EARTH5R

FREE GUIDE

EARTH5R GUIDES · NO. 06

BRSR and BRSR Core Guide

What SEBI requires of listed companies in 2026, how to build data that survives assessment or assurance, and how to get ready for the value chain. For ESG, sustainability, finance and company secretarial teams.

Saurabh Gupta, Founder and CEO, Earth5R

earth5r.org · 2026 edition

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

BRSR began as a disclosure. With BRSR Core, it has become a set of numbers someone independent will test.

India's top 1,000 listed companies file a Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report every year. From FY2026-27, all of them must also get their BRSR Core figures independently assessed or assured.

This guide explains the rules as they stand in September 2026, after SEBI's March 2025 changes and the January 2026 Master Circular. It then shows how to build data systems, controls and evidence that make assurance routine rather than a scramble.

It draws on SEBI circulars, the Industry Standards on BRSR Core, KPMG's February 2026 review of Nifty 100 companies, the CFA Institute's June 2026 study, the BRSRs of eight companies in the Above Average band of TERRA, Earth5R's ESG intelligence platform, and Earth5R's analysis of the disclosures of 1,200+ listed Indian companies.

How to use it

Chapters 1 to 8 explain the rules. Chapters 9 to 11 show how to build the data. Chapters 12 to 16 show what the best companies do, the common weaknesses, a calendar and a checklist. Four free templates come with it.

Contents

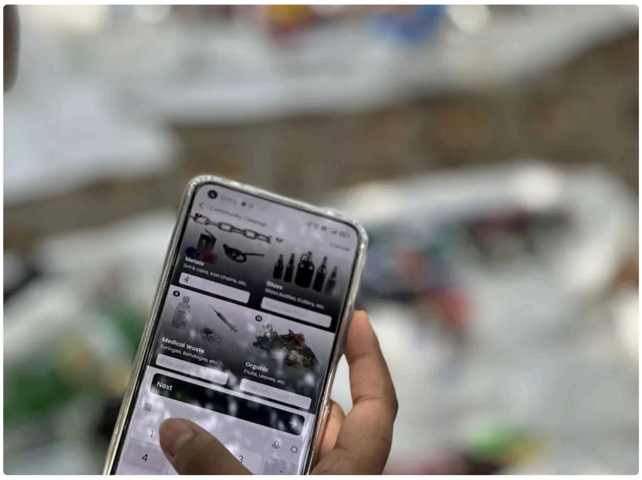
Not legal or assurance advice. This guide summarises SEBI's requirements as consolidated in the LODR Master Circular updated on 30 January 2026. Check the current text, the Industry Standards and your provider's requirements.

CHAPTER 1

Why BRSR matters more every year

Four audiences now read your BRSR, and each of them checks something different.

- **The regulator.** BRSR is part of the annual report under Regulation 34(2)(f) of SEBI's listing regulations. BRSR Core figures must be independently assessed or assured.
- **Investors and lenders.** Fund managers, banks and ESG rating providers use BRSR data to compare companies. A weak or inconsistent figure shows up as a weaker rating.
- **Customers.** Large buyers in India and abroad ask suppliers for the same numbers, especially emissions, water and waste, for their own reporting.
- **Your own board.** Directors approve the BRSR with the annual report. Assured data turns sustainability claims into something they can stand behind.



Recording waste data on the Earth5R app at a lake cleanup, Mumbai, 2023. Every reported number starts as a record like this.

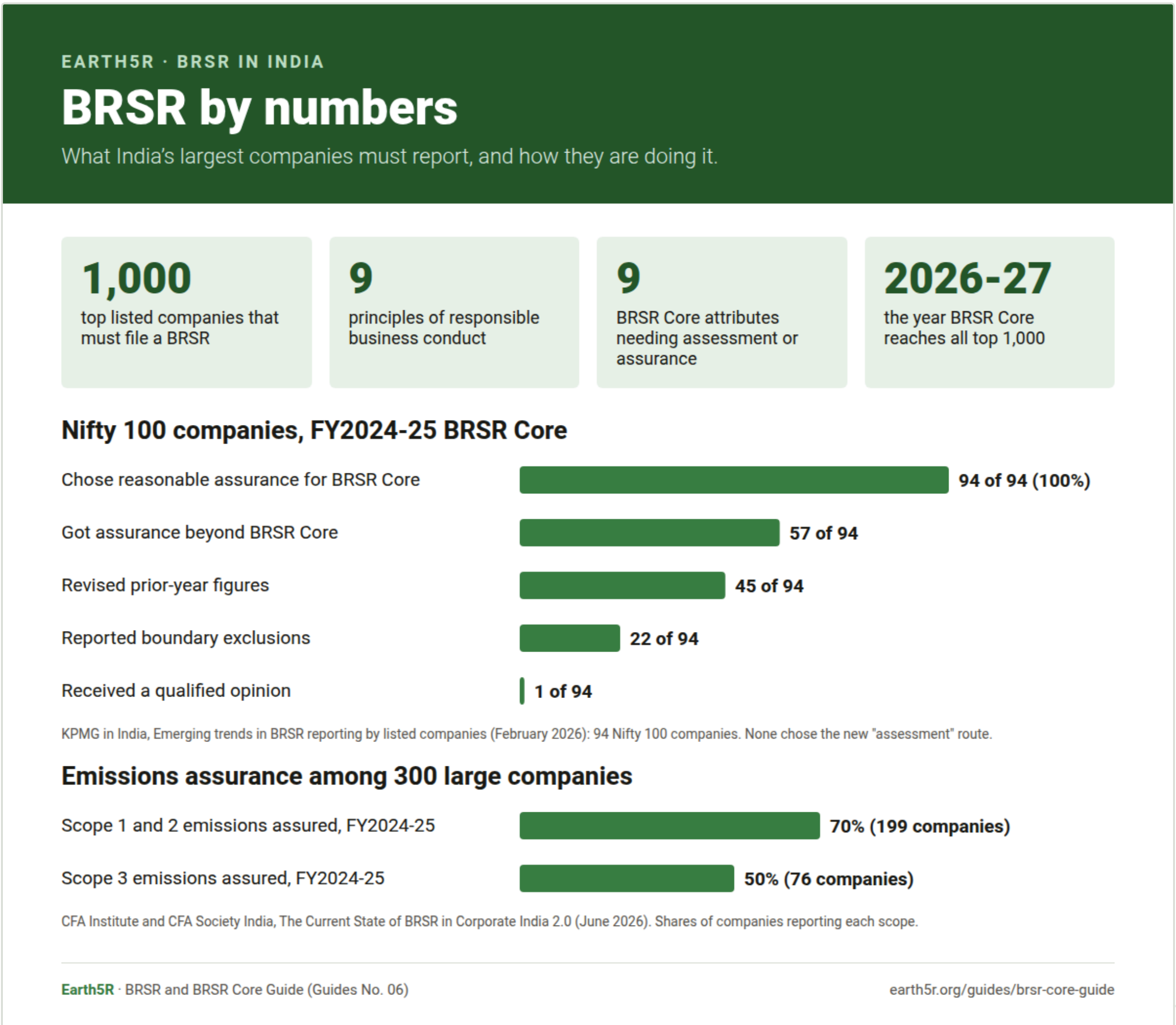
1,000 listed companies must file a BRSR	**9** BRSR Core attributes to be assessed or assured	**45 of 94** Nifty 100 companies revised prior-year figures in FY2024-25	**1** qualified opinion, for gaps in data and evidence

The shift in one line. BRSR used to be judged on what a company chose to say. BRSR Core is judged on whether the numbers hold up when an independent provider samples the bills, meters and payroll behind them.

CHAPTER 2

BRSR by numbers

What the rules require, and what India's largest companies are actually doing.



Everyone chose reasonable assurance. SEBI now allows "assessment" as an alternative, but none of 94 Nifty 100 companies used it for FY2024-25.

Restatements are common. 45 of 94 companies revised prior-year figures, often to align with the Industry Standards on BRSR Core.

Scope 3 lags. Among 300 large companies, 70% had Scope 1 and 2 emissions assured in FY2024-25, but only 50% of those reporting Scope 3.

Sources: KPMG in India, Emerging trends in BRSR reporting by listed companies (February 2026); CFA Institute and CFA Society India, The Current State of BRSR in Corporate India 2.0 (June 2026).

CHAPTER 3

03

BRSR in one page

Who files, what the report contains, and where it sits in the law.

Question	What the rules say
Who files?	The top 1,000 listed entities by market capitalisation, mandatorily from FY2022-23. Others may file voluntarily.
Legal basis	Regulation 34(2)(f) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The format is Annexure 16 of the LODR Master Circular, with a guidance note in Annexure 17.
Where it goes	In the annual report, approved by the Board.
Section A	General disclosures: company details, operations, employees, holding and subsidiary companies, CSR, transparency.
Section B	Management and process disclosures: policies, governance and oversight for each principle.
Section C	Principle-wise performance against the nine National Guidelines on Responsible Business Conduct, with **essential indicators** (mandatory) and **leadership indicators** (voluntary).
Boundary	The company states whether disclosures are standalone or consolidated, and should explain any exclusions.
BRSR Core	A subset of KPIs under nine ESG attributes (Annexure 17A) that must be independently assessed or assured, on a glide path to the top 1,000 by FY2026-27 (Chapters 5 and 6).

How big is it? ICAI's background material counts 26 parameters in Section A, 12 in Section B, and in Section C 68 essential and 39 leadership indicators across the nine principles, before the 2023 and 2025 additions.

Sources: SEBI circular of 10 May 2021; LODR Master Circular updated 30 January 2026; ICAI, Background Material on Sustainability and BRSR (Revised Edition 2024).

CHAPTER 4

The nine principles

Section C follows the National Guidelines on Responsible Business Conduct. Each principle needs a data owner.

No.	Businesses should	Typical data	Usual owner
P1	Conduct themselves with integrity, in a manner that is ethical, transparent and accountable	Fines, anti-corruption, days payable, openness of business	Legal, finance
P2	Provide goods and services in a manner that is sustainable and safe	R&D and capex on sustainability, sustainable sourcing, EPR, reclaimed products	Operations, procurement
P3	Respect and promote the wellbeing of all employees, including those in their value chains	Benefits, wellbeing spend, safety, training, retention	HR, safety
P4	Respect the interests of and be responsive to all stakeholders	Stakeholder groups and engagement	Sustainability
P5	Respect and promote human rights	Minimum wages, gender pay, complaints, assessments	HR, legal
P6	Respect and make efforts to protect and restore the environment	Energy, water, emissions, waste, biodiversity, green credits	EHS, energy
P7	Engage in influencing public and regulatory policy in a responsible and transparent manner	Trade associations, policy positions	Corporate affairs
P8	Promote inclusive growth and equitable development	Social impact assessments, CSR, MSME sourcing, wages in smaller towns	CSR, procurement, HR
P9	Engage with and provide value to consumers in a responsible manner	Consumer complaints, recalls, data breaches	Customer service, IT

Essential first. Essential indicators are mandatory. Leadership indicators are voluntary, but investors and raters increasingly read them as a sign of maturity.

Link to CSR. Principle 8 asks for social impact assessments of projects. Earth5R's free CSR Impact Assessment Handbook shows how to run them well.

CHAPTER 5

BRSR Core: nine attributes

A subset of BRSR, with a specified "data and approach" for each KPI, designed to be verified.

EARTH5R · BRSR CORE

The nine attributes of BRSR Core

The subset of BRSR that must be independently assessed or assured.

01
GHG footprint
Scope 1 and 2 emissions and intensity

02
Water footprint
Consumption, intensity, discharge by treatment

03
Energy footprint
Total energy, % renewable, intensity

04
Circularity
Waste by category, recovered and disposed

05
Employee wellbeing and safety
Wellbeing spend as % of revenue; LTIFR, fatalities

06
Gender diversity
Gross wages paid to women; POSH complaints

07
Inclusive development
Sourcing from MSMEs and India; wages in smaller towns

08
Fairness with customers and suppliers
Customer data breaches; days of accounts payable

09
Openness of business
Concentration with trading houses, dealers, related parties

Intensity ratios are reported per rupee of turnover and per rupee adjusted for purchasing power parity (PPP). Methods follow the Industry Standards on BRSR Core.

SEBI LODR Master Circular, Annexure 17A (Format of BRSR Core), as updated on 30 January 2026.

Earth5R · BRSR and BRSR Core Guide (Guides No. 06) earth5r.org/guides/brsr-core-guide

What is new in BRSR Core

SEBI added KPIs suited to India: job creation in small towns, openness of business, and gross wages paid to women. For global comparability, intensity ratios are also reported per rupee of turnover adjusted for purchasing power parity (PPP).

"Data and approach"

Each KPI comes with the data and approach to be used. SEBI says this is "only a base methodology": any changes or industry-specific adjustments or estimates must be disclosed. Since FY2024-25, the Industry Standards on BRSR Core define the KPIs in more detail.

Sources: SEBI circulars of 12 July 2023 and 28 March 2025; LODR Master Circular, Annexure 17A; SEBI circular of 20 December 2024 on Industry Standards.

CHAPTER 6

Assessment or assurance

Since March 2025, companies can choose third-party assessment instead of assurance. The glide path did not change.

The glide path

Financial year	BRSR Core assessment or assurance
2023-24	Top 150 listed entities
2024-25	Top 250
2025-26	Top 500
2026-27	**Top 1,000**

Two routes

- **Assurance** under assurance standards, at reasonable (the original requirement) or limited level. Standards in use: ICAI's SSAE 3000 and SAE 3410, or ISAE 3000 (Revised) with ISO 14064-3 for GHG.
- **Assessment:** "third-party assessment undertaken as per the standards developed by the Industry Standards Forum (ISF) in consultation with SEBI".

Choosing the provider

- The Board must ensure the provider "has the necessary expertise".
- No conflict of interest: the provider and its associates must not sell products or provide any non-audit, non-assessment or non-assurance services, including consulting, to the company or its group.
- BRSR Section A now asks for the name of the provider and the type of assessment or assurance obtained.

> **Coming in 2027.** ICAI has issued SSA 5000, a Standard on Sustainability Assurance based on IAASB's ISSA 5000. Press reports say it applies from 1 April 2027 and replaces SSAE 3000 and SAE 3410. Check with your provider.

> **Free template.** Earth5R's provider template has a selection checklist, an independence declaration and a note to the Audit Committee and Board.

Sources: SEBI circular SEBI/HO/CFD/CFD-PoD-1/P/CIR/2025/42, 28 March 2025; KPMG in India (February 2026); Business Standard, 20 September 2026.

CHAPTER 7

The value chain after March 2025

SEBI deferred value chain disclosure by a year, made it voluntary and narrowed who counts as a partner.

	July 2023 framework	Current rule (March 2025)
Who is a partner?	Top upstream and downstream partners cumulatively making up 75% of purchases or sales	Partners **individually** making up 2% or more of purchases or sales by value; the company may limit coverage to 75%
Disclosure	Top 250, comply-or-explain, from FY2024-25	Top 250, **voluntary**, from FY2025-26
Assessment or assurance	Limited assurance, comply-or-explain, from FY2025-26	**Voluntary**, from FY2026-27
What is reported	BRSR Core KPIs for partners, to the extent attributable to the company's business with each partner, as part of the annual report	

Why it still matters

For most manufacturers, much of the footprint sits with suppliers. Commentators estimated the new 2% threshold cut the number of partners in scope from roughly 85 to 1,260 per company to roughly 0 to 10. That makes a start manageable, and customers abroad will keep asking anyway.

Green credits

A new leadership indicator under Principle 6 asks how many Green Credits were generated or procured by the company and by its top ten value chain partners, from FY2024-25.

Sorting plastic at an informal recycling unit, Mumbai, 2018. Much of India's value chain runs through small, unlisted businesses like this.

Free tools. Sheet 7 of Earth5R's workbook flags partners at 2% or more and running coverage to 75%. The Value Chain Partner Questionnaire asks MSMEs only what they can answer.

Sources: SEBI circulars of 12 July 2023 and 28 March 2025; Vinod Kothari Consultants, April 2025 (partner counts).

CHAPTER 8

What changed, 2021 to 2027

Many guides online still describe the 2023 rules. These are the changes that matter.

EARTH5R · BRSR TIMELINE

BRSR and BRSR Core, 2021 to 2027

How the rules have changed, and what comes next.

May 2021	SEBI introduces BRSR; voluntary for FY2021-22
FY2022-23	BRSR mandatory for the top 1,000 listed companies
July 2023	BRSR Core introduced: 9 attributes, reasonable assurance, value chain
FY2023-24	BRSR Core assurance: top 150
Dec 2024	Industry Standards on BRSR Core (ASSOCHAM, CII, FICCI)
March 2025	"Assessment or assurance"; value chain made voluntary; green credits item
FY2024-25	BRSR Core: top 250
FY2025-26	BRSR Core: top 500; value chain disclosure voluntary for top 250
Jan 2026	LODR Master Circular updated; BRSR Core is Annexure 17A
FY2026-27	BRSR Core: top 1,000; value chain assessment or assurance voluntary
April 2027	ICAI SSA 5000 on sustainability assurance applies (reported)

SEBI circulars of 10 May 2021, 12 July 2023, 20 December 2024 and 28 March 2025; LODR Master Circular updated 30 January 2026; Business Standard, 20 September 2026 (SSA 5000).

Earth5R · BRSR and BRSR Core Guide (Guides No. 06) earth5r.org/guides/brsr-core-guide

Three common errors to avoid. Value chain disclosure is voluntary, not comply-or-explain. It applies to the top 250, not the top 1,000. And BRSR Core can now be assessed as well as assured. Name one owner for SEBI updates and check the Master Circular each year.

CHAPTER 9

Building the data system

Assurance tests the system behind the numbers. Build it once, and each year gets easier.

Attribute	Source records	Common failure	Control
GHG	Fuel invoices, meter logs, electricity bills, emission factors	Missing sites; old factors	Site list reconciled to asset register; factor register
Water	Meters, tanker invoices, ETP/STP logs	Estimates without meters	Meter calibration; estimate method disclosed
Energy	Bills, calorific values, PPAs, renewable certificates	Double counting renewables	Certificate register
Waste	Manifests, weighbridge slips, recycler certificates	Vendor data unchecked	Disclose where certificates are relied upon
Wellbeing and safety	Payroll, insurance, incident system, man-hours	Contract workers left out	Contractor data in scope
Gender	Payroll by gender, ICC register	Wages vs headcount confused	Payroll extract reviewed by HR and finance
Inclusive development	Vendor master, Udyam data, payroll by location	No basis for "smaller towns"	Documented classification (Chapter 11)
Fairness	Incident log, audited payables	Payables not tied to financials	Reconcile to audited accounts
Openness	ERP, RPT register	"Trading house" defined loosely	Use the Industry Standards definition

A reporting manual. Write down the boundary, owners, definitions, factors, controls and restatement policy, and have it approved. Earth5R's free BRSR Reporting Manual template covers all of these.

A KPI register. One row per KPI with owner, system, evidence and status. Sheet 2 of Earth5R's workbook is ready to use and flags year-on-year swings above 25%.

CHAPTER 10

Ten steps to assurance readiness

What the best-prepared companies have in place before the provider arrives.

01 **Fix the boundary**
Standalone or consolidated; list exclusions and reasons. KPMG found 22 of 94 Nifty 100 companies reported exclusions.

02 **Name owners**
One owner and one source system per KPI.

03 **Follow the Industry Standards**
Use their definitions, and note where you differ.

04 **Document factors and sources**
Emission factors, calorific values, the PPP factor, location classification.

05 **Reconcile to the financials**
Revenue, purchases, payables, related parties.

06 **Explain the swings**
Investigate any KPI moving more than 25% year on year.

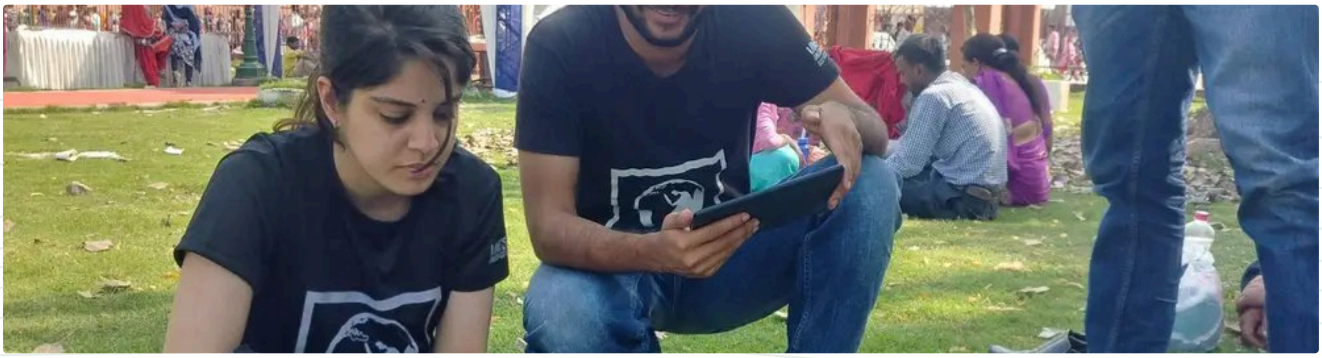
07 **Decide on restatements**
Restate and explain when methods, definitions or boundaries change.

08 **Index the evidence**
A folder per KPI, ready for sampling.

09 **Walk through before year end**
Test the process on half-year data.

10 **Appoint early**
Confirm the provider's independence and the engagement scope, level and standard.

> **Why it matters.** The one qualified opinion in KPMG's review arose because the provider could not obtain sufficient and appropriate evidence, pointing to gaps in data, internal controls and consistency of reporting processes.



Recording responses on a tablet, Delhi, 2018. Evidence captured at source is easier to verify than data rebuilt at year end.

Source: KPMG in India (February 2026). Sheet 8 of Earth5R's workbook turns these steps into 20 checks with a readiness score.

CHAPTER 11

The tricky KPIs

Five BRSR Core KPIs where companies most often differ, and what the leaders' reports show.

1 **Intensity adjusted for PPP.**
Divide the KPI by revenue from operations converted with a PPP factor, and state the factor and its source. HUL, Tata Steel and Infosys used 20.34 for FY2025-26, citing the IMF; Persistent cited the same number to the World Bank. Say which series you used.

2 **Wages in smaller towns.**
Classify each location as rural, semi-urban, urban or metropolitan on a stated basis. HCLTech restated FY2024-25 from "Metropolitan 100%" to 72.59% after adopting RBI's classification based on Census 2011.

3 **Openness of business.**
Concentration of purchases with trading houses and of sales with dealers, and related-party shares. Use the Industry Standards definition of a trading house: Tata Steel reports no purchases from trading houses "in line with the definition … in the industry standards".

4 **Days of accounts payable.**
Accounts payable × 365 ÷ cost of goods and services procured, tied to audited financials. Dalmia Bharat revised its FY2023-24 figure after applying the Industry Standards.

5 **Waste and vendor certificates.**
SEBI's March 2025 change to the BRSR Core format says a disclosure may be made where certificates from vendors are relied upon. Make it. Check that vendors are authorised and that quantities reconcile with dispatch records.

Gross wages paid to women, % of total	Infosys	HUL	Persistent	HCLTech	ABB India	Tata Steel*
Latest year reported	29.1%	23.5%	22.88%	20.74%	8.18%	7%

FY2025-26 BRSRs except ABB India (calendar year 2025). *Standalone. Figures as published; sectors differ, so compare a company with itself over time.

CHAPTER 12

Best cases from TERRA

How eight companies in the Above Average band of TERRA, Earth5R's ESG intelligence platform, report and assure their BRSR Core.

Company	BRSR Core assurance	What their BRSR shows	Worth copying
Hindustan Unilever	B S R & Co. LLP; reasonable on Core, limited on the rest; SSAE 3000 and SAE 3410 (FY2025-26)	Discloses the PPP factor (20.34); 32.0% of wages paid in rural locations; trading-house purchases 26.2% across 285 trading houses; boundary exclusions named	Named exclusions with a materiality reason
Tata Steel	PW & Co CA LLP; reasonable, standalone (FY2025-26)	Explains why consolidated assurance waits for restructuring of overseas units, and discloses consolidated Core figures voluntarily; flags comparability after the Industry Standards	Explaining scope choices openly
HCLTech	DNV; reasonable on Core; ISAE 3000 and ISO 14064-3 (FY2025-26)	States India-only scope for two attributes; restated smaller-towns data on the RBI basis; assessed 308 value chain partners (76.4% by value) for environmental impact	Restating openly when a method improves
Infosys	Deloitte Haskins & Sells LLP; reasonable on Core (FY2025-26)	PPP-adjusted GHG intensity with the factor stated; 29.1% of wages paid to women	Consistent year-on-year presentation
Dalmia Bharat	TÜV India; reasonable; ISAE 3000 (FY2024-25)	Revised FY2023-24 figures under the Industry Standards; 70% of sales through 13,825 dealers, top ten dealers 4%	Disclosing revisions with the reason
Ashok Leyland	DNV; reasonable on Core (FY2025-26)	Supplier ESG awareness and training on BRSR Core with CII-CESD (64% of partners by value) and hand-holding support for supplier reporting	Building supplier capability early
ABB India	TÜV India; reasonable; ISAE 3000 (calendar year 2025)	A calendar-year reporter; PPP-adjusted water intensity down from 0.72 to 0.60	Clear year basis
Persistent Systems	DNV; reasonable on the nine Core attributes (FY2025-26)	An explicit goal for value chain disclosure at the 2% and 75% thresholds, with a reporting process in place	Starting value chain work before it is required

Sources: each company's BRSR and assurance statement in its annual report. Figures as published. Inclusion implies no partnership or endorsement. TERRA bands reflect overall ESG assessment.

Five lessons from the leaders

1 **Go beyond the minimum level.**
All eight obtained reasonable assurance on BRSR Core, and several added limited assurance on the rest of the BRSR. In KPMG's review, 57 of 94 companies obtained assurance beyond BRSR Core.

2 **Explain every boundary choice.**
HUL names its excluded subsidiaries and why they are not material. Tata Steel explains why its overseas units are not yet in the assured scope. Readers accept limits they can see.

3 **Restate when you improve.**
HCLTech and Dalmia Bharat revised prior-year figures after adopting better methods and the Industry Standards, and said so. A restatement with a reason builds trust; an unexplained jump destroys it.

4 **Show your factors.**
The PPP factor, emission factors and location basis are disclosed by the strongest reporters. Anyone can recompute the ratio.

5 **Start the value chain now.**
Ashok Leyland is training suppliers on BRSR Core; Persistent has a 2% and 75% value chain goal; HCLTech assesses hundreds of partners. Voluntary today, expected tomorrow.

An Earth5R session for professionals in Bengaluru. Reporting quality improves fastest when the people who own the data understand why it matters.

CHAPTER 13 · EARTH5R

Where BRSR meets the ground

Some of the most-read BRSR claims are the hardest to verify from an office: community impact, river and waste outcomes, supplier conditions.

What Earth5R sees in disclosures

Earth5R has analysed the ESG disclosures of more than 1,200 listed Indian companies across 36 sectors. The same weak spots recur: emissions figures that are hard to verify, community claims without evidence on the ground, and water and climate data without local context.

Ground-verified data

Earth5R's community members and volunteers collect geo-tagged environmental data in the field, through the Earth5R app and structured surveys. On the Mithi River, drone mapping before and during the project recorded waste hotspots and tracked change along the channel, which is what made its recovery figures checkable rather than asserted.

> **Narrative-data divergence.** TERRA, Earth5R's ESG intelligence platform, measures the gap between what listed companies say and what their data shows. BRSR Core narrows that gap for nine attributes; Principle 8 and value chain claims are where it stays widest.

Geotagging newly planted trees on the Earth5R app, Mumbai, 2023.

Recovered material sorted by type on the Mithi River, Mumbai.

Sources: Earth5R ESG and BRSR reporting services; Mithi River case study.

CHAPTER 14

Seven common weaknesses

What goes wrong most often in BRSR and BRSR Core reporting, and the fix.

Weakness	What it looks like	Fix
1. Out-of-date rules	Treating value chain disclosure as comply-or-explain for the top 1,000, or ignoring the assessment route	Read the current Master Circular each year
2. Silent boundary gaps	Subsidiaries or sites left out without explanation	List exclusions with reasons and materiality
3. Unexplained restatements	Prior-year numbers change with no note. 45 of 94 Nifty 100 companies revised figures in FY2024-25	Restatement policy; disclose reason and effect
4. Definitions that drift	"Trading house", "smaller town" or "wellbeing spend" defined differently each year	Follow the Industry Standards; document your basis
5. Unsupported vendor data	Waste figures taken from recycler certificates without checks	Check authorisations; reconcile to dispatches; disclose reliance
6. Scope 3 left unassured	Only 50% of companies reporting Scope 3 had it assured in FY2024-25, against 70% for Scope 1 and 2	Start with the largest categories and suppliers
7. Evidence built at year end	Data reconstructed in May; controls inconsistent across sites	Half-year walkthroughs; maker-checker at source

A waste audit at Powai Lake, Mumbai, 2023: every item counted by type before it was reported.

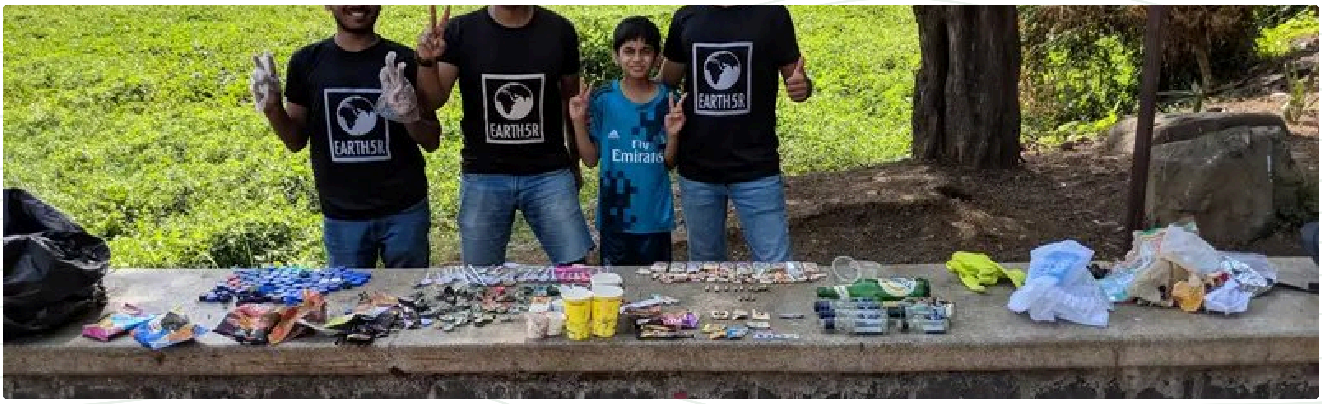
Sources: KPMG in India (February 2026); CFA Institute and CFA Society India (June 2026); SEBI circular of 28 March 2025.

CHAPTER 15

A 12-month BRSR calendar

For an April to March financial year, with the annual report in July or August.

When	Step	Who
April	Freeze boundary and KPI owners; brief data owners on rule changes	Sustainability, company secretary
May	Close previous-year data; reconcile to audited financials	Finance, sustainability
May to June	Assessment or assurance fieldwork; respond to queries	Provider, data owners
June	Draft BRSR; management review; partner data if disclosing value chain	Sustainability, procurement
July	Board approval with the annual report; assurance report signed	Board, CFO, company secretary
July to August	Publish with the annual report; update the website	Company secretary
September	Lessons review: queries, restatements, gaps; update the manual	Sustainability
October	Half-year check on high-risk KPIs	Data owners
November	Send questionnaires to value chain partners at 2% or more	Procurement
December	Appoint or re-confirm the provider; check independence	Audit Committee, CFO
January	Readiness review; plan site visits	Sustainability, provider
February to March	Pre-assurance walkthroughs; close evidence gaps before year end	Data owners



A waste audit by a lake in Mumbai, 2018. Year-end numbers are only as good as the records kept through the year.

> **Free tool.** Sheet 9 of Earth5R's BRSR Core Data Workbook holds this calendar, next to the KPI register, calculators and readiness checks.

CHAPTER 16

Checklist for boards and CFOs

Twelve questions to ask before you approve the BRSR.

- [ ] Which BRSR Core obligations apply to us this year, and next year?
- [ ] Are we choosing assessment or assurance, at what level, and under which standard?
- [ ] Is our provider independent of any consulting or other non-assurance work for the group?
- [ ] Is our reporting boundary clear, and are exclusions explained?
- [ ] Does every BRSR Core KPI have an owner, a source system and evidence?
- [ ] Do our definitions follow the Industry Standards on BRSR Core?
- [ ] Are revenue, purchases, payables and related-party figures reconciled to the audited accounts?
- [ ] Which figures moved more than 25% from last year, and why?
- [ ] Are any prior-year figures restated, and is the reason disclosed?
- [ ] Have we disclosed the PPP factor, emission factors and location basis?
- [ ] Are we preparing value chain partners at 2% or more, even though disclosure is voluntary?
- [ ] Can our Principle 8 and CSR claims be backed by evidence from the ground?

Need help? Earth5R supports BRSR preparation, gap and data reviews, assurance readiness and team training, drawing on its analysis of 1,200+ listed companies and ground-verified data through TERRA. See Earth5R's ESG and BRSR reporting services.

REFERENCE

Glossary of BRSR terms

Assessment. Third-party assessment of BRSR Core under standards developed by the Industry Standards Forum in consultation with SEBI.

Assurance (reasonable or limited). An independent engagement under assurance standards. Reasonable assurance gives a positive opinion; limited assurance a negative-form conclusion.

BRSR. Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report, required of the top 1,000 listed entities.

BRSR Core. A subset of BRSR KPIs under nine ESG attributes that must be assessed or assured (Annexure 17A).

Essential indicators. Mandatory disclosures under each principle in Section C.

Green Credits. Credits under the Government of India's Green Credit Programme; a leadership indicator under Principle 6.

Industry Standards Forum (ISF). ASSOCHAM, CII and FICCI, under the aegis of the stock exchanges, which issued the Industry Standards on BRSR Core.

Leadership indicators. Voluntary disclosures showing more advanced practice.

LODR. SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.

NGRBC. National Guidelines on Responsible Business Conduct: the nine principles behind BRSR.

Openness of business. BRSR Core KPIs on concentration of purchases and sales and related-party transactions.

PPP. Purchasing power parity: a conversion factor used to adjust revenue for international comparison of intensity ratios.

Reporting boundary. Whether disclosures are standalone or consolidated, and any exclusions.

Restatement. A revision of prior-year figures, with the reason disclosed.

Scope 1, 2, 3. Direct emissions; indirect emissions from purchased energy; other indirect emissions in the value chain.

Value chain partners. Suppliers and customers individually at 2% or more of purchases or sales, which may be limited to 75% coverage.

FREE RESOURCES

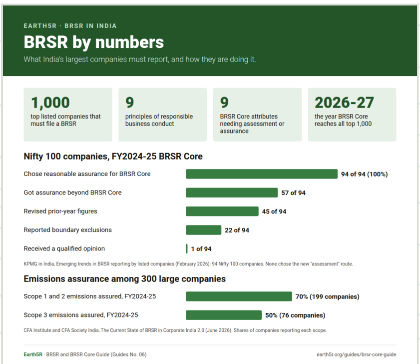
Templates, infographics and how to share this guide

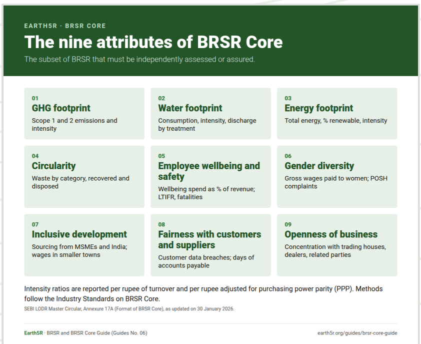
Everything below is free to use, adapt and republish on your own website or intranet, with credit and a link to this guide.

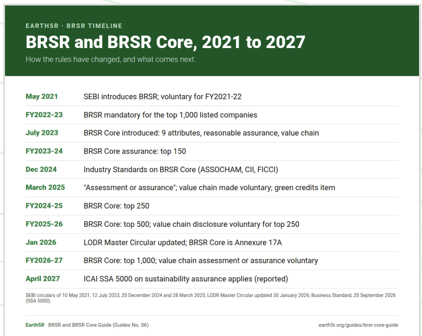
Resource	What it is	Download
BRSR Core Data Workbook (Excel)	Applicability, KPI register, PPP intensity calculator, smaller towns, openness of business, payables and MSME sourcing, value chain screener, 20-point readiness check, calendar	earth5r.org/guides/brsr-core-guide
BRSR Reporting Manual (Word)	Boundary, roles, KPI owners, definitions, controls, restatement policy, value chain, assurance	Same page
Value Chain Partner ESG Questionnaire (Word)	Cover letter and a short questionnaire suited to MSMEs	Same page
Appointing an Assessment or Assurance Provider (Word)	Selection checklist, independence declaration, note to the Audit Committee and Board	Same page
Three infographics	BRSR by numbers; the nine BRSR Core attributes; timeline 2021 to 2027	Same page, with embed code

How to cite this guide.
Gupta, S. (2026). *BRSR and BRSR Core Guide: What SEBI Requires and How to Get Ready for Assurance.* Earth5R Guides No. 06. Earth5R. https://earth5r.org/guides/brsr-core-guide/

Share it. ESG and finance teams, company secretaries, industry bodies, assurance professionals and universities are welcome to link to this guide, add it to reading lists or embed the infographics. Please link to the guide's page rather than the PDF.







FROM THE FIELD

Where the data comes from

Volunteers setting up the Earth5R app to log cleanup data, Mumbai, 2023.

Submitting plantation data on the Earth5R app, Mumbai, 2023.

Segregating collected waste for an audit, Powai Lake, Mumbai, 2018.

Reviewing household survey forms in a settlement.

A community survey with residents near new buildings.

Working with a housing society board on zero waste, Mumbai, 2018.

More photographs of Earth5R's CSR work with partner NGOs: earth5r.org/csr-ngo-work-gallery.

EARTH5R

WORK WITH EARTH5R

A BRSR your team can stand behind

Earth5R is a Mumbai-based environmental organisation working across Indian cities and internationally. We help companies prepare BRSR, review their data the way raters and assurers will, train their teams, and back community and value chain claims with ground-verified data through TERRA, our ESG intelligence platform.

Preparing for BRSR Core assurance?

Tell us your market capitalisation band, your reporting boundary and where your data is thin. We will help you close the gaps before your provider finds them.

Talk to Earth5R →

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