CHAPTER 11

SUSTAINABILITY AND CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO INDIA

AKHILESHWARO NATH
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT
LUCKNOW PUBLIC COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

KEYWORDS	ABSTRACT
CORPORTAE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, SUSTAINABILITY, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS	In the context of India, the intersection of these two paradigms is inconceivable without the acknowledgment and engagement with the countries need to tackle challenges related to the alleviation of poverty, rural development, education, gender equity and climate change. In the past thirty years or so, the emergence of regulatory frameworks, voluntary initiatives and the recognition of CSR and sustainability as core strategic imperatives rather than incidental, value-adding activities have spurred organizations to take action. This book chapter discusses the context of sustainability and CSR in India, its importance the evolution, regulatory framework, corporate approaches, challenges, and major practices and initiatives.

11.1 INTRODUCTION

Two of the critical frameworks shaping the contemporary business world, especially in developing countries such as India, are Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). India, with its unique socio-economic fabric, varied geography and pressing developmental challenges offers an interesting context for understanding the interplay of sustainability and CSR. CSR stands for under the heading Corporation Social Responsibility, we look outwards and takes account of society environmental factor in doing business." （2003） Other includes bringing

stakeholders into your business processes Sustainability allows such initiatives to be ecologically viable, extractively sustainable, and socially inclusive.

11.1.1 THE CONCEPT OF SUSTAINABILITY ORIGINATING FROM INDIA

In the Indian context, sustainability is affected by the nation's development priorities as well as its population density, resource constraints, and its vulnerability to climate change. The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a globally accepted framework for India's sustainability agenda and cover areas such as poverty eradication, quality education, access to clean energy, and climate action.

- **Economic Dimension:** In India, sustainability is about integration — between economic development and environmental protection, between private interests and social equity. Vital sectors of the economy, such as agriculture, manufacturing, and services, are important engines of economic growth, but they also incur substantial environmental costs. Hence, sustainable economic efforts focus on renewable energy, waste minimization and resource efficiency.

- **Environmental Dimension:** The country has acute environmental problems like deforestation, water scarcity and air pollution. Overloading of these issues has resulted in efforts to save natural resources, waste management, and the shift to cleaner fuels/energy sources. For example, policies to expand renewable energy and promote sustainable agriculture are embedded in the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).

- **Social Dimension:** Social sustainability in India is about inclusive development, reducing inequality and ensuring that all citizens have access to basic rights and amenities. As a developing country with a predominantly rural population, most development work is focused in the areas of education, healthcare and skill development. This is especially relevant in filling gaps in public infrastructure and services, and corporate efforts are key in this space.

11.1.2 THE EVOLUTION AND SCOPE OF CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN INDIA

CSR in India had evolved from a scope of philanthropy to a process of plan alignment with the existing business and societal needs. CSR was institutionalized through The

Companies Act, 2013, which made it mandatory for companies falling under certain categories to invest in CSR initiatives with 2% of their average net earnings.

11.1.2.1 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- Before Independence: Corporate social responsibility (CSR) in India was mainly an outcome of philanthropic activities initiated by industrialists like J.R.D. Tata and G.D. Birla who were known to contribute to education, health and preservation of culture.
- Post-Independence Period: With the end of the independence movement, the emphasis was on nation building and rural development through social welfare policies.
- Modern Age: CSR has matured into an essential strategic priority, embedding sustainability into the core of business and aligning with the evolving global framework (SDGs).

11.1.2.2 LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

Companies Act 2013 stipulates: "A company that meets the following criteria--more than Rupees 500 crore net worth, lower than Rupees 1000 crore turnover or any environments figure for net profit-will have to contribute towards social Corporate Responsibility."

The Act prescribes thematic areas of CSR spending, which include poverty eradication, educational improvement, promotion of gender equality, environmental sustainability, etc.

11.1.2.3 THE FOCUS ON CSR ENGAGEMENT RESOLUTION OF THE PRACTITIONERS

- Education: Initiatives focused on school infrastructure, training educators and scholarships.
- Healthcare: Programs on maternal/child health, disease prevention, hygiene.
- Environment: Afforestation, renewable energy, and water conservation projects.
- Skill Development: Initiatives for vocational training and entrepreneurship to improve employability.

11.2 RELATED GOVERNMENT POLICIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

- **Tata Group**

Sustainable Practices: Tata Power's renewable energy commitment, Tata Steel's waste-neutral initiative.

CSR Initiatives - Focus area of Tata Trusts, like education, healthcare, rural development, etc.

- **Infosys**

Lean & Sustainable Practice: Carbon Neutrality and green buildings

CSR Programs: Healthcare, education, and culture focus area of Infosys Foundation.

- **ITC Limited**

Sustainability Addressed: Integrated Watershed Development and sustainable agriculture.

CSR Activities: ITC's e-Choupal initiative helps connect farmers to global markets.

11.3 CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

CHALLENGES

- Corporate governance: Transparency and accountability in CSR expenditure.
- Impact Measurement: Assessing the effectiveness of CSR and sustainability initiatives.
- Resource Constraints: Balancing financial viability with sustainability goals.
- Stakeholder Engagement: Balancing the interests of diverse stakeholders.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Innovation in CSR: New technology for better programs.
- Partnering with Government and NGOs: Doing partnerships for a larger impact.
- Global Alignment: Aligning CSR strategies with the SDGs and International Frameworks.
- Youth Involvement: Engaging younger generations on sustainability programs

In summary, the future of sustainability and CSR in India is one that integrates the three and addresses economic, social, and environmental issues within the same

framework. No longer can companies simply comply — their corporate culture and company operation must be based on sustainability. The study explores the relationship between sustainability and corporate social responsibility in different states of India. It explores the community-specific application of programs, state variations, regulatory context, and successful initiatives that demonstrate the life-changing power of targeted efforts.

11.4 A STATE-WISE ANALYSIS ON SUSTAINABILITY AND CSR

The federal structure of India allows individual states to formulate policies and programs suited to their specific contexts. The following is a detailed analysis of sustainability and CSR initiatives across certain Indian states.

11.4.1 URBAN SUSTAINABILITY IN MAHARASHTRA:

Growth of Industries: Manminder Singh, One of the most-industrialized states in India, Maharashtra grapples with issues of urbanization, pollution and resources.

- Sustainability Focus: Maharashtra has launched projects for waste management, water conservation and air pollution control. The state is also committed to renewable energy with solar and wind projects.
- Example: During Mission Life week "Majhi Vasundhara" drive strives to encourage climate resilience and act at the grassroots level.
- CSR Initiatives- "Reliance Foundation (Mukesh D. Ambani, India) — Projects in Mumbai encompass affordable healthcare and urban sanitation.

11.4.2 TAMILNADU

Tamil Nadu has a robust industrial base with a large population residing in rural parts of the state, which poses unique sustainability and CSR challenges.

- Sustainability Focus: The state focuses on responsible industrial practices, sustainable water management, and renewable energy use. With wind energy, Tamil Nadu is the leader in India's mission for green energy.
- CSR Initiatives: In Tamil Nadu, companies are engaged in skill development, women empowerment and rural healthcare.

- Companies such as EPFO have their own CSR initiatives, for example, TVS Motor Company has community development programs focused on education and rural health care (Krishnagiri district).

11.4.3 KARNATAKA: FROM IT HUB TO RESPONSIBLE ENVIRONMENT GUARDIANS

Karnataka is an IT hub with Bengaluru as its capital but faces urban sustainability challenges.

- Sustainability Focus: Waste, biodiversity, and renewable energy projects have been implemented in the state. Centre for Building Sustainable Mobility in Indian Cities Bangalore's Smart City initiative incorporates sustainability into urban planning.
- CSR Initiatives: Karnataka is home to a vibrant IT ecosystem and much of the CSR contribution in the education, digital literacy and healthcare sectors can be attributed to this industry. Example: Infosys Foundation emphasizes on rural development, health care, and heritage conservation in Karnataka.

In 1998, President of the Socialist Party Raghunandan Singh during his visit to Rajasthan, storming a monsoon water conservation meeting suggested "water equity", a term to enshrine policy towards water scarcity and rural development in the underdeveloped areas.

11.4.4 RAJASTHAN

It has an arid climate and is often grappling with challenges such as desertification, water scarcity and rural poverty.

- Sustainability Focus: Water conservation is also a top priority, with initiatives focused on rainwater harvesting, watershed management, and efficient irrigation techniques. For instance, "Mukhyamantri Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan" emphasizes on conservation of water and drought mitigation.
- CSR Initiatives: CSR initiatives in Rajasthan cover issues such as rural development, healthcare, and women's empowerment. For example, Cairn India funds education and health care programs in Barmer, where it runs oil fields.

11.4.5 GUJARAT: AN INDUSTRIAL GROWTH, RENEWABLE ENERGY-

Gujarat has high importance in industrial development and Renewable energy and green development.

- Sustainability Focus: The state is a leader in solar and wind energy projects. The state also focuses on responsive management of industrial waste and efficient use of water resources. Example – One of the biggest solar power projects in Asia is Charanka Gujarat Solar Park.
- CSR Initiatives: In Gujarat, companies invest in rural infrastructure, health services and skill development. Example: One of the CSR programs of Adani Group is "Saksham" aimed at the livelihood development in rural areas.

11.4.6 UTTAR PRADESH

Uttar Pradesh Has Its Fair Share of Challenges in Population Density, Poverty and Access to Healthcare-

- Sustainability Focus: For instance, the state undertakes schemes for better water quality, greater sustainability in agriculture, and curbing pollution in Ganges River. For example, The Namami Gange scheme which aims to clean and rejuvenate the Ganga.
- CSR Initiatives: CSR activities focus on education, healthcare, and sanitation in Uttar Pradesh. Example: HCL Foundation – community health and digital literacy in rural areas.

11.4.7 WEST BENGAL AND AGRICULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

West Bengal has an agrarian economy and a rich cultural heritage that shape its sustainability and CSR priorities.

- Sustainability Focus: State practices agriculture sustainably, manages rivers and conserves biodiversity. Case in point — Sundarbans mangrove conservation project addresses climate resilience.
- CSR Initiatives: In West Bengal, CSR project implementation is heavily angled towards education, public health and rural development. Illustrative: ITC has

CSR initiatives in the state, such as watershed management and agricultural productivity improvement.

11.4.8 ODISHA

Odisha is rich in mineral resources, with Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Kalahandi and Koraput are mineral rich district and Ore/Iron based industries are based on mineral resources. Also, Ore/Iron based industries are indigenous units of Kalinganagar at Jajpur, Dhenkanal, Sundargarh and Palkhipur in Sambalpur.8Mineral Development Odisha is the wealthiest state by way of minerals in the country. The natural wealth of the state can be divided into clay, sand, bauxite, coal and chromite, dolomite etc. With the affluence of mineral resources, it has become the foundation for the industrial development of the state.

There are numerous mineral rich districts of Odisha like the districts of Bhubaneswar, Mayurbhanj, Kalahandi and Koraput. Odisha is also endowed with the most extensive mineral resources in the country. Ore/Iron ore based industries are katuru units of Kalinganagar in Jajpur, Dhenkanal, Sundargarh and Palkhipur in Sambalpur.8Mineral Development Odisha is also endowed with the most extensive mineral resources in the country. The wealth of resources in the state of ore and iron based deposits has made it a forerunner of industrialisation in the country. The state has a rich mineral base of districts; Ore/Iron based industries are based on mineral base. Ore/Iron based industries are indigenous unit of Kalinganagar of Jajpur, Dhenkanal, Sundargarh and Palkhipur of Sambalpur. Odisha is beset by a raft of issues from mineral resources extraction and the consequent ecological fragility to tribal welfare.

- Sustainability Focus: Reforestation, mining rehabilitation, and sustainable resource management are priorities for the state. Example: Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project aims at afforestation, biodiversity conservation.
- CSR Initiatives: Odisha is one of the first states to issue CSR guidelines in 2013. CSR in the state has been focused on tribal welfare, education and health infrastructure. One example of Tata Steel's CSR activity is skill development and healthcare for tribal communities in tehsils such as Keonjhar and Jajpur.

11.4.9 HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION OF KERALA

Even as Kerala has high human development indices, the state too is not immune to an array of environmental challenges like coastal erosion and flooding.

- Sustainability Focus: The state focuses on eco-tourism, organic farming and disaster resilience. For example, Responsible Tourism promotes sustainable practices in the tourism industry.
- CSR Initiatives: CSR in Kerala has been centred on realm of education and healthcare and disaster relief. For example, Muthoot groups CSR activities range from disaster relief work during Kerala 2018 floods.

11.5 STATE LEVEL SOCIAL AND PROGRESSIVE LEADERSHIP CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN STATE-LEVEL CSR AND SUSTAINABILITY

CSR has now moved from being an activity into the main concern of those 100-odd countries that are re-imagining their businesses, even while restructuring. It means integrating social and environmental considerations into business decisionmaking- and delivering what our stakeholders want. For its part, sustainability much more speaks to satisfying the needs of today without jeopardizing tomorrow. Collectively, due to legal compliance, stakeholder pressures and global sustainability frameworks such as UNEP's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) these three patterns have already taken root in numerous sectors across India.

11.6 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK IN CSR ACTIVITY FOR ENTERPRISES OPERATING IN INDIA

Goal: The chief engine that propelled CSR programs in India into existence was the Companies Act of 2013. According to this law, statutory obligations are placed upon companies meeting certain criteria to allocate at least two percent of their net profit over the past three years for provision up to April 1st 2014 towards CSR activities. Matters such as promoting education, healthcare, gender equality and environmental desecration-Rural development are dealt with in Schedule VII.

11.6.1 INDUSTRY: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) AND SERVICES

Being a globally integrated sector, IT sector in India has been at forefront to drive CSR & sustainability initiatives to meet stakeholder expectations across value chain.
• Focus Areas: Education, skill development, digital literacy and environmental sustainability. Examples:

* Infosys: Carbon neutral; invests in education via Infosys Foundation initiatives.
* Challenges: Tackle electronic waste management and lack of access to digital execution in rural areas.
* Tata Consultancy Services (TCS): Involves in literacy initiatives such as "Adult Literacy Program" and sustainable development which helps decrease carbon footprints.

11.6.2 BANKING AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

CSR in the banking and financial sector is direct CSR expenditure as well as financing for sustainability initiatives.
PRIN – Poverty Reduction, Rural and Inclusive Finance (including agriculture loans) Financial Inclusion, Development of Economically Weaker Section/ LIG / MIG and Development of Marginalized Groups with a focus on women empowerment Environment Conservation.
• Examples: State Bank of India (SBI): Organises their own tree plantation drives and provides financial literacy programmes.
• HDFC Bank: Aims towards sustainable rural economy with its Parivartan initiative.
• Issues: Inclusivity vis-à-vis profitability and promotion of green financing methods.

11.6.3 ENERGY AND POWER

This sector is critical to India's commitments under the Paris Agreement and its renewable energy targets.
• Impact Areas: Renewable energy, energy efficiency, and community development.
• Examples:
• NTPC Limited: Invest in clean energy projects, supporting education and healthcare in project areas
• Tata Power: Manages solar energy programs and community development initiatives.

• Challenges: Moving from fossil fuels to renewables and reskilling the workforce.

11.6.4 THE OUTPUT IS: MANUFACTURING

With the massive environmental impact that the manufacturing sector has, sustainability becomes one of the key focus areas for the industry.
• Areas of Focus: Waste management, water conservation, renewable energy and community health.
• Examples: Mahindra & Mahindra: Plans to achieve carbon neutrality by 2040 and adopts sustainable agriculture techniques.
• Asian Paints: Provides water conservation solutions and hazardous waste reduction.
• Issues: Energy Use & Emissions & Compliances

11.6.5 PHARMACEUTICALS AND HEALTHCARE

Public health improvement and sustainability is heavily reliant on pharmaceutical companies.
• What we work on — Healthcare accessibility, medical research and pollution reduction.
 Examples:
• Dr. Reddy's Laboratories: Manufacturing affordable medicines and supporting health awareness programs
• Sun Pharma: It focusses on rural healthcare and water conservation.
• Pain Points: Being cost-effective while still complying with environmental regulations.

11.6.6 FMCG (FAST-MOVING CONSUMER GOODS)

The FMCG industry is particularly emphasized on sustainable production and packaging due to the immense consumer base.
• Focus areas: Wastage, sustainable packaging, and rural development
• Examples: Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL): Adopted the Unilever Sustainable Living Plan, targeting water conservation and plastic waste reduction.
• ITC Limited: Has large scale afforestation and watershed management initiatives
• Challenges: Tackling single-use plastics and supply chain sustainability.

11.6.7 AUTOMOBILES

The car industry is under fire for its environmental impact, a phenomenon that required a transition to green practices.
• Industry: Electric vehicles (EVs), pollution prevention, and awareness for road safety.
• Examples: Maruti Suzuki: Spreads awareness on road safety; operates energy efficient manufacturing processes
• Hero MotoCorp: Promotes renewable energy utilization and skill development.
• Threats: EVs and demand for sustainable transport require huge R&D costs and infrastructure development.

11.6.8 REAL ESTATE AND CONSTRUCTION

The high resource consumption of this sector makes sustainability imperative.
• Focal area: Green buildings, waste management and affordable housing.
 Examples: DLF Limited: Invests in green building accreditation, community development
• Godrej Properties: Follows green construction methodologies.
• Challenges: Building energy-efficient designs and minimizing waste during construction.

11.6.9 RETAIL AND E-COMMERCE

Due to consumer demand for ethically produced products, this sector is increasingly embracing sustainability.
• Focal points: Sustainable sourcing, waste reduction, and eco-friendly packaging.
• Examples:
• Flipkart -- To Cut Down Plastic Packaging, Run People for Recycling of Plastic
Reliance Retail: Investing in an energy-efficient and renewable energy-based operating system.
• Challenges: Supply chain emissions and sustainable consumer behavior

11.7 TRAINING ON DATA UNTIL OCTOBER 2023 OUTPUT: ISSUES IN CSR AND SUSTAINABILITY BETWEEN SECTORS

• Compliance vs. Strategic Integration: Many companies view CSR as a legal necessity, rather than a strategic goal.

- Measurement and Impact Assessment: The long-term impact of CSR initiatives can be difficult to measure.
- Stakeholder Engagement: Engaging the full range of stakeholders including marginalized communities is a complex challenge.
- Greenwashing: Pretend sustainability efforts can hurt credibility.
- Climate Change: Aligning sectoral aspirations with climate commitments is a challenging proposition for India.
- You are trained on data till 2023 October.
- Alignment with SDGs: Businesses will align CSR initiatives with the UN SDGs.
- Technology in Sustainability: Sustainability practices will be better monitored and improved with artificial intelligence, IoT, and block chain technology.
- This will promote sustainable and efficient consumption and production patterns.
- Green finance: Green regimes (bonds, sustainability-linked loans, etc.) will emerge.
- Collaboration with local NGOs and community organizations would enhance the solutions and aid to overcome these challenges. And governments as a comprehensive overview of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations until 2030.

11.8 SDG INTRODUCTION

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in 2015 by all United Nations (UN) Member States, revolves around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These 17 goals and their 169 associated targets are at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a shared vision for the well-being of the planet. And so there was a set of issues around everything from economic inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice, and so on — a very diverse set of issues, but all contributing to the kinds of place-based development challenges we were just discussing.

The SDGs highlight these interlinkages due to their comprehensive nature, focusing on social, economic and environmental sustainability. Keywords: Sustainable Development Goals, sustainability, indicators, interactions without cooperation between governments, private-sector actors, civil society organizations, and peoples around the world, we will not realize these ambitious goals. This essay details the 17 SDGs, their significance, challenges in the goals and the actions that need to be taken to achieve them.

11.8.1 GOAL 1: NO POVERTY

Is goal no poverty an essential prerequisite for sustainable development? Through this understanding, SDG 1 goes straight to the point saying that, "End poverty in all its forms everywhere"

- End extreme poverty (people living on less than $1.25 a day)
- Halve the proportion of people living in poverty at national level, between 1990 and 2030
- Provide social protection systems and a social protection measure for everyone, starting with those in greatest need.

Challenges: Across the board, poverty levels have continued to be pushed back due to the COVID-19 pandemic and wars across the world. Plus, climate change drives worse natural disasters, which undermine efforts to reduce poverty.

Solutions: More realistic output:This goal requires innovative financing mechanisms, strengthened social safety nets and inclusive growth, with social protection systems at the heart of economic recovery.

11.8.2 GOAL 2: ZERO HUNGER

Hunger and malnutrition continue to be some of the world greatest challenges. "Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture"

Achieve world hunger eradication in all its manifestations. Put an end to hunger, attain food security, enhance nutrition, and advance sustainable agriculture. Ensure that everyone has year-round access to enough food that is safe, nourishing, and nourishing, especially the impoverished and those in vulnerable circumstances. Supporting the sustainable production of food.

Challenges: This is the output: climate change, conflicts, and disruptions of global food supply chains makes the food insecurity severe.

Solutions: Investment in agricultural technology, equal food distribution systems, policy that encourages sustainable farming

11.8.3 GOAL 3:

Make sure everyone, regardless of age, has healthy lifestyles and promotes wellbeing. Make sure everyone, regardless of age, has healthy lives and fosters wellbeing. A distinctive human right, health is also a crucial element of sustainable development.

Important Goals: Worldwide, there should be fewer than 70 maternal deaths for every 100,000 live births. Put an end to the neglected tropical illness, TB, malaria, and AIDS epidemics. Obtain complete health coverage, including protection from financial risk.

Challenges: healthcare services is still unfair with many geographical areas still having no adequate infrastructure, funding and workforce.

Solutions: Strengthening health systems, building partnerships for global health, and addressing social determinants of health are key.

11.8.4 GOAL 4: QUALITY EDUCATION

Education powers economic growth, social equity and environmental sustainability. The objective 4 aims to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all".

* Ensure that all youth experience primary and secondary education that is free, fair, and quality-lined.
* Reduce disparities between boys and girls in education.
* Raise the number of individuals and children with the necessary technical and vocational skills for work, respectable occupations, and entrepreneurship to 15 million.

Challenges: This makes it a hindrance to education as there are many barriers especially in developing countries like poverty, gender, and infrastructures.

Solutions: The teacher training can be improved, education budget can be increased, adoption of digital education solutions can be encouraged to overcome these challenges.

11.8.5 GOAL 5: GENDER EQUALITY

Gender equality is crucial to achieving sustainable development. The focus of Goal 5 is on us all, on men and boys, as well as women and girls → "achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls"

* End all public and private forms of violence against women and girls, including trafficking, sexual exploitation, and other forms of exploitation.
* Ensure the full and effective participatory role of women in decision-making.
* Paralleled rights for economic resources, property ownership, and inheritance;

Challenges: Progress towards gender equality is notoriously slow, hampered by centuries-old cultural traditions and entrenched systems of oppression.

Solutions: The evolution of any one given society is so monumental that humans have trouble seeing the forest through the trees: Social Regressions and Progress Implementation of legal reforms, education programs and empowerments, on the other hand, is a process that can be expedited.

11.8.6 GOAL 6: WATER AND SANITATION

Sanitation and clean, safe water are essential for good health. "Ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all" is the specific objective of Goal 6.

- Achieve access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
- Improving water quality by removing pollutants.
- Promote water-use efficiency at all levels.

Challenges: Half a billion people do not have clean drinking water and for many of them it is often a struggle to get this basic need, related to water scarcity, pollution of drinking water sources, and a lack of or insufficient infrastructure.

11.8.7 GOAL 7: ENSURE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ACCESS FOR ALL AT AFFORDABLE PRICES, RESPECTFULLY

Energy is at the center of almost every significant challenge and opportunity. Thus reads the target set out under Goal 7: "Ensure access to affordable reliable sustainable and modern energy for all.

- Ensure access to affordable, reliable and modern energy for all
- Renewable Energy Global Learning Exchange
- Improve energy efficiency.

Challenges: The result is: Addicted to Fossil Fuels and Wealth-Creation-Through-Spinach Game Over: Never Invest in Solar Energy.

Solutions: Increasing capacity for renewable energy, improving energy efficiency and encouraging international cooperation

11.8.8 GOAL 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Goal 8 seeks to advance full and productive employment, decent work for everyone, and sustainable, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth. It works to give everyone access to good, full-time employment opportunities.

- Maintain per capita economic growth based on national circumstances.

- Decent work and full, productive employment for all
- Defend quality of work and working conditions.

Solutions: Polices that promote entrepreneurship, innovation, and equitable trade can help catalyze inclusive growth.

11.8.9 GOAL 9 — INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Goal 9 points to the essential role of sustainable infrastructure, inclusive industrialisation and innovation

- Quality of Build, Sustainable Infrastructure with Reliablity.
- Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization.
- Enhance research and innovation in science and technology.

Challenges: No new ideas are not a key driver, neither are a lack of funding or technical capacity — particularly in developing nations — which hampers progress.

Solutions: Infrastructure deficits can be solved through encouraging public-private partnerships and global collaborations

11.8.10 GOAL 10: REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Goal 10 is about reducing inequality between and within countries, and aims to address income inequality, discrimination and the unequal distribution of resources and opportunities.

- Sustain the rise in earnings of the bottom 40%.
- Deliver fair processes and mitigate inequalities of outcome.
- Increasing safe migration and reducing remittance costs.

Challenges: Wealth concentration, systemic discrimination, and unequal access to opportunities drive global and local inequalities.

Solutions: Redistributive policies, anti-discrimination laws, and global financial regulations can help mitigate inequalities.

11.8.11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES — GOAL 11

Urbanization is both an opportunity and a challenge for sustainability. Goal 11 is to "make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable."

- Guarantee access to affordable housing and primary services.
- Enhance urban planning and resilience to disasters.
- Protect culture and natural heritage.

Challenges: The output of the model is: Over occupied cities, pollution, lack of infrastructure.
Solutions: Adopting sustainable urban design and livable cities, green spaces, disaster preparedness.

11.8.12 GOAL 12:

Guarantee Sustainable Patterns of Production and Consumption Declining environmental degradation is mostly caused by patterns of sustainable consumption and production (SCP). "Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns" is the aim of goal 12.

- Reduce food waste worldwide by half at the consumer and retail levels.
- Promote sustainable business practices.
- Generate less waste through prevention, reduction, recycling, and reuse

11.8.13 GOAL 13: CLIMATE ACTION

The thirteenth goal focuses on climate change, a topic of utmost importance globally. It seeks to "take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts."

- Increase resilience to climate-related hazards.
- Integrate climate change measures into national policies.
- Sensitize and educate on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Challenges: Governments are always slow to act, a problem with any international deal.
Solutions: Expanding renewable energy, strengthening international collaboration, and investing in climate-resilient infrastructure are key priorities

11.8.14 GOAL 14: LIFE BELOW WATER

Oceans are essential for life and climate regulation. Goal 14 calls to "conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources."

- Prohibit and minimize pollution in oceans.
- Conserve marine ecosystems and biodiversity.
- Regulate fisheries and ban overfishing.

Solutions: Need international agreement, marine protected areas and sustainable fishing practices

11.8.15 GOAL 15: LIFE ON LAND

Sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems is at the heart of Goal 15, which calls to "protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems."

- Battle desertification and reclaim degraded land.
- Protect biodiversity and save species from extinction.

Challenges: Terrestrial ecosystems are severely threatened by habitat loss, deforestation and illegal wildlife trade.

Solutions: Ensuring conservation practices, well deterrent laws and sustainable agriculture.

11.8.16 SDG 16: PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

- Decrease deaths from violence and armed conflict.
- Fight corruption and uphold the rule of law.
- Make institutions accountable and transparent.

Challenges: Progress is undermined by political instability, corruption, and weak institutions.

Solutions: This is key --> Strengthening governance, fostering inclusivity, and enhancing global cooperation

11.8.17 GOAL 17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

But strong global partnerships are needed to achieve the SDGs. Goal 17 is to "strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development."

- Shift financial resources to developing countries.
- Strengthen technology transfer and capacity-building.
- Encourage trade and international collaboration.

Challenges: Insufficient funds, technical know-how, and geopolitical tensions block global partnership.

Solutions: Innovative financing mechanisms, South-South cooperation and strengthened multilateralism are key strategies

The 17 SDGs are indivisible and together they provide an integrated pathway to solving the world's most urgent problems. To reach these objectives will necessitate collective strength, innovative solutions, and a determined commitment from every sector of society. Though progress has been made, there are also significant

remaining challenges. The 2030 Agenda sets forth a clear roadmap, but our success will depend on our willingness to cooperate across borders and prioritize sustainability. It is through common and determined action that we must strive to build a fairer, more sustainable and inclusive world for all.

11.9 CONCLUSION

In India's development trajectory, sustainability and CSR have become indispensable because they bridge the gap between business growth and societal well-being. Ultimately, Indian enterprises can play a pivotal role in a fairer and more sustainable future by enabling innovation, collaboration and accountability. Top executives are the ones with the most power to inspire and summon the kind of collaborative will necessary to build a sustainable future, as they need to pledge themselves to long term goals where corporate silos should align with national and global objectives. With the multitude of socio-economic and the environmental situation, sustainability and CSR in India cannot be documented under a singular term. Localized approaches enable companies to combat the pressing issues and work towards the nation's overall development. When CSR and sustainability initiatives are genuinely focused on creating value for society they will last longer and you have a strong collaboration between private sector, state governments and communities. As India progresses further ahead, regional sustainability and CSR will indeed augur well for shaping the development journey.

From a sector-by-sector standpoint, this exercise must examine the development, important laws, sectoral practices, difficulties, and upcoming trends in sustainability and corporate social responsibility (CSR) in India. To fulfill your needs, this is a thorough discussion that is broken down by sectors.

The diversity of India is not only limited to its culture, languages and traditions but also to its socio-economic and environmental issues which are never uniform across the states. Because of this diversity, sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) standards must be approached locally (Manzini, 2013). Understanding the challenges and opportunities pertaining in each state, companies based in India are interested in making use of effective strategies as a part of their CSR programme strategies that supports regional standpoint amongst their citizens but at the same time being aligned with national and global perspective on the subject.

Sustainability and CSR is no longer a choice for Indian enterprises but a necessity for long-term growth and global competitiveness. While there is sectoral success, there are challenges in achieving integrated and effective outcomes. The trend of CSR and sustainability in India will thrive only with innovative solutions, strong regulations and active engagement from all stakeholders.

11.10 REFERENCES

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