



*"I refute the
premise that
solar electricity
is an expensive
proposition."*

Amit Kumar
Department of
Energy and
Environment,
TERI University

FOCUS

“Energy with Focus
on Rooftop Solar”



FROM THE ACTING VICE CHANCELLOR'S DESK



We are now seven years old at our small, but unique campus at Vasant Kunj. A lot has happened during these years. We have grown, both in terms of the student strength and number of programmes offered. We have built on our relationships with other international universities and organizations and have a fair number of on going collaborative activities.

Probably our greatest satisfaction is to hear about what our alumni are doing, and how they have progressed in their career paths. Because the true test of what the TERI University stands for, will be the contribution that its alumni make to society. When we learn that our alumni are now spread all over — the corporate sector, consultancies, NGOs, research organizations, UN agencies, PSUs, and even in journalism, it gives us pride that the University is creating professionals who would make their mark globally.

I do keep in touch with a number of alumni on the social media, and it is good to see that the passion to work towards sustainability they developed while at the University is not just alive, but has grown as they apply their learning to real life issues.

This Newsletter is going to be another medium of not just our ever-growing family keeping in touch, but also letting the world know that Terra matters !

Dr Rajiv Seth
Acting Vice Chancellor
TERI University

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INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY

To commemorate the International Day of Yoga (June 21, 2015), the TERI University organized a yoga session for all its staff members on campus. Around 50 participants were initiated into Upa Yoga, a simple yet powerful system of exercise that activates the joints, muscles, and the energy system. Practices included invigorating physical postures (*sadilaja* and *yoga namaskar*), breathing methods (*kriya*), *nada* yoga and meditation. Practices offered were simple yet complete and effectively engaged all.



INSTITUTIONAL SEMINAR ON “SWACHH BHARAT CAMPAIGN AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH”

Mr Ashish Jain, Founder Director, Indian Pollution Control Association delivered a talk on *Entrepreneurship Opportunities for Youth in the Sanitation Sector* on April 21, 2015. He shared his experience of handling and segregating waste in urban systems and using low cost technologies and innovations in the sector, which would help society at large. He informed that simple improvisation in the disposal of aerosol bottles, done by his team, is now in use. He invited the youth to participate in such initiatives and make a difference in the sanitation sector in the country. This seminar series was designed to address key issues in the WASH sector, so that wide range of students and working professionals get exposure to the latest techniques, innovations, and interventions.

PRAVAAH 2015 – STUDENTS’ ANNUAL CONCLAVE

Department of Business Sustainability of the TERI University organized PRAVAAH, students’ annual Conclave on April 11, 2015. PRAVAAH aims to sensitize students about the increasing need to incorporate sustainable practices in business, development and environment. The theme for 2015 was “One Earth One Chance”. The event provided a platform for students to express their views and concerns on sustainability. Students from various colleges of Delhi and outside participated in the event. The event helped students in honing their presentation, debating, and quizzing skills.



S.W.A.S.H 2015 – SAVE WATER AND SAVE HUMANITY

Coca-Cola Department of Regional Water Studies, TERI University celebrated its annual event S.W.A.S.H (Save Water and Save Humanity) on March 20, 2015 to ensure quality, availability and accessibility of water and sanitation for all, as part of the World Water Day celebrations.

The theme of the event was ‘Water and Sanitation – Ensuring Quality, Availability and Accessibility’. The objective of this one day event was to motivate youth to creatively participate in debates, deliberations, and competitions to highlight the problem and come up with innovative ideas on the issues related to water and sanitation. The inaugural session was followed by a series of competitions related to the theme of S.W.A.S.H. Over 60 students took

part in various competitions, such as photography, poster-making, multimedia, and poetry. This gave them an opportunity to creatively demonstrate the problem. Winners of the competitions were later acknowledged with prizes. Youth also participated in a panel discussion, which gave them an opportunity to discuss, deliberate, and

provide innovative ideas to improve water and sanitation in public places.

The event also witnessed the launch of Urban WASH Alliance Project website, which would conduct a comprehensive WASH-related risk analysis and human health impacts in slum clusters of Kolkata and Chennai.

BLISS 2015



The third Summer School on Sustainability — BLISS was organized by the TERI University from 16–20 March 2015. The School highlighted linkages between environment, economy, and sustainability and discussed different policies and solutions relevant in both the local and global context. The programme included interactive lectures, skits by the TERI University students, group discussions, TERI case studies, video modules, quizzes, poll questions, and open debates. The programme was delivered on

campus and also via webinar. Around 65 face-to-face participants, including many international students and 60 online participants, registered for this course. Students were from varied backgrounds. The programme also generated significant interest among corporates, researchers, and doctoral students.



TREE PLANTATION CEREMONY

Tree Plantation Ceremony with
HE Ms Ségolène Royal, Minister of Ecology,
Sustainable Development and Energy, France,
at the TERI University on February 7, 2015.



YOUNG RESEARCHERS' SOUTH ASIAN SYMPOSIUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The TERI University, which is also recognized as the South Asia Regional Hub of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network, organized a 'Young Researchers' South Asian Symposium on Sustainable Development' as a Special Event of the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS), held from 5–7 February 2015. The first-of-its-kind, the Symposium was uniquely aimed to promote multi-disciplinary doctoral and post-doctoral research. The Symposium brought researchers from leading academic institutions together to exchange outputs of their individual research while being exposed to a wider range of advance research on synergistic thematic areas. It initiated establishment of a community of likeminded researchers and academicians working to promote advance research on sustainable development concerns.



SEVENTH CONVOCATION CEREMONY

The TERI University organized its Seventh Convocation on February 4, 2015. **Shri M Venkaiah Naidu**, Hon'ble Minister of Urban Development was the Chief Guest. Honorary doctorates were conferred on **Mr V V S Laxman**, Former Cricketer, **Mr Paul Polman**, CEO, Unilever, **Mr Hiroaki Nakanishi**, Chairman and CEO, Hitachi, and **Dr Jose Manuel Ramos-Horta**, Former President of East Timor. A total of eight doctoral degrees and 178 master's degrees were awarded to students during the convocation ceremony.



PUBLIC LECTURE ON THE NEW GEOPOLITICS OF ENERGY BY DR ARNE WALTHER

Under TERI-INTASAVE-CARIBSAVE Group and Fridtjof Nansen Institute Agreement, a public lecture on the *New Geopolitics of Energy* was delivered by Dr Arne Walther, Fridtjof Nansen Institute (FNI) on February 3, 2015. He addressed the audience on 'Petroleum Resources: Curse or Blessing'.

BIOTIKOS 2015

Department of Plant Biotechnology organized its annual event 'BIOTIKOS' on 19 and 20 January 2015 in the TERI University campus. The event was inaugurated by Dr R K Pachauri, Chancellor, TERI University and Director-General, TERI. The keynote address was delivered by Dr S K Rath, Scientist E-II, CDRI, Lucknow. The event provided an opportunity to discuss and understand the current developments and techniques in bioinformatics to a gathering of more than 100 undergraduates, postgraduates, PhD scholars, and 30 teachers from more than 22 colleges. Interactive sessions, followed by poster presentation competition 'PLAKAT,' mind sport activity 'CURIOSO,' and a quiz session were also held. The event concluded with a prize distribution ceremony. Cash prizes, worth ₹20,000, were given to all the winners.



CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

TU Faculty	Presentations/Lectures Delivered at Various Events
<p>Amit Kumar</p>  <p>Department of Energy and Environment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented paper titled 'Sustainable Energy Route for Energy Access' at the 'International Student Energy Summit 2015' in Bali on June 12, 2015. Facilitator of Technical Expert Meeting on Renewable Energy Supply organized by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in Bonn on June 3, 2015.
<p>Arun Kansal</p>  <p>Coca-Cola Department of Regional Water Studies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivered a lecture on 'Sustainable Cities and Water Resources Management' at VNIT, Nagpur on February 27, 2015. Chaired a session on 'Role of Water in Green Economy' at YUVA Meet in New Delhi on February 2, 2015. Chaired a session in the workshop 'Safe Water for Underserved Communities in Urban India' on January 17, 2015 at IIT Delhi. Delivered a lecture on 'Innovative Method for Biomethanation of Canteen Waste' at IIT Delhi on January 16, 2015.
<p>Eshita Gupta</p>  <p>Department of Policy Studies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-chaired a session on 'The Green Growth Knowledge Platform (GGKP)' at the Third Annual Conference hosted in partnership with the Ca' Foscari University of Venice, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on the theme 'Fiscal Policies and the Green Economy Transition: Generating Knowledge — Creating Impact'. The conference was held at the Ca' Foscari University, Venice from 29–30 January 2015.
<p>Nandan Nawn</p>  <p>Department of Policy Studies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented paper titled 'Capabilities, Resilience and Communities' in Symposium 'Research and Education for Rural Development and Food Security to Build Resilient Rural Environments: Australian and Indian perspectives.' The event was organized by the Graham Centre for Agricultural Innovation, Charles Sturt University, University of Western Sydney, Centre for Development Practice, Ambedkar University Delhi, and PRADAN in India International Centre, Delhi on April 20, 2015. Presented paper titled 'Is Small Really Beautiful? Hidden Agenda in the Era of Methodological Pluralism' Seminar 4, Seminar Series 2015, at the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, JNU, on February 17, 2015. Presented paper and attended panel discussion on 'Integrating Sustainability in Existing Curriculum: Agricultural Sciences as a Case' in 'Sustainability in Higher Education – for the Global South' at the Azim Premji University, Bangalore from 12–14 January 2015.

TU Faculty	Presentations/Lectures Delivered at Various Events
<p>Papiya Guha Mazumdar</p>  <p>Department of Policy Studies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented paper on 'Environmental Health Research Needs in India' at the Young Environmental Health Researchers Meet on 29 and 30 January 2015. The event was hosted by SOCHARA, Bangalore and was conducted at the Indian Social Institute, Benson Town, Bangalore.
<p>Prateek Sharma</p>  <p>Coca-Cola Department of Regional Water Studies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chaired a session on 'Particulate Apportionment and Health' in a workshop organized by IIT Delhi, University of Birmingham, UK, and Desert Research Institute USA and supported by UKIERI on January 8, 2015.
<p>Ramakrishnan Sitaraman</p>  <p>Department of Biotechnology</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gave a talk on Approaches to Teaching in the Age of Google: Case-studies in Molecular Biology Education at the Centre for Professional Development in Higher Education, Delhi University, New Delhi on June 1, 2015. Gave a talk on Time Management in Research: Tactical and Strategic Issues at the National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation and Museology, New Delhi on May 15, 2015.



Mr Amit Kumar's (Dean, Distance and Short-term Education, TERI University) contributions in the field of renewable energy, both nationally and internationally are *sans pareil*. Thus, when we decided on Rooftop Solar as the theme for our first issue of the University Newsletter, we could not think of any one more accomplished in this field than him. And, with great humility he agreed to have a tête-à-tête with us. He spoke to Ms Fawzia Tarannum, a PhD scholar at the TERI University.

TM: *Mr Amit, congratulations on being appointed as the Dean of Distance and Short-term Education. What are the challenges ahead and how do you want to address them?*

AK: I see a few challenges. One, is that how we provide better value proposition to the students who are going to attend this distance and short-term education programme. Secondly, how can we improve upon our outreach because until and unless we are able to reach widely with these programmes, we will not serve the purpose for which we had started. Thirdly, how do we position ourselves in a scenario where so many MOOC kind of free for all education programmes are there. There are programmes, which are already being offered by other universities. How do we create a niche and unique space for ourselves? How to address these challenges? I think, the interdisciplinarity of the TERI University will provide the niche. If you see most of the programmes and short-term courses, offered by other universities and institutions are in the nature of classic programmes based on certain rigid approach. We will be more flexible.

TM: *It is not very long ago that you shifted from practising on the field to training and research within boundaries of an educational institute. What was your initial reaction to this shift and how did you adjust to your new roles?*

AK: The first reaction was apprehension because I was changing my field altogether. I was not accustomed to academic line of work and was worried about coping with work and acceptance. But I must admit, TERI University was not totally alien to me. I was associated with TU ever since the M.Tech (REEM) programme started. So, in a way when I walked into TERI University, it was like coming home. I must also add that people in TU were cooperative and made me feel very comfortable.

TM: *You are a mechanical engineer with specialization in thermal engineering. What made you decide on choosing renewable energy as a career option?*

AK: When I was doing my masters from University of Roorkee in 1979; for the first time they introduced renewable energy as an elective course. And when I went through the course outline, I found that it was something new and quite interesting. That's how I decided to take it up. I thought that this was probably a field where I could enter and do something new. Even after completing my masters, I knew that I would do something in the field of renewable energy. When renewable energy (1980–82), in commercial sector started, one big industrial group, Jyoti Limited in Baroda, started a separate division on renewable energy, which I joined. That's how my journey in this particular space began.

TM: *For over 33 years you have been engaged in development and diffusion of cleaner and renewable energy resources in India including manufacturing of solar energy devices. How satisfying has this experience been for you?*

AK: The experience has been very satisfying. If I look back, I think our nation as a whole has come a long way. I would have never thought that in my lifetime itself things will come to such a stage where we would talk about gigawatt kind of scales in renewable energy. I also feel very satisfied when I see so many of my younger colleagues, who started working with me, are now in such responsible positions in the renewable energy sector. It's a pleasure to see many students from the TERI University getting placed in good organizations. Some of them have even started their own enterprises. All these things put together definitely make me feel that I choose the correct field.

TM: *As per Ernst & Young's renewable energy attractiveness index 2014, India is among top five destinations worldwide for solar energy development. With about 300 clear sunny days in a year, India has a huge potential to maximize on this abundant resource. What are the challenges that India is facing in harnessing this energy?*

AK: Let me divide this into two parts — one where we are talking of utility scale large megawatt size plant and two rooftop systems or devices, which are more attuned to individual consumers. As far as large utility scale applications are concerned, financing is one particular aspect, which gives challenges to investors and developers. Unfortunately, we have not been able to devote much of our resources on indigenous research and development. As far as consumers are concerned, I think the biggest challenge is awareness of the users and the fact that the complete value chain is missing. When I say value chain, there is no dealership for solar equipment, there are no service centres so even if an individual wants to make a considered and judicious choice, he doesn't have those kinds of options available to him if he goes to the market. For example, if I take solar water heating system; now when I go to a geyser shop I will get a number of models for electric geysers but none for solar geysers. Obviously, such awareness is still absent in the Indian scenario, which is a challenge. Finances for buying, for example, an air-conditioner are not easily available. The overarching challenge is that of scarce human resources—right from the technician-level skills to a person who can design a system in a judicious fashion.

TM: *Converting a roof to provide solar electricity is an expensive proposition, regardless of scale in general. How should an organization or a homeowner look at a return on investment in Indian context?*

AK: First of all, I refute the premise that this is an expensive proposition. Why do I say that? If you take a gated community in Gurgaon, for example, in summers you often get power from the DG set. I was reading in the newspaper today that builders are charging to the tune of ₹14-16 per unit when the supply is from DG set. As against that a solar rooftop system, even today, can provide electricity, maximum at say ₹9 or ₹10 per unit. So, let them not say that this is an expensive proposition. Yes, this is an expensive proposition when we compare it with the grid electricity. Again it depends on the level of slab you are at in grid electricity. So, if you leave Delhi apart, which is actually one of the cheapest grid electricity State at the moment, we are talking of electricity tariff of somewhere around ₹7.50 to ₹8.40 per kilowatt-hour. Even in this category it is not expensive. And please also remember that grid electricity costs are going to go up whereas the solar electricity cost from the rooftop is not going to go down drastically but the way it is at least it is going to be around the same. The point is we have been able to convince people to make an informed choice. Another model, which is working on solar-based power especially for institutional and commercial customers, where you provide companies your roof space and they set up solar rooftop system with their own investment. They sign a long-term power purchase agreement with you, which provides you electricity at less than grid electricity for the next 20–25 years. In fact in the TERI University itself in a month or so we would be having our own 42 kilowatt solar rooftop system; wherein starting with ₹6.50 per kilowatt-hour and with 4% annual escalation, we already have done the purchase agreement with the concerned company. And that ₹6.50 we are talking today for solar rooftop versus ₹9.50 rupees per kilowatt-hour that we are paying to the grid.

TM: *Mr Amit, you have played a key role in projects related to the development of Sri Lanka's policy framework for renewable resource based electricity generation and in developing Bhutan's integrated energy management master plan. How are the opportunities and challenges in these countries similar or different from India?*

AK: The opportunities and challenges both at the same time are similar as well as different. Similar in the sense, that more or less in all the developing countries they are facing the same kind of challenges of electricity deficiency where large rural areas are not electrified. Those are the similarities that we are talking about. Then, dissimilarities are that if I go from India to countries like Bhutan and Sri Lanka the scales are totally different. And if you compare them with that of India, we are talking of 252 gigawatts

kind of installed capacity whereas they would be talking of much less than that. So that again creates the first disconnect, which one needs to overcome. But having said that, I think that the experience that we take from India especially in the renewable energy sector, where we started working sometime in late 1970s, we failed on several occasions. So we carry an experience with us, which comes very handy for these countries.

TM: *You have also managed design, construction and commissioning of one of the largest solar ponds in Bhuj in western India as well as developed Asia's first solar powered cold storage in the 1980s. In an effort to make clean energy accessible to all, you have been working tirelessly on creating small-scale decentralized renewable energy solutions for rural India. While we applaud your efforts, we would like to know what has been the driving force behind these great jobs?*

AK: I don't know whether I have been working tirelessly or not. The point is that the opportunities were given to me by institutions and industries that I worked for. I happened to be in the right place at the right time. And a lot of credit goes to the freedom and opportunities given to me by TERI particularly by my mentors Dr Kishore and Dr Ajay Mathur.

TM: *Mr Amit, you are also the Regional Programme Advisor, REEEP (Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership) South Asia Secretariat and also involved in coordinating SE4All (Sustainable Energy for All) Capacity Building Hub; one of the global hubs of the UN supported initiative. Could you please share with us some of the activities that you carry out in this capacity?*

AK: As far as REEEP is concerned, it is a Vienna-based NGO, which propagates renewable energy and energy efficiency activities in different countries. And India is one of the key focus point of REEEP. We are Secretariat for South Asia for REEEP. As Programme Advisor to REEEP South Asia Secretariat my role is essentially to see what kind of priority areas REEEP should take up for its programme cycle because every year REEEP comes out with request for proposals from these countries and those are designed on the basis of thematic priorities, which are decided by the stakeholders from the region itself. So, my role is to drive that and to come out with focus areas and focus themes for each year. And then look at how the Projects are being taken forward. If there are any problems, how to take care of them and also give consultative advice to the International Secretariat in India.

As far as Sustainable Energy for All Capacity Building Hub is concerned, that dovetails very well with my new role as someone who has to look after short-term education programmes also. In Capacity Building Hub, what we are trying to do is to not only design by ourselves and develop our own online programmes and skill development courses but also aggregate whatever is happening from around the world. Essentially the role is more of capacity-building, training, and education.

TM: *What would be your sustainability message to the youth of this country?*

AK: My message to youth would be that this is a very exciting time, providing lot of opportunities in clean energy and clean technology field. They should concentrate on the opportunities, which are now available, try to learn as much as is possible and continue to learn and work in that particular field.

TM: *What is your hobby and how do you find time to pursue it?*

AK: My hobbies include listening to light music and painting — oil painting. I thought that I would devote time on oil painting when I retire but I don't know if my eyes would at that time support me or not. But in any case, in the last one year I have again started dabbling with it.

TM: *We have heard that you also sing during your leisure. So we would like if you could sing a couple of lines for us.*

AK: Mr Amit finally mesmerized us with his beautiful voice when he sang two lines from the film Khamoshi—
"Woh sham kuch ajeeb thi, yeh sham bhi ajeeb hai; who kal bhi paas paas thi, yeh aaj bhi kareeb hai..."

FIELD TRIPS

KEOLADEO NATIONAL PARK, BHARATPUR, RAJASTHAN



GOA



INDIAN AGRICULTURE RESEARCH INSTITUTE, NEW DELHI



MUKTESHWAR, UTTARAKHAND



AWARDS AND PARTICIPATION IN EVENTS

1. Three young researchers received the 'Best Poster Presentation Award' at the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit 2015.

- (a) **Rupak Kumar** from Birla Institute of Technology and Sciences, Hyderabad for his research on 'A sustainable environmental solution, microbial degradation, and reduction of Morpholine in industrial effluents',
- (b) **Preeti Agarwal** from Department of Natural Resources, TERI University for her research on 'Low carbon transportation in Delhi, current and future projections under various policy measures', and
- (c) **Mohammad Ziauddin** from Department of Policy Studies, TERI University for his research on 'Top-down and bottom-up approaches for sustainable regeneration in Delhi'.

2. Students won various competitions in the event S.W.A.S.H - Save Water and Save Humanity held on March 20, 2015. The winners were:

- (a) **Photography Competition:** Ayesha Akhtar (Winner), TERI University
Poster Competition (Hand-drawn/Written): Rashmi Srivastava (Winner) and Manmohan Singla (Runner up), TERI University
- (b) **Research Posters:** Mohd Zeeshan (Winner) and Palla Lakshmi Prasanna and Team (Runner up), TERI University
- (c) **Poetry Competition:** Preeti Khatana (Winner), TERI University.

3. Students' Participation in International Events

- (a) **Fawzia Tarannum**, PhD Scholar, Department of Natural Resources, represented the TERI University in the CBA9 Conference in Nairobi held between 26–30 April 2015. She was one of the panellists in the "Youth Policy Roundtable on Climate Change" and also delivered an oral presentation on "Community-Based Adaptation (CBA) for Tackling Water Scarcity in India—a case study from Maharashtra"
- (b) **Ankit Tulsyan** of TERI University attended the 7th World Water Forum from 12–17 April 2015. The event was held in Daegu and Gyeongbuk, Republic of Korea
- (c) **Govind Pathak** and **Smita Sharma** from TERI University attended the Open Society Foundations Conference in Kathmandu in January 2015.

PhD AWARDEES

Student's Name	Title of the Thesis
Prasant Kumar, Department of Natural Resources	Joint Forest Management Outcomes Across Forest Types: A Study in Madhya Pradesh.
Gopal Krishna Sarangi, Centre for Regulatory and Policy Research	Electricity Sector Regulation and Sustainable Development Outcomes: An Analysis of Regulatory Impact in 12 Indian States for 2001–10.
Pooja Arora, Department of Natural Resources	Biomass Burning: Energy and Emissions Performance of Traditional and Improved Cookstoves under Controlled Laboratory Conditions.
Preeti Aggarwal, Department of Natural Resources	Health Impact of Pollutants of Surface Transport Sources: A Modelling and Epidemiological Approach.
Sudha Shrotria, Centre for Regulatory and Policy Research.	The Environment and Human Rights: An Analytical Study of the Role and Performance of the National Human Rights Commission of India in Addressing Environmental Issues from a Human Rights Perspective.
Neelam Singh, Department of Natural Resources	Environmental Determinants and their Impact in Various Indian Industries: A Study of Environmental Performance under EMS Framework.

EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES

1. **Swarnalakshmi**, PhD scholar, Department of Policy Studies, attended the DAAD funded TERI-FFU Indo-German Climate Dialogue programme. She spent three months in Berlin from April 15 – July 10 and undertook research activities related to renewable energy diffusion.
2. **Prakriti Prajapati**, from Department of Policy Studies, was part of the SFU-TERI University Graduate Student Exchange visit, which took place in March–April 2015.

SUCCESS STORIES



Climate Corps members (from left): Radhika Kapoor, Dennis Bartlett, Elizabeth Halford, Samuel Irvine, Bob Langert, Devashree Ghosh, and Ajith Das Menon

Radhika Kapoor, a TERI University alumna of MBA (Business Sustainability) programme (batch 2010–12) and currently a student of Stanford University, USA, was selected as Fellow at the EDF (Environmental Defense Fund) Climate Corps, a premier fellowship programme for corporate sustainability. EDF Climate Corps recruits and trains top graduate students and embeds them in leading organizations to provide expert hands-on support for energy management initiatives. For more details, please read <<http://www.greenbiz.com/article/climate-corps-leading-change-starts-knowing-why>>.



Vallari Sheel

Twenty-seven-year-old **Vallari Sheel**, a TERI University alumna, who has done her post-graduation in environmental studies (batch 2008–10), is currently working for an anti-trafficking organization, which focuses on wildlife trade. She took up the cudgels for the trees of her neighbourhood in Vasant Vihar. She is conducting a tree census along with other Vasant Vihar residents. The census involves giving individual numbers to each tree in the locality. A database is being created, which contains the details about the trees. According to Sheel, the kids in the colony have shown a lot of enthusiasm. About 2,500-odd trees have been numbered and inventoried. The Resident Welfare Association (RWA) also welcomed the idea when Vallari approached them. They have been very supportive of the campaign. They made circulars and banners and also organized an opening ceremony marking the beginning of the census. Vasant Vihar RWA President, Suresh Goel said, "We are creating a comprehensive database, which will be sent to the environment ministry, the PM's office, MCD, and all agencies concerned once the survey is over." (An article on her appeared in *Hindustan Times*, July 13, 2015).



Upkari Nath Tripathi

Executive I Project Operations Tata Power Solar

Upkari Nath Tripathi, an alumnus of the TERI University MTech REEM (Renewable Energy Engineering and Management) programme (batch 2010–12), did his minor project in Central Electronics Engineering Research Institute at Pilani and completed his major thesis at Tata-British Petroleum Solar. Since then, he has executed more than 80 MW Solar PV projects. He has worked as a Project Coordinator for NTPC 50 MW Rajgarh Solar PV Project, which was awarded the best Solar PV EPC project at Inter-solar. Presently, he is working with Tata Power Solar in Projects team. He is thankful to his professors and the TERI University for providing him guidance and the right environment to pursue his passion.



Dinakar Peri, Special Correspondent
Defence and Strategic Affairs, *The Hindu*

Dinakar Peri holds two masters degrees, MBA (Business Sustainability) from the TERI University (batch 2011–13) and Masters in Biotechnology. While preparing for his MBA entrance exam he started writing on defense issues for an online magazine and also started blogging. He joined CLAWS, an autonomous think tank of the Indian Army, as an intern to finish his MBA dissertation and was later promoted as Research Assistant and further as Associate Fellow. “The groundwork for my transition to full-time policy research and joining CLAWS was laid during my MBA at the TERI University through the exposure and guidance I got and acquaintances I made”, said Dinakar.

Recently, his first op-ed appeared in *The Hindu* daily. He was also one of the panellists’ on Karan Thapar’s show ‘To the Point’ on Headlines Today to discuss on the Rafale Fighter Deal.

For details, please see the following links:

<http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/prime-minister-narendra-modis-call-for-make-in-india-mastering-rocket-science-failing-basics/article7400004.ece>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FdOtR76z3gc>

Forthcoming Events

S.No	Name of the Event	Date and Place of the Event	Brief Description
1.	Summer School on Managing Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Risk	August 3–7, 2015, TERI University	Targeted majorly at the officials from Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), the Summer School will sensitize participants to various risks and vulnerabilities of WASH. The workshop will share practical solutions that could be adopted at the ULB level. The aim of Summer School is to strengthen knowledge and capacity of ULB officials, who are primarily responsible for execution of plans under Swachh Bharat Campaign.
2.	2015 ProSPER. Net Young Researchers' School 'Sustainable Energy for Transforming Lives: Availability, Accessibility, Affordability'	October 5–16, 2015, TERI University	The TERI University in association with the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) will be organizing the Young Researchers' School (YRS) at the TERI University, from 5 to 16 October 2015 with the theme 'Sustainable Energy for Transforming Lives: Availability, Accessibility, Affordability'. The main goal of the YRS is to provide graduate students with an opportunity to better understand the spectrum of challenges that underpin sustainable development. An intensive two-week workshop will foster the growth of sustainability scholars and professionals in the Asia-Pacific region.

About TERI University

The TERI University was established to disseminate the vast reservoir of knowledge devised by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), a not-for-profit, independent research institute recognized globally for its contribution to scientific and policy research in the realms of energy, environment, and sustainable development. The TERI University's academic offering is rooted in the comprehensive research, consultancy, and outreach activities of TERI.

In 1999, the University was granted the "Deemed to be University" status by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and notified vide the Ministry of Human Resources Development, Department of Education, Government of India, notification no. F.9/19/95-U-3, dated October 5, 1999. Since its inception, the TERI University has offered not just world-class education, but also an environment that enables its students to develop fresh perspective in their subject areas. Before moving to Vasant Kunj, the University was housed in the Darbari Seth Block of India Habitat Centre from 1998 to 2008. In 2008, the TERI University started functioning from its new 'green campus', located in Vasant Kunj.

The University aspires to be an institution of advance learning, which meets the needs of a rapidly growing India. The academic programmes are envisioned to provide the students with a holistic perspective of the subjects offered and encourage interdisciplinary learning.

The TERI University aspires to contribute globally by serving society as a seat of advanced learning and to promote learning through teaching and through creating and sharing knowledge. The University commits itself to academic excellence and an environment, which would encourage personal and intellectual growth.

The TERI University provides world-class facilities and resources to its students and faculty so as to usher innovative and multidisciplinary research.



For more information, please contact

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