11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

masters' union university

MASTERS' UNION | ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2025

sustainable *cities* and communities

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.



SDG 11 IMPACT REPORT

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01 Introduction

1.1 Understanding SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities

Sustainable Development Goal 11 seeks to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. For a business school, that covers the places it operates in, how its facilities serve the wider community, and what its students learn about the cities they will help shape.

1.2 Contribution at a Glance

AREA	DOCUMENTED CONTRIBUTION
Sustainable built environment	Masters' Union operates within DLF Cyber Park, whose buildings carry multiple green-building, resource-efficiency, health and connectivity certifications.
Urban systems research	One faculty journal article examines the effects of textile and dyeing activity on river-water quality; a book chapter looks at resilient cities; applied field inquiry examines logistics, waste, heritage and informal enterprise.
Mobility and access	Metro and public-transport connectivity, shared shuttles, pedestrian infrastructure and EV charging support lower-carbon access.
Community-facing facilities	Auditoriums, seminar halls, learning spaces, labs and selected library services support public lectures, workshops, showcases and registered external participation.
Cultural heritage	Cultural programming and heritage-craft immersions connect community identity with artisan livelihoods and inclusive enterprise.
Experiential teaching	PGP Immersions and the Singapore global immersion examine urban logistics, informal economies, adaptive reuse, resource recovery, clean mobility and smart-city systems.

02 Research

Research under SDG 11 examines how economic activity and resource systems affect urban and community life. Masters' Union's currently documented research contribution is a peer-reviewed study of industrial water pollution. The field-based work on logistics, waste, informal enterprise and heritage production is presented under teaching rather than classified as published research.

2.1 Water Quality and Urban Industrial Impact

In a 2017 study, Dr Ajith Babu, with P. Chinnaiyan and S. Abhinaya, examined the effect of dyeing and textile activity on the water quality of the Noyyal River in Tiruppur. The study connects industrial production with urban and regional environmental conditions, showing why the growth of manufacturing centres must be accompanied by effective pollution control, water stewardship and public accountability.

PUBLICATION	RESEARCH FOCUS	SDG 11 RELEVANCE
Babu, A., Chinnaiyan, P. and Abhinaya, S. (2017). Effect of dyeing and textile industry on Noyyal River water quality, Tiruppur - A case study.	Industrial activity and river-water quality	Environmental effects of urban-industrial development and the need for resilient resource governance.

2.2 Book Chapter on Resilient Cities

Dr Anushree Poddar, with Sapna Narula, wrote Mission Resilient Cities: How the Corporate Sector Can Become an Enabler in Developing and Sustaining Resilient Cities?, published in CSR Best Practices in Oman and the World in 2019, on the part companies can play in building resilient cities.

2.3 Cities as Places of Economic Participation

Student field inquiry looks at how people take part in a city's economy through informal enterprise, local markets and livelihoods. PGP Immersions in Dharavi and with the Chikankari artisan collectives in Lucknow put students inside these systems, and complement the published research above.

03 Stewardship

Stewardship under SDG 11 concerns the places, systems and services through which Masters' Union supports a safe, accessible and environmentally responsible learning community. Because core building infrastructure is operated by DLF Cyber Park, the report distinguishes between host-campus infrastructure and measures directly organised by Masters' Union.

3.1 Sustainability Governance and Accountability

The Sustainability and SDG Coordination Committee brings together academic and administrative stakeholders to identify SDG-aligned initiatives, consolidate evidence and review progress. For SDG 11, its remit includes sustainable infrastructure, urban resilience, mobility, resource management, inclusive livelihoods and public access. Academic input is supported by faculty and curriculum expertise in sustainability and business management.

3.2 Sustainable Campus Infrastructure

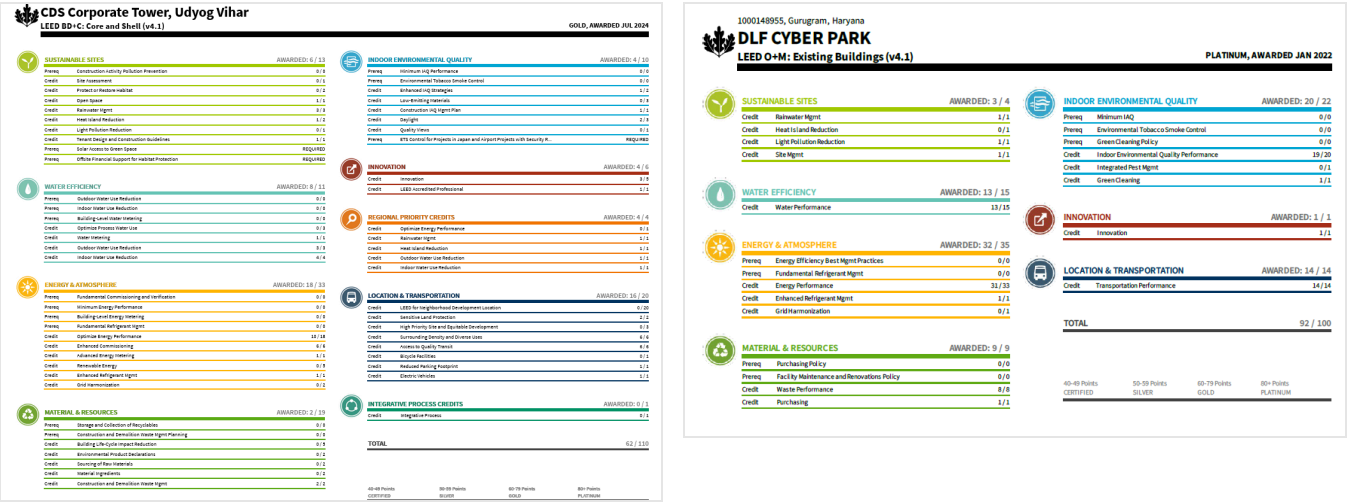
Masters' Union operates from DLF Cyber Park and the CDS Campus in Gurugram. DLF Cyber Park's infrastructure is documented as meeting recognised standards for green buildings, water, waste, health, digital connectivity and operational performance. These are host-campus certifications and are not presented as certifications awarded directly to Masters' Union.

The learning environment benefits from energy-efficient systems, natural daylight and MERV-14 filtration. These features connect environmental performance with occupant health and show how commercial educational spaces can operate within a certified urban business district.

DLF Cyber Park, where part of the campus is located, holds LEED O+M Platinum certification and a GRIHA 4-Star provisional rating. Its environmental infrastructure includes a 550 kWp solar photovoltaic system, a 1,300 kLD sewage-treatment plant and an organic-waste composter that can process 2,000 kilograms a day. During development, an existing tree was preserved and 708 new trees were planted.

CDS Corporate Tower holds LEED Gold certification (v4.1 Core and Shell, awarded July 2024, 62 of 110 points). It earned 16 of 20 points for location and transportation, with full marks for access to quality transit and for surrounding density and diverse uses, and 6 of 13 points for sustainable sites. Transit access, density and a reduced parking footprint make the building easier to reach without a private car.

Social areas include the Commons at Tower A and Tower C of DLF Cyber Park and on the 7th and 8th floors of CDS Corporate Tower. DLF Cyber Park also has a food court, and CDS has an in-house cafeteria. Virtual tours are available for space 1, space 2 and space 3.



CDS Corporate Tower, Udyog Vihar
LEED BD+C: Core and Shell (v4.1) — GOLD, AWARDED JUL 2024

SUSTAINABLE SITES	AWARDED: 6 / 13
WATER EFFICIENCY	AWARDED: 8 / 11
ENERGY & ATMOSPHERE	AWARDED: 18 / 33
MATERIAL & RESOURCES	AWARDED: 2 / 10
INDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	AWARDED: 4 / 10
INNOVATION	AWARDED: 4 / 6
REGIONAL PRIORITY CREDITS	AWARDED: 4 / 4
LOCATION & TRANSPORTATION	AWARDED: 16 / 20
INTEGRATIVE PROCESS CREDITS	AWARDED: 0 / 1
TOTAL	62 / 110

40-49 Points CERTIFIED · 50-59 Points SILVER · 60-79 Points GOLD · 80+ Points PLATINUM

1000148955, Gurugram, Haryana
DLF CYBER PARK
LEED O+M: Existing Buildings (v4.1) — PLATINUM, AWARDED JAN 2022

SUSTAINABLE SITES	AWARDED: 3 / 4
WATER EFFICIENCY	AWARDED: 13 / 15
ENERGY & ATMOSPHERE	AWARDED: 32 / 35
MATERIAL & RESOURCES	AWARDED: 9 / 9
INDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	AWARDED: 20 / 22
INNOVATION	AWARDED: 1 / 1
LOCATION & TRANSPORTATION	AWARDED: 14 / 14
TOTAL	92 / 100

40-49 Points CERTIFIED · 50-59 Points SILVER · 60-79 Points GOLD · 80+ Points PLATINUM

Green-building scorecards for CDS Corporate Tower and DLF Cyber Park





DLF Cyber Park, where part of the campus is located

3.3 Resource Management and Waste Reduction

Masters' Union promotes waste segregation at source, recycling, responsible disposal of electronic waste and reduction of single-use plastics across day-to-day activity and institutional events. Reusable alternatives are encouraged where feasible, and sustainability awareness is reinforced through student activity and operational communication.



Waste segregation bins on campus

3.4 Sustainable Mobility and Connectivity

The institution's location supports access through the Delhi Metro, Rapid Metro, public transport and pedestrian routes. Shared shuttles connect partnered student accommodation with campus and are also available to faculty and staff during designated periods. Together, these arrangements reduce dependence on individual vehicle journeys and make the campus easier to reach for students living away from the immediate district.

DLF Cyber Park also provides EV charging infrastructure and pedestrian wayfinding. Masters' Union encourages public transport, shared travel, walking and other lower-carbon commuting choices as part of a connected urban campus model.



Electric-vehicle charging, pedestrian wayfinding and sustainable campus connectivity

3.5 Student Housing and Residential Support

Masters' Union helps students find safe, managed accommodation close to campus for domestic and international students. Available residences include single- and double-occupancy options, shared areas, recreation, laundry, Wi-Fi, security, housekeeping and maintenance support. Shuttle connectivity links residences with campus, while nearby banks, pharmacies, fitness facilities, food services and retail reduce the practical burden of living away from home.

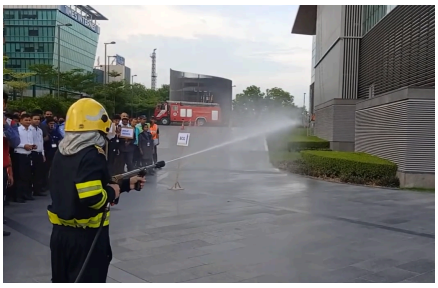


Student accommodation near campus

3.6 Emergency Preparedness and Urban Resilience

Emergency response within the DLF Cyber Park ecosystem includes ambulance support and a fully equipped fire station with trained personnel. Fire drills and response exercises support preparedness within the district, while the fire service also responds to emergencies in the surrounding community. These shared systems strengthen the resilience of the wider urban area in which Masters' Union operates.







Emergency response and fire-safety preparedness serving the campus district

3.7 Accessible Campus Infrastructure

Step-free routes, ramps, lifts, accessible washrooms and flexible seating support participation by people with disabilities. Personal attendants may accompany students with significant mobility needs without an additional campus-access charge. These provisions are reported here as elements of inclusive urban access; academic support and technology-enabled learning are addressed separately under SDG 4. Facilities are reviewed regularly, with recent improvements including expanded coworking space, classroom acoustic upgrades and energy-efficient lighting.

04 Outreach

Outreach under SDG 11 concerns how institutional spaces, knowledge and cultural activity contribute to the wider community. Masters' Union supports registered public participation in lectures, conferences, workshops, entrepreneurship events, school outreach and cultural programming while maintaining secure visitor-management procedures.

4.1 Public Access to Academic and Cultural Facilities

Auditoriums, seminar halls, collaborative learning spaces and selected innovation facilities at DLF Cyber Park and the CDS Campus host public lectures, industry dialogues, leadership summits, startup showcases, workshops and community events. Intersect, Demo Day, Open House, CXO Masterclasses and Startup Weekend bring together students, educators, entrepreneurs, policymakers, school leaders and industry participants.

Public access is managed through advance registration and identity verification. This enables the institution to open facilities for knowledge exchange while maintaining a safe environment for students, employees and visitors.

FACILITY	PUBLIC OR COMMUNITY ACCESS	ACCESS APPROACH
Auditoriums and seminar halls	Yes	Prior registration and visitor verification.
Innovation and collaborative spaces	During designated public programmes	Workshops, school outreach, hackathons and public masterclasses.
Emergency and fire services	Yes, without charge	Shared response through the DLF fire service.





Auditorium and community-facing learning events

4.2 Public Learning on Urban Infrastructure

On 9 January 2025, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari addressed infrastructure execution, congestion, electric public transport, smart charging and long-term urban mobility. The public session connected national infrastructure choices with the practical requirements of safer, more efficient and lower-emission cities.



Public session on sustainable mobility and urban infrastructure

4.3 Student Innovation for Urban Space

ShiftsDeal applies an urban-space lens to entrepreneurship. Its marketplace supports transparent booking of idle and underused venues, with more than 150 spaces reported across partner networks. The model is relevant to SDG 11 because it improves the use of existing built assets and reduces friction in accessing community and commercial spaces. It has listed more than 150 spaces and was selected for the AI Ventures Accelerator run by Technovation and UNICEF's Generation Unlimited.



ShiftsDeal, a student venture focused on underused urban space

4.4 Dropshipping Mela at CyberHub

The Dropshipping Mela takes student entrepreneurship into one of Gurugram's busiest commercial spaces. In September 2025, student founders ran their businesses at DLF CyberHub from 11:00 AM to 9:00 PM. Alumni and the wider community were invited to visit the stalls, meet the founders and explore the products. Students tested their businesses in front of real customers and footfall outside the university setting.

4.5 Keeping Alumni Connected to the City and Campus

Masters' Union continues to engage alumni through learning, entrepreneurship and community events after graduation. Alumni mixers, founder sessions, investment programmes and campus events keep graduates connected with the institution and with one another, in Gurugram and in cities including Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune and Chennai.

4.6 Culture and Community

Campus life includes cultural programmes, performances, student showcases and community events involving students, employees, alumni and invited participants, with room for music, theatre, dance and other forms of expression. Students also meet cultural heritage through field learning. In Lucknow, engagement with Chikankari artisan communities introduces them to a traditional craft that continues to support livelihoods, women's enterprise and local economic activity.

05 Teaching

Teaching under SDG 11 equips students to understand cities as interconnected economic, environmental and social systems. Coursework develops the conceptual tools to examine resource flows, climate finance, circularity, mobility, supply chains and sustainable business models. Cases, guest sessions and immersion then place these ideas within real urban and community settings.

5.1 Sustainability and Urban Systems Curriculum

COURSE	URBAN-SUSTAINABILITY LEARNING
Introduction to Sustainability	Urban resource constraints, systems thinking, climate risk and impact measurement.
Environmental Systems	Water, land use, pollution pathways, industrial ecology and environmental-impact assessment.
Climate Tech Ecosystem	Urban energy, mobility, infrastructure and adaptation technologies.
Renewable Business Models	Distributed energy, microgrids, affordability and infrastructure scaling.
Circular Business Models	Sharing, resale, repair, remanufacturing, reverse logistics and material outcomes.
Sustainable Supply Chains	Traceability, resilience, circularity and lower-impact logistics.

The PG Programme in Sustainability and Business Management maps each of its 40 courses to the goals it serves, and 11 are mapped to SDG 11. Decoding Sustainable Business Models looks at value creation for customers, society and the environment, and Environmental Systems covers ecosystems, water cycles, land use and pollution pathways.

5.2 Banjara Market Applied Case Study

The Banjara Market case examines how urban policy and regulatory decisions affect informal commerce and the livelihoods it supports. Students consider the tension between planned development, enforcement, market access and community-based enterprise. The case creates a practical setting in which to ask how cities can improve safety and order without excluding livelihoods that depend on informal economic space.

5.3 PGP Immersions in Urban and Community Systems

PGP Immersions places students within enterprises and community systems that shape urban life. Each engagement asks students to connect operational choices with accessibility, resilience, heritage, livelihoods, resource use and the quality of community life.

IMMERSION	URBAN AND COMMUNITY LEARNING FOCUS
Godrej, Mumbai	Manufacturing, responsible sourcing and urban sustainability.
Mumbai Dabbawalas	Low-resource last-mile logistics and community-based employment.
Dharavi, Mumbai	Informal enterprise, recycling, livelihoods and dense urban economic systems.
Swiggy, Bengaluru	Platform logistics, gig work and last-mile urban mobility.
Renovation Lab	Adaptive reuse, material choice and extension of building life.
IRRPL, Lucknow	Resource recovery, recycling operations and waste-value chains.
Ada Chikankari, Lucknow	Heritage craft, artisan livelihoods and cultural production.
SEWA Chikankari, Lucknow	Women's collective enterprise, fair livelihoods and inclusive value chains.





PGP Immersions across informal economies, waste systems and heritage







PGP Immersions with organisations and communities

5.4 Global Immersion in Singapore

The Singapore immersion examines how infrastructure providers, businesses, investors and policymakers address urban decarbonisation, clean mobility, green investment and net-zero infrastructure. Engagement with the wider smart-city ecosystem enables students to study how technology, finance and policy are coordinated within a resource-efficient and globally connected city.

5.5 Learning from Gurugram Every Day

The city-as-classroom model also works much closer to home. Masters' Union's Gurugram campus places students inside an active corporate district throughout their programme, with companies, professionals, restaurants, public spaces and commercial activity around the academic environment. Practitioner sessions bring people from these organisations into the classroom, while student events and businesses move back into the surrounding district.

Global Immersions in Dubai and Europe

In Dubai, the Global Immersion Programme visited JLL at DIFC (smart-city economics, infrastructure consulting and public-private partnerships) and the Museum of the Future (policy and technology for future-ready cities). In Europe, students studied how cities carry heritage and long-term design forward, from the structural engineering of the Eiffel Tower in Paris to Dutch environmental design at Zaanse Schans and the architecture of Frankfurt and Heidelberg.

06 Institutional Direction

We are part of Gurugram's working district, and our approach to SDG 11 grows from being there. Our ambition is to be a good neighbour and a model for how a campus and a city can help each other grow.

6.1 A Campus Open to the City

We want more of our campus to be open to the public, with founder sessions, exhibitions, community days and artisan showcases, so that residents, alumni and visitors have more reasons to come in and the neighbourhood gains from having us here.

6.2 Growing Sustainably

We want growth to be sustainable by design. For our new 10-acre campus at Cyberwalk, a LEED Gold-certified business district in Gurugram, we aim to keep efficient buildings, good public-transport access and careful use of energy, water and waste at the centre of planning.

6.3 Learning and Enterprise for Cities

We want to help students, faculty and founders work on the problems cities face, such as informal economies, mobility, resilience and the use of space, building on field learning in Dharavi, Lucknow and Singapore and on ventures such as ShiftsDeal.

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