SHIV NADAR
INSTITUTION OF EMINENCE DEEMED TO BE
UNIVERSITY
DELHI NCR

Report on
Sustainable
Development

GOAL 11

SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES

Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient,
and sustainable

Sustainable Development Goal 11 is about sustainable cities and communities. The goal spells out that the cities and communities must themselves be sustainable. Cities are dynamic places that come to life through the opportunities and innovation they offer and where inequality also plays dynamically. The Universities, in this sense, are places of action where various aspects of sustainable cities and communities are debated and by their nature, are custodians of heritage and environment in their communities.

At Shiv Nadar, we have an active community closely working with many aspects of sustainable cities and communities through teaching, research, institutional practices, and partnerships. Here is a glimpse of our work.

1 Teaching and Learning

We are committed to offering meaningful education around sustainability and related areas to all students across the University besides our core subjects. The School of Humanities and Social Sciences offer many courses at the undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral level. Some of these courses are Archaeology of Cities (HIS 301), Cities of the Global South (INT 131), Pastoral Nomads and the State (HIS 304), Curating Cultures: Collections, Museums and Practices (HIS 305), The Anthropology and History of Experts and Expertise (HIS 315), Archaeology of Landscapes (HIS 317), Seeing the Past: Visual Histories and Archaeological Practices (HIS 323), The City and Urban Perspectives (SOC 416), Field, Archive, Ethnography (SOC 602), Art after WWII (Art and Displacement: Migratory Aesthetics in Contemporary Art) (ART 604). For undergraduate students, many compulsory courses are regularly offered, such as Environmental Studies (CCC 704), Biodiversity: Assessment & Conservation (CCC 706), Environmental Impact Assessment (CCC 406), and Energy for Sustainable Future (CCC 614), Use of Energy in our Daily Life (CCC 624), and Green Energy Technologies (CCC613).
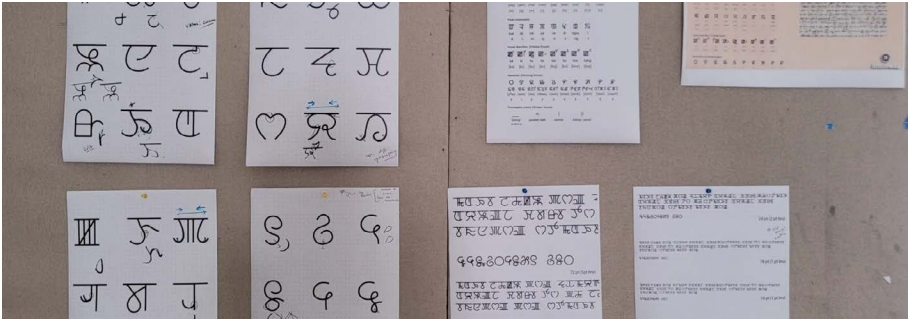
The School of Management, as part of its three-credit course in Sustainable business strategy (STM205), has launched an initiative called Campus as a Living Lab. Here, students are challenged with a final project in which they work on sustainability initiatives for the Shiv Nadar campus using the *Campus as a Living Lab*. These projects address several key topics in sustainability, such as air quality, solar power, sustainable transport, no plastic, waste management for a circular economy, and touch many aspects of a sustainable society. The entire exercise is not just a course in the curriculum but a way student thinks of *sustainability* as a living reality.

Student projects

Design and Development of Digital Manipuri Typeface

Ishani Dayal, student, Masters in Design, is working on an interesting project on Meitei Mayek (script/lipi), an indigenous script used to write the Manipuri language. Manipuri had been written in Bengali script for a considerable amount of time in the past. In 2005, an effort was made to replace the Bengali script with Meitei Mayek in all forms of communication. The original Meitei script has recently been adopted to write the Manipuri language. With this change, many typeface designers have either designed or attempted to design Manipuri typefaces for various purposes of use, including

fonts for digital devices. Since there is a growing demand for digital devices, a demand for digital font is also growing in the context of digital communication. Here, an effort was made to design the script for digital use, retaining the aesthetics, value, cultural aspects, and taste connected to the traditional Manipur script. The project addresses the unavailability and issues of digital typefaces in the Meitei script. The objective of the project is to design a Meitei typeface for digital displays and develop a font as a part of the deliverable. Her faculty guide on the project is Subhajit Chandra, Assistat Professor of Design.

Social Sector Internship

All undergraduate students in the School of Management and Entrepreneurship undertake a Social Sector Internship (SSI). This is a project that all undergraduate students, without exceptions, go through in the School of Management and Entrepreneurship at Shiv Nadar University. In this program, students undergo a rigorous 8-week on-site internship immersion in rural and non-urban ecosystems. During their tenure, our students work with local indigenous communities to ameliorate social enterprise challenges or create growth models for the social sector.

For example, Aryan Gupta for his SSI project worked with Rangasutra Crafts and helped them increase their social media presence in order to reach out to a large audience. His project was highly appreciated, and many of the social media posts attracted positive comments, including a short snippet on how the organization had made an impact on their life.

2 Research

The Department of History and Archaeology

The Department of History and Archaeology offers a unique and creative intertwining of history, archaeology, and museum studies as distinct disciplinary approaches to the past. With a strong focus on research, the faculty has invested in expanding the frontiers of scholarship in history and archaeology. The Department has an Archaeology Lab that aims to bring together scholars from a number of universities and institutions in India and outside to collaborate in research and provide training and skills for archaeological methods, as well as exposure to related aspects, such as museum displays, curation, content generation, and heritage studies. The lab contains an interesting collection of artifacts and is popular as a space to introduce students to important field methods and offer resources for intensive study.

Museum Archaeology and Heritage Histories: Thinking Through Things

Sudeshna Guha, Professor, Department of History and Archaeology, is working on an interesting research project that explores the manner in which notions of cultural heritage are created and nurtured through the scholarship and governance of archaeology with specific references to the archaeology of heritage-making within post-colonial South Asia. This research is on histories of archaeological collections, museums, and heritage-making in South Asia. Under the project, the researchers will put up an exhibition on the histories of 19th-century architectural and archaeological photography in India. A book on histories of objects and historiographies of India, simply titled "A History of India through 75 Objects", was published in December 2022.

Locating Odissi in the United States: Dancing through curricula, teaching methods, and assessment

Aadya Kartikar, Associate Professor, Department of Art, Media, and Performance, in a study, unpacks the pedagogical process of creating a syllabus, adopting teaching strategies, and assessing student work for negotiating the cultural chasm between students and, hoping to generate a sense of critical questioning, mutual curiosity, and respect. In her research paper, she examines the relationship between

traditional dance practices and contemporary educational spaces in the United States to open up a transnational space for dance where training is not simply about learning an art form but rather about the ways in which cultures collide and integrate into the dance class. The class design discussed in the article emerged from an intersection of her training in Odissi with her guru and the institutional requirements of the program.

Kaktikar, Aadya. "Locating Odissi in the United States: Dancing through Curricula, Teaching Methods, and Assessment." Journal of Dance Education (2022): 1-8.

Folk genre of rural community women: Patrons in the preservation of folklore

Dr. Tulika Chandra, Professor, Department of English, is doing empirical research that employs oral folk expressions carried on for generations by the women in Gautam Budh Nagar villages. The research project is recording, preserving, and disseminating digitally the ancient tradition giving it stability and continuity. The research locates the changes in the folk forms and expressions due to urbanization and the impact of the fast-growing cities on these women's voices. The stimulating research involves identifying women's voices and their imaginative power in folk forms and their controlling images in contrast with the male-dominated influence. Traditionally, storytelling is thought to be a significant medium to preserve the culture of a civilization, to explain natural phenomena, to transmit historical and important social information, or to teach important moral and ethical issues.

3 University Operations

We have undertaken many institutional practices on campus to contribute towards achieving sustainable communities and cities. Some of these are listed here.

Sustainable Commuting

Students and most of our faculty stay on campus. A well-planned transport system is in place for those who travel to work and for weekly needs. Within the campus, students and staff use bicycles to commute. We are committed to transitioning 50% of the car fleet to electric vehicles. The University currently has 60% CNG, 30% petrol, and 10% diesel cars.

Shuttle Services

The University provides transport service for students and all staff members to facilitate travel to the city and neighboring places during weekends. The service is planned and managed by the student transport committee for students.

Sustainable Housing

The University offers quality campus life and invigorating experience. Thoughtfully designed apartments, conveniently accessible amenities, and state-of-the-art sports infrastructure. There are various clubs and societies to pursue hobby interests, natural lake and a biodiversity park.

Shiv Nadar is a fully residential campus, and all students stay in state-of-the-art student hostels. They are designed to cater to individual student requirements for personal space while also incorporating a culture of shared living. The University environment is ideal for learning and self-discovery. With students from 28 states, the university is a microcosm of India that reflects the country's diversity in culture, talent, and perspectives. The university fosters a respectful campus culture where students are encouraged to engage in intellectual debates, develop skills, and experiment with new ideas.

Sustainable Buildings

At Shiv Nadar, all buildings are certified by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). Several buildings, including the sports complex, are LEED Gold certified. The main features of these
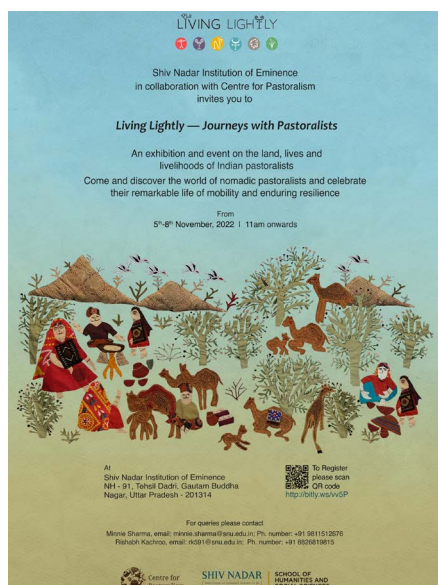
buildings include energy efficiency, renewable energy generation, water efficiency, stormwater management, and a superior indoor environment.

4 Partnerships

Living Lightly: Journeys with Pastoralists, Exhibition and Event

Shiv Nadar University and the Centre for Pastoralism and Sahjeevan organised a three-day event on Living Lightly: Journeys with Pastoralists, Exhibition and Event. The event comprised of an exhibition showcasing pastoralist arts, crafts and knowledge systems from a few different regions of India. Seminars, workshops and discussions that, provided a rich learning experience for students and stimulated visiting researchers, guests, and all those who have research interests in both social and natural sciences and encourage greater cross-disciplinarity.

The event was also packed with small group discussions deliberating upon aspects of sociology and anthropology, law, history and politics, arts and aesthetics, multispecies research, complexity studies, rangeland ecology, sustainability sciences, climate variability and adaptation, resilience, pliability, and nomadic movement.

The exhibition and interaction with local artists addressed not only the invisibility of South Asian nomads in popular culture, academic, and policy arenas (in spite of their immense contribution to our economy, ecology, and food security) but also intended to carve out a number of research grant applications that build upon the exhibition and ensuing discussions.

The Kala Chaupal Trust

Shiv Nadar IoE has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Kala Chaupal Trust to explore avenues to work on the culture and heritage of Bulandshahr, art, and nature conservation. We are working on several projects to capture the district's ancient, medieval, and modern stories and narratives. The documentation and on-ground action will support heritage to create a sustainable model for cultural tourism. Besides,

the collaboration includes student internships, faculty research collaboration in Kala Chaupal's projects, nature walks, heritage works, and publications.

Dadri Development Program

Dadri Development Program (DDP) is a roadmap of how the university can participate in the progress of the community in which it is located. This commitment is shared by the university leadership, staff, and students and is instilled in the core of the University's academic mission. The Skill Development Pilot Program

was launched under the **Dadri Development Project.** The program is essentially aimed at imparting key life skills to the children of our contractual staff residing in nearby areas and enhancing their prospects for a brighter tomorrow.

Khelo Dadri is a University initiative to engage with the youth of its neighboring communities. The initiative promotes sporting events to help school children excel at national and international level. Under the pilot program, three schools have been adopted, and a complete infrastructure for sports has been created in the same. There is a team of trainers at these schools. 5000+ students will be benefitted from the said intervention. To date, there are 330 medal winners (at zonal, district, and state levels, including major corporate sporting events).

Besides these, the project has witnessed around 80 non-communicable diseases (NCD) awareness camps across eight intervention pilot villages in Dadri on topics such as, stroke, cancer, COPD, cardiac health, and diabetes.

'Health Chaupals' are held with services such as diagnostic tests on eye care, dental care, women's health, orthopedics, and cardiac health in nearby villages.

Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence is fully committed to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We have embraced a four-pronged strategy for SDGs through **teaching, research, our core institutional practices, and partnerships.**

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