

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Progress Report

2024-25

Institutional Report Summary

O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) continues to demonstrate strong and evolving leadership in advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through its education, research, campus operations, and policy advocacy. The university's holistic model integrates academic excellence with community engagement, partnerships, and institutional accountability.

Building Global Partnerships

JGU nurtures long-term partnerships with universities, corporations, NGOs, and intergovernmental bodies across the world. These collaborations promote shared research, faculty exchanges, and joint advocacy, fostering collective responsibility for sustainable development. Through these alliances, the university powers major conferences, capacity-building initiatives, and policy engagements that benefit developing regions facing fiscal and social challenges.

In 2024, JGU strengthened its partnerships through multiple international MoUs and NGO collaborations. The university organised thematic conferences with the University of Melbourne, focusing on higher education futures, and expanded its cooperation with organisations such as the Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE) for SDG-linked climate action research.

Engaging with SDG Policy and Governance

JGU contributes actively to both national and global SDG policymaking efforts. University leaders participate in high-level platforms such as the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS), influencing global conversations on education, climate action, and human rights.

At the 2024 ACUNS Annual Meeting in Tokyo, JGU's Founding Vice Chancellor, *Professor (Dr.) C. Raj Kumar*, delivered a keynote address on "*The Role of Universities in the Global South for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals*." His remarks highlighted ten transformative pathways for universities to accelerate SDG

implementation, including embedding sustainability in curricula and fostering South–South cooperation.

Through the International Institute for Higher Education Research & Capacity Building (IIHed), JGU supports evidence-based policy research and consulting, aligning institutional strategies with stakeholder collaboration and systemic reforms under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

At the 98th SKOCH Public Policy Forum held in New Delhi, JGU faculty members *Dr. Karishma Godara* and *Prof. Sidharth Chauhan* represented the university in discussions on harmonising ESG, CSR, and SDG frameworks, showcasing JGU’s policy leadership in sustainability governance.

Extending Education Beyond the Campus

Through outreach programs, legal aid clinics, and eco-literacy initiatives, JGU extends its learning environment into surrounding communities. Initiatives such as the “*Aaghaaz*” *Creative Writing Workshop* with Afghan refugee youth reflect the university’s dedication to inclusion and intercultural understanding. Conducted in collaboration with the Simurgh Centre, Max Mueller Bhavan, and the Afghan Studies Centre (JSIA), the program brought together refugee youth and JGU students to co-create literary work in Hindi, English, Urdu, Pashto, and Dari.

Field-based learning is a cornerstone of JGU’s community engagement. The *JSES–Parvat NGO Field Course* in Himachal Pradesh allowed students to study biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods firsthand, deepening their understanding of the relationship between ecology, local economies, and social systems.

Embedding Values in Education

JGU’s academic approach emphasizes experiential learning, community integration, and ethical action. Programs such as the *LL.M. in Human Rights* reflect this philosophy, combining global perspectives with practical, socially engaged legal training. The curriculum encourages leadership rooted in justice, sustainability, and good governance.

Faculty-led initiatives such as “*Building Social Changemakers*” by *Dr. Shambhavi Agrawal* mentor students in designing and implementing projects addressing real social issues. Faculty participation in diversity and inclusion advocacy, such as *Dr. Anindita Jaiswal Jaishiv*’s advisory work with the WeVow Foundation, further underscores the university’s humanistic values.

Sustainability in Curriculum and Literacy

Elective and core courses across disciplines are aligned with SDG principles. Through the *TASK by Sulitest* initiative, JGU became India's first university to embed certified sustainability literacy assessments within its curriculum—enhancing awareness of planetary systems, ecological limits, and global sustainability frameworks among students, faculty, and staff.

The university also promotes sustainability-focused electives that integrate environmental law, economics, and social innovation, ensuring that sustainability literacy is not limited to environmental studies but mainstreamed across disciplines.

Advancing Research through Collaboration

JGU's research excellence is strengthened through international collaborations and strategic MoUs. Partnerships with the University of Melbourne, AEEE, and various global research institutions have enhanced SDG-linked research in areas such as climate action, human rights, and green innovation.

Faculty members contributed extensively to international conferences and publications. *Dr. Angel Selvaraj* presented research on sustainable healthcare at NIT Hamirpur, *Prof. Piyush Pranjali* published internationally on sustainability and entrepreneurship, and *Prof. Siddharth Kanojia* presented on climate change law at the International Symposium of Law and Maldives. *Prof. (Dr.) Abhiroop Chowdhury* co-authored SCOPUS-indexed research on marine pollution and artificial intelligence, reinforcing JGU's interdisciplinary research impact.

Monitoring Progress and Data Transparency

By participating in networks such as HESI, AACSB, and Nature Positive Universities, JGU ensures transparent sustainability benchmarking and open data sharing. The university's upcoming role as host of *APAIE 2025* positions it as a regional hub for sustainability data innovation and knowledge exchange.

JGU is also a signatory to the *CANIE Accord*, committing to climate-conscious education, responsible travel, and sustainable operations. Through this, JGU contributes to collective data initiatives on climate action and university emissions globally.

Facilitating Cross-Sector Dialogue

JGU serves as a convening space for dialogue between academia, industry, and civil society. The *World Universities Summit 2024*, hosted by JGU, explored "*Universities of the Future: A Global Partnership for Social Justice and Sustainable Development*." The

event featured experts from international organisations, academia, and policy institutions to advance the role of education in achieving the SDGs.

The *Editors' Conference 2024* brought together leading publishers and scholars to discuss the changing landscape of research communication, fostering greater inclusion of sustainability themes in global academic publishing.

Collaborating with NGOs and Community Partners

Partnerships with NGOs remain central to JGU's environmental and social mission. The university's MoU with *HME Waste Management* led to the installation of permanent e-waste collection points on campus, promoting responsible recycling and awareness among students.

The collaboration with *Mahadevi Library Trust* supports education for underprivileged children through donation drives for books and essential learning materials. The partnership with *Parvat NGO* connects students to field-based learning in biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

Student initiatives such as *GAIA* and *One Step Greener* anchor peer-driven environmental responsibility, while collaboration with *IYRC (Ideal Youth for Revolutionary Change)* engages youth leadership in sustainability.

Research Centers Driving SDG Impact

- Center for Environment, Sustainability, and Human Development (CESH): Researches climate resilience and geospatial systems integrating environmental and social dimensions.
- Centre for New Economics Studies (CNES): Examines informal economies, development challenges, and inclusive growth in the Global South.
- Centre for Research on Digital Circular Economy (DCE–SDG): Advances digital innovation through AI, IoT, and blockchain for circular economy models.
- Centre for Environmental Law and Climate Change (CELCC): Integrates environmental law, policy, and advocacy to promote justice and maritime reform.
- Jindal Centre for the Global South (JCGS): Strengthens South–South cooperation and equitable development policy frameworks.

Reporting Progress and Accountability

JGU's annual *SDG Progress Reports* measure institutional performance, share open-access data, and identify areas for continual improvement. These reports inform policy,

academic planning, and global benchmarking, reinforcing JGU's reputation as a transparent and forward-looking university.

Achievements in 2024–25

- Strengthened international partnerships through new MoUs and conference collaborations.
- Enhanced research output with faculty-led international publications and SDG policy engagement.
- Deepened climate action commitments as a *CANIE Accord* signatory and data-sharing institution under *Nature Positive Universities*.
- Expanded community engagement through outreach, field programs, and creative workshops.
- Advanced policy advocacy in national and UN-linked forums.
- Reinforced institutional transparency through structured SDG reporting and open-access sustainability data.