

The Environmental Society

Annual Report 2021-22

The Environmental Society was productive in both the online and offline settings this year and it was a privilege to be able to organize offline events again. The academic year 2021-22 has been very fruitful for the society. The events helped spread awareness about multiple environmental concerns and take action towards conservation.

We started off the academic year with an online semester. We continued posting monthly episodes of our official podcast on Spotify. They were informative discussions on topics such as sustainable alternatives, water conservation and wildlife protection. We also continued our monthly online 'Upcycling Tutorial' video series through which we give tutorials on how to change waste products into something useful. Some of these tutorials were about creating home décor from expired medicines and from waste containers, and wind chimes from soda cans.

Social Media was the society's biggest asset during the online semester. It helped us create awareness and suggest things one can do to help out even during the pandemic. Many informative posts were uploaded to our Instagram, LinkedIn, and Facebook pages on topics such as World Environment Day, the situation in Buxwaha forests, Van Mahotsav, sustainable alternatives, saving water, protecting wildlife, etc. We also held a social media collaboration with the GGI Impact Lab about Environmental Consulting.

Two fun quizzes were held on our Instagram account on the 5th of June and the 8th of July 2021, on the occasions of World Environment Day and Van Mahotsav respectively. Blog posts written by first year members were uploaded to our website as well.

We organized two main competitions in the odd semester – Enviscopedia and EnviSion. Enviscopedia was a photocab competition where participants had to capture an environmental issue around them through a photograph and write a short passage about the issue portrayed. EnviSion is an annual flagship event that saw its third year in 2021. It is a competition including riveting case studies, policy proposals and other synergistic tasks with multiple levels.

Green Diwali was celebrated by a poster making event for students from evening classes. The submissions were sent in online. We also uploaded a special upcycling tutorial and a small social media post series for the celebrations.

To welcome the first year members and introduce the society, an orientation was held in which we familiarized the students with the kind of activities conducted by the society and its various verticals. We saw an enthusiastic participation for the same.

As part of *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav* (AKAM), we released a special podcast episode on 'Impacts of Colonialism on the Environment'. We also uploaded informative social media posts about the impacts of colonialism on the environment, environmental achievements of independent India, and freedom fighters who were also environmentalists. Blog posts on 'Deforestation under Colonial Rule' and 'Construction of Railways in Colonial India – a boon or a bane?' were written by first year members and uploaded to our official website.

For our first offline event, we revived our annual Scavenger Hunt, which helps people explore the flora, fauna and environmental aspects of campus while also having fun. This event saw very enthusiastic participation, with registrations of around 50 pairs.

Another offline event was organized for Earth Hour on 26th March 2022 in collaboration with the Music Society of St. Stephen's College. All non-essential lights and electronics on campus were switched off, candles were lit across campus, and junior members gathered in SCR lawns for a lovely evening full of musical performances and sing-alongs. This event was also supported by WWF India. The organization sent us posters that were displayed across campus and we played their Earth Hour Anthem at the beginning of the event.

Our annual fest, Prakriti, was conducted in a hybrid mode. Two talks were organized – one with Mr. Shraman Jha, Director of WWF India, and the other with Mr. Aditya Sabu Sahadevan, a TEDx speaker and climate activist.

Mr. Shraman Jha's talk was an offline and open event and turned out to be a very interactive session. He spoke about the various IPCC reports, how various climate treaties have been signed, their execution and impacts. Mr. Aditya Sabu Sahadevan's talk was online as sir was not able to come on campus. It was also an

open event. He spoke about eco-anxiety and how to deal with it. This talk was also part of the Mental Health Initiative of college.

A Short Film Competition was held as part of Prakriti. Participation was open to all undergraduate students across the country and the theme was 'The Greens and Beings of College Campus'. An online photo exhibition was organized, which saw participation from students across the country. The theme was simply environmental, nature or wildlife photography. The entries were displayed on our official website and our Instagram page. We also conducted a screening of the Disney movie 'Raya and the Last Dragon' to bring light to the environmental aspects and metaphors included in it.

With the annual fest, we concluded our activities for this academic year. We sent out a form for applications to the second year council for 2022-23, conducted interviews for the same, and chose a hardworking council to pass on the reins to. Applications and interviews for the third year council for 2022-23 were also conducted. We trust that the next council will lead the society forward and maintain the productivity that we saw this year.

Mrinal Grover

President, The Environmental Society