



# ECOBUZZ

A BUZZ TO THE GREEN FUTURE!!

SEPTEMBER EDITION

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*Green Greetings from Faculty of Law, GLS University!*

Sustainable energy generates opportunity – it transforms lives, economies and the planet. There are tangible health benefits to having access to electricity, and a demonstrable improvement in wellbeing.

About 2.6 billion people in the developing world are facing difficulties in accessing electricity full time. 2.5 billion people worldwide lack access to basic sanitation and almost 800 million people lack access to water, a huge part of them in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. 1-1.5 billion people do not have access to reliable phone services. In developing countries, barely 30% of agricultural production undergoes industrial processing, while in high-income countries, 98% of it is processed. Allocating resources for research is key to addressing each country's specific needs in the field of industry and infrastructure, and in order to improve its technologies. Enhancing scientific research, encouraging innovation and increasing the number of researchers will help upgrade the technical capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries.

Energy access therefore constitutes a core component of the sustainable development agenda for Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure. The production of useable energy can also be a source for climate change and it is central to nearly every major challenge and opportunity the world faces today – security, climate change, food production, jobs or increasing incomes.

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# National Updates

## PM to inaugurate National Conference of Environment Ministers of all States on 23rd September :

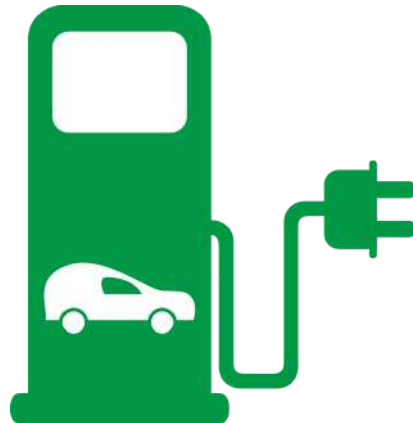
Prime Minister Modi virtually inaugurated the National Conference of Environment Ministers held in Gujarat. It is a two-day event held at Ekta Nagar in Gujarat on September 23 and 24 this year. Taking forward the spirit of cooperative federalism, Conference is being convened to create further synergy amongst the Central and State Governments in formulating better policies on issues such as Elimination of Plastic Pollution through multi-pronged approach, State Action Plans to effectively combat Climate Change with focus on LiFE- Lifestyle for Environment.

## NTTI Aayog has recently hosted the inaugural edition of Shoonya Forum in Delhi to commemorate the first anniversary of Shoonya Campaign.

At the Shoonya Forum, 25 Shoonya partners have announced their commitment to accelerate India's transition to Electronic Vehicles and improve air quality for citizens in the country. Delivering the keynote address, G20 Sherpa and former Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant said Shoonya campaign is an effective collaboration between industry, government, and citizens which is helping in electric mobility transition in India.

## Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Nepal on Biodiversity Conservation proposed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

This MoU has been signed to strengthen and enhance coordination and cooperation between the two countries in the fields of forestry, biodiversity conservation and climate change.



## Triton Electric to set up ₹10,000-crore commercial EV plant in Kutch.

US-headquartered Triton Electric Vehicle recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the government of Gujarat to set up an electric commercial vehicle production plant at Kutch-Bhuj in Gujarat.

## PM to inaugurate 'Smriti Van' memorial

PM to inaugurate 'Smriti Van' memorial, launch ₹4,400 cr worth projects during Gujarat visit. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Sunday inaugurate the 'Smriti Van' memorial and launch projects worth ₹4,400 crore at Bhuj in Gujarat's Kutch district during the second day of his visit to the state where the Assembly elections are due later this year.

## Gujarat wants to be global hub for futuristic industries.

Gujarat wants to emerge as a global hub for green hydrogen and other futuristic industries including electric mobility, robotics and chip manufacturing and is working on a new policy that will encourage innovative projects through incentives, a top official said.

This comprehensive policy will get rolled out in the run up to the 10 edition of Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit (VGGGS) 2022 slated to be held on January 10-12, Rajiv Kumar Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Gujarat told BusinessLine here. He was in the capital for the VGGGS2022 roadshow that was addressed by Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendrabhai Patel recently

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It is prohibited to cut Vat Vriksha as Gods live in this tree and you get no disease where this tree is planted.

~Atharvaveda 5.4.3

# GREEN JUSTICE

## SUBHASH KUMAR V. STATE OF BIHAR

CITATION: AIR 1996 SC 2715: (1996) 5 SCC 647

The present writ petition alleges that the west Bokaro Collarries and the Tata Iron and Steel Co. are polluting River Bokaro by discharging slurry from their washeries into the river. The petitioner further alleges that the State of Bihar and SPCB have failed to take appropriate steps under the Water Act, 1974 for PCA of water pollution. The respondents denied the petitioners allegations by saying that all effective steps have been taken by them to prevent the pollution. The court agreeing with the respondents dismissed the petition for the reasons, "A person whose fundamental right has been violated can take recourse to Art 32 for prevention of water pollution. But PIL cannot be invoked by a person or a group of person to satisfy his/her personal grudge. It is the duty of the court to discourage such actions." The court then went into the facts and observed that the petitioner has been purchasing the slurry from the respondents for the last several years. With the passage of time, the petitioner wanted more and more slurry but the respondents refused to sell additional slurry.

## T. DAMODAR RAO V. SPECIAL OFFICER, MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, HYDERABAD

CITATION: AIR 1987 AP 171

The question involved in this case whether the Life Insurance Co. can legally use that land owned by them in a recreational zone for residential purposes which was an act contrary to the developmental plans of the Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad. In this case, the writ petition was filed by some of the residents who lived around the Park claiming that construction of residential colony in an area reserved for recreational purposes amounts to violation of their Right to Life u/A 21. The court in this case held that any construction of residential house on the land allotted for recreational park would upset the environmental balance of the area. The court directed the Government to remove any such construction on recreational zones.

## INDIAN COUNCIL FOR ENVIRO-LEGAL ACTION V. UNION OF INDIA

CITATION: AIR 1996 SC 1446: (1996) 3 SCC 212

In this case, 5 factories were producing Hyaluronic Acid [H-acid] in Bicchari village, Udaipur. These units were discharging highly toxic untreated effluents i.e. iron and gypsum based sludge. The result was long-lasting damage to the underground soil, underground water and environment in general. The water in around 60 wells spread over 350 hectares turned red and became unfit for drinking and other household purposes. The entire land of 350 hectares became infertile. The Sub-Divisional Magistrate acting under the powers given to him under Sec 144 Cr.P.C ordered to show cause as to why these factories should not be shut down. Accordingly, a writ petition was filed by the Environmentalist organization- Indian Council for Enviro-legal Action before the Supreme Court to look into the above matter. The court dealt in detail the matters concerned above referred to the cases of Rylands versus Fletcher, Oleum Gas Leakage case, Bhopal Gas Tragedy etc. and applied the Principle of Absolute Liability. The Court ordered closure of factories and also ordered them to pay damages up to the tune of Rs. 4 Crores for reversal of ecology of the area. The Court also suggested setting up of Green Benches in all the State High Courts.

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साधवो नहि सर्वत्र चन्दनं न वने वने ॥

Rubies are not found in every mountain; nor is a pearl to be met with every elephant.  
Good people are not found everywhere. A sandalwood tree does not exist in every forest.

~ Chanakya Neetisaar 2.9

# GREEN LAWS

## THE PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE ACT, 1991

The Public Liability Insurance Act of 1991 deals with hazardous substances; each owner must conclude one or more contracts which include the obligation to provide direct compensation. It should be provided to all those who have suffered damages that should be given to the property of the deceased legal heir in the event of their death. The 1991 Public Liability Act was ordained to provide direct assistance to people affected by accidents related to handling hazardous materials and other coerced and related matters. Coverage insurance is claimed when someone is injured at the place of business. Places like shopping centres, night clubs, and theatres need this type of insurance to protect themselves.

The Public Liability Insurance Act 1991 applies to all owners associated with the production or handling of any hazardous chemicals, to provide immediate relief to victims and persons (other than workmen) affected by accidents occurring while handling hazardous substances through the insurance amount paid by the owner of the hazardous substance. Coverage insurance covers claims by community members who have suffered injury or property damage in connection with the business. Coverage insurance covers a person or company in the event of an accident at their company.



### **Duties of an owner under the Act:**

- Ensure undertaking one or more insurance policy against any accident or mishap at the workplace while handling hazardous substances and that such policy is renewed in a timely manner;
- Section 4 of the Act prescribes the limit of such insurance policy and also the liability of the insurer under one assurance policy;
- Ensure adequate relief to the claimant for any loss or damage caused due to the hazardous substances. Such claim may be made by the person suffering the damage or loss or in case of a casualty, the legal representative of the deceased or through an authorized agent;
- The insurance claim shall cover bodily injury or property damage that occurred due to the business operations, which in addition to a person suffering injury or loss; also includes property damage, which may be sought by the owner who has suffered property damage due to the hazardous material.

### **Penalties:**

Any form of non-compliance with the provisions of this Act shall attract both imprisonment and a fine. In case of repeated offenders, the imprisonment shall not be less than 2 years extending up-to 7 years and a fine of not less than one lakh rupees.

### **Liability of Companies:**

Where a company commits an offence, every person in-charge or responsible for the business operations of such company when the offence was committed, stands guilty of the offence and is liable for punishment accordingly. Besides the person in-charge, if it is proved that the offence was committed with the consent or attribution of any other person; then such other person also becomes liable under the Act.

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## BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION AND FOSTER INNOVATION

### INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE :YUVRAJ GOSWAMI

Sustainable Development Goal 9 is about “industry, innovation and infrastructure” and is one of the 17 Sustainable Developmental Goals adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015. SDG 9 aims to build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

Ninth goal of the 2030 UN Agenda is to **build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation**. Moreover, the goal also promotes investment in scientific research and equal universal access to the internet. Therefore, the objectives are to generate employment and income, bring prosperity, and build sustainable and prosperous societies around the world. In other words, it benefits the economic growth of a country, as sustainable industrialization is responsible for lifting communities out of poverty. Additionally, with billions of dollars spent each year on growth and infrastructure, SDG 9 highlights the importance of innovative sustainable technologies to reduce environmental footprint, employ clean technologies without causing additional pressure on people and on the environment. These numbers reinforce the challenges that the least developed countries are dealing with to achieve SDG 9.

#### The issue of internet access

Another issue related to this goal is universal and affordable access to the internet, which should have been provided by 2020. However, in April 2021, still, 3.1 billion people around the world remain without internet access, with the majority of these people in developing regions. So, clearly, the world has failed in achieving this target.

In addition, COVID-19 has been a challenge to achieve this target, while also amplifying the importance of the internet as an essential tool for daily life. 2030 is getting closer and together comes the deadline to achieve these goals. However, there is still much to do so the world can go in the right direction. Therefore, governments and also private companies must provide funds for investments in research, infrastructure, inclusive and sustainable industrialization.

#### How companies can promote industry innovation

Achieving SDG 9 will be a difficult process and a lot of players will need to take action in order to make substantial progress. Restructuring the education system to foster the creation of both ideas and projects; establishing standards that guarantee the sustainable management of projects and business initiatives, and facilitating the opening procedures for new companies will all be necessary processes.

#### Finance social entrepreneurs/non-profit organizations

Another way that companies can help to achieve SDG 9 is financing social entrepreneurs/non-profit organizations by giving coaching, mentoring, and service support as non-profit organizations also need a well-equipped team to keep running.

#### Invest in research and development

Businesses can also invest in research, on their own or in partnership with Governments, contributing to develop and deploy products, services, and business models to deliver sustainable and resilient infrastructure. What can you do in your daily life to help achieve SDG 9?

It is also important to remember that not only the government and companies can help to achieve SDG 9. Everyone can do something to support the achievement of this goal. Support a charity that invests in achieving goal 9. A big or small donation can make a difference. Get yourself involved. You can create a map of public spaces with free WiFi access and share it with your neighbourhood. Therefore, you can help more people access the internet.

When it is possible, choose sustainable products. Every day, we are exposed to different products, therefore, in order to contribute to the preservation of natural resources, choose products that use renewable resources in their production. Make donations, it does not matter if it is a small amount, to research institutes. Enhancing scientific research will contribute to the upgrade of the technological capabilities of industrial sectors. In addition, it will encourage innovation and increase the number of research and development workers.



Image Source: United Nations Sustainable development goals  
<https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal9>

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## National

- TamiraSES project is being jointly implemented restore Thamirabarani river. Key facts TamiraSES project is jointly implemented by the district administration of Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu and Bengaluru-based NGO Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE). The project involves the use of “hyper-local” approach to restore one Thamirabarani river.
- The Indian government recently launched the JALDOOT App and JALDOOT App e-brochure. Key facts The JALDOOT application was jointly developed by union ministries of Panchayat and Rural Development. This app can be used by Gram Rojgar Sahyak to measure the water level in a well twice a year before and after monsoon.

## International

- The Go Blue Project is a joint initiative to advance the Blue Economy agenda across all six Counties in Kenya’s coastal region namely, Kilifi, Kwale, Lamu, Mombasa, Taita Taveta and Tana River, with the support of the European Union. The Project is implemented at a cost EUR 25 million for a period of 4 years.
- The Global Methane, Climate and Clean Air Forum is a joint event sponsored by the Global Methane Initiative (GMI) and the UNEP-convened Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC).



Concept and design :Tapati Dave

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