

## **Report on National Conference: "Harmony in Action: Bridging Education, Culture, Literature, and Commerce for Sustainable Energy and Environmental Stewardship"**

*December 28-29, 2023*

The National Conference on "Harmony in Action: Bridging Education, Culture, Literature, and Commerce for Sustainable Energy and Environmental Stewardship" held at Government Degree College, Sanjauli, was a resounding success, fostering insightful discussions and forging collaborative pathways towards sustainable development. The conference took place over two days, commencing on December 28th and culminating on December 29th, 2023.

The theme of the conference underscored the vital interconnectedness of diverse disciplines in tackling global challenges such as climate change and environmental degradation. Recognizing the urgency of a collaborative approach, the conference aims to bridge gaps between education, culture, literature, and commerce to forge comprehensive solutions.

The conference commenced with a ceremonial lamp lighting ceremony. The esteemed Chief Guest, Mr. GS Negi, COE, HPU, alongside the Guest of Honour, Prof. Gurucharan Singh Chairperson, School of Management Patiala University, keynote speaker Prof. Devender Sharma, Dept. of commerce, HPU, graced the occasion.

Principal Bharti Bhagra extended a warm and gracious welcome to all the guests.

Professor Madan Shandil, setting the tone for the conference's objectives shed light on the intricate relationship between the economy, GDP (Gross Domestic Product), and sustainable development. He artfully navigated through the complexities of these interrelated elements, emphasizing their profound impact on the trajectory of societal progress and environmental conservation.



### Plenary Session Insights:

The plenary session of the National Seminar witnessed an illuminating discourse on the intersection of environmental concerns, agricultural sustainability, and the evolving economic landscape.

Dr. Mahender Singh Thakur, Chairman of the Department of Environmental Science at HPU, set the tone by addressing critical issues surrounding climate change, pollinator diversity, and the imperative for sustainable agricultural production. His insights delved into the delicate balance necessary to preserve our ecosystems while ensuring agricultural viability.

Following this impactful beginning, Dr. Devender Sharma, from the Department of Commerce, HPU Shimla broadened the scope of discussion by emphasizing the potential for research in this domain. His focus on exploring ancient texts such

as Vedas, literature, and their application in modern business practices sparked a new perspective on leveraging traditional wisdom in contemporary settings.

Prof. Gurucharn Singh's address during the seminar was indeed compelling and insightful, revolved around the theme of leveraging nature's growing investibility and transforming environmental challenges into viable business opportunities. Singh's discourse skillfully highlighted the potential to convert pressing global concerns, such as escalating CO2 emissions and the imperative for effective e-waste management, into avenues for profitable ventures.

His emphasis on the economic prospects embedded within environmental issues struck a chord with the audience. By illuminating the concept of nature's growing investibility, Singh highlighted the shift in perspectives toward recognizing environmental sustainability as not only a responsibility but also as a fertile ground for innovation and entrepreneurship.

Chief Guest, GS Negi's culminated the session on a thought-provoking note. He raised pertinent questions challenging the existing paradigms, urging a recalibration of our priorities towards real education and a deeper integration of traditional knowledge systems into contemporary practices for sustainable development.

The session served as an intellectual feast, weaving together the perspectives of esteemed speakers from diverse disciplines. The plenum broke for lunch.

### **Post-Lunch Technical Session**

The post-lunch technical sessions commenced with great enthusiasm and scholarly discussions, highlighting pivotal insights into the realm of Education, Culture, Literature and Commerce ,Sustainable Energy and Environmental Stewardship .

The rapporteur for the session was Dr. Poonam Chandel , Assistant Professor Political Science

The first session was presided over by esteemed chairperson Dr. Rajesh Dharta Principal of Government College Kumarsain, and co-chairperson , Dr. Deepshikha Bhardwaj Principal of Government College Nankhari, District Shimla, each bringing a wealth of expertise and knowledge to the fore.

This session featured seven paper presenters. The first presentation by Mr. Dharmendra Mehta, Associate Professor at ABV Government Degree College

Sunni, focused on "Evaluation of Community Perception about Corporate Sustainable Development and Corporate Citizenship Initiatives by Hydroelectric Projects in Himachal Pradesh." The paper emphasized the need for sustainable development in areas affected by hydro projects and highlighted the environmental damage caused, urging prioritization of environmental sustainability.

Dr. Devendra Sharma, Assistant Professor at Government Degree College Chile-Koti, presented the second paper titled "Environmentalism in India: History of Political Movements for Environment Protection," discussing the four stages of environmental movements in India, with special emphasis on the Chipko Movement of the early 1970s.

The third presentation, by Dr. Satyanarayan Sanehi, Assistant Professor at Government College Theog, explored the connection between "लोक संस्कृति" (folk culture) and the environment.

Mr. Vishal Rangta from Government Degree College Chile-Koti presented the fourth paper on "Literary Narratives on Climate Change and Conservation: Ecological Concerns in Selected Short Stories of SR Harnot."

Sandeep Kumar, Assistant Professor at Government Degree College Dalaghat, District Solan, discussed "Challenges in Rejuvenating and Modernizing Water Mills in Himachal Pradesh for Empowering Rural Economy: A Case Study" as the fifth presenter.

Dr. Saroj Devi Negi, Assistant Professor at Government College Theog, explored "Sustainable Energy: Concern for the Future While Meeting Today's Growing Energy Needs" in the sixth presentation, discussing various renewable and sustainable energy sources and their installation capacity in India.

The final presentation of the session, by Babija Sharma, Assistant Professor at Government College Chile-Koti, focused on "जयशंकर प्रसाद एवं कामायनी: पर्यावरण के प्रति संदेश," highlighting the environmental messages in Jaishankar Prasad's epic Kamayani.

The session concluded with remarks from the Chair, Dr. Rajesh Dhoota, and the Co-Chair, Dr. Deepshikha Bhardwaj.

**The second technical session** was reported by Prof. Hemlata Sharma.

Co-Chairperson Dr. Maneesha Kohli, Principal of Govt. College Chail Koti. Nine participants delivered presentations Dr. Arti Dhawan, Professor at HPU's Department of Evening Studies Shimla, chaired the session alongside:

1. Dr. Saroj Bhardwaj from RKMV Shimla discussed Tree Plantation in Himachal as a customary practice, attributing climate change contributions to humans.
2. Mr. Niteesh, a research scholar from HPU, presented on Transitioning to Universal Cartons for Apple Exports, emphasizing eco-friendly solutions using recycled content.
3. Dr. Mukesh Kumar from Govt. College Solan explored the Role of Media in Fostering Environmental Sustainability, highlighting traditional and social media's influence on global environmental discourse.
4. Dr. Bavita from Govt. College Dharampur Solan focused on Holistic Management Strategies for Environmental Sustainability, emphasizing the balance between human needs and environmental health.
5. Mr. Ashish Kumar, a research scholar from HPU, discussed ESG Integration and Environmental Stewardship, advocating for conscientious use and protection of the earth's natural environment.
6. Mr. Kanwar Singh from HPU presented on Environmental Sustainability's Effects on the Energy Sector, emphasizing resource efficiency and compliance with environmental provisions by HPPCL.
7. Mrs. Pooja Kashyap, Assistant Professor of English, elaborated on Green Finance and Investment in Renewable Energy, stressing the need for environmental conservation and restoration.
8. Mr. Shivam Kumar, a Research Scholar at HPU, discussed Management Strategies for Adapting to Environmental Challenges, highlighting the corporate sector's adoption of impactful strategies.

The technical session concluded with feedback provided by Chairperson Dr. Arti Dhawan.

## **Day II**

The second day of the conference was dedicated to the technical sessions. The rapporteurs for the session were Prof. Lakhbir Dhiman and Ms Komal.

The inaugural session, helmed by Dr. Ravinder Chauhan, Vice Principal of GDC Sanjauli, and co-chaired by Prof. Madan Shandil featured thought-provoking discussions and presentations.

Divya Sharma from the HPU Commerce Department delved into the profound impact of Green Finance on the environment, exploring its potential advantages and the barriers hindering its effective implementation.

Ramesh Singh Bisht, from G.C. Sanjauli, emphasized the crucial role of integration in ensuring the sustainability of e-commerce, shedding light on its significance within our evolving landscape.

Dr. Anjana Bhardwaj, an Associate Professor in Painting at JLN Govt College of Fine Arts, offered a fascinating perspective with her paper titled "Art Can Heal the Planet." She highlighted the instrumental role of art in fostering broader societal engagement across diverse spheres, transcending traditional institutional boundaries to address social, political, economic, and environmental concerns.

Kritika, a student at COE Sanjauli, directed her paper towards the empowerment of local communities. Her focus was on integrating local wisdom, innovation, and education to drive sustainable progress for the environment.

Ashmit Samraik, another student from CoE, presented a paper centred on the interdependence of cultural and environmental well-being. He highlighted how societies can aim for a sustainable future by recognizing and nurturing this interconnectedness.

This session came to end with a presentation by Anita Kumari, an Assistant Professor, who delved into the profound topic of "Ahimsa, Aparigraha, and Sustainable Lifestyle: A Jain Perspective." Her paper intricately explored the Jain principles of Ahimsa (non-violence) and Aparigraha (non-possession) and their pivotal role in fostering a sustainable existence. Anita's presentation offered valuable insights into cultivating a lifestyle that respects the environment while upholding ethical values rooted in Jain philosophy.

## **Technical Session 2**

The second technical session at the conference was a vibrant platform, showcasing diverse perspectives on crucial themes. Dr. Himani Saxena and Dr. Meenakshi Sharma, both Associate Professors at GDC Sanjauli, led the session, setting the tone for insightful discussions.

Dr. Kiran Chauhan, as a Guest Faculty at the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Himachal Pradesh University, presented a thought-provoking paper titled

"Tourism Development: Socio-Cultural Influences on Environment." The paper highlighted the pivotal roles of community involvement, education, and responsible tourism in mitigating adverse impacts and nurturing a balanced relationship between tourism, socio-cultural dynamics, and environmental conservation.

Anita Verma, a Research Scholar at Himachal Pradesh University Business School, shed light on the pivotal role of finance in achieving India's sustainable development goals in her paper titled "Green Finance: A Shift Towards Sustainable Development." Her work aimed to provide crucial insights for policymakers and stakeholders.

Dr. Rajinder Singh, an Assistant Professor at COE, delved into the ecological wisdom of Guru Nanak through his paper titled "Guru Nanak's Ecological Wisdom: A Call for Harmonious Coexistence with Nature." This study explored Guru Nanak's teachings rooted in reverence for nature, advocating for a paradigm shift in contemporary attitudes and practices toward sustainable living.

Shagun Chandel, a student pursuing BA in Commerce III, presented a paper titled "Green Finance: An Effective Tool for Sustainability." Her focus was on green banking, insurance, and bonds as integral components of green financing, emphasizing their prospects in developing countries like India.

Priyanka Thakur, another student from COE, discussed "Innovation in Sustainable Development," further enriching the session with insights into progressive approaches for sustainable practices.

LASTLY, Priyam and Shivam Saini, B.Com 3 students, showcased their commitment to environmental stewardship by delivering an insightful paper. Their presentation highlighted the urgency of collective action and emphasized practical solutions for fostering a more eco-conscious society.

Overall, these presentations provided a multifaceted view of sustainability, highlighting the intersectionality of socio-cultural dynamics, finance, ecological wisdom, and innovative approaches towards achieving sustainable development goals.





## Valedictory Session Report

The valedictory session of the National Conference concluded on a high note, marked by insightful discussions and a profound exchange of ideas. The session was presided over by Mr. Harish Kumar, Joint Secretary of Higher Education, Himachal Pradesh, who brought a wealth of experience and knowledge to the closing segment.

Mr. Harish Kumar, in his address, lauded the efforts of the organizing committee for orchestrating an intellectually stimulating conference that bridged multiple domains crucial for environmental stewardship. He stressed the significance of collaborative efforts among academia, culture custodians, literary scholars, and commercial entities to achieve sustainable development goals.

He highlighted the need for policy interventions that encourage the integration of sustainable practices across sectors. Mr. Kumar emphasized the role of educational institutions in molding future leaders equipped to address environmental challenges.

The National Conference served as a platform for robust discussions, paving the way for actionable strategies and partnerships aimed at achieving sustainable energy and environmental stewardship.

The insights and recommendations generated during this conference are poised to make a significant impact on the pursuit of a more sustainable future.







**Outcomes and Impact:**

The conference succeeded in bridging gaps between education, culture, literature, and commerce, illuminating the interconnectedness required to tackle environmental challenges. The diverse range of topics and discussions provided actionable insights and fostered partnerships aimed at advancing sustainable development goals.

The event set a precedent for future conferences, highlighting the importance of collaborative, interdisciplinary approaches in addressing global challenges. The insights and recommendations generated are poised to contribute significantly to the discourse on sustainable energy and environmental stewardship, inspiring actionable strategies for a sustainable future.