

Report on Departmental Activities (January - June 2024)

Department of Geography, Kamala Nehru College, University of Delhi

Academic Session 2023-2024

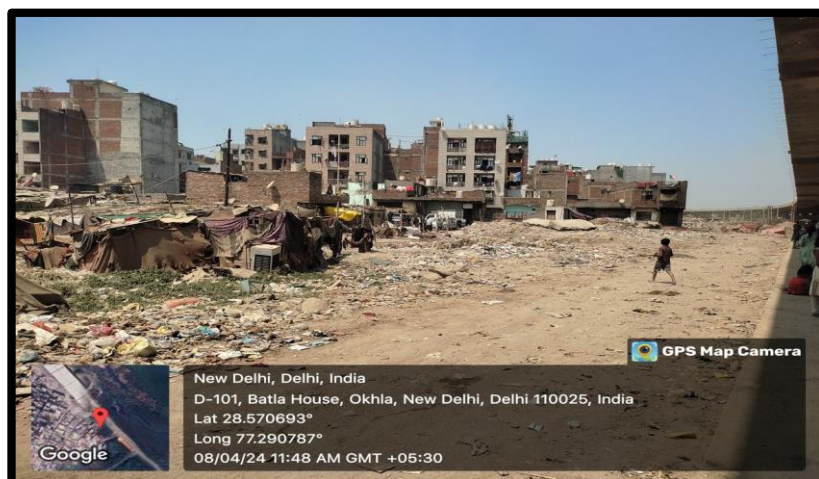
During the January-June 2024 semester, the Department of Geography, Kamala Nehru College, University of Delhi, organised two major academic and cultural events, aimed at providing students with practical exposure and fostering a deeper appreciation of geographical diversity. These activities were conducted with active participation from students and faculty members, contributing significantly to both academic learning and community engagement.

1. Household Survey of Dhobi Ghat, Okhla Flood Plain Area

Date: April 8, 2024

Objective: Assessing community resilience to flood risks in Delhi's Okhla Flood Plain

The Department of Geography, led by faculty members Dr. Sarita Ghai, Dr. Om Prakash Koli and Dr. Atithi Pant conducted a comprehensive household survey with 48 students of BA (Hons.) third year on April 8, 2024. This survey was as a part of the course titled as 'Disaster Management based project work'.



Study area

The survey aimed to evaluate the disaster preparedness and coping mechanisms of the community at Dhobi Ghat, in the Okhla Flood Plain area, where recurrent floods pose significant challenges to residents. A sample of 50 households were surveyed, and the study revealed several critical challenges, some of which are stated below.

- Inadequate disaster awareness and lack of early warning system among residents
- Frequent flooding leading to infrastructure damage and livelihood losses
- Limited post-disaster rehabilitation support and financial security to cope with the after effects of flooding



Faculty and students engaging in field work

The study highlights the importance of developing customized disaster management strategies to bolster community resilience. Key recommendations focus on improving early flood warning communication channels, increasing the accessibility of government shelters, and addressing infrastructural deficiencies. These findings support continuous efforts to enhance disaster management and resilience in flood-prone areas such as Okhla and similar communities

Department Day Celebration - Geographica'24: Bharat Darshan

Date: April 15, 2024

Theme: "Discovering India through 28 Diverse Routes"

The department celebrated its annual event, **Geographica'24 Bharat Darshan**, on April 15, 2024. The theme of the event, "Discovering India through 28 Diverse Routes," was designed to highlight the geographical and cultural diversity of India. The event began with the ceremonial lamp-lighting by esteemed guest Prof. Anu Kapur from the Department of Geography, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, alongside Principal Prof. Kalpana Bhakuni.

Prof. Anu Kapur delivered an engaging keynote address, drawing from her extensive body of research, which includes notable works such as "Mapping Place Names of India," "Geographical Indication of Goods: Enhancing the Indigenous Economy," and "Vulnerable India: A Geographical Study of Disasters." Her address delved into the intersection of geography, culture, and identity, sparking inspiration among the audience to delve deeper into the rich geographical diversity of India. Prof. Kapur emphasized how geographical nuances influence cultural identity and economic development, encouraging attendees to appreciate the country's unique landscape.

In addition to her enlightening speech, Prof. Kapur presented the department with a beautifully crafted coffee table book chronicling the 100-year history of Delhi University. This visually rich book features a blend of text, data, maps, infographics, and photographs, narrating the storied legacy of the institution. The book, which was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during Delhi University's Centenary celebrations, added a significant touch to the event, embodying both academic achievement and historical reflection. Her contributions resonated deeply with the audience, leaving a lasting impact on the celebration of the university's centennial milestone.



Keynote lecture by Prof. Anu Kapur at Geographica'24



Prof. Anu Kapur narrating her experiences in curating the coffee table-book with the eminent faculty of Geography Department

The department day was enriched with a diverse range of educational and interactive activities for the students.

- Engaging geography trivia quiz
- Talent competitions in music and dance
- Debates on linguistic priorities
- Cultural presentations representing Indian states
- Videography and quest games highlighting India's geographical landmarks



Brain Buffet- Quiz Competition

Students from various colleges participated, making the event a vibrant platform for exchanging ideas and celebrating India's cultural and geographical richness. The celebrations concluded with a prize distribution ceremony, recognising the efforts and achievements of participants.

Academic Session 2024-2025

1. Field Trip to Jaipur

Date: 11th-14th September, 2024

A field trip was organized for the 5th semester students as part of the Research Methodology and Field Work course from September 11th to 14th, 2024, in Jaipur, Rajasthan. Fifty-nine students participated in the trip under the guidance and supervision of Dr. Bharti Dave and Dr. Atithi Pant.

During the trip, students visited various sites, including the Albert Hall Museum, Jantar Mantar, Birla Mandir, Moti dungri Ji, Amber Fort, Nahargarh Fort, and Patrika Gate. These visits provided them with valuable insights into the culture and geography of Jaipur at different historical stages. The arts and crafts from various countries exhibited in the Albert Hall Museum captured the students' attention. They were mesmerized by the architectural beauty and peaceful ambiance of Amber Fort, which broadened their geographical perspective. Additionally, the students conducted a tourist perception-based study at Amber Fort.



Group Photo with Students of Fifth Semester, 2024

In the Sanganer neighbourhood of Jaipur, students conducted space surveys of various industries, including the paper printing, block printing, and carpet industries. They interacted with local people and learned about the processing and dyeing of fabrics, and the manufacturing of carpets and handicrafts.

Students also visited the Department of Geography at the University of Rajasthan, where an engaging lecture on the Cultural and Historical Importance of Jaipur was delivered by the Head of the Department, Prof. C.V. Dhabariya.



**Students and Faculty Group Photo with the HoD, Department of Geography,
University of Rajasthan**

Students enjoyed the itineraries and sampled local cuisines near Bapu Market, adjacent to the Hawa Mahal. This marked the successful conclusion of the trip.

2. Swachhata hi Seva: Cleanliness Drive and Awareness Campaign



On **1st October 2024**, the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan-VAC of the Department of Geography and the Department of Psychology, in collaboration with the Sustainable Campus Initiative, organized a cleanliness drive and awareness campaign to celebrate a decade of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 2nd October 2014. The event was part of the 'Swachhata Hi Seva' campaign and aimed to promote cleanliness, hygiene, and environmental responsibility among students.

The event began at approximately 11:00 A.M. with around 65 students from the Swachh Bharat VAC courses gathering in front of the auditorium, kicking off with energetic slogans like "Go Green, Breathe Clean," "आवाज़ उठाओ, गंदगी मटाओ," "Clean City, My Dream City," and "Swachh Bharat, Swasth Bharat" to inspire fellow students.



Students ready to begin the cleanliness drive!

After the rally, participants moved to classrooms on the first and second floors to engage with students on vital topics such as toilet etiquette, public toilet use, waste segregation, and cleanliness practices using posters and visual aids for an engaging session. Following this, the

team transitioned to the canteen and student activity area, focusing on hygiene related to food waste. They spoke with canteen staff and visitors about proper waste management and discussed minimizing waste by reducing disposable cutlery and promoting reusable items.

Students, volunteers, and teachers then participated in cleaning the canteen, NESCAFE area, student activity area, and surrounding grounds, reinforcing the importance of cleanliness and waste management. This hands-on experience helped students understand the effort required to maintain a clean environment.



To further reinforce their message, students created and displayed informative posters on toilet use in the facilities. The event concluded with expressions of appreciation for all participants, and the team expressed enthusiasm for future activities to promote cleanliness and hygiene in our college community.

Alumnae Meet
Kamala Nehru College, Geography Department
Date: 09-11-2024

On the bright and breezy morning of November 9, 2024, the Geography Department of Kamala Nehru College hosted a remarkable Alumnae Meet, commencing at around 11 o'clock. The event started with a ceremonial lamp lighting by senior faculty members and alumni, symbolizing enlightenment and the spirit of knowledge. This meaningful ritual was followed by a welcome address from the Teacher-in-Charge of the department, Dr. Nitasha Malhotra.

The gathering was further honored by the presence of the Principal, who joined for a short period and addressed the attendees. She encouraged alumnae to maintain connections with the college and actively participate in future events. This gathering brought together an eclectic mix of alumni who shared their unique journeys of success, with graduates from various years, ranging from 1994 to the fresh batch of 2023, highlighting the versatility of the Geography discipline and the diverse fields in which alumni excel, including GIS (Geographic Information Systems), Remote Sensing, urban planning, sustainability, and environmental consulting.

The theme for the meet, “**The Maps We Make, The Paths We Take,**” resonated with all attendees, creating an atmosphere filled with excitement and nostalgia. Throughout the gathering, alumnae shared their experiences and insights, emphasizing the importance of adaptability in their careers. One notable alumna, currently leading a prominent environmental consultancy, reflected on her non-linear career path, underscoring the significance of recalibrating one's trajectory along the way.

Adding to the vibrancy of the event, students from the Geography Department performed cultural dances representing the diverse traditions of various states in India, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the country.

A significant highlight of the event was the appointment of new office bearers to the Geography Department Alumni Association. Ms Vandana Kaushik from the 1998 batch was appointed as President, Ms Saanvi from the 2000 batch as Vice President, Ms Richa Tiwari from the 1997 batch as Secretary, and Ms Punam Gondia from the 1999 batch as Treasurer. This leadership aims to enhance connections among alumni and ensure continued support for the department.

In addition to professional insights, the meet included heart-warming anecdotes from alumnae that illustrated the impact of their field experiences. One alumna shared how the joy of exploration during field trips shaped her path, emphasizing that *"sometimes, you need to lose your bearings to truly find your way."*

As the event drew to a close, it became evident that the Geography Department is much more than an academic institution; it is a vibrant community that fosters lifelong connections. Alumni have spread across the globe, carrying with them the knowledge and passion cultivated at Kamala Nehru College.

Reflecting on the event, it is clear that the Alumnae Meet was a heartfelt celebration of both past achievements and future potential. The festivities culminated in a delightful ramp walk, where alumnae showcased their charisma and even engaged professors in joyous participation. This gathering reaffirmed that the Geography Department extends beyond just teaching maps; it is about navigating life's journey, exploring new territories, and always finding joy along the way. Here's to many more years of exploration, innovation, and connection, both in the classroom and the world beyond!

