













IMC-YLF YOUTH CONCLAVE 2024



YUVA KSHAMTA 2024

Partnering for Sustainable Growth
Mission Viksit Bharat @2047:
Voice of Youth

Saturday, February 17, 2024 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Online Platform



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IMC-YLF YOUTH CONCLAVE 2024

Partnering Institutions

HSNC University, Mumbai



Premier International IB Continuum School, Nepal







II 200

College of Language and Culture Studies, Royal University of Bhutan



Somaiya Vidyavihar University, Mumbai



Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar



Flame University, Pune



Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi)



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प्रधान मंत्री Prime Minister MESSAGE

It is a pleasure to learn about the 4th edition of the Youth Conclave organised on a virtual platform by Young Leaders Forum of IMC Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The focus of the Conclave on 'Yuva Kshamta 2024 – Partnering for Sustainable Growth' and 'Voice of Youth' is a timely and thoughtful initiative.

With their 'Can Do' spirit, the vigour of our Yuvashakti is propelling India on the path of progress. Blessed with immense potential and skills, our Yuvashakti is making its mark on the global stage – be it in economy or education, technology or trade, space or startups.

The emergence of disruptive and transformative shifts across various domains is not only a challenge, but also an opportunity for our young and enterprising population. I am sure that they will not only shape the future, but also make it sustainable. Such platforms help in bringing youth together for this mission.

The nation is marching ahead towards the goal of 'Viksit Bharat'. Each one of us plays a vital role in achieving this objective, especially the younger generation.

I am sure that the deliberations at the Conclave, covering a wide array of topics related to startups, leadership, Mission LiFE and opportunities in various domains will prove to be beneficial for our youth.

Best wishes to the organisers for the success of the 4th edition of Youth Conclave.

November Madi

(Narendra Modi)

New Delhi माघ 27, शक संवत् 1945 16th February, 2024









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YUVA KSHAMTA 2024
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Mission Viksit Bharat @2047:
Voice of Youth

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THE IMC-YLF YOUTH CONCLAVE

Background

India enjoys demographic dividend with 65% of its population under the age of 35 and it is expected to prevail until 2055. The youth plays a vital role in nation-building. Youth force is dynamic in nature, and it is a huge reservoir of energy which needs to be tapped and harnessed intelligently for the development of society as a whole. With this purpose in mind, IMC's Young Leaders Forum established annual Youth Conclave in the year 2021 with objective to create a platform to remain engage with young leaders from across political, business and social spectrum, founders and CEOs of some of the successful start-ups and many a Unicorns in their respective fields as well as students drawn from universities and colleges across India and several other countries. This initiative aims to compliment the efforts of the government of India to harness and channelize the energy and aspirations of youth by giving them a platform to voice their ideas, views and thoughts.

Each IMC-YLF Youth Conclave since its inception witnessed youth voice debating and recommending roadmap for several contemporary trends, lifestyle, healthcare, education, environment, digital

infrastructure, skilling and job creation, Make in India, India@100, inclusive growth, among others. The IMC-YLF Youth Conclave proudly possess the honour of receiving the words encouragement and blessings from the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi by way of Message from Prime Minister of India.

IMC-YLF Youth Conclave - Yuva Kshamta 2024

Partnering for Sustainable Growth: Mission Viksit Bharat @2047 – Voice of Youth

The fourth edition of the IMC-YLF Youth Conclave organised on virtual platform was based on twin themes envisioned by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi. Yuva Kshamta and Viksit Bharat @2047: Voice of Youth.

Apart from Inaugural, Valedictory and Ice-Breaking sessions, the other sessions of the Youth Conclave 2024 held panel discussions by eminent industry experts on Start Up India: Building Leaders of Tomorrow - Investing in Sustainable Unicorns, Youth for Sustainable Future (Pro Life) and Indian Media & Entertainment Industry: Seizing Opportunities.



THE IMC-YLF YOUTH CONCLAVE

Start Up India: Building Leaders of Tomorrow – Investing in Sustainable Unicorns

The panel discussion featured India's leading unicorns who have managed to ensure India's position on the global startup landscape. The conversation revolved around the topic whether it is possible to build billion-dollar businesses while ensuring sustain-ability.

Youth for Sustainable Future (Pro LiFE)

This session was curated on the government of India's initiatives on Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) introduced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India at the COP 26 climate change conference in Glasgow.

The panel discussed what it would take to be Pro LiFE and help preserve the environment for a better tomorrow based on successful brand / business campaigns and views on sustainability related to Pro-LiFE adaptation and its overall impact.

Indian Media & Entertainment Industry: Seizing Opportunities

This panel discussed the emerging trends across the media and entertainment industry from the sustainability point of view

with workable solutions involving improving data governance and optimizing cloud use, such as reengineering processes which involves redesigning of business processes to achieve significant sustainable improvements in productivity, cycle times and quality. Further the role of improved modern technologies which could also help address emissions associated with video and audio streaming. The Conclave also hosted a competition for students identified by educational Institutes from India and other countries to share their views on the topics given in advance which were:

Harnessing Emerging Technologies for a sustainable future

UN SDGs: The progress made by India so far and the road ahead

India's Creative Economy: Influencing and inspiring a sustainable lifestyle

This post-conclave report presents highlights of discussion around issues, solutions, strategies and policy options that emerged during the Conclave.











IMC-YLF YOUTH CONCLAVE 2024

Yuva Kshamta 2024

Partnering for Sustainable Growth:

Mission Viksit Bharat @ 2047: Voice of Youth

Date: Saturday, February 17, 2024

Programme Flow

Timings (IST)	Agenda of Programme
10:30 AM to 11:30 AM	Inaugural Session:
10:30 AM to 10:45 AM	Welcome Address Mr. Samir Somaiya, President, IMC Chamber of Commerce and Industry
10:45 AM to 10:50 AM	Theme Introduction
10:50 AM to 11:05 AM	Chief Guest Address Shri Anurag Thakur, Hon'ble Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting, Youth Affairs and Sports
11:05 AM to 11:20 AM	Guest of Honour Address Mr. Burjis Godrej, Head of Special Projects, Godrej Agrovet Limited
11:20 AM to 11:30 AM	Vote of Thanks Mr. Sanjaya Mariwala, Vice President, IMC Chamber of Commerce and Industry
11:30 AM to 12:45 PM	Session 1: Start-Up India: Building Leaders of Tomorrow
11:30 AM to 12:25 PM	 Panel Discussion on Investing in Sustainable Unicorns Moderator: Mr. Ateet Sanghavi, Partner Purple Ventures Management Consultant LLP Panelists: 1. Ms. Namita Thapar, Executive Director, Emcure Pharmaceuticals Limited 2. Ms. Ushma Sheth Sule, Managing Director, Rare Enterprises
12:25 PM to 01:00 PM	 Students Competition 1 – Viksit Bharat Topic: Harnessing Emerging Technologies for a sustainable future List of Students are as follows: 1. Ms Aditi Agarwal, Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar (IIT Gandhinagar) Gujarat 2. Mr. Adit Sreenivasan, BITS Pilani, Goa Campus, Goa 3. Mr. Ayush Mirashi, HR College of Commerce and Economics Mumbai 4. Mr. Krishi Budhwani, HSNC University, Mumbai 5. Mr. Manan Kapoor, Somaiya Vidyavihar University, Mumbai 6. Mr. Raghav Attrey, Amity University, Uttar Pradesh

Agenda of Programme
Lunch Break
Session 2: Youth for Sustainable Future
Panel Discussion on 'Lifestyle for the Environment- LiFE Movement for Pro-Planet People' Moderator: Ms. Jyyotsna Sanghi, Chairman & Managing Director, SGS Motors Pvt Ltd Panelists: 1. Mr. Jai Dhar Gupta, Founder & CEO, Nirvana Being 2. Mr. Aaquib Wani, Founder & Creative Director, Aaquib Wani Design 3. Ms. Juveca Panda, Founder & CEO, Misfit Panda 4. Ms. Kasturi Navalkar, Head of Partnerships, VNV (Value Network Ventures)
Students Competition 2 –Viksit Bharat
 Topic: UN SDGs: The progress made by India so far and the road ahead (6 students to talk for three minutes each on the selected topic) List of Students are as follows: 1. Ms. Avani Jain, Daly College, Indore 2. Ms. Keshvi Tomer, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi) 3. Ms. Mohini Singhal, XLRI Jamshedpur 4. Ms. Passang Om, College of Language and Culture Studies, Royal University of Bhutan 5. Ms. Rachel Yoslim, University of Indonesia, Jakarta 6. Ms. Shabnam, College of Education – Lakshadweep 7. Ms. Sakshi Kaparwan, Doon University, Dehradun, Uttarakhand
Ice Breaker Session – Prof. Dr. Ing. Krupali Uplekar Krusche, Director DHARMA Lab and Director DVARCA Lab
Session 3: Indian Media & Entertainment Industry: Seizing Opportunities
Moderator – Ms. Arushi Sethi, Founder and CEO, Trijog Panelists: 1. Mr. Sarvesh Shashi, Partner, The Artist Representation Company (TARC) 2. Ms. Shraddha Bhansali, Co-founder and COO, EVO Foods
Students Competition 3 – Viksit Bharat
 Topic: India's Creative Economy: Influencing and inspiring a sustainable lifestyle List of Students are as follows: 1. Ms. Aashni Rungta, Premier International IB Continuum School, Nepal 2. Mr. Arhantika Khera, Indian Institute of Management Bangalore 3. Ms. Anushree Saxena, SVKMs' Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies (NMIMS), Mumbai 4. Ms. Carthika Sujith, University of Dubai, UAE 5. Mr. Parth Piyush Prasad, Flame University, Pune 6. Ms. Sanskriti Gobhil, DY Patil Deemed to be University, Mumbai

Timings (IST)	Agenda of Programme
4:15 PM to 4:30 PM	Fireside Chat: In conversation with Mr. Prashant Joshi, Senior Vice President – Chief-Products, Motilal Oswal Asset Managing Company Ltd. and Mr. Apurva Chaturvedi, Chartered Accountant, M. M. C and Company and Co-Chairman of the IMC Young Leaders' Forum
04:30 PM to 5:20 PM	Valedictory Session
04:30 PM to 04:35 PM	Introduction by Mr. Ajit Mangrulkar, Director General, IMC
04:35 PM to 04:50 PM	Prize Distribution - Announcement of winners of the Student competition by: Mr. Sanjay Mehta, Deputy Director General, IMC and Ms. Sheetal Kalro, Deputy Director General, IMC
04:50 PM to 05:00 PM	Chief Guest Address Ms. Amruta Devendra Fadnavis, Banker, Actress, Singer, Social Activist
05:00 PM to 05:10 PM	Special Address Ms. Aparna Popat, Former Indian Badminton Player & Co-founder & COO, All Is Well
05:10 PM to 05:30 PM	Vote of Thanks Ms. Vidhi Doshi, Chairperson, IMC Young Leaders' Forum & Founder, Yahvi Communication

INAUGURAL SESSION

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Empowering youth involves more than just providing opportunities for employment or education. fostering an environment where their voices are heard, talents are nurtured, and aspirations are realized. It's about investing in their capacity to lead, to innovate, and to drive positive change in their communities. Today's youth are not content with just being passive observers of the status quo. They're demanding an active participation in decision making that affect their lives and their future.



Mr. Samir Somaiya President, IM



Shri Anurag Thakur Hon'ble Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting, Youth Affairs and Sports

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The younger generation India is growing more and more influential in promoting social justice and driving global association. They're using social media and grassroots movements to amp-up their collective voice. Their ardor for social causes has the power to promote inclusivity and change cultural norms, it is through community engagement, volunteering, and social activism that they can champion causes that resonate with their values.

those at you.



Mr. Burjis Godrej Godrej Agrovet Limited



Mr. Sanjaya Mariwala

"

The profound insights, expertise, and visionary ideas that will emerge today will illuminate our paths towards the future that is not only prosperous, but also inclusive and sustainable. We're grateful and honored to all partnering institutes across countries and from overseas for participating and nominating their students for competition during the Conclave.

With all these opportunities and more, as you all graduate

today, I ask you to be proactive and act on opportunities, embrace innovation, get up-to-date with the latest technologies, read, can't emphasize this enough, and be ready to take on new challenges for life will throw a lot of





Youth are Catalysts for India's Economic Triumph!

With 547 million in the workforce (41% of our 1.4 billion population), India's youth are the driving force propelling our nation's economic engine. Shri Anurag Singh Thakur urges India's youth to be proactive, seize opportunities, and embrace new technologies.

join us at: mybharat gov.in





Mera Yuva Bharat: Empowering the Nation's Youth!

Launched on October 31, 2023, by PM Modi, MY Bharat is fueling the dreams of Indian youth. Shri Anurag Singh Thakur asked the youth of India to join the MY Bharat movement, be part of India's success story!

join us at: mytharat gov.in

CHIEF GUEST ADDRESS

Shri Anurag Thakur

Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting, Youth Affairs and Sports

President, IMC Mr. Samir Somaiya ji, distinguished guests, the Chair of the IMC Young Leaders Ms. Vidhi Doshi ji, DG Ajit Mangrulkar ji, ladies and gentlemen, a very good morning to all of you. *Namaste*. I extend my heartfelt greetings to each one of you gathered here as we embark on this journey of discussing Yuva Kshamta 2024, Voice of Youth.

Friends, this is a very exciting time for the youth of our nation. This time presents a merit of opportunities for youth to be the AGENTs of change. A stands for Advocate for a cause you believe in. G stands for Go green and embrace a sustainable lifestyle, E stands for equality and inclusivity. I'm sure that the spaces you are in are diverse, intergenerational, and inclusive. N stands for nurture your physical and mental health. T stands for Tech, innovation, leverage the technology for social good, and betterment of humanity to enhance this entrepreneurial spirit.

India, that is Bharat, with this demographic dividend stands at the cusp of unparalleled potential with the workforce comprising of 574 million individuals accounting for 41% of our 1.4 billion population, as per the periodic Labor Force Survey 2023. We possess a formidable resource base.

My dear friends, moreover, out of 1.4 billion Bhartiyas about a billion are under the age of 35 today. It means in 2047, 25 years from now, 21% of the global workforce will be in India. For a long time since independence, India's demography was considered a bane, but our Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, considers it a boon. We firmly believe that India's youth are not just architects of the future, but also

the custodians of our nation's aspirations, policies, and destiny. They embody the spirit of innovation, resilience, and the determination that propel our nation towards greater heights. My dear friends, today the world acknowledges India's leadership under the stewardship of Prime Minister Modi.

From being hailed as the leader of the global South by African nations to being lauded as a transformative voice of force by global leaders. PM Modi has carved a niche for India on the world stage. My dear friends, if you look at the Prime Minister Modi, under his visionary leadership, India has spearheaded initiatives like the International Solar Alliance, exemplifying our commitment to global sustainability. One of the examples I would like to quote here is during the COVID-19 pandemic, India, through its Vaccine Maitri program, had supplied vaccine to more than 157 countries and MOU for the India Middle East European Economic Corridor was signed at the historic G20 summit in New Delhi.

Today, if the Indian youth is capable of providing unique solutions to the complex problems of the world, then it is because of the positive sentiment and transformative development in almost all sectors in India in the past 10 years.

Talking about innovation and sustainability, it brings me great pleasure to announce that we have had unprecedented success in the IT sector. India is the vanguard of digital revolution that has drastically transformed the way we connect, communicate, and collaborate with the world with number of Internet users in the country surpassing 700 million. We have seen enormous growth

and have come a long way in the last decade alone. Now, India is the second largest on the internet today. Every second, three people are joining the Internet and two of them are from the villages and the remote areas. We are today one of the largest mobile phone manufacturers. To be precise, we are the second largest in the world. India has jumped 6 ranks from 67th in 2021 to 61 in 2022 in the Network Readiness Index.

If you look at the 5G connection, all I can say here is that we have surpassed the European Union and as far as 5G network expansion is concerned, it is Make in India as well. My dear friends, the breadth of the opportunities that India presents today is unprecedented in the terms both of size and scale.

Today, 11% of the world's population live in Indian villages, around 30 people are moving from Indian villages to the cities every minute. By 2047, 20% of world's middle class will be in India. It means that in the next 25 years, there will be entirely new urban population that will need A to Z things including housing, infrastructure, food, education, water, health, entertainment and social security etc.

My dear friends, young entrepreneurs have the capability to innovate and positively disrupt the market. The startups have the opportunity to fill up ever-increasing demand and for this, Modi government is acting as the enabler, and I am happy to note that today our youth are becoming job givers rather than the job seekers. This is especially evident as we talk about startups. The government with an intent to build a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation and startups and encouraging investments in the startup ecosystem of the country, launched the Startup India initiative. We have launched the Startup India initiative on 16 January 2016. Our department of this DPIIT officially recognizes 117,000 startups.

Startups created over close to 1.3 million jobs in the last few years. At least, one recognized Start up in every state and UT spread across 80% of the districts. So, since the launch of the

Startup India Initiative in the year 2016 by the government, close to 55,816 DPIIT recognized Startups have at least one-woman Director as of 31 December 2023. On one hand, we are promoting the startup culture, on the other hand, we have women on the Board of these startups. My dear friends, we have also passed a Law in the parliament to give reservation to women - 33% reservation to be elected as member of legislative assemblies in the state assemblies and also 33% reservation for the lower House of the Parliament which is called Lok Sabha directly elected by the people.

My dear friends, let me also talk about My Bharat, Mera Yuva Bharat. The platform launched by Honorable Prime Minister on 31st October 2023 and which serves as an online youth leadership and social engagement platform that aims to empower and engage youth to become leaders and active citizens. The platform enables the youth to actualize their aspirations and contribute towards the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047. And why I am saying 2047? Because that's going to be a special year when India celebrates 100 years of Independence. So, my dear friends, on this platform, through a physical ecosystem, My Bharat empowers young individuals to become Yuva Setu between the government and the citizens to foster community transformation. My Bharat presents the youth with experiential learning opportunities, volunteering opportunities for events, mentorship, community engagement, personalized learning, and more, and it also helps you on the leadership skills, you know how to build up the leadership.

I would appeal to you all today to join My Bharat and act as an AGENTs of change and contribute to Prime Minister Modi's dream of Viksit. Bharat 2047. So, we can say My Bharat Viksit Bharat.

One area which is close to my heart, and I have been given the responsibilities of the Media and Entertainment sector. As the Minister of Information and Broadcasting, it brings me a great joy to highlight some of the work our ministry has done to promote youth led activity and creativity and accessibility as

well. On the entertainment media front, the Modi government has sought to promote India as the content hub of the world. You can say content continent. We have human resources, technology resources, and the incentive resources for both pre-production and post-production work being done in India. The Indian entertainment industry has demonstrated how content can make the local into global with films and music that can reflect India civilizational strength as land of riveting stories. When I am saying this, India is a country of storytellers, we can all say India is one of the largest film makers of the world and today with the OTT platform have about 28% growth every year. That clearly shows that sector is growing, and we have supported the growth of AVGC-XR sector for which a policy has been crafted for the Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics by the AVGC Promotion Task force. The second area is the Cinematograph Amendment Act which aims to comprehensively protect intellectual property rights and plug loopholes that caused the film industry an annual loss of INR 20,000 crore rupees. That is close to \$21/2 billion. That clearly shows by bringing in this law, we can keep a check on piracy, and it is going help all the stakeholders of the entertainment industry.

My dear friends, India has leapfrogged from paper currency to the plastic currency and directly to the digital payments. Today, India has 46% of all the digital payments in the world. The digital technology is being in various welfare schemes, programs and the department, thereby bringing in more transparency and accountability into the system. Our Prime Minister himself promotes the technology with our digital public infra is growing with each passing day. This year, we have kept a budget of ₹11,11,111 crore for the Capex and that means a lot of spending will happen in various sectors. I won't take more time, won't talk about the budget and the government schemes.

All I want to end by saying is, as the youth of this country, you are going to be the drivers of our economy and development for years to come. With all these opportunities and more, as you all graduate today, I ask you to be proactive and act on opportunities, embrace innovation, get up-to-date with the latest technologies, read, can't emphasize this enough, and be ready to take on new challenges for life will throw a lot of those at you.

With this, I wish you all the very best for your future endeavors. Make your country and fellow Indians proud. Jai Hind. Jai Bharat

GUEST OF HONOR ADDRESS

Shri Burjis Godrej Head of Special Projects, Godrej Agrovet Limited

Thank you, Vidhi. Good morning everyone, Viksit Bharat 2047 is the vision to make India a developed nation by 2047; the 100th year of Independence. The vision encompasses various aspects of development, including economic growth, social progress, environmental sustainability, and good governance. Viksit Bharat at 2047 Voice of Youth initiative will provide a platform to the youth of the country to contribute ideas to this vision.

To the students, I say the aim of your goals, your resolutions should be one, a developed India. The Prime Minister has emphasized that teachers and universities should ponder how to find ways to make India a developed country at a faster pace and also identify specific sectors for improvement towards becoming a developed nation. Noting the diversity of ideas, the Prime Minister stressed linking all the streams towards building a developed India. He stressed the need to go beyond education and beyond skills and call for alertness for the national interest and civic sense among citizens. He asked the educational fraternity to suggest ways of giving new energy to Swachata Abhiyan, combating lifestyle issues, and exploration of the world beyond mobile phones by the youth. He gave examples of the preservation of natural resources through water conservation, saving electricity, careful use of chemicals in farming, and using public transport.

Noting that the rapidly increasing population of the country is empowered by the youth, Shri Modi informed that India is going to be a leader in terms of the working age population for the coming 25 to 30 years and the world recognizes this. Youth power is both the agent

of change and they are also the beneficiaries of change. The Prime Minister stressed molding the voice of the country's youth into the policy strategy for building a developed India and highlighted the role of educational institutions that maintain maximum contact with the youth. Now is the time to show the true power of Yuva Kshamta.

It is a very interesting time for India. We recently overtook the United Kingdom to become the 5thlargesteconomy in the world. Chandrayaan 3 successfully soft landed on the moon. The longest sea bridge, the Atal Setu, was inaugurated, and more recently we overtook Hong Kong to become the 4th biggest stock market globally. This is happening amidst the backdrop of India's youth bulge, which is an unparalleled demographic advantage. We have 65% of our population below the age of 35. We have unparalleled access to information and technology, and this vibrant cohort possesses an untapped wellspring of creativity of innovation and of resilience.

In order to achieve our nation's goal to become a \$7 trillion economy by 2030 and to become a developed country by 2047, now is the time for the youth engine to fire and to show its Yuva Kshamta 2024. To achieve this, it is imperative to invest in education and in development of the youth. Swami Vivekanand said the only way to bring out the best in individual is through education. Hence, in a country where nearly one in three Indians between the age of 15 and 29 is not engaged in either education, employment or training, the foundation of India's future lies in enabling access to high quality education. It is the bedrock upon which the future of India will be built. With

advancements in technologies, the youth of India have relevant access to immediate information and by equipping them with their relevant skills, they can contribute significantly to a variety of sectors. Swami Vivekanand also said education is not the amount of information that is put into your brain and runs right there, undigested all your life. In today's era of digital revolution, when the youth have unparalleled access to information and technology, it is imperative to imbibe in them the habit of consuming the right information and more importantly leveraging it mindfully.

Education empowers the youth and this can foster more job creation. It is essential to nurture critical thinking, problem solving, and entrepreneurial skills among our youth, equipping them with the ability to navigate the many complexities of the modern world that we live in. It empowers the youth who possess the capacity to initiate dialogue, challenge the status quo, and propel societal transformation and it is this youth who can spearhead the creation of a vibrant startup ecosystem that fosters job creation, economic inclusivity, and technological advancements, but my friends, do remember whenever you build or start or join any company, you must remember the saying sales is vanity, profit is sanity, but cash is reality. So, always pay most attention to cash flow. No cash flow, no business. Youth would have the potential to be a catalyst of change. The younger generation India is growing more and more influential in promoting social justice and driving global association. They're using social media and grassroots movements to amp-up their collective voice. Their ardor for social causes has the power to promote inclusivity and change cultural norms, it is through community engagement, volunteering, and social activism that they can champion causes that resonate with their values.

Now I'll talk a little bit about what we are doing at Godrej to promote youth involvement, to promote volunteering, and to give back to society. We have an event called Godrej Global Volunteering Week. That's usually held in November or December and in this week, we provide structured volunteering platforms that provide opportunities to our team members who are keen to engage skill-based longer-term volunteering projects. We allow for this throughout the year, but we inaugurate them during this week and we have days where everybody in the office goes to volunteer. Our volunteers have worked on projects ranging from developing a marketing strategy for an NGO to mentoring a child from a low-income background. We also facilitate day-long on the ground, volunteering activities, online volunteering, and fundraising for emergencies. Last year we did awareness on child labor. So, we went to municipal schools in India and also in our international locations. Over 2800 Godrejite's participated.

We engaged with over 6400 children and this was done in 90 locations around the world and in the previous year, we focused on making science fun. We had more than 3200 Godrejites participate. We engage with more than 14,000 children and this was done in 70 locations around the world. We also have a program called Catalyst and this program works with young women from low income family backgrounds, some of them are even first-generation learners, and we support them from enrollment in college to employment. This support includes leadership development, soft skills training, providing laptops and textbooks, mentorship, exposure visits, extra academic support, internships, career advice, and connects and placement to jobs. Last year, Godrej committed to support 32 engineering students through the Catalyst program for a period of four years. These students belong to various colleges across Mumbai and Pune, and at present they are in their second year of college. In addition, 9 Godrej Leaders, members of the GLF; Godrej Leadership Forum came forward to volunteer their time and committed to becoming mentors with this program and these mentor-mentee interactions take place at least twice a month, if not more. Thank you.

SESSION 1: PANELISTS

Start-Up India: Building Leaders of Tomorrow

Panel Discussion On Investing in Sustainable Unicorns



Partner Purple Ventures Management Consultant LLP



Executive Director

Executive Director, Emcure Pharmaceuticals Limited



Ms. Ushma Sheth Sule

Managing Director, Rare Enterprises

Key Takeaways

What motivates investment choices or regarding any specific strategy or a formula for selecting startups is simply follow what industry you are excited about. Other than industry that you prefer, look at the problem they are trying to solve. It has to be something with a purpose in it. And the founder has to have the competency, the hunger and the humility. We also need to see the sales and the EBITDA. Due diligence is really important.

It is important that companies have a strong conviction that they would perform better when they are deliberate about their role in society and they act in the interest of all the stakeholders, including employees. As investors we would like to move towards the stakeholder approach 'Is the company focused on a sustainable way of business not just for shareholders but across all stakeholders?'

There is a framework called Triple Bottom Line where you talk about your impact on people, profit and planet. This filter to look at companies from a 360° angle on how they look at all the stakeholders is important. Being good is good for business.

Invest in companies which are going ride the consumption story. Secondly, have a close look at startups in EV space and companies with strong balance sheets. And healthcare industry where a lot of disruption is going to happen with technology in the coming years.

Investment strategy really depends on the opportunity – it is bottoms-up, it is on the merit of the company and the model. We have a seemingly simplistic framework of investing that we look at for every company - how large it is, how accessible and scalable is this opportunity, what really is the competitive advantage the company has, its ability to adapt and refine business model and the management.

We have a huge responsibility even as humans and parents to leave a better world for GenNext, right. By adopting right practice at a micro level, which is small things at home, or at a macro level which is investing in sustainable companies.

Regarding leveraging position as a board member, the risks factors like climate change or recent pandemic disruption has demonstrated fragility of business-as-usual approach and must look strengthening resiliency by asking right questions and ensure all decisions are aligned to short-term and long-term sustainability goals.

Regarding advice on mentoring to today's budding entrepreneurs and students, it would be that having the right mentor is just everything. It really catapults your growth within what you are doing when you have the right mentor because not only can they alert you to what things you must do but they also tell you what not to do which is really important to be successful. One mentor may not be able to do everything for you and so you have to make sure that you identify what are the segments you want to grow yourself individually and seek the right mentors for it accordingly. Having a mentor really changes your trajectory in many ways.

As women navigating this business world, it is very important for women to have women mentors because it is tough out there especially when there is not that kind of equal representation of women as there should be in the business and investing world. When you are making your career and as a woman, it is really important to have women mentors to tell you what kind of mine fields you can avoid and things like that.

To students aspiring to start their entrepreneurial ventures, consider building your company as a journey. What you start with may not be what you end with. It is a journey in which you will evolve as an entrepreneur, you will evolve your businesses. Have resilience, build your company with constraints - resource constraints, people constraints, capital constraints. It is important for you to sort of understand that and prioritise your resources towards what is important. Adaptability and customer centricity are also very important.

SESSION 2: PANELISTS

Youth for Sustainable Future

'Lifestyle for the Environment - LiFE Movement for Pro-Planet People'



Chairman & Managing Director, SGS Motors Pvt Ltd



Mr. Aaquib Wani

Founder & Creative Director, Aaquib Wani Design



Mr. Jai Dhar Gupta

Founder & CEO, Nirvana Being



Ms. Juveca Panda

Founder & CEO, Misfit Panda



Ms. Kasturi Navalkar

Head of Partnerships, VNV (Value Network Ventures)

Key Takeaways

I am especially grateful to the vibrant youths who are spearheading the IMC-YLF Youth Conclave 2024, who are encouraging each one of us to set the ball rolling for the sustainable growth. The government is also backing up the IMC's discussion on lifestyle that are pro-planet and propeople as evident in its inclusion at COP-21.

Nowadays, the concept of sustainability has unfortunately been misused and transformed into a mere trend. Though problems are indeed grave now, it is really in our hands. The situation cannot be allowed to deteriorate any further; it is imperative that we seize control and make a difference.

Collaboration and convergence are the key. Working in silos is what has led us to where we are today. Dream and think big but always understand the realities and nuisance of where we are headed and what the actual goal is.

We have to look sustainability from a personal lens. It's about what you can do first and then you can use your voice to create bigger change. Sustainability is not black and white. It is a spectrum. There are so many things along the way which we can do to have an impact. Be mindful and always remember that little things do add up to a change.

Make sustainability mainstream. It must start with things like eating sustainable and wearing sustainable and we will end with a zero-waste economy. We should be incentivising good behaviours and penalizing the wrong ones.

The pricing of sustainable products is biggest challenge because sustainability right now is not at a scale where it could be as cheap as using plastic or any other alternative. India is a price sensitive market. Unless the consumer understands why there is the price gap, he would not buy the sustainable products. You need to invest into education, not only of consumers or adults but at the school level where it is integrated into their curriculums.

Being sustainable, it is also about looking at it from end to end in the value chain. What do you do with the damaged stock or leftover stock? There are NGOs that collect and repurpose such waste material. There are great solutions out there where we can avoid things landing up in the landfill. Find out and implement.

There has to be some accountability for the processes that industries or organizations are incorporating and as individuals we do have an accountability to ourselves and our community to raise voice and be as involved as possible to make change at a larger level. It doesn't only happen by financial influx. It happens by building a capacity within these organizations, within these communities and those communities are the ones that will eventually produce your sustainable products.

I don't want to live on a planet where there are landfills. if we are talking about humanity, if we are talking about government and governance, which should be incentivizing good behavior and penalizing bad behavior, I don't think there is room for landfills on that planet, or, in that civilized society.

I have three things that I would like to leave the youth with. One is, never stop learning. The second thing is never assume that you know enough because none of us ever do. Never stop learning, never stop reading, never stop exploring brands and opportunities where you can contribute not only on a professional platform, but even personally.

Question everything. Specially question the norm because the norm today is what has brought us here. We need to obviously get away from this norm. Just make responsible decisions, walk the talk and do not judge anyone but just point a finger at yourself. Just lead by example.

SESSION 3: PANELISTS

Indian Media & Entertainment Industry: Seizing Opportunities



Founder and CEO, Trijog



Mr. Sarvesh Shashi

Partner,
The Artist Representation Company (TARC)



Ms. Shraddha Bhansali

Co-founder and COO, EVO Foods

Key Takeaways

Events such as the IMC-YLF Youth Conclave play a pivotal role in generating meaningful social impact within the realm of sustainability. I appreciate the opportunity to participate in discussions alongside trailblazers who have significantly contributed to this field.

The inspiration to venture into the food space, sustainable food space, was the realization that nothing much done around food security. This was a great problem to tackle for future. According to UN, if we don't find different ways to consume food, the world is staring at great famine by 2040.

The narrative is the driving force behind sales, not just the product itself. While first-time entrepreneurs may emphasize their products and established businesses prioritize distribution, truly exceptional entrepreneurs are distinguished by their emphasis on crafting a compelling story. This is at the heart of how the media approaches sustainability as well.

Self-help is the foundation for helping others. Whether framed as sustainability or any synonymous concept, the journey begins within oneself. True charity doesn't just begin at home; it starts from self-care. Prioritize your well-being before extending that care outward to make a meaningful impact.

You will need first take care of yourself, your body, your mind, physically, mentally, spiritually, emotionally to enable you to take care of environment, the people, living, non-living. Only way to achieve that well being is through practice of Yoga which brings about unification of mind, body and soul.

People in entertainment industry are normal people who are also conscious about lifestyle and manage their schedule well to give time for daily workout. The reason for success for anybody in entertainment industry is discipline, determination and dedication. There is nothing else. There is literally nothing else than this and you need to be patient. The difference between good and great is patience.

Sustainability and practices in a day-to-day life are individual choices. One needs to be a lot more aware of what these choices can do to oneself and the environment. And media should play an important role in a positive manner because the idea is to present things positively and make people understand positively. That is the role that they need to be playing. For instance, media has positively propagated awareness about World Yoga Day which has made many taking up yoga as their daily routine.

It is very important to find our purpose in whatever we are doing. We do not need to get swayed by the noise of the entertainment, but we do need to continue to be entertaining. We cannot be swayed by the frivolousness that can come about due to only what we see but we do need to also strike an important balance on what we do and how we do what we do.

I offer two pieces of advice to the youth. First, embrace each moment as long as you are alive and let go off your worries. Second, love wholeheartedly as if there's no tomorrow, and if tomorrow does arrive, love again. Wear your heart on your sleeve, for the joy it brings is truly remarkable.

There are two fundamental lessons to learn. Firstly, the significance of discipline, dedication, and determination as crucial skills. Secondly, recognizing that the 'why' often surpasses the 'what' in importance. Craft your unique narrative and ensure it holds meaning and impact.

ICE BREAKER SESSION



Director DHARMA Lab and Director DVARCA Lab

It is a privilege to be part of an event that celebrates the dynamism and the potential of India's youth, a driving force for the nation's progress. Climate change is real, and it is going to affect you the most. This is nobody else's fight, stand up and join Prime Minister Modi ji to become the actors of change. As we grapple these unprecedented climate shifts, it compels us to question our actions and their repercussions. The responsibility to care for our common home, to foster sustainable practices lies not just with the global community, but with us. Within our community we must reflect on what we are doing right and where we may be falling short. I acknowledge the efforts that have been channeling the energy of the youth. A sentiment echoed very often by the flagship of IMC youth programs. As we gather here under the theme of partnership for sustainable growth and the voice of the youth, I am compelled to shed light on the impact of climate change on urbanization, specifically in context of Bharat.

In the recent times, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change AR6 report from the United Nations has brought to our attention the alarming consequences of climate change on cities across South Asia, including those in India. The report underscores the connection between urbanization and intense rainfall, emphasizing how cities in India are grappling with challenges posed by changing climate conditions. How many of you have experienced rapid climate change within your own city or town in the recent years? Now allow me to connect the pressing environmental issues we discussed earlier with the theme of the Conclave and regional contexts. The challenges we face locally such as extreme weather conditions, and the potential designation of a region, as a climate refuge area highlights the urgency of sustainable planning. In our community, we have the opportunity to make decisions that could turn this region into climate neutral, or even climate positive places.

I spoke earlier about global perspectives. But let us zoom into our daily lives, our actions matter. And our decisions can impact not only our present, but the future of our children, and the generations to come. In the broader context of regional planning, we need to be cautious about not to repeat the mistakes of the past. The consequences faced by regions with rapid wildfire, droughts should show us as a stark reminder, our goal should be to transform our Earth into an oasis, a place where people want to live and thrive, but without compromising the delicate balance of our ecosystems.

This brings us to a critical crossroad where sustainability and urban planning transect. As the city's grow, decisions about land use and infrastructure development become paramount. The

urgency lies in the understanding that the potential impact of sea level rise before introducing new infrastructure should be considered and has to be before it adversely exposes vulnerable populations to heightened risk. Now, let's take a step back and connect this local challenge to the broader canvas of climate change. The UN emphasis, responsibility we bear in working on climate change more from us as individuals. The construction sector contributes to a significant share of greenhouse gas emissions and is a pivotal player. However, discussions often overlook the broader urban effects on climate based on this aspect of construction. Cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai and Kolkata are major contributors to climate change due to urban activities and planning. Transportation and buildings influenced by urbanization contribute to a staggering 75% of global carbon emissions. Beyond our built environment, the consequences of climate change manifests in various forms, from glacial melt to sea level rise, water scarcity, storms, hurricanes, floods, and wildfires. The report highlights the intensification of rainfall in South Asian cities due to urbanization. With prediction of a population explosion in Asia, especially in India, our cities face the challenge of visionary expansions to accommodate large densities while grappling with adverse impacts of climate change.

As we discuss these issues, it is critical to recognize the solutions that start at an individual level. You can make a difference. We need to consider how we design our cities, where we invest in our infrastructure and how we balance urban development with environmental conservation. I touched upon the impact of transportation choices on our environment, it's high time to evaluate our reliance on cars, and explore alternatives. Create a better public transportation network, focusing on walkable neighborhoods, and supporting local markets can significantly reduce our carbon footprint. The delicate balance between urban development and green spaces is pivotal. It is not just about farmlands. It's about how we use and preserve all our land resources. A compact, dense city footprint minimizes the urban heat island effect and promote a healthier environment.

Now let us address the issue of farming that is so close to our hearts. Our choices in farming practices directly impact our health and environment. By supporting local produce, we not only encourage healthier eating habits, but also contribute to a more sustainable agricultural system. I also want to emphasize the interconnectedness of our actions with the broader ecosystem. The health of our cities, rural areas, and forest is intertwined. When we destroy forests, we upset this balance, leading to catastrophic events like floods, tsunamis, and wildfires. Our decision today can shape a better future for us and for the generations to come.

In conclusion, the urgency of sustainable growth and climatic conscious urban planning cannot be overstated. As we discuss partnering for sustainable growth, let us remember that the decisions we make today will shape the future of generations to come. I am hopeful that the collective intelligence and passion of the young minds gathered here will contribute to the innovative solutions, advocacy for sustainable practices, and a shared commitment to build a resilient and environmentally conscious future.

Thank you for the opportunity to share these thoughts with you today. May the discussions at this conclave, inspire action and collaboration that pave the way for a sustainable and prosperous Bharat.

STUDENT COMPETITION

Harnessing Emerging Technologies for a sustainable future



Ms. Aditi Agarwal, IIT, Gandhinagar, Gujarat

In the words of Arthur C Clarke, any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic. Technology in its most advanced forms becomes akin to magic and indeed as we look around us, we see wonders that would have seemed like spells cast by sorcerers. Picture this – a world where gadgets are not just shiny toys but powerful tools like magic wands in the hands of eco sorcerers. We stand at the cusp of an era where the fusion of tech and sustainability is not

just a dream but a tangible achievable reality. But let us not wonder too far into the realm of fantasy for the magic of technology is very much rooted in the here and now. Take for instance Japan's earthquake alert system – a beacon of hope in times of crisis with accuracy of warning before disaster strikes which enables to save lives.

The Nanobots and biotech wizards are the guardians of our ecosystems. Nanobots clean up oceans, biotech innovations purify air and drones plant forests faster than you can say photosynthesis. Let us harness these emerging technologies, not just for the sake of innovation but for the sustainability of our shared home.



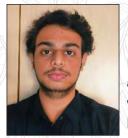
Mr. Adit Sreenivasan, BITS Pilani, Goa

Technology has propelled mankind forward in unimaginable ways. Technology is the reason I can sit here in my hostel room and talk to all of you in various locations. As earlier mentioned by Namita Mam, technology is the only way to scale. On the other hand, when you think of sustainability, you think of balance, long term growth and renewability. Technology and sustainability feel like opposing terms, fire and ice if you will. One is all about disruption and innovation while the other

is about maintenance. But if you look at it from another perspective, you realize that they are two sides of the same coin. In a world grappling with climate change and environmental degradation, technology will play a huge part in restoring balance especially in that tech which is being developed now and will be very relevant for the next 10-15years. The most prominent emerging technology is generative AI. This technology has been used in various fields related to sustainability. And another key emerging technology is Metaverse. As on today, there are multiple AI, VI products available in the market but most of them have a limited functionality, gaming and the like. As we move towards the age of information and work becomes more remote, the Metaverse can be a key contributor to maintain our physical as well as mental health and keep us connected across the world. While talking about technology, it is also important to note that almost 70% of India still lives in rural areas and they probably don't have access to all of the cutting-edge new tech being developed which is why inclusion becomes a big part in India's sustainability story.

India or Bharat is primarily an agricultural nation and this is a field which has vast applications for emerging technologies. You can use internet of things to monitor the irrigation and the health of crops, advanced robotics for sowing and harvesting along with drones and many other such technologies can be deployed to increase the efficiency of our agricultural industry. Similarly, other such industry is like manufacturing, banking, telecom, etc., can use other sophisticated technologies

like block chain, quantum computing and cyber security systems to make them more efficient and sustainable. The possibilities for the future are endless. However, it is not enough to simply embrace these emerging technologies. We must do so with a keen eye towards equity and while ensuring that sustainable solutions are accessible to all and can truly build Viksit Bharat.



Mr. Ayush Mirashi, HR College of Commerce and Economics, Mumbai

In the quest for sustainable future, harnessing emerging technologies is not just an option but it is a necessity especially for a country like India. imagine our nation where the future is powered by innovation, technology becomes the driving force behind environmental conservation and economic growth. Allow me to illustrate this with a story. Picture a rural village where agriculture is powered by sensor

data analytics which transforms farmer's life, crop yields increase, waste reduces, food security becomes a reality. This success story highlights the potential of tech aligned with sustainable goals. We can create smart, inter-connected ecosystem that minimizes resource consumption and promote inclusive development.

Speaking of AI, I would like to put some light on the scale of AI. So currently the population of the world is 8 billion which is growing at the rate of 10% per annum and currently the devices, the number of devices which are capable of connecting with AI are 24 billion, which is thrice the population of this world. It is growing with a whopping 24% per annum rate. So, it is not just about technological advancements, but it is also about using innovation as a tool to address pressing challenges and uplift communities. As we stand at the crossroads of technological evolution, let us commit to harnessing these innovations for sustainable future of India through collaborative efforts of public and private sectors.



Mr. Krishi Budhwani, HSNC University, Mumbai

I am deeply passionate about harnessing emerging technologies to secure a more sustainable future for our nation and the world at large. The forces of technology and sustainability, if we marry these two concepts, we can save our plant. I propose a revolutionary vision, a vision where every byte of data, every line of code and even every circuit of silicones are imbued with the ethos of sustainability. A vision where technology becomes not only merely a tool but a

force towards sustainability. As we embark on a journey towards Viksit Bharat, a developed India, we must recognize the foundational principles that guide our path at the core of a vision for sustainable future are the 4 pillars of Viksit Bharat. Garib (poor), Yuva (youth), Annadata (farmer) and Nari (Woman). By prioritising the needs and the aspirations of the youth, empowering the marginalised, promoting general equality and support to farmers, we ensure that no one is left behind in our journey towards sustainability.

Meanwhile, we have lot of technological concepts and myriad of technological advances but we need a disruptive model. I propose 3-4 solutions for this problem. Step 1 is establishing green technological goals. Goal 1 would be new energy, a quest for source of reliable renewable energy. Goal 2 – Al, guarding of sports. Goal 3 – blockchain, goal 4 – hydrogen economy. India aims for annual production of 4-5mn metric tonnes of green hydrogen by 2030 which would cut about 15mn metric tonnes of carbon emissions and save more than 12bn on fossil fuel imports. Goal 5 would be harnessing solar technology. Goal 6 would be quantum computing. Quantum computing might just

save our planet because it helps to reduce emissions in some of the most challenging and emission intensity. Goal 6 would be electric vehicles. This goal setting will create an ethos and give birth to a movement.

Then the step 2 would be the establishment of central sustainability organization, the hub of ideas using multi-stakeholder approach as a centralised platform. This will facilitate collaboration among government, businesses, academy and civil society. This will be an eco techno system model. Step 3 would be solving the biggest problem. Nations are confronted with the fundamental crux – how to effectively harness the technology because of the lack of capital. So we can introduce sustainable capital by governments worldwide. This revolutionary concept entails the establishment of dedicated funds for resource development and widespread implementation of sustainable technologies by institutionalising the sustainable campus.



Mr. Manan Kapoor, Somaiya Vidyavihar University, Mumbai

Darwins once said, "It's not the strongest of the species that survives nor the most intelligent but the one which is the most responsive to change." Imagine the earth, a dynamic planet constantly adapting and evolving. Today, we face a change. A warming planet with extinct resources. We stand at a crossroad and species on the brick of extinction must adapt and innovate to survive. But right from the ancient times, technology has proven to be a saviour. The technology

has developed right from the invention of the wheel to the invention of artificial intelligence. Entering the eco of innovation of electric vehicles powered by AI, the revolutionary force propelling us towards a sustainable future. It is a journey that begins with transforming how we move.

Moving further to the realm of climate prediction and action, now AI is infused and proactively trying to mitigate the climate change. Next, we confront the waste management revolution. Companies like Zen Robotics deploy high tech robots to segregate the waste as well to shrink our environmental footprints. Recently, we also heard that we are on the verge of finding the cheapest cure of cancer. The future is not only bright but advanced as well helping us to fulfil the sustainable development goals.



Mr. Raghav Attrey, Amity University, Uttar Pradesh

Imagine Taj Mahal was built without electricity. Even the great Pyramid of Giza in Egypt was constructed without electricity. Imagine, what we could have achieved if we could combine technology with modern science. India has a GDP of 3.7 trillion dollars. Our Honourable Prime Minister Modiji's vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 to become a staggering 30 trillion dollar developed economy by the time we complete our 100 years of independence. One of the goals is to reach 500

gigawatts of non-fossil energy capacity. Solar and wind power plants are showing the most potential for it. The challenge is that we need to increase the amount of electricity that can be stored on each lithium-ion battery pad. But with the mission Viksit Bharat, that can be solved as it aims at partnering with international R&D organizations to build research labs in India. I would not be surprised that in the next 2-3 years, I go to Starbucks and the person who is serving me coffee is a robot or we see drones doing police patrolling. As we progress towards a sustainable future, neuro technology such as brain-computer interface hold the potential to enhance human capabilities and even cure neurological disorders such as paralysis and even blindness. Both government and private businesses of India must invest in this frontier of neuro technology. Let us not forget that as India is becoming the hub of

infrastructure development, it is crucial that clean infrastructure development should be prioritised to achieve a developed nation status. In space sector, 3D printing technologies combined with Al will be like magic and can emerge as a stepping stone to achieve a sustainable future.



Ms. Sajeda Tamanna Hussain, Uttara University, Bangladesh

It is imperative to harness emerging technologies ethically for a sustainable future. One such technology, artificial intelligence holds great potential in the fight against climate change. All can be used to optimise energy use, improve the efficiency of renewable energy sources and enhance climate modelling for more accurate predictions. For instance, All algorithms are being employed to optimise the performance of wind farms by predicting wind patterns thereby increasing

energy output, reducing operational costs. Moreover, AI can play a crucial role in monitoring and managing natural resources such as analysing satellite imagery to track deforestation and monitor wildlife population and predict natural disasters enabling proactive measures to mitigate their impact. In addition to AI, the concept of climate nudging has emerged as way to use behavioural insights and digital technology to encourage environmentally friendly choices. For example, referencing a speech by Masatsugu Asakawa, President of Asian Development Bank, smart energy meters coupled with AI can provide real time feedback to consumers nudging them to reduce energy consumption during peak hours thus contributing to a more sustainable energy usage pattern.

However, as we embrace these possibilities, we must also be acutely aware of the ethical considerations and potential risks associated with the use of Al. According to a journal titled, "4th Industrial Revolution" for the earth series published in 2018 by the World Economic Forum, it is essential to ensure that Al systems are developed and deployed in a manner that is transparent, accountable and respects privacy and human rights. Moreover, efforts must be made to mitigate the potential negative impacts of Al on jobs and socio-economic inequalities. It is critical to recognise that the use of Al for sustainability must be governed by ethical values as well as issues of equity and inclusion. As we adopt Al powered solutions, we must guarantee that benefits reach all segment of society and that vulnerable communities are not left behind or disproportionately affected by technological upheavals.

The responsible harnessing of emerging technologies particularly AI offers unprecedented opportunities to address the challenges of climate change. By leveraging these technologies ethically and in the service of the greater good, we can pave the way for a more sustainable and resilient future.



STUDENT COMPETITION

UN SDGs: The progress made by India so far and the road ahead

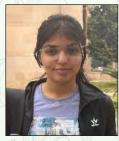


Ms. Avani Jain, Daly College, Indore

India has experienced robust economic growth over the past few decades, lifting millions out of poverty and improving living standards. Under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), India has implemented various social welfare schemes aimed at reducing inequalities and improving access to education, healthcare and basic services. Promoting gender equality and ensuring equal opportunities for all the individuals regardless of their social economic background

is essential for fostering an inclusive society. India has taken several steps for environmental protection, including air and water pollution, deforestation and climate change. Initiatives such as Swachh Bharat mission, and the National Clean Air program demonstrates India's commitment to the environmental sustainability. Some of the innovative ideas like green infrastructure, green building and sustainable transportation system can promote economic growth while reducing environmental impact.

Using digital technologies, India has improved access to health care, education and financial services which has enhanced social inclusion and has empowered marginalized communities, particularly in remote and underserved areas. Public private partnerships, encouraging collaboration between the government, private sector and civil society can foster an innovation and accelerate progress towards the UN's SDGs by leveraging the strengths and resource of each stakeholder. By prioritizing economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection and embracing innovative solutions, India can make further progress towards achieving the SDGs and building a more sustainable and equitable future for all. In the end, I would like to say that sustainability is no more an option, but a global necessity to ensure a better tomorrow.



Ms. Keshvi Tomer, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi

India with its rich cultural heritage and vast diversity has been steadfast in its commitment to achieving the UN SDGs. From eradicating poverty and hunger to ensuring good quality education, gender equality, India has made significant strides. However, the journey is far from over, and the road ahead presents both challenges and opportunities.

Let us first reflect on the progress that has been made so far. India has made commendable advancements in reducing poverty with millions lifted out of abject poverty. Our nation has also made significant improvement in access to education with initiatives like right to education, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to learn and thrive. Moreover, efforts to promote gender equality have seen positive outcomes with more women participating in the workforce and taking on leadership roles. Yet, as we celebrate these achievements, we must acknowledge the challenges such as climate change, economic inequality and access to health care still pose. We cannot ignore the plight of marginalized communities who still lack basic amenities for opportunities and growth. We must redouble our efforts to ensure that none of us are left behind. As the torchbearers of change the youth of India have a pivotal role to play. It is our responsibility to advocate for sustainable practices to champion inclusivity and to hold our leaders accountable for their commitments to the

SDGs. We must harness the power of innovation and technology to find creative solutions to the challenges we face. Let us remember that the journey towards sustainable development is not a sprint, but a marathon. It requires perseverance, collaboration, and unwavering determination. As we look into the future, let us stand united in our resolve to build a better, more equitable India for generations to come.



Ms. Mohini Singhal, XLRI, Jamshedpur

UN SDGs serve as a metric for countries to measure their development. When we often come across facts like 24 crore Indians have escaped poverty in the last nine years, we have shown significant reduction in maternal mortality rates from 300 to 97 in the past two decades, they make us really proud. But more than these matrices, what moves me is the life story of my batchmate. It was in 2018. My batchmate hailing from a village in UP was really happy that a toilet has

been constructed in her house, and now she can visit her parents during the vacation whenever she wants. Born in 1990s, she went to Kendriya Vidyalaya, one of the India's premier public education institutions and presently she is supporting her family in a society where earlier a woman used to stay in the four walls of the house.

Even in urban areas, I have witnessed the transformation of bustling towns into beautiful cities with reduced power cuts and improved purchasing power. Also, India is fostering new startups attracting investment and developing 21st century infrastructure while maintaining per capita emissions significantly low. The installed solar energy capacity has increased by 30 times in the last nine years. And we are adopting an energy mix solution to this increasing demand. Further, we are committed to the net zero emissions target by 2070. Despite these accomplishments, India needs to strive towards Viksit Bharat by 2047. However, unfortunately, not all rural girls presently in India have the same opportunity as my batchmate. Also issues like alarming rates of anemia persist and 14 crore fellow Indians still live in poverty. Presently the low economic participation of women is a serious concern, leading to violence and eventually exploitation. So what we need is an enabling India strategy to achieve sustainable development targets for Viksit Bharat. This could include going by principles of Swami Vivekanand.



Ms. Passang Om, College of Language and Cultural Studies, Royal University of Bhutan

Some of the achievements to celebrate so far include the millions lifted out of poverty. India's success in reducing poverty demonstrates inclusive growth. In case of education, let us picture a village where previously only a few attended schools. But now with initiatives such as free education and scholarships, almost every child got an opportunity to learn and grow. Like the number of universities

in India now reached almost 1196 in the fiscal year 2024, up from 760 in fiscal year 2015, which brought a positive change in India's education sector. Furthermore, India's leadership in solar energy highlights its commitment to a greener future.

Despite these successes, some challenges persist. Like lack of sanitation or healthcare, gender inequality and challenge about environment. In order to address these challenges, India can invest in social infrastructure such as quality education and health care for all, empower women to unlock the full potential and accelerate progress of all the sustainable development goals. Lastly, but not the least, embrace sustainable practices beyond just renewable energy, focusing on resources, efficiency, and pollution control. It is important for all of us to remember that achieving the sustainable

development goals requires active participation of all of us. Let us work together leveraging innovation, technology and community to create a prosperous, sustainable and equitable society.



Ms. Rachel Yoslim, University of Indonesia, Jakarta

I stand here before all of you as a passionate advocate for the boundless potential of India as a global leader in sustainability and progress. People around the world see India as the country with the highest populations in the world. However, some of them may argue that the abundance of people is hard to control, hard to utilize but I beg to differ. I see this abundance as a chance to innovate, to create and to become a role model for other countries towards a sustainable future for all of us.

As an international student, I stand here today to call upon all of you to join hands in tightening the power of collaboration, and collective action. However, before we pave the road together, we need to understand two main points; what we need, and what we can give. For instance, in the current status quo, India is amazing in the development of zero hunger, and the sustainable development goals. Well, in my country, Indonesia, we are still lacking for that specific growth. But on the other hand, my country can give pointers to increase the pace of clean water and sanitation, one of the SDGs. So, ladies and gentlemen, don't you see the relationship we could have to make this dream into reality? I need your help. We need your help. We need to start now. For example, for us, youths, all of us can join international students' organization to share ideas, to share thoughts and promote foundation as a better outcome for the world and generations to come.



Ms. Sakshi Kaparwan, Doon University, Dehradun, Uttarakhand

Bharat has made commendable strides in various aspects of the SDGs in terms of the poverty alleviation, financial inclusion, sanitation, clean water, access to education and healthcare, all of which are part of SDGs. Our collective responsibility is to actively engage in the pursuit of these goals and together we can propel Bharat towards achieving the UN SDGs and create a better, more equitable future for all.



Ms. Shabnam, College of Education, Lakshadweep

UN SDGs encompass 17 goals and 169 targets to address social, economical, and environmental problems. Based on the UN SDG index and dashboard report published in 2023 estimates that SDG index rank of India is 112 among 166 countries with an index score of 63.5%. India is progressing enough on a commendable scale, and which also has listed significant improvements in a certain set of goals, such as in the goal number one to eradicate poverty, in which

the report says that India is able to remove poverty rate from 47.6% in 1993 to 10% in 2019. And to complement this report, other reports such as UNDP, OSHI and global MPI reports released recently in July 2023, estimates that 451 million people were driven out of poverty within 15 years between 2005 and 2020. Another goal of providing quality education, it is estimated that India is able to achieve enrollment rate of 98.3% in 2018 at the primary level, and this goal is achieved through a number of schemes and programs such as Beti Bachao Beti Padao Yojana and other programs that promote daily mid-day meals for 100 million school children. In goals such as responsible consumption and production, eradicating hazardous waste and climate actions, India has made significant progress through schemes like Ujwal and Ujjwala, and promoting renewable energy.



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STUDENT COMPETITION

India's Creative Economy: Influencing and inspiring a sustainable lifestyle



Ms. Aashni Rungta, International IB Continuum School, Nepal

Imagine walking through the bustling streets of Mumbai or the serene villages of Kerala, where every corner has a story to say, and every creation whispers a century old tradition. I would like to tell a story of Raju, a young artisan from Rajasthan whose family has been crafting pottery for generations. With his determination, he transformed his traditional pottery into eco-friendly masterpieces using sustainable materials and techniques passed down through generations.

Today, Raju's pottery not only adorns home across the globe, but also served as a symbol of India's commitment to sustainable craftsmanship. The answer lies not just in grand gestures, but in small, intentional choices we make every day. We can do so much if we want, can't we? Whether it is supporting local artisans, reducing our carbon footprints, or advocating for sustainable policies, each action brings us one step closer to a more sustainable future and a more sustainable India. Personally, for me, I have always believed that smaller efforts make bigger differences and empowering local artisans or promoting eco-friendly practices or fostering innovation in sustainable technologies or promoting conscious consumerism, building sustainable infrastructure could be things that we can passionately do as individuals, and they are not so difficult. As we celebrate India's creative economy, let us challenge ourselves to think creatively, to innovate boldly, and to collaborate passionately in pursuit of a shared vision, a vision of a world where creativity and sustainability go hand in hand.



Ms. Arhantika Khera, Indian Institute of Management, Bengaluru

The Day After Tomorrow, a 2004 movie about a climate scientist whose warnings were ignored, and the world was plunged into the ice age. The movie was not only a Hollywood hit, but also sparked conversation on climate change and sustainability. That is the power of cinema and that is the power of the creative industry.

Imagine walking through a market with vibrant sarees made from recycled plastic bottles. Nearby, a captivating music video plays its melody infused with a message of water conservation. This is not a daydream, but a glimpse into the transformative power of India's creative economy. As India aims to become a \$30 trillion economy, must it be at the cost of the planet? Of course not. And the key lies in harnessing the potential of our creative industries. Why is this crucial?

Number one, emotional connectivity. A thought-provoking film can spark action more effectively than a policy document. Immediately after the release of the movie The Day After Tomorrow, a study showed a 14% increase in the number of people concerned about global warming.

Innovation: Artists and designers are natural problem solvers. A fashion designer could revolutionize traditional weaving techniques using less water. Or a filmmaker could create biodegradable sets for their next project. These are just a few sparks of the innovation waiting to be ignited.

Now we have to address how to go about it. The first step is to collaborate and create imagine workshops, where fashion designers learn from environmental scientists or movie directors' partner

with NGOs to tell impactful stories. Such collaborations can breed groundbreaking solutions. Step two is to educate and inspire. Let us launch awareness campaigns that showcase the beauty and value of sustainable products, using influencers to capture attention. And finally, we have to push policies that support local artisans and offer tax breaks to companies adopting sustainable practices.

The future of India's creative economy is not just about dazzling designs and gripping narratives, it is about shaping a sustainable tomorrow. The canvas is asked to paint, and the colors we choose today will determine the world we inherit the day after tomorrow.



Ms. Anushree Saxena, Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies, Mumbai

According to the UN, Creative Economy is the contribution of all the skill-based industries like arts, crafts, designing, etc. However, these contributions are not just limited to economic growth, rather are multitude in dimensions. Developing the social and cultural value of the world. Interestingly, India has been proactive in identifying and in initiating policies aligning with these initiatives.

The 'Viksit Bharat 2047' also talks about something similar. It focuses on a holistic development of the nation, including social inclusion innovation, economic growth and empowered Indians. According to studies, the orange economy concept deals with SDGs between 4 and 17. Let me draw your attention to one of the biggest challenges the world is facing today is of unemployment. Jobs are being replaced because of Al and this could lead to increase in poverty worldwide. There is urgent need for re-skilling and adopt a creative economic model.

However, to allow people to take up re-skilling, some sort of financial security is necessary. For that I propose Universal Basic Income where periodic payments could be made to qualifying citizens so that they can take up re-skilling. The technological capabilities India has developed over the years will allow for the realization of this concept.



Ms. Carthika Sujith, University of Dubai, UAE

India is home to an abundance of talented craftsmen and a rich heritage of traditional techniques like handloom, Khadi, Bandhani and Pashmina. India still imports textile from abroad, when we could be crafting a narrative of empowerment for our rural communities. Just imagine the revival of our rural artisans. With the right support, we could make them bloom with creativity, where our ancient techniques get infused with modern trends. As Gandhiji once said, "the revival

of Hand-spinning and Hand-weaving will make the largest contribution to the economic and moral regeneration of India". Establishing an online platform to connect consumers with authentically crafted garments would just be the beginning. In today's era of environmentally and socially aware people, there is a growing eagerness to support ventures that are both sustainable and consciously producing products. Moreover, by utilizing our nation's abundant natural resources that includes silk, wool and cotton, we could ensure that these materials are locally sourced, thus reducing the carbon emissions. And with the help of our media, entertainment and celebrity influencers, we could inspire our people to embrace products of these artists.



Mr. Parth Piyush Prasad, FLAME University, Pune

I would like to present a four-pronged approach to popularizing sustainability and rural empowerment through traditional and cultural industries for holistic growth. Firstly, the government must promote local creative industries through relevant public procurement as well as establish a third criteria to the two-step screening process for an environmental impact assessment to be submitted to the government for a tender bid. This sets a precedent for the future, as well as

establishes the reliability of these industries in the minds of the public. We must heavily disincentivize foreign and large firms to compete in these fields and ensure that no SEZs are provided to firms competing with local industries under the UNCTAD accepted definition of creative economy.

To ensure sustainability, we must create a national sustainable design standard and certification under the UNCTAD definition, if they are to market their products in the country. We must also offer grants and funding opportunity, specifically targeted at supporting research, development and implementation of innovative solutions using traditional methods. We must also promote these grants as a CSR policy for highly polluting industries.

Finally, we need to identify sustainable and traditional Indian art forms and bring them under the purview of the Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Program. This builds a competitive advantage for our tourism as well as import industries. Popularizing this requires the use of creative industries in mass media, collaborating and financially incentivizing the TV, movie, or music industry to make environmentally conscious content.



Ms. Sanskriti Gobhil, D.Y. Patil Deemed to be University, Vashi

India is in a unique position on the international scene thanks to its rich cultural legacy and very talent pool in a world where innovation and creativity are becoming more and more important. India's creative economy is a global force where production of plethora of innovative products that combine modern and traditional craftsmanship as well. India's creative talent knows no bounds,

spanning from vivid textiles to elaborate artwork, from Bollywood blockbusters to groundbreaking technology innovation.

Imagine India in 2047. The aroma of spices wafts from food stalls, each dish a symphony of local ingredients and innovative flavors. Rooftop gardens flourishes, balconies, transforms into miniature farms, and cities becomes greener and healthier ecosystem. Households take on responsibility of waste reduction using bio digesters, converting kitchen scraps into nutrient rich compost.

This is the time for action now. Let us empower our creative minds, provide them with the resources and platforms that need to flourish. Let us celebrate innovations and amplify voices of young innovators. Let us as a nation embrace the sustainable lifestyle that our creative minds envision. Together, we can build a Viksit Bharat that is not just prosperous, but also sustainable, equitable and harmonious with nature. Remember every action, every choice has the power to shape our future.



Ms. Tashi Dolker, University of Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir

The history of our nation gives a glimpse of its evolution from a country reeling under colonialism to one of the leading economies. I am proud that our country is not following the developmental process blindly but is aware of the impacts on our environment. Creative economy, through the development of eco-tourism can incorporate several domains varying from museums and theatres to the production of tourism goods like handicrafts. Such sustainable tourism services

may be particularly successful, especially if developed and run by the local population. The vocal for local should be further strengthened by encouraging engagement of young researchers and scientists to develop the local solutions contributing to a global impact. Small startups and young entrepreneurs must be encouraged and assisted to adopt circular economy model while considering the carbon footprint of the products or services having negligible impacts on the environment.

Traditional skills like rock carving, pottery, basket weaving, woodworks, etc., must be introduced in the education system for the conservation of traditional skills. This will not only strengthen the rural economy, but also reduce the carbon footprint and the pollution. Shops dedicated to local products made by local women self-help groups should be supported by the local government. It will help in the economic growth of the families involved in the production and marketing. As our Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji rightly said, this is the time, the right time and youth power is both the agent of change and the beneficiaries of change.





VALEDICTORY SESSION

I extend my gratitude to IMC for making these extremely relevant and critical issues of sustainability the topics of discussion and debate today. A nation's growth hinges on its youth, serving as the catalyst for change in politics, society, and the economy. It's heartening to see our youths talking about sustainability with such passion. With a performance driven and climate conscious government, coupled with the passion and awareness of our youth, the nation is poised for a new era of sustainable development, charted by a generation of promising entrepreneurs.

"



Ms. Amruta Fadnavis Banker, Actress, Singer, Social Activist

Ms. Aparna Popat
Former Indian Badminton Player &
Co- founder and COO, All is Well

Implementing sustainable practices in the realm of sports involves straightforward actionable plans. Convert underutilized areas into parks for physical activity and sports engagement, promote sustainable transportation choices, prioritize walking over sedentary lifestyles, and focus on eco-friendly infrastructure for sports facilities. Sustainability is not a one-time effort. It requires continuous commitment, and the funny thing is that it's you who has to sustain it.

I extend heartfelt gratitude to our distinguished speakers, who generously devoted their valuable time to join us. Their presence at the Youth Conclave is an absolute honor, inspiring students and young entrepreneurs alike. I also express appreciation to students from over 50 prestigious colleges in India and abroad for actively participating in the conclave. Their insightful contributions on topics like SDGs, the role of youth, and entrepreneurship have enriched the discussions and added valuable perspectives.



e Ms. Vidhi Doshi Chairperson, IMC YLF and Founder, Yahvi Communication



Mr. Ajit Mangrulkar Director General, IMC

Our youth are our future. They are the driving force that needs to be tapped and harnessed intelligently for the development of our society as a whole. When it comes to building our nation, there is no bigger asset than our youths. This is a generation that will solve future crises, lead countries, write policies, innovate and preserve our democracies, and take India to greater heights. At the IMC-YLF Youth Conclave 2024, we witnessed several productive sessions, covering a plethora of topics that are not only relevant but also critical for the progress and development of our great nation.

It was truly a power packed day where we saw students from across the country and world pitch in with their ideas. It was great to see all the students so mindful of and tuned in to the same needs of sustainability for future of our planet - one family, one earth and one future.



Mr. Sanjay Mehta Deputy Director General, IMC



Ms. Sheetal Kalro
Deputy Director General

I extend my sincere gratitude to our distinguished guests and educational institutes from across India and beyond. Your valuable participation has been a constant source of encouragement, keeping us motivated throughout the years. Special thanks to our enthusiastic students. We hope that this conclave provided you with a platform to showcase your talents and prepared you to become voices of the youth on both national and global stages. You are the leaders of today. The active and conscious decision that you take today will shape the future tomorrow.

PRINT AND ONLINE COVERAGE

Youth are agents of growth and custodian of nation's aspiration: Thakur at IMC-YLF Youth Conclave



The Young Leaders Forum of IMC Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized its 4th edition of the IMC-YLF Youth Conclave on February 17, 2024. The topic for this year's Youth Conclave is Yuva Kshamta 2024 -'Partnering for Sustainable Growth' and 'Voice of Youth'. Speaking at the Conclave, Chief Guest, Anurag Thakur, Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting; Youth Affairs and Sports said, "This is a very exciting time to be a youth of our nation. They are the AGENT of change, where - A stands for 'Advocate for a cause you believe in', G stands for

'Go Green and Embrace a sustainable lifestyle', E stands for 'Equality and Inclusivity', N stands for 'Nurture your physical and mental health', and T stands for 'Tech Innovation'."

While welcoming the dignitaries, Samir Somaiya, IMC President commented "Empowering youth involves more than just providing opportunities for employment or education; it's about fostering an environment where their voices are heard, their talents are nurtured, and their aspirations are realized. It's about investing in their capacity to lead, innovate, and drive positive change in their communities.



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तरुणाइच कातुक भारतातील तरुणाई ही बदलांची एजंट' आहे. २०४७ पर्यंत जगातील २१ टक्के कार्यकुशल व्यक्ती भारतात असतील, असे प्रतिपादन अनुराग ठाकूर यांनी केले.



भारतीय तरुणाई बदलांची 'एजंट' : अनुराग ठाकूर

पृथि, ता. १८ : धारतातील तस्त्राई ही बद्धांची एवंट आहे. सन १५०५ पर्यत ज्ञावतील एक्टांची एवंट आहे. सन १५०५ पर्यत ज्ञावतील एक्टांची एक्टांची

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मुंबई, ता. १८ : गोदरेज इलेक्ट्रकल औड इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्सलर्फ मुंबईत ४०० केल्डी जीआव्यस्म क्इटिकल सक्स्टेशन उपास्त्र ते कार्यात्वत करण्यात आले आहे. त्यामुळे शहराच्या बीक्सुबक्यातरीड हजार

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