

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP AND POLICY ADVOCACY

# Leading the Sustainability Dialogue

*Thought leadership and policy advocacy play pivotal roles in shaping industry trajectories and fostering sustainable growth. At Axis Bank, we embrace the responsibility to drive meaningful discourse and advocate for policies that catalyse innovation, inclusivity, and resilience within the financial ecosystem.*

**Capitals Impacted**

Not Applicable

**SDGs Impacted**



Continued Alliances with Key National and Global Associations for Matters Related to Sustainable Development, ESG, and Climate Action

## World Economic Forum's (WEF) Alliance of CEO Climate Leaders

Axis Bank is a proud member of the World Economic Forum's Alliance of CEO Climate Leaders and actively engages in the Alliance's research and policy advocacy initiatives. The Alliance is currently focusing on three key thematic areas to drive action:

- » Decarbonising materials and the supply chain
- » Catalysing India's hydrogen economy
- » Developing a business model to protect old forests and promote afforestation

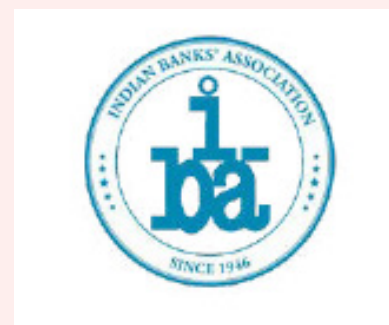
The Bank actively contributed to the Steering Committee that shaped a joint industry survey conducted by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and WEF on National Climate Solutions. This survey aims to inform a forthcoming whitepaper, offering insights and recommendations to facilitate increased private sector investments in natural climate solutions. The Bank is an active participant in other initiatives under the Alliance, focused on topics such as green hydrogen and environmental conservation.



## Indian Banks' Association Standing Committee on ESG

The Indian Banks' Association (IBA) established the IBA Standing Committee on ESG, aimed at promoting the adoption of ESG frameworks and best practices among Indian Banks, with a strong emphasis on climate risk and sustainable finance. The Bank's MD & CEO is appointed as the Alternate Chair of the committee, alongside two other senior leaders nominated as members.

This committee actively contributed to the 'Finance Track' of the G20, led by finance ministers and Central Bank governors of G20 member states. Within the Finance Track, the IBA Standing Committee collaborated with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and provided valuable inputs through discussions and reports, supporting the regulator's initiatives in this domain.



## Participation in the G20 and B20 Summit

Axis Bank played a significant role in both the B20 India ESG in Business Action Council and the G20 Alliance for the Empowerment and Progression of Women's Economic Representation (EMPOWER). In the B20 summit, the Bank advocated for transparent, consistent, and measurable reporting of ESG processes, aiming to address pressing societal issues and enhance business resilience. We

showcased our CBDC app at the showcase event organised by the RBI during G20 summit. In alignment with RBI and NPCI directives, the Bank has launched the CBDC UPI Interoperability feature on its Axis Mobile Digital Rupee App. This allows customers to make payments by scanning UPI QR codes. Axis Bank merchants can activate the CBDC Merchant App to conveniently view transactions.



## Key Submissions Made by the Bank in Fiscal 2024

### FICCI

- » Recommendations on Bank-fintech partnership - June 2023
- » Presentation made to the ED (Fintech), RBI - August 2023
- » 3 new papers (KYC for NRIs, More effective use of CKYC and BC Rules/ Need for changes in regulations) on Bank-fintech Partnership
- » Draft Paper on Account Aggregation - July 2023
- » Paper on Cards and Payment network - FICCI and IBA - August 2023
- » Article on digital banking - FICCI AGM 2023 - November 2023
- » Recommendations on draft paper for submission to RBI on regulatory measures towards consumer credit and bank credit to NBFCs - November 2023
- » Recommendations on draft paper for submission to RBI on dividend declaration - January 2024
- » Thought leadership article on Sustainable Finance - March 2024

### WEF

- » Blog on 'Use of AI in Financing' - December 2023

### Key Submissions

### CII

- » Draft recommendation on Willful Defaulters in line with recent judgment by the Hon'ble Supreme Court - April 2023
- » Article on financial inclusion in Financial Inclusion and Fintech - July 2023
- » Comments on RBI document on Risk Management and Outsourcing of Financial Services - November 2023

### Others

- » Thought leadership case study on Cloud Native Development for RedHat and The Asian Banker - November 2023
- » Prime Database article on REIT and INvIT - July 2023
- » Article/Interview with St. Xavier's College Kolkata - January 2024
- » Retail Finance insights and outlook - Submitted to The Asian Banker - January 2024

## Contributing as Part of National and Regional Committees and Taskforces on ESG

### Amitabh Chaudhry

(MD & CEO)

- » Chairman of the FICCI National Banking Committee for fiscal 2024 and fiscal 2025
- » Author/Contributor with the World Economic Forum
- » Member of the CII Davos Steering Committee 2024

### Rajiv Anand

(Deputy Managing Director)

- » Member of CII National Committee on Banking for fiscal 2024
- » Chair of the Working Group on Payment Aggregators under the aegis of CII Banking Committee

### Munish Sharda

(Executive Director)

- » Member of the ICC India Working Group on Digitalisation and FinTech's

### Arjun Chowdhry

(Group Executive – Affluent Banking, Retail Lending, NRI, Cards and Payments)

- » Member of the Visa Asia-Pacific Client Council
- » Member of the CII Joint Working Group of India-Australia CEO's Forum

### Neeraj Gambhir

(Group Executive – Treasury & Markets and Wholesale Banking Products)

- » Member of FICCI National Banking Committee
- » Member of Global Debt Market Initiatives
- » Board Member at FIMMDA (International)
- » Member of Treasury and Global Markets, RBI

### Rajkamal Vempati

(President – Human Resources)

- » Member of Advisory Board of the Centre of Gender Equality and Inclusive Leadership, XLRI
- » Member of CII National HR Council

### Sameer Shetty

(President – Digital Business and Transformation)

- » Member of the FICCI Working Group on Banks-Fintech Partnership under the aegis of FICCI National Banking Committee
- » Member of the Jury of Finacle-Infosys Innovation Awards 2023
- » Member of CII National Committee on FinTech
- » Member of the Jury of FICCI Fintech Awards 2024

### Damini Marwah

(President – Legal and Chief Ethics Officer)

- » Member of ASSOCHAM Steering Committee on Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code and Valuation
- » Member of the CII National Committee on Regulatory Affairs for fiscal 2024
- » Member of the CII Taskforce on Insolvency and Bankruptcy for 2023-24

### Bimal Bhattacharya

(President & Group Chief Compliance Officer)

- » Member of the CII Working Group on Regulatory Reforms

### Dhruvi Shah

(Executive Trustee and CEO – Axis Bank Foundation)

- » Member of FICCI Task Force on Climate Change and Sustainable Agriculture

- » Member of CSR Committee of Bombay Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- » Member of CII Council on Women Empowerment and Inclusion

### Anoop Manohar

(Chief Marketing Officer)

- » Member of ASSOCHAM National Branding and Marketing Council
- » Jury Member of the Afaqs Award 2023
- » Jury Member of the Advisory Board of CX India Summit and Awards 2024

### Abhejit Agarwal

(Head – Sustainability and CSR)

- » Member of the FICCI Task Force on ESG
- » Member of the CII Climate Change Council 2023-24
- » Member of the CII Net Zero Council 2023-24

### Anand Vishwanathan

(Head - Enterprise & Model Risk and Market & Liquidity Risk)

- » IBA Standing Committee on ESG

### Piyali Reddy

(Head – Corporate Communications)

- » Jury Member of the ET Kaleido Awards 2023
- » Jury Member of the BW Marketing World Excel Awards 2023
- » Member of the Advisory Board, DY Patil School of Management

### Prashant Murkute

(Executive Vice President – Wholesale Credit-Large Corporate)

- » IBA Standing Committee on ESG

### Harish Iyer

(Vice President – Diversity, Equity and Inclusion)

- » Member of the Advisory Board of ET Global DEI Alliance

## Other Memberships

The Bank is a member of ASSOCHAM, FICCI, CII, IBA and BCCI.



## Contributing as Speakers and Panelists at Key ESG-related Conferences and Seminars in Fiscal 2024

	Organiser	Event name	Topic
<b>Amitabh Chaudhry</b> MD & CEO	<b>IFC World</b>	Panel discussion on: Accelerating the transition to a low-carbon economy	Greening the financial sector: Accelerating the transition to a low-carbon economy
<b>Rajiv Anand</b> Deputy Managing Director	<b>Bombay Chamber of Commerce</b>	Panel Discussion on: Sustainability Conclave on Sustainability for Growth and Value Creation	Scaling climate finance for Emerging Markets
<b>Abhejit Agarwal</b> Head – Sustainability and CSR	<b>Business World</b>	Panel discussion on: The Silicon Valley Chapter of Sustainable World Conclave	Green Reporting: Transparent communication for sustainable impact
	<b>ET</b>	Keynote Speaker ESG & NET – ZERO Summit	Scaling green businesses for a net zero world: Align purpose with profitability
	<b>AWS-Outlook India</b>	Panel discussion on: Innovating for Sustainability Transformation	Innovations in Sustainability
<b>Dhruvi Shah</b> Executive Trustee and CEO – ABF	<b>Bridgespan</b>	Panel discussion on: Bridgespan's first Asia & Africa (A&A) Regional Gathering	Axis Bank Foundation's work on PWIT India
	<b>TRIF</b>	Panel discussion on: India rural colloquy	Philanthropy: Agenda with welfare state
	<b>CII</b>	Panel discussion on: G20 ministerial conference on women empowerment	CSR initiatives towards women empowerment
	<b>Give Foundation</b>	Panel Discussion on: Dus' spoke India Inc	CSR initiatives towards India CSR - reflections from the last decade - Visioning for the next

Axis Bank actively engages in thought leadership, policy advocacy, and sustainable development, showcasing its dedication to fostering positive change in the financial sector. Through partnerships with key alliances and participation in influential summits, the Bank contributes to shaping industry practices and promoting resilience in the financial ecosystem, highlighting its leadership in driving sustainable transformation.