

# VISHWAKARMA UNIVERSITY

SDG 15 REPORT 2023



**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**  
**Vice-Chancellor**  
**Vishwakarma University, Pune, India**

## VU's Participation in the THE Impact Rankings 2023

Vishwakarma University (VU) also participated last year in Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2023, 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+







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



SDG 15, “Life on Land,” focuses on the sustainable management of forests, combating desertification, halting and reversing land degradation, and protecting biodiversity. It aims to preserve ecosystems, ensure the conservation of wildlife, and promote the sustainable use of terrestrial resources. This goal is essential for maintaining the health of the planet and ensuring that natural habitats are preserved for future generations. SDG 15 encourages the restoration of degraded land, sustainable forestry practices, and actions to prevent the loss of biodiversity.

### **“Meri Maati, Mera Desh” Initiative under SDG 15: Life on Land**

#### **Introduction and Detailed Brief**

The “Meri Maati, Mera Desh” initiative was organized by the National Service Scheme (NSS) unit of Vishwakarma University as part of a broader effort to align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 15: Life on Land. This initiative took place between 12th September and 21st September 2023 and consisted of two primary activities: the Amrut Kalash drive and the creation of Amrutvatika, a garden of diverse plants and trees.

The first activity, Amrut Kalash, focused on honoring the soil of our land by encouraging students and faculty members to contribute soil from their respective places into a central pot, symbolizing unity and respect for nature. Over the span of the event, more than 50 students, alongside faculty members, actively participated in depositing soil into the Amrut Kalash. This pot was then submitted to the designated venue, College of Engineering Pune, where the soil from various parts of Maharashtra was collected and ceremoniously deposited in the presence of dignitaries such as Shri J. P. Nada and Shri Chandrakant Dada Patil.

The second part of the initiative took place from 8th October to 13th October 2023, where NSS student volunteers, under the guidance of the NSS VU Programme Officer, Dr. Kailas Bhosle, planted more than 75 trees on the Vishwakarma University campus, establishing an “Amrutvatika.” This garden not only serves as a testament to biodiversity but also promotes environmental sustainability, in alignment with SDG 15, by encouraging students to plant and nurture trees.

In addition to these actions, students also took the Panch Pran, a pledge of responsibility towards the country, reinforcing the values of sustainability and conservation, central to the mission of NSS and the SDG agenda.

#### **Challenges Faced**

Implementing the “Meri Maati, Mera Desh” initiative came with its set of challenges. Firstly, logistical coordination was a key hurdle, especially in terms of collecting soil from different parts of the region and ensuring that participants followed through with the contribution. The event required meticulous planning to ensure that students from across departments could participate and that the collected soil was properly stored and transported to the final venue.

Another challenge was related to the planting of the trees during the Amrutvatika event. Procuring a variety of plants that could thrive on the Vishwakarma University campus required careful consideration of factors like soil conditions, climate, and water availability. Furthermore, ensuring that the plants received adequate care after the initial plantation was a significant challenge, given the need for long-term commitment from the student volunteers.



Additionally, ensuring participation from a wide range of students was a challenge, as many students were preoccupied with their academic responsibilities. Nevertheless, through active promotion and enthusiastic leadership, the NSS unit was able to draw a substantial number of volunteers to the event.

### **Impact Factor and Alignment with SDG 15**

The “Meri Maati, Mera Desh” initiative made a significant impact in various ways, particularly in its alignment with SDG 15, which emphasizes the protection, restoration, and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems.

The Amrut Kalash activity symbolized a collective effort to connect individuals with the land, fostering a sense of environmental stewardship and appreciation for natural resources. This activity also promoted a deeper understanding of the importance of soil health, which is fundamental to life on land. By encouraging students to bring soil from their homes, it highlighted the significance of different soil types and the value of conserving soil as a resource for agricultural sustainability.

The creation of Amrutvatika, where over 75 trees were planted, directly contributed to SDG 15's target of halting biodiversity loss by creating a space where diverse plant species could thrive. This action helps in carbon sequestration, enhances local biodiversity, and contributes to combating climate change. It also encourages students to engage in sustainable practices, such as tree planting, that have a long-term positive impact on the environment.

Moreover, the Panch Pran oath taken by the students demonstrated their commitment to sustainable living and nation-building, thus reinforcing the values of responsible land management, which is central to SDG 15.

In terms of measurable impact, the initiative not only contributed to the immediate greening of the campus but also created awareness among students and faculty about the importance of sustainable environmental practices. It fostered a culture of environmental responsibility that can extend beyond the campus and inspire other communities.

### **Project Links:**

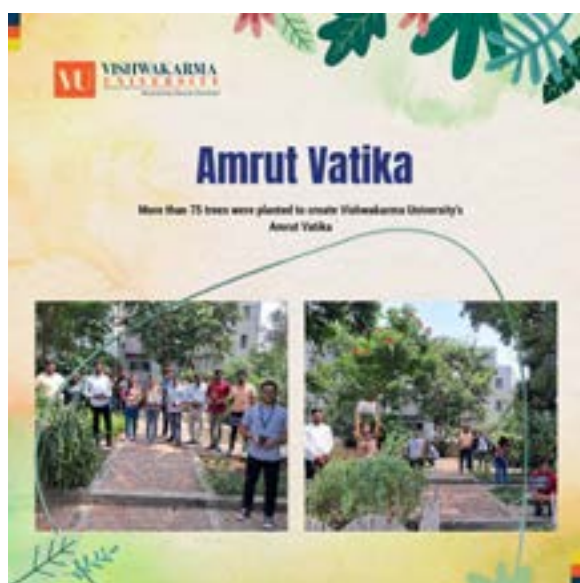
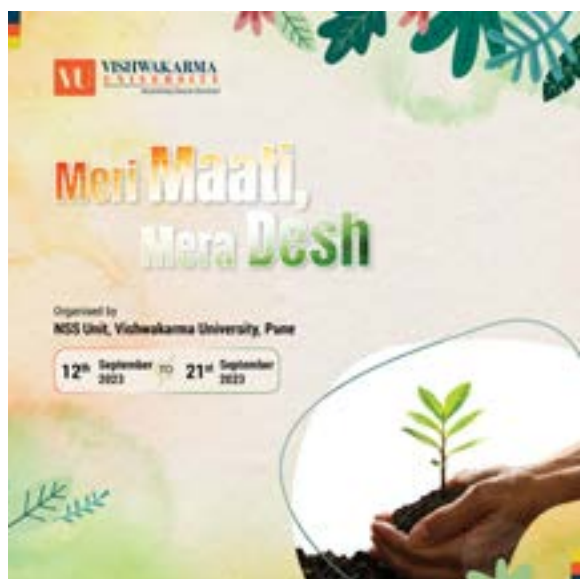
<https://www.vupune.ac.in/event/meri-maati-mera-desh>

[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/vishwakarmauniversity\\_meri-maati-mera-desh-organised-by-nss-unit-activity-7138130887195504640-guzt?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/vishwakarmauniversity_meri-maati-mera-desh-organised-by-nss-unit-activity-7138130887195504640-guzt?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop)

### **Project Photos:**

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1n9EvZKle7c9ABVq84PcU-rhVZAQ\\_FtE?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1n9EvZKle7c9ABVq84PcU-rhVZAQ_FtE?usp=sharing)





### Conclusion

The “Meri Maati, Mera Desh” initiative is an excellent example of how local activities can contribute to global goals, such as those outlined in the SDGs. Through collective action, Vishwakarma University’s NSS unit was able to enhance awareness, encourage sustainability, and contribute directly to the goals of SDG 15: Life on Land. The challenges faced were overcome through effective coordination, enthusiasm, and dedication, resulting in a successful initiative that will have a lasting impact on both the university and the environment.



## **“Economics Department Tree Plantation Drive and Trekking Event” Initiative under SDG 15: Life on Land**

### **Introduction and Detailed Brief**

On August 19, 2023, the Economics Department of Vishwakarma University organized a tree plantation drive and trekking event in Velhe, Maharashtra, aimed at promoting environmental sustainability and ecological responsibility among students. This initiative actively involved first, second, and third-year students, encouraging them to engage directly with nature and understand the significance of their ecological footprint.

The event comprised two primary activities: a tree plantation drive and a trek through the picturesque Velhe landscape. During the tree plantation drive, students collectively planted numerous saplings, contributing to local reforestation efforts. The trekking component allowed students to experience the natural beauty of the region, fostering teamwork and camaraderie among participants while providing practical experiences that extend beyond traditional classroom learning.

This initiative aligns with several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 15: Life on Land, which focuses on protecting, restoring, and promoting sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems. By participating in the tree plantation drive, students actively contributed to environmental conservation, while the trekking activity aimed to cultivate a sense of appreciation for nature.

### **Challenges Faced**

Organizing the tree plantation drive and trekking event posed several challenges, primarily related to logistical coordination and student safety. Managing a large group of over 100 students in a remote area required careful planning to ensure that each aspect of the event ran smoothly. Effective communication among faculty members, local guides, and student volunteers was essential to maintaining order and safety during both activities.

Safety concerns were particularly crucial during the trekking portion of the event. The faculty had to implement measures to ensure the well-being of students while navigating potentially challenging terrain. This included briefings on safety protocols and the necessity of having experienced local guides to lead the trek.

Additionally, the successful planting of saplings required meticulous planning, including selecting appropriate species for the region, securing sufficient saplings, and ensuring that students were knowledgeable about proper planting techniques. Despite these challenges, the students' enthusiasm and willingness to collaborate contributed to the event's overall success.

### **Impact Factor and Alignment with SDG Goals**

The Economics Department's tree plantation drive and trekking event had a significant impact on both the local environment and the participating students. The initiative directly contributed to local reforestation efforts, aligning with SDG 15's goals of halting biodiversity loss and promoting sustainable land management practices. By planting numerous saplings, the students helped restore ecological balance in the area, which is crucial for maintaining healthy ecosystems and mitigating climate change. Moreover, the event fostered environmental consciousness among students, instilling a sense of responsibility towards nature and encouraging many participants to adopt sustainable practices in their personal lives. Feedback from both students and faculty emphasized the positive impact of the event,



with many expressing newfound appreciation for ecological sustainability and a commitment to integrating these values into their daily routines.

The trekking activity played a vital role in strengthening interpersonal relationships among students. The shared experience of overcoming physical challenges in a beautiful natural setting helped create lasting bonds, promoting teamwork and camaraderie. This aspect of the event is crucial for students' holistic development, as it emphasizes the importance of collaboration and mutual support in achieving common goals.

In addition to the immediate environmental benefits, the initiative has the potential for future interdisciplinary activities that could further enhance students' awareness of ecological issues and inspire them to pursue sustainability-focused projects in various fields. The success of the tree plantation drive and trekking event demonstrates the effectiveness of experiential learning in promoting environmental consciousness and responsibility.

#### Project Links:

[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/activity-7237861195376902144-id0x?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/activity-7237861195376902144-id0x?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop)

<https://www.vupune.ac.in/event/tree-plantation-drive>

#### Project Photos:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1hUYZhgw7DtMDe9NCn1Jr9FvKko1sd8\\_?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1hUYZhgw7DtMDe9NCn1Jr9FvKko1sd8_?usp=drive_link)







### Conclusion

The tree plantation drive and trekking event organized by the Economics Department exemplifies the intersection of education, environmental sustainability, and community engagement. By actively involving students in meaningful activities that promote ecological responsibility, the initiative not only made a tangible difference in the local environment but also instilled valuable lessons about the importance of caring for our planet. The event's success highlights the potential for future interdisciplinary initiatives that can further enrich students' experiences and promote sustainable practices within and beyond the university setting. Through continued efforts like this, Vishwakarma University can foster a culture of environmental stewardship and responsibility among its students, aligning with the broader objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals.





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