



SASHWAT

ISSUE #1 APRIL – JUNE 2024

**Shaping Actions for a Sustainable and Humanitarian
World Through Advocacy and Transformation**

NEWSLETTER

Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development



FROM THE **EDITOR'S DESK**

BUILDING SUSTAINABILITY INTO OUR DNA

On the occasion of World Environment Day, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the inaugural issue of our quarterly newsletter SASHWAT, under the aegis of the Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development at Great Lakes Institute of Management, Gurgaon. Our newsletters will aim to provide a collaborative platform for scientific research and advocacy, as well as knowledge sharing, to inspire ground level action on various issues related to sustainability, within the overall context of the Sustainable Development Goals. Each issue will be taking up a particular theme related to Sustainable Development and delve into the latest advancements in that space, highlight inspiring initiatives, carry opinion pieces from experts and practitioners working in the area of sustainability, and offer practical tips for living a more sustainable life.

In recent years, the issue of sustainable development and meeting Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) goals has become a critical focus of attention for governments, policy makers, scholars and practitioners the world over, including India. In its simplest form, sustainability refers to the ability to meet our current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own. It encompasses a holistic approach to resource management, environmental protection, and social responsibility, emphasizing harmony between humans and nature. In this respect, we are confronted with a stark reality: our planet faces unprecedented challenges, with Climate change, biodiversity loss, and resource depletion threatening the very fabric of life on Earth. These issues are interconnected, forming a complex web that demands urgent action. A key requirement for achieving SDG goals by any country would be collective action by all stakeholders – individuals, corporations and local bodies - to adopt environmental-friendly and socially responsible behaviors. We must rethink our consumption patterns, reduce waste, and embrace circular economy principles that minimize resource depletion and maximize resource efficiency. Businesses play a pivotal role in driving sustainable innovation and must prioritize environmental and social responsibility in their operations.

Governments, on the other hand, must enact policies that incentivize sustainability and hold corporations and individuals accountable for their impact on the planet.

However, amidst these challenges, there are green shoots of optimism. More and more individuals, businesses, and governments are acknowledging the urgency of sustainability. Innovation is thriving, leading to the development of renewable energy sources, sustainable resource management practices, and circular economy models.

Education and awareness are key components of the sustainability journey. By fostering a culture of environmental stewardship and equipping people with the knowledge and skills to make informed choices, we can inspire positive change on a global scale. From educating students about the importance of conservation to empowering individuals to adopt sustainable lifestyles, education is a powerful tool for building a sustainable future. The newsletter aims to contribute to this aim.

As we embark on this journey together, it is crucial to recognize that sustainability is not just an option but a necessity for the well-being of current and future generations. We invite you to embark on this journey with us. Let us create a future where sustainability is not just a word, but becomes a part of our DNA – in the way we live, the choices we make, and the legacy we leave behind.

Welcome to a Sustainable Future!

Dr Sanghamitra Bhattacharyya



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dr. Debashis Sanyal

It has been just over a year since we launched our Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development, with the overall vision of creating a collaborative environment for cutting-edge research, advocacy and action, within the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, and empowering the global community to create a sustainable future for all. It gives me immense pleasure and pride to note the achievements that we have garnered in that short time.

We have already hosted two annual international conferences on the broad theme of sustainability, with impressive attendance of renowned researchers and practitioners. Aligned with Great Lakes, Gurgaon’s vision, our esteemed faculty have been publishing articles in highly rated peer reviewed journals on various aspects of sustainability, as well as contributing to the public narrative through their insightful publications in the business press. Moreover, we have already made a foray into the international arena through our tie-ups with reputed universities abroad.

Going forward, we have even more ambitious plans. We are working on developing multiple indices – SDG in public narrative, Monthly Prosperity Index, etc, which would be a unique offering from our Centre and will be open to the public in a very short while. Additionally, a number of action-based research projects touching multiple SDGs, webinars and workshops on various themes of sustainability are planned to be conducted in the coming months. We will also be tying up with industry partners as collaborators – not only for the newsletter but for other initiatives of the Centre. While interesting times are ahead of us, the success of our efforts will largely depend on cooperation from all of you - our stakeholders, and I am confident that I can rely on your support to help us in realizing our ambitions. I wish the Centre the very best in its future endeavours in contributing to our collective journey towards a sustainable future



Inner Development Goals (IDG): Innovative Initiatives and Global Collaborations for Sustainable Development

Dr Sapna Poti

Director, Strategic Alliances, Office of Principal Scientific Advisor to Government of India

*Yesterday I was clever-so wanted to change the world.
Today, I am wise – so I want to change myself.
Rumi, Turkish poet.*

The challenges we face today as humanity are severe and complex; whether they are about climate crisis, uneven development progress, intensifying inequality, or escalating political polarization, they are many, and they are urgent. When the SDGs were launched in 2015, many felt that they provided a comprehensive plan for a sustainable world by 2030. But even though we have accumulated a lot of knowledge about the climate crisis, poverty, public health, and other challenges communicated in the SDGs, we seem to lack the inner capacity to deal with our increasingly complex environment and challenges. However, it is crucial to recognize that each individual has the potential to make a significant difference. There is an ever growing pressing need to increase our collective abilities to face and effectively work with complex challenges. The 2023/24 Human Development Report “Reimagining cooperation in a polarized world” assesses the dangerous gridlock resulting in the challenges such as uneven development progress, intensifying inequality, and escalating political polarization - that we must urgently tackle.

We must invest to develop capabilities that people will need in the future and enable socio- economic and planetary conditions for humankind to flourish. The good news is that modern research shows that the inner abilities we require to complement and accelerate our external approaches can be developed. This was the starting point for the Inner Development Goals (IDG) Framework co-created with several industries, academia and Government stakeholders as an essential roadmap that can assist us in navigating and developing our inner lives to catalyze outer change. Based on interdisciplinary research, the IDG Framework has 5 dimensions with 23 skills of human inner growth and development.



From the IDG framework, it is clear that Individuals in Organizations can make a difference. Having said that, it is also top down in most cases. Political will to make changes and align to Sustainable Development Goals is important. India, in particular, has been a shining example of proactive engagement in sustainable development, a fact that should make us all proud. The Government of India's modus operandi is a meticulously crafted framework that guides its approach towards the SDGs. This framework, comprising Breakdown Analysis (BA), Solutions (S), Impact (I), and Communication (C), serves as a roadmap for navigating the complexities inherent in sustainable development. Systematically isolating key components of each goal, formulating data-driven solutions, measuring impact, and effectively communicating interventions ensures maximum visibility and efficacy of the endeavors.

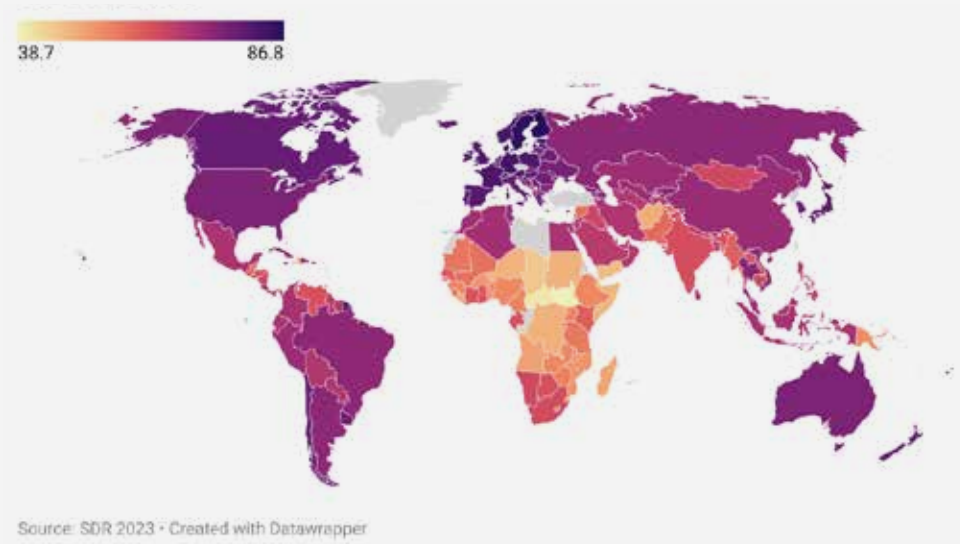
One of the hallmarks of the Government's approach is its focus on tangible outcomes related to specific SDGs. Whether it is increasing women's participation in higher education, managing freshwater resources in vulnerable areas, promoting sustainable consumption and production practices, or compiling industry-level best practices, the Government's initiatives are deeply rooted in addressing real-world sustainability challenges. By forging alliances with a diverse range of stakeholders, including the corporates, non-profits, think tanks, and international academic partners, the Government leverages collective expertise and resources to drive meaningful change. NITI Aayog has been taking a lead in this aspect and has been receiving support from several Central Ministries to align their processes and outcomes to the SDGs. India's commitment to sustainable development is being driven by innovative science and technology projects that are transforming key areas such as circular economy, water, waste management, one health, sanitation etc. These initiatives are designed and developed by the office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to Government of India (PSA,Gol) along with respective line Ministries. The Industry academia/startup collaborations that are extremely pertinent to meet the National Missions articulated by the office of the PSA, Gol are further facilitated through its platform 'Manthan' that not only received the Dun & Bradstreet award 2023 but was also nominated to be showcased to 26 Prime Ministers/State Heads of various Nations at the World Governments Summit 2024. These collaborations are pushing the boundaries of possibility, and creating impactful solutions that align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through Emerging Technologies (ETs).

India has a lot to learn and imbibe from global benchmarks of innovative practices related to Sustainability. Governments globally are also navigating the complex terrain of the SDGs by aligning policies, investing strategically, and fostering collaboration. The examples set by other nations, such as Germany's Energiewende, where over 50% of electricity comes from renewables, Singapore's water management achieving 30% water demand through recycling, inspire India's sustainable development efforts. Uruguay's renewable energy success, with 95% of electricity from renewables, and the Netherlands' innovative water management solutions showcase resilience and adaptation. Rwanda's healthcare transformation and Bhutan's Gross National Happiness model highlight holistic development approaches. These global examples underscore that sustainable development transcends borders, driven by innovation and strategic planning, guiding India towards a more equitable, resilient, and sustainable future. India's National Action Plan on Climate Change targets align with SDG 13, and its ambitious renewable energy goals resonate with SDG 7. Collaborative initiatives like the India-Sweden Innovation Partnership drive innovation and resource mobilization. Drawing insights from Finland's education system can enhance India's efforts towards quality education (SDG 4). By adapting and implementing proven strategies from around the world, India can make significant strides towards meeting the SDG goals and ensuring a sustainable future for its citizens.

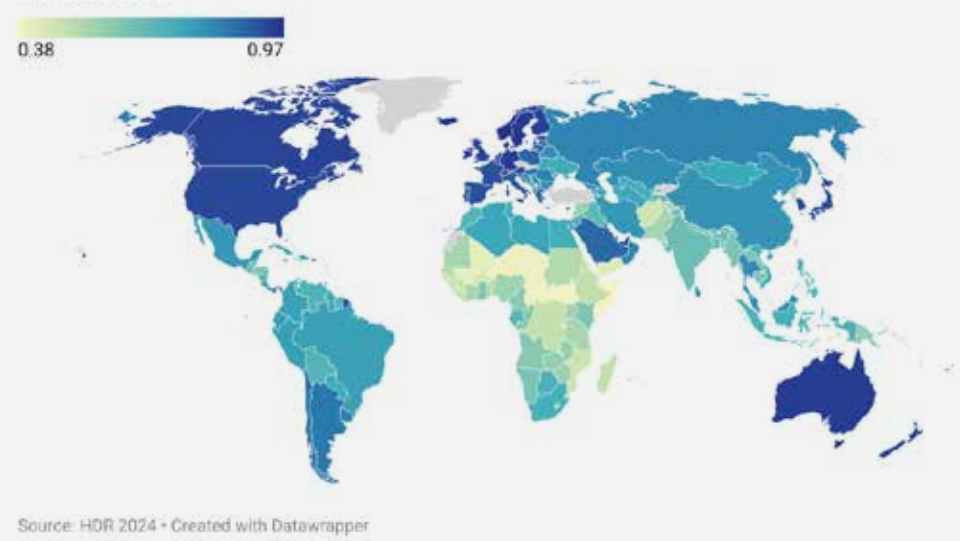
Together, let's all commit and continue to collaborate in addressing sustainability. Through our combined dedication, we can pave the way for a future that is not only more equitable and resilient but also prosperous for generations to come.

INDIA

SDG SCORE



HDI VALUE



- » India Ranked 112 Among 166 Countries for Performance in 2023 SDG Rankings (Source: <https://thewire.in/rights/un-sustainable-development-goals-india-ranked-112-among-166-countries-for-performance-in-2023>)
- » India Shows Progress In Human Development Index, Ranks 134 Out Of 193 Countries (Source: <https://www.undp.org/india/press-releases/india-shows-progress-human-development-index-ranks-134-out-193-countries>)
- » Right against climate change a distinct fundamental and human right, SC judgment: Linking the right against climate change to Articles 21 and 14, Chief Justice Chandrachud said the rights to life and equality cannot be fully realised without a clean, stable (Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/right-against-climate-change-a-distinct-fundamental-and-human-right-sc-judgment/article68041693.ece>)

WORLD



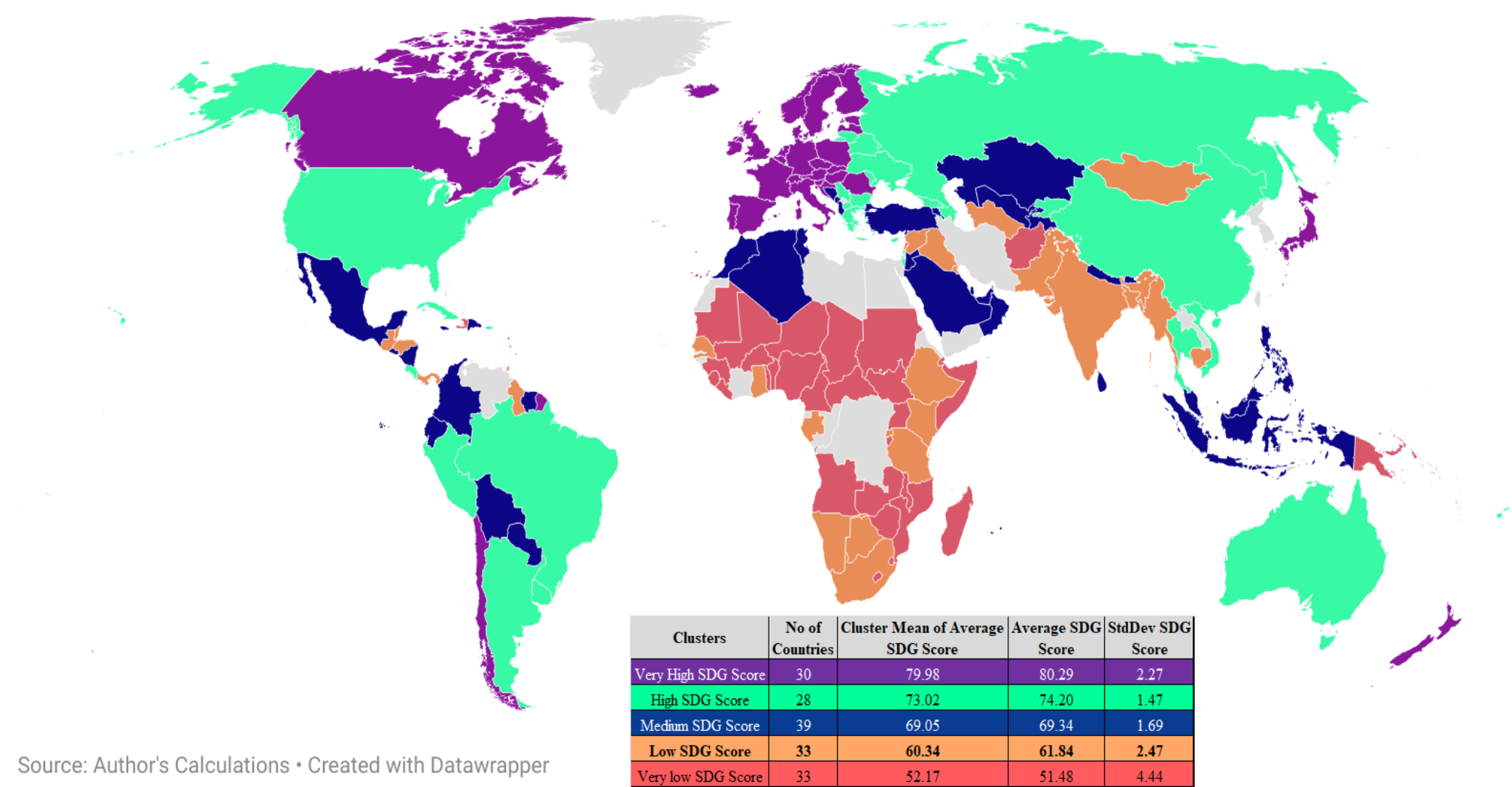
- » The UN General Assembly on Thursday adopted a landmark resolution on the promotion of “safe, secure and trustworthy” artificial intelligence (AI) systems that will also benefit sustainable development for all. (Source: <https://turkiye.un.org/en/264412-general-assembly-adopted-landmark-resolution-artificial-intelligence>)



- » Swansea Becomes First City to Introduce Liquid Trees to All Primary Schools: The liquid tree is actually an aquarium, an urban photo-bioreactor, that purifies the air in urban areas where there is not enough space to plant natural trees. (Source: <https://businessnewswales.com/swansea-becomes-first-city-to-introduce-liquid-trees-to-all-primary-schools/>)

INDIA'S **SDG JOURNEY**

SDG CLUSTERS



India lies in the cluster of Low SDG score along with countries such Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, etc mostly in the company of Low Income Countries (as per World Bank categorisation), and a few emerging economies. An overview of India’s SDG journey over the last 2 decades reveals a combination of outcomes. There have been improvements in some SDGs (3,4,6,7,8,9 and 14), while in some SDGs (1,2,5,11 and 13) there have not been much change over the two decades. For the rest, India’s performance has declined. Improved economic activity appears to be coming as a trade-off against individual rights, especially in issues of gender empowerment, and increasing social inequalities.

CITIZEN'S CORNER

DISTRICT’S 1ST ECO-TOURISM HUB

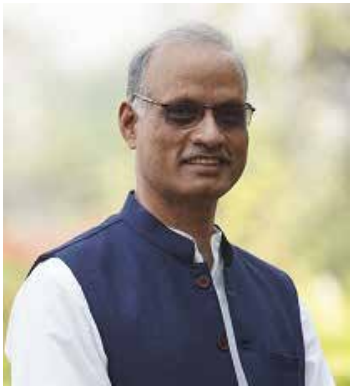
IFS officer Vikas Nayak came across a barren land in the ravines of Firozabad district in Uttar Pradesh. Once a breeding ground for thieves and dacoits, he developed it into a green oasis with wood huts, geo treks, a butterfly park, and more.



77 YEAR OLD WORKED FOR A DECADE AFTER RETIREMENT TO BRING A RIVER BACK TO LIFE

The massive undertaking of cleaning the 75-km stretch of Manganga river flowing from Sangli to Solapur with public participation was started in 2016. And the man who championed the cause to bring back the river to its former glory was Vaijinath Ghongade.

RESEARCH ARTICLES PUBLISHED



Dr. Ravindra Ojha

» **Ojha, R., & Agarwal, A. (2023).** Implications of circular production and consumption of electric vehicle batteries on resource sustainability: A system dynamics perspective. *Environment, Development and Sustainability*, 1-25.

Paper talks about the potential shortfall of resources required for making EV batteries which may arise due to unexpected growth of the EVs using system dynamics methodology. The study finds that the resources can be managed by adopting circular economy in the EVB ecosystem.

» **Agarwal, A., & Ojha, R. (2024).** Prioritizing implications of Industry-4.0 on the sustainable development goals: A perspective from the analytic hierarchy process in manufacturing operations. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 141189.

Authors have tried to understand the relationship between the Industry 4.0 technologies (I4.0T) and SDGs. The study has also proposed a metric called Technology Driven Sustainability Index (TDSI) for measuring and tracking the progress of the impact of I4.0 sustainability.



Dr. Vishal Dagar

» **Lund, I.H., Shaikh, F., Harijan, K. Kumar, L, Dagar, V (2024).** Prospects of natural gas consumption in Pakistan: based on the LMDI-STIRPAT PLSR framework. *Environmental Science Pollution Research*, 31, 2090–2103. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11356-023-31274-1>

Authors have predicted the future values of Natural Gas consumption in Pakistan and suggested the need for optimized strategy to balance the challenging supply-demand of NG in Pakistan.

» **Raghavendra, C., Mahesh, R., Khan, M. K., Dagar, V., Singh, S., & Alvarado, R. (2024).** Impact of carbon emissions, renewable and non-renewable energy consumption on inbound cross-border mergers and acquisition’s investment inflow. *Environment, Development and Sustainability*, 1-20. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10668-024-04511-x>

Paper investigates the impact of carbon emission, renewable, and non-renewable energy consumption of countries on India's inbound cross- border mergers and acquisitions using Thomson Reuters EIKON database. The study found that India is attracting lesser carbon-emitting countries to invest more through cross-border mergers and acquisitions.

» **Piwowar-Sulej, K., Iqbal, Q., Dagar, V., & Singh, S. (2024).** Employees’ eco-friendly innovative behaviors: Examining the role of individual and situational factors. *European Management Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.emj.2024.04.005>

Paper has examined the indirect effect of sustainability-oriented leadership (SOL) on eco-friendly innovative behaviors (EFIBs) through environmental awareness (EA) based on social exchange theory.

» **Dagar, V., Dagher, L., Rao, A., Doytch, N., & Kagzi, M. (2024).** Economic policy uncertainty: Global energy security with diversification. *Economic Analysis and Policy*, 82, 248-263. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eap.2024.03.008>

Authors have discussed how advancing sustainable energy diversification (ED) practices can address the global energy security challenges in the context of economic policy uncertainty (EPU). The study has employed quantile regression and panel data analysis. Results reveal the importance of investing in carbon-free energy security.



Dr. Jones Mathew

» **Yadav, P., Agarwal, B. & Mathew, J.** Indian voters’ attitude and behavior toward a political brand for producing green products: a mediation model. *Futur Bus J* 10, 41 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s43093-024-00327-3>

Study has found that political brands create a more environmentally friendly product in the form of green actions because doing so encourages consumers to think favourably of the political brand. The study has used structural equation modelling to analyze data of 1771 voters.

PUBLICATIONS IN BUSINESS PRESS



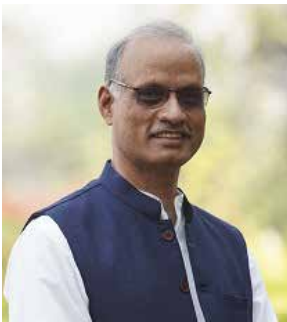
Dr. Sanghamitra Bhattacharyya



Dr. Bappaditya Mukhopadhyay



Dr. Debashis Sanyal



Dr. Ravindra Ojha

- » How India fares on Sustainable Development Goals – 4 graphs offer an insight: Sanghamitra Bhattacharyya & Bappaditya Mukhopadhyay, April 2023 (<https://news.abplive.com/india-at-2047/opinion-how-india-fares-on-sustainable-development-goals-4-graphs-offer-insight-1596349>)
- » Can Green Credit Programme Change Behaviors Towards a Sustainable Future? - 3rd Oct 2023: India Times-a Times of India publication: Sanghamitra Bhattacharyya & Bappaditya Mukhopadhyay (<https://www.indiatimes.com/explainers/news/green-credit-programme-for-changing-behaviors-towards-a-sustainable-future-616399.html>)
- » Women's Reservation Bill 2023: The need to do more than just pass the bills - Forbes India, 8 Nov 2023: Sanghamitra Bhattacharyya & Bappaditya Mukhopadhyay (<https://www.forbesindia.com/article/great-lakes-institute-of-management/womens-reservation-bill-2023-the%20need-to-do-more-than-just-pass-the-bills/89565/1>)
- » UNSDGs need to be introduced into curriculum to prepare skilled managers to lead firms in sustainable development: Debashis Sanyal & Sanghamitra Bhattacharyya (<https://thecsr universe.com/articles/unsdgs-need-to-be-introduced-into-curriculum-to-prepare-skilled-managers-to-lead-firms-in-sustainable-development>)
- » Empowering the Workforce for a Sustainable Future by Nurturing Green Skills in the Modern Era: April 2024: Hr.com, Sanghamitra Bhattacharyya (<https://www.hr.com/en?t=/blogs/blog.show&s=a0xrdQ5zwWssrsgXYNJ&blogid=1711628933917&page=1> / <https://business.indianews.in/great-lakes-gurgaons-academician-speaks-on-empowering-the-workforce-for-a-sustainable-future-by-nurturing-green-skills-in-the-modern-era/>)
- » Let's use a behavioral insight to tackle climate change: Bappaditya Mukhopadhyay (<https://www.pressreader.com/india/mint-hyderabad/20240501/282226605798152>)
- » Is the Burgeoning Last Mile Delivery Becoming a Showstopper to Environmental Sustainability? - Ravindra Ojha (Logistics Insider)

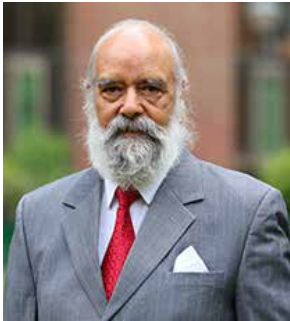
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS



Dr. Smita Mazumdar
"Voluntary ESG Disclosures in India – Does Legitimacy Theory Work?" - 14 International Research Conference On Thriving Through Sustainability: Navigating Business Practices for a Resilient Future using Emerging Technologies like AI, ChatGPT, and Generative AI." held on 22nd and 23rd February '2024 at IES, MCRC Mumbai. : Prof. Smita Mazumdar presented a paper on ESG reporting. Study used 300 annual reports from India's top 25 companies by market capitalization from 2010 to 2021.

'Social Security for Widows in India: Evidence from PLFS' - 64th Annual Conference of Indian Society of Labour Economics at University of Hyderabad: Mr. Alankar Sirsath presented a paper on targeting errors in social security for widows, the study was based on Periodic Labour Force Survey data.

'Inequity in Self-Employment: Sticky Floor and Glass Ceiling of SC-ST owned business in Maharashtra' - FDC 2024 at Flame University, Pune: Mr. Alankar Sirsath presented a paper on participation and performance of marginalised groups in self-employment. Study was based on the Period Labour Force Survey data.



Prof S.K. Palhan recognized among the 100 Great IITians dedicated to serving the nation. Prof. Palhan’s initiatives of tree plantations, cleanliness drives and rural development not only contributed to sustainable development but has also earned him a spot on the list of 100 Great IITians. The list has been compiled from different IITs and edited by Commander VK Jaitly in a book recently published by Excel Publishers in 2024.

PARTNERSHIP

COE-SD of GLIM G is now a member of IUSDRP (Inter-University Sustainable Development Research Programme) of the University of Hamburg



Dr. Vishal Dagar Joins the Editorial Board Team of ‘Sustainable Futures’ Journal by Elsevier
The journal has an impact factor of 5.5 and is indexed in Scopus
Dr. Dagar is the only Indian with Indian affiliation on their board.



GLIM INITIATIVES

SUSTAINABLE IMPACT THROUGH KARMA YOGA!

The students from PGDM 23-25 promoted the 3Rs by making swings from used tyres at Government Primary School, Darapur and the students from PGPM 24 arranged dustbins for Government Primary School, Malpura to encourage effective waste management. Both the batches planted several trees as a part of the Karma Yoga program led by Prof. Palhan



EARTH DAY CELEBRATIONS

On the Earth Day (22nd April 2024), Both the faculties and the non-teaching staff planted several trees inside the campus





VISION OF COE-SD

To create a collaborative environment for cutting-edge research, advocacy and action, within the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, and empowering the global community to create a sustainable future for all

OBJECTIVES

- » to contribute to creating environmentally and socially responsible business managers
- » to emerge as a credible thought-leader with intellectual contributions that can make businesses and societies sustainable
- » to help support the implementation of best practices in businesses, organizations and communities to create a more sustainable society

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