

Green Technology Conclave 2022- 'A Dialogue on the Way Forward'

Green tech or green technology is an umbrella term that describes the use of science and technology to reduce human impacts on the natural environment. It encompasses a wide area of scientific research including energy, atmospheric science, agriculture, material science, and hydrology. Green Technology as a subject matter has invited a series of discussions in many forums and platforms. However, it still stands to seek much more attention and action in order to positively influence the environment.

Green technology includes sustainable or environmental technology and it covers continuously evolving methods, practices and materials, for generating energy. Many green technologies aim to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in order to prevent climate change. Waste Management and Solar Power are two of the most successful green technologies and are now cheaper to deploy than fossil fuels in many countries. Creating awareness about the impacts of climate change and the depletion of natural resources thus stands as a need of the hour.

World Trade Center Bhubaneswar, in association with Sri Sri University and UNDP, organized a 'Green Technology Conclave 2022' at the Sri Sri University Campus. Experts and practitioners from the industry addressed the conclave and thus provided a platform for constructive interaction among the industry experts, academic experts and students on the subject. The session helped in identifying areas to explore ideas on sustainable enterprise development.



Prof. B.R Sharma, Vice Chancellor, Sri Sri University, in his address, elaborated on the Net Zero Target for 2070, University's environment friendly practices and objectives of sustainable development. He also stressed on the need to maintain harmony with nature and preserving a balance in natural forces which in turn would help control climate change and natural calamities. He spoke about the infrastructural development of the university in quarry and its impact on nature, implications of Vedic mantras in our day-to-day life and the necessity to abstain from genetic modification and chemical fertilizers in agriculture.

Mr. Pawan Kumar Gupta, IEDS, Joint Director & HOO, MSME-DI, Cuttack inaugurated the session and highlighted various grassroot level activities or initiatives undertaken by Government of India to address climate change. He further spoke about various incubation centres under the Ministry of MSME, guidelines for Seed Funding to start enterprises, how incubation centres support innovative projects and the handholding support required to support start-ups enterprises.



Mr. Prafulla Dhal, CSR Head, JK Paper shared his insights on Green Technology Dialogue. During his address, he spoke about the initiatives undertaken by corporate houses through CSR activities and the relevance of leadership in technological advancements. "Technology doesn't necessarily have to be about machines, it can be ideas, innovation and creativity," he added.

Ms. Abha Mishra, State Head, UNDP Odisha advocated minimal interference with nature and its activities in order to address the emerging challenges of rising sea levels, frequent occurrence of droughts, cyclone and flash floods. She also highlighted how responsible choices and decisions can effectively act as a game changer for climate change.



Ms. Swapnasri Sarangi, General Manager, Programs, Foundation for Ecological Society (FES) emphasized on the pathfinders for Green Technology. She highlighted the basic elements of survival and technological innovations for the basic necessities in our lifestyle. She further urged to safeguard the natural resources at the very basic level starting from our homes. "We need to learn from the examples and start adapting the age old practices in order to protect our planet and preserve its resources," she added.

Mr. Gati K Acharya, CEO, Crux Power Pvt. Ltd., during his address, spoke about various ways we need to adapt with a vision to address climate change. He also emphasized on reducing dependency on fossil fuels and looking out for opportunities in eco-friendly alternatives.



Mr. Vishwajeet Kumar, NBI and R&D Head, Surya International Pvt. Ltd. highlighted the objectives and vision of the organization which falls in line with the sustainability target. In addition to that, he spoke about the implications of lithium ion batteries, concept of Green Hydrogen as an energy source and Shell Fuel concept.



Mr. Narasingh Panigrahi, Director, Shree Ganesh Recycling Pvt. Ltd. encouraged keeping a substantial check on both production and consumption of fuels while ensuring prioritization of sustainable sources of energy. He further urged reduction in waste generation and proper management of the waste generated. He also advocated the use of plant-based products in place of plastic and other non sustainable materials.

Mr. Amit Nanda, Director, Sattatva Sustainable Development Solutions Private Limited presented a case study on the subject matter. He highlighted certain lifestyle changes we all



need to incorporate in our daily lives to curb the environmental impact of modern civilization. In his presentation, he deliberated on the way forward for green technology as a concept, environmental impacts of coal as an energy source, benefits of solar energy in the long run, collaborative consumption cum remanufacturing, reuse of infrastructure and industrial symbiosis. He further stressed upon trends like Digital Adoption, Supply Chain Rebalancing, Sustainability, Health etc. He underlined the 5R Approach in circular economy like Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, Remanufacture and Recycle.



Earlier in the session, **Prof. R.N. Satapathy, Director, Office of the Vice Chancellor and Dean, Emerging Technologies & Science, Sri Sri University** welcomed all the esteemed speakers and discussed the vision of Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar. He also outlined the various initiatives undertaken by the university to promote sustainability.

A key highlight of the event was the presentation by the students of Sri Sri University to showcase their innovations on environment-friendly technologies and research projects. The presentations were examined by experts in the panel for ideation and were further provided with necessary guidance for proper implementation of such projects in their entrepreneurial journey.

The session was followed by an open house discussion and a Q&A session.

Ms. Nimeshika Natarajan, Assistant Director, World Trade Center Bhubaneswar moderated the session and proposed the vote of thanks.

The programme was held on May 13, 2022 at Sri Sri University Campus.

