

STRIVING TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



In the last ten years, sustainability has become the key strategy for most business houses across the world aligning to ingrain climate action plans as a part of their larger agenda



70 WINNERS OVER THE LAST 9 EDITIONS

- SHOLKA NATH**, Acting CEO, India Climate Collaborative: Climate action is critical for a country like India. It can provide more jobs, and cleaner jobs, while protecting health and safety of communities, preserving natural ecosystems and resources. There are a number of incredible organisations working on climate solutions today, and supporting them is pivotal to making change in the limited timeframe we have.
- RAJAT GUPTA**, Senior Partner-Sustainability Practise, McKinsey & Company: The awards have really evolved over the past decade. Till a couple of years back we used to celebrate social and societal innovations. Now the horizon has extended to interesting technology interventions and new business models. It was great to be a part of the robust drill where shortlisted participants shared their experiences - a learning journey for me personally.
- DR ARUNABHA GHOSH**, Founder and CEO, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW): India's net-zero vision is a challenge laid out to innovators and an invitation to investors. Not every answer is known but the direction of travel is set. That is also an opportunity to develop next-gen smart appliances, grid-scale and distributed storage, more efficient solar panels and wind turbines, energy-efficient industrial boilers, electrolyzers for green hydrogen, EV batteries, and mechanisms for greenhouse gas removal.

AADITYA THACKERAY, Minister of Tourism and Environment, Government of Maharashtra: What is beautiful about this gathering is that the people who are getting recognised are the actual people who have worked silently and tried to make a difference for climate action. One positive change that we have seen around the world in the last two and half years is that every single corporation or industry, climate action, climate change and sustainability are some of the words that are driving their policies. Worldwide it is not just the IITs or IIMs of those places, but even junior colleges and schools where innovations are given place in the national policy. I think even we can do that, and that will be a huge day for us. I commit to you from the government of Maharashtra, that the innovations which you scale up, we, at the department of environment and climate change in the government of Maharashtra, will absorb all of them and take it ahead. What we have tried to do in the state is that we have taken the department of environment and climate change to every other department in the government of Maharashtra. What we have done is that we have made environment and climate change, the mainstream talk in the state. We firmly believe that environment and climate change is no longer work of the environment ministry alone but of the whole government.

LT COL MONISH AHUJA (RETD), CMD, PRESPL: We are super excited to get this huge award and honour for the amazing project which team PRESPL has conceptualised, constructed the project in record time, continuously operating the asset since more than 26 months without any break and delivering renewable steam energy to partner-client Sun Pharma. This is the most amazing carbon neutral project replacing fossil fuels and delivering 40% cheaper clean-green energy to the client, with shared wealth amongst the farmer / village level entrepreneurs (VLEs) and winning this award amongst all the finalists who are in themselves doing superlative work is truly humbling. PRESPL, along with its marquee investor-shareholders namely, responsAbility (rA), SBI Neev Fund, Shell Ventures BV & Mitsui & Co., Ltd are committed to a growth plan to decarbonise the hard to abate fossil fuel industry more particularly sectors like cement, steel, gaseous biofuels, liquid biofuels, green hydrogen and continue to reduce and replace the use of coal, LDO, furnace oil, diesel, etc. We are seeing an increasing trend of women participation in the business of PRESPL, and gender diversification is clearly the mandate and way ahead.

RAMKRISHNA MUKKAVILLI, Founder and Managing Director, Maitrhi Aquatech: It has been an extraordinary experience. The transparent and robust process developed with a strong commitment to identifying potential technologies and solutions that can help make mother earth a better place to live, tested our commitment to climate action at every stage. The award process has given our company Maitrhi Aquatech the opportunity to showcase the scale, impact and outcomes of our innovative technology. Winning the 10th Earth Care Award in the category of Innovation and Climate Action is a testament to our work in creating a new and sustainable category of water, to meet the challenges posed by climate change. It inspires us to continue innovating and drives us to do more in this direction. Freshwater scarcity is the most pressing existential threat on Earth to humanity, flora and fauna. 40% of the global population is lacking access to safe drinking water. There is an urgent need for sustainable solutions like Meghdoot that can generate water at scale on a predictable, distributed and affordable basis. In the next 5 to 10 years, while we will continue to focus on meeting potable water requirements, we will also meet large-scale commercial and industrial requirements of water, while also ensuring all our projects run on renewable energy.

NITIN NABAR, ED & President, GIL-Chemicals (Godrej): Earth Care Awards is a wonderful initiative by encouraging large scale industries to contribute towards climate change mitigation in a sustainable manner. At Godrej Industries Limited (Chemicals), we are extremely happy to showcase our innovation "asymmetric heat exchanger", a heat recovery system which is first-of-its-kind installation in India. The entire process right from application submission to Jury evaluations and interactions were a great learning experience for us. At Godrej, we believe in growing in a profitable and sustainable manner. We will continue to create a more inclusive and greener planet through our various initiatives. Our journey for improvement continues. We have created a roadmap and committed ourselves to become carbon neutral for scope 1&2, track and report scope 3 emissions, increase our renewable energy portfolio in the overall energy mix to 70%, reduce specific energy consumption by 50% by 2030. This will be in line with our EP100 commitment and in alignment with our science based targets commitment. Our policies, processes and governance mechanism will help and guide us in this journey.

LIBBY T. JOHNSON, Executive Director, Gram Vikas: The selection process for the Earth Care Awards was rigorous and gave us an opportunity to review our work with a critical lens. The jury asked incisive questions and gave very useful inputs. The village communities have taken the lead to build themselves a safer and more dignified future. Gram Vikas is privileged to be a partner in the process. We are very happy that the Earthcare Award chose to recognise this small but important effort that builds community capabilities to fight the risks of climate change. More villages are coming forward to address the vulnerabilities to life and livelihoods caused by climate change. Gram Vikas will strengthen efforts to enable remote rural communities to apply state-of-the-art technological options to their traditional wisdom and harness collaborations to enhance the quality of lives. In the next 10 years, we hope to reach 1000 Gram Panchayats in Odisha and Jharkhand through the Water Secure Gram Panchayat Programme to build long term resilience against climate change induced water insecurity.

ALOKA MAJUMDAR, Head of Corporate Sustainability, HSBC India: We are delighted to receive the Earth Care Awards. Community-based climate action forms a significant part of HSBC's sustainability initiatives. The robust selection process is evidence of the impact these initiatives have had. At HSBC, we believe in the power of partnerships to create impact at scale, and our long-term collaboration with WWF India has stood the test of time and delivered excellent results. We thank the Jury for this honour. This recognition drives us to do even better and take forward our commitment to creating new solutions to the climate crisis.

SANGITA JINDAL, Chairperson, JSW Foundation: In 2008, we at JSW launched the awards for this very reason to celebrate the individuals, organisations, and corporates. Today, the ECA is one of the oldest and most credible awards on climate action, recognising and incentivising climate stewardship. In the past decade when we look at the change being brought, I am convinced the future is female, which is why we introduced 'Women-led Climate Action Initiatives' as a category last year. We truly believe that each entry in this category is a testament to the simple but powerful fact, that women are agents of change. Thank you for all that you do.

NIDHI PANT, Founder, S4S Technologies: We look at Earth Care Awards as a very competitive process among companies, having a positive environmental impact. The experience was unique. In the process, we have learned a lot and have identified areas where we can do more for all our stakeholders-farmers, environment, and customers. We feel proud of our women farmers and S4S team who have built this sustainable and profitable agri supply chain. Our vision is to create, capture and redistribute value to the agri-value chain and build a sustainable agri-food technology platform. We believe that decentralised renewable energy has immense potential to create livelihoods for smallholder farmers - especially women farmers. We are committed to building a company that creates a win-win situation for the environment and provides a more equitable future for our women farmers. Our agri-food processing platform aims to cut food losses, enhance farmer incomes and decarbonise the food processing industry. In five years, we aim to provide services to over 50,000 customers with a value chain covering over 1 million farmers and save over 200 million tons of CO2 in this journey.

K H KHATWANI, Additional City Engineer (Elec.), Surat Municipal Corporation: It has been a really excellent experience going through the processes of Earth Care Awards right from submission of nomination till declaration of the results. Similarly, we have had the excellent experience in carrying out the works related to rooftop solar power plants as it has strengthened the economic power of the citizens of the Surat city and thereby happiness index is observed to be on the rise graph. It has truly encouraged us that our good practices will be replicated in the entire country and as such all cities of the country will benefit out of good practices being implemented in the city of Surat. We are committed to maximise the utilisation of solar energy. We will achieve more than 500 MW rooftop solar power plants in Surat city in the coming 5 years. Further, by the year 2029-30 we are committed that 25 % of the total consumption of electricity of Surat city will be coming from renewable sources of energy.

JEETENDRA PARDESHI, Superintendent of gardens, BMC's head of department of Garden department: Earth Care Award is a tough process to get through. We learnt many things during the process and that has helped us in understanding where we stand. This process will definitely help us in our improvement and give our best to the city. We are delighted to receive this award and feeling honoured, our entire team is motivated. This has given us encouragement to give our best for the Mumbai city's sustainable development and in mitigating impacts of climate change thus conserving biodiversity too. This award is dedicated to all Mumbaikar for their active involvement and awareness in the environment. We started our innovative journey in search of alternative solutions to combat constraint of spaces for increasing greenery. We have successfully completed projects like Miyawaki method of indigenous tree plantation and greening/beautification of spaces below fly over etc. We are committed to continue this path to take new challenges like rooftop gardening, podium gardening and enforcing strict norms for enhancing tree cover in Mumbai city while maintaining its Biodiversity. Our aim is to make Mumbai city green and climate resilient.

MANISH CHOURASIA, Managing Director, Tata Cleantech Capital Ltd: We really admired the overall process. It was extremely thorough and professionally managed. The coverage of the award categories was comprehensive and touched all walks of sustainability. We were elated to receive such a prestigious award and it bolsters our motivation to continue doing our bit in the larger scheme to fight the climate change. We want to express our gratitude to the jury members and Times group for recognising our efforts. One key differentiator for us is the ability to understand the needs of the cleantech sector and come out with solutions to address the same. We have been looking to mainstream debt financing of cleantech segment. So far, we have been successful in mainstreaming large utility scale renewable projects. We aim to continue mainstreaming of emerging areas of not only renewables, but also other technologies.

DR. RAGHUNATH MASHELKAR, Former Director General Council of Scientific and Industrial Research: Indian companies are rushing to adopt the environment, social and governance norms, following pressures from investors and regulators. Some of them have also began to remodel their businesses to meet India's net-zero emissions deadline by 2070. There are many companies and individuals who have been silently working and making a huge difference in reducing the greenhouse gases and conserving the environment. These are the companies which are finding affordable solutions and spearheading climate stewardship. Over the last 10 years, JSW and The Times of India have been identifying and honouring such

DR. RAGHUNATH MASHELKAR, Former Director General Council of Scientific and Industrial Research: We take a great pride in our process of selection, which we keep on improving every year. We use a metrics called 'Assured' (Affordable, Scalable, Sustainable, User friendly, Rapid, Excellent and Distinctive) that includes seven elements, that are measurable, verifiable and looks at not only the current success but also the future survival and success.

CHANDRA BHUSHAN, President & CEO, International Forum for Environment Sustainability and Technology (IForest): We have a very limited time to solve the climate crisis - only 10-15 years. Therefore, will need solutions that can be implemented at speed and scale. The future should also focus on solutions related to relief and rehabilitation, as climate impacts are likely to cause major disruptions in the coming years.

Vikas Gambhir - Executive Director, ESG, Grant Thornton: I congratulate all the awardees and extremely grateful to be part of this ecosystem award which helped in identifying and recognizing transformative models and solutions addressing need for building, enhancing the climate resilience capacities of the vulnerable groups/infrastructures along with strengthening system and process of units that drive climate actions. The ECA awards today have gained widespread recognition amongst industries, non-governmental and community-based organizations, and government institutes across India and the entire SAARC fraternity.

SONGS OF THE RIVER-GANGA: JSW Presents "Songs of The River-Ganga" - a six episode series chronicling the journey of acclaimed composer - Shantanu Moitra along the river Ganges. As he cycles along the river, he discovers the terrain and creates music along with some of the most talented singers of our times. The evening had special screening and the music recital on the documentary - Songs of the River-Ganga by Shantanu Moitra and Mohit Choubhan. Coming soon on Disney+Hotstar.

