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Dr (Ms) Annapurna Vancheswaran, delivering the vote of thanks, said that India has shown global leadership and vision and elaborated that this translates to introducing waste management and disposal solutions, generating carbon sink, reducing carbon intensity, etc. She shared two major challenges in the form of identifying action on how business sectors engage and expand and how TERI creates benchmarks for the private sector.

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Climate Resilient Agriculture (World Bank)

Chair: Dr Madhur Gauram, Lead Economist, The World Bank

Panelists: Dr Pramod Agarwal, Regional Program Leader, Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security of CGIAR – CCAFS Programme; Prof. N H Ravindranath, Professor, Indian Institute of Science (IISc); Dr Vibha Dhawan, Distinguished Fellow and Senior Director, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI); Mr David Butler, Director, Sustainable Food Systems Ireland (SFS); Dr Tushaar Shah, Senior Fellow, International Water Management Institute (IWMI); Dr M R Garg, General Manager—Animal Nutrition Group, National Dairy Development Board (NDB); Ms Priti Kumar, Senior Environmental Specialist, The World Bank; Mr Shyam Khadka, FAO Representative in India, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); Dr P K Joshi, Director, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI); Dr Ajay Mathur, Director-General, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)

Panelists:

- Dr Jaco Cilliers, Country Director, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); Mr Shyam Khadka, FAO Representative in India, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); Dr P K Joshi, Director, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI); Dr Ajay Mathur, Director-General, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)

Climatic change is a reality, and agriculture contributes to 23% of the total greenhouse gas emissions. Various Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) strategies have been initiated worldwide. A comprehensive approach including partnerships, knowledge generation, incentive mechanisms, and CSA enablers is required. Tools such as genomic selection in livestock and crops, sub-soil irrigation, and watershed management can help accelerate the speed of adaptation. Climate smart solar pumps can be a viable drought coping tool. Climate change solutions need to be income-centric; but sustainability is significant.

EU–India Collaboration for Implementation of NDCs

Moderator: Mr Ashish Chaturvedi, Sr Fellow, Delphi and Fellow, University of Sussex

Panelists: Ms Henrietta Faergmann, Delegation of the EU to India; Prof. Ambuj Sagar, IT-Delhi, and Senior Policy Advisor—SDA & Climate Finance Readiness at GIZ India; Dr Ritu Mathur, TERI; Dr Keywan Riahi, IIASA; Ms Aayushi Awasthy, TERI

The session outlined the areas of cooperation between EU and India, centred in the energy sector. Henrietta Faergmann congratulated India on showing leadership for ratifying the Paris Agreement and pushing the climate agenda globally, also through the International Solar Alliance. Prof. Ambuj Sagar outlined areas of cooperation, such as product development, early demonstration and target policies for effectively mitigating carbon emissions. The session also aimed at highlighting the investment and financing challenges for climate change adaptation. Representatives from financial institutions and development banks expressed how their innovative financial tools are channeling funds towards cleaner and efficient energy. It was identified that the biggest challenge is to meet the demand for infrastructural funds by 2030s in the growing purview of economic acceleration, population growth, and increased standard of living in developing economies.

Valuation of Energy Costs in the Indian Context

Participating Organisations: IF, Vallunti Technology Accelerator, Vedanta Ltd, TATA Chemicals, TATA Cleantech, TATA Steel Ltd, Cairn India, Shree Cement Ltd, Jain Irrigation Ltd, YES Bank Ltd, Danfoss India, WRI India, ICF India, Wipro Ltd, Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Ltd, Mahindra Group, GAIL (India) Ltd

The event brought together industry leaders to share their experiences and insights in arriving at internal carbon pricing. The voluntary group, Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition (CPLC), collectively working towards internalising the carbon costs in business operations and effectively combating climate change, was described. The representatives present put forward their innovative tools and mechanisms, and CSA enablers is required. Tools such as genomic selection in livestock and crops, sub-soil irrigation, and watershed management can help accelerate the speed of adaptation. Climate smart solar pumps can be a viable drought coping tool. Climate change solutions need to be income-centric; but sustainability is significant.

Mainstreaming SDG Goal No. 7 — Affordable and Clean Energy

Moderator: Dr Jaco Cilliers, Country Director, United Nations Development Programme

Panelists: Ms Rachel Kyte, CEO and Special Representative, Sustainable Energy for All; Dr Arun Kumar Verma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Power, Government of India; Mr Martin Hilger, Director General, Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership, Austria; Dr P K Anand, Sr Consultant, NITI Aayog, Government of India; Dr Nagesh Kumar, Head, UNE-ESCAP South and South-West Asia Office; Dr Simon Lucas, Team Leader, Climate, Urban and Energy Team, UK Department for International Development (DfID), India; Mr Debajit Palit, Associate Director, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)

India presents immense opportunities to scale up initiatives and efforts towards clean energy access. India’s ratification of the Paris Agreement underscores its climate leadership and is a remarkable step in international diplomacy. Regional cooperation can significantly contribute to sustainable energy transitions. Similarly, proper monitoring of progress, challenges, and failures can avoid loss in evolution of initiatives and build consciousness for the development process.

Private sector finance is equally important as public sector finance for achievement of SDG7. Innovation, investment, incentives, institution are key drivers. Affordability is one key challenge to increase the uptake of available electricity. Also, clean cooking efforts can be augmented by utilizing existing and new power infrastructures.

Global Cooperation Driving Environment Efforts

International cooperation is at work in rejuvenating the River Ganga. Cesare Onestini, Deputy Head of European Union Delegation, highlighted global interconnectivity in efforts to save the environment. EU–India water partnership is bringing together a wide range of stakeholders to cooperate on water law and governance; promotion of research, innovation; and exchange of business solutions, he said at the colloquium that brought together 20 journalists from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cameroon, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

‘Developing countries did not cause climate change, but they will drive the change’, said Rachel Kyte, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General and CEO, SE4All. With the Paris Agreement coming to force, India has an opportunity to capitalise on the push for energy-efficient automobiles and electrical appliances, she added. TERI experts also briefed the journalists in an interactive session on ‘The Mission Today: Rural Development and Poverty Reduction’. Vijay Kumar said that to ensure development, we have to look at how to plug the gap between policies and the beneficiaries. Suneel Pandey said that people should have a stake in the infrastructure being provided to them.

Media Colloquium

THEMATIC TRACKS @ INDIA HABITAT CENTRE

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Private sector finance is equally important as public sector finance for achievement of SDG7. Innovation, investment, incentives, institution are key drivers. Affordability is one key challenge to increase the uptake of available electricity. Also, clean cooking efforts can be augmented by utilizing existing and new power infrastructures.
The introductory remark discussed issues such as climate change, rapid urbanisation, poverty, etc. A presentation showed prominent programmes, such as TERI Council for Business Sustainability and Leaders for Nature programme of IUCN work towards building the capacity of businesses and towards on-ground solutions. All of these initiatives are oriented at educating, advising, and providing solutions to the industries to mainstream sustainability in their operations and reduce as well as mitigate impacts on ecosystems. These efforts need to be consolidated nationally forming a synergetic impact. To build this synergy, this session brought stakeholders together and deliberated upon the issues of sustainability that vary with respect to the type of business and hence, defining the sustainability and developing solutions to mitigate impacts are needed. The panelists also discussed that investing in biodiversity and ecosystem services is futuristic and ensures multiple benefit flow in favour of business and local livelihoods. The deliberations brought out the challenges and opportunities for responsible business to mainstream biodiversity conservation in India.
PLENARY SESSION 1: 
Encouraging Businesses to Take the Lead in Poverty Reduction and Achieving SDGs
Moderator: Mr Nitin Desai, Former Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, UN & Distinguished Fellow, TERI
Panelists: Mr Krishan Dhawan, CEO, Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation; Mr Amit Shah, Senior President and Country Head, Corporate Strategy and Communications, YES BANK; and Executive Director—YES Institute; Mr Pau Abello, Managing Director, Roca Bathroom Products Pvt Ltd; Mr Ariabir Ghosh, Chief Sustainability Officer—Mahindra Group, Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd; Mr Jacio Cilliers, Country Director, UNDP in India

The discussion started with importance of reputational issue for the corporates to contribute to the SDGs by taking them to the board-room discussions. It is time for companies to think beyond CSR and consider how to make investments more systemic to contribute to SDGs. Companies that take the lead will benefit from being early movers. For example, the automobile industry is now being forced to change to better fuels and efficient engines at a pace faster than they are comfortable with.

Banks too need to look at their role as a catalyst. For example, YES Bank decided to do responsible banking in thought and action. India’s socio-economic environment is entirely different and needs to adopt some of the global issues for domestic implementation.

Business opportunity is available in all SDGs. Dealing with issues related to water would mean dealing with a large number of issues in SDGs.

India has a fabulous programme called the Integrated Watershed Management Programme. The programme has the potential to increase income by 2%–2.5% in a period of five years.

PLENARY SESSION 2: 
Accelerating the Transition to Low Carbon Industries
Moderator: Amb. Ajaie Mahotra, TERI
Panelists: Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, Research and Information System for Developing Countries; Mr Randal Newton, Vice President—Enterprise engineering, Ingersoll Rand; Mr Rajiv K Mishra, Director, Marketing and Business Development, PTC India Ltd; Mr Yongping Zai, Director, Energy Division, South Asia Regional Department, Asian Development Bank

Amb. Saran spoke about the importance of exchange of knowledge and peer learning to solve the issues of climate change and sustainable business. He spoke about the three key elements which require attention—risks associated with climate change, change required to work towards a low carbon pathway, and the issue of internalising externalities. He drew a parallel between the 2008 financial crisis and the emerging climate crisis. Mr Mishra stressed on how there should be a clear financial viability for businesses to tackle climate change. The Government of India has taken a bold step in setting up a target of 175 GW of renewable energy in the national grid by 2020 and to meet the target, there should be a business case where the renewable energy production reaches grid parity.

Mr Randal Newton shared that energy efficiency is a key factor in their production process and they aim to reduce the GHG emission from their products by 50% by 2030 and reduce the same from their office by 2035. Three important factors leading to reduced GHG emissions are correct usage, control, and proper maintenance. Mr Yongping Zai shared that a major part of ADB’s investments are into green investments and his direct lending in the renewable energy sector is more than USD 2.5 billion. Recently, the ADB has approved a lending of USD 1 billion to EESL for energy-efficient street lighting.

VALEDICTORY SESSION
Chair: Dr Ajay Mathur, Director-General, TERI
Special Address: Ms Rachel Kyte, CEP, Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) & Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All, Mr Preeti Sinha, Senior President & Global Convener, YES Institute at YES BANK Ltd
Valedictory Address: Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal and New & Renewable Energy, Government of India
Vote of Thanks: Dr (Ms) Annapurna Vancheswaran, Senior Director, TERI

Dr Mathur welcomed the dignitaries on the panel. Ms Rachel Kyte said that energy is a problem common to all living beings on the planet; hence, solutions for the same should be regime-based. Renewable energy mix is a big part of the solution. In 2016, 2.9 million people, mainly women, will damage their lungs to provide food to a household. It is a health and economic hazard as the opportunity cost for these women to earn a living is lost because of the time they spend in collecting firewood. We need green energy to be competitive in a world that is shaped by climate change. Ms Preeti Sinha shared about the promotion of ‘green capitalism’ by the YES BANK Group. She spoke about how financial inclusion is the key to YES Bank and about how the platforms accessible through smart phones are getting the urban poor close to financial inclusion. The agenda that YES bank is working towards is focussed on the market reforms to embrace sustainable development.

Shri Piyush Goyal shared that there is no contradiction between sustainable development and economic development. He added that sustainability cannot work in silos; it needs to be integrated into the organisation.