

CSR TODAY

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STANDING TALL

Green building technologies can help the built environment prepare for a future in which pandemics are more common

HOW GREEN BUILDINGS ARE ADAPTING TO THE POST-COVID ERA

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Rotary launches Rs 200 cr fund-raiser for children in need

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Individuals and organisations matter



Rajesh Tiwari
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THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND ITS RESULTANT LOCKDOWN HAS IMPACTED SMES AND START-UPS THE MOST, LEAVING THE SECTOR TO SEEK SUPPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH POLICY REFORMS IN ORDER TO BOUNCE BACK AND DRIVE CLEAN ENERGY INNOVATIONS IN THE COUNTRY.

As India struggle to sail through the biggest crisis that it faced in centuries - the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak - we have come across stories of individuals, groups and organisations that are making a difference.

In this issue we speak about Rambabu Sharma, the founder of Youth Empowerment Foundation, to spread the light of awareness and education in the world. At the same time, we also discuss challenges ahead and discuss the WWF India and cKinetics report.

While India is on track to meet its ambitious clean energy targets, new-age clean technology start-ups and SMEs are expected to play an important role in helping the country achieve its goals. However, the COVID-19 pandemic and its resultant lockdown has impacted SMEs and start-ups the most, leaving the sector to seek support from the government through policy reforms in order to bounce back and drive clean energy innovations in the country.


'Clean energy policy landscape in the SME sector', a new report published by WWF India in association with cKinetics maps the clean energy ecosystem, undertakes a segment-level analysis of the sector to identify individual constraints, and offers policy recommendations to propel the growth of cleantech SMEs in the country. The report delves into six segments, including solar rooftop, electric mobility, energy efficiency, smart energy, waste-to-energy and energy access, that are expected to have a considerable impact across key sectors such as industries, buildings, and transportation. Illustrating 6 sector-specific barriers, and 11 cross-cutting challenges, the report stipulates short, medium and long term recommendations along with interventions to actualize a boom in clean energy segments.

According to the report, while India's move towards clean energy transition has led to the emergence of various startups and SMEs, there are only a handful of policies that help

accelerate the growth of these companies to meet India's clean energy demands. While almost 140 government interventions focus directly or/and indirectly on clean energy and startups and SMEs, only 38 policies actually target SMEs in the clean energy ecosystem, making it difficult for SMEs to reap the benefits of the provisions. The report also attributes the slow growth of India's mass transition to clean energy to limited policy support mechanisms for R&D and innovation for clean energy segments.

A few of the recommendations mentioned in the report include:

- Provision to procure at least 20% of capacity (MW procurement target) from SMEs under the DISCOM-led aggregation model in solar-rooftop segment.
- Ensuring passing on the benefits in implementation of solar rooftops to the residential consumers in terms of 80C benefits
- Lowering GST slab of energy-efficient appliances and setting targets to procure a percentage of energy efficient goods from SMEs for entities such as EESL.
- Set up of short-term targets for EV roll-out over a time span that helps in achieving the long-term targets
- Provisions to procure 10% of compressed bio gas from start-ups (under SATAT)

Speaking about the report, Dr. T S Panwar, Director, Climate Change and Energy Programme, WWF India said, "Policy support can be an important catalyst in accelerating clean energy adoption and scale up. This report maps the clean energy policy landscape in the SME sector, and provides recommendations that not only benefit the innovators but also help the government in realizing its larger vision for the upliftment of the SME sector in the country." The key recommendations laid down in this report, if implemented in the short, medium and long term can galvanize the progress of the six segments of the clean energy sector. 

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IIT Madras Researchers demonstrate role of a microRNA in Growth & Spread of Tongue Cancer Cells

Indian Institute of Technology Madras researchers have identified a specific microRNA (miRNAs) called 'miR-155' that is over-expressed in tongue cancer. This finding is important in that molecular strategies can potentially be devised to manipulate miR-155 expression to develop therapeutics for tongue cancer.

miRNAs affect cancer growth through inhibiting or enhancing the functions of certain proteins. For example, it has been shown that a type of protein called 'programmed cell death 4' helps in stopping cancer cells from growing and spreading. Inhibition of this protein has been known to cause spread of oral, lung, breast, liver, brain and colon cancers.

A team of researchers lead by Prof Devarajan Karunagaran, Head, Department of Biotechnology, IIT Madras, and his Research Scholar – Mr. Shabir Zargar collaborated with researchers from Cancer Institute and Sree Balaji Dental College and Hospital at Chennai and Indian Institute of Science at Bengaluru in this Research.

Their recent paper in this area has been published in the reputed peer-reviewed journal Molecular and Cellular biology. It has been co-authored by Mr. Shabir Zargar, Mr. Vivek Tomar, Mr. Vidyarani Shyamsundar, Mr. Ramshankar Vijayalakshmi, Mr. Kumaravel Somasundaram, and Prof.

Karunagaran. Elaborating about this research, Prof Karunagaran, Head, Department of Biotechnology, IIT Madras, said, "MicroRNAs (miRNAs) are short non-coding RNAs containing 20–24 nucleotides that participate in virtually all biological pathways



in animals. They have been found to play important roles in many cancers, in carcinogenesis (start of cancer), malignant transformation and metastasis – the development of secondary cancer. The miRNAs associated with cancer are called 'Oncomirs'."

Further, Prof Karunagaran added, "Many of the oncomirs affect cancer by suppressing the performance of tumour suppressing agents that can prevent growth and spread of cancer cells, although some oncomirs are also involved in preventing tumour growth itself. It is therefore important to identify the types of miRNAs that are associated with both suppression and proliferation of cancer cells." The team has gone beyond

showing the connection between miR-155 and pdcd4. They have also shown that knocking out miR-155 causes death of cancer cells, arrests the cell cycle, and regresses tumour size in animal models and reduces cell viability and colony formation in bench top assays.

Adding on, Mr. Shabir Zargar said, "While it has been long suspected that miR-155 downregulates Pcdcd4, there have, hitherto, been no evidence for such interaction."

The collaborative team headed by Prof Karunagaran has now shown beyond doubt that miR-155 is overexpressed

in tongue cancer cells and tongue tumour tissues. This 'overactivity' of miR-155 hinders the action of pdcd4, which in turn causes spread and growth of cancer of the tongue.

"Our study has shown that the restoration of Pcdcd4 levels through molecular manipulation of miR-155 can lead to potential therapeutic developments for cancers, especially of tongue cancer," adds Prof Karunagaran.

miRNA manipulation is being combined with conventional cancer treatment methods such as chemotherapy, radiotherapy and immunotherapy, and the study reported by collaborative team can enable such emerging therapeutics for cancer.

ICICI Lombard collaborates with Kolkata Police on Cyclone Amphan relief measures

ICICI Lombard General Insurance, India's largest private sector non-life insurance company, has collaborated with Kolkata Police in the light of the recent cyclone Amphan to provide relief measures in the flood-affected districts. The collaboration will help support 8,000 families affected by the cyclone.

The catastrophic event has significantly disturbed distribution channels in the region and supply of essentials has been hit the most. ICICI Lombard along with Kolkata Police will provide ration kits with key ingredients such as rice, dal, oil, salt, toothpaste, soaps, and other essentials to the affected families. Each kit can sustain a family of five for 15 days. In addition to the ration kits, the company will provide 50 automatic disinfectant spray machines for the front-line warriors - especially the enforcement agencies. These machines will prove beneficial as disinfecting measures are necessary to curtail the spread of the virus.

On the collaboration, Bhargav Dasgupta, MD & CEO, ICICI Lombard stated, "Cyclone Amphan along with Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact in Kolkata and its nearby locations. At ICICI Lombard, it is our



endeavor to support relief measures and contribute meaningfully through our corporate social responsibility initiatives. We are thankful to the Kolkata police for joining hands with us in providing essentials to families to support them in their hour of need. When it comes to curbing the spread of Covid-19, the disinfectant spray machines being provided should act as an effective solution."

Santosh Pandey, Joint Commissioner of Police, Traffic, Kolkata said, "Kolkata Police has been working as the premier frontline agency to extend helping hands to the people of Kolkata in fight against the corona virus pandemic. The super cyclone Amphan has greatly added

to the challenge. However in collaboration with various NGOs and civil society we have been able to work for the people. The proposal of ICICI Lombard to provide 50 disinfectant machines and 8000 kits of relief materials, will greatly enhance our capabilities to serve

the people on the one hand and keeping our work place safe on the other hand. We place on record our sincere appreciation for this project which we have readily agreed to execute."

ICICI Lombard General Insurance has been committed to the wellbeing of the community it is present in. The insurer has initiated various CSR initiatives to support the underprivileged sections in these unprecedented times. Some of its other activities include measures to provide free COVID-19 testing to the underprivileged. The insurer has also distributed Personal Protection Equipment to medical personnel treating the needy and contributed to the PM CARES Fund.

The United States provides ventilators to India to battle COVID-19

The U.S. Government, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), has donated a first shipment of 100 brand-new, state-of-the-art ventilators to India to assist its fight against COVID-19. This donation is part of President Trump's

generous offer of critical supplies in response to India's urgent needs.

The ventilators, produced in the United States, reflect leading-edge technology. They are compact and deployable, and provide India with flexibility in treating patients affected by the virus.

USAID is working closely with the Government of India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Indian Red Cross Society, and other relevant stakeholders in India and the United States to assist in the delivery, transportation, and placement of ventilators in

Yahoo and The GEANCO Foundation present global podcast series “STOR14S”

Renowned cast including Russell Brand, Rachel Brosnahan, Benedict Cumberbatch, Jeff Daniels, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Thandie Newton, David Oyelowo, Zoe Saldana and more lead the 14-part children’s short stories series aimed to inspire families and raise COVID-19 relief aid for Africa.

Yahoo, part of Verizon Media, and The GEANCO Foundation announced the launch of “STOR14S,” a new global podcast featuring children’s short stories narrated by a renowned cast of leading actors and influencers. The podcast aims to take families on an adventure that transports them out of their homes to exciting, new places.

The 14-part series will premiered on Thursday June 18th, with new episodes airing every Monday and Thursday. Global audiences can listen in on all podcast platforms and visit the official series pages on Yahoo Life and Yahoo Style UK.

“STOR14S” will feature GEANCO ambassadors Rachel Brosnahan (The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel), Benedict Cumberbatch (Doctor Strange), Jeff Daniels (The Newsroom), Chiwetel Ejiofor (12 Years A Slave), Thandie

Newton (Westworld), and David Oyelowo (Selma), and more, as they narrate short stories and help raise money for the foundation’s coronavirus relief and emergency aid. The stories were selected through a Yahoo writing competition for the public that was held throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The winning entries will take listeners on journeys through secret tunnels, mysterious bookshops and fictional African empires, providing light relief and entertainment during a very challenging time for families. “Focusing on our mental health has never been more urgent, and we hope ‘STOR14S’ will inspire families during this very difficult time,” said Guru Gowrappan, CEO at Verizon Media. “We are committed to continue to use our platform to drive change, bring stories that should be told to life and amplify awareness for voices and organizations like GEANCO, and their efforts that are making a true difference in people’s lives.”

GEANCO is donating gloves, face masks, soap, sanitizer and disinfectant to hospitals and maternity centers in Nigeria, and training maternity nurses and traditional birth

attendants to prevent the spread of the virus in maternity clinics. The foundation is also donating tablets preloaded with hundreds of books to children quarantined in their villages. All talent fees for the series were donated to GEANCO, with Verizon Media donating commercial inventory for direct display ads to the foundation to raise awareness for the vital work it’s doing across Nigeria along with providing listeners with links to donate to their prevention efforts.

“I am really happy to be lending my voice to this creative effort to support GEANCO’s critically important coronavirus initiatives in Nigeria, through the power of storytelling,” said David Oyelowo. “I’m also delighted that my friends from the entertainment industry have joined me in bringing attention to a continent that is especially vulnerable to the effects of this pandemic.”

“We are honored to partner with Yahoo and our celebrity supporters on such a fun and compelling podcast series,” said Afam Onyema, CEO of GEANCO. “STOR14S will empower us to save more lives and educate more vulnerable children in Nigeria.”

select health care facilities throughout the country.

At an event to commemorate the arrival of the ventilators, U.S. Ambassador Kenneth I. Juster said: “The COVID-19 pandemic poses an unprecedented global health threat. It is only through partnership and cooperation that we will be able to ensure a healthy future for people across the world. In this spirit, the United States is pleased to provide the people of India with a donation of

ventilators, made possible by the generosity of the American people and the innovation of American private industry.”

The 100 ventilator units are valued at almost \$1.2 million. In addition, USAID is funding a comprehensive package of support, which includes accompanying equipment and medical supplies, technical assistance, and service plans. This donation builds on the \$9.5 million that USAID and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention have committed to India in response to the pandemic, which is helping to strengthen clinical care, disseminate essential health messages, improve disease surveillance, and more.

For decades, the United States has been the world’s largest provider of bilateral assistance in health. Since 2009, American taxpayers have generously funded more than \$100 billion in health assistance and nearly \$70 billion in humanitarian assistance worldwide.

Wildcraft India forays into Personal Protective Gear (PPG) category and aims to deploy 1 lakh people in next 60 days to ramp up manufacturing

Wildcraft India Pvt. Ltd. (WIPL) embodies the spirit of “SELF-RELIANT” India: Make in India, by India, for India and the world - and is a pioneer in the outdoor & tactical gear category. Wildcraft's brand philosophy has always been to encourage people to “rekindle the explorer within each of us, by embracing the uncertain and take the road less travelled! Today, when India & the world is grappling with fear and uncertainties and taking steps to adapt to the new normal, Wildcraft India – an Indian born brand takes their mission forward by entering the Personal Protective Gear (PPG) segment as a commitment to serve the nation during this unprecedented crisis.

This new normal requires one to relook at our ways, our beliefs, our attitudes & while we do this, at Wildcraft we believe we should use our passion as fuel & propel ourselves to embrace the uncertain. Being true to this belief, Wildcraft recently launched a versatile, functionally engineered, head to toe product line which included the tactical gear category. Under the tactical gear category, Wildcraft has developed an innovative 90-liter technical rucksack, that has been designed, developed & approved as the gear of choice recently for Indian Defense establishment. Wildcraft also developed a re-usable PPE coverall (Hz Series of Hazmats) to assist the Ministry of Textiles to overcome its urgent requirements & address the needs of Indian medics. Wildcraft India has also launched the Supermask™, with the proprietary filtration system for three types of particles. Each layer of the Supermask™ is engineered to filter out the coarser dust particles,

bacteria and pathogens. It also offers effective splash resistance to prevent droplet penetration and moisture management with the super soft fabric. Wildcraft Supermask™ has been approved by government accredited agencies as per the parameters specified by BIS. Priced at only INR 150 per piece, reusable Supermask adheres to highest quality and safety standards.

As Wildcraft India strengthens their PPG category, the India-born brand releases an inspirational anthem ‘Hain Taiyaar Hum’ that beautifully captures India's vibrant diversity, indomitable spirit and its zeal for life. Composed by Abhishek

AS WILDCRAFT INDIA STRENGTHENS THEIR PPG CATEGORY, THE INDIA-BORN BRAND RELEASES AN INSPIRATIONAL ANTHEM ‘HAIN TAIYAAR HUM’ THAT BEAUTIFULLY CAPTURES INDIA'S VIBRANT DIVERSITY, INDOMITABLE SPIRIT AND ITS ZEAL FOR LIFE.

Arora, sung in the uplifting voices of Nooran Sisters & conceptualized by Ogilvy India, the anthem aims to empower Indians to be prepared for the new order with a blend of safety, style & self-belief.

Talking about the anthem launch and their efforts to make the protective masks available for Billion India's, Gaurav Dublisch, Co-Founder said, “As part of our commitment to enable people rekindle the explorer

within, Wildcraft – an Indian-born head to toe outfitter, that pursues MAKE IN INDIA truly in spirit, is equipping Atma-Nirbhar Bharat to set the tone for the world. To ensure Supermask™ is easily accessible to every citizen, we have also ramped up our distribution & are available across 1000+ cities in addition to 1,00,000+ retail points-of-sales across India. Additionally, we have also partnered with multiple platforms to augment our ability to create ACCESS & AWARENESS in these unprecedented times. We genuinely believe that each one of us has it in us to step-up with a fresh purpose & with a renewed zeal for life. ‘Hain Taiyaar Hum’ campaign is our clarion call to our nation to step-out with confidence & help them equip themselves to follow their passion.”

Siddharth Sood, Co-Founder, further added “In 2016, we forayed into the Tactical & Safety Gear category, & have recently innovated the ‘Wildcraft Supermask™’. Supermask™ comes with a proprietary filtration system and adheres to the Bureau of Indian Standards of quality & safety. We

strongly believe that what is today a health crisis, & is evolving into an economic crisis, will also turn into a global environmental crisis with the mammoth amount of non-biodegradable disposables being left behind in its wake. At Wildcraft we have worked on revolutionary technology, that provides an exceptionally safe, stylish, reusable and hence an environment-friendly solution, at incredible prices.”

17 years old Husain contributes towards Covid-19 relief efforts, becomes youngest Rotaract President ever

In the testing times of Covid-19 outbreak, many individuals and organisations have come together to help by providing cooked food, dry ration kits grains, PPE kits, Masks to individuals, daily wage earners, slum dwellers, government and private hospitals. Out of those helping hands is 17 years old Husain Zakir who is going around on his own distributing cooked food and food grains with his pocket money to the weaker sections in his area and around the city.

“The idea of this service came to his mind because during the pandemic our Dawoodi Bohra Community leader Dr Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin sent food grains not only to our community members but also to other weaker sections of society,” said Husain Zakir

Acknowledging his efforts and contribution to help the needy during the pandemic, young Husain was awarded by Rotary Club to become the Charter President of Rotaract Club of Bombay Mid-Town.

The Rotaract Club of Bombay Mid-town was chartered recently where Husain took oath as one of the youngest Rotaract President of a community based Rotaract Club at the age of 17.

He recently gave his HSC Board Exams and is now awaiting the results. Speaking on this achievement Husain said, “Working with Rotaract gives me immense pleasure of serving the community, making it enjoyable and also help in my overall development. I would like many more youngsters to include in our club. Together we want to address the physical and social needs of community problems by helping them and finding solutions to their problems. I await working on more such social



welfare projects in the near future.” The Club, whose objective is to help others, is growing in many folds and has a membership of 26 individuals from different walks of life.

Since April 2020 the Club has been actively supporting & organizing Relief programs for Covid-19 by distributing food grains & cooked food to the economically challenged people, the labourers, and the daily wagers of Mumbai. They have reached many people in the lane and by lanes of Mumbai by giving them their daily bread. Also PPE kits, Sanitizers, Mattresses & Masks have been donated to Private & Government Hospitals, Police Stations from KEM

hospital to VP Road Police Station to LT Marg Police Station, For the Karjat Health Workers, St. Annes High School etc.

Lauding the work undertaken by youngsters like Husain, Rtn. Vicky Punjabi, President Elect of Rotary Club of Bombay Mid-Town said, “these young boys & girls who have taken this initiative of rising up to meet the challenge of this crisis will definitely make a positive difference in their own life and also in the world around them.”

This generation of youth is finding its purpose in this moment of crisis and inspiring others to hope and act,” Punjabi added.

Infosys Joins The Climate Pledge, a Commitment Co-founded by Amazon and Global Optimism to Meet the Paris Agreement 10 Years Early

Infosys commits to become net zero carbon and will power its operations with 100% renewable energy well ahead of 2040, in an effort to protect the planet

Amazon and Global Optimism announced the second major signatory to The Climate Pledge—Infosys—making a commitment to meet the Paris Agreement 10 years early. The Climate Pledge calls on new signatories to be net zero carbon across their businesses by 2040—a decade ahead of the Paris Accord’s goal of 2050.

Infosys and other companies that sign The Climate Pledge agree to:

- Measure and report greenhouse gas emissions on a regular basis;
- Implement decarbonization strategies in line with the Paris Agreement through real business changes and innovations, including efficiency improvements, renewable energy, materials reductions, and other carbon emission elimination strategies;
- Neutralize any remaining emissions with additional, quantifiable, real, permanent, and socially-beneficial offsets to achieve net zero annual carbon emissions by 2040.

“Infosys is showing bold leadership by signing up to The Climate Pledge and committing to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement ten years early,” said Jeff Bezos, Amazon founder and CEO. “When significant companies like Infosys join The Climate Pledge, they send an important signal to the market that it’s time to invest in low carbon products and services.”



“At Infosys, we recognized climate change as a serious threat to our planet early on, and realized our responsibility as a corporate institution to mitigate its impact by taking concrete steps,” said Salil Parekh, CEO and MD, Infosys. “We believe that the way in which global organizations responded to this crisis would play a big role in defining how the rest of the world takes up the cause. As a result, we committed to climate action over a decade ago, and since then, the impact on climate and environment have been important considerations in the decisions we make as an organization. We are pleased to partner with Amazon and Global Optimism in The Climate Pledge initiative with a collective aim to work towards a low-carbon future.”

“The Paris Agreement set out a unifying roadmap for all countries and all people to address the climate crisis by taking action. The IPCC has informed us that we cannot warm the planet beyond 1.5 degrees Celsius,” said Christiana Figueres, the UN’s former climate change chief and founding partner of Global Optimism.

“By committing to achieve net zero emissions by 2040, Infosys is not just making a statement of commitment to the future, it is committing to significant actions and investments that will create jobs, spur innovation, regenerate the natural environment and help consumers to buy better in the short term. This is what leadership looks like in resetting the global economy.”

Infosys Is All Set to Turn Carbon Neutral

Infosys made a voluntary commitment in 2011, long before the Paris Agreement, to become carbon neutral and is on track to achieve it well ahead of 2040. Infosys is the first signatory to RE100 from India and is committed to completely transitioning to renewable power for its electricity requirements. Infosys has already invested in 60 MW of captive solar photovoltaic capacity and nearly 45% of its electricity is coming from renewable sources. Infosys is committed to transitioning to 100% renewable energy.

Infosys was one of the first few companies to place an internal price

on carbon. It also has a highly successful energy efficiency program that helped the company reduce its per-capita electricity consumption by 55% since 2008. As part of its path to climate neutrality, Infosys has made significant investments to a portfolio of community-based emission reduction projects to help meet its net zero carbon goal. These projects not only address climate change, but also benefit over 100,000 families today, contributing to the socio-economic development of rural India.

By joining The Climate Pledge and agreeing to decarbonize on a faster time horizon, Infosys will play a critical role in stimulating investment in the development of low carbon

products and services that will be required to help companies meet the pledge. Amazon previously announced an order of 100,000 electric delivery vehicles from Rivian, the largest order ever of electric vehicles, with vans starting to deliver packages to customers in 2021. Amazon plans to have 10,000 of the new electric vehicles on the road as early as 2022 and all 100,000 vehicles on the road by 2030 – saving millions of metric tons of carbon per year by 2030. Amazon plans to announce many more signatories throughout 2020.

About Infosys

Infosys is a global leader in next-generation digital services and

consulting. We enable clients in 46 countries to navigate their digital transformation. With nearly four decades of experience in managing the systems and workings of global enterprises, we expertly steer our clients through their digital journey. We do it by enabling the enterprise with an AI-powered core that helps prioritize the execution of change. We also empower the business with agile digital at scale to deliver unprecedented levels of performance and customer delight. Our always-on learning agenda drives their continuous improvement through building and transferring digital skills, expertise, and ideas from our innovation ecosystem.

Thane Municipal Corporation Partners with EdIndia to Digitally Skill 8000 Teachers

The Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC) has partnered with EdIndia Foundation, to bolster the capacity of its 8000 teachers spread across 850 odd schools across the district. As an initial scheme of the partnership, Thane Municipal Corporation and EdIndia Foundation hosted a 2-day Online Teacher Training, for 8000 teachers to help them adapt to the new technology-driven teaching model in the post-COVID19 scenario.

As the COVID-19 pandemic advances, with no sight of an immediate solution to stop the spread, there is uncertainty on when the schools will reopen. This not only disrupts the continuity of learning for the 250 million children in India but also endangers their psychosocial and mental wellbeing. TMC invited experts in the 2-day Online Teacher Training programme to sensitise teachers around concerns such as mental health and child protection. The online training which will

be streamed live on Youtube and Pragyan app will also prepare teachers to adopt different technology tools and platforms in their transition to online schooling for continuity of learnings.

Acknowledging that teachers require support, Manish Joshi, Deputy Commissioner Thane Municipal Corporation, said “The pandemic has forced us into remote learning which has technical, pedagogical and instructional

challenges. I am glad that we could forge a partnership with EdIndia. With their expertise, we can now strengthen teachers' capacity on technology and better classroom delivery. The whole event is the brainchild of Mr. Rajesh Kankal Education officer of Thane Municipal corporation who felt that to conduct classes, keep students engaged and continue teaching in an effective way, a re-orientation on online pedagogies and tools is required”.

Sonakshi Agarwal, CEO of EdIndia Foundation, while appreciating the opportunity to aid this cause, said. “We are in a precarious situation due to the pandemic, and it is imperative that we all stakeholders come together, work side by side on all our children's education, protection and well-being. The training will capacitate teachers to embrace technology, nurture child well-being and prepare for post-COVID-19 challenges and innovations”.

THE ONLINE TRAINING WHICH WILL BE STREAMED LIVE ON YOUTUBE AND PRAGYAN APP WILL ALSO PREPARE TEACHERS TO ADOPT DIFFERENT TECHNOLOGY TOOLS AND PLATFORMS IN THEIR TRANSITION TO ONLINE SCHOOLING FOR CONTINUITY OF LEARNINGS.

Tata Motors provides holistic support to truck drivers and fleet operators for seamless supplies

Tata Motors, India's largest commercial vehicle manufacturer, has been comprehensively supporting the transport ecosystem to ensure all necessary supplies remain uninterrupted and seamless, nationwide. Closely working with truck drivers, small transporters, mid-size transport operators and fleet owners amidst the unprecedented times, Tata Motors identified the existing and emerging pain points in every link of the transport value chain and partnered it to address them in the most effective and efficient manner.

Partnering truck drivers and transporters:

- For frontline hero truck drivers transporting goods across the country, supplies of food, masks and sanitisers have been arranged at numerous 'Saarthi Aaram Kendras', across the entire Tata Motors operations network, and many other Indian Oil facilities located on the busiest national and state highways across the country. Several thousand truck drivers benefitted from the facilities and services offered.

- During the lockdown, a dedicated, 24x7 helpline 1800 209 7979 was set-up for truck drivers and transporters across the country. To speedily address the requests received, 900 emergency response teams were created and meticulously located in key transport hubs and corridors. These teams were manned by 4,000 trained and experienced technicians selected from Tata Motors extensive network of 1400 workshops nationwide and supported by 21 well-stocked warehouses with spare parts quickly accessible for fast turnaround of vehicles. Over 10,000 requests



received for vehicle related assistance were promptly addressed to keep the wheels of supplies running.

- To provide requisite repairs and servicing support, workshops were made operational at the earliest possible with a new set of standard operating procedure (SOPs). These defined minimal interactions, maintaining prudent social distance, vehicle contact and sanitisation etc. while engaging with customers.

- Warranties of commercial vehicles expiring during the period of national lockdown have been extended. Similarly, timelines of Tata Suraksha annual maintenance contracts have also been extended for the benefit of customers

Speaking about the initiatives undertaken, R. Ramakrishnan, Global Head - Customer Care, CVBU, Tata Motors Limited said, "Truck drivers and transporters are frontline heroes as they have played a stellar role in ensuring that the wheels of the nation are kept running with seamless

transportation of all supplies. Being India's leading commercial vehicle manufacturer, a majority of them use our vehicles and we are their first port of call for assistance. In these unprecedented times, we are the committed partner, providing all possible support to them and their vehicles. We have focused our efforts with a holistic approach to making their tough tasks and lives a little easier"

Partnering supplier, dealers and fleet owners:

With the entire logistics sector hit hard due to a significant reduction in overall economic activity, Tata Motors Finance (TMF), a subsidiary of the Tata Motors Group engaged with 3,000 of its customers, across segments and vehicle applications, to understand the key issues being faced by them and accordingly extend assistance. Getting stranded vehicles operational, low fleet utilisation and challenge of operational viability due to minimal cash flow, emerged as the major areas of concern.

Understanding their difficult situation and cognizant that these were exacerbated by the unprecedented disruption caused by COVID-19, TMF extended the RBI moratorium on payment of EMIs to all its retail and corporate customers who opted for it. While it was amongst the first financiers to do so, additionally TMF has also developed and is offering a rich portfolio of customised options for its customers to avail basis their need and ability. These include:

- Opex Funding to maintain liquidity in the value chain by taking care of fixed expenses for 3-4 months and service claims financing for dealers and suppliers.

- Restructuring of loans of retail fleet customers for benefit from flexible EMIs by reducing current EMIs to a level in line with their current income levels and with provisions to step up EMIs once business normalises over next 6-9 months. This is for customers who come within the definition of MSMEs and are eligible under the prevalent scheme of RBI.
- Working capital solutions for large fleet operators meet their obligations for the next few months. Funding is made available against collateral of their free vehicles or any other tangible collateral already available with TMF.
- Bill Discounting Solutions for fleet operators to take care of increase in payment cycle from an average of 45 days Pre-COVID days to an anticipated level of 90 days going forward.
- Developing Credit solutions that will be of immense benefit to retail fleet operators by providing much needed plying time liquidity and credit support. Customers can buy fuel, recharge their fastags, pay for scheduled expenses like vehicle service, insurance, permit-road tax etc.
- New vehicle loans with low EMI levels for first 12 months. Also, bundled working capital loans with new vehicle loans with requisite collateral. Customers can navigate easily through the initial few months taken for the operations of a new vehicle to stabilize.

Speaking about the novel financing solutions being offered, Samrat Gupta, CEO, Tata Motors Finance said, “Being one of the large NBFCs operating in the country and as a committed captive commercial vehicle financier, our primary focus is to ensure economic success of all our stakeholders, especially our customers. In the aftermath of COVID, we have extensively engaged with them to understand their immediate challenges better and accordingly develop a range of solutions to address their need of liquidity for immediate survival and near term sustenance. This partnering amidst crisis has strengthened our relationships with our customers for the longer term.”

Amatra Hotels Initiatives to help stranded animals and people

Amatra Hotels, a Gurgaon based luxury hospitality chain has initiated steps to pay back to the society in terms of helping stranded people and animals during these unprecedented challenging times of COVID-19.

Amatra has set-up a doghouse in its Amatra By The Ganges property in Haridwar to take care of several stray dogs in the vicinity who were finding it tough to get food in these times. Amatra has constructed a doghouse to take care of the animals by providing them meals, medicines, and partnering with a veterinary to take care of their health.

Amatra is putting up a mechanism to set-up similar facilities in all its properties and would be continued even when the pandemic is over. The company has also reached out to the hundreds of people in Haridwar and Mussoorie who require essential commodities like rice, wheat, pulses, and even daily use items like soap, shampoo, sanitary napkins, etc. The company has allocated staff to ensure everyone who needs help would be provided



with these bags in the vicinity it operates in. “We believe that these initiatives are our duty towards society and not just a CSR activity. We are here to support the animals and people who are in need during this pandemic which we all have to face together. It is to empower the community and to let people know that we stand with them together in this,” said Mr. Gaurav Taneja, Corporate General Manager, Amatra Hotels & Resorts.

Amatra is also talking to various NGOs operating in areas of animal rescuers and also local NGO's to source many of



their products and creating local business. Amatra is already following the COVID-19 guidelines laid by the local authorities to ensure guests are in a safe and hygienic environment.

The global pandemic has severely shaken the world and has had catastrophic effects on the livelihood of millions across the globe. Amidst these dark times when life, as we know it has come to a slow-down, citizens and corporates, are uniting to provide rays of hope which can better the situation of the people in these dire circumstances.



Prof. Sathyanarayana N. Gummadi, Department of Biotechnology, IIT Madras; Prof. Dillip Kumar Chand, Department of Chemistry, IIT Madras; Mr. Randhir Rai, Senior Research Fellow, Department of Chemistry, IIT Madras, at the Applied and Industrial Microbiology Laboratory, IIT Madras.

IIT Madras Researchers show Copper-coated Jute Beads can prevent Microbial Contamination in Stored Water

The Research Team seeks to solve the problem of water contamination & water-borne diseases in India & have developed easy methods to coat cuprous oxide or copper on little beads of jute that float on water

Indian Institute of Technology Madras researchers have shown that simple copper-coated jute beads are highly effective in protecting water and preventing microbial contamination. The IIT Madras team seeks to solve the problem of water contamination and water-borne diseases in India.

The researchers have developed easy methods to coat cuprous oxide or copper on little beads of jute that

float on water. They chose jute because of two reasons – jute floats on water and jute sticks are an agricultural waste product that is affordable and available at low costs.

In many parts of the country, water is often collected and stored in containers for consumption. Such stored water can be easily contaminated due to the transfer of microbes from the air into the water, even if the container is kept closed. The

traditional water purification method of boiling is economically and environmentally unsustainable. Besides, the water continues to be vulnerable to microbial contamination after cooling. Water purification units such as filters and RO units may not be affordable to all and often, techniques like RO (reverse osmosis) produce a lot of unusable wastewater during the process of purification.

This research was led by Dr. Dillip Kumar Chand, Department of Chemistry, IIT Madras and his research student Mr. Randhir Rai. The paper has been co-authored by Dr. Dillip Kumar Chand, Mr. Rai and Prof. Sathyanarayana N. Gummadi, Department of Biotechnology, IIT Madras. The results were published

to the second, jute beads coated with copper oxide to the third and left the fourth beaker as it was, and studied the microbial content in all the beakers periodically.”

Prof. Sathyanarayana N. Gummadi, Department of Biotechnology, IIT Madras, helped the research team with the microbial assays.

When the beakers were kept uncovered for twenty-four hours, the one with the copper and copper oxide coated beads did not have any microbial growth while the one without the beads and the one with uncoated jute beads had significant microbial growth. After five days, the microbial contamination in the water with coated beads were far less than in the beaker without the coated beads.

OUR STUDY SHOWS A SIMPLE AND COST-EFFECTIVE WAY TO KEEP WATER SAFE AND EMPOWERS HOUSEHOLDS AND COMMUNITIES THAT LACK POTABLE WATER TO PROTECT THEMSELVES AGAINST A VARIETY OF WATERBORNE PATHOGENS

in the reputed peer-reviewed journal ACS Omega. Elaborating on this research, Prof. Dillip Kumar Chand, Department of Chemistry, IIT Madras, said, “The use of copper as a disinfecting material has been well known in India and people commonly store water in copper vessels for this purpose and there have been many studies worldwide to study the disinfection properties of copper and its salts. However, beyond a certain limit, copper can be toxic, and so, it is important that too much copper does not leach into the water.”

Mr. Randhir Rai, Research Student, Department of Chemistry, IIT Madras, said, “To prove the disinfectant properties of the copper coated jute beads, we took four beakers of clean water, added uncoated jute beads to one, jute beads coated with copper

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends that the amount of copper in water be below 1.3 parts per million (ppm) for safety. The IIT Madras researchers showed that the copper that was coated on the jute beads did not leach to a large extent into the water, and even after five days, the amount of copper in the water was only around 0.8 ppm, far below the EPA mandate.

“Our study shows a simple and cost-effective way to keep water safe and empowers households and communities that lack potable water to protect themselves against a variety of waterborne pathogens,” added Mr. Randhir.

The team proposes to study the relationship between the properties of the coated beads and ‘microbicidal’ efficacy in future.

Saregama hymns the tunes of hope and love for old age homes!

After the launch of their recent campaign - Ghar Le Aayein, Saregama takes a step further to help the elderly find companionship and withstand these challenging times through the power of music and pledges to donate Saregama Carvaan to old-age homes on the occasion of Father’s day.

Isolation is a reality that comes with old age, and while old age homes are finding ways to ease alienation and anxiety, Saregama takes a step forward and announces a program where the brand will donate Carvaan to old age homes. Being very well aware of the power of music and how helpful it can be for the non-tech savvy elderly generation to sail through such times, Saregama is inviting people to share the details of the old age home and they will ensure to send a Carvaan there.

Commenting on this gesture, Mr. Vikram Mehra, Managing Director, Saregama India, said, “These are tough times and it’s important to be empathetic and sensitive to the emotional needs as much as health needs of the elderly in the society. We have pledged to donate Carvaan to the old age homes, hoping it will help them cope with their loneliness and boredom through the therapeutic power of music.

CSR INDIA UNITED

ThinkSharp Foundation provides lifeline solutions to migrant workers, ease rural distress

To help and support the migratory workers in Maharashtra by providing them essential items like dry ration kits, and direct money transfer. In just 1 month the foundation has helped approximately 250 family members from different villages of Beed, Latur, Washim, and Jalgaon districts in Maharashtra.

Speaking on the impact of a pandemic on the livelihood of over 40 million migrants across India, Santosh Phad, Founder ThinkSharp Foundation said "During this pandemic, we marginal people are lucky to sit at home and make new dishes every day, learn new skills but this is not



With people staying home, markets shutting down, and transportation at a standstill the lockdown has hit daily wage workers the toughest. To help this most vulnerable community of India, ThinkSharp Foundation steps in and initiated COVID-19 Relief Fund along with Milaap Crowdfunding, Southeast Asia's largest online crowdfunding platform, for migratory workers who are still struggling even after reaching their native villages.

Today, the migratory worker's community in India find themselves in an extremely tragic circumstance as the country remains in lockdown. While India fights to curb the spread of the virus, the migrant workers who have returned to their families with limited resources or no cash and other essentials. The future of



Santosh Phad, Founder ThinkSharp Foundation

the daily wage workers community, which relies completely on their per day work, is at great risk.

At this critical time ThinkSharp Foundation, a non-profit organization has extended its hand to the society and thus launched a crowdfunding drive through Milaap Crowdfunding.

the same case with maximum people especially daily wage workers, micro-entrepreneurs, small farmers from rural and tribal areas. They are waiting for their one meal for the day. We at ThinkSharp Foundation are doing our bit towards the society by helping these communities at this critical time. It is our duty to come together for the Covid-19 pandemic impacted families. It's time to "Give Back to Society".

The foundation is resolute to raise at least Rs. Five lakh donations for the COVID -19 impacted families from rural areas in 60 days. Till now, the Ngo has been successful in raising one and a half lakh donation. The NGO is also appealing for people to donate and help the distressed community because for migrant laborers, coronavirus is not an immediate threat but starvation is.

Fujifilm India in association with IRIA's RAKSHA Project extends support to underprivileged females

Fujifilm India Private Limited, a pioneer in imaging technologies, has pledged its commitment and contribution towards aid for the unprecedented crisis caused due to the Coronavirus pandemic outbreak. The company has announced the supply of 800 essential commodity kits to protect mother's and girl children under IRIA Raksha project during this COVID-19 emergency period. The kits consist of washable face mask, hand washing soap, small pack of sanitary napkins, and Iron supplements like Folvite Tab. Aimed to support and rescue the women who are deprived of basic necessities, Fujifilm is providing these essential commodity kits to add basic comfort in their lives during these unprecedented times.

Commenting on this, Haruto Iwata, Managing Director, Fujifilm India Pvt. Ltd. said, "While the world continues to live under the cloud of uncertainties because of the COVID-19 outbreak, its impact on everyone's life is unimaginable. Staying true to our commitment to support the underprivileged females of the society, we are happy to play a role in IRIA's RAKSHA initiative. Today, these girls face a major challenge as the schools have shut down across the country due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This has disrupted the structured learning process across India and can lead to higher dropout rates especially for girls. Being a brand that has taken several steps for the well-being of girls, we have supercharged our mission with 'IRIA' to enable uninterrupted education, promote menstrual hygiene and organise awareness campaigns among the underprivileged females. At a time where it is most crucial for every individual to maintain sanitation and personal



hygiene, we are pleased to support organisations like IRIA in the endeavour of girls' health and safety."

"Despite national efforts on women empowerment, education and sanitation, females still lack ap-

our mission to spread awareness and support women empowerment to the remote corners of our country. Coinciding with our plan to provide a platform where the members can help in the current social issues

cantered on the girl child, we are providing essential supplies to the disadvantaged females of Guwahati. During these unprecedented times, it is imperative for us to take action and we're glad to be associated with a brand like Fujifilm who has been of immense support in strengthening our mission." - Dr. Sangeeta Saxena, Chairperson, Raksha Committee, IRIA added.

In addition, the company is conducting educational workshops for underprivileged girls to raise awareness around the importance of self-examination among individuals. With the rise in the spread of Breast Cancer, self-examination has become an important screening tool for women that reduces their chances of being affected.

AIMED TO SUPPORT AND RESCUE THE WOMEN WHO ARE DEPRIVED OF BASIC NECESSITIES, FUJIFILM IS PROVIDING THESE ESSENTIAL COMMODITY KITS TO ADD BASIC COMFORT IN THEIR LIVES DURING THESE UNPRECEDENTED TIMES.

propriate facilities and community support to manage their studies and menstrual cycle amidst the various mal-practices they are subjected to. Our project Raksha is in line with

RAHI, a Bengaluru-based NGO associate with Les Roches and donates 35,000 meals for migrant groups in Mumbai

Les Roches, a world leader in hospitality education has joined hands with RAHI (Rise Against Hunger India), a leading NGO based out of Bangalore, that is working towards hunger eradication, with currently an increased focus on providing meals to Covid-19 impacted communities, to provide 35,000 meals to the migrant groups of Mumbai that are suffering due to the outbreak of the pandemic.

Les Roches has always worked towards creating the future of hospitality in India. They have not only donated through their alumni in the past but have also provided scholarships to merited Indian students and helped them in building their future. It has programs that span campuses around the globe and offers unique opportunities for entrepreneurial personalities to develop.

On its donation, Adrian Artimov, Director Enrolment and Marketing, Les Roches said “We are extremely grateful towards RAHI for allowing us to partner with them in this noble initiative of giving back to the people in need in these unprecedented times. Les Roches relationship with India goes beyond hospitality and we felt now is the correct time to support the nation that has provided us with some of the greatest alumni in the past and continues to support Les Roches till today.”

Dola Mohapatra, Executive Director, Rise Against Hunger India said “We thank Les Roches for supporting us in providing 35,000 meals to the migrant groups in Mumbai, who have been majorly impacted by Covid-19. We hope that more private institutions such as Les Roches would come forward and help eliminate hunger in these migrant groups and work with us in this noble cause.”

By far, RAHI has distributed 1.86 million meals to 400,000 people in 35 districts of 8 states.

Steadfast MediShield Donates 1.5 Million for establishing Covid 19 Lab at IKDRC, Ahmedabad

Steadfast MediShield Pvt. Ltd., which is a super specialty Pharmaceutical Company in Renal Care in India, has taken a step towards contributing in the country's fight against Covid 19 by donating Rupees 1.5 Million for establishing Covid 19 Lab at Institute of Kidney Diseases and Research Center (IKDRC), Ahmedabad. This testing facility will help the community and large and will ease out the testing process in Ahmedabad wherein the cases are rising every hour.

Yogesh Puri, CEO, Steadfast MediShield has taken step forward to support and Dr. Vineet V. Mishra, Director IKDRC & ITS, Ahmedabad initiative of setting up a COVID-19 testing lab to combat the deadly virus that has hit the world and

is ruining the lives of many. Thanking IKDRC for the making Steadfast MediShield part of this initiative. Mr. Aman Puri, Director, Steadfast MediShield said,



“We are all making efforts to find a way to help the community in our fight against coronavirus and this is our way of doing so. We are very thankful to IKDRC for taking initiative to establish the COVID-19 test lab and we are happy to do the little we can. Medical experts at IKDRC are making immense efforts to develop the lab and help in conducting research and testing on the virus.”

All the guidelines and precautions issued by ICMR regarding testing will be carried out in this Covid 19 Lab, which will lead to an expansion in the testing process in the city. While this is one of the many efforts that the Steadfast team is making to contribute to the fight that the entire country is struggling through, Steadfast Nutrition and Steadfast MediShield will continue to do as much as they can both in terms of monetary donations as well as social support to the people around them. The aim of the company will always be to develop a fitter and better India, today tomorrow and always!

ACF Helping Reduce the COVID-19 Impact on Farmers

Farmers remain a vulnerable section of the community and with the nation-wide Coronavirus lockdown taking place during the peak of rabi season in India, when crops like paddy, wheat, gram, lentil, and mustard are at harvestable stage or almost reaching maturity, farmers have had to face increased vulnerability. Agro-based livelihoods is one of the biggest program interventions carried out across Ambuja Cement Foundation (ACF) locations, with over 2 lakh farmers engaged in ACF Programs.



To help and support them during this time, ACF has played a critical role in sharing information on COVID-19 and various government guidelines pertaining to farmers. During the awareness phase a variety of pamphlets were distributed among farmers and hoardings were set up in community areas of the villages. Offices of Farmer Producer Organizations and clubs were filled with leaflets, hand sanitizers and masks, specifically for the use of farmers at this critical time.

Upon lockdown, farmers were not allowed to enter into fields to continue with their work, but with growing concerns amongst farmers about harvest, the Government took stringent measures and opened access for farmers. The Union Home Ministry's circular waiving restrictions on the inter- and intra-State

movements of farmers/laborers, as well as harvesting and related farm machines, was a welcome relief, however whilst ensuring availability of laborers for critical farm operations is a priority, of equal importance was their safety (from any COVID infection) and welfare.

As such, ACF took a leading role in providing a wide range of knowledge through mobile messaging systems about Government guidelines for personal safety during crop harvesting to ACF Farmers. They were advised to maintain social distancing and wear cotton masks during harvesting, transporting and even while accessing store houses and markets. Prior to the pandemic, ACF had already initiated the use of face masks and gloves for seed treatment in the Kharif and Rabi season. Thus farmers are comfortable with this new practice of precaution.

Additionally, ACF sent messages through mobiles or pamphlet distribution to farmers directly or indirectly through FPOs, Farmer clubs and field facilitators. The agricultural volunteers have also been continuing their work with treatment of animals in the community, crop harvesting assistance etc. with precautions by social distancing, using face masks and frequent hand washing. With these efforts, farmers are taking precaution during their work in the fields and with additional help from their families they have been able to complete 50% of harvesting thus far.

There has also been widespread concern over the transport of harvested farm produce to markets, therefore, making food grains, fruits and vegetables and other essential items available to consumers, and maintaining the supply chain safely, is the most critical challenge for the Government going forward during the lockdown period.

JK Tyre develops and produces 'total control hand sanitizer' in it's endeavour to help fight the pandemic

Indian tyre industry major and the pioneer of radial tyre technology in the country, JK Tyre & Industries Ltd., has taken yet another step towards its commitment to the nation by producing the hand sanitizers under the brand – 'Total Control Hand Sanitizers'.

Dr. Raghupati Singhania, Chairman & Managing Director, JK Tyre & Industries Ltd said, "The JK Tyre Total Control Hand Sanitizer is our latest contribution towards ongoing relief measures of the government in countering the pandemic. This Sanitizer has been developed and produced strictly in accordance with the standards. We will continue with our efforts to fight this pandemic."

JK Tyre developed this sanitizer at its 'Global Tech Centre', "The Raghupati Singhania Centre of Excellence", Mysuru as per the guidelines issued by the World Health Organisation, and acquired all the necessary approvals and licenses within a record time period of eight days. The Company has undertaken the production of the Sanitizer at Jay Kay Gram, Kankroli Plant, Rajasthan.

In addition to contributing to the relief efforts of the Company through distribution in local communities, the sanitizer is also being made available to the entire ecosystem, such as the dealer network and channel partners to ensure right hygiene.

TikTok donates INR 5Cr to Swades Foundation and Child Rights and You (CRY) for their efforts towards underserved communities impacted by COVID-19

TikTok's in-app campaign #EveryViewCounts mobilizes its community to be a part of the cause by bringing together celebrities and creators for entertaining and informative LIVE sessions

In an initiative to support the communities affected by COVID-19, Swades Foundation and CRY collaborated with TikTok to launch the #EveryViewCounts campaign on the short-video platform. The initiative, from 25th April till 8th May, aimed to mobilize the TikTok community by encouraging the users to participate by watching the LIVE sessions hosted by popular celebrities and content creators on the platform. TikTok has donated INR 5 crore to CRY and Swades Foundation, as a part of this campaign, towards keeping underprivileged children safe during the COVID-19 pandemic and providing avenues for sustainable income facilities for rural families respectively to help them during these unprecedented times.

Nikhil Gandhi, India Head - TikTok commented on the initiative, "During these difficult times, we continue to do our part by supporting organizations working towards providing relief to communities impacted by the pandemic. The teams at Swades Foundation and CRY strive to support the underprivileged sections of society and make a direct impact on their lives. It has been humbling and inspiring to see the participation of the TikTok community in the #EveryViewCounts campaign to spread awareness about the cause.

We hope that our contribution of INR 5Cr helps them in their COVID-19 relief efforts."

As part of #EveryViewCounts campaign, users lent their support by simply watching these entertaining and meaningful LIVE sessions. Several celebrities, music artists and creators such as Genelia D'Souza, Ashish Chanchlani, Remo D'souza, Ankit Tiwari, Mika Singh, Honey



Singh, David Warner, Yuzvendra Chahal hosted sessions to entertain and inspire the users of the platform.

Swades Foundation with the funds received from TikTok is committed to build the livelihoods of people in rural Raigad by engaging them in farm-based activities, animal husbandry or skilling. Some part of the funds will also be invested in scholarships to children to ensure that this crisis does not hinder their aspiration to learn and march ahead to a brighter future.

Ronnie Screwvala, Founder, Swades Foundation said, "We are happy to partner with TikTok in this endeavor to help impacted communities during these unprecedented times. Building livelihoods

and helping the community become self-reliant is of utmost priority for us now. We have been in constant touch with our communities since the lockdown and are helping, especially the Adivasi families with food and daily essentials. We look forward to a stronger and a continued association with TikTok as we embark upon this journey to rebuild the lives of people in rural Raigad."

With lowered immunity due to malnutrition and lack of access to health care facilities, children from underprivileged communities are even more vulnerable. CRY will use the funds to provide supplementary hygiene products, nutrition and food security and tools of education to ensure overall health and wellbeing of the children.

Puja Marwaha, CEO, CRY said, "We're excited to collaborate with TikTok on their fundraising campaign for COVID-19 and are grateful to get their support in this hour of crisis. At CRY, we're doing everything to protect India's most vulnerable communities and their children by distributing hygiene kits and dry rations to underprivileged households. We're also raising awareness amongst these communities on necessary precautions and available medical facilities etc. in addition to connecting them with government schemes. But it's a long road ahead and we need all the help we can get. Partnering with TikTok has helped us get the timely support we need – their initiative to bolster our efforts is absolutely wonderful and has come at the right time."

Embassy Group supports fighters at the forefront of the Covid-19 pandemic

Contributes protective glasses to police task force

Embassy Group, India's Leading Real Estate Developer, has continued its support to the Bengaluru City Police as the number of positive cases of Covid-19 rise in Karnataka, by providing 900 sets of protective glasses for the force. The Group was thanked profusely by Mr. Bhaskar Rao, IPS, Commissioner of Police, Bengaluru city and Dr. B.R. Ravikanthe Gowda, IPS, Joint Commissioner of Police, Traffic, Bengaluru city during a ceremony at the Commissioner of Police's Office to felicitate the donors, including Infosys and Titan, for this initiative.

At the onset of the pandemic and the ensuing national lockdown, the police were working night and day to contain the spread of the virus and maintain order, putting themselves at risk. To aid them in conducting their duties in a safe and healthy manner, Embassy set up 11 hydration stations across the cities of Bangalore, Pune, Mumbai, Noida and Chennai. The stations are equipped with sanitizers, drinking water, tea/coffee, refreshments, access to first aid and toilets. In addition, Embassy has procured hand 50,150 sanitizers, 1,05,800 disposable protective masks and 1,05,400 nutritional snacks for the task forces in these cities.

With the lockdown being extended, Embassy then approached the police forces across the country to offer further assistance. Besides the protective glasses, Embassy has donated 600 personal protective equipment kits to the Mumbai Police and multivitamin supplements to the Pune Police.

Aditya Virwani, Chief Operating Officer, Embassy Group, said, "We are extremely honoured to have had the opportunity to support the police forces across the country tasked with the difficult job of



Aditya Virwani, COO, Embassy Group handover the protective sunglasses to Mr. Bhaskar Rao, IPS, Commissioner of Police, Bengaluru city



Embassy group provides sunglasses to police task force

managing the spread. With positive cases continuing to increase, we invite more organizations to join us in not only helping the police in doing their jobs, but also our under-privileged communities who have suffered the most during this pandemic and national lockdown." Bhaskar Rao, IPS, Commissioner of Police, Traffic,

Bengaluru city, added, "It truly means a lot to receive the support of corporates such as Embassy Group. These initiatives have demonstrated tremendous faith and confidence in the efforts we've undertaken during the pandemic and has also increased their expectations of the quality of our continued support."

BYJU'S provides free access of its learning app to the children of Maharashtra Police officials

The initiative aims at celebrating these "COVID warriors" who have been working tirelessly to safeguard the health and safety of citizens

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to persist, BYJU'S, the world's most valuable edtech company, has offered its entire learning app for free to the children of Maharashtra Police personnels. Even as the state of Maharashtra continues to be one of the most affected states, the police have been vital frontline fighters, ensuring smooth lockdown and spreading awareness among the citizens. With this initiative, children of over 1 lakh police officials in Maharashtra across all classes will be able to access and learn from the app for free. Students can access free online lessons, LIVE classes by BYJU'S top teachers, practice tests and interactive videos from the BYJU'S app from the comfort of their homes.

To access the free lessons, officials can register through an online form. Once registered, they can download the app from play store and app store to start learning.

Commenting on this initiative, Mrinal Mohit, Chief Operating Officer, BYJU'S said, "Our police forces have gone beyond the call of duty at this time of crisis to safeguard the health and safety of citizens. We want to express our gratitude towards these COVID-warriors and as a learning company, the most impactful way to demonstrate our solidarity is by ensuring that their children have access to the best learning solution from the comfort of their homes. The wards of Maharashtra Police officials will be able to access and learn from for free from our app. We hope our

initiative gives our brave officials one less thing to worry about during this uncertain time."

Mrinal also added, "We would also like to congratulate Dr K Venkatesham, Commissioner of Pune Police for spearheading the integration of digital technology in all walks of life and opening the gates for BYJU'S to come forward and help the community."

Commenting on this initiative, Dr. K Venkatesham, Pune Police Commissioner, said, "Online education has been crucial and beneficial during the ongoing crisis to help children continue learning while staying safely at home. To cater to the educational needs of the wards of our police personnels, we have liaised with "BYJU'S – The Learning App", which is a renowned name in the field of online education. This initiative will help close to 1 lakh officials in the state and we would like to thank them for taking a step to help the officials who are relentlessly protecting the people of the country."

In the month of May, BYJU'S also provided free access of its learning program to the wards of Delhi Police. UNESCO report states that the education of over 1200 million students across 153 countries has been interrupted because of the COVID-19 crisis. The agency has also suggested that learning-platforms can help students access quality education remotely during times like these. With 250 million school-going students in India, it is of paramount importance that their health is protected while also

ensuring that their learning does not get interrupted.

About BYJU'S (Think & Learn Pvt Ltd)

BYJU'S is the world's most valuable ed-tech company and the creator of India's most loved school learning app which offers highly adaptive, engaging and effective learning programs for students in LKG -12 (K-12) and competitive exams like JEE, NEET, CAT and IAS. BYJU'S launched its flagship product, BYJU'S - The Learning App, for classes 4-12 in 2015. Today, the app has over 50 million registered students and 3.5 million annual paid subscriptions. With an average time of 71 minutes being spent by a student on the app every day from 1700+ cities, the app is creating a whole new way of learning through visual lessons. It is encouraging students to become self-initiated learners.

The Disney. BYJU'S Early Learn App was launched in June 2019, a special offering from BYJU'S for students in classes 1-3 featuring Disney's timeliness characters. In early 2019, BYJU'S also acquired Osmo, a Palo Alto based maker of educational games to transform the whole offline to online learning experience. Delivering a world-class learning experience, programs from BYJU'S are making learning contextual and visual. The apps have been designed to adapt to the unique learning style of every student, as per the pace, size and style of learning. BYJU'S is paving the way for new-age, geography-agnostic learning tools that sit at the cross section of mobile, interactive content and personalised learning methodologies. BYJU'S is also the official sponsor of the Indian Cricket Team.

Top Indian celebrities come together to support the sports community in tough times

The biggest names in the Indian sports fraternity came together to support the launch of the #PlayforIndia initiative to help those whose livelihoods have been put at a risk due to suspension of sporting activities owing to the COVID-19 outbreak. While the pandemic has dealt a blow to sports at large, the impact has been more severe for those working at sports venues and training facilities. #PlayforIndia aims to bring together India's sporting community, fans & athletes and channel their efforts into giving back to people belonging to the often invisible support system without whom sports activities would not be possible. These include cleaners, gardeners, coaches, umpires, referees, caddies and other support staff who are not receiving a regular income due to the lack of work.

In the launch video of the initiative, India's World Cup hero Yuvraj Singh emphasized on the important role played by these workers, "The happiness that sports gives us is made possible only because of the efforts of many unknown, unrecognized figures who support India's sporting structures. The #PlayforIndia initiative aims to provide monetary and non-monetary support to the people who form the very backbone of sports in India." Meanwhile, actor Abhishek Bachchan, who also owns teams in the Pro Kabaddi League and the Indian Super League, adds, "Today, these workers need all of our support. So, let's come together and truly 'play for India'." The growing network behind this initiative includes the likes of cricketers Rohit Sharma, Yuvraj Singh, Smriti Mandhana and Mayank Aggarwal; Olympians Dipa Karmakar, Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik;

tennis ace Sania Mirza, celebrities Abhishek Bachchan and Sunil Shetty, and some of the most respected organizations in Indian sport.

The aim of this movement is to build a culture of giving back in the Indian sports industry, where athletes, coaches and industry professionals attempt to help their colleagues in different ways. In addition to financial support, #PlayforIndia also allows people to volunteer time, effort and energy to worthwhile causes within and outside the sports community, such as education, mental health, hygiene etc. Deepthi Bopaiah, Executive Director, GoSports Foundation says, "The COVID-19 crisis has hugely impacted Indian sport with all activity coming to a halt. Those dependent on sport for their livelihood have been the hardest hit. We hope our initiative #PlayforIndia will help these people through this tough period. We believe that our collective experience in this space enables us to provide a trustworthy platform for promoting, facilitating, and supporting sporting causes throughout India." Somdev Devvarman, Ex-Davis Cupper and Founder, Life Is a Ball adds, "#PlayforIndia is a great example of what can be achieved when we work together. I encourage everyone to participate in their own way whether it is through donations, volunteering or by suggesting a worthwhile cause to benefit those in need." #PlayforIndia is for everyone who wants to give back to Indian sport. While its immediate objective is to help our less fortunate colleagues through this current crisis, #PlayforIndia will continue to work to support the thousands of worthy causes and people working on the frontline of Indian sport.

Spectra Hygienics Awarded by SRPF Maharashtra for Ensuring Safety in Corona Times

Spectra Hygienics, an IFS group company, has been felicitated by the SRPF Maharashtra for their voluntary services to effectively sanitize and disinfect SRPF Maharashtra offices and quarters centers. In addition to that, the Pest Management & Disinfection Services company also donated 1000 disposable bed sheets and water dispensers, as a humble tribute to our COVID warriors.

Adding to this, Krishna Anand, Chief Managing officer at Spectra Hygiene said "While there were shortcomings due to the Covid19 situation and businesses running slow, we believed there's always an opportunity to showcase your inner self through giving back to the society, I would also like to take this opportunity to empower all the start-ups to come up with new business ideas and keep the momentum going"

In these testing times, Spectra Hygienics has continued to remind people what it means to be a truly responsible citizen. Having sanitized and disinfected offices of the entire Mumbai police, the Pest Management Services company has also been honored by Radio City as #CityKaFighter.

With a vision to continue to protect the country against COVID-19, Spectra Hygienic strives to provide affordable and specialized sanitization and disinfection services to the masses; right from homes to commercial spaces including offices and hospitals.

Dharavi and the members of the North-eastern community receives essential kits distributed by 3 Indian Army (Territorial) Officers

Among the areas and communities of Mumbai that are gravely affected by Covid-19 are Dharavi, the North-eastern community, rickshaw drivers and the tribals of Sanjay Gandhi National Park.

As the country continues to be in lockdown, 3 Indian Army (Territorial) officers come forward and pour their heart out to serve these communities with the help of Mumbai Police. Organisers Major Pradeep Arya, IRS, SC; Captain Neil Shaji, VSM and Major Sanjay Raole provided 4500 ration kits and 4500 hygiene kits to these families with the assistance of Additional Commissioner Central Region, Veeresh Prabhu, IPS.

The activity happened in phases across the communities and reaching out to the individuals in Dharavi was successful because of the Mumbai Police Dharavi Zone and the assistance from Poornata Foundation.

“With the support and assistance of Mumbai Police and thanks to timely delivery of these kits by NASSCOM, we were identifying vulnerable populations in Mumbai wherein members from North East Community, Dharavi, Tribals and Rickshaw drivers were some of the many who were affected during COVID-19. We undertook this task like a military operation - identifying and assisting them with ration / hygiene kits which will suffice a family of 3-4 can for at least 10-15 days. NGOs like Abhilasha Foundation, Poornata Foundation supported us in distributing these kits.” said Captain Neil Shaji. Additionally, these assorted essential kits will also be distributed again to certain other parts of Dharavi and



Captain Neil Shaji and DCP Niyeti Thakar, IPS distributing essential kits at Dharavi



Captain Neil Shaji, Major Sanjay Raole and Sandhya Shetty distributing Ration and Hygiene kits

other communities in the coming days thus covering all grounds.

Sandhya Shetty, actor, model, commonwealth karate gold medalist, speaker, and the advocate of #NoFear campaign, aggressively supported the

measures towards transgenders, rescued women, tribals of Sanjay Gandhi National Park and rickshaw drivers. “The mission is to empower women with education, employment, nourishment and freedom. Our aim is to

help the vulnerable group and spread happiness and this food and hygiene relief camp is just a small step of support on humanitarian grounds.” said Sandhya Shetty.

“The ration and hygiene kits means a lot to those that have been affected at this time of difficulties & lock-down due to the COVID19 pandemic, where many have lost their jobs and are living with no more daily supplies. We are grateful to individuals like Captain Neil, Major Pradeep and Major Sanjay who have undertaken such an initiative” said



Captain Neil Shaji and Major Sanjay Raole distributing essential kits to North eastern community

North-eastern community representative, Leo Raikhan.

These kits contain 5 kg of wheat flour, 5 kg of rice, 2 kg of tur dal, 200 gms of turmeric powder, and chilli powder. Along with the ration kit, 3 soaps, 2 washing cloth soap, hand wash and sanitary napkin are also being distributed as part of the hygiene kit. The Indian Army (Territorial) officers received the support of multiple NGOs and of Mumbai Police to distribute and make available these crucial kits for all those in dire need.

Veer Foundation receives appreciation from Governor of Maharashtra for its efforts in sanitisation, feeding migrants offering free oxygen cylinders and for coming forward to set up Covid Care Centre

Veer Foundation, a Mumbai based organisation has received appreciation from Governor of Maharashtra for serving food to migrant workers, senior citizens and differently abled and sanitising more than 20,000 societies, Hospitals, BMC Ambulances, public transportation vehicles and offices since 4th April, 2020 to till date. Some of the large societies sanitised include CISF UNIT, MBPT Mumbai, Central Government employees residents welfare association Antop Hill, Mumbai, which is Asia's largest housing colony to provide housing to employees and staff of any central government body/organization which is been regularly sanitized.

The entire sanitation drive include chemical used and the machines provided free of cost by Veer Foundation.

Besides Veer Foundation has also provided food and masks to senior citizens, migrant workers, and neighbouring BMC Hospitals and quarantine centres.

The foundation has come forward to provide oxygen centre and provide assistance to the local corporation for a set-up of Covid-19 care centre, which is the primary need for the rising cases of Covid-19 and shortage of space in hospitals.

Commenting on the Foundation's efforts in containing Covid-19, Nitin Sanghvi, Trustee said, “We are happy to receive appreciation from Governor of Maharashtra, this gives us strength and motivation to serve the society during this pandemic.”

American Express pledges 9 crores to combat COVID-19 outbreak in India

As the world grapples with the COVID-19 pandemic, American Express India has pledged Rs 9 Crores towards support of funds and organizations that are helping combat the COVID-19 outbreak. This includes the PM CARES fund and partnership with Not for profit Organisations in areas of mobilizing essential supplies to the families, providing medical kits, feeding healthcare professionals as well as developing and providing protective gear to serve the most vulnerable sections of society,

Talking on the same, Manoj Adlakha, SVP & Country Manager, American Express Banking Corp, India said “We are facing an unprecedented crisis that has caused social, emotional, human and economic loss. While we are doing everything possible to keep our colleagues and their families safe, we are also constantly striving to make a positive contribution and meaningful connection with the communities in which we live and work. These grants will help provide protective equipment and feed people impacted, among other critical needs through various community welfare initiatives. In times like these, all we need is to come together to support the efforts of healthcare workers, NGOs and government organizations in this fight against COVID-19.”

Nashik City Police & Akshay Kumar launch the centralized Online Health System, connected with GOQii Vital 3.0 to monitor the health and wellness of its Police force

Combined usage of the detection algorithm and the Health Wrist Band can help Nashik City Police significantly understand and preventing further spread

Nashik City Police and Akshay Kumar have come together to inaugurate a centralized online health system to monitor the health and fitness of its Police workforce. The dashboard serves as a single platform that provides vital health-related information to each and every police personnel, all on one screen at a glance.

Akshay Kumar said, “The commitment of our police force is commendable and praiseworthy, and their relentless hard work and bravery is nothing less than heroic. We need to safeguard and protect the frontline workers who are tirelessly working for our safety during these unprecedented times. As this situation continues to persist, I believe technology can help us to fight this pandemic more efficiently. The online Health monitoring system will help the Nashik City Police monitor the health and fitness of their police personnel and take precautionary measures to keep them safe”.

Nashik City Police Department has been dedicatedly working long hours throughout the year but presently more so, in this health emergency



Virtual Press Conference

that has engulfed our nation and especially when our state has been recording the highest numbers. The sacrifice and dedication of the police force in these trying times is commendable, even though they are away from their family and friends, only to protect us, civilians.

Nashik City-based Datar Group CanConnect foundation donated the Health Wrist band which detects the body temperature devices along with the complete health dashboard integrated to Nashik City Police as part of its CSR initiative.

Nashik City Police Commissioner Vishwas

Nangare Patil said, “The Nashik City Police is dedicatedly working towards making sure its personnel are safe and healthy. We have to ensure that our workforce is healthy as they have to be available on ground to constantly monitor movement in the city and help our fellow citizens. With an online health monitoring system such as this, we can now monitor and capture the body vitals such as temperature, heart rate, blood pressure and take necessary steps to make sure our police force is healthy and fit. As the platform helps record the body temperature & pulse rate, if there are any suspected cases among our force, we can immediately isolate and provide early intervention”. “Technology is our enabler in these trying times and such online health platforms are truly helping us to fight this battle against the pandemic courageously,” Patil added.

The smart bands that were handed over to the Nashik City Police personnel, are all synched and collaborated with the dashboard, through which it receives data of the police force. The health data of over 3000 policemen have been captured using the platform and monitored through the dashboard. All critical information including key vitals, various parameters such as body temperature, heart rate, blood pressure, sleep etc. is captured on the platform.

“The combined usage of the detection algorithm and the GOQii Vital 3.0 smart band can significantly help in



isolating potential COVID-19 patients, thereby monitoring emerging cases, and preventing further spread among the Nashik City Police force. We are extremely happy to be of any help to our frontline workers as they are the true warriors in this fight against the pandemic”, says Vishal Gondal, Founder & CEO, GOQii.

The dashboard captures data from different police stations,

headquarters and various units, all synchronized under one roof, thus covering all grounds for the Nashik City police. The benefit the workforce sees is that through this launch, statistics and vitals of each and every officer can be monitored from one control room itself that has proven highly beneficial to safeguard the district's policemen. Minute by Minute health stats are being recorded along with

weekly analysis of steps, heart rate, sleep and temperature and presented in a graphical form. The wellness and fitness levels of each member is also part of the dashboard thus providing a holistic view of critical health insights of the policemen who are fronting the battle against the virus.

All data collected by the platform is subjected to HIPAA, GDPR and relevant data privacy guidelines.

Aadhar Housing Finance contributes a total of 49 Lakhs towards COVID relief

In response to the acute and growing needs of the nation created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the employees of Aadhar Housing Finance have contributed 27.04 lakhs to the PM CARES Fund. Aadhar Housing Finance has also contributed 22.95 Lakhs from their CSR fund along with undertaking a slew of initiatives to extend support to critical communities across India. They have also provided 27300 Masks and 7155 bottles of Sanitizers which has benefitted frontline police staff, medical staff and migrant labourers.

Six boxes of gloves, 648 hand sanitizers and 360 kgs of food grains were donated to the police officials in Siliguri and Asansol. 20,000 masks and 80 bottles (500ml) along with 4 cans of Sanitizers was provided to the Mumbai Police EOW (Economic Offences Wing). 10 cans of Hand Sanitizers were also given to Haffkine Institute from Mumbai. Aadhar Housing Finance has also managed to provide food for 500 migrant labourers stranded due to lock down in Palghar district with the help of the local Tehsildar. 300 masks and 65 bottles (500 ml) of sanitizers were also provided to Mumbai Police Special Branch – CID.

Recognising the profound impact of this pandemic on the most vulnerable set of people, including daily wage workers, 3000 units of Hand Sanitizers & 3000 units of 3 Layer Face Masks were distributed to the needy people through the NGO - Bhartiya Inclusive Development Foundation. Masks and Sanitizers were also given to the Bangalore Police Force.

A total of 4000 Masks and Sanitizers were distributed to the Police authorities at Dewas and Mandsaur, Madhya Pradesh. 100 units each of face masks, gloves and hand sanitizers were contributed to the police force of Jabalpur. 400kgs of rice was also contributed police officials in Ranchi. Aadhar Housing Finance also provided ration supplies to underprivileged children in Delhi and daily wage workers in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

On the contribution towards the company's CSR initiative, Mr. Deo Shankar Tripathi, MD and CEO, Aadhar Housing Finance, said, “We realize the fact that support in any form will make a big difference. So, as part of our CSR activities, we have encouraged all the Aadharites to suggest us ways in which we can contribute towards those who need support and help in this need of the hour. Through our contribution, we want to convey a message to the society that we are grateful to all those who are committed to keep us safe, sufficient and healthy in these trying times and their health and well-being is vital to our future.”

As a voluntary contribution, all Aadhar Housing Finance employees have pledged their one-day salary which sums up to approximate INR 27.04 Lakhs and have donated that towards PM CARES Fund.

Rishi Anand, Chief Business Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance, said, “As an essential service provider, Aadhar Housing Finance is always standing strong with the Indian Police Force and the citizens of this country. Along with this, we are constantly taking initiatives to support our Government fight the COVID-19 pandemic. All the employees are participating in these efforts whole-heartedly and are constantly coming up with new initiatives to help the COVID-19 warriors. The way India stood strong while following social distancing, I am sure the same sentiment will be displayed now towards combined efforts of social responsibility to bring the nation back to normalcy.”

Hrishikesh Jha, Chief People Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance, said, “Employees at Aadhar Housing Finance were very helpful and generous to help out the Indian Government during such trying times. It is good to see that all of our team members have come forward to help out the COVID-19 warriors. We are in this together and such display of unity towards social responsibility is what the country needs the most now”

COVID 19: Legrand India secures health of 300 journalists, donates PPE kits

Legrand India, a global specialist in electrical and digital building infrastructure has initiated supporting the journalists by providing PPE kits along with 3 cloth masks, sanitizers and gloves through the Chennai Press Club in Chennai. They have provided these kits to 300 journalists to enable them serve the Nation through media on daily basis with right amount of information on number of growth in Covid cases, cured cases during this global pandemic situation.

Legrand has been conducting various activities across the nation to support several communities in the battle against Covid-19. To fight against the pandemic, Legrand India has provided necessary PPE kits inclusive of Masks, gloves, doctor's suit, goggles and sanitizers to the designated health authorities in Tamil Nadu and Kerala. The team has enabled support through its electrical products such as protection devices, wiring devices and UPS for hospitals and healthcare facilities countrywide.

With Healthcare as focus, the company is providing PPE to doctors and medical staff in Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Delhi and Kerala to support the frontline workers in their fight against COVID-19.

Speaking on the Covid-19 support, Tony Berland, Managing Director and CEO, Group Legrand India said, "I feel privileged to be a part of such organization where humanity is the key focus area. As a socially responsible organisation, we at Legrand have always set health and safety on priority, for our employees and for the society at large. Media being the key medium of providing right information to the mass, their safety

in such pandemic situation was more of importance. We are working with State Government across the country to bridge the disparity and deliver the need-of-hour to maximum possible extent."

About Legrand Group in India:

A global specialist in the electrical & digital building infrastructure, Legrand is a Euro 6.0* billion group based in Limoges, France. The group has manufacturing facilities in 90 countries and its products are sold in

and DBs and a strong No. 2 in wiring devices Apart from this, the company also holds a leading position in Home Automation, MCCBs and Cable management systems. The company's geographical reach, across market segments, caters to new requirements of customers with smart solutions that make Legrand a multipolar group. And this multipolar nature, and the global philosophy of Listen, Design, Make and Support has enabled it to provide innovative and smart solutions. Legrand's products

are amongst the top in the market and have undisputable brand equity.

Legrand products and services comply with the three criteria of simplicity – simplicity of use, simplicity of installation and simplicity of distribution - which



over 180 countries. Globally, Legrand is a leader in wiring devices and cable management with a global market share of over 20% and 14% respectively. Legrand also enjoys leadership positions in at least one of its major business areas in a number of countries including France, Italy, Russia, Brazil, Mexico, China, and of course India.

Legrand India offers a wide range of products in the categories of Energy distribution, Wiring devices, Home Automation, Structured Cabling, Lighting Management Solutions, Cable Management and Industrial application products. It is an undisputed leader in MCBs, RCDs

enable the company to quickly penetrate new markets. With an employee base of over 1000 in India, the company is fast emerging as a leader in its core business by extending products and services that suit every segment in the local market.

Headquartered in Mumbai, Legrand operates across India through 26 offices, 600 stockiest, 11500 retail outlets with three state-of-the-art manufacturing units, seven training centers and two R&D centers. Technological innovations, simple and rapid product combinations to form communicating systems, clever installation ideas etc. are the focus of the R&D team at Legrand.

Rotary launches Rs 200 cr fund-raiser for children in need

Highlighting Rotary's service horizon that stretches from a newly born child to the elderly with special focus around the holistic development of children, "Chhoti Si Asha" a fund-raiser for the future of disadvantaged children, has been launched as a joint initiative by Rotary India, Rotary Club Of Bombay and Wizcraft International. The needs of children as the most disadvantaged have become urgent in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Championing one of the key Rotary beliefs that children are our future and they deserve a better world than what we have, the "Chhoti Si Asha" fund-raiser is focused and committed to immediate relief projects as well as the creation of long-term projects in the area of nutrition, health, education and skill development. Rotary India and Rotary Club of Bombay have committed resources and effort across different platforms to deal with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic with a major focus on children. Some of the major initiatives of Rotary include Teach, E-Learning, Asha Kiran for schooling the economically disadvantaged, Polio Eradication and Pediatric Heart Surgeries.

Designed as a people's initiative, Chhoti Si Asha- For Children in Need, the virtual fund-raiser event, would be a three-hour program, promoted on various media platforms and streamed LIVE on Sunday, 28th June, 2020. The virtual fund-raiser event program would include messages, high-quality performances of some of the most talented Indian stars. Singing, dancing, comedy and poetry, alongside heartfelt appeals by celebrities would be featured as part of the entertainment program. Most importantly, the program would also shine light on the real-life heroes, highlight-

ing their Real Stories celebrating their humanitarian work and their change-making efforts. Furthermore, supporting the people's initiative would be key government dignitaries as well. Chhoti Si Asha will also showcase the work done by COVID warriors and health workers sharing how the country stepped up celebrating the spirit of solidarity and togetherness.

Through the efforts of the fund-raiser event, Chhoti Si Asha- For Children in Need, a minimum of Rs 200 crore would be committed towards the work being undertaken for COVID-19 relief.

Speaking on the initiative, Rotary International President Nominee, Shekhar Mehta said, "Rotary is celebrating 100 years in India. So our initiatives too have become big in Literacy, Water and Sanitation, Health, Environment and Disaster management. Our COVID related work is at Rs.200 crore including Rs.105 crore to the PM CARES Fund. "Chhoti Si Asha" is our effort to help children with education, nutrition and health. Under our Building the Nation initiative Rotary India has partnered with Government of India to help provide online content for class 1 to 12 for several crore children."

The primary mover of this initiative, Rotary Club of Bombay, is led by its President Preeti Mehta and Past President, Sandip Agarwalla. Preeti Mehta said, "I am extremely delighted that our 91-year-old Rotary Club of Bombay is playing a pivotal role in this fund-raiser. It has been our consistent view and approach to remove the tag of 'underprivileged' from all our poor young and that is our privilege. The crying need of the hour is to ensure that our children emerge, not only literate, but truly educated and developed in a healthy and holistic way to lead a fulfilling life. We are reminded of our people's President late A. P. J.

Abdul Kalam's book 'Ignited Minds'." Speaking on the initiative, Sabbas Joseph, Co-Founder & Director, Wizcraft International, said "We are humbled to partner with the Rotary team to create the Chhoti Si Asha fund-raiser for children in need. We are committed to employ our ideas, experience and relationships towards leading the initiative for the benefit of children who represent our future and help avert the human tragedy that's unfolding."

This is a people's initiative and everyone would be able to support and donate through a donation link during the event and all funds will go directly to projects related to children and COVID-19 relief.

Rotary India and Rotary Club of Bombay are committed to work across different aspects to deal with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. 3 lakh Rotary families and their partner organisations are committing large resources towards the work that is underway:

- Donations to PM Cares Fund: Rs.105 crores
- Projects at the ground level across India valued at Rs.100 crores*

Through the funds being raised, the following work is underway:

- a. Short and long-term projects to benefit children in the areas of nutrition, health, education and skill development.
- b. Providing 1 crore Masks
- c. Medical supply and equipment worth Rs.25 crores
- d. More than 100,000 PPE kits
- e. More than 100 lakh people would be provided meals, shelter and medical facilities.

Keeping in mind the long-term impact of COVID-19, there is a genuine need for huge financial support as we combat the challenges thrown at children and disadvantaged people across our country. 📌

STANDING TALL

Green building technologies can help the built environment prepare for a future in which pandemics are more common. Experts tell Eco-Business how.

HOW GREEN BUILDINGS ARE ADAPTING TO THE POST-COVID ERA

Occupant health and well-being help to make the business case for green buildings.
Image: Singapore Green Building Council



“**T**hink of green buildings as giant N95 face-masks, protecting you from harmful toxins the moment you step inside,” said Dr Ho Nyok Yong, president of the Singapore Green Building Council (SGBC), in a webinar in May.

“Building-based prevention and control measures have become one of the most important methods of fighting against the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic,” Dr Ho told his audience of 600 building and construction industry stakeholders.

As cities start to reopen their economies and people return to work, installing green building technologies in shopping centres, offices, factories and other shared spaces can help to limit the spread of the coronavirus within them and stand them in good stead against future disease outbreaks, experts have told Eco-Business.

When commercial real estate services firm CBRE surveyed 264 tenants in Asia Pacific from March to April on their industries’ response to the Covid-19 crisis, nearly half said that it will lead to a stronger preference for buildings with wellness and environmental features.

This bodes well for green buildings, which place a strong emphasis on indoor air quality and well ventilated indoor spaces. Even before the Covid-19 outbreak, SGBC, a non-profit that supports sustainability in the built environment, had been working to raise awareness of how buildings affect people, with its Better Places for People programme.

Retrofits such as adding ultraviolet lights to air-handling units and switching to demand-controlled ventilation can reduce the transmission of airborne viruses and bacteria while increasing the buildings’ energy efficiency, said experts such as Mark Yeo, CBRE’s chief operating officer of property management in Singapore and Southeast Asia.

In the longer term, new buildings can further shrink their carbon footprint and aid in disease prevention by maximising natural ventilation or making use of innovative ventilation systems that are already deployed in cities such as Singapore, the experts added.

Making buildings healthier

Even before the emergence of Covid-19, more hospitals were starting to use ultraviolet-C (UV-C) light to disinfect surgical suites and other rooms and surfaces because it kills or inactivates microorganisms.

“Some buildings are now looking into installing UV-C lighting in their air-handling units to remove airborne bacteria, viruses and germs to improve the indoor air quality,” said Yeo.

Over time, organic materials usually build up on the surfaces of the units' cooling coils and other components, degrading their energy efficiency and leading to higher energy use and costs. Having UV-C lights in the units also prevents this and lessens the need for maintenance. SGBC certifies such innovations to ensure the general health and well-being of building occupants.

Refining ventilation systems is another key to minimising disease transmissions while saving electricity. In most commercial buildings, the heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) system recirculates up to 90 per cent of the indoor air because drawing air from outdoors and conditioning it is energy-intensive. This practice, however, could enable contaminants such as bacteria and viruses to persist within the premises.

Demand-controlled ventilation pairs HVAC systems with carbon dioxide or other sensors to vary the intake of outdoor air depending on the buildings' occupancy. When there are more people, more air is brought in, diluting the concentration of airborne contaminants and making infections less likely. Conversely, when there are fewer people, the smart systems draw in less air, decreasing their energy use.

Different parts of a building may benefit from different ventilation and sensor strategies. "In basement carparks, ductless jet fans' activation can be linked to carbon monoxide sensors. This will help to both guard against viruses and make the building more sustainable," Yeo said.

A fresh (air) approach

As new buildings are constructed, they can also take advantage of state-of-the-art ventilation systems that may be too difficult or costly to install for existing properties.

The National University of Singapore's (NUS) net-zero energy building, for instance, uses a hybrid cooling system that combines air-

“
Think of green buildings
as giant N95 facemasks,
protecting you from
harmful toxins the
moment you step inside.

DR HO NYOK YONG
President, Singapore Green
Building Council

conditioning with ceiling fans. The system supplies only conditioned outdoor air, but at higher temperatures and humidity than conventional HVAC systems to reduce its energy consumption.

"Even though the temperature is warmer at around 27 degrees Celsius, the ceiling fans circulate the cool air which makes it comfortable for people," explained Professor Chandra Sekhar, co-director of NUS's Centre for Integrated Building Energy and Sustainability in the Tropics.

Prof Sekhar, along with Professor David Cheong, the centre's other co-director, and Professor Tham Kwok Wai, another colleague in the NUS School of Design and Environment's Department of Building, also patented an energy-saving system that improves ventilation, called the Single Coil Twin Fan (SCTF) system, that is installed in the Singapore Building and Construction Authority Academy's Zero Energy Building.

In traditional HVAC systems, air drawn from outdoors and recirculated indoor air are mixed into a single stream before being conditioned and distributed across the building. In the SCTF system, the two air flows are treated and distributed independently to various rooms. When a room is occupied, more outdoor air and less recirculated air is supplied, and vice versa, enabling energy savings.

Conditioned outdoor air is also sent directly to each employee's desk

through ducts integrated into the furniture and controllable speaker-like devices on each desk that vent the air as needed. "Such personal ventilation technology uses the smaller volume of cleaned outdoor air more effectively by creating and maintaining healthy microenvironments around each workstation," said Prof Tham.

With sensors, the personal ventilation system can also save more energy by delivering the air only to occupied desks. "This would be especially useful for offices and other buildings with high variability in occupancy, including co-working spaces," said Prof Tham.

Rethinking buildings

The experts noted that building owners may be able to seek government funding for some of the retrofits. For example, Singapore's Green Buildings Innovation Cluster Building Energy Efficient Demonstrations Scheme finances up to 70 per cent of the cost of installing novel technologies that use at least 20 percent less energy than their best commercial counterparts.

Prof Sekhar added that the Covid-19 pandemic is likely to spur urban planners, architects and property managers to reconsider how they design, operate and maintain buildings to safeguard occupant health and wellbeing.

"Apart from sterilising access points and other practices, such as safe distancing, to minimise the spread of infections, we will expect building systems themselves to offer some inherent protection to the people who are in the buildings," he said.

"By taking advantage of innovative systems, buildings will be able to adjust to the post-Covid-19 environment with improved safety and sustainability." ■

(Source: <https://www.eco-business.com/news/standing-tall-how-green-buildings-are-adapting-to-the-post-covid-era/>)

Dalmia Bharat Foundation joins hands with CSRBOX to form India Livelihoods Collective

A first-ever strategic partnerships platform for scaling-up livelihood interventions in farm, non-farm and urban jobs ecosystems

The Dalmia Bharat Foundation, a registered non-profit organization of Dalmia Bharat Group, has partnered with CSRBOX to launch India Livelihood Collective - the country's first non-financial and non-funding commitment based collaborative platform.

The platform will be launched virtually by Vimala Ramesh, CEO Maharashtra State Rural Livelihood Mission (MSRLM), Government of Maharashtra and Govinda Rajulu Chintala, Chairman, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

The collective has direct relevance with Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, which was recently introduced by the Government of India to encourage quality local products in various spheres and build a resilient rural economy. NABARD and the state-level agencies such as MSRLM will play a crucial role in implement-


ing this mission. This key initiative will bring together various entities that play different roles in farm value-chain to ease the process of farm-based interventions, support farmer producer organizations, and also facilitate the procurement of produce through forward market linkages. The aim is to alleviate the problems of a large section of rural workers, who have reverse migrated from urban areas and are facing severe livelihood challenges. The mission aims to provide livelihood opportunities, be it through rural entrepreneurship or linking-back to industrial-jobs.

farm and non-farm sectors to provide gainful employment and financial independence. We are very excited to be the part of India Livelihood Collective and are sure that the Collective will help us achieve our goals faster."

Talking about the need for such a platform amidst the economic slowdown and pandemic, Bhomik Shah, the Curator and one of the Founding Partners of Collective said, "India has a lot of potential to create livelihood in the rural economy where CSR foundations, philanthropic organizations, and non-profits can boost local entrepreneurial system

India has a lot of potential to create livelihood in the rural economy where CSR foundations, philanthropic organizations, and non-profits can boost local entrepreneurial system with enhanced financial inclusion, capacity building, market-linkages and extension of social security programs. With the right guidance and assistance, our local farms and markets have immense potential to create jobs and livelihoods.

Commenting on the launch of this timely initiative, Vishal Bhardwaj, CEO of Dalmia Bharat Foundation said, "Livelihood has been a focus area of work at Dalmia Bharat Foundation (DBF). We have been working on leveraging opportunities in both

with enhanced financial inclusion, capacity building, market-linkages and extension of social security programs. With the right guidance and assistance, our local farms and markets have immense potential to create jobs and livelihoods." 

Digital Clean-up Day to celebrate the World Environment Day

People don't often realize that in the digital world there is also pollution that influences the actual environment. Almost all online activities increase our carbon footprint. In 2009, McAfee published a report which said that it takes the same amount of energy to deliver billions of spam e-mails as two million US households use in a day. By 2025, it is estimated that data repositories will be using a fifth of all produced energy, as well as be some of the greatest polluters.

Digital Cleanup has a distinct and real effect. Removing digital waste clears storage space in devices, thus making them faster and saving valuable time. An organised digital workspace also has a positive psychological effect, as tidy workplace results in increased focus. Decluttering may help inspiration and forgotten ideas to resurface, too.

"The foods we eat, the air we breathe, the water we drink and the climate that makes our planet habitable all come from nature. These are exceptional times in which nature is sending us a message. Digital world pollution also influences the actual environment. With coronavirus pandemic enforcing social distancing restrictions this environment day 2020 - It's time to build back better for People and Planet by digital decluttering" quotes Ms Gayatri Chhabria Trustee, Mukul Madhav Foundation.

"The emanation of COVID19 has accentuated the fact that, when we destroy biodiversity, we destroy the structure that supports human life. It

would take 1.6 Earths to meet the demands that humans make on nature each year, internet alone will produce 20% of the world's greenhouse gases. The pandemic has inflicted us to hit the 'great pause'. Digital Clean up this Environment day, will not only save the life of our electronics by removing superfluous data, but will commit undoubtedly to reduction of Global Carbon Emission." says Ms Payal Rajpal, South Asia Head Robotex & Founder Hack the Crisis - India.

"Leading a digital life is the way to go. But ensuring digital health is

It India Foundation NGO, which is the organization behind the largest ever cleanup action World Cleanup Day, that in 2019 brought 1.6 million people out to clean India.

"The cause is noble and we are so glad to be associated with it. Apart from it being noble and helping the planet, we also hope that it helps organisations realise that by getting rid of unnecessary digital space they can also save a lot of money and open up space not just in hard disks but the minds of their people as well." Harshi Karia, Founder at Schbang

THE CAUSE IS NOBLE AND WE ARE SO GLAD TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH IT. APART FROM IT BEING NOBLE AND HELPING THE PLANET, WE ALSO HOPE THAT IT HELPS ORGANISATIONS REALISE THAT BY GETTING RID OF UNNECESSARY DIGITAL SPACE THEY CAN ALSO SAVE A LOT OF MONEY AND OPEN UP SPACE NOT JUST IN HARD DISKS BUT THE MINDS OF THEIR PEOPLE AS WELL.

equally important", says Mr. Venkatesh Natrajan, Chief Digital Officer, Ashok Leyland.

"The world is in lockdown, many countries have imposed severe restrictions of movement on their citizens who have to face weeks between their house walls. I am sure they have already cleaned their possessions, now it's time to turn attention to the digital clutter of their lives," said Pankaj Choudhary, Founder, Let's Do

Digital Cleanup Day is organized by Let's Do It India Foundation, which has also organized World Cleanup Days since 2008. In 2019, on 19th September, World Cleanup Day brought 1.6 million people out to clean their communities. This effort is to try and make it the biggest digital clean up drive this environment day creating opportunity in crisis by reducing the CO2 emissions generated by digital foot print.

PepsiCo achieves Safe Water Access Goal to reach 25 million people Five Years Early

Further commits support of USD \$3 million to WaterAid to increase safe water access in West Bengal and Maharashtra

The PepsiCo Foundation announced the expansion of its water initiatives in India, with an aim to provide safe water access to 2,00,000 people in the communities in Maharashtra and West Bengal. As part of The PepsiCo Foundation's new commitment to reach 100 million people with safe water access worldwide by 2030, the Foundation will invest USD \$3 million with WaterAid to provide safe water access to agricultural communities and help women in high water-risk areas in West Bengal & Maharashtra. This program aims to provide 200,000 farmers and their families access to piped water supply for household use, increased water resources, and will establish community-managed water distribution systems in these communities.

This investment by the Foundation is in line with Govt. of India's Jal Jeevan Mission which aims to provide functional household tap connections to every rural household by 2024.


In addition to the fresh infusion of USD \$3 million, The PepsiCo Foundation also announced that they have helped more than 44 million people gain access to safe water since 2006, far surpassing the company's goal to support 25 million people worldwide by 2025. To achieve this, The PepsiCo Foundation has invested more than USD \$46 million since 2005 as a founding partner or early investor in programs with partners like Safe Water Network, Water.org, WaterAid and many other NGOs & multilateral agen-

- Out of + 44 million beneficiaries worldwide that PepsiCo partnerships have supported with providing access to safe water, 21 million beneficiaries are in India
- Further investment of USD \$3 million aims to positively impact 2,00,000 people in West Bengal and Maharashtra
- New investment in line with the Govt's Jal Jeevan Mission, which aims to provide functional household tap connections to every rural household by 2024.
- The PepsiCo Foundation sets new goal to reach 100 million people worldwide with safe water access by 2030

cies worldwide. Believing that access to water is a human right, PepsiCo's safe water access work focuses on distribution, purification and conservation programs in support of Sustainable Development Goal #6 to ensure the availability and sustainable management of clean water and sanitation for all. One such program of PepsiCo is with WaterAid focusing on restoring wells, harvesting rainwater in schools and building piped water supply systems in Southern India, which has helped more than 70,000 people in Palakkad, Nelamangala and Sri City since November 2017. Together, PepsiCo and WaterAid are focusing on implementing solutions that will help increase access to clean water; build community and government capacity to manage water resources including regular water quality testing, conduct

trainings for operation and maintenance; and educate community members to adopt sustainable sanitation and hygiene practices. These solutions are aimed at helping improve water security for these communities and will also promote water conservation and recharge measures including rainwater harvesting.

Speaking on the water initiatives in India, Ahmed ElSheikh, President, PepsiCo India, said, "PepsiCo truly understands the need for clean and safe water access to every individual on this planet. As part of our company's Winning with Purpose vision, we have been working towards helping communities effectively conserve, manage, and distribute water for more than a decade. In India, we work on several programs that focus on water replenishment, rainwater harvesting and water supply infrastructure. Our partnership with WaterAid helps us to achieve our goal to improve water security for communities in India."

V.K Madhavan, CEO, from WaterAid India, said, "The effort to provide clean and safe water access to various communities across the globe demands people and organizations to collaborate and work together as one team. We have been closely working with PepsiCo India to provide long-term access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene to communities in three locations in southern India. We see a synergy between their commitment and efforts to provide safe water and our work. With the support of PepsiCo India and the additional grant, we look forward to creating a positive impact on the lives of many more people in vulnerable communities." 

Scientists have little doubt: the destruction of nature makes humanity increasingly vulnerable to disease outbreaks like the Covid-19 pandemic, which has sickened millions, killed hundreds of thousands, and devastated countless livelihoods worldwide.

It also will impede long-term economic recovery, because more than half of the world's GDP depends on nature in some way. Could the

Covid-19 crisis be the wake-up call—and, indeed, the opportunity—we need to change course?

While some politicians have claimed that a pandemic of this scale was unforeseen, many experts believed that it was all but inevitable, given the proliferation of zoonotic diseases (caused by pathogens that jump to humans from other animals). More than 60 per cent of new infectious diseases now originate in animals. This trend is linked directly to human

activities. From intensive farming and deforestation to mining and the exploitation of wild animals, destructive practices that we dismiss as “business as usual” place us in ever-closer contact with animals, creating the ideal conditions for disease spillovers.

In this sense, Ebola, HIV, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS)—all of zoonotic origin—were warnings the world failed to heed. But Covid-19 could

THE PLANET AFTER THE PANDEMIC

Covid-19 has spurred unprecedented state intervention, with governments developing and implementing comprehensive recovery strategies. This provides a golden opportunity to entrench environmental protection in our economic systems, writes **André Hoffmann**.

From intensive farming and deforestation to mining and the exploitation of wild animals, destructive practices that we dismiss as “business as usual” place us in ever-closer contact with animals, creating the ideal conditions for disease spillovers. Image: CC BY 2.0

be different. After all, it has demonstrated more starkly than any of its predecessors just how fundamentally linked human health and prosperity are with the wellbeing of our planet—and how vulnerable that leaves us.

Claims that protecting the environment would crash economies were not only shortsighted, but also counterproductive. It is environmental destruction that has ground the world economy to a halt.

Moreover, unlike previous recent disease outbreaks, Covid-19 has spurred unprecedented state intervention, with governments worldwide developing and implementing comprehensive recovery strategies. This provides a golden opportunity to entrench environmental protection and restoration in our economic systems.

Two principles should shape recovery strategies. First, stimulus alone is not enough; better environmental regulations, conceived with the active participation of business and investors, are also crucial.

Second, public spending should be allocated in ways that support a better balance between the health of societies, economies, and the environment. This means investing in green industries, especially those that move us closer to a circular economy.

Leading economists such as Nobel laureate Joseph Stiglitz and Nicholas Stern have found that green recovery packages would offer much higher rates of return, more short-term jobs, and superior long-term cost savings than traditional fiscal stimulus. For example, building clean-energy infrastructure—a particularly labor-intensive activity—would create twice as many jobs per dollar as fossil-fuel investments.

Other priorities include investment in natural capital, such as large-scale restoration of forest ecosystems. This would yield many valuable benefits, ranging from bolstering biodiversity and mitigating floods to absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

To complement such efforts, banks and other financial entities should be held responsible for lending practices that fuel the nature and climate crises. Some decision-makers recognise this imperative. The International Monetary Fund has published broad guidance for a green recovery, and IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva has called for environmental conditions to be attached to corporate bailouts. The French government is already pursuing such an approach.

Furthermore, the European Union is drawing up a green Covid-19 recovery plan that would complement its European Green Deal, which aims to restore biodiversity and accelerate the shift to a zero-carbon economy. A group of 180 European politicians, companies, trade unions, campaign

report, more than a quarter of the stimulus spending implemented so far in 16 major economies is likely to cause substantial and lasting environmental damage. Some, such as US President Donald Trump's administration, have also relaxed existing environmental rules, in order to help major polluters recover.

It is increasingly difficult to justify this approach. Lest we forget, just before the pandemic, countries were experiencing unprecedented wildfires and devastating flooding. As climate change advances, the extreme weather events that produce such disasters will become more frequent and severe.

Politicians and vested interests can try to divert attention from the challenges ahead. But this will not prevent future crises; it certainly won't

BUT, TO ACHIEVE A SUSTAINABLE GLOBAL RECOVERY, MANY MORE GOVERNMENTS WILL HAVE TO EMBRACE GREEN-RECOVERY POLICIES. AND, SO FAR, MANY ARE DOING THE OPPOSITE, DIRECTING RESOURCES TOWARD ENVIRONMENTALLY DESTRUCTIVE INDUSTRIES AND ACTIVITIES.

groups, and think tanks recently released a letter urging EU leaders to adopt green stimulus measures.

But, to achieve a sustainable global recovery, many more governments will have to embrace green-recovery policies. And, so far, many are doing the opposite, directing resources toward environmentally destructive industries and activities.

For example, according to the research involving Stiglitz and Stern, unconditional airline bailouts perform the worst in terms of economic impact, speed, and climate metrics. And yet billions are being channelled toward airlines, often with few strings attached. In fact, according to a recent Green Stimulus Index

make them wait until the Covid-19 recovery is complete. On the contrary, a return to business as usual could hasten their arrival.

Rather than continue to stumble from one crisis to the next, we must build more resilient systems today. Putting environmental preservation and restoration at the center of the Covid-19 recovery is the perfect place to start. ■

André Hoffmann, a businessman and philanthropist, is President of the MAVA Foundation and Vice-Chair of Hoffmann-La Roche. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2020. www.project-syndicate.org (Source: <https://www.eco-business.com/opinion/the-planet-after-the-pandemic/>)

Tata Motors releases its Annual CSR Report FY 2019-20

Over 8.3 lakh people benefitted from its community programmes during the year

Tata Motors, India's leading automobile brand, released its FY 2019-20 Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Report. In line with the Tata Group's vision of promoting community well-being, Tata Motors has actively implemented initiatives under its key thrust areas of Health (Aarogya), Education (Vidyadhanam), Employability (Kaushalya) and Environment (Vasundhara) and the Rural Development. The scope and the depth of the CSR programmes of the company have consistently increased and has positively touched 8.3 lakh lives in FY19-20, out of which nearly 41% belong to the SC and ST communities.

Speaking on the occasion, Guenter Butschek, CEO & MD, Tata Motors said, "As we enter the 75th year of Tata Motors, I share with immense pride that our collective CSR efforts over the last decade have made a positive difference to the lives of 5 million people across India. Our role has progressively grown from being just a resource provider to a facilitator and now an enabler for driving positive change. This is a true testament to 'innovating mobility solutions with passion to enhance quality of life' philosophy rooted in our mission statement. We will continue our endeavor towards uplifting the un-



IIT Students from Financial Aid Programme attending session at Tata Motors Pune

privileged communities and improve their quality of life by making them aware and self-reliant."

Below is a snapshot of the company's CSR initiatives across key pillars:

1. Building and Strengthening Healthcare Facilities 'AROGYA'

In FY20, 3.9 lakh people benefitted from the health initiative 'Aarogya', which aims to curb malnutrition through facilitation of clean drinking water to remote communities and by provision of preventive/ curative health services. Over 74% of the acute undernourished children treated by Tata Motors are now in a healthy status. Water security ensured for around 21,666 individuals through company's National Drinking Water Programme titled 'Amrutdhara'.

The company has also laid down a strategy to contain the spread of COVID-19 and to assist those who have been impacted most by the lockdown. The company is achieving this by provision of essentials, equipping the heroes on frontline with protective gear and education masses on ways to prevent transmission. This direct assistance benefitted 1.5 lakh people including migrants, daily wage earners who lost livelihood, and those who were left stranded or forced to seek shelter in transit camps.

2. Augmenting Education System 'VIDYADHANAM'

Over 1.5 lakh students were engaged through the education initiative 'Vidyadhanam', which focuses on improving the academic performance of secondary/college going students



Education - Digital classrooms



Employability Skilling

through targeted approach by instituting need-based financial support, special coaching classes, etc. These initiatives have led to an improvement in pass percentage from 55% in 2015 to 80% in FY20. More than 44% students scored above 60% in their 10th standard pre-board exams in FY20. During the year, the company also collaborated with Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNVs), to coach over 400 students for JEE and NEET entrance exams. Tata Motors is the first corporate in India to support IIT Bombay under Affirmative Action (AA) for Financial Aid Programme (FAP).

3. Enhancing programmes on Employability 'KAUSHALYA'

Over 1 lakh people were trained through under employability initia-

tive 'Kaushalya', which focuses on training unemployed youth in three segments viz. auto trades, non-auto trades and agriculture & allied activities. 63% of the people have found employment (or are self-employed) resulting in an annual increase in family income by ₹1 lakh.

The company also engages with community based groups of women and farmers and helps them earn supplementary income through agriculture and allied programmes.

4. Nurturing sustainability through environmental programmes 'VASUNDHARA'

Close to 1.2 lakh new saplings were planted across Tata Motors plant locations through and ensured their survival rate remained significantly high (i.e. 71%) despite prolonged

rains last Monsoon. Through the environmental awareness programmes, over 91,000 people (mostly young children) were sensitized about this cause. The company also encourage communities to adopt alternate sources of energy.

5. Integrated Village Development

With a focus on holistic development of a tribal village/hamlet, Tata Motor collaborated with Sahabhag (the CSR Cell of Government of Maharashtra) to run a pilot project that improved the quality of 3000 tribal lives of Pathardi gram panchayat in Jawhar block of Palghar district. 70% of the resources for village development came from the government.

6. Volunteering Programme:

The Tata Motors Employee Volunteering Programme also saw a surge in volunteering hours with more employee participation and deeper engagement in various community welfare initiatives. More than 50% of the 28000 employees participated and invested over 1.1 lakh volunteering hours for social causes, a 67% increase over the previous year.

Two exceptional natural occurrences during the year necessitated extraordinary interventions. Feroocious floods in Maharashtra caused extensive damage to life and livelihoods, demanding a substantial relief effort to support the ones impacted. Tata Motors complimented Maharashtra State Government Flood Response Programme and provided aid to over 45,000 people.

During the year, the company received several prestigious accolades from a diverse set of stakeholders - (1) 5th Tata Affirmative Action Programme (TAAP) Jury Award, (2) Creating Shared Values Initiative for Inclusive Business and (3) SIAM's CSR Award. The CSR work done in and around Sanand Plant was also recognized by the Ahmedabad Collectorate. 📍

RAMBABU SHARMA'S Journey of compassion

Strength does not come from winning. Your struggle develops your strength, when you go through hardship and decide not to surrender, that is strength

Difficulties are meant to rouse, not discourage. The human spirit grows stronger by conflict. Real gems don't break upon falling, and, those real gems shine bright enough to guide the world by the light of inspiration.

One of such real gems is Rambabu Sharma. A strong personality whose story now inspires thousands and makes us believe - "the stronger your storm, the brighter your rainbow".

He was barely 13 when he had to leave his native place Bihar in 2005 and his tender shoulders were burdened by the responsibilities of an ill father and a family to look after and earn a living for.

In the age of learning and exploring the wonderful world of books, his



little tender hands carried the carpentry apparatus. His jobs changed from working as an ordinary data entry employer to indulging in odd office jobs, But the constant was his never ending will to learn and his sedulous spirit and they say, "where there is a will there is a way" and his determination and passion for learning took him back to the paths of education where he completed his high school education at the age of 20. His relentless efforts at learning showed exceptional results when he cleared his entrance examination with flying colors with AIR 9 and received scholarship for the same

though hardships never left his way and obstacles reappeared when he was running out of funds for completing his graduation. But being a preserving and purposeful man, he never gave up and he took out education loans and raised money through crowdfunding to meet his financial needs. He was a student with excellent academic record while completing his graduation at Guru Gobind Singh IP College in B.Tech. Besides all the ups and downs, he went through the loss of his mother in 2013 was miserably painful for him, but it is the strength of a person that smiles through the tears.

Owing to his meticulous spirit and tendency to put all his heart and soul into his work, today he is successfully employed as a power engineer, senior executive in a MNC in Germany.

When he looked back at the journey of his life, he sighed with gratitude and made up his mind to aid other such children like him who are yearning in the darkness of poverty, longing for the light of Education to brighten their lives and lead them to a better tomorrow.

Thus, he started Youth Empowerment Foundation in 2017, to spread the light of awareness and education in the world. He made up his mind to provide financial and academic aid to the young generation of India, which he himself was deprived of in his childhood. With the aid of his diligent team of volunteers, Sharma has managed to establish YEF in cities such as Bangalore, Delhi, Pune, and Mumbai and educate a team of almost 200 students.

Though it was not a cakewalk for Ram Sharma to start this NGO, he initially started it in 2014 but it was on and off for four to five times due to too many constraints. But his dedication and zeal to do something for the society, kept him going, initially when he did not get any help from external sources, He managed operational costs through his salary.

Starting the NGO was not the last obstacle of his path, convincing the parents of children in backward areas about the importance of Education was not a simple task either. But it was the dedication of hired volunteers and interns to convince the parents to let YEF be a flag bearer of a brighter future for their kids, the problems did not end there, The lack of proper infrastructure was another hurdle, but YEF did not consider it as a stop sign, like education classrooms were also as boundless as the limitless Sky.

The volunteers started taking classes in areas such as public parks. Even in the times when a grave



pandemic of COVID-19 has engulfed the world. YEF is working days and nights to sooth the hunger of the poor, to quench their thirst, they with contribution of donors, efforts by our resourceful volunteers and the kind aid of Goonj Foundation are donating food wrapped in packets of humanity delivering Ration kits and Hygiene essentials consisting of soaps and mask wrapped in concern and empathy, in parts of Delhi, Mumbai, Pune and Bangalore. Even the pandemic cannot deter, the will to spread humanity. The volunteers at YEF are just a

HE MADE UP HIS MIND TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL AND ACADEMIC AID TO THE YOUNG GENERATION OF INDIA, WHICH HE HIMSELF WAS DEPRIVED OF IN HIS CHILDHOOD.

call away to aid the inflicted. YEF is collecting funds through a campaign named Project Milaap, in which people can extend their hands to donate towards this Noble cause. YEF recently donated 500 Dettol soaps to Delhi Bal Aayog to 500 children below 6 years through aanganwadis.

He himself has withered all storms in his life, and his story teaches the world to mile in the times of trouble, gather strength from distress and grow BRAVE by adversities, gentlemen like Sharma, give life to faith in nobility and integrity of humankind and makes us believe that no matter what we achieve in life our true acquisition always lies in charity. 🌱



Wash pan for
artisanal gold
mining.

THE LONG, TOXIC TAIL OF THE GOLD RUSH

During the U.S. gold rush, hydraulic mining operations in California completely denuded forested landscapes, altered the course of rivers, increased sedimentation that clogged river beds and lakes and released enormous amounts of mercury onto the landscape. California wildcat miners used an estimated 10 million pounds of mercury from the 1860s through the early 1900s. Most of it was released to the environment as tailings and mercury vapor, write **Jacqueline Gerson & Austin Wadle & Jasmine Parham**

Gold is everywhere in modern life, from jewelry to electronics to smartphones. The global electronics industry alone uses 280 tons annually. And that demand keeps growing.

But most people know little about the environmental impacts of gold mining. About 15 percent of world gold production is from artisanal and small-scale mining in over 70 countries throughout Asia, Africa and South America. These operations employ 10 to 19 million workers. They often are poorly policed and weakly regulated.

Artisanal mining might sound quaint, but it is usually criminal activity and results in widespread environmental damage. It also is the largest source of mercury pollution in the world today, far exceeding other activities such as coal combustion and cement manufacturing. While mercury is an element that occurs naturally in the Earth's crust, it has many toxic effects on humans and animals, even at very low exposure levels.

We have studied mercury pollution from artisanal gold mining for the past five years. The extraction methods that these operations use today are not drastically different from processes that miners employed in the California gold rush in the mid-1800s. Today we see history repeating itself in places such as the Peruvian Amazon, where small-scale gold mining threatens to leave behind long-lasting social, economic and environmental consequences.

Mercury contamination from gold mining

Mercury has been used for centuries as an inexpensive and easy way to collect gold. The process begins when miners pump a mixture of water and sediment from a riverbed into a trough, where the sediment can be suspended into a slurry — a technique known as hydraulic mining.

Next they add mercury, which binds to the gold particles, forming an amalgam. Mercury is heavier than pure gold, so the balls of amalgam sink to the bottom of buckets or holding ponds where they can be collected. Finally, workers burn off the mercury — often with a hand torch or in a crude stove — leaving gold metal behind.

This process releases mercury to the environment in two forms. First, tailings, or waste material, can contaminate nearby land and aquatic

wildlife, such as endangered giant otters that feed high on the food web within these contaminated environments. It can cause severe central nervous system damage that results in sensory and motor deficits, as well as behavioral impairments such as difficulty swimming in aquatic animals and flying in birds.

A lasting legacy in California

During the U.S. gold rush, hydraulic mining operations in California completely denuded forested landscapes,

Artisanal and small-scale gold mining is the world's largest source of mercury pollution

Estimated global mercury emissions by sector, 2018 (pounds). Artisanal and small-scale gold mining accounts for 38% of total emissions, surpassing well-known sources such as coal-fired power plants and waste incineration.

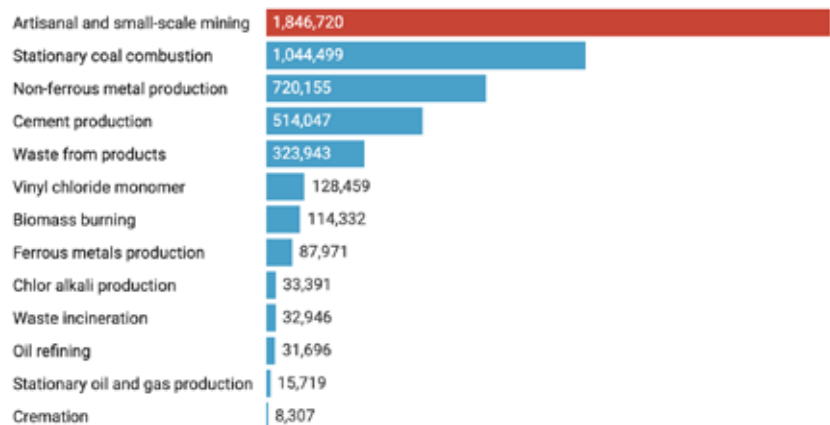


Chart: The Conversation, CC-BY-ND • Source: UNEP • [Get the data](#)

Gold mining source of mercury pollution. Source: *The Conversation*

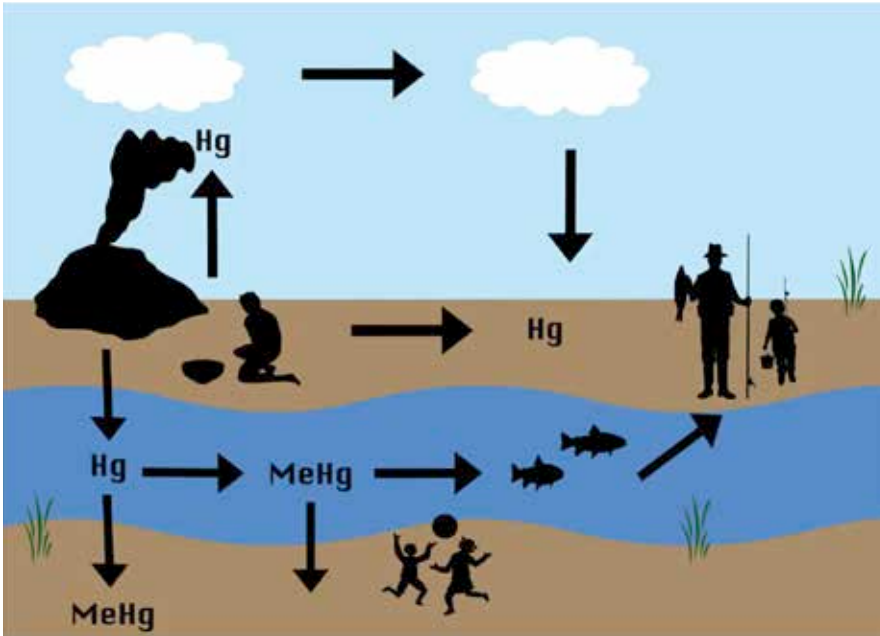
ecosystems. Second, mercury vapor enters the atmosphere and can travel long distances before being deposited to land and water via rainfall or small dust particles.

In the environment, microbes can transform mercury into a more potent form known as methylmercury. Methylmercury can be taken up by bacteria, plankton and other microorganisms that are then consumed by fish and build up to dangerous concentrations in animals higher on the food chain.

Methylmercury is a potent neurotoxin that is harmful to humans and

altered the course of rivers, increased sedimentation that clogged river beds and lakes and released enormous amounts of mercury onto the landscape. California wildcat miners used an estimated 10 million pounds of mercury from the 1860s through the early 1900s. Most of it was released to the environment as tailings and mercury vapor.

A century later, water, soil and sediments in the Sierra Nevada region still have high concentrations of mercury and methylmercury, often exceeding thresholds set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



When artisanal gold miners burn mercury, it is released into the atmosphere and can end up on land or in water. Mining tailings (solid waste) also deposit mercury onto land or into water. Microbes in the environment can convert mercury into methylmercury, which can be taken up by living organisms, including fish and people. Arianna Agostini, Rand Alotaibi, Arabella Chen, Annie Lee, Fernanda Machicao, Melissa Marchese, CC BY-ND

Studies show that fish, birds and other organisms living near historically mined sites in California have high mercury concentrations in their bodies compared to those inhabiting nearby unmined landscapes. Extreme erosion on mountain slopes continuously can mobilize mercury deposited decades ago.

History repeats itself

Like men who traveled to California in 1849 hoping to strike it rich, today's artisanal miners around the world are mainly low-skilled workers hoping to support themselves and their families.

In Peru, where we have studied this process, artisanal miners produce an estimated 35,000 to 40,000 pounds of gold per year. The industry offers an opportunity for upward mobility for substantial numbers of Peruvians, who generally migrate to mining sites from coastal and mountain towns.

As a result, gold rush towns have boomed over the past 20 years. The Inter-Oceanic Highway, which was completed in 2012 and runs from

Brazil's Atlantic coast to Peru's Pacific coast, has connected these towns to larger cities and increased access to the Peruvian Amazon.

Producing a pound of gold requires about 6 pounds of mercury. Given that at least 50 percent of the mercury used in these operations is



Comparison of landscape change from gold mining during the California gold rush (left) and modern artisanal mining in Peru (right). Bancroft Library, UC Berkeley (left); Arabella Chen (right)

lost to the environment, we estimate that artisanal gold mining in Peru alone releases nearly 50,000 pounds of mercury annually.

Mining in this region is producing impacts strikingly similar to the hallmarks of the California gold rush.

For example, miners in the Peruvian Amazon have cleared more than 250,000 acres of forest since 1984.

The Madre de Dios River, which runs through a zone that has seen substantial mining, likely will continue to erode the landscape, carrying mercury-laden particles downstream. Long-lasting mercury contamination in this region threatens the highest biodiversity on the planet and many indigenous communities.

Gold mining in 19th-century California sparked a wave of western migration and helped drive settlement of what we now refer to as the western United States at a time when mining and environmental pollution were unregulated. Today, use of mercury in artisanal gold mining is regulated by the 2013 Minamata Convention on Mercury, which has been signed by 128 countries — including Peru. Yet there is little on-the-ground regulation in most countries. Nor have governments addressed legacy pollution and deforestation from gold mining.

Illegal artisanal gold mining is a major source of income for local communities in places such as the Madre de Dios region of Peru. As long as people all over the world continue to demand more gold, we

believe that they are just as responsible as miners and local policymakers for the environmental degradation gold mining causes. ■

(source: <https://www.greenbiz.com/article/long-toxic-tail-gold-rush>)



Wind deals are becoming even more popular with corporate renewables buyers

The cost of wind energy has fallen 70 percent since 2009. As the price of wind projects has fallen, the types of companies entering wind procurement deals have become more diverse. While tech companies accounted for about 70 percent of all corporate wind projects in 2015, last year they made up less than 25 percent, says **Sarah Golden**

Wind energy always has been a source of cheap, utility-scale clean energy. Yet, with giant turbines centrally located, it was a lesser choice than solar for corporations looking for distributed renewable options.

Now, thanks to the development of additional procurement options and even lower costs, corporate renewables buyers are turning to wind energy to quickly ramp up their clean

energy procurements. AT&T is a company that has turned mainly to wind power to meet its clean energy goals. Of its 1,500 megawatts of renewable energy procured, a little over two-thirds comes from wind, making the company the leading procurer of wind energy in the telecommunications sector.

“Everything we do has to be at scale,” explained Shannon Carroll, director of global environmental sustainability at AT&T. “For us, it’s about finding the right opportunity, the right size, the right geography. Between the load, the financials and geography, the wind industry has matured over the last seven years to give the best opportunities.”

According to “Wind Powers American Business,” a report from the wind advocacy group American Wind Energy Association (AWEA), the private sector has been a significant demand driver for wind energy, purchasing more 20 percent of all new wind installations in the United States for five years running.

Of course, corporations’ appetite for renewables is increasing across the board. Corporations are a similar driver behind solar, according to the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA). They collectively accounted for 22 percent of 2018 power purchase agreements (PPAs) for solar and wind in the United States.

Still, the increase in wind projects, I wondered: What trends are driving corporations to pick more wind deals?

1 Wind makes cheap energy

The cost of wind energy has fallen 70 percent since 2009. As the price of wind projects has fallen, the types of companies entering wind procurement deals have become more diverse. While tech companies accounted for about 70 percent of all corporate wind projects in 2015, last year they made up less than 25 percent. Other sectors — including food, retail and telecommunications —

accounted for a growing percentage of the wind pie. Notably, renewable energy procurement newcomers Gap Inc., Ball Corporation and McDonald’s all selected wind for their first solo renewable contracts last year.

“The larger landscape has to be there in terms of the economic and opportunities,” Carroll said. “The right-sized deal has to be available for the right-sized company. This is a maturing market, and you’re seeing more and more of that.”

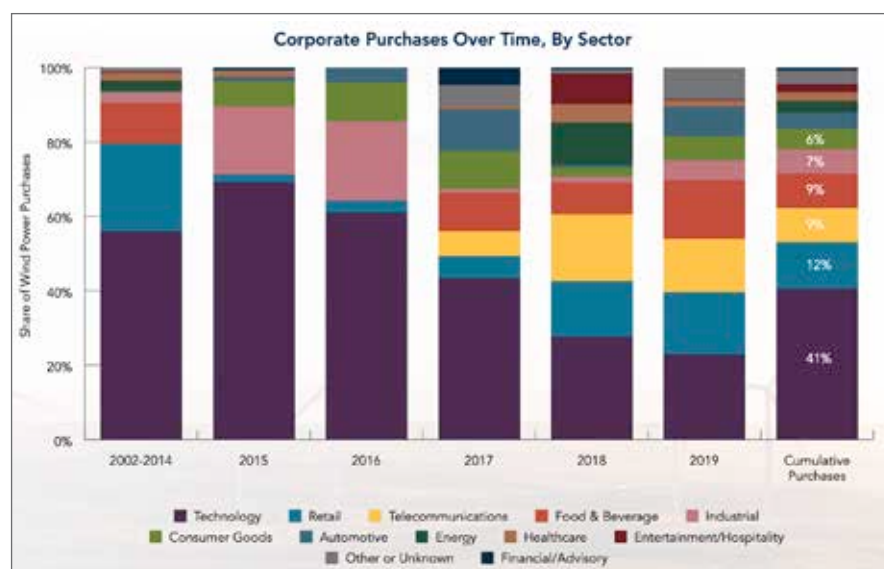
With cost being a huge factor in a company’s renewable procurement choices, wind power’s falling cost and unique attributes mean there are regions and incentives that make

it more attractive in certain cases. Other tax incentives, including solar’s Investment Tax Credit and wind’s Production Tax Credit, can change how projects pencil.

2 Wind makes a lot of energy

One major difference between wind and solar: Wind turbines are really big.

While rooftop solar and on-site PPAs drove corporate solar uptake in the early years with systems under a megawatt circa 2008-2014), wind isn’t as well suited for distributed applications. Some companies have on-site turbines, although it is less common.



Virtual PPAs (in which a corporate doesn't directly take the electricity, but takes the revenue from the electricity sold on the open market) changed all that. It opened the possibility of buying utility-scale wind — one of the cheapest sources of energy — far away from operations.

VPPAs for wind took flight in 2013 and today account for 85 percent of corporate wind purchases.

With more than 200 companies committing to procuring 100 percent of their electricity from renewable sources on an annual basis, the demand for larger capacity projects also has grown. Since 2013, the size of the average capacity contracted skyrocket-

for wind energy and allowed Intuit to meet our 100 percent renewable electricity goal 10 years early," said Sean Kinghorn, global sustainability program leader at Intuit, in an email. "In the past, aggregated purchase power agreements like this would have been off-limits to a buyer of Intuit's size and comparably smaller electricity needs."

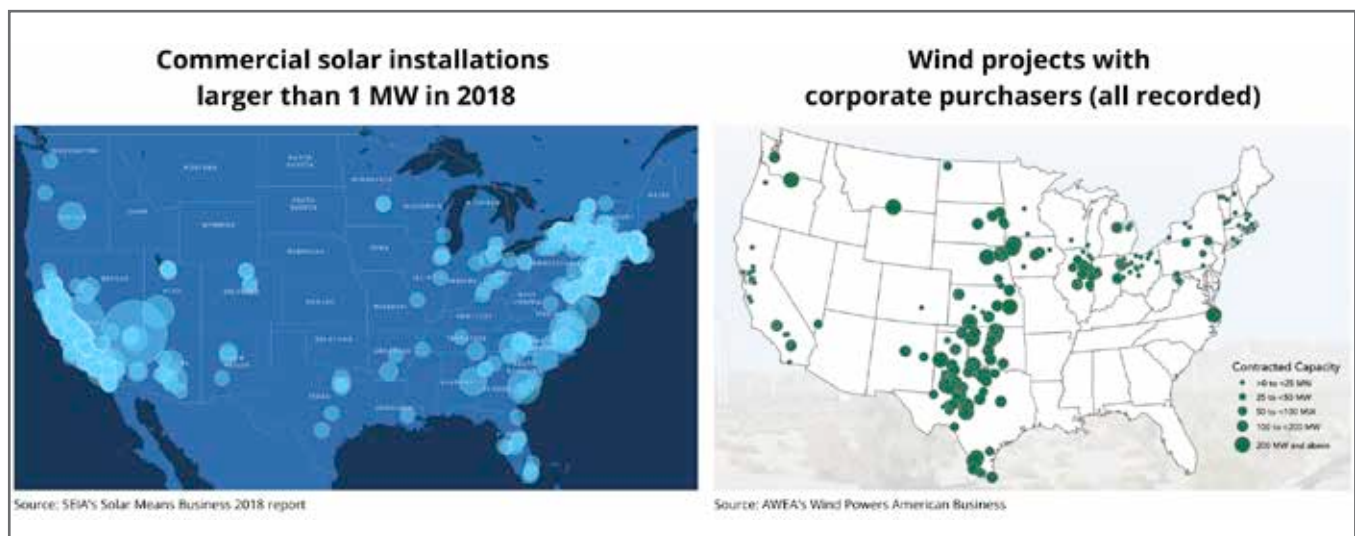
3 Wind makes energy in different regions

Different energy markets and resource potential (read: places where it's windier or sunnier) means grid-scale solar and wind energy cluster in different parts of the country.

graphic diversification becomes more important. Some companies, such as Starbucks and Microsoft, also have taken to inking deals with multiple projects simultaneously to hedge their investments.

Forecasts show corporates will continue to drive renewable growth over the next decade. Wood Mackenzie sees up to 85 gigawatts of renewable energy demand through 2030 from the largest U.S. corporate buyers alone.

If the last 10 years are any indication, the increased demand also will bring increased offerings and contract structures. And, the more corporates that get involved, the more



ed, too — from less than 10 MW to almost 150 MW

Additional contract structures have made renewable procurements more accessible to companies, too.

Last week, construction completed on a 419 MW wind project in Texas with four customers — Ecolab, Lowe's, Intuit and Brown University — joining forces in a long-term power purchase agreement. This type of aggregation of buyers allows the offtakers to share transactional costs, opening up procurement opportunities to smaller companies.

"The aggregated power agreement is an innovative and cutting edge partnership across these industries

For wind, 61 percent of all corporate deals executed so far are tied to projects in Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas. Texas alone accounts for 39 percent of corporate wind contracts, as the state is deregulated with retail choice, meaning customers can buy electricity from alternative suppliers than their utility.

While I don't have the raw data, these two maps — one from SEIA of solar projects more than 1 MW, the other from AWEA of wind projects — show how the two resources complement each other geographically.

As companies work to better match their renewable resources with their load demands, this geo-

opportunities there will likely be. "When you're talking about sustainability and the environment and renewable energy, you want collaboration," Carrol said. "We encourage companies to look at [wind deals] as well. You can't predict the future, but based on all indication, there will continue to be good wind deals available to companies." ☑

This article is adapted from GreenBiz's newsletter Energy Weekly, running Thursdays. [Subscribe here.](#)

(Source: <https://www.greenbiz.com/article/wind-deals-are-becoming-even-more-popular-corporate-renewables-buyers>)

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

COMPANY: CHIREC PUBLIC SCHOOL

DESIGNATION: Events/ Promotion - Manager

- **Experience:** 1 to 6 yrs
- **Salary:** Rs 2.50 - 3.50 Lacs p.a.
- **INDUSTRY:** Educational / Training
- **Location:** Hyderabad/ Secunderabad (Andhra Pradesh)
- **Key Skills:** Business Strategies raising awareness commitment communication skills
- **Job Function:** Advertising / PR / Events, Business Mgmt. / Consultants / Freelancers
- **Specialization:** Community Relation Event Management, Corporate social responsibility
- **Qualification:** Any Graduate

Job Description:

- Corporate social responsibility executives are responsible for defining and developing the strategies which underpin a company's CSR objectives. ... You'll be responsible for raising awareness of your company's

commitment to CSR and generating publicity around your organisation's altruistic endeavours. Corporate social responsibility managers are responsible for defining and developing the strategies which underpin a company's CSR objectives. ... You'll be responsible for raising awareness of your company's commitment to CSR and generating publicity around your organisation's altruistic endeavours.

COMPANY: STATE STREET CORPORATION

DESIGNATION: Investment Risk Analyst, Assistant Vice President Multi Asset Class

- **Experience:** 0 to 3 yrs
- **Salary:** As per Industry Standards
- **INDUSTRY:** Banking, Financial Services / Stockbroking
- **Location:** Bengaluru/ Bangalore (Karnataka)
- **Key Skills:** corporate social responsibility inter personal communication volunteer
- **Job Function:** HR / PM / IR / Training
- **Specialization:** Admin / Facilities Mgmt
- **Qualification:** Any Graduate

Job Description:

- The position is within State Street Global Advisors (SSGA) Enterprise Risk Management group. The primary focus is to provide independent investment risk oversight across a broad range of investment funds and strategies managed in EMEA, with an emphasis on our Investment Solutions Group (ISG)/ Multi Asset Class products or other compelling asset class experience. The role requires a strong working knowledge across a board range of assets, investment strategies and financial derivative instruments, gained from experience in institutional investment management, risk management and/or research organization.

Our Team

- Sitting within the 2nd line of defence, this Assistant Vice President role reports to the EMEA head of investment risk, providing independent risk oversight for multi asset class products to ensure appropriate levels of risk exist across our

clients portfolios within the EMEA region. We are a diverse team of over 70 risk professionals based in Boston, Stamford, London, Dublin, Krakow, Bangalore and Sydney. As a combined group, we are responsible for identification, control, and reporting of operational, investment, liquidity, credit, and model risk globally.

- All over the world, institutional investors rely on SSGA to help them deliver on diverse investment objectives, manage risk, respond to challenges, and drive performance and profitability. We keep our clients at the heart of everything we do, and smart, engaged employees are critical to our continued success. Our promise to maintain an environment where every employee feels valued and able to meet their full potential inspires our mission. Its also part of our dedication to inclusion, development and engagement, and corporate social responsibility. You will have tools to help you balance your professional and personal life, paid volunteer days, and access to employee networks that help you stay connected to what matters to you. State Street is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Your Duties and Responsibilities

- Provide oversight to senior management and business divisions through communication of key investment risk highlights, emerging risk and themes
- Actively examine, measure, monitor and communicate risk exposures and changes in the risk profile of investment funds and respond to ad-hoc requests from various business groups and senior management
- Ensure appropriate risk management information is produced and reviewed at appropriate intervals
- Maintain and improve the investment risk management framework and processes
- Collaborate with colleagues within the global organization to develop and implement policies, procedures and processes for the investment risk program
- Develop methodologies for improving portfolio risk analytics and undertake unsupervised research on areas of risk management
- Build a collaborative working relationships with investment professionals and promote a shared vision of the benefits of risk-aware decision-making
- Support a culture of risk transparency and effective challenge

- Maintain the highest standards of conduct and integrity and ensure compliance with accepted industry practice, company policies, statute and regulatory requirements
- Your Qualifications, Skills, and Experience
- Bachelors degree in finance, economics, mathematics or business-related field, or equivalent experience; having CFA or FRM is a plus
- Proven relevant industry experience (data analysis, risk management, risk models)
- Experience with risk concepts and database tools are required, with specific skills in BlackRock Aladdin, Bloombergs PORT, MSCI BarraOne and MSCI RiskMetrics considered a plus
- Strong technical skills: ability to build tools and reporting for risk management and to leverage technology and systems.
- Ability to manage multiple tasks, prioritize effectively, meet deadlines and deliver high quality, error-free work in a dynamic and fast-paced environment
- Deep understanding of portfolio construction, derivative valuation, risk analytics, and investments
- Ability to work with senior management and to build relationships with others throughout the organization
- Capable of taking responsibility for independent projects with limited direct supervision
- Excellent written, oral and interpersonal communication skills
- Programming skills (VBA, Access, R, Matlab) is a plus

COMPANY: STATE STREET CORPORATION **DESIGNATION: Fund Accounting - Senior Associate**

- **Experience:** 2 to 4 yrs
- **Salary:** As per Industry Standards
- **INDUSTRY:** Banking, Financial Services & Insurance (Mutual Funds/ Financial Asset/ Wealth Management)
- **Location:** Hyderabad/ Secunderabad (Andhra Pradesh)
- **Key Skills:** Interviewing corporate social responsibility communication skills shared services employee engagement performance appraisals processing compensation
- Job Function: Accounting / Tax / Company Secretary / Audit
- Specialization: Audit & Risk
- Qualification: Any Graduate

Job Description:

- State Street Corporation (NYSE: STT) is the world's leading provider of financial services to institutional investors including investment servicing, investment management and investment research and trading. With \$28.40 trillion in assets under custody and administration and \$2.48 trillion in assets under management as of June 30, 2014, State Street operates globally in more than 100 geographic markets and employs 29,420 worldwide. For more information, visit State Street's website at www.statestreet.com.
- Promoting a culture of excellence
- With more than 29,420 employees across 29 countries, at State Street, our people are our greatest asset. We recognize that highly skilled, engaged and productive employees are essential to our success. Our company values reflect our commitment to employee engagement, Global Inclusion and corporate social responsibility - to help you build a fulfilling career. Around the world, we aim to be an employer of choice by offering competitive compensation and benefits, personal and professional development opportunities, and a work environment that promotes a diverse array of people, ideas and skills. We're a company that insists on, and rewards, performance excellence. We know our success hinges on attracting the best people to join us - people like you.
- State Street supports flexible work arrangements where determined feasible, consistent with business and operational needs. Subject to an individualized assessment of these considerations, roles may be identified as potentially suited for a flexible work arrangement. Requests for a flexible work arrangement can be made upon hire. All employees at State Street have the ability to request flexible work arrangements, with the final decision based solely on business discretion and subject to management approval. More information is available here. We encourage you to explore the possibilities that a career at State Street can offer you.
- State Street is an Equal Opportunity Employer, and prohibits discrimination against applicants or employees on the basis of any legally protected characteristic.

Purpose of the Job

- The main function of the role is: Work in conjunction with individuals on the team as well as other Shared Services/COEs, outsource partners, Client Operations, other business units and external clients as needed to ensure seamless processing according to the funds policies, to ensure NAV/yield accuracy and that all SLAs are met.

Roles and Responsibilities

- Manage the day-to-day activities of a functional/oversight team by monitoring, reviewing and validating all daily activity to ensure accuracy and timeliness in calculations and processing, as well as adherence to controls, e.g. ensuring accurate g/l and/or balance for daily pricing
- Provide timely accurate management reporting and issue log maintenance, under moderate supervision
- Research and resolve exceptions and issues
- Escalate unresolved issues to management as required
- Reconcile and resolve discrepancies with other Shared Service teams, external clients and Client Operations as needed
- Ensure all inquiries are resolved in a timely and accurate manner and communicates effectively with client when necessary
- Ensure appropriate records of daily and monthly activities are kept
- Coordinate effective and timely flow of critical information to all relevant parties and follows up on administrative details within the department
- Oversee the adherence to Standard Operating Procedures
- Maintain knowledge of current alternative procedures and processes
- Assist with workflow management and technology enhancement, make suggestions to streamline operations
- Document any updates or changes to formal procedures, databases, etc.
- Participate in projects as well as prepare and verify information for those various projects/special requests as directed
- Train, develop and motivate new staff and complete performance appraisals
- Provide staffing recommendations by interviewing new personnel
- Coordinate and supervise work efforts when multiple Associates are needed to complete work

- Provide coaching and development opportunities to staff, participate in individual on-going training and development
- Has accountability and responsibility for completing and delivering PPRs on time
- Make effective recommendations to hire, discipline, control work and terminate employment
- Make effective recommendations for promotions, salary increases and bonuses.
- During the course of normal day to day operations, responsible for identifying any unusual or potentially suspicious transaction activity and must report and/or escalate in accordance with corporate policy and guidelines detailed in relevant operating procedures.
- Perform duties of Associates if required, perform other duties as assigned.

COMPANY: HCAPITAL

DESIGNATION: Corporate Social

Responsibility

- **Experience:** 7 to 10 yrs
- **Salary:** As per Industry Standards
- **INDUSTRY:** Recruitment / Placement Agencies, Consulting Services
- **Location:** Mumbai (Maharashtra)
- **Key Skills:** hr training corporate social responsibility salary communication skills csr activities presentation skill
- **Job Function:** HR/PM/IR/Training
- **Specialization:** Recruitment
- **Qualification:** MBA / PGDM,Any Graduate

Job Description:

- Corporate Social Responsibility Industry: Banking, Financial Services & Insurance Functional Area: HR / Admin / PM / IR / Training Salary: 12 Lac - 15 Lac About the Client The company is India's Leading Non Banking Finance Company (NBFC) operating in Wholesale & SME Lending. As part of the business activities, the company is predominantly focused into Asset Financing and Lending business. The Wholesale Lending Business segment provides specialized and holistic solutions to Indian corporates helping them build and grow their businesses with initial funding, mezzanine financing, acquisition financing etc. They focus on products in the structured credit space backed by adequate collaterals and cash flows to build a secured and

quality wholesale lending portfolio. Job Description 1. Plan and execute various CSR initiatives as per the annual calendar 2. Ensure best in class execution with fresh ideas to engage the readers and ensure large participation 3. Maintain relations with various NGOs and Media dealing with CSR 4. Database management of all the CSR activities implemented as per the plan 5. Conduct research with help of internal team to understand the impact 6. Timely invitation mails, teasers and regular communication with participants 7. Effective information management of various CSR activities details Desired Candidate Profile 1. Skills/Qualifications required: 7 -10 years of relevant experience 2. MBA or Post Graduate in Social sciences from XISS or TISS 3. Should have thorough understanding of the CSR field 4. Should have good written and oral communication skills. 5. Should have good negotiation and presentation skills. 6. Should have sound understanding of the CSR initiatives by various companies.

COMPANY: Mahindra Holidays and Resorts India Ltd

DESIGNATION: Corporate Manager - Corporate Social Responsibility

- **Experience:** 10 to 16 yrs
- **Salary:** As per Industry Standards
- **INDUSTRY:** Hospitality & Tourism (Hotels/ Resorts)
- **Location:** Mumbai (Maharashtra)
- **Key Skills:** reports companies act mis
- **Job Function:** Accounting/Tax/Company Secretary/Audit
- **Specialization:** Company Secretary
- **Qualification:** Any Graduate

Job Description:

- **Accountabilities:** 1 Plan, take approvals and implement ESOP initiatives at resorts through effective coordination with Resort Managers 2 Plan and implement various CSR initiatives to comply with the provisions of the revised Companies Act 3 Prepare periodic MIS and reports and send the same to M&M and upload on our intranet 4 Motivate the resorts team to identify CSR projects for a desirable positive impact on community and the environment 5 Build relationship with NGOs and other partner organizations to implement various CSR initiatives

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