

Team EMC and Ekonnnect wishes its readers, a very  
**Happy International Youth Day | August 12**

A day to celebrate those who make a difference in  
society and inspire others with their energy and  
enthusiasm

Hello from Team EMC and Ekonnnect! We are back with our issue #03 with some exciting updates for you!

This month, we celebrate the International Youth Day that seeks to highlight ways in which the engagement of young people can accelerate action towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and fighting COVID-19.

### Did you know?

The economic impact of COVID-19 is set to make the job market more challenging for youth. Young innovators are already responding to the virus through social impact innovation. Whilst most of these initiatives are on a voluntary basis (e.g. young people offering to shop for and deliver food to elders or at-risk people), they can also take the shape of social enterprises.

Many youth-driven technology innovation hubs are supporting start-ups to develop effective solutions to address COVID-19. Ekonnnect in partnership with LetsEndorse Development and support from ThoughtWorks, organized a [social hackathon](#) where one of the challenges focused on early epidemic detection. Visit the link to learn more.

Ekonnnect regularly offers mentorship through its eco-entrepreneurship programmes for youth in environmental management & sustainability. We will be soon announcing a **virtual hackathon focused on Circular Economy**. The programme would invite applicants to submit project concepts related to circular economy, demonstrating innovations in materials, technology and business models. Stay tuned at [www.ekonnnect.net](http://www.ekonnnect.net) for more updates!

### Indian Railways Virtual Training Program on Environment and Sustainability

Dr. Prasad Modak was engaged by UNEP India office to develop a capacity building framework and training content in consultation with the stakeholders for Indian Railways on Environment and Sustainability. He was the Chief Mentor for delivering this pilot training program. Dr. Modak was joined by Mr. Shantanu Roy and Ms. Sivaranjani Subramanian from Environmental Management Centre LLP as co-faculties.

Under the project, a status paper on sustainability perspective in Indian Railways and a Strategic Action Plan for Capacity Building on environment was prepared. An intensive week-long training programme was developed, and 23 topics were chosen in consultation with officials from UNEP and Indian Railways. This programme included topics such as climate change, green economy, sustainable public procurement, biodiversity & conservation, waste management, water conservation, energy efficiency, green buildings and India's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) to name a few. Course content was developed, and peer reviewed by 19 global experts from various sectors.

The pilot training programme was conducted virtually between 10-18 July 2020. 51 participants across different tiers of officials from railways participated in the programme. 10 faculties across 7 Central Training institutes (CTIs) of Indian Railways also joined the programme as future Master Trainers.

The formal inaugural session of the training program was attended by many dignitaries including Dr. C. Chandramouli, Secretary, DoPT, Shri Sanjeev Chopra, Director, LBSNAA, Shri V K Yadav, Chairman Railway Board, Indian Railways, Shri Alok Tewari, Additional Member, EnHM, Railway Board, Shri S.P.S Chauhan, DG, NAIR, Shri Nikhil Seth, Executive Director, UNITAR, Shri Atul Bagai Country Head, UNEP India Office and Ms. Anubha Prasad National Coordinator, PAGE UN Environment Country Office, India.

The training programme received an incredibly positive feedback from participants and master trainers alike. Participants rated the overall training programme at 8.8 out 10.

### EMC Team Blog!

This month in our blog post, we talk about water stress. Read this blog on 'Understanding and Addressing Water Stress – A Science based Approach' by Ms. Krupa Desai [here](#). Visit [emcentre.com/emcblogs/](http://emcentre.com/emcblogs/) to subscribe to EMC Team Blog

### Speaking Engagements across Various Online Events

- Dr. Prasad Modak was a moderator for a panel discussion on the topic of 'Draft EIA Notification 2020: A Revaluation' on August 01, 2020. This discussion was organized by Climate Change and Environment Core Competency Cell (C2EC3), Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal. The eminent speakers from different domains shared their views on the new EIA 2020 notification and what it meant for the future of India.
- Dr. Prasad Modak was a speaker at the Circular Innovation Jam 2020. The session was a prequel to all the ideation and prototyping that participants of the innovation jam did in the following week.

### Have you joined CEkonnnect yet?

- **CEkonnnect** is a knowledge network connecting experts to share their knowledge and experiences on Circular Economy through [www.cekonnnect.net](http://www.cekonnnect.net). The knowledge network is a membership-based exclusive network that can be joined for free. It offers information on events, resources, reference reading material and online courses in the domain of circular economy. The network also provides an opportunity to connect with professionals, mentors and investors from around the world. The user interface is an Interactive platform with a social media-like experience. Going forward, access to more online courses will be enabled for the members with access to mentors and experts in the discussion forums.

### News and Updates

- ESG Team at Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Fund Management Corporation is hiring! The positions include Consultant for ESG Evaluation, Diligence and Monitoring – Social Expert (Fulltime) and Consultant for ESG Evaluation, Diligence and monitoring –Governance Expert with knowledge of relevant regulations and land diligence (Part time). For further details on job description and contact details, click [here](#).

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