

# CSR TODAY

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## FAST FASHION: A PASSING TREND?

With eyes on New York, London, Milan and Paris,  
a growing chorus of campaigners and designers are sizing  
up a more sustainable clothing industry

### CSR OPINION

What the China-US  
trade war means  
for corporate  
sustainability

### CSR CHALLENGE

Toxic mercury in  
fish rising with  
climate change and  
overfishing

### CSR CONCERN

Dirty deeds of the  
clean energy sector:  
Investors urged to  
step up

### CSR FUTURE

World's major cities  
to face 'unknown'  
climate conditions  
by 2050

# CSR TODAY

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# Gandhi @150



**Rajesh Tiwari**  
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**THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMS (INCLUDING FOOT MARCHES OR CYCLE RALLIES), THE YOUNG GENERATION, INCLUDING THE RURAL POPULATION, IS INSTILLED WITH GANDHIAN ETHICS AND PRINCIPLES OF TRUTH, NON-VIOLENCE AND SELF-DISCIPLINE.**

On 2 October, the India and the world would celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation. In 2019 and beyond, Gandhi ji has more relevance and it is very important in the perspective of CSR. It is actually service to the Nation as the Apostle of Peace had pursued.

Youth today is indiscriminately bombarded with negative emotions of selfishness, hatred, vengeance and violence through TV, mobile and video games. Gandhiji's life and literature is still the best source of inspiration for us to inculcate the values of love, brotherhood, truth, friendship, service, tolerance, non-violence and fearlessness into the next generation and motivate them to look for non-violent means of conflict resolution.

With this in mind, Bombay Sarvodaya Mandal organizes Gandhi Peace Exam for school and college students all over Maharashtra to bring about a radical change in the thinking of youth and to channelize their energies in re-vitalising society. We need to take these to all schools, colleges and institutions.

The CSR activities must focus on this aspect as well.

The Gandhi Research Foundation in Jalgaon is also doing a great job. Its core objective is to preserve and promote Gandhiji's philosophy and legacy based on truth, non-violence, peaceful co-existence and the spirit of conservation. The GRF has undertaken numerous initiatives to not only popularize Gandhiji's life and principles, but also to preserve them for posterity.

On a regular basis, the importance of learning about rural development is underscored in workshops, camps, training programs, etc. conducted at the GRF. Their aim is to help participants explore the relevance of Gandhiji's lived philosophy in spheres like politics, economics, education and nation-building. Through various programs (including foot marches or cycle rallies), the young generation, including the rural population, is instilled with Gandhian ethics and principles of truth, non-violence and self-discipline. The GRF also has a Khadi unit, with Charkhas working on solar energy that spin and weave Khadi cloth which is sold at its own outlets. The GRF designs and sets up exhibitions in India and overseas to spread Gandhiji's message in order to raise the global community's awareness to the power of non-violence and the need for adopting a sustainable life-style.



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# CSR NEWS

## Mahaveer Group leads the way in reviving Giddenahalli Lake



Revived Giddenahalli lake

*The villagers of Kallubalu Panchayat and local residents join hands to plant saplings around the lake during the inauguration of the rejuvenated lake*

**M**ahaveer Group, a leading real estate developer, along with the villagers of Kallubalu Panchayat and local residents today offered to the public, a newly revived Giddenahalli Lake in Bengaluru's Anekal Taluk, after spending six months on the project.

The lake, which was not maintained for years and was brimming with sewage and froth, has now been restored to its original state. It was completely left unattended with no water source flowing to the lake and hence was on the verge of becoming extinct. Realising the dire situation, Mahaveer Group undertook an initiative to rejuvenate the lake and within six months ensured that the lake has returned to its natural self, attracting both flora and fauna around

the region. The revival process involved removing the silt, increasing the storage capacity of the lake, fencing the lake, and placing pavers to create walkway for morning and evening walks for residents in the area. The company also ensured to divert the rain water stream in the area to the lake which in turn has now increased the water bed level around the area.

"Recent floods in Kodagu and Kerala have showed us the impact environmental degradation can have on climate change. We at the Mahaveer Group have always ensured that our business activities do not, in any way, impact ecology. In fact, we do every bit from our end to ensure that real estate constructions never come in the way. We have been practicing



Team of Mahaveer Group, Siddegowda – Police Inspector, Lokayukta, Kallubalu panchayat members & villagers planting the sapling around the revived Giddenahalli lake.

rainwater harvesting diligently in our projects which motivated us to take up this green cause", said Mr. Praveen Kumbala, Managing Director, Mahaveer Group.

"With zero maintenance for years, the lake was almost barren with no life until Mahaveer Group stepped up to initiate the revival. The rejuvenated lake which has now seen an increase in the ground water level has also become a source of water to a lot of bore-wells in and around the lake which is great news for our residents. Moreover, the people can come here now for their walks or to just sit and view the beauty of the lake anytime of the day which was not possible before", said Siddegowda, Police Inspector, Lokayukta.





## NIRDPR calls for Government buildings across the country to be built using Sustainable Construction Technologies

*Institute has developed technologies that cost 25-40% less compared to conventional construction technologies with other advantages being durability, resilience and local employment generation*

**T**he National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (NIRDPR) has called upon State and Central Governments to adopt Sustainable Construction Technologies to construct new Government Buildings such as Offices, Schools, Anganwadis, Panchayat Buildings and model Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)

Houses across the country. Construction of government buildings using sustainable housing technologies across every block of the country will help in showcasing their durability and cost effectiveness which is not widely known due to lack of awareness on this aspect.

The Rural Technology Park of NIRDPR has established a 'National

Rural Building Center' NRBC to bring together a range of cost-effective construction technologies with a variety of materials and technologies, which blend old and new techniques of construction. Its mandate is to serve as a skill development center on sustainable housing technologies which will impart knowledge and skills to the engineers and masons.

Further, the Institute has invited Gram Panchayats and functionaries across India to the campus where they can witness and learn about the low-cost sustainable construction technologies which can be further replicated



# FAST FASHION: A PASSING TREND?

With eyes on New York, London, Milan and Paris, a growing chorus of campaigners and designers are sizing up a more sustainable clothing industry, writes **Sophie Bauer**, Chinadialogue



# DIRTY DEEDS OF THE CLEAN ENERGY SECTOR: INVESTORS URGED TO STEP UP

**Death threats, child labour and other human rights abuses by renewable energy companies threaten to stall transition to a low-carbon economy. Investors have the power to change that.**

*Amid growing debate on whether it should even be categorised as renewable energy, hydropower faces a number of 'serious human rights risks', a new report says.*

**F**rom the violation of indigenous people's rights to death threats and child labour, the renewable energy sector has been called out for its dirty deeds in the realm of human rights.

When it comes to attacks and intimidation of human rights defenders, the sector is the third-worst, coming in only behind the mining and agribusiness sectors, said the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre, an international non-governmental organisation (NGO).

In a report released this week, it urged investors to step up to ensure the

world's energy transition is "not only fast, but also fair" and offered a guide on key questions to ask before ploughing capital into projects.

Since 2010, the NGO has identified 152 allegations of human rights abuses related to renewable energy projects.

The allegations extended across wind, solar, bioenergy, geothermal and hydropower.

Latin America notched the highest number of allegations, its 91 cases making up 60 per cent of the total. Southeast Asia was second with 38 allegations since 2010, making up a quarter of the

total. More than a third (14) of the allegations from Southeast Asia came from Laos and all were related to hydropower. Malaysia and Myanmar were next, with eight and six allegations, respectively, also related to hydropower.

With the highest global installed generation capacity of 1,172GW in 2018, hydropower projects face a number of "serious human rights risks", said the report's authors, Annie Signorelli and Eniko Horvath of the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre.

Amid growing debate on whether hydropower—especially large-scale



# LIQUID ASSETS

Innovation will be central for achieving ‘water for all’, writes **Will Sarni**, Founder and CEO Water Foundry



**S**tockholm World Water Week is coming up at the end of August, and the theme for this year is “Water for Society — Including All.”

After all, the mission of “water and society for all” is essential to achieving United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 6, “to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.”

In the words of the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), which convenes the event: “In the fourth year of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the 2019 World Water Week addresses



# THE TOP 10 STORIES TO CATCH YOU UP ON THE HOTTEST SUSTAINABILITY NEWS IN 2019 — SO FAR

The need for a sustainable food system and for transformational change within it are critical – and must be given the consideration deserve, argues  
**Cyan Zhong and Holly Secon**





# INDIGENOUS AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS CAN BOOST CLIMATE FIGHT—UN

A report by the UN climate science panel recognises strong community land rights as key to tackling global warming.

Indigenous peoples said that a United Nations report on climate change had for the first time recognised their land rights as important for curbing global warming.

The special report by the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), written by more than 100 scientists, called for big changes to land use, farming and eating habits to help cut emissions that are heating up the Earth.

"Finally, the world's top scientists recognise what we have always

known," said indigenous leaders from 42 countries in a statement coordinated by the Rights and Resources Initiative, a U.S. based coalition promoting community-based forest ownership.

"Failure to legally recognise our rights leaves our forests vulnerable to environmentally destructive projects that devastate forests and release massive amounts of carbon into the atmosphere."

The IPCC met this week in Geneva, Switzerland, to finalise the report, intended to guide governments tasked





# WORLD'S MAJOR CITIES TO FACE 'UNKNOWN' CLIMATE CONDITIONS BY 2050

London's climate in 2050 could be similar to Barcelona's current climate, with Madrid feeling more like Marrakesh and Seattle more like San Francisco.

A fifth of the world's major cities will face "unknown" climate conditions by 2050, researchers warned on Wednesday, as rising temperatures heighten the risks of drought and flooding. Climate scientists at the Crowther Lab, a research group based at ETH Zurich, a science and technology universi-

ty, analysed 520 cities across the world, including all capitals and most urban centres with a population of more than 1 million.

Looking at current climate conditions in these cities - including precipitation and seasonal data - scientists projected what would happen as temperatures rise another half degree, to near the lower 1.5 degree Celsius



A photograph of a city skyline at sunset, with the sun low on the horizon behind several skyscrapers. The sky is filled with dramatic, orange and grey clouds. The city is seen from an elevated position, with some greenery in the foreground.

# Can sustainable business really save the world?

Time is running out to decarbonise the world's economies. Can the business world respond in time? Eco-Business asks the two leaders of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, **Peter Bakker** and Olam boss **Sunny Verghese**, if sustainable capitalism can avert planetary disaster.

**T**he origins of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), an organisation of big business leaders designed to set the corporate world on the path to sustainability, were born in the wake of the Rio Earth Summit in 1992.

The council, formed in 1995 and whose members include multinational goliaths DuPont, Nestlé, BP, and Danone, works towards achieving sustainability ambitions that emerged after the Paris Agreement in 2015—for which the Rio Summit laid the foundations 23 years prior—the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

However, nearly three decades after Rio, carbon emissions show no signs of falling, global temperatures continue to set records, and the very existence of life on Earth is under threat as ecosystems wane under pressure from a human population expected to hit 8.6 billion by 2030—the target year for the SDGs, and the deadline the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has given humanity to decarbonise or face the worst consequences of climate change.

So can big business be trusted to help secure our future? Is there such a thing as sustainable capitalism? Or is it something of an oxymoron?

It is the responsibility of two men to convince the world otherwise.

One is Peter Bakker, who led global logistics giant TNT for a decade and is now president and chief executive of WBCSD. The other is Sunny Verghese, CEO of agribusiness giant Olam, who was appointed WBCSD's chairman in 2018, following in the footsteps of the likes of the former BP boss Rodney Chase, Shell's Sir Philip Watts and Unilever's recently departed sustainable business pin-up Paul Polman.

In this interview with Eco-Business, Bakker and Verghese talk about how capitalism can be transformed into a force for good, the impact of global

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You can apply for the below listed jobs on [www.times-jobs.com](http://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: 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 skills ir
- **Job Function:** HR / PM / IR / Training
- **Specialization:** Recruitment
- **Qualification:** MBA / PGDM, Any Graduate

#### Job Description:

- Job Id: 499 Job Title: 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