



ECOBUZZ

A BUZZ TO THE GREEN FUTURE!!

RIO SUMMIT 1992
21 KEY AGENDAS

MAY'2025
EDITION

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Greetings from Faculty of Law, GLS University!

After a successful series on Sustainable Development Goals, I am very happy to learn that for the next EcoBuzz series we explore the five basic elements of nature –the *panchamahabhutas* – which inhere the properties of earth (prithvi), water (jala), fire (tejas), wind (vayu) and space (akasha).

Reconnecting to the nature outside of us can help us reconnect to our true, inner nature. When we spend more time outside in the elements, we start to rebalance ourselves physically, mentally and energetically.

The current edition of EcoBuzz shall focus on the element “Prithvi” – the Earth. It’s surprising just how easily we can lose connection to the earth. Spending long periods indoors, driving cars and fixating on screens all creates a disconnection between ourselves and the earth. The longer we’re disconnected from the earth and the outside world, the more we forget our interconnected role within nature. Thus, the more we tend to focus on ‘I, me, my’ – the ego.

Our Mother Earth is currently dealing with a wide range of issues, despite efforts in recent decades to address environmental challenges. Due to the terrifying pace at which the Environment is being exploited the legal framework for addressing environmental issues at the global and domestic levels seems inadequate without the collective effort of the human-kind.

I feel happy that the students have decided the ‘MOTHER EARTH’ as the theme for this month's EcoBuzz and our constant efforts towards a green and clean Earth, will continue to raise awareness on the alarming issues that the mother Earth is facing.

Let’s come together for organised actions with the sole objective of saving mother earth while thriving to keep it alive, green, and clean.

Regards,
Dr. Mayuri H. Pandya
Dean, Faculty of Law, GLS University

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National Updates

Governance & SDG 11:

India's sub-national governments are playing a vital role in localizing SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities). Institutional reforms and policy changes at the state and municipal levels focus on improving urban resilience, housing, waste management, and sustainable transport. This decentralization of responsibility ensures that governance is aligned with both national priorities and the UN 2030 Agenda.

Democracy & Development:

A comparative study of India and China highlights how different political systems influence sustainable development outcomes. While China's centralized system enables quicker policy implementation, India's democratic model emphasizes inclusivity and participation. This shows the strengths and challenges of democracy in balancing growth with sustainable and equitable development.

Science, Innovation & State progress:

Since 2015, India's scientific community has contributed significantly to SDG-related research, producing studies that guide evidence-based policymaking. Publicly funded incubators support innovation driven enterprises that address societal challenges such as clean energy, water, and health. At the same time, state-level progress is tracked using data frameworks, ranking states on SDG performance and enabling targeted policy interventions.

State Updates

Gujarat's SDG Approach:

The Government of Gujarat has adopted a comprehensive SDG strategy, embedding sustainability into governance, policy, and industrial development. Large-scale investments in infrastructure are designed to boost industrial growth while ensuring resource efficiency and environmental balance. This approach reflects Gujarat's aim to align with the 2030 Agenda and position itself as a global development leader.

Research & Innovation Institutes

Institutions like the Gujarat Institute of Development Research (GIDR) and the Indian Institute of Sustainability (IIS) serve as knowledge and innovation hubs. GIDR focuses on policy-oriented research in natural resources, infrastructure, and industry, while IIS creates action based sustainable models and converts them into scalable businesses.

Clean Energy & Climate Action Gujarat:

It has pioneered several initiatives linking clean energy with sustainability. The Distributed Solar Growth Policy supports small-scale solar power entrepreneurs through tariff incentives, while the Jyotigram Yojana provides 24 hour rural electricity to support farming and households. The Cool Roofs Initiative in Ahmedabad reduces indoor heat stress, lowers energy costs, and strengthens resilience against extreme climate conditions.

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In times of plenty or distress, one must live moderately, balancing desires and consumption in accordance with the natural laws.

GREEN JUSTICE

M. K Ranjith Singh vs. Union of India (2024):

The case concerned a conflict between promoting solar power generation and protecting the endangered Great Indian Bustard (GIB). The Court adopted a balanced approach between conservation of endangered species and the fight against climate change, recognizing the need for both environmental protection and clean energy development. The final decision in M.K. in this case presents an opportunity to apply the concept of just transition to environmental litigation. The core issue in the case involves protecting the endangered Great Indian Bustard from adverse impacts of solar and wind energy projects which was decided upon by a sustainable approach.

T.N Godavaram Thirumulpad v. Union of India:

This case established environmental jurisprudence in India. The case was filed to stop illegal timber operations in the Sandalwood Forest. The petitioner was concerned about the destruction of the forest and the endangerment of the sandalwood species and The court ruled in their favor, directing sustainable use of the forest. The court also directed that the Central Government must give prior approval for any non-forest activities in forests.

R.K Kapoor v. National Capital Territory of Delhi and ors. (2023):

The petitioner raised concerns regarding rainwater harvesting in the National Capital Territory of Delhi. He contended that the authorities had failed to implement effective rainwater harvesting measures as mandated by law. The Court acknowledged the grave water scarcity issue in Delhi and the need for proper rainwater harvesting systems as a solution to recharge groundwater levels. The Court ordered the concerned authorities to ensure that rainwater harvesting systems were installed in all government buildings, residential complexes, and other structures as per the law.

Subhash Kumar v. State of Bihar & Ors. :TV Ramchandra v. State of Karnataka and Ors. (2024)

The petitioner claimed that mining was being conducted without proper licenses in various parts of Karnataka, violating the Forest Conservation Act and Mineral Concession Rules. The main issue was whether authorities failed to prevent illegal mining and issued leases in contravention of the law. The judgment emphasized accountability, regulated operations, and compliance with environmental norms, aiming to curb illegal mining, safeguard resources, and protect the environment for future generations.

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One who practices moderation in diet, rest, actions, and sleep, whose activities are balanced, experiences less suffering and lives a life aligned with sustainability and well-being.

GREEN LAWS

The Namami Gange Programme:

It is an integrated conservation initiative launched by the Government of India in 2014 to rejuvenate the River Ganga. It aims to reduce pollution, conserve and restore the river's ecosystem, and promote sustainable sanitation infrastructure. The program includes sewage treatment, river surface cleaning, biodiversity conservation, and public awareness. It is implemented by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and represents a key step toward sustainable water resource management.

Environment (Protection) Act, 1986:

Enacted in the aftermath of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy, this Act provides a comprehensive framework for the protection and improvement of the environment. It empowers the Central Government to set environmental quality standards, regulate emissions and discharges, manage hazardous substances, and coordinate with state authorities. It serves as the umbrella legislation under which several environmental rules, such as EIA and waste management rules, have been formulated.

Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974:

This Act was India's first major environmental law focused on water. It aims to prevent and control the pollution of water bodies and maintain or restore their wholesomeness. It provides for the establishment of Central and State Pollution Control Boards, which are responsible for monitoring water quality, granting consent for discharges from industries, and prosecuting violators. It also empowers these boards to set effluent standards and inspect sewage or trade effluent treatment plants.

Biological Diversity Act, 2002:

This Act gives effect to India's obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). It aims to conserve biodiversity, promote the sustainable use of biological resources, and ensure equitable sharing of benefits arising from their use. It regulates access to biological resources and associated traditional knowledge, especially by foreign entities. It establishes the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs), and Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) at the local level.

Motor Vehicles Act, National Green Tribunal Act, 2010:

This Act established the National Green Tribunal (NGT) as a specialized judicial body to handle environmental disputes involving multi-disciplinary issues. The NGT has the power to hear cases relating to the enforcement of environmental laws, including the Forest Act, Water Act, Air Act, and Environment (Protection) Act. It aims to provide expeditious and affordable justice, and can award compensation for environmental damage or to affected individuals.

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Strengthening Decision-Making by Integrating Sustainable Development in Policies.

In today's rapidly changing world, sustainable development is no longer a choice—it is a necessity. As governments, institutions, and industries confront challenges like climate change, environmental degradation, and social inequality, it becomes imperative to integrate sustainable development principles into the core of decision-making and policy formulation. Sustainable development rests on three interconnected pillars: environmental protection, economic growth, and social equity. For policies to be truly effective in the long term, they must balance these dimensions. Integrating sustainability ensures that development today does not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Strengthening decision-making through this integration requires a shift in mindset—from short-term gains to long-term resilience. Governments must adopt holistic approaches where environmental, social, and economic impacts are assessed at every stage of planning. For instance, while approving infrastructure projects, decision-makers should evaluate not only economic feasibility but also environmental impact and displacement of communities. Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), cost-benefit analyses that include social and ecological costs, and inclusive stakeholder consultations are essential tools in this process. Policies aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) offer clear direction. Countries like India have begun mapping national programs to specific SDGs, ensuring planning at both central and state levels reflects global commitments. Moreover, data-driven governance plays a critical role. Access to reliable environmental and socio-economic data enables accurate predictions, transparent evaluations, and informed decisions. Capacity building among public administrators and policymakers is also vital—training in sustainability thinking, cross-sectoral planning, and adaptive policy frameworks leads to more resilient governance. Involving communities and the private sector further strengthens implementation. When people feel ownership of decisions that affect them, compliance and innovation naturally follow. In conclusion, integrating sustainable development into policies transforms governance from reactive to proactive. It builds equitable societies, resilient economies, and protected ecosystems. As the world faces an uncertain future, strengthening decision-making with sustainability at its core is the surest path toward a just and livable world.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

NATIONAL EVENTS

1. International Conference on Pollution Control & Sustainable Environment (ICPCSE-24)

- Date: June 8
- Locations: Coimbatore, Hyderabad & Visakhapatnam (India)
- Theme: Pollution control, sustainability, research presentations, panel discussions, networking.

2. World Environment Day Summit - ClimateNXT

- Date: June 5, 2025
- Location: India Habitat Centre, New Delhi
- Focus: Climate innovation, entrepreneurship, sustainability leadership.

3. Sustainable Agriculture Summit & Awards (New Delhi)

- Theme: Krishi 2047 - Climate-Ready Farming
- Policymakers, scientists, agritech innovators, and progressive farmers.

4. India Rural Colloquy 2025 (Bhopal)

- Organizer: Transform Rural India
- Venue: Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM)
- Focus: Gender-equitable resource stewardship, rural climate actions, community-led governance.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

1. Bonn Climate Change Conference

- Date: June 3
- Location: Bonn, Germany
- Focus: UNFCCC climate negotiations.

2. World Environment Day

- Date: June 5
- Host: Saudi Arabia (2024 global celebrations)

3. World Oceans Day

- Date: June 8
- Purpose: Marine awareness and conservation.

4. World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

- Date: June 17
 - Activities: Educational programs, policy discussions, community initiatives.
- connected to broader atmospheric and climate strategies.

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CREATIVE CORNER



THIS IMAGE SHOWS THE EARTH SURROUNDED BY ICONS OF THE 17 UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs), SYMBOLIZING THE NEED TO INTEGRATE SUSTAINABILITY INTO POLICIES AND DECISION MAKING FOR A BALANCED FUTURE OF PEOPLE AND THE PLANET.

Source : <https://stock.adobe.com/search/images?k=%22life+on+land%22>

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