Pioneering Solutions for India: 14th National Convention of Global Compact Network India brings leaders from around the globe to address the SDGs

Online Coverage Dossier

3rd June 2019
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Mumbai, Maharashtra, India (NewsVoir)

· The summit emphasized real, on-ground actions that businesses need to take to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and create economic value for India

· Key theme at the summit was ‘Sustainable Development Goals: Pioneering Solutions for India’

· Announced 3rd Innovative Practices Awards - Corporate Winners were J K Tyres, Winners in Public sector were Indian Oil, NGO Winners were RO Foundation, B School Winners were TERI. HUL bagged the Special Jury Award for Innovative Practices. The Young Sustainability Champions award was bagged by Empower.

· The summit witnessed several leaders across the sectors sharing insights on the question of ‘solutions for the country’

Aiming to highlight issues related to solutions at Business Inc in India, Global Compact Network India – Local arm of UN Global Compact, New York organized its 14th edition of National Convention today at Grand Hyatt, Santa Cruz, Mumbai. The summit was organized in the backdrop of the increasing conversation around on ground actions that businesses need to take to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and create economic value for India. This year’s theme - ‘Pioneering Solutions for India’ was chosen keeping in sync with the UN Sustainable Development Goals that target creating the most conducive work practices for them. It looked at solutions on wide implementation of sustainable innovations and leadership stance taken by various organisations in India.

This summit today aimed towards building a concrete roadmap towards sustainable solutions in India. It focused on driving and bringing in change for sustainable innovations. It was one of the largest national convention of Global Compact Network India with more than 500 delegates from corporate professionals, policy makers, UN officials and researchers who came together to share insights on the emerging trends of gender equality.

The Summit marked presence of eminent leaders like Dr. Bibek Debroy, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister and Member, NITI Aayog summed up the key role of government in his
inaugural address by saying that, “Do not think of SDGs in isolation they exist in framework of
government schemes.” thereby stating that government agencies and the corporate sector need to
work far more closely.

At the summit, Mr. Rajeev Dubey, Convener, GCNI 14th National Convention and Group President (HRM
Corporate Services) & CEO (Aftermarket) & Member of the Group Executive Board, Mahindra &
Mahindra Ltd. added, “SDGs present a large business opportunity and if India’s progress is so crucial to
achieving the SDGs, it is easy to understand that corporations like Mahindra will play a key role in the
way forward.”

Vishwesh Prabhakar MD – Operations & Sustainability, Accenture, highlighted the role of technology in
India’s Sustainability Agenda and stated that the five advantages of Accessibility, Affordability, Rapid
Scalability and Reliability will help the country move forward in its SDG Agenda.

While noting the importance of SDGs in solving the complex issues faced by India as a country, Kamal
Singh, Executive Director, Global Compact Network India said, "Our aim in hosting summits like these is
to ensure that stakeholders from across the spectrum - corporates, NGOs and individuals are able to take
coordinated actions on SDGs through collaborations."

A research paper on Role of Technology in transforming India’s Sustainability Agenda was also launched
today, in association with Accenture. The paper showcased the best practices and scope of work being
done on SDGs by enabling technology towards addressing these issues.

Amongst others, distinguished names who graced the summit included Renata Dessallien, UN Resident
Coordinator in India; Sumant Sinha, CEO, ReNew Power; Mukund Rajan, Chairman, ECube Investment
Advisors Private Limited and Former Chairman - Tata Global Sustainability Council; R Mukundan, MD &
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CRISIL and Former Chairperson, SBI; Anuj Sharma, CEO, Piramal Sarvajal Pvt. Ltd.; Sanjiv Mehta, CMD,
Hindustan Unilever Ltd.; Dr. Bhaskar Chatterjee, Secretary General, Indian Steel Association; Anirban
Ghosh, CSO, Mahindra Group; Dr. H Chaturvedi, Director, BIMTECH; Dr. Alka Mittal Director (HR) ONGC
Ltd. Dr. Shalini Sarin, Chair - Signify Foundation, Netherlands; Vishwesh Prabhakar, MD – Operations &
Sustainability, Accenture Strategy; Aalok A. Deshmukh, Director, Energy Efficiency, India, Schneider
Electric, India; Joe Phelan, Director, WBCSD India; Harsh Gandhi, Jt MD, GRP Group; Brieux Boisdequin,
VP – South Asia, BASF, Meenakshi Gupta, Co-founder, GOONJ and Meenakshi Batra, CEO, CAF India
amongst others.

About Global Compact Network India (GCNI)

As a United Nations Global Compact local arm, Global Compact Network India (GCNI) has been acting as
a country level platform in providing a robust platform for Indian businesses, academic institutions and
civil society organizations to join hands for strengthening responsible business practices. We and our
members remain fully committed to the ‘10 Principles of United Nations Global Compact’ in areas of
Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-corruption and the 17 ‘Sustainable Development Goals
(SDGs)’ adopted in September 2015, by all 193 Member States of the United Nations including India in
order to end extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and protect our planet. It has also emerged
as the largest corporate sustainability initiative in India and globally with a pan India membership of
over 370 leading business and non-business participants their commitment to the UNGC.
Image: L – R: Mr. Vishvesh Prabhakar, Managing Director – Operations & Sustainability, Accenture Strategy, Dr. Uddesh Kohli, Senior Advisor, UN Global Compact, Ms. Renata Dessallien, UN Resident Coordinator India, Dr. Bibek Debroy, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister and Member, NITI Aayog, Mr. Rajeev Dubey, Convener, GCNI National Convention & Group President - (HR & Corporate Services) & CEO (After-market & Corporate Services), Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., Mr. Kamal Singh, Executive Director, Global Compact Network India at 14th National Convention on Sustainable Development Goals: Pioneering Solutions for India and launched GCNI – Accenture White Paper – Role of Technology in Transforming India’s Sustainability Agenda
Mumbai (Maharashtra) [India], June 1 (ANI/ NewsVoir): Aiming to highlight issues related to solutions at Business Inc in India, Global Compact Network India - the local arm of UN Global Compact, New York organized its 14th edition of National Convention today at Grand Hyatt, Santa Cruz, Mumbai.

The summit was organized in the backdrop of the increasing conversation around on ground actions that businesses need to take to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and create economic value for India. This year's theme - 'Pioneering Solutions for India' was chosen keeping in sync with the UN Sustainable Development Goals that target creating the most conducive work practices for them. It looked at solutions on wide implementation of sustainable innovations and leadership stance taken by various organisations in India.

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"SDGs present a large business opportunity and if India's progress is so crucial to achieving the SDGs, it is easy to understand that corporations like Mahindra will play a key role in the way forward," said Rajeev Dubey Convener, GCNI 14th National Convention and Group President (HRM Corporate Services) and CEO (Aftermarket) and Member of the Group Executive Board, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. at the summit.
Vishwesh Prabhakar MD - operations and sustainability, Accenture, highlighted the role of technology in India's Sustainability Agenda and stated that the five advantages of accessibility, affordability, rapid scalability and reliability will help the country move forward in its SDG agenda.

"Our aim in hosting summits like these is to ensure that stakeholders from across the spectrum - corporates, NGOs and individuals are able to take concerted actions on SDGs through collaborations," said Kamal Singh, Executive Director, Global Compact Network India.

A research paper on Role of Technology in transforming India's sustainability agenda was also launched today, in association with Accenture. The paper showcased the best practices and scope of work being done on SDGs by enabling technology towards addressing these issues.

Amongst others, distinguished names who graced the summit included Renata Dessallien, UN Resident Coordinator in India; Sumant Sinha, CEO, ReNew Power; Mukund Rajan, Chairman, ECube Investment Advisors Private Limited and Former Chairman - Tata Global Sustainability Council; R Mukundan, MD and CEO, Tata Chemicals; Arundhati Bhattacharya, Independent Director on the Board of RIL, Wipro, Piramal, CRISIL and Former Chairperson, SBI; Anuj Sharma, CEO, Piramal Sarvajal Pvt. Ltd.; Sanjiv Mehta, CMD, Hindustan Unilever Ltd.; Dr Bhaskar Chatterjee, Secretary-General, Indian Steel Association; Anirban Ghosh, CSO, Mahindra Group; Dr H Chaturvedi, Director, BIMTECH; Dr Alka Mittal Director (HR) ONGC Ltd. Dr Shalini Sarin, Chair - Signify Foundation, Netherlands; Vishvesh Prabhakar, MD - Operations and Sustainability, Accenture Strategy; Aalok A. Deshmukh, Director, Energy Efficiency, India, Schneider Electric, India; Joe Phelan, Director, WBCSD India; Harsh Gandhi, Jt MD, GRP Group; Brieux Boisdequin, VP - South Asia, BASF, Meenakshi Gupta, Co-founder, GOONJ and Meenakshi Batra, CEO, CAF India amongst others.
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Sustainable development is the need of the hour considering how our natural resources have been misused and abused. Sustainable practices need to be adopted not only by individuals but businesses too that are largely responsible for mass deterioration of resources.

But this is easier said than done. Thus, the Global Compact Network India in alliance with UN Global Compact is bringing together change makers who will help develop innovative business practices focusing on Sustainable Development Goals for India.

The 14th national convention of the Global Compact Network India is based on the theme of ‘Sustainable development Goals: Pioneering Themes for India’ with emphasis on on-ground action that businesses need to take for real, accelerated impact.

The attendees:

The convention will see wide participation from various sectors with the prime focus on showcasing ideologies, methodologies and case studies to educate and inspire others. Public, private, non-government and government sector participants will put forward their best practices for sustainable development, advocating for sustainability.

In the presence of GCNI president & CMD, ONGC Mr. Shashi Shankar and event convener & group president (HR & services) and CEO, Mahindra & Mahindra, Mr. Rajeev Dubey the event will see many other eminent speakers. Industry experts like Sanjiv Mehta, CMD, Hindustan Unilever Ltd. Arundhati Bhattacharya Independent Director on the Board of RIL, Wipro, Piramal, CRISIL and Former Chairperson, SBI and Bibek Debroy Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister and Member, NITI Aayog.

They will be joined by Ms. Renata Dessalien, UN Resident Coordinator – India while MDs, CEOs, leaders, changemakers, influencers and other industry experts take centre-stage at the convention.

The convention will take place on 31 May 2019 at Grand Hyatt, Mumbai.

Sessions on SDGs:
As the theme is on SDGs Pioneering Solutions for India, there will be concurrent sessions on SDG-related topics such as affordable and clean energy, responsible consumption and production, climate action and gender equality. With pioneering solutions to take up all these causes, these sessions will be interesting, informative and insightful.

Who Needs To Attend?

If you are a business owner, a CEO of a company, a policy maker, a government official or a civil society leader, or just someone who cares deeply about the environment, this convention is for you. It will help you understand sustainable development goals, get ideas for better business practices and take inspiration from other entities that have been practising a sustainable business ethics.

To attend, register now on: http://bit.ly/GCNIConvention2019

Download the GCNI mobile app: https://gcni.quickmobile.mobi/
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