

Proceeding
Conclave on ESG for
Industry Transformation
in NER States:
“Environmental – Social
– Governance for
Aatmanirbhar Bharat”
at
Assam Administrative
Staff College
30 January, 2023

organised by
National Productivity
Council
&
Government of Assam

Industry Partner:
Indian Potash Ltd.



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Abbreviations

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
GoI	Government of India
IPL	Indian Potash Ltd.
ISSB	International Sustainability Standards Board
LiFE	Lifestyle for Environment
MCA	Ministry of Corporate Affairs
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
	United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human
UNGP	Rights

1. 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 Assam organized a Conclave on ESG for Industry Transformation in NER States: “Environment – Social – Governance for Aatmanirbhar Bharat” on 30 January, 2023 at Assam Administrative Staff College, Guwahati 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 reevaluate traditional investment approaches. Therefore, the concept of ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) which 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.

ENVIRONMENTAL 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 :

- 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.

SOCIAL FACTORS



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 :

- 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 socio-economic development of community through various CSR programmes
- Human Rights, Work force harmony, inclusion etc

GOVERNANCE FACTORS



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 :

- 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.

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

Therefore, it's important to ensure sustainable growth, keeping in view of the larger socio-economic 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 four 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 and at Mumbai on 29th November 2022. The conclave held at Guwahati on 30 January 2023 was fourth in series. All four 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 90 delegates attended the conclave.

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

ICRO STAKEHOLDERS

National Productivity Council
 NPC is an autonomous organization, under DPIIT, Min. of Commerce & Industry - forefront of the productivity movement in India

Indian Potash Ltd.
 IPL is a leading diversified businesses company with a focus on agrarian growth and farmers welfare

IPL Centre for Rural Outreach
 ICRO is a CSR initiative of IPL with NPC as the service provider for technical, implementation, supervision and managerial aspects. **Established in March 2022**

Indian Potash Limited (IPL) was incorporated under Indian Companies Act with the objective of import-handling, promotion and marketing of Potash in the entire country. 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.

About ICRO

ICRO project addresses the following areas as per Schedule VII of the Companies Act:

- a. Promoting education and employment enhancing vocation skills among women and livelihood enhancement projects.*
- b. Ensuring environmental sustainability and conservation of natural resources*
- c. Rural development projects*
- d. Promotion of preventive health measures*

ICRO deliverables

- i. Rural outreach and capacity development activities for farmers and youth.
- ii. Amrit Internship Program focused on productivity for livelihood enhancement.
- iii. Promotion of energy and water use efficiency in MSME for sustainability.
- iv. Promotion of scientific waste management in public or charitable hospitals.
- v. Sustainable growth and climate change response advocacy

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 started with lighting of lamp by dignitaries which included senior government officials, industry captains and academicians. The inaugural of the conference witnessed enlightening share of thoughts from the chief guest Sh. Syedain Abbasi, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Assam and other dignitaries on the dais.



Welcome address by Shri K D Bhardwaj, Director & Group Head, Environment & Climate Action Group, NPC

Sh K D Bhardwaj welcomed the chief guest, dignitaries on the dais, esteemed speakers, and delegates and highlighted the importance of ESG theme in line with sustainable development goals and ambitious commitments made by India in CoP 26 on reducing the GHG emission and achieving net zero by 2070.



He reflected on the end to end services offered by NPC in understanding, adopting and making ESG part of business strategy for any organization, through its pan India presence and team of more than

150 professionals, with support of various Local Productivity Councils spread across the country. He also thanked Govt of Assam for partnering with NPC for organizing the conclave.

Special Address by Sh. Sanjay Pratap Singh , Vice-Chancellor, The Assam Royal Global University, Guwahati

In his address, Dr. Singh highlighted that recent trends in industrial development and global climate change concerns have led the corporate align their strategies ensuring sustainability of environment and long term sustainability of business operations and growth.



He also highlighted that it has become imperative for the business houses to shift their marketing strategies from just cost reduction and profit maximization to ensuring profits and growth of business along with sustainability of business with minimum impact on environment and social factors. He also emphasized that technology, innovation, transfer of technology and financing of business is related to environment, social and governance factors in today's scenario when investors are cautious about their investments. He expressed willingness to partner with various stakeholders present in the conference. He also expressed the need to give exposure and orientation to the college students and budding entrepreneurs in ESG framework.

Special Address by Sh. M.P. Singh, IAS, Managing Director, Assam Industrial Development Corporation Limited

Mr. Singh mentioned that traditionally, investment decisions were driven by financial parameters, which is not the case in today's scenario. He said that with growing concern to climate change, adapting to and mitigating its consequence by transitioning to sustainable models of development, investments have emerged as a major concern for business houses. He mentioned that the growing awareness to environmental concerns have shifted the approach of investor and business houses from running a business in just exploitative and unsustainable manner to socially / morally accountable and environmentally sustainable.



He highlighted how in last decade, India's transition with digital and technological development has accelerated which has certainly catapulted towards being a global leader on various fronts. He also stressed on India's commitment to sustainable development goals. He emphasised on Govt of Assam's vision to transform Assam into a sustainably developed state by 2030 with future ready good governance, innovatively applying world's latest technology and management techniques to ensure full utilisation of Assam's valuable natural and human resources. He also mentioned about evolution of BRSR as mandated by SEBI.

Special Address by Sh. Bhaskar Jyoti Phukan, Managing Director, Numaligarh Refinery Limited

Sh. Phukan congratulated NPC and Govt of Assam for organizing the ESG conclave at Guwahati and said that it was a relevant conference and need of the hour. He said that BRSR has provided a framework on the reporting of a company to ensure seriousness and quantifiable reporting. He also mentioned that oil and gas industry has started working very seriously in their energy consumption and addressing the scope 3 emissions. He also highlighted that refinery sector has to steadily migrate to production of alternate fuels like green hydrogen which are non GHG emitting during the entire lifecycle of their use thereby reducing scope 3 emissions.



Sh Phukan also stressed that social factors are equally important for growth of business hence employee well being, human rights, gender equality are the issues which NRL is critically looking at. He also shared that with the support of Govt of Assam, NRL has taken the initiative to engage females in shift hours as well. Besides that, he also highlighted that quantifiable reporting framework of BRSR has related environment, social and governance factors intricately.

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

At the outset, Sh Nayak expressed his deep appreciation and gratitude to Govt of Assam for partnering with NPC to hold the conclave at Guwahati for the entire north eastern region. He stated that NPC is committed to take up the big mandate set by Honourable PM to become net zero by 2070. He praised the initiatives taken by NRL towards net zero although NRL not a SEBI mandated company. Highlighting ESG as the core strength of NPC, Sh Nayak mentioned that NPC professionals have been working in the area of environment, energy, water conservation since mid 70s. He also highlighted that although NPC is a Govt of India supported organisation, 60% of its client base is from the private sector. He also highlighted the need of strengthening the ecosystem of listed companies including the MSMEs in their value chain.



Sh Nayak mentioned that NPC offers professional, timely and end to end consulting and handholding services to industries, being it MSME, public sector or private sector. He also stated about the wide ranging partnerships that NPC has within the country and outside the country with APO members. He also shared that NPC will be holding a side event as assigned from G20 secretariat on “Productivity

and Green Growth: New Interlocking Paradigms” under Sherpa track in the month of March 2023 at Kumarakom, Kerala. He emphasised on NPC’s committment to support corporate, government and civil society in Environment, Energy and resource Conservation for making ESG as part of life, for future generation and mother earth.

Keynote address by Dr. Ranjit Rath, Chairman and Managing Director, Oil India Limited

Dr Ranjit Rath mentioned that OIL, being major stakeholder in growth trajectory of NER specifically Assam, is committed to achieve better efficiency and performance not only in terms of maximising its profits but also in achieving better energy efficiency in all its operations. He stated that with the net zero commitment the prevalence of fossil fuels will continue for few decades to come and transition from fossil to non fossil fuels will not be sudden but a gradual one owing to the energy demand of the country and the availability of alternate renewable energy sources. He mentioned that ESG is an initiative to identify the business risks of any corporate and accordingly there is a need to enhance downstream derivatives of OIL in a manner that is ESG compliant.



He further shared that during exploration and production, emission of methane gas is an issue of concern hence massive plantation drives are taken up to address the environmental concerns by OIL. He also shared about MoU between OIL and Govt of Assam to create three bamboo nurseries to promote entrepreneurship and self help groups to create bamboo as an economic means of sustenance. He also shared that plant of 2G ethanol is being set up with bamboo as feed stock which may prove to be a game changer. He also shared that project of blending of methanol in diesel is being undertaken for economic benefit and less environmental impact with better engagement with local community as well.

Address by Chief Guest Sh. Syedain Abbasi, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Assam

Sh. Syedain Abbasi said that the idea behind ESG originally, was the evaluation of firms by investors, not just on their commercial performance but also on environment, social and governance impact on their stakeholder and society at large. He also highlighted the gradual the importance attained by the concept. He said that ESG initiative would encourage organizations across the country in general and from NER states in particular to be responsible in doing business in a sustainable manner. He emphasised that the 5 key announcements made by Hon'ble PM in CoP 26 cannot be achieved without participation and involvement of corporate sector. He said that funding being critical for the growth of any business, the companies which are compliant with BRSR mandates and disclosures will attract investors smoothly.



He stressed that ESG is not just about carbon emissions but also about the industrial pollution which needs to be looked at. He cited the example of cotton textile manufacturing industry wherein water pollution is in abundance. He stressed on the need of corporate to be more environmentally and socially responsible to be future ready for the compliances which will be mandated in years to come. He also mentioned that the ESG norms may be simplified and made as quantifiable, robust and easy to understand. He also expressed commitment of Govt of Assam in spreading awareness in industries in the region about ESG issues.

Vote of Thanks By Sh B P Bakshi, President, Assam Productivity Council

Sh B. P. Bakshi proposed the vote of thanks to the chief guest and the esteemed dignitaries on the dais. Briefly highlighting about the genesis of NPC and LPCs, he highlighted on the important pillars of productivity i.e. man, material and machine.



He also highlighted his journey of propagating productivity in Assam. She Bakshi acknowledged and recognised the large gathering of industry professionals across organisations and the corporate. He conveyed his thanks to DG NPC, and all dignitaries and the delegates and further the media for the active presence.

Dr. Rajat Sharma presented memento to the dignitaries on the 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: Dr Rajeev Ranjan IAS (Retd.), Senior Adviser, NPC and Director, IPL Centre for Rural Outreach



Dr Rajeev Ranjan 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 by year 2025, USD 50 trillion is expected to be going through the ESG framework. 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 programme

Shri K.D. Bhardwaj, Group Head (ECA & IS Group), NPC - Assistance to industries to be ESG compliant in a sustainable manner

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 stand out and improve various aspects including addressing compliance issues and developing leadership oriented roadmaps for future.

Sh. Vinod Sharma, Regional Director, North-Eastern Region, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India - ESG and Way Forward for Industry: Policy Perspective

Sh. Sharma reflected on the need for and ways towards rejuvenating the environment and the scope for sustainability when principle of business could be turned into accountability to stakeholders. He added that it's the need of the hour that the corporate are socially and environmentally responsible and complied to the regulations while marching ahead in their growth path. He also elaborated the in house deliberations done at ministry of Corporate Affairs with regulators, corporate and other stakeholders prior to SEBI mandated the BRSR. He further added that the top 1000 listed companies mandated to file BRSR are torch bearers and there is a need for other entities like MSMEs, non listed companies,

public listed companies to be complied with ESG norms, which, they are already striving to the best of their abilities.



He complimented NPC for spreading awareness about ESG and serving the society at large. He said that since law and regulations are evolving in nature, any suggestion or input from the forum will be taken up suitably.

Ms. Surabhi Gupta, General Manager, SEBI

Madam Surabhi Gupta initiated her presentation with key questions, such as, why was it important to submit BRSR and need for BRSR and wished to set the context and developments. She indicated that COP26 commitments of a low carbon economy, use of more renewable, goals towards net zero and addressing development strategies have a bearing on society and business. She indicated that corporate culture can enable translate ESG and address sustainability risks. She indicated that while standard assets are sometimes written off sustainability aspects and risks cannot be, as these have effects on corporates. She emphasized as well that institutional investors look at sustainability risks as material to investment decisions.



She further indicated that in every principle of BRSR several disclosures are sought and several of these are voluntary as well. She gave an example of investors wanting sustainability aspects in value chain to be indicated and that this has been reflected as leadership indicator and is currently voluntary to reflect. She also indicated that BRSR is not sector specific and there is scope for companies to report some aspects as non applicable etc. She said that while industry focus may be on profitability, it was important to have indicators that are present for inputs towards long term achievements. She also said that several indicators are already under purview of assurance needs and that in future mainly 10 primary indicators with sub-indicators (3 each) might be about 30 indicators set, that might be adequate and this could operate on stand-alone basis and/or include value chain partners. She highlighted that investors such as mutual funds will make investments primarily in companies undertaking BRSR reporting. An integrated framework and ESG ratings will help firms to align quality and reliability of reporting which shall be a focus and that SEBI is also into rating and has been taking action especially when wrong reporting is undertaken while citing an example of a sugar factory. She further urged industry to take BRSR seriously and to diligently address the requirements.

Sh. R. S. Manku, Director, The Andrew Yule Group

Shri Manku highlighted that Andrew Yule and Company Limited (AYCL) established in 1863 is a conglomerate with multiple portfolios. He also talked about the genesis of group and its journey to becoming a PSU listed among top 1000 companies with GoI share being 89.25%. He also elaborated on diversified business verticals, board structure, governance policies and initiatives of the company. As part of social responsibility of company, Mr. Manku highlighted the CSR initiatives of company in the area of education, sanitation, skill development, healthcare, women empowerment etc.



He also mentioned that AYCL’s skill development initiatives have touched the lives of over 4000 men and women in the 10 years from FY13 to FY20. He shared that AYCL also worked in aspirational district viz. Dakshin Dinajpur in the year 2018-19 as per GOI directive. He further highlighted the various waste management practices, energy management practices and environment management practices of AYCL under the Environment pillar of ESG framework.

Ms Minakshi Sharma, Assistant Regional Manager, AFPRO Regional Office- Guwahati

Ms. Sharma presented the brief profile of AFPRO, established in 1966. She mentioned that AFPRO works for environmentally sound programs aimed at developing weaker sections of rural communities through the management of natural resources falling within their ambit including land, water and forests; and critical economic activities revolving around them viz agriculture, livestock, fishery and forestry. She also added that AFPRO has been notified by the Government of India, Ministry of Finance as an organization of National Importance. She also deliberated about the trustea Program, an Indian sustainability code and verification system for the tea sector. The Code is working with smallholder tea growers, bought leaf factories, estates –factories.



She also said that the trustea code mandates actions that ensure globally benchmarked sustainability processes that ensure ESG compliance at the supply chain level and caters to SDG goals. She also shared the best practices adopted by AFPRO like Digital Product Traceability used for product traceability and commitment towards capacity building of small tea growers by direct training and e-certification of garden staffs etc as part of their social and environment commitments.

Sh N Patowary, Senior Manager, BVFCL, Namrup

Mr. Patowary gave an overview of Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited (BVFCL) including the manufacturing process. He highlighted the environment management systems of BVFCL including monitoring, measurement and reporting processes adopted along with statutory compliances. He also elaborated on the versatility and efficiency of hydrogen as alternate source of energy and the possible use of green hydrogen as fuel by 2030.



He also shared that BVFCL, as part of its environmental sustenance practices, is producing Neem Coated Urea which reduces environmental pollution of ground water due to leaching of Nitrates and Gaseous Emissions.

Sh. G. L. Pareek, Pareek Entreprises, Tinsukia

Mr. Pareek highlighted the need and importance of ethical business as it takes care of all aspects of ESG in the business context. He also mentioned that if business houses become responsible for business then regulatory bodies can also act as facilitators for growth and expansion of business.



He also highlighted that growing environment and social concerns have forced the businesses to be more sustainable and responsible.

Summing Up and closing remarks – Session Chair, Dr Ranjan summed up the session and said that ESG framework has become equally important for any business to grow as focus is on financial as well as non financial reporting and disclosures. He added that entities with good rating on sustainability factors outperform the other entities and that they are preferred organisations for investments. He added that it has become critical for businesses to comprehend the ESG framework as small organisations may be eventually be covered under the BRSR reporting.



He summed up by saying that technical session highlighted the detailing of BRSR framework which needs thorough understanding for compliance by business houses for which, NPC is the competent body to offer its services.

Dr. Rajat Sharma 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. Rupam Baruah, Regional Head-East & Center South Region, Bureau Veritas (India) Pvt Ltd.



In his opening remarks, Shri Rupam Baruah introduced the session speakers and stated that ESG relevance to corporate has been growing for business houses which aim at expanding their business across the globe. Giving a brief overview of his organization, he highlighted the importance of sustainability assurance and verification.

Address of speakers in order of programmme

Sh Rajiv Tikoo, Sustainability Editor, Outlook Group

He emphasized that ESG related activities have been taken up by businesses in some form or other. He added that PSUs and corporate have been actively pushing the social welfare and environment concerns related agenda through their CSR activities which have contributed to ESG related activities largely over the years. He stated that BRSR is a progressive guideline for non financial disclosures. 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 also added that there is a need for the disclosures to be aligned with global reporting standards for having competitive advantage in business.

Sh. Gunamoni Gogoi, Managing Director, The Assam Co operative Jute Mills Ltd.



Sh Gogoi started his address by highlighting the importance of Jute industry as its environment friendly and labour intensive providing employment opportunities. He also shared that that environment related regulations and compliance are followed with at the Assam Co operative Jute Mills Ltd. He also highlighted that the importance of industrialization for socio economic development without causing a threat to environment. He reinforced the commitment of Assam Co operative Jute Mills Ltd to plant 1000 trees every year and contribution of jute industry and its ancillary groups towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat. He also emphasized on the potential of Jute industry and setting up of more jute mills in Assam as raw jute of Assam is also supplied to various jute industries located in other states of country. He also highlighted the various social welfare activities undertaken by The Assam Co operative Jute Mills Ltd

Sh. Vinay Raj, DGM , Emami Ltd.

Sh Raj presented the profile of Emami Limited elaborating about its vision, mission, spread, products and various initiatives taken for carbon footprint reduction and adoption to green energy in the form of solar rooftop plants and Briquette Boiler. He also reflected on energy conservation and waste water treatment measures adopted at Emami. He further added that plantation drive has been taken up at Emami in big way and all the Entire factories have almost 40 percent of the premises as green area.



He reiterated commitment of Emami for the safety, welfare, security, health of workers/Labours. He further elaborated about the employee well being and CSR initiatives taken up at Emami. He also shared about the national and international recognitions of emami.

Smt. Nandini Roy, Rashtriya Mantri, Sahakar Bharati

Ms. Roy gave a brief background of Sahakar Bharati, established in 1979, as a pan India organization to works for corporate movement in the country spread over 700 districts. She also reflected on the vision of Sahakar Bharati. She mentioned that potential of cooperative sector can contribute to address some of the most pressing areas of concern like food security, environment, poverty reduction etc. She reflected that ESG impact is now mainstream concern; cooperative too has to upgrade and keep pace with the developments to attract investors and also for the consumers to view them as ethical, accountable and responsible.



She also mentioned about the MoU of Sahakar Bharati with National mission on Green Ganga under Ministry of water resources to promote livelihood generation through cooperative system and conserve the ecology in banks of Ganga in 5 states.

Sh. Anil Wilson, Director, Wilson Agro International, Assam

Sh Wilson started his address giving a brief overview about his company having specialization in manufacturing and processing of indigenous north eastern spices. He added that the company is also into export of spices to Europe, South Africa, and Australia. He elaborated on the initiatives taken by his company for manufacturing under ESG framework keeping in view that fact that BRSR may be eventually applicable to non listed companies as well.



He shared that transformation from use of electric driers to renewable form of energy as solar driers and solar green houses in his company which has led to reduced GHG emissions thereby addressing the environment concerns. He also mentioned that Wilson Agro International has taken the initiative of contractual farming and currently over 6000 farmers have been associated in this initiative directly thereby assuring right price to farmers.

Summing Up and closing remarks - Sh Baruah summed up the session and in his closing remarks he said implementation of ESG in true perspective will definitely lead to a sustainable and profitable business.



Sh K D bhardwaj 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.

Session Chair - Sh. Jishnu Barua, IAS Retd., Chairman, Assam Power Distribution Co. Ltd

Address by Sh. O. Sarankumar Singh, IAS, Commissioner of Industries and Commerce, Assam

Sh Sarankumar in his address mentioned that ESG is a framework designed to be embedded into an organization's strategy that considers the needs and ways to generate value for all stakeholders. He briefly reflected on the evolution of ESG concept in India. He elaborated on the role of Government in terms of policies, labour laws, environment laws and compliances in relation to sustainable and responsible business practices. He also highlighted Assam Electric Vehicle Policy – 2021 and Assam Ethanol Production Promotion Policy 2021 which primarily seek to introduce alternative energy for replacing fossil fuel and reducing carbon footprint. He added that Public Sector Undertakings in Assam are also taking steps to ensure ESG compliance with initiatives like setting up of a dedicated Environmental Management System to monitor and control environmental pollution, and the implementation of Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives to promote social development.



He also shared that the government has taken several steps to ensure ESG compliance- creating effluent treatment plants, plug and play infrastructure for various categories of industries in order to abide to environment compliance and gradual adoption of the Labour Codes will further strengthen the ESG compliance. He said that Government of Assam is contemplating separate ESG Cell for sensitization of MSMEs of the state to assist them in adopting ESG compliances.

Address by Dr. Sonali Ghosh, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests, Research Education & Working Plan, Assam

Dr. Ghosh elaborated on “tree outside forest cover” and its significance and that it contains the potential and way forward for the nation for developing a wood based economy and wood based industries. She also highlighted the significance of Agroforestry and elaborated on various measures and initiatives taken by Govt of Assam for Agroforestry.



She also touched upon the traditional and potential models of Agroforestry in Assam along with the challenges faced in this area. She also emphasized on Agroforestry as a sustainable income-generating activity.

Address By Sh. Meghnad Nath, Additional Chief Env. Engineer, Assam Pollution Control Board

Sh Nath emphasised on the role of PCBA as a regulatory authority ensuring sustainable development. He said that ESG is a framework that helps stakeholders understand how an organization is managing various risks and opportunities related to environment, social and governance issues. He also highlighted on the roles and responsibilities of PCBA as a regulator. He reiterated India's committed to reduce emission intensity of its GDP by 45% by 2030 & net zero emission by 2070. He also discussed on various measures to reach carbon neutrality and address environment concerns. He stated that by developing ecologically friendly products, production costs could be minimized and by recycling used goods, businesses could make profits.



He emphasized that market risk is a major risk as business has to follow changing customer demands in order to survive. He said that new trend is that the customers are not only paying attention to buy eco-friendly products but they are also paying attention to the fact that the firms also have good reputation in environment related issues. 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.

Keynote address Sh. Jishnu Barua, IAS Retd., Chairman, Assam Power Distribution Co. Ltd.

Reiterating India's ambitious commitments in CoP 26, Sh Baruah described sustainable development as an evolving process by which needs to current generation are met keeping into account the requirements of generations to come. He emphasized on the need to move away from a regime of over aggressions to voluntarily pursuing and complying with our responsibilities. He said that business culture needs to be conscious about the responsibilities towards environment and at the same time being sustainable in their approach. He stressed on the need for a good, transparent and clean governance system. He also spoke about the rich forest cover of Assam in past and also mentioned that the land of Assam has the potential to generate the forest cover by itself. He elaborated on significance of ESG

concept and said that Environment , social and governance parameters are crucial for evaluating the performance of a company from investor's and consumer's point of view.



He also reflected that ESG investing goes synonymously with socially responsible investing and the concept is driven by the idea of environmentally friendly and employee friendly practices. He also said that concept of ESG entails a holistic approach so that companies remain responsible to its investors while complying with various environment and social norms. He also emphasized on the importance of energy efficiency measures which need to be adopted in Assam. He briefly mentioned about the initiatives taken by Govt of Assam to address environment concerns and for energy conservation.

Dr. Rajat Sharma proposed the vote of thanks for the conclave.



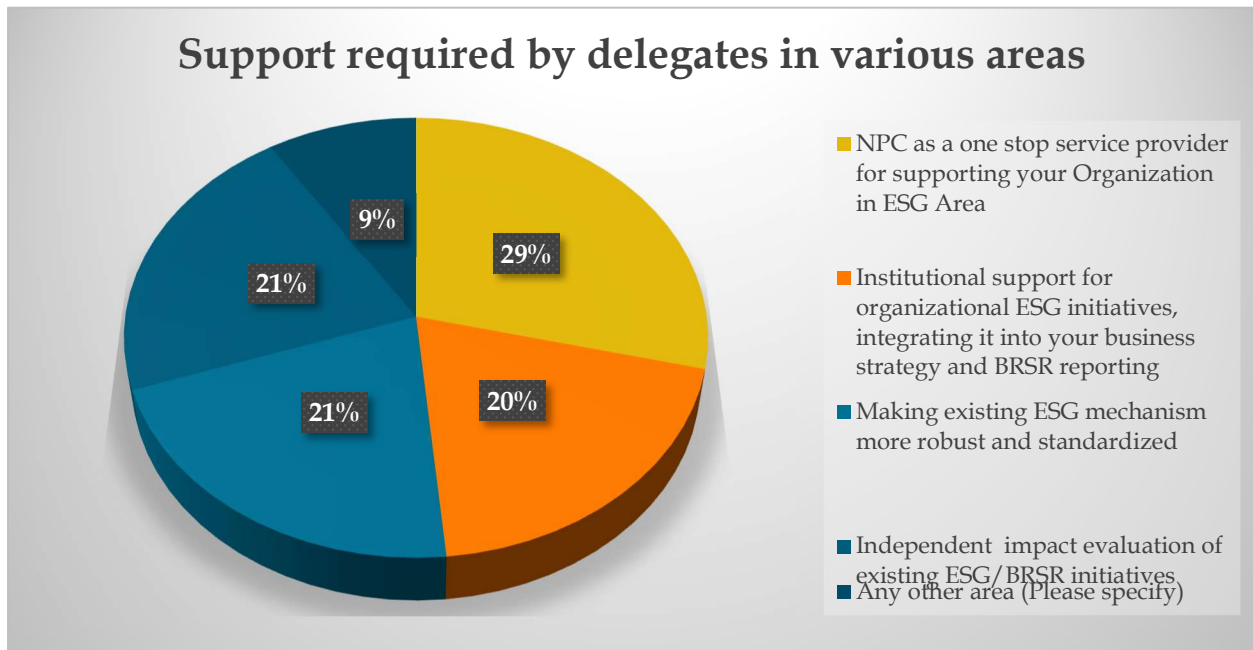
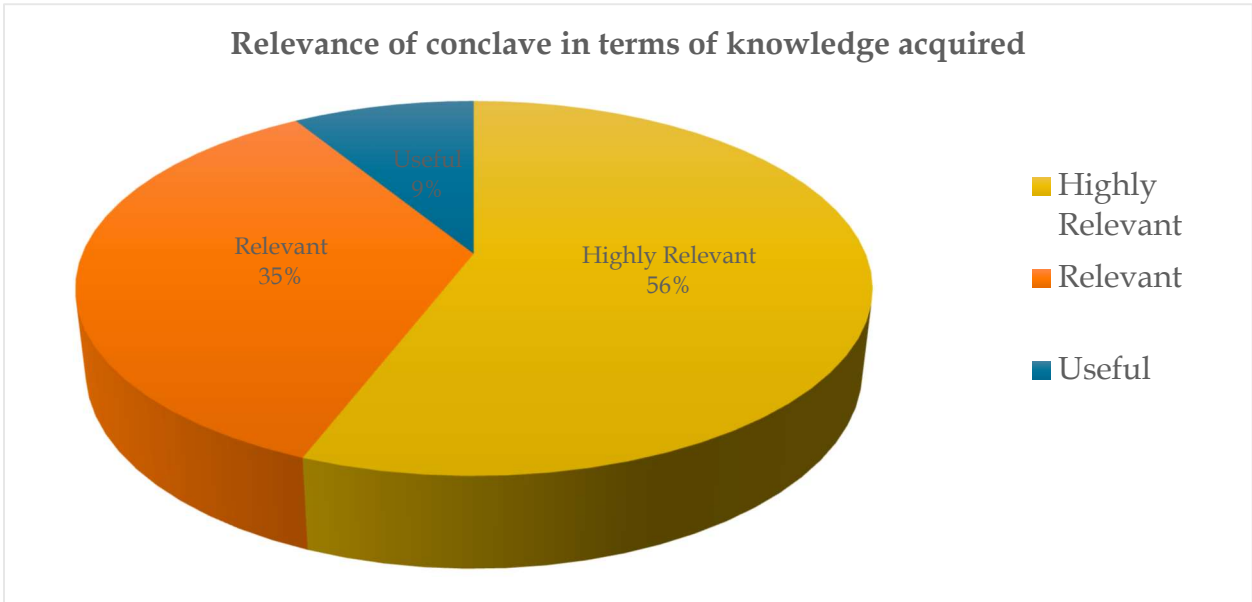
Sh Ashutosh Makup, Deputy Director, NPC presented memento to the dignitaries of the closing session.



GROUP PHOTO OF CLOSING SESSION

11. Feedback from delegates

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



12. Key Takeaways as indicated by the delegates

Environmental: -

- The significance of BRSR & the role of NPC in the movement
- Environment is the paramount important for human sustainability. Resource needs to be used most efficient ways to sustain.
- Using energy, resource efficiently, managing waste responsibility
- Less carbon emission to the environment
- Waste management, EPR /3R, Reducing water user
- To reduce GHG emission
- Efficiency in energy management its be increased
- Resolve usage, energy and water
- Energy saving
- ESG is the future growth Prosperity for the industry
- To abide by ASDG goals and the Panchamrit strategy of Hon'ble PM in COP 26
- Sustainable development adhering to environmental regulations
- Frame policies for a more sustainable approach rather than just for the sake
- Clean Fuel is safe to conservatives of the environment
- To be responsible to environment plant tree and stop cutting tree
- Environment protection must be one of the priority for all
- India targeting to be net zero by 2020
- Conservation and effective utilization of natural resources
- Best EHS practices
- Corporate / Industrial policy , Wastages , Natural resources
- Efficient energy use waste management renewable energy
- Green hydrogen less sulfuric diesel and lead in petrol in gas oil line , 5 objective by Govt. (Carbon intensity ,Net zero , by 2030 reducing carbon emission less for oil fuels use renewable sources energy
- Reduction of GHG emission
- Reduce CO2 emission
- Waste material / AFR utilization

-
- Energy Conservation environment management resource efficiency, waste management, carbon emission
 - More focus on Environment to fulfill earth and COI Requirement
 - Using energy resource efficiently use of renewable energies
 - Environmental Management and Audit waste minimize and resource

Social

- The corporate shall serve its society and gives back to the society while working for profitability.
- Labour standards , Human rights, work for harmony
- Social sustainability labor standard safe healthy atmosphere
- Diversity , safe work environment , good relation with all stock holder
- Occupational health and safety should be priority
- CSR activates to be more generously done
- Best practices adopted in terms of resources efficiently and socio – eco measures
- Gender Equability
- To improve all social parameter and other social aspects
- Social Harmony
- Intervene in the social sector to comply to the requirement by the BRSR
- Corporation and awareness with in industries
- To be responsible to the world for our future generation
- CSR activities can make a good impact on society
- Acquisition at land for tree plantation
- Development of skills in nearby areas / Villages to make people self dependent
- Relationships with internal and external maker, Human Rights
- Safe working conditions CSR importance Diversity and inclusion
- Human Right , Human Capital , benefits to workers
- To minimize water conservation , awareness on safety
- Community development management
- Improving the lifestyle temperature the community
- Safe and healthy working environment for company and society
- Safe and healthy working and for employees

Governance

- Corporate to fulfill the governance requirement
- CSR strategy, corporate risk management
- Implementation of the policies in safety and ethics
- CRS and Compliance, whistle blower , Corporate risk management
- Management commitment is key requirement
- Transparency in business practices ,anti-corruption policies grievance redressal mechanism
- Compliance under BRSR frame work of SEBI
- Linkages to make more robust
- Rule to be frame for clean fuel uses
- Comply with the regulation.
- All regulatory, legal requirement is user essential
- Come to know about BRSR
- SEBI mandates for top 1000 listed companies.
- Strict compliance of all norms
- Ensure all best methods to way top or growth
- Risk management policy CSR strategy, human rights
- Decision making roles and responsibility distribution meet expectation from stakeholders
- To follow rules and regulation as per guideline
- Socio – economic and CSR policy, compliance corporate risk management
- Fulfilling the GOI compliance without any deficiency
- CSR Strategy compiler
- Corporate risk Management protecting the stock holder for long term goal

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 90 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

PROGRAMME

30 January 2023, Monday

1000-1130 hrs: Inaugural Session

1000- 1005 hrs	Lighting of the lamp	
1005-1010 hrs	Welcome	Sh. K. D. Bhardwaj Group Head Env. & Climate Action NPC, Delhi
1010-1050 hrs	Special Address	Sh. Sanjay Pratap Singh Vice-Chancellor The Assam Royal Global University, Guwahati Sh. M.P. Singh, IAS Managing Director Assam Industrial Development Corporation Limited Sh. Bhaskar Jyoti Phukan Managing Director Numaligarh Refinery Limited Sh. Sundeep Kumar Nayak, IAS Director General National Productivity Council
1050-1105 hrs	Keynote Address	Dr. Ranjit Rath Chairman and Managing Director Oil India Limited
1105-1115 hrs	Address by Chief Guest	Sh. Syedain Abbasi, IAS Additional Chief Secretary Government of Assam
1115-1118 hrs	Vote of Thanks	Sh. B.P. Bakshi President Assam Productivity Council
1118-1130 hrs	Break	

1130-1300 hrs: Technical Session - 1

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 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	Dr. Rajeev Ranjan, IAS Retd. Director, ICRO NPC, Delhi
1135-1145 hrs	Assistance to Industries to be ESG compliant in a sustainable manner	Sh. K.D. Bhardwaj Group Head Env. & Climate Action NPC, Delhi
1145-1200 hrs	ESG and Way Forward for Industry: Policy Perspective	Sh. Vinod Sharma Regional Director, North-Eastern Region Ministry of Corporate Affairs Government of India
1200-1215 hrs	The BRSR mandate and its compliance	Ms Surabhi Gupta General Manager SEBI
1215- 1230 hrs	Best Practices: Industry Perspective	Sh. R. S. Manku Director, The Andrew Yule Group Ms Minakshi Sharma Assistant Regional Manager AFPRO Regional Office- Guwahati Sh. N. Patowary Senior Manager(Chemical) BVFCL,Namrup Sh. G. L. Pareek Pareek Entreprises, Tinsukia All India Manufacturers Organization
1230-1250	Interaction	
1250-1300 hrs	Closing Remarks by Session Chair	
1300-1400 hrs	Break for Lunch	

1400-1530 hrs: Technical Session – 2 - 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
Chair

Sh. Rupam Baruah
Regional Head-East &
Center South Region
Bureau Veritas (India) Pvt
Ltd.

Session Moderator

Mr. Rajiv Tikoo
Sustainability Editor,
Outlook Business

1410-1500
hrs

Signature Statements by
Panelists

Sh. Gunamoni Gogoi
Managing Director
The Assam Co operative
Jute Mills Ltd.

Sh. Vinay Raj
DGM
Emami Ltd.

Smt. Nandini Roy
Rashtriya Mantri
Sahakar Bharati

Sh. Anil Wilson
Director,
Wilson Agro International,
Assam

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.

1530-1535
hrs

Opening Remarks

**Sh. O. Sarankumar
Singh, IAS**
Commissioner of
Industries and
Commerce, Assam

1535 –
1605 hrs

Special Address

Ms. Sonali Ghosh, IFS
Chief Conservator of
Forests ,Research
Education & Working
Plan, Assam

Sh. Meghnad Nath
Additional Chief Env.
Engineer
Assam Pollution Control
Board

1605-1625
hrs

Keynote Address

**Sh. Jishnu Barua, IAS
Retd.**
Chairman
Assam Power Distribution
Co. Ltd.

1625-1630
hrs

Vote of Thanks

Dr. Rajat Sharma
Regional Director
National Productivity
Council

Profile of Speakers in the order of programme

1. **Dr. Sanjay Pratap Singh, founder Vice Chancellor**, The Assam Royal Global University, Guwahati

Prof. Singh has been heading Institutions of repute since the last 20 years. Presently, Prof. Singh is member of the Executive Council of Dibrugarh University as honourable governors' nominee, He was awarded with the "Ambassador of Resilience" award by Spark of Lights Education, Australia and he has also been appointed as a Global Vice President (GVP) of Sun Moon University, South Korea.

2. **Sh. Manvendra Pratap Singh, IAS** , Managing Director, Assam Industrial Development Corporation Limited (AIDC), Assam Small Industries Development Corporation Limited (ASIDC).

Shri Singh is an Indian Administrative Service Officer of Assam-Meghalaya Cadre of 2012 Batch. He is also Secretary to Government of Assam, Act East Policy Affairs Department. He has served the Government of Assam in various capacities like Managing Director, Guwahati Smart City Limited and as Joint Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department.

3. **Sh. Bhaskar Jyoti Phukan**, Managing Director, Numaligarh Refinery Limited

Sh Phukan is a Mechanical Engineer with more than 30 years of experience in the Oil Industry including Logistics, Marketing, Technical Services and Operations. He has been instrumental in strategizing various upcoming projects in the area of Oil Refining, Crude Oil Transportation, Natural Gas Transportation, Investment in marginal fields etc.. He was one of the key persons in conceptualizing and implementing the first-in-the-world 2G ethanol bio-refinery at Numaligarh which will convert bamboo to ethanol and other chemicals.

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

Shri Sundeep Kumar Nayak is an IAS Officer of 1988 Batch of Jammu & Kashmir Cadre and his current rank is of Secretary to Gol. 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.

5. Dr. Ranjit Rath, Chairman & Managing Director, Oil India Limited

Dr. Ranjit Rath is an alumnus of IIT Bombay & IIT Kharagpur and is recipient of the prestigious National Geosciences Award from the Hon`ble President of India. Dr. Rath has a rich portfolio of diverse roles spanning from strategy formulation, business development and upstream asset management to application of geosciences & exploration geology. Dr. Rath, has served as the Chairman cum Managing Director of Mineral Exploration & Consultancy Limited, Chief Executive Officer of Khanij Bidesh India Limited, Managing Director of Bharat Gold Mines Limited and has also held additional charge of the Director General of Geological Survey of India.

6. Sh. Syedain Abbasi, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Govt of Assam.

Shri Abbasi is an IAS officer of 1990 batch in Assam-Meghalaya cadre. He has served in various capacities at central and state level. He has also served as Executive Director in Food Corporation of India, Jt Secretary, M/ o Steel and Managing Director, Power Generation Corporation Ltd, Assam.

7. Sh. B. P. Bakshi, President, Assam Productivity Council.

Sh. Bakshi has served with various Boards of Assam Govt. undertakings and is Ex-Managing Director of M/s. Steelsworth Ltd, a pioneering Tea Manufacturing Engineering Company with global presence. He has also served on the Executive Council and Court of Dibrugarh University. She Bakshi is also the Founder President of All India Federation of LPCs' (AIFLPCs'). He holds Post Graduate Diploma in HR from International Institute, Netherlands.

8. Dr. Rajeev Ranjan, Former IAS, & Director, IPL Centre for Rural Outreach at NPC, Delhi.

Dr. Ranjan, from the 1985 batch of the Indian Administrative Service has held various positions in his over 36-year-long service in Government both in central and state level. Dr. Rajeev Ranjan holds an MBA from IIM-Ahmedabad; PG degree in public policy from the London School of Economics, and a Ph.D. in management sciences (intellectual property rights) from Anna University. He has served as Principal Secretary (Industries) and Chairman of the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board; Principal Secretary of departments like Energy, Revenue & Commercial Taxes and Additional Chief Secretary (Highways & Ports). He is the Co-Chairman of the Sixth Common Review Mission- Ministry of Rural Department, GOI.

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. Vinod Sharma, Regional Director, North Eastern Region, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Govt of India

Sh. Vinod Sharma, Regional Director, North Eastern Region, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Govt of India has served as Registrar of Companies, Maharashtra and Jt Director in serious fraud investigation office, Mumbai.

11. Ms. Surabhi Gupta, General Manager, SEBI

Ms. Surabhi Gupta addresses matters related to ESG and corporate Governance in SEBI. Over the last 5 years she has worked extensively towards strengthening the regulatory framework for CRAs, including their supervision, inspection and enforcement. She has represented SEBI in various parliamentary committees with regard to matters pertaining to CRAs.

12. Sh R. S. Manku, Director, Andrew Yule Group.

Sh Manku has over 34 years of experience in MNC's /Corporates and PSU's under Ministries of Health, Chemical and Fertilizer, Commerce and Railways in the functions of production , maintenance , supply chain management , Projects and Procurement. He was also designated as" Certified Purchasing Manager " from International Supply Management Institute. USA. He will share about some best practices in industry perspective

13. Ms. Minakshi Sharma, Asst Regional Manager, AFPRO Regional office, Guwahati

Ms. Sharma is an Agri Entrepreneur in Tea sector in North-East India, an Agriculture graduate from AAU and Post Graduate in Food Technology from CFTRI Mysore. Her experience include leading Quality Assurance in Pepsi - NE and QA and Operation Excellence Team in Hindustan Coca-Cola

Beverages Pvt. Ltd. in the Eastern Zone as well as Lead Auditor in BIS and DNVGL. She is now working as Regional in-charge of Action for Food Production, a Non-Governmental Organization, working in the Rural Development, Climate change as well as Livelihood, Safety and Environment aspects of tea industry, small tea growers and its workers.

14. **Sh N Patowary**, Sr Manager, Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer and Chemical Limited.

He specializes in technologies of Ammonia production and Urea production and has received various awards and recognitions from management of BVFCL.

15. **Sh. Rupam Baruah, Regional Head – East & Central** South Region, Bureau Veritas India Pvt Ltd.

Mr. Baruah has more than 25 years of experience in consultancy and training in process management, management systems, and sustainability across various industries in India and abroad. He is Technical Reviewer for Sustainability Report (Verification & Assurance) for South Asia for Bureau Veritas and is also Member in GRI stakeholder consultation group.

16. **Sh Gunamoni Gogoi** Managing Director, Assam Cooperative Jute Mills Limited

He is Master in Sociology, Master in Personnel Management, Diploma in Labour law & labour welfare. With total experience over 20 years, he is holding additional post of Chairman in two I.T.I. in Nagaon and Tezpur

17. **Sh. Vinay Raj**, Deputy General Manager, Emami Limited.

In his more than 30 years of work experience he has served with big corporate in factory operations, engg. and maintenance, expansion projects etc.

18. **Ms. Nandini Roy**, Rashtriya Mantri, Sahakar Bharati.

She has served for West Bengal State Finance Department. She also started an NGO in 2003 and is working and working as its Secretary since 2005. She is also active in the field of women and child development, Environmental awareness and advocacy. She is Pramukh of West Bengal State Committee. She is a graduate from Calcutta University.

19. **Sh. Anil Wilson**, from Wilson Agro International, Assam.

Sh Wilson in the capacity of Director is actively engaged with the group in cultivation, processing and export of Health Food Dietary Supplement, spices / Spice Oleoresins / Spice Oils, Botanicals (Herbs etc.), Dehydrated Vegetables / Fruits, Herbal Health Food Ingredients / Supplements, Organic Spices etc from North East Region

20. **Sh Oinam Sarankumar Singh, IAS**, Commissioner of Industries & Commerce, Govt of Assam.

He is an IAS officer of 2012 batch of Assam Meghalaya cadre. He has also served as Dy Commissioner, Personnel Department, Govt of Assam Assam.

21. **Dr. Sonali Ghosh**, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests, Research Education and Working Plan, Assam.

Dr Sonali Ghosh is an Indian Forest Service officer with more than 25 years of experience in the field of wildlife and natural heritage management in India. She is also serving as CEO Assam Agro forestry Development Board.. She has a dual master's degree in wildlife science and forestry and a PhD in Geography from the United Kingdom. A co-editor of 2 books; Cultural Landscapes of Asia and Wild Treasures- reflections on natural heritage in Asia, an Anthology; her current research interests include Ex-situ conservation, Protected Area Governance, and exploring nature-culture linkages for heritage conservation

22. **Shri Meghnad Nath**, Additional Chief Environment Engineer, Assam Pollution Control.

Having extensive and diverse experience of more than 25 years in the field of environment concerns, pollution control and developmental activities.

23. **Sh. Jishnu Barua**, Retd IAS & Chairman, Assam Power distribution Company Limited.

Shri Jishnu Barua joined the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) in 1988 in Assam-Meghalaya cadre. In his service career in the State Government of Assam, Shri Barua had served in several important capacities such Chief Secreatry and Addl chief secretary to Govt of Assam. He has also served as Managing Director, Assam Industrial Development Corporation (AIDC) . He has also served as Director in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, Joint Secretary, Department of Personnel & Training, Government of India.

Profile of Conclave Executing Team

1. **Dr Rajat Sharma, Director, NPC, RD Guwahati.**

Dr Sharma has received his Doctorate in Agricultural Economics From CCS HAU, Hisar. He has a rich exposure and professional expertise with over 15 years of hands-on experience handling, Consultancy, Research, Administration & Training assignments/projects. He has managed multiple consultancy and training projects simultaneously involving multi-disciplinary project teams with focus on critical success factors viz. Time, Quality & Cost (TQC), the aspiration being to work and achieve excellence in the thrust areas of Consultancy, Socio- Economic Research and Planning by utilizing his Learnings, Skills and Knowledge, while being flexible to adapt to situations.

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

Ms. Kritika has been working with NPC over last 13 years. 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. Other major areas of competence include 5S , Lean Manufacturing Implementation, Manpower Optimization, Impact Assessment etc. She holds Bachelor's Degree in engineering and Post graduate certificate in Industrial Engineering.

3. **Mr. Ashutosh Makup, Deputy Director, NPC, HQ**

Mr. Makup is currently working as Deputy Director in the Council since 2008. 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. Prior to

joining NPC, he was with IDBI Bank & ICICI Bank. He holds Bachelors Degree of Engineering and Law.

4. **Mr. Manoj Verma, Deputy Director, NPC, RD Guwahati.**

A Bachelor of Technology graduate in Agriculture Engineering with Post-Graduate qualification in Industrial Engineering. Currently he is working with the National Productivity Council as Deputy Director and carries about 16 years of experience in the field of Management Consultancy, Research, and Management of Training. During these years, he has experience of working closely with various Govt. departments, PSUs, as well as Private organisations in the North Eastern region of India.

5. **Mr. Shailesh Kumar Vimal, Assistant Director, ECA Group, NPC, HQ**

Mr Vimal is a Mechanical Engineer with post graduation in Environment Management and is serving as Assistant Director at NPC headquarters, New Delhi. He has vast experience in coordinating and executing several capacity building programs and workshop across India in the areas of Environment and energy.

6. **Mr. Manoj Kumar Lilhare, Assistant Director, NPC, RD Guwahati.**

Mr Lilhare has done graduation in Mechanical Engineering and PG Certificate in Environment Management. He has 12 years of experience in the field of Environment Management, consultancy services of Energy audit, Environment Audit, Water audit, Manpower study, Evaluation study, training programme etc.

7. **Ms. Mehandi Mishra, Mentor, ICRO.**

Ms Mishra holds master's degree PGDM- Communication. She has worked in Pharma Industry and as a senior consultant in Consultancy firm on part time basis. She also worked as coordinator in NGO.

List of organizations participated in conclave

S.No	Organisation	S.No	Organization
1	Eveready Industries India Ltd	16	Meghalaya Cements Limited
2	Assam SPCB	17	Indian Chamber of Commerce
3	The Assam Royal Global University	18	Prabhu Agarwal Construction Pvt Ltd
4	Laghu Udyog Bharati NE Chapter	19	ABM Agri Industry & Research Pvt. Ltd
5	BVFCL	20	Trinity Fructa Private Limited
6	Sun Pharma	21	Emami Ltd
7	Gattani Industries	22	Amalgamated Plantations
8	ASSOCHAM	23	ABM Agri Industry & Research Pvt. Ltd.
9	Versha Technotrade Pvt. Ltd.	24	Pareek Enterprises
10	Patanjali Ayurved Ltd	25	Ajanta Pharma Limited
11	Tata consumer products limited	26	Wilson Agro International
12	Jyothy Labs Limited	27	Assam Petro-Chemicals Limited
13	Pure And Cure Healthcare Pvt. Ltd.	28	Birmiwal & Associates
14	Mavco Limited	29	SRDN
15	Genaraid Technology Private Limited	30	Pratidin Time
31	M A W Industries	46	PCBA
32	Ajanta Pharma Ltd	47	Seeay.LIJB
33	Genus Power infra Ltd.	48	MDW industry
34	International Management Institute Kolkata	49	NRL
35	Mamta Binani and Associates	50	APGCL
36	M/s Brahmaputra Biochem Pvt Ltd	51	Control Print Ltd.
37	Sunandaram Foods Pvt. Ltd. [A Unit of SRD Group]	52	Prathan Khabar
38	M A W INDUSTRIES	53	AIMO
39	Assam Petro-Chemicals Limited	54	Assam Gas Company
40	Brahmaputra Biochem Pvt Ltd	55	AIDC
41	Shri Bajrang Ayurved Bhawan	56	Oil India Ltd.
42	ITC Limited	57	TORCEM
43	APGLL	58	Amrit Cement Ltd
44	FICCI	59	NB News
45	Tata Consumer Products Ltd	60	NK TV

Media Coverage

PRE EVENT



NPC's Conference Focuses On Easing ESG

Transformation

BY [NAINA GAUTAM](#) JANUARY 29, 2023

National Productivity Council's 'Conclave on ESG for Industry Transformation in NER States - Environmental Social Governance (ESG) for Aatmanirbhar Bharat' opens in Guwahati on January 30

NPC has also come up with the framework called Saptapadi (Seven Steps), which is an end- to -end

ESG

The upcoming Environmental, Social and Governance ([ESG](#)) conference by the National Productivity Council (NPC) in Guwahati is attracting participants and speakers not only from the North-Eastern Region (NER), but from other parts of the country.

NPC, an autonomous entity under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, is organising the 'Conclave on ESG for Industry Transformation in NER States - Environmental Social Governance (ESG) for Aatmanirbhar Bharat' in partnership with the Government of Assam at Assam Administrative Staff College, Guwahati, on January 30.

Sundeeep Kumar Nayak, Director General, NPC, elaborates, "NPC has taken the initiative to organise a series of conferences on the subject of ESG. These conferences aim at industry transformation in the context of Aatmanirbhar Bharat."

NPC holds such conferences and workshops regularly to increase awareness on ESG. The workshops delve into various aspects of ESG and how it can be embedded in the operations of Public Sector Units (PSUs) or private sector companies. So far, NPC has conducted workshops in Delhi, Chennai and Mumbai.

Dr. Rajeev Ranjan, Director, ICRO, NPC, Delhi says, "The Indian corporate sector, both public and private, are increasingly getting interested in the ESG Framework. The companies/ corporations from the public and the private sector are getting involved in business responsibility and sustainability declarations as the ESG framework is getting traction, and transparency requirements are gaining ground. However, given the complexity of the different and vast numbers of parameters involved in the ESG framework, which need further standardising and harmonising, this is a challenging task. That is why more awareness building and training are needed."

NPC has also come up with the framework called Saptapadi (Seven Steps), which is an end- to -end ESG programme. It consists of seven steps to be embraced by units to pursue their ESG journey. The steps include building the base, curating the human and technological aspects and formulating ESG framework, working on the deficiencies and strengths, developing ESG plan, implementation of ESG, reviewing and monitoring of policy and addressing scope of refinement and subsequent actions.

Sonali Ghosh, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests, Research and Working Plan, Assam, says, "Understanding the ESG drivers to plan the framework and implementation early on will help support the above objectives. ESG has become even more relevant post India's Mission LiFE and net zero emission targets . Similarly the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) goal to achieve 30x 30 target also needs integration of ESG norms in all walks of life."

During the technical session, attention will be drawn to the various frameworks like Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB), the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and the Task Force on Climate Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) that have populated the ESG landscape. ESG investing, ESG metrics, ESG policy and reporting certification will be other areas under focus.

Another session will enable corporate leaders, financial institutions and investors to share their learnings on implementing ESG, the challenges faced and the strategies employed to deal with the

problems. The closing session will dive deep into implementation, intention and impact of ESG on functioning of companies in times to come.

Some of the other eminent speakers at the Guwahati workshop include Anil Wilson, Wilson Agro, Assam; B.P. Bakshi, President, Assam Productivity Council; Jishnu Barua, Retired Chairman, Assam Power Distribution Co Limited; Madhuparna Bhowmick, Director, Indian Chamber of Commerce; Mahabir Prasad Agarwal, President, All India Manufacturers Organisation; Nandini Roy, Rashtriya Mantri, Sahakar Bharati; R. S. Manku, Director, The Andrew Yule Group; Rajat Sharma Regional Head, National Productivity Council. Ranjit Rath, Chairman and Managing Director, Oil India Limited; Ravi S. Prasad, Additional Chief Secretary, Environment & Forest, Government of Assam; Surabhi Gupta, General Manager, SEBI; Vinay Raj, DGM, Emami Limited; and Vinod Sharma, Regional Director, North-Eastern Region, Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

After this conference, the next upcoming ESG conference by NPC is in Dehradun. It is an indicator of the fact that such conferences are serving a useful purpose.

POST EVENT





Outlook Planet

NPC's Conclave Gives A Push To ESG Journey In North Eastern States

BY [NAINA GAUTAM](#) JANUARY 31, 2023

Senior representatives from across the industry, government, civil society and academia from NER states come together to share experiences and learnings

Given that creating awareness on leveraging Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) advantages for industry transformation in NER states was its important objective, the just concluded conclave in Guwahati organised by the National Productivity Council ([NPC](#)) was a success.

Talking about NPC's work in the realm of environment, energy, water conservation, Sundeep Kumar Nayak, Director General, NPC, said, "ESG is not our destination, but a part of our commitment to mother earth."

NPC is an autonomous entity under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The 'Conclave on ESG for Industry Transformation in NER States - Environmental Social Governance (ESG) for Aatmanirbhar Bharat' was organised in partnership with the Government of Assam on January 30.

In the inaugural session, Syedain Abbasi, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Assam, said that the ESG initiative would encourage organisations across the country in general and from NER states in particular to be responsible in doing business in a sustainable manner. He also highlighted the commitment of the Government of Assam in taking up various initiatives on sustainability. Earlier, Sanjay Pratap Singh, Vice- Chancellor, Assam Royal Global University drew attention on how sustainability as a business strategy can be a magnet for garnering profits.

Giving the industry perspective, Dr. Ranjit Rath, Chairman and Managing Director, Oil India Limited (OIL), said that ESG has an important role in this era particularly for businesses focusing on net zero commitments. He discussed the steps undertaken by OIL and Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) in the realm of environmental sustainability, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and governance.

Rath also referred to what Bhaskar Jyoti Phukan, Managing Director, NRL, said before him. Phukan said embracing renewable energy and transfer of technology are the ways for achieving net zero and

sustainability objectives. Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) guidelines also hold importance as well.

Giving the Assam state perspective, M. P. Singh, Managing Director, Assam Industrial Development Corporation Limited, said that the government of Assam is serious in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in accordance with the Assam 2030 Initiative. The SDGs are embedded in the policies right from the formulation stage. He also drew attention towards the fact that benefits of the implementation of BRSR are not limited to corporates only, but also extend to MSMEs.

B.P. Bakshi, Chairman, Assam Productivity Council, added, “Senior management of PSU and private sectors may be aware of ESG, but it has to percolate below to make it a way of life. Such conclaves will definitely promote ESG awareness.”

The following two technical sessions were interesting as speakers shared their experiences. The focus of the first session was on how companies can achieve competitive advantage through guided sustainability initiatives. NPC offered to be a partner of choice in navigating the world of ESG frameworks and standards that have resulted in numerous metrics in the ecosystem, including those of Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB), the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), and the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD).

Dr. Rajeev Ranjan, Director, ICRO, NPC, Delhi said, “As the regulatory requirements under ESG in the more evolved form of CSR are taking root, the companies need to integrate the ESG framework in their decision-making process so as to contribute better to triple bottomline – people, profits as well as the planet.’ He added, “This requires understanding the importance of sustainability and transparency as being central to their core beliefs and long-term growth of the company and proper alignment with the larger ecosystems of stakeholders. In this context, more awareness and application of the ESG framework should form integral part of the growth plans of the company.”

The second technical session focused on how industries can reframe their ESG initiatives as a competitive advantage to deliver value and draws investment. 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

While talking in the closing session on Integrating ESG into Business, Sonali Ghosh, Chief Conservator of Forests, Research and Working Plan, Assam, said, “ESG has become even more

relevant post India's reiteration on Mission LiFE and the target of net zero emissions by 2070.” Going further and referring to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD, she added, “Similarly, the CBD goal to achieve 30x 30 target also needs integration of ESG norms in all walks of life.”

More than 100 senior professionals from across the industry, government, civil society and academia from NER states took part in the day-long conclave. These included officials from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, SEBI, Assam Pollution Control Board, Assam Power Distribution Corporation, Andrew Yule Group, Brahmaputra Valley Fertiliser Corporation, Emami and Rashtriya Mantri Sahakar Bharti.

