

# SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

## SDG 16 in India: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16) focuses on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, providing access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions. In a diverse and populous country like India, achieving SDG 16 involves addressing challenges such as social inequality, corruption, and justice system efficiency while strengthening governance and institutional frameworks.

### Efforts by the Indian Government to Achieve SDG 16

- 1. Judicial Reforms:**
  - **e-Courts Mission Mode Project** digitizes court records and proceedings to ensure timely access to justice.
  - Fast-track courts address gender-based violence and other sensitive cases, ensuring quicker resolution.
- 2. Anti-Corruption Measures:**
  - The establishment of the **Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act** aims to tackle corruption in public administration.
  - **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** reduces leakages in welfare programs by transferring funds directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts.
- 3. Right to Information (RTI):**
  - The RTI Act empowers citizens to seek transparency and accountability from government institutions, fostering democratic participation.
  - Awareness campaigns promote the use of RTI to hold public institutions accountable.
- 4. Promoting Social Justice:**
  - Affirmative action policies ensure representation of marginalized communities in education, employment, and politics.
  - Initiatives like **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao** and **Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers Act** address historical injustices faced by women and tribal communities.
- 5. Strengthening Local Governance:**
  - The **Panchayati Raj system** empowers local self-governments to address community needs, ensuring inclusivity and accountability.
  - Programs like **Mission Antyodaya** focus on developing rural infrastructure and governance.
- 6. Criminal Justice System Reforms:**
  - Measures to modernize police forces include technology upgrades, improved training, and community policing initiatives.
  - Victim assistance schemes provide support to those affected by crime, ensuring fair treatment and access to justice.
- 7. Human Rights Advocacy:**
  - The **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** monitors and addresses human rights violations, promoting equality and justice.

- Laws against domestic violence, child labor, and trafficking safeguard vulnerable populations.
8. **Combating Violence and Terrorism:**
- Programs like the **National Action Plan for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PVE)** aim to reduce radicalization and violence.
  - Development initiatives in conflict-affected regions promote peace and social integration.

## SDG 16 at the University of Petroleum and Energy Studies (UPES)

UPES integrates the principles of SDG 16 into its academic, operational, and community outreach activities, fostering an inclusive and accountable environment while preparing students to address justice and governance challenges.

1. **Education on Governance and Justice:**
  - UPES offers programs in law, public policy, and international relations that emphasize the importance of justice, human rights, and governance.
  - Courses integrate topics such as transparency, ethics, and inclusive policymaking, equipping students with the skills to address global challenges.
2. **Promoting Transparency and Accountability:**
  - The university ensures transparent governance in its operations through open feedback systems and grievance redressal mechanisms.
  - Student representation in decision-making processes encourages accountability and inclusivity.
3. **Community Outreach:**
  - UPES conducts legal literacy programs in rural communities, educating people about their rights and available legal remedies.
  - Student-led initiatives provide pro bono legal services and support to underprivileged groups, promoting access to justice.
4. **Research on Justice and Peace:**
  - Faculty and students engage in research projects addressing justice reforms, human rights, and conflict resolution.
  - Collaborative efforts with governmental and non-governmental organizations contribute to policy recommendations and sustainable solutions.
5. **Promoting Diversity and Inclusion:**
  - The university fosters a culture of inclusivity by providing scholarships and support for students from diverse socio-economic backgrounds.
  - Events like seminars on human rights and gender equity raise awareness about the importance of inclusivity in building peaceful societies.
6. **Addressing Gender-Based Issues:**
  - UPES actively addresses gender-based challenges through campaigns, workshops, and initiatives promoting gender equality and safety on campus.
  - Anti-harassment policies and dedicated support systems ensure a safe and respectful environment for all students and staff.
7. **Sustainability in Leadership:**
  - UPES promotes ethical leadership through student organizations, encouraging dialogue on governance, justice, and social responsibility.
  - Participation in model United Nations and legal moot court competitions provides practical exposure to global justice systems.
8. **Collaborations and Partnerships:**

- The university partners with legal institutions, government bodies, and international organizations to enhance its contribution to justice and governance.
- These collaborations provide opportunities for internships, research, and experiential learning.

### Impact of UPES's Contributions to SDG 16

UPES's efforts to promote justice, accountability, and inclusion reflect its commitment to SDG 16. By integrating governance and human rights principles into education and community engagement, the university prepares students to become advocates for peace and justice. Through its initiatives, UPES aligns with India's national priorities and global goals, fostering a culture of ethical leadership and equitable development.

## Student Committees

<https://www.upes.ac.in/student-space/student-committees>

### 1. Sports Committee:

The role of the sports committee is to promote sports activities among the students. The Sports committee remains active throughout the year and encourages students to participate and excel in a variety of games and sports that are organized regularly at UPES.

### 2. Cultural Committee:

The committee organizes Recreational activities in the forms of music, dance and other cultural activities which play a pivotal role in the overall development of students. Students in this committee organize the university's annual signature events Uurja and Ignite. Besides these events, technical festivals, and impromptu events by various student chapters/clubs/committees of students are organized.

### 3. Student Discipline Committee:

The Student Discipline Committee works under the supervision of the Proctorial Board (which handles student discipline on campus and in hostels), and alerts the board to aspects like ragging, substance abuse, road traffic accidents, eve-teasing, racial/ caste discrimination, and gender harassment. These students also act as student volunteers to manage security and decorum during university events and functions.

### 4. Gender Champions:

Gender Champions at UPES are envisaged as responsible leaders who facilitate an enabling environment within the University where girls are treated with dignity and respect. They strengthen

the potential of young students to advocate for gender equality and monitor progress towards gender justice.

#### 5. SEE Ambassadors:

The committee is set up for the individual enthusiasts who enjoy meeting new people, know how to channelize their energy and potential. They also encourage other students to participate, volunteer and support the various events/activities of the university. These student ambassadors are an integral part of exciting projects, campaigns and assist the S.E.E Managers of respective schools to run the flagship events and shows for our students.

#### 6. Safety Rangers:

The University recognizes the importance to sensitize the students on their Road traffic safety, by organizing various activities and events, like screening of documentaries, films of accident survivors, and distribution of handbooks, planned at regular intervals.

#### 7. Socio Squad:

Is group of super active, tech-savvy, confident, enthusiastic and reliable students who work closely with Marketing and Communications department to Promote UPES from a current student's perspective across all digital platforms, multiply brand mentions through their active social presence and to manage online reputation of the brand.

#### 8. Moot Court Committee (School Of Law):

Moot Court means a replica of a real court where legal proceedings and trials take place and thus it is also known as a Mock Court. Where students who are studying law act as professionals and take up all the responsibilities and duties according to their role to see their ability to think creatively and answer convincingly when questioned and show their oratory, writing and persuasive skills. It is one of the modern methods of giving practical knowledge to the students by putting them in a hypothetical situation similar to that of a real court and then the two teams each on one side argue upon fictional cases.

#### 9. Student Council (School Of Business):

The Students' Council is an apolitical organization. It derives all its powers from the relevant authorities of the School of Business, UPES, Dehradun, as defined in the Acts & Statutes of the University and shall be subject to all rules and regulations laid down by these authorities.

#### **The purpose of creating the student's Council:**

- Providing a forum of expression to students' opinion

- Developing all-round extra-curricular activities to supplement education; and
- Advancing the general welfare of students studying at the Institute (School of Business, UPES, Dehradun)
- Acting as the central policy-making body for students

#### 10. Health Safety Environment Department- UPES Nursery:

In September 2018 the nursery under the WTPP (Women Technology park project) was converted into UPES nursery. Nursery maintenance committee formed by first-year M.Tech (HSE) under the guidelines of Dr. Kanchan Bahukhandi and Dr. Shefali Arora. Student committee members do the cleaning, plantation, watering and other maintenance.

#### Objectives

- Promoting aromatic plants as complimentary gifts instead of flower bouquets for guests.
- Promoting health care with greenery plants.
- To Maintain both UPES nursery in the Bidholi campus.
- Cultivation and promoting Organic form in the nursery.

#### 11. Student's Placement Representative:

Student Placement Representatives (SPRs) work along with the Career Services Department. They help in planning, communicating, and dissipating information about employers on the campus during recruitment drives. They also assist in identifying organizations that are suitable for internships during summer and winter breaks. Career Services has taken an initiative towards refreshment course (Boot Camp), Personality Enhancement Program (PEP), Guest lectures, Alumni interactions and mock interviews to make the students employee-ready.

## CAMPUS LIFE

[https://upes-production-cvb3e7frghdda0a4.z01.azurefd.net/drupal-data/2024-03/58\\_UPES\\_Master%20Brochure\\_18-01-2024.pdf](https://upes-production-cvb3e7frghdda0a4.z01.azurefd.net/drupal-data/2024-03/58_UPES_Master%20Brochure_18-01-2024.pdf)





Life at UPES is truly an enriching experience, where students can create memories that will last a lifetime. It is about young learners discovering themselves through engaging activities that broaden their understanding of the world.

- There are more than twenty student chapters, including the Society of Petroleum Engineers, Cloud Security Alliance, the Society of Law and Literature, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, the Moot Court Association, etc., as well as several clubs such as the National Service Scheme, Ras Rang Raag, Avishkarnam, Sphurit, etc. that cater to different interests and fields of study.
- Events such as Spandan, the annual youth festival; and ‘Wow Wednesday’, a mid-week activity for showcasing talent, bring together students from across all the schools on one stage.
- Sports events and activities at UPES offer students a wide range of opportunities for personal growth and skill development. Students develop important values such as discipline, team spirit, patience, and resilience.
- From learning to leisure and path-breaking innovations to life-long friendships, life at UPES is a vibrant blend of everything a learner aspires for. It is a place where artists, explorers, athletes, and innovators come together to pursue their passions and explore new horizons.

## [Why student engagement matters and how to achieve it](https://blog.upes.ac.in/why-student-engagement-matters-and-how-to-achieve-it/)

<https://blog.upes.ac.in/why-student-engagement-matters-and-how-to-achieve-it/> [1]

BY A CORRESPONDENT · SEPTEMBER 10, 2020



To ensure career success for students, educators must promote meaningful learning experiences to keep students engaged and motivated

All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy' is perhaps a clichéd and overused statement at this point. Luckily, there are more recent and more credible evidence that mere academics does not guarantee success in the modern economy. While in an old economy, with well-defined roles and responsibilities, excelling at academics was adequate in landing someone a job, most of which were repetitive tasks that required only the ability to follow instructions and stick to the procedures. The new economy has evolved beyond that and requires significant amount of critical thinking, creativity, teamwork, and the ability to take ownership.

It is a common agreement among employment experts, as well as talent development experts that modern education needs a mix of both academics and extracurricular activities. According to Monster dot com, extracurricular activities can be a great addition to a student's resume. It shows a narrow focus, the ability to commit, and the ability to take initiative. Further, reports from around the world, like this one by Independent claim that 'employers are looking for students and graduates who have a range of skills, personal qualities and experience, which will help them to be productive in the workplace.'

VUCA World: Today, employers are increasingly hiring for a VUCA world. VUCA stands for Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, and Ambiguous. Succeeding in this world requires management experience, communication skills, adaptability, and quick thinking. Ask anyone who has managed a college fest knows, these are some of the basic skills you need to deal with the immense challenges that are thrown your way.

The need for polyglots: Polyglots are individuals who are trained in multiple disciplines and can perform a variety of different functions within the team. Our students who are part of student chapters like the Infinity Space Club or the Fire and Security Association of India are routinely trained in different skillsets that translate to familiarity with the modern workplace.

Immersive educational experiences: As we have seen with the National Education Policy of the Government of India, the old ways of rote-learning are on their way out. Education is changing to include immersive experiences as a critical tool of learning. Currently the best tools we have to ensure an immersive learning experience is the student clubs, sports teams, student chapters, fests, and everything else that defines college life. These experiences are immeasurably rewarding, building strong values and connections that last for life.

The community experience of college: College life has always been defined by communities. It is these communities that add flavour to classes and build strong associations with education. It is no surprise that students are really excited to be part of these events and they propel acquaintances to friends, and help in developing communication skills, social skills, presentation skills, and familiarity with strangers.

At UPES, we take extracurricular activities extremely seriously. We have a wide variety of student groups and student chapters for students to hone their skills and pursue their passions. UPES has seven student clubs and more than 22 student chapters, such as Infinity Aerospace Club, American Association of Petroleum Geologists, Computer Society of India, and more. We also organize cultural events such as Uurja and Wow Wednesday where talented UPES students share their craft with everyone. We also have strong sports teams in every major sport, and are a formidable force in Uttarakhand sports. To find out more about extracurricular activities at UPES, visit <https://www.upes.ac.in/student-space/student-engagement>.

## 5 reasons why students should join clubs while at university

<https://blog.upes.ac.in/5-reasons-why-students-should-join-clubs-while-at-university/> [2]

PREETI ANEJA · NOVEMBER 6, 2020

### Clubs

Campus clubs and societies cultivate soft skills among students, improve grades and help in making connections that last a lifetime

Participating in club activities is a great way to meet new people, enjoy your time at university and ensure you strike a healthy balance between academics and social life. Emphasizing on the significance of clubs for students, Ms. Manisha Mohan, Dean, UPES, School for Life, says, “Clubs contribute towards the holistic development of students. They learn leadership skills, teamwork, communication skills as well as gain a comprehensive cultural understanding.”



Here are five ways in which clubs and organisations add value to your college life:

They help you develop soft skills: Activities are a great way to acquire life skills such as communication, leadership, teamwork, and time management. You learn how to work with new people, manage conflicts and build relationships of trust. Clubs provide functional skills that eventually help to rediscover a new you. Like sports develop sportsmanship and a never-say-die attitude, performing in an art club enhances your creativity and augments your understanding of human emotions, cultivating the ability to form strong interpersonal skills.

Activities are a great way to acquire life skills

They improve your grades: Extracurricular activities can improve your grades and your overall performance in college. Studies on the impact of extracurricular activities show students, participating in activities have higher grades, more positive attitudes toward the institution and higher academic aspirations. Participating in activities you are passionate about can increase your brain function, help you concentrate and manage your time better, all of which contribute to higher grades.



They add the element of fun in college life: Another simple reason to join a student organization is to have fun. From cultural fests to camping trips, you never know what experiences await you on the other side of the road. Meeting new people, making new friends, and participating in activities will help you make the most of your graduation experience.





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They help you to network: Engaging in club activities helps you make new friends and network. You bond with people easily when you share similar interests or passions. Clubs and societies also facilitate meeting students outside of your immediate social circle.

“Students should develop new friendships and engage in a new social circle as they work toward their career goals. This task becomes easier through joining clubs that fit their individual interests, needs, and goals. A club not only provides endless networking opportunities, both on and off-campus but also teaches the students how to network.” says, Dr. Joji Rao, Coordinator, Clubs, UPES.

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They add to your resume: Extracurricular activities are also a great benefit to a student’s resume when it comes to applying for foreign universities or jobs. It also reflects on your keenness to learn beyond the traditional classroom. Employers appreciate multi-tasking and contributions to the community. Recruiters highly value college graduates ready to take on leadership roles, and clubs help to unleash that potential. Joining a campus club will give you hands-on experience that will set you apart from the crowd.

According to Dr. Monika Manglik, Chief Coordinator, Clubs, UPES, School for Life, “Clubs provide a place for students to come together, discuss innovative ideas and accomplish common goals. Whether you join as a member or choose to lead one, you stand to gain a lot.”

“UPES hosts a plethora of extracurricular opportunities for students via various clubs like Performing Arts, Art and Design, Film and Photography, Literary, Sports, Adventure, Health and Wellness. Besides these, domain-based student chapters and societies are offering a lot of action and fun round the year,” she adds.

## [CONNOISSEUR – Fraternity of Young Litterateurs at UPES](https://blog.upes.ac.in/connoisseur-fraternity-of-young-litterateurs-at-upes/)

<https://blog.upes.ac.in/connoisseur-fraternity-of-young-litterateurs-at-upes/> [3]



PRAGUN BHATT · JANUARY 3, 2020

Connoisseur, the Literary Club of UPES, has completed three successful years of its existence. Since its inception, the club has gone on to become one of the most successful student clubs at UPES.

We established this club with the vision to provide an environment for young talent to thrive and develop to their fullest potential, and in doing this, embark on a mission to serve humanity by helping to create model citizens – self-aware and global in outlook, complemented with a deep appreciation of local ethos and sensibility.



CONNOISSEUR- Literary Society

The club has successfully organized various national-level events in which students from various universities showcased their talent. Some of our prominent events are Jash-e-Azadi, Kavyanjali, Expressoo, The Literary Expedition Fest and some online events as well, including Sarcasm Mania and Story for the Glory.

It has been a wonderful journey till now and we are proud to be the initiators of literary culture in our institution, UPES, Dehradun. For me, personally, it is extremely gratifying to lead an enthusiastic team which is selflessly devoted to society. All those who join this family of ours and all those who participate in the Connoisseur's events are bound to find more than what they currently possess. I believe that over the next few years the club's members will steer the club towards the achievement

of the values which are enshrined in the philosophy behind the club's creation. I wish the team the very best for all its future endeavours.

