



Miranda House

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Society Annual Report

Society Activities

Society: MH *Vatavaran*

Year: 2021-22

Student Office Bearers:

	Name	Course	Year
President	Komal	B.Sc. (H) Chemistry	III
Vice President	Ishita Sukhija	B.Sc. (H) Life Sciences	II
General Secretary	Gurnoor Kaur	B.Sc. (H) Physics	II
Joint Secretary	Aarti Mahato	B.A (H)Sociology	II

Staff Advisors:

Name	Department
Dr Rekha Kumari, Convenor	Zoology
Dr Amrita Tripathi Sheikh	Chemistry
Dr Saloni Bahri	Botany
Dr Sujata Sengupta	Chemistry
Dr Poonam	Chemistry
Dr Somdutta Sinha Roy	Botany
Dr Deepali	Botany
Dr Jyoti Arora	Zoology



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Dr Simran Jit	Zoology
Dr Sumana	Physics

Part A.1

Events/Seminars/conferences/workshops/Extension Activities organized

The session 2021-22 of MH *Vatavaran* was a unique one, ascribable to the blend of activities in both physical and virtual modes. The session commenced in July with the organization of Poster Making (Handmade/Digital) and Essay Writing Competitions on Noise Pollution, which saw an active participation with 52 entries of Poster and 15 entries of Essay. Under the category of Handmade Posters, Satabdi Debadulari and Divya Kataria jointly won the first position; Vaishnavi secured the second position; Priyanka and Vanshika jointly bagged the third position; Prateeksha Asati was awarded the Special Mention. Under the category of Digital Posters, the first, second and third positions went to Khushi Soni, Priyanka and Diya Vinod Kumar, respectively and Aditi Sharma received the Special Mention. The winners of the Essay Writing Competition were: Ishita Sukhija, Harsha, Astha Asati and Kritika Gaur on the first, second, third and fourth spot, respectively. Shougaijam Bidyalyuxmi Devi and Sapna Maurya earned the Special Mention. In August, the society organised ‘*Tie a rakhi, Nurture Nature*’ event on the occasion of *Rakshabandhan* in which the volunteers vowed to protect plants by tying handmade, eco-friendly *rakhis* to them. This event received an active participation with 63 entries and a compilation of the entries was published on the MH *Vatavaran* blog. MH *Vatavaran* also launched two teams: Creative Team (with Noor Mankotia and Ishita Sukhija as the Team Heads) and Research & Editorial Team (with Shreya Pandey and Sindhu Khanna as the Team Heads). The Creative Team started with an Environment Protection Series and published its first post on the theme of ocean plastic on the social media handles of the society. The Research & Editorial Team prepared informative blogs to be published on the MH *Vatavaran* blog (Link to the blog: <https://mhvatavaran.wixsite.com/enviromentsociety>). A quiz based on each informative blog was conducted via the ‘Quizizz’ application. The blogs published in the month of August were: Importance of Mangrove Ecosystem; Zero Waste and Plastic-free Living; World Water Week.

On 02 September 2021, MH *Vatavaran* conducted a webinar on ‘The Importance of Mangroves to Environment and People: A Call to Action’ with Dr. Malay Pramanik, Assistant Professor, Jamsetji Tata School of Disaster Studies as the speaker. A report of the webinar was published on the blog. On 06 September 2021, the Garden Committee of Miranda House along with MH *Vatavaran*, carried out a plantation drive in celebration of ‘*Poshan Week*’ (01-07 September 2021) by planting various saplings in and around the Miranda House campus. To celebrate *Himalaya Diwas* on 09 September 2021, MH *Vatavaran* invited original contributions in the form of poems, essays, stories, personal experiences, handmade pieces of art from the students and faculty members of Miranda House Community for its blog on ‘Celebrating Himalayas’. Later, the entries were compiled and the blog was published. To mark the occasion of ‘International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer’ on 16 September 2021, MH *Vatavaran* organised a Slogan Writing-cum-Poster Making Competition on the theme of ‘Montreal Protocol:



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Keeping us, our Food and Vaccines Cool’ and received 20 entries amongst which Aayushi Sahay, Vaishnavi and Gitanjali Sharma bagged the first, second and third positions, respectively. MH *Vatavaran* volunteers and faculty members also attended a webinar on the ‘Importance of Ozone Layer’, conducted by Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) and a report of the webinar was published on the blog. Informative blogs published in September were: medicinal plants you can keep in your garden; nutrition programmes in India; celebrating festivals in an eco-friendly way. Posts in continuation with the Environment Protection Series, posted in September were: Tokyo Olympics 2021- A Sustainable Approach; celebrating *Ganesh Chaturthi* in an eco-friendly way.

MH *Vatavaran* collaborated with WWF India for the third consecutive year for ‘Project ECHO’ (Environment Conservation Heroes). The four membered team selected to represent Miranda House comprised Shreya Pandey, Omja Tiwari, Manisha Kumari and Malavika. The team worked under the guidance of the teacher convener of ECHO, Dr. Sujata Sengupta, Department of Chemistry, Miranda House. The theme for the session 2021-22 was "Transforming Businesses for a Greener Future". Under this project, the team came up with "Best from Waste - A Miranda House Initiative" with the idea of upcycling discarded clothes into useful products with the dual objective of conserving the environment and supporting underprivileged women by providing them with employment opportunities as tailors. It also aimed at providing eco-friendly products to the general public at affordable prices. MH *Vatavaran* also released a blog on the same to provide insights into the project.

In celebration of Wildlife Week (02-08 October 2021), MH *Vatavaran* organised a Photography Contest which received 29 entries; Priyanka Mandal, Khushi Soni and Nisha Verma bagged the first, second and third positions, respectively. Three MH *Vatavaran* members participated in ‘One Day Nest Making Workshop’ on 08 October 2021 conducted by ‘The Nest Man of India’, Mr. Rakesh Khatri. To commemorate the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, MH *Vatavaran* published an informative blog titled ‘Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)’ and also screened a documentary titled ‘Naked Science- Tsunami Warning’ on 26 October 2021, which was followed by a discussion. Four MH *Vatavaran* volunteers- Harsha, Drishti Shekhar, Khushi and Suman- went to the college on 27 October 2021 for ‘Plastic Bottle Revival Project 2.0’, wherein they revived the wilted plants and gave a fresh look to the Vertical Plastic Bottle Garden of our college. In a webinar organised by the Political Science Department of Miranda House and Tula, The Consumer Club of Miranda House in celebration of Vigilance Awareness Week (26 October – 01 November 2021) with Mr. Asim Arun, IPS as the Chief Guest, Dr. Sujata Sengupta, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry and Faculty Advisor, MH *Vatavaran*, gave a presentation on TRAFFIC- Protecting Natural Biodiversity. MH *Vatavaran* also released its blog titled ‘Vigilance for a Safe Environment’ during the webinar. The posts of Environment Protection Series published in October were: Invasive Species; Psychologist Thoughts about Eco-anxiety; World Food Day (16 October 2021); Eco-Personality test.

On 01 November 2021, MH *Vatavaran* organised an informative and interactive session with Dr. Merwyn Fernandes, Coordinator, TRAFFIC WWF India to commemorate Vigilance Awareness Week. In celebration of Diwali, MH *Vatavaran* organised an eco-friendly Rangoli Making Competition on the theme: ‘Say No to Fire-crackers’. Fourteen entries were received for the same; the first prize went to Preeti Raj, Shrishti secured the second position, Reena and Anushka Singh jointly won the third position. The creative team members and the MH *Vatavaran* Union members also posted videos on ways to celebrate ‘Eco-friendly Diwali’. MH *Vatavaran* members participated in a 5 days training workshop on “Understanding the Vulnerability and



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Risk Associated with Urban Areas” conducted by the National Institute of Disaster Management. On 25 November 2021, MH *Vatavaran* conducted an in-house webinar on Noise Pollution wherein Dr. Somdutta Sinha Roy, Faculty Advisor of MH *Vatavaran* from Department of Botany enlightened the audience on the issue through a presentation. MH *Vatavaran*’s blog on Noise Pollution was also released during the webinar. A report of this webinar was published on the blog. On 26 November 2021, MH *Vatavaran* held the orientation ceremony for the batch of 2021 wherein they were briefed about the various Green Initiatives at Miranda House, working of the society and its activities. On 29 November 2021, six MH *Vatavaran* members went to the college to set up bins and posters of energy conservation across the college campus. The informative blogs released in this month were: Air Pollution- Effects, Causes and Control; Noise Pollution; Trash is Not the Right Place, Know your E-waste.

In December, MH *Vatavaran* members engaged themselves in *Paryavaran Saathi* Chatbot under the campaign ‘*Yudh, Pradushan ke Virudh*’, launched by Government of N.C.T of Delhi, for increasing the awareness and fighting against Air Pollution. Shivani, an MH *Vatavaran* volunteer, received a certificate for competition of the tasks as a part of the #*YoungWarrior* movement under this campaign. MH *Vatavaran* members observed National Energy Conservation Day on 14 December 2021 by turning off lights for 10 minutes at 9:00 PM. Three MH *Vatavaran* volunteers- Pushpanjali Kumari, Tejika Choudhary and Yoshita Bhardwaj- qualified for the state level round of a speech competition on the topic “Air Pollution and its Mitigation”, organised by the National Environment Youth Parliament 2022, under the aegis of Ministry of Education. Climate Change is Real- For all of us, Climate Change in India and Sustainable Fashion- Let’s Make it our Fashion Statement were the informative blogs published in the month of December.

In January, MH *Vatavaran* participated in the two phases of ‘*Swachhta Action Plan*’ organised by Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education, Ministry of Education, and Government of India. In the first phase, MH *Vatavaran* members participated in the individual cleanliness drive- ‘*Gandhi Chhadi*’ event, under which 11 volunteers prepared *Gandhi Chhadi* at their homes and collected waste using it. The second phase involved a plantation drive ‘Each One Plant One’ which was joined by 58 MH *Vatavaran* volunteers, under which they planted/adopted trees and pledged to take their proper care. Owing to the success of this plantation drive, a similar plantation drive was launched for the entire Miranda House Community, which was joined by its students, faculty and staff members across all departments. MH *Vatavaran* organised a ‘Presentation-cum-Video making Competition’ on the theme of ‘Air Pollution’ for the Freshers’ Talent Search Competition, which received 37 entries, amongst which Neha Singh from BA (Hons.) Political Science was declared as the winner and received the title of ‘*Miss Vatavaran*’. Officials from the Ministry of Education visited Miranda House on 31 January 2022. Prior to this visit, MH *Vatavaran*’s souvenir shop was set up in the college with the help of our volunteers and a variety of items including recycled paper products - carry bags, envelopes, folders, air purifier plants and masks were sold. The informative blogs released in the month of January were: Understanding Wildfires; Biomedical Waste Management in India; Conserve the Greenery, Don’t Spoil the Scenery. The social media posts posted in the month of January included: Think outside the plastic bag; Let the Birds Fly too (on the occasion of *Makar Sankranti*); Importance of Plants.

On the occasion of World Wetlands Day, 02 February 2022, MH *Vatavaran* released a blog on "Protect Our Wetlands: A Call to Action", which was followed by a quiz. MH *Vatavaran* also organised an 'Online Comic Strip Making Competition' with the theme of 'Importance of Wetlands', which received a total of 8 entries, amongst which Lenthobibi, Kumari Khushi and Tanya Nagle secured the first, second and third positions,



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respectively. On 12 February 2022, MH *Vatavaran*, in collaboration with National Service Scheme (NSS) Miranda House, organised an online workshop on ‘*Nadi-ko-Jano*’ - a campaign for crowdsourcing data about rivers, launched by Research for Resurgence Foundation (RFRF). The speaker for the workshop was Mr. Mithilesh Kumar Pandey (Department of Sanskrit, University of Delhi) and the technical expert was Dr. Tarun Kumar (Assistant Professor, Department of Physics, Ramjas College). Fifty-six MH *Vatavaran* members participated in this campaign under Institution level participation. On 18 February 2022, MH *Vatavaran* and Synapse, The Zoology Department of Miranda House, jointly organised 'Campus Bird Count' in Miranda House Campus under 'The Great Backyard Bird Count', for the students to experience and appreciate the diversity of birds within the campus, which saw a participation of over 40 students. **Mr. Chandra Bhushan Maurya**, a Delhi-based birder led the students through the event and guided them in identifying birds. This event was also covered by The Times of India (https://m.timesofindia.com/city/delhi/18-species-spotted-on-inaugural-day-of-backyard-bird-count/amp_articleshow/89673244.cms) and a report of the event was published on the MH *Vatavaran* Blog Site. MH *Vatavaran* in collaboration with WWF India, under Project ECHO, organised a virtual session on "Denizens of Ganges" on 28 February 2022. A report of the session was published on MH *Vatavaran* blog. MH *Vatavaran* also posted on the topic “Coral Auction” in the month of February under the Environment Protection Series.

In the month of March, MH *Vatavaran* launched an initiative of “Cleaning Our College Campus” under the guidance of two Faculty Advisors of MH *Vatavaran*- Dr. Saba Zulfi and Dr. Sumana. Under this initiative, the college campus was divided into 10 regions. The cleanliness and waste segregation in each region was looked after by 2 volunteers of MH *Vatavaran*, who were changed periodically. On 07 March 2022, MH *Vatavaran* in collaboration with WWF India, under Project ECHO, organised a virtual session on "Big Cats". On 07 March 2022, MH *Vatavaran* also organised “MH Green Initiatives Tour” for the students of Miranda House. The tour was planned to educate the students about the various initiatives of the college to promote sustainability. These initiatives included Compost Plant, Paper Recycling Plant, Herbal Garden, Rainwater Harvesting System, Soil Less Plantation, Hydroponic System, Vertical Plastic Bottle Garden and Solar Plant. The tour was joined by 44 students. A report of the tour was published on MH *Vatavaran* blog. Team ECHO Miranda House and WWF India in collaboration with MH *Vatavaran*, organised an 'Old Clothes Collection Drive', which was a part of “Best from Waste: A Miranda House Initiative” (Project ECHO, WWF India). The Drive was organised from 21 March 2022 – 25 March 2022. On the occasion of World Water Day, 22 March 2022, MH *Vatavaran* organised a "Slogan Writing Competition" on the theme - Groundwater Depletion and Contamination. The competition received 20 entries, amongst which Aarti, Muskan and Priya Singh won the first, second and third positions. MH *Vatavaran* members also attended a webinar conducted by the Wetland Authority of Delhi on this occasion of World Water Day, which included a panel discussion by four groundwater experts to make students aware about the importance of groundwater. The discussion was followed by a live online quiz on ‘Birds and Water’, which was won by an MH *Vatavaran* volunteer, Ananya Jain. On the occasion of Earth Hour, on 26 March 2022, MH *Vatavaran*, in collaboration with WWF ECHO Miranda House, organised a campaign "Disconnect to Connect". Under this campaign, the participants switched off lights and possible electrical appliances during the Earth Hour, i.e., 8:30 PM – 9:30 PM and connected to mother earth by practising skygazing and night photography. The informative blogs published in the month of March were: Let's Know Biodegradable Plastics; Mining, at a Deeper Level. On 04 April 2022, MH *Vatavaran* and Enactus, Miranda House hosted CMS *Vatavaran*, Indian Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MoSDE) and GIZ for "Film Screening & Discussion" under the



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project Economic Empowerment of Women Entrepreneurs & Start-ups by Women (Project Her&Now). On the occasion of the college fest "Tempest", MH *Vatavaran* organised an online 'EnviroQuiz' Competition on 10 April 2022. A documentary named "Our Earth" was screened, after which a quiz, based on the documentary, was conducted via mentimeter software. The first, second and third positions were bagged by Kritika Gaur, Ekta and Preeti, respectively. MH *Vatavaran* also set up its stall during Tempest on 12 and 13 April 2022 to sell the products of the Paper Recycling Plant of the college and encouraged everyone to switch to eco-friendly products. A sale of more than Rs. 2000/- was made in these two days. On 20 April 2022, MH *Vatavaran* conducted online elections to elect the Office Bearers for the session 2022-23 after conducting a manifesto reading session. The voting was done via a Google Form, in which the MH *Vatavaran* members were required to enter their Voting IDs as a measure for ensuring fairness. The newly elected MH *Vatavaran* union comprise: Ishita Sukhija, BSc Life Sciences 3rd year as President, Gurnoor Kaur, BSc (Hons.) Physics 3rd year as Vice-President, Kanupriya, BA (Hons.) Economics 2nd year as General Secretary and Aarti Mahato, BA (Hons.) Sociology 2nd year as Joint Secretary. MH *Vatavaran* organised "Hackathon"- a Video Making Event on the occasion of Earth Day on 22 April 2022. The participants identified an environmental problem around them and suggested a possible solution to it in a video format, which received 6 entries in all. This event of MH *Vatavaran* was also covered by Hindustan Times (<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/delhi-news/earthday-2022-city-youngsters-vow-to-go-green-101650618618809.html>). MH *Vatavaran* also published a blog on 'Miyawaki Method: is it a Suitable Approach to Afforest?' in the month of April.

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) Skill Hub Course was launched at Miranda House with the objective of imparting and inculcating skills among underprivileged and school drop-out women between the age-group of 15-40 years and make them *atmanirbhar* (self-reliant). Arrangements were made at Miranda House to impart two skill courses under this initiative: a 3 months course on "Green Paper Bag Making", which received an enrolment of 74 students; and a 6 months course on "Artificial Intelligence", which saw an enrolment of 17 students.

In the month of May, MH *Vatavaran* organised a "Slogan Writing Competition" on the occasion of International Day for Biological Diversity (22 May 2022). The theme for the competition was 'Regaining the Rich Biological Diversity'. It received a total of 8 entries and saw a coverage by Hindustan Times (<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/delhi-news/international-day-for-biological-diversity-students-citizen-groups-join-hands-for-conservation-101653203535038.html>). MH *Vatavaran* members also attended a webinar organised by The Department of Environment, on the occasion of International Day for Biological Diversity that included a panel discussion of two fellows, Wetland *mitras*, to spread awareness about the importance of biodiversity. It was followed by a live-online quiz related to 'Biodiversity and Sustainable Development'.

In the month of June, MH *Vatavaran* members participated in the Plantation Drive- "Selfie with Plant", organised by Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education and the Ministry of Education, Government of India, on the occasion of World Environment Day (05 June 2022). Under this event, the participants planted a tree and took a selfie with it. This event received an active participation with 176 entries. To mark the occasion of World Environment Day, MH *Vatavaran* launched an "Anti-Litter Drive" under the theme of "Only One Earth" in which the volunteers cleaned their surroundings and spread the message of cleanliness. On 05 June 2022, MH *Vatavaran* released the second edition of its Annual Journal-



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MADHUBAN 2021-22, a record of the activities of MH *Vatavaran* during the session 2021-22. The events of MH *Vatavaran* organised on the occasion of World Environment Day received the coverage by Hindustan Times (<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/delhi-news/world-environment-day-du-s-eco-clubs-to-lead-the-way-one-initiative-at-a-time-101654410520130-amp.html>).

The MH *Vatavaran* session 2021-22 witnessed a host of activities throughout the year, with many of them being covered by the leading dailies of our country, which per se is a testimony to the rising footprint of MH *Vatavaran* in the field of advocating Environmental Activism. MH *Vatavaran* has always stood true to its motto- “we welcome all shades, as long as they’re of Green!”.