Corporate dharma for a greener future

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VEDANTA

Long before climate conferences and carbon credits, India was already sensitive to the environment and planet. Our ancient Sanskrit texts, over 3,000 years old, weren't environmental manifestos in the modern sense. But they had one clarity—that the earth is not a resource, but a stakeholder. The *Vedas* describe the natural order that governs the universe. They capture the principle of a balance in nature, a sacred rhythm. And when we disrupt it, we suffer. In today's parlance, we call it sustainability. India can be a leader of the world in showing that achieving prosperity and protecting the planet are not conflicting goals, that they are, in fact, in harmony.

In today's global economy, corporations are no longer judged solely by their profits, but by the impact they leave behind. With their vast resources, influence, and reach, businesses carry immense responsibility to work towards a sustainable future. Environmental stewardship is not a matter of compliance or branding, it is a moral imperative. It is also good for growth and ultimately profit. Corporations must lead with intention, embracing long-term sustainability over short-term gain, and recognising that their fortunes are inextricably tied to the health of the ecosystems around them. In taking accountability for their environmental footprint, businesses can inspire systemic change, setting off a ripple effect that influences industries, communities, and policymakers alike.

True environmental leadership demands intention, transparency, and long-term vision. It calls on businesses to go beyond reactive compliance and towards proactive transformation, including setting of ambitious carbon reduction goals, investing in green innovation, and ensuring ethical resource use. This responsibility is not a burden but an opportunity to future-proof operations, inspire investor confidence, attract conscious consumers, and influence industry-wide change. When corporations embrace this mandate with sincerity, they become powerful agents in the global climate action.

At Vedanta, we are inspired by our civilisational ethos. Our ancient wisdom is a driver of our modernity. Embracing the ethos of 'Transforming for Good,' Vedanta has undertaken significant strides towards sustainability. It has mitigated 28 million tonnes of carbon since FY 2023, underscoring its commitment to responsible environmental practices.

Investments in renewable energy are central to Vedanta's strategy. Vedanta has secured renewable energy round-the-clock equivalent power capacity to 1.03 GW (gigawatt) through power delivery agreements. The introduction of low-carbon products like Restora, Restora Ultra (aluminium) and EcoZen (zinc) further exemplifies the company's dedication to reducing its carbon footprint.

Water conservation is another critical focus area. Hindustan Zinc, a Vedanta subsidiary, has been certified as a 2.41 times Water Positive Company, reflecting its efforts in water recycling and replenishment. Such initiatives resonate with the *Vedic* principle of living in harmony with natural resources, ensuring their availability for future generations.

Biodiversity preservation also features prominently in Vedanta's sustainability agenda. Vedanta is committed to planting 7 million trees and has already completed planting 3 million—aiming for a net positive impact on ecosystems. The Miyawaki afforestation projects and mangrove plantations not only sequester carbon but also restore habitats.

As a global collective, we will preserve our environment and our planet the day we stop viewing it as something that is being imposed on us. It must become our way of doing business, indeed our way of life. In achieving this, businesses have a crucial role to play in universalising a positivity towards everything green. If the costs are too high for both producers and consumers, the change will not happen seamlessly. Continuous investment in technology is the only way forward as this will provide us with opportunities and solutions. We are already seeing tremendous results.

On World environment Day, it is worth emphasising that there is no alternative to forging a path that supports the well-being of people and the planet. Businesses must work together with governments and civil society to achieve this goal. As a fast-growing emerging economy with an embedded empathy for nature, India is well positioned to show the world that there is a better way.

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