



SURENDRANATH LAW COLLEGE

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To

Prof. (Dr.) Mohammadi Tarannum,
Vice Principal, Surendranath Law College,
24/2, Mahatma Gandhi Road,
Kolkata-700009

Subject: **Program report: Celebration of WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY**

Organized by: **ECO CLUB** of Surendranath Law College, Kolkata
Date: 5th June 2023
Time: 11:00 AM onwards
Venue: Google Meet platform
Convenor: Debjani Ojha

About College & Program:

Surendranath Law College, established in 1885, Surendranath Law College, located in Kolkata, stands as one of the oldest and most prestigious law institutions in India. Founded by the renowned nationalist leader Surendranath Banerjee, the college has a rich legacy of fostering legal education and contributing significantly to the development of legal professionals in the country. It has been a nurturing ground for prominent legal minds, politicians, and social reformers who have played pivotal roles in India's legal and political landscape. Over the years, Surendranath Law College has evolved to become a center of academic excellence, offering a rigorous curriculum that combines traditional legal education with contemporary legal studies, ensuring that students are well-prepared to tackle the challenges of the modern legal world. With a strong emphasis on both academic and extracurricular activities, the college provides a holistic environment for students, encouraging participation in moot courts, legal aid programs,

and various social and legal initiatives. This commitment to producing well-rounded professionals continues to make Surendranath Law College a cornerstone of legal education in India.

World Environment Day, celebrated annually on 5th June, is a global platform that raises awareness about environmental issues and encourages actions for the protection of our planet. In 2023, the significance of this day was heightened by the increasing impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental degradation, which have become urgent global concerns. The day provides an opportunity to engage individuals, organizations, and governments in discussions and actions aimed at addressing these challenges. The theme for World Environment Day 2023, "Solutions to Plastic Pollution," underscored the pressing need to tackle one of the most pervasive environmental issues facing the world today. With over 8 million tons of plastic waste entering the oceans each year, the initiative called for a collective effort to reduce plastic consumption, promote sustainable alternatives, and encourage responsible waste management. Celebrating this day fosters a sense of responsibility towards environmental stewardship and inspires people to take meaningful steps toward creating a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable future.

As a leading institution of legal education, Surendranath Law College has a vital role to play in promoting environmental consciousness and sustainability, not only within its academic community but also in society at large. Hosting events on World Environment Day would provide a platform for students, faculty, and legal experts to discuss the pressing environmental issues of our time and explore legal frameworks for environmental protection. The college could organize seminars, debates, and panel discussions on the role of environmental law in combating pollution, climate change, and habitat destruction. Engaging students in tree plantation drives, cleanliness campaigns, and plastic-free initiatives would impart a sense of environmental responsibility and active citizenship. By celebrating World Environment Day, Surendranath Law College would not only contribute to the global movement for environmental protection but also inspire future legal professionals to advocate for stronger environmental policies and legislation. Additionally, the event would raise awareness of the intersection between environmental justice and human rights, encouraging students to explore legal careers in environmental advocacy and policy-making. In doing so, the college would uphold its legacy of social responsibility and leadership in legal education, while making a meaningful contribution to the cause of environmental sustainability.

Objectives of this Webinar:

1. **Raise Awareness on Environmental Issues:** To educate students, faculty, and participants about the critical environmental challenges such as plastic pollution, climate change, deforestation, and biodiversity loss, emphasizing the need for immediate action.
2. **Explore Legal Frameworks for Environmental Protection:** To discuss the role of national and international environmental laws, including the legal mechanisms in place to address environmental issues and the importance of legal advocacy in promoting sustainable practices.
3. **Promote Sustainable Practices:** To encourage participants to adopt sustainable habits in their daily lives, such as reducing plastic use, conserving resources, and supporting eco-friendly initiatives, aligning with the 2023 theme of "Solutions to Plastic Pollution."
4. **Foster Student Engagement in Environmental Advocacy:** To inspire students to participate actively in environmental protection efforts by engaging in legal research, advocacy, and policy-making aimed at promoting environmental justice and sustainability.
5. **Highlight the Intersection of Environmental and Human Rights:** To underline the connection between environmental degradation and human rights violations, encouraging future legal professionals to pursue careers that focus on the protection of both environmental and human rights through effective legal frameworks and activism.

Benefits of the students from this Webinar:

1. **Enhanced Awareness of Environmental Issues:** Students will gain a deeper understanding of pressing global environmental concerns such as climate change, pollution, and habitat destruction, which will help them develop a sense of responsibility toward protecting the environment.
2. **Knowledge of Environmental Laws:** The event provides an opportunity to learn about the legal frameworks, policies, and regulations governing environmental protection at both national and international levels, enriching their legal education and expertise in environmental law.

3. **Improved Critical Thinking:** Engaging in discussions about the legal and ethical aspects of environmental issues will enhance students' ability to critically analyse complex problems and propose viable solutions within the scope of law and policy.
4. **Networking Opportunities:** The webinar allows students to connect with legal professionals, environmental experts, and activists, fostering relationships that could benefit their future careers in law, particularly in environmental advocacy and policy-making.
5. **Inspiration for Social Responsibility:** Participating in this event can inspire students to take up social and environmental causes, motivating them to contribute meaningfully to societal well-being through legal practice and activism.
6. **Skill Development in Advocacy and Communication:** By engaging in debates, presentations, or Q&A sessions, students can improve their advocacy, public speaking, and communication skills, which are essential for effective legal practice.
7. **Career Insights in Environmental Law:** The event provides students with insights into career paths focused on environmental law, policy-making, and sustainable development, helping them explore job opportunities in these growing fields.

Program Details:

In celebration of World Environment Day 2023, Surendranath Law College organized a thought-provoking webinar focused on the theme "Solutions to Plastic Pollution." The event was a resounding success, with students, faculty members, and legal professionals participating in a stimulating discussion on the critical role of law in addressing environmental challenges. The keynote address was delivered by **Prof. (Dr.) Bismi Gopalakrishnan**, Dean, Faculty of Law, and Professor and Head at the School of Indian Legal Thought, Mahatma Gandhi University, who brought her vast expertise in environmental law to the discussion. The event lasted two hours, beginning at 11:00 AM.

The webinar commenced with an introductory speech by **Mrs. Debjani Ojha**, Assistant Professor, Surendranath Law College. She welcomed the participants and set the tone for the event, emphasizing the importance of World Environment Day and the need for increased legal interventions to combat environmental issues. Ms. Ojha highlighted that the global theme of 2023, "Human Rights based approaches to Plastic Pollution," was particularly relevant for

India, which is grappling with significant waste management challenges. She urged students to actively participate in the webinar and learn from the insights of the guest speaker.

Prof. (Dr.) Bismi Gopalakrishnan took the virtual stage at 11:15 AM and delivered an enlightening presentation on the **role of law in addressing environmental degradation and promoting sustainability**. She began by tracing the evolution of environmental laws in India, from the early regulatory frameworks to the more comprehensive legislations like the **Environment Protection Act of 1986** and the **Plastic Waste Management Rules of 2016**. Prof. Gopalakrishnan emphasized the importance of robust legal mechanisms in ensuring compliance with environmental norms and highlighted how the judiciary has played a proactive role in environmental protection through public interest litigations and landmark rulings.

The speaker also discussed the international legal landscape, including treaties such as the **Basel Convention** and the **Paris Agreement**, which aim to regulate hazardous waste and curb global carbon emissions. Her address stressed the intersectionality of environmental issues with human rights, noting that marginalized communities often bear the brunt of environmental degradation. She called for stronger enforcement of laws to address the rising plastic pollution crisis and urged legal professionals to engage more actively in environmental advocacy.

Prof. Gopalakrishnan concluded her address by emphasizing the importance of environmental law education in shaping the future generation of legal professionals who can contribute to sustainable development. She encouraged students to take up research and internships in the field of environmental law and participate in activities that promote environmental justice.

Following the keynote address, the webinar transitioned into an interactive session where participants had the opportunity to ask questions and engage directly with the guest speaker. Students posed insightful queries regarding the **role of public interest litigation** in environmental matters, the **legal challenges in implementing plastic bans**, and the **future of environmental governance in India**. Prof. Gopalakrishnan responded with detailed explanations, offering both legal perspectives and practical insights. The session provided a platform for meaningful dialogue between students and the guest speaker, enriching the overall learning experience.

The webinar concluded with an end note by **Dr. Caesar Roy**, Assistant Professor, Surendranath Law College. He expressed gratitude to Prof. Gopalakrishnan for her enlightening presentation and thanked the participants for their enthusiastic involvement. Dr. Roy highlighted the significance of integrating environmental law into legal education and encouraged students to

continue exploring the legal dimensions of environmental protection. He emphasized that such webinars are vital in raising awareness and fostering a culture of environmental stewardship among legal professionals.

Key Takeaways from the Webinar

1. **Legal Frameworks for Environmental Protection:** The webinar shed light on the existing environmental laws and policies, both in India and internationally, aimed at tackling pollution, especially plastic waste.
2. **Judiciary's Role in Environmental Advocacy:** Prof. Gopalakrishnan stressed the proactive role of the judiciary in environmental matters, showcasing how courts have become a critical avenue for environmental justice.
3. **Intersection of Environmental and Human Rights:** The speaker highlighted how environmental degradation disproportionately affects vulnerable communities, linking environmental protection to the broader human rights discourse.
4. **Student Engagement in Environmental Law:** The event provided students with a clearer understanding of the career opportunities available in environmental law and advocacy, encouraging them to take up internships and research in this vital area.
5. **Collaborative Solutions to Environmental Issues:** Emphasizing that legal interventions alone cannot solve environmental challenges, the webinar encouraged a multi-stakeholder approach, where law, policy, civil society, and individual actions converge to address global environmental problems.

The webinar on World Environment Day 2023 was an enriching experience for all participants, offering valuable insights into the crucial role of law in addressing environmental challenges. It not only raised awareness about pressing environmental issues but also inspired future legal professionals to take an active role in promoting sustainability and environmental justice. The event concluded on a positive note, with the hope that students of Surendranath Law College will continue to champion environmental causes and contribute to a greener, more sustainable future.

Notice of the Program:

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Ref No. SNLC/QAC/ACA/32/2023-24

Date: 12/05/2023

NOTICE

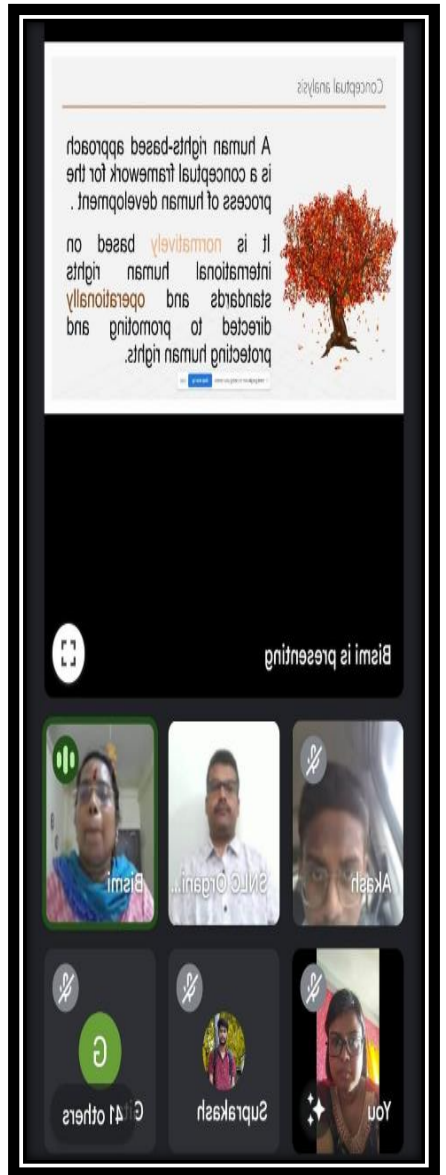
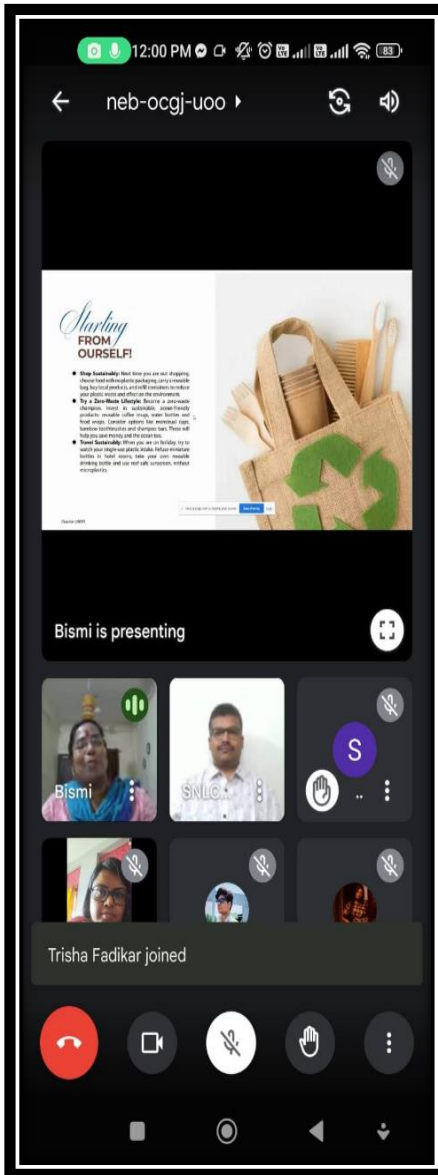
In view of celebrating the THE WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY (5th June), The ECO CLUB of Surendranath Law College is going to organize a webinar on 5th June, 2023 (Monday) from 11:00 AM via Google Meet platform. On this occasion a special lecture will be delivered by Prof. (Dr.) Bismi Gopalakrishnan, BAL, LL.B., LL.M., Ph.D., Dean, Faculty of Law, Professor and Head, School of Indian Legal Thought, Mahatma Gandhi University on the topic – “Human Rights based approaches to plastic pollution”. All students and teachers are requested to participate and remain present in the above program. Link of the programme will be provided in the official Whatsapp groups in due time.

Debjani Ojha.

DEBJANI OJHA
CONVENOR OF ECO-CLUB
SURENDRANATH LAW COLLEGE

ECO CLUB
CONVENOR
SURENDRANATH LAW COLLEGE
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Glimpses of the Webinar:



Surendranath Law College

Presents
WEBINAR On the Occasion of
WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

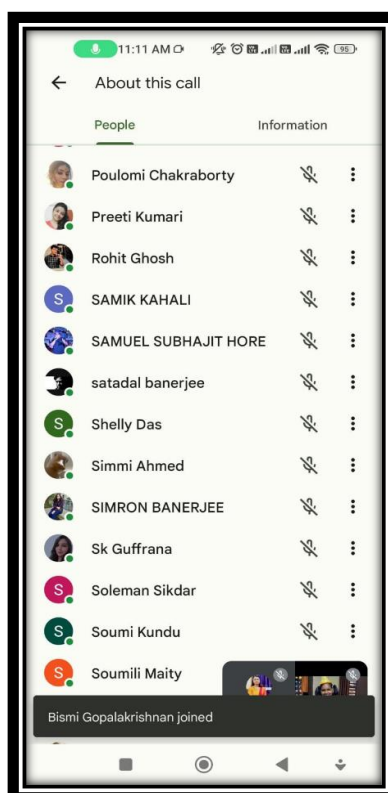
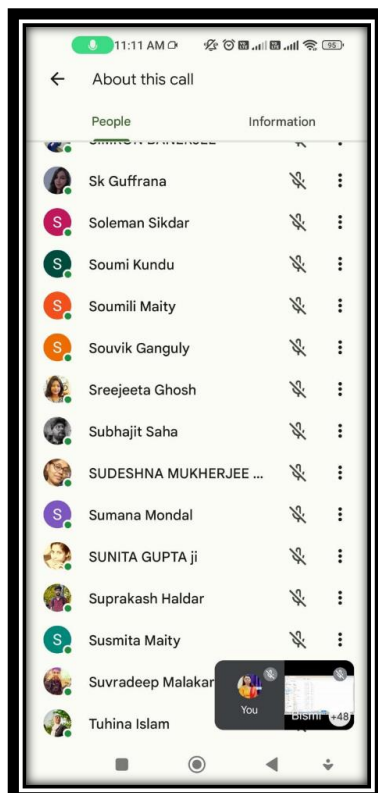
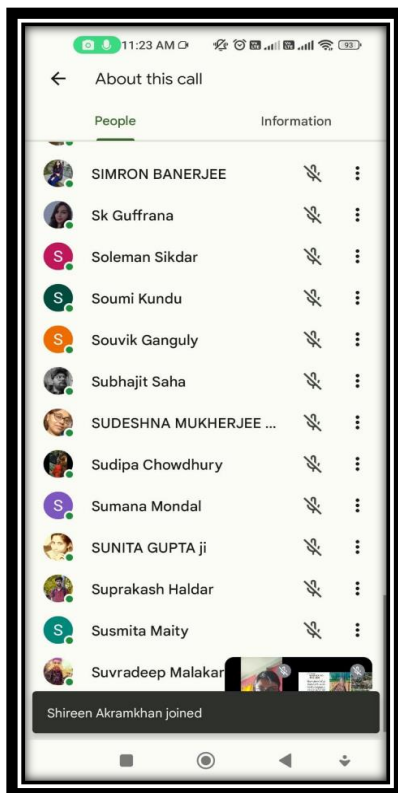


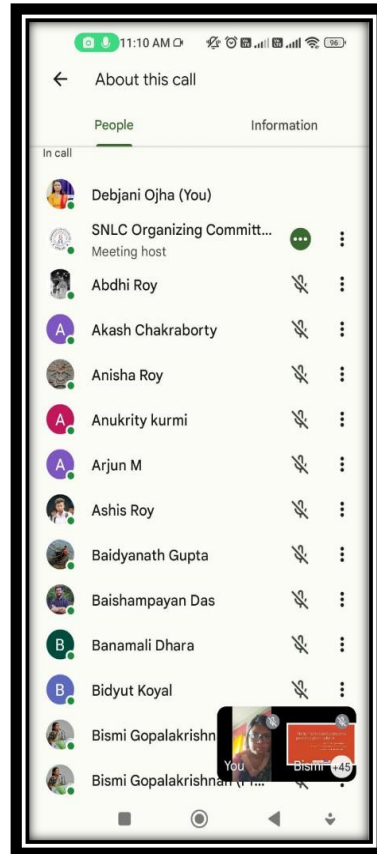
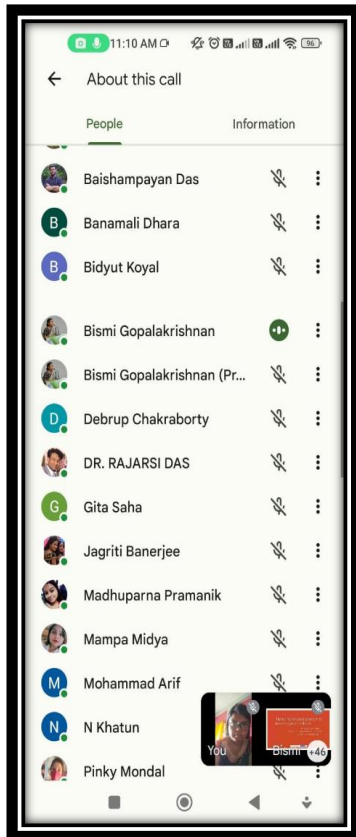
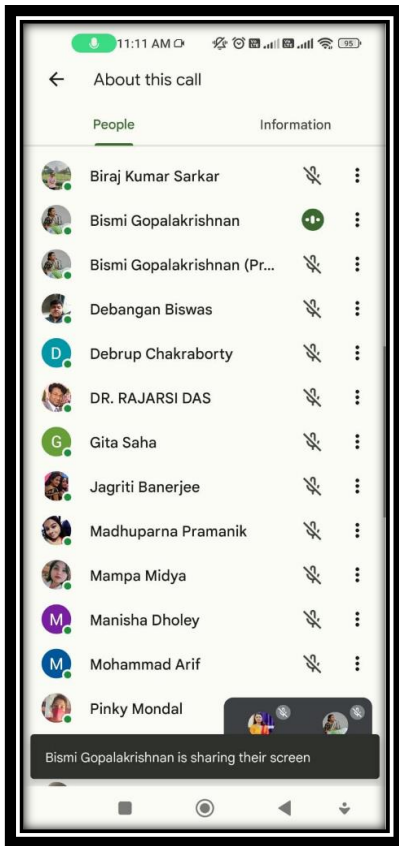
Human Rights based approaches to plastic pollution

Organized by – ECO CLUB of Surendranath Law College

Key Speaker – Prof. (Dr.) Bismi Gopalakrishnan	Date – 5 th June, 2023 (Monday)
Convenor of ECO CLUB – DEBJANI OJHA	Time – 11:00 AM IST Onwards
Mode – Google Meet	

Glimpses for List of Attendees





Summary of Attendance:

Date	Total attendees	SC	ST	OBC & Minority	Teachers Engaged
05.06.2023	120	38	8	20	18