CII
Confederation of Indian Industry

CII-ITC Centre of Excellence
for Sustainable Development

11th **Sustainability Summit**
Global Goals & Competitiveness
14-15 September 2016: Le Méridien, New Delhi, India

11वां सतत् विकास शिखर सम्मेलन
वैश्विक लक्ष्य एवं प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता
14 - 15 सितंबर 2016, ली मेरिडियन, नई दिल्ली, भारत

PRESS RELEASE

Minister Anil Madhav Dave proposes innovating solutions that are sensitive to India's cultural context and development priorities

NEW DELHI, 14 September, 2016

"Indians are naturally innovative, sustainable and civilised", **Mr Anil Madhav Dave, Minister of State, Environment, Forests and Climate Change**, said while stressing on the importance of understanding the Indian context of sustainability. He was speaking today at the 11th Sustainability Summit, organised by CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development, in Delhi. Further, India needed to decolonise and develop policies that suit local conditions and sensitivities. Indian culture has always been close to principles of sustainable development with a quest for innovative ideas and solutions. However, due to some policies which have not been well-thought, India was facing environmental challenges such as soil degradation by excessive use of inorganic fertilisers and rampant extraction of groundwater on account of free electricity to farmers. On India's plan to meet the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs), as agreed during COP21 in Paris last year, only Indian solutions could help us meet them.

The 11th Sustainability Summit, an annual flagship event of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), is focused on Global Goals and National Competitiveness. The UN had adopted 17 Global Goals or Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in September 2015, in New York. The 2030 development goals provide a unique opportunity to shift the world onto a path of inclusive and sustainable development. Business has important and definitive role to play in achieving SDGs.

"The challenge for India is innovation and sustainable process of growth", said **Mr Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog**. He emphasised the importance of innovation and sustainable urbanisation. As per a McKinsey report, every minute 30 Indians are moving to urban areas. Urbanisation will have to be at an unprecedented scale and more than the urbanisation achieved in last 500 years. The challenge is how that urbanisation is innovative, sustainable, and smart given the limited resources at India's disposal. The other developmental challenge is availability of water. Mr Kant suggested regulation and pricing of water, and deployment of technology to recycle and harvest water.

Sustainability summit 2016 was inaugurated jointly by **Mr. Anil Madhav Dave,** Minister of State (I/C) for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India; **Mr. Amitabh Kant**, CEO, NITI Aayog, Government of India and **Ms. Shobana Kamineni,** President Designate, CII & Executive Vice-Chairperson, Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Limited; in presence of **Mr. Sanjiv Puri,** Chief Operating Officer, ITC Limited and **Ms Seema Arora, Executive Director**, CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development.

Ms Shobana Kamineni, President Designate, CII, highlighted "Globally, there are top three risks to business which are a matter of discussion in the boardrooms. These are (a) increasing intensity of environmental disasters because of climate change, (b) global pandemic i.e. health risks to the larger community and (c) business sustainability." She also said that participation of business is very essential to meet the SDGs and Indian industry has very well recognised its role. "Indian industry had contributed INR 6400 crores under Corporate Social Responsibility", She quoted CESD's study on CSR spends in FY2015.

Commending CESD on the contributions it has made in sustainability, **Mr. Sanjiv Puri, Chief Operating Officer, ITC Limited** said, "In today's business environment, the whole meaning of competitiveness is getting redefined. Given the societal challenges today, there is a need of responsible competitiveness rather only extreme competitiveness." Mr Puri highlighted the pioneering work of CESD by bringing in "Sustainable Plus", India's only sustainability label, and called upon businesses to undergo rigorous evaluation to get themselves rated. He requested Minister Mr Dave to develop policies that promote market systems for recognising sustainable business models.

For further information on the Summit agenda and key speakers, please visit:
http://sustainabledevelopment.in/events

About CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development
A pioneering effort by CII, CESD is on a mission to catalyse innovative ideas and solutions, in India, and globally, to enable business, and its stakeholders, in sustainable value creation. Its knowledge, action and recognition activities enable companies to be future ready, improve footprints' profiles, and advocate policymakers and legislators to improve standards of sustainable business through domestic and global policy interventions.

CESD leverages its role of an all-inclusive ecosystem player, partnering industry, government, and civil society. It has been a pioneer of environment management systems, biodiversity mapping, sustainability reporting, integrated reporting, and social & natural capital valuation in India, thus upgrading business in India to sustainable competitiveness.