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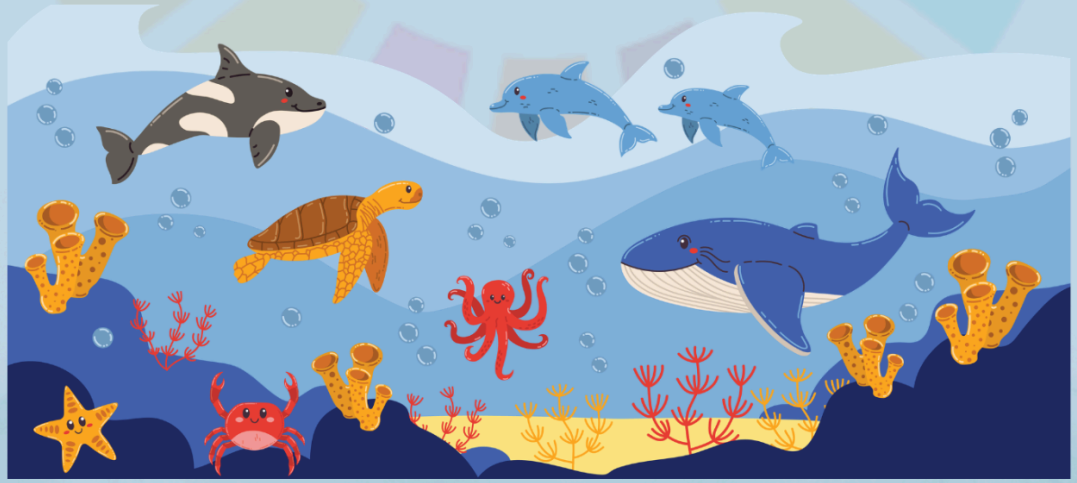
14 SDG

LIFE BELOW WATER

ANNUAL REPORT

2024-25

Protecting Oceans, Preserving Life



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National Seminar: Deep Dive into Aquarium Management

Date: 1 August 2024
Venue: Central Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bangalore Central Campus
No. of Participants: 69 students

The Department of Life Sciences, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), organised the National Seminar "Deep Dive into Aquarium Management" as a skill development programme to provide students with knowledge and practical skills related to aquarium management and aquatic species care. The programme focused on maintaining healthy aquatic environments and introducing students to environmentally friendly aquarium practices. The seminar was attended by 69 students from 1BScLIF, 1BScBtZ, 1BScBtB and 1BScCZ. Mrs Jemma Pius, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology, St. Teresa's College, Ernakulam, delivered the session. Students learned about freshwater and marine aquarium setup, water-quality management, aquatic species care, feeding and health management, aquascaping, and sustainable aquarium practices. The programme contributed to SDG 14 – Life Below Water by developing awareness of aquatic environments, responsible care of aquatic species and water-quality management. Participant feedback showed that 98.3% found the programme informative and interesting, while 95% agreed that it achieved its educational objective.







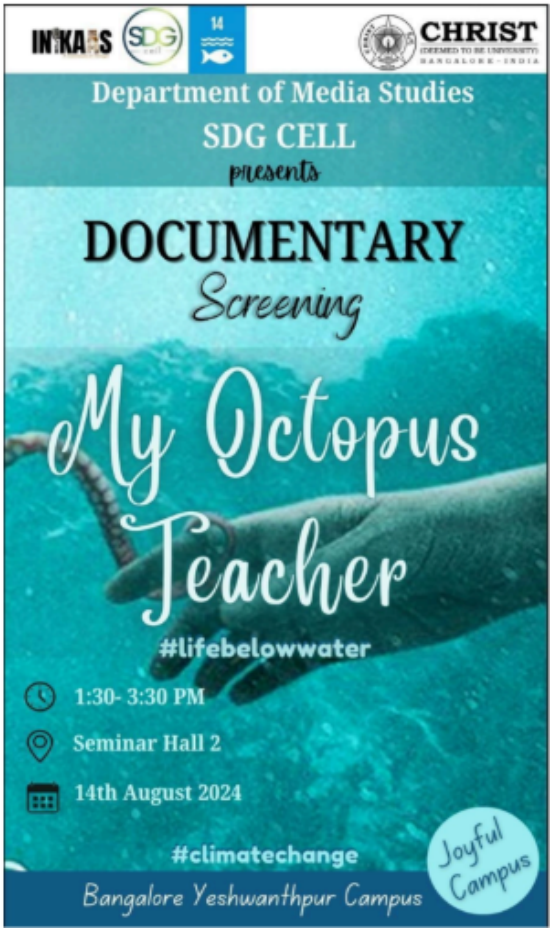
Documentary Screening – My Octopus Teacher

Date: 14 August 2024
Venue: Seminar Hall 2, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Yeshwanthpur Campus
No. of Participants: 300 students

The Department of Media Studies, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Yeshwanthpur Campus, organised a documentary screening of *My Octopus Teacher* as an initiative supporting SDG 14 – Life Below Water. The activity aimed to create awareness about marine biodiversity, the importance of aquatic ecosystems, and the need for their conservation. The programme began with an introduction to the documentary and an orientation on the purpose and achievements of the SDG Cell, followed by the screening and a vote of thanks. The documentary portrayed filmmaker Craig Foster's relationship with a wild octopus in the kelp forests of South Africa, highlighting the intelligence, adaptability, and vulnerability of marine life and the delicate balance of underwater ecosystems. The screening encouraged students to appreciate marine life and understand the connection between humans and nature, thereby promoting awareness and support for the conservation and sustainable use of marine ecosystems.







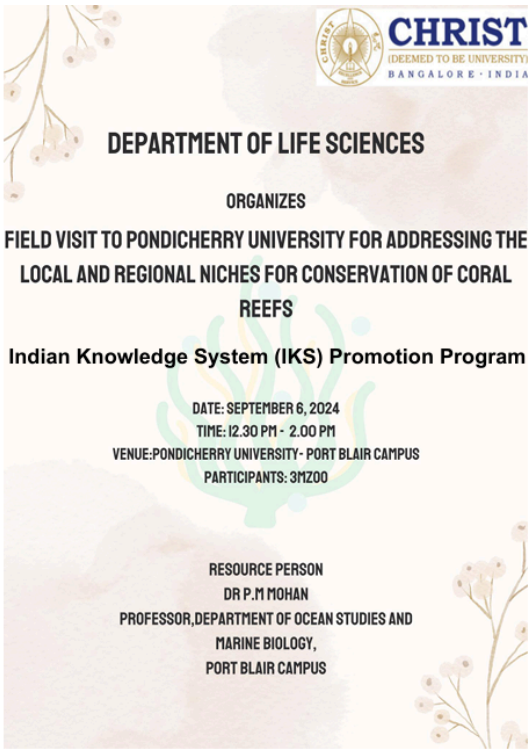
Indian Knowledge System (IKS) Promotion Program for Conservation of Coral Reefs

Date: 6 September 2024
Venue: Pondicherry University, Port Blair Campus, Andaman
No. of participants: 27 postgraduate Zoology students and 3 faculty members

The Department of Life Sciences, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), organised an Indian Knowledge System (IKS) Promotion Programme focused on the conservation of coral reefs. The visit was conducted to enhance students' understanding of marine biodiversity, coral reef conservation, and sustainable use of ocean resources. The programme involved 27 participants, including postgraduate Zoology students and three faculty members. Dr P. M. Mohan, Professor in the Department of Ocean Studies and Marine Biology at Pondicherry University, Andaman and Nicobar Campus, served as the resource person. Students interacted with professors, visited research facilities, and learned about preserved marine species, including corals, molluscs, and echinoderms. The activity directly contributed to SDG 14 – Life Below Water by promoting awareness of coral reef conservation, marine biodiversity and sustainable use of ocean resources. The interaction and exposure to research facilities strengthened students' understanding of marine conservation practices. The programme had a positive impact, with most participants reporting improved understanding of traditional methods for coral reef conservation.







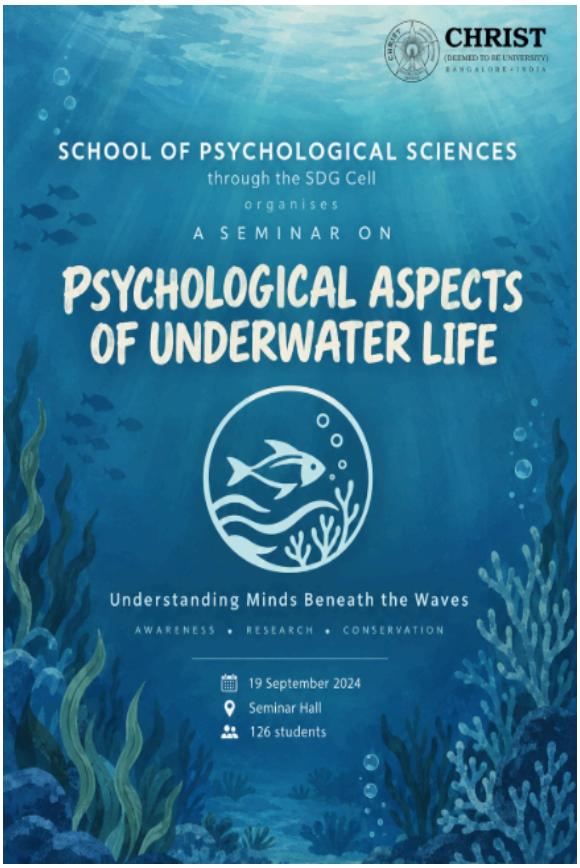
Psychological Aspects of Underwater Life

Date: 19 September 2024
Venue: Seminar Hall, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bangalore Central Campus
No. of participants: 126 students

The School of Psychological Sciences, through the SDG Cell, organised a seminar titled "Psychological Aspects of Underwater Life", focusing on SDG 14 – Life Below Water. The session was conducted by Dr Nityashree K L, Assistant Professor, School of Psychological Sciences, BYC, and aimed to create awareness about aquatic life and the effects of environmental conditions on underwater animals. The seminar discussed the causes and sources of water contamination and their effects on aquatic species, highlighting the environmental factors contributing to the prevalence and mortality of aquatic animals. Special attention was given to zebrafish, including their behavioural responses to environmental stress and their relevance to research. The session also introduced environmental enrichment as a means of supporting the well-being of aquatic animals. The interactive seminar helped participants understand the importance of protecting aquatic ecosystems and reducing water contamination. It contributed to SDG 14 by promoting awareness of threats to aquatic life and the need for responsible conservation of underwater ecosystems.







Field Visit to Fisheries Research and Information Centre, Hesaraghatta

Date: 27 September 2024
Venue: Fisheries Research and Information Centre, Hesaraghatta
No. of participants: 77 students

The Department of Life Sciences, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), organised a field visit to the Fisheries Research and Information Centre, Hesaraghatta, as part of the Aquatic Biology and Fisheries elective. The visit was conducted to provide students with practical exposure to fish cultivation, breeding, hatchery management, and fisheries-related practices. A total of 77 students from BCZ and CBZ participated in the visit. Students observed the mass rearing of fish for cultivation and research, tanks used for fry and larval hatching, ponds for brooders and mature fish, and an aquarium containing commercially viable fish species. They also observed integrated cultivation systems involving fish, ducks and poultry and compiled notes on fisheries operations. The programme directly contributed to SDG 14 – Life Below Water by developing students' understanding of aquatic organisms, fish breeding, aquaculture and responsible management of aquatic resources. The practical exposure helped connect classroom learning with real-world fisheries practices. The visit had a positive learning impact. Participant feedback described the experience as informative and insightful, particularly regarding aquaculture, fish breeding, and different methods of fish production.







Hulimavu Lake Clean-Up Drive

Date: 5 October 2024
Venue: Hulimavu Lake, Hulimavu
No. of participants: 104

The Department of Liberal Arts, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bannerghatta Road Campus, in collaboration with the Indian Ploggers Army, organised a clean-up drive at Hulimavu Lake to promote the protection and conservation of the aquatic environment. The initiative was conducted to address waste accumulation around the lake and create awareness about the harmful effects of plastic pollution on water bodies and aquatic ecosystems. A total of 104 participants took part in the drive and collected nearly 50 kilograms of plastic waste. The activity began with an orientation by the Indian Ploggers Army on plogging and environmental conservation, followed by the collection and segregation of waste for appropriate disposal. Participants were also sensitised to the importance of reducing single-use plastics and adopting sustainable practices. The programme contributed to SDG 14 – Life Below Water by reducing plastic pollution in and around Hulimavu Lake and promoting awareness about the protection of aquatic ecosystems. The clean-up improved the lake's surroundings while encouraging students to take greater responsibility for conserving water bodies and preventing waste from entering aquatic environments.







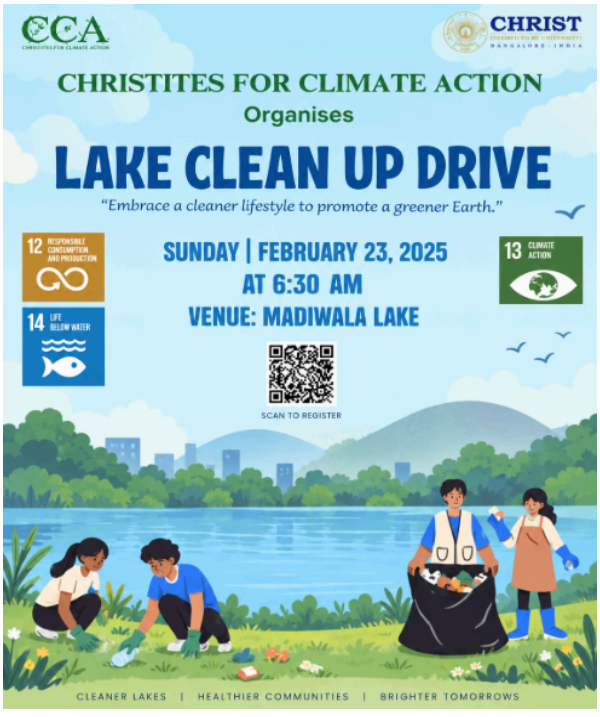
Lake Clean-Up Drive

Date: 23 February 2025
Venue: Madiwala Lake, Bangalore
No. of Participants: 55

Christites for Climate Action (CCA) organised a Lake Clean-Up Drive at Madiwala Lake to promote the protection and conservation of the aquatic ecosystem. The activity aimed to address plastic pollution around the lake and create awareness about the harmful effects of waste accumulation on water bodies and aquatic organisms. The initiative encouraged participants to take active responsibility for maintaining the cleanliness and health of aquatic environments. A total of 55 participants, including core members and volunteers, took part in a plastic plogging drive around the lake. More than 120 kg of waste, including plastic spoons, cigarette butts, and plastic bottles, was collected and subsequently sent to recycling units. Participants were also made aware of pollutants from nearby industries and sewage entering the lake and their potential impact on the aquatic environment. The programme contributed to SDG 14 – Life Below Water by reducing plastic pollution around Madiwala Lake. Plastic waste can enter aquatic ecosystems and pose a threat to aquatic organisms through ingestion, entanglement, and habitat degradation. By removing waste from the lake surroundings and directing recyclable plastic for recycling, the activity supported the protection of aquatic ecosystems. The programme provided participants with practical experience in environmental conservation and strengthened their awareness of the importance of protecting water bodies from pollution. The before-and-after photographs also documented the visible improvement following the clean-up.







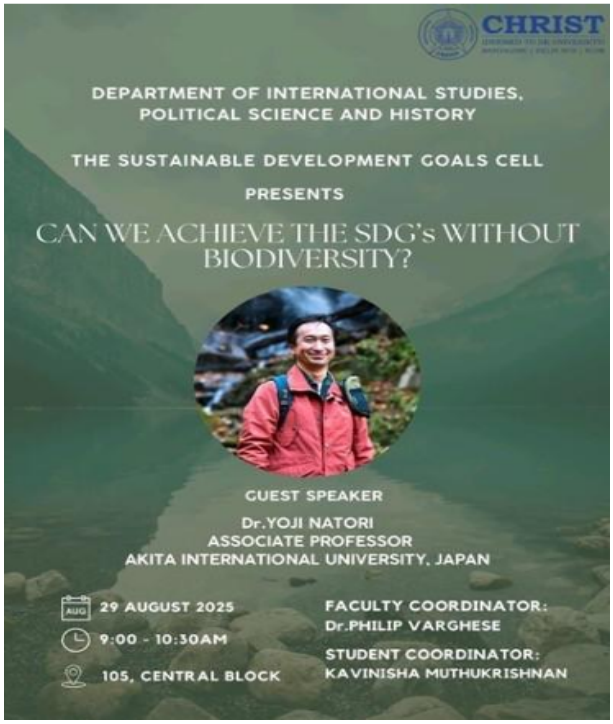
Talk on SDGs and Biodiversity

Date: 29 August 2025
Venue: Central Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bangalore Central Campus
No. of participants: 77 students

The Department of International Studies, Political Science and History organised a guest speaker session titled "Can We Achieve the SDGs Without Biodiversity?" to create awareness about the importance of biodiversity and its role in achieving sustainable development. The programme was particularly relevant to SDG 14 – Life Below Water, as biodiversity conservation and protection of ecosystems are essential for maintaining healthy natural environments. The session was attended by 77 students from I MAPP and I MAIS and was led by Dr Yoji Natori, Associate Professor at Akita International University, Japan. The discussion introduced the origins and significance of the SDGs and examined the interconnections between environmental degradation, overexploitation, greenhouse gas emissions, agricultural and urban expansion, and biodiversity loss. The session highlighted the importance of conservation strategies and healthy ecosystems as carbon reservoirs, while emphasising the need to balance environmental conservation with economic development. It also encouraged students to critically understand the value of nature and biodiversity. The programme contributed to SDG 14 by increasing awareness about biodiversity conservation and the environmental factors affecting ecosystems, encouraging students to develop a more responsible and conservation-oriented approach towards natural resources.









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