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CSR TODAY

TRAINING BUDDING STARS IN CSR

COLLEGES AND INSTITUTES LIKE HR COLLEGE, ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE, JAI HIND COLLEGE, ST. ANDREWS COLLEGE, SHRI VILE PARLE KELAVANI MANDAL NARSEE MONJEE COLLEGE AND THE INDIAN SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

CSR 2017

THE TOP 10 SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS STORIES OF 2017

CSR NEXT GEN

GRAND MARATHA FOUNDATION

• PROVIDING SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS TO THE DEEP ROOTED PROBLEMS OF VIDARBHA FARMERS

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TAKING CARE OF ARTISANS AND WEAVERS

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CSR OPPORTUNITIES: SOME GOOD, SOME BAD NEWS IN VULTURE SURVEY

Let There Be More Focus In 2018

Rajesh Tiwari
Publisher
rt@iccsr.org

CSR needs to be looked as a strategy and not merely charity. Also, the board needs to be actively involved in CSR initatives and review it as well.

Its time to rejoice - the new year, 2018, has ushered in - and its time we have a clear-cut defined strategy and structured approach towards Corporate Special Responsibility (CSR) implementation.

Captains of the Indian industry and the top managements need to supplement the efforts of the Centre and State governments.

The 2017 has been a sort of a succesful year with several companies and businessmen engaging in philantrophy and donating a part of their income for CSR activities. Slowly and slowly, the difference is being seen - but what is needed now is focussed approached towards channelising the CSR energy.

Education and health needs to be couple of the focus areas - as this leads to overall development of a boy or a girl and finally the nation. The human resource is the most impotant resource of a nation, rest comes later.

While 76 per cent of MNCs reported highest CSR spend on Education, the other focus areas were hunger and poverty for MNCs which spent 12 per cent on it followed by 18 per cent on gender equality, a report of NASSCOM Foundation states. The industry has widely accepted the two per cent CSR rule with a trend of more companies coming out openly to declare 100 per cent utilisation of their CSR money for this fiscal.

Growing number of companies have been spending 100 per cent and above of the CSR funds, among both MNCs and Non-MNCs, the report said adding that 61. 6 per cent of the surveyed companies reported spend of 100 per cent or above their prescribed CSR budget. This includes 63.3 per cent of the MNCs and 68 per cent of the Non-MNCs.

Smaller sized companies (turnover below Rs 100 crore) were proactively pushing CSR initiatives with full utilisation of prescribed budget. While 57.57 per cent of large companies, 53.3 per cent of medium companies are spending 100 per cent of CSR funds, an impressive 72.7 per cent of small companies were spending 100 per cent of CSR funds.

The report said under-spending is a rare condition as only five per cent of companies reported a spend of less than 50 per cent of their CSR budget.

CSR needs to be looked as a strategy and not merely charity. Also, the board needs to be actively involved in CSR initatives and review it as well.

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Editor: Rajesh Tiwari

CSR News WNS Inaugurates Community Knowledge Center For Underprivileged Children In Panvel, Near Mumbai, Through Its CSR Arm, WCF

WNS (Holdings) Limited , a leading provider of global Business Process Management (BPM) services, through its corporate social responsibility (CSR) arm, WNS Cares Foundation (WCF) in association with Seva Sahayog Foundation, inaugurated a first-of-its-kind experiential learning center called the "Community Knowledge Center (CKC)" in Panvel, near Mumbai.

Over 5,000 underprivileged children from 20 schools in Panvel, and nearby areas will be benefitted through this center.

CKC will comprise of a science center, E-learning facility, a lecture room and a library. Science center will have a physics lab equipped to perform 60 physics experiments, a robotics lab, digital microscope to view biology slides along with specimens, and a full-fledged bench for chemistry experiments. E-learning facility will have a projector-cum-computer with Marathi & English syllabus for 1-10th standard, computers with internet connection, and working models of environment related experiments. Also, a library, and a lecture room where special shows, talks, trainings will be organized for both students as well as teachers.

Inaugurating the center, Keshav R. Murugesh, Group CEO, WNS said, "The Community Knowledge Center aligns with WCF's philosophy of empowering underprivileged youth and children by way of education, and helping them create a life of their choice rather than circumstance. Many of us have access to knowing and preparing for all these disruptive new trends like robotics and artificial intelligence. But there is a huge part of the population in India that has no knowledge of any of this. Our endeavor is to ignite the minds of these young lesser-privileged children, who may be deprived of the marvels and resultant learning of science and technology owing to the lack of resources available to them. We hope that some of these bright minds would go on to become the creators of disruptive products and services, and contribute their might to the future of this world."

CKC is located at Dr Patwardhan Hospital in Panvel. Qualified teachers are appointed for each section of the CKC to formally teach the children. Transportation will also be provided to the children to travel from the school to the center and back, as per the fixed schedule. WNS volunteers will visit the center, and also, mentor the children through skype and video calls.

GRAND MARATHA FOUNDATION

Providing sustainable solutions to the deep rooted problems of Vidarbha farmers.

Rohit Shelatkar, Founder – Grand Maratha Foundation

Rohit Shelatkar is the Director/Vice-President at the fastest growing vitamin company – Vitabiotics Ltd. They have been recently awarded the prestigious Queen's Award for Innovation in Vitamin Research. It was received by Rohit personally on behalf of the company from Her Majesty, the Queen.

In 2013, Mr. Rohit Shelatkar founded the Grand Maratha Foundation to assist farmers, widows of the farmers, their children, the poor and the downtrodden social strata in Maharashtra.

Grand Maratha Foundation aims at enhancing their economic condition & to facilitate the development of support systems for them.

Hailing from Mumbai, Rohit Shelatkar completed his higher education abroad. During his college days, he never shied away from working as a waiter in a restaurant or taking up any available job that would help him gain life-experience. At the age of 28, he became Director of a group in England which was engaged in manufacturing and marketing of nutraceuticals. However deep inside he always desired to work towards the betterment of his country and countrymen in a substantial way. Since he was born in Maharashtra, he was well aware of the situation of farmers in the region and he decided to get to the root cause of the problem eventually leading to the formation of the Grand Maratha Foundation.

What triggered you to come up with this organization?

The sight of our own people fighting many odds, farmers facing drought and unseasonal rains, committing suicide due to the burden of borrowings, their wives and children caught in poverty, immensely disturbed me. I knew that just extending superficial support was not a long term solution. It was important to understand the core problem and nip it in the bud. We decided to locate the root cause and come up with a permanent solution.

Ours was a humble start but we were extremely positive that even small pathways would become highways to progress. Strong will, conviction and unconditional perseverance was all that was needed and I decided to establish a charitable organization called 'Grand Maratha Foundation' and started working towards the mission.

What is the single most vision of your organization that you would like to achieve?

We want to reach out to maximum number

The Top 10 Sustainable Business Stories Of 2017

How did the business community respond to a warming, unequal world this year?

Campaigners urge Commonwealth Bank to stop lending to new coal mines, including Indian mining giant Adani's planned coal mine in north Queensland, in June 2017.

This year, the world got hotter, more unequal and Donald Trump was elected as president of the United States. What did the business world do about it?

01 Trump steps back, business steps up

Donald Trump's promise to pull the United States out of the Paris Agreement was the biggest opportunity of the year – possibly in history – for the corporate world to show leadership on climate change. The "We are still in" movement, signed on June 5, saw US-based firms including Google, Apple, Mars, L'Oreal, Nike and Microsoft join city councils, state houses, and college campuses worth $6.2 trillion to the US economy step up to act on climate.

02 The US$5 trillion Asian opportunity

2017 was the year that companies and investors finally got to grips with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). When the United Nations launched the Goals in 2015, many CEOs struggled to see how ambitious targets such as ending poverty and protecting life underwater were relevant to them. This was particularly true of Asia, where firms are small.

But a report from the Business and Sustainable Development Commission – coincidentally released on the same day as the "We are still in" movement emerged – provided a platform for companies in this region to connect with the SDGs. The Goals pres-

TRAINING BUDDING STARS IN CSR

Colleges and institutes like HR College, St. Xavier's College, Jai Hind College, St. Andrews College, Shri Vile Parle Kelavani Mandal Narsee Monjee College and the Indian School of Management & Entrepreneurship, writes Arpa Jadhav of ICCSR.

The Indian Centre for Corporate Social Responsibility (ICCSR) organized the inaugural CSR Case Study Contest for college students from Mumbai on 7 December 2017, at HR College, Churchgate, Mumbai. The contest was jointly organized in collaboration with the Milgard School of Business, Washington University, USA.

As CSR becomes mainstream and the recognition of CSR as a core business activity increases globally, it is increasingly important to introduce CSR early to college students across the globe. The CSR Case Contest is an initiative towards that objective.

Six colleges participated in the contest, The panel of judges included Nitin Shah, Chairman & Managing Director of Allied Digital; Jitender Bhargava, retired Executive Director of Air India and Director of ICCSR; Dr. Anita Shantaram, eminent academician; Prof. Shahrokh Saudagaran, Dean of The Milgard School of Business; and Madhura Talegaonkar, Head of CSR at Bajaj Electrical's.

The participating colleges included HR College, St. Xavier's College, Jai Hind College, St. Andrews College, Shri Vile Parle Kelavani Mandal Narsee Monjee College and the Indian School of Management & Entrepreneurship (ISME).

Each team offered their analyses and recommendations on the case study and the jury selected St. Xavier's College as the winner and the HR College is the runners-up.

Each college team was represented by two male and two female students. The winning team from St. Xavier's College was represented by Jinali Mody, Isha Jain, Aditya Jain and Nihal Saldanha. Their academic coordinator was Professor. Soni George.

The winning team will represent India at the Global CSR Contest to be held at University of Washington, Tacoma,USA, to be held in March 2018.

THE CASE STUDY: ALLIED DIGITAL'S FUTURE GROWTH CHALEENGES

Allied Digital Services is a 33-year old IT-focused company. The organization has undergone multiple transformations over the years – starting from mainframe maintenance to personal computing support across the country to annual maintenance contracts for IT outsourcing to providing helpdesk services and now moving to cloud computing to IoT (Internet of Things), automation and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

The company made its public debut in 2007 raising funds of close to Rs. 90 Crores; and followed that up with a Rs. 240 Crore second offering. Between 2007 and 2010, the company reached achieved significant growth, reaching the landmark figure of R.s 1,000 Crore in annual revenues. It also expanded its operations to the United States via an acquisition.

With close to 3,500 employees and a fast growing business, Allied Digital was

Government Of Maharashtra, Tata Trusts And Tata Group Companies, Sign Partnerships To Improve Multi-Sectoral Development Indicators In The State

Tata Trusts, Tata Chemicals and Tata Power among others will be collaborating with multiple departments within the state to strengthen existing projects and introduce new initiatives and programs for holistic development towards the goal of 'Transforming Maharashtra'.

The Government of Maharashtra has collaborated with Tata Trusts, Tata Chemicals and Tata Power to launch multiple initiatives and programs across areas such as healthcare, livestock, skill development, tribal development, water conservation, model village development, water conservation such as Jalyukt Shivar and Gaalyukt Shivar, and medical education; along with research to boost development indicators in the state.

The most important agenda for any developing country is the continued growth in its socio-economic status. Improvement in sectors such as healthcare, education and rural development is not possible without the collaboration and firm commitment of the government and the private sector. Public-Private Partnerships hold great potential for generating outcomes that neither of the two parties would be able to achieve, with ease, independently.

In the healthcare domain, Tata Trusts will work towards improving and developing the model district mental health program in Nagpur, the service delivery under model primary health care in Nagpur and annually providing pediatric craniofacial surgery management services free of cost alongside the INGA Foundation. Furthermore, it will work towards advancing cancer care facilities in Gadchiroli and Nagpur in continuum to existing programmes as well as implementing the model elderly care project in Chandrapur. Tata Trusts will also help bolster livelihoods by rejuvenating the Malgujari Talavs for irrigation purposes-specifically for paddy crops, implementing the Jalyukt Shivar project to support marginal farmers, impacting villages in the Solapur district by rejuvenating the Kasalganaga river, strengthening agricultural productivity by desilting ponds in six blocks of Nashik district and adopting villages in Chandrapur, Yavatmal and Amaravati for the Government's Village Social Transformation Foundation (VSTF).

Tata Power will be focusing on skill-building and livelihoods of SC/ST youths, upgrading technical education to enhance employability in Palghar district, promoting dairy through business development, knowledge and technology sharing, and augmenting the tribal education ecosystem in Palghar district, as well as model tribal village development in Jawahar block, focusing on the promotion of tribal based livelihoods. Tata Chemical will be launching the holistic nutrition program in Amravati district aimed at improving health outcomes for pregnant women and young children. The University of Chicago - International Innovation Corps and Tata Center for Development will be setting up a program management unit for effective implementation and monitoring of the Gaalmukt Dharan Gaalyukt Shivar to improve water storage capacity and increase agricultural productivity.

Devendra Fadnavis, Chief Minister, Government of Maharashtra, said "Boosting socioeconomic indicators in the state has always been our priority, and we are positive that this partnership with Tata Trusts will yield several beneficial outcomes across healthcare, education, livelihoods and literacy. By continuing our collaboration on several existing initiatives and programmes that exist in the state, we are ensuring our efforts towards improving the quality of life remain consistent so that Maharashtra's development is holistic and truly transformative."

Burzis S. Taraporevala, CFO and Company Secretary, Tata Trusts said, "For well over a century, Tata Trusts has been committed to transformative change by generating sustainable opportunities for community development. We are pleased to continue collaborating with the Government of Ma-

Discovery Of An Underwater Treasure At The Andaman

The coral nursery is not only a rehabilitation centre for rescued damaged coral, it also offers guests the unique opportunity to participate in inspiring activities to grow new coral and to learn the process of nurturing these new polyps.

In December 2010, The Andaman, a Luxury Collection Resort, Langkawi, embarked on a coral conservation project after discovering an 8,000 year old coral reef in its shores that was badly damaged by the 2004 tsunami.

Since then, at suitably low tides, the resort has conducted coral clearing activities such as the removal of dead corals from the reef and has taken guests on educational coral walks to learn about this fragile ecosystem.

The resort then elevated its efforts to the next stage of coral rescue and rehabilitation by building a coral nursery in 2012 to facilitate these objectives.

Believed to be the first of its kind in SEA, it is here that guests can participate in the unique and inspiring activity of growing new coral which, after 4 - 12 months of nurturing, will be returned to the sea where they will bloom and blossom as part of a healthy new coral garden.

The coral nursery is not only a rehabilitation centre for rescued damaged coral, it also offers guests the unique opportunity to participate in inspiring activities to grow new coral and to learn the process of nurturing these new polyps. The nursery also provides a great snorkeling area for guests of all ages where our passionate coral and marine curator educate them on the fascinating life under the sea.

Coral transplanting sessions are open to all and commence with an educational talk about coral and the importance of coral ecosystems.

These 'hands-on' sessions then include the transplanting of live coral onto new substrates which are then placed in the nursery for observation, until it is determined that they are fit to be relocated onto our reef.

The aim is to spread the conservation message to all involved, especially the children. Private guided snorkel experiences are a wonderful opportunity to introduce

How Indian Companies Use Carbon Pricing As A Planning Tool

*As governments seek to implement the Paris Agreement to tackle climate change, they are enacting policies that penalize high-emitting activities. Today, more than 65 jurisdictions around the world are using carbon pricing as a tool to level the playing field between clean energy and fossil fuel; more action is expected as countries make good on their Paris commitments, says **Tom Kerr**, Lead Climate Policy Officer, International Finance Corporation and World Bank Group*

Last month, at the fourth annual Climate Business Forum, hosted in New Delhi by the International Finance Corporation (IFC), part of the World Bank Group, there was a buzz in the air about business opportunities in clean solutions, as Indian government ministers, leading companies and investors presented their plans to scale up solar, green buildings and distributed energy storage using disruptive business models and innovative financing.

India is now a leading destination for private-sector players wishing to ramp up investment in clean technology sectors. The country is already on track to achieve the renewable energy commitments made for the Paris Agreement, having created a 13-gigawatt-plus market for solar energy and the fourth-largest wind power market in the world. And this is only the beginning, according to the new IFC Climate Investment Opportunities: South Asia report, which provides a roadmap for rapid future growth in the region: There are climate-smart investment opportunities totaling $3.4 trillion by 2030 as countries implement their climate commitments.

Carbon pricing is a key part of attracting private investment, and was a key topic for discussion in Delhi. As governments seek to implement the Paris Agreement to tackle climate change, they are enacting policies that penalize high-emitting activities. Today, more than 65 jurisdictions around the world are using carbon pricing as a tool to level the playing field between clean energy and fossil fuel; more action is expected as countries make good on their Paris commitments.

Companies believe that using a carbon price helps to advance internal progress toward corporate climate change goals.

In response, internal carbon pricing has emerged as a popular tool that allows companies to reduce emissions and channel investments towards cleaner, more-efficient technologies. It helps businesses to assess climate-related risks and opportunities, mitigates against future climate regulations and helps deliver corporate sustainability goals. A newly released report by CDP (PDF) reveals that around the world, nearly 1,400 companies from a wide variety of sectors are using internal carbon pricing, or plan to do so in the near future. This includes more than 100 Fortune 500 companies with collective annual revenues of $7 trillion.

In South Asia, companies are actively pursuing carbon pricing measures while also advocating for policies through initiatives such as the Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition (CPLC). In 2017, 139 companies in Asia are pricing carbon, including 40 from India. Through consultations with

Some Good, Some Bad News In Vulture Survey

A research paper by the Bombay Natural History Society-India and Royal Society for the Protection of Birds-UK recently published in the journal 'Bird Conservation International', notes that the population of Oriental White-backed Vulture appears to have stabilized but that of the Long-billed vultures is still declining.

The research paper "Recent changes in populations of Critically Endangered Gyps vultures in India" written by multiple authors with Dr. Vibhu Prakash, Deputy Director and Head of the BNHS-Vulture Conservation Breeding Programme, as the lead author, is based on the nation-wide surveys carried out on pre-determined routes in different parts of the country during 2015 by BNHS supported by RSPB, U.K.

The estimates from this survey have been incorporated into the global estimates for the three species calculated by BirdLife International and CMS Vulture Multi-species Action Plan.

The population of resident Gyps vultures, Oriental white-backed vultures (Gyps bengalensis), long-billed vultures (Gyps indicus) and slender-bill vultures (Gyps tenuirostris) in India suffered catastrophic decline in the 1990s and 2000s. BNHS has been monitoring the population of these vultures across India since early nineties. The veterinary drug diclofenac, which is a wonder drug for pain relief in cattle, was found to be extremely toxic to vultures and was implicated in the population crash of these species. Every four years surveys to count vultures are repeated covering approximately 15,500 km roads among 154 road transects and 13 states in northern, central, western and north-eastern India.


Long-billed Vulture

In 2007, crude estimates of the population size for each species were 11,000 for Oriental white-backed Vultures, 45,000 for long-billed vultures and 1,000 for slender-bill vultures. In 2012, the survey findings were encouraging reporting a slowdown in the decline for all three species and the possible first sign of recovery in the Oriental white-backed vulture. In 2015, estimates were approximately 6,000 Oriental white-backed vultures, 12,000 long-billed vultures and 1,000 slender-billed vultures which are alarmingly low.

"The good news is that the positive trend for Oriental white-backed vulture population appears to be continuing. The bad news is that the long-billed vulture population continues to decline. For the rarest of the three species, the slender-billed vulture, numbers counted are now too small to estimate a reliable trend," notes Dr. Prakash.

Dr. Toby Galligan, Conservation Scientist, RSPB, U.K. co-author of the paper, informed that the new population trends and size estimates for these species in India are published in this paper. Results from the

Influential Investors Urge 100 Carbon-Intensive Companies To Step Up Climate Action

The more than 225 investors supporting the campaign will take their case to the boards of companies such as Procter & Gamble, Boeing, General Electric and ExxonMobil. BY **MICHAEL HOLDER**

Even before an expected 50 world leaders arrived in Paris this week, French President Emmanuel Macron's hastily arranged One Planet Summit appeared to be making quite a splash. In fact, the anniversary of finalization of the Paris Agreement looked set to create even waves bigger than those from last month's fortnight-long U.N. climate change conference across the border in Bonn.

For if COP23 in Germany aimed to assess how the world would keep the Paris Agreement on track after this year's Trump-sized distraction, this week's summit – according to its host at least – is about reigniting the global drive for governments and businesses to accelerate the decarbonization of the global economy.

And fresh from 54 high profile companies' calling on world leaders to boost ambition on climate policy, another "unprecedented, huge and global" initiative launched Tuesday to coincide with the opening of the summit could end up playing a key role in pushing some of the world's biggest emitters towards more sustainable business models.

Today, as many as 225 influential global investors with more than $26.3 trillion in assets under management pledged to engage with 100 corporates estimated to be responsible for around 85 percent of total global greenhouse gas emissions, so as to step up their ambition on climate action.

Dubbed Climate Action 100+, the new initiative is being coordinated by five partners: Asia Investor Group on Climate Change (AIGCC); Ceres; Investor Group on Climate Change (IGCC); Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change (IIGCC); and Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI).

The hope is the coordinated effort to engage with many of the world's most carbon-intensive firms could have "considerable ripple effects," according to Anne Simpson, investment director of sustainability at CalPERS, one of those investors backing the push for major companies to align their business plans with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

"Our collaborative engagements with the largest emitters will spur actions across all sectors as companies work to avoid being vulnerable to climate risk and left behind," Simpson said. "Money talks, and if we can deploy capital behind and the power of the financial markets behind the Paris agenda, we can really ensure that companies begin to make the transition that's necessary to keep global warming to a safe degree."

The collaborative initiative – which boasts a raft of high-profile investors such as Allianz, AXA, BNP Paribas, Church Commissioners for England, Deutsche Asset Management and Hermes as members – developed the 100-strong target list using CDP data on companies' direct and indirect emissions associated with the use of their products.

Unsurprisingly, the list is littered with huge companies in the oil and gas market such as ExxonMobil, BP and Shell; aerospace giants including Airbus and Boeing; energy majors E.ON, Centrica, and General Electric; automotive giants such as Volkswagen, Ford and Volvo; and consumer goods players, including Proctor & Gamble, PepsiCo, Nestle and Panasonic.

With trillions of dollars' worth of influence behind it, the five-year initiative will make it even harder for any major listed firm to ignore or downplay the climate-related risks they face.

It looks as if pressure on international climate change laggards is about to crank up several more notches two years to the day after nations signed up to the historic Paris Agreement and its goal of building a net zero emission economy this century – an ambition that has forced more investors to realize that carbon-intensive assets now face a significant risk of being stranded by the drive to decarbonize the global economy. Each of the 225 investors signed up so far

Urban Greening Is Good For The Environment. Let's Make Sure It's Good For Local Residents, Too

*These four strategies can help cities foster environmentally friendly urban renewal while avoiding gentrification, writes **Manohar Patold** of Ensia.com*

The New York City High Line is a section of the New York Central Railroad, an elevated freight rail line, located in the Chelsea neighborhood of Manhattan.

It was under threat of demolition until 1999, when the community-based organization Friends of the Highline began a campaign to preserve it.

Today the Highline is an iconic urban green space that has inspired cities around the world to incorporate the built as well as the natural environment in their economic development plans, allowing them to combat blight and foster urban renewal while at the same time being environmentally friendly. Indeed, the High Line, the Atlanta BeltLine, the 606 in Chicago, and many other projects have all documented economic improvement in the surrounding area.

However, there's another side to the story.

You'd be hard pressed to find someone who will state openly that combining economic development with sustainability is bad. But we need to ask: What is "good" – and for whom? In too many of these cases, supposedly sustainable urban economic development projects have led to gentrification. Instead of improving the neighborhood for the people already living in the area, the project improved the neighborhood for people moving into the area.

In all cases, local residents were displaced because demand for housing outpaced supply, resulting in increases in rent and other expenses that exceed what they could afford.

Environmental gentrification is broadly defined as the process whereby efforts

The Top 5 CSR Stories In 2017

The US pull-out from the Paris Agreement was initially feared to weaken efforts to combat climate change. But corporates are proving they can bypass politics and move towards sustainability and clean tech.

Businesses are starting to lead the sustainability agenda despite lack of support from the government. Image: Alter,CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons

It used to be just the governments who set the regulations for driving sustainability. But this year, the private sector has gained momentum in actually leading it. The transfer of leadership from government as a driver for sustainability to the private sector was evident when more than 20 US Fortune 500 companies, including Google, Apple, Nike and Microsoft, defied US president Donald Trump's hostile response to climate change and made a clear statement in June that they were not following suit. Investors are also increasingly setting clear expectations for corporations by factoring in environmental, social and governance (ESG) goals in the agenda,especially since global analysis shows that incorporating the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into business practices can have a positive effect on returns.

However, there is a caveat in this seemingly positive outlook for corporate social responsibility: As the SDGs turned two this year, an online poll to measure progress revealed underwhelming results, showing that there is still more to be done by the private sector.

Here are the top 5 corporate social responsibility stories from 2017:

01 Companies across the globe pledge billions to corporate responsibility efforts

America's largest bank JPMorgan committed in July to injecting $200 billion into its clean energy and general sustainability projects over the next eight years, as well as shifting 100 per cent to renewable energy by 2020.

Taking Care of Artisans and Weavers

*Over 1.20 lakh weavers and artisans to benefit through ongoing HastakalaSahyogShivirs in 421 handloom-handicrafts clusters, writes **Parul Chandra***

India boasts of a rich tradition of handwoven textiles and skilfully made handicrafts that draws appreciation and buyers not only from within the country but also abroad. Be it the intricately woven Ikats from Andhra Pradesh and Orissa, the Patan Patolas from Gujarat, the fine Benarasi weaves from Uttar Pradesh, the gossamer-like Maheshwari weaves of Madhya Pradesh or the figurines sculpted in wood or stone from Tamil Nadu--India has this and much more to offer to the world in terms of handlooms and handicrafts.

The weavers and artisans in India toil hard to produce a rich variety of textiles and handicrafts. And yet, the earnings of those weaving magic through the warp and the weft or handicrafts are often not commensurate with the intensive labour, immense skill and cost of raw materials that goes into their making.

Largely based in rural India, weavers and artisans also find market access for their products difficult. As a consequence, they're dependent on the middleman to sell their products – while they garner substantial profits, the weaver and artisans are left with just a pittance instead of getting a reasonable price.

In order to address the myriad challenges faced by weavers and artisans, the Union Textiles Ministry has been taking numerous steps to assist them. As part of these measures, the ministry is currently holding an 11-day 'HastkalaSahyogShivir'. The camps which began on October 7 are being held across the length and breadth of the country. The initiative is dedicated to the Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Garib Kalyan Varsh--the birth centenary of Pandit Deen Dayal is being observed.

The camps have been organised in over 200 handloom clusters and Weavers Service Centres as well as 200 handicraft clusters in the country. They are spread over 372 places in 228 districts to reach out to a large number of weavers and artisans.

The Union Textiles Minister Smriti Irani in a tweet last month had said: "More than 1.20 lakh weavers/artisans will benefit through the HastakalaSahyogShivirs that will be held in 421 handloom-handicrafts clusters." Among the states where the camps are being held are Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telengana, Tripura, Uttarakhand, UP and West Bengal.

Well aware of the difficulties a weaver or artisan faces in accessing credit – it is so essential to purchase raw materials for their product or to upgrade their technology, for instance the looms--the Textiles ministry has kept the primary focus of these camps on providing credit facilities to them.

As part of this endeavour, the camps are providing weavers and artisans services such as issuance of credit facilities through the government's MUDRA (Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency)

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INDIA'S LEADING JOB PORTAL

Indian Centre of CSR in association with Times Jobs bring you the most sort after job opportunities in the field of Corporate Social Responsibility. TimesJobs.com, the fastest growing and most innovative Indian online recruitment portal, was born with a mission to reach out to all Indians in the country and abroad and provide them with the best career opportunities available.

Today TimesJobs.com, has achieved the distinction of becoming India's No.1 recruitment portal, with the largest number of active jobseekers and a database of over 10 million candidates and over 20,000 new resumes added every day, it offer one of the largest database of active jobseekers in India today.

Its focus is to ensure your skills are showcased and matched suitably with the HR requirements of employers from diverse industries including the field of Corporate Social Responsibility. In a very short span TimesJob's concentrated approach has made it the blue-eyed boy of recruiters and aspirants alike.

You can apply for the below listed jobs on www.timesjobs.com by typing the Job ID in the search window, alternatively you could also search categorywise to find many more opportunities in CSR.

Company: **Electrotherm (India) Ltd.**
Job ID: **60610414**
Designation: **CSR Executive (corporate Social Responsibility)**

- **Experience:** 1 to 5 yrs
- **Salary:** As per Industry Standards
- **Industry:** Manufacturing / Industrial
- **Location:** Ahmedabad (Gujarat)
- **Key Skills:**Responsible to Conduct researchbuild relationships with Schools Coordinate with government agencies, Built a team of volunteers
- **Job Function:** Corporate Planning / Consulting / Strategy
- **Specialization:** Corporate Planning / Strategy, Cost Reduction, Profit Improvement
- **Qualification:** Any Post Graduate, Any Graduate.

Job Description

- Responsible to Conduct research, come up with ideas, develop policies, create detailed plans, and build relationships with Schools, Media Company, Ngos & Internal Staff.
- Coordinate with government agencies, conservation charities and research institutes. For Awareness Program about Foundation.
- To develop and author an annual CSR report that provides clear direction on strategy, delivery and performance.
- Built a team of volunteers to encourage CSR activity within the employees.
- Annual MIS (Number of CSR Champions)
- Source fund for CSR activity in consultation with Management.
- Excellent written and verbal communications skills
- Excellent organizational, Presentation and project skills.
- Closely worked with top management

Company: **Tanla**
Job ID: **60795861**
Designation: **CSR HEAD**

- **Experience:** 5 to 10 yrs
- **Salary:** As per Industry Standards
- **INDUSTRY:** IT-SOFTWARE
- **Location:** Hyderabad/ Secunderabad (Andhra Pradesh)
- **Key Skills:** Experience in CSR activities excellent communication skills telecom operators Marketing Branding Manage end to end budgets
- **Job Function:** Marketing/MR/Media Planning
- **Specialization:** Marketing