

VISHWAKARMA UNIVERSITY

SDG 15 REPORT 2024



**VISHWAKARMA
UNIVERSITY**
Maximising Human Potential

University Grants Commission (UGC) Approved State Private University



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Maximising Human Potential

About This Report

At Vishwakarma University (VU), our steadfast commitment to sustainable development is profoundly aligned with the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These global goals delineate an aspirational vision for a sustainable future, one that VU has deeply integrated into its institutional framework and curriculum.

Our foundational principle, Unleashing Human Potential, reflects our dedication to cultivating an environment conducive to the holistic development of our students, empowering them with the resilience and confidence required to navigate contemporary challenges.

As part of our sustainability mission, VU has reimagined itself as an Eco-campus, exemplifying innovative and sustainable practices. This report details our continual efforts to minimize our carbon footprint and highlights the impactful partnerships underpinning these achievements. For instance, our Certificate Programme in Sustainability Management, developed collaboratively with Hof University of Applied Sciences, Germany, equips students with advanced competencies in business management and contemporary sustainable practices. Additionally, through a strategic partnership with the Wilo Foundation, we have established the Water Quality Centre of Excellence, aimed at advancing water treatment, purification, and public awareness of clean drinking water.

VU's commitment to sustainability extends beyond environmental stewardship. We have launched a dedicated Center for Sustainability, NEXUS, that undertakes activities aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Our mission is to cultivate informed, ethical, and skilled individuals who uphold principles of equity, inclusivity, and excellence. By engaging students in practical applications of their knowledge, we bridge the divide between theoretical frameworks and real-world challenges.

Our participatory development model actively involves students and industry stakeholders, ensuring that our academic philosophy equips learners with the competencies essential for addressing the complexities of the modern business landscape. VU's extensive network, encompassing over 45 collaborations with prominent industries and educational institutions—including the Maharashtra State Faculty Development Academy, Queen Mary Technical Institute, Buldhana Urban Cooperative Credit Society, and TATA Technical Limited—facilitates industry projects, live projects, internships, and placements, thus enhancing practical exposure and career prospects for our students.

Furthermore, VU is committed to fostering a well-rounded education and community engagement through initiatives such as the VU-Centre for Communication Development, the Sahyadri Communication Project, and the VU Legal Aid Clinic, all integral components of our VU-iPAR Model. This model emphasizes community involvement, and we encourage student leadership through programs such as the National Service Scheme (NSS) and the Student Council. In alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, we offer NEP 2020 courses and have established the VUWCOE – VU Wellness Center of Excellence, supporting holistic development in both academic and wellness dimensions.

In summary, Vishwakarma University's commitment to sustainable development and the SDGs is firmly embedded within our institutional ethos. Through collaborative engagement with diverse stakeholders, we consistently integrate sustainability into our operations, fostering a culture of innovation, research, and learning. VU remains committed to preparing future leaders equipped to drive impactful change, contributing meaningfully to the global vision of sustainable development.

Prof. (Dr) Siddharth Jabade
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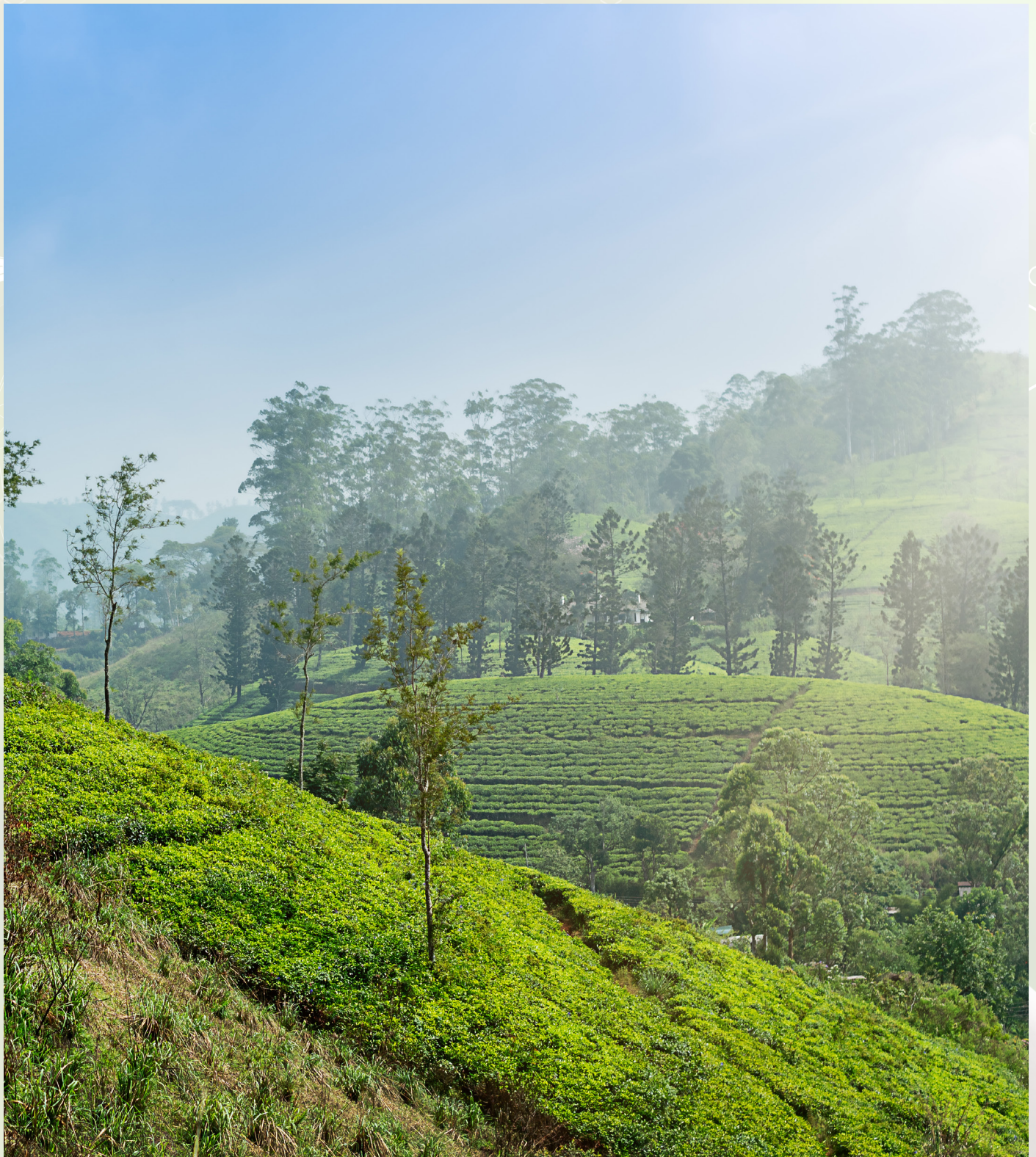
VU's Participation in the THE Impact Rankings 2024

Vishwakarma University (VU) also participated last year in Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2024, which looks at global universities' commitment and performance in furthering the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

VU took part in the 4 SDGs listed below plus the mandatory SDG 17 and the results were as follows:

Overall Ranking 1001+





15 LIFE
ON LAND



Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

LIFE ON LAND

SDG 15, Life on Land, emphasizes the critical need to protect, restore, and sustainably manage terrestrial ecosystems to ensure the planet's ecological balance and human well-being. It aims to combat deforestation, halt biodiversity loss, and promote the sustainable use of forests, soil, and natural habitats. Healthy land ecosystems are vital for food security, clean water, climate regulation, and livelihoods, especially for rural and indigenous communities. However, increasing urbanization, industrialization, and unsustainable agricultural practices continue to degrade land and threaten species survival. Achieving SDG 15 is therefore essential not only for conserving biodiversity but also for building resilience against climate change, maintaining ecosystem services, and securing a sustainable future for all living beings on Earth.

Green Fusion

The Green Fusion event embodies the spirit of SDG 15 by promoting awareness and action toward protecting, restoring, and sustainably using our natural ecosystems. Through creative and conscious design initiatives, the event encourages participants to rethink material use, adopt sustainable practices, and explore nature-inspired design solutions. By fostering collaboration between students and educators in building a greener campus environment, Green Fusion supports biodiversity conservation, responsible resource use, and the harmonious coexistence of built and natural environments – contributing meaningfully to a more sustainable future for life on land.

Project Links:

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/DPgvfgtjlu9/>

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1teZVqI9fLVs8MFnVJN5fqBxauAb2idZ3?usp=drive_link

Project Photos:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1n9EvZKle7c9ABVq84PcU-rhVZAQ_FtE?usp=sharing

Sustainable Cities and Communities in Tourism

The guest lecture series on “Sustainable Cities and Communities” complements the aims of SDG 15: Life on Land, by reinforcing the critical interplay between urban development, community stewardship, and terrestrial ecosystems. Through discussions on community-based tourism, integrating green infrastructure, and preserving cultural landscapes, such lectures encourage deeper awareness around habitat protection, sustainable land use, and the safeguarding of biodiversity in urban and peri-urban zones. By highlighting real-world examples—from ecotourism models in fragile ecosystems to participatory city initiatives—these sessions nurture holistic thinking that aligns human development with conservation goals. In doing so, they foster a mindset among students, researchers, and practitioners that development must not only respect but actively restore and enhance the health of terrestrial ecosystems, preventing land degradation, protecting threatened species, and supporting the resilience of both natural and human communities.

Project Links:

<https://www.vupune.ac.in/event/guest-lecture-series-on-sustainable-cities-and-communities>

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/15-VhjB_WiU9RNKqwfBKYWEGCaV7ii3tM?usp=sharing



Recording Personalized Audio On

Not hearing anything? Turn up volume

Rio to Rio+20 Major Milestones

Themes & Seven Priority Areas

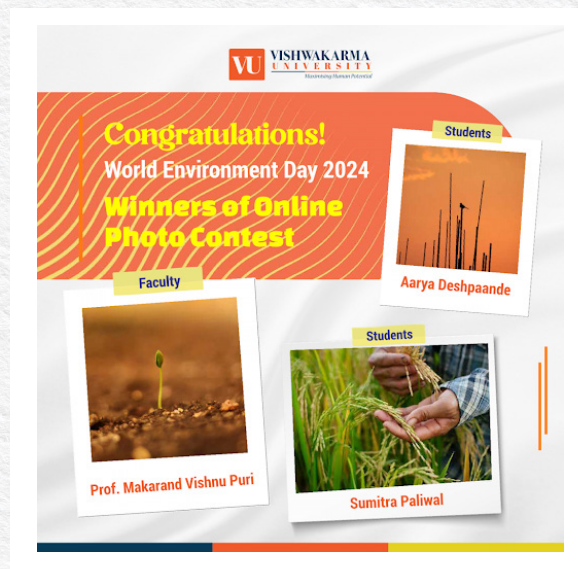
- The official discussions focused on two main themes:
 - How to **build a green economy** to achieve sustainable development and **lift people out of poverty**, including **support for developing countries that will allow them to find a green path for development**; and
 - How to **improve international coordination** for sustainable development.
- The preparations for Rio+20 have highlighted **seven areas which need priority attention**; these include
 - Decent jobs,
 - Energy,
 - Sustainable cities,
 - Food security and sustainable agriculture,
 - Water,
 - Oceans and
 - Disaster readiness.

Dr. Rohan Shalla

Nashant Sutar

Online competition for World Environmental Day

In alignment with SDG 15: Life on Land, the online photo competition held on World Environment Day 2024 emphasized the urgent need to protect, restore, and sustainably manage our natural ecosystems. Centered on the theme “Land Restoration, Drought Resilience, and Combat Desertification,” the initiative encouraged participants to creatively express their understanding of land conservation and ecological balance. Through powerful visual storytelling, the competition highlighted human responsibility toward reversing land degradation, promoting sustainable land use, and building resilience against climate challenges. The recognition from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) further underscored the global relevance of this initiative, inspiring collective action to safeguard terrestrial ecosystems for a sustainable future.



Project Links:

<https://www.vupune.ac.in/center-for-sustainability-nexus>

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1YGCmMYsSggFYgse_15dcffqFEt_wCfKE?usp=sharing



Plantation Drive

In alignment with SDG 15: Life on Land, the Department of Economics, in collaboration with the Nature & Environment Wing of Vishwakarma University, organized a Tree Plantation Drive followed by a visit to Lord's Ranch, Pune, on 31st August 2024. The activity aimed to promote environmental stewardship and reconnect participants with nature through experiential learning. Students actively contributed to ecosystem restoration by planting trees, reinforcing the importance of afforestation and sustainable living. The visit to Lord's Ranch further deepened their understanding of harmonious coexistence between humans, animals, and nature. This initiative beautifully integrated learning with environmental responsibility, fostering awareness about the need to conserve biodiversity and protect terrestrial ecosystems for a greener and more resilient future.

Project Links:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DM9nIPbsHcJ/>

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/14Ke7c8X61yVRcO6viaAxtbkN14MrjgJs?usp=sharing>

Conclusion

The initiatives undertaken under SDG 15: Life on Land at Vishwakarma University reflect a strong institutional commitment toward environmental conservation, sustainable development, and ecological awareness. Through diverse activities such as Green Fusion, Guest Lecture Series on Sustainable Cities and Communities, Online Photo Competition on World Environment Day, and the Tree Plantation Drive, the university has actively fostered a culture of responsibility toward protecting and restoring natural ecosystems. These initiatives not only engage students and faculty in meaningful environmental actions but also integrate sustainability into learning and design practices. By combining creativity, education, and community participation, Vishwakarma University continues to inspire a collective movement toward preserving biodiversity, promoting sustainable land use, and ensuring a harmonious balance between human progress and the planet's ecological well-being.



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