

**sbi ventures**

(Formerly known as SBICAP Ventures Limited)

NEEV FUND

# NEEV II

## IMPACT REPORT

2024



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01

**ABOUT  
NEEV II**



## Our Mission

Building the sustainable growth and impact ecosystem for SMEs in India

## Our Vision

Become the leading fund house for development capital and climate action



## Background

Founded in **2015** as a partnership between UK Government and State Bank of India, Neev Fund is a private equity fund in India that aims to support small and medium-sized enterprises. It focuses on providing growth capital to SMEs with scalable business model creating a strong potential for environmental and social impact.

Neev II, the successor fund of Neev I, was launched in June 2021 with a bold vision to scale up SMEs that are spearheading transformative solutions. The Fund focuses on sectors that are pivotal to building a sustainable future, such as clean energy, industrial decarbonization, sustainable agriculture, and circular economy. By channeling

growth capital into these enterprises, Neev II supports innovations that can tackle some of the most pressing environmental challenges while creating resilient infrastructure and sustainable communities.

The Fund continues to seek opportunities to invest in high-impact sectors and enterprises that drive inclusive economic growth, uplift livelihoods, and contribute to India's progress towards global goals such as the SDGs and Nationally Determined Goals (NDCs). With a commitment to fostering innovation, enhancing local development, and building a more climate-resilient economy, Neev II is at the forefront of catalyzing meaningful climate action across the country.

**Neev II targets investments in key sectors such as clean energy, industrial decarbonization, sustainable agriculture, and circular economy projects.**

## Key Contributors

 UK Government

 European Investment Bank  
*The EIB bank*

 JICA

 SBI

 sidbi

 SRI FUND  
SELF RELIANT INDIA FUND

 sbiventures  
Formerly known as SBICAP Ventures Limited



# NEEV II Highlights (FY23-24)<sup>1</sup>



6

Portfolio  
Companies

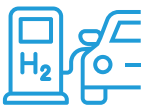


INR

10,040 Mn  
Corpus



3,500+  
Jobs Created



65,000

People with  
access to  
transportation  
using clean  
energy



56,000+

People  
with access  
to clean energy



2.3 Mn

People  
benefitted  
through  
improved air  
quality



1.1 MT

Legacy Waste  
Managed



0.22 MT

CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions  
Avoided/Reduced

<sup>1</sup> Year starting April 1, 2023 and ending March 31, 2024



02

**ABOUT SBI  
VENTURES  
LTD.**

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# SBI VENTURES LTD.

As part of the SBI Group, the company's leadership, experience, knowledge, and talent have attracted prominent Indian and global investors, setting it apart in the industry.

SBI Ventures Limited (formerly known as SBICAP Ventures Limited) is a leading alternative asset management company with assets under management of approximately INR 29 Bn. The company manages a diverse range of funds, spanning various sectors. Its expertise stems from its ability to manage scale, with

some of the largest Funds and Fund of Funds (FOF) housed on its platform. In addition, SBI Ventures Limited hosts impact-focused funds with a strong emphasis on ESG, alongside a mission to sustainably grow the SME ecosystem in India. As part of the SBI Group, the company's leadership, experience,

knowledge, and talent have attracted prominent Indian and global investors, setting it apart in the industry. SBI Ventures Limited continuously strives for excellence, creating long-term value for its investors while supporting the communities in which it operates



## Neev Fund I (INR 5 Bn)

- UK Government, SBI, SVL & SIDBI backed fund
- Climate and social impact focused fund investing in low-income states of India

## Neev Fund II (INR 10 Bn)

- UK Government, EIB, SBI, SVL, JICA, SIDBI backed fund
- Focus on SME businesses in climate and environment sectors pan India.

## SWAMIH\* (INR 150 Bn)

- Indian government, SBI and other marquee institutional investors backed fund
- Focus on last mile funding to stalled residential Real Estate projects

## Fund of Fund: SRI Fund, UKIDCF & TDCF (INR 122 Bn)

- Sovereign backed funds including Govt of India and Govt of UK
- Focus on investing in PE/VC funds that are investing in innovation-led SMEs

\* SWAMIH - Special Window for Affordable & Mid-Income Housing



A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a blue pen, writing on a document. The person is wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt. The background is dark and out of focus. The overall tone is professional and focused.

03

**MESSAGE FROM  
THE LEADERSHIP**

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Message from MD & CEO

## DRIVING THE GREEN TRANSITION WITH CLIMATE INVESTMENTS



Our investee companies have positively impacted over 2.3 million lives, created over 3,500 jobs, reduced the GHG emissions by 200,000 tons Co<sub>2</sub>e and unlocked capital of over INR 11 billion from large global and domestic institutions.

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**Dear Investors,**

we are proud to present to you the first edition of our SVL-SME Fund (Neev II) Impact report, focused on measuring and reporting the impact being created by our portfolio companies in the climate and environment sector.

As we reflect on 2023-2024, we are happy to highlight the progress we have made towards green transition through our investments. Our investee companies have positively impacted over 2.3 million lives, created over 3,500 jobs, reduced the GHG emissions by 200,000 tons Co2e and unlocked capital of over INR 11 billion from large global and domestic institutions. The report showcases the work that has been undertaken by the Fund and our portfolio companies towards building more sustainable environment and resilient future.

Through the support of investors, the dedication of our investment team, and the path breaking work done by the portfolio companies, we have been able to achieve significant impact in the climate and environment sector in a short period of time. By prioritizing investments in climate and sustainability related sectors, SVL aims to contribute positively towards United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) and India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). These strategic investments are fully aligned with State Bank of India's (SBI) climate objectives, including its commitment to achieve net zero for Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2030 and also contribute to SBI's target of converting ~10% of domestic gross advances into green advances, thereby strengthening India's position in sustainable finance.

We are committed to building a long-lasting legacy in the climate investing space and would like to thank you for your continued support to SVL and Neev Funds platform.

**Prem Prabhakar**

Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer at SBI Ventures Limited (Formerly known as SBICAP Ventures Limited)

September 2024

Message from CIO

## SCALING INNOVATIONS FOR POSITIVE CLIMATE ACTION



Neev II has deepened its commitment to a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy by strengthening ESG considerations and impact outcomes into every aspect of our investment strategy. As a Fund we intend to be active contributors to India's Net Zero goals and green initiatives.





**Dear Investors,**

As we turn the page to a new chapter with the 2024 Impact Report for Neev II, we are thrilled to share the progress and milestones achieved in our impact journey.

This year, Neev II has deepened its commitment to a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy by strengthening ESG considerations and impact outcomes into every aspect of our investment strategy. As a Fund we intend to be active contributors to India's Net Zero goals and green initiatives.

We drive value creation through dedicated Impact Measurement and Management as well as tailored ESG Action Plans across the investment life cycle of each of our portfolio companies. Our strong focus on ESG and Impact Governance helps strengthen our processes and initiatives with accountability towards value creation. For instance,

the Gender Action Committee ensures our commitment towards diversity and inclusion within our portfolio and across the Fund. Additionally, by leveraging Technical Assistance (TA), we provide crucial support that expands economic opportunities and access to critical resources for our portfolio companies.

We are particularly proud of the notable achievements of our investees. **GPS Renewables** has recently made headlines with joint ventures announced with IOCL and BPCL for several Compressed Biogas (CBG) projects, reinforcing their role as a key player in the renewable natural gas sector and contributing significantly to India's sustainability goals. **Chakr Innovation** has also garnered significant attention, receiving high praise from Amitabh Kant, India's G20 Sherpa, for its groundbreaking clean air and material science technologies,

showcasing their innovative contribution to the country's deep tech ecosystem. Similarly, **NutriFresh** has garnered recognition in Forbes & the IIC Climate Bulletin for its transformative approach as their technology-driven solutions not only enhance agricultural productivity but also cater to over 100 B2B clients, including major retailers and foodservice providers in India.

We thank all our stakeholders, including investors, partners and portfolio companies, for their continued trust and support in us.

With best regards,

**Akshay Panth**

Chief Investment Officer –  
Neev Funds, SBI Ventures Ltd.

*September 2024*





04

**OUR IMPACT  
AT A GLANCE**





# OUR IMPACT AT A GLANCE

Rooted in our core values of innovation, integrity and impact, Neev II is dedicated to creating multi-dimensional impact through targeted investments in clean energy, industrial decarbonization, sustainable agriculture, and circular economy. At Neev II level, we measure and track our impact performance across three key dimensions: Economic, Environment and Social.

 FY 2024



## ECONOMIC IMPACT

Number of Portfolio Companies 



Investment Capital Committed 

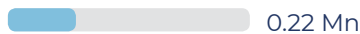



Capital Unlocked (Leverage) 




## ENVIRONMENT IMPACT

GHG Emissions Avoided/ Reduced (tco2e) 



Total Legacy Waste Managed (in MT) 



Barren Land Sustainably Managed (in acres)\*\* 



Fresh and Sustainable Produce (in MT)\* 



## SOCIAL IMPACT

Direct Jobs Supported 



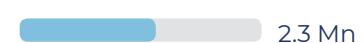
Direct Jobs Supported for Women 



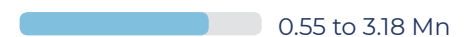
People with access to Clean Energy 



People Benefitted through Improved Air Quality 



People Benefitted through Cleaner Environments from Legacy Waste Management\*\*\* 



\*The values are cumulative here, i.e., since the inception of the operations of the company.

\*\*\*The value represents the number of people benefitted (within a radius of 2 km to 5 km) on an ongoing basis for the 15 Landfill bio-mining projects.

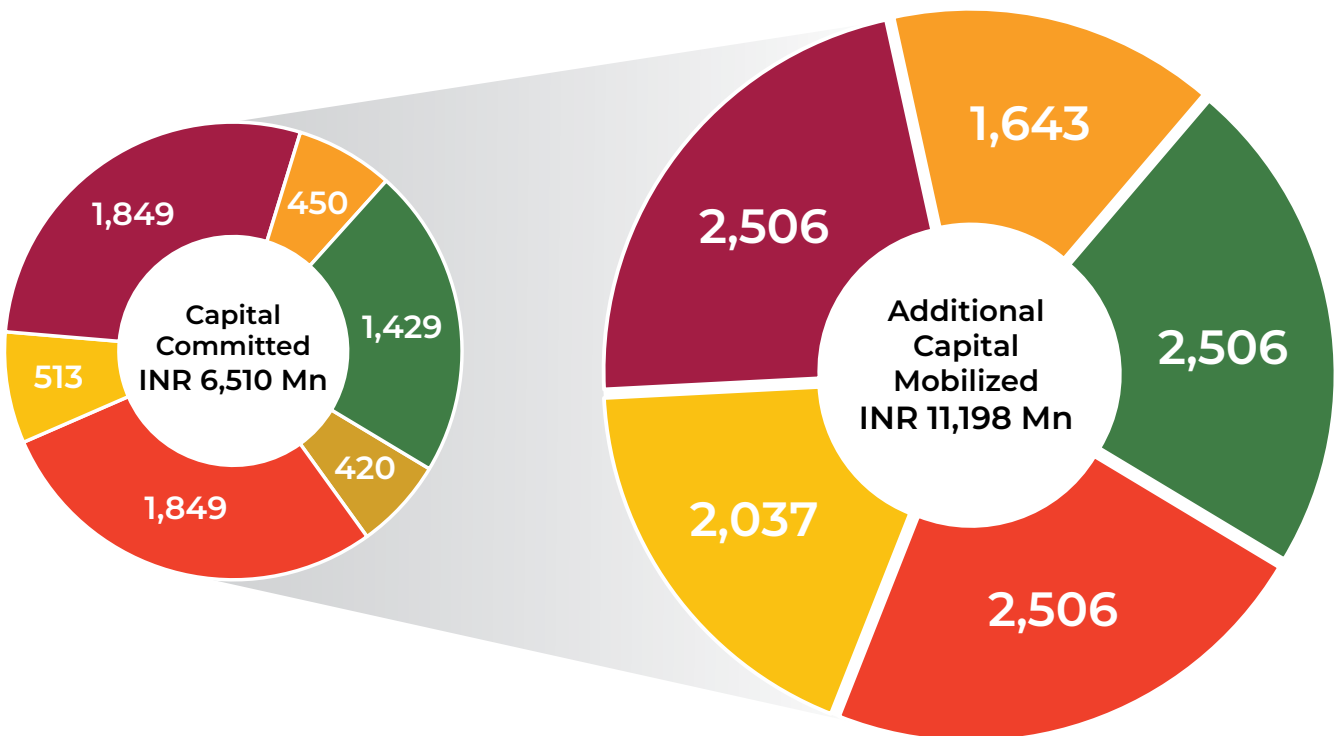
# UN SDG CONTRIBUTION

We map our investee companies against relevant SDG targets and indicators, monitoring their progress on a periodic basis. Our investments have enabled our portfolio companies to mobilize approximately ~INR 11 Bn from the market, amplifying their positive contributions to five primary UN SDGs.

## UN SDG-linked Investment Outlay

UN SDG Contribution through Neev II Investment

Increase in UN SDG Contribution driven by Investment Leverage



- SDG 2
- SDG 5
- SDG 7
- SDG 8
- SDG 11
- SDG 13

- SDG 5
- SDG 7
- SDG 8
- SDG 11
- SDG 13

### Legend







05

**OUR INVESTMENT  
PHILOSOPHY FOR  
A SUSTAINABLE  
FUTURE**

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# THEORY OF CHANGE





# IMPACT MEASUREMENT AND MANAGEMENT (IMM)

Our impact strategy is anchored in a robust Theory of Change, which outlines our intended impact goals and outcomes. Our Impact Measurement and Management approach integrates globally recognized frameworks such as Global Impact Investing Network (GIIN) IRIS+ metrics, UN SDGs and GHG Protocol. This approach allows us to consistently measure, monitor and maximize the impact across our portfolio companies to make data-driven decisions.



## Baselining Impact KPIs

- Based on our Impact Due Diligence, we collect initial data and identify relevant KPIs to set a baseline for tracking progress and evaluating impact.



## UN SDG Mapping

- We conduct detailed research on the company's products, operations, key stakeholders, various initiatives
- Research outcomes are correlated with SDG goals
- We identify specific SDG Targets (out of 169 Targets) & map corresponding indicators to establish positive contribution



## Measurement of Impact Metrics

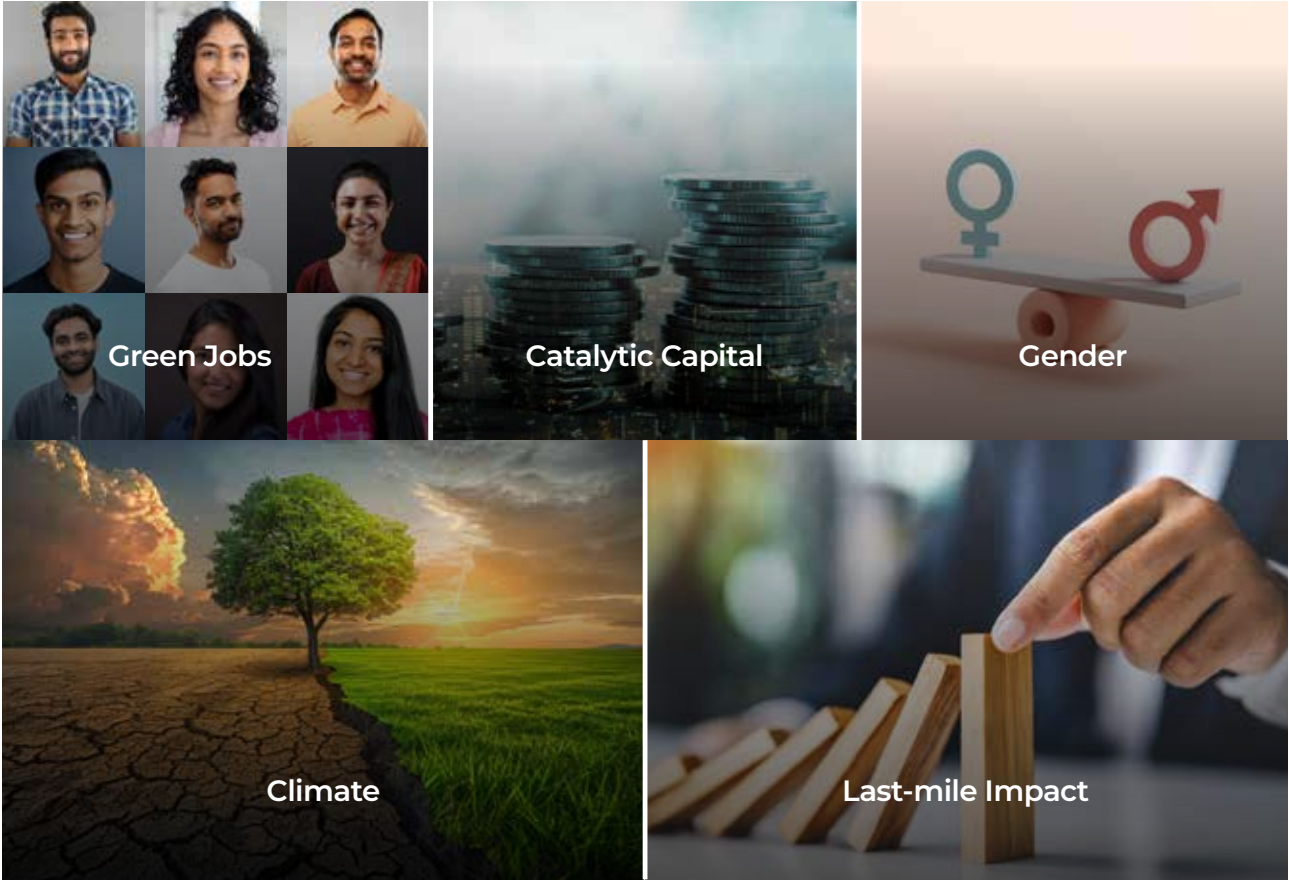
- Based on the KPIs identified during the baselining exercise, we measure the KPIs aligned to the methodologies prescribed by leading industry recognized frameworks.



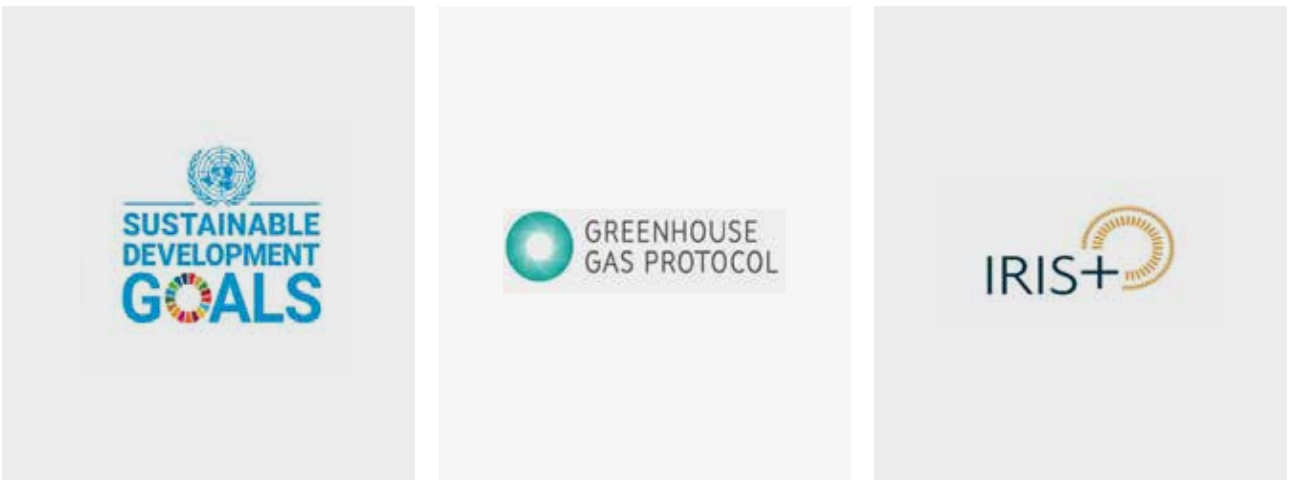
## Monitoring and Reporting

- We monitor and collect data quarterly to track progress and share recommendations.
- We disclose our portfolio Impact performance on a periodic basis to our key stakeholders including LPs in the form of LI Assessment Report, Annual ESG Report etc.

## Neev II Fund-level Impact Themes



## Measurement and Reporting Frameworks





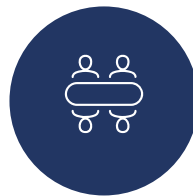
# ESG FRAMEWORK

The Fund's commitment to sustainable development, focusing on clean energy, industrial decarbonization, sustainable agriculture, water, and waste management, is guided by its ESG Policy. This policy aims to minimizing the environment and social risks of the portfolio companies' operations. Through strategic investment and rigorous value creation practices, the Fund seeks to align financial performance with sustainable outcomes.

## The foundation of the Fund's ESG policy is based on the below ten operational principles



Abide by the governance guidelines as outlined in the ESG-MS for all investments including ESG standards of LPs.



No investments to be considered from the excluded list of activities, unless expressly approved by the Investment Committee



Adopt robust sourcing and screening processes to identify ESG risks early in the investment process of potential portfolio companies.



Ensure portfolio companies operate in compliance with applicable national, state, and local ESG rules and regulations.



Communicate the Fund's ESG policies, processes, and expectations to the leadership team of portfolio companies to ensure alignment in pursuit of ESG mandates.



Adopt periodic ESG reporting mechanisms to appraise the Fund's investors on portfolio's ESG risks and development impact.



Promote employment in portfolio companies that are inclusive, gender-responsive, safe, and healthy.



Improve continually corporate governance and business integrity practices in portfolio companies in compliance to national regulations and relevant international best practices.



Assist portfolio companies to adopt process controls to manage environmental pollution generated in the form of emissions, wastewater generation and solid waste generation and strive to minimize environmental impact.



Strive to periodically enhance the Fund's ESG-MS to incorporate the latest global developments in ESG management practices.

# ESG GOVERNANCE



ESG considerations are deeply embedded in every phase of our investment process, from deal sourcing and screening to final investment monitoring. A critical component of our due diligence is the ESG rating, which assesses the ESG performance of potential investments.

- **Pre-Investment Due Diligence** is conducted by independent third-party experts who visit project sites, meet with management, and review documents
- The diligence exercise evaluates ESG regulatory compliance and company performance using **Tool 12**, IFC Performance Standards, EIB E&S Standards, FCDO ESG Toolkit, JICA E&S Standards.



Neev II adheres to a set of internationally recognized ESG frameworks to ensure alignment with global best practices and investor expectations. This harmonized approach facilitates consistent and transparent reporting across various frameworks.

- IIFC Performance Standards (2012)
- IFC/World Bank EHS General and relevant Sector Specific Guidelines as applicable
- FCDO ESG Framework and safe-guarding policy
- EIB Environmental & Social Standards (2018)
- JICA Environmental & Social Guidelines 2010
- The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Right
- Information Disclosure Policy
- Interim Environment and Social Safeguards (ESS)



An ESG Action Plan is developed and agreed upon with investees during the pre-investment stage. This plan outlines the specific ESG measures that companies must implement as part of their Investment Agreements with Neev II.

- **Implementation Timeframe:** Ranges from 6 to 18 months from the completion of the transaction or first draw-down, as specified in the Investment Agreement.
- **Support:** The ESG Manager and Neev Fund team collaborate closely with investees to integrate ESG actions into their business practices and ensure effective implementation.



Neev II places a strong emphasis on gender equality through its Gender Action Plan, which sets clear commitments for investee companies to enhance female representation and empowerment.

- **Female Workforce Representation:** Companies are expected to increase the share of female employees at the corporate, decision making and operational levels.
- **Gender Empowerment Policy:** Develop and implement policies to promote women's leadership and equal opportunities.
- **Equal Remuneration:** Ensure that female employees receive equal pay compared to their male counterparts.



# INTEGRATING ESG AND IMPACT IN INVESTMENT LIFECYCLE





06

**THOUGHT  
LEADERSHIP**





# BY NEEV II

Neev II actively shared its insights and experiences with fund managers, limited partners (LPs), and the companies it has invested in through various platforms. During the year, it participated in various events and summits, sharing valuable learnings and experiences within the investment community and the impact investing sector. Below are some key examples of these efforts:

01

Akshay Panth, CIO, represented on the panel on **'How to make the PPP model successful in Wash Financing'** at the **7th ISC-FICCI India Sanitation Conclave 2023**.

02

Anjana Seshadri, Vice President, joined the **Executive Council of the Impact Investors Council (IIC)** in April 2023 along with Prachi Jain Windlass (Chairperson), Royston Braganza (Co-Chairperson), Amit Mehta, and Shilpa Kumar. With their exceptional leadership and expertise, **IIC is progressing towards its mission to strengthen the impact investing ecosystem in India.**

03

Jai Shah, Principal Investment Officer, Neev Funds, chaired a panel on **'Equity and Debt Financing for Green Hydrogen'** in the **Green Hydrogen Conclave** held in Mumbai in May 2023. He also authored an article in **ETEnergyWorld on green finance in India** highlighting the **best practices that can help accelerate India's NetZero ambitions.**

04

Akshay Panth, CIO, spoke on a panel on **'From Promise to Action: Climate Financing in India'** at the **India Conference at Harvard 2024.**

05

Suken Shah, Principal Investment Officer, represented Neev Funds as a panel member at the **Entice Investors' Meet hosted by Impact Investors Council (IIC)** in partnership with the **Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP)** which was aimed at elevating climate finance for innovative and scalable solutions that can accelerate energy transition. He also represented as a **sector specialist for Climate Finance at the India Room in Singapore in April 2024 organized by Impact Investors Council.** He discussed the importance of climate finance, the evolving role of financial institutions, and how Neev is making impactful investments in climate-focused initiatives. He also shared insights on challenges, innovative financing mechanisms, and best practices in climate finance.

## BY INVESTEE COMPANIES

01

GPS Renewables partnered with **NSRCEL in March 2024**, the incubation arm of IIM Bangalore (IIM-B), to introduce **Campus Founders - a student entrepreneurship programme**. This programme aimed at **supporting college-based start-up founders and recent graduates in transforming their start-up ideas into thriving businesses**.

02

Chakr Innovation and Blue Planet, actively participated in the **Tamil Nadu Global Investors Meet 2024 (TNGIM)**, a flagship event organized by the Government of Tamil Nadu in Chennai. The event aimed at **enhancing the investment climate fostered over the last two and a half years and to showcase the strong and outstanding industrial ecosystem and future-ready workforce of the State to global investors**.

03

NutriFresh was featured in **IIC Climate Bulletin** on its ways of **revolutionizing sustainable farming practices through precision techniques, technological innovation, and eco-conscious initiatives** to meet growing food demands while addressing food security and climate change concerns.

04

Chakr Innovation, GPS Renewables and NutriFresh Farms featured in **Forbes India Magazine September 2023 edition, focusing on climate**.

05

GPS Renewables was awarded the prestigious **PLATINUM LEVEL' Award at the 8th ISGF Innovation Awards** under the category **'Waste-to-Energy Projects (W2E)'** for their innovative and outstanding contributions in the project **'A Technology Led Full Stack Biofuels Firm'**.

06

Sanket Mehta and Ganesh Nigam, co-founders and CEO of NutriFresh Farms, were **felicitated at the Times 40 under 40** held in Mumbai on June 29th, 2023. **The Economic Times' 40 under 40 is a definitive listing of corporate India's future Leaders**.

07

Chakr Innovation and Blue Planet showcased their climate solutions at the **Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024 in January**. The Tenth edition of the summit, organized by the **Government of Gujarat in partnership with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and iNDEXTb**, focused on the theme **"Gateway to the Future,"** bringing together global leaders, policymakers, and industry experts to discuss and explore opportunities for sustainable development, economic growth, and international cooperation.



07

# OUR PORTFOLIO





# OVERVIEW OF PORTFOLIO COMPANIES



**Blue Planet Environmental Solutions** is one of Asia's fastest-growing circular economy companies. Blue Planet leads the regional waste management markets, deploying technologies spanning the entire waste management value chain.



**GPS Renewables** is India's premier Full Stack biofuels Technology & Engineering company, specializing in RNG/CBG. With a diverse portfolio of proprietary products for gas purification and a comprehensive range of Technology based EPC services, GPS renewables caters to all aspects of a biofuel project with utmost precision and effectiveness. The Company is also working on other biofuels such as Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF).



**Nutrifresh** is one of India's largest controlled environment farming company, spearheading the nation's agricultural transformation. It is committed to growing and supplying superior quality, non-GMO, residue and pesticide free fruits, vegetables and herbs.



**Chakr Innovation** focuses on cutting-edge material science technology, specifically geared towards air quality enhancement. Chakr introduced the revolutionary Chakr Shield in 2017, aiming to curtail Particulate Matter, Hydrocarbon, and Carbon monoxide emissions from diesel generators.



**Hygenco**, a green hydrogen production company, develops and deploys scaled-up, commercially attractive green hydrogen and green ammonia production assets on a BOO/BOOT basis.



**Solinas**<sup>1</sup> focuses on providing innovative, tech-driven solutions for water and sanitation challenges. The company leverages robotics and artificial intelligence to address critical issues such as pipeline inspection, water quality monitoring, and sewer management.

<sup>1</sup> Investment made in FY 2025, hence not covered in detail in this report

## DISCLAIMER

The data and analysis presented in this report are based on available sources and assumptions as of the publication date. The organization makes no representation or warranty regarding the accuracy, reliability, completeness or future performance of the information provided. Changes in external factors may impact the outcomes discussed in this report, and the organization disclaims any liability for decisions made based on its contents.

Impact and ESG-related goals, targets, or expectations may change. Additionally, Impact and ESG statistics and metrics may involve estimates and assumptions or be based on evolving standards, including Neev Fund's internal policies.

The list of Impact and material ESG topics may not be exhaustive, and additional topics may be identified on a case-by-case basis. While the fund may actively engage with portfolio companies on Impact and ESG-related improvements, these engagements and initiatives do not guarantee or directly correlate with specific financial, Impact, or ESG outcomes.

This report is intended for informational purposes only and should not be construed as financial, legal, or professional advice. Readers should independently verify any information before acting on it.







