

Policy Shifts for Implementing SDGs in India

Proceedings



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Acknowledgement

We extend our gratitude to all those who have contributed for the success of TARAGram Yatra 2016 – the Yatris, the delegates and speakers representing local communities, civil society, thought leaders, policy makers, researchers, practitioners and partners from India and staff of Development Alternatives.

We are especially grateful to all the Partners - TARA, HBF, GIZ, GEC, CII, CII-ITC, BMTPC, "laCaixa" Banking Solutions, CSA, UNICEF, UNDP and NABARD who lent their immense support throughout the event.

We thank each and every team member for providing crucial support to reach out to the masses and accomplish the aim of this Yatra. TARAGram Yatra 2016 has been able to sensitise and motivate the stakeholders in India to work towards implementing SDGs and make the necessary modifications to attain the goals laid under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We hope that focused efforts will be made to review national policies and programme and align them to the SDGs and targets.

The Development Alternatives Group

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Preface

With an overarching view of addressing the diverse policy issues, challenges and transitions required in the sustainable development process, Development Alternatives initiated its annual flagship event TARAGram Yatra (TGY) 2016 on the theme *Policy Shifts for Implementing the SDGs in India*. The Yatra focused firstly, to comprehend the challenges pertaining to policy sectors that are essentially governed with the principles of horizontal integration among multiple sectors focussing on economic, social and environmental policies. Secondly, it focussed on addressing the policy levels and spatial scale challenges managed by vertical integration at multiple levels from sub-national and supranational levels. The overall agenda of the Yatra 2016 was to review national policies and programme and align them to the SDGs and targets.

The Yatra was launched through a dialogue 2047 on 'Economic Transitions to achieve Sustainable Development Goals'. Five parallel Roundtable Consultations addressed the crucial issues pertaining to implementation of the SDGs in India. The Plenary session focussed on the policy transitions and priorities for India within the SDG framework.

This report summarises the discussions, interactions and recommendations that emerged throughout the Yatra. The Executive Summary provides a bird-eye view of the inception and journey of TARAGram Yatra since 2010. It also incorporates the structure and objectives of this year's Yatra. The chapter on Emerging Perspectives gives an overview of the dialogue 2047 and the five Roundtable Consultations. The chapter on Plenary session recapitulates the experiences of the Yatris and the interpretations of the three-day event with concluding remarks and recommendations.

The Yatra benefitted from on-ground action and informed discussions that addressed policy shifts necessary to implement SDGs in India.



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About TARagram Yatra

TARagram Yatra (TGY) is an annual event led by the Development Alternatives (DA) Group designed to deliberate on issues of development and sustainability in policy and practice. Through this event DA brings together top-level practitioners and policy makers from across the world to build hope and create space for transformation. With a mix of dialogue and field visits, the *Yatra* provides a platform to address the complex challenges of sustainable development. It is designed to encourage new ideas and innovative solutions that facilitate the exchange of knowledge, experience and perspectives between multi-stakeholders.

Snapshot of TARagram Yatra till date

Year	Theme of TARagram Yatra
2010	Towards Green Economies: Scalable Solutions for People and Our Planet
2011	Resource Efficiency and Green Transformation: Driving Change in Asia
2012	Sustainable Development in South Asia: Women Driving Change
2013	Safe Water for All and Always: Science - Policy – Markets
2014	India Post – 2015: A Country in Transition
2015	India Post – 2015: Investing in Sustainability'

The Journey So Far

Development Alternatives has successfully conducted seven significant TARagram Yatras from 2010 to 2015. The 1st Yatra prioritised specific issues of transition towards renewable energy, sustainable construction, water management, water recycling and sustainable agriculture. It also communicated Indian and South Asian perspectives to inform the Global discourse on Green Economy. The 2nd Yatra brought together practitioners and policy makers from across South Asia to explore good practice cases and develop action strategies for resource efficient and climate responsive economic models. The 3rd Yatra focused on the role of women in leading the world towards sustainable livelihoods, green enterprises and the policies required to develop capacities and skills of women across South Asia. The discussions focused on the role and potential of women led interventions that would nurture and revive our ecosystems, enhance security of food, water, energy and livelihood and construct self-reliant societies. The 4th Yatra became a platform to familiarise policy makers and practitioners with emerging concepts and models for sustainable development. It emphasised on access to safe drinking water for all in South Asia. The 5th Yatra explored the transitions that India is making and needs to make in its economic strategies, social processes and environment management systems to achieve human wellbeing on a healthy planet. The 6th Yatra identified three themes to address - growth of local economies through energy access, food and livelihood security and urbanisation in a resource stressed nation. The discussion focused on the kind of investments required for the movement towards sustainability, how to maximize the impact of these investments, and the role of public and private stakeholders.

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Executive Summary

TARagram Yatra 2016

The seventh Yatra (2016) titled 'Policy Shifts for implementing SDGs in India' focused on the nature of policy shifts required to implement Agenda 2030, better known as the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in our nation. Roundtable consultations and conversations on the issues that affect the relevant geographies in India will take place in the States, thereby infusing a flavour of ground realities into the dialogue. The last day of the event concluded in the plenary session wherein, experts from the civil society organisations and government bodies shared their views and

Implementing the SDGs in India

The 2030 Global Agenda for Sustainable Development has moved into the *year of implementation* as several countries have set their priorities and course of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The month of September in 2016, when the UN convenes for its 71st session, will be pivotal for policy makers across the world. The progress of nations on the SDGs would be reviewed more thoroughly as a follow-up of the recently concluded High Level Political Forum (HLPF) meeting held in July, 2016 in New York, USA. The 2030 Global Agenda is a *transformative agenda* as it calls for a systemic view of policy strategies and implementation mechanisms by governments worldwide. This is explicit in the SDG target 17.14 of *enhanced policy coherence for sustainable development*. It has also implied that nations would require to move beyond the purview of aligning national and local level policies, and work in an integrated manner across sectors and stakeholders. The emphasis on the required policy transitions is advocated largely on the basis that the SDGs will be monitored, reviewed, and the progress of development will be assessed at the national and global scale.

However, the congregation of nations convened in the HLPF, July 2016, put forth the sentiment that the current stature of policies in every country entails massive gaps in its scope and the scale of actions required to implement the SDGs. Policies are essential enablers for sustainable development as they define the sustainable choices of a society, for instance policies entailing the utilization of sustainable construction materials, advocating intensive use of renewable energy coupled with incentives and subsidies, are some of the intrinsic elements of a coherent policy development. An inclusive, equitable policy also reflects the commitment of a nation at a global level on the trajectory that it has embraced towards sustainable development. It also reflects the transformative governance, role of leadership that will be influential in effective mainstreaming of policy integration to achieve the necessary goals and targets.

Principles for Policy to Achieve SDGs in India

With an overarching view of addressing the diverse policy issues, challenges and transitions required in the sustainable development process, **Development Alternatives** initiated its annual flagship event **TARagram Yatra (TGY) 2016** on the theme **Policy Shifts for Implementing the SDGs in India**. The Yatra focused firstly, to comprehend the challenges pertaining to policy sectors that are essentially governed with the principles of horizontal integration among multiple sectors focussing on economic, social and environmental

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policies. Secondly, to address the policy levels and spatial scale challenges managed by vertical integration at multiple levels from sub-national and supranational levels. The overall agenda of the Yatra 2016 was to review national policies and programme and align them to the SDGs and targets.

The Yatra was held in diverse states of India highlighting the critical need of localizing the SDGs and the imperative of connecting policy with practice. *Localising* took into account sub-national contexts and related on how local and regional governments can synergise work with national processes for implementing the SDGs. The consultations initiated critical thinking on specific SDGs addressing sectoral themes - *Agriculture, Housing, WASH, Skills and Livelihoods, Integrated Village Development and Resource Efficiency*. Through intensive discussions being taken up at the state level, the principle was to involve sub national governance structures within the discourse of SDGs. The TGY 2016 deliberations intended to answer the following questions, among others:

- How do countries that have adopted the SDGs early with their current national policy framework avoid the pitfalls of a 'single-out' approach?
- What critical political, social, and economic drivers and incentives have galvanized these nations to rapidly embed this agenda into their current national policies? What challenges and issues have been faced?
- How to bolster the integration of national sustainable development strategies for enhanced collaboration between the central government, local governments, and cities?

Structure of the Yatra:

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
20 September, 2016	22 September, 2016	23 September, 2016
<p><u>dialogue 2047</u> Economic Transitions to achieve SDGs (Delhi)</p>	<p><u>Round Table Consultations</u> 1. Food, Resources and Livelihoods (Telangana) 2. Sustainable Social Housing (Delhi) 3. Integrated Village Development (Madhya Pradesh) 4. Climate Change and WASH (Delhi) 5. Employment, Entrepreneurship and Empowerment (Delhi)</p>	<p><u>Plenary Sessions</u> Policy Shifts for Implementing the SDGs in India (Delhi)</p>

Launch of the event was through dialogue 2047, with a discussion on Economic Transitions to achieve Sustainable Development Goals. The three speakers were Kaavya Verma, Senior Associate, Green India States Trust, Purnamita Dasgupta, Chair in Environmental Economics, Institute of Economic Growth and Nitin Sethi, Senior Associate Editor, Business Standard. Second day witnessed.

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5 parallel Roundtable Consultations on:

1. Food, Resources and Livelihoods
2. Sustainable Social Housing
3. Integrated Village Development (Hamara Gaon)
4. Climate Change and WASH
5. Drivers for Employment and Entrepreneurship

The Roundtable Consultations brought together top-level practitioners and policy makers from across the nation to build hope and create space for transformation. With a mix of dialogue and field visits, the Yatra provided a platform to address need for policy shifts for implementing SDGs in India. The event culminated as a Plenary Session on the third day at Development Alternatives. The first session on 'Policy Transitions for SDG Implementation in India', was chaired by Dr. Rajesh Tandon, Founder-President, Participatory Research in Asia and the panelists included Shri P.K. Anand, Senior Consultant (PEO), NITI Aayog, Shri Krishna Kumar, Deputy Director General, Central Statistical Office, Mr. Rajib Kumar Debnath, Independent Expert. The second session on 'Priorities for India within the SDG Framework' was chaired by Shri Mangesh Tyagi, Principal Advisor, MP State Planning Commission and the panelists included Dr. Parth J Shah, President, Centre for Civil Society, Mr. Tushar Pandey, Senior President and Distinguished Fellow, Yes Bank, Mr. Rijit Sengupta, COO, Centre for Responsible Business.

The Plenary session marked the conclusion of the Yatra citing the best practices and the possible policy transitions that can be made to implement the SDGs in India. The session saw participation from Dr. Rajesh Tandon (Founder-President, Participatory Research in Asia), Shri P.K. Anand (Senior Consultant (PEO), NITI Aayog), Shri Krishna Kumar (Deputy Director General, Central Statistical Office), Mr. Rajib Kumar Debnath (Independent Expert), Mr. Gokul Patnaik (Chairman, Global AgriSystem Pvt. Ltd.), Shri Mangesh Tyagi (Principal Advisor, MP State Planning Commission), Dr. Parth J Shah (President, Centre for Civil Society), Mr. Mukesh Gulati (Executive Director, Foundation for MSME Clusters), Mr. Tushar Pandey (Senior President and Distinguished Fellow, Yes Bank), Mr. Rijit Sengupta (COO, Centre for Responsible Business) and Seema Arora (ED, CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development).

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Day 1: 20th September, 2016

trialogue 2047 Economic Transitions to achieve SDGs (Delhi)

trialogue 2047 is a platform to explore how India can achieve its vision of becoming a green, inclusive and resilient nation by 2047, that is, after 100 years as an independent nation. It brings together distinguished speakers to address issues like poverty alleviation, participatory policymaking, resource efficiency. The TARAGram Yatra 2016 was launched through *trialogue 2047* 'Economic Transitions to achieve SDGs'. The event was held on 20th September, 2016 at Development Alternatives Head Quarters, Delhi.

The key speakers included:

1. Kaavya Varma, Senior Associate, Green India States Trust
2. Purnamita Dasgupta, Chair in Environmental Economics, Institute of Economic Growth
3. Nitin Sethi, Senior Associate Editor, Business Standard

Overview

India is amongst the 193 nations who adopted the post 2015 development agenda, which aims to achieve 17 Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. These goals address various socio-economic and environmental outcomes from food security, access to water, energy, education and food for all, good health of environment including the state of terrestrial and water ecosystems. In order to move towards sustainable development that provides better quality of life for all within the ecological limits of the planet, Development Alternatives believes that there is a need to revamp the principles governing our economic systems, with the aim of transitioning to a new green, inclusive, fair, and transparent economy.

In order for this transition to effectively take place the following systemic changes are crucial:

- **Measure What Matters:** We need to shift corporate, national and global measures of success beyond profit and GDP alone to make people's wellbeing and the health of the planet a yardstick of progress.
- **Influencing Financial Flows:** We need to accelerate and widen the scope of financial sector reform so that markets are guided by long-term goals, which redirect capital flows towards building greener and more resilient economies.
- **Investing in People:** We need to reduce inequality and unemployment that wastes human potential, stunts innovation and redistribute our natural and financial capital in a manner that creates a more diverse economy capable of providing stable job prospects.

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- Managing Natural Systems: We need to recognise our dependence on nature for food, clean air, water, energy and raw materials and reflect that dependency in economic activities.

The trialogue 2047 began with setting the context of what the green economy meant to the different stakeholders. Ms. Kaavya Varma, spoke of the Sustainable Development Goals as a tremendous opportunity to restructure our growth paradigm. She highlighted the importance of having to look at the ecology and ecosystem services that are the main factors that underpin the economy and society. It is the bottom based on top of which the top two tiers of society and economy lie. It has a huge impact on the wellbeing of our society. She further pointed that social equity can't be attained unless we address ecological scarcity. Thus for ensuring greater social equity there is a need to acknowledge ecosystem services and the role it plays in human wellbeing. Kaavya questioned the appropriateness of some of the measurements that are adopted as indicators for growth and development. The choosing the right indicators is crucial to derive at the appropriate solution for a particular problem.

On the other hand Dr. Purnamita Dasgupta pointed out to the fact that conventionally, we juxtapose the rights based approach to equitable distributional (e.g. Right to Forests, Right to Water etc.) and ethical concerns (e.g. Biodiversity preservation) against economics, resulting in the failure to co-produce knowledge in our society. In other words producers and users of knowledge that can inform solutions and then be implemented have failed to converge and come to a consensus. Nevertheless, there is a level of optimism that one can hope for with the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals. These goals are believed function as a single hat with several compartments, i.e., while the ultimate aim maybe of providing basic services, within this the planning for sanitation and that for housing cannot be the same and will require different solution based approaches to each issue. While it might be considered relatively easier to calculate the economic growth of a community, social indicators are often more complex and describing social inequality becomes a hard task. In relation to this Dr. Poornamita Dasgupta spoke about the problem that the society faces in trying to mainstream culture. One needs to understand that the Society is heterogeneous, and hence cannot be uniform. In a similar sense neither can culture be uniform and thereby mainstreamed. She was of the opinion that our notion of equality is dictated by the society's cultural position. . Getting an economic indicator is relatively easier but there is a need to go beyond juxtaposing economics versus contextualisation of solutions and benefits. Thus the choices made should not be between issues with either technological determinism versus social determinism, but rather both need to be accounted for, and need not be necessitated from economic factors.

Nitin Sethi spoke of the role of media in this new development paradigm and whether or not we can address the gap between the science, media and citizens. It is the responsibility of the media to break-down the science to a level that informs citizens. History has altered the contract between the citizens and the state. India is a country like no other, where an emerging economy has had to engage with the rapid changes between the State, the citizens and the executive. The changes are taking place so rapidly, primarily resulting from

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the technological renaissance that we haven't seen before. In relation to this, Nitin pointed out that journalism is a story teller, and has a contract with the citizen to feed them with the right kind of information. However, Journalism in the present age is unavailable to deal with the pace at which history is transforming. Electronic media while generating greater number of articles, has lost its credibility due to the quality and the biasness that is reflected. He stated that the legacy journalism is dying; at the same time the amount to cover has increased, thus compromising on the quality.

Through the course of the discussion the speakers attempted to address several issues ranging from financial flows to the measurements which are of relevance, given the plethora of attributes we require to track. The need for innovative mechanisms that result in financial reforms in the public sector. it is the role of the Government to strengthen the taxation and enforcement rules and the role of the media and civil society to implement and generate the right kind of awareness for ensuring the desired outcome of the initiative. Similarly for the purpose of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, inadequate public finances seems to be a constraint and this innovative mechanisms are required to re-direct private finances in invest in more sustainable practices. In other words we can determine the ecological services provided by nature and work in accordance with these, rather than determining a cost benefit analysis of indiscriminate use of natural resources.

Reflecting on the discussion, Dr. Khosla, Chairman, Development Alternatives, summed up the discussion and put across his remarks in the form of actionable suggestions that might enable an effective and sustainable shift in the country's development paradigm. Reflecting on the role of journalists and the media at large, he was of the opinion that biases among the media houses was a sign that readers now demanded greater critical thinking and thus journalists had the responsibility of providing the masses with perspectives that looked beyond just numbers, and allowed for addressing of more fundamental issues that look at social progress and environment well-being. He further stressed on what Dr. Dasgupta pointed to for co-production of knowledge. There is a need to study existing tools and tangible solutions that have been successful in various countries, and then to apply them to the relevant contexts to understand their practicality. For instance, the example of Indonesia, where it was the Planning ministry that deciding the development indicators that they wanted to track and not the environment ministry. Thus looking at countries, there are examples that we need to look to understand the feasibility of scaling and replicating such initiatives. Finally Nitin, added in India today, the fiscal relationship between the state and the Centre is changing. There us thus a need to map and create the matrix for understanding these fiscal flows and to develop a vision plan to bring both the State and Centre on the same path to a more sustainable and equitable economy.

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Day 2: 21th September, 2016

Roundtable Consultations

Five parallel Roundtable Consultations took place on 21st September, 2016 at various locations:

1. Food, Resources and Livelihoods, Telangana
2. Sustainable Social Housing, Delhi
3. Integrated Village Development (Hamara Gaon), Madhya Pradesh
4. Climate Change and WASH, Delhi
5. Drivers for Employment and Entrepreneurship, Delhi

1) Roundtable Consultation on Food, Resources and Livelihoods

A one-day consultation was organised by Development Alternatives in partnership with Centre for Sustainable Agriculture (CSA), Hyderabad on 21st of September 2016, in Medak District, Telangana. The event was supported by Heinrich Böll Foundation and NABARD, Regional Office Telangana.

It included a one day field visit and focus group discussions with member farmers of the Farmer Producer Organisation – Sahaja Aharam Producer Company Limited supported by CSA in Hyderabad, Telangana. This was followed by an on-site round table discussion on analysing the learnings in the context of the national policies on food, livelihood of small farmers and resources.

The discussion aimed to generate insights and lessons to inform the current policies for small farmers and specifically the policy on Farmer Producer Organisations, on the principles that can support development and operations of FPOs in a manner that helps maintain environmental quality, farmers' well-being and food production in agriculture.

Key perspectives that emerged from the Consultation:

What was working:

- Production-end interventions for building strong foundation for FPOs
- Distinct positive relation with FPO-NGO institutions vis-à-vis other institutions
- Identified market for organic products that ensures optimum price for food produce

What is inhibiting:

- The trade-offs inherent in organic systems of farming
- Difficulty to balance high taxes and poor availability of credit at the same time
- Inadequacy of managerial skills as are required to successfully operate FPOs in their Governing Boards

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Challenges identified with programmes for development of FPOs in India

Conceptual Challenges:

- Lack of clarity amongst stakeholders on mandate of Farmer Producer Organisation vis-a-vis that of Farmer Producer Company
- Haste in effort to scale without prior investment in market research and establishment of institutional systems

Operational Challenges

- Restricted ownership amongst members owing to persistence of the beneficiary mind-set
- Narrow focus on financial turnover as sole performance indicator

Key Policy Recommendations

FPO Programme Design

- Institutional strengthening is a long term process, which needs to allow for scope and time for the organic evolution of the institution. A hasty approach akin to that of an 'injection of steroids', as in the case of annual targets of government programmes in terms of setting up more FPOs, SHGs, MFIs is designed for failure.
- Tax relaxations and fiscal incentives can support the nurturing of FPOs when these are at a nascent stage. However it needs to be noted that, the nature of support represented by subsidies and grants generally tends to lead to dependence and hinders the organic growth and development of the institution. Therefore, incentives and relaxation policies should incentivise FPOs that demonstrate organic growth.
- A strong agricultural production system that is also sustainable and climate adaptive should be a pre-condition for the initiation and development of FPO. Investment in the development of such agricultural systems could also be made an integral part of FPO development programmes in any region.
- Commitment of NGOs and other civil society entities towards providing nurturing and handholding support to FPOs during their establishment and maturation phase is considered critical to their development and long term sustainability. Engagement of organisations with local ground presence in such roles enables the support services to be contextualised and responsive to emerging needs of the FPO and also facilitates the mobilisation processes. Already successful FPOs like dairy cooperatives in Gujarat and others should be involved in forming viable FPCs. The choice of production systems, in areas where FPOs are promoted should take into account market demands, nutritional demands of the farmers' households and the environmental conditions in the region.
- FPO development initiatives should adopt an integrated approach that invests in building a supportive ecosystem that includes availability of credit support, human resources and skills support and technology support. It should look at scaling up the idea of the FPO for support and participation by large proportion of the community at the local level.

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- Main purpose of forming FPOs, is to increase income of farmers and reduce their risks. Income can be increased either by increasing productivity or by getting higher market prices. Increasing productivity has limited scope so focus should be laid on connecting them to penultimate buyers and which in-turn will give better prices. For that, awareness and training should be imparted to FPOs regarding aggregation, grading, and proper packaging. Infrastructure should be developed for the same. They should also be encouraged to use electronic markets which results in reducing price fluctuation risks, brings in more buyers, efficient price discovery and also provide proper storage facility.

FPO Programme Evaluation

- An interesting indicator for assessing the value of an FPO to its member farmers may be the percentage of farmers' total produce that they sell through the FPO. In case of complete ownership and usefulness, this percentage should come close to 90-100%
- Indicators to assess the organisational strength and resilience of FPOs are critical for their true evaluation
- The policy document on FPOs/ FPCs (Ministry of Agriculture) lists many useful indicators for evaluation of FPCs which are not being followed in practice
- Assessment framework for FPOs must include indicators to track incremental improvements and not just arbitrary turnover targets
- A successful FPO is the one that acts as a catalyst for improving farmers' income while also resulting in environmental outcomes. An FPO should not be considered to be an end in itself. Empowered and satisfied producers taking full ownership of the institution, is an ultimate indicator for assessing the health of an FPO.

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2) Roundtable Consultation on Sustainable Social Housing and Scope of New Alternative Building Materials

The Roundtable Consultation on Sustainable Social Housing took place on 21st September, 2016, at India Islamic Cultural Centre, Delhi. The consultation aimed to explore new alternative building materials and their scope of use by integrating them with sustainable social housing. The primary focus is to enhance sustainability in the construction of social housing through the adoption of suitable construction as well as operations and management practices.

The key concerns the consultation attempted to address were:

- The feasible alternative building materials that can be used in sustainable social housing constructions
- Ways and means to overcome barriers to the market and user acceptance of these materials.
- Important criteria for selecting the building materials and construction technologies keeping in mind economic, social and environmental factors?
- Effectivise role of policy instruments in mainstreaming sustainability in social housing

Some excerpts from the RTC:

The key speakers of the first session on 'Case Studies of New Alternative Building Materials and Sustainable Social Housing' included Dr. Soumen Maity, Senior General Manger at DA, Mr. Shreedhar Pandeya, Sustainability Advisor, Amdavad Enviro Pvt. Ltd. And Shri. C. N. Jha, Deputy Chief, Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC).

Key points:

Present Trends

- The present trends indicate that multiple new alternative materials are now available, namely, self-healing concrete, carbon nanotubes, sand and bacteria bricks, anti-skid platforms made using repurposed waste plastics.
- 200 million tons of pond ash is piled up as waste which can be reused. Pond ash bricks reduce the cost of buildings by 20-30%, also achieve strength in 7 days. 716 million tons of C&D waste is produced per year which can completely substitute the aggregate. 7 million tons of marble sludge is dumped every year as waste in Rajasthan. In other countries, it has been seen that tobacco waste is produced in large quantities which can be used in the process of burning bricks. China Clay waste (low-quality clay left over after the filtering) is rich in iron and can be reused for various things e.g. to make cement. This process reduces CO₂ emissions due to low calcination temperatures.

Road Blocks and Challenges

- Absence of surety of consistent availability of raw (waste) materials
- Repurposing the waste is not a sustainable alternative as the demand would be still higher than the wastes produced
- Unavailability of IS standards for recycled products

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- Lack of awareness in the industry
- Unavailability of standard waste streams and management of waste
- Research and industry seem to have a gap that needs to be bridged.

Recommendation:

- A need was ascertained that the government should promote alternative materials by utilising building materials in their building which will create visibility. Performance based incentives are required to help small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to perform better.

The second session focused on 'Policies in Sustainable Social Housing with respect to building material'. There is a fine balance between the demand of the construction industries in India and the actual need. It was pointed out that the methods used for cost cutting result in around 30% wastage during the traditional methods of construction. While Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) agenda is a great push, there is scope for further policy intervention. The key speakers included Shri. C.N. Jha, Deputy Chief, BMTPC, Mr. Manikadan K.P., CEO, Indian Housing Federation, Mr. Gaurav Shorey, Associate Director, Partnerships for Sustainable, India, Mr. Sachin Khandelwal, Managing Director & CEO, Magma Housing Finance

Mr. Vaibhav Goel, Manager (Heading Northern Region), Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Co.

Key Points:

Aiding factors: The things that work in our favour are Technology Sub-Mission (Sustainable Technological Solutions for Faster and Cost Effective Construction of Houses suiting to Geo-Climatic and Hazard Conditions of the Country) and PACS (Primary Agricultural Credit Societies) which promote usage of alternative materials by adopting new technologies, streamlining the emerging technologies, procurement schemes and creating schedule of rates.

Challenges: There is a need to consider construction technologies along with the services so that the adoption process becomes faster. Thus, there is a need to concentrate on creating regional technology parks where sustainable technologies can be understood and exhibited. From the point of view of developers' experience, often customer's perspective overlooked. For e.g. the customers that belong to the informal sector of business don't have access to banks and thus all the scheme which are applicable with the help of bank cannot assist them in buying a house, even though they have regular incomes and can repay the loan.

Market trends The houses constructed on the outskirts of the city are viable only for the Lower Income Group (LIG). The construction industry has started catering to customers belonging to informal sectors of the market like plumbers, carpenters, drivers and many others. The original aim to cater to private developers, has shifted to catering the government sector now.

Challenges: The lifestyle we practice today which doesn't include waste management systems or takes into account the excessive use of energy, water, and other resources, harms the environment and is a big cause of concern.



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Basic needs should include social connectivity: Access to parks, green fields, and good transport facilities is an integral part of the basic need. Affordable housing should concentrate not only on operational cost but proper design with maintenance cost also.

User acceptance: Creating user acceptability is an issue when people have a choice, but in the real scenario, the new alternate materials are the only resource we have. Thus the mainstreaming of these materials is integral.

The solution for the high cost of alternative materials? The need to prepare the construction industries for the next phase was apparent to the modelling. The shortage will come in future and hence substitutes should be ready. Price plays a small role in the grand scheme of things. People are left without any choice and end up paying more for less.

Quality should not be compromised on: The choice is dictated by the market. Marketing experts create an aspirational image of the house to boost their sale. The shift that is required, needs to make its way via adopting appropriate marketing strategies as awareness of the end user is important. Homebuyers prefer luxuries over energy efficient commodities owing to lack of awareness.

R&D is expected from the government: Developers are only traders and not entrepreneurs. Government sector needs to take over the responsibility. Enterprises need to stay ahead in the market by incorporating alternative materials. Only a small shortage can be catered to in an organised manner. Finance companies have begun tapping into the informal sector. The social aspect is equally important; Public Private Partnership projects are required in order to emphasise more on social sustainability of the affordable housing projects. There is a need for a regularised system that promotes house ownership. If individual homeowners and developers are able to get finances then 50% of the shortage can be realistically achieved.

Focus should be on technology: The panel stressed that in order to ensure the regular functioning of the city, there is a need to compact city. Here, we face the enigma; when the mass production costs more and the embodied energy is also more. Alternatives methods like rat trap bonded bricks function well but mass production needs to be less resource intensive. Pre-existing alternative technologies are being adopted as they have plenty of literature to support its viability. Even though eco-friendly technologies are available, but for mass construction, faster construction techniques need to be adopted.

Measures being taken:

- In situ slum redevelopment is being researched on
- Partnership and beneficiary led housings have been introduced
- Subsidies up to 6 lakhs are sanctioned

Conclusion/Recommendations

The insights brought forth during the roundtable discussions highlight the need for multiple areas to be catered in order to achieve sustained ecosystem Customer acceptability very critical

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- The panel agreed that HIGs need to be targeted to set an example; inspire aspirations and create acceptability; the trickle-down effect. Sustainability should be the primary focus and affordability should be a secondary focus for social housing. We need to bring these visions on the right side of the law. Developing homebuyers' acceptance is the key. Policy makers and stakeholder representatives need to be involved in Business to Business discussions so that more and more people adopt sustainable social housing.
- The panellists found the existing modelling systems to be insufficient; work is done using estimations, instead of scientific forecasting. Mechanisms need to be introduced to make the construction industry as sophisticated and innovative as the other nations. High rise buildings are a result of the land shortage. Usual parameters are structural stability and disaster resistibility and other basic parameters. BMPTC experts evaluate the evidence, and if not satisfied will be evaluated in recommended labs, then the tech will be accepted.
- Systems need to be made to ensure regular communication to facilitate catering the issues.
- Performance parameters are only seen in technologies. Until now it is only BIS level but is not any performance indicators. Tech submission needs to open up to incorporate new tech developments. Financial systems should look into aspects of triple bottom line reporting.
- Segregation needs to be done at the source. There is a need for a proper system to use the waste materials. Municipalities need to impose a fine and regularise waste disposal. We need to fix slackness in MSW systems.
- Mindset shift is required. Despite the availability of cheaper, durable technologies being available, financiers and developers shy away from trying the unconventional. Existing mandatory usage laws of such materials are not being imposed.

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3) Roundtable Consultation on Integrated Village Development - Hamara Gaon

A one-day consultation was organised in Orchha, Madhya Pradesh on 21st of September 2016 by DA, in partnership with la Caixa Banking Foundation and Coca Cola Foundation.

The objective of the consultation was to develop a multi stakeholder perspective on how to effectively plan, implement and monitor integrated models of development. The programme included two field visits to project sites, focusing on developing integrated models of development in Bundelkhand. One of the field visits was to areas where DA has strengthened local institutions and governance as drivers for change. The other was to areas where village planning has been driven by the imperatives of securing natural resources for sustainable development. These visits were followed by a round table consultation which focused on identifying critical action for the delivery of integrated models within the SDGs framework.

The TGY 2016 participants interacted with the community groups in Pipra village (Niwari blocks, Tikamgarh district) and Dhikoli village (Babina block, Jhansi district) and the team of DA that has supported the developmental activities in these villages. Key observations made by TARagram Yatra 2016 participants based on their interaction with various stakeholders have been compiled and is reproduced below:

Key perspectives that emerged from the Consultation:

What has worked?

- The role of women and community groups as drivers/leaders of change
- Securing the natural resource base to ensure livelihood security
- Innovative models based on service delivery approach

What is inhibiting?

- Lack of awareness among communities in accessing basic rights and Entitlements
- The lack capacities of the PRIs as umbrella institutions for local socioeconomic development

Operational challenges identified with integrated development models in the rural landscape in India:

- Integration of resources at the national, state and local levels
- Missing conducive environment
- Absence of indicators to measure reliability of local and decentralised planning processes
- Compatibility between various local development stakeholders

Key Policy Recommendations

- Promote and incentivise service delivery models for effective service delivery

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- Service delivery based models that cater to community development needs often lead to effective development as they build the social fabric and promote economic development.
- Entrepreneurship-led delivery models or community process innovations should be incentivised through support programmes/awards and documented to scale up.
- Ensure the capacity building of PRIs as umbrella institutions to mentor local development
- To ensure improved integrated planning and action, central and state governments should ensure the periodic capacity building of PRI members. PRI should be key players to the implementation and delivery of all development schemes and programmes. These capacity building programmes should focus on aspects of leadership development, integrated development, optimisation of resource utilisation, people-responsive planning, among others.
- Micro planning exercises with experts is an effective step in that direction. Strengthen systems for participatory and decentralised planning
- One size does not fit all – systems and processes that capitalise on local resources and opportunities and are responsive to local development needs are likely to lead to desirable results. Process protocols for decentralised planning that are responsive and time bound along with indicators to assess these processes of decentralised integrated planning need to be developed, validated and standardised. This could include ensuring that all key decisions should include a minimum level of participation from various community groups, especially the vulnerable and the marginalised.
- Documentation for Scale: Policy makers and key decision makers should emphasise documenting processes of successes and failures with appropriate measures of risk management to help dissemination of information and helping scale & replication of effective models of development and governance.

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4) Roundtable Consultation on Building Climate Resilience of Women and Children in the WASH Sector

A day long Roundtable Consultation, spread over two sessions was held in collaboration with UNICEF on 21st September 2016. The consultation saw participation from over 30 Yatris which included practitioners, researchers, academicians and others. The RTC consisted of two moderated sessions on ‘Practice in Policy’ and ‘Sharing Good Practices.’ A short summary of the key discussion points from the consultation are shared below:

Critical Gaps in Climate Change and WASH Planning

Since the effects of climate change and disasters are felt most strongly by the vulnerable sections of the community (women, children, marginalised), there is now a need to give importance to their needs within WASH interventions. Specifically, as each vulnerable group will experience climate change effects differently, policies and schemes will need to understand and incorporate this multiplicity in order to be truly effective on ground.

A glaring lack of women leadership in policy framing for WASH and climate change was noticed even though the current narrative on WASH in India accepts that women interact with and are affected by poor WASH and climate change the most. In addition to this silencing of women and children’s participation, there is also a hierarchy of water use which is derived from its gendered nature. Therefore, agriculture, which is a male dominated activity, is found to dictate the narratives of water scarcity and usage in the country, while water needs for sanitation and household – a domain of women in most parts of the country – is often not addressed as aggressively. A similar hierarchy of class can be observed in relation to policies for WASH which overlook the resource use conflicts in rural and urban India. A lack of policies specific to rural areas and inclusive of the rural demographics and politics of caste, gender, use and other forms of marginalisation was noted in the Consultation. Schemes like the Smart Cities have not focussed on the vulnerable sections of the society or given a strong preference to climate change adaptation.

Data collection is a critical issue in policies relating to climate change, WASH and DRR. This is exacerbated even more due to less availability of skilled or experienced surveyors. Additionally, these policies lack transparent monitoring and gender segregated data systems.

Best Practices:

The success of a participatory approach to policy implementation can be exemplified by UNICEF’s Community Approach to Total Sanitation (CATS) which works to motivate people to build toilets for use and not simply construction and to foster a move away from subsidies and towards encouraging social change and self-reliance. Here external agencies provide guidance rather than regulation while the design and material is decided by the communities thereby making it more sustainable and scalable. In India this was done as part of the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC). However, it was highlighted that these processes should not come at the cost of alienation of members of the community who do not participate in these campaigns.

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Another approach to creating community participation in environmental issues is by creating 'eco warriors' in schools. This will ensure the functionality of eco clubs to help create platforms for these voices as demonstrated by UNICEF's previous work. Integration of WASH into students' curriculum as well as strengthening the role of school management committees within schools to create a need for toilet usage was discussed by the participants. This can be seen in ICLEI's Adopt Integrated Urban Water Management project for students in Kishangarh and Jaisalmer which was cited as a successful attempt to sensitise students towards good sanitation practices and waste management.

A successful community rain water harvesting system in Vasant Kunj, Delhi which dealt with water overflow during the monsoon season and Pani Samities of Gujarat were cited as successful examples of participatory water resource management. The PANI committees consist of 10-12 members and are constituted in the Gram Sabha to plan, implement, manage, own, operate and maintain village water supply systems. Apart from this, they claim to have adequate representation from women and marginalised groups. The members also contribute to ten per cent of the capital costs which helps inculcate a sense of ownership within them.

As a best practice data collection must zero-in on documenting what works and what doesn't. This will require obtaining functional data. Focus should be on measuring number of people using toilets in order to identify the health of the WASH sector rather than measuring number of toilets built. Documentation of case studies is required rather than just data from state level. There are funds available in National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) that should be utilised in order to create resilience. The 14th Finance Commission, schemes such as Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan (SBA), State level funds have allocated for delivering climate goals via creation of climate change cells. These must be used to create a climate lens in all other sectors. The focus should move away from funds spent to behaviour change in communities. Finance is also an important component and there has to be avenues for revenue generation to maintain the sanitation.

Recommendations

A bottom up approach to WASH and climate change policies and implementation would help resolve many of their weaknesses and help include hidden problems (both at the social and operational levels), alternative solutions and local politics. This would also imbue a sense of ownership in the community while at the same time sensitise them to the need for better sanitation practices. A call for increased training of policy framers and decision makers to facilitate the use of gendered and climate positive lenses while planning and implementing policies in WASH was raised. Simultaneously, providing communities with not only facilities but also capacity building toolkits to enhance their climate resilience was felt to be the need of the hour.

It was noticed, however, that in many instances, traditional knowledge systems, users and communities are not consulted or included in implementation and planning by the government which prevents a higher success rate of interventions. Knowledge material should be made available in order to enable community management of interventions. Other stakeholders would also have to be brought in to bring balance in policy and implementation. The technology involved should also be context and condition specific.

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Importance of sensitising school children to understand the need for better sanitation was stressed upon. Additionally, it was highlighted that schools play an important role during disasters as relief shelters. Community contingency plans during disasters could include schools as disaster shelters. This will help co-benefit schools by making their infrastructure highly resilient to withstand shocks. Toolkits such as Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) must be integrated in the community plans. Community designed tool kits also help revise the technical options available to people.

Conclusion

The way to create resilience is to utilise traditional knowledge and decentralised governance along with creating community ownership in managing resources. Communities with poor sanitation practices and in danger of climate change effects would have to understand the importance of components under WASH and how they could contribute towards better sanitation practices. In order to leave “no one behind”, listening to children/vulnerable populations by the authorities is a key component. An inter-sectoral approach would require focus on evidence generation, creation of a robust methodology of measuring what matters and awareness generation at all levels in the communities. The insights brought forth during the roundtable discussions highlight the need for utilising finance in the right way, approaching critical issues such as data, the required policy interventions, and capacity building initiatives while suggesting enhanced roles of community institutions. The UN’s Sustainable Development Goals are tools, instruments that can provide required resilience on long term, sustainable basis. They help in better policy formulation, increased awareness of policies and its respective shift towards including a climate lens in the WASH sector. As a guiding framework India must utilise them when addressing its developmental needs so as to co-benefit climate resilience, while including the vulnerable populations.

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5) Roundtable Consultation on Drivers for Employment and Entrepreneurship

A Roundtable Consultation was organised at the UNDP office, Delhi to address issues related to Technology and Capacity building for Employment and Entrepreneurship. The overall objective through the discussions was to form a “policy to practice connect” to create scalable solutions for employability and entrepreneurship where the major drivers are capacity building and technology.

Key persons from various organisations shared their views on employment and entrepreneurship. The excerpt is as below:

Mr. Clement Chauvet, Chief, Skills and Business Development, UNDP gave a special address on employability as an enabler. He shared about UNDP’s “Project Disha”, mentioning that it is important to increase the number of women in the workforce because, women are the cornerstones to development, especially in India. One of the big things that has come out of the pilots run as part of the project is that major problem women face is the lack of information. The second challenge is to ensure that there is an adequate amount of jobs getting the alignment with expectations of the employers. Further, there is a direct correlation between the age of girls and employment and entrepreneurship and we need to reach out to them when they are young.

Mr. Atul Satija, Founder, Nudge Foundation, expressed his views on skill development and the work being done by the Nudge Foundation. He said the organisation is a very young startup in the social sector. The idea behind founding the organisation was that how do we do something, no matter how small, that it actually goes all the way to the end and creates an impact, that is sustainable on the ground and how to scale it up at a later stage. He pointed out that the problem at hand is that India is adding a million people to the labour market every single month. So, in the next 15 years we will add a population twice the size of Japan’s population and half that of the USA into the market, which is a huge number and is not a demographic dividend but a social time-bomb. The problem is also one of repair vs. prepare, that is, if somebody has not got the right prepare job done to her or him in 18 years, then what is the repair job that needs to be done when someone has dropped out at 18. So to solve the problem, you need to do the right job of the repair job.

Mr. Ketul Acharya, Sr. Vice President and Group Head - Skills Initiatives, IL&FS Skills, began his talk, by saying that the best way to begin this conversation on enablers for employability and entrepreneurship is to talk about, for whom we are speaking today – “Is it the uneducated and unemployed youth or educated but unemployed youth?” He further added that, in India, to successfully skill the youth, we need to work as partners and IL&FS is open to collaborations with other organisations.

Mr. Akash Sethi, Executive Director of the Quality Education & Skills Training (QUEST) Alliance, said that Quest Alliance was setup mainly with the goal of looking at how education technology could be used to support and scale up of existing vocational training centers. Mr. Sethi mentioned that since capacity building is a big subject, he will attempt to go deeper into one aspect of the value chain of capacity building and will share some learning. What quest focuses on is not trainer-led but trainer-supported trainings. It has a blend of

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classroom sessions along with e-learning sessions and uses a lot of real time data to make learning more effective.

Ms. Kusum Mohapatra, Director - Livelihoods, Magic Bus Foundation, started her conversation by talking about a few important questions about skills and capacity building - "Do we look at the problem as an emergency?" or "Do we look at the problem from a long-term perspective?" She stressed upon "How do we create a solution that lasts long term". The other thing is "what kind of opportunities do young people need going forward". Next, she spoke about what Magic Bus is doing. The primary goal of the programme is sustainable employment and when we say sustainable employment we mean entry-level plus one job. This means building capacities to such a level where they can access entry-level plus one job. The second is getting them into higher education so that opportunities for them increase. The third is developing enterprises. Some challenges that Skill Development Organisations face are: (i) They don't know how to get young people to the fantastic infrastructure that the organisation has built. (ii) Young people don't complete the programme and if they complete they don't join any work. (iii) Once young people move into jobs they don't sustain in these roles.

Discussing upon technology as an enabler, Mr. Manish Kumar, CEO of the National Skill Development Corporation [NSDC] said that the skill environment in India has undergone changes. One important aspect that is missing from this sector is that the industry does not respect individual with skill. There are no differential wage scale for someone who is more skilled. Another most important concern is the entrepreneurship part – to which there is no immediate answer. Eventually anyone who is skilled may not immediately get a job. Lot of them will remain out of job for a while. This is a very dangerous situation for the nation to have highly skilled people frustrated because they don't have a job. Therefore it is important to create opportunities' for entrepreneurship.

The renowned entrepreneur, Mr. Subroto Bagchi, Chairman of MindTree, admits that he would not have been a good entrepreneur, if he had not failed. From the private side there is no failure, but from the Government side, there is a big failure as Government is very conservative. Cognitive ability is the foremost. However, any individual that possesses the required soft skills, will go far ahead in life irrespective of the field/ sector he/ she chooses to be in. Emphasis has been on the vocation in the past however there has been an increasing awareness about need for soft skills has increased and NSDC promotes that very heavily. A typical mindset of our nation is that if we have studied a book, then you are considered to be 'studied' but when you are exchanging ideas with someone, it is considered to be a waste of time. This thinking however is gradually changing; although we haven't reached a tipping point where it can be measured.

One of the reasons why India would not be able to get full benefit of its demographic dividend is that only 28% of women work force are contributing to the Indian economy as compared to 80% in China. There is a huge necessity to incentivise this particular aspect. There is a need to be aggressive on this aspect.

Right now there is no platform that we can come and converge and create strong sustainable partnerships that will work with each other's strengths. Many individuals are doing the same things the same way and investing a lot of money.

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Ms. Vanita Viswanath (Independent Researcher & Ex-CEO, Udyogini), spoke on technology as an enabler for employment and entrepreneurship. With respect to a policy connect, there is a need for a mission mode for some high value forest resources which is presently missing. It requires advocacy with government. Motivation and public recognition for institutions creating technologies for tribals is required. However, there are not many institutes or scientists behind innovating this technology or invited to speak about this. An interactive session is required on this on a larger forum.

Price stabilisation mechanisms need to go parallel with technology-based yield stabilisation. There is a need to create institutions to control and streamline this. No-go areas for mining, where there are demonstrated high-value forest resources for poverty reduction among tribals. This is not likely to be heeded much. But, it is important for us to understand when we work with SDGs otherwise some of the SDGs are becoming internally contradictory.

Ms. K. Ramadevi, President, The Association of Lady Entrepreneur of India [ALEAP], mentioned that ALEAP, a twenty year old organisation, believes in creating employment through entrepreneurship. ALEAP realises that, there are lot of gaps in the system, which it has tried to bridge it through its various intervention. It strongly believes in capacity building of the organisation where it plays a vital role in this country. There is a huge need for players like Udyogini and Sewa to take the work entrepreneurship in India at a much higher level. A lot has changed for entrepreneurs in the last decade. It has never been easy without technology.

Creation of entrepreneurship through technology is one way of enabling employment and entrepreneurship. Online learning, where step-by-step tutorial is offered, is one of the best examples, as today to set up a physical training centre is very costly. Although every day there are creations of several new technologies, but an entrepreneur is scarred to invest in it because she/he is not very confident whether it will be successful or not. There is a strong need of a system/institute to enable such entrepreneurs during the incubation period. There is a requirement of agencies, institutions to create such incubators where first generation of entrepreneurs try this technology and once they are successful, they move away from the incubator and set up their own enterprise. Based on the organisations credibility, banks are ready to fund and finance any of the projects which are set up by their members. Therefore it is crucial to reemphasise on building the capacity of the organisation when they deliver something. These kind of infrastructure, creation of incubation centres, bringing technology or delivering skill based training programmes will help to minimise the cost and reach to maximum number of people.

Mr. Ripu Singh from USAID, spoke about the work done under the PACE-D programme. He said USAID Partnership to Advance Clean Energy – Deployment [PACE –D] is a big part of USAID India energy dialogue. The PACE – D programme identify challenges. It works on the entire ecosystem to see whether there is access to finance and information before it sets up any technology in the rural sector. There are three examples to be shared under the PACE – D programme. The challenge is that there is low appetite for renewable and clean energy sector. This is the sector which needs more efforts because the common belief from less successful examples needs to be shifted to more successful examples.

Mr. John Gibbons from Babajobs.com said, “Since the time babajobs was established, more than 5100 jobseekers applications have been made across all the sectors and by the time this presentation gets over, we may receive about 312 applications”. Based on a research

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paper undertaken by Mr. Anil Krishna it was found that the primary path for poverty is income diversification, which means, more often than not is changing jobs. Jobseekers in the low bracket have to rely on the social circle to get a job. To address this crucial bridging of information, babajobs was created. It basically connects low income job seekers with employers who are willing to hire them. This is done through matching them with proprietary algorithm. After matching them with data from both sides and connecting the data points and hopefully making proper match by longer term employment, higher income, and shorter commute along with other factors. Disproportionate employment happens around the world, more so in India because of plenty of reasons. Babajobs has been working with couple of NGOs, Disabled Persons' Organization, to try to figure how to make jobs more inclusive in nature and to help secure right kind of employment. Similarly economic migrants are another significant vulnerable population who can benefit from information related to cities which are more viable to migrate based on the higher savings they can make.

Dr. Soumen Maity, Chief General Manager, Technology and Action for Rural Advancement [TARA] spoke on his work on using technology as an enabler for employability and entrepreneurship in TARA. To create sustainable enterprises, three things are of utmost importance – 1) right technology, 2) right institutional support and 3) right entrepreneurial approach. Technology innovations are looked into two aspects – one being hardcore technology innovation and the other being value innovation.

Fly ash bricks, clay bricks and concrete products are some of the other examples of technology innovation for creation of employment and micro to small enterprises. Each such enterprise provides employment to 6 – 10 individuals and fits well within the government schemes. Instead of throwing away the organic waste, technology compresses the waste from rice and wheat field and produces briquets out of it, which are sold at high price. This way, it adds value to local resources along with providing high economic returns. With such high potential in such innovation, it however has not been able to scale-up due to wide gaps between innovation and market. This needs to be bridged with right technology. Hence to mitigate these challenges there is a need for close coordination between research institutions, business affiliates and financial institutions. In doing so, there is a need for adequate information, credit and technologies to serve the upcoming enterprise.

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Day 3: Plenary Session

The 2030 Global Agenda for Sustainable Development has moved into the year of implementation as several countries have set their priorities and course of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The month of September in 2016, when the UN convenes for its 71st session, will be pivotal for policy makers across the world. The progress of nations on the SDGs would be reviewed more thoroughly as a follow-up of the recently concluded High Level Political Forum (HLPF) meeting held in July, 2016 in New York, USA. The 2030 Global Agenda is a transformative agenda as it calls for a systemic view of policy strategies and implementation mechanisms by governments worldwide. The emphasis on the required policy transitions is advocated largely on the basis that the SDGs will be monitored, reviewed, and the progress of development will be assessed at the national and global scale. The Plenary session highlighted the policy transitions for SDG implementation in India and priorities for India within the SDG Framework.

The key speakers included:

- Dr Ashok Khosla, Founder - Chairperson, Development Alternatives Group
- Shri Mangesh Tyagi, Principal Advisor, Madhya Pradesh State Planning Commission
- Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu, Union Minister for Railways, Government of India
- Mr Gokul Patnaik, Chairman, Global AgriSystem Pvt. Ltd.
- Mr Krishna Kumar, Deputy Director General, Social Statistics Division, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- Dr Parth J Shah, Founder President, Centre for Civil Society (CCS)
- Mr P K Anand, Senior Consultant, NITI Aayog, Delhi
- Dr Rajesh Tandon President & Co-Founder, PRIA
- Mr Rajib Kumar Debnath, Independent Expert - Advisory Services
- Ms Seema Arora, Executive Director, CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development
- Mr Ravi Bhatnagar, Manager, External Affairs, Reckitt Benckiser (RB) India
- Mr Tushar Pandey, Senior President, Public and Social Policies Management, (PSPM) Group, YES BANK Ltd.

Ms. Zeenat Niazi, Vice President, DA, gave a brief introduction on the Yatra and highlighted the objectives. She mentioned that in 2015 TARagram Yatra, the discussions were based on SDGs - the investment required and India's role in the process of formulation of SDGs. She expressed that as a country, we are in a state of development. The consumption patterns have changed. The gap between *haves* and *have-nots* have further widened. If transformation in the current context is needed then economic wellbeing has to be combined strongly with social and environmental wellbeing. Equity and inclusion are fundamental. It will be difficult to have a common approach for all as we are a diverse country and the needs of each group is very different. The action framework for this transformation has to include governance, economy, culture and ethics. With years into Yatra, it has evolved from just being one location visit (Jhansi) to 5 round tables at 5 different locations dealing with different institutions. Further, Zeenat Niazi gave an overview of RTCs and the challenges and recommendations that came out as a result of brain storming and discussions.

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The introductory session was followed by the Keynote Address by Honourable Union Minister for Railway, Shri Suresh Prabhu through video conferencing. The Honourable Minister shared that India can do a lot in case of achieving SDGs as 70% population of India lives in the rural area; so the scope to implement SDGs becomes wider. We must establish an atmosphere where achieving these goals become easy. He stressed on the fact that India has strong resources in terms of organisation and people which can lead the change that we are aiming for. Organisations like DA and visionaries like Dr. Ashok Khosla have worked tirelessly to bring sustainability in all aspects of development. We must develop new ideas of engagement with civil society, as the advantage with them is that they work directly with people. Their access to communities is very strong. It is important for us to understand government rules and regulation to ensure effective functioning. Government can setup programmes, but civil societies need to take it forward. The connection between the two needs to be strengthened. He also suggested that civil societies should become a part of discussion of defining priorities. There are two things which need to be focused here – where is it that we want to reach and secondly how do we reach there through partnership with stakeholders. Working together is the only way we can achieve anything in the shortest possible time, as it is our most important priority.

Dr. Ashok Khosla, Chairman, DA gave the inaugural address by putting across a question that ‘what kind of world we want to live in? We need an answer which is measurable. According to his view, SDG means differently to different nations, thus we shouldn’t take it too literally. It means entirely different for India. Mind-set is one of the reasons for lack of growth in India. It is just not economical. There are many other reasons for it. There are social reasons too. To aim for a sustainable future we must first aim for a just society and a green economy. There are three elements of it - economy, social, and environment. Eco systems are the base of every economy. Problem here is to bring coherence between stakeholders. He shared the *champagne glass theory* wherein, he stressed upon the increasing gap between the have and have nots. He said earlier it was a Champagne glass and now the situation is worse. India is facing severe poverty and malnutrition crisis. Availability and access to resources has immense disparity (visual representation). Ground water level is dropping at high speed and we might be soon in the crisis of absence of drinking water. We need shift in policies and focus now needs to be on – people and nature.

Key points deliberated by the speakers and meaningful insights

Session I Policy Transitions for SDG Implementation in India

Dr. Rajesh Tandon, Founder-President, Participatory Research in Asia, while giving the opening remarks, stressed on the need for policy transitions in India, in order to be able to achieve the SDGs. He called for a need to focus on closing old and redundant policies before shifting to newer ones, without which, we would have a ‘policy burden’ and not a ‘policy shift.’

Shri P.K. Anand, Senior Consultant (PEO), NITI Aayog gave a brief overview of the SDGs through a short presentation focusing mainly on the goals, targets and their achievability. He pointed out that well-being and happiness were not correctly represented by the current development indicator - the gross domestic product. Additionally, he described that, in order to achieve SDGs and to be on the path to sustainable development growth, a developing country like India cannot and should not look at achieving sustainability as an individual

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endeavour but rather as a collaborative global movement where it pays attention to the needs of its neighbouring countries as well as other developing countries in sub Saharan Africa. This was followed by a brief description of NITI Aayog's role in achieving the SDGs and functioning. The importance of monitoring as well as the need for stakeholders to join hands was also discussed.

Shri Krishna Kumar, Deputy Director General, Central Statistical Office, focused on the indicators involved in SDGs mapping and implementation which involved monitoring at four levels - global, regional for Asia Pacific, national and thematic. He described the role of Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI) in monitoring and data collection. Further, he pointed out that not all of the 241 global indicators can be adapted to India's requirements and context. Hence, there are a large number of indicators for which alternative frameworks for monitoring will have to be looked at. In order to achieve this, he called on civil society organisations and academicians for their help and collaboration. Further, data collection was pointed out by him to be a major hindrance in a smooth transition towards achieving the SDGs. He expressed the need for alternative data collection methods as well as using technology, like GIS and big data to gather good numbers.

Mr. Rajib Kumar Debnath, Independent Expert, focused on Goal 4 of the SDGs on skill development. He emphasised on the need to involve the private sector as a funder to work on implementation and management of campaigns like Skill India. Lack of willingness of youth to relocate away from their rural homes for training and employment, inability to cope with the course as well as a mismatch between the employers and trained youth in terms of requirements and available skills, were the three major reasons for a low success rate. In order to combat this, Mr. Debnath proposed the need of a better planning and implementation of policies.

After these short presentations from the speakers, the plenary was opened for questions and comments from the audience. Ms. Rama Devi pointed to a lack of emphasis on MSMEs that create employment for women as well as rural areas. She also pointed out a lack of small industries in rural areas of the country that will help both, the youth and women to gain employment. Mr. Sunil Gokhle from Pune challenged the need for youth to migrate to cities for employment and suggested creation of policies that promote employment creation in villages which would not force the youth to migrate to over crowded cities. Another member of the audience called for a need to develop policies that promote employment in traditional livelihoods and prevent de-skilling of India.

Lastly, as closing remarks, Dr. Tandon pointed out the need to differentiate between policies, schemes, campaigns and projects. He also called for a transition from national level planning to local planning that involves constituencies in both planning and operations to instil a sense of ownership and ensure a higher success rate. A necessity of decentralisation of policy framing, resource generation, management and implementation was also highlighted.

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Session II: Priorities for India within the SDG Framework

Dr. Parth J Shah, President, Centre for Civil Society, shared that the SDG – Goal 8 is about good jobs and economic growth, and Goal 9 is about innovation and infrastructure. However we must focus on inclusive growth and not just growth. The reform struggle isn't between urban and rural reform. Sectors that have liberalised are the most developed sectors in India. The degree of economic freedom decides why a particular sector is undeveloped. There are 3 sectors that are non-liberalised therefore undeveloped:

- Unorganised sector (hawkers, small vendors etc.)
- Tribal
- Small land holding farmers

These three sectors are underdeveloped because of the informality and illegality of their businesses. They cannot expand. The license raj still exists for the tribal community. For them, the critical resources such as bamboos and wood etc. are now illegal to cut to use.

Mr. Tushar Pandey, Senior President and Distinguished Fellow, Yes Bank, shared his views on the SDG framework. According to him, Goal 8 and 9 are most important. However, in India, the measurement in micro-sets is difficult. Small investments don't bring the same investment rate of return. The government policies are well justified in the sense the GST and combining of the Railway and finance budget has been a big efficiency driver. It is important to link rural banking and agriculture. We must give more aid to fill viability gap. It becomes imperative to provide support to infrastructure projects that are economically justified but fall short of financial viability. We must utilise state banking, the policy preference is on small farmer incomes. But we must also look at rural non-farm employment. Agri-tourism is a good example. What more is required are initiatives that create institutional innovation at the grassroots.

Mr. Rijit Sengupta, COO, Centre for Responsible Business stated that there are three issues when implementing SDGs – intent, enabling environment and tools. To what extent is the government ready to implement the goals? The Public sector must come across as champions of the SDGs. They should be the implementers. The SDG framework gives a huge scope for private players to get involved. There is a key difference between SDG and MDG. It also helps the industry to align to Sustainable Development. In terms of enablers we need to reform the regulatory process. A government committee set up recommended that there should be a self-regulatory approach in this sector. The tools are for measuring and reporting. In our calculations, GDP or Sensex matters more than people. He shared about two tools – (i) The SDG compass and (ii) The SDG Navigator by PWC, piloted by the government, which can be of great benefit for the private players.

Some questions to ponder:

1. Can development of the agriculture sector act as a solution?
2. Do we need measures to understand the requirement of natural resources by the industry?
3. How do we manage and leverage the interdependency between formal and informal sectors?
4. Is the smart city idea sustainable?

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Rijit expressed that growth and development are not the same. Agriculture is the base of the economy. The share of agriculture to income is falling but the amount of people dependent isn't falling. We need new strategies to bring people out of agriculture. Resource allocation isn't important for industry. What is required is governance, accountability and transparency. Now state governments have taken notice and taking measures. There is no lobby for farmers and the informal sector. They are missing out on a lot due to absence of a FICCI, NASSCOM and CII. So, the question remains who gets to decide policy for them. The Forest Rights Act need to include the User Transfer Right Act.

We must choose income security over nutrition security. The falling of agriculture share is not the issue. The issue is the distribution of wealth. We need a paradigm shift in looking at food security versus value security. The idea of sustainability means the business shouldn't go out of its way. Rather it should be ingrained in their process. The CSR Act 2% provides opportunity for businesses to do well. Collaboration by similar sector areas is needed. And we must follow the correct sequence of liberalisation. The SDG is a global guidance framework and help give local grounding to national, state and panchayat level initiatives. We must stop looking at the inconsequential and focus on

- The science of integration
- Capacity building
- Watchdog of policy and practice

George C. Varughese, President, DA, gave the concluding remarks. He summarised the key points that came out as policy priorities during the past two and a half days of brainstorming and discussions:

- SDG implementation is a global level framework. But the implementation process must be customised and locally grounded to get the desired impact.
- Ownership and grounding locally in the context of this country has emerged as a crucial point.
- NITI Aayog has spawned off a process where state governments and ministries are requested to give their perspective for the next 15 years. That is how nationally we can begin owning this process without really calling it the SDGs.
- The first high level meeting on SDGs will be conducted in 2019; objective being to take stock of the progress towards the SDGs. The test that the current government is going to answer, to is the one at the international level.
- Budgeting for programmes is not incorporated in the policy. We need systems thinking and horizontal interlinking between different sectors and vertical integration between different levels – to say sustainable development is on the way. What are the scientific basis and the principles whereby we can build up this coherence, is going to be a major challenge.
- How do we address the issue of the impoverished – this is how inclusive growth comes into picture. If the issues of the under privileged are not looked at, then all the efforts will go in drain. Telangana FPOs – collective institutions of the underprivileged have to become a part of the economy, then they need to be given the time to mature.
- Addressing the scale of the problem requires community collaboration, aggregations. What are the kinds of collaborations and aggregations that are required to bring these together to address the issues of scale?

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- Measure what matters – CBDR (common but differentiated responsibilities) – what are the relevant indicators to be measured? We have the responsibility to break down these abstractions to make sense to those on ground, so that we really measure what matters for the lower half.

Mr. George shared how DA will modify and enhance the strategies to align its focus areas with SDG implementation. We will:

- Be sector agnostic and focus on the science of integration.
- Focus on working with other groups for capacity building of stakeholders.
- Be the watchdog to monitor the connect between policy and practice.

After the concluding remarks, Seema Rao, Executive Director, CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development gave the valedictory. She put forth a question - What is the role of business in SDG's in changing strategies? Business associations should focus on environment and sustainable development by instilling the idea of using resources efficiently. Sustainability drivers must define the way business is to be done. Businesses must use their natural resources as efficiently as they use their financial and human resources. Sustainability is changing the way buyers and suppliers are engaging and we should leverage that. The idea is to not necessarily take the 2% route to get business. "It's not what business can do, but how business is done" – SDG should be embedded into how you do business. SDG framework should be the driver for business to form their action plan around it. The growth rate of this is low right now, will probably take another 5- 10 years or more. The approach should be to develop business that help cater to SDG. For example – Be it Access to land/food processing/access to produce. We can embed SDG into businesses if we can leverage on how Business think. She enlisted the steps of Value Chain Approach for Business:

- The value chain needs to be scanned and looked at closely, right from sourcing of basic materials to where it goes back into the ecosystem.
- The impacts need to be measured
- Priorities and area of focus need to be built (Ex- Water consumption, Sustainable Consumption and production etc)
- Targets to be set
- This needs to then be integrated into the business plan

At the end, Ms. Seema reinforced that, at every level each and everyone is working as a chief sustainability officer. This style of aligned and integrated approach towards business is the strategy that needs to be adopted.

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