

हंसराज महाविद्यालय

दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय

महात्मा हंसराज मार्ग,

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HANSRAJ COLLEGE

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NAAC ACCREDITED 'A++' GRADE COLLEGE

2024-2025



Name of the Event: Awareness Session on Climate Change, Geopolitics, and the Antarctic Connection

Organised by: Haritima, Hansraj College in connection with SAAGa (Science and Geopolitics of Arctic and Antarctic) and LIGHTS (Learning in Geography, Humanities, Technology and Science)

Date of the Event: 7th March 2025

Duration/Event Timing: 2.30 PM to 4.00 PM

Venue of the Event: Old Seminar Room

Name of Coordinator(s): Dr Pooja Jha Maity and Dr Rajoshree Ghosh (LIGHTS)

Student Coordinator(s): Mr Raj Shekhar and Mr Abhiraaj

Name of Convener: Prof. Monika Koul

Event Description

Haritima, the Environmental Society of Hansraj College, organized an awareness session on Climate Change, Geopolitics, and the Antarctic Connection on 7th March, 2025 in the Gyan Prakash Chopra Seminar Hall.

The event was conducted in partnership with LIGHTS, (Learning in Geography, Humanities, Technology, and Science) NGO working on geopolitics and Antarctic studies, and SAAGA (Science and Geopolitics of Arctic and Antarctic), an organization focused on geographical research and awareness. The session featured Prof. N.C. Pant, formerly with the Department of Geology and currently representing LIGHTS India, as the keynote speaker.

Dr. Pooja Jha Maity, Department of Botany, steered the session, delivering the opening remarks and setting the stage for an insightful discussion. Dr. Rajoshree Ghosh from LIGHTS introduced the objectives and role of LIGHT in climate advocacy. Following this, the Haritima team formally introduced Prof. N.C. Pant to the audience. Prof. Pant delivered a compelling and insightful lecture on the interconnected issues of climate change, geopolitics, and the Antarctic. He provided the latest scientific data on global climate trends and explained the critical role of Antarctic and polar ice sheets. He emphasized that their melting could lead to catastrophic global consequences, including rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and disruptions to oceanic and atmospheric systems.

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A crucial part of his talk focused on geopolitics and the Antarctic—a region that, despite its remote location, has significant global importance. The Antarctic Treaty System (ATS) governs international cooperation in the region, ensuring that Antarctica remains a zone of peace and scientific research. However, with increasing climate change concerns and resource interests, geopolitical tensions are rising over territorial claims, mineral exploration, and strategic positioning in the polar region.

Prof. Pant also discussed climate justice, emphasizing that the impact of climate change will not be equally distributed—developing nations, coastal communities, and marginalized populations will face the harshest consequences. He highlighted the role of the IPCC, international negotiations, and the urgent need for sustainable global policies. Prof. Pant emphasized that the Antarctic may seem distant, but its climate stability, ecosystem, and geopolitical significance directly impact our lives. As ice sheets melt, sea levels rise, affecting coastal populations in India and beyond. The Southern Ocean influences monsoons, which are crucial for Indian agriculture. Moreover, geopolitical competition in Antarctica could affect global trade routes, environmental policies, and scientific cooperation. Understanding these issues is essential for future policymakers, researchers, and environmentally conscious citizens.

The session saw active participation from students, who posed thought-provoking questions about climate change policies, Antarctica's future, and India's role in global climate governance. Prof. Pant appreciated their curiosity and engagement, reinforcing the importance of climate literacy among youth.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Monika Koul, Convener of Haritima. The feedback from students highlighted the immense value of such discussions, with many expressing interests in further collaborations with LIGHTS and SAAGA for research and awareness initiatives on climate change and geopolitics.

This event marked a step forward in climate education and awareness, encouraging students to explore the intersection of science, policy, and international relations.

Geo-tagged Pictures:

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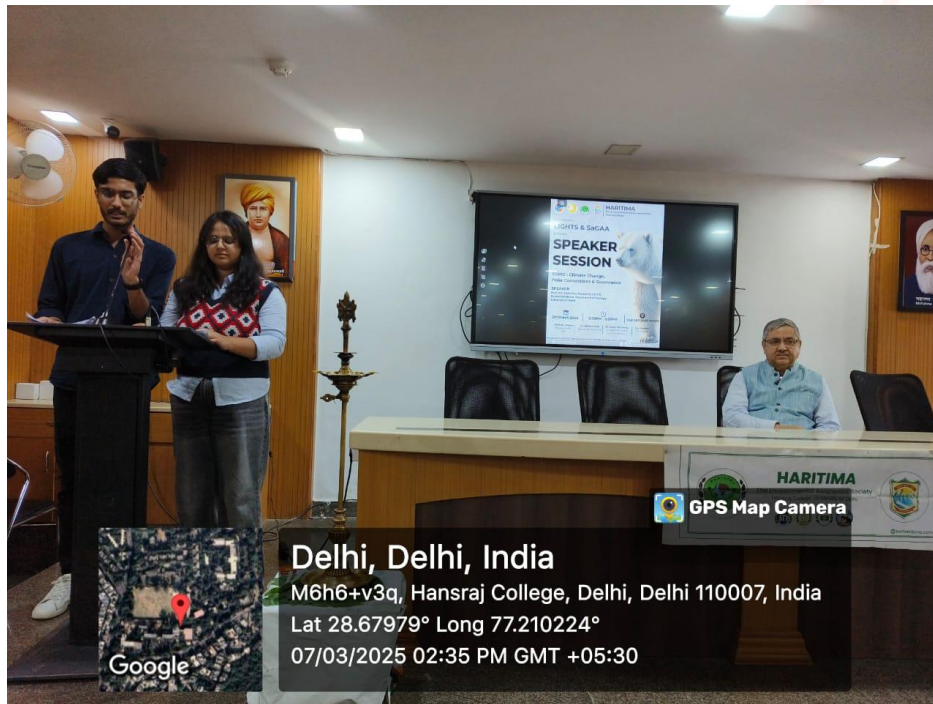
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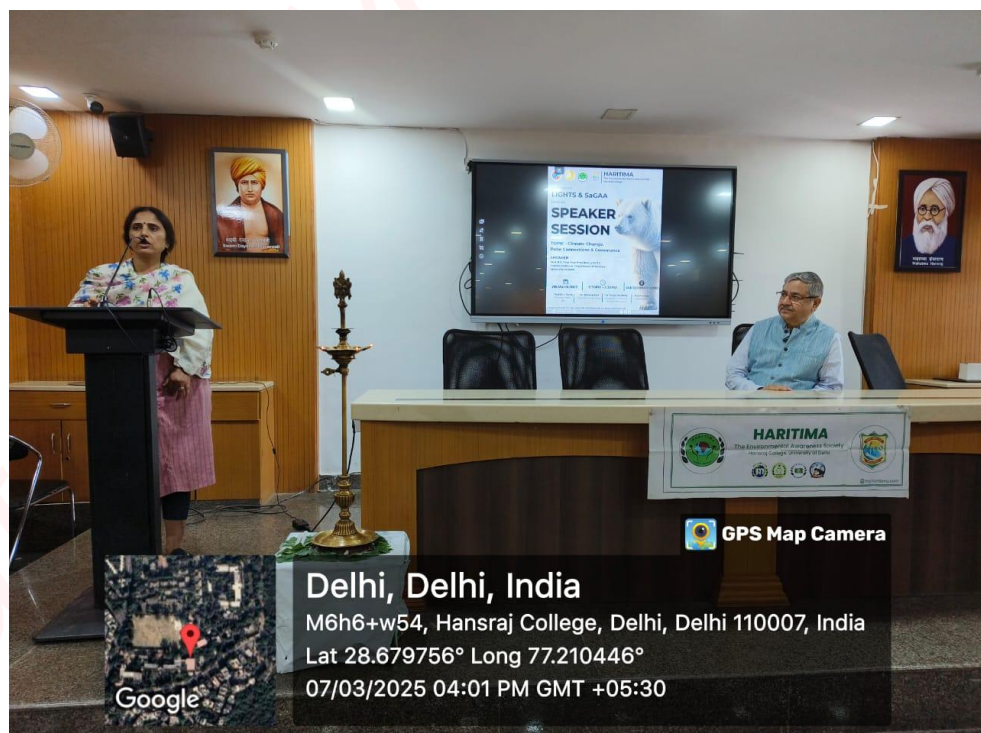
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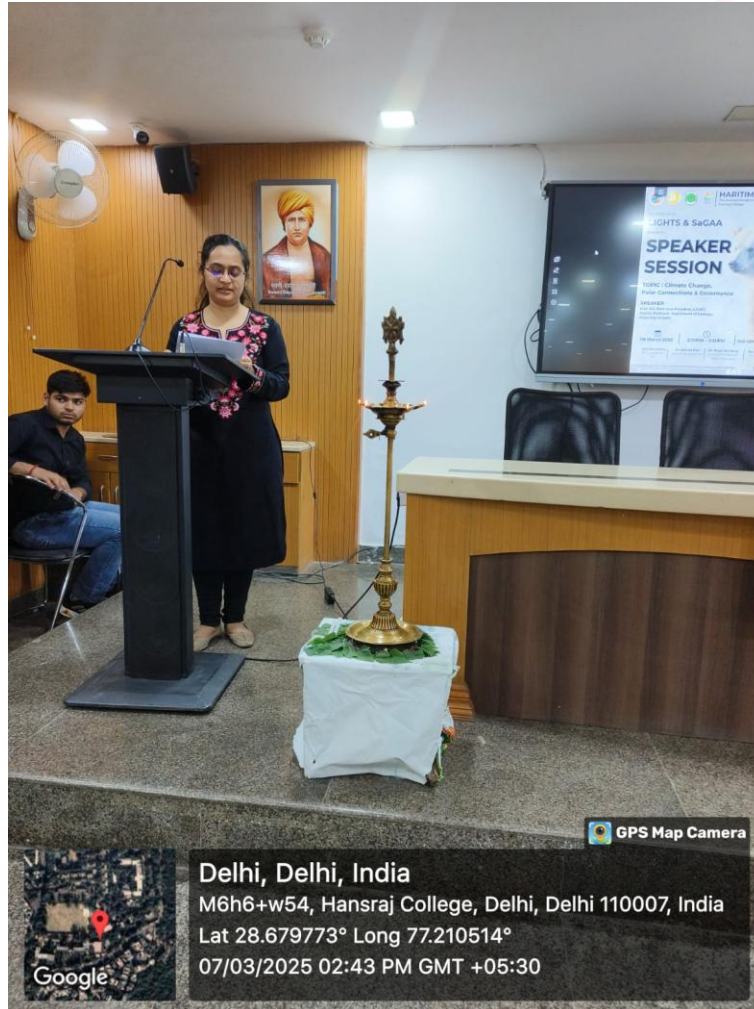
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Attach Attendance Sheet

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