Report of the Activities conducted by Department of Environmental Studies

NATIONAL SPACE DAY CELEBRATION

The 23rd August of every year is celebrated as National Space Day in commemoration of success of the Chandrayan -3 mission which accomplished safe and soft landing of Vikram Lander at Shiv Shakti point and deployment of the Pragyaan rover on the lunar surface on 23rd August 2023. The theme for the current year was 'Touching lives while touching the Moon: India's Space Saga.'

In conjunction with these two activities were organised by the Department of Environmental Studies.

Activity 1- Lecture on the theme 'Touching lives while touching the Moon: India's Space Saga'

Dr. Racheal Chacko, Asst. Professor (EVS) gave a lecture on the topic 'Touching lives while touching the Moon: India's Space Saga' where glimpses of Indias Space history and achievements was shared with the students of B.com and B. C. A. Sem-I students on 22nd August 2024

Activity 2- Space Quiz

An online quiz was conducted for the students of the college on the theme Space Exploration.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING TRIP

The Nature Club and Resource Management Cell For Sustainability association with Department of Commerce and Department of Environmental Studies along with IQAC and GCCI Education Committee organised an experiential learning trip for the semester I & III B. Com. students.

The students visited the Wealth out of Waste (WOOW) plant located at Chicalim village panchayat in Mormugao Taluka of South Goa District. The plant has a biogas plant, a plastic waste management unit (PWMU) complete with a bailing machine, shredder, a material recovery facility (MRF), a sewage treatment plant (STP), a faecal sludge treatment plant (FSTP) and a weighing bridge. The students were explained the process of waste segregation and management adopted at the plant. The trucks bringing the waste is first weighed on the weighing bridge to quantify the waste coming into the plant. Non-biodegradable waste is then separated into different types at the Material Recovery Facility shed and plastic waste is sent to the plastic waste management unit. Plastic that can be used as refuse-derived fuel (RDF) is transported to the cement facility for further processing. The wet waste is transferred to the biogas plant where it is combined with water and deposited into a digester to produce gas that is used to generate electricity. The leftover slurry is processed in the effluent treatment plant (ETP), and the organic manure generated is used as fertilizer. Suction tankers are used

to collect wastewater from various villages, and the waste is treated to create reusable water that is used for gardening at the nearby Joggers Park which will reduce the dependency of potable water supply from the PWD department.

Students had the opportunity to visit the Faber-Castell production process at Corlim Goa. The visit provided insight into the production process of one of the world's leading manufacturers of writing instruments and art supplies. Faber-Castell, a company with over 250 years of heritage, is known for its high-quality products ranging from pencils, pens, and other writing tools to art and craft supplies. The visit was both educational and inspiring, offering a firsthand experience of how the company manages its production process, quality control, and sustainability efforts.

The Faber-Castell India facility is equipped with modern production lines that reflect the company's commitment to innovation and precision in manufacturing. The plant produces a wide range of products, including pencils, erasers, and coloured markers, both for domestic consumption and export. The company's team welcomed the students and gave a brief introduction to Faber-Castell's history and values. Sustainability, craftsmanship, and precision were emphasized as key pillars that drive the company's operations worldwide. The students were taken to the production floor, where they were shown various stages of the manufacturing process. The students were also shown around the rainwater harvesting project and solar heater which are present on the premises

The students also visited a Kulagar in Keri, Ponda. Kulagar is a process in which in olden days virgin land would be acquired on slopes of hills having natural source of water, where a family would reside and terrace the land around and plant trees supported by a well-designed irrigation system. There were introduced to the mixed farming and watershed management practices followed in the area. The students were told about the diverse crops which were cultivated, recycling of resources, organic production, water harvesting and soil and water conservation that were carried out in the kulagar. Water from springs is diverted to a lake during the post monsoon system. The local community has effectively developed a system which helps them to irrigate the kulagars in the neighbourhood using traditional methods of building bunds and diverting water and channelling it with minimal or no wastage of water.

Assoc. Prof. Rochana Kharangate, Asst. Prof. Narendra Gaonkar, Asst. Prof. Shubhada Parab (Event Coordinator) and Asst. Prof. Dr. Racheal Chacko (Even Coordinator) accompanied the students.

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GPS Map Camera
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FX8X+R88, Keri, Betki, Goa 403115, India
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TALK ON THE WHITE BELLIED SEA EAGLE PROJECT

The Department of Environmental Studies, in collaboration with the Nature Club and the Resource Management Cell for Sustainability, organized a talk on the *White-Bellied Sea Eagle Project.* This event was held in association with the Mineral Foundation of Goa, the Goa Bird Conservation Network, and the Persistent Foundation. The guest speaker for the talk was Ms. Joyce Fernandes.

The *White-bellied Sea Eagle* is a large raptor that breeds and hunts near water bodies. Although classified as *Least Concern* by the IUCN, limited studies have been conducted on this species along the Goan coast. As part of the project, around 50 nests have been identified in Goa. Ms. Fernandes provided valuable insights into the bird's characteristics, habitat, breeding, and feeding habits. She explained that these eagles typically build their nests on tall trees, with some nests reaching up to a meter in diameter. Notably, the species is monogamous, with mating pairs often reusing the same nest for laying eggs year after year. However, the survival of the *White-bellied Sea Eagle* is increasingly threatened by deforestation linked to developmental activities and the rise in tourism. Ms. Fernandes shared examples of how local communities have actively contributed to the conservation of this majestic bird. She also encouraged students to participate in conservation efforts by identifying and monitoring tall trees, which serve as nesting sites for these eagles.

This informative session provided valuable knowledge about the *White-bellied Sea Eagle* and emphasized the importance of conservation efforts to ensure its continued presence in Goa's ecosystem.

E-WASTE COLLECTION DRIVE

The Nature Club and the Resource Management Cell for Sustainability and the Department of Environmental Studies, in collaboration Global E-Waste Management Systems (MOU Partner) conducted an E-waste collection drive for the students and faculty of the college and the local community commemorating Global Recycling Day which falls on 18th March.

The drive successfully collected 50 kg of e-waste, including electronics, appliances, chargers, batteries, and lights. The initiative saw enthusiastic participation from students,

faculty members, and the community. The collected materials were handed over to Global E-Waste Management Systems, Goa for proper recycling.