Launch of Accenture GCNI CEO Study - ‘Sustainable Development Goals: ‘Blueprint for Action’

Awards Ceremony 2nd Innovative Practices Awards 2018 on SDGs

Plenary Session 1
CEO’s Agenda - ‘Incorporating sustainability into an organization’s DNA’

Beyond Cost Optimization: ‘Circular Economy - A transformative approach to resource efficiency’
Presentation on Building Responsible Infrastructure to support Human Well-being

Session 1: Quality Education (SDG 4) - ‘Providing Quality Higher Education and Lifelong Learning Opportunities for all in India’

‘Incorporating Human Rights into Sustainable Business Strategy’

Session 3: Affordable Urban Housing (SDG 11) - Challenges & Perspectives

SDG Philanthropy Platform - ‘Role of Philanthropy in attaining the SDGs in India: Impact investment catalytic philanthropy and innovation’

SDGs Best Case Study Presentation

Valedictory Session
Welcome Address

"Our guest of honor, Mr. Yuri Afanasiev; our guest from UNGC, Ms. Sue Allchurch; Mr. Shashi Shanker, President GCNI & CMD, ONGC; Mr. D.K Hota, Convention Convener & CMD, BEML; Mr. Vishvesh Prabhakar from Accenture; all the distinguished guests, media, participants, ladies and gentlemen, it is a great honor to welcome you all to the 13th National Convention of the Global Compact Network.

It has been a long journey. We are proud to have organized an international event last year, ‘Making Global Goals Local Business, India’, in New Delhi jointly with UNGC and the Annual Local Network Forum. I feel honored to say that, for many years now, the network has been receiving the award for being one of the best ten networks in the world.

We have been closely following UNGC and have made several additions to our research, principles and initiatives. One of our recent initiative is the Best Practice Awards on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) wherein we have received - 64 entries this year.

We are proud to pursue the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and I would say it is only the beginning of the journey and we have a long way ahead. We are in discussions with NITI Aayog and the Government to jointly move forward and get more businesses under the fold of SDGs.

We look forward to having more involvement of people as we have moved from the 10 principles to the 17 SDGs. In this convention, today, we have eminent speakers and I must thank you all for participating in the event.”
President Address

Mr. Yuri Afanaseiv, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, India; Ms. Sue Atchchurch, Chief, Outreach and Engagement, UNGC, New York; Mr. D.K. Hota, Convention Convener & CMD, BEML; Mr. Vishvesh Prabhakar, MD, Accenture Strategy; Dr. Uddesh Kohli and Mr. Kamal Singh, delegates from corporate and nonprofit sectors, members from media and ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of ONGC and Global Compact Chapter India, I extend a warm welcome to all of you to the 13th National Convention of GCNI.

The last Convention held in New Delhi focused on creating awareness and provided an insight on the holistic framework of the SDGs adopted in 2015. The business leaders deliberated on how these global goals could be local business for India and how they can contribute to the Indian growth story. Since the launch of the Global Agenda 2030, GCNI has made numerous partnerships & collaborations and has meaningfully engaged with State governments for advancing SDGs.

GCNI has grown significantly in India and globally in its continuous contribution in promoting UNGC principles and SDGs. The initiatives have gathered momentum and are helping companies appreciate both responsibilities and opportunities around SDGs.

In the last 6 months, GCNI has hosted two major Summits. The first one was the 1st Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on the theme ‘Leveraging CSR for achieving SDGs’, on 8th December 2017 in Mumbai. The second was the 1st Gender Equality Summit (GES) on the theme ‘A Key Differentiator for Sustainable Growth’, hosted on 9th March 2018 in New Delhi.

This year the Convention theme ‘SDGs: A Blueprint for Action’ aims to emphasize on the real, on-ground actions that businesses need to take to make a meaningful impact on achieving the SDGs while also creating economic value for the nation.

Last 30 months, since the launch of the Agenda 2030, were full of learning, awareness and a few pockets of success with the governments, businesses, and civil society towards achieving the SDGs. While the initiatives so far have been a promising start, a significant expansion of efforts is essential to achieve these goals.

Especially in the Indian context, as India witnesses higher growth rates and transforms itself into the New India, it is imperative that SDGs reside as the underlying framework for businesses to achieve sustainable growth.

The government is also taking some concrete steps in this regard. From some of the most inclusive projects such as Digital India, Skill India, Swachh Bharat, Doubling Farmers Income; to specific initiatives such as
SDG Index boosting the spirit of competitive federalism; the Government has shown strong commitment and proactive approach towards achieving the Prime Minister’s vision of the New India.

At ONGC, sustainability guides our approach to business. I positively believe that SDGs have the potential to create an environment where no one is left behind. The reason for doing business for good should go beyond the books and annual financial statements.

Today we are launching the GCNI - Accenture Strategy CEO Study 2018 which captures the perspectives of leading CEOs from more than 45 organizations. The study examines how India’s leading CEOs are addressing sustainability challenges. The study focuses on the opportunities and challenges of today’s global business environment, how business leaders see the future and what they believe will be required for corporate sustainability to deliver the solutions and innovations needed to transform markets and societies while delivering sustainable development for the country.

We see a striking commitment from Indian CEOs towards the SDGs. As per UNGC, more than 50% of the progress towards the SDGs will come from India. In parallel, there are $1 trillion worth of market opportunities for companies working in the sustainable sector in India and there exists an employment generation potential of 72 million by 2030. Indian businesses are well poised to capture this opportunity with a better understanding of SDGs relevant to their businesses and capabilities to deliver on them. 86% Indian CEOs (78% globally) believe that they know how their company can contribute to the SDGs through their business.

I would like to thank our knowledge partner, Accenture Strategy, for undertaking this critical study. I sincerely hope that it helps businesses and other key stakeholders to scale-up their efforts to drive India’s growth and holistic transformation.

I am glad to announce that this year we had 64 participating organizations as compared to last year’s 47 for the Best Practices Awards on SDGs, an initiative to recognize, appreciate and showcase the finest examples of SDGs implementation across the country. This shows how Indian companies are embracing SDGs as part of their core business strategy and it is important for business to understand the best practices leading organizations.

I would also like to highlight the alignment with UN India Business Forum for this event and further strengthening of the partnership with GCNI in future. I believe that many delegates joined us last evening for the stellar event. I express my heartiest thanks to UN India Business Forum team to help us further enrich this platform.

In the end, I do believe that the deliberations of the Convention would lead to:

- Establishing SDGs as the growth engines for businesses
- Exploring how everyone, from the CEO to a janitor can contribute to the SDGs
- Understanding the potential of concepts such as digital and circular economy
- Reflecting upon and celebrating the success stories for others to emulate
- And ultimately driving businesses from discussions, pilots and elementary initiatives to taking concrete, scalable and sustainable actions for achieving the SDGs.

“Let us all join our hands together, foster innovation, leverage technology and above all embrace SDGs as a personal mission to deliver on the Agenda 2030 and create a sustainable, prosperous, healthy, educated, equitable, and happy future for our country and the world.”
Mr. D.K. Hota
Convener - GCNI 13th National Convention & CMD, BEML Ltd.

Convention Overview

Mr. Yuri Afanasiev, Ms. Sue Allchurch, Mr. Shashi Shanker, Dr. Uddesh Kohli, Mr. Vishvesh Prabhakar, Mr. Kamal Singh, delegates from corporate and nonprofit sector, members from the business and civil society, friends from the Media, UN India Business Forum team, GCNI team, organizing committee, volunteers, ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of BEML and as the Convener of the GCNI 13th National Convention, I welcome all of you.

This year the Convention theme, ‘A Blueprint for Action’, aims to emphasize the real, on ground actions that businesses need to take to make real impact in achieving the SDGs while also creating economic value for the nation.

Though it is important to focus on all 17 SDGs, we will focus only on a few with pointed discussions and an outcome-based approach. Human Rights, Affordable Housing, Quality Higher Education and SDG Philanthropy will be the key focus areas.

In my opinion SDGs are not goals but challenges. Challenges that we must beat to ensure an inclusive India, a healthy India, a prosperous India, an educated India, an India where women are empowered, where children are not malnourished and where everyone flourishes and achieves their potential.

I am happy to share that BEML has been making efforts to address these challenges and contribute to the New India. For BEML, in-house R&D and proactive indigenization are the cornerstones of the Company’s business strategy and we are contributing actively to Affordable & Clean Energy (SDG7) and Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (SDG 9). Our R&D expenditure is 2.5-3% of our revenues per year, promoting local innovation. We have indigenously designed and developed a 200-ton dump truck which is being manufactured by only 4 or 5 companies in the world. We hold a striking 47% market share of all metros coaches manufactured in the country. 90% of BEML’s energy needs are met through wind and solar energy.

I firmly believe that sustainability is not the prerogative of a sustainability officer or a CEO alone, but everybody can contribute to it. Our company has completely stopped using single serve plastic.

This convention also marks the “2nd Innovative Practices Award on SDGs” – an initiative to recognize, appreciate and showcase the finest examples of SDG implementation in businesses across the country. The awards attracted 47 entries in its introductory year and I am glad to announce that we have participation from 64 companies this year. I am sure that these landmark stories of impact would serve as lighthouses and guide others into action.

I would request all of you to contribute, learn, help and come together in creating an ecosystem of empowered individuals and organizations which can create meaningful action in meeting the challenges before our generation and making the world a better place for our future ones to come.
Respected ladies and gentlemen and distinguished leaders on the dais. It is my privilege to be standing amidst you to present the GCNI Accenture study on ‘SDGs: Blueprint for Action’

Over the last decade, UNGC and Accenture have collaborated extensively on several sustainability initiatives, globally as well as in India. The first edition of the UNGC CEO study was launched in 2007. We have been working on this year’s CEO study for the past few months and would like to thank the GCNI team and all the CEOs who actively participated in the study.

In India, we have had the privilege to partner with Global Compact Network since 2013, when we launched the first India CEO Study on Sustainability. We followed that up with another study in 2015—called the ‘Sustainable Transformation of India 2015 and beyond.’ Last year, we launched another CEO Study—‘Transforming Partnerships for the SDGs.’

The 2018 UNGC Accenture CEO Study represents more than 10 years of research on leadership perspectives and sustainability. The genesis of today’s theme essentially lies in the 2018 Accenture CEO Study on SDGs: Blueprint for Action where we have captured the perspectives of 45 leaders and more than 20 CEOs.

The study emphasizes that India has a critical role to play in achievement of the 17 SDGs by 2030. UNGC research identifies

- 50% of the progress towards the SDGs will come from India
- $4 trillion worth of global market opportunities from SDGs
- India’s potential of $1 trillion: an employment generation potential of 72 million by 2030

Four major key findings from the study were:

- More than 90% of Indian CEOs exhibit high commitment towards SDGs and 68% are able to quantify value from sustainability
- Being a developing country, Indian CEOs are driven by communities and regulation
- Indian CEOs call upon the government to help them accelerate action at scale
- CEOs believe that integration with the financial markets and investors is crucial for achieving SDGs

A large majority of Indian companies still focus mainly on regulation and compliance and operational and resources efficiency. We do see through the survey that a set of leaders have transcended and are focusing on sustainability to drive innovation and growth through embedding sustainability into their business. Indian businesses have a huge opportunity to include sustainability as a non-negotiable part of their DNA.

Once again, I would like to say that it has been a privilege to partner with Global Compact Network. Thank you all.
Address

Thank you for inviting me to address the 13th National Convention of Global Compact Network India.

There are three distinct ways in which organizations can make the biggest impact:

1. Acting responsibly by committing to the ten principles of UNGC and reporting annually.
   
   It is fundamental for all organizations to act responsibly. Businesses can leverage on the interconnectedness of goals. Focus on those goals that are generally material to the organization.

2. Finding opportunities that are bold, innovative and principle based - Globally, SDGs provide $12 trillion in revenue and savings opportunity and 380 million new jobs for businesses to go out and deliver the goals. India represents $1 trillion of this opportunity and 72 million new jobs. India can leverage its opportunities in the areas of healthcare, renewables, affordable housing, waste, etc.

3. Inspiring and advocating for more change and to grow the movement.
   
   Events like these are fantastic opportunities for businesses to inspire others and grow the movement.

In the survey of signatories to the Global Compact, 100% of the Indian companies are taking tangible actions to address the SDGs; this number was 75% for global companies and 91% for Asian companies.

Companies in India are working in partnership more than any other country across the globe. In India, it’s harder for companies to put SDG activities at the core of their strategy and business. Only 75% of the organizations globally are trying to put actions in place on the goals but only 13% have identified tools to make it happen.

The aim of the Global Compact is to enable big organizations to put in place the learning, skills, training and get the program rolling. We are trying to not limit this to only the larger organizations but focus on all organizations as over 55% of our organizations are SMEs.

For SDGs, we have three set of tools or support which will be enabled through the training academy:

1. SDG Compass to help companies think and put SDGs at the core of the strategy and become more responsible.

2. Communication and reporting which is the need of the investor community will help companies to track progress against each of the goals. A Compendium of indicators has been developed and we are also launching a practical guide for organizations.

3. Blueprinting for organizations to lead on each goal with practical examples.
Special Address

Esteemed colleagues, leadership of the Global Compact, guests on the dais, esteemed leaders from the Industry and Business, colleagues from the UN, representatives from the media, it’s a pleasure to be with you and speak to you on SDGs and how we can take this agenda forward.

The uniqueness of this agenda is that it is global. It is the first ever agreement that is global and had an incredible level and process of consultation for several years before the agreement was signed.

India is accountable for 50% of SDG agenda and 30-60% accountable to either of the problem or the solution. India is doing something bold and innovative that is actually forcing other countries to wake up and think about things in a different way.

Trends show that India’s economic regulatory situation has been improving over the decade and is likely going to improve over the next one. Incomes will double in the next decade. By 2050, India is going to be the largest or second largest economy in the world. Hence, the opportunity for businesses to find interesting solutions is there in India.

India has a unique opportunity to do it differently and it has attained a significant growth in the renewable energy space and expects to achieve 60 GW of renewable energy generation this year. A lot of it is facilitated by not only technology but also innovation. I would like to call this ‘Jugaad 2.0’. In the SDG Agenda, it is one of the most important attributes of a nation. If traditional ways were utilized, it would take 150 years to solve the problems and at 10 times the expense. You just have 15 years to do it. It is very much visible from the ability to invent $1 per person digital entity, the ability to deploy 60 GW of renewable energy in a market-based system, deploy 300 million LED bulbs, develop states like Andhra Pradesh that are aiming to become Zero Budget Natural Agriculture State by 2024. Very recently, the Prime Minister of India has announced that India is going to be single use plastic free by 2022. India is solving problems that has taken other countries decades to think about it.

For the UN, India is a test market because of the unique combinations of the size of the market, economy, democracy, business development and an innovative sphere. India can find solutions that other countries want but can’t afford to develop.

The solutions for tomorrow are being invented in India today. The more India succeeds and becomes a global superpower, the more it will share. The success stories have been coming from India because the nation has behaved with solidarity with the other nations. India is becoming one of the biggest development partner and donor as well.
Another key area I want to highlight is triple bottom line. No business can succeed in the next 10 years if it doesn’t focus on social, sustainability and commercial aspects. This change to some extent is being driven by consumers. Future is going to integrate triple bottom line into the business model. The issue is how we can scale it affordably, viably and how we can develop models that apply to the bottom of the pyramid.

**Key engagement areas that he concluded were:**

1. Engagement with Business which includes technology, innovation and sustainable solutions. The models we are looking at are impact based models or normal economically viable business models to solve some of development challenges in health, energy, education, women empowerment, etc. The moment project ends, the activity ends, and the solution disappears.

2. Focusing on Triple Bottom Line- The business should follow a win-win situation and that they help us promote an area of SDGs and we help them in tweaking their business models that may have increased risks from non-sustainability dimensions to help improve their business in the next five years.

3. Creating new Business Models- Combine CSR, grant funding and public investment to create scalable business models. These models should be aimed at finding solutions that scale with incredible speed and change the quality of life of people all over the country.

4. Data and analytics- Need to combine data of organizations and businesses to generate with UN and Government and using the data propitiously to solve and identify problems and solutions.

In India, Government and business both need to constructively engage with each other. For instance, jointly shaping market improvement initiatives – private sector can work with the Government to introduce policies, tax breaks, incentives, etc. in the social housing sector to make housing more affordable. Both business and Government need to create a win-win situation by compromising, allowing businesses to scale up certain solutions or platforms that would let the country progress at a much faster pace.”

*From L-R: Dr. Uddesh Kohli, Mr. Vishvesh Prabhakar, Mr. D.K Hota, Mr. Shashi Shanker, Ms. Sue Allchurch and Mr. Kamal Singh*
Keynote Address

I would like to congratulate Global Compact Network India, ONGC and BEML for organizing such a grand event on Sustainable Development Goals.

Indian government has shown a firm faith in the Sustainable Development Goals with our Prime Minister expressing his commitment by saying that sustainable development is a matter of faith for our country. As we target 10% growth in the next couple of years, it is imperative that we ensure an inclusive development. And I think we are trying to make an impact by touching across the spectrum of the goals.

Further I believe that we need to innovate to solve the immense problems we face across the spectrum of society. The government is driving an innovative India through Startups & initiatives like Atal Tinkering Labs, Incubation Centers & Agri-tech projects using latest technologies such as Artificial Intelligence & Block-Chain. Over 2,500 labs are being set up where tools equipment and concepts are being used to encourage innovation in children. We at NITI Aayog, have drafted the National Strategy on Artificial Intelligence.

I believe that the scale of the challenge is such that we all need to join hands in achieving the global goals in India by 2030. We need participation from every citizen and we need to empower every person sitting in the last corner of our society.

Innovative things such as the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) is one of the biggest innovations carried out to bring in transparency, cost efficiency & integrity in Government procurement. This will ensure that smallest of the players, SMEs in the industry can supply to the biggest buyer- the central and the state governments.

In term of leveraging the spirit of competitive federalism as well, we have identified number of different rating mechanisms to rate cities and states. The Swachha Bharat Sarvekshan is a step in that direction which provokes and motivates people to participate in the government cleanliness program. We have started the ‘Transformation of Aspirational Districts’ programme in January this year which aims to quickly and effectively transform the 100 districts which stand at the bottom of development metrics. With States as the main drivers, this program will focus on the strength of each district, identify low-hanging fruits for immediate improvement, measure progress, and rank districts. NITI Aayog in partnership with the Government of Andhra Pradesh has created a dashboard for monitoring the real-time progress of the districts.

I would like to thank you all once again to take up this very important topic and I am sure the distinct gathering here will be able to come up with some transformative ideas and solutions which can create impact and strengthen our journey towards being a global leader.
Launch of Accenture - GCNI CEO Study
‘Sustainable Development Goals : Blueprint for Action’

From L-R: Dr. Uddesh Kohli, Mr. Vishvesh Prabhakar, Mr. DK Hota, Mr. Shashi Shanker, Mr. Yuri Afanasiev
Ms. Sue Allchurch and Mr. Kamal Singh

The study was conducted jointly by UN Global Compact Network India and Accenture Strategy. The study examines how India’s leading CEOs are addressing sustainability challenges. It provides an authentic, unfiltered assessment of the view of the participant CEOs. The study also explores the challenges faced by the organizations – lack of investor engagement and uncertainty of the operating environment. The report provides insights into the capabilities accelerating competitiveness.
Awards Ceremony: 2\textsuperscript{nd} Innovative Practices Awards 2018 on SDGs

In 2017, GCNI initiated the 1\textsuperscript{st} Best Practices Awards on SDGs to recognize leading organizations implementing SDGs effectively. This year the awards were basis a case study competition and organizations had to showcase how they are leveraging leadership, innovation, and value creation in implementing SDGs in India. The participation, this year, rose to 64 from last year’s 47 entries.

The case studies were centered around how leading organizations are incorporating SDGs into their business agenda. The focus of the case studies was to highlight and explore solutions for stakeholder collaboration and partnerships to integrate global goals, food security, poverty alleviation, clean water, sanitation, clean energy, role of digital solutions to accelerate actions in SDGs and governance, ethics and transparency for ensuring safe and sustainable cities.

The jury selected 6 Innovative Case Studies from 64 entries that were received. The awards were presented by Mr. Shashi Shanker and Mr. Yuri Afanasiev. The winners are as follows:

1. Tata Steel Ltd. - Corporate Private Sector Category
2. ONGC - Corporate Public Sector Category
3. Indian Society of Agri-business Professionals - NGO Category
4. NSE Foundation - NGO Category
5. SP Jain Institute of Management & Research, Mumbai - Business School Category
6. Technip FMC India Ltd. - Special Recognition for Private Sector Category
Vote of thanks

Mr. Singh expressed his gratitude to the speakers and participants and reiterated that it was truly his privilege and honor to present the vote of thanks.

- Ms. Yuri Afanaseiv – for his powerful address on how the SDG agenda can be taken forward in India
- Ms. Sue Allchurch – for her commitment to SDGs and providing her insightful inputs
- Mr. Shashi Shankar – for his support throughout the process and in making the event truly memorable and successful
- Mr. Vishvesh Prabhakar – along with Sundeep and Pranshu for their support as knowledge partners of the event and authoring the theme paper
- Mr. Amitabh Kant – for sharing his address that was presented by Mr. Hota
- Mr. D.K. Hota – for his support in leading the recognition program

He thanked all the delegates, sponsors and partners, members of the organizing committee, the distinguished jury led by Mr. Bhaskar Chatterjee, award process partner TTC, the GCNI Team and the event management team. He also thanked each one of the participants in making the event successful.
CEO’s Agenda: “Incorporating Sustainability into an Organization’s DNA”

Dr. Bhaskar Chatterjee set the context for the discussion by refreshing the 2030 sustainable development agenda which gave a 15-year roadmap for the 17 SDGs. He spoke of the businesses, government and civil society investing time on demystifying the SDGs to derive relevant meaning. He emphasized that going forward businesses need to craft strategies knitting sustainability closely into their business strategy and organizational culture. He preempted the need for sustainability initiatives to move away from execution by small groups of advocates within an organization to embedding sustainable responsibility where every individual is expected to deliver. The future would require each employee being a custodian of sustainability outcomes and each division reporting on sustainability as a business priority.

He elaborated that the role of CEOs goes beyond paying lip service to the SDGs or restricting action to self or a core team. They need to infuse the spirit of the SDGs to the very bottom of the pyramid of their organization. Infusing SDGs is a difficult task which requires extraordinary commitment and a long payback period. He said that embedding sustainability into the business DNA is a transformational process which will impact every single person associated with it.

Dr. Raman Ramachandran commenced by elucidating the business logic for sustainability being a central theme for operations and decisions. He mentioned that BASF being a manufacturing firm rely heavily on raw material. They are impacted by raw material volatility arising from availability and pricing. This drives the business to relook their processes for efficient material consumption. Quoting the plastic ban and the impending Bharat VI
norms, he spoke of regulations and freedom to operate as driving forces compelling business to take sustainability seriously. He highlighted that rapidly changing societal and consumer expectations also create a strong need for sustainability. For example, Sterlite issue in Tuticorin shows that in India significant segment of youth are willing to pay more for goods and services from players committed to positive social and environmental impact. He re-emphasized the need for sustainability by stressing that past solutions are inadequate to tackle the future challenges arising from population dynamics, resource constraint, urbanization and climate change. It is imperative to come up with innovations and solutions for sustainability.

Focusing on BASF, he highlighted how elements of sustainability have always been a part of the 154-year journey of the German transnational. It started with concern for employee health, environmental emissions to air and water bodies. It further evolved into supporting communities near their manufacturing facilities. Over the last 10 years it has translated into a fully integrated business strategy and means to deploy assets and resources into R&D for a sustainable future. Delving deeper into BASF practices, he spoke of their robust governance structure which had a sustainability business council with internal leadership, sustainable stakeholder council with external stakeholders and an implementation committee at the ground level. He concluded by purpose statement – ‘We create chemistry for a sustainable future’.

Mr. D.K. Hota began by highlighting the long-standing strong commitment of PSUs towards CSR and triple bottom line (people, planet, profit). He quoted a study which showed that not being in sync with the society of operations as one of the reasons for one third of the Fortune 500 players getting displaced from the list by the end of a decade. Quoting examples of 100 year old Japanese and Scandinavian companies, he emphasized that profit – centricity suffices for survival but does not reap benefits in the long run.

He spoke in depth about BEML’s initiatives towards Sustainable Development. Under their CSR regime, they are mindful to contribute to the community around their factories. Their CSR initiatives have made an impact on poverty, health, education and sustainable employment. They do so by adopting a village and tracking the progress over a period of 4-5 years. They have a clear sustainability policy in accordance with the section 7 of the Companies Act 2013 and DPE guidelines.

In their business operations, they concentrate on R&D and inclusivity for sustainable growth. He lauded the government driven MSME encouragement which has been instrumental in creating more valuable partnerships with small vendors. He highlighted BEML’s main contribution area as urbanization. They have offerings in the transportation space specifically for metro operations.

He closed the discussion by highlighting India’s projected contribution to the SDGs is to the extent of 50%. This gives businesses opportunities worth quarter of a trillion dollars to tap into through sustainable core practices.

Mr. Shekar Viswanathan emphasized on a need to strive for sustainable profits – that is good quality profits earned by ethical and sustainable business practices. He also emphasized that being profitable enables them to deliver much more than originally designed. He highlighted internal Toyota Kirloskar CSR activities which began even when they were a loss-making entity. Being profitable has helped improve their impact and outreach.

He further strengthened the business case for sustainable practices by quoting insights from their Bidadi Industrial Estate operations. They observed that the quality of products from their local suppliers were at par with global offerings and yet they struggled on getting sizeable business. On delving deeper, they found that despite world class technology, facility and produce they were unable to clinch deals because the importers were let down by the exterior of the industrial estate. The estate was grappling with issues like pot-holed roads, poor lighting and water availability hampering business operations.

Toyota Kirloskar took the proactive steps to solve these problems and mobilized and created an association to take care of the 1,500-acre industrial estate. The association widened roads, stabilized electricity and removed encroachments detrimental...
to road access. They even cracked down a water mafia which was pilfering water. Thus, solving the potable water issue for the nearby community and industrial estate. He highlighted on their internal practices of rain water harvesting which provided water for their operations for 8-9 months, effectively reducing their dependence on Cauvery river water.

He concluded by speaking of their proposal to NITI Aayog based on insights from 7 years of successful operation of the association. They stated that such sustainable industrial estates are key to success of the ‘Make in India’ program.

**Mr. Rajesh Bhasin** delved into the business transformations brought in at Uflex using sustainability as a tool. Uflex is a large-scale operation with over 50,000 tonne inks and adhesives output and have complex business operations with more than 700 SKUs being manufactured across 2 manufacturing operations. He emphasized on the relevance of sustainability for their business as they handle some of the most dangerous chemicals during their manufacturing processes. He pivoted his discussion around Sustainable production and consumption (SDG 12).

He recounted that Uflex started on its sustainable journey by defining a sustainable policy which communicated their commitment and expectations to all their stakeholders – suppliers, employees and customers. He stressed on the importance of honest and genuine commitment which goes beyond operating for convenience. Uflex has demonstrated this commitment by suspending production wherever they could not manufacture responsibly.

He added that another important ingredient for sustainable operation was a common agenda flowing throughout the organization. This gave employees a sense of purpose, responsibility and pride regarding their contribution to business.

Uflex took a positive step towards sustainable business by identifying skill gaps which would deter achieving their set goals. They have successfully transformed to a learning organization by developing 1 in 3 employees as certified internal trainers. The results have been phenomenal with doubling of sales, reduction of material consumption (e.g. 71% decrease in water use) and improved workplace environment.

**Ms. Vaishali Nigam Sinha** began by setting context for ReNew operations which produces 6 GW of clean energy, offsetting 10 million tonnes of CO₂.

She highlighted the need for a common vision throughout the organization that needs to be communicated and reiterated by the top management.

She urged to decipher the meaning of sustainability in an organizational context – investment decisions, engaging with stakeholders, employee recruitment and training, business operations. She emphasized on reflecting on the meaning and amalgamating it with the SDG guidance to come up with a unique and robust sustainable policy.

She stressed on the significance of the supply chain partners, especially in India where the interaction is with a small set who hold high business value. In majority cases, sustainability does not make profitable sense for these supply chain partners. She spoke of ReNew’s efforts of championing sustainability by investing in vendors to train and educate them. The end result is improvement in their sustainable practices, even if it is far from the ideal state.

She emphasized the need for building sustainable goals in company KPIs which requires constant monitoring and reporting. Building sustainability into the DNA goes beyond CSR and translates into assessing employees and department performance, engaging lenders and investors, to ensure that the agenda is fulfilled.

She spoke about their gender inclusion efforts by mentioning their program ‘ReNew Power of W - not without men’. She emphasized the need for working together to reap maximum benefits for business.

She reiterated the importance of building sustainable institutions and stressed on the need to focus on the happiness quotient of organizations - a happier workforce is more engaged, productive and thus, more profitable. She concluded her address with a thought-provoking angle - destroying homes is called vandalism, but destroying natural resources is termed as progress. She stressed the need to look at progress in a non-destructive manner and quoted Mahatma Gandhi - “The world has enough for everyone’s need, but not enough for everyone’s greed.”

Dr. Sarin set the context of Circular Economy in simple terms; one’s waste is a resource for another. Resources are becoming scarce day by day and it is important to understand how we can reuse, recycle, extend the life of products, re-engineer and share and create more collaborative models in different settings.

She then requested Mr. Afanasiev, who has spent significant time of his life in disaster prone areas, to shed light on sustainable solutions and circular economy models in temporary settlements or refugee camps.

Mr. Afanasiev stated that India has always been a great host country for immigrants and refugees. Slums in India which were supposed to be temporary settlements have now become permanent in nature. Labor standards and working conditions in India are not the best in the world and resource availability and demand in India are unmatched. According to his viewpoint, compared to other countries, India is circular in nature because the entire population doesn’t consume as much as the developed nations do and they find ways to reuse materials post end of life of products. He stressed on the importance of creating an eco-system of suppliers of waste material (plastic, wood, paper, construction waste etc.), recyclers and buyers in India.

Moving ahead, Dr. Sarin requested Mr. Narayan to share his perspectives on governance and policies in terms of circular economy and more specifically how different stakeholders can take accountability and responsibility to solve water challenges.
Mr. Narayan started by saying that in a social system, circularity is pervasive in nature. Taking the example of urban water, he illustrated how circularity can be leveraged through a live case study in the city of Bangalore where large parts of the city do not get water from official water supply board. These areas have mushroomed in the last 15-20 areas socio-economically, but they depend on water from ground water and are serviced by a mafia of private water tank operators.

Mr. Narayan spoke about an experimental initiative by Wipro Foundation wherein they brought a combination of academic insights, citizen groups and ground water science to see how they could govern water in a decentralized manner without dependence on the municipality or the Govt. In collaboration with IISc., they developed the operating templates on self-governance of water in a more scientific and circular way where water at a relatively higher level below ground level can be combined with a rain water harvesting system.

Dr. Sarin then asked Mr. Choudhury to address the challenges and the gaps in financing for such circular economy initiatives.

Mr. Choudhury said that the biggest challenge in implementing circular economy in India at a national level was lack of a common platform where in companies from different industries can interact with each other and understand each other’s production and waste generation cycles, raw materials and resource requirements and the alternatives available. Instead of a company closing the loop within its own value chain, many companies belonging to one social economic zone can come together and close the overall loop. He mentioned three key interventions required to scale circular economy models in India:

a) Govt. intervention and a policy framework for circularity in business
b) R&D spend by academic institutions to provide insights into the different forms of waste generated by different industries and how they can be utilized efficiently
c) Financing initiatives not only for the larger conglomerates but also for the SME and unorganized sector

He highlighted that implementing circularity in Business to Consumer (B2C) models would be difficult due to individual perspectives and behavioral challenges which can only be addressed at grassroots level by academic institutions.

Dr. Sarin requested Mr. Singh to shed light on value generation from circular economy, innovation as a competitive edge, long term contracts, customer loyalty and partnerships.

Mr. Singh started the discussion by highlighting the fact that globally, at the current rate of consumption, we shall need 3 planets worth of resources by 2030. Looking at India, there are a lot of resource constraints:

a) Food worth $7 billion gets wasted annually
b) One out of three children in the world who suffer from malnutrition are from India
c) 20% of Indians still have no access to electricity and 5% do not have access to water.

On top of the resource constraints, India needs to grow at 10% for the next few decades to beat the needs of its increasing population. He highlighted that the concept of circular economy was beyond the usual concepts of waste management and recycling. In principal, elimination of waste in all forms – wasted capacities, premature ending of products, wasted resources, asset utilization is what circular economy is.

According to a research done by Accenture Strategy, business value of $4.5 trillion can be realized through the adoption of circular economy models, which translates to around $500 billion in India.

Stating the example of electronic waste, Mr. Singh highlighted that almost 1.8 million tons of e-waste is generated every year in India. There are lot of opportunities to extract the precious materials from circuit boards and re-utilize them in different industry operations.

He highlighted key challenges in implementing circular economy models at a national scale in India:

a) Highly fragmented nature of all industries
b) Large unorganized sector and innumerous SME players not connected on a common platform
Mr. Singh gave the example of Mahindra Group in India which is addressing the challenges around tractor utilization. Farm tractors in India are only 20% utilized but farmers end up paying for 100% capacity. Mahindra has started a rental service for tractors to increase asset utilization, resource efficiency and affordability for farmers. Mahindra has generated benefit for 1 lakh farmers so far and plans to increase its outreach to 1 million farmers. This is a classic example of a win-win situation in which a business opportunity and a revenue generation stream could be realized through effective resource utilization.

Ms. Shalini concluded the discussion by highlighting inclusion, frugal manufacturing and consumption as important mind setting parameters for circularity in India.

Dr. H Chaturevdi, Director, BIMTECH presented memento to moderator Dr. Shalini Sarin
Mr. Ajay Poddar emphasized the need for responsible infrastructure. He highlighted that a lot of time is spent in places which are not healthy. Unfortunately, there exists no system to grade buildings as to how healthy they are.

Introducing their work, he mentioned that they non-intrusively correct the health of the buildings. In doing so they fulfill Good Health and Well-being (SDG 3) and Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11). Their solution has been implemented in almost 2,200 small and large establishments – including hospitals, hotels, airports etc.

He introduced the concept of geopathic stress – natural radiations affecting up to 20% of the earth’s surface.

Starting in 1940s, worldwide research was conducted by Dr. Ernst Hartmann on 500 cases of cancer. By studying their place of work and stay, he found 499 of these cases had been sitting and/or sleeping on geopathic zones or lines for more than five years. He concluded cancer is a disease of location.

Mr. Poddar spoke of another phenomenon – Electro Hyper Sensitivity (EHS). In US, one of the top diseases is electro-smog, which surrounds us but cannot be seen. Defining the scale of the disease, he mentioned EHS affected 1 in 100,000 in 2001 and now the figure stood at 1 in 1,000. He contrasted it against the efforts taken to mitigate risks of cancer with an occurrence rate of 1 in 600 worldwide. The awareness for EHS is very low, even in educated class.

He mentioned about their efforts in the direction to reduce the biological ill-effects of mobile phone radiations. Quoting example of an office of a leading hospital chains – he showed the radiation zones from the geopathic stress lines, Wi-Fi routers and the desktop/laptop use. He shared that the likelihood stood at 22% people being affected by geopathic stress, 24% people affected by Wi-Fi routers and server rooms and 100% people by use of personal devices. He spoke of their solution which mitigate the risks without having to move the people aside. Feedback being taken 6 months after implementation of corrective actions have shown lesser breakdown of equipment along geopathic stress lines and improved interpersonal skills for people. Pulse rates which were checked pre and post the implementation of a solution showed 5% improvements.
He introduced the enviro-globe – a new technology which takes care of 300 sq. ft. area worth of electronic smog around it. It changes the nature of radiation without changing the signal quality. With a population of 7.5 billion in the world and each person occupying 20m$^2$ – there is an impact potential of 150m$^2$. Deploying such technologies can employ 5 million people and generate $150 billion revenue.

He closed his presentation with a 'hand test' to demonstrate the negative effects of mobile radiations. The 400 grams of cellular network in human body faces harmful radiations which can be neutralized using the Envirochip which is being developed by Environics.
Session 1: Quality Education (SDG 4) - “Providing Quality Higher Education and Lifelong Learning opportunities for all in India”

Dr. H Chaturvedi set the context of the session and highlighted the fact that India has a significant number of universities and colleges: 61% are public, run by the Central or State Government, while 39% are private universities. Among colleges, 43% colleges are run by private societies which take grants from the Government while 57% are independent private colleges and universities. He mentioned about two autonomous agencies which have mandated to investigate quality aspect of education in India: NAAC – Bengaluru and NBA – Delhi. He stated that 60-70% technical educational institutions owned by private players are under high pressure from HRD ministry to maintain their quality standards.

Dr. Patil highlighted the major gaps in the higher education system in India. He said that out of 864 universities, 40,000+ colleges and 11,000+ standalone institutions in India, only 2.5% run PhD programs and 37.6% run PG programs. Only 10 programs out of 190+ cover 84% of the total students enrolled in higher education and these programs (BA, B. Com) do not generate employability. He stated that out of global top 500 universities, there is only one university from India and that we are far behind countries like US and China in registering patents and publications.

Mr. Natarajan stressed on the need for preparing students for the jobs for the future which are not existent today. He stated that there is a pressing need for colleges and universities to reach out to their alumni for funding rather than depending on Government grants.
Prof. Githa Heggde addressed concerns around enabling lifelong learning for everyone in India. Being in the Women’s Forum and Chairman of the CII India Network, she said that she was passionate about women’s education. She cast her doubts about the Gross Enrollment Ratio which is currently 25.2% and the Government aims to increase it to 30% by 2020 which according to her doesn’t seem likely since a large population between 18-24 years of age in India still does not opt for higher education and the gap between male and female enrolment is also wide.

Prof. Heggde highlighted AACSB accreditation process and how IFIM have achieved it through focus on two key areas:

- **Innovation** – Technological innovation at grassroots level and across their operations
- **Engagement** - A 360-degree engagement with all stakeholders, corporates, innovative internship programs, faculty development, social immersion programs, etc.

Dr. Bhimaraya Metri spoke about misleading reports given by different institutions about unemployment rates and quality of education in India. He had a very positive outlook on India’s higher education system.

Mr. Ranjan added his transformative change areas for academic institutionalization –

- **Design thinking approach**
- **Focus on building entrepreneurial skills**

Dr. H Chaturvedi summarized the discussion by the panel and then probed the panel further for key takeaways. The key takeaways from all panelists focused on increasing need for institutionalization and autonomy of institutions, increasing number of courses offered, establishing relevance of curriculum to the future job market and increasing funding through alumni engagements for fostering higher education and lifelong learning in India.
Session 2: “Integrating Human Rights into Sustainable Business Strategy”

The moderator set the tone for the discussion by talking about the Tuticorin protests resulting in 13 deaths. He held violations of human rights in the pursuit of development of responsible for such incidents. He spoke of corporates in India entering remote areas, setting up plants and taking up activities at the ground level. He said human rights are essential for achieving SDGs. He highlighted that the 2030 agenda for sustainable development is extensively grounded in the UN charter of Universal Rights, International Human Rights Principle and UN Guiding principles for business. Many of the SDGs champion the cause of economic, social and cultural aspects of the communities – including the right to health, food and shelter and the groups represented – women’s rights, indigenous people. He gave examples of SDG 16 very much embedded with human rights and SDG 17 which speaks of revitalizing global partnerships for sustainable development. He said knowing and showing respect and dignity to rights of all the people, that business impact and interact with, is critical. Respect should be the cornerstone for envisioning the role played by businesses in sustainable development. Quoting the Jon Ragi’s framework and the UN guiding principle of protect, respect and remedy; he enumerated the responsibility of stakeholders.

- Protect – responsibility of state
- Respect – corporates are importantly engaged with communities
- Remedy – both need to come together to find solutions

He emphasized the importance of transparency and mentioned about the Bangladesh policy engagements which have been seen in the last three years. He opened the floor for Indian perspective and efforts.
Mr. Luke Wilde echoed the importance of human rights for realizing the SDGs. He quoted the indicators such as 8.7 eliminating forced labour and 5.1 anti-discrimination for women and girls to illustrate the linkage with human rights. He suggested that the companies should stop doing harm and should ‘Act Responsibly’.

His second message was the need for identifying how to increase contribution to SDGs. He emphasized the need for a management process and prioritization. Human rights due diligence is an established process which one needs to undertake to fulfill their responsibility to respect human rights. He suggested that it could be evolved to be called Sustainable Development Due Diligence (SDDD) – identifying impact, responding to the information and acting to mitigate the impacts. It is a management process much like plan-do-act, but the difference lies in the way of engaging with communities. The efforts to hear and include insights are considering the vulnerable groups. He acknowledged that it is a challenge for businesses to meaningfully engage with communities as they are not encountered in the general course of business.

Integrating the SDDD process into business is not simple. It requires leadership and commitment, planning for an arduous journey, prioritization, dialogue and engagement, a coordination system and communication to both internal and external stakeholders.

Ms. Ruchira Gujral began by mentioning that at UNICEF a common argument used is that if it is good enough for a child it is good enough for the rest. When speaking of stakeholders for business, children are often a critical yet missed out group. The organizational HR policies tend to be myopic in view of their responsibility—they may compensate a woman employee for working overtime and provide transportation but do not account for an instance where a 7-year-old must look after a 2-year-old and compromise their nutrition and education. Children’s rights are often hidden. When UN guidelines for business and human rights were developed, a general comment 16 was added for business and child rights. Talking about UNICEF, she mentioned that they treated private sector as a critical partner and not a funder. Private sector is an inherent part of the society and performs critical functions such as producing products and providing employment. When UNGPs came into being, UNICEF started weaving impact of business on child rights into every project undertaken. She quoted an example of a program tackling issues for adolescent girls from tea gardens in Assam by actively involving the tea industry players operating in the area. Revisiting the tea garden example, she emphasized the subtlety of the distinctions, the solution sought could address both SDG 5 and SDG 8. She reiterated that a rights-based approach to solutions is already on the path to achieving the SDGs. Any business looking to be active champions for SDGs needs to have the important discussion on human rights. She closed her discussion by stating that it would be an incomplete story until CSR Law does not incorporate the business impact and human rights.

Mr. Alay Barah began by recounting his experience of working in Assam tea gardens. They had embarked on the journey of supply chain due diligence expecting the large corporations to be insensitive but found that SMEs defaulted on human rights as well. They found pregnant women being made to harvest leaves with insufficient medical support. Mr. Barah highlighted the need to engage
with larger corporations as well as the small tea growers who are their suppliers. He mentioned their work in Tirupur, where they ensured decent work conditions, children went to school and were not engaged in tea plucking and deterred sexual harassment. He highlighted the intent of the SMEs to take steps in the right direction, but they lacked capacity and capability. They built in the capability by including and engaging government and the private sector large players.

**Ms. Trishna Kriplani** reemphasized the need to view human rights from multiple angles to do justice to it. She highlighted human rights could be viewed through the lens of our constitution, labour laws etc. One illustration she gave was the wide adoption of anti-sexual harassment laws in the form of POSH. She recounted the initial discussion during law formulations on whether it should be viewed as a business and human rights or sustainable business. The debate converged to business and human rights because the term human rights needed to be demystified beyond the existing connotations. The ‘do no harm’ principle was widely propagated in the dialogue between lawyers and business, wherein they were advised to look at human rights as a preventive tool. Human rights should be treated like a yardstick for appropriate conduct instead of waiting for legislations to come into effect. She quoted industry illustrations of hiring Human Rights specialists for due diligence and incorporating them into business strategy. She spoke of Yahoo which has a dedicated unit and global legal head for business and human rights, retained even after being taken over by Oath.

Ms. Kriplani spoke of India’s existing framework – the National Voluntary Guidelines (NVG). It has principles which tie back to the UN guiding principles. She spoke of the debate ensuing local and global regarding whether it should be voluntary or a binding treaty. She mentioned that the push is usually for soft laws and the guidelines would certainly prevail as they are more progressive. Revisiting the sexual harassment laws, she said that it is a pertinent human rights issue but is not exhaustive as it excludes men. She said any human rights issue should be viewed as a base and not as a ceiling because of the principle of progressive realization. Elaborating on this further, she said that there is scope to look at the internal policies for progressive growth. She highlighted companies developing gender neutral policies, closing the gender gap and improving retention policies. She closed her discussion acknowledging the effort and pace needed by quoting Yuri’s message of moving to cover a 150 years’ worth of work in a 15-year span.

**Ms. Sulini Sarugaser Hug** began by highlighting two truisms. The first being, 2030 sustainable development agenda is grounded in the UN Charter, the UN declaration of Human Rights, International Rights and Labour Standards. Second being, the planners, conceivers, and implementors of the agenda have concluded that these 17 goals cannot be met without the full participation of businesses. In practice, if businesses are serious about delivering on the SDGs, they must seriously shoulder the responsibility to respect human rights throughout activities and relationships. She simplified this into two aspects – avoiding adverse impact on human rights of others and addressing the adverse impact due to business involvement. Keeping respect for human rights central to all supply chain activities would be the most significant contribution to achieving sustainable development. She gave her three reasons for believing in the need for binding regulations. First, because a binding international framework can serve as a compass for all businesses. Secondly, without legal binding – impunity for human rights would continue. Thirdly, introspection would allow businesses to deliver to their full potential in areas of environment and society. She drew parallels between the SDGs and the UN declaration of human rights – both SDG 5 and Human Rights demanding equality. She closed her discussion with three recommendations for gender equality

1. Pay men and women equally
2. Take all allegations of sexual harassment seriously
3. Incorporate women leadership

**Mr. Tom Thomas** began his discussion by reiterating the need to ‘do no harm’. He spoke of the Tuticorin incident wherein disregarding the community led to flouting the SDGs on clean water, good health and gender equality. He said that this was a wake-up call...
for businesses and that welfare programs are not the replacement for basic human rights. He clarified further than the SDGs are not a substitute for the UNGPs, rather they need to be integrated. He appreciated the NVGs for being a framework which successfully amalgamates the business and human rights. He talked about SEBI mandating top 500 companies to report on business responsibility reports (BRR). He spoke of the India Responsible Business Index (IRBI) which was built by applying lenses of responsibility towards children, gender, caste and disability to the BRRs and annual reports. Building on Ms. Gujral’s message, he told about 72 of 100 companies identifying children as target group but not one company reportedly involving children in needs assessment or independent impact investment. There were 65 of 100 companies prohibiting child labour but only 29 with monitoring systems to deter it.

The moderator invited Mr. Luke Wilde to throw some light on the international scenario. Mr. Wilde spoke of the UK Modern Slavery Act, France’s Corporate Vigilance Act, Switzerland’s referendum anticipated this year and Germany’s upcoming processes for assessments – all showing the commitments towards human rights and greater transparency and reporting.

The panel wrapped with their final thoughts. Ms. Ruchira Gujral highlighted the difference between philanthropy and rights-based business. Ms. Sulini Sarugaser Hug reflected that there is interest and intent to create impact, evident from the attendance at events, but a lack of knowledge. Mr. Alay Barah reiterated the need to build the capacity of stakeholders across the entire supply chain. Ms. Kriplani emphasized on the business case for human rights which ensures longevity and profitability of businesses. Mr. Tom Thomas concluded with a quote by Jamshedji Tata – “In a free enterprise, the community is not just another stakeholder in business, but is, in fact, the very purpose of its existence.”

The moderator concluded the session by emphasizing on the need for training and taking these initiatives forward with commitment – for companies to know and show rather than name and shame.

From L-R: Mr. Kamal Singh, Mr. Tom Thomas, Ms. Trishna Kriplani, Ms. Ruchira Gujral, Brig. Rajiv Williams Mr. Luke Wilde, Mr. Alay Barah, Ms. Sulini Sarugaser Hug and Mr. Rishi Sher Singh
Session 3: “Affordable Urban Housing (SDG 11) - Challenges & Perspectives”

Ms. Shruti commenced the discussion by speaking about SDG Goal 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities which strive to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable for all and its relevance to the Indian urban housing market.

Shri Mohan started the discussion by explaining the classic credit link and subsidy schemes by the Government for affordable housing wherein the entire subsidy is paid upfront to the consumer and gets credited to the loan account thereby bringing down consumer liability. He explained the concept of Housing Microfinance wherein financing options are provided to those who don’t have documented incomes and are outside the purview of banks and financial institutions. He stressed on the need for FinTech companies to create a niche set of financial schemes for urban housing finance. One of the major challenges in housing microfinance is the raising of capital and investor interest.

Addressing the challenges in urban housing, he mentioned that even though RERA is bringing about the corporatization of developers yet there are 2 major areas which need attention:

a) Highly unorganized structure of the developers’ market in India
b) Lending for land acquisition for affordable housing programs, which is only done through private equity and not through banks

According to him, Government should allow banks to lend for land for affordable housing.
Mr. Krishnan mentioned that RERA protects consumer interests. Though RERA will bring about consolidation of developers on one single platform, it will wipe out small developers who cannot compete with the likes of Tata Housing and alike. He mentioned that the bulk of supply of affordable and low-income housing is coming from small developers with a very low top line and there are not enough financial institutions with housing lending for SMEs.

He echoed the same that banks in India are not lending for affordable housing projects. He stated that around $15 billion of equity is distributed to ~10,000 developers every year for urban housing projects. Such a massive scale requires an SME approach and interventions by FinTech companies to develop financing schemes for affordable housing.

Dr. Das mentioned that the challenge in urban housing lies not only in affordable housing schemes and financing options but also in supporting infrastructure, roads, education centers in vicinity, health care units, water and waste management.

The affordable housing sector in India is very price sensitive. He explained that in order to achieve the optimal price, housing projects would have to be developed outside cities, which would not solve the purpose of making living affordable and sustainable for the burgeoning population within cities. The housing itself has 70% of the cost component from the land and material it consumes, neither of which is inexpensive. He mentioned that Tata Housing is working with IIT Chennai to solve the high cost of construction by exploring alternatives to concrete and other construction raw material.

Mr. Nilotpal Kar highlighted the two important factors in urban housing:

a) Affordability
b) Product lifecycle, which in turn depends largely on the durability factor of the raw materials used in construction

He cited the example of an affordable housing project in Karnataka for 500 houses which used an innovative construction technology and use of smart dynamic concrete. The overall project led to a reduction in manpower and achieved the completion deadline, which was 30% delayed, before time. The Bangalore Development Authority extended the project to 4000+ units in Karnataka. As an example, this project delivered 2-3% project cost savings, allowed more use of fly ash and addressed the concerns around durability.

Ms. Shruti highlighted the key takeaways as follows:

a) Regularization of developers
b) Increased financial schemes for affordable housing by banks and Govt.
c) Loans for land acquisition for affordable housing projects
d) More involvement of FinTech in Housing Microfinance
The session commenced with Ms. Grady explaining about her organization - Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors which was started in collaboration with UNDP in 2014 with 10 focus countries, India being one of them. She touched upon two challenges for embedding philanthropy in India into the SDG platform:

a) A large number of foundations and NGOs in India are working on the ground in the areas of empowerment, education, healthcare, sustainable living and eradication of hunger and poverty. These foundations do not align their work with the SDG platform and there are no impact assessments or quantifiable outcomes, baseline data etc. which can be reported in a national framework for SDGs in India.

b) In India, a lot of philanthropists, NGOs, corporates and public-sector companies are all looking for scaling up their efforts and are looking for donor collaborations. However, there is no single platform where in all can merge together and create a common agenda or a purpose which is aligned to the SDG platform.

Ms. Brady then steered the discussion towards Ms. Banerjee and requested her to share her organization’s approach to philanthropy and CSR activities.

Ms. Banerjee mentioned that there is a need for philanthropy to move out from the 2% CSR mandate. The Future Learning partnership has been created to create livelihoods and ensure a sustainable living for millions of youth across the country. She explained that
Future Learning has engaged with an end to end supply chains for creating shared value for farmers and transforming them into micro enterprises. She stressed the importance of philanthropy for more productive causes like project funding and not just for charity eternally.

Ms. Grady then requested Mr. Rangwala from Michael & Susan Dell Foundation to explain in detail about the unique Development Impact Bond.

Mr. Rangwala explained that the Development Impact Bond (DIB) embraces the idea of innovation and risk taking and provides an innovative crowd funding mechanism for pooling of funds for nonprofits and philanthropy initiatives.

He mentioned that UBS is pooling in funds for non-profits which are working in 3 states in India. If those non-profits achieve the outcomes within the given time frame, then the reward funders would then repay the risk funders with incentives. This highlights collaboration and addresses Goal 17 of the SDGs.

Mr. Natarajan from Tata Trusts stressed the importance of two factors in CSR and philanthropy which all corporates and organizations should adopt:

- **a) Quantification of environmental, social and economic initiatives through data governance and technological interventions**
- **b) Collaboration among like-minded organizations**

He gave the example of a project named Delta in which Tata Trust worked with the Indian Government on a data evaluation, learning technology and analysis mechanism. They created analysis tools for data right from the block level till district level, trained fellowships to be placed in Parliament and their constituencies. In totality, 48 indicators across CSR initiatives were measured. By this mechanism, the Members of the Parliament can now have a material conversation with stakeholders on quantifiable outcomes and reassign targets in a stipulated time. This project was done across 1,000 Gram Panchayats in 4 states – Orissa, Jharkhand, Karnataka, and Maharashtra. Going forward, this project will now be extended to 2000 households and 76 districts will be covered along with collaboration with NITI Aayog.

He stated that in the financial year 2017-18, Tata Trust took a massive realignment exercise within its team and aligned all its thematic area and key initiatives to the SDG platform, thereby ensuring mapping of all their CSR initiatives to SDGs and reporting it in an integrated manner.

Ms. Shah believed that technology is the biggest transformational lever for any change to occur and to be measured. For her, the SDGs enshrine the Gandhian values of respecting the dignity of all, thinking of sustainable consumption, nature, and environment. She stated that there are 1,200 members of Stanford Community who are very eager to collaborate with countries like India to see how technology can contribute to achieving the SDGs.

Mr. Roy from Tata Steel stated that they are among the first companies to move to integrated reporting framework and that they found the SDG platform very helpful. They have a dedicated team of 750 members in the CSR set-up who are present in tribal and rural areas of India. They wish to deconstruct SDGs for everyone and hence have designed social immersion programs which require their employees to stay in villages for a week to make them aware of sustainability related challenges around poverty, hunger, healthcare, education and sustainable living.

Moving ahead, Ms. Singh from the Max India Foundation explained how everything they do at Max is indirectly linked to the SDG platform. She identified linkages between the initiatives that Max India serves to the different SDGs:

- **a) SDG 1 - Poverty through free checkups, consultations, medicines to those cannot afford.**
- **b) SDG 3 - Good Health & Wellbeing through dedicated healthcare facilities and hospitals in northern India**
- **c) SDG 5 - Gender Equality though empowering women on cervical cancer immunization, breast cancer awareness sessions for women.**
This year the competition saw 64 entries in total, with 12 being shortlisted for the finals and 5 entries selected as winners. All entries were bucketed into four sectors – Corporate Private, Corporate Public, NGO’s and Business Schools.

The jury members mentioned that the entire process of evaluation and shortlisting was an extremely rigorous one and it was an actual on-ground project that addressed any one or more of the 17 SDGs with proper deliverables, outcomes.

**Tata Steel:**
Tata Steel’s project named ‘Thousand Schools Project’ commenced in Jan 2015 and will continue till 2020. It addresses SDG Goal 4 – Quality Education and works towards revitalizing government schools by creating a scalable and replicable model of universalization of elementary education within the Right to Education framework. So far, the project has touched 2 lakh children in 8 blocks in Orissa (6) and Jharkhand (2). They plan to expand from 1,000 to 1,400 + schools in locations in and around Tata Steels plants. Through this project, three key components were addressed:

a) **Access** – Ensuring access to children who have been out of the formal education system and are involved in child labor activities

b) **Learning** – Addressing the problem of an accumulated deficit of learning as the age of the child progresses and ensuring that every child gets an adequate quality education appropriate for his age

c) **Governance** – Ensuring oversight by parents and community and making use of the school management committee under the RTI Act.
ONGC:

ONGC project titled ‘Garbage are Resources’ in collaboration with Vivekananda Kendra Kanyakumari was launched by the former President, Late Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam in Jan 2014.

The project was implemented in 2 phases in the Rameswaram municipality in collaboration with an implementing agency, Hand in Hand India (HIH).

**The project activities included the following:**

a) Human Resource Deployment  
b) Training and Skills Development  
c) Garbage Collection  
d) Waste Processing  
e) Documentation and IEC Campaign

It impacted 3,000 households in the community. It enabled collection and recycling of 339 tons of waste and in the production of 11.1 tonnes of compost. The compost was distributed free of cost to the neighboring farmers bringing goodwill for the company in the local community. One of the major achievements of the project was bringing about behavioral change among people and increased awareness among people to dispose of waste responsibly.

**ISAP (Indian Society of Agricultural Professionals):**

ISAP in collaboration with OCP Foundation (Morocco) implemented a soil health improvement program in Northern Karnataka. The project was divided into 2 phases. It started in 2010 and was completed in 2017. The first phase involved soil health improvement, dissemination, and adoption of good agricultural practices, yield improvement for pulses and institutionalization of farmers for Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).

The second phase involved the integration of FPOs in existing market chain and infrastructure support to farmers in the form of Agribusiness Village Resource Center (AVRC) with a special focus on primary health care, women empowerment, computer learning etc. OCP further extended the project to help build market linkages and strengthen farmer producer organizations.

**NSE Foundation:**

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) Foundation as part of its CSR initiative started ‘Project Shradhha’ that provides a platform for civil society organization.

NSE Foundation works in the areas of primary education, sanitation, elderly health care, clean drinking water etc. The project is spread across 9 states and 100+ districts (blocks, villages) in India and is focused on empowering the elderly financially and creating potential job opportunities for them.

**SPJIMR:**

SPJIMR’s initiative named ‘Abhyudaya’ is focusing on SDG Goal 4 – Quality Education. It offers an education and livelihoods program for potential students from urban slums. It also offers an educational series for the parents of such students on issues such as gender equality, domestic violence, child labor, sexual abuse, health, and sanitation, etc.

SPJIMR is also working on goal 17 of the SDGs – Partnership for the goals through capacity building for NGOs, CSR Foundations, and Government agencies. SPJIMR is the only B-School in India to have a partnership with 800+ NGOs across 22 states in India and an NGO on campus itself.
Key Takeaways

Mr. Gupta summed up the key learnings of the day using 5 inspirational quotations.

Bertrand Russel said in the 1950s – “One must care about a world one will not see.” That was the key message from the first session in terms of setting the agenda for SDGs. The session highlighted that there is an opportunity of $1 trillion markets which could create 72 million jobs for India.

The first plenary session was about embedding sustainability into the DNA of organizations for which we need everyone to contribute. The key takeaway from the session eloquently opened by Dr. Chatterjee was the concept of puddle company vs. a river company. Dr. Ramachandran mentioned about the kind of company we should strive towards – a company living for 100 years or vanishing within 5-10 years. He mentioned the concept of a puddle company which flourishes when it rains but vanishes when it faces dry times. A river takes on the challenges, passes through the course of obstacles and evolves and grows every day.

Jim Collins in his book ‘Built to Last’ mentions – Builders of greatness reject the ‘Tyranny of the OR’ and embrace the ‘Genius of the ‘AND’. We have seen leaders talk about profits with planet or profits and people.

Mr. Hota mentioned profits as oxygen for a company. But there are some sustainability efforts going on as well. Jim Collins says we need to embrace both extremes across many dimensions at the same time. We heard about this in the circular economy session as an example of Mahindra Group which they have started a rental program for farm equipment, especially tractors. This has increased the capacity utilization of tractors from 20% to 80%.

Winston Churchill said at the time of the world war – “Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.” I believe with less than 5,000 days at the helm, we really need to work to make every effort count. We might not succeed, but we need to keep learning and continue our efforts.
Special Address

Thank you to UNGCNI and UN India team to invite me here to speak today.

Four years ago, we created with the UNDP the SDG philanthropy platform, which has about 10 focus countries - India being one of them. India has a very fast-growing dynamic philanthropy sector. In 2011, it was worth about $894 million. By 2016 it was already worth over $5 billion. However, the amount of financial resources is much smaller than government or business. The philanthropy sector is very hard to categorize. In the US and Europe, there are over 200,000 organizations.

I bring in a thought-provoking angle and an interesting perspective. Business thinks big is beautiful. Philanthropy thinks small is beautiful. These are generalizations. Business is full of deal makers who know they need to compromise to get things done. Philanthropy actors cherish their autonomy and independence and are reluctant to compromise. ‘Business tends to skate to where the puck will be’. Philanthropy cares most deeply about serving the needs and people of today. Business sees brand benefits in aligning with the SDGs. Many in philanthropy do not need brand benefits because we do not have customers.

The philanthropy sector is full of brilliant, committed, generous and knowledgeable people and the organizations that we fund are the same. The philanthropy sector tends to solve the problem and the solutions and the sources of long term root causes to get the most out of it.

Historically and today, there are always some actors in philanthropy who are compelled to act for the SDGs – reaching for scaled impact, innovation, risk taking, prototyping, providing long term patient capital, addressing root causes, leveraging our smaller amounts of money with larger actors, government and businesses and putting the disadvantaged first.

When I think of India’s most famous sons and daughters known internationally - most of them were supported by philanthropy early on and often long term. Seva, Gram Vikas, Pratham, the wonderful Nobel prize winner – Kailash Satyarthi. Even the investment made in agriculture by Rockefeller foundation in 1950 which helped against famine was crucial for India’s development.

Today, the game changing philanthropy is not led by foreign organizations but by Indians, in partnership with international partners. We learnt about many foundations and philanthropists supporting the education of girls already reaching tens of thousands of girls through ongoing support and a development impact bond.
And, now moving to reach out to ten times as that many with a new development impact bond of $10 million. That is complemented by long term support.

There are two recommendations coming out from today’s meeting.

1) Philanthropy actors are not yet aligning with SDGs and we must find ways to bring in their outcomes, information, data and learning into national reporting for SDGs for India.

2) Need to activate, collaborate and expand participation of all kinds of philanthropists and foundations to achieve the SDGs.

Around the world, philanthropy comes to SDGs much more slowly than business and it is important to have us as the partners. We leverage you, you leverage us. Please welcome our passion, provocations and our partnerships.
Dr. Talwar shared 5 takeaways from these two conferences held i.e. UN India Business Forum and the 13th National Convention.

**First**, our ancient wisdom says while everyone is free to do any activity or business for their well-being, we need to ensure our acts do not harm others, community, and the environment. I am happy to note that the world is now moving in this direction.

The **second** one is that the first term which crops up when explaining the Vedic Theory of Motivation is ‘Aayu’ – deliberation for longevity. Which is nothing but sustainability. We are moving in its direction. The Accenture CEO Study states that 90% of CEOs are committing to sustainability but only 10% of investors are ready to commit. On boarding, more investors are possible when they realize they are getting sustainability of their investments.

The **third** take away is solutions of tomorrow which are being incubated in India and the classic example of this is best case practices on SDGs implemented by organizations. Businesses should learn from these case studies, set business goals and work towards making their business sustainable.

**Fourth** learning would be the need to integrate sustainability into our business DNA. This will be enforced by our customers worldwide in the future if not acted upon now.

And the **last takeaway** is that waste is a resource at the wrong place - look for circular economy solutions.

I am thankful to the organizing committee, convention committee led by Mr. D.K. Hota, distinguished speakers, partners for the event and organizers of all sessions. I am grateful to the jury members for evaluating 64 case studies. A big thanks to participants, members of media, delegates, award process partners - Mr. Dipankar and team, UN India team, UNGC team from New York and GCNI team. I extend my gratitude to everyone for their tireless efforts.”

The event ended with Mr. Kamal Singh presenting mementos to all distinguished speakers.
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About Global Compact Network India

Formed in November 2000, Global Compact Network India (GCNI) was registered in 2003 as a non-profit society to function as the Indian Local Network of the UN Global Compact, New York. It is the first Local Network in the world to be established with full legal recognition. It also serves as a country-level platform for businesses, civil society organisations, public and private sectors, and aids in aligning stakeholders’ responsible practices towards the Ten Universally Accepted Principles of UNGC in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-corruption, broad UN goals including Sustainable Development Goals and other key sister initiatives of the United Nations and its systems. GCNI is working hand in hand with the Government of India to balance the three dimensions of sustainable development, the economic, social and environmental, to take the Government’s agenda forward. At present, the Indian Network has the PAN India membership of 350 Leading Business and Non-Business Partners and 341 Signatories.
The Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact

01 Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights.
02 Make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

03 Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining.
04 The elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour.
05 The effective abolition of child labour.
06 The elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

07 Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges.
08 Undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility.
09 Encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

10 Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

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