

# **Departmental Annual Report - 3**

**Departmental Activities: Curriculum and Beyond** 

**Department: Geography** 

Year: 2022-2023

**Department Society and its Office Bearers:** 

President	Vice President	General Secretary	Treasurer
Namami Maheshwari	Arzoo	Vanshika Kumar	Ragni

Staff Advisors: Prof. Monika Vij and Dr. Ruchi Sachan



#### Part B.1

Seminars/conferences/workshops conducted by the Department

1. DSKC Summer Internship Workshop on "Thermal Remote Sensing and Estimation of Land Surface Temperature through Satellite Imagery"

The Department of Geography at Miranda House organized a one-day workshop under the DSKC

Summer Internship Workshop on July 13, 2022. The workshop was focused on "Thermal Remote Sensing and Estimation of Land Surface Temperature Imagery." through Satellite The workshop was conducted by Dr. Atul Saini, a geographer and post-doctoral fellow at the Delhi School of Climate Sustainability. The Change and workshop was divided into two sessions. The first session covered the concepts, issues, and applications of thermal



remote sensing, while the second session was a hands-on session for the estimation of Land Surface Temperature (LST) with a focus on urban heat islands. The workshop aimed to provide practical knowledge and skills in using thermal remote sensing for climate change research and urban planning.

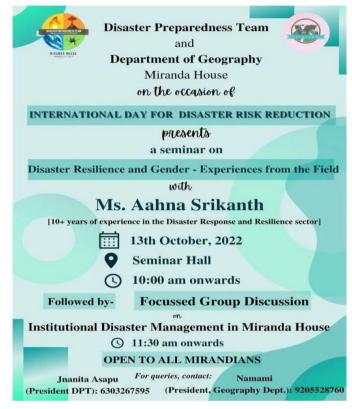
#### 2 Seminar on Disaster Resilience

On October 13 2022, the Disaster Preparedness Team of Miranda House, in collaboration



with the Department of Geography, organized a seminar on "Disaster Resilience and Gender - Experiences from the Field" to mark the occasion of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction. The seminar was held in the Seminar Hall of the college and started at 10:00 am.

The keynote speaker for the seminar was Ms. Aahna Srikanth, who has over 10 years of experience in the Disaster Response and Resilience sector. She emphasized the importance of including a gender perspective in disaster management and highlighted the



different vulnerabilities and needs of women and men during disasters. The audience, consisting of faculty members, students, and other participants, engaged in a lively discussion and raised several questions, which Ms. Srikanth addressed.

The seminar was followed by a Focused Group Discussion on "Institutional Disaster Management in Miranda House". This session aimed to explore the college's existing disaster management practices and identify improvement areas. The participants were divided into small groups, each given a set of questions to discuss. The groups then presented their findings and recommendations, which were compiled and shared with the relevant authorities in the college.

Overall, the seminar and the Focused Group Discussion were successful in raising awareness about disaster resilience and identifying opportunities for improvement in the college's disaster management practices. The Disaster Preparedness Team of Miranda House and the



Department of Geography are committed to continuing their efforts towards promoting disaster resilience and preparedness in the college and beyond.

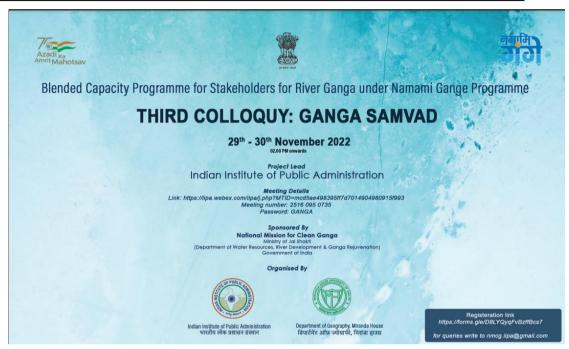
## 3 Ganga Samvad

The Blended Capacity Programme for Stakeholders for River Ganga under the Namami Gange Programme organized its third colloquy, Ganga Samvad, on the 29th and 30th of November 2022. The event was hosted by the Indian Institute of Public Administration and sponsored by the National Mission for Clean Ganga, a government initiative aimed at cleaning and conserving the Ganga River The colloquy was attended by various stakeholders, including government officials, researchers, and civil society representatives, who came together to discuss the challenges and opportunities for the rejuvenation of the Ganga River. The event kicked off with a keynote address by Dr. Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, Director General of the National Mission for Clean Ganga. He emphasized the need for a collaborative effort to address the challenges facing the Ganga River and highlighted the role of the Namami Gange Programme in this effort. One of the main highlights of the event was a session on community engagement and participation in the Ganga rejuvenation efforts. Various civil society organizations and community representatives shared their experiences and best practices on how to involve local communities in river conservation. They stressed the importance of a bottom-up approach and the need for community ownership of the rejuvenation efforts.

Another session focused on the scientific and technological aspects of river conservation. Experts discussed the use of innovative technologies such as remote sensing, GIS, and machine learning in river management. They also highlighted the need for a data-driven approach and the importance of evidence-based decision-making in river conservation.



The event also provided a platform for researchers to share their findings on various aspects of river conservation.



**Presentations** 

were made on topics such as river ecology, hydrology, and pollution monitoring. These presentations helped to enhance the understanding of the complex issues facing the Ganga River and provided insights into potential solutions.

Overall, the Ganga Samvad colloquy provided a valuable opportunity for stakeholders to exchange ideas and knowledge on the conservation and rejuvenation of the river Ganga. The event highlighted the need for a collaborative and multidisciplinary approach to address the complex challenges facing the river. The event also emphasized the importance of community participation and ownership in the rejuvenation efforts. It is hoped that the discussions and recommendations made at the event will inform future policy and action on the conservation of the Ganga River.

## 4 Lecture on Climate Change and its impact on Antarctica

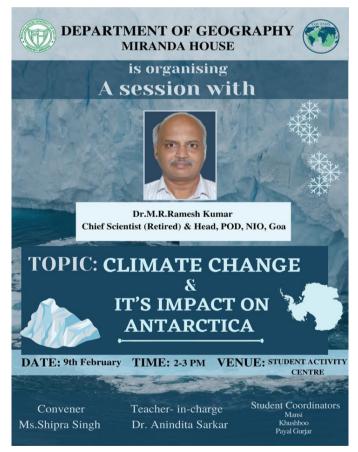
The Department of Geography at Miranda House organized a lecture on the topic- "Climate Change and its impact on Antarctica" on 9<sup>th</sup> February from 2 pm to 3 pm. The speaker of the



session was Dr. M.R. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Scientist (Retired) and Head, POD, NIO, Goa. The session aimed at providing everyone the key insights on Climate change and how it is impacting the geographical situations of Antarctica. Mr. M.R. Ramesh Kumar began with elaborating about his experience of visiting Antarctica. He later on discussed about climate change and also discussed the facts about increasing Carbon dioxide emissions. He displayed an entire short film made on Antarctica's climate situations. These minuscule details made the students more curious about how is the climate change affecting the biodiversity and snow cover of Antarctica.

The entire lecture was very interactive mainly because the speaker made the entire lecture a sort of quiz in which he asked questions in between and the student who gave correct answers got a postal card or a card containing facts about Antarctica.

The lecture ended with a question- answer round in which the students and teachers asked him various questions from a plethora of topics including climate change and career options related to climate studies which was followed by a thankyou note to the speaker. Overall, the session was extremely interactive and meaningful for the audience.





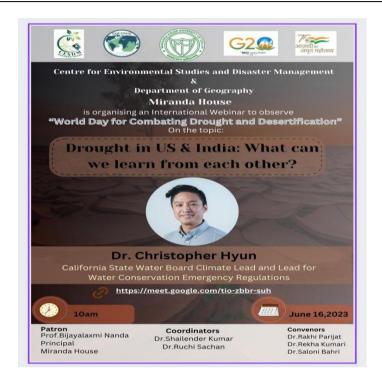
# 5 Webinar On "Drought In US and India: What Can We Learn From Each Other?".

The Department of Geography along with Centre For Environmental Studies and Disaster Management\_(CESDM), Miranda House organized a webinar on June 16,2023 to mark the "World Day for Combating Drought and Desertification".\_The topic of the webinar was "Drought In US and India: What Can We Learn From Each Other?". The speaker of the session was

Dr Christopher Hyun who is California State Water Board Climate Lead and Lead for Water Conservation Emergency Regulations. Dr Hyundai briefed the participants about how drought is a pressing issue that affects regions across the globe, including India and the United States. By bringing together experts and participants from both countries, this webinar aimed to foster a cross-cultural exchange of knowledge and experiences to address the challenges posed by drought.

The session turned out to be an informative one, enlightening the participants about the need of the hour i.e., to combat drought and desertification. At the end of the session the principal of the college, Prof. Bijayalaxmi Nanda, proposed Dr Hyun to become an advisory member of CESDM so that the collaborated efforts would result in fruitful solutions and interventions in the area of environmental studies and management of disasters.





6 Seminar on "Personal wellbeing: understanding holistic self-care



The Department of Geography at Miranda House organized a wellness seminar on the topic

on 23rd July,2023. "Personal well being: understanding holistic self care"

The session was conducted by Nilanjana Parijat, a remarkable therapist at Avanta, wellness and therapy.

The session was divided into two sections focusing on the particulars:

- 1. Course on components of well being
- 2.Question/Answer Session between the attendees and the speaker.

The event aimed to provide valuable insights, strategies, and resources to enhance mental wellness in individuals' personal and professional lives.





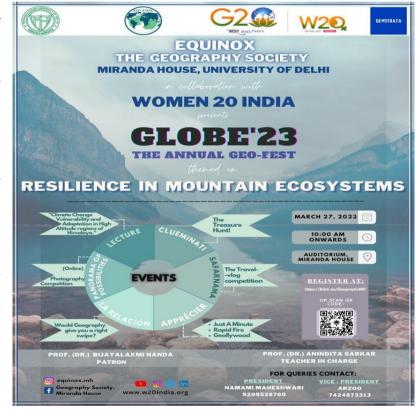
#### Part B.2

### **Extension Activities organized**

## 1 Globe 2023

The Geography Society of Miranda House, in collaboration with Women 20 India, organized Globe '23 - The Annual Geo-Fest on March 27, 2023, with the theme of "Resilience in Mountain Ecosystems". The event aimed to create awareness about the challenges faced by mountain ecosystems, particularly the Himalayas, due to climate change and explore ways to build resilience in these regions.

The event began with a lecture on



"Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation in High Altitude regions of Himalaya," delivered by a renowned expert in the field - Dr. B W Pandey. The lecture shed light on the impact of climate change on the Himalayan ecosystem, including melting glaciers, changing weather patterns, and its effects on flora and fauna. Dr. Pandey also discussed the adaptation strategies implemented by local communities and the government to cope with these changes. The event also featured several exciting competitions such as Clueminati - Treasure Hunt, Safarnama - The Travel Vlog Competition, La Relación, and Apprécier. These competitions allowed participants to showcase their creativity and knowledge about various aspects of geography. Overall, the event was a great success, attracting a large number of participants



from across the country.

The event was presided over by Prof. (Dr.) Bijayalaxmi Nanda as the Patron and Prof. (Dr.) Anindita Sarkar as the Teacher in Charge. Their guidance and support were instrumental in making the event a success.

In conclusion, the Globe '23 - The Annual Geo-Fest organized by The Geography Society of Miranda House, in collaboration with Women 20 India, was a great success. The event provided a platform for participants to learn about the challenges faced by mountain ecosystems, particularly in the Himalayas, due to climate change, and explore ways to build resilience in these regions. The event also provided an opportunity for participants to showcase their creativity and knowledge about various aspects of geography through exciting competitions and events.

#### 2 G20 Address

On March 27 2023, Women 20 India, in collaboration with Equinox - The Geography Society

of Miranda House, University of Delhi, presented a special address on "Stakeholdership for Climate Action" by Asish Singh, the Engagement Lead of The Geostrata Delegate COP27 Egypt. The event took place at the Auditorium of Miranda House at 11:30 am.

Asish Singh began the address by discussing the importance of stakeholdership in climate action. He explained that it is not just the responsibility of the government but also the





responsibility of the private sector, civil society, and individuals to take actions to combat climate change. Mr Singh emphasized the need for collective action and urged everyone to work together to address the challenges of climate change.

Asish Singh also highlighted the importance of technology in addressing climate change. He talked about the use of renewable energy, green technologies, and artificial intelligence in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving energy efficiency. He also discussed the need for innovation and research in developing new technologies to combat climate change. The audience was actively engaged in the discussion and asked several questions about the role of different stakeholders in climate action and the impact of climate change on the Geostrata. Asish Singh answered all the questions and provided valuable insights on how individuals, civil society, private sector, and the government can work together to address the challenges of climate change.

In conclusion, the special address by Asish Singh provided valuable insights into the importance of stakeholdership in climate action and the role of geostrata and technology in combating climate change. The event was informative and engaging, and the audience left with a better understanding of the challenges posed by climate change and the actions needed to tackle them.

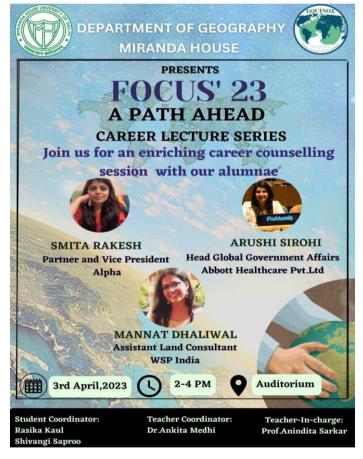


## 3 Focus' 23 - Career Counselling

The Department of Geography at Miranda House organized a career lecture series titled "Focus' 23: A Path Ahead" on April 3 2023. The event was aimed at providing career counseling to students and featured three distinguished alumnae of Miranda House.

The event started at 2 pm in the auditorium and was attended by a large number of students. The speakers for the event were Smita Rakesh, Partner and Vice President at Alpha, Arushi Sirohi, Head of Global Government Affairs at Abbott Healthcare Pvt. Ltd, and Mannat Dhaliwal, Assistant Land Consultant at WSP India.

The event kicked off with an introduction to the speakers and a brief about the purpose of the event. The speakers then shared their personal experiences and insights on their career journeys, which was followed by an interactive Q&A session with the students.



Smita Rakesh, the first speaker, talked about her experience in the field of finance and investments. She shared insights on the various career options available in this field, and how one can pursue a successful career in finance. She also spoke about the importance of networking and building relationships in this industry.

Arushi Sirohi, the second speaker, talked about her experience in the field of government



affairs. She shared her insights on the nuances of this field, and how it can be leveraged to make a difference in society. She also spoke about the challenges and opportunities that come with working in a dynamic and fast-changing field like government affairs.

The third speaker, Mannat Dhaliwal, shared her experiences in the field of land consulting. She talked about the skills required to succeed in this field, and the challenges one can expect while working as a land consultant. She also spoke about the importance of building a strong foundation in the field of geography, and how it can be leveraged to build a successful career in land consulting.

The Q&A session was filled with enthusiastic questions from the audience, and the speakers provided detailed answers to all the questions. The event concluded with a vote of thanks from the department of geography, and students left the auditorium with a wealth of information and insights on various career options available to them.

## 4 Panel Discussion On "Global South Priorities at COP 28"

The Department of Geography at Miranda House organised a panel discussion under the aegis

of India International Centre and The Geostrata on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

The panel discussion focused on "Global South priorities at COP 28 and Public Policy Innovations." The panelists for the discussion were Mr Ram Boojh an ex-senior consultant at UNEP, Ms Parul Aggarwal the country program manager, India at UN Habitat, Mr Bhaskar Padigala head of Climate Hub at WWF and Mr Amit Jain a senior energy specialist at The World Bank. The session covered various major issues like the loss and damage agreement which provided hope for



many low-income countries that have felt the brunt of climate change, but it also left a lot of



questions unanswered. Mainly who will be paying into the fund and who will be eligible to receive funding. Other major issues discussed were climate financing, just energy transition partnerships, global goal on adaptation and food security wherein the Food and Agriculture Organization is also expected to release a road map to reduce emissions from food and agriculture systems in line with the goal of keeping temperatures from rising above 1.5 degrees Celsius at COP 28. The panel discussion aimed to put forward not only priorities at COP 28 but also provided holistic solutions to the issues disc environment.

#### Part B.3

Any other event organized as part of students' activities (not listed above)

## 1 Teachers' Day

On the occasion of Teachers' Day on September 5, 2022, the Department of Geography at Miranda House organized a fun-filled celebration for its teachers. The event was organized by the students of the department as a way of showing their gratitude and appreciation towards their teachers.

The event started with a cultural program which included a variety of performances such as songs, dances and skits by the students, showcasing their talents and creativity. The teachers were seen enjoying the performances and cheering for their students.

This was followed by a quiz competition, where the teachers and students participated in teams, testing their knowledge of geography and general awareness. The quiz was a great way to engage the teachers and students in a fun and interactive learning activity.

The highlight of the event was the cake cutting ceremony where the teachers and students came together to cut the cake, sharing their joy and happiness on this special day. The celebration provided an opportunity for the teachers and students to interact in a relaxed and informal setting, strengthening their bond and fostering a sense of community.



The event was a great success and left a lasting impression on everyone who attended. The teachers expressed their appreciation and gratitude towards the students for organizing such a wonderful celebration, and the students felt a sense of accomplishment in having organized an event that brought joy and happiness to their teachers. Overall, it was a memorable day for everyone involved and highlighted the importance of appreciating and valuing our teachers.

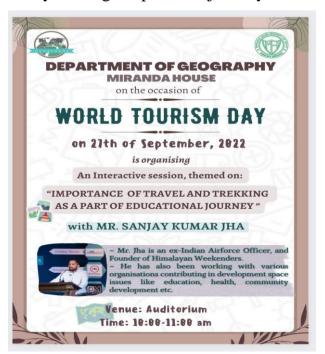
## 2 World Tourism Day

On September 21, 2022, the Department of Geography at Miranda House, University of Delhi, organized an interactive session on the theme "Importance of Travel and Trekking as a Part of Educational Journey" to celebrate World Tourism Day. The event was held in the auditorium of Miranda House from 10:00 am to 11:00 am and was attended by students, faculty members, and other interested individuals.

The session was led by **Mr. Sanjay Kumar Jha**, an ex-Indian Airforce officer and Founder of Himalayan Weekenders. Mr. Jha began the session by sharing his personal journey of how

he transitioned from being an Airforce Officer to starting his own adventure travel company. He also highlighted how travel and trekking could help individuals gain a broader perspective on life, learn about different cultures and ways of living, and help in developing a sense of selfawareness and self-discovery.

Mr. Jha also talked about the various challenges and opportunities that come along while trekking and adventure traveling, such as understanding





the local geography, climate, and environmental conditions, and how to deal with them in a responsible and sustainable way. He emphasized the importance of promoting sustainable tourism practices and minimizing the impact on the local environment and communities. The interactive session involved a Q&A round where the attendees asked various questions to Mr. Jha, ranging from safety concerns while trekking to the impact of tourism on local communities.

The event was well-attended and appreciated by all those who attended it. The attendees were inspired by Mr. Jha's personal journey and his passion for adventure travel and trekking. The session provided valuable insights on how travel and trekking can help in developing a holistic understanding of the world and its people, and the importance of responsible and sustainable tourism practices.

In conclusion, the interactive session on the importance of travel and trekking as a part of the educational journey was an informative and inspiring event. The event served as a great platform for students and other attendees to gain valuable insights and perspectives from an experienced adventurer like Mr. Jha. The Department of Geography at Miranda House must be commended for organizing such an insightful and thought-provoking event.

## 3 Tide Turner and Single Use Plastic

The Department of Geography at Miranda House, in collaboration with MCIA and UNEP's Tide-Turner Challenge, organized a Single Use Plastic Awareness Campaign to create a plastic-free world on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022. The campaign aimed to raise awareness about the negative impact of single-use plastic on the environment and to encourage people to pledge to reduce their use of plastic.



Participants were invited to show their support for the campaign by making a handprint pledge, symbolizing their commitment to reducing their use of plastic. The campaign slogan, "Let's strain together to remove the plastic stain," urged people to act responsibly and think sustainably.

The Little Book of Green Nudges (LBGN)
Team Miranda played a significant role in
organizing the campaign, which was a
success. The campaign helped to raise
awareness about the harmful effects of



single-use plastic and encouraged participants to make a positive change by reducing their use of plastic in their daily lives.

Overall, the Single Use Plastic Awareness Campaign was an excellent initiative that brought together students, staff, and the community to raise awareness about the importance of reducing single-use plastic and working towards a more sustainable future.

#### 4 Freshers 2022

The Department of Geography at Miranda House, University of Delhi organized a Fresher's party on January 13, 2023. The theme for the party was "Vintage". The event saw an attendance of around 70 freshers.

The venue for the party was the Geography Department at Miranda House. The party started



in the evening and was filled with fun and excitement. The department decorated the venue with vintage-themed props and created a warm and welcoming atmosphere for the new students.

The event began with an ice-breaking session, where the senior students introduced themselves and interacted with the freshers. The seniors also organized games and activities to help the freshers get to know each other and have fun.

The highlight of the party was the dance

Theme: Vintage
Date: I3 Jan, 2023
Venue: Geography Department

We eagerly await your presence!
With Love
Your Seniors;)

performance by the seniors, which was followed by a dance floor that remained open for the freshers to show off their moves.

The fresher's party was a great success, and the Department of Geography at Miranda House successfully created an inclusive and welcoming atmosphere for the new students. Overall, the event was a great way to kickstart the new academic year and build new connections and friendships.

# 5 Magazine Release: GEOGRAPHICA' 23

The Department of Geography at Miranda House recently hosted a panel discussion on "The City Space: Defence-Defiance-Diplomacy." The event was held in the auditorium of Miranda House on April 3 2023, and was attended by many students, faculty, and guests. The



discussion was accompanied by the release of the department's annual magazine, GEOGRAPHICA'23.

The panel comprised two eminent academics from Miranda House: Dr. Namrata Singh, an associate professor in the Department of Political Science, and Dr. Monika Vij, an associate professor in the Department of Geography. The discussion began with a brief introduction by Dr. Vij, who highlighted the importance of the theme and the relevance of the topic in today's world. She stressed the need for a better understanding of the dynamics between defence and defiance in urban spaces and the role that diplomacy plays in mitigating conflicts.

Dr. Singh then took over, and delved deeper into the subject. She began by defining the terms "defence" and "defiance," and their relevance in the context of urban spaces. She explained that cities are often the sites of conflict, and that the control of urban space is a crucial component of defence and security. At the same time, urban spaces are also arenas for defiance, resistance, and dissent and are, therefore critical spaces for democratic expression. Dr. Singh then discussed the role that diplomacy plays in managing conflicts in urban spaces. She emphasized the importance of dialogue and negotiation, and argued that diplomacy can be a powerful tool in reducing tensions and promoting peaceful coexistence in cities. She cited examples from around the world, where urban diplomacy has been used successfully to resolve conflicts and build bridges between communities.

The panel then opened up for questions, and the audience was quick to engage with the speakers. Questions ranged from the practical, such as how urban diplomacy can be implemented in practice, to the theoretical, such as the relationship between urban space and power. The discussion was lively and thought-provoking, and reflected the interest and engagement of the students and faculty.

Overall, the panel discussion was a resounding success, and a fitting culmination to the release of the department's annual magazine. The theme of the discussion was relevant,



timely, and thought-provoking, and the panelists brought their expertise and experience to bear on the subject. The event was a testament to the academic excellence and intellectual curiosity of Miranda House, and to the importance of interdisciplinary dialogue and collaboration in today's complex world.

## 6 World Environment Day celebration

The Geography Department, Miranda House in collaboration with the Disaster Preparedness Team celebrated the World Environment Day on June 5, 2023 with zeal and enthusiasm. The event commenced with an informative and engaging lecture by Dr Lopamudra Das Roy, Founder and President Breast Cancer Hub, on the topic, 'Decoding Breast Cancer: Challenges and Sustainable Solutions.' It was a great learning experience for all the students, who were made aware by Dr Roy about Breast Cancer and ways to prevent its growth at the initial stage. Dr Roy was felicitated by Dr Rakhi Parijat, Teacher-in-Charge of Geography Department and Convener, Disaster Preparedness Team. A beautiful painting was presented to Dr Roy symbolising the importance of environment conservation. Ms Santhwana, President Disaster Preparedness Team informed the audience about the endeavours of the Disaster Preparedness Team, which won accolades from Dr Roy.

Further, a Photography Competition was organised on the theme, 'Health and Environment', wherein the participants clicked snaps which resonated with the theme and explained the thought behind the image captured. The best pictures were rewarded with a certificate. Through the competition the participants saw the environment through the lens of importance of nature and the human inflicted impact on it. An interesting and informative quiz was also conducted based on the theme. The students thoroughly enjoyed participating in it and were acquainted with many fascinating Environment and health related facts; rewarding the winners by gifts and certificates. The Vote of Thanks was delivered by Dr Ankita Medhi. The event turned out to be a huge success and became a medium of awareness for all participants.