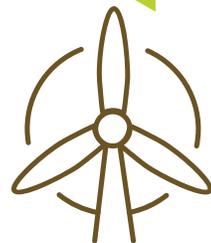
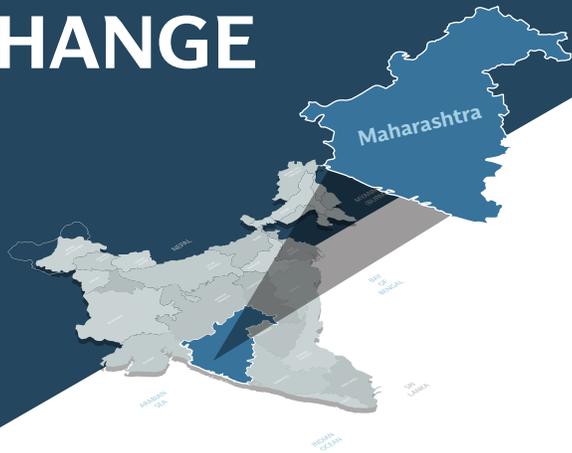


# MAHARASHTRA'S IMPRESSIVE INITIATIVES TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE



The third roundtable of the Champion State series, part of **Sustainability 100+ - Shaping a Better World** by **Anheuser-Busch InBev (AB InBev) and Network18**, spotlight the sustainability initiatives undertaken by **Maharashtra with a particular focus on climate action**. The launch of the Sustainability 100+ - Shaping a Better World has paved the way for collaboration between states, the private and public sector by bringing together key opinion leaders from across the country to understand better the unique roles state governments play in designing, executing and monitoring the development of policies and interventions aimed at driving sustainable development.

As part of the initiative, the Champion State Series attention turned its attention to Maharashtra - one of the most industrialized states in India. It is also the most vulnerable region to climate change with erratic weather patterns and events such as floods, droughts and much more.

Thus, to combat climate change, the state has taken vital steps by limiting greenhouse gas emissions and switching to clean energy, working efficiently towards UN's SDGs 2030. In its latest SDG Index, the NITI Aayog also recognized Maharashtra as one of the top-performing states in affordable and clean energy

Thus, in a bid to uncover the state's existing challenges, performance numbers, and roadmap in climate action, the roundtable discussion hosted eminent panellists, including corporate players, non-profits, and government stakeholders.

The panel comprised the following sustainability leaders:



**VALSA NAIR SINGH**

Principal Secretary, Excise, Tourism & Culture, Maharashtra



**AJOY MEHTA**

Chairman, RERA - Maharashtra



**DR NILAY RANJAN**

Head CSR, Vodafone India



**DR MRITUNJAY CHAUBEY**

Global Vice President - Environment & Sustainability, UPL



**DURGESH GUPTA**

Founder, Green Yatra & Legal Environment Activist



**ATUL MUDALIAR**

Senior Manager, The Climate Group



**ALOKA MAJUMDAR**

Corporate Sustainability, HSBC India



**ASHISH PALTA**

Vice President, Sales - ABInBev India

# Goal: Switching to renewable sources

The stalwarts had a shared vision of meeting the UN's SDG of sourcing only **100% renewable energy** for all purposes. In this regard, organisations are already working on innovative strategies through power purchase agreements, changing equipment to consolidate modern, energy-saving technology, localising global brands production in the country, and switching to recyclable packaging.



Considerable work is underway, the results of which deserve the spotlight. For instance:

- 1** AB InBev is peaking between 13-15% of renewable energy power purchase agreements in Maharashtra.
- 2** UPL reduced their carbon emission by 27% in the last five years.
- 3** Green Yatra, in collaboration with giant corporates, planted 2.5L trees in FY20-21.
- 4** Vodafone India stands at 0.6 megawatts in solar power purchase agreements.
- 5** Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) is incentivizing the use of cleaner technology and cluster-based technologies.

# Challenges and Action Plans

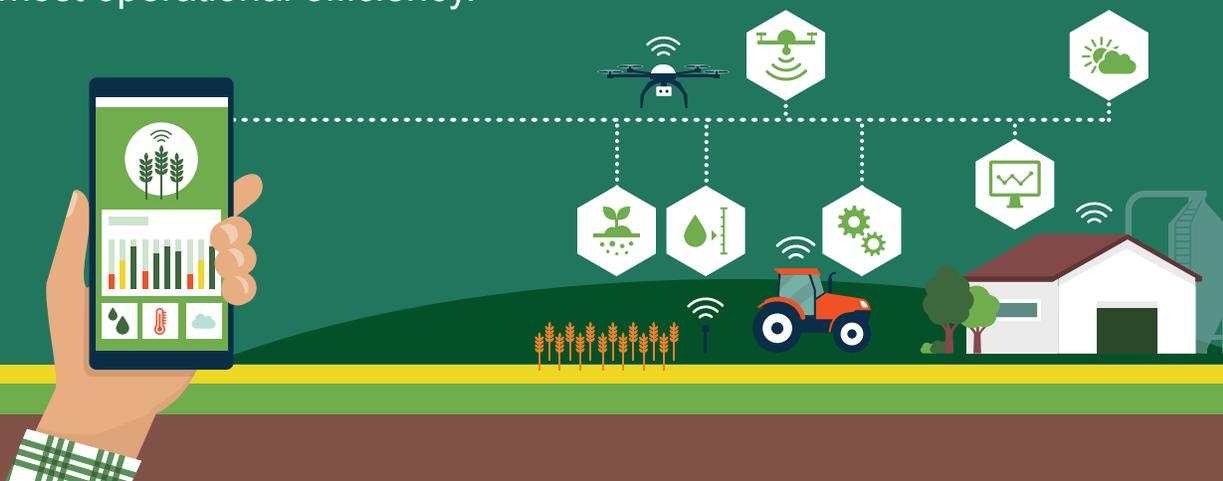
- UN's 2030 Climate Action Target

The adoption of environment-friendly practices such as the **Electric Vehicle Policy by the state government** has onset the journey towards reducing greenhouse emissions. Also, Maharashtra's challenging geography and topography present multiple opportunities for industry leaders to tap into. For instance, 60% of Maharashtra is drought-prone and 7% flood-prone. Against this backdrop, corporates, NGOs, government stakeholders, and civil society can innovate and introduce ideas to mitigate the risks of climate change.

The state is currently undertaking soil and water conservation activities. Further, the real estate industry's Development Control Regulations ensure that **rainwater harvesting is compulsory** for structures crossing a predefined mark and buildings leave open spaces to avoid water clogging situations.

Moreover, mission boards have taken off, like the **agro-tourism policy**, which incentivizes farmers with an additional income source and gives tourists an experiential opportunity in Maharashtra.

Mumbai's long coastal line and flooding issues are tackled through the state government's CRZ rules. A 200m no development zone is specified, with specific areas for environment-complying **tourist attractions like Base Shacks**. In addition, Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are constructed in aviation centres, like Nagpur, to get units with less pollution potential while ensuring utmost operational efficiency.



## Quotes



**VALSA NAIR**

*I strongly believe that sustainability is not something that only the Department of Environment should stress. Sustainability will work when all departments accept the fact that sustainability is a priority for each one of us*



**AJOY MEHTA**

*To reduce our carbon footprint and eventually move towards carbon neutrality, we need to accept that a certain increase is inevitable because India is a developing country, and we need to uplift our people. This being said, we need to conserve some of our old practices, and change some of them at an individual level.*



**DR. NILAY RANJAN**

*After the merger of Vodafone-Idea Limited, we hit sustainability and CSR at a company level. We're on the path of moving towards zero diesel consumption and utilising more renewable energy, particularly solar in Maharashtra*



**DR. MRITUNJAY CHAUBEY**

*From an industry perspective, we recommend using biomass boilers to reduce carbon emissions. Since the chemical industry requires much hot water, we are currently working on integrating solar thermal, a cost-effective solution to reduce carbon footprint. Two of our largest operating plants are using 17% renewable energy sources.*



**ASHISH PALTA**

*Our way forward at AB InBev is a way towards green in line with profitability and growth. By localising the brewing of global brands like Corona and Hoegaarden, India will act as a hotspot in serving local consumer needs and those of neighbouring countries.*

## Takeaways



### ASHISH PALTA

*Our move towards the future is climate-conscious. As part of climate action goals, we are looking to reduce CO2 emissions by 25% in the state and become a 100% renewable energy company. It's sort of taking 400 football fields around the world and laying them out with solar panels to generate 600 terawatt hours of energy. So, it's four football fields for India and one for Maharashtra.*



### VALSA NAIR SINGH

*Maharashtra has the highest FDI in the country, where cleaner technology and sustainable development is practised in manufacturing and industrial operations. This is a priority sector for the Government of Maharashtra, where steps like incentivising grain-based production, specifying high tide no-development zones are taken to achieve sustainability.*



### ATUL MUDALIAR

*Maharashtra Regulatory*

*Commission of Electricity is now allowing green tariffs, meaning residential and industrial customers can demand renewable electricity directly from the primary service providers at a premium cost. As part of this sentiment, we are working with the government to unlock many such viable renewable energy instruments for companies.*