



CENTRE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH

NEWSLETTER

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Highlights

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Edition 2025

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Advancing Equality | Building Alliances | Driving Change

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In the third quarter of 2025, CSR demonstrated leadership in both global digital governance and grassroots community empowerment. From hosting the inaugural Trust & Safety India Festival (TASI) 2025, a first-of-its-kind global dialogue on AI ethics, online safety, and inclusion, to launching the Johad Assessment Tool to strengthen water resilience and community-led water management in Rajasthan.

This edition focuses on our commitment to bridging the digital divide, promoting gender justice, and fostering climate action. We highlight the sustained success of our Women Skill Development Centre in Gurugram, which celebrated the graduation of its third batch of office assistant trainees, and the transformative work with adolescent girls through the AGLC Project to build leadership and civic awareness. We invite you to explore the stories of our multi-sectoral approach, working from high-level policy dialogue to deep community engagement, to advance an equitable future for women and girls.



FROM THE DIRECTOR



This quarter, the Centre for Social Research (CSR) marked significant progress in advancing gender justice and digital safety, building upon the achievements of the first and second quarters of 2025.

A major highlight of this period was CSR's partnership with the Trust and Safety Forum to bring the third edition of the Trust and Safety Innovation Festival (TASI 2025) to India. Held at the Taj Ambassador Hotel, New Delhi, on 7–8 October 2025, this was the first time the global festival took place outside Europe, following its successful editions in Amsterdam and Lille. The India edition was endorsed by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD), and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), and recognised as the Official Pre-Summit Event of the AI Impact Summit 2026, Government of India.

Another key milestone this quarter was the progress of the Pehal Village Johad Restoration Project in Mundawar Block, Khairthal-Tijara District, Rajasthan, under CSR's Gender, Water, and Climate Change (GWCC) Division. This initiative builds on the

success of the Jharandiya Village Johad Rejuvenation Project, previously restored with support from Time to Help Germany and Embrace Relief (USA), facilitated by the Hope and Action Foundation. The new Pehal Village phase, supported by Time to Help Germany and the Hope and Action Foundation, aims to provide year-round water access while strengthening women's leadership in community water governance.

The GWCC team conducted extensive groundwork, including resource mapping, village water committee formation, socio-economic assessments, and infrastructure planning. In August 2025, CSR developed a Johad Assessment Tool Manual to prioritize pond restoration and establish a monitoring framework. Among the five ponds surveyed across Pehal, Jindauli, and Sorkha Kalan, Pehal was identified as most critical. Meetings were held with the village water committee and school representatives to ensure local engagement, while the infrastructure plan was submitted to the donor for implementation.

These milestones reflect CSR's unwavering commitment to building a gender-just and equitable society, where women and girls lead change, access resources equitably, and navigate both online and offline spaces with safety and dignity.

Warm regards,

Dr. Ranjana Kumari
Director, Centre For Social Research



Trust & Safety India Festival 2025: Building a Safer Digital Future Together

A first-of-its-kind global dialogue on trust, safety, and inclusion in the digital age.

The inaugural Trust & Safety India Festival (TASI) 2025, hosted in New Delhi, marked a milestone in global conversations on online safety, ethics, and responsible innovation. Over two days, participants from more than 15 countries came together to exchange ideas, challenge assumptions, and build collective strategies for safer digital spaces.

The Festival served as a dynamic platform where government leaders, industry experts, civil society, and academia joined hands to discuss what it truly takes to create environments rooted in trust and accountability online.

A major highlight was the keynote address by Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister for External Affairs, Government of India, who emphasized India's leadership role in shaping global AI governance. He urged for a balanced, people-centered approach that embeds trust,

inclusion, and accountability into the design of emerging technologies.

The sessions saw engaging dialogues with Mr. Abhishek Singh, Additional Secretary, MeitY, and S. Krishnan, Secretary, MeitY, who explored the intersection of safety and innovation in today's AI-driven world. Recognized as a pre-summit event for India's upcoming AI Impact Summit 2026, TASI underscored how questions of ethics, governance, and online safety have become deeply global and interconnected.



Across more than a dozen sessions, experts explored key themes including AI ethics and safety, child and youth protection, gendered and sexualized harms, the creator economy, platform accountability, and digital well-being. Together, these conversations shaped a forward-looking roadmap for inclusive digital safety.

The Festival was enriched by the participation of international delegations and embassies. The Embassy of France in India, Embassy of the Netherlands, and Embassy of Sweden hosted special receptions that celebrated international collaboration and dialogue. Distinguished guests included Ambassador Thierry Mathou, Ambassador Marisa Gerards, and Ambassador Jan Thesleff, alongside virtual addresses by Delphine O, Secretary-General for the Generation Equality Forum, and Julie Inman Grant, Australia's eSafety Commissioner. A powerful highlight was the fireside conversation with MP Bansuri Swaraj, who spoke on women's leadership, visibility, and inclusion in digital spaces.



Despite the monsoon rains, the energy and commitment of participants made the first edition of TASI a resounding success. The Centre for Social Research extends heartfelt thanks to all partners, sponsors, and participants whose support made this event possible.

As we look ahead, TASI 2026 promises to continue this journey of collaboration, learning, and innovation, toward a future where safety, dignity, and trust are at the heart of our digital world.



Bridging the Skill Gap: Empowering Young Women for Formal Employment



The Centre for Social Research (CSR), in partnership with EMpower – The Emerging Markets Foundation, continues its impactful project “Bridging the Skill Gap through Professional Skills for Young Women’s Entry into Formal Employment.” The training offers comprehensive modules on office management, digital literacy, communication, and leadership, helping women transition into formal employment with confidence.

From July to September 2025, CSR’s Women Skill Development (WSD) Centre in Gurugram conducted 35 mobilization drives across localities such as Sheetla Colony, Wazirabad, and Tigra Village, reaching over 150 young women. Led by Centre Head Mr. Sanjay Bara, the initiative collaborates closely with the Department of Women and Child Development, Gurugram, ensuring deep community engagement.

Two batches of trainees have graduated with government certification and a 99% success rate, while the third continues training, a testament to CSR’s sustained commitment to women’s livelihood empowerment.

Honoring the achievements of CSR’s third batch of graduates.

On 1st August 2025, CSR Gurugram Centre celebrated the Certificate Distribution Ceremony for its third batch of trainees. The event, graced by Dr. Ranjana Kumari, Director of CSR, honored 23 graduates who completed the Office Assistant Training Programme.

Dr. Ranjana shared motivational insights and interview tips, emphasizing confidence and persistence as the keys to success. The celebration marked a proud milestone recognizing how skill development transforms not just employability, but women’s self-belief and independence.



CSR’s 21st Century Skills sessions help women find their voice and purpose.

The Centre for Social Research (CSR) organized a series of empowering sessions focused on awareness, leadership, and safety for women trainees. A session on Sexual and Reproductive Rights, led by Dr. Manasi Mishra, emphasized bodily autonomy, access to healthcare, and informed decision-making as essential elements of women’s empowerment. As part of the 21st Century Skills Initiative, Ms. Tanushree Goswami conducted an engaging session on Public Speaking, Leadership, and Career



Counselling, inspiring participants to build confidence, resilience, and pursue personal growth. Additionally, the EHS Guru Team, led by Ms. Ritika, delivered a hands-on Fire and Life Safety training, promoting awareness on fire prevention, emergency response, and first aid. Together, these initiatives strengthened CSR's mission to equip women with the knowledge, confidence, and skills for a safer and more empowered future.

EMpower Evaluation of the Office Assistant Project



The three-day EMpower Evaluation of the Office Assistant Project brought together representatives from EMpower, the Centre for Social Research (CSR), and partner organizations to assess progress, share insights, and review the project's overall impact. Through Focus Group Discussions, field visits to community centers, and interactions with trainees, the evaluation showcased how the initiative has enhanced women's confidence, employability, and digital literacy. Participants commended the

program's role in fostering community engagement and empowerment. The EMpower team appreciated CSR's participatory approach and its steadfast commitment to advancing women's livelihoods through skill development and vocational training.

Adolescent Girls Learning Community (AGLC) Project – Second Phase Activities

As part of the Adolescent Girls Learning Community (AGLC) Project, the Centre for Social Research (CSR) continued its partnership with Nirantar Trust to deliver a series of interactive and empowering sessions aimed at building leadership, self-awareness, and community engagement among adolescent girls.

The phase began with an Orientation Session at Nirantar Trust, where participants from various organizations came together to share their experiences, connect through engaging activities, and discuss future collaboration models. The session explored innovative approaches to mentorship, peer learning, and tailored training programs for adolescent girls, setting the stage for an inspiring and collaborative journey ahead.

A Risk Assessment Activity followed, encouraging participants to identify potential threats to their safety and reflect on trustworthy sources of support. Through



open discussions, they brainstormed practical strategies to mitigate risks, fostering greater self-awareness and resilience. In the Community Problem Identification Activity, participants analyzed local issues such as poor sanitation, unsafe roads, and open drainage systems emphasizing the importance of community-driven problem-solving and civic participation.



Subsequent sessions focused on personal growth and self-reflection, where participants identified aspects of life within and beyond their control through the Circle of Control exercise. The Personal Growth Journey Assessment allowed them to evaluate their learning over four project phases highlighting new knowledge, strengthened relationships, and aspirations to apply their understanding of gender, ethics, and leadership within their communities.

To deepen their connection with their surroundings, the girls engaged in Social Resource Mapping, identifying safe community spaces such as schools, hospitals, and bus stops, and discussing how to make public areas more inclusive and secure. The appointment of a female mentor further supported their learning through career counselling and discussions on breaking gender stereotypes, empowering them to pursue their ambitions confidently. Sessions like “Problems in Our Area” and “Understanding Our Community” encouraged critical thinking about local infrastructure, civic responsibility, and the importance of

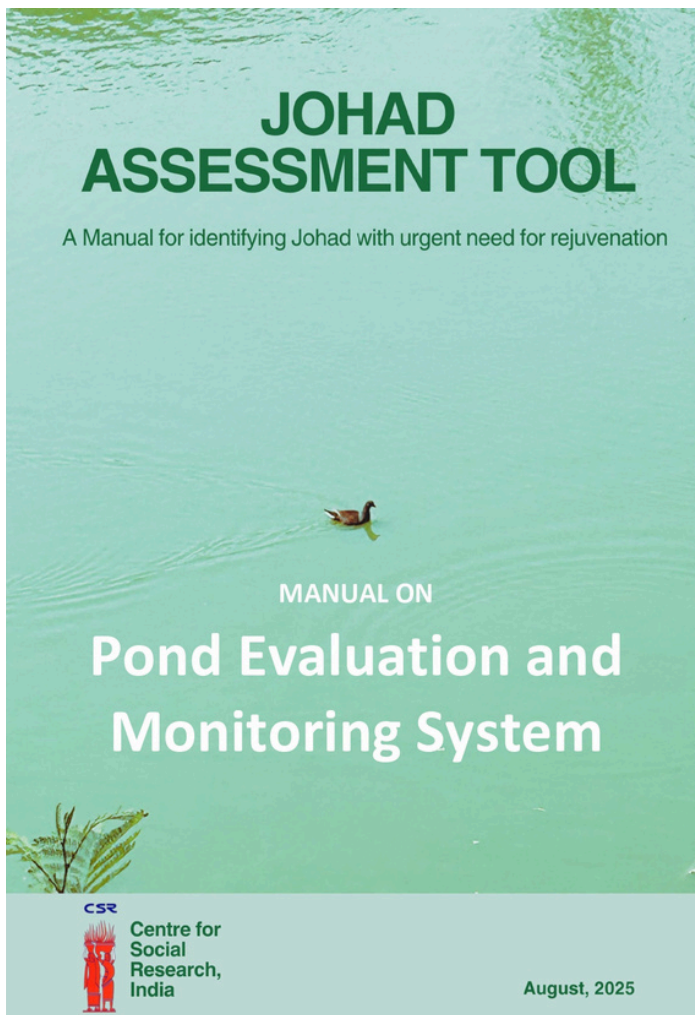


collective action for change. Participants reflected on challenges such as irregular water supply and poor waste management, while also proposing practical solutions to improve their neighborhoods.

Building on this foundation, a series of sessions on Leadership and Decision-Making explored qualities such as empathy, confidence, and teamwork. Through interactive discussions and reflective exercises, participants learned that leadership goes beyond titles, it's about everyday actions, fairness, and courage. The sessions concluded with motivational reflections on women's leadership, self-belief, and the importance of taking initiative in shaping one's life and community.

The second phase of the AGLC Project was a transformative experience for all participants helping adolescent girls strengthen their voices, leadership potential, and civic awareness. Through each activity, CSR and Nirantar Trust reinforced their shared commitment to empowering young women to become confident, conscious, and capable leaders of tomorrow.





Introducing the Johad Assessment Tool: Advancing Community-Led Water Management

The Gender, Water and Climate Change (GWCC) Department at the Centre for Social Research (CSR) has developed a pioneering framework, the Johad Assessment Tool, to evaluate the ecological, social, and governance health of village ponds. Inspired by national water body diagnostic frameworks, this indicator-based tool provides a structured and practical method for assessing the sustainability and impact of local water resources. It will be piloted during upcoming pond rejuvenation initiatives under CSR's next grant cycle. The pilot will focus on refining the tool's usability, ensuring its relevance across diverse rural contexts, and enhancing evidence-based decision-making. Through this innovation, CSR aims to

strengthen community-led water management and promote sustainable, gender-inclusive practices for long-term climate resilience.

Pehal Pond Rejuvenation: Strengthening Rural Water Resilience in Rajasthan

The Centre for Social Research (CSR), through its Gender, Water and Climate Change Department, has launched a new pond restoration project in Pehal village, Mundawar Block, Rajasthan, with support from Time to Help, Germany. Building on the success of the Jhirandiya pond initiative, this project aims to rejuvenate the village Johad, benefiting over 700 households. The plan focuses on embankment strengthening, improved water storage, and community participation through the Village Water Committee, promoting sustainable water management and climate resilience in Rajasthan's rural heartland.

Infrastructure Plan



Pehal Village, Mundawar Block,
Khairthal-Tijara District, Rajasthan

1. Resource Map
2. Village Water Committee
3. Socio-economic & Demographic Details
4. Pictures of Johad
5. Tentative Estimates for Repairing of Johad
6. Steps Involved



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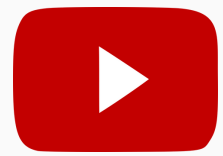
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