

Department of Botany- Vasundhara, The Botanical Association, 2025-2026**Convenor: Dr. Asmita Gupta**

Faculty Members: Prof. Rama Pasricha, Prof. Rekha Kathal, Dr. Meenam Bhatia, Dr. Meenakshi Sharma, Dr. Basanta Kumar Das, Dr. Sunita George, Dr. Vidhi Chaudhary, Dr. Priyanka Rathore, Dr. Remya Krishnan, Dr. Aradhana Yadav, Dr. Asmita Gupta, Dr. Pratibha Kumari, Dr. Shagun Danda, Dr. Kamlesh Kumari, Dr. Neha Mann, Dr. Deepti Tong.

During the 2025-26 academic year, several insightful events were organized to enhance student learning and awareness. The **Inaugural Talk** of Vasundhara, held on 15th October 2025, focused on raising awareness among students about the impact and ecological role of invasive species in the plant world. Delivered by Prof. Gyan Prakash Sharma, the session engaged the students in thought-provoking discussions. On 19th January 2026, a **Career Counselling Session I** by Ensure IAS aimed to guide students on career planning and self-improvement. Mr. Siddharth Kumar provided practical advice to 150 attendees, encouraging them to excel in their future endeavors. A Workshop on Kokedama, An Introduction to Living Art, conducted on 28th January 2026, introduced students to a Japanese traditional art of using moss and coir for planting indoor and outdoor plants. The session, led by Ms. Neha Verma, involved active participation from all 30 participants who created their own Kokedama plants and learnt a new gardening technique.

One **Career Counselling Session II** on Career Options for Botany Graduates: UPSC Examination and Beyond was held on 29th January 2026, Dr. Abhishek Kumar delivered a very inspiring and motivation lecture on career option for Botany students, scope for UPSC and in other entrance exams. All 122 participants were keenly involved in listening to the highly learned speaker and many students discussed their career related doubts and issues after the talk. The event really benefited the students and instilled in them the awareness about the scope of natural sciences. Together, these events provided a holistic blend of academic, technical, and career-focused learning, and benefiting the student community immensely.

The **“International Symposium on “Environmental Biotechnology and Water Sustainability (ISEBWS-2026)”**, organized by Vasundhara, The Botanical Association under the aegis of IQAC, Daulat Ram College, University of Delhi, was held in hybrid mode on 11th February 2026 in the Conference Hall, Daulat Ram College, University of Delhi, 11:00 am onwards. The symposium began with an invited lecture session by **Dr. Raj Morya**,

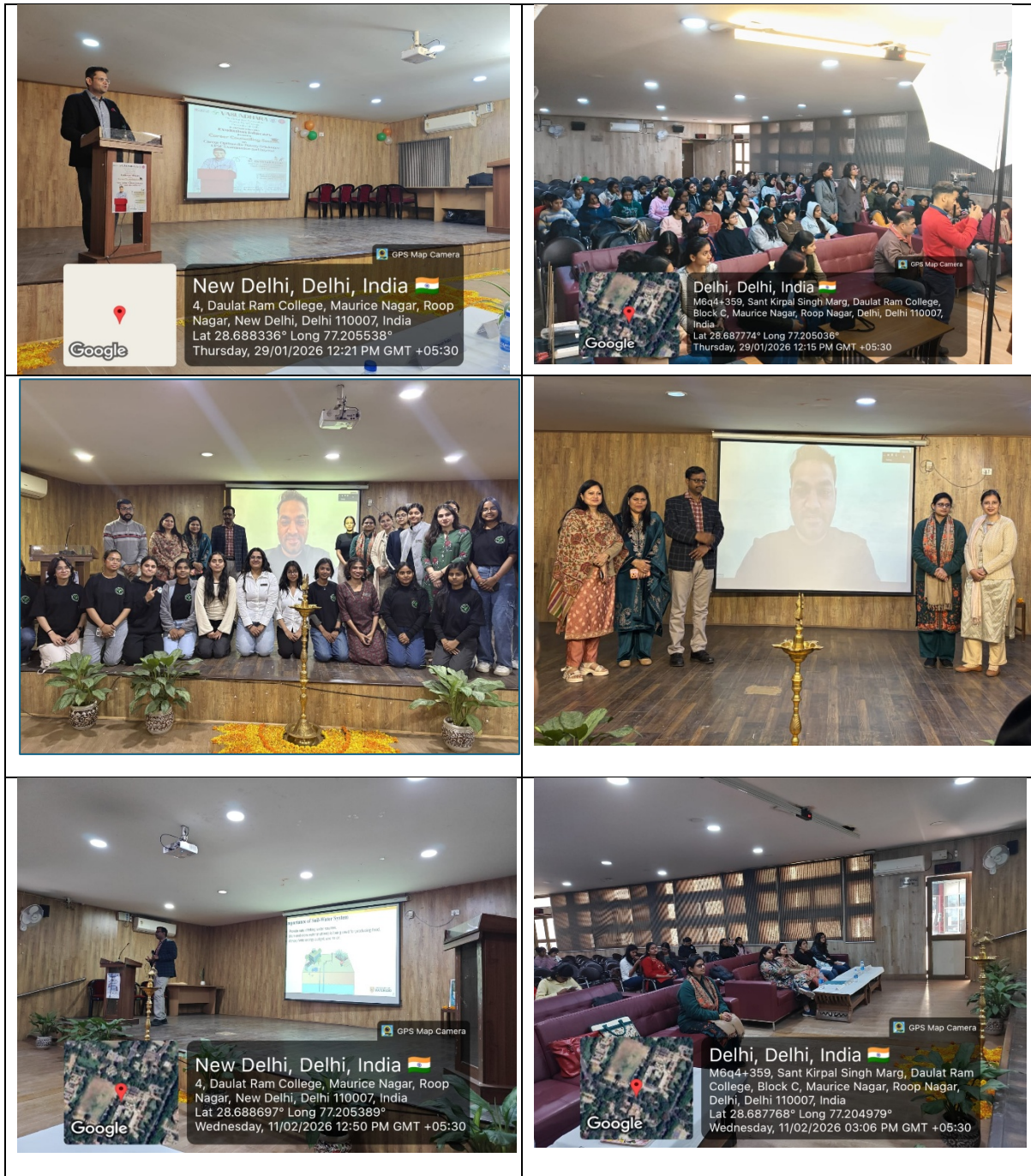
Postdoctoral Researcher, Environmental Biotechnology Laboratory, INRAE, Narbonne, France. He joined in online mode and delivered a very insightful lecture on “Waste to Wealth: How microbes drive sustainable development”. He also discussed about various research options in the field, institutions, international scholarship schemes and application processes, and answered various students’ questions about applying abroad for research. Invited lecture II was delivered in offline mode by **Dr. Pankaj K. Gupta**, Ramanujan Fellow, IIT Delhi & Adjunct Assistant Professor, University of Waterloo, Canada, on soil and groundwater systems, sources of contamination and related case studies on polluted landscapes. He gave in-depth knowledge on soil water dynamics, environmental impacts, and use of botanical knowledge to solve real world environmental challenges through bioremediation. After the Q&A session, paper presentation by students, especially 4th year dissertation students of various departments followed. The event was very successful, and students gained valuable subject related and research-based knowledge.

The Department of Botany, Daulat Ram College, University of Delhi, through its Botanical Association Vasundhara, organized an **Invited Talk** on “Mangroves as a Living Barrier and Natural Laboratories for Interdisciplinary Research and Teaching” by Dr. Ajay Kumar, Associate Professor, Department of Botany, University of Delhi on 10th April 2026 in the Botany Lab A, on the occasion of Orchidz’26, the annual co-curricular event of the Botanical Association. The session was conducted in offline mode and witnessed active participation from students of the Department of Botany. Dr. Kumar provided valuable insights about mangroves, their habit, habitat, ecological adaptations, environmental significance and research opportunities in the field. The session helped students gain valuable knowledge about this very relevant Botany topic and career and research options in the field of study.

S. N o.	Name of Event	Type of Academic Event	Category	Departments	Convenor/ Coordinator	Co-Convenor	Tentative Date	Duration
1.	Workshop on Kokedama, An Introduction to Living Art	Workshop	Capacity building and skill enhancement initiatives to enhance gardening skills	Botany	Dr. Asmita Gupta	Dr. Pratibha Kumari	28 th January 2026	1 day
2.	Career Counselling session on A to Z of UPSC	Career Counselling session	Career Counselling and training for Competitive exams	Botany	Dr. Asmita Gupta	-	19 th January 2026	1 day
3.	Career Counselling session on Career Options for Botany Graduates: UPSC Examination and Beyond	Career Counselling session	Career Counselling and training for Competitive exams	Botany	Dr. Asmita Gupta	-	29 th January 2026	1 day
4.	Inaugural talk on “Intruders in Plant World” by Prof. Gyan Prakash Sharma, Department of Environmental Studies, University of Delhi	Invited lecture	Subject related invited lecture for expert knowledge sharing and development of research orientation	Botany	Dr. Asmita Gupta	Dr. Pratibha Kumari and Dr. Aradhana Yadav	15 th October 2025	1 day
5.	Invited Talk on “Mangroves as a Living Barrier and Natural Laboratories for Interdiscipli	Invited lecture	Invited Talk	Botany	Dr. Asmita Gupta		10th April 2026	1 day

	nary Research and Teaching” by Dr. Ajay Kumar, Associate Professor, Department of Botany, University of Delhi							
6.	“International Symposium on “Environmental Biotechnology and Water Sustainability (ISEBWS-2026)”,	International Symposium	International Symposium	Botany	Dr. Asmita Gupta		11th February 2026	1 day

Photos:





Certificates: