



Miranda House

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Society Annual Report

Society Activities

Society: MH *Vatavaran*

Year: 2016-17

Student Office Bearers:

	Name	Course	Year
President	Divya Bhatt	BSc(H) Chemistry	3
Vice President	Ayushi Pandey	BSc(H) Chemistry	3
General Secretary	Nishtha Chaudhary	BSc(H) Chemistry	2
Joint Secretary	Vrinda Beria	BSc(H) Chemistry	2

Staff Advisors:

Name	Department
Dr Bani Roy, Convener	Chemistry
Dr Amrita T Sheikh	Chemistry
Dr Saloni Bahri	Botany
Dr Jyoti Arora	Zoology
Dr Monika Arora	Mathematics

Part A.1

Events/Seminars/conferences/workshops/Extension Activities organized:

The activities of MH *Vatavaran* started even before the beginning of the academic session in 2016-17. Dr. Shyamala Mani, Professor, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), New Delhi brought teams of senior officials from Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of Class I cities who were attending workshops under *Swachh Bharat Mission* at NIUA for Exposure Visits to the Miranda House Recycling Unit as an example of Best Practice. These visits took place on 21 June, 5 July and 20 July 2016. The municipal officials from different parts of India were impressed by the work being done on recycling in Miranda House.

The new academic session started off with an orientation programme for freshers and other aspiring members on 8 August 2016. The freshers were briefed on the agenda and activities of MH *Vatavaran* and they were asked for their views on how to make the Society more effective. It was a good interactive session involving many freshers, seniors and faculty advisers. To save paper, an online application procedure was followed this year and 100 students enrolled as MH *Vatavaran* members. The first competitive event of the year, held soon after registration, was MH *Vatavaran*



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Freshers' Talent Search consisting of a poster making competition on the theme of *Water and Biodiversity Conservation*. All the First Year members participated in the competition and the First and Second prizes were won by Nikita Upadhaya and Priyanka Ranjan respectively.

Like every year, MH *Vatavaran* organized an anti-litter drive to clean the mess created in the DU campus by discarded pamphlets and posters during the DUSU elections. The drive, which was organised on 7 September 2016, received a lot of appreciation. Around 50 student volunteers and a few faculty advisers participated in the drive. The participants split up into two groups. One group went on to clean the area around the Vishwavidyalaya Metro Station and the other group cleaned the area in and around the MH campus. Some volunteers also joined hands with No Poster Party, an initiative by fellow Mirandians to clean the walls in the campus by scrubbing off the posters glued on during the election campaign.

On 16 September 2016, three students, Priyanka Ranjan, Nishtha and Swati, along with Dr. Poonam from Chemistry Department attended the *Ozone Day* celebrations at Delhi Secretariat. Many school students presented slide shows and performances revolving around the issues of ozone depletion and global warming at this event. The MH *Vatavaran* volunteers who attended the event then discussed the issue with other members to increase awareness and instil a sense of responsibility.

From 5 October to 12 October 2016, celebrating the *Joy of Giving Week*, MH *Vatavaran* promoted collection of clean paper left unused in used notebooks or files to make into small notebooks to be distributed amongst underprivileged children. MH *Vatavaran* volunteers were also motivated to participate in the plastic bottle collection drive by Enactus Miranda House and they contributed significantly.

MH *Vatavaran* members are constantly informed about and motivated to participate in inter college competitions and competitions organized by other Societies within the college. Volunteers Aditi Arora and Swati Jain won 1st Prize (Rs.500) in *Best out of Waste* competition, organized by Department of Botany Miranda House.

On 10 November 2016, Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak (the founder of Sulabh International) delivered the Sanyukta Chaudhri Memorial lecture on the topic *Service to suffering humanity through inventions*. MH *Vatavaran* members attended the talk and interacted with the speaker afterwards. They briefed him about the paper recycling and composting activities being carried out at MH. Mr. Pathak showed keen interest in the recycling efforts undertaken at Miranda House.

Stalls for the sale of MH paper plant products and packaged compost are put up by MH *Vatavaran* volunteers at various college events including Sanyukta Chaudhri Memorial lecture, Diwali Mela, Alumnae Dinner etc. The products always earn appreciation and a good amount is also sold.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India, through Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA), has launched a month-long campaign called SAKSHAM (*Sanrakshan Kshamta Mahotsav*) from 16 January to 15 February 2017. Under this initiative, a few activities were undertaken by MH *Vatavaran*. On 6 February 2017, 3 students participated in Cyclathon at India Gate. They pledged to adopt eco-friendly habits to make Delhi greener and healthier. They promoted this message by cycling around India Gate and Connaught Place. On 7 February 2017, MH *Vatavaran* organized a talk on *Fuel Conservation and Eco-friendly Driving Habits*, delivered by Mr Siddharth Saran from PCRA in the workshop entitled Green Chemistry and Environment conducted by the Department of Chemistry, Miranda House. MH *Vatavaran* members also attended the other lecture sessions during the two-day workshop and learnt about sustainable plastic recycling, need for greener methods in the Chemistry laboratory etc.



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On 9 February 2017, a walk for creating awareness about conservation of fuel, gas and petroleum products was organized with the help of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited. The walk originated from HP petrol pump, Khyber Pass and terminated at Miranda House. Volunteers carrying placards interacted with people at the metro station and at red lights and urged them to adopt eco-friendly driving habits. A message to adopt car pool, switching off of car engines at red light and greater use of public transport was conveyed.

Five MH *Vatavaran* members, Sukriti, Ojasvi, Nishtha, Vrinda and Rimjhim, are members of the student researchers' team in the Star Innovation Project entitled *3R: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle* and are enthusiastically working towards it. They participated in a national conference held at Sri Venkateswara College on 19 and 20 January 2017 with a poster presentation. Kanika and Stanzin interned as *Climate Counsellors* in the *Green Revolution* programme supported by the UN where they learnt about recycled pencils. Kanika also attended a meeting of all the Environment Societies of DU at Shaheed Bhagat Singh College. Dr. Bani Roy, Convener, MH *Vatavaran* attended the *Round Table Discussion Remodelling Global Cooperation to Address Global Challenges* organized by TERI University on 27 January 2017.

Student volunteers of MH *Vatavaran* are encouraged to contribute at least 2 hours a week to paper plant activities at Miranda House. The members have responded very enthusiastically and have been participating actively in the work at the MH Paper Recycling Plant in their free time. MH *Vatavaran* also organized competitive events during the annual fest Tempest and received a good response from other colleges, as has been the custom in previous years.

