



HSNC UNIVERSITY, MUMBAI

Kishinchand Chellaram College

Department of Life Sciences

Under the aegis of DBT Star Status

Organizes

INTERDISCIPLINARY SCIENCE FEST

‘SCI-CODE #22’

It's all about innovation



K.C. College, HSNC University under the aegis of DBT Star Status, organized an Intercollegiate Science Festival called '**SCI-CODE #22**' on 10th February, 2022 in hybrid mode. Department of Life Sciences, K.C. College, HSNC University under this SCI-CODE #22 Science Fest organized two interesting and informative events called '**Perils of Plastic-What are we leaving behind?**' and '**Rags to Riches-An Art and Craft Competition**' at morning and afternoon respectively on 10th February, 2022. The aim of this fest was to explore the innovative ideas of undergraduate students from all the departments of Science and Technology.

‘Perils of Plastic-What are we leaving behind?’

The first virtual workshop called '**Perils of Plastic-What are we leaving behind?**' was conducted by two esteemed resource people, Dr. Nishith Dharaiya, Founder and Director, WCB Research Foundation, Gujarat and Dr. Rushika Patel, RV Biodiversity Conserver, I/c Head and Assistant Professor of Department of Life Science, Rai School of Sciences and Coordinator of RU Environment Protection Cell and IPR Activity, Rai University. About 55 participants attended the workshop, which included the undergraduate and postgraduate students along with the faculty members of the Life Sciences Department from K.C. College and various other colleges of Mumbai. The aim of this session was to engage the community in creating awareness and enhancing their understanding regarding an individual's plastic footprint as plastic-pollution free world is not a choice but a commitment to the life of next generation.

The session was inaugurated by our Dr. Tejashree Shanbhag, Vice-principal of Sciences, K. C. College, HSNC University who warmly welcomed the speakers and the participants attending the session. Dr. Dharaiya commenced the workshop by stating, that we are actually not going to start a session, but basically a mission which will forever help us to measure the amount of plastics we

leave behind. Sir then went on to explain the motto behind establishing the WCB Research Foundation which is fundamentally to add science into the arena of environmental conservation for sustainable and long term effects. Dr. Dharaiya introduced the participants to 'Prithviya' WCB's quarterly newsletter whose Chief Editor is our very own Dr. Sagarika Damle, Head of Department of Life Sciences, Co-ordinator of DBT Star Status, K. C. College, HSNC University. Sir elaborated about the various research activities of WCB including Artificial Nest Box Project, Sloth Bear Conservation Awareness programs, etc. which are funded by National as well as International organizations. Dr. Dharaiya mentioned that WCB Research Foundation presents Prof. M. I. Award to Young Wildlife and Conservation Biologist along with the cash prize of 15,000 rupees. Sir briefly explained that the objective of this workshop is to collect and determine the plastic footprints of people to assess it's consequences on the ecosystem and biodiversity in order to provide possible suggestions for the reduction of plastic usage.

Dr. Rushika Patel initiated the session by concisely explaining the current scenario of plastic pollution in India. Furthermore, ma'am mentioned the several challenges one faces to determine the plastic pollution as there is a lack of sufficient and accurate data. Ma'am illustrated different ways to determine plastic pollution i.e. solid waste, sediments, number of particles present, etc. Dr. Patel also informed the participants, the different threats that are possessed by the plastic pollution on the environment such as increased plastic bio-magnification, blockage of animal's digestive tract, light deprivation in ocean, etc. Talking about recycling of plastics, ma'am explained a new method called as bio-upcycling which uses engineered enzyme mixtures for recycling of plastic monomers to create valuable products. Meticulously, Dr. Patel demonstrated the participants how to easily analyze the data of plastic footprints using Display R, a data visualization software which will provide the students with relevant tools to aid in their future research studies. The lecture was followed by a question and answer session where ma'am patiently answered several questions in detail thereby ensuring that their doubts are properly clarified. Lastly, Department of Life Sciences, K. C. College, HSNC University under 'Rerouting from Code Red to Code Green (RCRCG)' introduced the participants to their new initiative called '**पर-E-वर्तन-A Plastic and E-Waste Bank**' with collaboration of Dr. Rashmika Joshi, an Environment Consultant to collect plastic and E-waste generated from household that is usually not accepted by the scrap-dealers to create a zero waste environment in K. C. College. Dr. Sagarika Damle, Head of Department of Life Sciences, K.C. College gave the concluding remarks and expressed her gratitude to Dr. Rushika for enlightening the students with her noteworthy knowledge and expertise. The webinar was concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks by a student volunteer.

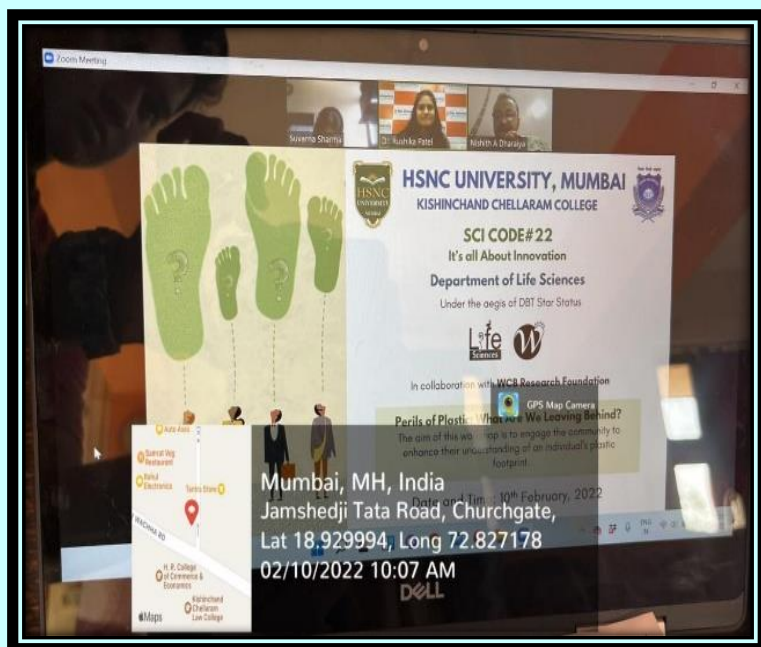
'Rags to Riches-An Art and Craft Competition'

The second offline workshop called '**Rags to Riches-An Art and Craft Competition**' was conducted by our esteemed resource person and judge of the competition, Ms. Bhoomi Dubal, BSc Life Sciences Graduate, Self-Taught Artist, Entrepreneur and Art Educator. About 11 participants participated in the competition, which included the undergraduate students from the Department of Life Sciences, K.C. College, HSNC University. The aim of this competition was to create awareness regarding plastic pollution and inspire the creative thinking of the students.

Prior to the competition, Bhoomi ma'am commenced the session through an elucidative art and craft demonstration. For the competition, participants were allotted a time limit of 60 minutes, wherein they were instructed to decorate a portrait of a scientist using waste materials in their own creative way. The waste materials that were provided to them were used wool, pistachio shells, envelopes, food packets, old fairy lights, etc. After the decoration, Bhoomi ma'am judged the competition very patiently with dedication and then the results were announced where 1st prize was given to Ms. Kelly Nigrel, 2nd prize to Ms. Harshita Pujari, 3rd prize was shared by Ms. Ayesha Khatri and Mr. Robin Malhotra and the Innovation prize was given to Ms. Saraan Qureshi. The workshop proved very much successful in making the students understand how to utilize the waste materials in an innovative and creative manner.

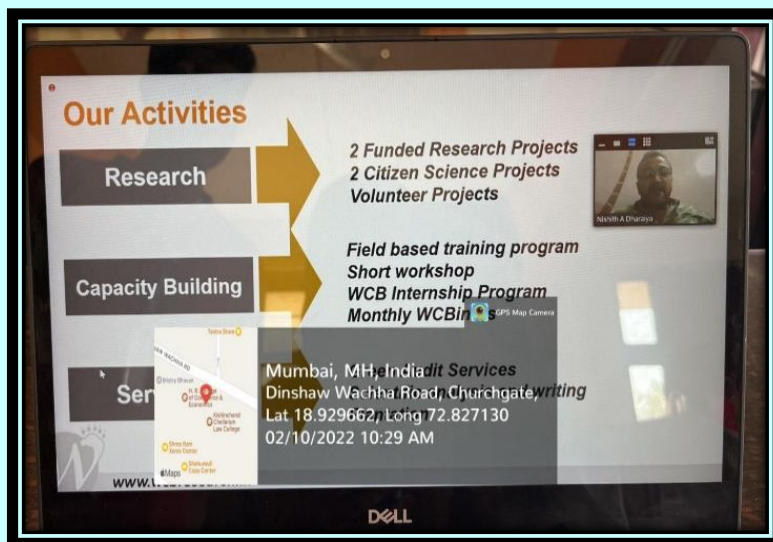
Feedback:-

The extensive knowledge and experience of the illustrious resource people not only stimulated student's interest in reducing plastic footprints but also helped them understand the important aspects of using wastes in a creative way. The speakers with their remarkable knowledge very concisely explained all the aspects for determining plastic footprints in an extremely elucidative manner. All the participants felt that communication with the speakers was at ease and they patiently responded all the questions and clarified the doubts of the students. The workshops as a whole was splendid as the speakers were excellent orienteers and had keen knowledge of their work. Both the workshops were very well organized and the information was effectively delivered and also the time allotted was sufficient. Many participants conveyed their gratitude and wished to attend more such empirical and elaborate workshops on these subjects in future as well. Altogether, the participation in these workshops was a delightful investment of time and it was a great success.



**Dr. Rushika Patel
providing an
interesting talk on
'PLASTIC
FOOTPRINTS'**

**Dr. Nishith Dharaiya
introducing the
participants to 'WCB
RESEARCH
FOUNDATION'**



**'Participants Delightful Gratitude for
the Competition @KCLifeSciences'**