



## **Session- 2022-2023**

### **TREE PLANTATION WITHIN THE CAMPUS “LETS PLANT HOPE”**

On August 18, 2022, the Department of Geography organized a Tree Plantation drive with the theme "Let's Plant Hope" to raise awareness among students about the significance of plants and forests on our planet. The event saw enthusiastic participation from the department's teachers, non-teaching staff, and students. A total of twelve saplings of various species, including Cedar Deodars, Oaks, Chestnuts, and Poplar, were planted in an open area located near the college's main gate.



Group picture with staff and students





## **WORLD OZONE DAY**

To commemorate World Ozone Day, the Department of Geography organized an Intercollege Quiz Competition, inviting nearby college principals via email. However, only four colleges, namely Government College Dhama, Government College Sanjauli, Government College RKMV, and Government College Theog, participated by sending their teams for the competition. The quiz was scheduled to start at 10:30 am, and all the teams arrived at the college around 10 am. The competition had three judges, Dr. Anupama Tandon, Dr. Sanchi Sood, and Dr. Mona Sharma.

The event began with the lighting of the lamp by the chief guest, Dr. Shamja Munjal, Dr. Anupama Tandon, Dr. Sanchi Sood, Dr. Mona Sharma, Dr. Rajesh, and Dr. Sangeeta Sharma. Dr. Pankaj Aashish, HOD Geography, then explained the rules and regulations of the competition, which had five rounds. The first two rounds had multiple-choice questions based on general geography, with St. Bede's College taking the lead in both. The third round had questions based on Himachal Geography, where Government College Sanjauli took the lead. The fourth round consisted of questions related to world general knowledge, and the fifth round was based on current affairs.

The final round was an audio-visual round, where students had to answer questions based on pictures or audios, and St. Bede's College took the lead in this round. Before announcing the results, the students of St. Bede's College presented a cultural performance. Finally, the results were declared, and GC Sanjauli secured the first position, St. Bede's College came second, and GC Dhama secured the third position. The chief guest then presented the prizes to the winners, and the event concluded with a vote of thanks from Dr. Sr. P. M. Santhi.





## **FIELD SURVEY**

The Department of Geography at St. Bede's College organized a four-day Field Survey Tour to Tirthan Valley, located in Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh, from September 19th to September 22nd, 2022. The tour was aimed at providing students with practical knowledge and hands-on experience in the field of Geography. Fieldwork is an integral part of the course requirements for Geography students, and the Tirthan Valley presented a perfect opportunity for them to gather data and analyze it.

The valley, covering an area of 754 sq. km, is named after a sacred water spring called "Tirth" which originates at Hanskund Peak (4800m) and flows through deep forested areas. The feeder channel to Tirthan River is fed by deposits of ice, almost all year round. After covering a distance of 70 km from the source, it joins Palchan Nallah at Gushaini. The Tirthan River forms the Valley in its origin at Tirth and continues till Larji, where Tirthan and Sainj streams merge with the Beas River. Some of its tributaries rise from aquifers and come out on the surface as springs.

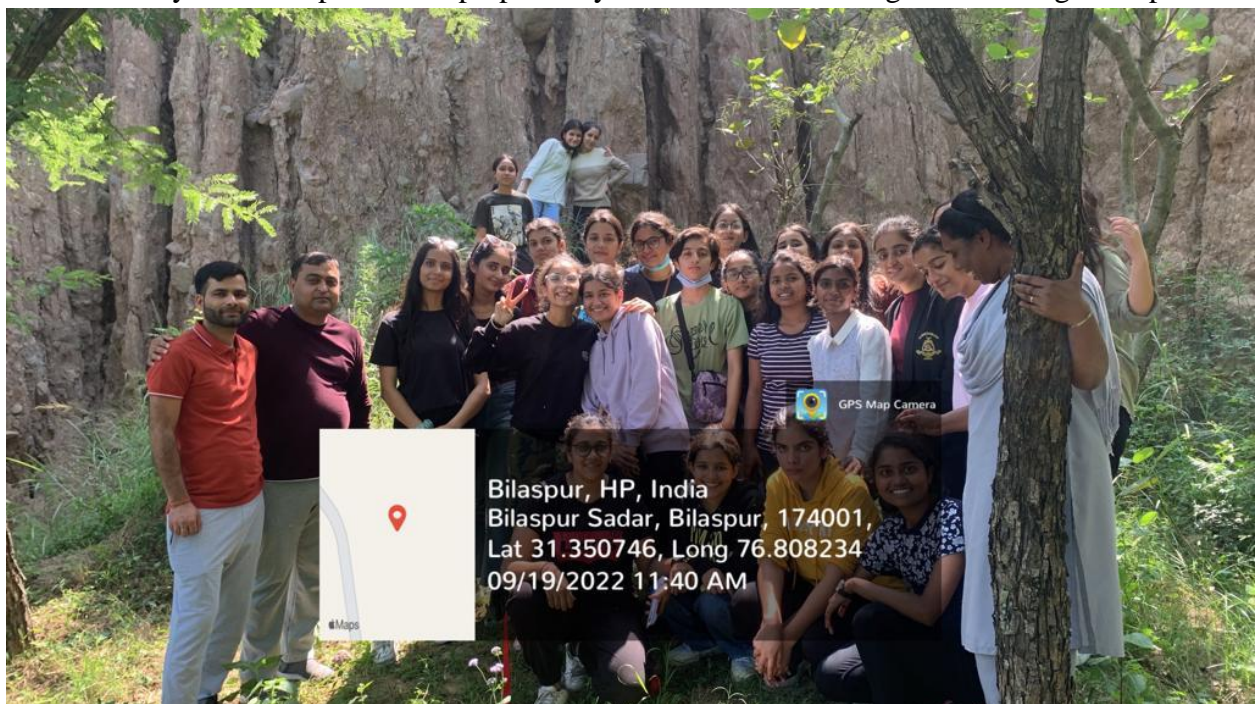
The Tirthan River flows along a deep V-shaped valley in its upper reaches. The Valley is fairly open and wide near its confluence with the Beas River. The main geomorphic features of the Tirthan valley are incised meanders, river-built and river-cut terraces, cliffs, and steep slopes. The entire catchment of this river is covered by alpine, sub-alpine, temperate, and sub-tropical coniferous and deciduous forests. Human habitation is there in the form of small villages that exist along the river. The Valley is scenic, full of secluded hamlets, waterfalls, cedrus, and pine forests. The Tirthan Wildlife Sanctuary and part of GHNP constitute the valley.



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During the Field Survey Tour, students actively participated in data collection through various methods on various topics like physio-socio-economic, agricultural and horticultural development, and the impact of Covid-19 on the education and health sector. The students covered different villages of the study area and collected relevant data. After the fieldwork, the data was analyzed and reports were prepared by the students according to their assigned topics.



LOCATION: Kullu District, Himachal Pradesh and COORDINATES: 77 23 14.29 E, 31 38 29.5 N, Alt 1452 m.



The students were equipped with various skills after this exercise, such as using instruments for primary data collection, methods of primary data collection, data collection and tabulation, report writing, and questionnaire design. The Field Survey Tour to Tirthan Valley proved to be an enriching experience for the students of the Department of Geography at St. Bede's College, providing them with practical knowledge and preparing them for future research in the field design.

### **INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

The Department of Geography recently held a poster making competition and awareness rally, which aimed to highlight the importance of reducing exposure to disasters and increasing awareness about risk mitigation. Over 30 students participated in the competition, creating posters related to various disaster themes such as mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. The event took place both in the Department and Auditorium. The awareness rally commenced from St. Bede's College gate and concluded at the Horticulture Department in Navbahar, covering a distance from the Basketball Court of the college. The day celebrated the efforts of people and communities worldwide in reducing their vulnerability to disasters.



### **INTER-COLLEGE DECLAMATION COMPETITION UNDER “AZAADI KAAMRIT MOHOTSAV ON THE THEME “SAVE SOIL”**

On 5th December 2022, the Department of Geography organized an Inter-College competition on the theme "Save Soil." The competition saw participation from two local colleges, GDC Dhami and GDC Kotshera. St. Bede's College Shimla emerged as the winners, securing the first three positions. Shruti, a second-year BA Pass Course student, came in first, followed by Kritika Shandil, a first-year BA Pass Course student, in second place and Megha Chibber, a third-year BA Pass Course student, in third place. Aryan Sharma, a third-year BA Pass Course student from GDC Kotshera, secured fourth place, while Reeta Kaushal from



GDC Dhami came in fifth. The competition was judged by Dr. Vishal Chauhan, Assistant Professor of Economics, Mr. Mohit Chauhan, Assistant Professor of Psychology, and Dr. Vandana Thakur, Assistant Professor of English. The competition aimed to raise awareness about the importance of preserving soil and its impact on the environment.

Inter college declamation competition on the theme save soil on 5th dec 2022

Sr. no.	Name	Class	College	Marks			Total	Position
				10	10	10		
1.	Reeta Kaushal	BA 2nd Year	GDC Dhami at 16 Mile	7	6	7	20	5
2.	Megha Chibber	BA 3rd Year	St Bede's	7	8	8	23	3
3.	Kritika shandil	BA 1st Year	St Bede's	10	9	8	27	2
4.	Shruti	BA 2nd Year	St Bede's	10	9	9	28	1
5.	Aryan sharma	BA 3rd Year	GDC Kotshera	8	6	7	21	4
6.	Monika thakur	BA 3rd Year	GDC Kotshera	8	7	8	23	3

### **NATIONAL SEMINAR ON “BUILDING A RESILIENT FUTURE: INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENT, ECONOMY AND TECHNOLOGY”**

The Department of Geography at St. Bede's College, Shimla organized a two-day national seminar on the 24th and 25th of March, 2023. The seminar's theme was "Building a Resilient Future: Integrating Environment, Economy, and Technology," which emphasized the need to combine the three pillars of sustainable development - Economy, Environment, and Society (Technology). The seminar brought together experts from various fields to discuss the latest developments in environmental protection and sustainable development. Its purpose was to provide a forum for researchers and stakeholders to exchange ideas and insights on this highly relevant theme. This report aims to summarize the speakers' key points and analyze the implications of the latest advancements in the field of sustainable development and environmental protection.

The seminar was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Shri Harish Janartha, Honourable Member of the Legislative Assembly Shimla Urban. Professor Sr. Molly Abraham, the Principal of St. Bede's College Shimla, and patron of the seminar graced the occasion. Various eminent scholars from diverse disciplines, teachers, and academicians from various colleges, scholars and teachers from Himachal Pradesh University Shimla, the faculty of St. Bede's College, and the seminar sponsors were also present in the inaugural session.



Professor Sr. Molly Abraham welcomed all the guests from different parts of the country and briefly introduced the Chief Guest and the keynote speakers. Her address was followed by a graceful welcome dance. The chief guest and other guests were then felicitated on stage. The seminar's Convener, Dr. Pankaj Aashish, conveyed the seminar's concept and highlighted the theme's relevance to the audience. This was followed by the release of the abstract volume by the dignitaries.

The Chief Guest, Shri Harish Janartha, delivered an influential speech that stimulated the audience. He emphasized the government's commitment to environmental conservation and highlighted the importance of ecosystem conservation for a better future. The chief guest also assured the audience that the present government is ready for any collaboration with academia to ensure a sustainable future for all.

After the tea break, the seminar resumed with the first keynote address. In this session the keynote speaker Dr. Sanjeev Sharma, Associate Professor, Jawaharhal Nehru University, Delhi delivered his talk on the "Mountain Environmental sustainability, Issues, concerns and Consensus". In his talk Dr. Sharma explained how our fragile mountain ecosystem is being degraded through unscientific infrastructural projects. Dr. Sharma highlighted how with the change in ecosystem, the socio-economic structure of the ethnic communities is changing. He also emphasized the impact of environmental change on lifestyles of ethnic groups.

The second keynote speaker Dr. Amrita Bajaj, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, Delhi, delivered her lecture on "sustainable smart cities". She underlined that the cities are under tremendous pressure because of the rapidly growing population across the globe. She highlighted that, by 2050, the developing regions are expected



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to add 3.2 billion new urban residents, so, the developing world is in dire need of not only smart cities but sustainable smart cities. The cities are facing numerous environmental, social and economic challenges and the only solution to all these problems is in the concept of smart cities as highlighted by the prime minister way back in 2015. The session ended with a vote of thanks. After lunch, there were two parallel technical sessions in which more than 20 researchers and students presented their research work in the oral presentations. The technical sessions accommodated highly diverse themes such as

- Urban planning, Aatamnirbhar Bharat, New Education Policy 2020, e-learning, smart cities, higher education and sustainable development, agricultural and horticultural development, climate change, food security, environmental hazards and vulnerability, landslides occurrences, population ageing and many more.



The first technical session was chaired by Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Associate Professor Geography at G.C. BARSAR, co-chaired by Dr. Jagvir Chandel, Associate Professor Geography at G.C. Bilaspur and Dr. Yashika Guleria was rapporteur. The second technical session was chaired by Dr. Madan Lal Mankotia, Associate Professor Geography at G.C. RKMV, co-chaired by Dr. Ram Lal Assistant Professor, Department of Geography HPU Shimla and Dr. Khyal was rapporteur for the session.

The presentations of the students of Geography department were highly appreciated by the chairpersons. Students actively participated in the technical as well as oral sessions and cleared their doubts and queries. The technical sessions then were followed by high tea and day one of the seminar came to an end.





Day two of the seminar started with the welcome by address by the organising Secretary Dr. Sr. P. Mary Santhi. The keynote speaker for the session was Prof. Mary Tahir, Professor Tahir talked about the need to understand the phenomena of climate change and importance of nature conservation and Geoconservation. She also spoke on:

- Major natural and manmade causes of climate change.
- Climate change and natural hazards and vulnerability analysis.
- Climate change and environmental degradation scenario.
- Climate change and environmental adaptation.
- Livelihood options with changing environment.
- Rapid environmental, assessment and degradation.
- Projected impacts of climate change on agricultural yield.

The second keynote speaker was Sh. Kamal Kant Saroch, IAS, Director of the TCP Department in the Government of Himachal Pradesh. He spoke about urban planning, ecological footprints, and global warming, and highlighted the global distribution of ecological footprints with special reference to India. He emphasized the significant role that urban planning, particularly urban mobility, can play in ensuring a sustainable future.

After the tea break the seminar resumed with the technical session in which about 10 research papers were presented on the themes of Gender disparity and sustainable development. The session was chaired by Dr. Anupama Tandon, Associate Professor Department of Economics, St. Bede's College Shimla, co-chaired by Dr. Seema Choudhary, Assistant Professor,



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Department of Geography, HPU Shimla, and Dr. Dhan Dev Sharma Assistant Professor Geography, G.D.C. Arki was the rapporteur.

**Valedictory**

During the valedictory session, the chief guest was Flt. Lt. Anuj Tomar, Deputy Commandant General, Department of Home Guards, Civil Defense, and Fire Services, Himachal Pradesh.



Mr. Anoop Ditta, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography presented the report on the two-day-long seminar, which covered a diverse range of themes such as gender disparity, geoinformatics, climate change, vulnerability assessment in agriculture, sustainable development, sustainable urban utopia, and crimes against women. The report highlighted the key takeaways from the seminar, including the importance of such events in bringing together scholars, researchers, and practitioners from around the world to exchange ideas and insights.



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During the valedictory speech, the chief guest commended the college for its past accomplishments and ongoing efforts to address important societal issues. He highlighted the importance of providing quality education and encouraged the college to continue striving for excellence.

The ceremony ended with the organizing committee expressing their gratitude to the chief guest for his insightful speech, the participants for their valuable contributions, and all those who contributed to the seminar's success.