

Annual Report



**National Service Scheme,
Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay
2015-16**

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Introduction

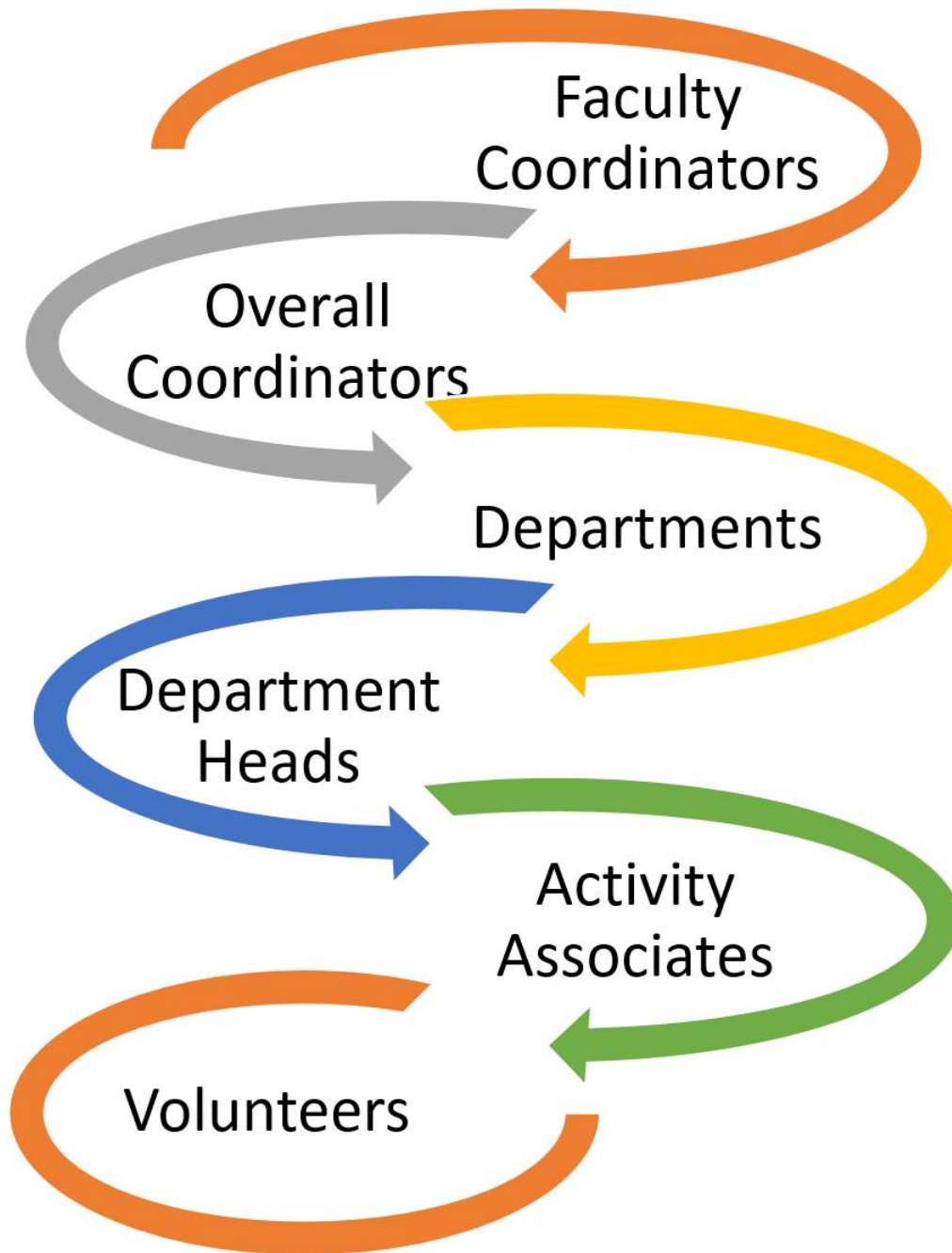
National Service Scheme, IIT Bombay is the most active organization in the campus in the field of social/ community service. Established with the aim of inculcating social welfare thoughts among the students and undertaking actions reflecting the same, NSS IITB reached new heights in the academic year 2015-16, with more than 350 freshmen volunteers enrolling in NSS, and more than 50 non-freshmen volunteers participating in the activities.

While it is the IIT Bombay chapter of National Service Scheme institutionalized by Government of India under the Ministry of Youth Affairs Sports, the impact of NSS IITB can be felt in all parts of the nation. This year, we have reached the students of remote places of India, who use our educational videos for studying in regional languages; the people of Nepal, who benefited from the monetary aid collected by our volunteers after the tragic earthquake, and also the people of different parts of Mumbai who benefited from the clothes collected during our Cloth Collection Campaign.

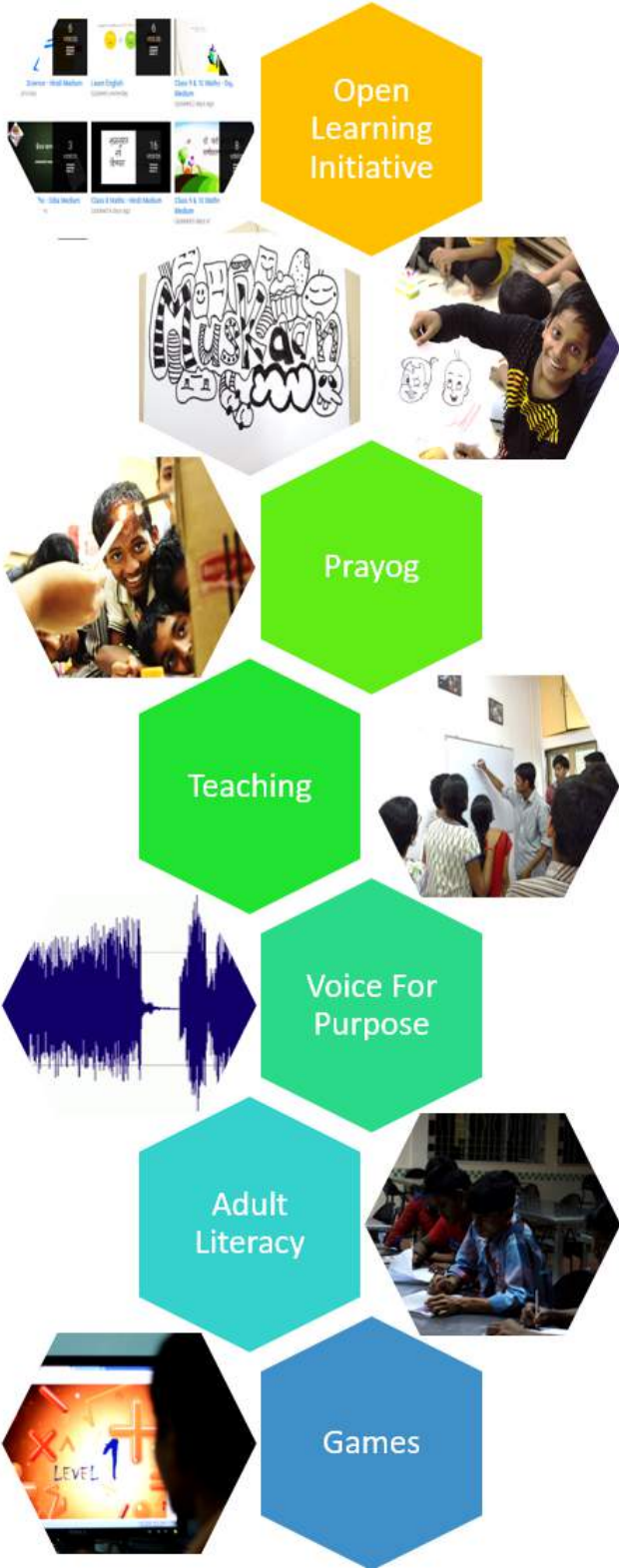
Composed of four departments, Educational Outreach, Green Campus, Events and Vikas, the activities of NSS IIT Bombay are varied and cover almost all aspects of social service. Educating underprivileged students irrespective of language and distance barriers, maintaining the greenery of the campus and improving its richness and diversity, working towards environmental sustainability, reaching out to people in disaster-struck regions, improving the life of campus residents, reaching out to the construction workers in the campus and identifying their problems and working on them are some of the major activities undertaken by NSS IITB.

Spreading happiness has been one of the primary objectives of NSS. With innovative activities on important days, like Friendship day, Teachers' Day, World Happiness Day etc., we try to create small, happy and memorable moments in the lives of the campus residents. And working in NSS itself has been one of the prime sources of happiness for the people associated with us. Bringing to light the stories of the different campus residents who are responsible for its smooth functioning and also the stories of our volunteers has also been a major and a very popular activity undertaken by NSS, IITB.

Structure of NSS IITB



Educational Outreach

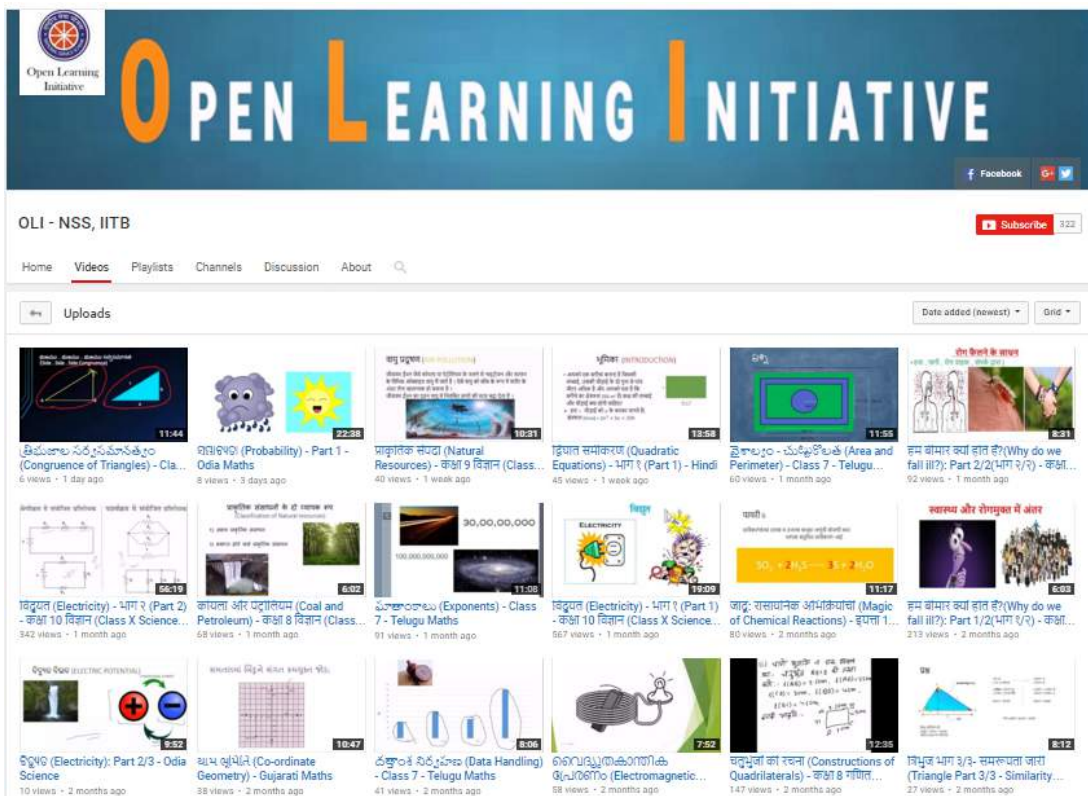


About the Department:

Educational Outreach is the department of NSS, IITB that strives to ensure that every child receives the formal education she or he is entitled to. Also, acknowledging the fact that formal education is not enough for the all round development of a child, initiatives like Muskaan and Prayog were started to train the students in extra-curricular activities and to develop their scientific temperament respectively. Also, this department has national outreach due to its YouTube channel, Open Learning Initiative. Voice for Purpose is another initiative wherein books are recorded for the blind students. With new initiatives like Educational Games, this department is constantly trying to make learning more fun, interesting and enriching. From the mess workers of the institute to the children of remote parts of India, the beneficiaries of this department are varied and large in number.

Initiatives:

Open Learning Initiative:



The channel page on YouTube

About: OLI is a YouTube channel that was launched by NSS, IITB to ensure that language does not become a barrier in education. With educational videos recorded by our volunteers (mostly UG students in their first, second or third years) in regional languages, we aim to make the internet equally useful for students who don't study in English medium schools. Currently, the channel contains **100 educational videos** on Science and Maths in seven Indian languages, namely, **Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Bengali, Odia, Malayalam** and **Telugu**. There is also a **course on English** to benefit the students and a section on **scientific experiments**, wherein interesting and informative experiments are demonstrated to enhance the interest of the students in science and to promote scientific temperament.

Link: <http://youtube.com/c/OLINSSIITB>

Ideation: The idea of launching this YouTube channel was born out of a discussion with a nearby NGO, Vidya. They were on the lookout for educational videos in Hindi and Marathi. They had AV facilities and hence they could have shown those videos to students in the absence of teachers. However, thorough search on the internet did not produce satisfactory results and most of the good videos were in English. That's when we thought of starting our own YouTube channel.

Outreach: Many NGOs in Powai like Vidya, Asha, Logic Center and Community Welfare Association (LCCWA) etc. are using our videos for teaching their students. LCCWA has regular OLI sessions for students on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Many people from other parts of the nation have also been availing our resources. With about **285 subscribers** and more than **23000 views**, the user base of OLI is steadily growing. This is what Diwakaran sir from LCCWA had to say about OLI:

“OLI is a fantastic tool for learning Math specially for 8th std students. As it is in Hindi language and is for the vernacular medium, it is very easy for them to understand the concepts”



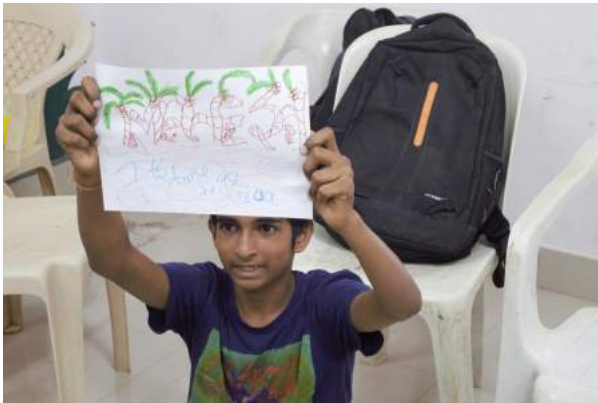
Students of LCCWA during their OLI sessions

Long-term goals:

- Cover all the major regional languages of India
- Reach out to as many NGOs as possible.
- Cover all the basic topics in Science and Math and also other subjects
- Train the students in English and make them proficient in the language so that they don't face any problems in their higher studies and professional life
- Make learning fun and interesting

Muskaan:

About: Muskaan is a socio cultural initiative started in 2014 with the aim of training the students in extra-curricular activities. This year, the regular sessions for dance, dramatics and fine arts continued as before (once per week) and new domains of creativity were explored. There were origami sessions, cartoon-making sessions, typography sessions, thumb-painting sessions etc. for the students. More than 20 non-freshmen volunteers participated in this initiative over the course of two semesters.





Glimpses of Muskaan sessions

Outreach: Over 150 students from 3 NGOs benefited from Muskaan

The Way Forward: It has been planned to introduce Music as a cultural activity in Muskaan. Introduction of sports is also under consideration. Regular sessions will continue as before and we plan to expand to as many NGOs as possible.

Prayog:

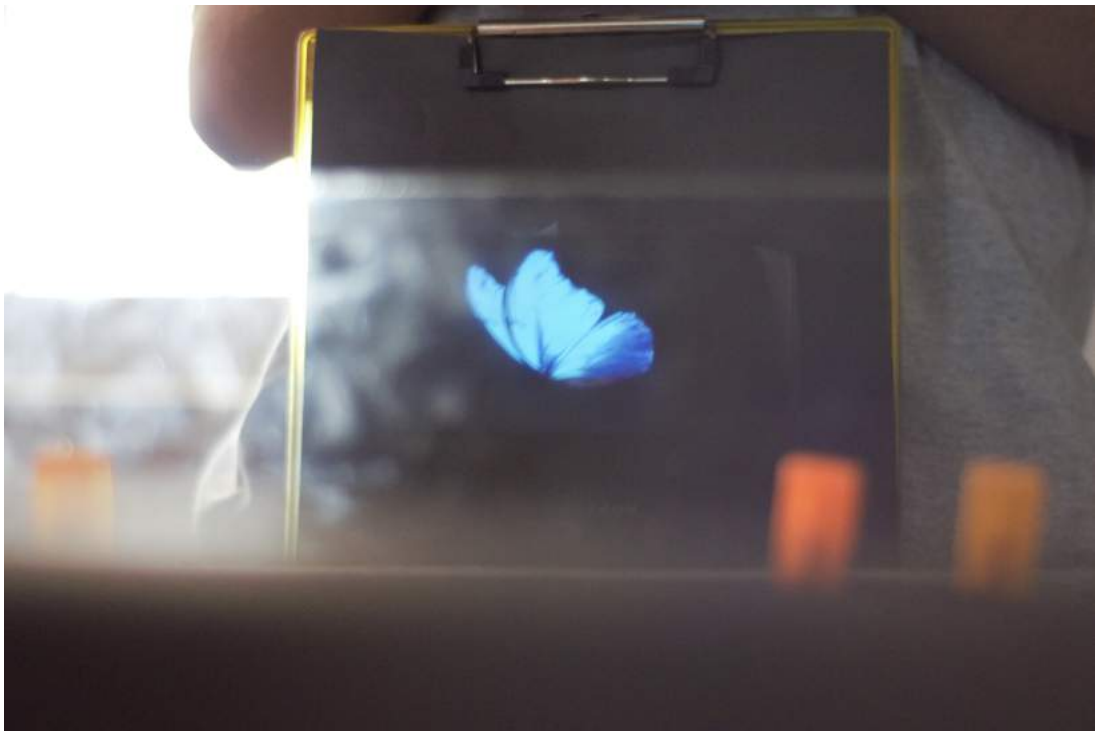
About: Prayog, as the name suggests, is about experimentation. Launched with the aim of instilling scientific temperament among the students, a number of simple, yet interesting and informative scientific experiments are demonstrated to the students under this initiative. The students get a chance to perform the experiments themselves after the demonstration. Also, care is taken to ensure that the experiments are performed with readily available apparatus so that the students can easily replicate them when they go home. All the experiments are followed by an explanation of the scientific principles on which the experiment is based.



Experiment demonstrating that molecules move faster in hot water



Experiment demonstrating magnetization



Experiment demonstrating a 3D hologram



A home-made telescope



Experiment demonstrating the role of density in making things float

Outreach: Over 100 students from 2 NGOs benefited from the 75+ experiments demonstrated in Prayog over the course of two semesters. Also, the experiments are being recorded and the videos of some experiments have already been put up on OLI channel with proper editing. Thus, the actual number of people benefiting from Prayog is quite huge.

The way ahead: Regular sessions will continue as before. We have planned to increase the complexity of the experiments gradually. Efforts will be made to ensure that all the experiments are properly recorded and their videos are put up on OLI and all the potential beneficiaries are made aware of this initiative.

Teaching:

About: The flagship activity of the Educational Outreach department involves teaching the underprivileged students in the nearby NGOs in and around the campus.



Glimpses of regular teaching sessions in NGOs

Outreach: This year, we had the addition of a new NGO in the list of our beneficiaries, Right to Education - Dnyantara Center (RTE - DC). Thus, a total of 5 NGOs (Vidya, Asha, RTE - DC, Logic Center and Community Welfare Association (LCCWA) and Computer Literacy Program (CLP)) with 12 centers in all, benefited from our volunteers. A total of more than 100 volunteers taught more than 300 students in these centers. Also, this year, for the first time, the volunteering services were extended in the summers as well. An unprecedented 50 non-freshmen volunteers taught varied subjects like Science, Math, English, Video Editing, Photoshop, HTML etc. in the summers.

The way forward: We plan to involve more and more volunteers in teaching activities and extend our services to as many NGOs as possible.

Voice for Purpose:

About: This initiative involves recording of books for the blind students. Unlike last year, this year, we recorded novels for the students with the aim of creating recreational content for the blind students. The idea was that recreation plays an equally important role in education.

Outreach: More than 20 volunteers were involved in this initiative. More than 10 books were recorded.

The way ahead: We have planned to record wide variety of books ranging from novels to IAS preparation guides.

Adult Literacy:

About: For the first time, Educational Outreach department has made attempts to promote adult literacy. In the Autumn semester, the security guards of the institute and in the spring semester, the mess workers of Hostels 4,7, and 9 and the adults (construction workers, wives of IITB staff members etc.) availing computer education at the Computer Literacy Program (CLP) were given training in spoken English. We have received very positive feedback and there is a lot of enthusiasm among adults related to this program.



English Classes in CLP



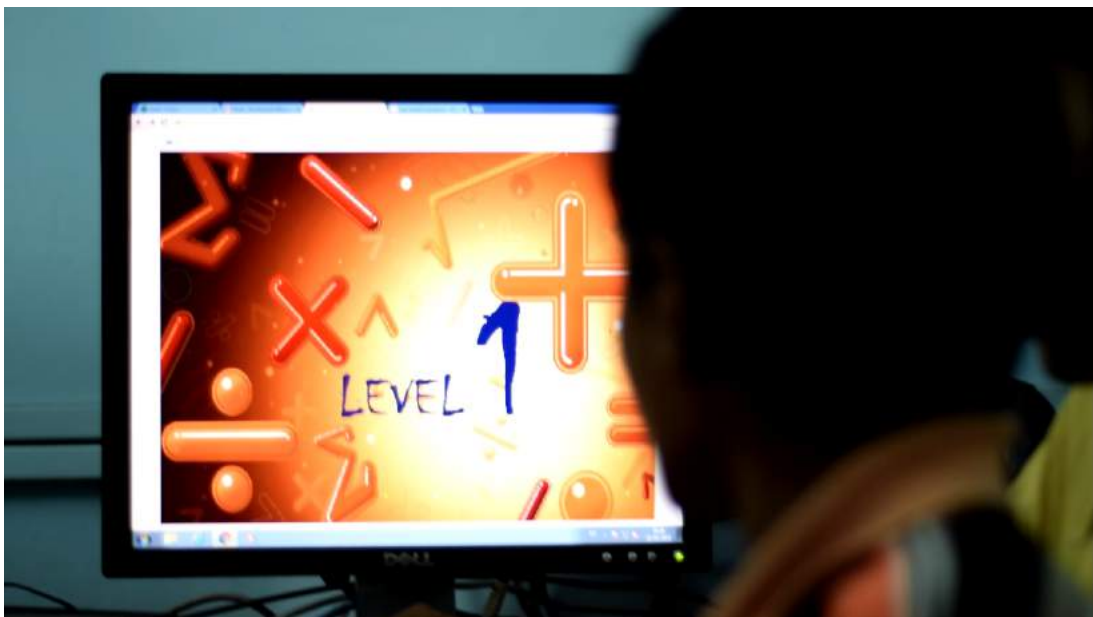
English Classes in Hostel 9 mess

Outreach: More than 10 security guards and 20 mess workers benefited from this program. In addition, about 20 adults availing computer education in CLP also benefited from this.

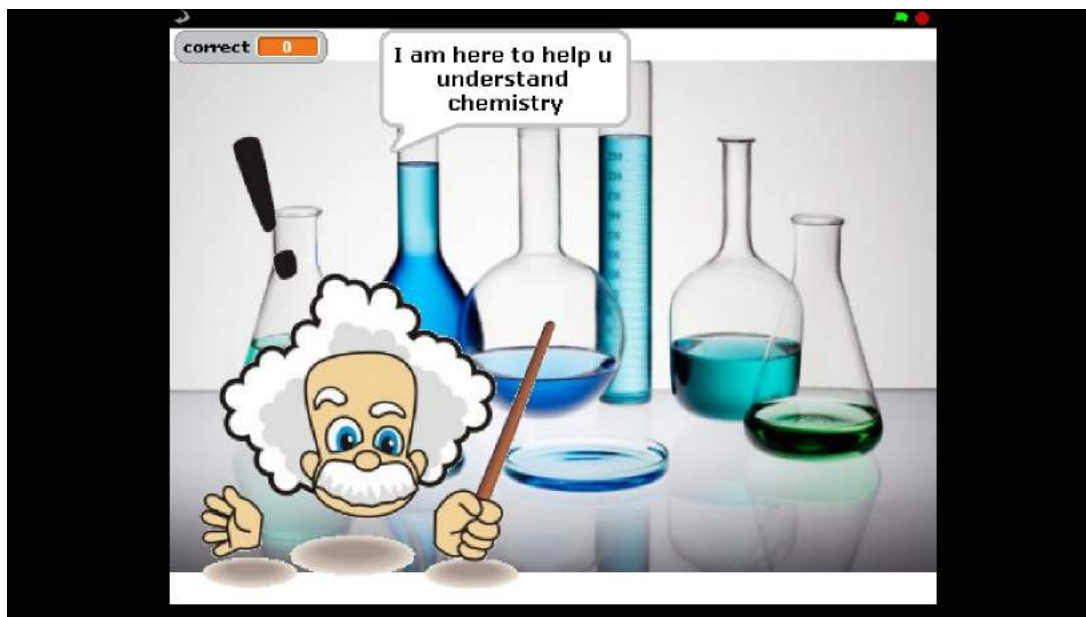
The way ahead: This program will be extended to all the hostel messes of IITB. In addition, PHO workers and construction workers of the campus will also be approached and separate classes will be conducted for the interested students.

Educational Games:

About: This is another pilot project taken up in the spring semester. The aim was to make learning more fun and interesting. Games were made in Scratch that were designed to help the students in education and enhance their knowledge in Science, Math and increase their general knowledge. A total of 7 games were made in the spring semester.



A student playing the game in NGO Asha



A snapshot of a game based on chemistry

Outreach: The games are currently in the final stage. These will be distributed among various NGOs and they will also be put up on our website.

The way ahead: We have planned to take detailed feedback from the students and improve the existing games based on the feedback. More games will be made. Platforms more professional than Scratch are also being considered for making the games.



Vikas



About the Department:

In modern world where nature is being meddled with, sustainability is a major question. NSS Vikas works on sustainable ideas. We identify problems and come up with 'What can I do' level solutions so that everyone can implement them and contribute their bit to the society. Many of the things which may seem like trash might turn out to be materials of immense use to somebody who is not as fortunate as us. We identify, innovate and execute such ideas for a better tomorrow.

Major Activities

Eco-friendly Ganesha Idols:

This year, for the first time in all the hostels, Ganesh Chaturthi was celebrated in an ecofriendly way! NSS helped the hostels in buying ecofriendly idols from the vendor- Sarthak Kala Kendra , while others made idols on their own. Out of 16 hostels, we had 11 orders, and the rest of the hostels made idols on their own using clay. The colours are not fully ecofriendly, but efforts are being put up onto start using natural colours as soon as possible. The best part about ecofriendly idols as compared to PoP idols is that when immersed in water during Visarjan, these idols fully dissolve into water within 7 minutes, while the PoP ones don't fully degrade even after 7-8



months!

Animal Vaccination Drive:

The loyal innocent dogs in the campus were given the anti rabies vaccination by the experts from Welfare of Stray Dogs Society in Mahalaxmi. Help and Support was provided by the NSS volunteers as well as the members of the “Animal Rescue” group of IIT Bombay, comprising of dog lovers which includes various professors, students and residents of the campus! About 51 dogs all around the campus at various places were vaccinated, some crying due to pain and some calmly standing, waiting for their turn! Vaccination is advised once a year and hence, this activity will continue every year. The places covered include - Main Gate, H10, Kresit, MEMS, Y P Gate, Aravalli, Sahyadri, Type 7, Type 21, Type 24, Library, Staff Canteen, IDC, Gulmohar Guest House, SOM, Convocation Hall, H11, H12, H13, H14, H8, Staff Hostel, Tansa House, H1.



Dog lovers with their vaccinated pets

Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan:

This year, the cleaning drive was conducted in the Dharavi slums of Mumbai. 23 volunteers participated. This activity saw a participation of many non-freshmen volunteers as well. The children living in Dharavi were also involved and made aware about the

importance of cleanliness. Another drive was conducted in Sameer Hill area. The volunteers collected plastic wrappers, tea cups, dry leaves, and many more waste around the way to the hill. They started from the top and steadily came to the bottom part of the hill, gradually trying to eliminate the waste they saw scattered along the way. Finally, 4 garbage bags were collected, full of waste.

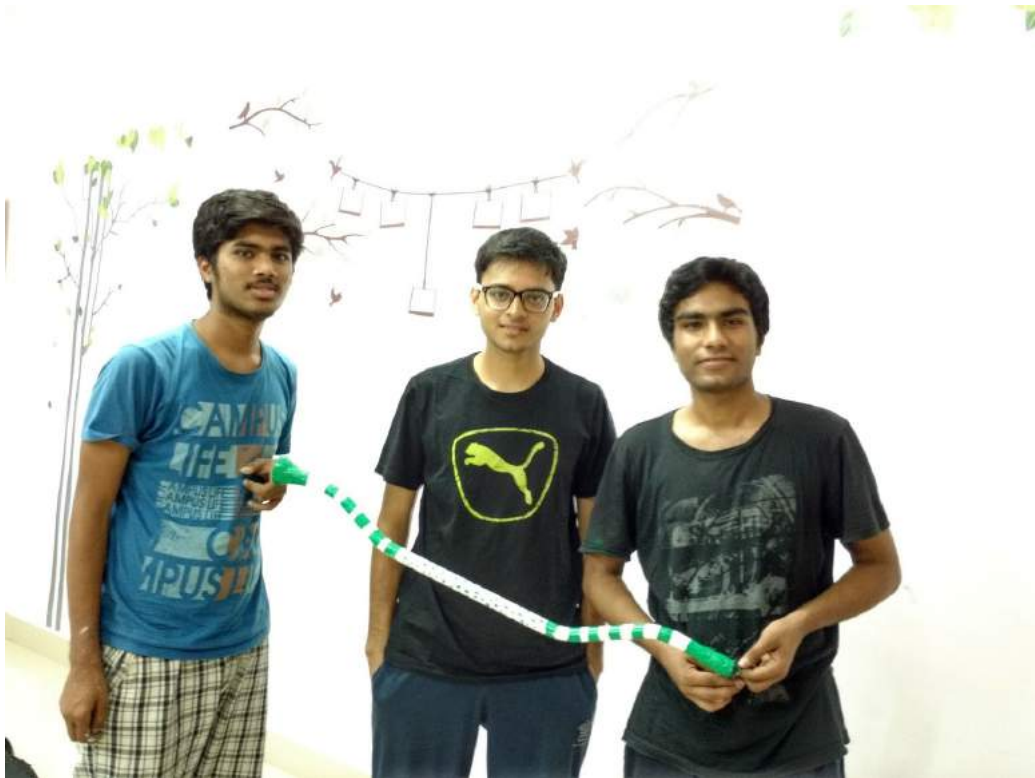
In both the drives, proper care of the hygiene of the volunteers was taken. People were given gloves and masks to cover their mouth.



Volunteers after the Dharavi Cleanliness Drive

Musical Instruments from Trash:

Musical instruments, such as coffee can drum, guitar, sticker shaker, dumbek, sistrum etc were made from trash by the Vikas freshmen. The waste was gathered from around the campus and the musical instruments were made visually pleasing by the freshmen by means of proper painting. These instruments will be distributed to the kids studying in nearby NGOs and their feedback will be taken on the utility of these instruments.



Volunteers holding an instrument made by them



A mini drum

Bird Walk:

In accordance with the HSBC India Bird Race, which took place between 13th and 17th Feb, 2016, we had the Mumbai bird race on Sunday, 14th Feb 2016. Bird experts and nature lovers Sunjoy Monga, Ravi Subramaniam and coordinator Pravin Subramaniam had come to IIT Bombay campus on 14th Feb, and the freshmen got an opportunity to interact with them. Like a group of bird watchers, the freshmen moved along the lakeside area of IIT Bombay and watched the birds, noting the various rare species, clicking photos and exchanging the binoculars before the natural creatures fly away from our sight. A 3 hour long journey, a time spent with the birds, identifying close to 35 species of birds at campus, was a memorable and an unforgettable experience for the freshmen.



One of the delightful sights



Bird-watching in action

Use of flexes:

Flexes are a major nuisance in the institute owing to the fact that they are non-reusable, non-recyclable and non-degradable. The Vikas Department took up the responsibility of putting the flexes to good use. After all major events in the institute, the flexes put up for advertising that event were collected by the freshmen. Many innovative ideas came up, like containers for collecting the one sided papers, dustbins etc. The ideas are currently in the design phase and we plan to take the help of professors from the Industrial Design Center to help us improve our designs.

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a small, young green plant with soil. The plant has several small, light green leaves and a thin stem. The soil is dark and appears to be a mix of earth and organic matter. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting. The text "Green Campus" is overlaid on the right side of the image in a white, sans-serif font.

Green Campus

About the Department:

A healthy campus is not the one with greenery but the one with the sustainable greenery. With the increasing infrastructural needs inside the institute, many trees are being cut down, thus decreasing the greenery in our institute. With the aim of tackling this issue Green Campus department was formed in NSS, IIT Bombay. We conduct plantation drives, take care of small saplings and this year we started and developed a new nursery which is being maintained by the students.

Major Activities

Plantation Sessions:

This is one of the most important and major activities done by the Green Campus department in the campus. Saplings of different varieties peep out of warm earth during monsoons in abandoned areas. These saplings cannot sustain in those areas due to lack of sunlight because of the shade provided by the bigger trees from whom the seeds came. They lack water once the monsoon is over. The Green Campus volunteers uproot those saplings from those areas and preserve them in our nursery by replanting them in the sapling covers. They provide them sufficient nutrients required for the growth.



Replanting in sapling covers

Along with these saplings, the volunteers also plant some of the decorative plants like 'money plants', 'cordyline' etc. in the main nursery. We have around 100 decorative plants developed in the nursery which the volunteers of Green Campus, with a lot of enthusiasm and efforts, have very carefully planted so that they are water resistant and protected against



Volunteers in action

excessive rains by making proper openings in the sapling covers. These saplings and decorative plants which are being grown in the nursery are taken care of by the volunteers. They regularly water it.



Neem plants

Around 1500 plants were planted by the volunteers in just two plantation sessions. In addition, we had sown neem seeds in the sapling covers. Neem, which is a medicinal plant, will be transplanted all over the institute after proper growth in the nursery. We also had plantations of some ayurvedic plants like deodar which helps us by giving shade with a canopy at a height of 40- 50 meters.

These are also uprooted from the areas like Lecture Hall Complex and Kresit building where they cannot sustain themselves.

Drip Irrigation:

This was suggested by the Activity Associates of the Green Campus department. We planned to make pots for the decorative plants and implement drip irrigation methods in nursery to prevent excessive usage of water. So, to implement this we had use the waste cold drink and water bottles and anti-toxic saline bottles. A longitudinal cut was made in the bottles for plantation purposes. Small holes are made on the either sides of bottle to fit a small wooden stick which helps in supporting the pot when it is hanged by tying with a jute thread.



Volunteers preparing pots for drip irrigation

Later a saline bottle was attached to each bottle with drip switch to control the flow of water to soil. This mechanism reduced the wastage of water during watering the plants. These bottles are to be filled once in two days which also reduced the efforts for watering. Our volunteers made around 100 pots. The pots were installed in the main nursery.

Seed-bed making in Nursery:

After a great effort NSS IIT Bombay has its own nursery now besides the Niligiri building. The land was totally barren with lots of stones and construction waste. Therefore, the first task for the Green Campus volunteers was to make this land usable for plantation.



Seed-bed making

11 beds were made in all for sowing seeds. They were made with proper boundaries with size of almost 4x7 feet. We had taken the advice from one of the project staff, Ajit Harpude, from Green house labs, Computer Science Engineering Department, IIT Bombay. We had sown leafy vegetable seeds of different varieties like palak (spinach), lal math (red amaranthus), thotakura (green amaranthus), gongura (ambadi), coriander (kothimer) in the nursery. The seeds were brought from Byculla, from a famous nursery in Mumbai. People there suggested what kind of seeds should be sown in our campus. The boundaries of these beds are made of the stones which we collected while cleaning the nursery. Soil in the beds is mixed with coco-peat and compost which is helpful for the growth of seeds.

Tray-seedling session:

Trays require a very small area but large amount of nutrients for the saplings. The seeds like onion and tomato were initially sown in the trays. The soil that is used in the trays is porous and is a mixed with coco-peat which holds moisture required for the growth during germination. Once they grow up then they will be transplanted to the bigger sapling covers.



A glimpse of the tray-seedling session

Compost-Bed Making:

Using the vegetable cut waste from hostel 10, 7, 3 of just one day, compost beds were prepared containing one layer of soil, one layer of vegetable waste and one layer of dry leaves and the procedure is repeated till some height. The waste in these beds gets decomposed by earthworms and finally, compost is obtained which can be served to plants after a month or a two. This compost of high nutritious content is then added to the beds.



Volunteers making the compost bed

Transplantation:

Stage 1:

In the initial stage, the saplings of onions, tomatoes etc. were transplanted from trays to covers which effectively increases their growth. About 400 onion saplings were transplanted into covers which can produce onions and spring onions which serve a hostel for one day food. Along with that we had also transplanted 40 sunflower plants and tomato plants.



Transplantation of onion saplings

Stage 2:

At this stage the saplings which are planted in the covers needed to be transplanted to the soil as it is the stage where yielding of tomatoes and sunflower seeds start.



Transplantation Stage 2

Flowering Plants:

To maintain the diversity and increase flowering in the campus we initiated planting our own flowering plants from earlier stages till their proper growth in the nursery. Different varieties of seeds were sown in the sapling covers. Some seed varieties are chrysanthemum, gallardia, portulaca, zinnia, dahlia etc..



Seeds of flowering plants being sown by our volunteers

Along with seeds, saplings which were in their initial stages were brought and planted in the nursery. Among these we had 4 different types of chrysanthemum, jasmine, red blooms and some varieties. Due to the flowering plants, there is an increase in the number of butterflies in the nursery and the bird flow in the nursery has also increased. The diversity in the campus is thus, slowly increasing.

Fruit tree plantations:

Along with flowering plants, some fruit trees are also planted, although it may take years for the trees to bear fruits. We have a coconut tree, which will bear coconuts after 10-15 years and also one banana tree which will bear fruits after 2 years. Some papaya seeds are also planted which were donated by the wife of a retired institute professor.



Banana plant



Coconut trees

All these plants are planted with the organic compost that we prepared in the nursery.

Pond:

Our nursery and volunteers are in requirement of water during and after the sessions for the washing of hands and tools. Our institute fests use lots of flexes during execution which are later thrown away. We effectively used one of the waste flexes to make a small pond which can be filled with up to 150 liters of water.



Volunteers making the pond

Harvest Distribution:

Many different types of vegetables are grown in our nursery. Leafy vegetables, especially, reach the harvest stage very fast. These have to be distributed. Our team decided to distribute them among those people in the campus who cannot afford to buy vegetables, and some workers who helped in building the nursery. The vegetables were also distributed among some staff members residing near the nursery. This act has generated a lot of enthusiasm among the institute people about the nursery, with many coming forward to help develop it.



Distribution of the Harvest

Decoration of the Nursery:

Saplings of money plants, which can creep up the fence were planted in bottles of plastic which were hung to the fencing.



Money plants being planted



Events



About the Department:

Events try to make sure that our services to mankind find their destination. The department is very versatile with regard to the kind of activities contributing towards the upliftment of society are concerned. Helping the underprivileged by providing them with necessary amenities can be attributed as the cornerstone of what we do. Ranging from welfare of construction workers to spreading awareness about various social problems through blogs and street plays, NSS Events aims to serve the society in the most satisfying ways.

Major Activities

Republic Day Skit:

After receiving a healthy response for 'Child Abuse' and 'Bullying in schools', NSS Events was back this year, with a team of 12, to perform the Republic Day Skit on 'Every Child is Unique'. The play was scripted by the freshmen volunteers on January 14, 2016. It was a story of an ordinary guy with a special talent, but no one to appreciate it. The story of how Pankaj Mishra, a budding flautist, was being forced to achieve academic excellence. With a total of 6 scenes and 11 days to go, the team put in a tremendous effort to put on a good show. Props and costumes were all arranged by the volunteers and Activity Associates. Rigorous rehearsals were conducted by Activity Associates everyday. On the Republic Day, the freshmen volunteers put up a performance that was worth a round of applause. Dean(SA) and Prof. Anand Rao complimented the team on their good work. All in all, it was a really good activity as it gave the volunteers a chance to bond with their peers and work together as a team.





Glimpses from the skit

Buddy Program and Health Camp:

Continuing from the previous year, NSS Events conducted the 'Buddy Program' followed by a 'Health Camp'. This year 'Buddy Program' was conducted for a span of 2 weeks in the month of November. The freshmen were divided into groups and allotted a construction worker family from one of the 3 camps in the institute. They were instructed to make atleast 4 visits to their allotted family and gather information about their health issues and any problems they might be facing within the institute. After the 'Buddy Program' concluded, its results were evaluated to conduct the 'Health Camp'.

NSS Events conducted a 'Health Camp' in February, with the help of Dr. Dipak Chatterjee from KEM Hospital. The doctor was contacted a week before and he arranged for all the required medicines and an assistant doctor. The construction workers were examined properly, given proper medication and they returned with a smile on their faces. The doctor was also thankful to NSS IIT Bombay for the collaborative effort. Thus, NSS Events was successful in conducting another 'Health Camp'.



The Health Camp in progress

Graduating Students' Collection Drive:

This Collection Drive was conducted during April-June 2015. It was intended to collect the belongings of passing out students which were of no use to them further. It was conducted all over the Institute i.e., in every hostel, a separate room was allotted for this collection drive. The Hostels were divided amongst the Activity Associates to look after the collections. We got to see many enthusiastic participants. We collected various things such as mattresses, clothes, bags, books, etc. By the end of June we got large amount of collections in the allotted rooms. It was decided to donate all the collections to an NGO called Manav Jeevan. The NGO people who came ahead to collect the stuff were very generous and humble. It took us a whole day to collect the donations from just half the hostels. The NGO people had to come for a second time to complete the process. Even though it was a tiresome process, they never showed any tiredness or regret. Their selflessness inspired us to take up more such activities in future.

NGO Visit:

This Activity was the first one for the freshmen of 2015-2016 batch. This activity was divided into two sessions, one in which the students prepared some content to show at the

NGO and second the visit itself. In the first session, the students were grouped according to the states they have come from. They were asked to make a chart portraying their culture and specialities about their region. Many of the students bonded with each of their group members because they were from same or nearby region. The students showed great enthusiasm in making their charts as well.

On the day of NGO visit, everybody was taken to a nearby NGOs outside the IIT Bombay Campus, where they interacted with the staff in the NGO and also with the students there. Later, they displayed their charts and explained the kids about their culture one by one. This activity acted as a step towards cultural integration among the NGO Kids and IITB Freshmen as well. Overall the students were really satisfied with what they had done through this activity.



The Health Camp in progress

Cloth Collection Campaign:

Cloth Collection Campaign being NSS Events' flagship event was conducted on a large scale covering the entire campus as far as possible. It was conducted in two phases. In phase 1, all the hostels including hostels 1 to 16 and QIP were covered. The hostels were divided among all the students enrolled under NSS Events. Cardboard boxes were kept in each wing of the hostel to collect the clothes instead of polythene bags to avoid environmental hazards. Clothes collected from different hostels were donated to Manav Jeevan NGO which donated it further in villages where they were needed, after segregation. We collected a total of about 2800 kgs of clothes in phase 1 of CCC.

In phase 2, the residential area was divided among the students enrolled under NSS Events

and were asked to visit each and every house and tell them about the campaign. As before, collection of clothes was completed from different residential areas including Lake side, Hill side etc. The clothes collected from this phase of CCC were donated to the nearby slums.



Donate them by- 4th October

Ashish 7506134769

Rashmi 9967367798

Scientific Toy Making:

Toys based on the simple scientific laws of physics were made by the freshmen and demonstrated to the children at Aman Day Care Center. The activity was very good for both freshmen and children. They learned very new concepts of physics through toys which is always a fascinating thing for them.



A volunteer demonstrating the toy made by him

Nepal Earthquake Relief Campaign:

Nepal Earthquake Relief Campaign took place in the month of May. Each Activity Associate was allotted a group of hostels and then they visited the hostel mess during the dinner time and collected the funds donated by the students of that hostel towards the PM RELIEF FUND which were further donated to NEPAL earthquake victims. The donations were deducted from the mess advance of those students. Around 2 lakh rupees were collected.

Miscellaneous/ Common Activities

Bio-Diversity Mapping:

This activity was conducted jointly by the Vikas and Green Campus departments. Nature guide “Kusum Tai” who was the ex-forest officer in Nashik helped us in identifying the plants and their uses to us. There are about 50 varieties of plants in just small area around Student Activity Centre (SAC). From the information collected, we came to know that there are more than 1000 varieties of plants in the campus which are rarely found in India. More interestingly, we found that there are some palm trees which give fruits after 100 years and live for more than 500 years. We had made report on all these plants during the trip in the institute. We even identified the medicinal plants which can cure cancer in the earlier stages, herbs that are used in Ayurveda, some plants which help in curing asthma, etc.



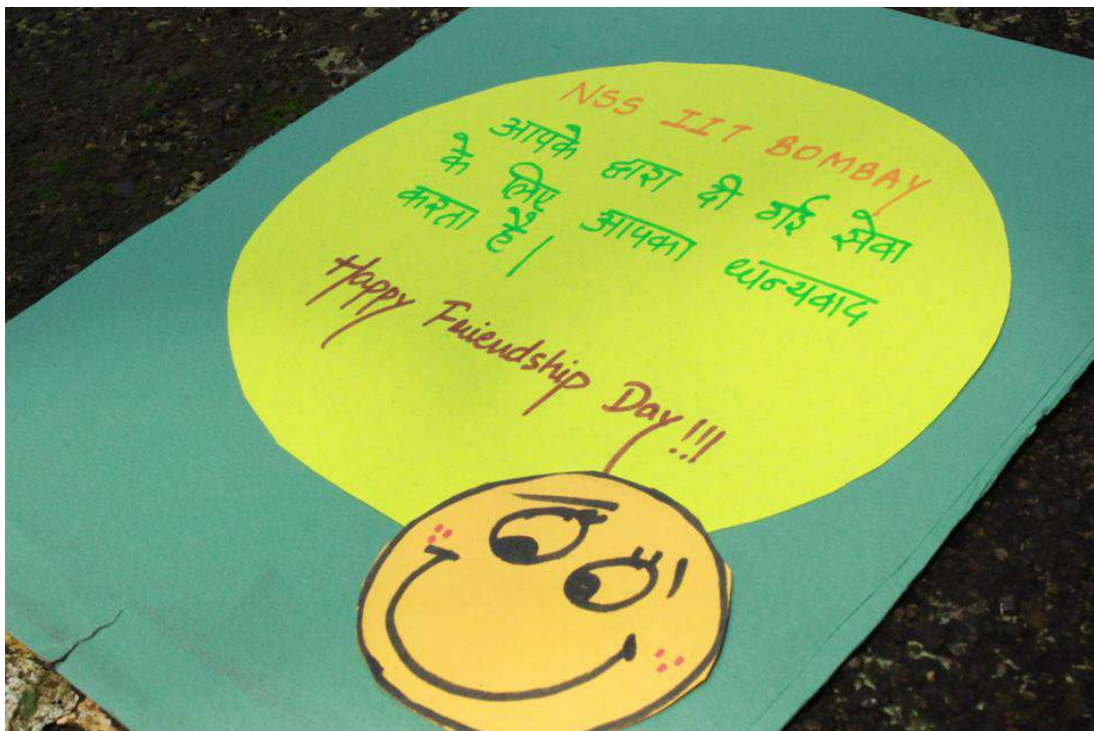
Volunteers being guided by Kusum Tai

Some audio-visual glimpses of the bio-diversity mapping can be found here: <http://tinyurl.com/jb973sg>

The detailed documentation of the Bio-Diversity mapping, with the information on all the plant species identified can be found in the following report: <http://tinyurl.com/jm5kv17>

Friendship Day:

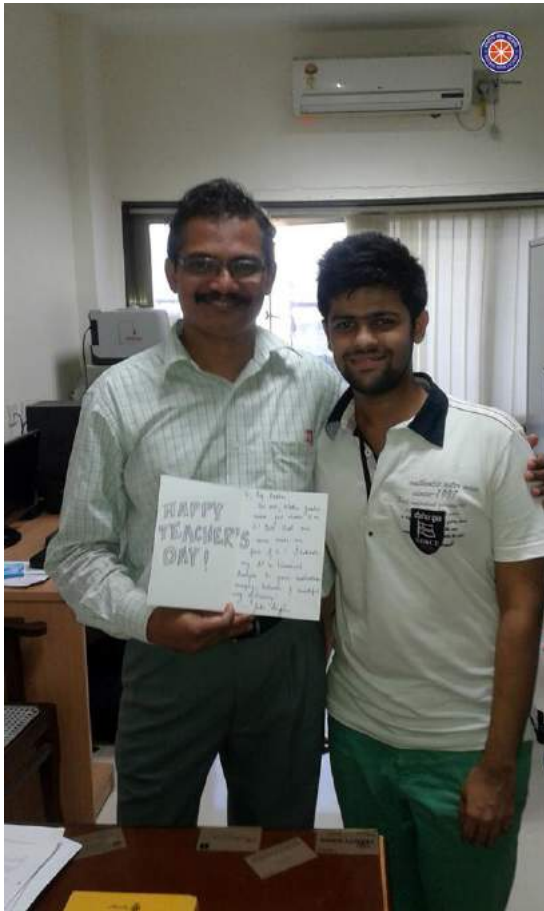
This year, on Friendship day, we decided to thank the PHO workers who are responsible for the cleanliness in the campus. Accordingly, our volunteers prepared 'Thank You' cards for the workers and personally gave the cards along with sweets to the workers. Almost all the hostels were covered.



Glimpses from the Friendship Day activity

Teachers' Day:

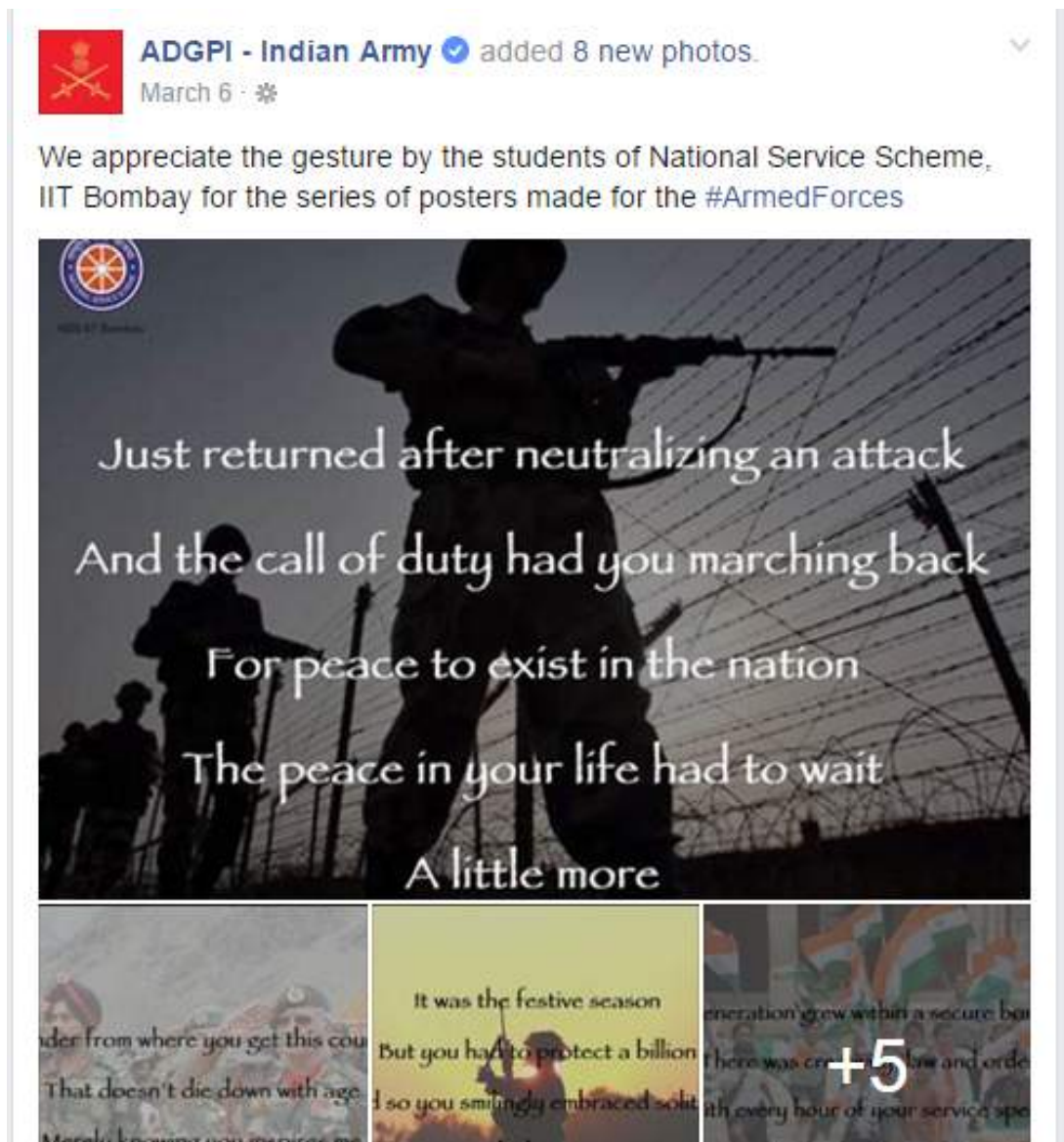
This year, on the occasion of Teachers' Day, we asked the students of the institute to send us a message for their favourite professor. We got over 100 responses. Their messages were then conveyed to the professors in the form of greeting cards by NSS volunteers.



Professors holding the cards made for them

National Defence Day:

On the occasion of National Defence Day (3rd March, 2016), we launched a series of posters honoring the work being done by the armed. The posters had a poem, "A Little More", running through them. The posters were widely appreciated and they were even shared by the official page of the Indian Army.



shared by the official facebook page of the Indian Army

World Happiness Day:

NSS IIT Bombay celebrated International Happiness Day on 20th March, 2016. The Vikas department freshmen took out some time of theirs and pondered on what gives them happiness. They understood and appreciated the fact that every day need not be a happy day, but there is something happy in every thing. Posters were made by the volunteers, catering to various ways of being happy and spreading happiness. These were then displayed on the roads in the academic as well as hostel area. The work was appreciated by the official facebook page of International Day of Happiness.



A volunteer holding the poster made by her



Post from the official FB page of International Day of Happiness

Talks:

- Talk on Gandhian Philosophy:** Professor S.D.Jog, a senior professor in the Mechanical Engineering Department, was the speaker. He primarily spoke on Gandhian Philosophy, discussed with the students their views on it and whether, according to them, the philosophy can still be followed. He also showed spoke a bit about yoga and sustainability. 31 students attended the talk session and actively participated in the discussion with professor by sharing their perspectives. The discussion went on for one hour.



Professor Jog interacting with the students

- **Talk on Substance Abuse:** In collaboration with Counselling Care IITB, NSS Vikas organised a talk on substance abuse by Kripa foundation. 5- 6 members from the foundation had come to the institute. People from the Anti Tobacco Corporation had also come. They addressed the audience, showing them ppts and the Dos and Don'ts about substances. Many side effects were shown. 2 boys suffering from the same had also come to talk about their experience with Kripa Foundation.
- **Talk on Environmental Sustainability:** IIT Bombay is a treasure of organic waste (mostly dry leaves). We are not able to effectively use this wealth. The talk was conducted to know how can we make use it without dumping it. mr. Chirantan ,head of Hiruvepunya, a nursery from Nashik, came to explain the techniques of usage.



The Environmental Sustainability Talk

Invisible Humans of IIT Bombay:

Just like last year, this year also, we brought to light, stories of the campus residents who have been responsible for the smooth functioning of this institute.



People covered under this Series

NSS IITB Memoirs:

Based on the very popular Terrible Tiny Tales, we presented to the world, some real life stories of our volunteers in a concise way in the form of Memoir posts whose examples are given below:

"There is an epidemic of swine flu
in the vicinity of my NGO.
Please shift me to a safer center."

"Fine. But what about your students?"

Later that day, "I want to continue
teaching at the NGO"

NSS IITB Memoirs

"What is the point of planting trees
when the campus is anyway so
green?"
He smiled in response.

20 years later...
Same question, Same smile.
Different people, Different trees.

Some contributions are not so
obvious.

NSS IITB Memoirs

Media Coverage



The Sunday Guardian



The Times of India



DNA

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Prof. Ganesh Ramakrishnan

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