



PRESS RELEASE

“Availability and affordability of power is a key enabler to meet SDGs”

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“Electricity is bound to play a key role in the process of achieving the globally defined 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as economic development is directly linked with the availability and affordability of power. India, as on date, is a power surplus country as she can generate 50 percent more power in relation to current production. Government of India is working on addressing last mile connectivity.”, **Mr Piyush Goyal, Minister of State (I/C) for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines, Government of India**, said while stressing on the importance of power as a key enabler to meet SDGs. He was speaking at the 11th Sustainability Summit, organised by CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development, in Delhi. Further, he thanked CII for driving consciousness about the issue of sustainability in the Indian Industry for a better future not only of the people of India but also of the world. He underlined the importance of Sustainability Summit in facilitating creative deliberations by bringing-in all diverse stakeholders.

Mr Goyal mentioned that India stands committed not only to its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) as defined during CoP-21 at Paris last year but also to ensure sustainable development of the country and associated SDGs. Very soon, Government of India would be coming up with a mandate for thermal power plants to utilize processed wastewater coming out from human habitats located within radius of 50 km and replace the fresh water utilization by treated wastewater. India is only country which taxes carbon. Clean coal cess has been substantially increasing over past few years which is very unlikely in developed world. Not it is time for the world to start looking at the consumption in terms of carbon footprint rather just exporting the pollution to other parts of the world. Having said that, India is only contributing to 4 percent of the global GHG emissions while supporting 17 percent of world population. World has to recognize polluter pay principle.

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.

Mr. Yuri Afanasiev, UN Resident Coordinator & UNDP Resident Representative in India, stressed on the importance of Indian actions in the global journey towards achieving the SDGs. He mentioned that what China has been to Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), India is to SDGs. Given the size and complexity of social problems in India, the solutions to the global challenges would be going to be developed in India during next 10-15 years. India would come out with innovative solutions to address the massive developmental challenges like creation of 175 GW of renewable energy capacities, fulfilling *swachh bharat* targets etc. India can't do it in traditional way. Mr Afanasiev underline the wide gap between financial resources being needed to move forward on developmental goals and what has been available. Such huge gap can be fulfilled by private sector only. As per the UN estimates, 200 million people always left behind out of getting benefits from various developmental activities no matter how effective being planned for. Private sector has to innovatively design solutions so as to reach bottom of the pyramid through sustainable and moderately profitable business model. India will invent solutions that the world will use to address some of the sustainability challenges during next 15-20 years.

“In the last few years, there have been great efforts, both at the global level as well as in India, to encourage industries to move towards sustainable business models. Industry bodies, private sector champions, governments and donors have been leading this movement.” said **Mr. Ajay S Shriram, Past President, CII and Chairman & Senior Managing Director, DCM Shriram Limited.** Mr Shriram lauded the government's efforts in increasing the share of renewable energy. Renewable energy has been one of the identified sectors under the 'Make in India' programme. India is preparing to scale up its renewable energy capacity for reaching its enormous RE target of installing 175GW capacity by 2022 and ensure access to sustainable energy for all. An ambitious 100 GW of solar and 60 GW of wind by 2022, is being targeted. He mentioned that cognizant of the importance of moving towards more sustainable sources of energy, the Indian industry has given green energy commitments of over 200,000 MW. This clearly shows that there is a clear move towards mainstreaming renewable energy. However, hydropower which has been an important source of energy in total energy portfolio and Government should provide regulatory support through faster environmental clearance particularly to small and micro hydropower projects.

Past year, the world has witnessed the adoption of SDGs and ratification of UN climate agreement which are momentous in the history of mankind and has given a hope to the planet earth, said **Mr. Sanjiv Puri, Chief Operating Officer, ITC Limited.** Having said that, Mr Puri mentioned that within next two decades, Indian population is going to surpass china. India need to move to much higher growth path to ensure sustainable livelihood, besides removing poverty and ensuring environmental protection. We all know that over the last century, the demand for energy has skyrocketing given the unprecedented rate of urbanisation.

In this context, renewable energy is bound to play a significant role in the growth path of India India's INDCs have targeted lowering the carbon emission intensity to 33 to 35 percent by 2030. Proactive steps to deal with energy security need to be taken up on priority. Enterprises too can contribute towards sustainable progress and increase the capacity of renewable energy. Business can jointly work with government to ensure meeting SDG-7 i.e. Affordable and clean energy. Mr Puri mentioned the efforts of ITC to become water positive, carbon positive and positive on waste

recycling. At present, 47 percent of energy requirement of ITC comes from renewable energy and ITC hotels are greenest luxury chain hotel in the world.

Mr S. Raghupathy, Deputy Director General, CII, concluded the session by citing the efforts of CII to drive the agenda of sustainability through Indian Green Building Council and has been able to achieve 3.9 billion sq feet of green building. Besides that, with constant efforts of members of IGBC, payback period of adoption of energy efficient technologies has come down to 4-5 years encouraging industry to take up the movement in a much larger scale. Mr Raghupathy also highlighted the remarkable achievement by cement industry to bring down its emission intensity with some of the manufacturing units performing at best in the world.

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.