

Report on Departmental Activities (January - June 2024)  
Department of Geography, Kamala Nehru College, University of Delhi  
Academic Session 2023-2024

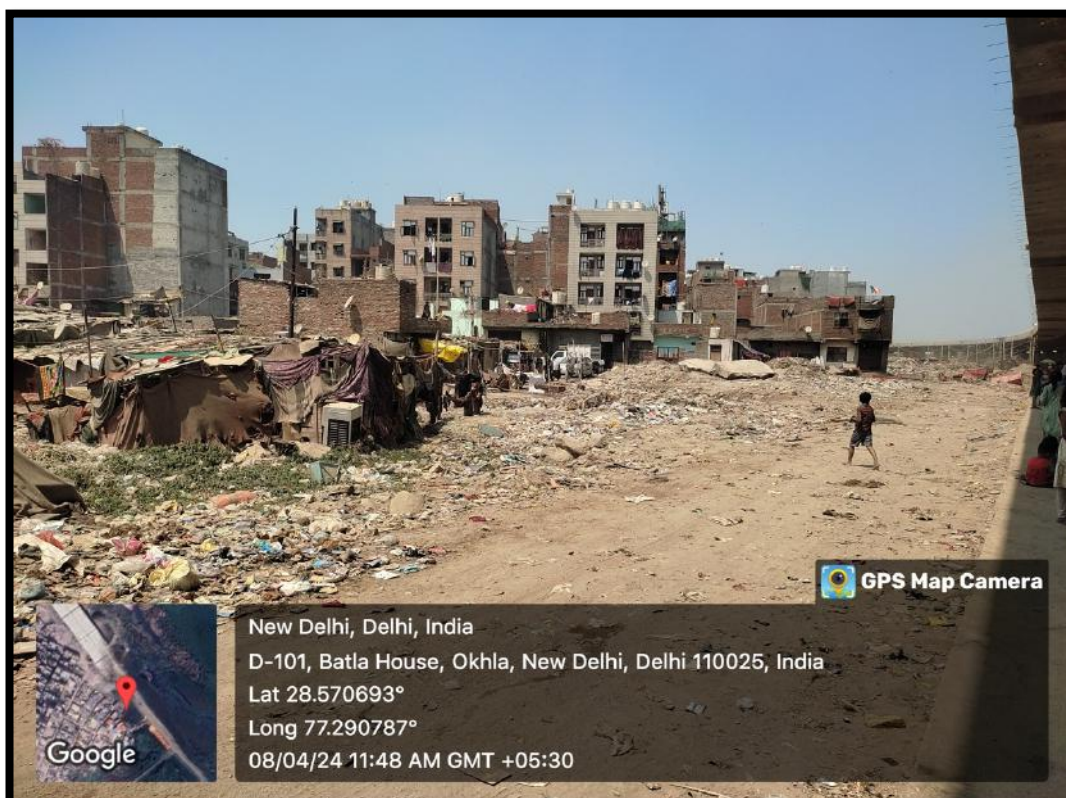
During the January-June 2024 semester, the Department of Geography, Kamala Nehru College, University of Delhi, organised two major academic and cultural events, aimed at providing students with practical exposure and fostering a deeper appreciation of geographical diversity. These activities were conducted 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'.



**Image 1: 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



**Image 2: Faculty and students engaging in field work with one of the key informants of the study area**

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.

## 2. 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.



**Image 3: Keynote lecture by Prof. Anu Kapur at Geographica'24**

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.



**Image 4: 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



**Image 5: 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.