



KAMALA NEHRU COLLEGE

GREEN INITIATIVES

TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Kamala Nehru College has always been committed to the cause of environment. As a group of **environmentally conscious teachers and students**, we have taken it upon ourselves to strive for a sustainable lifestyle, conserving environment in all possible ways.

Over the years, we have undertaken various activities for environment protection, natural resource conservation and increasing awareness about the cause of the earth. A dedicated team of enthusiastic students and teachers working for the **Green Beans Society**, the Environment Club of the College is always there to work for the environment. Further, the Ability Enhancement Compulsory Course on Environmental Sciences taught to all the undergraduates during the first of year of graduation has been able to attract students from all the streams to support the cause.

We aim to create an environmentally aware society by increasing mindfulness about flora and fauna in the surroundings, conservation of natural resources, waste management and prevention of noise pollution. For achieving our goal of a better environment, we undertake different activities involving students. Some of them are mentioned below:

- **Biodiversity:** The College campus is not only green but also consist of huge variety of plants. The students calculated the biodiversity index of the trees on campus. We also have a variety of medicinal herbs. Such a diverse variety of trees

attracts birds to the campus, and this information is displayed on a billboard in the campus.

- **Environmental Calendar:** The members of Green Beans Society, observe various environmental occasions and days like Earth Hour, Earth Day-22nd April, World Environment Day-5th June, International Day of Forests-21st March, International Day for the preservation of Ozone-16th September, World Habitat Day-first Monday of October and many more.
- **Annual Event:** We regularly celebrate annual event “TERRA” (inter college) which facilitates a constructive platform for discussion of environmental ideas. Invited lectures by eminent environmentalists is a regular feature. Various competitions like debate, quiz and poster making are organised to mark the event.
- **Add-On Courses:** We have organised Add-on courses on environment from time-to-time, wherein series of lectures by scientists/environmentalists were conducted to open the environmental paradigm for students.
- **Field trips:** The ADD-ON courses were usually followed by a field-trip for students to get a first-hand feel of the environmental situation on the ground. The Green Beans society also try and take the students to a trip at least once a year.
- **Notice Board:** The students also maintain and regularly update a notice board on contemporary environmental concerns.



- **Plantation Drive:** In association with the Department of Environment, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, plant saplings have been distributed to students and teachers as well as planted in the College.
- **Green Practice:** As a general green practice, we give saplings to College guests instead of cut flowers.
- **Competitions:** Different competitions at the inter and intra college level are regularly organised for students (offline and online) like nature photography, poetry, best-out-of-waste, poster making etc. This really helps increase awareness and promote green consciousness among students towards their surroundings.
- **Pollution Free Deepawali Campaign:** Students regularly organize pollution free Deepawali campaign around the time of festival and also during the NSS Fair held in College.



- **Solar Outdoor Lights:** The College has street lights that are connected to solar panels installed on the rooftop.
- **E-waste Bin:** For proper disposal of electronic waste generated in campus, we have collaborated with CHINTAN, an NGO working on environment friendly disposal of electronic waste and sustainable livelihoods.



- **Waste Management:** For proper waste management and encourage waste segregation at source, two colours (green for organic waste and blue for recyclable waste) bins have been installed at strategic points around the college.
- We have conducted two workshops for students and teachers to make compost from organic waste at home using coco-peat. To reduce the College's carbon footprints, one workshop was also conducted for the students and canteen staff workers to make compost from the organic food waste from canteen.



- **Energy Audit:** A complete energy audit was conducted to find areas where the energy efficiency can be improved.
- **Water Conservation:** The College practices rooftop rainwater harvesting.
- Under a drive to increase the water conservation practices amongst students, a survey on calculation of their water footprint was conducted, highlighting areas where they can conserve water.
- **Green Talk:** The Green Beans Society also releases an annual magazine, *Green Talk* where students across departments contribute articles on contemporary environmental issues.

- **Interactive Sessions:** Interactive sessions are organized to discuss various environmental concerns. On August 8, 2019, members participated in the UN dialogue with Deputy Secretary General Amina J. Mohammed on Sustainable Development Agenda and the need for Climate Action. The event began with Anshul Tewari, the founder of Youth Ki Awaaz speaking on the need to take multiple steps and to create a path not just for ourselves, but for our communities. Only if we follow the maxim of “Think Globally, Act Locally”, a change can be brought across the World. The Deputy Secretary General took this opportunity to interact with the youth of Delhi on approaches to minimize the impact of climate change. She further spoke on the need of inspiring a new age of leaders and change makers. India, with its youthful population, would be a leader for this long-drawn war for humanity.
- In the series of group discussions initiated as a regular practice since 2019, the second discussion was held on 18 September 2019. The theme focused on Unconventional Water Treatment Methods. The participants shared their experiences of water usage and traditional treatment methods used in their villages and rural areas they visited. The brainstorming session generated ideas and small steps to ensure that water is not polluted at home and in our surroundings in general. Members agreed how going back to our roots is the ultimate way to be in symphony with nature.
- The society members participated in the Global Climate Strike on 20th September 2019. ‘Fridays for Future’, Delhi had organised this strike-cum-march from Lodhi Garden Gate no. 1 to the Ministry of Environment. The students protested against the indifference of the governments around the world on the issue of climate change.
- Another group discussion was organised on 23rd October in collaboration with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Council of Global Youth, KNC Chapter. The discussion concentrated on the Goal 7 of the Sustainable Development Goals-"to ensure access to affordable and clean energy for all". A brief presentation on the theme was followed by an interactive session. Deliberations on the role of government and administration, the common masses

in handling this sensitive issue were conducted. The discussion also highlighted the technological and infrastructural impediments in accessing clean energy by the developing world. The diplomacy, politics and economics behind clean energy was discussed thoroughly.

- In February 2020, a Speech Competition was organised by the Society on the topic of “Burning of waste and how to tackle it” on 27th February 2020. The speech competition was marked by strong arguments from students about the impacts it would have on environment. The weekly group discussion series on burning environmental issues like the great Pacific garbage patch, the unconventional water treatment methods, waste as a resource and reuse of plastic wastes etc. were regularly conducted and kept the students engaged.
- The Society observed the World Ozone Day, 16th September, 2020, by having a virtual panel discussion on Google Meet platform which aimed at promoting awareness among the students about the importance of the ozone layer in the stratosphere and the need for its protection by reducing the emission of ozone depleting substances. The student and teacher members of the society participated in it. The World Ozone Day this year was special as it marked the completion of 35 years of Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer wherein there was global initiative for the reduction of emission of ozone depleting substances. Dr. Pratibha Bhalla, teacher convener of the society presided over the panel discussion,