader in biomanufacturing. Despite this promise, India's domestic marine biomass production, particularly seaweed remains modest, with annual cultivation at around 70,000 tonnes. As a result, the nation continues to import seaweed-derived products such as agar, carrageenan, and alginates, which are widely used across food, pharmaceutical, cosmetic, and medical industries. Targeted initiatives under the Blue Economy framework, the Deep Ocean Mission, and the BioE3 programme are driving progress toward an integrated marine biomanufacturing ecosystem that connects cultivation, extraction, and value-added applications. Both marine and space biotechnology remain largely underdeveloped sectors, offering immense strategic and technological potential for early innovators. The key challenge lies in avoiding fragmented, slow-paced research and development that could hinder their transformative impact.

Good Practices in ESG

ENVIRONMENTAL

The organizations should strive to decarbonize their operations and enable a climate-neutral society.

SOCIAL

The organizations should create social value by investing in sustainable growth and equitable futures.

GOVERNANCE

The organizations should focus on building a more inclusive and sustainable online ecosystem.

Tips for Environment Friendly Initiatives

Use eco-friendly cleaning products

Shop for local produce

Practice sustainable tourism

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News in ESG

India Moves to Advance Andaman and Nicobar Islands as Blue Economy Hub

Addressing scientists, officials and stakeholders, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, and MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh said at Atal Centre for Ocean Science and Technology for Islands (ACOSTI) that India's future economic value addition will increasingly depend on untapped marine resources as the nation accelerates toward becoming one of the world's leading economies. He emphasized that the Government's strong thrust on the Blue Economy reflects Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision that India's development must include the island territories and coastal regions, not just the mainland. Speaking about the Deep Ocean Mission, Dr. Singh said it was a matter of pride that the Prime Minister mentioned the mission twice in Independence Day addresses from the Red Fort, highlighting India's commitment to advancing the Blue Economy. Marine resources, as he said, would play a critical role in sustaining India's growth as traditional resources decline. The Blue Economy is expected to contribute significantly to employment, exports, environmental sustainability and economic resilience. Key initiatives showcased during the programme included pilot scale open sea cage farming of marine fish and large scale seaweed cultivation. The Minister expressed satisfaction that technology transfer had already begun, demonstrating a "whole-of-government, whole-of-society" approach. Citing the BioE3 policy (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment), he said marine bio-resources can enable biodegradable plastic substitutes, new medicinal compounds, and high-value bio-products, thereby creating jobs and strengthening the bioeconomy. He stressed that Self-Help Groups and women's participation must be enhanced so that these initiatives supplement household incomes and strengthen the "Vocal for Local" and "Local for Global" vision.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2215627®=3&lang=1>

Environment Ministry Uses NIRANTAR to Strengthen Research Coordination

Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Shri Bhupender Yadav chaired a meeting of National Institute for Research & Application of Natural Resources to Transform, Adapt and Build Resilience (NIRANTAR). The platform brings together institutions under the Ministry to enhance coordination, collaboration and effective utilization of natural resources. Four verticals of NIRANTAR focus on different aspects of research, assessment of outcomes and their ultimate utilization. He underlined the importance of India's bioresources and said the platform could play a crucial role in ensuring their sustainable use for development. Shri Bhupender Yadav urged NIRANTAR to focus on three core areas—research, its role in policymaking and the way ahead, and emphasized the importance of institution building through committed and capable human resources.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=2213829®=6&lang=1>

EU Joint Bank Reporting Committee Sets 2026 Agenda to Standardise ESG Disclosures

European authorities are moving forward with efforts to enhance semantic consistency across ESG reporting frameworks to improve clarity and comparability. The latest recommendations

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will inform the upcoming Implementing Technical Standards on ESG disclosures as well as future supervisory data collections. These harmonisation initiatives aim to ease reporting burdens while increasing the usefulness of sustainability data for supervisors, investors, and policymakers. The Joint Bank Reporting Committee has released its 2026 Work Programme alongside a series of ESG-focused recommendations designed to further align how European banks define, categorise, and report sustainability related information.

<https://esgnews.com/eu-joint-bank-reporting-committee-sets-2026-agenda-to-standardise-esg-disclosures/>

Singapore Expands High Integrity Nature Based Carbon Innovation with New Blue Carbon and Biomass Initiatives

At a carbon innovation forum hosted in the city state, Singapore's economic and research agencies unveiled a set of initiatives aimed at strengthening scientific credibility and commercial scalability in nature-based carbon solutions. The World-Wide Fund for Nature Singapore launched a Blue Carbon Support Programme in partnership with the Singapore Economic Development Board. The Office for Space Technology and Industry announced a biomass grant call intended to deepen research pipelines for digital measurement, reporting and verification in Southeast Asia's forests and coastal ecosystems.

<https://esgnews.com/singapore-expands-high-integrity-nature-based-carbon-innovation-with-new-blue-carbon-and-biomass-initiatives/>

We hope that the above information provided in the ESG Catalyst will be useful for professionals and inspire them to adopt ESG practices. Your suggestions and inputs on ESG Catalyst may be shared by email at esgsb@icsi.edu.

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