

7.3 Institutional Distinctiveness

1. "Sustainable Campus" certificate from MGNCRE



2. "Zero Waste Institute"- Deputy Commissioner of the Central Zone Municipal Corporation of Delhi

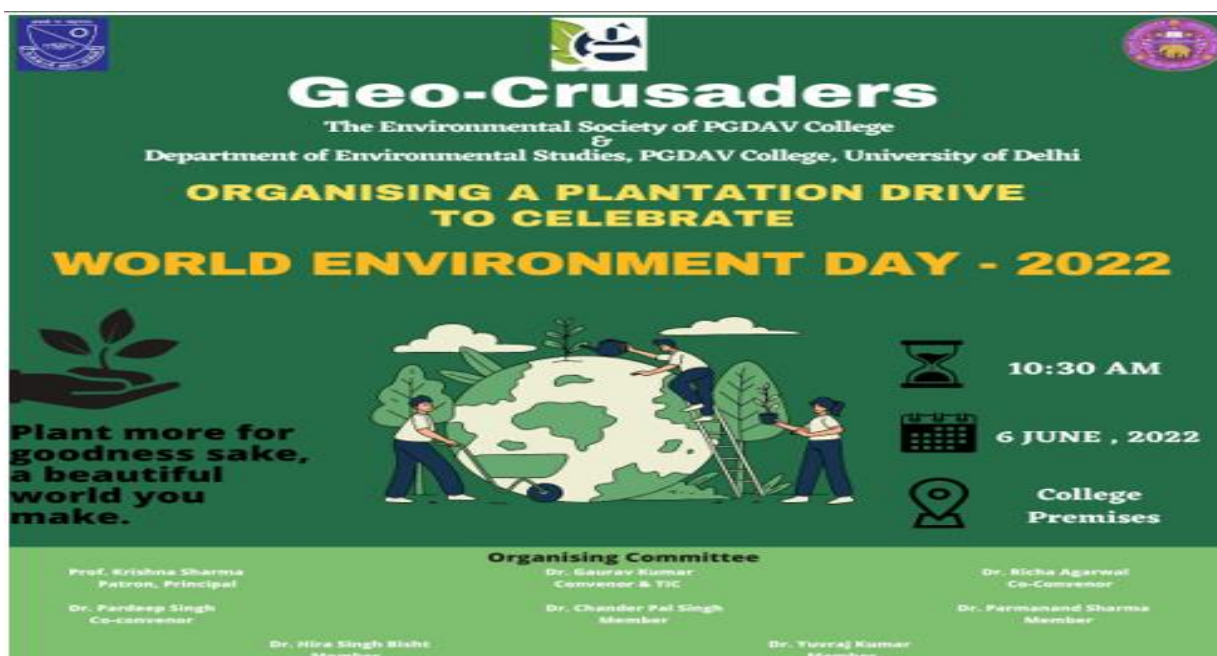


GEO-CRUSADERS

Geo-Crusaders - The Environmental Society of PGDAV (M) College is a team of dedicated students and faculties who work towards creating an intellectual and inclusive space for discussions around national and international environmental issues and events. The society organises many events and activities to promote an environment of inquisitiveness and to create awareness about recent environmental issues.

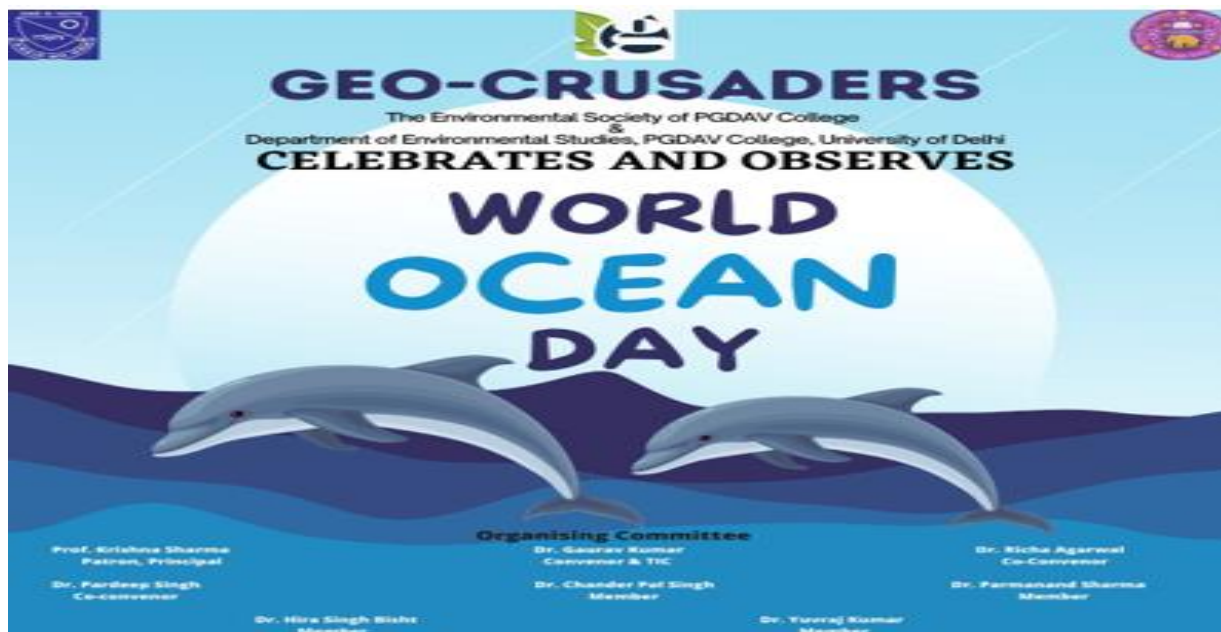
Following are the activities that we conducted this year:

International Webinar on World Environment Day



The Department of Environmental Studies and Geo-crusaders society has organised an international seminar (virtual mode) on June 5, 2022 to celebrate World Environment Day with the objective to educate students of the environmental crisis and e-waste that harms our mother Earth. The seminar was graced by the speaker Dr. Anwasha Borthakur, Research Fellow at KU Leuven, Belgium; Dr. Gaurav Kumar, Convenor; Dr. Richa Agarwal and Dr Pardeep Singh, Co-Convenor. Dr. Anwasha Borthakur discussed the issue of climate change and its impact on the world. She raised the issue of how adversely e-waste could impact on our health and nature and also laid down the possible solutions for combating this contingency that engulfs our earth. Her presentation through various slides was interactive and engaging for the participants. The webinar was attended by hundred participants who gave a positive response and raised their queries on the issues of e-waste.

World Ocean Day



On June 8, 2022 we celebrated World Ocean Day to make people aware of the importance of taking care of the oceans and marine wildlife.

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

On June 17, 2022 Team GeoCrusaders observed World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought to popularise the importance of taking care of the deserts and preventing droughts.

Say No to Plastic

On July 3rd, 2022 Team GeoCrusaders observed the Say No to Plastic event to spread the awareness of banning the usage of plastic and the degradation that comes along with excessive plastic use.

Van Mahotsav

Van Mahotsav is an annual one-week tree-planting festival in India which is celebrated in the first week of July. Team GeoCrusaders also celebrated Van Mahotsav week from 1st July to 7th July with multiple social media posts and informational sessions.

Visit to the Climate Justice Library

On 14 July, 2022 the Geo-Crusader Society visited the Climate Justice Library located at the South Extension, New Delhi. The aim of this visit was to discover the undiscovered environmental resources for the general public. The library has a comfortable ambience along with around three hundred and fifty myriad environmental books for research purposes. The library contains a heterogenous content of books. Books from ICEL (International Council of Environmental Law) can also be found here which usually are not available to the public. Thus, making climate education accessible to all.



International Tiger Day

Global Tiger Day is celebrated every year on July 29th as a way to raise awareness about this magnificent but endangered big cat. The day was founded in 2010 when the 13 tiger range

countries came together to create Tx2 – the global goal to double the number of wild tigers by the year 2022. Team Geo-Crusaders observed and celebrated the event in full spirits.

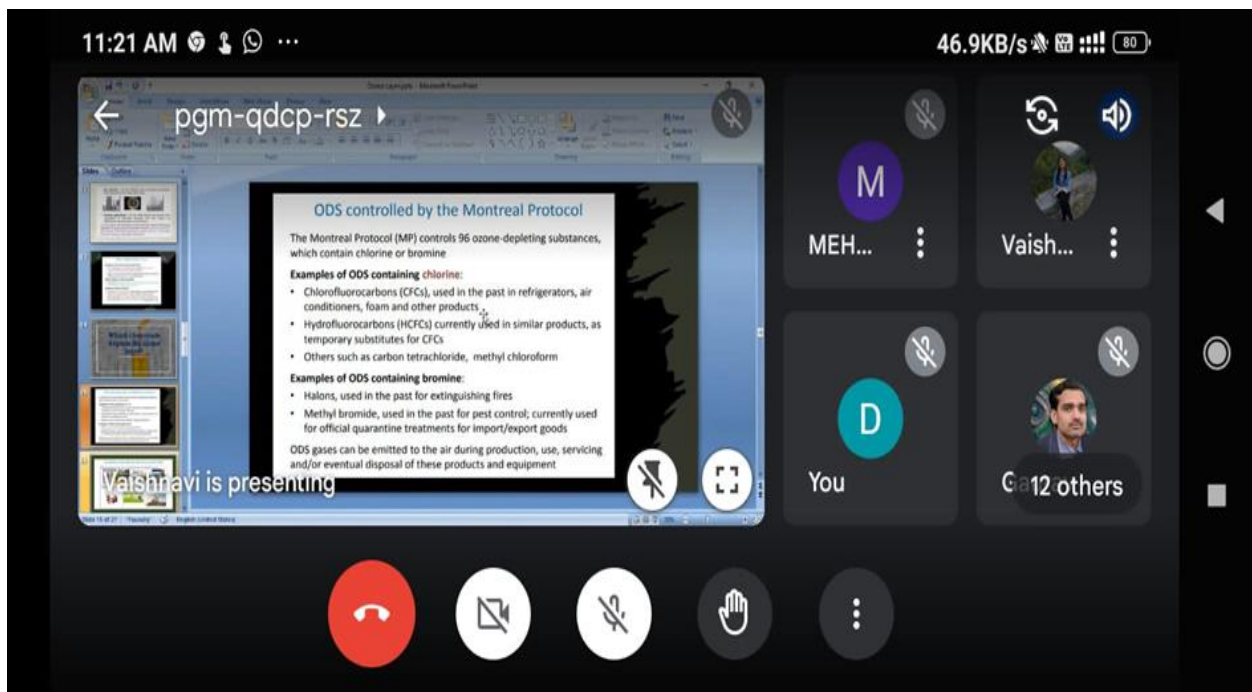
International Mangrove Day

World Mangrove Day is celebrated on 26th July every year. It is officially referred to as the International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem. Team Geo-Crusaders had the opportunity to observe the event via online campaigns.

World Elephant Day

The day is observed with the aim to reach out to people and educate them on the plight of elephants. World Elephant Day observed on August 12 is one way of recognizing the importance of elephants.

International Day for Preservation of the Ozone Layer



On September 16, we observed International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer. The event was organized as a one-day international seminar with Vaishnavi Verma, a Graduate Teaching Assistant at the University of Kansas. The event saw the participation of over fifty students and academicians. Ms. Verma talked about the importance of the ozone and ways for its preservation.

One-day Workshop on ‘Extraction and Restoration of Ficus Tree Saplings’



On 22nd November the Geo-Crusader society organized a one-day workshop on ‘Extraction and Restoration of Ficus Tree Saplings’ to celebrate the centenary year of University of Delhi. The workshop was held on the college campus. The event was conducted under the guidance of Mr. Vineet Vohra, the resource person from Give Me Tree Trust. It is also administered by our Convener, Professor Gaurav Kumar and Co-Convenor, Professor Richa Agarwal. The objective of the event was to educate students to perform necessary activities for the plantation of Ficus saplings and also to make them aware of the importance of environmental activities. Students took part in the extraction of the saplings around the corners of the college campus enthusiastically. They were well-guided by the resource person on the proper method of extraction of such saplings by their roots. The students were informed about the use of aloe vera in the growth of saplings and were shown the mixing process as well. The workshop helped in gaining the knowledge for the proper extraction and plantation of saplings so that students can use this experience in the future for the proper plantation.



World Zebra Day

On January 31 people around the world celebrate International Zebra Day. The purpose of the day is to spread knowledge about how you can support the conservation of this animal.

World Wetlands Day



On February 2, 2023 the Environmental Society of PGDAV College (M) organized an in-house event on World Wetlands Day conducted by the Convener of the Society Dr Gaurav Kumar. The event started with a lamp-lighting ceremony and *Saraswati Vandana*. Dr. Gaurav Kumar began the seminar on the theme 'Our Consumption Is More than Recharge'. Then he proceeded further by introducing the students to topics related to World Wetlands Day. He explained wetlands as a distinct ecosystem that is flooded or saturated by water, either permanently or seasonally. He also made the students aware of the Ramsar Convention named after Ramsar, a city in Iran. The Ramsar Convention, an International Treaty signed on 2nd February, 1971, provides a framework for the conservation and use of wetlands and their resources for sustainable development. India has a total number of seventy-five Ramsar sites covering an area of 13,26,677 ha. Tamil Nadu has the maximum number of Ramsar sites (14) followed by Uttar Pradesh(10). Not only this, but he also spelled out the qualifying criteria to be a Ramsar site. Dr. Gaurav Kumar went into the detail of seaweed which is the common name for countless species of marine plants and algae that grow in the ocean as well as in rivers, lakes, and other water

bodies. The theme for this year's World Wetlands Day was 'It's Time for Wetlands Restoration'.

Cleanliness Drive



On February 8, 2023 the Environmental Society of PGDAV College (M) organized a cleanliness drive on the college campus. The drive was conducted under the patronage of the Convener of the society Dr. Gaurav Kumar. The cleanliness drive was a wonderful experience for students as they are the major role players to raise awareness on the issues of cleanliness in one's neighbourhood. The event saw the participation of around twenty-five students. We were overwhelmed with the response and decided to keep working towards the environmental causes in future also.

World Wildlife Day

On March 3, 2023, the Environmental society organized an in-house event on World Wildlife Day. It was conducted by the Convener of the Society, Dr. Gaurav Kumar and our Co-Convenor, Dr. Richa Aggarwal and Dr. Pardeep Singh. Dr Gaurav Kumar began the seminar by making the students aware about wildlife and asked them to join the society since saving the environment is the need of the hour. The theme for this year's World Wildlife Day was 'Partnerships for Wildlife Conservation'. The talk was highly insightful and students learnt about the major different endangered species and also the ways in which governments around the world are trying to maintain their population levels. The event saw the participation of around twenty-five students and the outcome of the event was very satisfying and motivating.

World Water Day

World Water Day is a global United Nations observance day celebrated every year on 22nd March to raise awareness about the value of freshwater and a call for the wise use of freshwater resources. Team Geo-Crusaders celebrated this event with online posts and informational sessions on social media.

International Day of Forests

The International Day of Forests is celebrated to raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests. This year, the theme for 2023 was 'Forests and Health'. The event was headed by Mr Sahil from Give Me Trees Foundation. He spoke on how forest sustainable management and their use of resources are key to combating climate change, and how they contribute to the prosperity and well-being of current and future generations. Forests also play a crucial role in poverty alleviation and in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Despite all these priceless ecological, economic, social and health benefits, forests are endangered by fires, pests, droughts, and unprecedented deforestation.

The team of Geo-Crusaders is also active in its campaigning. Till now it has done two events related to 'Coal Mining' and 'Climate Strikes' for providing awareness to people so they can take action on contingent issues. Currently, we are working on a Cleaner Campaign. We have reached three cities namely, Faridabad, Lucknow and Delhi so that we could mobilise people by making them aware why pollution is harmful to them.

Faculty Advisor:

Convenor & TIC- Dr. Gaurav Kumar

Co-Convenor- Dr Richa Agarwal, Dr. Pradeep Singh

Member- Dr. Chander Pal Singh, Dr. Hira Singh Bisht, and Dr. Parmanand Sharma

Students Core Committee Members:

President:- Mehak Vohra

Vice-President- Sanchita

Secretary- Isha Bhatler