



Proceedings
Conclave on ESG for Industry
Transformation "Environmental
– Social – Governance" for
Aatmanirbhar Bharat

Dehradun, Uttarakhand 03 February, 2023





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Organised by National Productivity Council & Government of Uttarakhand

Industry Partner
Indian Potash Limited



CONTENTS

S.No.	Particular	Page No.
1.	Preamble	4
2.	Introduction & the concept perspective	4
3.	ESG at Global & National Level	4
4.	Significance of ESG	5
5.	About Conclave	7
6.	Objectives	9
7.	Inauguration	9
8.	Technical Sessions	16
9.	Closing Session	24
10.	Feedback from Delegates	27
11.	Key Takeaways	28
12.	Summary	30

Abbreviations

DDD		
BRR	Business Responsibility Report	
BRSR	Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report	
CNG	Compressed Natural Gas	
COP26	Conference of Parties 26	
COP27	Conference of Parties 27	
CPSEs	Central Public Sector Enterprises	
EDF	Environmental Defense Fund	
EQ	Emotional Quotient	
ESG	Environmental, Social and Governance	
Gol	Government of India	
IPL	Indian Potash Ltd.	
ISSB	International Sustainability Standards Board	
LiFE	Lifestyle for Environment	
MCA	Ministry of Corporate Affairs	
MoEFCC	Ministry of Environment forest and Climate Change	
NGRBC	National Guidelines on Responsible Business Conduct	
NPC	National Productivity Council	
NSE	National Stock Exchange	
NVG	National Voluntary Guidelines	
SEBI	Securities Exchange Board of India	
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure	
TBL	Triple Bottom Line	
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme	
UNGP	United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights	
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1. A Preamble

National Productivity Council (NPC), under Department for Promotion of Industry and International Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, GOI, in partnership with Government of Uttarakhand organized a Conclave on ESG for Industry Transformation: "Environment – Social – Governance for Aatmanirbhar Bharat" on 03 February, 2023 at Hotel Pacific, Dehradun with Indian Potash Limited as Industry partner and Outlook as information and knowledge partner. The Workshop highlighted various aspects and potential of ESG for enterprises and the institutional system. It focused on responsible investments and responsible industrial and service sector functioning. The workshop reflected upon the evolution of ESG concept nationally and delved upon the journey from National Voluntary Guidelines of Ministry of Corporate Affairs to the BRSR (Business Responsibility Sustainability Reporting) framework designed by SEBI (Securities Exchange Board of India).

2. Introduction and the concept perspective

With the ever-changing business environment, the investors and stakeholders seek business to be not only responsible but to be sustainable towards the environment and society. In recent years, adapting to and mitigating climate change impact and transitioning to sustainable development have emerged as major issues globally. Further, Global sustainability challenges such as demographic shifts, flood risk and rising sea levels, privacy and data security, and regulatory pressures, are introducing new risk factors for investors that may not have been seen previously. As companies face rising complexity on a global scale, investors may revaluate traditional investment approaches. Therefore, the concept of ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) comprises the holistic approach for companies to remain responsible to its investors as well as stakeholders while complying with various environmental, social and governance regulatory risk.

3. ESG at Global and National level

International investors with global investment portfolios are increasingly calling for high quality, transparent, reliable and comparable reporting by companies on climate and other environmental, social and governance (ESG) matters. To support and strengthen this, on 3rd November 2021, the IFRS Foundation Trustees announced the creation of a new standard-setting board—the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB)—with the objective to deliver a comprehensive global baseline of sustainability-related disclosure standards that provide investors and other capital market participants with information about companies' sustainability-related risks and opportunities to help them make informed decisions. The leading economies like UK, European Union (EU), New Zealand, Hongkong, Taiwan, Singapore, have also made provisions with directive for non-financial reporting on a comply-to-explain basis.

To keep pace with the global development, SEBI the market regulator had mandated in 2012 that the top 100 listed entities by market capitalisation needed to file *Business Responsibility Reports (BRR)* as part of their annual report, as per the disclosure requirement emanating from the '*National Voluntary Guidelines on Social, Environmental and Economic Responsibilities of Business' (NVGs)*. The requirement for filing BRRs was progressively extended to the top 500 listed entities by market capitalisation in 2015 and to the top 1000 listed entities in 2019. In order to keep pace with global developments viz. the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), the NVGs were revised and released as the *National Guidelines on Responsible Business Conduct (NGRBCs) in March 2019*.

Subsequently, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) constituted a Committee on Business Responsibility Reporting ('Committee') for finalising BRR formats for listed and unlisted companies, based on the framework of the NGRBCs. Based on the recommendations of the committee Business Responsibility Report may be called the *Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report ('BRSR')*, to better reflect the scope of the reporting requirements. Overall, higher standards of ESG disclosures and transparency, is expected to help in attracting more capital and investment. SEBI vide its *circular no. 18/2021*, *dated 10th May 2021* have notified that the *BRSR shall be applicable to the top 1000 listed entities (by market capitalization)*. In order to give time to companies to adapt to the new requirements, the reporting of *BRSR was made voluntary for FY 2021 –22 and mandatory from FY 2022 –23*.

4. Significance of ESG for private sector organizations

Companies with better ESG performance have a better track record on managing issues such as climate change, environmental sustainability, social responsibility, ethics, human rights, and transparency, and hence are more resilient against future risks.

Research increasingly shows that investors, employees, and customers (led by millennial) care deeply about sustainability, and value well-governed companies that positively impact the environment and society, more than organisations that do not account for their environmental and social impacts. Sustainable investment is gaining popularity across the world. Businesses have become mindful of their roles within the communities they operate in and are adopting sustainable ways of doing business. They have been investing in sustainable areas in the form of compliances, in isolation, for long but with ESG, everything has been integrated

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS



SOCIAL FACTORS



GOVERNANCE FACTORS



It's about a company's impact on the environment. They are based on the premise that business activities have the potential to create environmental risks for ecosystems, water, air and human health. Key factors and parameters include:

It's about the way businesses treat and value people. In other words, it is about the impact that companies can have on the internal and external stakeholders and the stakeholders across the entire value chain. The factors/parameters include:

It focuses on corporate policies and the corporate governance practices. It is about making the responsibilities, rights, and expectations of stakeholders clear so that interests are met and a consensus on a company's long-term strategy is achieved. The factors/parameters include:

- Using energy/ resources efficiently;
- Using renewable energies that emit fewer GHG, are less polluting, and contribute less to climate change;
- Managing waste responsibly (like adopting circular economy principles);
- Having responsible practices across the value chain such as no deforestation policies or even animal welfare;
- Resource Efficiency, clean technology
- EPR and 3R policies etc.

- Diversity and inclusion policies to ensure no type of discrimination occurs;
- Safe and healthy working conditions for employees;
- Labour standards across supply chains that guarantee fair wages and human rights protection;
- Good relations with local communities for socioeconomic development of community through various CSR programmes
- Human Rights, Work force harmony, inclusion etc

- Tax strategy;
- Corporate risk management;
- Executive compensation;
- Corruption and bribery issues;
- Board structure, composition and brand independence;
- Protecting shareholder interests & rights;
- Whistle-blower schemes/ policies
- Anti-corruption policies, Audit Committee,
- CSR strategy, compliances etc.

Therefore, it's important to ensure sustainable growth, keeping in view of the larger socioeconomic imperative private sector have for the growth & development of economy of the country.

ESG framework in essence

ESG is an acronym for Environmental Social and Governance aspects and is about increasing the scope through which we view the performance of a company, a sector or a region. It provides a framework to assess what we accomplish as a business and the way we go about meeting our objectives.

5. About the Conclave

With the emergence of an array of various national/international reporting frameworks, guidelines, and standards in the area of sustainability, the organizations/companies in the country are trying to adopt these systems and report their sustainability related initiatives, practices, and actions voluntarily and/or as mandated by the governments, statutory and regulatory bodies as part of their business requirement. Moreover, the international investors are also looking at long term value creation by aligning business strategy with sustainability, climate change and GHG emission mitigation associated agenda. This provides an excellent opportunity for organizations/companies to focus and prioritise actions related to achieving sustainable development goals and its sustainability reporting as per applicable national / global guidelines/framework. Private sector organizations are no exception in this process; as they have their own carbon footprint extending to other countries and are also supporting global supply chain networks in terms of material, machine, technologies, investment, management etc. In view of this, it is important to adopt sustainable and resilient business practices and to report the same as per the applicable formats/structure and guidelines such as BRSR.

Keeping in view of the significance of the Business Responsibility and Sustainable Reporting (BRSR) linked ESG framework of India, NPC initiated pan India ESG conclave series and organised five ESG conclaves. First conclave was held in partnership with the Department of Public Enterprises, Govt. of India for PSEs on 29th July 2022 at New Delhi. Similar conclaves were organized for the private sector at Chennai on 12th September 2022, at Mumbai on 29th November 2022, at Guwahati on 30 January 2023 (in partnership with Govt. of Assam). The conclave held at Dehradun on 03rd February 2023 in partnership with Govt of Uttarakhand, was fifth in series. All five conclaves covered widely in print and electronic media, saw a large number of industry professionals participate and deliberate in meeting ESG goals and BRSR compliance. It is felt that implementation of BRSR mandate by SEBI will not only enhance sustainability of industries improving their overall performance and compliance of various environmental regulations and conditions, but also would supplement in improving the profitability of units across sectors.

TARGET PARTICIPANTS - Senior and middle management professionals from operational, technical, financial, legal and auditing background attended the conference. More than 100 delegates attended the conclave.

The conclave was jointly organised by Government of Uttarakhand and National Productivity Council and sponsored by IPL Centre for Rural Outreach (ICRO).



Indian Potash Limited (IPL) was incorporated under Indian Companies Act with the objective of import-handling, promotion and marketing of Potash in the entire county. IPL is a major player in multiple value chains and inputs, is steadfastly contributing and marching towards agrarian growth and farmers' prosperity in India. The dedicated field work of IPL has led to acceptance of potash across the country which was until then unknown to Indian farmers. IPL has successfully established a vast network, and its services are coordinated by 15 Regional offices in various State capitals. It enables IPL to take any agricultural input or service to farmers' doorstep in about six lakh villages across the country.



6. Conclave Objectives

The conclave has been targeted to benefit the corporate/industries to explore ways to enhance competitiveness, resilience and sustainability in terms of:

- Sensitizing about various dimensions of sustainability
- Discussion about reporting & compliance under BRSR framework of SEBI
- Best practices adopted in terms of resource efficiency, socio-economic measures, community development, corporate governance practices etc
- Discussion of challenges/ issues faced by industries
- Way forward for Indian corporate and industries for industrial transformation and emerge as global leader in terms of sustainability
- Integrating ESG agenda into business strategy and source of competitive advantage

7. Inauguration

The conclave commenced with lighting of lamp by dignitaries which included senior government officials and industry captains. The inaugural of the conference witnessed enlightening share of thoughts from the chief guest Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Uttarakhand and other dignitaries on the dais.



Welcome address by Shri Umashankar Prasad, Director & Group Head, Human Resource Management Group, NPC



Sh Umashankar Prasad welcomed the chief guest, dignitaries on the dais, officials from Govt of Uttarakhand, esteemed speakers, delegates and members from media.

Special Address by Sh. Yashpal Sardana, Plant Head, Hero Motocorp Ltd., Haridwar

In his address, Sh Sardana said that India has the aptitude to become the global manufacturing and supply hub with government's support to the entire eco-system by driving Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. He said that Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan and Make in India drive seek to consciously reduce the country's dependence on imported products while focusing on building self-reliance and improving exports as well. He added that ESG plays a vital role to establish a balance between the growth and its long-term sustainability in the times to come.



He mentioned that Hero Motocorp continuously improving upon its operational efficiencies year-on-year basis and have been able to reduce 17% Energy consumption, 10% water withdrawal reduction, 11% reduction in generation and reducing emissions by approx. 1 Lakh tones as compared to last year's performance. He also shared that plantation drive of Hero Motocorp in Dehradun was also recorded in Asia book of records and India book of records wherein more than 2 lakh trees were planted.

Special Address by Sh. Sumeet Dhiman, Technical Manager Dairy & Nutrition Nestle India Ltd

In his address, Sh Dhiman, elaborated upon the ssustainability journey at Nestle India and also gave an insight about its operations. He stated that the pillars of ESG in Nestle India are: managing climate change, sustainable packing, caring for water and responsible sourcing. He also highlighted the roadmap of Nestle India to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 and elaborated on the dedicated task forces led by governance council of Nestle working on different aspects of sustainability. Sh Dhiman mentioned farm management practices, health management, fertility improvement, cow health monitoring and high yielding cows as five enablers for farm transformations.



He also mentioned about the various initiatives taken to address emission reduction in dairy, packaging, sourcing and manufacturing functions. He also highlighted the initiatives undertaken as part of corporate social responsibility of Nestle India.

Special Address by Sh. Ashutosh Kumar Sharma, Divisional Manager, Bajaj Auto Ltd

Sh. Sharma said that issues like economic inequality, waste management, water and air pollution need to be addressed on war footing. He highlighted the need to work considerably on sustainability with the ESG framework which may become more stringent in days to come. He emphasized on the need for business houses to be socially responsible and align their wealth creation activities keeping into focus the interest of large spectrum of stakeholders and society as a whole. He said that people, planet and profit have now evolved into ESG. He also

added that for a company to achieve sustainability, there need to be a proper aggregation of business performance, environment performance and social performance.



He also reflected on international framework of reporting like GRI and evolution of Indian reporting frameworks with the initiatives of MCA and SEBI. He said that the recognized advantages of ESG framework include competitive advantage through stakeholder engagement, improved risk management, fostering innovation, building customer's loyalty etc. He added that ESG journey will be challenging and interesting in days to come for corporate houses

Special Address by Sh. Pankaj Pandey, IAS, Secretary Industries, Government of Uttarakhand

Sh Pandey said that previously, investments were mainly driven by financial parameters but, with growing concerns on climate change, adapting to and mitigating its consequences by transitioning to sustainable models of development, it has emerged as a major concern on international trade as well. He further said that in today's rapidly changing world, its imperative for industries to not only focus on financial performance but also take into consideration the impact of their operations on environment, society and governance at large. He highlighted that in pursuit of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, it is essential to adopt sustainable and responsible business practices. He stressed on integration of ESG principle into business strategy for driving long term financial performance and enabling better future for all stakeholders at large.



He emphasized that ESG compliance ensures better reputation of company and better relations with stakeholders. He said that integrating ESG into business strategy in Uttarakhand will help businesses to draw long term value. He highlighted on possible challenges faced by Indian industries in complying to ESG framework and requested NPC to take a lead in helping industries, addressing the challenges.

Special Address by Sh. Sundeep Kumar Nayak, IAS, Director General, National Productivity Council

Sh Nayak said that NPC has been working in the area of environment, social and governance related issues of ESG framework and professionals of NPC provide end to end solutions not only in capacity building but also in preparing BRSR and other ESG related reports. He expressed deep appreciation and gratitude to Govt of Uttarakhand for partnering with NPC to hold the conclave at Dehradun and support extended by Govt of Uttarakhand particularly by the O/o Chief Secretary and department of Industries in organising the conclave.



Shri Nayak mentioned that although Indian industries are deep into ESG framework but still there is a need to walk extra mile. He said that NPC will be interested to study different projects of top industrial houses of Uttarakhand and will be happy to offer support to them through Industries department of Uttarakhand. Sh Nayak also said that NPC will be privileged to assist Govt of Uttarakhand in its activities and initiatives. He also acknowledged the role of media in the pre and post coverage of event.

Address by Chief Guest Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Uttarakhand

She Sandhu thanked NPC for organizing the conclave at Uttarakhand and said that it has been the need of time. He further said that ESG per say is a new jargon but what it contains is not new as such. He highlighted that without complying with ESG issues, success if achieved, is short termed and not sustainable. He said that many industries have been adopting ESG principles prior to the SEBI's mandate for top 1000 listed companies. He further added that eventually, more industries will be covered under the BRSR disclosure. He emphasized on the importance of environment related issues particularly for Uttarakhand as it is having fragile environment conditions.



He reflected on the need for industries to be responsible to environment in their operations owing to the awareness level in society and environmental concerns. He stressed on the importance of social issues like human rights, diversity, and employee well being for the growth and sustenance of an organization. He further added that social issues bring different perspectives and add value to the business as a whole. He emphasized that fair and transparent governance structure builds trust of employees and other stakeholders which is crucial for any organization's growth. He emphasized on the role of leadership in building a

healthy working environment. He stated that the conclave will help in sensitizing the various stakeholders with respect to ESG framework.

Vote of Thanks by Dr. R. D. Mishra, President, Uttarakhand Productivity Council

Dr. R. D. Mishra proposed the vote of thanks to the chief guest, esteemed dignitaries on the dais and the session speakers. Briefly highlighting about the contributions of NPC in the socio economic development of the country, Dr Mishra also reflected on the importance of ESG principles.



Sh Umashankar Prasad presented memento to the dignitaries on dais.



Group Photograph of the Inaugural session

8. Technical Session - 1

The session highlighted ESG Investing, ESG metrics, ESG policy, ESG framework, ESG reporting and ESG certification. It also drew focus on the process of reporting to improve the quality of disclosures on their economic, social, governance and environmental (ESG) performance, drawing reference of BRSR specifically.

Session Chair: Shri Praveen Garg, IAS Retd., Senior Advisor, National Productivity Council



Shri Praveen Garg in his opening remarks introduced the session speakers and set the tone for the technical session. He reiterated the importance of ESG framework and said that climate change is a major risk to society as a whole. He briefly talked about the environment concerns of Uttarakhand and the recent challenges faced by the state in this aspect. The speakers, in the order of programme talked about assistance to Industries to be ESG compliant in a sustainable manner, the BRSR mandate and its compliance and also shared best practices and their Industry's perspective.

Address of speakers in order of programmme

Shri K.D. Bhardwaj, Group Head (ECA & IS Group), NPC

Shri K.D. Bhardwaj highlighted that NPC had been established in 1958, has been serving the country for its socio-economic development. He reflected upon the link to Asian Productivity Organisation and enumerated NPC's domains of work and various departments such as Energy Management Group, Environment and Climate Action Group, Industrial Engineering, Economic Services, Information Technology etc, and indicated that NPC addresses project formulation to implementation.



He said that NPC could be an independent institution for being the best in providing BRSR assurance. He shared highlights of NPC's various achievements. He indicated how NPC inherently associates with the ESG and BRSR frameworks. He also reflected upon the nine NGRBC principles and BRSR components and their connect to Companies, CPSEs and value chains and indicated that NPC services address various principles and indicators from the domain of performance indicators (63 nos) to leadership indicators (42 Nos). He indicated that it is prudent for companies to offer accurate and precise data in the BRSR framework and that any cross verification efforts can find gaps or strengthen those data points. He further reflected upon NPC's Saptapadi framework and that NPC has the strength to handhold companies make progress on the material part of business functions analysis and that to make every data justifiable including establishing accurate baselines. He indicated that multifunctional and multidisciplinary teams are needed and that innovativeness and improvements can be supported. He stated that companies need to feel BRSR not fill BRSR reports to standout and improve various aspects including addressing compliance issues and developing leadership oriented roadmaps for future.

Sh. Aniruddh Verma, Complex Head, ITC Ltd. Complex, Haridwar

Sh. Verma talked about the various sustainability challenges threatening the world and how the regulators are responding to the challenges and latest consumer trends. He also spoke about the expectations of investors from the companies in the global landscape. He reflected on the background and evolution of BRSR and an overview of BRSR. He briefly explained the structure of BRSR and its principles. He further elaborated on mapping of BRSR principles with the SDGs. He also highlighted the benefits of BRSR and how it helps organizations achieve growth and profitability being environmentally and socially responsible. He said that ESG compliance builds trust with investors, customers & general public as organization shares values and knowledge through ESG Report.



He said that BRSR not only helps in increased access to capital and investment opportunities but also ensures transparency and business accountability thereby ensuring increased stakeholder trust and confidence in the organization. He also mentioned about the key areas where the Government can take a lead to enable the transition of organizations towards sustainability.

Sh. Vivek Shrivastava, Sr. GM and Plant Head, Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Co. Ltd. Uttarakhand

Giving a brief overview of Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Co. Ltd., Sh Shrivastava shared that although Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Co. Ltd is not listed among top 1000 companies but has been taking various ESG initiatives over the years for enhancing environmental sustainability index to create business value. He emphasized on the holistic energy management approach adopted in his company for enhancing operational efficiency by adoption of greener technologies and use of real time energy data analytics. He also reflected on the social initiatives of his company and its impact in building sustainable communities.



He shared that the policies and frameworks of his company enable good governance and efficient management of business risks. He reiterated the commitment of his company to remain water positive, maintain zero waste to landfill and conserve bio-diversity.

Sh Kiran Gopale, heading the sustainability initiatives at Godrej Interio highlighted various sustainability initiates taken at the business vertical. He shared that the concept of GREEN DESIGN for environment policy seeks to address environmental impact of products during design phase itself. He also elaborated on green manufacturing practices adopted at Godrej interio.

Summing Up and closing remarks – Session Chair, Sh Praveen Garg summed up the session and complimented the speakers for sharing their best practices. He said that NPC can be preferred choice to assist industries in their ESG compliance journey particularly those who don't have in house competencies. He added that it is important to have a sustainable mindset to achieve responsible and sustainable business conduct.



Sh Umashankar Prasad presented memento to the session chair and speakers.



Group Photograph of the Technical Session - 1

9. Technical Session - 2:

The session engaged corporate leaders and enabled them share their experiences in ESG implementation, challenges faced and solutions employed.

Session Chair: Sh. Sashi Rajan, Executive Director, HR, ONGC Ltd., Uttarakhand



In his opening remarks, Shri Rajan introduced the session speakers and highlighted the significance and interrelation of three pillars of ESG framework i.e. environment, social and governance for sustainability. He also mentioned that ethical business practices play a vital role in ensuring growth of any business. He also elaborated on the welfare initiatives taken at ONGC to ensure decent living of labors. He stated that ESG has evolved a movement which will impact every business house be it small scale, medium scale or large scale. Address of speakers in order of programme.

Sh Rajiv Tikoo, Sustainability Editor, Outlook Group

He emphasized that ESG framework will eventually cover all business houses irrespective of the scale of operations. He also added that ESG related activities have been taken up by businesses in some form or other. He also mentioned that the reporting framework has evolved through National Guidelines on Responsible Business Conduct, National Voluntary Guidelines on Social Environmental and Economic Responsibilities of Business, Corporate Voluntary guidelines, BRR etc



He added that there is a need for conversion of compliances into success stories, impact stories and narratives for broader engagements with various stakeholders including investors, policy makers and communities at large. He also briefly talked about the various initiatives taken up by outlook group regarding ESG framework and related activities.

Sh. Sandeep Singhal, Managing Director, UJVNL (Govt. of Uttarakhand), Dehradun

Sh Singhal talked about ESG mechanisms in hydropower sector in general. He stated that lot of efforts have been made by Govt of Uttarakhand including policy changes to harness the potential of hydro power and its expansion. He also shared that various measures have been taken to ease the mechanisms of granting clearances and compliances so that developers and PSUs come forward with developmental projects. He also shared about the changes in environmental framework of hydropower sector as per policies and guidelines of MoEFCC in view of the environmental concerns.



He shared that cumulative environmental impact assessment study and carrying capacity study of hydro power projects in a river basin were made mandatory. He also mentioned about the modifications made in guidelines regarding acquisition of land. He also shared about the local area development fund policy framed for providing benefit to project affected families. He also mentioned about the transparency initiatives adopted to ensure good governance systems.

Smt. Kusum Arunachalam, HOD, Department of Environment, Doon University

Smt Arunachalam presented the academic perspective of ESG. She talked about scaling investment in nature for environmental growth and sustainability. She said that nature is the soundest investment for economic resilience and human well-being and nature loss creates significant and growing economic and business risks. She highlighted that the cost of capital might increase for organizations that are not sustainably managed, as lending rates are increasingly tied to environmental, social and governance (ESG) performance. She further added that the regulatory and business environment needs to change to enable nature-positive business opportunities to deliver a competitive financial return.



She further emphasized on the importance of responsible business practices by mentioning that consumers are demanding more of businesses and preferring products that guarantee deforestation-free or organic supply chains.

Sh Rajiv Agrawal Sr. Vice President, Industry Association Uttarakhand

Sh Agarwal said ESG has been getting more prominence owing to the implementation done through a regulation. He said that it's pertinent not only for employers, suppliers, consumers and supply chain but also for society as a whole to adapt to ESG principles. He highlighted that not only industries but also consumers at household level need to be more responsible in waste generation, segregation and disposal practices



He stressed on the need of efficient plastic waste management systems, ways and means to harness solar power, use of alternative packaging material, rain water harvesting for sustainable environment and future.

Summing Up and closing remarks -



Session chair, Sh Rajan summed up the session and in his closing remarks he said that climate change is a major issue of concern and there is a pressing need for adoption of ESG principles for better future for generations to come.

Sh Umashankar Prasad presented memento to the session chair and speakers.



Group Photograph of Technical Session 2

10. Closing Session: Integrating ESG into Business Strategy

The closing session highlighted the process of imbibing ESG into business strategy, understanding companies' intent on ESG, its implications on operations and how this will set the direction of future growth of the company.

Address of speakers in order of programme

Shri Pankaj Pandey, IAS, Secretary to Government of Uttarakhand, Department of Industries



Sh Pandey highlighted the need to adhere to the environmental norms and responsible business practices to ensure sustainable future and address the issues of stakeholders at large. He urged the industries of Uttarakhand to be more responsible in their business practices as the climate and natural resources of Uttarakhand have considerable effect in neighboring states as well. He also reiterated that not only government but industries and common people are equally responsible to ensure environment sustainability. He also stated that Government of Uttarakhand will work to take necessary steps in making the industries of the state aware about ESG concept and motivated to adapt to the sustainable working practices. He advised the industries of the state to start working in the direction so as to be fully compliant to ESG norms.

Dr. A. C. Joshi, Chairman, NTPC Chair, Doon University, Dehradun, (Retd. Director-HR. UJVNL)

Dr. Joshi shared the initiatives taken by NTPC in the past to reduce emissions and air pollution. He added that in the rapid race of industrialization wherein India is emerging as one of the fastest growing economy, it is crucial to take care of the environment, social and governance issues seriously. He reflected on the need to sensitize industries on ESG followed by compliance. He further added that industries have set regulations and guidelines related to environment issues and sustainability which need to be complied with however, it is equally essential for other stakeholders to act responsibly in terms of solid waste management and other environment concerns.



He also reflected that leaving everything to the government and other agencies cannot be the answer to the environment and social issues and its imperative for business to be responsibility towards the society. He also highlighted the significance of effective industry academia alliance for skill development.

Dr Atul Sud, Director, Legal, Regulatory & Government Affairs, Perfetti Van Melle India

Dr. Sud in his address mentioned that ESG element has been engraved in the society and culture of our country wherein fundamental of society is based on well being of not only every facet of life that exists but also of environment, society at large. He said that sustainability, CSR, social objectives, unless back the commercial decisions of business, will not translate into meaningful results for organisation or society as a whole.



He also gave an overview of Perfetti and its operations and highlighted its sharp focus on social objectives. He also highlighted the initiatives taken at Perfetti to address the environment concerns. He highlighted the need to develop proper infrastructure to support recycling of waste. He also shared about the initiatives taken by his company to support social causes. Sh Umashankar Prasad proposed the vote of thanks for the conclave and presented memento to the dignitaries on the dais

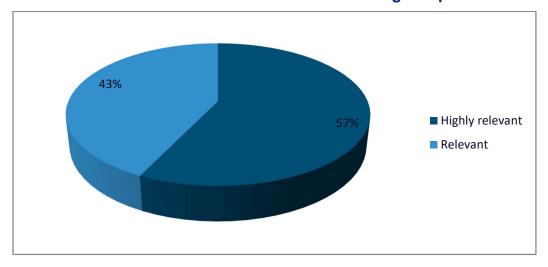


GROUP PHOTO OF CLOSING SESSION

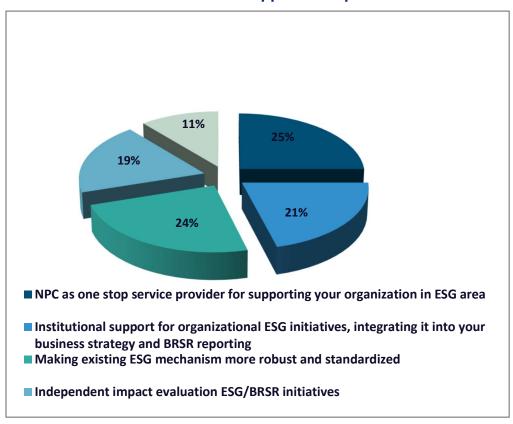
11. Feedback from delegates

Overall rating of the Workshop by participants has been collated and charted as follows:





Areas wherein support is required



12. Key takeaways as indicated by the delegates

ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT

- In view of the global climate change, it is important for companies to reduce carbon footprint.
- Need for hand holding
- Time & need to address future constraints on ESG in order to preserve 'Natural Resources'
- Awareness regarding 'Environmental Hazards'
- Environment to be protected for future generations
- Ecology is the best economy
- Should take care with planting trees and improve environment from degradation
- Sustainable Growth
- To minimize the wastage and to use resources in proper manner
- Replacement of ground water through RWH and ground water recharge
- Restoration of ecology through waste water treatment, reuse and its safe disposal
- More environment friendly technology adaption & execution at all level
- Investment in ecosystem would be more beneficial

- Ensure the environmentally friendly Practices in 360° Production and in personal life also
- Ecosystem restores
- Restoration and planting trees

SOCIAL ASPECT

- A socially responsible corporate is way better
- Shift to socially conscious Investment
- Prevent society from coming food issue due to less productivity of Food
- Create awareness on the concept of ESG
- Our duty to be responsible citizens towards conservation of natural resources and waste management
- We all are one family and we need to live together for betterment of future
- Awareness, Education and Implementation among society
- Localize people, participation and employment Generation
- Make the nearby area Green (plantation / forestation)
- Local Area Development Policy would create a difference
- · Always consider the values and wellbeing of life on the planet
- Always keep in mind the people within organization and out of organization while making the product or providing them
- Awareness about self-management in delivering social goals
- Role of govt. and companies in delivering social goals

GOVERANCE ASPECT

- Governance should be such that it should take care of wellbeing of stakeholders.
- To emphasis and analyse this aspect during planning, execution of projects and programmes
- Effective programs are being conducted by U.K Govt.
- Much need to stop corruption and ensure smooth functioning of businesses
- More regulatory pressure is required
- Good Governance should be there in all programmes of Govt. of Uttarakhand
- Strict and clear Govt. Policy and their implementation
- To implement latest technique and to avoid wastages of natural resources
- Need of monitoring of the environmental and social points mentioned by U.K. State Govt.
- Incentives for Compliant Industries and Disincentives for Non Compliance Organizations
- Followers should be awarded
- Should go beyond SEBI ambit for maximum compliance
- Compliance and Reporting to be mandatory for all organisations

13. Summary and way forward

The 'Conclave on ESG for Industry Transformation in NER states: Environmental – Social – Governance for Aatmanirbhar Bharat' has been a key component of the series of ongoing ESG focused conclaves being organized by NPC, with institutional and industry partners, and is a landmark in terms of the participant interest generated in the context of the thrust in the evolving enthusiasm being created for industry and corporations on the subject. It is heartening to note that Indian industry and stakeholders are striving to take leadership in the range of activities associated with ESG domains and implementation of ESG initiatives, and in diligently submitting BRSR reports, and to highlight achievements being made on the indicators mandated by SEBI for taking forward India's national and international commitments to greening the economy, de-carbonization efforts, enhancing sustainable energy use, and following the 'panchamrit' goals and plan, and in essence taking firm steps forward towards contributing to India achieving net zero target by 2070. The conference has been attended by over 100 participants, including eminent speakers, delegates from private corporations and public sector enterprises, members of institutions and media etc.

The galaxy of speakers at the conference addressed the emerging scenario and the aspects such as scope and potential and need for evolving an assurance mechanism for ESG related and BRSR documents submissions related independent assessment / evaluation, besides the emphasis on recognizing the spectrum of initiatives by various organizations in public and private sector on the ESG frontiers and on the scope of valuing the efforts also in the value chains, besides need for exploring the financial flows on the ESG domain and encouraging financial institutions to consider the efforts being made by the corporations in their investment decisions.

Further, the conference saw the release of an ESG Brochure from NPC and also reflections on the Saptapadi methodology as a mechanism to consider on the ESG journey by the corporate. This Saptapadi approach seeks to include and integrate process analysis of the organizational activities (including on representative sample assessments of processes and outputs and outcomes that the conglomerates are engaged in and achieving etc) to draw out the qualitative and quantitative achievements being made by respective corporations to include in the BRSR framework submissions. This mechanism being proposed as part of the strengthening of the inputs and accuracy and verifiability elements across indicators that could further enable the objectives of responding to the emerging context of assurance that may be desired in the BRSR report perspectives.

Towards a way forward, besides continuation of the awareness and context building works by a spectrum of institutions and public and private entities on the ESG theme and BRSR framework and reflections on international efforts on the subjects, facilitation as well as encouragement regarding developing of case studies/ case examples of the corporate efforts on ESG and BRSR reports could be helpful in strengthening the momentum amongst corporations and value chains. Further, the scope for research and assessments into the resultant contributions to India's plans to achieving net zero by 2070 as year wise understanding as well as an aggregate perspective annually, in acknowledgment of the collective efforts being undertaken by the corporations especially as per inputs that may be obtainable through annual reports and BRSR reports being submitted by firms/corporations could be a valuable information to generate and collate and presented on trend lines, that would add further credence to the national and international assurance of the good precedents being set in the country and amongst the international comity of nations.

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Annexures

Programme – Annex 1

Profile of Speakers in order of programme – Annex 2

Profile of Executing Team – Annex 3

List of Organizations who participated in the conclave – Annex 4

Media Coverage – Annex 5

Annex 1

PROGRAMME

03 February 2023, Friday				
1000-1130 hrs: Inaugural Session				
1000- 1005 hrs	Lighting of the lamp			
1005-1010 hrs	Welcome	Sh. Uma Shankar Prasad Group Head National Productivity Council		
1010-1105 hrs	Special Address	Sh. Yashpal Sardana Plant Head, Hero Motocorp Ltd., Haridwar		
		Sh. Sumeet Dhiman Technical Manager Dairy & Nutrition Nestle India Ltd		
		Sh. Ashutosh Kumar Sharma Divisional Manager- Support services Bajaj Auto Ltd		
		Sh. Pankaj Pandey, IAS Secretary Industries Government of Uttarakhand		
		Sh. Sundeep Kumar Nayak, IAS Director General National Productivity Council		
1105-1115 hrs	Address by Chief Guest	Dr. Sukhbir S. Sandhu, IAS Chief Secretary Government of Uttarakhand		
1115-1118 hrs	Vote of Thanks	Sh. R D Mishra President Uttarakhand Productivity Council		
1118-1130 hrs	Break			

1130-1300 hrs: Technical Session

Companies achieve competitive advantage through guided Sustainability disclosures. The vast proliferation of the ESG frameworks and its standards, had resulted in numerous metrics in the ESG ecosystem including those of Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB), the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), and the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD). ESG reporting in India started in 2009 with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) issuing the Voluntary Guidelines on Corporate Social Responsibility, since then the reporting landscape has come a long way, we now have the newly introduced Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR) as a standing testament to for ESG reporting. The session will highlight ESG Investing, ESG metrics, ESG policy, ESG framework, ESG reporting and ESG certification. It will draw focus on the process of reporting to improve the quality of disclosures on their economic, social, governance and environmental (ESG) performance drawing reference of BRSR specifically.

1130-1135 hrs	Opening Remarks by Session Chair	Shri Praveen Garg, IAS Retd. Senior Advisor National Productivity Council	
1135-1200 hrs	Assistance to Industries to be ESG compliant in a sustainable manner	Sh. K D Bhardwaj Group Director National Productivity Council	
1200-1230 hrs	Best Practices: Industry Perspective	Sh. Aniruddh Verma Complex Head, ITC Ltd. Complex, Haridwar	
		Vivek Shrivastava Sr. GM and Plant Head Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Co. Ltd. Uttarakhand	
1230-1250	Interaction		
1250-1300 hrs	Closing Remarks by Session Chair		
1300-1400 hrs	Break for Lunch		

1400-1530 hrs: How can industries reframe their ESG as a competitive advantage that deliver value and draws investment?

Focus: With ESG considerations also becoming the threshold for investing, companies are needed to dedicate more time scrutinizing and strengthening ESG metrics and reporting them appropriately to sustain relevance with institutional investors, asset managers, and other investors. Now corporates have a unique opportunity to lead sustainability conversations as they are better equipped to derive and create value out of sustainability pursuits of their organizations. Further, the investors and financial institutions also plays critical role in deciding the investment portfolio keeping in view of green and sustainability parameters. The session aims to engage corporate leaders and financial institutions, investors and enable them share their experiences in ESG implementation, challenges faced and solutions employed.

1400-1410 hrs Opening Remarks by Session Sh. Sashi Rajan

Chair

Executive Director, HR
ONGC Ltd.. Uttarakhand

Session Moderator Mr. Rajiv Tikoo

Sustainability Editor Outlook Business

1410-1500 hrs

Signature Statements by

Panelists

Sh. Sandeep Singhal

Managing Director, UJVNL (Govt. of

Uttarakhand), Dehradun

Smt. Kusum Arunachalam

HOD, Department of Environment

Doon University

Rajiv Agrawal

Sr. Vice President, Industry Association

Uttarakhand

1500-1515 hrs Moderated panel discussion, summing up and closing remarks

1515-1530 hrs Break

1530-1630 hrs: Closing Session: Integrating ESG into Business Strategy

Every business is deeply intertwined with environmental, social, and governance (ESG) concerns. It makes sense, therefore, that a strong ESG is essential to supporting an organization's purpose and growth, creating intrinsic and economic value. Though ESG and sustainability cannot be used interchangeably they are intricately woven together in the development paradigm, ultimately creating businesses that are sustainable. The thrust of ESG in the strategizing phase will help identify key risks and in charting out short-term and long-term strategies to address these risks.

The closing session will highlight the process of imbibing ESG into business strategy, understanding companies' intent on ESG, its implications on operations and how this will set the direction of future growth of the company.

1530-1545 hrs Opening Remarks Shri Pankaj Pandey, IAS

Secretary to Government of Uttarakhand

Department of Industries

1545 – 1630 hrs Special Address Dr. A. C. Joshi, Chairman, NTPC Chair,

Doon University, D/Dun (Retd. Director-HR. UJVNL)

Dr Atul Sud Director

Legal, Regulatory & Government Affairs

Perfetti Van Melle India

1630-1635 hrs Vote of Thanks Sh. Uma Shankar Prasad

Group Head

National Productivity Council

Profile of Speakers in the order of programme

1. Sh. Yashpal Sardana, Plant Head, Hero Motocorp Ltd., Haridwar

Mr. Sardana is an Alumnus of The Wharton School of Business, Philadelphia, and has diverse experience of over three decades in industry, majorly in Hero MotoCorp. Currently, he is heading the Haridwar Plant which is the World's Largest 2 Wheeler Plant. He is also heading the Central Business Excellence for the entire Hero MotoCorp.

2. Sh. Sumeet Dhiman, Technical Manager, Dairy & Nutrition, Nestle India Ltd.,

Sh Dhiman holds bachelor degree in Dairy Technology from National Dairy Research Institute. He brings with him more than 30 years of rich experience working in the country and abroad in the field of dairy and nutrition.

3. Sh. Ashutosh Kumar Sharma, Divisional Manager, Bajaj Auto Ltd,

Having more than 38 years of rich experience with the corporate world in the field of vehicle assembly, testing, Overseas manufacturing; Sh Sharma is currently handling the Administration, Legal, IR, Safety, functions at Bajaj Auto. He is also President – SIIDCUL Entrepreneurs Welfare Society, Pantnagar

4. **Dr. Pankaj Pandey**, IAS, Secretary, Industries, Govt of Uttarakhand

Shri Pandey is from the 2005 batch of Indian Administrative Services, Uttarakhand cadre. He is also Secretary, MSME, Mining and Ayush departments of Govt of Uttarakhand. Before joining the administrative service, Dr. Pandey has also served as a Doctor post completion of his MBBS.

5. Shri Sundeep Kumar Nayak, IAS, Director General, National Productivity Council

Shri S.K. Nayak is an IAS Officer of 1988 Batch of Jammu & Kashmir Cadre and his current rank is of Secretary to GoI. He assumed the charge of office of Director General, NPC on 08th December, 2021. Prior to NPC, he has served as Managing Director, National Cooperative

Development Corporation, Ministry of Co-operation. In his illustrious career in Indian Administrative Services, he has held key positions as Principal Secretary, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department as well as Principal Secretary, Power Development Department, Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

6. Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Uttarakhand,

Dr Sandhu, is from 1988 batch of Indian Administrative Service, Uttarakhand cadre. Previously, Dr. Sandhu has served as Chairman, National Highways Authority of India and as Additional Secretary in the Department of Higher Education, Government of India. Sir has also served in various key positions in the Government of Uttarakhand, Government of Uttar Pradesh and Government of Punjab.

7. Dr. R. D. Mishra, President Uttarakhand Productivity Council.

Dr. Mishra carries with him more than 40 years of diverse experience as management consultant and trainer. He superannuated as Director after serving has served National Productivity Council for more than 32 years. He is also Director of Greater Noida Productivity Council

8. Sh Praveen Garg, Former IAS and Sr Advisor, NPC.

He is from 1988 batch of Indian Administrative Service, Madhya Pradesh Cadre. Sh Garg, has held various key positions in his over 33-year-long service in Government both in central and state level. He has served as Chairman and Managing Director of Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited and has also practiced as a Chartered Accountant.

9. Shri K. D. Bhardwaj, Director & Group Head, Environment & Climate Action Group, NPC Sh. K D Bhardwaj, Director & GH (ECA Group & EM Group), is presently heading the Energy Management and Environment & Climate Action division of NPC. During his past 25 years association with NPC and Asian Productivity Organization (APO), Sh. Bhardwaj has had vast experience in the areas of industrial pollution, prevention & control, waste management, green productivity, circular economy, energy conservation & efficiency etc.

10. Sh. Anirudh Verma, Head, ITC Limited, Haridwar Complex

He is an Engineering Graduate from IIT Roorkee and has diverse experience in Engineering, Project Management, Operations & Manufacturing. He is Vice President of Uttarakhand Productivity Council.

11. **Sh Vivek Shrivastava, Sr General Manager**, Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Co. Ltd.

He holds MBA degree from IIM Kolkata. He is Certified lead Auditor for various management systems and an expert in Business Excellence, TPM, Energy, Water and Waste management, Green Manufacturing.

12. Shri Shashi Rajan, Executive Director and Head of ONGC Academy, Dehra Dun.

Having more than 35 years of experience, he comes with educational qualifications of MBA, LLB and Specialisation Diploma in Training and Development. He is certified in Emotional Intelligence Assessments Process from Emotional Intelligence Learning Systems, USA. He is a recognised speaker in academic and professional circuits.

13. Sh Rajiv Tikoo, Consulting Editor (Sustainability), Outlook Business t

Sh Tikoo is a senior journalist and editor with extensive experience of working with media houses, UN agencies, government organisations, corporates and development sector.

14. Sh. Sandeep Singhal Managing Director, UJVNL Dehradun.

Sh Singhal possesses more than 35 years experience in power sector working with UJVNL and NHPC, including development of hydropower projects right from concept to commissioning in India & Bhutan.

15. Dr. Kusum Arunachalam, Professor & HOD, Dept of Environment, Doon University.

Her Area of Specialization include: Forest Ecology & Biodiversity, Climate Resilient Ecosystems etc. She was awarded with National Young Women Bioscientist Award by Department of Science & Technology.

16. Rajiv Agrawal Sr. Vice President, Industry Association Uttarakhand.

He is mechanical Engineering from IIT Roorkee. Presently, he is an entrepreneur and has also served in the Indian Railways Services of Mechanical Engineering.

17. Dr. A. C. Joshi, NTPC Chair Professor, Centre for Public Policy, Doon University, Dehradun.

He is faculty for IIT Roorkee, IIM Kashipur, IIM Sirmour, Lal Bahadur Shastri Academy, Mussorie and carries with him rich experience from organizations like Indian Society for Training and Development, UJVN Ltd, THDC India Ltd, SJVN Ltd, and NTPC Ltd

18. Dr Atul Sud, Director Legal, Regulatory & Government Affairs- Perfetti Van Melle India Pvt.Ltd

He has been actively involved in implementation of new transformation project aimed at driving business results while achieving operational efficiencies and by keeping overheads in control. He is also leading India's first consortium on Plastic Waste Management under the banner of (WeCare).

Profile of Conclave Executing Team

1. Mr Umashankar Prasad, Director & Head, Human Resource Management Group, NPC, HQ He holds masters degree in engineering and administration He has a rich exposure and professional expertise with over 25 years of hands-on experience handling consultancy, research, administration & training assignments/projects. He has managed multiple consultancy and training projects involving multi-disciplinary project teams in the area of industrial engineering, human resource management, recruitment, manpower planning, cadre review, impact assessment, organization restructuring etc.

2. Ms. Kritika Shukla, Deputy Director, NPC, HQ: Master of the Ceremony

She holds thirteen years of working experience in NPC. She has been associated with consultancy assignments and capacity building programmes in the domain of industrial engineering for productivity improvement in Government sector as well as private sector. She has also been actively associated with the implementation and monitoring of Lean Manufacturing Competitiveness Scheme of M/o MSME since its inception in 2009. Has also been involved in consultancy projects in the area of 5S implementation, organization restructuring, impact assessment studies, Lean manufacturing implementation, Manpower Optimization etc.

3. Mr. D K Rahul, Deputy Director, NPC, HQ

During his last 13 years with the council, he has carried several policy level studies, evaluation & impact assessment of schemes/ programmes for Central & State Govts. Many socio economic studies have enabled the policy makers, implementers to amend the existing provisions to make such policies more inclusive and effective in terms of ensuring citizen centric approach. He had also been involved with organization restructuring, Manpower planning, HR policy formulation for various departments, PSUs, and private organizations. He is also part of the team for implementation & monitoring of flagship scheme of Ministry of MSME for improving competitiveness of SMEs across the country. He holds Bachelors Degree of Engineering.

4. Ms. Asmita Raj, Technical Assistant, NPC, HQ

She Asmita Raj has been working with NPC since 2009. She has done B.A. (Honours in Sociology) from Delhi University and MBA (HR) from Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi along with Masters in Social Work from Bangalore University.

She specializes in Recruitment, Training and other HR related activities. She has been handling major Recruitment assignments both offline & online for some of the esteemed government clients.

5. Ms. Nidhi Singh, Programme Executive, IPL Centre for Rural Outreach

Ms. Singh has over 13 years of experience in various fields of HR Coordination & Media Communication, Human Resource plans and procedures that relate to company personnel; Planning, organizing, and controlling the activities and actions of the HR department. Her experience in media communication includes internal communications, social media, content coordination, graphic & web design, media management, media tracking (MIS development), office management etc. She has worked with several private and government sector/PSUs organizations as part of different divisions to deliver assigned tasks.

6. Mr. Santosh Kumar, Programme Executive, IPL Centre for Rural Outreach

Annex 4

List of organizations participated in conclave

S.No	Organisation	S.No	Organisation
1	Graphic Era University, Dehradun	28	T Balaji Engineering Pvt Ltd
2	UJVNL,Dehradun	29	Mahindra & Mahindra, Rudrapur
3	BRIDCUL, Dehradun	30	Hero Motocorp
4	National Academy of RUDSETI (NAR), Dehradun	31	CSIR
5	Uttarakhand Pay Jal Nigam Ltd., Dehradun	32	Snaket Comm. Pvt.Ltd
6	ICFAI University, Dehradun	33	Uttarakhand Productivity Council, Dehradun
7	Auto Links, Haridwar	34	Perfetti Van Melle India
8	Fitbread, Dehradun	35	Directorate of Industries
11	India Optel Limited, Dehradun	36	Godrej & Boyce
12	Prestige Onida Ltd, Rishikesh	37	EY, Dehradun
13	Prabha Automotive Engineers P Ltd,Rudrapur	38	Adhyay Dev Pvt.Ltd
14	Alef Eco Consulting LLP	39	SIDCUL
15	ISRO. (DoS)	40	Liberty Shoes Ltd
16	Voltas Ltd	41	District Industries Centre, Dehradun
17	University of Petroleum & Energy Studies, Dehradun	42	Auro Sundram Ply & Door
18	Mahindra & Mahindra, Rudrapur	43	CII, Uttarakhand
19	Industry Association of Uttarakhand	44	Laghu Udyog Bharati
20	Nestle India	45	Anime Devta
22	Bajaj Auto	46	ITC
23	Godrej & Boyce	47	ONGC
24	Medcart	48	Labour Commisioner Office, Dehradun
25	Ananta Associates	49	Doon Business School, Selaqui, Dehradun
26	Patanjali Ayurved Ltd, Haridwar	50	Genus Power
27	Hero Moto Corp, Haridwar	51	U.Jal Sanstha
52	Hindustan	56	UJVN Ltd & Energy Cell
53	Ultimate Flexipack	57	GoU UJVN & Energy Cell
54	Amar Ujala	59	Welfo Fiber Optics
55	Dainik Jagran	59	India Optel Limited, Dehradun

Media Coverage

Annex 5

PRE EVENT

NPC's Workshop Promises To Help Industries Become ESG Ready BY <u>OUTLOOK PLANET DESK</u> FEBRUARY 02, 2023

Apart from sensitising industry, the speakers are expected to delve into the business case for embedding ESG into business NPC regularly holds workshops for making public sector units and private sectors ESG ready.

The upcoming National Productivity Council (NPC) conference on Environmental – Social-Governance (ESG) is expected to not only give a push to companies in the region to get future ready, but also to help them in their journey. The Conclave on ESG for Industry Transformation: Environmental – Social-Governance (ESG) for Aatmanirbhar Bharat is scheduled to take place on 3 February in Dehradun.

While Dr. Sukhbir S. Sandhu, Chief Secretary, Government of Uttarakhand, has been invited as the chief guest in the inaugural session, other eminent speakers expected to address the select audiences include Sundeep Kumar Nayak, Director General, NPC; Pankaj Pandey, Secretary, Industries, Government of Uttarakhand; Yashpal Sardana of Hero Motocorp; Sumeet Dhiman of Nestle India and Ashutosh Kumar Sharma of Bajaj Auto. R. D. Mishra, President, NPC, Uttarakhand and Umashankar Prasad, Group Head, NPC.

Sundeep Kumar Nayak, Director General, NPC, says, "The ESG conference being organised by NPC in partnership with the Government of Uttarakhand will focus on industry transformation towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat." He adds, "NPC has developed a 'Saptapadi' approach, a seven-step solution, for adoption of ESG by organisations, which shall be deliberated in the conference." Indian Potash Ltd is the industry partner of the conference. This conference is the last in the series as part of pan India ESG promotion by NPC.

NPC is an autonomous entity under the aegis of Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry. It regularly holds workshops for making public sector units and private sectors ESG ready. It is attended by policy leaders, academicians, corporates and civil society- extensive immersive brainstorming takes places in such session. Till date, NPC has held workshops in Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai and Guwahati. Other highlights of the agenda are technical sessions. The first technical session will seek to raise awareness on the growing adherence to ESG. Global frameworks like Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB), the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) will be introduced. The session will also

deliberate on ESG policy, investing, metrics, reporting and how to get ESG certification. Roadmap to improve the ESG disclosures will be discussed as well.

The second technical session will delve into using ESG as a value addition. The company leaders will share their ESG experiences, implementation details, lessons learnt, strategies, challenges faced and solutions employed.

The closing session on Integrating ESG into Business Strategy will cover the intimate relation between sustainability and ESG. Developing a roadmap for short-term and long-term to factor in risks will be the focus of this session. Along with this, the process of embedding ESG into business, and the business case thereof and the impact of it on the future of the business will be other points of discussion.

Dr. R.D.Mishra, President, Uttarakhand Productivity Council, says, "ESG is a new paradigm for sustainable growth and a framework for green initiatives." He adds that almost 30 per cent large scale PSUs and private sectors companies are aware and are taking apt measures. Others are trying to follow suit. He further adds, "In fact it is just a matter of time and everyone will have to follow, it if they have to survive as ESG is a guiding tool for investors and other stakeholders."

Other eminent speakers expected to address the audiences include Praveen Garg, Senior Advisor, NPC; R. Meenakshi Sundaram, Secretary, Energy & RE, Finance, Government of Uttarakhand; R. K. Sudhanshu, Principal Secretary, Forests, Environment & Climate Change, Government of Uttarakhand; Paras Sharma, Plant Head, Parle Agro Uttarakhand; Dr. Kusum Arunachalam, Head of Department, Department of Environment, Doon University; Rajiv Agrawal, Senior Vice President, Industry Association Uttarakhand; Dr A. C. Joshi, Chairman, NTPC Chair, Doon University.

POST EVENT

Dainik Jagran

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औद्योगिक विकास में पर्यावरण संरक्षण का पालन बेहद जरूरी

देहरादून। राष्ट्रीय उत्पादकता परिषद के वरिष्ठ सलाहकार प्रवीण गर्ग ने कहा कि पर्यावरण और जलवायु परिवर्तन के जोखिम को ध्यान में रखते हुए उद्योगों को व्यापार प्रतिस्पर्धा में आगे बढ़ना है। इसके लिए हरित विकास अपनाकर पर्यावरण संरक्षण करना बेहद जरूरी है।

पर्यावरण, उद्योगों के लिए सामाजिक और सरकार पर कार्यशाला आयोजित की गई। मुख्य सचिव डॉ. एसएस संध् ने औद्योगिक विकास में पर्यावरण संरक्षण के लिए बिजनेस रिस्पांसबिलिटी एंड सस्टेनेबल रिपोर्ट के सतत विकास और जलवायु परिवर्तन के जोखिम को कम करने के लिए रणनीति बनाई है। इससे उद्योगों को भी पर्यावरण संरक्षण का पालन कर कारोबार में मदद मिलेगी। वरिष्ठ सलाहकार प्रवीण गर्ग ने कहा कि उद्योगों को पर्यावरण को कम से कम नुकसान पहुंचा कर व्यापार की रणनीति पर काम करने की जरूरत है। राष्ट्रीय

राष्ट्रीय उत्पादकता परिषद की ओर से कार्यशाला का आयोजन

उत्पादकता परिषद के निदेशक केडी भारद्वाज ने उद्योगों के प्रतिनिधियों को बीआरएसआर के मानकों के बारे में विस्तार से जानकारी दी। पर्यावरण संरक्षण का पालन कर उद्योग वैश्विक स्तर पर उत्पाद की पहचान बना सकते हैं।

सचिव उद्योग डॉ. पंकज कुमार पांडेय ने कहा कि ईएसजी के मानकों को अपनाकर सतत विकास को गति देने की आवश्यकता है। इस मौंके पर राष्ट्रीय उत्पादकता परिषद के अध्यक्ष आरडी मिश्रा, महानिदेशक सुदीप कुमार नायक, हिरोमोटिव कॉर्प के यशपाल सरदाना, नेश्ले इंडिया के सुमित धीमान, बजाज ऑटो के आशुतोष कुमार, आईटीसी लिमिटेड के अनिरुद्ध वर्मा, पार्ले एग्रो ग्रुप के पारस शर्मा, गोदरेज लिमिटेड के विवेक श्रीवास्तव आदि मौजूद थे। ब्यूरो 1

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Amar Ujala



OUTLOOK PLANET

NPC Conclave Emphasises On Need To Be ESG Ready

BY **NAINA GAUTAM** FEBRUARY 04, 2023

Companies need to invest not only resources, but also create a culture of ESG within organisations

Speakers focused on sensitisation on ESG, integration of ESG agenda into business strategy.

Given the fragile nature of the Himalayan range in Uttarakhand, the just concluded Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) conference in Dehradun imparted urgency and importance to the need to act now on these issues in the region.

The Conclave on ESG for Industry Transformation: Environmental – Social– Governance (ESG) for Aatmanirbhar Bharat was organised by the National Productivity Council (<u>NPC</u>) in partnership with Department of Industries, Uttarakhand. NPC is an autonomous entity under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Minister of Commerce and Industry. Indian Potash was the industry partner.

Talking about the need of the hour for industry transformation in the backdrop of global landscape shaped by the issue of climate change, Sundeep Kumar Nayak, Director General of NPC, says that NPC is "ready to walk the extra mile" with industries to fast-track their ESG journey.

Dr. S. S. Sandhu, Chief Secretary, Government of Uttarakhand, says, "Overall, the level of ESG readiness of Indian PSUs and private sector firms is rapidly improving, but there is still significant room for growth and improvement. To become more ESG ready, both PSUs and private sector firms need to invest in and prioritise ESG considerations, embed them into their operations and regularly measure and report their ESG performance."

He adds, "There are several ways for PSUs to adopt better ESG practices. PSUs should establish ESG metrics and targets and monitor their progress against these targets. This will help PSUs to measure their ESG performance and make improvements where necessary."

Pankaj Kumar Pandey, Industry Secretary, Government of Uttarakhand, adds, "ESG preparedness will continue to be a significant driver of stakeholder satisfaction – whether it is investors, regulators, customers, or employees."

Talking about the big picture, Parveen Garg, Senior Advisor, NPC, Delhi, says, "Many corporates are well prepared for ESG reporting, especially large corporate houses, which are also listed on stock exchanges and export houses who have do compliances of international standards. But other businesses have to do lot of catching up on ESG." To become ESG ready, he points out, "The businesses, which are yet to follow ESG norms, have to invest not only resources but have to also create a culture of ESG within the organisation."

Bringing in the academic perspective in the field, Dr. Kusum Arunachalam, Head of Department, Department of Environment, Doon University, says, "Comparison between PSUs and private firms in India is lop-sided. The latter are ahead in this aspect. However, the lack of a well-defined and globally ratified protocol for ESG favours all firms in India to be delivering on certain aspects of ESG."

She adds, "In order to get any firm ready, there needs to be a coordinated discussion and effort towards defining the ESG agenda from India's perspective. A coordinated discussion should be conducted to evaluate the current situation and commitments by the firms by organising teams cutting across PSUs and private sectors. This creates an opportunity to find gaps in ESG parameters that could be acted upon jointly by firms. Furthermore, it could potentially lead to a single, national plan towards implementation, reviewing and sustaining long-term efforts on the ESG front."

Talking about challenges, Rudra Deo Mishra, President of Uttarakhand Productivity Council, says, "ESG in PSUs and MSME sector is at an embryonic stage and eventually progress will be made in phases." He adds, "In fact, lack of resources is a great constraint for some industries with the result that even if they are aware of the benefits, they cannot implement."

Speakers also focused on sensitisation on ESG, integration of ESG agenda into business strategy, reporting and compliance, good practices, challenges faced by industries and the way forward.

While other speakers included senior leaders from ONGC, UJVNL, SIDCUL, Hero Motocorp, Nestle, Bajaj Auto, ITC, Godrej & Boyce and Perfetti, attendees included officials from departments of environment and forests, industries, MSME, water resources, urban development, pollution control, irrigation and flood control, etc.

This was the last of ESG workshops in this series held by NPC. Similar workshops were earlier held in Delhi, Chennai, <u>Mumbai</u> and Guwahati.