

September 18, 2026

VIRTUAL ROUND TABLE

Technology & Climate: Can Innovation Power a Sustainable Future?



Technology, Innovation, and the Path to a Sustainable Future

The rapid growth of technology is transforming how society addresses environmental challenges while also creating new demands on energy, water, infrastructure, and natural resources. Recognizing this evolving challenge, the Indian Council for Technical Research and Development (ICTRD) organized its Virtual Round Table Meeting 9.0 on 18th September 2026, bringing together academicians, industry leaders, researchers, and professionals for a meaningful exchange of perspectives.

The discussion explored how artificial intelligence, data centres, automation, smart infrastructure, and digital technologies can contribute to a sustainable future, while emphasizing the importance of responsible innovation and efficient use of resources.

Towards Responsible Digital Growth

A key insight was the growing need to align technological advancement with environmental sustainability. As AI, automation, data centres, smart infrastructure, and digital technologies become increasingly integrated into everyday life, their potential to improve efficiency and address environmental challenges continues to grow.

At the same time, the expansion of these technologies brings greater demand for energy, water, raw materials, and physical infrastructure. This makes resource efficiency an essential part of future innovation. Technology must therefore be developed with greater consideration for its environmental impact, encouraging solutions that reduce resource consumption while maintaining efficiency and scalability. Sustainable innovation balances technological progress with responsible resource use.

Technology and Sustainability: Finding the Balance

Opening the session, **Mr. Siddharth Roy** Director of Communication, ICTRD, highlighted the growing connection between technology, innovation, and sustainability. He noted that technologies such as AI, smart grids and digital infrastructure are changing how resources are consumed and managed, while also creating new environmental challenges.



Dr. Ketan Mohitkar Member Secretary, ICTRD, emphasized the need to balance environmental protection with economic and industrial development. He highlighted technologies such as AI for optimizing energy use, IoT for real-time emissions monitoring, satellite technology for tracking forests and water bodies, smart grids for reducing energy wastage, and data analytics for assessing environmental impact.

He also stressed the importance of moving beyond paperwork-driven compliance towards data-based environmental performance, with measurable outcomes, reliable data, and consistent monitoring to strengthen accountability and transparency.

Perspectives from Participating Experts

Dr. Sreerengan V R emphasized that sustainable innovation should work in harmony with nature. He highlighted design thinking, sustainable agriculture, green construction materials, clean energy, and circular approaches such as reuse, repair and recycling.

Mr. Viral Patel emphasized that technology alone cannot solve climate challenges. Responsible leadership, sustainable business models, public policy and measurable action are equally important. He highlighted several practical applications of AI and digital technologies in sustainability.

Dr. Suneet Mathur discussed the declining costs of solar, wind and battery technologies and the opportunities they create for reducing dependence on fossil fuels. One specific data point highlighted during the discussion was that solar tariffs in India had reached approximately ₹2.53 per kilowatt-hour, reflecting the significant change in the economics of renewable energy.

Ms. Swati Nathany highlighted how AI and digital technologies can support sustainable agriculture. She also highlighted AI-based monsoon forecasting, supported by long-term data and the experience of the India Meteorological Department, as an important tool for improving agricultural planning and decision-making.

Mr. Sachin Bhardwaj further highlighted the importance of water efficiency, particularly as AI, cloud computing, digital services and data centres expand. His central message was that sustainable technology should deliver greater value while using fewer resources particularly energy, water and physical space.

Key Takeaways

The discussion highlighted several priorities for sustainable technological development:

- Energy- and water-efficient digital infrastructure
- Greater use of renewable energy and storage
- Circular approaches to products and supply chains
- Responsible and purposeful AI adoption
- Data-driven measurement of environmental performance
- Sustainable design from the beginning

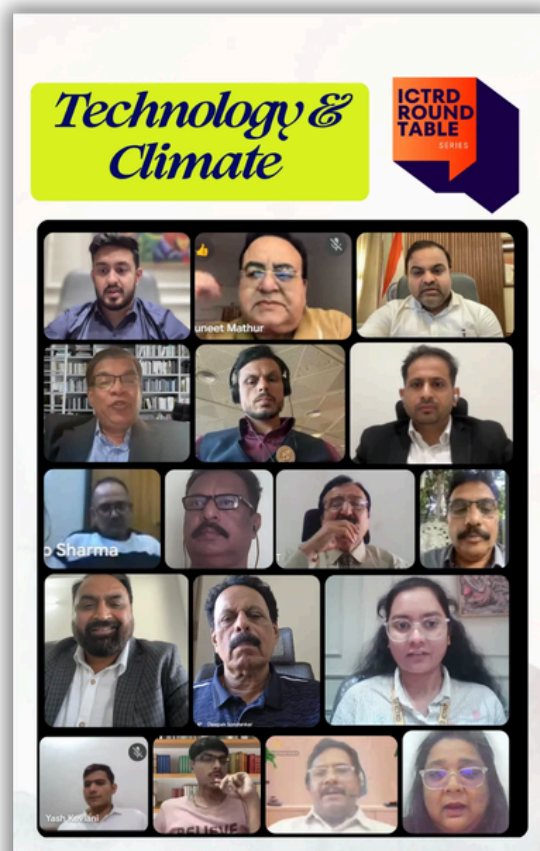
A recurring theme throughout the session was that sustainability should not be treated as something added after a technology or product has been developed.

ICTRD and the Role of Collaborative Platforms

The ICTRD Virtual Round Table highlighted that technology can both create environmental challenges and help address them. The way forward lies in developing technology that is efficient, responsible, measurable, and purposeful. From renewable energy and precision agriculture to AI, smart grids, circular supply chains, and resource-efficient data centres, innovation can support sustainability when guided by clear goals and measurable outcomes.

Building a sustainable future will require not only technological progress, but also responsible innovation, supportive policies, skilled people, and collaboration across academia, industry, government, and society.

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Meet the Speakers

Dr. Sreerengan V R, Associate Professor and Head of Lean Operations and Systems Management, CHRIST, Bengaluru

Mr. Viral Patel, Chief Executive Officer, Radha Lifescape LLP, Mumbai

Dr. Suneet Mathur, Adjunct Professor, Dr. Ambedkar Memorial Institute of Management Science, Rourkela

Ms. Swati Nathany, Senior Director Training, Teleperformance, Mumbai

Mr. Sachin Bhardwaj, Assistant Director, Wealth Clinic Pvt Ltd, Dehradun

VOICES THAT SHAPED THE SESSION: OUR PARTICIPANTS

Sr. No	Name	Designation	Organization
1	Dr.Aravind Krishna	Founder, Director	Global Entrepreneurship Team (G.E.T) Solutions
2	Dr.Asiya Jaleel	Assistant Professor	Maulana Azad National Urdu University
3	Mr. Ajith Menon	Country Head Corporate Banking	Ashlyn Chemunnoor Instruments Pvt Ltd.
4	Dr Amol Bhagwat Kasture	Associate Professor	School of Engineering – Ajeenkya DY Patil University
5	Mrs.Amrita Srivastava	Educator and CBSE Master Trainer	The Knowledge Habitat Pune
6	Mr.Ashutosh Subhashchandra Rajput	Student	IIT Patna
7	Mr. Anupam Kumar Chowdhury	Head Contracts And Procurement	Adani Airport City Ltd
8	Mr. Ashish Singh	Deputy vice president	Indus general
9	Mr.Ashutosh Subhashchandra Rajput	Student	IIT Patna
10	Mr. Atul Kumar Singh	Project Manager	Manvi Technology and Services
11	Mr. Avijit Saha	SENIOR MANAGER	BANDHAN BANK
12	Mr.Avinash Vitthalrao Aneraye	Assitant Professor	Mahatma Jyoti Rao Phule University,Jaipur
13	Mr. Ayush Rikhari	Assistant Manager HR&Admin	NA

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Sr. No	Name	Designation	Organization
14	Mr. Shreekant Patil	Director	Itekunokuratto Strategic Techventures Private Limited
15	Mr. Cma Ujjal Datta	Head-Finance, Accounts and Administration	Centre of Excellence for Khadi, National Institute of Fashion Technology, NIFT
16	Dr. Debasish Adhikari	UNIT HEAD	Glocal Hospital
17	Mr. Deepak D. Sondankar	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER [R-WRD]	WATER RESOURCES DEPTT. GOVT.OF MAH.
18	Mr. Dinankar Dev Parmar	Managing Director	Dropout Trader
19	Mr. Dinesh Kumar Singh	Resident Engineer-Tunnel (Deputy General Manager, Civil)	Intercontinental Consultants and Technocrats Pvt Ltd (ICT)
20	Mr. Dipak Kumar Dash	SQS cum Contracts Specialist	K J Projects Pvt. Ltd
21	Dr. Mohan Raj V	Senior Lecturer	Dayananda Sagar College of Dental Sciences and Hospital
22	Dr. Nunna Venkata Ramana	Lecturer in Botany	Government Degree College
23	Dr. Murari Lal Gaur	Vice Chancellor, Assam Kaziranga University	Former: VC CVRU Bihar, Pr Scientist ICAR, Prof & Dean Anand Agril University Gujarat.
24	Dr. Rakesh Kumar Karn	Electronics Lab Incharge (Technical)	Jawaharlal Nehu University

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Sr. No	Name	Designation	Organization
25	Dr.Sreerengan V R	Associate Professor and Head of Lean Operations and Systems Management	CHRIST (Deemed to be University)
26	Dr.Shalini Verma	Sr Mathematics Educator, Master trainer	CBSE
27	Dr. Sreekumar Krishnan	Managing Partner	Yantra Holdings
28	Dr.Tarun Kumar Das	Process Associate – Physician Assistant	IDS INFOTECH LTD
29	Mr. Lathiya Dipakkumar Chhaganbhai	ENGINEER	LARSEN AND TOUBRO LIMITED
30	Dr.J Hari Hara Reddy	Life Member	Chemical Research Society Of India
31	Mr. Harmandeep Singh Gudra	International	Global
32	Ms.Jannat Deep Bhaura	PhD Scholar	Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab
33	Mr. Jigneshkumar Mukundray Bhatt	Manager	Reliance Industries Ltd
34	Mr. Joackim Raja Newton S	Sr. Technical Expert	Havells India Ltd.
35	Mr. Kanaiyalal Himatlal Pandit	TECHNICAL ADVISOR	TECHNO MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT
36	Dr. Kanhu Charan Padhy	Managing Director	Kctronics Innovative Consultancy Services Private Limited

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Sr. No	Name	Designation	Organization
37	Ms. Kritika Koundal	Process Associate – Physician Assistant	IDS INFOTECH LTD
38	Mr. V M Lallu Mohan	Assistant Engineer (Operation)	Kerala State Electricity Board
39	Mr.Loveneesh Sharma	Associate Professor and Head of Department	Amity University Kolkata
40	Mr. Vijayanand	Chief Technology Officer	PAB Hardware and Software (OPC) Private Limited
41	Mr. Ramesh Pallanki	Senior Internal Audit Manager	Melcom group of companies
42	Mr. Rajat Mondal	Editor (Digital Platforms)	Zee Media Corporation Ltd
43	Mr. Ranjeet Ramkrishna Donde	Proprietor	Global Infotech
44	Dr. Ravikiran Kumar	Director	WellMax Oilfield Technologies Pvt Ltd
45	Dr. Ravikiran Kumar	Director	WellMax Oilfield Technologies Pvt Ltd
46	Mr. Sachin Bhardwaj	Astt Director	Wealth Clinic Pvt Ltd.
47	Mr. SACHIN PARIKH	Director	Kalgisoft Technologies Private Limited
48	Mr.Sam Saymon Siryon	Student BA.LLB Honors	Apeejay Stya University (School of Legal Studies)

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Sr. No	Name	Designation	Organization
49	Mr. Abdul Samad Shaikh	CEO	Samadpro LLP
50	Mr. Sandeep Sawant	Director - Human Resources	Glatt Systems
51	Mr. Sandeep Sharma	Plant Head- Operation and Complaine	SAB herbals nutraceutcials
52	Dr.Santosh Jagwani	ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR	SRI SATYA SAI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY & MEDICAL SCIENCES
53	Mr.Shivam Kumar	Student	Indian Institue of Technology, Patna
54	Mr.Shivam Mishra	IRSS Student	Mumbai University
55	Mr.Soumya Ranjan Swain	Assistant Professor	Srusti Academy of Management and Technology
56	Mr. Sriharsha Guda	Associate Director	Cognizant
57	Dr. Suneet Mathur	Adjunct Professor	Dr.Ambedkar Memorial Institute of Management Science
58	Ms. Swati Nathany	Senior Director Training	Teleperformance
59	Dr. Teki Nagendra Rao	Technical Consultant	Freelance Consultancy
60	Dr.Uttam Gupta	Ramanujan Fellow	Amity University

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Sr. No	Name	Designation	Organization
61	Mr. Tirumala Varun Polkampally	Platform Reliability Engineer	LSEG
62	Viral Patel	Chief Executive Officer	Radha Lifescape LLP
63	Mr. Yashkumar Nareshkumar Kevlani	Founder	Qubexcom Platforms.
64	Mr. Ateequr Rahman	Asst Executive Engineer (Electrical)	OIL AND NATURAL GAS CORPORATION
65	Ms. Mridu Sah	PROPRIETOR	DEEPHOLE DRILLING ENGINEERS
66	Dr Parag Ravikant Kaveri	Deputy Director	Symbiosis Institute of Computer Studies and Research, Symbiosis International (Deemed University), Pune
67	Mr Piyush Chhatrapati Dhakate	Owner	Tryix
68	Mr.Shivendra Tiwari	Junior Technical Supdt.	IIT(BHU), Varanasi