

**Note on World SDG Forum Webinar on  
'Sustainable Consumption and Sustainable Production'**

“Civilization, in the real sense of the term, consists not in the multiplication, but in the deliberate and voluntary reduction of wants”. As the Buddha once said “no sorrow can come to those who do not try to possess things or people as their own.” The challenge is to translate credo into conviction and ambition into intent for implementation. Spirituality can play a major role to catalyse sustainable consumption as well as sustainable production. Ethics provides the pathway for spirituality into everyday life and action.

As a champion of the waste to wealth concept, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari recently at an event in Delhi, “Conversion of waste into wealth can generate Rs 10 lakh crore per annum for the Indian economy’.

At the heart of the efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, is the message encapsulated in SDG 12 – ‘Ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns” or more succinctly, ‘Sustainable Consumption and Sustainable Production’. Without it, nothing will be achieved. It is at the core of all the 17 Goals, 169 targets and 232 indicators.

Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya’s philosophy of ‘Integral Humanism’ articulated the idea more clearly. Among the numerous quotes on the subject, the clearest was, “It is essential, therefore, to use up that portion of the available natural resources which nature itself will be able to recoup easily. ... The industrialist provides for a depreciation fund to replace machines when they are worn out. Then how can we neglect the depreciation fund for nature? From this point of view, it must be realised that the object of our economic system should not be to make extravagant use but a well-regulated use of available resources... It will not be wise, however, to engage in a blind rat-race of consumption and production.. Such a system alone can be called civilisation...This system will not thrive on the exploitation of nature, but will sustain nature, and will in turn itself be nourished. Milking, rather than exploitation, should be our aim. The system should be such that overflow from nature is used to sustain our lives.”

अति सर्वत्र वर्जते

Ati Sarvatra Varjayet  
Excess of anything is bad.

The World SDG Forum’s Webinar series has been trying to conduct a conversation on the issues around the SDGs and draw like-minded individuals and organisations to explore avenues that would help accelerate the achievement of the SDGs as well as to create a community of practitioners that would nudge the current process.

This webinar, the sixth in the series, takes its lead from the outcome of the fifth Webinar on Innovative Financing for SDGs that concluded that without Sustainable Consumption and Production, the financing of SDGs would not achieve the results we require.

The Webinar aims to bring together the voices that can articulate the different elements required to achieve this Goal as well as practitioners who have succeeded in the endeavour to create sustainable consumption and production models.

The format for the webinar will be consistent with previous WSF webinars. It would be a closed group conversation (to ensure cyber-safety and avoid spams and hoaxers), wherein confirmed speakers and registered participants will receive a webinar link, so that they can surely login. A designated moderator would introduce the theme, purpose and sequencing of the webinar. Each keynote speaker would make an intervention on their work and state-of-art in the thematic area for 10-15 minutes, followed by a Q&A. After the keynotes, there would be an open forum wherein insights would be sought from speakers and participants iteratively, followed by a summary by webinar convenor and moderator.