

Environmental Society

Over the course of the academic year, Environmental Society was thrilled to host 6 events:

1. Ecofeminism & Restoration – A Talk by Ms. Purnima Devi Barman
2. Scavenger Hunt
3. Diya Painting Workshop
4. Gross Environmental Product – A Talk by Dr. Anil Prakash Joshi
5. From Advocacy to Action: Biodiversity Protection – A Talk by Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh 6. Prakriti 2024 – The Annual Fest
7. Paper recycling initiative

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Ecofeminism & Restoration – A Talk by Dr. Purnima Devi Barman

On 25th September, 2023, The Environmental Society, hosted students from various universities for an enlightening and impactful event that brought together students, faculty, and nature enthusiasts to discuss and celebrate the remarkable work of Dr Purnima Devi Barman. The event aimed to raise awareness about the importance of the Hargila bird, its role in the ecosystem, and the inspirational efforts made by Dr. Purnima Devi Barman to rescue it from societal taboos and near-extinction.

Dr Purnima Devi Barman is a renowned environmentalist and conservationist hailing from Assam, India. She has received widespread recognition for her unwavering dedication to the conservation of the Hargila bird (Greater Adjutant Stork), which had been stigmatized and marginalized by society. In 2022, Dr. Barman received the prestigious UN Environment Programme's (UNEP) Champions of the Earth award in the Entrepreneurial Vision category, adding to her illustrious career. She was also the recipient of the 2017 Nari Shakti Puraskar (the highest civilian award for Indian women) presented by the Hon'ble President of India, Mr Ram Nath Kovind.

At the event, Dr. Barman shared her inspiring journey and the pivotal role she played in saving the Hargila bird from the brink of extinction. Dr Barman emphasized the importance of this bird species in maintaining the ecological balance of Assam's wetlands. We also discussed the importance of the Hargila, challenging societal taboos, the power of educational partnerships and conservation methods.

Thus, the event organized by The Environmental Society was a remarkable opportunity to learn about the exceptional work of Dr Purnima Devi Barman in the field of environmental conservation, particularly in saving the Hargila



bird.



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Scavenger Hunt

The Environmental Society of St. Stephen's College successfully hosted a thrilling and engaging event on Thursday, October 19, 2023, which witnessed enthusiastic participation from students across all years and courses. The event, known as the 'Scavenger Hunt' lived up to its name, inviting 15 teams to decipher clues leading to various locations within the college.

The Scavenger Hunt proved to be a dynamic and engaging challenge that fostered teamwork and problem-solving skills. Each team embarked on a journey to decipher a series of clues and find hidden spots in the college corresponding with these hints. The objective was to reach the final clue and subsequently report back to the finishing line in the shortest time possible.

The event was a huge success, fostering a sense of camaraderie and excitement among the participants. The diverse backgrounds and experiences of students from different courses and years contributed to a spirited and competitive atmosphere.

Various prizes were awarded to the teams that successfully completed the hunt in the shortest time, encouraging healthy competition and team spirit among participants. The event was not only entertaining but also aligned perfectly with the Environmental Society's mission to raise awareness about our surroundings and the importance of preserving our environment.

In conclusion, the Environmental Society's Scavenger Hunt was an exceptional event, bringing students together from across the college to engage in an intellectually stimulating and environmentally conscious adventure. The society's commitment to promoting eco-consciousness was evident, and the event was a grand success, enjoyed by all who participated.

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Diya Painting Workshop

On November 04, 2023, The Environmental Society, in collaboration with the Fine Arts Society, hosted the 'Diya Painting Workshop,' an event that not only brought together students from our college but also extended a warm welcome to young children from the

Evening Classes. This event was a significant part of our Green Diwali initiative, which seeks to promote sustainable festivities and harmony for all life forms.

The workshop took place at the college's SCR Lawns and was attended by over 50 enthusiastic participants. The main activity of the day involved painting traditional clay diyas, which symbolize the essence of Diwali – the festival of lights. Attendees were encouraged to explore their artistic talents by using a variety of vibrant colors and patterns. The workshop not only provided a platform for self-expression but also allowed participants to learn about the significance of Diwali and its traditional customs.

The workshop was a resounding success, with everyone wholeheartedly engaging in the creative process. Participants of all ages meticulously painted their diyas, giving them a unique touch of personal artistry. The atmosphere was charged with positive energy and a sense of community, as attendees shared ideas and collaborated on their projects. The event served as a reminder that the essence of Diwali can be celebrated while keeping the environment and the well-being of all life forms in mind.

In conclusion, the 'Diya Painting Workshop' was a heart-warming and educational event that successfully achieved its goals of promoting sustainable Diwali celebrations and fostering a sense of community. The Environmental Society and the Fine Arts Society express their gratitude to all participants for their enthusiastic involvement and look forward to future events that continue to advocate for a greener and more inclusive Diwali



celebration.

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Gross Environmental Product – A Talk by Dr. Anil Prakash Joshi

On November 6, 2023, The Environmental Society hosted a stimulating lecture titled 'Gross Environmental Product,' drawing approximately 30 students from Delhi University.

Renowned environmentalist Dr. Anil Prakash Joshi delivered an engaging presentation, sparking lively discussion and inspiration among attendees. He illuminated the audience on

the critical implications of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on environmental sustainability. He challenged conventional economic metrics by introducing the concept of Gross Environmental Product (GEP), emphasizing the need to account for ecological factors in assessing economic progress. His innovative approach encouraged students to rethink traditional paradigms and consider the broader impact of economic activities on the environment.

Dr. Anil Prakash Joshi, a distinguished environmental scientist and social activist, is known for his pioneering work in sustainable development and community-based conservation initiatives in the Himalayan region. His dedication to promoting environmental awareness and grassroots empowerment has earned him national and international acclaim.

The lecture by Dr. Joshi left a profound impact on attendees, fostering a deeper understanding of the intricate relationship between economic growth and environmental stewardship. It served as a catalyst for reflection and action, inspiring students to advocate for policies that prioritize ecological sustainability alongside economic prosperity.



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From Advocacy to Action: Biodiversity Protection – A Talk by Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh

On February 15, 2024, The Environmental Society organized a compelling lecture titled 'From Advocacy to Action: Biodiversity Protection,' attracting around 30 students from Delhi University. The lecture, delivered by Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh, provided valuable insights into the drafting of Forest Laws in India, fostering interactive discussions and enhancing understanding among attendees.

Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh, a distinguished conservationist and legal expert, shared his expertise on the evolution of Forest Laws in India. His engaging presentation traced the historical context and legislative processes that have shaped biodiversity conservation efforts in the country. Through anecdotes and case studies, Dr. Ranjitsinh elucidated the complexities and challenges of translating advocacy into tangible action for biodiversity protection. His illustrious career spans decades of dedicated service to wildlife conservation and environmental governance. As the former Director of the Wildlife Preservation Department

and Chairman of the Wildlife Trust of India, he has played a pivotal role in shaping conservation policies and initiatives in India.

The lecture by Dr. Ranjitsinh served as a catalyst for deeper engagement and commitment to biodiversity protection among students. It empowered attendees with knowledge and insights to bridge the gap between advocacy and action, inspiring them to become proactive stewards of India's rich natural heritage.

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Prakriti 2024 – The Annual Fest

(Day 1 of 3) Social Organization: The Need of the Hour – Talk Session by Svatanya Organisation

On April 22, 2024, the Environmental Society of St. Stephen's College organized a talk session by the Svatanya (a social enterprise) on the crucial topic of 'Social Entrepreneurship: The Need of the Hour.' The event witnessed overwhelming participation from students. The keynote speaker, Mr Nimish Pant, shared the inspiring journey of the Svatanya and shed light on the pressing need for social entrepreneurship in today's world. He emphasized how social enterprises can address societal challenges while generating sustainable revenue streams. Mr Pant's thought-provoking address highlighted successful case studies of social enterprises making a positive impact across sectors like traditional handicraft designing, women

empowerment, and environmental sustainability. He stressed the importance of adopting innovative business models, leveraging technology, and fostering collaborations to drive social change effectively. The talk was followed by an engaging Q&A session, where attendees had the opportunity to clarify their doubts and seek guidance on various aspects of social entrepreneurship. Overall, the talk by Svatanya provided a valuable platform for promoting social entrepreneurship and inspired attendees to explore avenues for creating positive societal impact through sustainable business practices.



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(Day 2 of 3) Art as Activism Within Environmentalism – A Talk by Professor Sharmila Samant

The Environmental Society of St. Stephen's College organized a captivating online talk session on 'Art as Activism Within Environmentalism' on April 23, 2024. The esteemed speaker, Prof. Sharmila Samant graced the event with her profound insights. Prof. Samant's virtual presentation showcased how art can be a powerful medium for raising awareness, igniting conversations, and driving positive change in the realm of environmentalism. Through thought-provoking examples and case studies, she illustrated how artists worldwide are using their creative expressions to address critical environmental issues. The talk highlighted the ability of art to transcend language barriers and cultural divides, making it an effective tool for communicating complex environmental messages to diverse audiences. Prof. Samant emphasized the role of art in fostering empathy, sparking emotional connections, and inspiring individuals to take action towards environmental protection. The session also explored the intersection of art, activism, and technology, discussing how digital platforms and social media can amplify the reach and impact of environmental art activism. Attendees had the opportunity to engage in a lively Q&A session, exchanging ideas and gaining valuable insights. Overall, the online talk by Prof. Sharmila Samant was an

enlightening experience, inspiring participants to explore the powerful synergy between art and environmentalism in driving positive change for a sustainable future.

(Day 2 of 3) Sohrai Art Workshop

On April 23, 2024, The Environmental Society, in collaboration with the Fine Arts Society & Adivasi Toli, organized a captivating event titled ‘Sohrai Art Workshop’ as part of its annual fest, Prakriti 2024. The workshop took place at the Café Tree, drawing approximately 30 enthusiastic students from various departments across Delhi University.

Sohrai Art, a traditional form of tribal art originating from the tribal communities of Jharkhand, Bihar, and Odisha, adorned the canvases of the attendees. Guided by the Fine Arts Society, participants delved into the intricate patterns and Earthy colours characteristic of Sohrai Art. This artistic expression not only served as a medium for creative exploration but also offered insight into the rich cultural heritage of India’s tribal communities. Sohrai Art, traditionally practiced by tribal women, often depicts scenes from nature, folklore, and rituals using motifs such as animals, birds, trees, and geometric shapes. It is characterized by its use of natural pigments derived from minerals, plants, and charcoal, reflecting a deep connection with the environment.

The atmosphere of the workshop was vibrant and convivial, with attendees immersing themselves in the rhythmic tunes of groovy music and indulging in delectable snacks. The amalgamation of art, music, and camaraderie created a conducive environment for creativity to flourish. The workshop not only provided a platform for students to explore their artistic talents but also fostered an appreciation for indigenous art forms and their cultural significance.

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Through this collaboration between the Environmental Society and the Fine Arts Society, participants were not only engaged in creative expression but also encouraged to reflect on the intersection of art, culture, and environmental consciousness.



(Day 3 of 3) Jharia – Movie Screening

Prakriti 2024, the Environmental Society’s annual fest, featured an enlightening event in collaboration with Adivasi Toli – a screening of the film ‘Jharia,’ directed by Biju Toppo,

followed by a stimulating discussion. The event, held on April 24, 2024, attracted around 30 students from various departments of Delhi University.

‘Jharia’ is a compelling documentary that chronicles the remarkable journey of Simon Oraon, Padma Shri awardee and activist dedicated to improving the lives of tribal communities in Jharkhand. The film portrays Oraon’s tireless efforts to address the acute water crisis faced by these communities, who have long struggled with access to clean and safe water. Through grassroots initiatives and community mobilization, Oraon and the villagers work tirelessly to bring much-needed relief to remote villages in the region.

Following the screening, an engaging discussion unfolded, focusing on themes of activism, tribal leadership, and environmentalism. Participants were deeply moved by Oraon’s unwavering commitment to social justice and his ability to empower marginalized communities to advocate for their rights. The discussion highlighted the importance of grassroots activism in addressing environmental challenges and fostering community resilience. Moreover, the conversation delved into the significance of indigenous knowledge and traditional practices in sustainable development. Participants discussed the need for inclusive and participatory approaches to environmental conservation, recognizing the vital role of indigenous communities as stewards of the land.

The ‘Jharia’ movie screening and discussion served as a catalyst for dialogue and reflection on the interconnectedness of environmental and social justice issues. It inspired attendees to explore

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avenues for meaningful engagement and solidarity with marginalized communities, emphasizing the importance of collective action in building a more equitable and sustainable



future.

Paper recycling initiative

Done in collaboration with Jaagruti NGO, waste paper was collected from various places at the college and the students. The intense drive lasted over three days- 25, 26, 27 April.

Over **700 kilograms** of paper was collected to be recycled!

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