

# RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

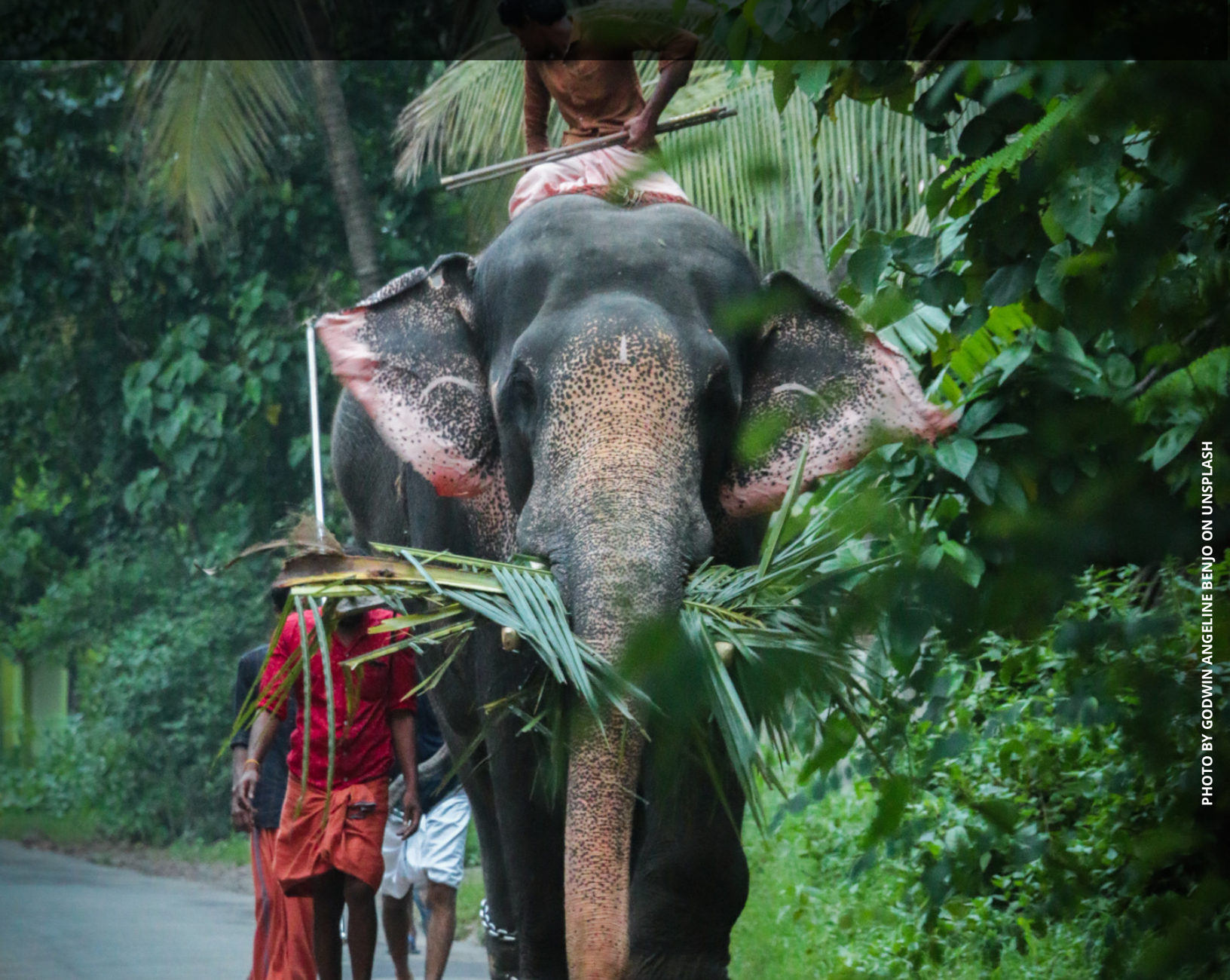


PHOTO BY GODWIN ANGELINE BENJO ON UNSPLASH

**TECHNOLOGY AND THE  
FUTURE OF WORK**  
NANDINI SHARMA

**ACRE - UNIQUE  
INITIATIVE FOR COTTON  
FARMERS OF INDIA**  
SIYA CHOPRA

**INDIA &  
SUSTAINABILITY  
STANDARDS 2022**

# From the CEO's Desk

This is our last newsletter of the year - so, just the right time to reflect on the year that was 2022.

The most remembered event of the year for CRB unfortunately was the sudden demise of our Founder Chairperson, Dr Bimal Arora. It was an unexpected jolt that shook the organisation heavily, but I am happy to share that it didn't deflect us at all from our orbit. It offered us an opportunity to come closer together as a team to face the situation, and we did that confidently and diligently as a unit, thereby demonstrating our resilience as an organisation. As an organisation loud speaking about sustainability, inclusivity, equity and resilience externally, it feels great that we have also done our best in adorning these characteristics internally in the organisation. A healthy environment with opportunities to learn and challenges that test our abilities, has helped CRB also attract talent.

Discussions and developments in Delhi, Brussels, Geneva, Sharm-el-Sheikh, Montreal point to the fact that if the world around us has to change, businesses of all shapes and sizes, and in all geographies will have to play an important role. CRB has created some sort of a niche of being able to engage businesses (especially those, who were not as actively engaged on subject) on various aspects of responsible business, and in some cases helping them initiate the journey. This has been across a range of areas that are CRB value-additions (transformative pathways), viz. - **responsible sourcing; preventing and mitigating human rights related risks; embracing sustainability systems; supporting decent work; adopting circular economy principles** or just actively convening industry practitioners through riveting dialogues.

As a team, we would **aim to engage 100 future-fit businesses** through these transformative pathways and beyond, in 2023. We welcome partners who are interested in joining us on this exciting journey. I don't have to belabour the point that the prevailing environment is favourable.

Going forward, CRB will be engaging more actively in a **few States with long-term initiatives**. Some of the States where possibilities are emerging, are - Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan and the North Eastern region. A few more States will be added to the list in 2023.

Finally, CRB is really proud to be engaged with some of the processes and engagement groups of G20, given India's Presidency of the **G20**. In addition to being involved in a Working Group (**Working Group for Technology, Security, and Transparency**) of the **C20 engagement group** of G20, CRB is also working with leading international organisations on **3 policy briefs** for the **T20 engagement group** (**i. sustainable value chains; ii. sustainable consumption and iii. food loss and waste**). We will aim to host a couple of side events of the course of the year - and would encourage you all to keep an eye on our social media handles, as these plans crystallise they will be visible online.

*Rijit Sengupta*  
CEO, CENTRE FOR  
RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS



# Message from CRB's Chairman

Centre for Responsible Business (CRB) is dedicated to delivering impactful and measurable outcomes.

This year has been a remarkable year for all of us here at the Centre for Responsible Business. We have emerged more resilient and reinvigorated, and our confidence in our capabilities is reflected not only in our engagements but also in the trust that our partners have placed in us. I am grateful to our partners, team members, and other stakeholders for their relentless collaboration this past year.

We have developed a niche in engaging businesses on various aspects of responsible business and, in some cases, assisting businesses in initiating the journey, whether it is responsible sourcing; preventing and mitigating human rights-related risks; embracing sustainability systems; supporting decent work; adopting circular economy principles, or simply being active listeners to some of the riveting dialogues we have hosted with our partners.

I am proud of the progress we have made so far. As we enter our second decade, our goal will be to engage more with businesses to define transformative pathways to responsible business by 2023 and focus on our key initiatives.

At the organisational level, we will facilitate the achievement of positive impacts on people, planetary resources and prosperity by working in specific geographies and in industry clusters through innovative partnerships, enabling policies and facilitating responsible business practices.

*Shri R.C. Kesar*  
CHAIRMAN, CENTRE  
FOR RESPONSIBLE  
BUSINESS



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# TECHNOLOGY AND THE FUTURE OF WORK

**NANDINI SHARMA**

*Director, Centre for Responsible Business*




IMAGE SOURCE: INDIAN WOMEN BLOG

As we speak the future of work is being drastically redefined and impacted by the ever-expanding adoption and influence of new technologies. In order to stay relevant in this dynamic business ecosystem, the labour force needs to be re-skilled, mobile, and tech-savvy. While new technologies bring with them business opportunities and efficiencies, there remain quintessential questions that beg a nuanced discussion, such as how prepared we are to use these technologies, what are the possible implications of these technologies on the most vulnerable and marginalized and how do we address some of the emanating adverse impacts. For perspective, given the fast-changing nature of jobs today, it is estimated that in the business landscape 40 million to 160 million women would need to transition to alternate occupations requiring advanced skills and expertise.

This is a cause for concern.

In the age of digitization, when topics such as Artificial Intelligence, ChatGPT have become the buzzwords and are taking centre stage in all forums. It becomes critical, especially for emerging economies, to reflect on what it means for the vulnerable stakeholders.

In India, the participation of women in the labour force has been declining owing to several factors. The Female Labour Force Participation Rate (FLFPR) in India has declined from 32% in 2005 to 21% in 2019. The pandemic has further exacerbated this challenge. That the marginalized communities and stakeholder groups were disproportionately affected (particularly women and children) is well accepted and established. This may be attributable to the informal and routine nature of their work. Progress made under SDG 5 (gender equality) was reversed substantially and in some cases entirely reset. A lot needs to be done to undo the negative impacts (increase in violence, increase in school dropouts and limited access to education, decline in nutrition and healthcare, fall in FLFPR etc.). However, the changing nature of jobs and the onslaught of new technologies has added another dimension to the challenges that need to be understood and addressed.

A photograph of a woman in a rural setting, likely a brickyard, carrying a large stack of bricks on her head. She is wearing a yellow and blue patterned sari. The ground is covered with stacks of bricks, and another person is visible in the background. The sky is clear and blue.

Traditionally, women have been engaged in the informal or unorganized sector (eg: agriculture, art and craft, textile) requiring low level of education and skill, having negligible social security, and limited growth opportunities. Additionally, barriers such as access to land, credit, assets/possessions and inadequate financial and digital literacy further compound the challenge of women participation in the workforce. Given the current scenario in the job market, women particularly urban women are most vulnerable as they have a higher risk of being supplanted by technology.

By way of solutions concerted and creative new solutions are needed, like skill development, digital literacy, to enable women to expand job opportunities and move forward. It is only then that women will be able to find productive and better paid work. In the absence of these efforts could face a growing wage gap or leaving the labour market. While technology can be a catalyst for sustainable and inclusive growth, if not understood it could perpetuate inequities further. There is a need to understand the future of work better and an even greater need to prepare for it.

# ACRE - UNIQUE INITIATIVE FOR COTTON FARMERS OF INDIA

**SIYA CHOPRA**

*Assistant Director, Centre for Responsible Business*



*Solidaridad Asia, Centre for Responsible Business (CRB) and regenagri launched an Alliance of Cotton & Textile Stakeholders on Regenerative Agriculture (ACRE) to promote regenerative cotton farming practice in India.*

*The Alliance (ACRE) estimates the adoption of such a practice will help **fix at least 1 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 2030, while improving the livelihood of more than 500,000 smallholder cotton farmers and their community through various partnerships in India.***

India is one of the largest exporters of cotton yarn, and cotton accounts for 16% of the industrial capital and 20% of the industrial labour. However, cotton production is also linked to issues like farmer distress, ecological risk, and social and environmental injustice.

For instance, cotton monoculture in Maharashtra and Gujarat faces increasing risk of rainfall variability. The production of the crop often involves indiscriminate use of inorganic pesticides and fertilisers which impacts the quality of soil, water, as well as the local biodiversity. Therefore, many brands are now interested in promoting responsible agriculture practices. Regenerative agriculture as a practice promises better livelihood along with ecological sustainability.

Regenerative agriculture is now being considered as a sustainable alternative to conventional agricultural system, because it balances the interests of smallholders with the need to revive the natural systems for sustainable production. Regenerative agriculture can contribute actively in reversing climate change by rebuilding soil organic matter, surface and subsurface carbon pools, and restoring degraded soil biodiversity – resulting in both carbon drawdown and improvement in the water cycle. In simple terms, it is reversing the direction of global agriculture from degenerative to regenerative; creating a system that generates agricultural products, sequesters carbon, and enhances biodiversity at the farm scale.

Through the ACRE Alliance, Solidaridad and CRB believe the required shift in agricultural practices will be possible because of a new, more systemic form of collaboration between stakeholders across the value chain, which includes farmer groups, ginners, traders, buyers, brands, as well as agricultural and textile authorities.

Regenagri-certified cotton is sustainable, ensures fair value to farmers and complies with national and international policy priorities. By working with the stakeholder groups, they are confident of achieving, in the next one year, 50,000 tonnes of regenagri-certified cotton from the fields of 10,000 farmers, and being used by 10 or more fashion brands.

It is also expected to bring about a positive shift in favour of sustainable sourcing of cotton by buyers, brands and retailers, and help them in their journey towards net-zero emission.

The aim of the Alliance of Cotton & Textile Stakeholders on Regenerative Agriculture (ACRE), which will be jointly managed by Solidaridad, CRB and regenagri, is to promote regenerative agricultural practices by:

- Supporting the scaling up of regenerative agriculture in cotton with the vision of making India the world's biggest producer of certified regenerative cotton
- Enabling collaboration among cotton and textile value chain actors on regenerative agriculture across various cotton landscapes in India
- Advancing tools/mechanism(s) that balance smallholder benefits with conservation of nature, and augment soil health in different agro-climatic regions and landscapes growing cotton in India
- Creating awareness amongst national and international consumers/users to demand regenerative cotton
- Documenting and communicating success stories on regenerative agriculture in cotton
- Engaging on policy issues related to regenerative agriculture and natural farming at state and national level
- Building capacity and expertise among cotton and textile sector buyers and brands for wider adoption of regenerative practices in cotton and textile industries
- Linking cotton farmers practising regenerative agriculture to initiatives focused on carbon/climate finance/ biodiversity finance

The ACRE Alliance also aims to support the implementation actions aligned with the National Mission on Natural Farming, a Government of India initiative. Solidaridad and CRB will engage with government authorities to synergise the Alliance's plans with the Bharatiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati Programme under the national mission, to promote agrarian livelihoods as well as address climate change and biodiversity loss.



# INDIA & SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS 2022



The 9th edition of CRB's Annual Sustainability Conference, India and Sustainability Standards was held in Eros Hotel, New Delhi (hybrid format) from November 2 - 4, 2022. The event was attended by over 1100 attendees, 140+ speakers, 60+ partners. The theme of this year's conference was, **'Prioritising Nature and People in Business to Create Measurable Impacts.'**

The conference delved into several key issues together with representatives of multiple stakeholder groups about experiences of businesses and other stakeholders in India and beyond to identify replicable models/approaches of pursuing climate goals, addressing environmental impacts, combatting biodiversity loss, promoting equality and diversity. The discussions inside the room and outside examined various factors and resources that have and can support business transformation towards these impacts.

In addition to the dialogues conducted over the 3 day event, the conference witnessed:

- A special concert by Ricky Kej, 2x Grammy Award Winner, whose performance took every individual on a journey, wherein the lyrics, the music, the voice, and the imagery created an unparalleled atmosphere that made one feel thankful towards all that the Earth has given us, and further strengthened the message that we need to respect and care for the same.
- A networking village was also set up which provided the conference attendees the opportunity to network. Simultaneously, there were a series of activities also lined up in this space, which included a caricature artist, an interview stage and a 'thought board'.





# CRB ACTIVITIES

## CONVENING

### SHAPING SUSTAINABILITY SYSTEMS TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABILITY GOALS ONLINE

13 October 2022

Centre for Responsible Business, ISEAL and VSS Collaboration India hosted a workshop on "Shaping Sustainability Systems to achieve Sustainability Goals Online" on 13th October.

The workshop focused on understanding the fundamentals of credible sustainability systems, how they can help companies achieve sustainability goals, and how they should be responding to developments in the sustainability landscape.



### INDIA & SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS

2 - 4 November 2022

Centre for Responsible Business (CRB) organised the 9th edition its Sustainable Business Conference - India and Sustainability Standards 2022 or ISS2022, held in a hybrid format on November 2nd to 4th 2022 in New Delhi. The theme of this year's event was "Prioritising Nature and People in Business to Create Measurable Impacts". The conference convened international and Indian businesses, policymakers and other stakeholders to discuss, deliberate and develop roadmaps across key sustainability issues and industry sectors – in supporting the momentum towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### RECLAIM TO REGENERATE: TOWARDS REGENERATIVE COTTON SECTOR IN INDIA

29 November 2022

CRB entered into a strategic partnership with Solidaridad to promote regenerative agricultural practices in the cotton sector in India. To launch this initiative, an event was hosted in Nagpur, Maharashtra by the three organisations. The object of the event was to share details about the initiative, convene key stakeholders, and deliberate on the way forward for regenerative cotton in India.

The ACRE Alliance was launched at the event. Through this Alliance, Solidaridad and CRB believe the required shift in agricultural practices will be possible because of a new, more systemic form of collaboration between stakeholders across the value chain, which includes farmer groups, ginners, traders, buyers, brands, as well as agricultural and textile authorities.

In addition to the launch of the alliance, the event featured a farmer felicitation, a photo exhibit by Dinesh Khanna and stalls.



## IVPA GLOBAL ROUNDTABLE 2022 ON VEG OIL AND OILSEED SECTOR 18 November 2022

the Indian Vegetable Oil Producers Association (IVPA), Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) and the Centre for Responsible Business, hosted a global event titled, "IVPA Global Roundtable on Veg Oil and Oilseed Sector".

The event brought together edible oil experts, researchers, technologists and industry players having a major stake in edible oils from all over the world. The program included specific keynote lectures, roundtable and panel discussions with stakeholders on key market dynamics, supply & demand forecast, critical areas of self sufficiency in the veg oil sector, oil palm and sustainability issues.



## MULTI-STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION 23 December 2022

A multi stakeholder consultation was organised by CRB on December 23, 2022, bringing together Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation Ltd. (RIICO), ASSOCIATION OF GARMENT EXPORTERS SITAPURA (AGES), UNICEF India and RMG Companies to discuss the results of the family-friendly workplace initiative Need Assessment study.

During the consultation, stakeholders identified priority ground actions. They agreed to devise a holistic approach to advance labour, women and child rights and make the Sitapura RMG industry inclusive and socially sustainable.



## REPRESENTATION

### CIRCULAR ECONOMY CAPACITY BUILDING FOR MICRO SMALL MEDIUM ENTERPRISES 30 November- 21 December 2022

Devyani Hari, represented Centre for Responsible Business at a capacity building program for micro small medium enterprises (MSMEs) in ASEAN countries organized by the Institute for Circular Economy Development (ICED) and ASEAN-Japan Centre. The program focused on 3 sectors: agriculture, tourism, textile and fashion.

## INDIA FOOD FORUM 2022 7 - 8 December 2022

Rijit Sengupta, Centre for Responsible Business along with Sanjana Das and Rittika Barua from WWF-India represented The Sustainable Palm Oil Coalition for India (I-SPOC) at the India Food Forum 2022 which was held at the Westin Mumbai, Powai Lake from 7th-8th December 2022.

Senior officials from DBL, Aishwari Agro Foods, Plant Based Industry Association amongst others visited the I-SPOC booth which was set up during the event.



## RESPONSIBLE SOURCING SUMMIT INDIA FOR INDIA PLEDGE 13 December 2022

Bhavya Sharma and Aditya Petwal represented CRB at an event organised by IDH, which saw representation from several Indian businesses including Akay Natural Ingredients Private Limited, who came together to discuss creating a roadmap and an implementation plan, thus paving the way to show visible impact in responsible sourcing. The agri-businesses also signed an IDH Responsible Sourcing Pledge to commit to intensify work on responsible sourcing in supply chains.



## CONSULTATION ON INDEPENDENT SMALLHOLDER STANDARDS

23 December 2022

Centre for Responsible Business participated in a public consultation on Independent Smallholder Standards hosted by Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) in Vijayawada .

The consultation saw representation from farmers, processors, auditors and other civil society organisations who spoke about the standards in the Indian context



## ENGAGEMENT

### MEETING WITH ROHIT KUMAR SINGH, IAS, SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA 15 December 2022

Rijit Sengupta, Centre for Responsible Business met with Rohit Kumar Singh, IAS, Secretary, Ministry Of Consumer Affairs, Food And Public Distribution today and discussed issues pertaining to sustainable consumption specially in context of mission LiFE.



# FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

## CRB IN THE MEDIA



Child Labour in Supply Chains – a call for urgent action by stakeholders

Making Child Rights and Business Principles (CRBP) a Reality: Creating Child-Labour Free Supply Chains

### Child Labour in Supply Chains a call for urgent action by stakeholders

India and Sustainability Standards

Budget 2023 Home Economy MSME Sectors State Knowledge Resource Global Features

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22/10/2022 01:55pm

### CRB to host Sustainable Business Conference in New Delhi from Nov 2-4

### CRB to organise Annual Sustainability Conference (2-4 November 2022)

India and Sustainability Standards

December 03, 2022 23:30 IST | ANI Press Release

### ACRE Unique Initiative for Cotton farmers of India

RECLAIM TO REGENERATE TOWARDS REGENERATIVE COTTON SECTOR IN INDIA

29 NOVEMBER

### Getting future ready

The textile & apparel sector is gearing up to adopt circularity in its supply chain

### Getting Future Ready: The Textile & Apparel Sector is Gearing up to Adopt Circularity in its Supply Chain

A circular economy can be a game changer for Indian suppliers and manufacturers of textiles and apparel

To Create Measurable Impacts

Jayash Sinek, MP and Chairperson, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance, Government of India discussed in detail and eye-opening presentation

Textile and apparel (T&A) manufacturing is considered to be one of the most polluting industries. In fact, the T&A industry is the second-most polluter globally. Over 20 per cent of industrial water pollution is due to garment manufacturing. Globally, 80 per cent of textile waste generated is not recycled and is often sent to landfills or incinerated. In fact, the industry is responsible for over 8 per cent of global pollution. With a growing economy and changing demographics, the consumption of textiles and clothing has gone up by more than 60 per cent today as compared to that in 2000 and this has significantly aggravated the whole situation. In the past 15 years, textile production has almost doubled. Amidst all this, the industry finds itself in a quandary as it is struggling to balance its mainstream targets of productivity & production and its sustainability of production, distribution and usage of T&A is not sustainable as there is less regard for environment impact. Experts are of the view that the current 'take-make-dispose' approach does not only adversely impact environment and society, but also the future business of the T&A industry.

"A circular economy can be a game changer for Indian suppliers and manufacturers of textiles and apparel. Indian suppliers and manufacturers stand to make considerable gains if they proactively adopt good practices and innovate through circular business models and practices and get ready to be part of the transformation that is happening globally. However, global discussions on circular economy have to be clearly contextualised for India. India is both a major producer and consumer of textiles and apparel and its circular economy intervention has to value chain actors in India," says a report by the Centre for Responsible Business (CRB), a think tank based out of New Delhi, which has created the framework to capture circular economy priorities or action points in alignment with the principles of a circular economy. This paper has been developed through extensive engagement with the stakeholders of the Indian T&A industry and identifies CR priorities in the Indian context.

The Indian apparel and textile sector contributes significantly to the Indian economy in terms of manufacturing, employment, exports and GDP. The A&T sector is a crucial component of India's economic backbone. It contributes about 2 per cent to India's GDP, and employs about 10.5 crore workers in the A&T and allied sectors. India is the sixth-largest apparel and textile exporter of the world. India's

### 9TH ISS

#### THRUST ON WORKING SPEEDILY, RESPONSIBLY, INCLUSIVELY WITH A GROWING FOCUS ON TECHNOLOGY

Discussions around sustainability have been at their peak recently as global leaders reiterated their commitment to the environment at COP27. And for India, the current scenario is more important than ever as India assumes G20 Presidency for one year from December 2022. It is an opportunity for India and Global South Nations to lead the discourse on sustainability and inclusivity at G-20 level and to demonstrate collaborative efforts and innovations in global supply chains.

Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Textiles, Commerce and Industries has also invited to use this opportunity to showcase the potential of the textile sector in G20. Focusing on this and many other aspects of sustainability, the recently concluded 9th ISS: International Dialogues & Conference at Delhi delved into several key issues. Many global stakeholders appreciated India's top leadership for the initiatives taken to protect the environment, and at the same time, it was also reiterated that the situation is like now or never and all of us have to work together to make

Organised by Centre for Responsible Business (CRB), the three-day long event witnessed stakeholders from across industries. Interestingly Licypriya Kangajam, a 10-years-old child environmental activist from Kerala, who is the youngest member of CRB, also participated in the event.

Global Banking, North India Lead for Sustainable Finance, HSBC India; George Gray, Chief Economist and Head, Strategic Policy Engagement, UNDP shared interesting thoughts on sustainable financing. The leading banks also see the major projects from an ESG perspective before clearing them as banks have ESG lending policies. Still capital cost for sustainable financing is very high and it is expected that the cost will come down as the industry and governments move towards green finance and sustainable finance with special emphasis on capacity building and creating awareness of climate risk and sustainable finance to tackle the challenges posed by climate change. On the grass route level, SIDBI is active with initiatives like Swavalamban Challenge Fund (SCF) with Green Bharat as the prioritised theme since the focus of the fund is on innovative

### 9th ISS: Thrust on Working Speedily, Responsibly, Inclusively with a Growing Focus on Technology

CRB to organise Annual Sustainability Conference (2-4 November 2022)

### CRB to organise Annual Sustainability Conference (2-4 November 2022)

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### Sustainable Business Conference by CRB to be held in New Delhi from Nov 2-4

Sustainable Business Conference by CRB to be held in New Delhi from Nov 2-4

New Delhi, Sept 30 (KNN) The Centre for Responsible Business (CRB) is organizing the 9th edition of its annual flagship Sustainable Business Conference in New Delhi from November 2-4, 2022.

The theme for this year's conference is Prioritising Nature and People in Business to Create Measurable Impacts.

ThePrint

### Solidaridad & Centre for Responsible Business to launch regenagri Cotton Alliance, to step up the fight against Climate Change

Solidaridad & Centre for Responsible Business to launch regenagri Cotton Alliance, to step up the fight against Climate Change

CRB BUSINESS Enabling Change for Impact

# RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS NEWS ROUND UP

BY SIYA CHOPRA



## CIRCULAR ECONOMY

### NEED TO PROMOTE CIRCULAR ECONOMY TO DEAL WITH CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUES: KANT

There is a need to promote a circular economy to deal with the issues related to climate change. Addressing an event virtually, Kant noted different ministries and states are taking initiatives to promote a circular economy. Read more [here](#)



## PRIVATE SECTOR & SDGS

### EU LAWMAKERS ADOPT CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING RULES

In a major step towards the establishment of a new sustainability reporting system in Europe, the European Parliament adopted the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) on Thursday, in a 525 to 60 vote (with 28 abstentions).

The vote sets the stage for a dramatic overhaul and expansion of corporate sustainability reporting in the EU to be implemented by the beginning of 2024

The new rules will significantly expand the number of companies required to provide sustainability disclosures to over 50,000 from around 12,000 currently, and introduce more detailed reporting requirements on company impacts on the environment, human rights and social standards and sustainability-related risk.

Read the full article [here](#)

## BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

### INDIA CAN GAIN CREDIBILITY FROM COMMITMENT TO INCLUSIVITY AND RESPECT TO HUMAN RIGHTS: UN CHIEF

India's voice on the world stage can gain authority and credibility only from a strong commitment to inclusivity and human rights at home. As an elected member of the Human Rights Council, India has a responsibility to shape global human rights, and act and promote the rights of all individuals including members of minority communities. Read more [here](#).



## ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

### INDIA SUBMITS ITS LONG-TERM LOW EMISSION DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY TO UNFCCC

India submitted its Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), during the 27th Conference of Parties (COP27). The document has been prepared after extensive consultations held by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change with all relevant Ministries and Departments, State Governments, research institutions, and civil society organisations.

The two themes of "climate justice" and "sustainable lifestyles", alongside the principles of Equity and Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC), in the light of national circumstances, that India had emphasized at Paris, are at the heart of a low-carbon, low-emissions future.

Read the Press Release [here](#).

## BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

### HEALTH AS A HUMAN RIGHT FOR INDIA'S TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

Given the multiplicity of marginalisation of India's tribal communities, it is imperative to create a responsive and sensitive health system that provides equitable access and right to health to these communities. Interventions such as MAAdol, and Aashwasan help bring appropriate services to the communities, and build their trust in the health system by improving their experience of health delivery. Through collaboration and co-creation, we can successfully ensure equitable health provisioning, and ensure that India as a developed nation becomes a reality.

Read more [here](#).



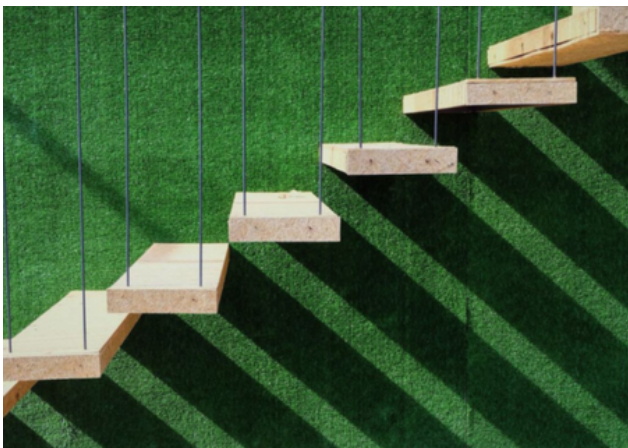
## SMEs AND SUSTAINABILITY

### SUSTAINABILITY INDEX FOR MSMEs

SIDBI and Dun & Bradstreet India launched SIDBI – D&B SPeX, the Sustainability Index dedicated to MSMEs

The Sustainability Perception Index, which will act as a reliable indicator towards ESG adoption in Indian enterprises, was launched as first step towards accelerating greening of MSME eco system in India.

Read more [here](#)



## CIRCULAR ECONOMY

### CIRCULAR ECONOMY – IS INDIA READY TO COME FULL CIRCLE IN SUSTAINABILITY?

For sustainable growth and achieving net-zero emissions, 'recycle-and-reuse' is the way ahead. Though India has always had a culture of recycle and reuse, its rapid economic growth, growing population, impact of climate change and rising environmental pollution, the adoption of a circular economy is more imperative now.

Despite the Government's policy efforts the progress has been underwhelming. One of the major contributing factors is lack of a clear vision towards the end-goal of India's circular economy mission and gaps in actual implementation of the policies. Read more [here](#).



## PRIVATE SECTOR & SDGS

### JSW STEEL JOINS UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT INITIATIVE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

JSW Steel, the flagship company of the diversified \$22 billion JSW Group, on October 11 announced that it has joined as the newest participant of the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) network - the world's largest voluntary corporate sustainability initiative.

JSW Steel is the fifth Indian company in the "Industrial Mining and Manufacturing" category to join the UN Global Compact initiative. Read more [here](#)



## VOLUNTARY SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS

### SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS: FINMIN URGES BANKS TO INCENTIVISE MSMEs

The finance ministry has advised banks to support those micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) that have adopted certain sustainability standards for manufacturing with a raft of incentives, including cheaper credit, at a time when interest rates are on the rise.

The move is part of the government's broader efforts to encourage MSMEs to become "responsible manufacturers" and improve credit flow to these units that account for a bulk of the country's job creation.

Read more [here](#)



## ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

### COP27 | INDIA HAILS COMPENSATION FUND APPROVED AT U.N. CLIMATE SUMMIT

India, at the U.N. climate summit in Egypt, secured an agreement on establishing a fund to address 'Loss and Damage' due to climate change-induced disasters. Making an intervention in the closing plenary of COP27, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav also said the world should not burden farmers with mitigation responsibilities. While many details remain to be negotiated, the fund is expected to see developing countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of the climate crisis supported for losses arising from droughts, floods, rising seas and other disasters that are attributed to climate change. Read more [here](#)



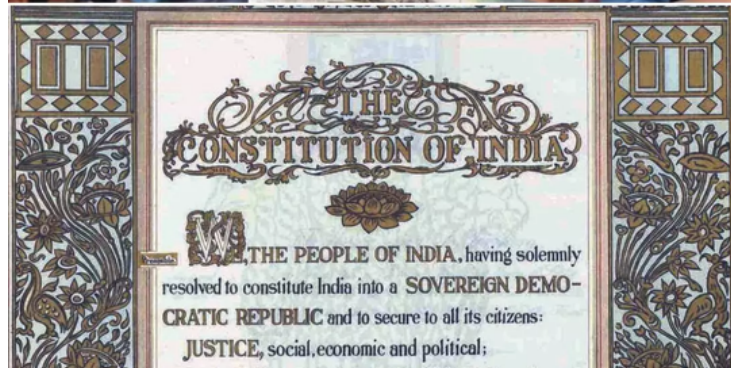
## BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

### TEACH HUMAN RIGHTS TO SCHOOL CHILDREN, SAYS KERALA CHIEF JUSTICE; CAN EDUCATION BUILD A JUST SOCIETY?

Living in a democratic setting makes it essential for every individual to be aware of the rights that are guaranteed to them as a human. But does this idea also incorporate children as political citizens?

It is a universally accepted notion that education is the prerequisite for a healthy and progressive mind. Therefore what is being taught and preached at schools is key to forming tomorrow's society. Living in a democratic setting makes it essential for every individual (regardless of age, gender, race, and other criteria) to be aware of the rights that are guaranteed to them as a human.

Read the full article [here](#)



## SMEs AND SUSTAINABILITY

### INDIAN SMES LEAD KEY ASIAN MARKETS IN ACCORDING HIGH PRIORITY TO ESG MEASURES IN BUSINESS

With the focus on sustainable models gaining momentum among businesses globally to co-exist in harmony with ecological, social, and economic environments, the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are also recognising the value of this transition. According to a survey of more than 800 SMEs across key Asian markets viz., Singapore, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, and Mainland China, more than nine in 10 SMEs in India rated environmental, social and governance (ESG) measures as high priority for their business, higher than their regional counterparts. Read more [here](#)

# ABOUT CRB

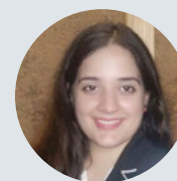
Centre for Responsible Business (CRB) was established in 2011 as think-tank to pursue its vision, 'businesses integrate sustainability into their core business practices'. Given that sustainability is a multi-dimensional problem especially in the context of India and other emerging economies, CRB has adopted a model of engaging multiple stakeholders to develop action plans for promoting sustainable/responsible business, across various sectors in India.

CRB has consolidated its programmatic activities into the following thematic areas:

- Circular Economy
- Business & Human Rights
- Private Sector & SDGs
- Voluntary Sustainability Standards
- SMEs & Sustainability

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Nidhi is a Programme Officer at Centre for Responsible Business. She works on projects related to sustainable palm oil, traceability in the Indian palm oil sector & deforestation free commodity value chains. Nidhi has over 4 years of experience in natural resource management, monitoring & evaluation of forestry projects and conducting sustainable forest management assessment against national and international sustainability standards. Her field work experience in India spans across Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Assam, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. She has worked extensively with accreditation bodies, state forest departments, state forest corporations, research institutes and national & International NGOs.

Nidhi holds a master's degree in Wood Science and Technology from Forest Research Institute Deemed University, Dehradun and completed her bachelors in Forestry (hons.) from Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry, Solan. In her spare time, she loves to travel to the mountains and spend time with her family.