

DRAFT OUTCOME DOCUMENT
5th INTERNATIONAL SDG CONFERENCE,
6th - 7th OCTOBER 2025, CHITRAKOOT

The 5th International SDG Conference was held on 6th – 7th October, 2025 at Chitrakoot. In continuation of the underlying theme inspired by Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya's *Ekatma Manav Darshan* (Integral Humanism). The spirit of *Ekatma Manav Darsha* is '*Gramodaya se Sarvodaya*' (From Rural Upliftment to Upliftment of All); and from '*Sarvodaya to Abhyudaya*' (From upliftment for All to the Rise of All).

The Plenary Session reiterated the links between Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya's Integral Humanism and Bharat Ratna Rashtrarishi Nanaji Deshmukh's rural empowerment interventions with the Sustainable Development Goals, especially with Goals 6 & 8, that were the themes of this Conference.

At the Calicut session of the Jan Sangh in 1967 Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya stated, "We shall make Mother India *Sujala, Suphala* (overflowing with water and laden with fruits) in the real sense of these words ... with faith in ultimate victory, let us dedicate ourselves to this task."

Nanaji's rural development *mantra* – '*Har haath kho denge kaam; har khet kho denge pani*' (Will give every hand work; and every field water) – is the essence of SDGs 6 and 8.

In the technical sessions, on SDG 6 "Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all"; and SDG 8 "Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all", where bureaucrats, politicians, policy makers and members of civil society discussed the SDG targets. The presentations and conversations reflected a consensus on community initiatives, and concluded that people's participation is critical for the success of the SDGs and progress towards the targets, if the interventions were to be sustainable and not a one-time limited technocratic exercise.

The gathering highlighted some of the issues and suggested pathways for progress in these two SDG:

1. Public Participation and initiative is the key to Success. Involve the public; and make public-centric programmes the pillar of all campaigns, especially water harvesting and management.
2. *Jal, Jungle, Jamin, Jan and Janwar and Jankari* (water, forest, land, people, animals and information) needs to be looked at holistically to ensure judicious and harmonious usage of all natural resources.
3. Sustainable use of recycled sewage water, as per Indore and Nagpur models need to be replicated.
4. Children are the key to the future: educating them on preserving and conserving natural resources, especially water, can move the needle towards a more sustainable planet, as it has done in the Swachcch Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Campaign).

5. A special strategy for O&M and Asset management of water sanitation assets for effective service delivery is required.
6. Digital tools for information management at community level needs to be promoted for water sanitation and service delivery, integrating communication media.
7. Economic Growth must incorporate dimensions of decent work since that connects employers and employee organisations with the concerns and aspirations of the working classes, women, youth and persons with disability. Countries must share case studies and good practices.
8. Technology today is both economical and easy to use – e.g., drones, sensors, barcodes, wearables – and has percolated across income and occupational categories. Emerging and potentially dominant technologies such as AI/ML must be included in education and re-skilling/ up-skilling programs for the workforce of today and tomorrow.
9. The world of work has today grown beyond the conventional confines of office/ shop/ factory, and there is an opportunity bridge the pay and work gap between men and women, as the old barriers of mobility and double burden are disappearing thanks to work from home, remote work and other modern practices. It is important to enable women to get back into work after maternity by flexible HR policies. Promoting care economy - child care and early schooling services - will not only help in reintegration but also open up new job avenues for women as caregivers and educators.
10. Informal/ unorganised sector is not a weakness of the economy but a pillar of future growth – the contribution needs to be reflected better not only in official statistics but also in company boardroom reports and media.
11. Vulnerable employment is a global challenge. Gig-work is a rapidly expanding sector but the precarious situation of gig-workers in terms of income levels and social safety nets needs to be addressed. Employers can and must invest in re-skilling and up-skilling to ensure better prospects of decent work for workers in this sector.

The Conference affirmed the urgency of focused public action to achieve SDGs pertaining to water & sanitation and growth that is pro-jobs, pro-women and pro-nature.

The goals may be worded differently and have different targets and indicators, but they are all inter-related when it comes to action on the ground.

Deendayal ji's vision and Nanaji's interventions form the bedrock of all attempts to achieve SDGs by 2030 and beyond!!