

CEOs Forum on Sustainability marking World Nature Conservation Day



Glimpses from the CEOs Forum on Sustainability event

India as a country, has faced a wide range of challenges owing to its size and varied demography. The upside to it was an extraordinary capable array of civil society institutions, with strengths ranging from credible policy advocacy, through rigorous research and analysis, to practical action on the ground – on all the different aspects of sustainable development. Every organisation that is deeply committed to its cause often produces evidence-based impacts through tireless efforts, much of which goes unrecognised. Our Chairman Dr. Ashok Khosla had an idea to raise the collective influence and impact of the NGOs promoting sustainability, by creating a channel of better communication and exchanging knowledge of each other's work along with issues and challenges faced.

Building on Dr Khosla's idea and leveraging the reminder that World Nature Conservation Day provides of our collective responsibility to safeguard the environment for present and future generations, we hosted a CEOs Forum on Sustainability. The forum took place on Saturday, 27 July 2024, on the eve of World Nature Conservation Day.

We invited top organisations from Delhi NCR that promote sustainability. The attendees included the heads of twelve organisations, such as WWF India, CEEW, Nature Conservancy India, Wildlife Trust of India, CMS Vatavaran, WaterAid, Participatory Research in Asia, Club of Rome, and Eco Roots Foundation.

Two questions were posed to the heads of the organisations, moderated by our CEO, Mr Shrashtant Patara, aiming to foster collaborations, share insights, and catalyse action towards a more sustainable future. The questions focused on each organisation's flagship initiative aimed at a sustainable national future and the gaps in each one's capacity or resources where partnerships could add value.

The purpose was to find synergies in their work and open a dialogue among those with collective expertise and influence in environmental conservation. This dialogue aimed to address pressing challenges and explore innovative solutions for the environmental crisis. The forum facilitated collaboration among leaders in the field, identifying common grounds to impact the larger mandate. This collaboration aimed to drive systemic change, synergise efforts, galvanise actions, and advance the agenda of nature conservation through collaborative partnerships, innovative solutions, policy advocacy, community engagement, and climate mitigation. All the leaders found great value in coming together to discuss their work and understand different perspectives. There was a resounding need for the forum to meet continuously to work towards a bigger goal. The CEOs Forum concluded with the participants expressing a strong commitment to ongoing dialogue and collaborations for a sustainable future.