

Message from GCCA India

2025 has been a year of defining moments, as we reflect on the year for GCCA India and its member companies.

The cornerstone of our efforts this year was the publication of the **Decarbonization Roadmap for the Indian Cement Sector: Net Zero CO₂ by 2070**. Released in March 2025 and developed in collaboration with TERI, this roadmap serves as a guiding document in our aspiration to be a "Net Zero" cement sector by 2070.

The year began with renewed leadership as we welcomed Mr Joydeep Mukherjee, Managing Director of HeidelbergCement India, in January as our Co-Chair. In May 2025, we signed a significant Memorandum of Understanding with CII-GBC, further solidifying our collaborative networks.

Furthermore, in September 2025, we launched the "Comparative Evaluation of Embodied Carbon of High-rise and Low-rise Buildings in India" at IIT Bombay. Released in collaboration with the Indian Concrete Institute and the Low Carbon Construct Forum, the report emphasizes the importance of addressing embodied carbon in India's building sector, which accounts for a significant share of national emissions.

Capacity building and safety remained at the heart of our operations in 2025. We successfully conducted two "Train the Trainers" sessions on Contractor Safety Management, the first in Mumbai in March and the second in Hyderabad in June. We rounded off our training calendar in November by supporting GCCA with a Workshop on the GCCA CO₂ and Energy Protocol V 3.1, ensuring our members remain at the forefront of global reporting standards.

Finally, to close the year, in December, we released a report on "Study on Carbon Uptake by Concrete in India" in collaboration with National Council of Cement and Building Materials (NCB). This study aims to provide a value for CO₂ uptake by concrete, enabling its inclusion in India's emission reporting to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

This newsletter serves as a roundup of key highlights from July 2025.

With a lot of activities planned in 2026 ahead, we wish you a **Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year**.





Launch of "Comparative Evaluation of Embodied Carbon of High-Rise and Low-Rise Buildings in India" at IIT Bombay

GCCA India unveiled its report "Comparative Evaluation of Embodied Carbon of High-Rise and Low-Rise Buildings in India" at IIT Bombay on 13th September 2025, in collaboration with Indian Concrete Institute (ICI), Mumbai Centre IITB-ICI Student Chapter and Low Carbon Construct Forum (LCCF). The report emphasizes the importance of addressing embodied carbon in India's building sector, which accounts for a significant share of national emissions. With India's commitment to achieving Net Zero CO₂ by 2070, the findings provide actionable insights on material choices, concrete mixes, and strategies to reduce embodied carbon emissions in the built environment, specifically for high-rise and low-rise buildings.

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Release of 'Study of Carbon Uptake by Concrete in India' in collaboration with the National Council of Cement and Building Materials (NCB)

GCCA India launched a report on the 'Study on Carbon Uptake by Concrete in India,' developed in collaboration with the National Council for Cement and Building Materials (NCB), during the 63rd NCB Day celebration on December 24, 2025. This report calculates the carbon uptake by concrete in India from 1996 to 2024, using the IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute Tier 1 methodology. This study aims to provide a value for CO₂ uptake by concrete, enabling its inclusion in India's emission reporting to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

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Panel on Reducing Embodied Carbon in Buildings at IIT Bombay hosted by GCCA India

Experts from engineering, architecture, and cement sectors discussed strategies, technologies, and policy alignment needed to cut embodied carbon in India's built environment, at the report release of "Comparative Evaluation of Embodied Carbon of High-Rise and Low-Rise Buildings in India"

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Concrete
Future

Way Forward

Vision and Strategy, Sustainable Builder's ecosystem

CONCRETE FUTURE



The diagram is a pyramid divided into five horizontal layers, each with an icon and text. From top to bottom: 1. Green layer with a leaf icon, text: 'Low carbon cement standards, approaches and definition'. 2. Orange layer with a gear icon, text: 'Market stimulation and demand creation'. 3. Purple layer with a person icon, text: 'Mobilise financing to accelerate deployment'. 4. Blue layer with a lightbulb icon, text: 'Policy framework and readings'. 5. Dark blue layer with a building icon, text: 'Policy framework and readings'. To the right of the pyramid, text: 'Technology collaboration for R&D'.

Way Forward (Support from Government)

- Continue focus on Energy Efficiency, Renewables, Circularity and Resource Efficiency
- Deep decarbonisation options: CCUS, Green hydrogen, electrification
- Developing and Strengthening infrastructure for CO₂ Storage and Transportation
- Pilots and Demo plants on CCUS for Indian industry
- Access to low-cost finance for changework to low carbon options
- Demand creation for green products through public procurement



Dr. Anand Kumar
Secretary, CEA

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JOYDEEP MUKHERJEE & VIBHA DHAWAN



As India charts its path to growth, becoming a developed nation by 2025, the structure is expected to be the backbone of this transformation. Every facet of this progress—from affordable housing to expressways—would cost substantially less in cement as alternatives, to the sector's actual reader of growth and urbanization, a environmental responsibility will be infused.

With transformation initiatives such as PM Gati Shakti, Housing for All and India Smart Cities Mission, cement demand promises to rise sharply. At the same time, if sector contributes nearly 7% of the nation's total greenhouse gas emissions. This is

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people economic growth from environmental degradation.

Third, improving the efficiency of energy use is vital. Smart urban planning, design of buildings and infrastructure, energy-efficient, pre-cut structures and durable building materials can all contribute to energy savings up to 30% in 2010. Innovations in energy efficiency and energy conservation will be critical for efficient energy use.

Fourth, the development of renewable energy sources is one of the most pressing issues expected to be significantly solved. Current plans can cut specific thermal energy use from 7,800 to 5,500 in the near term by adopting carbon-friendly technologies such as wind, solar, fuel cells, and biomass.

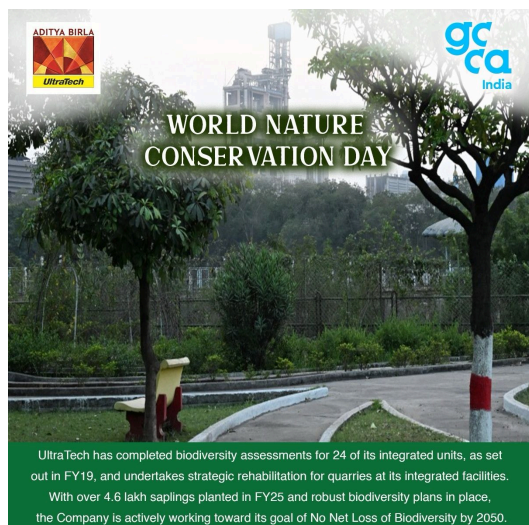
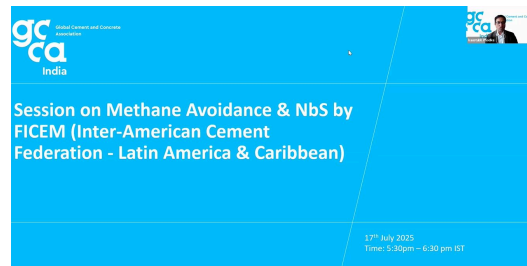
Fifth, rather than exploit and deplete technologies and resources, the development of new technologies for the recovery of the substances used in the construction of buildings is necessary. Commercially successful recovery of the other stages of construction, however, will be difficult. If the recovery of building materials is not successful, the recycling of building materials will be necessary.

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Webinar on Methane Avoidance & Nature-Based Solutions

GCCA India hosted an insightful webinar for its members on Methane Avoidance and Nature-Based Solutions (NbS), in collaboration with FICEM (Inter-American Cement Federation - Latin America & Caribbean). the webinar focused on how South America has formulated its Carbon Neutrality roadmap for the cement and concrete sector and elaborated on methane avoidance as a possible decarbonization lever, using biomass as an alternative fuel in the clinker manufacturing.

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Member Company Case Studies for Nature Conservation Day 2025

GCCA India shared case studies of member companies (UltraTech Cement, JSW Cements) for the World Nature Conservation Day on 28th July 2025, to showcase companies commitment to nature-positive actions across water conservation, circular economy, and biodiversity protection at Cement Plant sites.

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GCCA India at WOC India Awards 2025

Mr. Kaustubh Phadke served as one of the jury members for the World of Concrete (WoC) Awards as WOC India honored innovations, sustainability efforts, and excellence across India's concrete and construction sector.

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GCCA India at the 17th GRIHA Summit

Mr. Kaustubh Phadke highlighted the cement sector's Net Zero CO₂ progress at the GRIHA (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment) Summit. He elaborated on the vital role of blended cements, urging stronger policy support and collaboration for a low-carbon built environment.

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GCCA India at the Workshop on Circularity and Built Environment in India

Ms. Pashmin Dee (Sustainability Manager, GCCA India) presented the 'Decarbonization Roadmap for the Indian Cement Sector: Net Zero CO₂ by 2070' at the Workshop on Circularity in the Built Environment at the United Nations (UN) held at Delhi, India.

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GCCA India Initiative at the Asia Pacific Occupational Safety & Health Organisation (APOSHO) 39th International Conference on Safety, Health & Environment

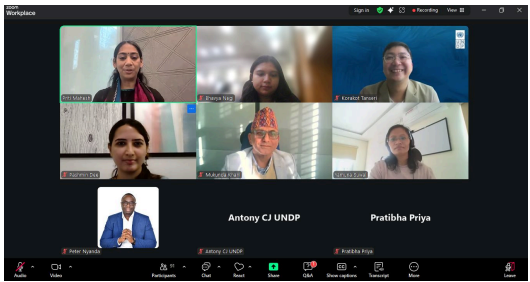
Mr. Kaustubh Phadke along with Mr. Ajay Sharma (Corporate Safety Head, UltraTech Cement), presented the Contractor Safety Management – GCCA India Initiative at the Asia Pacific Occupational Safety & Health Organisation (APOSHO) 39th International Conference on Safety, Health & Environment, held in Delhi on the 28th of November 2025.

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GCCA India at Indian Cement Review Conference 2025

Mr. Kaustubh Phadke, took part in a panel discussion on policy–market alignment for a low-carbon built environment and the sector’s Net Zero goals, and also serving as a jury member for the ICR Awards.

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GCCA Water Positivity Index and Toolkit at RECEIC–UNDP Knowledge Series

Ms. Pashmin Dee spoke at the RECEIC–UNDP Knowledge Series on November 11, 2025, on "Advancing Circularity and Climate Action through South–South Cooperation." She introduced the GCCA Water Positivity Index and Toolkit, highlighting its benefits for cement companies and potential applications in other sectors.

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Stakeholder Consultation Workshop on Green Public Procurement in Steel and Cement sector

Kaustubh Phadke participated in the panel discussion highlighting on decarbonization roadmap of the Indian cement sector, the role of SCM as a decarbonization lever, and the importance of low-carbon cement and its significance in green public procurement held at India International Centre, on August 18, 2025

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GCCA Work program at JSW Jeet 2025

Mr. Kaustubh Phadke presented and elaborated the GCCA India work (water positivity protocol, roadmap, CCUS reports, etc.) at the JSW Cement Sustainability and Innovation Meet – JEET 2025 in Vijayanagar, from 3 to 5th September 2025

Panel Discussion on Is Bharat Aligned with Global CCUS?

Mr. Kaustubh Phadke participated in a panel discussion on Is Bharat Aligned with Global CCUS Policy? exploring how India can align with global Carbon Capture, Utilization & Storage (CCUS) trends while building a robust domestic ecosystem at India BioEnergy & Tech Expo on 25th September 2025, organized by Indian Federation of Green Energy & MM Activ.

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Internship Highlights at GCCA India

GCCA India had two management interns who contributed to the research work on decarbonization, alternative fuel use and sustainable concrete use. We're now inviting applications for the next internship batch.

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Concrete in Life 2025/26 Photo Contest Opens

Share your best concrete-themed photos on Instagram with the campaign hashtags for a chance to participate in this global competition, open to all. Submissions close on 31st December 2025.

[Click for Details...](#)

**YOU
COULD WIN
\$10,000**

JUST BY TAKING A PHOTO
OF CONCRETE

gc / **CONCRETE IN LIFE**
Global Photography Competition



Roundtable on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Just Transition

GCCA India supported the UN GCNI roundtable on NDCs and Just Transition held at JSW Cements on 22nd December 2025. Mr. Kaustubh Phadke set the stage of the roundtable by discussing Industry Pathways to Decarbonization from both global and national perspectives and also participated in discussions focused on the policy needed to support decarbonization efforts in the sector

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About GCCA India

Global Cement & Concrete Association (GCCA) India works with the Indian cement & concrete sector on climate change, circular economy, health & safety, SDGs and communication. Sustainable development of the cement and concrete industry is at the core of the GCCA's work. The GCCA gathers and publishes data on the industry's sustainability commitments, guidelines, and initiates research. 'Decarbonization Roadmap for the Indian Cement Sector: Net-Zero CO₂ by 2070' is the collective aspiration of India's leading cement companies to contribute to building the sustainable world of tomorrow. GCCA India is affiliated to the Global Cement and Concrete Association – GCCA. More information about GCCA is available at <https://gccassociation.org/>



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