

KALEIDO SCOPE

STANDING CONFERENCE OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES



DG, SCOPE meets Hon'ble Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change



DPE's CSR Conclave in association with SCOPE inaugurated by Hon'ble Union MoS, Finance



SCOPE organizes workshop on Climate co-benefits for PSEs



SCOPE decodes Union Budget 2024



SCOPE's reaction on Union Budget 2024 telecast on Doordarshan



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SCOPE Wishes all Happy Independence Day

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Vol. 44 No. 03 August 2024

KALEIDO SCOPE
STANDING CONFERENCE OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

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Total Pages : 56

Annual Subscription: Rs. 500/-

Price per copy : Rs. 100/-

(Payment may be sent by DD/Cheque/NEFT drawn in favour of "Standing Conference of Public Enterprises")

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Published and printed at New Delhi by
Shubh Ratna on behalf of Standing Conference of Public Enterprises, Core 8, 1st Floor, SCOPE Complex, 7 Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003 • Tel.: 24361495, Fax: 24361371
E-mail: pr@scopeonline.in

at M/S Grover Printing Press, 85, Khanna Market, Rita block, Shakarpur, Delhi- 110092

Designed by Marshall Advertising Company
Tel: 9811470033

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Message by Chairman

The month of August is a momentous one for our country, as we celebrate our Independence Day this month. The country has come a long way since its independence in 1947 and Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) have and will continue to play a strategic role in the country's socio-economic progress.

The recently announced Union Budget 2024 reiterates focus on the long-term growth of the country and PSEs due to their resources, manpower and far-flung reach are all set to contribute immensely in pertinent areas. PSEs are all set to propel the nation towards becoming an economic superpower.

SCOPE recently organized the program on Decoding the Union Budget 2024 that brought together economic, financial, and taxation experts to deliberate and discuss the implications of the budget. The program was organized in association with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and Deloitte.

With environmental skilling and sharpening of green skills having gained momentum over the past few years, SCOPE has been working closely with GIZ, Germany for creating conducive and learning opportunities in this area.

As part of our efforts, regional skilling workshops are being organized across the country, aiming to decipher climate-co benefit methodologies in Indian PSEs, not only for supporting low-carbon investments and pathways but also for better accounting and

reporting of their Climate Action efforts. In this regard, recently, I addressed the northern region workshop on "The Role of Climate Co-Benefit Methodologies for Strengthening Climate Action by Indian Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs)" where senior officials from PSEs, German Embassy and GIZ were also present.

We are at the threshold of the Advanced Global Leadership Programme 2.0 that will offer a unique opportunity of learning at IIM, Calcutta followed by international study cum business tour. SCOPE is also organizing Executive Development program of SCOPE APSE for young and middle level executives of PSEs to raise their capacity and competence at par with the global standards.

Also, I am happy to share that SCOPE will soon release a research study on digital transformation of Indian PSEs which would provide an insight into the journey of public sector in digital landscape and how the same can be leveraged in the present dynamic business environment.

As we go ahead, SCOPE will continue to conduct programs and workshops on apposite subjects for the benefit of the fraternity and I hope our endeavours continue to find the incessant support of our members, as always.

Jai Hind.

Sandeep Kumar Gupta
Chairman, SCOPE



9th ADVANCED GLOBAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME (AGLP 2.0)

by Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE), New Delhi
in collaboration with
Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Calcutta &
University of St. Gallen, Switzerland



IIM, Calcutta



SCOPE, New Delhi



University of St. Gallen, Switzerland

**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF
MANAGEMENT,
CALCUTTA**

20th August - 24th August, 2024

**STANDING
CONFERENCE OF PUBLIC
ENTERPRISES, NEW DELHI**

13th-14th Sep. & 4th Oct. 2024

**INTERNATIONAL
STUDY CUM
BUSINESS TOUR**

16th Sep. - 27th Sep. 2024

For further details, contact Program Coordinator:

Mr. Nishant Kumar, Sr. Manager | nishant@scopeonline.in, +91-9953046060





Director General's Desk

SCOPE as the apex body has always fostered creating an environment of conducive learning, development and sharing of best experiences. This while highlighting the various initiatives being undertaken by Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) in nation's socio-economic progress.

Pursuant to this, SCOPE recently associated with the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) as event partner during CSR Conclave, which was inaugurated by Shri Pankaj Chaudhary, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Finance. The Conclave showcased various initiatives undertaken by PSEs in CSR and exploring innovative practices in CSR.

SCOPE has been continuously interfacing with Government Departments/Ministries to know their expectations so that PSEs remain aligned to the national goals. Recently I called on Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on reassuming his office, and apprised him SCOPE's various activities and initiatives in the field of climate action.

I also called on PESB Members, Shri Amarjeet Sinha and Smt. Soma Mondal, and apprised them of the various initiatives of SCOPE.

As part of our association with International partners, I recently participated as Member in the Governing Council Meeting of UN Global Compact and subsequently in the AGM of the UNGCNI.

Moving forward, as the nation celebrates the 78th Independence Day, the recently announced 'Future oriented Union Budget 2024' paves way for a futuristic growth of the country. With their strategic presence in core sectors of the economy, PSEs are all set to play a key role in making the nation 'Viksit Bharat.'

Our recently organized Programme "Decoding the Union Budget 2024" also delved deep into different aspects of the Budget, bringing in a comprehensive view on how the budget has balanced both the short-term as well as medium-term aspects of the economy. SCOPE and GIZ, Germany have yet again initiated the regional workshops on Climate sustainability and the Northern region workshop held recently was

addressed by Head of Division Climate & Environment, German Embassy and expert consortium from Oxford Policy Management, CEEW and Perspectives Climate Group.

SCOPE is also soon going to release a research study on digital transformation of Indian PSEs which would provide an insight into the digital landscape with respect to the Public sector and the opportunities in this area.

Also, SCOPE will continue its drive to nurture the skills, talent and capacities of PSEs while highlighting their initiatives around the globe.

With the plethora of upcoming programs by SCOPE, I am sanguine that SCOPE with the continued support of its members will continue to unravel newer heights of success.

Programmes & Initiatives launched (since last issue of KALEIDOSCOPE)

2nd Nodal Officers meeting for SCOPE Eminence Awards organized – 3rd July, 2024

SCOPE as event partner in CSR Conclave organised by DPE - 9th-10th July, 2024

SCOPE organizes Northern Region Workshop on 'The Role of Climate Co-benefit Methodologies for Strengthening Climate Action by Indian PSEs' – 23rd-24th July, 2024

SCOPE organizes Session on Decoding Union Budget 2024 – 25th July, 2024

Programmes & Initiatives in the offing

SCOPE APSE Executive Development Program – 5th August-10th August, 2024

SCOPE celebrates Independence Day – 15th August, 2024

Advanced Global Leadership Programme (AGLP 2.0) – 20th August-4th October, 2024

Release of SCOPE study on Digital transformation – October, 2024

Atul Sobti

Director General, SCOPE

DPE's CSR Conclave in association with SCOPE inaugurated by Hon'ble Union MoS, Finance

The Department of Public Enterprises, Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India in partnership with SCOPE and UNICEF organized a CSR Conclave at Bharat Mandapam on 9th-10th July, 2024.

Shri Pankaj Chaudhary, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Finance inaugurated the CSR Conclave in the presence of Shri Ali R. Rizvi, Secretary DPE and Shri Atul Sobti, DG, SCOPE. District Magistrates/Deputy Commissioners of aspirational districts; Chief Executives, Directors and Senior Officers from Public Sector Enterprises were also present in the inaugural session of the Conclave.

Shri Pankaj Chaudhary, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Finance, in his address, highlighted the need of making India a 'Viksitashtra' by contributing towards social issues through CSR.

During his address, Shri Ali R. Rizvi, Secretary, DPE urged all stakeholders to focus on themes and sub themes identified by



(L-R) Shri Atul Sobti, DG, SCOPE; Shri Pankaj Chaudhary, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Finance and Shri Ali R. Rizvi, Secretary, DPE during the inaugural session of the CSR Conclave.

DPE to make the CSR spends more meaningful and consistent with national goals like Anaemia Mukht Bharat etc.

Shri Atul Sobti, DG, SCOPE, in his address, thanked Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Finance for presiding over the event. He highlighted the critical role CPSEs play in the economy of the country and said that they contribute nearly 14% to the country's GDP and deliver exemplary performance on key parameters as is emulated in the Gross Revenue of nearly

Rs. 38 Lakh Crore. A Coffee Table Book titled 'Sashakt' - Fostering Knowledge, Empowering Communities of GAIL (India) Ltd. was also launched by Shri Pankaj Chaudhary, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Finance in presence of Shri Ali R. Rizvi, Secretary, DPE; Shri Atul Sobti, DG, SCOPE; Shri Ayush Gupta, Director (HR), GAIL (India) Ltd. and Shri Anoop Gupta, ED (CSR & HR), GAIL (India) Ltd. on the occasion. Detailed discussions were held on various thematic sessions organized during the Conclave.



GAIL's Coffee Table Book titled 'Sashakt' - Fostering Knowledge, Empowering Communities launched by Shri Pankaj Chaudhary, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Finance in presence of Shri Ali R. Rizvi, Secretary, DPE; Shri Atul Sobti, DG, SCOPE; Shri Ayush Gupta, Director (HR), GAIL (India) Ltd. and Shri Anoop Gupta, ED (CSR & HR), GAIL (India) Ltd.

SCOPE & GIZ organise regional workshop on “The Role of Climate Co-Benefit Methodologies for Strengthening Climate Action by Indian Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs)” in Northern India



(L-R) Shri Atul Sobti, DG, SCOPE; Ms. Taina Dyckhoff, Head of Division for Environment at German Embassy; Shri Sandeep Kumar Gupta, Chairman, SCOPE and CMD, GAIL (India) Ltd.; Shri Sujoy Choudhury, Chairperson, SCOPE Sustainable Development & Climate Change Committee and Director, IOCL; and Shri Soumik Biswas, Team Lead (Consortium of CEEW, OPM, and PCG) during the inaugural session of the workshop.

Building on its ongoing efforts to address climate change and promote sustainable development, SCOPE in collaboration with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, a German public-benefit federal enterprise, organized a regional workshop on “The Role of Climate Co-Benefit Methodologies for Strengthening Climate Action by Indian PSEs” in the Northern region (New Delhi) on 23rd-24th July, 2024.

This workshop, held under the Indo-German Support Project for Climate Action in India, was led by a consortium team comprising the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), Oxford Policy Management (OPM), and

Perspectives Climate Group (PCG). Industry experts from Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Corporation Limited and Lucro Plastecycle Private Limited presented and discussed their climate co-benefit initiatives in areas such as circular economy/ resource efficiency and forestry/ biodiversity. The objective of the workshop was to –

- Introduce climate co-benefit approach and relevance to PSEs
- Understand PSE’s climate actions such as forestry initiatives and banning Single Use Plastics (SUPs)
- Introduce PSEs to the draft co-benefit assessment framework for Urban Forestry and SUPs and take their feedbacks

- Understand potential capacity building requirements including training needs of the stakeholders

The workshop was inaugurated by Shri Sandeep Kumar Gupta, Chairman, SCOPE & CMD, GAIL (India) Ltd. in the presence of Ms. Taina Dyckhoff, Head of Division Climate & Environment, German Embassy; Shri Atul Sobti, DG, SCOPE; Shri Sujoy Choudhury, Chairman, SCOPE Sustainable Development & Climate Change (SD&CC) Committee & Director, IOCL; and Shri Soumik Biswas, Team Lead (Consortium of CEEW, OPM, and PCG).

The inaugural session created a strong foundation for the workshop, ensuring that participants were informed,

motivated, and ready to engage in meaningful discussions and activities.

During his opening address, Shri Atul Sobti, DG, SCOPE, highlighted the critical role of this workshop in advancing climate action and achieving Net Zero targets by 2070. He emphasized that it is imperative for PSEs to align with national economic and environmental goals, as outlined in recent economic surveys and anticipated budget announcements.

He also reflected on the successful collaboration between SCOPE and GIZ since the first MOU in October 2019, noting significant achievements in due course leading to the establishment of this workshop on climate co-benefit methodologies.

Shri Soumik Biswas, Team Lead (Consortium of CEEW, OPM, and PCG), providing the 'Program Perspective' highlighted the significance of balancing mitigation and adaptation strategies while preparing for India's next NDC reporting.

He informed that the workshop aims to address both mitigation and adaptation strategies in climate action by integrating fragmented methodologies into a streamlined process for better measurement and reporting.

He apprised that the workshop discussions will cover urban forestry and the ban on single-use plastics, evaluating both their mitigation impacts and climate co-benefits. He encouraged participants to provide feedback on the draft assessment framework, which will help

refine methodologies and ensure practical implementation.

During her speech, Ms. Taina Dyckhoff, Head of Division for the Environment at the German Embassy, emphasized the critical need for prompt climate action, referencing severe heatwaves and flooding as pressing examples. She stressed the importance of a collaborative approach to merge climate solutions with sustainable development. Ms. Dyckhoff pointed out that the Indo-German Green and Sustainable Development Partnership (GSDP), launched by the leaders of both countries, is dedicated to advancing energy transitions, decreasing reliance on fossil fuels, and striving for the decarbonization of economies.

In his inaugural address, Shri Sandeep Kumar Gupta, Chairman, SCOPE and CMD, GAIL (India) Ltd. highlighted the severe threat climate change poses to ecosystems, economies, and public health, necessitating immediate action. He noted that environmental risks are increasingly becoming the top concern for the future. Despite being a developing country, India has demonstrated remarkable commitment to climate action, earning a high ranking among G20 nations for its proactive approach.

Shri Gupta praised Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) for leading with innovative solutions and ambitious net zero targets. He cited both national and global examples to underscore the importance of incorporating co-benefits into policies and improving data frameworks.

He urged participants to engage actively in the workshop to fully leverage its benefits and encourage collaboration. While rendering closing remarks, Shri Sujoy Choudhury, Chairperson, SCOPE Sustainable Development & Climate Change (SD&CC) Committee, and Director, IOCL, commended SCOPE and GIZ for organizing this unique workshop focused on climate co-benefits.

He emphasized that this approach is crucial in addressing the limitations often faced in sustainability initiatives, particularly in justifying large-scale projects. While acknowledging the challenging growth trajectory that India faces in becoming a developed nation by 2047, he emphasized that PSEs play a central role in driving both development and climate action. He said that India's commitment to sustainable growth lies in its historical reverence for nature and ongoing sustainability initiatives, such as material recycling, afforestation, and adoption of new technologies such as Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) and green hydrogen. He encouraged active participation and the sharing of insights to effectively address challenges.

Overall, the workshop received an enthusiastic response, drawing participants from 22 PSEs across different sectors in Northern India. Similar workshops are scheduled for three more regions across India in the coming months.

The details of post-inaugural sessions of the workshop are summarised separately on Page Number 38.

Comments/Feedback/Initiatives undertaken by PSEs
as shared by participants of Northern Region Workshop on
'The Role of Climate Co-Benefit Methodologies for Strengthening
Climate Action by Indian Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs)' on 23rd-24th July, 2024.

• Suggestions for improving future workshops?
 The workshop was really perfect.
 We may like to see more interaction

• Suggestions for improving future workshops?
 As present the workshop design is robust
 and would help to meet the requirements.

• Suggestions for improving future workshops?
 Very informative for HR and HRD team.

• Any additional feedback?
 Relevance is important.
 The feedback is not to criticize the attempt
 it was a wonderful interaction.

• Any climate co-benefit methodology (climate action assessment framework) currently being adopted in your organisation?
 Various Studies being done at various levels

• What initiatives are your organisation undertaking to mitigate climate change?
 Green Alternatives / Initiatives etc.

• Suggestions for improving future workshops?
 In depth analysis and presentation for CABE programs
 with more practical futuristic aspect

• Any climate co-benefit methodology (climate action assessment framework) currently being adopted in your organisation?
 Carbon Credit

• What initiatives are your organisation undertaking to mitigate climate change?
 Paper Implementation of Eco Management Plan

• Any climate co-benefit methodology (climate action assessment framework) currently being adopted in your organisation?
 Reduction in fuel usage to almost zero
 Flare and Methane emissions reduction

• What initiatives are your organisation undertaking to mitigate climate change?
 Commitment in Net zero by 2030 & beyond etc

• What initiatives are your organisation undertaking to mitigate climate change?
 Adoption of state of Art technologies, energy efficiency, renewable
 energy consumption initiative, afforestation, etc.

• Any climate co-benefit methodology (climate action assessment framework) currently being adopted in your organisation?
 Afforestation, waste management practices

• What initiatives are your organisation undertaking to mitigate climate change?
 Afforestation, emission reduction practices

• Are there specific topics or areas you would like to see covered in future workshops?
 use/application of zero liquid discharge salts
 for the production of fertilizer

• Suggestions for improving future workshops?
 Showing Technological/Research presentations of
 Technology

• Any climate co-benefit methodology (climate action assessment framework) currently being adopted in your organisation?
 Use of plastic in NIPCC technology

• What initiatives are your organisation undertaking to mitigate climate change?
 Afforestation, Use of FCO, O₂-N₂ mix, use of plastic

• What initiatives are your organisation undertaking to mitigate climate change?
 Afforestation, Energy Conservation

• Any additional feedback?
 All the best to the organisers and min
 help to the PSEs in their journey of decarbonisation



Glimpses of regional workshop on “The Role of Climate Co-Benefit Methodologies for Strengthening Climate Action by Indian Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs)” in Northern India organised by SCOPE & GIZ in New Delhi on 23rd-24th July, 2024





SCOPE decodes Union Budget 2024



(L-R) Shri Atul Sobti, DG, SCOPE; Prof. N. R. Bhanumurthy, Eminent Economist; CA Anuj Goyal, Central Council Member, ICAI and Nitin Bajjal; Subject Matter Expert, Deloitte during the session.

Elucidating the announcements of Union Budget 2024, SCOPE organized a session with economic, financial, and taxation experts on 'Decoding the Union Budget 2024' in association with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and Deloitte on 25th July, 2024. Prof. N. R. Bhanumurthy, Eminent Economist; Shri Atul Sobti, DG, SCOPE; CA Anuj Goyal, Central Council Member, ICAI addressed the program.

A detailed presentation on various aspects of the Budget including new provisions and amendments in Taxation was made by senior partners and subject matter experts from ICAI and Deloitte. Over 100 participants from different PSEs attended the program through hybrid mode including SCOPE's various social media platforms.

Delving deep into different aspects of the Budget 2024, Prof. N. R. Bhanumurthy said that the Budget has balanced both the short-term as well as medium-term aspects of the economy and highlighted the need to give due attention to reforms focused on increasing the productivity and labour market reforms.

Terming the Budget 2024 as a 'future-oriented Budget', Shri Atul Sobti said that the Budget focuses on the long-term growth

of the country and has set priorities in various key areas.

He added that PSEs will have to contribute immensely in these strategic areas and steer India towards becoming the third largest economy in the world.

CA Anuj Goyal, in his address, appreciated the announcements made in Budget 2024, while highlighting the focus of the Budget to give more liberty to trade and industry in the country.



Prof. N. R. Bhanumurthy addressing the participants during the session.

SCOPE hails a growth oriented and inclusive budget



"A forward-looking budget, prioritising areas for a self-reliant nation giving thrust to infrastructure, innovation, inclusivity and skills, while maintaining fiscal consolidation."

Shri Atul Sobti
DG, SCOPE

SCOPE compliments the Hon'ble Finance Minister in presenting a visionary budget aimed at pushing the growth trajectory of the country.

Shri Atul Sobti, DG, SCOPE and Member, Governing Body ILO appreciated the Budget as it

focussed on long term growth thereby giving impetus to inclusive development.

"The Budget 2024 is a forward-looking budget, prioritising areas for a self-reliant nation giving thrust to manufacturing with special focus on MSMEs,

infrastructure, innovation and skills, while maintaining fiscal consolidation. This would not only accelerate employment creation but also help in making India a global manufacturing hub" he said.

Highlights of UNION BUDGET 2024

In the pursuit of 'Viksit Bharat', the Union Budget 2024 focused on Poor, Women, Youth and Farmers.

<div style="margin-bottom: 10px;">  <p>Productivity and resilience in Agriculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of agriculture research setup to bring focus on raising productivity and developing climate resilient varieties </div> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;">  <p>Employment & Skilling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 schemes for Employment Linked Incentive under PM's Package • Working Women Hostels for promoting employment • Loans for students for higher education </div> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>Robust Skilling Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 lakh youth to be skilled • ITIs upgradation–outcome orientation • Course alignment to industry standards </div> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;">  <p>Inclusive Human Resource Development and Social Justice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schemes of more than Rs. 3 lakh crores for women and girls • Socio-economic upliftment of tribal communities • Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act </div> <div>  <p>Manufacturing & Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impetus on MSMEs • Setting up of 12 industrial parks • Critical Minerals Mission • Internship opportunities </div>	<div style="margin-bottom: 10px;">  <p>Urban Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging lower stamp duties • 100 weekly 'haats' • Water management • PM Awas Yojana Urban 2.0 </div> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;">  <p>Energy Security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bharat Small Reactors - Setting & R&D • Energy Audit • Electricity storage and integration of renewable energy • AUSC Thermal Power Plants – NTPC-BHEL joint venture </div> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;">  <p>Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure development – 3.4% of GDP – Rs. 11.11 lakh crore • Assistance for irrigation & flood mitigation • Tourism development </div> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;">  <p>Innovation, Research & Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anusandhan National Research Fund for basic research and prototype development • Venture capital fund for space research </div> <div>  <p>Next Generation Reforms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural & Urban land related action • Capital availability for climate change • Promoting FDI • Effective governance • New Pension Scheme </div>
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Glimpses of the Session on Decoding Union Budget 2024 organised by SCOPE on 25th July, 2024





Interface with Stakeholders



DG, SCOPE meets Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.



SCOPE's reaction on Union Budget 2024 telecast on DD News.



Shri Adhip Nath Palchaudhuri, CMD, Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd. calls on DG, SCOPE.



DG, SCOPE visits SAIL; meets Shri Amarendu Prakash, Chairman, SAIL and Shri K.K. Singh, Director (Personnel), SAIL.



Interface with Stakeholders



DG, SCOPE as Member, Governing Council participates in UN Global Compact Governing Council Meeting in New Delhi.



Shri Ali R. Rizvi, Secretary, DPE interacts with Shri Ayush Gupta, Director (HR), GAIL (India) Ltd. and Shri Atul Sobti, DG, SCOPE on the sidelines of DPE's CSR Conclave at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.



Shri K. P. Mahadevaswamy, CMD, NBCC (India) Ltd. calls on DG, SCOPE.



DG, SCOPE calls on Shri Amarjeet Sinha, Member, Public Enterprises Selection Board in New Delhi.



A team of doctors from Moolchand Medcity led by Dr. H. K. Chopra, Sr. Consultant Cardiologist, Moolchand Medcity calls on DG, SCOPE.



Shri S.S. Parmar, Former Chief Secy., Himachal Pradesh & Member, SCOPE Forum of Conciliation and Arbitration meets DG, SCOPE.

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SHAKTI TIMES

Creating Opportunities for Growth and Employment

“Union Budget 2024”
Insights by Industry Experts

Mr. Atul Sobti
Director General,
SCOPE and Member,
Governing Body ILO

Mr. Arvind Goel
President, Employer's
Federation of India & Chairman,
Tata AutoComp Systems Ltd

S.K. Sharma
National General Secretary,
Association of Industries and Institutions

SCOPE
PROMOTING EXCELLENCE

Atul Sobti
Director General, SCOPE and Member, Governing Body ILO

SCOPE (Standing Conference of Public Enterprises), an apex body of Public Sector Enterprises compliments the Hon'ble Finance Minister in presenting a visionary budget aimed at pushing the growth trajectory of the country. Mr. Atul Sobti, Director General, SCOPE and Member, Governing Body ILO appreciated the Budget as it focused on long term growth thereby giving impetus to inclusive development. "The Budget 2024 is a forward-looking budget, prioritising areas for a self-reliant nation giving thrust to manufacturing with special focus on MSMEs, infrastructure, innovation and skills, while maintaining fiscal consolidation. This would not only accelerate employment creation but also help in making India a global manufacturing hub," he said.

Hindustan Times

SCOPE hails a growth-oriented and inclusive budget
SCOPE complimented the Finance Minister in presenting a visionary budget aimed at pushing the growth trajectory of the country. Atul Sobti, Director General SCOPE and Member, of the Governing Body ILO appreciated the Budget as it focussed on long-term growth thereby giving impetus to inclusive development. "The Budget 2024 is a forward-looking budget, prioritising areas for a self-reliant nation giving thrust to manufacturing," he said.

The Indian EXPRESS

SCOPE compliments the Finance Minister in presenting a visionary budget aimed at pushing the growth trajectory of the country. Atul Sobti, DG SCOPE and Member, Governing Body ILO appreciated the Budget as it focussed on long term growth thereby giving impetus to inclusive development. "The Budget 2024 is a forward-looking budget, prioritising areas for a self-reliant nation giving thrust to manufacturing with special focus on MSMEs, infrastructure, innovation & skills, while maintaining fiscal consolidation. This would not only accelerate employment creation but also help in making India a global manufacturing hub" he said.

FINANCIAL EXPRESS

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डेली हिन्दी मिलाप

विकासोन्मुख और समावेशी बजट : स्कोप

सर्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उद्यमों की सर्वोच्च संस्था स्कोप ने देश के विकास की नीति को बढ़ाने के उद्देश्य से दूरदर्शी बजट पेश करने के लिए वित्त मंत्री की सराहना की। स्कोप के महादेशिक और अर्थशास्त्र के शास्त्री निरुप के सदस्य अनुप सोबती ने बजट को सराहना की। उन्होंने कहा कि इसमें दीर्घकालिक विकास पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया गया है, जिससे समावेशी विकास को बढ़ावा मिलेगा। उन्होंने कहा कि बजट 2024 दूरदर्शी है, जिसमें आत्मनिर्भर राष्ट्र के लिए क्षेत्रों को प्राथमिकता दी गई है। इसमें एमएसएमई, बुनियादी ढांचे, नवाचार और कौशल पर विशेष ध्यान देते हुए विनिर्माण पर जोर दिया गया, जबकि राजकोषीय समेकन को बनाए रखा गया। इससे न केवल रोजगार सृजन में तेजी आएगी, बल्कि भारत को वैश्विक विनिर्माण केंद्र बनाने में मदद मिलेगी।

Business Standard

Union Budget prioritises infrastructure, innovation, inclusivity: Atul Sobti, director general, SCOPE

"A forward-looking budget, prioritising areas for a self-reliant nation giving thrust to infrastructure, innovation, inclusivity and skills, while maintaining fiscal consolidation," Atul Sobti, director general of Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE), said today.

समावेशी बजट की सराहना करता है स्कोप

वई दिल्ली। स्कोप सर्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उद्यमों का एक शीर्ष निष्ठा, देश के विकास पथ को अग्रे बढ़ाने के उद्देश्य से एक दूरदर्शी बजट पेश करने के लिए महानौर मित्र मंत्री की सराहना करता है। श्री अनुप सोबती, महादेशिक स्कोप और सदस्य, शहीन निरुप अधिकांश ने बजट की सराहना की क्योंकि यह दीर्घकालिक विकास पर ध्यान केंद्रित करता है जिससे समावेशी विकास को गति मिलती है। बजट 2024 एक दूरदर्शी बजट है, जो आत्मनिर्भर राष्ट्र के लिए क्षेत्रों को प्राथमिकता देता है, जिसमें राजकोषीय समेकन को बनाए रखते हुए एमएसएमई, बुनियादी ढांचे, नवाचार और कौशल पर विशेष ध्यान देने के साथ विनिर्माण पर जोर दिया जाता है। इससे न केवल रोजगार सृजन में तेजी आएगी बल्कि भारत को वैश्विक विनिर्माण केंद्र बनाने में भी मदद मिलेगी।

Excelsior

Experts analyze Union Budget at SCOPE session

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, July 29: The Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) today collaborated with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and Deloitte to host a session titled "Decoding the Union Budget 2024".

The event featured insights from Prof N.R. Bhanumurthy, an eminent economist; Atul Sobti, Director General of SCOPE; and CA Anuj Goyal, Central Council Member of ICAI.

The session included a comprehensive presentation on the Budget's new provisions and taxation amendments, delivered by senior partners and experts from ICAI and Deloitte.

Over 100 participants from various Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) joined the



Dignitaries participating in a session on Union Budget in Jammu on Monday.

program, which was available both in-person and via SCOPE's social media channels.

Prof NR Bhanumurthy praised the Budget for its balance between short-term and medium-term economic strategies, emphasizing the importance of productivity and labor market reforms.

Atul Sobti described the Budget 2024 as "future-oriented," focusing on long-term growth and strategic priorities.

He stressed the crucial role PSEs will play in helping India advance to become the world's third-largest economy.

CA Anuj Goyal lauded the Budget's emphasis on granting greater freedom to trade and industry, highlighting its positive impact on economic growth.



SCOPE Decodes Union Budget 2024

Over 100 participants from different PSUs attended the program through hybrid mode



Decoding the announcements of Union Budget 2024, Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) organized a session with economic, financial, and taxation experts on "Decoding the Union Budget 2024" in association with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and Deloitte. Prof N.R. Bhanumurthy, Eminent Economist, Mr. Atul Sobti, SCOPE, CA Anuj Goyal, Central Council Member, ICAI moderated the program.

A detailed presentation on various aspects of the Budget including new provisions and amendments in Taxation was made by senior partners and subject matter experts from ICAI and Deloitte. Over 100 participants from different PSUs attended the program through hybrid mode including SCOPE's various social media platforms.

Delving deep into different aspects of the Budget 2024, Prof. N.R. Bhanumurthy said that the Budget has balanced both the short-term as well as medium-term aspects of the economy and highlighted the need to give due attention to reforms focused on increasing the productivity and labour market reforms.

"Opening the Budget 2024 as a 'future-oriented Budget', Mr. Atul Sobti said that the Budget focuses on the long-term growth of the country and has set priorities in various key areas. He added that PSUs will have to contribute primarily in fiscal strategy areas and steer India towards becoming the third largest economy in the world.

CA Anuj Goyal, in his address, appreciated the announcements made in Budget 2024, while highlighting the focus of the Budget to give more impetus to trade and industry in the country.

These workshops were but only a part of SCOPE's comprehensive report on Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Pathways for India.

FREE PRESS

SCOPE holds workshop on co-benefits of Climate Action



A workshop on "The Role of Climate Co-Benefit Methodologies for Strengthening Climate Action by Indian Public Enterprises (PSEs)", organised by Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) in association with GIZ was inaugurated by Sandeep Kumar Gupta, Chairman, SCOPE & CMD, GAIL (India) Ltd in presence of Ms. Taina Dyckhoff, Head of Division Climate & Environment, German Embassy; Atul Sobti, Director General, SCOPE and Sujoy Choudhury, Chairman, SCOPE Sustainability Committee & Climate Change & Director, IOCL. The knowledge partners of the workshop consisted of a consortium of Oxford Policy Management, CEEW and Perspectives Climate Group. The workshop was participated by several executives from 22 PSEs across the country. SCOPE has over the past few years worked incessantly towards creating awareness and capacitating PSEs in Green skills. Nation-wide workshops constitute a pertinent part of SCOPE's endeavour in sharpening green skills of PSEs, to create a workforce with technical knowledge and commitment to a sustainable tomorrow.

PSUWATCH

Fast | Accurate | Engaging

SCOPE decodes Union Budget 2024

A detailed presentation on various aspects of the Budget including new provisions and amendments in Taxation was made by senior partners and subject matter experts from ICAI and Deloitte



New Delhi: Elucidating the announcements of Union Budget 2024, Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) organized a session with economic, financial, and taxation experts on "Decoding the Union Budget 2024" in association with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and Deloitte. Prof. NR. Bhanumurthy, Eminent Economist; Atul Sobti, DG, SCOPE; CA Anuj Goyal, Central Council Member, ICAI addressed the program.

A detailed presentation on various aspects of the Budget including new provisions and amendments in Taxation was made by senior partners and subject matter experts from ICAI and Deloitte. Over 100 participants from different PSEs attended the program through hybrid mode including SCOPE's various social media platforms.

Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) organised a programme on Self-Empowerment...

समय जगत

स्कोप ने जलवायु सह-लाभ पर कार्यशाला का किया आयोजन



समय जगत, भोपाल। जीआईएनईड के सहयोग से सर्वजनिक उपक्रमों के स्वामी सम्मेलन (स्कोप) द्वारा आयोजित भारतीय सर्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों (पीएसई) द्वारा जलवायु कार्रवाई को प्रभावित करने के लिए जलवायु सह-लाभ पद्धतियों की भूमिका पर एक कार्यशाला का उद्घाटन अरुणभ और सुजीत चौधरी, गैल (इंडिया) लि. के अध्यक्ष और सीएमडी, गैल (इंडिया) लि. के निदेशक, जर्मन दूतावास के जलवायु और पर्यावरण प्रभाग की प्रमुख सुजीत टैगोर अध्यक्षता में हुई। श्री अतुल सोबती, महानिदेशक, स्कोप और श्री सुजीत चौधरी, अध्यक्ष, स्कोप विस्तार सहिति और जलवायु परिवर्तन और

निदेशक, आईओसीएल। कार्यशाला के उद्घाटन भागीदारी में अरुणभ और सुजीत चौधरी, सीईओ और पर्यावरण प्रभाग के अध्यक्ष, स्कोप के कार्यशाला में देश भर के 22 सर्वजनिक उपक्रमों के कई अधिकारियों ने भाग लिया। स्कोप ने विशेषज्ञों के साथ कार्यवाही करने में जागरूकता पैदा करने और पीएसई को स्वस्थ बनाने की दिशा में लगातार काम किया है। स्कोप जलवायु कार्यशाला पीएसई के हरित परिवर्तन को निवारित करने, तकनीकी ज्ञान और विकास के लिए प्रतिक्रिया के साथ कार्यवाही करने के लिए स्कोप के प्रयास का एक प्रासंगिक हिस्सा है।

PSU Connect

News updates on PSUs

SCOPE organizes workshop on Climate co-benefits for Climate Action



New Delhi: A workshop on "The Role of Climate Co-Benefit Methodologies for Strengthening Climate Action by Indian Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs)", organised by Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) in association with GIZ was inaugurated by Shri Sandeep Kumar Gupta, Chairman, SCOPE & CMD, GAIL (India) Ltd in presence of Ms. Taina Dyckhoff, Head of Division Climate & Environment, German Embassy; Atul Sobti, Director General, SCOPE and Shri Sujoy Choudhury, Chairman, SCOPE Sustainability Committee & Climate Change & Director, IOCL. The knowledge partners of the workshop consisted of a consortium of Oxford Policy Management, CEEW and Perspectives Climate Group. The workshop was participated by several executives from 22 PSEs across the country.

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NEWS IP

VOICE OF THE SILENT MAJORITIES

How Climate Co-Benefit Strategies Are Shaping Future Actions*



A workshop on "The Role of Climate Co-Benefit Methodologies for Strengthening Climate Action by Indian Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs)" was recently held by the Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) in collaboration with GIZ. Shri Sandeep Kumar Gupta, Chairman of SCOPE and CMD of GAIL, India, inaugurated the event. Also present were Ms. Taina Dyckhoff from the German Embassy, Shri Atul Sobti, Director General of SCOPE, and Shri Sujoy Choudhury, Chairman of the SCOPE Sustainability Committee and Director at IOCL.

The workshop aimed to address how climate co-benefit methodologies can enhance climate action undertaken by Indian PSEs. A consortium of Oxford Policy Management, CEEW, and Perspectives Climate Group served as the world's knowledge partners, contributing their expertise to the discussions.

Executives from 22 PSEs across India participated in the workshop, engaging in meaningful dialogue and exchanging ideas on implementing climate co-benefit strategies. Their involvement demonstrated a strong commitment to addressing climate-related challenges within the public sector.

The insights gained from the workshop are expected to guide future climate action plans among Indian PSEs, highlighting the growing importance of integrating these methodologies into organizational strategies.

Semantics of CSR and Reframing of Narratives



Mehak Uppal
Manager CSR, HPCL

The viral ugly sweater campaign headlined by the Canadian movie star Ryan Reynolds was back again during the last Christmas season. It's no joke that the video has helped the SickKids foundation raise more than 2.2 million USD in the past.

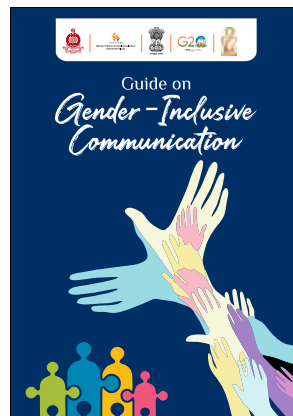
The series is based on the premise that it's natural for children to be moody troublemakers and it is not 'normal' for them to be too well-behaved. To borrow its language, "Kids are no pricks when they're sick." At one moment in the video, the kids surround the star and shout in chorus "We love you Ryan", only for him to gaze straight into the zooming camera and remark "That's so sad!"

The relatability factor of tantrum-throwing children is sure to bring a smile to everyone's face specially since it's quite a deviation from the conventional approach of showing innocent angels expressing gratitude for having received help. Its USP lies in the ability to reframe the narrative to evoke empathy instead of pathos and subtly put the 'apparent' givers and takers on the same platform.

Many NGOs have now started introducing the children they support with titles such as "Meet our Troublemakers". While there has always been a focus on filling colours in these narratives to create human interest, this goes a step further to show them in all shades.

The value of semantics and the power of the label of words we put on a person / situation is not unknown. There is a reason why the Government of India popularized the use of the term "Divyang" (Specially Abled) to replace "Viklang" (disabled). Words, knowingly and unknowingly, define what we think and how we feel about a project. It is not just limited to the day-to-day media we casually consume but also influences the technical aspects.

Our institutions of eminence are also focused on 'talking the talk'. Supreme Court of India issued a handbook last year offering guidance on avoiding gender stereotypes in judicial decision-making and writing. Similarly, Minister of Women and Child Development (MWCD) launched a 'Guide on Gender-Inclusive Communication' prepared by the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) in collaboration with UN WOMEN and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.



In the popular framework by OECD DAC Network on Development Evaluation, it is mentioned that the usage of the term beneficiaries was debated before deciding to include it. The other terms suggested were rights holders/ affected people. The term external funding was removed while talking about Sustainability to bring home the fact that social and environmental sustainability matter as much as economic sustainability. Similarly, the term "differential impact" is being introduced lately to focus on varied impact of the same project on different strata of the target population.

In a recent International Conference on CSR organized by the Institute of Directors, a speaker proposed how the term expenditure should be replaced with investment in the context of CSR. Whether one looks at it in terms of the conventional long-term economic returns that rake in through development initiatives or the popular pay-it-forward model; it is a more enthusiastic and accurate way of looking at the bigger picture.

Let's hope that one day equality gets so ingrained in the language of CSR that, like the child in the Ryan Reynolds video, our 'beneficiaries' feel comfortable to walk upto us and say "You look stupid in that sweater!"

Punishments under The Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946



Dr. Rajen Mehrotra*

Introduction

The Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946 was brought in to have a uniformity in service rules for the workers of an industrial establishment having one hundred or more workers. Prior to the enactment of this Act the employer was free to fix the service conditions of the workers according to the employer's will. The Act replaced the contractual terms of service by statutory terms of service.

The Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946 is presently not applicable to (i) industrial establishments covered by the Bombay Industrial Relations Act, 1946, (ii) industrial establishments covered by the Madhya Pradesh Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1961, and (iii) industrial establishments employing persons covered by various Civil Service Rules.

The Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946 is also not applicable to apprentices engaged by an establishment under The Apprentices Act, 1961 and also not applicable to

the contract labour engaged by the establishment under The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970.

This threshold limit on the applicability of The Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946 is raised from one hundred to three hundred under The Industrial Relations Code 2020. In the case of Industrial establishments having certified Standing Orders, the same will continue under The Industrial Relations Code 2020, even if they have less than three hundred workers.

Serving of show cause notice

There are establishments where the delinquent worker refuses to accept the show cause notice or refuses to sign an acknowledgement of having received the show cause notice. Where managements of establishments, anticipate such a behaviour, they keep two employees as witnesses while serving the show cause notice, and record the outcome with the

signature of these employees as witnesses.

Establishments have also been serving the show cause notice or other intimation documents to the delinquent worker using the services of the Indian postal service (i.e. Registered mail Acknowledgement Due and / or by Speed Post) to the last known residential address available with the establishment. If the documents, so sent is not delivered/ refused to be accepted and returned, then the establishment keeps the unopened sealed envelope for record and proceeds further.

In the present electronic era, establishments have also collected the personal email and mobile number of all the workers and utilises the same to serve the show cause notice and other intimations by email and WhatsApp. In certain cases, the establishment also gets the show cause notice/ other intimation documents printed in the local newspaper, as a process of intimation to the delinquent worker.

*Past President of Industrial Relations Institute of India (IRII), Former Senior Employers' Specialist for South Asian Region with International Labour Organization (ILO) and Former Corporate Head of HR with ACC Ltd. and Former Corporate Head of Manufacturing and HR with Novartis India Ltd. Continues to maintain close links with the academic world as a visiting faculty with some of the IIMs. E-Mail: rajenmehrotra@gmail.com

Domestic Enquiry

In every Domestic Enquiry the Principles of Natural Justice have to be followed and these principles aim to provide fair, impartial and reasonable justice. These principles include: (i) No person should be a judge in his own cause, (ii) No decision should be given against a party without affording them a reasonable hearing and (iii) Quasi-judicial enquiries should be held in good faith and without bias, and not arbitrarily or unreasonably.

If a domestic enquiry against a worker is to be conducted then the worker is served a charge sheet stating the charges against him / her and asking the worker to submit his / her explanation within a certain specified time frame. The charge sheeted worker is permitted to appear himself / herself for defending or have a coworker to defend or by an office bearer of a trade union of which he / she is a member. The charge sheeted worker is also permitted to produce witnesses in his / her defence and also cross examine the witnesses of the management. The enquiry presently is conducted in English or Hindi or in the language of the state where the enquiry is being conducted based on the choice of the worker and the person defending the worker.

Whenever any worker is suspended by the employer pending investigation or inquiry into complaints or charges of misconduct against him / her, the employer has to pay the prescribed subsistence allowance as per The Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946.

On the completion of the domestic enquiry proceedings, it would be advisable for the establishment to give a copy of the report and findings of the enquiry officer to the delinquent worker, although the same is not specified to be complied with under The Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946. This is to be on the safer side of the law, when litigation comes up at a later date.

There are certified standing orders of certain establishments, where there is a clause for an appeal by the delinquent worker, against the order of the disciplinary authority. In such establishments the same needs to be complied with by the management of the establishment and more so where the punishment involves dismissal.

Present trend on appointing Enquiry Officer

Establishments in the past got domestic enquiries conducted by appointing one of their officers as an enquiry officer and I have had the opportunity of being an enquiry officer in my corporate career. Presently most enterprises avail the services of an external person as an enquiry officer. Quite often the external enquiry officers are retired HR professionals from another establishment or lawyers who are well conversant with the procedure of conducting domestic enquiry.

The enquiry officer needs to ensure that a domestic enquiry is completed in reasonable time, and does not linger because of short duration of each sitting or adjournments.

Punishment

Punishment against workers involves a structured process that aims to correct employee behavior, maintain discipline, and ensure compliance with organizational standards.

In awarding punishment, the authority of the establishment awarding punishment should take into account the gravity of the misconduct, the previous record, if any, of the worker and any other extenuating or aggravating circumstances that may exist. The punishment awarded should be commensurate with the misconduct.

The types of punishments that can be given by an employer to a worker as per The Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946 are: --

- (i) Warning or censure
- (ii) Fine
- (iii) Suspension without wages for a period not more than four days
- (iv) Dismissal without notice

There are establishments that have issued discharge simpliciter to a worker and stated that they are prepared to lead evidence in court, if desired by the worker, hence they do not conduct a domestic enquiry.

Section 11A was incorporated in The Industrial Disputes Act 1947 by an amendment in 1971 relating to the punishment of discharge or dismissal. When an industrial dispute relating to the discharge or dismissal of a worker is referred to a Labour Court / Industrial Tribunal, and in the course of the proceedings, the Labour Court / Industrial Tribunal, as the

case may be, is satisfied that the order of discharge or dismissal was not justified, it may, by its award set aside the order of discharge or dismissal and direct reinstatement of the worker on such terms and conditions, if any, as it thinks fit or give such other relief to the worker including the award of any lesser punishment in lieu of discharge or dismissal as the circumstances of the case may require.

Also, the Fifth Schedule of The Industrial Disputes Act 1947 deals with discharge or dismissal of workers by management.

As per the schedule (i) utter disregard of the principles of natural justice in the conduct of domestic enquiry or with undue haste or (ii) for misconduct of a minor technical character, without having any regard to the nature of the particular misconduct or the past record or service of the worker, thereby leading to disproportionate punishment will amount to an Unfair Labour Practice.

Hence, most dismissal cases of a worker are litigated under The Industrial Disputes Act 1947 by the delinquent worker or his / her trade union. Powers have been also vested with the labour courts to hold a fresh enquiry before the presiding officer of the court, if the enquiry or its process are challenged as unfair and for mala fide intentions.

From these sections cited above it is evident that the management of an establishment in present time, needs to be careful in taking decisions of dismissal, as it is subject to supervisory powers of the courts.

Limitations on the Range of Punishments

When one goes through the range of punishments permitted as per the Act, we observe that between Dismissal and Suspension for a period not more than four days, there is no other prescribed permitted punishment under The Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946. This does lead to situations where dismissal which is the harshest punishment becomes the next alternative.

Probably another alternative range of suspension for a period from five to fifteen days without pay and from sixteen to thirty days without pay would help in avoiding the harsh punishment of dismissal plus the litigation that follows. However, there is no such provision in the Act.

Decision of dismissal of a worker is by and large opposed by the aggrieved worker as well as the trade union, unless it involves an individual's fraud / theft case. Most dismissal cases end up in litigation which then drags on for years to reach finality of a decision.

In decisions of management involving dismissal of trade union activists / trade union leaders, these by and large result in varying forms of turbulences by the workforce and their trade union. The objective of this turbulence by the workforce and their trade union is a demand for withdrawal / cancellation of the dismissal order through a show of strength. This does lead to unpleasant situations of confrontation on either side, finally resulting in some type of settlement.

Innovations on the Range of Punishments

In my corporate career, I witnessed an innovative approach adopted by a multinational pharma company in Mumbai, awarding punishment to a group of delinquent workers. When the domestic enquiry was completed and the delinquent workers were guilty of the misconduct, the management was in a dilemma of awarding punishment as "Suspension for a period of four days" was too mild a punishment whilst "Dismissal without notice" was too harsh a punishment. The management of the establishment after careful thinking discussed and signed a settlement under The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 wherein the delinquent workers and their trade union accepted 15 days suspension for each of the delinquent workers found guilty of the misconduct. This approach avoided a turbulent situation and also ensured appropriate punishment to the delinquent workers.

In my corporate career, I had to deal with some chronic absenteeism cases of workers, who had been punished few times with suspension, and there was no improvement in their attendance record. In these cases, we were to take a decision of dismissal. I chose not to sign the order of dismissal and visit each of these workers at their residence along with an HR personnel from the company and meet these workers with their family and understand the reason for this chronic absenteeism and the views of the family members. I asked each of these workers to meet me in my office, took an

apology letter and an undertaking from each of them on being present for the next six months without absenteeism, otherwise this letter of theirs will be treated as a resignation. They concerned workers agreed to sign and give me this undertaking, rather than facing punishment of dismissal as a result of the domestic enquiry findings. This approach helped in curbing the chronic absenteeism cases without having to dismiss any of these delinquent workers.

There are also establishments that give an option to the worker to resign, rather than being dismissed, so as to keep the employees past employment

record clean and not become a hindrance for future employment. The establishment also gives a relieving and experience letter without quoting the misconduct plus ensuring timely payment of all terminal benefits including gratuity.

Conclusion

The Industrial Relations Code 2020, when made operational will subsume “The Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946” by introducing “Fixed Term Employment” as one more form of employment and the threshold limit on applicability being raised from one hundred to

three hundred on the applicability of the Act. Enterprise having less than 300 workers and not having certified standing orders, still have time to get certified Standing Orders approved from the appropriate authority, before The Industrial Relations Code 2020 becomes operational.

As for limitations on the range of punishments, these will continue even when The Industrial Relations Code 2020 is made operational and establishments will have to live with them. However, establishments can find innovative solution similar to the ones cited above or undertake further innovation.



Heart, Hearing & Noise Pollution: What we should know?



Dr. H. K. Chopra*



Dr. Nidhi Dhawan**

There is a beautiful expression about potential of sound by William Blake. It says

“This life’s five windows of the soul,

Distort the heavens from pole to pole

And teach us to believe a lie

When we see with, not through the eye.”

Introduction

Noise pollution is one of the types of pollution we face daily. Like air pollution, water pollution, soil pollution and other types, noise pollution has a major impact on our health. Atmospheric pollution is not the only pollution we go through, but noise pollution can bring destruction to our lives. According to the World Health Organization, noise pollution is a dangerous health issue. The European Environment (EEA) says noise pollution is responsible for 16,600 premature deaths in Europe alone. A person continuously facing noise pollution can start meeting health

issues and can be dangerous in the long term. Several unpleasant noise distractions can bring problems later in life. Cities have become noisier with car honking, loudspeakers; traffic, etc. leading to noise pollution. Construction of roads, buildings, apartments and other areas are also resulting in increased noise pollution

What is Sound ?

Sound is defined as "(a) Oscillation in pressure, stress, particle displacement, particle velocity, etc., propagated in a medium with internal forces (e.g., elastic or viscous), or the superposition of such propagated oscillation. (b) Auditory sensation evoked by the oscillation described in (a)." Sound can be viewed as a wave motion in air or other elastic media. In this case, sound is a stimulus. Sound can also be viewed as an excitation of the hearing mechanism that results in the perception of sound. In this case, sound is a sensation.

In Vedic science, specific sounds called “Mantras” are used to

create vibratory frequencies in the nervous system. There are Mantras for quietening the mind, expanding awareness and for activating healing impulses. Mantras can be long or short and can be spoken aloud or used silently. Vedic literature describes hundreds of Mantras, each with specific effects. This is an ancient form of healing which has measurable physiological benefits.

The sounds of nature have healing influence on our system.

The term primordial sound Meditation is practiced all over the world. If we listen to Primordial Sounds, which are basic vibrations of nature and are soothing to our nervous system, they may energize us. The sounds produced by the rustling of leaves or waves of the ocean or a waterfall or the chirping, non verbal sound produced by birds or the giggling laughter of a baby – are all primordial sounds. The instruments used by Lord Krishna as flute, by Lord Shiva as drum and by Sarasvati as

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Veena and by Lord Ganesha as conch (shank), were used to produce primordial sounds. Another Vedic expression says: "The essence of life is earth, and the essence of earth is water, The essence of water is plant and the essence of plant is human being, The essence of human being is speech; the essence of speech is thought, The essence of thought is sound and the essence of sound is primordial sound."

Sound Energy- You and I originate from primordial sounds. When an ovum fertilizes with a sperm, it produces sound, which we cannot perceive because of our limited hearing capability. Therefore, we use ultrasound. Everything in you and me is sound energy. Sound is within and sound is outside us. I use a stethoscope to listen to heart sounds, lung sounds and intestinal sounds. The only thing, which we have to do, is to maintain the rhythm of the sounds in this universe. Any disturbance in the rhythm of the sound signifies a disease. Gandharva music is very soothing for our nervous system. It has been documented that cows milk more when they are subjected to regular music and the babies born to mothers who were subjected to music therapy when they were pregnant have more intelligence. It has also been documented that patients in coma, when given a fair amount of music therapy, have improved their arousal time. It has been observed that plants grow and flowers blossom to their full potential when exposed to music. However, sound in the form of noise can prove detrimental. For instance, a study showed higher incidence of high blood

pressure and early deafness among children whose schools were located on the main road. As excess of sound may increase peripheral resistance thereby increases the blood pressure. Healing sound on the contrary may help in reducing the blood pressure to a very large extent.

In Primordial Sound Meditation (PSM), we dive down into the deeper levels of consciousness and bring the silence with us. It is the experience of timelessness in time-bound experience. By practicing this back and forth, we are likely to experience bliss and happiness. In PSM, we use, "Mantra". "Man" means mind. "Tra" means instrument of the mind. This mantra is called "Bija Mantra" (seed mantra). The mantras used in PSM are meaningless and are basic vibrations of nature that are soothing to the nervous system. The mantras used in PSM are derived by Vedic mathematic calculation depending on the date of birth, place of birth and time of birth. This sound is used when we become manifest from unmanifest. This sound is incorporated into the mantra. The first and the third component of the sound are the same for all the individuals but the middle component is individual-specific. Example, "Aum Shiva Namah" – "Shiva" is individual-specific. The word "Aum" is a universal divine sound (it is the triumverate divinity representing the combination of Gayatri, Savitri and Sarasvati) and represents all the three levels of consciousness – waking, breathing and sleeping, that is, sattvik, rajasik and tamasik. It also signifies generator, operator

and destroyer. It has five components: A, U, M, Dot and sound. It is the representative of all Gods. According to Mandukya Upanishad, this sound includes the past, present and future. According to Chandogya Upanishad, it represents the origin of all the three Vedas. It is the first sound, which came from the creator's mouth and it also represents Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh.

"Namah" means the state of love, compassion, humility, peace and harmony. When you are in that stage of consciousness in yourself and I am in that state of consciousness in myself, we are ONE. That is what "Namaste" means. It is not only the symbol of Air-India.

There are total 108 mantras. By recapitulating this mantra back and forth from the physical body, to the causal body effortlessly and gently, we may have three types of experiences. 1.) We may go to sleep. That means our body's physiology needs rest. 2.) We may have a number of thoughts, restlessness or boredom. Our mantra may change in rhythm, speed or volume or become distorted. Please bring it back gently to your awareness. 3.) We may slip into the gap, which is a stage of thoughtlessness and mantralessness. This is the state of pure silence, which is the field of pure potentiality and infinite possibility.

Human beings have heard these sounds through thousands of years of evolutionary time. Humanity has literally grown up with these vibrations, which are structured in our DNA. When we are completely cut off from the sounds of nature, as may be

the case in urban environment, we are deprived of the form of nourishment that is essential to health. When we chant "Aum". It is classic primordial mantra. "A" is non-local sound, "u" is also non-local sound as they are vowels and "m" is local as it consonant sound. Thus "Aum" expresses infinity and also brings infinity it to a single point (finite), or at the same time. Aum chanting take you to the fourth stage of consciousness i.e. "Atma Darshan" - Thuria -this is the experience when we slip into the gap and have "direct experience of the soul". This is the experience of nonlocal reality beyond space and time. This is pure awareness rather than awareness of something in particular. This is also where we find the thinker of the thought the real you. The real you, being nonlocal, cannot be found in the body, it is spaceless and timeless. It was never born and therefore it can never die. "A" component of the word "Aum" represents first state of consciousness "waking" state. This waking stage for most of the people is normal reality. Through contact with nonlocal field of pure potentiality during Aum chanting or meditation, the waking stage is recognize as limited and illusory. It also represents contact with physical body. The "u" component of the word Aum represents the second stage of consciousness - "Dreaming" stage of consciousness where we have more awareness in which the events are taking place. But when we are awakened, we describe dreams as a fabrication of our mind and we do not consider them to be real. This represents contact with subtle body. "M"

component of the word represent third stage of consciousness "Sleeping state" - which is dull state of consciousness with very little awareness. Chanting of the word "Aum" as mentioned above takes us to the fourth stage of consciousness what we call Atma Darshan. By experiencing Atma Darshan on regular basis in primordial sound meditation, the memory of eternity begins to remain with us even during sleep, dreaming and wakefulness. The experience of nonlocal reality begins to exist with a local experience and gradually three more levels of consciousness open to us. Thus the fifth state of consciousness what we call as "Cosmic consciousness" here we experience the local and the nonlocal awareness both at the same time. This also referred as a state of witnessing. We are no longer over shadow by good scenes or bad scenes as we recognize we are playing and infinity of rose. This take us to the sixth state of consciousness - "Divine consciousness", here we realize that the nonlocal field of spirit is not only in ourselves but also in everything else. We begin to appreciate everything at its most refined levels. We experience as if we are in the celestial world surrounded by divinity. This take us to the seventh state of consciousness what we call as "Unified consciousness", here we realize that at the level of spirit we are all one without separation, we are the universe. The Vedic expression is "Aham Brahamsmi". The Yantra that corresponds to Aum is called "ShriYantra". It is the most important yantra in Ayurveda. Every mantra has its own visual form, because sound and form

are intimately connected. Sound is information and form is the matter, which emerges from it. If we try this visual meditation through Shri Yantra we may notice tremendous nourishment influence on our health. In general, Vata type individual process information through sounds and touch. If you ask a Vata person, "what do you think of this idea?" He or she will look down for a moment and say, "it sounds good".

What is Noise ?

The word noise is derived from the Latin word 'Nausea', which means sickness in which one feels the need to vomit. Noise is the unpleasant and undesirable sound which leads to discomfort in human beings. The intensity of sound is measured in decibels (dB). The faintest sound that the human ear can hear is 1 Db. Due to increasing noise around the civilizations, noise pollution has become a matter of concern. Some of its major causes are vehicles, aircraft, industrial machines, loudspeakers, crackers, etc. When used at high volume, some other appliances also contribute to noise pollution, like television, transistor, radio, etc.

Noise is sound, chiefly unwanted, unintentional, or harmful sound considered unpleasant, loud, or disruptive to mental or hearing faculties. From a physics standpoint, there is no distinction between noise and desired sound, as both are vibrations through a medium, such as air or water. It is measured in decibel (dB). Normally noise which is less than 115 dB is tolerable (for a shorter period).

What is Noise Pollution

We know that a sound is a form

of energy. Sometimes the sound can be soothing to listen to and, at times, loud to hear. Sound can travel in the air and is produced by the vibration of objects. Regular exposure to a higher sound level that impacts humans and other living organisms is known as sound pollution. This article will help us understand what noise pollution is, the types of noise and pollution, and its causes and examples.

Noise pollution, or sound pollution, is the propagation of noise or sound with ranging impacts on the activity of human or animal life, most of which are harmful to a degree. According to the WHO, noise pollution is a noise above 65 dB, which can severely affect both humans and animals. A noise beyond 75 dB can be painful and will affect the person severely.

It is impossible to see the danger posed by noise pollution. On land and under the sea, you can't see it, but it still exists. Humans and other organisms can be affected adversely by noise pollution if it is an unwanted or disturbing sound.

A decibel is the measurement of sound. Rustling leaves (20-30 decibels) or thunderclaps (120 decibels) to the wail of sirens (120-140 decibels) are all sounds that occur naturally in the natural environment. If a person hears sounds whose decibel level reaches 85 decibels or higher, their ears can be damaged. The sounds of lawnmowers (90 decibels), trains (90 to 115 decibels), and rock concerts (110 to 120 decibels) are just a few familiar sources that exceed this threshold.

The presence of noise pollution has a daily impact on millions

of people. Hearing loss caused by noise is the most common health problem caused by noise exposure. Furthermore, loud noise can also lead to health problems such as hypertension, heart disease, sleep disturbances, and stress. All age groups are susceptible to these health problems, especially children. It has been shown that children living near loud airports and busy streets suffer from stress and other problems, such as memory problems, attention difficulties, and difficulties with reading.

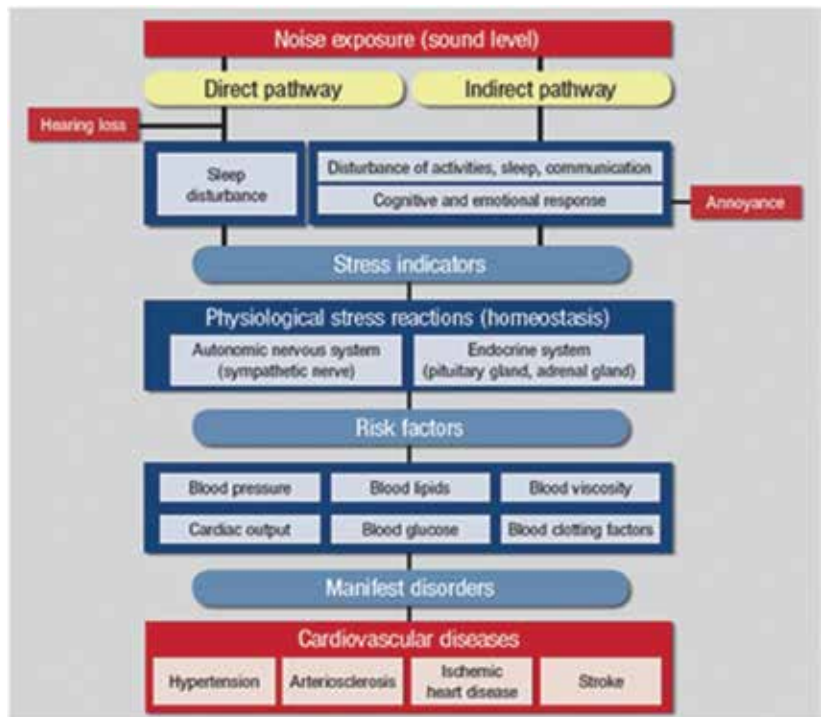
What does the research say about the impact of noise pollution on heart health?

Long-term exposure to traffic and railway noise was associated with deaths from most cardiovascular diseases in a study of over four million people. These risks were seen even below the World Health Organization's Environmental Noise guideline levels and were independent of

air pollution. Interestingly, higher levels of intermittent loud noises were also associated with heart disease suggesting that even the occasional jarring loud noise can be harmful to our health.

The health impacts of traffic noise were also seen in a study of approximately 240,000 people over eight years, where long-term exposure was associated with an increase in hypertension (high blood pressure). This impact was amplified when noise pollution was coupled with higher air pollution. Exposure to aircraft noise has been linked to increased cardiovascular inflammation and dysfunction in mice studies. The research found this increased immune response led to worse outcomes in mice that experienced a heart attack.

It's not just long-term aircraft noise exposure that can impact heart health, with a UK study finding one night of airplane noise was linked to a slight increase in



cardiovascular disease hospital admissions the following day.

How does noise pollution affect the heart ?

After adjusting for other factors that contribute to cardiovascular risk, they found that every 5-decibel increase in the average 24-hour noise level was associated with a 34% increase in heart attacks, hypertension, heart failure, irregular pulse, fast pulse, strokes, and other serious heart-related problems.

Noise pollution causes stress to our autonomic nervous system, the involuntary part of the nervous system that controls our organs and regulates internal mechanisms such as blood pressure, heart rate, breathing and digestion. When noise disturbances stimulate the sympathetic nervous system (a subset of the autonomic nervous system), the body releases the stress hormones cortisol, adrenaline and noradrenaline. Chronic exposure to these stress hormones damages the inner lining of blood vessels, a condition known as endothelial dysfunction, which is associated with various forms of cardiovascular disease.

Studies in mice who have been exposed to continuous aircraft noise compared to a control group exposed to “white noise” (a constant swoosh) showed an increase in blood pressure, endothelial dysfunction and increased marker of stress. The difference in the mice exposed to white noise versus aircraft noise suggests not all noises are created equally —noise patterns, frequency and exposure time all have impacts on heart health.

Still, while certain types of noise appear to be more harmful than others, most sounds above 50 db still increase a person’s risk of cardiovascular disease.

How does noise pollution affect the hearing

To understand how noise pollution can damage our hearing, we have to understand how we hear. Hearing depends on a series of events that change sound waves in the air into electrical signals. Our auditory nerve then carries these signals to the brain through a complex series of steps.

1. Sound waves enter the outer ear and travel through a narrow passageway called the ear canal, which leads to the eardrum.
2. The eardrum vibrates from the incoming sound waves and sends these vibrations to three tiny bones in the middle ear. These bones are called the malleus, incus, and stapes.
3. The bones in the middle ear couple the sound vibrations from the air to fluid vibrations in the cochlea of the inner ear, which is shaped like a snail and filled with fluid. An elastic partition runs from the beginning to the end of the cochlea, splitting it into an upper and lower part. This partition is called the basilar membrane because it serves as the base, or ground floor, on which key hearing structures sit.
4. Once the vibrations cause the fluid inside the cochlea to ripple, a traveling wave forms along the basilar membrane. Hair cells—sensory cells

sitting on top of the basilar membrane—ride the wave.

5. As the hair cells move up and down, microscopic hair-like projections (known as stereocilia) that perch on top of the hair cells bump against an overlying structure and bend. Bending causes pore-like channels, which are at the tips of the stereocilia, to open up. When that happens, chemicals rush into the cell, creating an electrical signal.
6. The auditory nerve carries this electrical signal to the brain, which translates it into a sound that we recognize and understand.

Noise-induced hearing loss can be caused by exposure to noises over 80 decibels. This hearing loss can be temporary or permanent. Loud, short bursts of noises, like a gunshot or an airplane overhead or bomb blast, can hurt our ears and can cause hearing damage right away.

Noise pollution can actually affect our entire bodies. A loud noise such as a bang can disturb digestion, alter your heartbeat and disrupt breathing patterns. Constant exposure to a loud noise can cause crankiness and make it difficult to sleep. Noise can even impact your blood pressure.

After attending a very noisy event like a fireworks show, you may experience a ringing sound in your ears. This ringing is tinnitus, and it can last just a few minutes or even a few days. Permanent hearing loss can result if there are several episodes of tinnitus. Age related hearing loss is due in part to this cumulative effect of hearing damage over a lifetime.

What can you do to reduce noise pollution?

Ways of reducing the impacts of noise pollution may include:

- Closing windows and doors in your home or office when there is excessive noise outside
- Protecting your ears by wearing earplugs or noise-cancelling headphones in noisy environments
- Reduce the loud volume of TV, Radio, Loudspeaker or mobile phones.
- Using sound-absorbing material in your home, e.g. double-glazed windows, carpet, rugs, etc
- Keeping music and other sounds in your home to an appropriate level
- Creating a dedicated quiet space in your home

- Visiting prospective properties at different times throughout the day when house hunting to get a sense of what neighbourhood noises you may be dealing with
- Being a considerate neighbour by keeping noise to a minimum and advising neighbours if there’s likely to be excess noise at your property, e.g. if you’re hosting a large social gathering
- Dampening disruptive sounds like road noise with more relaxing sounds, e.g. white noise machines or nature sound apps

15 Tips to manage Noise Pollution for Healthy Heart and Healthy Hearing.

1. Turn off your electronics when you do not use them.
2. Lower the volume when you watch TV or listen to music.

3. Remind drivers not to use the horn too much.
4. Avoid fireworks.
5. Speak, do not shout (try to set an example)
6. Stay away from Noisy area
7. Follow the Limits of Noise level
8. Control Noise level near sensitive areas
9. Create Healthy noise to eliminate unwanted noise
10. Notify Authorities about Disobedience of Noise Rules
11. Use Less horn while driving
12. We should plant more trees
13. We should use loudspeakers at low volume and should not play music too loudly during parties
14. We can turn off appliances which are not use.
15. Go Green by planning trees.



Understanding State-Owned Enterprises Reforms in China



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China has explored a path of State-owned Enterprises (SOE) reforms suiting China's national conditions and with Chinese characteristics since the launch of reform and opening-up. SOE reforms are a major component of the state capitalism reforms¹. The purpose of this paper is to discuss reform endeavors related to SOEs in China, their proposed direction, effectiveness, and the future agenda.

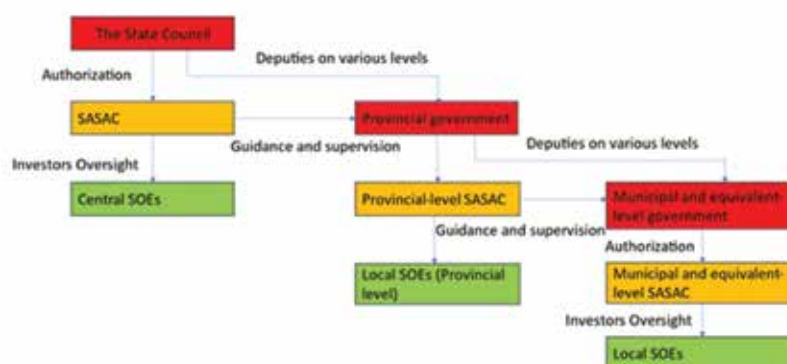
Why and How SOE Reforms?

SOE system reforms aim to establish a sound modern corporate system to move towards the establishment of a modern corporate system, promote corporatization and joint-stock system on a large scale, and adopt the limited liability system². The SOE Reform aims at improving corporate governance based on corporatization. The focus of SOE reforms is on separating government functions from enterprise management and separating state ownership functions from other functions of government. This is intended to be done by delinking SOEs from the administrative control of the ministries, allowing the market to play a decisive role in resource allocation and establishing

oversight authorities at the central, provincial, and municipal levels. The purpose of doing so is to delegate powers to SOEs to

enable them to make business decisions on their own. The oversight structure for Chinese SOEs is depicted below:

SOEs Regulatory Structure in China



The central SOEs are owned and managed by the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission (SASAC) which reports to the State Council. The Provincial-level SOEs are owned and controlled by Provincial-level SASAC which reports to the provincial government. The Local-level SOEs are owned and managed by municipal and equivalent-level organizations which report to the municipal and equivalent-level government.

The operational mechanism is under reforms to stimulate the inner vitality and dynamism of these enterprises. The operational

mechanism reforms relate to labor, wages, recruitment, and remuneration. SOEs are permitted to adopt market-oriented hiring and firing, contact-based personnel management, and differentiated remuneration. The performance assessment system is based on incentives and disincentives. As a result, the overall labor productivity related to the Central SOEs increased by 11.4 percent. The employee costs accounted for 8.5 percent of the total cost of production.

Periodization of SOE Reforms³

The SOE reforms can be divided

into three periods: 1949-1977, 1978-2002, and 2003 onwards. During the period 1949-1977, China's SOEs remarkably transformed from a position of weakness to strength and from reliant imitation to independent innovation. During the second period stretching from 1978-2002, China's SOEs released dividends and became a part of the market economy through modernization. During the third period stretching from 2003 onwards, China's SOEs have adopted commercial management practices and are supported by the State Council for high-quality development. It was in 1978 that the first reform initiative was mooted by appointing a General Manager under the leadership of the Party Committee sans Board of Directors (BoD). The Chinese government enacted the First Company Law in 1993 to corporatize SOEs. In 2002, the second reform initiative was launched by issuing a Corporate Governance Code for the Listed SOEs. In 2004, SASAC kicked off the pilot action of standardized BoD in Central SOEs which were supervised directly by SASAC. In 2021, the pilot action of standardized BoD in Central SOEs was required to apply to all SOEs.

The drive to advance the professionalization of the SOE board in recent years in China is continuing. Over 50 percent of board members should be outside directors. The boards are required to formulate strategies, make decisions, and prevent risks. The accountability of BoD is strengthened by evaluating internal and external board members. The BoD is required to

set up the audit committee and remuneration committee. The BoD has to attend management development programs.

SOE Reform Outcomes

Corporate Governance has become sounder and more efficient in China's SOEs. These enterprises must uphold a corporate governance mechanism with law-based and transparent rights and responsibilities, coordinated operation, and effective checks and balances.⁴ A Board of Directors has been established in 97 Central SOEs, 12,600 subsidiaries of central SOEs, 723 group companies of local SOEs, and 25,300 subsidiaries at various local levels. External directors enjoy the majority on boards. Communist Party Committee directs, and ensures implementation of the programs. The board of directors formulates strategies, makes decisions, and prevents risks. The management looks after the operations and implementation of the programs. The SOE oversight system has made capital management more efficient. It has reduced the list of matters for authorization and delegation of powers and law-based activities. It has also ushered in coordination among the central, provincial, and municipal oversight authorities. The oversight system of SOEs has helped promote mergers and acquisitions (M&A) among central SOEs. Since 2013, 50 central SOEs in 28 groups have undergone this exercise. 11 new central SOEs have been established to take the final count to 117 central SOEs. 347 provincial SOEs have also undergone mergers and acquisitions. M&A has made

SOEs leaner and healthier. It has accelerated the disposition of non-core businesses that lack advantages and assets and idle assets. It has resulted in the closing down 25,000 zombie companies.⁵ Subsidiaries running incurring deficits have been completely disposed of. The hierarchy has been reduced to less than 5 levels. The task of separating social obligations from SOEs and resolving leftover problems was completed by giving back the social obligations to governments and enhancing the capacity of public administration and services.

The tenure-based and contract-based systems for the managerial personnel have been fully carried out with the ratio surpassing 90 percent. The market-based employment mechanism has been adopted with a proportion of open recruitment nearing 100 percent. The market-based remuneration mechanism has been extended to cover SOEs. It has undergone continuous refinement. 90 percent of the enterprises have offered middle- and long-term incentives, benefiting over 500,00 employees. The continuous SOE reforms have taken the total assets of these enterprises to 289 trillion RMB (US\$ 39.9 trillion), resulting in an average annual growth rate of revenue of 5.9 percent, an average growth rate of profit of 7.3 percent, and an average annual growth rate of capital of 10 percent. Central SOEs registered an operating revenue of 39.8 trillion yuan (US\$ 5.5 trillion), a total profit of 2.6 trillion yuan, and a net profit attributable to shareholders of the parent company of 1.1 trillion

yuan (US\$ 152 billion). The return on equity in Central SOEs was 6.6 percent. The pre-assessment of major risks, high-risk business areas, and overseas operational risk were carried out.

New Breakthroughs in SOE Reforms

SOE reforms have registered breakthroughs in building a modern enterprise system through AI, making SOEs innovation entities, investing in emerging industries, and initiating digital and green transformation. There has been a focus on core business industries, stepping up M&A, and closing down inefficient enterprises that are continuously running in the red. The state of corporate governance is being improved by empowering the board of directors, enhancing the professional expertise of external directors, hiring and firing, and making remuneration mechanisms innovative and efficient. SOEs have to go through a system of performance assistance and capacity building at different levels. The shareholders are enabled to play a greater role in corporate governance. SOEs have to compete with private enterprises and MNCs. SOEs have to be China's extended economic arm in foreign countries.

Environmental, Social, and Economic Sustainability

China's SOEs are propelling themselves forward with innovation, coordination, green, openness, and sharing. China's SOEs are committed to sustainable development, which is actively pushed by SASAC, which oversees the SOEs. SASAC

has integrated sustainable development into enterprise assessment and evaluation indicators and has employed many approaches to increase SOEs' knowledge of sustainable development. SASAC has set up communication channels to share the successes of SOEs in sustainable development.

Central SOEs firmly follow the path of green development, implementing the concept of harmonious coexistence between humans and nature. They actively and prudently promote carbon peak and carbon neutrality to accelerate the green transformation of development mode. Additionally, they comprehensively improve the efficiency of energy and resource utilization, promote emission reduction and carbon reduction in key industries, and strictly control the investment in projects with high energy consumption, high emissions, and overcapacity. SOEs in China are cutting down energy consumption, sulfur dioxide emissions, ammonia nitrogen emissions, coal overcapacity, and steel overcapacity. The proportion of installed capacity for clean energy power generation of central SOEs is on the increase. China National Petroleum Corporation is exploring a collaborative management model that mutually integrates, promotes, and benefits oil and gas production and ecological protection. Central SOEs actively participate in disaster relief and rural revitalization and continue to support public welfare. Central SOEs have invested about 100 billion RMB in poverty elevation in 246 countries.

SOEs are protected and given strategic refuse.⁶ A starring role of SOEs signifies the reputation it holds for the state and party. They are standing firm and helping build invincible state capitalism. The SOE reforms have come far ahead and re-engineered a newer and more dynamic brand of state capitalism. The total number of enterprises is exceedingly more than 150,000 is still owned by the central and local governments. The share of industrial assets amounts to 40 percent. The SOEs will continue to be the last outposts of the Chinese state. The SASAC has launched the Renewing Action for Strategic Emerging Industries and the Sailing Action for Future Industries, focusing on the new generation of mobile communication, artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and new materials, as well as the information industry, respectively. The upgrading of transformation of traditional industries was accelerated and improved. The SASAC has implemented the program for the digital transformation of SOEs, with pilot projects first carried out in 107 subsidiaries of central SOEs. 117 intelligent plants and 304 excellent scenarios were selected for the National Intelligent Manufacturing Pilot Demonstration Action. It has formulated and implemented the program for carbon neutrality in SOEs and selected 91 demonstration projects featuring advanced green and low-carbon technologies.

The SASAC has endeavored to discover more untapped reserves and increase production, and worked hard to transform the energy mix, promote the

clean and efficient utilization of coal, and accelerate the pace of developing non-fossil fuels like wind and photovoltaic power generation. The principal position of SOEs in scientific and technological innovation was enhanced. The construction of the innovation system of SOEs was intensified constantly. The measures for evaluating the operating performance of chief executives of central SOEs' is to be a classification-based assessment featuring "one industry, one set of policies". The quality and capability of the regulators at all levels are under transformation to enable SOEs to deliver effectively.

Reforming Central SOEs

Opening up is the hallmark of contemporary China.⁷ As the main force of Chinese enterprises "going global", central SOEs have shown six highlights in the implementation of the global development initiative, global security initiative, and global civilization initiative.⁸

Firstly, Central SOEs actively integrate into the worldwide wave of development and offer Chinese solutions for economic recovery, cooperation, and governance reform on a global scale. Secondly, Central SOEs promote the economic development of the host country through tax contributions, increasing local employment, spreading new technologies, upgrading public facilities, and other means. Thirdly, Central SOEs adhere to the principles of green and low-carbon development in their overseas operations, prioritizing pollution prevention and control measures as well as biodiversity conservation efforts. Central SOEs

aim to become an exemplary advocates for global low-carbon development and a visionary promoter of eco-friendly habitats. Fourthly, Central SOEs share the fruits of development of Central SOEs, improve the people's livelihood in their localities, and actively strengthen cultural exchanges and cooperation with other countries in the process of "going global". Fifthly, Central SOEs further enhance their compliance operations, implement information disclosure and responsibility communication through diverse channels, and reinforce the management of investor relations and the protection of investors' rights and interests. Finally, Central SOEs embrace the vision of a global community of shared futures by effectively utilizing environmental, social, and governance (ESG) tools to attain sustainable development goals.

As the main representatives of China's large multinational corporations, central SOEs play a leading role in overseas development. In recent years, there has been a continuous acceleration in the internationalization efforts of central SOEs. As of March 2021, central SOEs boasted more than 8,000 institutions and projects in more than 180 countries and regions, with 1.25 million overseas employees and nearly 8 trillion RMB (US\$ 1.1 trillion) of overseas assets. There are 38 central SOEs on the list of China's top 100 transnational corporations in 2023. Six Central SOEs, namely CNPC, Sinochem Holdings, SINOPEC, COSCO SHIPPING, CNOOC, and State Grid have secured positions on

the prestigious list of the top 100 global transnational corporations in 2023.

Central SOEs pursue innovation-driven development and industrial coordination, deepen cooperation in frontier areas such as intelligent manufacturing and digital economy, and foster new drivers for high-quality Belt and Road cooperation. Central SOEs have invested in over 5,000 cooperation projects in 140 countries. They have successfully built several major and landmark projects, including the Piraeus Port in Greece, the China-Laos Railway, the Jakarta-Bandung High-speed Railway, and the Belo Monte Ultra High-voltage Project in Brazil. Those projects have conveyed to the international community the confidence and strength of Chinese enterprises. Central SOEs are engaged in promoting local economic and social development, growth of tax revenue, increasing local employment, accelerating the dissemination of technology, and serving the local green transformation through pollution prevention and control. These enterprises adhere to strengthening compliance operations and standardizing corporate governance through information disclosure, overseas assets management, strengthening investor relations management and equity protection, and continuously strengthening risk control.

Sustainable Development indicators have been incorporated into the assessment and evaluation indicators of enterprises, with various methods to raise the SOEs' awareness of sustainable development. Communication platforms have been set up to disseminate the SOEs'

achievements in sustainable development through multiple channels. Central SOEs firmly follow the path of green development, implementing the concept of harmonious coexistence between humans and nature. These enterprises actively and prudently promote carbon neutrality to accelerate the green transformation of development mode. Additionally, they comprehensively improve the efficiency of energy and resource utilization, promote emission reduction and carbon reduction in key industries, and strictly control investments in projects

with high energy consumption, high emissions, and overcapacity.

Conclusion

State Capitalism in China marches ahead from Mao's gradual elimination of the 'three great differences' to Deng's economic re-modeling known as the "Great Leap Forward". China's state capitalism is moving from 'politics in command' to 'economics in command'. SOE Reforms have proved to be the cornerstone of the Chinese Reforms.⁹ SOEs operate at the three levels of the Chinese Economy: Central,

Provincial, and Local. SOEs have been strategically spread in essential sectors such as energy, finance, infrastructure, and media and entertainment. They share the responsibility of the global economy today and the significant rise of the Chinese economy during the last five decades.

In 2000, the Fortune 500 list included 27 SOEs, which increased to 102 in 2017, 119 in 2019, and 82 in 2021. Their total revenue accounts for almost 70% of China's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

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Quantifying Climate Co-Benefits and Maximizing Impact – Forestry Initiatives and Single-Use Plastic (SUP) Ban

Climate co-benefits are secondary benefits arising from developmental programs or initiatives aimed at sustainable development, even if they don't directly focus on climate change. These benefits play a crucial role in climate change mitigation and adaptation. For instance, afforestation and reforestation projects, which primarily target biodiversity and land restoration, also act as carbon sinks, thereby helping in the reduction of greenhouse gases. Generally, these co-benefits are overlooked by-products of developmental programs but hold significant value for climate action reporting. Addressing the existing gaps in identifying and quantifying these climate co-benefits is essential, particularly in evaluating their mitigation and adaptation impacts.

The adoption of climate co-benefit methodology, a systematic approach to identifying, evaluating, and quantifying additional positive outcomes from sustainable development and climate action initiatives beyond their primary objectives, has immense potential to revolutionize the comprehensive impact assessment of climate actions. These methodologies can be developed for nearly all sustainable actions and typically progress through stages such

as initial development, pilot testing, integration, and capacity building for stakeholders. Examples of actions for which climate co-benefit methodology can be designed include energy efficiency improvements, renewable energy adoption, sustainable agriculture practices, sustainable waste management (e.g., single-use plastic management), afforestation and reforestation, improved public transport systems, sustainable urban planning, water resource management, climate-resilient infrastructure, and behavioural change initiatives.

For more detailed insights on climate co-benefits and their assessment methodology, refer to our article “Unlocking the Hidden Gains: Exploring the Climate Co-benefits of Sustainable Actions” in the *July Issue of Kaleidoscope*.

Building on that discussion, this article will focus on forestry initiatives and the single-use plastic (SUP) ban as climate actions with multiple co-benefits. Additionally, it will explore how the Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) is assisting Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) in India to leverage these climate actions by measuring and quantifying their environmental and societal impacts through the institutionalization of climate co-benefit methodologies.

Forestry Initiatives and Climate Co-benefits

A forestry initiative is a program, project, or policy aimed at enhancing forest health, protecting biodiversity, mitigating climate change, and supporting local communities. National initiatives and policies such as the National Afforestation Programme (NAP), Green India Mission (GIM), Forest Fire Protection and Management (FFPM) Scheme, and government-led plantation drives like the ‘All-India Tree Plantation Campaign’ and ‘Van Mahotsav’ are already yielding positive carbon sequestration results. These efforts contribute to India’s commitment to creating an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through increased forest and tree cover by 2030, as outlined in its updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). In general, forestry initiatives offer numerous co-benefits beyond carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation, such as –

- Supporting biodiversity enhancement
- Stabilizing soil, preventing erosion thus soil conservation
- Act as buffers against natural disasters like floods and landslides



- Enhanced groundwater recharge by reducing runoff supporting water management
- Moderate local temperatures and reduce the urban heat island effect
- Generate employment opportunities, such as the collection of non-timber forest products like fruits and medicinal plants, and support livelihoods through forest-related industries
- Absorb pollutants and release oxygen, improving air quality and public health
- Green spaces provide recreational areas, enhancing mental and physical health

Beyond the co-benefits of afforestation and reforestation previously mentioned, there are numerous other potential benefits that highlight the importance of creating new forests along with protecting & restoring existing forests to maintain a sustainable balance between ecological health and human well-being.

In addition to government initiatives, public sector enterprises (PSEs) and corporate forestry initiatives promoting reforestation, afforestation, and urban greening contribute to national goals, prepare companies for future carbon markets by earning green credits, and support corporate reporting under ESG/BRSR/CSR frameworks. Many PSEs have undertaken significant efforts in this regard. For instance, NTPC has planted 20 million trees to date around its projects, CIL planted 31.01 lakh saplings over 1,613 hectares in 2022-23, and SAIL has planted 218.2 lakh trees since its inception. Among coal and lignite PSEs, over 10,942 hectares of land have been greened with more than 236.40 lakh saplings in the last five years.

Besides these large-scale afforestation/reforestation efforts, several urban forestry initiatives are being undertaken by corporates such as Terrace

Gardens, Street Tree Planting Programs, Roadside Plantations, Urban Parks and Green Spaces, Theme Gardens (such as Medicinal, Palm, and Butterfly Gardens), Green Roofs and Vertical Gardens, Green Corridors and Urban Trails, River and Waterfront Restoration, and managing Natural Habitats like Grasslands, Hills, Scrub, and Mangrove Forests. These efforts have played a crucial role in making cities more sustainable, resilient, and liveable by integrating nature into the built environment.

Initiatives towards banning SUPs and their Climate Co-benefits

Plastics contribute to approximately 3.3% of global GHG emissions, and India is one of the largest producers of single-use plastic (SUP) polymers. India committed to phasing out SUPs by banning the manufacture, distribution, stocking, sale,



9 REASONS TO REFUSE SINGLE-USE PLASTIC

1. Made from fossil fuels
2. High carbon footprint
3. Will be here in hundreds of years
4. Only 9% percentage is recycled
5. Leaks toxins into food & drink
6. Causes hormone disruption & cancers
7. Pollutes our oceans
8. Kills marine animals and birds
9. Enters our food chains

19 single-use plastic items that were prohibited from July 1, 2022

- Plastic sticks**: Earbuds, Balloons, Candy, Ice cream, Flags, Straws
- Packaging/wrapping films**: Sweet box, Invitation card, Cigarette packets
- Other items**: Plastic or PVC banners less than 100 microns, Polystyrene (thermocol) for decoration
- Cutlery items**: Plates, Cups, Glasses, Forks, Spoons, Knives, Trays, Stirrers

PLASTIC WASTE

- > Around 1,113.2 TPD of plastic waste is generated in the city
- > It is about 10% of the total municipal solid waste generation
- > The nationwide ban on 19 single-use plastic items and carry bags with 120 microns failed in the city

DEALING WITH PLASTIC WASTE

Status of domestically generated plastic waste in India

40% of plastic waste is recycled	Plastic waste generation: 25,940 tonnes/day (TPD)	Plastic waste collection: 15,564 TPD (60% of total)	Uncollected plastic waste: 10,376 TPD (40% of total)
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Thickness of polythene bags to be increased from 50 microns to 120 microns from September 30, 2021

What's a single-use plastic item?
Plastic commodity intended to be used once before being disposed of or recycled

Single-use plastic items to be banned from January 1, 2022
Earbuds with plastic sticks, plastic sticks for balloons, plastic flags, candy sticks, ice-cream sticks and polystyrene (thermocol) for decoration

Single-use plastic items to be banned from July 1, 2022
Plates, cups, glasses, cutlery such as forks, spoons, knives, straws, trays, wrapping/packaging films around sweet boxes, invitation cards, and cigarette packets, plastic/PVC banners less than 100 microns and straws

(Ban will not be applicable on items, including carry bags, that are made of compostable plastic material)

Photos: Piyal Bhattacharjee

and use of 19 selected single-use plastic items, effective July 1, 2022. While some progress has been made with the ban on selected SUP items, challenges remain due to the heavy reliance on single-use plastics by India's street food sector, households, institutions, and more.

Banning SUPs offers several co-benefits beyond reducing GHG emissions from the manufacturing and refinement processes. These benefits include protecting marine and terrestrial ecosystems, promoting sustainable alternatives, improving waste management, conservation of natural resources (petroleum), and providing health and environmental advantages. However, obstacles like economic considerations, ineffective policy implementation, a limited range of alternatives, consumer behaviour, lack of awareness,

and the absence of frameworks to measure the impacts of bans hinder progress.

Many PSEs and other corporates have drafted policies and taken initiatives to avoid or ban single-use plastics (SUPs) within their organizations. However, for PSEs in the petrochemical industry, it is challenging to ensure that the raw materials they supply are not used for SUP manufacturing by Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), as these materials are also used to make non-SUP goods. Despite this, banning SUPs, to the extent possible, could significantly enhance the environmental sustainability strategies of Indian PSEs. PSEs may hesitate to undertake these projects due to uncertainty about their measurable impacts and overall usefulness. To address this, institutionalizing a co-benefit assessment methodology

followed by a pilot study could help understand the feasibility and positive impacts on PSE's sustainability efforts. This approach would also identify associated challenges and barriers and provide a cost-benefit analysis before implementing large-scale bans.

Role of Climate Co-benefit Methodologies in PSEs

Indian Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) contribute nearly 14% to GDP and employ around 1.5 million people, playing a crucial role in self-reliant nation-building. Many PSEs operate in sectors that are hard to abate due to their inherent operational nature, making them significant contributors to national GHG emissions. To align with national climate commitments, many PSEs have adopted best available technologies, renewable energy



sources, and climate co-benefit strategies. However, PSEs in these challenging sectors face difficulties in meeting regulatory requirements, achieving economic efficiency, maintaining international competitiveness, and fulfilling social responsibilities.

In this context, climate co-benefit methodologies are essential as PSE's climate actions vary widely across different sectors, often constrained by limited options for climate actions due to inherent nature of carbon emitters and limited assessment tools. Institutionalizing these climate co-benefit methodologies can help PSEs navigate regulatory frameworks, boost economic efficiency, maintain global competitiveness, and uphold their social responsibilities. By adopting these strategies, PSEs can balance trade-offs, leverage synergies, and integrate sustainable development with environmental goals.

SCOPE's Initiatives for Institutionalising Climate Co-benefit Methodology in PSEs

Recognising the need of institutionalisation of climate co-benefit methodologies in PSEs, SCOPE has embarked on a project "Capacity Enhancement of Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) in India on Climate Action" in collaboration with GIZ, a German public-federal enterprise, that aims to embed climate co-benefit methodologies within selected PSEs. Key areas for developing climate co-benefit methodologies

include forestry initiatives (urban forestry) and the banning of single-use plastics (SUPs) in PSEs.

Under this project, SCOPE and GIZ organized a regional workshop on "The Role of Climate Co-Benefit Methodologies for Strengthening Climate Action by Indian Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs)" in North India (New Delhi) on 23-24 July 2024. The workshop was facilitated by technical experts from Oxford Policy Management, the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), and the Perspectives Climate Group¹.

The proceedings during post-inaugural sessions are summarised below as workshop objectives and outcomes –

1. Introduction of climate co-benefits and Indo-German Support Project

Supported by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK), the CAP project assists the Indian Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in enhancing policies and programs to strengthen climate action and achieve India's NDCs through a climate co-benefits approach. The project aims to build the capacities of stakeholders at national and state levels to develop innovative approaches for NDC implementation and climate policy. Focusing on circular economy/resource efficiency and forests/biodiversity, the project highlights key areas for measuring climate co-benefits. During workshop, participants

were also introduced to the fundamentals of climate co-benefits, showcasing examples of how integrating these strategies into climate policies and projects can enhance their effectiveness and reach.

2. Understanding the endeavours undertaken by the PSEs in assessing climate co-benefits

Industry experts showcased their initiatives in urban forestry and plastic recycling/SUP bans, highlighting the co-benefits achieved from these efforts. Given the diverse sectors represented by the participants, these presentations spurred interest in exploring the effectiveness of climate co-benefit methodologies within their respective fields.

3. Introducing Draft Assessment Framework (DAF) and collate feedback from the stakeholders on its suitability, scope of implementation and data availability

The DAFs for SUP ban and urban forestry detailed the methodology and criteria for evaluating, measuring, and quantifying climate co-benefits and their environmental and societal impacts. As PSEs will be the primary users of these methodologies, their feedback and input were solicited to refine the DAFs, ensuring they are well-suited for integration into existing reporting systems and enhancing climate actions across various PSEs. Given that many PSEs are engaged in forestry and SUP ban initiatives, DAFs generated significant interest for their potential to

¹ For inaugural session, please read SCOPE News on page 9



address current challenges in quantifying the impacts of these efforts. Participants shared diverse approaches and challenges in managing environmental sustainability projects, offering insights on the DAF's suitability, implementation, and data availability.

4. Understanding potential capacity building requirements including training needs of the stakeholders to assess co-benefits of their climate actions

One key session aimed to identify and prioritize specific training needs for PSEs regarding forestry and SUP ban initiatives. Participants completed a Training Needs Assessment (TNA), which will be instrumental in understanding the specific requirements of PSEs. The feedback and insights gathered will be systematically integrated into the DAFs and future regional workshops, ensuring the frameworks are

refined based on practical needs and PSE perspectives, leading to more effective climate co-benefit methodologies.

Conclusion and Future Perspectives

Climate co-benefits represent critical, often overlooked advantages that arise from sustainable development initiatives, extending beyond their primary objectives. They play a vital role in climate change mitigation and adaptation, as demonstrated by projects in afforestation, reforestation, and the banning of single-use plastics (SUPs). By systematically identifying and quantifying these co-benefits, we can significantly enhance our understanding of their comprehensive impacts on the environment and society. The adoption of climate co-benefit methodologies offers a transformative approach to assessing the full scope of climate actions. As PSEs and corporate initiatives increasingly focus on forestry and SUP bans, these

methodologies become essential tools for addressing challenges in impact quantification. The collaboration between SCOPE and GIZ, highlighted by recent workshops, underscores the importance of refining these methodologies through stakeholder feedback and capacity building. By integrating practical insights and addressing specific training needs, we can ensure that climate co-benefit frameworks are effectively incorporated into existing reporting systems.

In conclusion, the integration of climate co-benefit methodologies within Indian PSEs will not only enhance their sustainability strategies but also contribute significantly to India's climate action goals and sustainable development agenda. SCOPE's future efforts will focus on refining DAFs, addressing training needs, and expanding workshops in other regions of India to ensure nationwide adoption and effective implementation.



Personalia



Shri Adhip Nath Palchaudhuri
takes charge as
CMD,
Balmer Lawrie and Co. Ltd.



Cmde D. K. Murali, IN (Retd.)
assumes charge as
CMD,
Broadcast Engineering
Consultants India Limited.



Shri H. Shankar,
Director (Technical) CPCL
assumes additional charge as
MD (i/c), CPCL.



Shri Arvind Kumar
takes charge as
Director (Refineries), IndianOil.



Shri Sandeep Kumar
takes charge as
Director (Finance),
Power Finance Corporation Limited.



Shri Vivek Chandrakant Tongaonkar
takes charge as
Director (Finance), ONGC.



Dr. Suman Kumar
takes charge as
Director (Commercial), NBCC.



Shri Debi Prasad Satpathy
takes charge as
Director (Human Resources), BEML.



Shri Sanjay Kumar Singh
assumes charge as
Director (Projects), NHPC Ltd.



Hon'ble Union Minister of Power and Housing & Urban Affairs inaugurates National Feeder Monitoring System Control Centre at REC Limited on its 55th Foundation Day

Shri Manohar Lal, Hon'ble Union Minister of Power and Housing & Urban Affairs, inaugurated National Feeder Monitoring System (NFMS) Control Centre on REC Limited's 55th Foundation Day recently, at REC Headquarters, Gurugram in the presence of Shri Shripad Yesso Naik, Union Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy.

Shri Vivek Kumar Dewangan, CMD, REC and key officials of the Ministry of Power, REC Limited and RECPDCL were also present at the occasion.

NFMS, a flagship initiative of Ministry of Power, entails access to detailed information related to real time hours of power supply, power outages and overall health of ~2.5 lakh feeders (11 KV outgoing) across the country. This system will enable stakeholders to make informed and actionable decisions, thereby bringing in transparency, efficiency and accountability to distribution utilities (DISCOMS), ultimately improving the quality and reliability of power supply to the end consumers. The project involves integration of master as well as transactional data with 87 Discoms.

Under the ambit of the programme, a dedicated control centre has now been established in REC Corporate Office in



Shri Vivek Kumar Dewangan, CMD, REC with Shri Manohar Lal, Hon'ble Union Minister of Power and Housing & Urban Affairs during REC Limited's 55th Foundation Day celebrations.

Gurugram for monitoring on day to day basis and to disseminate the findings to Discoms daily, thereby, ensuring the accuracy and efficiency of data displayed on NFMS portal and helping them in improving and maintaining necessary KPIs set by the Ministry.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister congratulated REC on its 55th Foundation Day

and said, "As we inaugurate the National Feeder Monitoring System Control Centre today, we take a significant step towards harnessing the power of technology for energising our nation. This system stands as a testament to our commitment to improve power distribution and management across the country. I believe that this initiative will not only enhance the efficiency of

our power grids but also ensure a more reliable and continuous power supply for our citizens. Together, let's illuminate every home and empower every citizen with the light of progress and development."

The control centre would monitor and analyze real-time data from multiple sources and maintain

the data sanctity in the NFMS portal. It will be using advanced technologies and software to collect, process, and display information relevant to the operations, collaborating closely with key stakeholders.

RECPDCL, a subsidiary of REC Limited, has developed NFMS for monitoring Quality and

Reliability of Power at national level with the overall objective of achieving 24x7 continuous Power supply.

On the occasion, Shri Manohar Lal, Hon'ble Union Minister also joined the #एक_पेड़_मां_के_नाम (#onePlant4Mother) campaign by planting trees at REC office in Gurugram.

EIL observes Swachhta Pakhwada 2024



Smt. Vartika Shukla, CMD, EIL along with other directors and senior officials of the company during Swachhta Pakhwada 2024.

Engineers India Ltd. (EIL) observed Swachhta Pakhwada from 1st-15th July, 2024 with a host of initiatives including awareness drives for local communities, Shram Daan to clean public areas and distribution of hygiene kits.

Smt. Vartika Shukla, CMD, along with Functional Directors, inaugurated the Pakhwada by administering the Swachhta Pledge to the employees at company's Gurugram Complex.

As part of Swachhta Pakhwada initiatives, a Prabhat Pheri was also conducted at Nehru Park

in Delhi to sensitize morning walkers and local communities on the importance of cleanliness, public hygiene and sanitation.

EIL has drawn up an exhaustive action plan to celebrate Swachhta Pakhwada which comprises a slew of activities including cleanliness drives, street plays, workshops, weeding out exercise as well as various competitions for employees and their family members.

Addressing the gathering, CMD, EIL said, "Cleanliness and hygiene are fundamental to the well-being of our communities

and the nation at large. As we observe Swachhta Pakhwada, I urge all employees to embrace cleanliness as a daily habit and actively participate in our initiatives. Our concerted efforts during this fortnight, including awareness drives, Shram Daan activities, and distribution of hygiene kits, aim to make a significant impact on public hygiene and sanitation.

Let us continue our focused endeavors to transform Swachh Bharat into a reality, ensuring a cleaner and healthier environment for all."

GAIL clocks Revenue of Rs 33,692 crore, PAT of Rs 2,724 crore in Q1 FY-25

GAIL (India) Limited reported Revenue from Operations of Rs 33,692 crore in Q1 FY-25 as against Rs 32,227 crore in Q1 FY-24. Profit before Tax (PBT) in Q1 FY-25 stood at Rs 3,642 crore as against Rs 1,889 crore in Q1 FY-24. Profit after Tax (PAT) in Q1 FY-25 stood at Rs 2,724 crore as against Rs 1,412 crore in Q1 FY-24. Quarter on Quarter basis, Revenue from Operations was higher at Rs 33,692 crore in Q1 FY-25 as against Rs 32,335 crore in Q4 FY-24. PBT registered a robust growth of 28%

to Rs 3,642 crore in Q1 FY-25 as against Rs 2,842 crore during Q4 FY-24. PAT increased by 25% to Rs 2,724 crore in Q1 FY-25 as against Rs 2,177 crore in Q4 FY-24 mainly on account of increased Gas Transmission volumes, increased domestic Natural Gas Marketing volume and improved Natural Gas marketing margins. On Consolidated basis, Revenue from Operations stood at Rs 34,822 crore in Q1 FY-25 as against Rs 32,833 crore during Q4 FY-24. PBT in Q1 FY-25 stood at Rs 4,114 crore as against Rs 3,099

crore in Q4 FY-24. PAT (excluding Non-controlling interest) was Rs 3,183 crore in Q1 FY-25 as against Rs 2,469 crore in Q4 FY-24. Shri Sandeep Kumar Gupta, CMD, GAIL (India) Ltd. said that, the Company has incurred a Capex of about Rs 1,659 crore during the current quarter, mainly on Pipelines, Petrochemicals, Equity to JVs, etc. which is about 21% of annual target of Rs 8,044 crore. He further stated that GAIL has advanced its Net Zero carbon target for scope-1 and scope-2 emissions to 2035 from earlier 2040.

Deputy Chief of Mission (Japan) inaugurates "The Cottage" - India Pavilion

The Cottage" participated in the Lifestyle Week, Tokyo recently with 10 exhibitors from the Handloom and Handicraft sector. The India Pavilion set up by "the Cottage" was inaugurated by Shri Madhusudan Ravindran, Deputy High Commissioner, Embassy of India (Japan) in the presence of Shri Manoj Lal, MD, The Central Cottage Industries Corporation Ltd and Mr. Haime Suzuki, Global Head, Reed Exhibitions.

The CCIC participation represented "India Pavilion" showcasing the strength of India in the Textiles sector in particular Handicraft and Handloom segment. The Lifestyle Week Tokyo is the world's leading B2B international trade fair for lifestyle consumer goods,



Shri Madhusudan Ravindran, Deputy High Commissioner, Embassy of India (Japan) inaugurates "The Cottage" - India Pavilion at Lifestyle Week, Tokyo in the presence of Shri Manoj Lal, MD, The Central Cottage Industries Corporation Ltd.

handicrafts, textiles, and fashion in Japan. It had around 1200 No. of participants/exhibitors from 20 countries catering to Lifestyle segment. The CCIC display

highlighted Embroidered Home Furnishings, Floor Covering, Home Décor, Rugs, Herbal & Skin Care, Silk Scarf, Banaras Zari, Stone Inlay, Stone Craft.

Empowering Indian Startups to contribute towards 'Aatmanirbharta': Hon'ble Union MoS, Defence launches GRSE-initiated GAINS-2024



Shri Sanjay Seth, Hon'ble Union MoS, Defence launches GRSE-initiated GAINS-2024 in presence of Cmde P. R. Hari, IN (Retd.), CMD, GRSE.

After the resounding success of its maiden venture to promote development of technology in the field of shipbuilding, Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd, launched the second edition of GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme (GAINS) in Kolkata recently. GAINS-2024 was launched by the Shri Sanjay Seth, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Defence.

Key dignitaries present on the occasion were Cmde P. R. Hari,

IN (Retd.), CMD, GRSE; Shri R. K. Dash, Director (Finance), GRSE; Cdr Shantanu Bose, IN (Retd.), Director (Shipbuilding), GRSE; DIG Subrato Ghosh, ICG (Retd.), Director (Personnel), GRSE; Shri Sanjay Dattatraya Panse, Independent Director, GRSE; Shri Sanjeeb Mohanty, Independent Director, GRSE; Shri Abhishek Ranjan, IOFS, Chief Vigilance Officer, GRSE; Emeritus Professor (Dr) O.P. Sha, Department of Ocean Engineering & Naval Architecture, IIT Kharagpur,

senior officials from GRSE and representatives from Indian startups.

'GAINS' is a unique national open challenge to encourage and enable MSMEs and Start-Ups to develop innovative solutions that GRSE may incorporate for further technological advancement. This initiative is in keeping with the 'Make in India' and 'Start-up India' policies of the Government of India. The aim is to leverage the vast eco-system of MSMEs and Start-Ups to address present and

emerging challenges in the ship design and construction industry, while achieving the objectives of Atmanirbharta.

In 2023, the open challenge attracted participation from across the country. Of the proposals received after Stage-I, six were selected for detailed evaluation in Stage-II. The six innovators who made it to this stage were paid up to Rs 5 lakh to meet their expenses in preparing detailed project reports. These reports and presentations by the participants went through further evaluation and finally, two companies were declared winners.

While one of them, an MSME, is working on AI-based Material Code Generation and Management Systems, the second, a Start-Up, is developing robots for exterior painting of

ships. They have been assured adequate funds by GRSE to create workable models.

This success was the reason behind GRSE's decision to go in for GAINS-2024. The number of contestants is expected to go up this year. As in GAINS-2023, the participants of GAINS-2024 will have to concentrate on the themes – Artificial Intelligence (AI), Renewable/Green Energy & Energy Efficiency as well as Overall Efficiency Enhancement.

GAINS is aimed towards the creation of fast-track innovative solutions to help GRSE turn into a future-ready shipyard.

Shri Sanjay Seth, Hon'ble Union MoS, Defence, commended GRSE's efforts towards technological advancement and said and that this special day not only marks the innovative

efforts made by GRSE in the development and security of our Nation's Maritime strength but also celebrates the launch of the second edition of GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme. This initiative taken by GRSE under Make in India & Startup India is truly commendable. He also stated that as Indians, we are proud that India is establishing itself as a world-class defence industry and reaching new heights of self-reliance.

Cmde PR Hari, IN (Retd), CMD, GRSE, said: "New Technology adoption is a key focus area of the shipyard and I am confident that GAINS 2024 shall be a major contributor towards this. I wish the brilliant Indian startups the very best in making the Nation building initiatives a huge success."

WAPCOS celebrates its 55th Annual Day

WAPCOS has completed 55 years of memorable & exciting journey and celebrated its 55th Annual Day recently. On the occasion, the Company's New Logo, Corporate Coffee Table Booklet and Film were released by Shri C.R. Paatil, Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti, in the presence of Dr. Raj Bhushan Choudhary, Hon'ble Minister of State for Jal Shakti; Smt. Debashree Mukherjee, Secretary, DoWR, RD, GR; Shri R. K. Agrawal, CMD, WAPCOS and Senior Officers from Ministry of Jal Shakti and WAPCOS.

WAPCOS is a technology driven Consultancy and Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) organization. The company has provided engineering



Shri C.R. Paatil, Hon'ble Union Minister of Jal Shakti unveils new logo of WAPCOS in the presence of Dr. Raj Bhushan Choudhary, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti; Smt. Debashree Mukherjee, Secretary, DoWR, RD, GR and Shri R. K. Agrawal, CMD, WAPCOS.

solutions to various clients and have footprints over 75 countries across Asia, Africa, Latin America

and CIS, for various development projects in the areas of water, power and infrastructure sectors.

GAIL advances its Net Zero Target for Scope-1 and Scope-2 GHG Emissions to 2035

GAIL (India) Limited Board of Directors recently accorded approval to advance its Net Zero target for Scope-1 & 2 emissions by five years, from the year 2040 to year 2035. This decision follows an extensive study undertaken by GAIL to enhance its sustainability goals and align with India's broader Net Zero commitments. GAIL plans to achieve this ambitious goal through a strategic approach involving Electrification of NG based equipment, Renewable Energy, Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), Compressed Biogas (CBG), Green Hydrogen,

CO2 Valorization initiatives and afforestation.

Shri Sandeep Kumar Gupta, CMD mentioned that GAIL as such, is in the business of marketing and transmission of Natural Gas, which is a cleaner fuel that aids in reducing emissions of various industries and end-consumers. Additionally, GAIL is undertaking various measures to reduce emissions within its own operations, contributing to a cleaner environment. By advancing its emission reduction targets to 2035, GAIL reaffirms its role as a trailblazer in India's energy landscape, driving sustainable development and

contributing significantly to India's Net Zero emission target.

Shri R. K. Singhal, Director (BD) speaking on the occasion, emphasized GAIL's sustained and focused efforts towards realizing these targets, highlighting GAIL's pivotal role in the energy sector's transition towards sustainability.

The revised target underscores GAIL's proactive stance in mitigating climate change impacts and contributing towards a cleaner environment.

GAIL, a Maharatna company under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, is India's Natural Gas leader.

BHEL secures order for demonstration of first of its kind Methanol Firing in Gas turbine of Kayamkulam CCPP

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has received the first ever order for the demonstration of methanol firing in a Gas Turbine at the 350 MW Kayamkulam Combined Cycle Power Plant (CCPP) of NTPC installed at Alappuzha district in Kerala. This will be the first such demonstration project of its kind in India.

Significantly, this demonstration will pave the way for reviving unutilised gas turbine sets in the country which are inoperative due to unavailability of natural gas and naphtha.

Notably, Kayamkulam CCPP comprising two gas turbines of 115 MW each and one steam turbine of 120 MW was set up by BHEL on turnkey basis in 1998-99. BHEL's scope in the contract includes technology support, supply of equipment and associated auxiliaries along with erection and commissioning. The methanol firing demonstration is planned in two phases. In the first phase of 12 months duration, the methanol firing demonstration is planned at 30-40% load of the machine. After the successful demonstration of the first phase, a demonstration

at 100% load is proposed to be carried out in the second phase. BHEL has presently secured the order for the first phase. Key equipment for the project like Tank, Fire Protection & Detection System, Piping and Erection & Commissioning along with technology support will be provided by BHEL's Hyderabad based units. BHEL has been a reliable supplier of equipment and services in the gas turbine-based power segment for nearly four decades, with a portfolio of over 7,500 MW of gas turbine-based power plants installed across the country.

Balmer Lawrie announces first quarter results

Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd. announced the first quarter results as per the accounts adopted for the quarter ending 30th June, 2024. The results were approved by the Board in its Meeting held on 29th July, 2024. The net total income for the

first quarter increased by 7.47% and stood at Rs. 643.62 crores compared to Rs. 598.91 crores for the same period last year. The Profit Before Tax (PBT) saw a jump of 0.68% and rose to Rs. 57.84 crores for the quarter ended 30th June, 2024 as compared to

Rs. 57.45 crores for the same quarter last year. Correspondingly, the net profit (PAT) during the quarter rose by 3.15% to Rs. 46.79 crores compared to Rs. 45.36 crores for the corresponding period last year.

PSEs Ink MoU

NRDC, MOST transferred cutting-edge "SONAR" Technology developed by NIOT, MOES to M/s. Bharat Electronics Limited



The technology transfer tripartite license agreements were signed and exchanged between Dr. G A Ramdass, Director, NIOT; Cmde Amit Rastogi (Retd.), CMD, NRDC; Smt. Minin Nair S., AGM, BEL in presence of scientists of NIOT, DGM's of NRDC and Senior Executives of BEL.

NRDC transferred "SONAR (the Indigenous Sub Bottom Profiler)" developed by National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) to M/s. Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) recently. The technology transfer tripartite license agreements were signed

and exchanged between Dr. G A Ramdass, Director, NIOT; Cmde Amit Rastogi (Retd.), CMD, NRDC; Smt. Minin Nair S., AGM, BEL in the presence of distinguished scientists of NIOT, DGM's of NRDC and Senior Executives of BEL.

This technology comprises profiling system uniquely mounted over the moored surface buoy system and subsequently equipped with a low power control system and automated winch system. This device will result in measurement at higher depth resolution with minimum number of sensor requirements. The renewable solar power can be effectively utilized for the sensor used when it is furnished with surface buoy. The power of device can be easily supplied from a rechargeable source which increases the working life of sensor at sea. It aligns with the objectives of UN-SDG 14, contributing to the sustainable use and conservation of ocean and marine resources.

It has enhanced impact on sustainable development beyond marine conservation, highlighting its role in promoting clean energy, innovation, infrastructure resilience, and climate action aligning to UN-SDG's 7, 9 and 13. On this occasion, Dr. G. Ramdass, Director, NIOT was also felicitated for his remarkable contributions in S&T and maritime ecosystem in India and abroad. The technology transfer and engagement was coordinated by Dr. Dharani, NIOT; Mrs Padmavathi, BEL and Dr. B. K. Sahu, Dr. Bhavya, NRDC respectively.

PSEs CSR Initiatives

ONGC and Government of Jammu & Kashmir collaborate to enhance healthcare facilities at Baltal and Chandanwari



Hospital facility at Baltal.

ONGC has teamed up with the Department of Health and Medical Education, Government of Jammu & Kashmir to bolster healthcare infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir.

Recognizing the critical need for sustainable healthcare infrastructure in the region, ONGC under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative has constructed permanent hospitals at Baltal in Ganderbal district and Chandanwari in Anantnag district. Each of these hospitals are equipped with 100 beds, lodging facilities for medical staff, and intensive care units that will serve as Primary Health Centres and provide essential medical services to the local communities.

Situated on the road of Amarnath Yatra, these hospitals will also provide medical support to the pilgrims of the Yatra. Until last year, temporary medical facilities had been operating each year on the Yatra route, entailing significant recurring costs and logistical complexities.

This initiative underscores a steadfast commitment of ONGC to sustainable development and enhanced public health services. It represents a pivotal advancement towards improving healthcare



Hospital facility at Chandanwari.

accessibility, reducing operational costs, and ensuring continuous medical support for the local population for years to come.

REC Gift of Life – Cardiac Ward inaugurated at Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospital

Commemorates completion of life saving heart surgeries for 1000 children born with congenital heart disease.



Shri Vivek Kumar Dewangan, CMD, REC Ltd. inaugurates "REC Gift of Life- Cardiac Ward" at Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospital in New Raipur.

In a significant step to help children born with congenital heart diseases from economically weaker sections of society, REC Limited inaugurated the "REC Gift of Life-Cardiac Ward" at the state-of-the-art Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospital in New Raipur.

Shri Vivek Kumar Dewangan, CMD, REC Ltd inaugurated the “REC Gift of Life- Cardiac Ward” in presence of distinguished guests, hospital management, doctors, medical staff, patients and their family members, and senior officials from REC Ltd.

The cardiac ward, dedicated to life-saving paediatric cardiac care surgeries, has been supported under REC's CSR initiatives over the past six months. These initiatives have successfully aided 1,000 children born with congenital heart diseases from economically weaker sections of society, showcasing REC's commitment to improving healthcare accessibility.

The REC Gift of Life Cardiac Ward facility is equipped with robust medical technology and supported by a dedicated team of highly skilled healthcare professionals. The facility will provide life-saving cardiac care to patients from all sections of society.

In a ceremony, Shri Dewangan awarded "Gift of Life" certificates to children who underwent successful surgeries to correct congenital heart diseases. During his interaction with patients and

their families, Shri Dewangan expressed his deep appreciation for the dedicated team of specialist doctors and medical staff on the completion of 1,000 paediatric cardiac surgeries.

Applauding the partnership with Shri Sathya Sai Educational and Health Trust, Shri Dewangan said, “This project is a testament to REC’s unwavering commitment to providing accessible, quality healthcare to those in need, leading to lifelong positive outcomes on the health and quality of life for the children, enabling them to lead normal activities and pursue their dreams. The launch of the 'REC Gift of Life- Cardiac Ward' is a proud moment for all of us at REC.”

The Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospital is renowned for its compassionate healthcare and innovative medical practices. The addition of the REC Gift of Life - Cardiac Ward further enhances the hospital's capabilities in delivering specialized care for paediatric cardiac patients. The partnership between REC Ltd. and Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospital underscores a shared vision of making advanced medical treatments accessible to all, regardless of their economic background.



New and Improved Convention Centre at SCOPE Complex and SCOPE Minar

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Conference Facilities at SCOPE Convention Centre Lodhi Road, New Delhi

The centrally air-conditioned SCOPE Convention Centre at SCOPE Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi provides excellent conference facilities to PSEs, Govt. Departments, Autonomous Bodies, Institutions/NGOs etc. The Auditorium and other Conference Halls are equipped with projector and screen facilities, sound & light control room with recording & P.A. facility, etc. Details of the capacity of the Auditorium and other Halls.

Tagore Chamber



The chamber has capacity of 92 persons (86 Nos. Chairs + 6 Nos. Chairs on Dais) equipped with 2 Nos. projector screens and mikes on dais, tables & podium.

Auditorium



The Auditorium has a capacity of 310 persons (300 Chairs + 10 Nos. Chairs at stage) capacity is equipped with projector, screen and mikes on dais and podium on stage.

Bhabha Chamber (Board Room)



The chamber has the capacity of 44 persons (24 Nos. Chairs on round table and 20 Nos. Chairs on sides) equipped with 4K advanced VC system for 12 person, projector screen and mikes on dais, tables & podium.

Mirza Ghalib Chamber



The chamber having capacity of 108 persons (102 Nos. Chairs + 6 Nos. Chairs on Dais) is equipped with 2 Nos.-projector & screen and mikes on table, dais and podium.

Fazal Chamber



The chamber has a capacity of 25 persons (15 Nos. Chairs on round table and 10 Nos. Chairs on sides) with board room type seating arrangement equipped with screen and mikes.

Business Centre



The Business Centre has a capacity of 7 persons and is equipped with multi point Video Conferencing System (1+3), that can connect with three locations at a time.

Annexe II



The Annexe-II has the capacity of 15 Persons and is equipped with projector screen.

Banquet Hall



The banquet hall has a capacity of 500 Persons for the purpose of lunch & dinner with variety of cuisines. Seating can be arranged for 40 persons.

Tansen Chamber at UB



The Tansen Chamber has the capacity of 30 persons and also a stage & podium equipped with projector screen.

Annexe I



The Annexe-I has a capacity of 20 Persons and is equipped with projector screen.

Amir Khusro Chamber at UB



The Amir Khusro Chamber has capacity of 35 persons with facility of stage & podium equipped with projector screen.

For Booking & Tariff details please contact:

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Conference Facilities at SCOPE Minar Convention Centre, Laxmi Nagar, New Delhi

SCOPE Minar, Architecturally conceived in the form of two high rise curvilinear tower with blocks sitting on a four storey circular Podium Block, is strategically located in Laxmi Nagar District Centre, Delhi -110092 and housing around 40 PSEs of repute. It is one of the iconic buildings of East Delhi. It has a huge foyer which gives an ambience look inside the building. There is greenery all around the SCOPE Minar building with large size planters. The building also has state-of-the-art Convention Centre comprising of five conference halls:

Board Room



Board room having "U" shaped table, has a seating capacity of 50 delegates with modern facilities - projector, screen, sound system, table mic etc.

Auditorium



The auditorium has a capacity of 350 delegates. Various seminars, training programmes, presentations, get together etc. can be conducted in auditorium which is equipped with projector screen. It provides ambient and peaceful environment for the programmes.

SCOPE Academy of Public Sector Enterprises



SCOPE Academy of Public Sector Enterprises (APSE) conducts executive development programmes for PSEs' executives. It has three training halls equipped with projector, screen, sound system etc. one with capacity of 40 persons and two halls with capacity of 30 persons each for training purpose.

VIP Lounge



VIP Lounge has seating capacity of 30 delegates. CMDs, Directors, and other high level officials can use it as waiting lounge also,

Meeting Hall



Meeting hall having "U" shaped table, has a seating capacity of 62 delegates. Most widely used for small size meetings and training programmes, group power point presentations etc. and is equipped with projector and screen.

For Booking & Tariff details for Convention Center, SCOPE Minar, Laxmi Nagar please contact

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There is a wide space for vehicle parking that cater to a capacity of 550 cars, including the newly built good quality Banquet Hall wherein 300 delegates can comfortably dine at a time, making it special to deliver an all-round conducive meeting environment.

Regd. No. DL(S)-17/3229/2021-2023

RNI No. 37112/81

Publication Date: 05.08.2024

Date of Posting: 07.08.2024



SCOPE SOCIAL INTERACTION CENTRE



SCOPE COMPLEX, LODHI ROAD, NEW DELHI

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