

CSR TODAY

RNI NO. MAHENG/2013/48866 ■ VOLUME 08 ■ ISSUE 09 ■ APRIL 2021 ■ PRICE ₹100 ■ TOTAL PAGES: 52

ONLY SMALL PERCENTAGE OF COVID-19 RECOVERY ALLOCATED TO **GREEN INITIATIVES**

UNEP and IMF experts emphasise the indispensable role of climate action in ensuring socio-economic stability, and urge world leaders to prioritise long-term green recovery.

CSR TECHNOLOGY

ISRO to establish 'Space Technology Incubation Center' at NIT Rourkela

CSR CONCERN

More trains through Indian forest reserve, more animals at risk

CSR FUTURE

How better access to satellite imagery is helping fight deforestation



CSR TODAY

RATE CARD

ADVERTISEMENT SIZE	DIMENSIONS		1X RATE
	Non-Bleed	Bleed	
Inside Front Cover	185 mm (w) x 250 mm (h)	225 mm (w) x 290 mm (h)	₹2,00,000
Inside Back Cover	185 mm (w) x 250 mm (h)	225 mm (w) x 290 mm (h)	₹1,50,000
Outside Back Cover	185 mm (w) x 250 mm (h)	225 mm (w) x 290 mm (h)	₹3,00,000
Full Page (Colour)	185 mm (w) x 250 mm (h)	225 mm (w) x 290 mm (h)	₹1,00,000
Half Page - Vertical (Colour)	85 mm (w) x 250 mm(h)	-	₹50,000
Half Page - Horizontal (Colour)	180 mm (w) x 120 mm(h)	-	₹50,000
Quarter Page (Colour)	85 mm(w) x 120 mm(h)	-	₹35,000
Full Page (B/W)	185 mm (w) x 250 mm (h)	225 mm (w) x 290 mm (h)	₹60,000
Half Page - Vertical (B/W)	85 mm (w) x 250 mm(h)	-	
Half Page - Horizontal (B/W)	180 mm (w) x 120 mm(h)	-	₹30,000
Quarter Page (B/w)	85 mm(w) x 120 mm(h)	-	₹20,000

Bleed Advertisement charges: 20% extra for all sizes.



**INDIAN CENTRE
FOR CSR**

For More Information:

INDIAN CENTRE FOR CSR

104, Nirman Kendra, Dr. E Moses Road,
Mahalaxmi Estate, Mumbai -400011.

Tel: +91 22 2490 30 78, +9122 2490 30 82,
+91 22 2495 52 60

Human exploitation and environmental harm



Rajesh Tiwari
Publisher
rt@iccsr.org

**THE VOICES OF
EXPLOITED WORKERS
MAY NOT ALWAYS BE
INVITED TO THE TABLE.
DECISION-MAKERS
WILL NEED TO CHOOSE,
WITH TRANSPARENCY,
WHO HAS THE RIGHT
TO DECIDE THE NEXT
STEPS ON BEHALF OF
MARGINALISED WORKERS,
WHILST ENSURING THAT
THE CHANGES MADE
WILL BE POSITIVELY
TRANSFORMATIVE OF
WORKING CONDITIONS.**

Gold, silver, and cobalt are just a few of the precious metals that all smartphone users carry each day. This is common knowledge, but what is less known is how these minerals can represent a meeting point between environmental harm and human exploitation.

The intersection between the environmental impacts of sourcing these and other materials used in the production of consumer electronics and goods, and the working conditions of people making these products needs more attention.

Anna More, the Singapore-based Sustainability Consulting and Partnerships Manager with Eco-Business, highlights these burning issues.

As we slowly emerge further into 2021, bleary-eyed from the year the world seemingly came to a halt, our gaze is refocusing on the climate. An underappreciated facet of the climate crisis is its link to forced labour. Solutions to some existential environmental problems may also need to factor in corporate exploitation of humans.

Corporate human rights abuse occurs when there is an overlap between the individual vulnerability of a person's socioeconomic status, societal rejection in part because of poverty, and systems of law failing to protect those with the weakest hand to play. Consumers are far from blameless. The binding glue of corporate exploitation is the insatiable demand for cheap goods, and the necessary army of so-called disposable labourers needed to keep global production flowing.

Artificial intelligence and blockchain technology may offer companies a way

to have transparency throughout their supply chains. Digital technology is a potential game-changer for understanding how a particular mineral is extracted, the way in which a company's waste is disposed of, and the conditions of people's employment. However, technology is never a panacea when it comes to complex problems. For example, biometric fingerprinting and iris scanning—hailed widely to remove the exploitation that can occur when workers' identity papers are stolen, preventing them from leaving the workplace—comes with its own complicated ethical challenges.

The power dynamics at play until 2030 and beyond will continually jostle between who has the right to demand change and for what purpose. The voices of exploited workers may not always be invited to the table. Decision-makers will need to choose, with transparency, who has the right to decide the next steps on behalf of marginalised workers, whilst ensuring that the changes made will be positively transformative of working conditions. The power, perception and presence of multiple actors and frameworks that currently enable corporate exploitation need to be updated.

The intersection between climate change and forced labour remains underappreciated. Corporations and consumers alike will need to choose actions that positively contribute to a sustainable future, alongside actions that discourage the unsustainable working conditions of the millions of people who produce accessible convenience for so many.

India being a developing country are faced with big challenges ahead. 🌱

Contents



34 | Cover Story

Only small percentage of Covid-19 recovery allocated to green initiatives

CSR TECHNOLOGY

37 ISRO to establish 'Space Technology Incubation Center' at NIT Rourkela

CSR INITIATIVE

38 Cloud technology could be the most disruptive digital tool for empowering ASEAN's vulnerable communities

CSR CHALLENGE

40 Grounded by coronavirus lockdowns, aviation mustn't be allowed to return to carbon-heavy days: Report

CSR CONCERN

42 Human exploitation and environmental harm: What is the connection?

44 More trains through Indian forest reserve, more animals at risk

CSR FUTURE

46 Green space in cities can bring considerable health benefits for communities, but access is unequal

48 How better access to satellite imagery is helping fight deforestation

REGULARS:

03 Publisher's note

05 CSR News

26 CSR India United

33 News You Can Use

CSR TODAY

APRIL 2021 | VOL. 08 | ISSUE 09

PRINTER AND PUBLISHER: Rajesh Tiwari

EDITORIAL

Consulting Editor: M Bose

Executive Editor: Neil Thakkar

INDIAN CENTRE FOR CSR

ADVISORY BOARD

Pankaj Pachauri, Ted McFarland, Mag. Martin Neureiter, Chandir Gidwani, Lou Altman, Kingshuk Nag, Toby Webb, Anil Bajpai, Rajesh Tiwari, Satish Jha, Amit Chatterjee, Jitendra Bhargava, Namita Vikas, Dinesh N. Awasthi, Kapil Dev, Dr. Kamal Kant Dwivedi, Sanjiv Kaura, Suhel Seth

PRODUCTION, CIRCULATION AND LOGISTICS

Hardik C

HEAD OFFICE

CSR Today

104, Nirman Kendra, Dr. E Moses Road, Mahalaxmi Estate, Mumbai - 400011

Tel: +91 22 249 03078 / 03082 / 55260

Email: editor@csrtoday.net

Website: www.iccsr.org

REGIONAL OFFICES

NEW DELHI

Regional Director: V Chopra

MUMBAI

Executive Vice President: Neil Thakkar

Circulation: C.R. Tiwari

Printed, Published and Edited by Rajesh Tiwari on behalf of Indian Centre For Corporate Social Responsibility, Printed at The Pack-Age, 196-I, Katrak Compound, J.S.S. Road, Gaiwadi, Girgaon, Mumbai - 400 004 and Published from Indian Centre For Corporate Social Responsibility, 106/A, Nirman Kendra, Plot No.3, Dr. E. Moses Road, Mahalaxmi Estate, Mahalaxmi, Mumbai 400 011.

Editor: Rajesh Tiwari

Disclaimer

The publisher, authors and contributors reserve their rights in regards to copyright of their work. No part of this work covered by the copyright may be reproduced or copied in any form or by any means without the written consent. The publisher, contributors, editors and related parties are not responsible in any way for the actions or results taken by any person, organisation or any party on basis of reading information, stories or contributions in this publication, website or related product. Reasonable care is taken to ensure that CSR Today articles and other information on the web site are up-to-date and accurate as possible, as of the time of publication, but no responsibility can be taken by CSR Today for any errors or omissions contained herein.

International Artist Krupa Shah donates sarees and sanitary pads to women in Wada on the occasion of 'International Women's Day 2021'

On the occasion of International Women's Day, Mumbai-based abstract artist, Krupa Shah, has stepped up once again to make a donation to women from unprivileged backgrounds residing in and around Wada, Maharashtra.

In a bid to contribute towards the wellbeing of women with lack of access to necessities such as sanitary napkins and clothes, Shah made a donation to 50 recipients. With due consideration of COVID safety protocols, the intimate event was held at Adishakti Mukti Gyan Prasarak Mandal, Wada, on the 7th March, 2021, from 11:30 AM onwards.

With an aim to spread awareness on the importance of literacy and financial management, Krupa Shah delivered a speech on women empowerment, whilst also addressing the concerns and challenges faced by the locals.

Speaking on the occasion, Krupa Shah, said, "It's a blessing to be in the position of privilege, which I believe, shouldn't be kept limited to myself. There wouldn't have been a better occasion than International Women's Day to contribute and share a part of my happiness with those who deserve the same. Sarees and sanitary napkins are just the sources to spread happiness, the real motive is to not let these women be deprived of the essentials. Additionally, due to lack of exposure of knowledge and mediums



of entertainment, rural women are unaware of their roles and rights in society. But here's where I'd like to take the lead to help them get educated, aware, and socially



responsible, whilst also making sure their setbacks are addressed and resolved instantly."

Shah's initiative for the women of Wada is not an occasion taking place for the first time. The world-renowned artist has been conducting social events targeting women and children in particular for many years now.

Vedanta steps up efforts to provide healthcare in Rajasthan



With a strong commitment to support the health requirements of communities in Rajasthan, Vedanta Group companies, Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) and Cairn Oil & Gas, have collectively rolled out several initiatives in the field of health. These initiatives are focused on communities with limited or no access to primary healthcare.

“I would like to commend the efforts of Hindustan Zinc for donating

the RTPCR Testing lab that we run today. The lab plays an invaluable role in the COVID testing we do. If more contributors like HZL step up in the hour of need, the general public will be further able to receive better health facilities. I would like to thank Hindustan Zinc for proactively coming forward and working for the betterment of the society and community,” said Dr Shalabh Sharma, Principal, Bhilwara Govt. Medical College.

“Cairn has done commendable work during COVID-19 (highly advanced ambulance, protection kit, N95 mask, cotton mask, Philips B-PEP ventilators, hand sanitizer, sodium hypo-chloride, COVID testing VTM kits). High quality and pre-decided standards are set by the company, which is proving to be essential in our war with COVID-19. I hope they continue with their efforts and that the general public can take full advantage of the services,” said Dr BL Mansuriya, Principal Medical Officer, Barmer. The efforts under the aegis of Vedanta in Rajasthan are:

State-of-the-art facilities and specialists

HZL has increased access to health facilities by supporting to create state-of-art infrastructure at Heart Hospital, Udaipur to provide affordable health care facilities to heart patients and free treatment to BPL patients. The hospital now has 150 beds, a unit for cardiology along with upgraded facilities in ICU, Cardiology Department and Cardiology Surgery Department. HZL also has its company run hospitals operating in different locations where Primary health care services are provided to employees, their families and nearby community members. In the FY 2020-21, the beneficiary count is approximately 1.3 lakh till date.

To improve medical facilities at the district hospital of Barmer, Cairn initiated two major interventions - a campaign, ‘Green Barmer, Clean Barmer’ to create awareness on health and hygiene; and strengthening the health services offered at government district hospital by providing three medical specialists. The specialists include a female gynaecologist, an ENT specialist, and a general surgeon. So far, more than 45,500 OPDs and 3,246 surgeries & institutional deliveries have been done by Cairn supported doctors in the district hospital.

ONLY SMALL PERCENTAGE OF COVID-19 RECOVERY ALLOCATED TO **GREEN INITIATIVES**

UNEP and IMF experts emphasise the indispensable role of climate action in ensuring socio-economic stability, and urge world leaders to prioritise long-term green recovery.

Photovoltaic panels on St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Of the trillions of dollars set aside for Covid-19 recovery, a small percentage has been used in green recovery initiatives according to a United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report.

Image: Kenton X. Chance/IPS



Last year, only \$368 billion of a \$14.6tn budget geared towards Covid-19 recovery measures across the world's largest 50 countries took into account green recovery initiatives, according to a report launched yesterday, 10 Mar.

“Are we building back better?” by the Global Recovery Observatory, an initiative led by the Oxford University Economic Recovery Project (OUERP), and supported by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was launched during a panel talk where global leaders who discussed measures taken to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic that are favourable to the climate.

“With growing climate instability, rising inequality, and worsening global poverty (World Bank, 2021), it is crucial that governments build back better through a green and inclusive recovery,” read a part of the report.

Cloud technology could be the most disruptive digital tool for empowering ASEAN's vulnerable communities

Cloud technology in Asia Pacific is projected to grow dramatically in the next few years, and plays a crucial role in modernising and empowering communities across the region. But it is not without challenges to ensure its benefits are broadly felt, writes **Gillian Parker**



Yohanes Sugih-tononugroho (right), co-founder of the CROWDE app, talks to a farmer in Pangalengan, West Java, Indonesia. Image: CROWDE

Cloud technology plays a crucial role in modernising and empowering communities across Southeast Asia, from boosting financial inclusion to streamlining access to formal markets for smallholder farmers, according to a report by Eco-Business Research launched on Friday (19 March). But multiple stakeholders must collaborate to ensure that there is true democratisation of cloud technology across the region.

Cloud technology – the delivery of on-demand computing services through a network of remote servers – is projected to grow by 117 per cent in Asia Pacific between 2019 and 2024, according to GlobalData with more businesses allotting bigger budgets towards it. Cloud

needs minimal infrastructure and investment while it has the ability for companies to operate at scale quickly making it particularly appealing for emerging economies.

Nevertheless, the development and adoption of cloud technology vary considerably across the five focus countries studied in the Eco-Business report.

Singapore is a leader in cloud adoption and growth potential, which is underpinned by its robust infrastructure and enabling policies. It is ranked top in the Eco-Business Cloud Opportunity Matrix. Its 'Smart City, Smart Nation' initiative places heavy focus on cloud technology to enable a more efficient provision of services and to streamline government systems. Parking, tax and government platforms allowing you

to register births and businesses are powered by cloud technology. "We now have the ability to use data to manage transport systems like never before," Jamie Leather, chief of Transport Sector Group, Asian Development Bank said in the report.

Cloud Opportunity Matrix - Southeast Asia Thailand and Malaysia are ranked next in the matrix, with conducive regulatory environments and relatively high digital penetration at around 80 per cent of the populations in both countries.

Indonesia, the most populous country in Southeast Asia, and the Philippines still have some way to go, the report noted, with both countries lacking the bedrock digital infrastructure needed to propel cloud technology. Nevertheless, Indonesia is one to watch as it is one of the



An airplane. The longer the transition from aviation and other fossil fuel-powered industries take, the more unjust and difficult it will eventually be, states a new paper.

Image: Pixabay

Grounded by coronavirus lockdowns, aviation mustn't be allowed to return to carbon-heavy days: Report

Billions in financial aid have been dished out to airlines battered by Covid-19. As the world warms, governments should force the industry into decline rather than helping it back onto its feet, argues a new paper.

Despite what aviation giants may say, green air travel is still decades away. Instead of backing the sector's return to its climate-disrupting ways, governments should initiate its transformation and reskill workers to cushion the social

impacts of the changes ahead, states a new report.

Reducing passenger flights is critical to averting catastrophic heating. As Covid-19 keeps the industry grounded, nations should ask themselves how they can foster alternatives to flying and harmful tourism,

and how to do so fairly. Policies can be effective in halting airport expansions, restricting lobbying, and putting caps on flight numbers. But for the transition to be just, responsible stimulus spending is key, argues the paper, by the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS), a United Kingdom-based trade union, and Stay Grounded, a Vienna-based network that advocates for a cut in air travel.

Rather than bailing out airlines, airports and plane builders, governments' recovery packages should provide social protection for those



Human exploitation and environmental harm: **What is the connection?**

When forced labour practices are part of supply chains, it is reasonable to ascertain that environmental degradation may be present too, writes **Anna Moor**

Gold, silver, and cobalt are just a few of the precious metals that all smartphone users carry each day. This is common knowledge, but what is less known is how these minerals can represent a meeting point between environmental harm and human exploitation. The intersection between the environmental

impacts of sourcing these and other materials used in the production of consumer electronics and goods, and the working conditions of people making these products needs more attention. The basic argument from leading experts is that where corporate exploitation of human beings is at play, environmental destruction may not be far behind. Indeed, debates even go as far as to

suggest that the climate crisis may be unresolvable unless modern slavery numbers significantly drop. From the deepest parts of Central Africa where materials for our tech devices are mined, to the pandemic-fueled need for medical supplies from production lines in Malaysia, across to the demanding fast fashion factories of Mauritius; unsustainable labour practices and ecocide straddle many industries.

Take fast fashion, a vast selection of cheap clothing needed for purchase, pronto. To make this business model work production costs are minimised using cheap, unpaid, or



Long freight trains carrying coal often pass through the Palamu Tiger Reserve.
Image: Gurvinder Singh

More trains through Indian forest reserve, more animals at risk

Another rail track within a Jharkhand forest reserve will carry coal faster, but could also kill more animals, writes **Gurvinder Singh**

Kanhai Singh, a resident of the Ledgain village in the Latehar district of Jharkhand, has been suffering sleepless nights. He has nightmares of wild elephants ravaging his crops and damaging his house, elephants forced out of the nearby Palamu Tiger Reserve (PTR) by the widening of the rail line inside the forest.

The 45-year-old farmer has been urging the authorities to shift the

97-year-old existing double track to ensure the safety of wildlife and of villagers living close by. Local officials of the forest department have urged the same and have pointed out that the measure would save a lot of money too.

But despite these objections, the railways managers are adding a third track to the 291 km rail line, which was built in 1924 from Patratu to Son Nagar to carry coal. They do not have permission to lay

the track over the 11 km stretch of the line that lies within the PTR, but are going ahead with the rest of the work.

The third track is also meant to carry coal, a major source of revenue for the state government of Jharkhand in eastern India.

Singh is among the over 25,000 residents of 20 villages who fear they will be affected as wild animals – especially elephants, gaur (Indian bison) and deer – are scared away by more trains and move into nearby farms and villages.

A majority of these residents are from indigenous communities. Spread across 1,050 sq. km, PTR spans the Palamu and Latehar dis-



Vermillion Lake in Banff National Park, Canada. Image: Siddharth Choksi, via Flickr. CC BY-NC-ND 2.0.

Green space in cities can bring considerable health benefits for communities, **but access is unequal**

Compared to affluent white communities, lower-income communities and communities of colour are missing out on the advantages urban greenery provides. What does it take to level the playing field?

With the arrival of spring, Platte Farm Open Space, located in the diverse, working-class neighbourhood of Globeville in north Denver, comes alive with native grasses, pollinator gardens that attract bees and butterflies, and wildflowers, such as Mexican hat, asters, poppies, and Gaillardia.

“This is a beautiful amenity — a beautiful piece of space that was previously being abused,” says Jan Ediger, a longtime resident of Globeville. A former brownfield site, Platte Farm is 5.5 acres (just over 2 hectares) of open green space in the heart of Globeville that, along with the wildflowers, grasses, and gardens,



How better access to satellite imagery is helping fight deforestation

A new initiative offering free access to high spatial and temporal resolution satellite imagery is proving an important first step in the bid to strengthen forest monitoring systems, writes **Nick Measures**