

6th Biennial International Convention 2023

March 24, 2023

Sri Guru Gobind Singh College of Commerce hosted the 6th Biennial International Convention - Vimarsh 2023 at Hotel Le Méridien in New Delhi. The convention focused on the topic of "India on the Path to Sustainable and Inclusive Development: Myth or Reality." Prof. Kawal Gill, Convenor, Vimarsh in her opening remarks spoke about inclusiveness, expanding choices and human dignity, and the shame of poverty, and praised the government policies for wider social and economic coverage. The principal of the college, Dr. Jatinder Bir Singh, in his welcome address emphasized the need for more inclusive policies to address rural poverty in India and make growth sustainable, moving away from a focus solely on per capita income. In his Keynote Address, Mr. Labanya Prakash Jena, Commonwealth Regional Climate Finance Adviser, Commonwealth Secretariat, emphasized the need for corporate involvement in sustainability, predicted negative impacts on agriculture and economic growth due to climate change, and advocated for policy design to mobilize capital, while expressing hope in future generations for achieving net zero targets. The Chief Guest Dr. Han Ulac Demirag, Country Director, Head of South Asia Hub, International Fund for Agricultural Development highlighted the need for inclusive rural development programs to support small-scale farmers facing financial and social risks, emphasizing the importance of market provision and making farmers more competitive and sustainable. Prof. Balaram Pani, Dean of Colleges, University of Delhi emphasized India's focus on sustainability and inclusiveness, advocating for green energy finance to achieve mindful economic growth through technology exchange and development for all living organisms. CEO of Oxfam India, Mr. Amitabh Behar, emphasized the urgent need to address the unsustainable income inequality, gender inequality, and caste inequality in India despite some progress in overcoming economic hurdles. Volkswagen Group Technology Solutions India's CEO, Mr. Jan Drbohlav, praised India's progress, highlighted his company's efforts in lowering carbon emissions through e-fuel production, and shared their initiatives for inclusive development through student training and community outreach. Dr. Kajleen Kaur, co-convenor, Vimarsh concluded the inaugural session by highlighting India's strong economic fundamentals, manufacturing growth, climate action leadership, and the need to strive for sustainability and inclusiveness, thanking the panelists and inviting everyone for high tea.

The topic of technical session 1 was "Sustainability, Environment and Economy" which was moderated by Prof. Yamini Gupta, Professor, Department of Finance and Business Economics, University of Delhi. Dr. Suneel Pandey, Director, Environment and Waste Management Division, The Energy and Resources Institute emphasized the need to use resources for necessity and not greed, discussed waste management opportunities such as co-processing, and explained the concept of landfill mining. Prof. Yamini Gupta discussed the circular economy emphasizing the need to minimize waste production as much as possible. Ms. Saiba Gupta, Research Analyst, Council on Energy, Environment and Water discussed the circular economy in water and the reuse of treated wastewater, stating that less than 1/3rd of wastewater is treated and that by 2050, 90% of wastewater should be cleaned, leading to financial benefits and the need for strengthened governance. The session was followed by a Q&A session. The vote of thanks

for the session was given by Dr. Gurminder Kaur. She then requested everyone to join us for lunch.

The topic of session 2 was "Sustainability in Action". Mr. Harjeet Singh, Head of Global Political Strategy, Climate Action Network International, highlighted the importance of addressing climate change as a matter of inequality and injustice, with a small number of countries and companies being responsible for the majority of pollution. Col. Manoj Keshwar, the founder of Atulya Ganga, emphasized the sustainability of the river Ganga, monitored its water Ph and pollution level, and stressed the need for nature to rejuvenate itself in light of UNESCO's prediction of water scarcity by 2050. Mr. Perminder Singh Malik, President and Founder, Scope for Change, highlighted the need for multistakeholder involvement and education as important tools for promoting sustainability, emphasizing individual responsibility towards nature. Mr. Pradeep Singh, entrepreneur, and owner, Pratapgarh farms highlighted the benefits of agro-tourism such as poverty reduction, environmental awareness, sustainability, and reconnecting with nature, showcasing his work in a video. Dr. A.K. Bhagi, President of Delhi University's Teacher's Association, stated that India is making endless efforts to control pollution and is ahead of countries with lesser populations, while emphasizing the responsibility of every individual to contribute towards sustainability. Dr. Neha Goyal then gave the vote of thanks.

The day's final session was "Pitch Green" the Business Plan Competition, which culminated in the final round where three teams presented their innovative ideas. The judges for the competition were Mr. Reshabh Sharma, CEO of Sparow and Managing Partner at Building Blocks; Mr. Pralabh Bhargava, Principal Consultant at Environmental Resources Management; and Mr. Vikramaditya Kumar Taneja, an Investment Specialist at Invest India, as well as the founder of DU Connect and Blue Leaves Community. He is also recognized as one of Delhi University's 21 under 21. The first team to present was Startup M, consisting of Medha Agarwal, Muskan Gera, and Arnima Chaudhary from Shivaji College. They specialize in growing mushrooms and making mushroom chips, using the mycelium, or vegetative part of the fungus, for secondary packaging, and the remaining residue for manure. The second team, Clean Air Catalyst, comprised Sarthak Sewani, Arnav Aggarwal, Raghav Taneja, and Varun Mittal from Sri Guru Gobind Singh College of Commerce. Their product involves manufacturing catalytic converters from recycled metals to reduce vehicular emissions. The third and final team, ProjectJanbhoomi, presented their idea to tackle the waste management problem by converting biodegradable waste into compost through their home composter. The team consisted of Aastha Bajpai, Shreeya Ahuja, and Anushka Singhal from Kirori Mal College. After careful consideration, Project Janbhoomi was declared the winner, followed by Clean Air Catalyst in second place, and Startup M in third place.