



CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Annual Report

April 2025 – March 2026

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ABOUT US



The **Centre for Sustainable Development, CFSD**, is a non-profit organization, which is registered under the Society's Registration Act 1860 (Society Registration No: Maha 115 / 04 / Nagpur) and Bombay Public Trust Act 1950 (Trust Registration no: F-20854, Nagpur).

The organization was started in 2004, with a **vision** to facilitate participatory and sustainable development processes that would make human settlements equitable living environments. CFSD supports an integrated development approach for the improvement of living conditions in slums. This is done by combining various local initiatives, national and regional programmes in the fields of **urban environment, social and technical infrastructure, poverty alleviation, education and health.**

We strongly believe that for the success of any government program for the urban poor, involving slum communities, especially woman, in the planning and implementation of sustainable improvement measures is a must. Therefore, CFSD is committed to facilitate a participatory approach encompassing slum dwellers, the government, NGO's and the private sector.

Our Vision

To facilitate participatory and sustainable development processes that would make human settlements equitable living environments.

Our Mission

To develop human settlements into equitable living environment where the community has access to health, education, housing, basic infrastructure and livelihood options irrespective of their social and economic status.



URBAN DEVELOPMENT

CFSD supports an **Integrated Development Approach** for the improvement of living conditions in urban slums. Focus areas for urban development include environment, housing and physical infrastructure, poverty alleviation, education and health. Slum dwellers are encouraged to participate in the planning and implementation of sustainable slum improvement measures.

CFSD is committed to facilitate a **participatory approach** encompassing slum dwellers, government organizations, NGO's and the private sector.

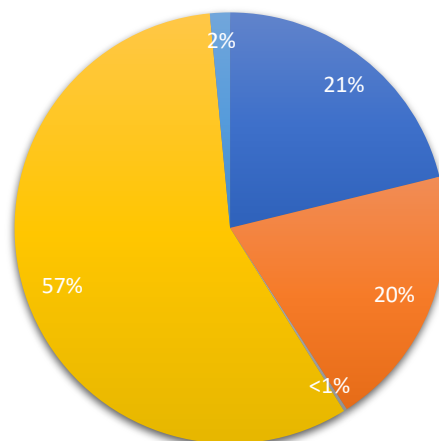
Patta Rights (Land Rights)

In close cooperation with the Urban Local Body, CFSD is mapping slums and conducting socio economic surveys of slum dwellers to collect eligibility documents and submit them to the government to process their sale deeds. Within the past year, 17 Patta Watap Camps have been carried out.



CFSD supported the distribution of **10183 pattas** to slum dwellers through:

- Nagpur Municipal Corporation
- Nazul Department
- Revenue
- Nagpur Improvement Trust
- Private Land



*Pattas distributed from
April 2025 to March 2026*



HEALTH

Health Camp

In collaboration with the Nagpur Municipal Corporation Medical Department, CFSD organized a health check-up camp at the Bhandewadi Dumping Yard. The camp brought together a team of doctors and medical specialists to provide healthcare services at the worksite of waste pickers. The initiative aimed to address common health risks associated with waste picking, including respiratory conditions, skin infections, musculoskeletal issues, and general illnesses.

A total of **150 waste pickers** were screened during the camp. Essential medicines were distributed free of cost to beneficiaries, ensuring immediate treatment and relief. Chest X-rays were conducted to assess respiratory health, and eye check-ups were done. In addition to medical services, CFSD distributed protective gear, including masks and gloves, to support safer working conditions and reduce exposure to harmful materials.





Gender and Climate

CFSD conducted clean cooking awareness sessions using the Participatory Learning and Action approach. These sessions focused on educating women's groups about the importance of adopting clean, smoke-free cooking practices for safer indoor environments, reduced household air pollution, and improved public health outcomes. A total of 300 women participated, with each group attending three structured sessions designed to build awareness, encourage behavioural change, and promote sustainable clean energy practices at the household level. This work contributes to the intersection of gender, climate, and health, for instance by:

- Reducing exposure to indoor air pollution and associated respiratory and health risks.
- Empowering women with knowledge and decision-making capacity.
- Encouraging the adoption of cleaner cooking solutions and energy-efficient practices.
- Promoting low-emission cooking practices that reduce environmental impacts.

ENVIRONMENT



Under the *Swachh Bharat Mission* programme of the Government of India, CFSD has been working proactively with the Nagpur Municipal Corporation to promote sustainable waste management practices across the city.

CFSD has also played a significant role in supporting the informal waste management sector by conducting the enumeration of waste pickers and other individuals engaged in informal waste-related activities. In addition, the organisation facilitated the process of securing identity cards for waste pickers through the Urban Local Body, thereby contributing to their recognition, inclusion, and access to social security mechanisms.

As part of its commitment to promoting the principles of *Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle (RRR)* at the community level, CFSD has been facilitating regular visits to RRR Centres to increase public awareness about responsible waste management and resource recovery. Conducted twice a month since December 2024, these visits serve as interactive learning opportunities that encourage sustainable consumption practices and strengthen community engagement in environmental stewardship.





Community Awareness

CFSD conducted sessions with youth across 24 schools and two colleges in Nagpur. To make learning accessible and engaging, CFSD used interactive methods such as the snake-and-ladder game, designed to educate about air pollution, waste management, and environmentally responsible behavior.

Awareness sessions on ambient and indoor air pollution were held in 10 Resident Welfare Association Communities. 24 corner meetings in slums were held on biomass burning and indoor air pollution. Sessions with *safai kamcharis* focused on bio mass burning and were conducted in all ten zones of Nagpur through cooperation with the Nagpur Municipal Cooperation as well as the AG/BVG private company.

To show first-hand how solid waste management can be done, CFSD has set up composters in three schools, one college and two gardens. These composters are visited twice a month.

24 Schools **2** Colleges



PUC Drives

Twelve Pollution Under Control (PUC) Drives have been conducted under the National Clean Air Programme in partnership with the Nagpur Municipal Corporation. In India, a PUC certificate is a mandatory document issued after testing a vehicle's emissions to ensure that pollution levels remain within the standards prescribed by the government under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules. Different locations were chosen for the drives to reach different communities. Each one educated vehicle owners on the importance of valid PUC certification in reducing emissions and ensuring compliance with air quality regulations.



Public Mobilisation

CFSD Nagpur continued to strengthen community participation through public awareness and citizen-led campaigns focused on sustainable mobility and cleaner air.

In collaboration with the Jan Aakrosh team, CFSD organized awareness drives against vehicular idling at traffic signals. Volunteers displayed informative posters and directly interacted with commuters, encouraging them to switch off vehicle engines while waiting at red lights. These initiatives emphasized how simple habit changes can contribute to reducing vehicular emissions and improving urban air quality.



CFSD also actively supported the *Double the Bus Campaign*, with participation from citizens across Nagpur. Six campaigns were organized to advocate for stronger and more accessible public transport systems. The campaign highlighted public transport as a sustainable alternative to rising private vehicle use and air pollution concerns. Through these collective efforts, citizens demonstrated increasing awareness and a shared commitment toward building a healthier, and more sustainable city.

ADVOCACY



Wastepickers

CFSD continues to play an active role in strengthening policy frameworks and grassroots advocacy to secure the rights and dignity of marginalized communities. As a member of the “Alliance of Indian Wastepickers”, CFSD contributes to national-level efforts advocating for the recognition, social security, and occupational rights of waste pickers. This work aligns strongly with SDG 08, SDG 11 and SDG 12, reinforcing the essential role of waste pickers in building circular and sustainable urban systems.



CFSD worked under the National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) Scheme to strengthen the inclusion, recognition, and social protection of waste pickers within formal waste management systems. CFSD was selected as a Resource Organization based on demonstrated expertise in waste management, training, and capacity building. The primary role has been to handhold waste picker collectives, enabling them to effectively manage and operate 10 Dry Waste Collection Centres (DWCCs) in Nagpur.

To support the identification and inclusion of waste pickers, CFSD facilitated 70 Profiling Camps, ensuring systematic enumeration and documentation of workers. In addition, 368 Social Security Camps were organized to connect waste pickers with welfare entitlements and government schemes, including health coverage and other social protection measures.

Through these interventions, CFSD has supported the NAMASTE Scheme's vision of recognizing waste pickers as key contributors to resource recovery and recycling while fostering safer, more inclusive, and sustainable urban waste management ecosystems.



70 Profiling Camps

368 Social Security Camps





Land Rights

CFSD's advocacy work this year continued to place strong emphasis on securing *patta* (land tenure) rights for slum-dwelling communities in Nagpur. The organization coordinated closely with key government bodies, including the Nagpur Municipal Corporation, Nagpur Improvement Trust, the Nazul Department, and the Revenue Department. This work contributes directly to SDG 1 and SDG 11, as secure tenure is foundational to poverty reduction and inclusive urban development.

A key aspect of this effort involved building bridges between government agencies, elected representatives, and slum communities. CFSD actively engaged with political leaders and community groups to address procedural barriers, raise awareness about entitlements, and support documentation processes required for *patta* allocation.

At the policy level, CFSD participated in high-level review meetings, including discussions held at the Chief Minister's Office and at Hyderabad House, where progress on *patta* distribution and related administrative challenges were reviewed. These platforms provided an opportunity to highlight on-ground realities from Nagpur and advocate for more inclusive and efficient policy implementation.

A significant milestone during the year was the advocacy around private land *patta* distribution, an unprecedented initiative in Nagpur. CFSD played an instrumental role in supporting this process, ensuring that beneficiaries were informed, prepared, and able to navigate administrative requirements. This effort marked an important step toward expanding tenure security beyond government land and addressing long-standing gaps in housing rights for the urban poor.

Nandgaon Ash Bund

The Nandgaon Ash Bund, operated by Mahagenco's Khaparkheda Thermal Power Station near Nagpur, has been a longstanding environmental concern due to the disposal of fly ash at the site. CFSD has played a consistent advocacy role on this issue since 2021, when our report on coal-fired power plants in the region first highlighted concerns about ash management practices.

Since then, farmers and villagers have regularly alerted CFSD to fresh dumping activities. Acting on these reports, CFSD has repeatedly raised the matter with regulatory authorities, including the Central Pollution Control Board and the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB). These interventions have led to site inspections, regulatory warnings, and temporary suspensions of dumping activities.

Following renewed reports from the community, CFSD again submitted complaints, with copies to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and the Chief Minister's Office, supported by photographic evidence. The MoEFCC acknowledged the grievance and directed MPCB to take appropriate action.



While regulatory attention has been secured, the issue remains unresolved. CFSD continues to work with affected communities, monitor developments, and advocate for stronger enforcement and environmentally responsible fly ash management.



STUDY AND RESEARCH WORK

A baseline survey was conducted to understand household cooking practices and promote the shift towards clean cooking for healthier families and smoke-free kitchens. The survey found that many women still use stoves to cook and many women are deprived of government schemes such as the Ladli Bahin Scheme and the Social Security Scheme.

CFSD is an active member of the Nagpur City Hub, a collaborative platform comprising multiple stakeholders working on urban environmental issues. CFSD, the All-India Institute of Local Self Government and The Metropolitan Institute, on behalf of the Nagpur City Hub, carried out a survey in July 2025 to document waste across residential, commercial and nullah-side areas in the Dharampeth Zone in Nagpur. The comprehensive social audit revealed 113 Garbage Vulnerable Points exposing serious gaps in waste management. The study report was submitted to Additional Municipal Commissioner Vasumana Pant. Following the audit, hub members collectively initiated efforts to identify and implement practical solutions for improved waste management across the target zone.

FEATURED ACTIVITIES

Expansion of Patta Rights Programme

CFSD is expanding its *Patta Rights Programme* beyond Nagpur to multiple regions across Maharashtra, including Jalna, Bhandara district, and Nagpur district. This expansion reflects CFSD's commitment to scaling its rights-based approach to secure land tenure for vulnerable urban communities. The initiative contributes to SDG 1 and SDG 11, by promoting equitable access to housing and reducing tenure insecurity.

A significant milestone in this expansion is CFSD receiving a formal work order to initiate slum surveys in Jalna. These surveys represent a critical first step toward formalizing land rights, as they enable the identification, mapping, and documentation of eligible households. CFSD is implementing this work in close collaboration with district leadership, including Hon. Collector Ashima Mittal and Municipal Commissioner Santosh Khandekar, reinforcing a strong institutional partnership for inclusive urban development.

Survey on Forest Encroachments

CFSD will undertake a focused survey of settlements located on forest land, in line with directives arising from decisions of the Supreme Court of India. This exercise is particularly significant given the complex intersection of environmental protection and housing rights. The survey will aim to document the extent of habitation, socio-economic conditions of residents, and eligibility under relevant legal and policy frameworks.

This effort is expected to contribute to a more balanced and evidence-based approach to addressing forest land encroachments, ensuring that conservation priorities are met while safeguarding the rights and livelihoods of vulnerable communities. It aligns with SDG 10 and SDG 15, by integrating environmental sustainability with social equity.





ACHIEVEMENTS

CFSD supported awareness and facilitation efforts related to *Patta* rights and slum regularization processes for informal settlements on private land in Nagpur. In Ramteke Nagar slum, private landowners whose plots were encroached upon by slum dwellers received Transferable Development Rights certificates, while the land was acquired by the Nagpur Municipal Corporation. Following this process, Nagpur Municipal Corporation initiated the execution of lease deeds (*pattas*) for eligible slum-dwelling families, strengthening tenure security and reducing the risk of displacement.

In December 2025, CFSD was recognized for its overarching efforts in securing land rights for slum dwellers in Nagpur. During the Patta Distribution Programme, Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Devendra Fadnavis acknowledged and appreciated CFSD's contribution to the initiative.

Our Board Members

President: Ms. Shubhangi Laxmikant Padole

Ms. Shubhangi Padole is an Agriculturist with a post graduate degree in Business Management. She dedicates full time to the organization and is in charge of the overall management at CFSD. She has an expertise in conducting mapping and socio-economic surveys in slums and peri urban areas.

Vice President: Ashok Devidas Khonde

Ashok Devidas Khonde is a retired Engineer from the State Electricity Distribution Department. He is engaged in social and environmental causes and provides timely valuable guidance to the CFSD team.

Secretary: Ms. Leena Suhas Buddhe

Ms. Leena Suhas Buddhe is an Environmentalist with a post graduate degree in Environmental Science. She dedicates full time to the organization and is in charge of liasoning with the government, elected representatives and CSR companies for funds and projects. She has an expertise in environmental and social issues with special emphasis on solid waste management and integration of waste pickers into the solid waste management of the city.

Joint Secretary: Niren Arvind Bhalerao

Niren Arvind Bhalerao is presently working as the Environmental Liasoning Officer with Gharda Chemicals. He provides valuable guidance to the team with his expertise.

Treasurer: Harsha Paresh Kapgate

Harsha Paresh Kapgate has done her Masters in Social Work. She dedicates full time to the organization actively coordinating field level activities. She is an expert in organizing wastepickers and conducting awareness campaigns on solid waste management and air quality. Harsha Paresh Kapgate also helps in accounts related activities of the organization.

Executive Member: Geeta Gujarkar

Geeta Gujarkar holds a Masters in Social Work and dedicates full time to the organization. She is an expert on the Land Rights program coordinating with field staff, doing mapping of slums and socio-economic surveys of slum dwellers. She liases with government organizations and elected representatives for better coordination and effective implementation of programs.

Executive Member: Dr. Mahendra Golabrao Thakare

Dr. Mahendra Thakare holds a PhD in Life Sciences and a Postgraduate in Environmental Sciences. He is presently heading the Environmental Science Department at Science College in Chandrapur. He provides his valuable inputs on environmental initiatives of CFSD.

Our Funders

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our funders, who enable us to do all the work that we do:

Yashada, Pune

Nagpur Municipal Corporation

Jalna Municipal Corporation

Vivid Concepts

Chintan, New Delhi

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The Energy Research Institute (TERI), New Delhi

Axis Bank Foundation

Nagpur Improvement Trust (NIT)

Collectors' Office

Smart data Enterprises

Rotary Club of Nagpur Vision and others

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ASAR

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