

2050 and 2070. However, the pace of change and possible policy paralysis make the task of achieving the goals intimidating. Companies are increasingly facing pressure from stakeholders to adopt decarbonisation measures and net zero goals.

Towards these issues, the Switch On Foundation in collaboration with the Centre for Development and Environment Policy (CDEP), IIM Calcutta, organised a round table on Industrial decarbonisation on 8th March 2024 as part of its outreach activities. The interactive session brought together varying perspectives from industry stakeholders and think tanks regarding multiple pathways of industrial decarbonization such as utilisation of renewable energy, GHG emissions abatement and in some cases viably capturing and utilizing such as carbon capture to strive towards a more sustainable future. The roundtable was joined by Mr. Ankur Chaturvedi, Associate VPEMami Group, Mr. Anupam Ray, expert- Power and Renewable Energy - KPMG, Mr. Debarka Chakraborty, Principal Consultant - Dastur Energy, Mr. Jagabanta Ningthoujam, principal and director - RMI India, Mr. Tamim Mohammad, Sr. General Manager TQM, Exide Industries, Prof. Mritiunjoy Mohanty, Professor, IIM Calcutta, Dr. Tirthankar Nag, Professor IIM Kolkata, Mr.

its net zero goals, the Indian government has introduced several policies and guidelines to accelerate this process including gradually phasing out relatively old and inefficient coal power plants, encouraging local production of green hydrogen to kickstart the clean fuel based industrial economy and giving industries incentives to adopt renewable energy. So how ready are industries to implement these climate adaptation measures in their daily operations?

Discussion

The roundtable discussion painted a promising picture as industrial stakeholders discussed their decarbonisation measures and voluntary disclosures. For the industries represented at the roundtable, the majority of emissions are concentrated in the Scope 3 category which are diffused among suppliers and therefore difficult to measure. Companies continue to identify areas of operation to cut back on their Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions which are directly controlled by companies. While investing in Electric Vehicles (EVs), recyclable packaging etc. helps lower a company's carbon footprint, industrial stakeholders agree that strategic and diligent measures are required to cut back on their power consumption for a green transition.

Most of the coal related discourse in the context of industrial decarbonisation has been electricity centred and challenges in electricity distribution centres increase emissions due to lack of guidelines, bureaucratic process, outdated infrastructure and apathetic attitude. However, with the buzz around sustainability, concern around climate change is not something new, it's just nations putting more emphasis on conventional security issues like climate change,

Green hydrogen and now, Blue hydrogen are being promoted as sustainable alternatives but there aren't enough studies on the long term implication of transitioning to these alternative fuels, plus

they are supplying. However, it can also be argued there aren't any concrete regulations and enforcement for MSMEs owing to the fact they only contribute to a minuscule of the total industrial emissions, so the onus once again is on the big corporations to decarbonise their supply chain.

Energy transition becomes more attractive when they are backed by innovation and skill development. Companies who are worried about the cost of transition fail to see the opportunities of investing in R&D for a green future. Inability to adapt to the changing market needs poses its own risks. Companies who are embracing these changes are both to ones that will have technological edge over their competitors, lowered compliance risks and better public perception making them attractive to their shareholders, investors and consumers.

The concerns around industrial waste management remains poignant, especially when untreated industrial toxic water gets dumped directly into rivers, it greatly affects the pH level of the water which is destructive to its biodiversity. The Central Government has set up the 'National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) vide gazette notification dated 20th Feb, 2009 as a collaborative institution of Central and State Governments under the Environment (Protection) Act (EPA) of 1986 for abatement of pollution of River Ganga. (Central Pollution Control Board, n.d.) Despite that Ganga remains one of the most polluted rivers in the world. Other anthropogenic causes such as forest stubble burning spikes air pollution in north Indian states, where air quality degrades to dangerous levels affecting the health and quality of life of the

Reference

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