

## **REPORT ON THE MMA-KAS- PRAKRUTHI DISCUSSION**

Sustainable Development Goals 2030 –  
The Way Forward

Saturday, 5 *June 2021*



**FOUNTAINHEAD OF EXCELLENCE**

**Live Event on Zoom/MMA Facebook/  
Live IBC/YouTube**

## Discussion on the theme

# Sustainable Development Goals 2030 – The Way Forward

## Speakers

**Mr. K Mahalingam**

**Mr. Peter Rimmele**

**Dr. Sugato Dutt, IFS**

**Dr. N Krishna Kumar, IFS (Retd.)**

**Dr. T D Babu**

**Prof. Nitya Nanda, Ph.D.**

**Mr. Dipankar Ghose**

**Held on Saturday, 5 June 2021**

**6.00 pm – 8.00 pm**

## Discussion on the theme

# Sustainable Development Goals 2030 – The Way Forward

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## The Invitation

**MMA**  
MADHAWAN  
A SUSTAINABLE  
FUTURE

**Prakruthi**

**KONRAD  
ADENAUER  
STIFTUNG**

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS 2030- THE WAY FORWARD**

**VIRTUAL SATURDAY, JUN 5, 2021 | 6.00 PM**

**MR. PETER SIMILE**  
Sustainable Development for India  
Konrad Adenauer Stiftung

**DR. SUGATO DUTT, IFS**  
MOEF, Special Secretary and  
Coordinator, Conservation  
Management & Wildlife  
Authority (CAMWA)

**DR. H. KRISHNA  
KUMAR, IFS (RETD)**  
Former DCEO and Principal  
Secy, Tamil Nadu Forest  
Protection Dept.

**DR. T. D. SABU**  
Academy  
Fellow, National Academy

**PROF. NITYA NANDA, PH.D.**  
Senior Counsel for Social  
Development, New Delhi

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## The Context

The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations came up with a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity, called the Sustainable Development Goals **SDG 2030**. All countries and stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership are responsible for implementing this plan. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals which were announced became effective from January 1, 2016. They balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental. With the pandemic playing spoilsport on the progress towards many of the SDG goals, it's time for a review of where we are with respect to the 2030 Goals and look at the way forward.

Nature's furies like Tauktae and Covid 19 cannot be contained just by human ingenuity unless there is a paradigm shift in resetting our relationship with nature. Both environment and commerce go hand-in-hand and require significantly good management skillsets to synergise one with the other.

MMA-KAS and PRAKRUTHI, an eco-care group and outbound experiential learning centre, came together to explore knowledge-based eco restoration systems for slowing down global warming and climate change. This event, held on the occasion of **5 June '21 - World Environment Day**, focussed on problem solving and crisis management for coexistence with nature. Members and policy makers who participated could explore the potential for new green ventures.



## Programme Overview

To mark the **World Environment Day 2021**, Madras Management Association (**MMA**) in partnership with the India Office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (**KAS**) and **Prakruthi**, an eco-care group and outbound experiential learning centre organised a virtual panel discussion on the theme “**Sustainable Development Goals 2030 – The Way Forward**” on Saturday, 05 June 2021, from 6.00 pm onwards for the benefit of MMA Members, Management professionals and Policy makers.

**Group Captain R Vijayakumar** (Retd) VSM, Executive Director of MMA initiated the proceedings. **Mr K Mahalingam**, Honorary Treasurer, MMA delivered the welcome address. **Mr Peter Rimmele**, Resident Representative to India of **KAS** delivered the opening remarks. ***The following distinguished members participated in the panel discussions and shared their views:***

- **Dr Sugato Dutt**, IFS (Indian Forest Service), APCCF Social Forestry and Compensatory Afforestation Management & Planning Authority (CAMPA)
- **Dr T D Babu**, Acclaimed Environmental Auditor
- **Prof Nitya Nanda, Ph.D.**, Director, Council for Social Development, New Delhi
- **Mr Dipankar Ghose**, Founder and Mentor, PRAKRUTHI

The discussions were **moderated** by **Dr N Krishna Kumar**, IFS (Retd), Former PCCF and Head of the Tamilnadu Forest Force (Dept.). The panel discussion was followed by an interactive Q&A session moderated by Group Captain R Vijayakumar (Retd), VSM.

**Mr Dipankar Ghose** of PRAKRUTHI gave the concluding remarks. **Group Captain R Vijayakumar** (Retd) VSM proposed the vote of thanks and the event concluded at 8 pm. Over 1,075 participants attended the event through various media platforms.



## Profile of the Speakers

### Mr. K. Mahalingam

Mr K Mahalingam is Partner/Director at TSM Group of Companies, which has interest across Automobiles, Real Estate Advisory, and Distribution of Financial Services. Mr K. Mahalingam is also an active Angel Investor.

Apart from his business interest Mahalingam is active in multiple other activities. He is President of Children Club, Treasurer of Brahma Gana Sabha, Former President IIM Calcutta Alumni Association and Executive Committee Member of Chennai Angels.

Mahalingam is a regular speaker and Guest Lecturer in Colleges and Management Institutes across Tamil Nadu and beyond.



## Mr. Peter Rimmele

Peter Rimmele is currently the Resident Representative to India of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung.

He has a First Law Degree from Freiburg University, as well as a Second Law Degree from the Ministry of Justice Baden-Württemberg, Germany and a M.A. in Geography.



After working as, a jurist, judge and lecturer, he took public office as Ministerialrat, Head of Division at the State Ministry of the Interior in Saxony, Germany, from November 1991 on until 2000. There he first served in the Police and Security and later in the Local Government Department. On behalf of the German Foreign Ministry he served in East Timor as Registrar General, Head of Civil Registry and Notary Services (UNTAET), and became later the principal Advisor for Governance Reform for GIZ (German International Cooperation) to the Ministry of Administrative Reform and the Anti-Corruption-Commission of the Republic of Indonesia, where he served for 7 years. He then moved to Rwanda, also as Principal Advisor Good Governance/Justice Program. Earlier he was Resident Representative Lebanon, Director of Rule of Law Program Middle East North Africa, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung.



## **Dr. Sugato Dutt, IFS**

Sugato Dutt, IFS is the CEO of the Tamil Nadu Compensatory Afforestation Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), apart from being the APCCF of Social Forestry.

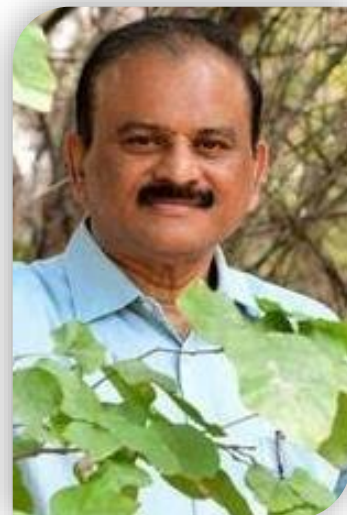


Dr. Dutt, belonging to the Tamil Nadu cadre, has extensive experience in the field of participatory protected area management, captive breeding and issues related to public outreach in wildlife conservation as also Social Forestry throughout the country. His assignments through career, included Policy Analysis and Management in Biodiversity Conservation in Tamil Nadu. He worked with government agencies, research and training institutions, national and international NGOs including World Wide Fund for Nature, Centre for International Forestry Research and GIZ. He also served the Dehradun based Wildlife Institute of India as faculty. Recipient of several academic distinctions including the East West Centre Graduate Degree Fellow and Best Regional Paper at the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers, United States, he obtained a doctoral degree in Human Geography from the University of Hawaii, USA, with his field research on the impact of wildlife protection legislation in the Buxa Tiger Reserve in West Bengal.

At the State Planning Commission Tamil Nadu, he headed the Land Use Management and was its Member Secretary-in-charge too. He has widespread experience in training and capacity building in the forestry sector both at home and abroad.

## **Dr. N Krishna Kumar, IFS (Retd)**

Krishna Kumar was the Former PCCF and Head of the Tamilnadu Forest Force Department. During his illustrious career, he served as the Director of the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore and as the Director of Vandalur Zoo, among the different wildlife and forestry assignments he held as an IFS Officer.



Post retirement, the highly esteemed officer is the Chairman of Research Council of the Kerala Forest Research Institute and Member of the TN State Biodiversity Board.

Krishna Kumar's passion to influence mindsets on Ecosystem Restoration and Management, is recognised in his role as the President of the Tamil Nadu and Kerala chapters of OISCA (Organisation for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement). This Japanese International organisation advocates and implements projects among young people, under the UN program on 17 sustainable development goals, of which India and 130 other countries are signatories.

## Dr. T D Babu

T. D. Babu is an acclaimed Environmental Auditor, who professionally assesses seafood production without environmental pollution and degradation, for Pacific and Asia Regions. He's also an Aquatic Animal Virologist.



Babu is the Trustee of Nizhal that works on Indigenous Tree Diversity and Conservation, and converted the Kotturpuram dumpyard along Adyar River into an Urban forest with community involvement, making it one of the milestones of Nizhal's sensitive greening program in urban areas. As a Community 'Influencer,' Babu founded the civic forum, SPARK, that voices Civic Concerns and on Coastal Management.

Babu's major research contributions are on:

- \* **The impact of tsunami on coastal villages of Tamil Nadu**
- \* **Youth perspective of Fisheries as profession**
- \* **Marine biodiversity conservation and management in India.**

## **Prof. Nitya Nanda, Ph.D.**

Dr. Nitya Nanda is a research professional with more than two decades of experience in research, consulting and teaching. He worked on international trade, industry, investment, healthcare, environment and development issues – the political economy and the legal aspects of these in particular, with current focus on the interface between environment and social development. His work covered issues and challenges in India and South Asia, but often South-east Asian and African nations as well.



He has been involved with more than 40 research/consulting projects, and in about half of them as the principal investigator. Currently, he is Director at the Council for Social Development, New Delhi – a premier research institute working on issues of social development.

Previously, he worked at the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), CUTS International, and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). During his tenure at TERI, he was also an adjunct faculty at the TERI School of Advanced Studies – a deemed university. He has about 120 research publications including in peer-reviewed journals and as book chapters and monographs. He has authored two books and edited four volumes. He has written several articles for various newspapers and magazines as well. Among his books, “Expanding Frontiers of Global Trade Rules: The Political Economic Dynamics of the International Trading System,” Routledge, London & New York, 2008 received wide acclaim. Currently, he is working on a book titled, “India’s Industrial Policy and Performance: Growth, Competition and Competitiveness”. He received his education at the Calcutta University and Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

# “Sustainable Development Goals 2030 – The Way Forward”

## Key Statements



- As the ecologist Guy McPherson aptly put it: “If you really think the environment is less important than the economy, try holding your breath while you count your money.”- **Mr Peter Rimmele**, Resident Representative to India, KAS.



- We are in the midst of a pandemic and the decline of oil economy. Management authorities have a key role to play by promoting investments in biobased economy - **Dr Sugato Dutt, IFS, CAMPA.**



- Whatever eco-restoration works we have been doing in the last 40 years were very patchy. Today, we are looking at it from the angle of climate change, goods and services, the life system and bio-diversity. - **Dr N Krishna Kumar, IFS (Retd.)**



- It is unfortunate that we think of ecosystem only during disasters. There has to be a transformation from eco-events to eco-lifestyle. - **Dr T D Babu, Environmental Auditor**



- India has just 5 hospital beds for every 10,000 persons and we are behind countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh and Vietnam. Out of these 5 beds, three are in private and only two are in public sector. Vietnam which has managed the pandemic well has almost all the hospitals in the public sector - **Prof. Dr Nitya Nanda.**

## Key Takeaways

### From Mr. Peter Rimmele's Opening Remarks:

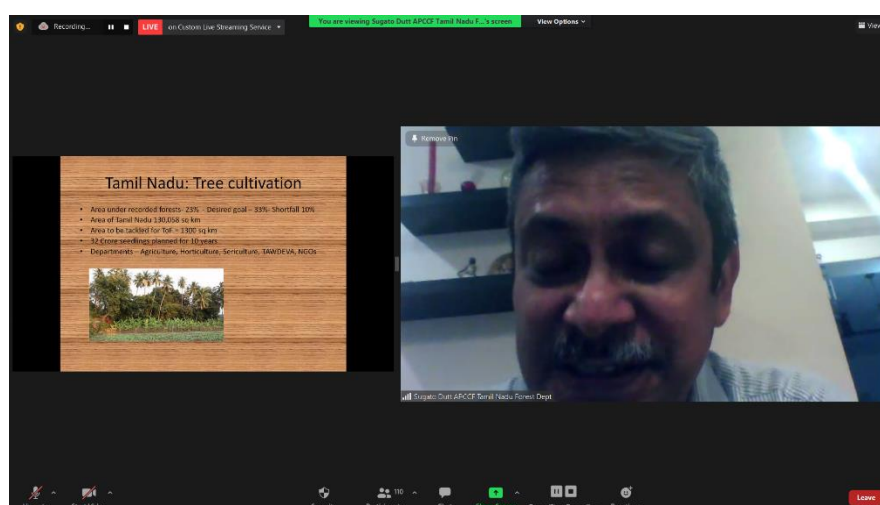


- ♣ Over the past century we have made tremendous technological progress, created smart cities, artificial intelligence, self-driving cars and the list goes on. But in our rush to adopt new technologies that make our lives easier, we have often forgotten and neglected their long-term ramifications.
- ♣ Our high-carbon, resource-intensive economic systems are destroying nature and biodiversity, undermining the very foundations of our existence and increase inequality.
- ♣ Today we face **three planetary crises**: climate change; loss of nature and biodiversity; and pollution and waste.
- ♣ **World Environment Day** has been celebrated since 1974, but in all these years, not enough has been done to substantially reduce global warming. Governments, intergovernmental organisations, NGOs, businesses and members of civil society – all must act now towards a more sustainable world for the future generations.
- ♣ Two months ago, in a landmark decision, Germany's Federal Constitutional Court (the highest court in the system of jurisdiction in Germany) found that the provisions in the 2019 Federal Climate Act to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55 per cent by 2030 were inadequate and violated the civil liberties of the Basic Law.



- ♣ The court held that the legislature must enact stricter regulations to achieve climate neutrality as early as next year instead of pushing it to a distant future.
- ♣ Instead of looking back at the mistakes of the past, 'sustainability' is the way forward! Companies all over the world will have to transform their operations towards this goal.
- ♣ **Three aspects** on how companies can achieve sustainability are:
  - **Firstly**, by adopting a time-bound plan to make operations carbon neutral (as close as possible) by adopting circular models in design and manufacturing and end of product life.
  - **Secondly**, by applying same standards to both suppliers and trading partners. This applies as much to investors, banks and insurance companies - because we need to focus on sustainability in all our investments.
  - **Thirdly**, to be credible, these processes and commitments must be fully transparent, evaluated by third parties and based on science.
- ♣ As the World Economic Forum pointed out, climate change poses a massive risk to the profitability of companies. Thus, sustainability is indeed in the best interest of all businesses.
- ♣ The global environmental crisis will not wait for humanity to return to a "new normal."
- ♣ Sustainability is not optional anymore; the clock is ticking!

## From Dr Sugato Dutt's Address:

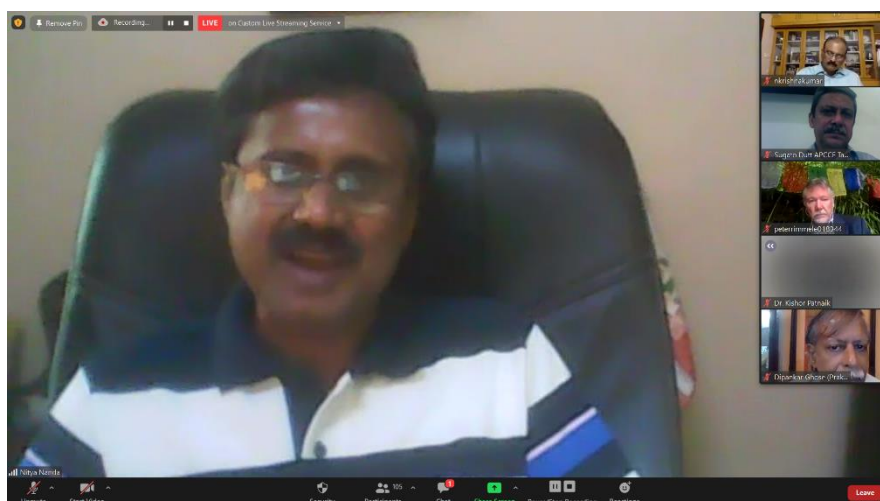


- ♣ We are in the midst of the decline of oil economy and also in the midst of a pandemic. We therefore need to promote Green Economy. Resources of biological origin must be used and their waste streams can be used to produce value added products. (E.g.: bio products like paper, oil, cosmetics and biofuels)
- ♣ The state of Tamil Nadu is blessed with a wide range of natural assets that include hill region water sheds, river systems, tank bed irrigation, trees outside forests and coastal zone.
- ♣ Though Tamil Nadu has a per capita GDP of 3900\$ which is the second highest among major states of India and has a 60% urbanised society, there are major challenges such as low per capita land and water availability, seasonal droughts and cyclones, decline in manufacturing and commercial exploitation of natural resources.
- ♣ The pandemic has led to lowering of productivity and income, disruption of employment opportunities and public transport.
- ♣ The farm sector, though, appears to be holding. The farm to home supply chain model in the state is robust and it has helped in the pandemic.
- ♣ During the pandemic, perishable goods have been affected. There has been panic buying by consumers. The farmers faced poor prices at the farm gate. Thanks to the intervention of the state machinery, the

procurement eased with direct buying by consumers through farmer producer organisation (FPOs).

- ♣ It was identified in the Nagoya biodiversity convention held in Japan that the demand for food, fibre and fuel will threaten biodiversity.
- ♣ **The Aichi biodiversity targets** have stipulated that agriculture, aquaculture and forestry must be managed sustainably. The opportunities and constraints to sustainable development were addressed in the targets.
- ♣ Urban development and provision of infrastructure threaten the biodiversity.
- ♣ Tamil Nadu has a goal of 33% forest cover and at the current recorded level of forests at 23%, there is a gap of 10%. This translates to a requirement of planting 320 million seedlings in the next ten years.
- ♣ All stakeholders including NGOs and Private enterprises must work jointly to realise this ambitious goal of 33% forest cover.
- ♣ Management authorities have a key role to play by promoting investments in bio based economy, agroforestry models, agrisilvipastoral systems, investments in coastal development, R&D in biopharma, biofuel and other biomass based industry and transportation and warehousing infrastructure.

## From Prof. Dr Nitya Nanda's Address:



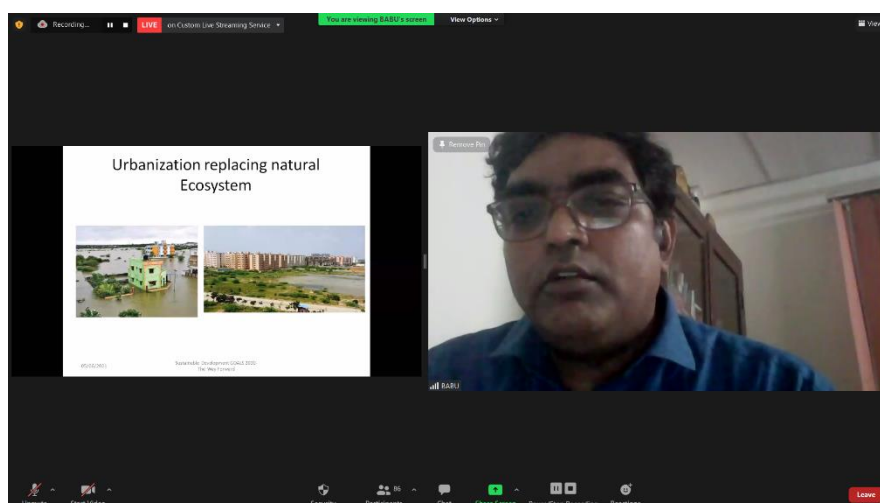
- ♣ India's environmental and social performance measures are not encouraging and this has been due to a variety of factors like geography, population and poverty. India is among the most climate vulnerable countries of the world.
- ♣ Social inequality has increased in the last couple of decades and predominantly in the last one year, since the onset of the pandemic.
- ♣ Niti Aayog has recently come out with a good report on Sustainable Development Goals with various indicators. They have addressed social inequality in the report but regrettably, left out economic inequality.
- ♣ The report states that our poverty and hunger situation are bad but states that India's water situation is good. This is also disputable, as we know that our water situation and water management are not good and many regions are water starved.
- ♣ The report states that India fares well in Electricity and that all households have electricity. But many rural households use electricity only for lighting; for want of stable and adequate power, they use wood and non-modern materials as fuels, which are not sustainable.
- ♣ India is lagging behind many countries in education and health sector.
- ♣ The pandemic has seriously exposed the fault lines in our health sector. India has 5 hospital beds for every 10,000 persons and we are behind countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh and Vietnam.

- ♣ Out of the 5 beds in India, 3 are in private sector and 2 in public sector. Vietnam which has managed Covid-19 very well has almost all the hospital beds in the public sector. This explains the need of more hospital capacities in the public sector.
- ♣ Neglect of health care over the years has cost our economy dearly during the pandemic.
- ♣ In the education sector too, only private institutions perform well but they are expensive and the economically weaker people cannot afford such education.
- ♣ Looking at the history of nations, no country has been able to attain a middle income status without substantial investments in health and education sector.
- ♣ Despite a shrinkage of the economy, the formal sector and stock markets have performed well. Many companies have booked profits.
- ♣ The informal sector, small and medium enterprises have suffered during the pandemic.
- ♣ The increase in intensity and frequency of cyclones affecting India has doubled in the last couple of decades.
- ♣ Our perception has been that Arabian Sea is relatively peaceful and Bay of Bengal is problematic. But interestingly, this has become a myth and we have now seen many cyclones in the Arabian Sea.
- ♣ Cyclones cause heavy damage to crops, environment and human settlements and in turn, to economy.
- ♣ The increase in temperature level of the sea water is a possible reason for the increase in the number of cyclones.
- ♣ In Social Progress index among South Asian countries, India ranks 117 among 163 countries. Maldives, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Nepal are ahead of India.
- ♣ India ranks 168 out of 180 countries in environmental performance index and 129 out of 158 countries in commitment to reduce inequality rank. India's economic growth has been relatively high.

- ♣ India must focus on gainful agriculture, climate adaptability, efficient water management, sustainable energy, health and education, especially accessible education for all and better healthcare in the public sector.
- ♣ India must show commitment towards attaining social progress by reducing economic and social inequalities.



## From Dr T D Babu's Address:



- ♣ **Dr T D Babu** spoke on the theme of “**Habitat Management: Assessment and Course Correction in the way forward to 2030,**” with specific reference to some of the sustainable development initiatives taken in Chennai city and the glaring lacunae therein.
- ♣ Habitat does not mean only macro objects but it includes even ultra- small bacteria. Even a littered leaf or a dead log can be a habitat. We should be sensitive in handling any habitat.
- ♣ The government constructed housing units in Perumbakkam area to shift people living on the river banks and safeguard them. But the new housing units are constructed near lake areas. Thus, the problem has been shifted from one area to another.
- ♣ It is unfortunate that we think of ecosystem only during disasters.
- ♣ Serious compromises are made in the aquatic eco-system. In Pallavaram, a large fresh water lake is being closed and in Kodungayur area, a large lake is landfilled. As a result of these actions, when it rains, man-made disasters happen.
- ♣ In the coastal areas in the ECR stretch, sand dunes have been deliberately flattened and the area converted to a habitat. Sand dunes are the first line of defence against sea water incursions. In 2004, when Tsunami struck, wherever sand dunes were there, they saved people.

- ♣ Storm water drains are built near the beaches harming the fragile ecosystem of the beaches. Olive Ridley turtles nest along these stretches. Many beach stretches are being used as dump yards.
- ♣ There are serious flaws in land use patterns in ecologically sensitive areas coming under the category of CRZ-A1 (Coastal Regulation Zone-A1) and they must be revisited. These must be demarcated, labelled clearly and the restrictions displayed to the public. Beach users must be made aware of the dos and don'ts in such sensitive habitats.
- ♣ Rocky Mountains are natural resources and they act as catchment areas and help agriculture. But they are exploited for quarrying granite slabs, thus endangering the habitat and the ecosystem and depriving the people of their livelihood.
- ♣ On the one hand, mountains are cut for granites and in another area of the city, good quality granite slabs removed by Chennai Corporation from a pavement and indiscriminately dumped as waste, without even thinking of reusing them.
- ♣ For constructing the Shenoy Nagar metro station, 300 trees were cut. To make up for this, they have planted 4800 trees but the surface area of coverage is just a fraction of what it was before. This is due to lack of knowledge and awareness about the relationship between surface area and green cover.
- ♣ Many trees are planted in the city but at the wrong places and using wrong strategies. Thus many trees do not come up.
- ♣ Natural ponds cannot be replaced by concrete ponds.
- ♣ The sewage treatment capacity in Chennai is at present inadequate and being augmented. Instead of building large capacity sewage treatment plants (STPs) and destroying the ecosystem, they must be decentralised by constructing smaller STPs in many places.
- ♣ There have been positive initiatives too like the restoration of mangrove in the Adyar estuary.
- ♣ The CRA (Chennai River Association) Trust is doing a commendable job in restoring rivers which are vital links for mankind to survive and thrive.

- ♣ Dumping of waste along rivers must stop. The good news is that waste management work is being taken up seriously and it is getting political patronage.
- ♣ There has to be periodic habitat audits.
- ♣ It is not just an engineer's work. A cross-functional team must be involved in the planning and execution to ensure habitat management.
- ♣ The management of habitats must be done at micro level with the involvement of all, but importantly, local stakeholders.
- ♣ There has to be a transformation from eco-events to eco-lifestyle.

### From Dr N Krishna Kumar's Address:



- ♣ There has to be a balancing of ecology and economy.
- ♣ We need to focus on the restoration of eco system in the next 10 years. It is not the prerogative of just the forest department or the agriculture department. All of us must come together on a trans-disciplinary approach to achieve this objective.
- ♣ We must strive to ensure that all parts of the eco-system live in harmony.
- ♣ Technology like GIS, GPS and available resources must be efficiently made use of and eco-restoration must become a people's movement.
- ♣ Conservation and restoration of eco system is important for goods and services, agriculture, employment opportunities, water and air purification, etc.
- ♣ We need to provide solutions to nature and nature also will provide us with solutions. It is a two-way channel.
- ♣ India is committed to restoring many of the degraded eco-systems. We should look at the sustainable landscape approach where all of us have to be in partnership.
- ♣ We need CSR support in this initiative. The business houses and citizens' forums must come forward and participate in this effort.
- ♣ Whatever restoration works we did in the last 40 years were very patchy. Today, we are looking at it from the angle of climate change, goods and services, life systems and bio-diversity.
- ♣ Funds are available for eco-restoration. What is needed is mindset change.

## Welcome & Introductory Remarks

**Mr. K. Mahalingam, Honorary Treasurer, Madras Management Association and Partner/Director, TSM Group of Companies**



**Mr K Mahalingam** welcomed all the panel members. He welcomed **Mr Peter Rimmele**, Resident Representative to India of KAS and **Mr Pankaj Madan**, Team Leader, Program Coordination of KAS India office. He welcomed **Mr Dipankar Ghose**, Founder and Mentor of PRAKRUTHI. He welcomed all the members of MMA, KAS, PRAKRUTHI and all the participants who joined the live event from different platforms.

“It is a pleasure to organise this event to mark the World Environment Day,” he said and highlighted the efforts taken by MMA in adapting to the virtual environment and conducting a series of online world class programs after the pandemic struck in March 2020.

He set the context by outlining the importance of United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals 2030 and emphasised that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with tackling climate changes, preservation of oceans and forests, and other initiatives. “It’s time to take a pause and review where we stand at the national and state levels in meeting the 17 goals of SDG 2030, which way we are heading and the course corrections needed,” he remarked.

## Opening Remarks

### Mr. Peter Rimmele, Resident Representative to India of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS)



**Mr Peter Rimmele**, Resident Representative to India of **KAS** regretted that in our rush to adopt new technologies that make our lives easier, we have often forgotten and neglected their long-term ramifications.

“**World Environment Day** has been celebrated since 1974. Yet, not enough has been done to substantially reduce global warming,” he pointed out and strongly advocated that governments, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, businesses and members of civil society must act now towards a more sustainable world for the benefit of future generations.

He highlighted how, in a landmark decision two months ago, Germany’s highest court of jurisdiction – The Federal Constitutional Court found that the provisions in the 2019 Federal Climate Act to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55 per cent by 2030 were inadequate and violated the civil liberties of the Basic Law. The court also held that the legislature must enact stricter regulations to achieve climate neutrality as early as next year instead of pushing it to a distant future.



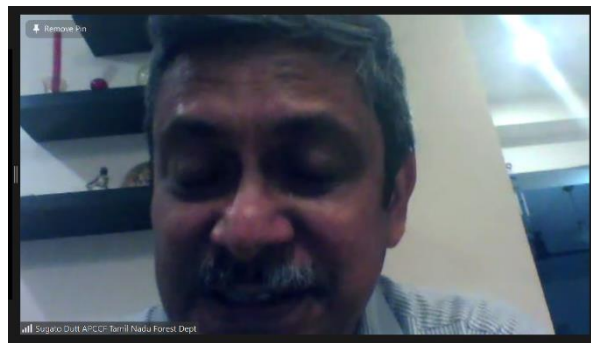
He was emphatic that sustainability is the only way forward. “Companies all over the world will have to transform their operations towards this goal,” he said and gave a three-point prescription on how they can achieve this:

- Businesses must adopt a time-bound plan to become carbon neutral by adopting circular models in design and manufacturing.
- Applying same standards to both suppliers and trading partners.
- To be credible, the processes and commitments must be fully transparent, evaluated by third parties and based on science.

In conclusion, he cautioned that the global environmental crisis would not wait for humanity to return to a ‘new normal,’ that sustainability is not optional anymore and that the clock was ticking!

## Panel Discussion by the Distinguished Panellists

**Dr Sugato Dutt, IFS,** APCCF Social Forestry and Compensatory Afforestation Management & Planning Authority (CAMPA)



**Dr Sugato Dutt** strongly advocated that since we are in the midst of a pandemic and the decline of oil economy, importance must be given to green economy and usage of bio-based products and biofuels. He spoke in particular about the scenario in Tamil Nadu state, which he said, is blessed with a variety of natural assets.

He pointed out that though Tamil Nadu has a per capita GDP of 3900\$ which is the second highest among major states and has a 60% urbanised society, there are major challenges such as low per capita land and water availability, decline in manufacturing and commercial exploitation of natural resources.

He stated that Tamil Nadu has a goal of 33% forest cover and at the current recorded level of forests at 23%, there is a gap of 10%. This, he said, translates to a requirement of planting 320 million seedlings in the next ten years and requested all stakeholders including NGOs and Private enterprises to work jointly to realise this ambitious goal.

He recalled that in Nagoya biodiversity convention held in Japan, it was identified that the need for food, fibre and fuel will threaten biodiversity. He therefore focussed on the need to comply with Aichi biodiversity targets.

Though employment, transportation, productivity, income generation were all hit in the pandemic, the farm sector has been resilient in India, he said and

attributed to the robust farm to home supply chain, especially in the state of Tamil Nadu as one of the reasons.

He also stated that management authorities have a key role to play by promoting investments in biobased economy, agroforestry models, investments in coastal development, R&D in biopharma, biofuel and other biomass based industry and transportation and warehousing infrastructure.



**Prof. Dr Nitya Nanda, Ph.D.,** Director, Council for Social Development, New Delhi



**Prof. Dr Nitya Nanda** stated that India's environmental and social performance measures are not encouraging and this has been due to a variety of factors like geography, population and poverty.

He highlighted the fact that India is among the most climate vulnerable countries of the world. Social inequality has increased in the last couple of decades and pre-dominantly in the last one year, he said.

While acknowledging that Niti Aayog has come out with a good report on India's status with respect to Sustainable Development Goals, he was critical of some of its findings. He pointed out that while they have addressed social inequality, they have left out economic inequality. He also disputed the report's claim that India's water and electricity situation are good.

He lamented that India is lagging behind many countries in education and health sector and remarked that the pandemic has seriously exposed the fault lines in our health sector. "India has 5 hospital beds for every 10,000 persons and we are behind countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh and Vietnam," he noted.

He highlighted that in the last two decades, both the intensity and frequency of cyclones affecting India have increased and these impact our environment and economy severely. He cited the increase in sea water temperature level as a possible reason for the increase in cyclones.

India, he said, must focus on gainful agriculture, climate adaptability, efficient water management, sustainable energy, health and education, especially accessible education for all and better healthcare in the public sector.

**South Asian Countries – Ranking on Select Indicators**



	Social progress index Rank (out of 163 countries)	Environmental performance index Rank (out of 180 countries)	Climate change risk index Rank (out of 180 countries) - Negative Index	Commitment to reduce inequality Rank (out of 158 countries)	Economic Growth Rates (2003-2019)
Maldives	78	127	111	72	6.30
Bhutan	91	107	130	146	6.90
Sri Lanka	64	109	30	94	5.40
Nepal	114	145	12	112	4.67
India	117	168	7	129	6.87
Bangladesh	123	162	13	113	6.43
Pakistan	141	142	15	128	4.47
Afghanistan	155	178	6	102	6.40

**Dr T D Babu**, Acclaimed Environmental Auditor



**Dr T D Babu** spoke on the theme of “***Habitat Management: Assessment and Course Correction in the way forward to 2030.***” Quoting a couplet from the Tamil poetry work ‘Thirukurral,’ he said that even two thousand years ago, our ancestors had spoken on the need for bio-diversity. Habitat does not mean only macro objects but it includes even ultra-small bacteria, he explained. He regretted that we think of ecosystem only during disasters.

He talked about the initiatives taken in Chennai City on Habitat management and pointed out several flaws in design and execution like:

- Urbanisation replacing natural eco-system.
- Compromises made in the aquatic eco-system by landfilling and closing lakes.
- Flattening natural sand dunes and compromising safety against sea water incursions
- Flaws in land use patterns in ecologically sensitive areas.
- Constructing storm water drains near beaches which are sensitive areas.
- Indiscriminate granite quarrying of Rocky Mountains which act as catchment areas.
- Constructing large centralised sewage treatment plants, which will harm the ecosystem. (The alternative is to go for decentralised and smaller, localised STPs in many places)

He also acknowledged the positive initiatives like the restoration of mangroves near the Adyar river mouth (estuary) and the good work being done by the Chennai River Authority (CRA) Trust in restoring rivers.



He suggested that there has to be periodic habitat audits. “The management of habitats must be done at micro level with the involvement of all, but importantly, local stakeholders; There has to be a transformation from eco-events to eco-life style,” he said.



**Dr N Krishna Kumar, IFS (Retd.),** Former PCCF and Head of the Tamilnadu Forest Force (Dept.)



**Dr N Krishnakumar** moderated the panel discussions. While summing up the discussions, he shared his perspective of the way forward. He suggested that there has to be a balancing of ecology and economy and said that this can happen only through proper planning and integration of ideas.

He emphasised the need to focus on the restoration of eco system in the next 10 years, as it is important for the goods and services, agriculture, employment opportunities, water and air purification and many other spheres and that all of us must come together on a trans-disciplinary approach to achieve this objective.

He reminded that India is committed to restoring many of the degraded eco-systems and proposed that we should look at the sustainable landscape approach where all of us have to be in partnership.

He also opined that the restoration works done over the last 40 years were very patchy. “Today, we are looking at it from the angle of climate change, goods and services, life systems and bio-diversity,” he said and added that funds are available for eco-restoration and what is needed is a mindset change.

## Q & A



**Peter Rimmele:** You mentioned about the need for planting of 320 million seedlings. It is a gigantic task. **Has the government or anyone recognized that this needs to be changed into a program?** I suggest MMA could adopt a part of this program and

use its members, enable crowd-funding, get CSR funds, put them together and make a bigger footprint on a part of that program.

**Dr Sugato Dutt:** Thank you for your response. Yes, this is part of an organised effort taking place in our planning units - the state Planning Commission as well as the department of forests. It is in response to a policy declaration to enhance the tree cover, not necessarily in the reserve forest, but in the entire State. The calculations are based on a certain spacing that we normally adopt for a particular ecosystem. We realised that this task is to be achieved over a wide range of land ownership categories.

A lot of this planting needs to be done either in linear form along roads or railway tracks and some of them will be over rectangular spaces and recreational lands but the vast majority will take place in farm lands in the form of agroforestry projects.

There is a very limited scope of finding state-owned forests. The task before us is particularly daunting. Given the pace of urbanisation, there is very little land left behind for this kind of use. Much of the land is getting diverted for infrastructure and more pertinently for housing. These are the two sectors which claim a lot of land within the state.

**Q: How do you plan to achieve the target of 33% forest cover, balancing the state's needs for infrastructure development and nature's requirement of afforestation?**

**Dr Sugato Dutt:** Like everything in this country, for every development effort, the answer lies in not monopolising the activity by the state authority. This has to be a work achieved in close partnership with a variety of institutions. Tree cultivation feeds into the bioeconomy. The tree resources - leaves, fruits, barks or timber could address the needs of a wide variety of industries - pharma, cosmetics, health and food, to name a few. Ethanol which is being sourced from woody material is going to emerge with the decline of oil. All of this must come into a mission mode where there is a cooperative effort by all concerned but spearheaded by the state.

**Q: Are we really making progress in the use of ethanol blended Petrol?**

**Dr Nitya Nanda:** The blending target could not be achieved due to shortage of sugarcane molasses from which it is now produced. There are plans for producing ethanol from non-sugar sources and other ways. We have to review as we progress.

**Q: Are there any regulations to prevent filling up of fresh water bodies, especially since there is so much of shortage of fresh water?**

**Dr Babu:** In Kerala, they penalise if anyone landfills the water bodies. But it is not enforced in Tamil Nadu.

**Dr Sugato Dutt:** There is a phenomenal demand for being more rigorous in terms of regulatory action. But the fact is that the land is a scarce resource and people would do anything to acquire more land and put it into what they perceive as productive use.

Tree planting has a long gestation period to get useful products out of it like timber. That's the disincentive for people. We can incentivise planting of trees, in combination with other crops which is the agroforestry model or for meeting resource needs of industries.

We plant trees for the love of planting them or for the sake of the environment. It is a living resource but not everyone is convinced that it is a useful economic activity. So there has to be a combination of regulatory approaches as well as incentivisation through economic packages.

**Q: Though many laws are passed to save the environment, why is it that there are rampant violations?**

**Dr Krishnakumar:** India has so many environmental laws but what is required is accountability and responsibility. All of us have to be watchdogs and must see that our resources are well protected. We cannot just leave it to government agencies. Today, the government agencies are also very transparent in view of the reportage in social media.

**Q: You mentioned that the Niti Aayog's report on SDG has left out economic equality while assessing the SDGs. How far can we rely on the utility of the report then?**

**Dr Nitya Nanda:** No doubt, Niti Aayog has done a good job, given the pandemic situation. But there are glaring contradictions. If poverty situation is bad and hunger situation is also bad, how can we be good in Social Equality?

We have goals and indicators of measuring the goals. These indicators are decided nationally and there is no agreement on what is the best way to do it. We only look at things where data is easily available and do not measure the difficult areas.

For example, for SDG-12, Sustainable Consumption and Production, the report says we have done pretty well. We know our wastes are not managed well. The hazardous wastes get mixed up with normal waste. The recycling rate could be good but that is only one part. We need to collect and look at broad-based data.

**Q: We are struggling with issues of equality in education, employment, and housing. How do we factor this in planning? Should not luxury goods be affordable by all, in a democracy?**

**Dr Nitya Nanda:** There will be always some level of inequality. The question is, if it is increasing or decreasing. The SDG goal is about reducing inequality. We observe that the inequality gap is increasing.

**Dr Krishnakumar:** Just as Mahatma Gandhi said, 'The earth provides enough to satisfy everybody's need but not greed.' Over-consumerism and over-consumption and our mad rush towards economic development have disrupted the balance between ecology and economy. It is time to bring ecology into economic development and then probably, sanity will come in. This must be a key take away message.

**Q: How can the post-2020 global framework for biodiversity be developed and linked to the SDG-2030 agenda for sustainable development and its implementation?**

**Dr Nitya Nanda:** SDG 14 and 15 are biodiversity goals. So, it is already there. The question is: how can we meet the targets? We have a target of 10 percent marine protected areas which is important for protecting marine biodiversity. I do not know how it is possible to achieve because, we are not even three percent now, I guess. The SDG goals are vague as they are defined for many countries. It depends on how well we customise those goals and targets according to our situations.

If you look at our existing biodiversity, India is still good compared to many other parts of the world but we are losing that very fast. Over the last five decades, we have lost agricultural biodiversity hugely. We have to look at the biodiversity not only for the country as a whole, but for each of the agro- climatic zones. Maybe in Himalayan region, we might have biodiversity, but in plains, we are losing. We need to do micro level planning.



**Q: How can digital innovations and processes be used for sustainable businesses? How can digital change in companies be made sustainable?**

**Dr Nitya Nanda:** Digital cannot replace everything. It can definitely help to some extent and more so in the service sector than in manufacturing, agriculture or mining. Our incentive system favours use of chemical fertilisers than bio-fertilisers. We do not incentivise water efficiency. SDG 12 talks about resource efficiency, which is very important and which requires lot of innovation and R&D. The government is working on adopting a policy for resource efficiency.

**Q: Against the backdrop of rising consumption, depleting natural resources, and global warming, what can the consumer do to induce ecologically sustainable consumption?**

**Dr Sugato Dutt:** The market dictates what you do and the market again serves to the kind of needs that we create for ourselves. So a consumer only consumes what is offered and I think they are driven by a macro economy.

Widespread use of oil in transportation is the dominant ethos now. When that begins to change, our markets themselves will re-adapt and reorient and thereby, our consumer demands would change. We are trapped in a mega economy that wants to grow bigger and bigger. Somewhere, the answer lies in scaling that down. I suppose it is a philosophical answer but that is the answer I have.

**Q: It was mentioned in the presentation about sand dunes getting eliminated and the government reducing Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) limit to 200 metres from the coast. Are the governments taking conscious decisions or are they driven by political compulsions or are they driven by the demands of the people?**

**Dr Babu:** Flattening of sand dunes is more out of political compulsions. There is also insensitivity among the public. If people are aware of the adverse impact of eliminating sand dunes and encroaching on the Coastal Regulated Zones and they take it up as a movement, it will vastly help improving the situation.

**Dr Sugato Dutt:** I advocate a biomass based economy and which by its very nature would scale down the kind of operations that we have today to a much more localised economy with local products.

**Q: On a scale of 1 to 10, how much would you rate India's efforts towards preservation of its environment?**

**Here are the answers by all the speakers:**

**Dr Sugato Dutt:** Between 6 and 7

**Dr Krishnakumar:** 7

**Mr Dipankar Ghosh:** 6

**Dr Nitya Nanda, Dr Babu, Mr Peter Rimmele and Mr Pankaj Madan** – All gave 8 for policy making and 5 for on-ground implementation.

**Mr Peter Rimmele** of KAS said that it is the same with all governments, including Germany. “The policy making is really good but universally, governments lack in implementation and follow up,” he said.

**Mr Pankaj Madan** of KAS agreed with **Dr Sugato Dutt** that biomass based economy is the way forward. He suggested that we have to sensitise people and work on a bottom-up approach. He stated that KAS is actively working in this direction with Dr. Nitya Nanda.

One of the guest participants, Dr Krishna Kumar highlighted that India has done very well in the use of non-conventional energy, especially solar. So his rating for India was 9 out of 10.

## Concluding Remarks

**Mr Dipankar Ghose**, Founder and Mentor, PRAKRUTHI



Mr Dipankar Ghosh thanked the panel members for their insightful inputs and for laying the building blocks for eco system restoration and sustainable development in the next ten years.

He urged MMA, KAS and Prakruthi to create more eco-restoration managers and entrepreneurs and hone their skillsets in Tier 2 and 3 townships. He said that we must go back to the basics and deliberate all that our speakers have discussed, explore them and come out with efforts that could improve livelihood and slow down global warming and climate change.

He pointed out that year 2021 is “**The Year of Creative Economy**,” and added that sustainable development must merge with creative economy.

## Vote of Thanks

**Group Captain R Vijayakumar (Retd), VSM, Executive Director, MMA**



**Group Captain R Vijayakumar** (Retd), VSM thanked all the panel members for a great evening of enlightening thoughts and insights. He thanked **Mr Peter Rimmele**, KAS for being a pillar of support to MMA and joining the discussions from Germany. He also thanked **Mr Pankaj Madan** of KAS, **Mr Dipankar Ghosh** of PRAKRUTHI, the special guests and invitees and all the online participants.

He assured that MMA would strive to step up its efforts by organising more programs with increased frequency on topics related to sustainable development.

He presented an e-memento to the panellists and was happy to share that on behalf of the panellists, MMA would distribute 500 face masks and 100 mini sanitisers free of cost to the general public and educate them on Covid appropriate behaviour.

He concluded that every individual must take care of them and the nation and be responsible for a sustainable lifestyle so that the baton can be passed on to the future generations smoothly.

## Photos

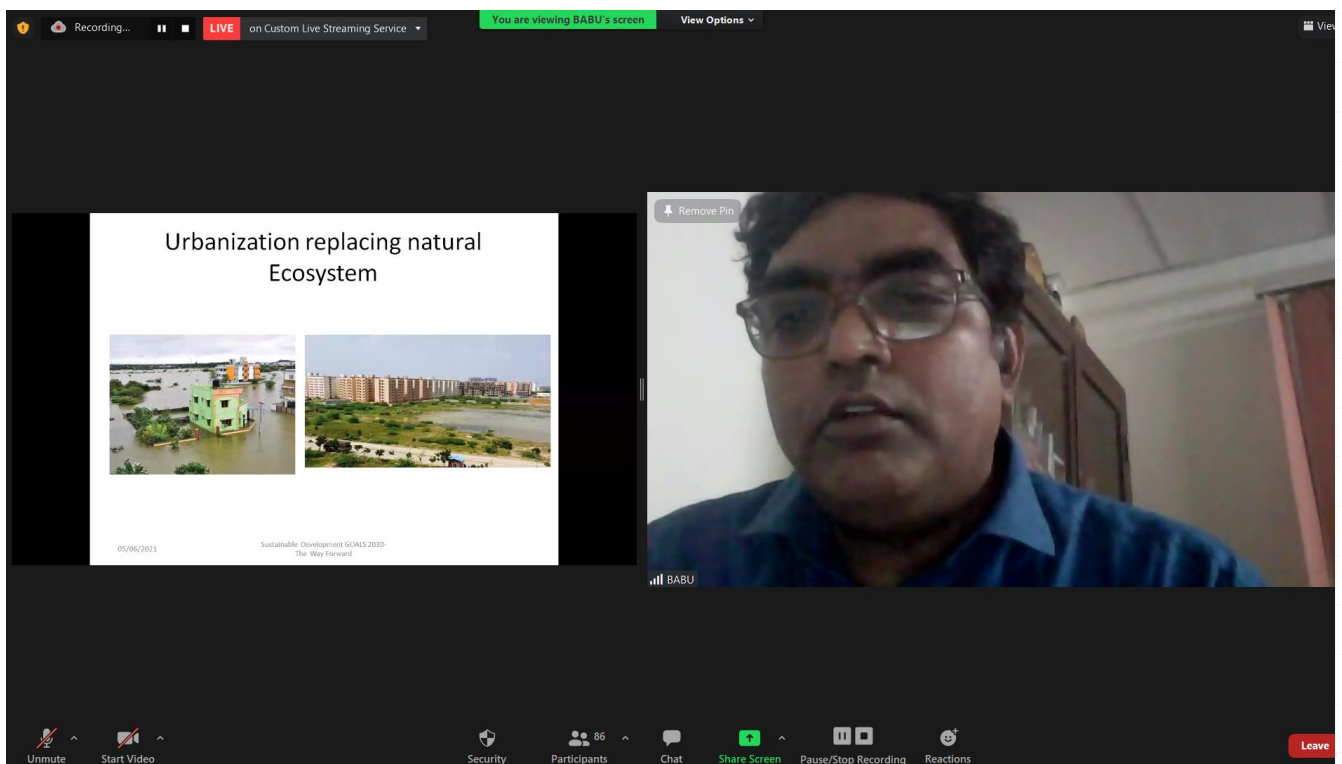
### Photographs taken during the Discussion on the theme “Sustainable Development Goals 2030 – The Way Forward”

The screenshot captures a Zoom meeting interface during a discussion on Sustainable Development Goals 2030. The primary video feed shows a man with a grey beard and white earbuds, identified as Sugato Dutt, speaking. To his right, a vertical sidebar displays five other participants: Gp Capt R Vijayakumar, PANKAJ MADAN, Nitya Nanda, Dipankar Ghose (Prak...), and nkrishnakumar. Below the main video feed, a presentation slide titled "Tamil Nadu: Tree cultivation" is displayed. The slide contains the following information:

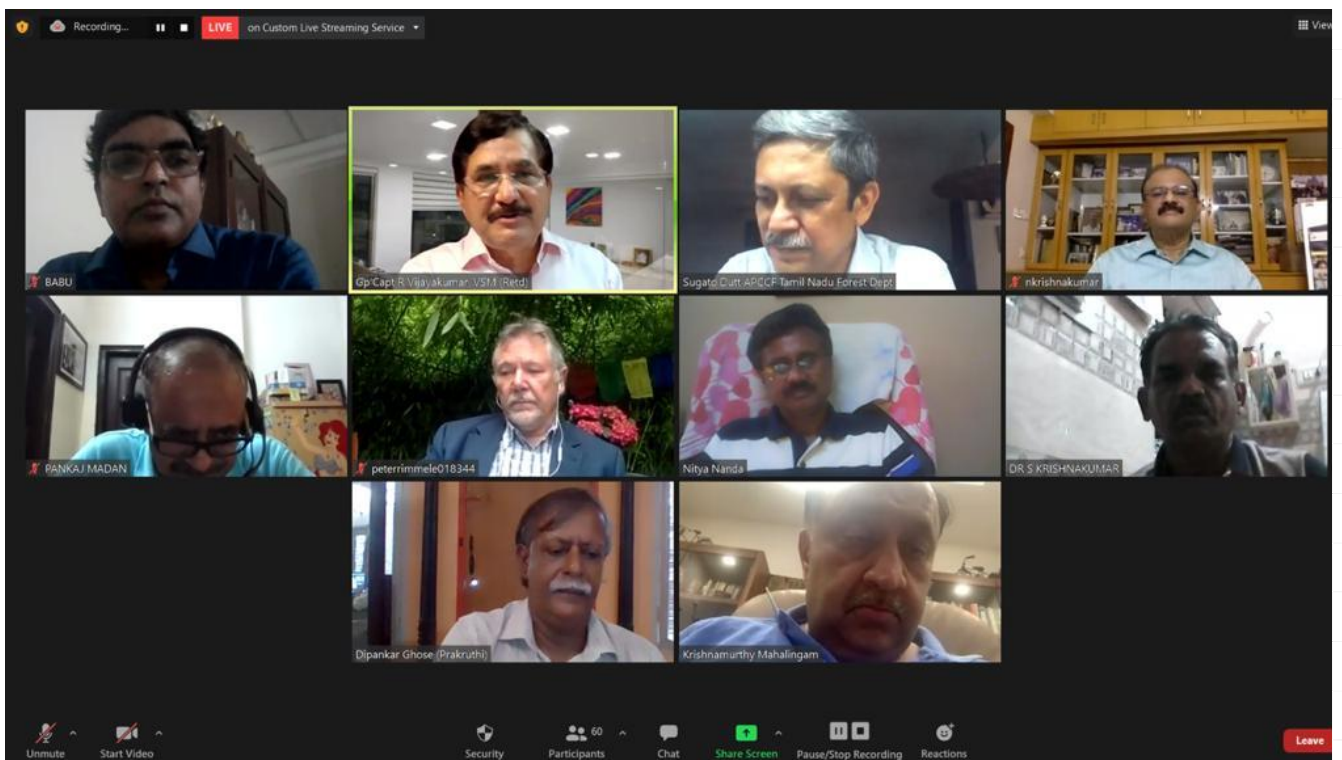
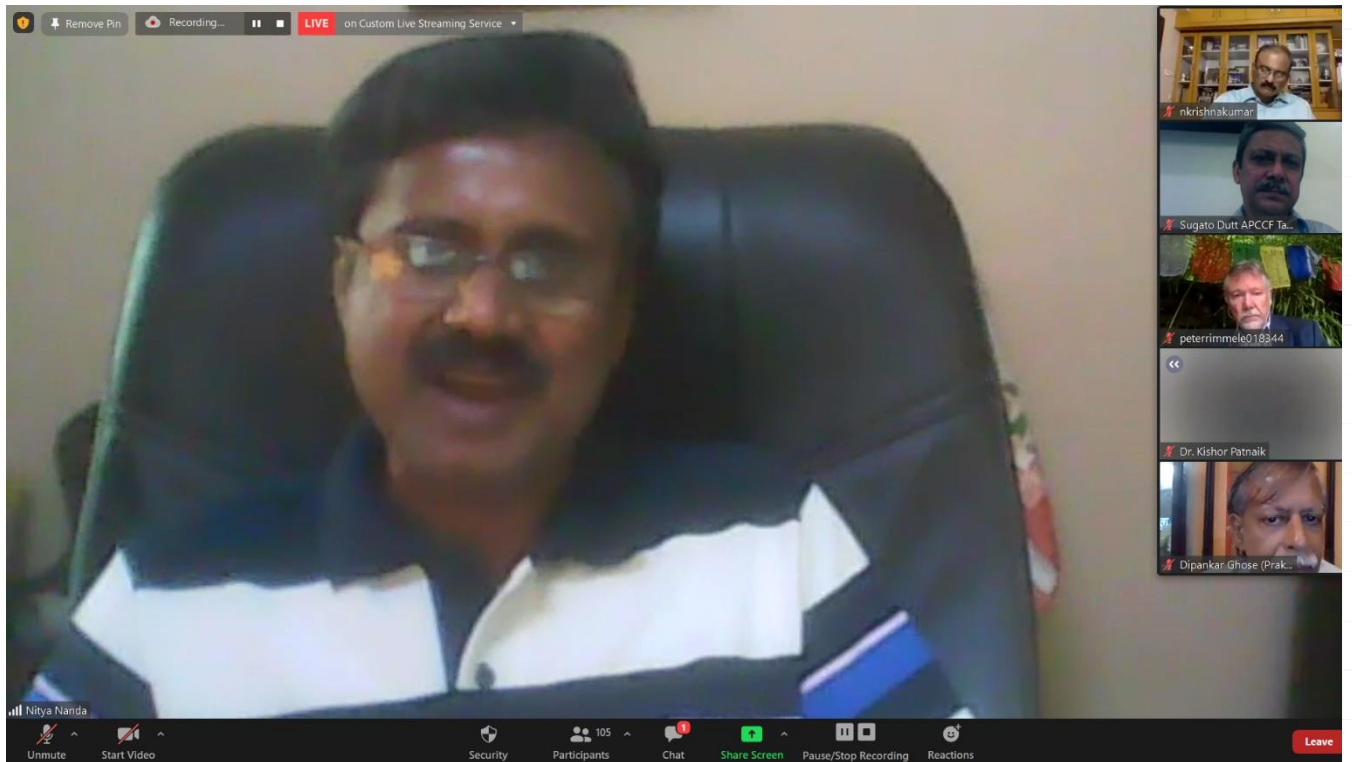
- Area under recorded forests- 23% - Desired goal – 33%- Shortfall 10%
- Area of Tamil Nadu 130,058 sq km
- Area to be tackled for ToF = 1300 sq km
- 32 Crore seedlings planned for 10 years
- Departments – Agriculture, Horticulture, Sericulture, TAWDEVA, NGOs

Below the text on the slide is a small photograph of a lush green landscape with palm trees. The Zoom interface at the bottom shows various controls including "Remove Pin", "Recording...", "LIVE on Custom Live Streaming Service", "You are viewing Sugato Dutt APCCF Tamil Nadu Forest Dept's screen", "View Options", "Leave", and "View". The bottom status bar indicates 110 participants, chat functionality, and options to share the screen, pause/stop recording, and view reactions.









## Links for the Recording

### **Sustainable Development Goals 2030 – The Way Forward**

We are pleased to share that the recording of the event is available for viewing through the links indicated below:

**Website:**

**[www.liveibc.com/mma/](http://www.liveibc.com/mma/)**

**YouTube:**

**<https://youtu.be/Jsdg6KHTod0>**

**Facebook:**

**[https://www.facebook.com/mmachennai/videos/  
315351603501462/](https://www.facebook.com/mmachennai/videos/315351603501462/)**



The response to the event was excellent and a larger number of viewers logged in live through Zoom, MMA Live webinar, YouTube and Facebook.

**Total Number of Participants:**

**Zoom: 110**

**YouTube: 10216** (screenshot appended below)

**Facebook: 96**

**MMA Webinar: 1068** (screenshot appended below)

**Total number of participants at the event – 11490**



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Analytics ⓘ

Watching now	Peak viewers	Total views
479	281	1068

Average view time

35:27



## The Partners

### About Madras Management Association (MMA)

**Madras Management Association (MMA)** was established in 1956 with the prime objective of promoting management education, training and development activities in this part of the country. The vision of MMA is “To be the Fountainhead of World class Management Excellence in India”.

Over the past six decades, MMA has striven for development and nurturing management expertise, combining Indian ethos with International Management thoughts and practices. MMA has contributed immensely to the enhancement of management capability in this part of the country, and in particular Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. MMA has over 7000 corporate houses, industries, professionals, academics and executives on its rolls as members. MMA annually organizes about 725 executive development activities, including seminars for top management with a total participation of fifty nine thousand executives and entrepreneurs.

MMA is the largest affiliate association of All India Management Association (AIMA) in the country and has been adjudged as the Best Management Association in India by AIMA for ten times in a row including the “National Excellence Award” for the year 2017-18.

The activities of MMA are planned to achieve managerial excellence in the functioning of industries and professional managers in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. In this direction, MMA chapters have been established at various towns in Tamil Nadu mainly to cater to the needs of SMEs. Nine such MMA Local Chapters at Ambur, Attur, Erode, Hosur, Namakkal, Salem, Sri City, Trichy and Puducherry are functioning effectively.

Apart from corporate leaders, MMA has, in its Managing Committee, the Vice Chancellors of Madras University & Anna University, the Directors of IIT Madras and IFMR and the Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu, as members.

### OUR VISION

To be the Fountainhead of World Class Management Excellence in India

### OUR MISSION

- Synthesise Indian Ethos with international management thought
- Be a reservoir of expertise in management
- Inspire individuals to actualise their potential
- Nurture creativity and originality

## About Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS)

**The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS)** is a political foundation. Established in 1955 as “Society for Christian-Democratic Civic Education”, in 1964 the Foundation proudly took on the name of Konrad Adenauer, the first Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany.

With 16 regional offices in Germany and over 120 offices abroad, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation is committed to achieving and maintaining peace, freedom and justice through political education. We promote and preserve free democracy, social market economy, and the development and consolidation of the value consensus. We focus on consolidating democracy, the unification of Europe and the strengthening of transatlantic relations, as well as on development cooperation.

The leitmotif of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation "Germany. The next chapter" is supported by a thematic focus. With the three main topics Innovation, Security and Representation and Participation, it is quite clear which topics the Konrad Adenauer Foundation will focus on in the coming years.

We cooperate with governmental institutions, political parties and civil society organizations, building strong partnerships along the way. In particular, we seek to intensify political cooperation in the area of development cooperation on the foundations of our objectives and values. Together with our partners, we make a significant contribution to the creation of a global order that empowers every country to determine its own developmental priorities and destiny in an internationally responsible manner.

The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung has organized its program priorities in India into five working areas:

1. Foreign and Security Policy
2. Economic, Climate and Energy Policy
3. Rule of Law
4. Political and Societal Dialogues focussed on multilateralism and Indo-German relations
5. Media and Youth

The India Office of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation takes great pride in its cooperation with Indian partner institutions who implement jointly curated projects and programmes.

## **About PRAKRUTHI**

PRAKRUTHI was born from a conservation program, popularly known as the Turtle Walk, in 1981. Initiated by the legendary herpetologist, Romulus Whitaker and his dedicated volunteers from the Madras Snake Park, the project even drew the attention of then Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi. Over the years, PRAKRUTHI became active in conservation programs through outdoor experiential learning, in strategic partnership with WWF, Chipko, Apiko, INTACH, CEE, CRENIEO, Outward Bound International, IESECCI, Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Indian and foreign Universities, Consulates, Education, Tourism, and Sports Departments. PRAKRUTHI was a member of the Steering Committee to declare the Gulf of Mannar as a Biosphere Reserve and in the State Planning Commission Working Groups, representing the interests of Forest and Tourism separately. Its Eco Warrior and Human 'E'CONNECT programs have caught the public imagination.