

### EMBRACE THIS NEW YEAR WITH ECO-FRIENDLY INTENSIONS

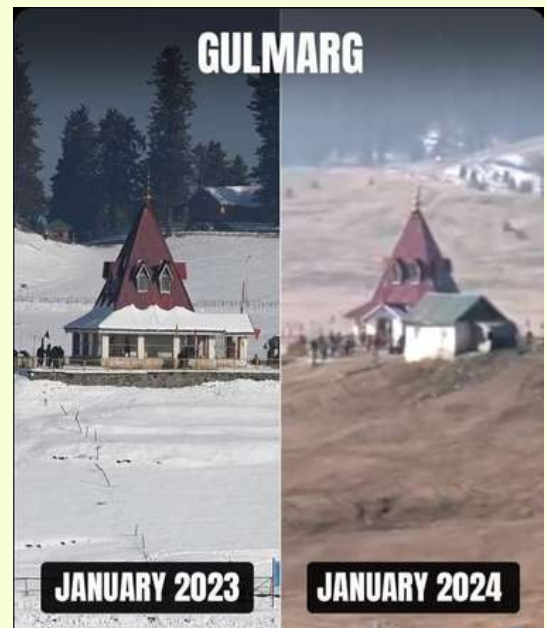


[Click Here for More information](#)

[Click to Donate](#)

Please consider a small contribution

### PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH



How do you feel about our work for nature conservation.

[SEND FEEDBACK](#)

### Index

February Schedule	Pg 2
The Nature Talks Podhcast	Pg 3
Forest Spirit Learning Visit	Pg 4
Tree Climbing	Pg 5
Nature Walk	Pg 6
NDNS @ IIAD	Pg 7
Nature Walk with IIAD	Pg 8
Climate = Changed	Pg 9
Important Article	Pg 10

Twitter	Pg 11
Forest Spirit Learning	Pg 12
Birds Card Game	Pg 13
Lapel Pins Design	Pg 14
T-shirts Designs	Pg 15
Tree card Game, Cloth bags, Stickers etc.	Pg 16
Bird Badges, Mugs, Aloe, Tree Booklet	Pg 17
Membership, Library, Hiring	Pg 18
SOS, CSR, Previous Newsletters	Pg 19

# February Schedule

Day	Activity
04/02/2024	<u>Nature Walk</u>
11/02/2024	<u>Forest Spirit Learning</u>
17/02/2024	<u>Digital Detox</u>
18/02/2024	<u>Digital Detox</u>
25/02/2024	<u>Bird Watching</u>

[Click Here for More Details and Registration](#)

## Meme Of The Month



## Nature Talks Podhcast

Let's Talk About Nature!

[Listen Now on Spotify](#)

[Watch now on Youtube](#)



[Hamsah Farm ft. John Fennessy](#)



### NDNS at Forest Spirit Learning



[Click to watch video](#)

"Embracing eco-conscious education, a visionary friend is establishing a forest learning school on the outskirts of Gurugram.

During our visit, we joined hands with the amazing team that is shaping up thoughtful dreams into reality.

Volunteers from around the world and various professions are actively engaged in the construction process.

This collective endeavor is crafting an environmentally conscious haven for comprehensive education, embodying a worldwide dedication to a balanced and green future."



### Tree Climbing with NDNS



[Click to watch video](#)

"Participants soared to new heights at NDNS's recent Tree Climbing Workshop at Nehru Park.

Amidst nature's embrace, they mastered essential skills under expert guidance. Laughter echoed as climbers conquered towering trees, fostering camaraderie.

This adventure not only promoted physical fitness but also deepened the connection with nature, creating unforgettable memories in just a few hours."

### Nature Walk



[Click To Watch Video](#)

Embarking on a nature walk at Sanjay Van proved to be a delightful escape from the hustle of urban life.

Surrounded by lush greenery and the soothing sounds of rustling leaves, participants immersed themselves in the serene ambiance.

The trail unveiled hidden pathways taking you to the lake, vibrant flora and diverse birdlife, creating a perfect harmony between nature and enthusiasts.

This enriching experience left everyone rejuvenated, fostering a deeper appreciation for the natural wonders that Sanjay Van has to offer.



### NDNS @ IIAD



[Click To Watch Video](#)

The Indian Institute of Art and Design and the New Delhi Nature Society have joined forces to spearhead an environmental campaign aimed at promoting the principles of sustainable development.

This landmark partnership represents a significant stride towards bridging the gap between environmentalism and design innovation.

Our shared vision is to inspire the next generation of eco-conscious designers and foster a harmonious coexistence between creativity and ecological responsibility.

The partnership underscores the importance of collaboration in building a greener, more sustainable future.

### Nature Walk with IIAD



[Click to View Pictures](#)

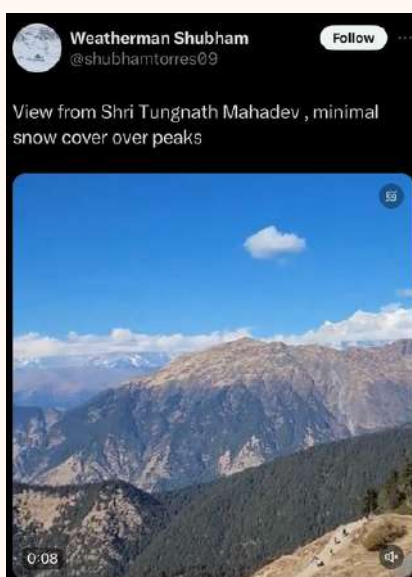
In a bid to deepen the connection between students of IIAD and the natural world, NDNS orchestrated a rejuvenating nature walk.

Surrounded by the serene beauty of the outdoors, students experienced firsthand the wonders of biodiversity, fostering a profound appreciation for nature and its vital role in our lives.

These first-hand experiences with nature help us to connect and understand nature better.



### Climate = Changed



## Important Article Of The Month

### Eco-tourism gone wrong for Asola!

## Asola faces ecological damage as crowds swell

Jasjeet Gandhick

jasjeet.gandhick@indianexpress.com

**NEW DELHI:** Mohammad Faizan is on his way to Neeli Jheel with three friends. The lake, around 10km inside the Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary in south Delhi, has emerged a popular eco-tourism attraction over the past year. It has artificial waterfalls, landscaped gardens and that great modern-day magnet — selfie points.

It takes Faizan nearly 30 minutes to park his Maruti Swift Dzire: the unpaved trail to the lake is chock-a-block with other vehicles, and the parking lot at the lake can only accommodate 50-60 cars — far from the number of visitors on this sunny Sunday afternoon in an otherwise cold January.

According to Delhi forest department officials, on typical weekends, the sanctuary — home to leopards, striped hyenas and golden jackals — hosts up to 500 visitors a day. The number is likely an underestimate — wildlife experts who frequently visit the sanctuary say the figure is closer to 1,000 per day on weekends.

One major reason for such large crowds could be the low price of entry — tickets are priced at Rs 10 (entry for children below the age of 5 years is free), while it costs another Rs 10 per recording device (including smartphones).

In February 2023, Delhi's environment minister Gopal Rai formally opened the eco-tourism spot near Neeli Jheel for visitors. A few months before that, Delhi lieutenant governor VK Saxena had inaugurated four artificial waterfalls at the lake, along with a 4-km long trekking trail, as part of a larger eco-tourism plan for the area.

To be sure, the sanctuary has always been open for visitors, though till late 2022, the entry fee was Rs 500 per person.

As Neeli Jheel is around 10km inside the sanctuary, most visitors are obliged to drive their private cars. To be sure, the sanctuary does have some golf carts to take visitors to the lake, but there are only 10 such vehicles; they do not set off from the sanctuary gate till they are full, and they have no windows — which means that the 10km journey to the lake, on a dusty, unpaved



(Clockwise from top) The parking lot at Neeli Jheel. Visitors take photographs near the lake. Cars kick up dust as they navigate the winding 10km trail from the sanctuary's entrance to the lake.

route can be quite tedious.

The explosion in visitors to the sanctuary has alarmed wildlife and ecological experts who worry about how it could possibly undo the restoration work at this vital green lung of Delhi.

#### Impact on animals in sanctuary

Asola Bhatti was declared a sanctuary in 1991, and the 32.7 sqkm area is part of the southern Ridge — an extension of the Aravalli hill range — that forms an important wildlife corridor from Sariska in Rajasthan to the Capital.

The sanctuary has an eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) of around 15.55 sqkm (as declared by the Union ministry of environment and forests in 2007), which prohibits activities such as mining, quarrying, and discharge of effluents, and regulates construction and felling of trees. Activities permitted include

rainwater harvesting, the use of eco-friendly transport, and the use of eco-friendly fuels.

A two-year mammal census carried out by Sohail Madan — former centre manager of Asola, who was part of the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) — and his team between 2019 and 2021 revealed 17 different species at the sanctuary, including a healthy count of mongooses, golden jackals, and civets. Camera traps also captured eight different leopards, a striped hyena, hog deer, sambar and blackbucks. Around 249 bird species have also been sighted at Asola over the years, which includes birds such as the pallid harrier (*Circus macrourus*) and the Egyptian vulture (*Necrophorus percussus*).

Surya Prakash, a zoologist and birder who has been visiting the sanctuary for over two decades, said the area has seen a

huge change after the price of admission was slashed.

"There is no restriction on the number of vehicles, with 200 to 300 cars every day not only leading to noise pollution, but air pollution too. At the same time, littering takes place," said Prakash, adding that sightings of animals such as the golden jackal and spotted deer along the main trail has drastically reduced as a result.

"Even if an animal is spotted near this trail, visitors stop their cars and step out to click pictures. Seeing a large number of visitors invariably makes the animal flee," Prakash said.

The zoologist also noted that the perfectly manicured lawns along the lake have led to a drastic reduction in the number of birds and butterflies in that area. "We used to see a lot of birds, such as the white-capped bunting, munias, rosefinches, and the blue rock thrush near

Neeli Jheel, but the area has been landscaped completely. Similarly, butterflies are not being seen, because only ornamental flowers and plants are grown there now," he said.

Experts believe that a "carrying capacity" — the maximum number of people allowed at any given time in an area — needs to be defined for Asola to restrict the number of visitors and vehicles entering the sanctuary to maintain ecological balance.

"In a sanctuary or an animal reserve, it is important to have a carrying capacity defined, which at present has not been done for Asola. This means there is no cap on the number of visitors at any given time and so, many vehicles are entering simultaneously, which can lead to disturbances in animals' habitat," said Sohail Madan.

According to Madan, there have been some attempts to



define a carrying capacity for Asola, but the process is still in the works. "We see this already in place at locations like Jim Corbett or Sariska, where only a limited number of vehicles — with permits — are allowed. Similarly, there is a maximum cap on the number of visitors," he said.

What a spot check revealed

HT visited the sanctuary on Sunday afternoon, but managed to enter only after a long queue at the ticket counter. A register was maintained, with each visitor asked to share the registration number of the vehicle they were taking inside, along with the total number of visitors in each vehicle. Thereafter, a handwritten slip was handed over to the visitors, "allowing"

them to go on ahead in their vehicle.

Visitors to the sanctuary can also log on to the Delhi forest department website and buy tickets online, so the queue at the ticket counter is not a true reflection of the actual number of visitors on any given day.

"I came here after watching an Instagram reel, which described the sanctuary as a hidden gem of Delhi. I saw a video of the lake and how scenic it looked, so we thought of having a picnic here," said Achai Gupta, 32, who came with his family from Noida.

Inside, despite signage asking visitors to not take their vehicles on certain trails, there is no monitoring, and there are no guards to ensure compliance. Rickshaw rickshaws were visible

near the trail where the vehicles were plying, and a bevy of spotted deer saw at least five vehicles stopping to click pictures, with some visitors trying to enter the forested patch for a better view, causing the deer to flee.

Faiyaz Khudair, scientist in-charge of DDA's Biodiversity Parks programme, said that sometimes, just the sound of vehicles can be enough to make an animal flee. "This is why in protected areas, the number of vehicles allowed is defined and pre-registered by the forest department, and only a handful of these are allowed. No diesel vehicles are allowed either. It is important to have such restrictions in place," he said.

HT reached out to the forest and wildlife department, which said it was planning to curtail the number of vehicles to 20 in the near future.

"We have observed that a lot of vehicles are entering inside. We plan to bring down the permitted number of vehicles in a day to 20, but this will be done once we have enough electric golf carts available," said Sunesh Thakur, Delhi's principal chief conservator of forest and chief wildlife warden.

The LG House, who contacted, said the sanctuary was being run and maintained by the Delhi forest department.

The Delhi government did not respond to HT's queries for comment.

[Read Full Article](#)



## Important Article Of The Month



**Cow Momma** ✓  
@Cow\_\_Momma

More like irony just axed itself. 🙄

### **Maharashtra: Over 11,000 trees to be axed for pipeline project as BPCL plans to reduce carbon footprints**

1 min read • 28 Jan 2024, 11:27 AM IST

Join us

[Livemint](#)

*Maharashtra: BPCL granted permission to cut 11,677 trees, including 10,582 mangroves, for pipeline project*



Maharashtra: Bombay High Court allows BPCL to cut 10,582 mangroves for pipeline project (REUTERS)

[Read Full Article](#)

## Important Article Of The Month

# LG gives nod for transplantation of 130 trees from Old JNU Campus

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Lieutenant governor (LG) VK Saxena has granted permission to transplant over 130 trees for the construction of a building for the Institute of Secretariat Training and Management (ISTM) on the Old JNU Campus, officials aware of the development said on Monday.

The project site will cover an area of 1.75 hectare, which will see 132 native trees being transplanted to Mehrauli, and two exotic trees being felled, the LG office said.

In lieu of the trees being impacted, a total of 1,340 saplings will have to be planted for



VK Saxena

the project in the ratio of 1:10, with ₹76.38 lakh to be spent by the project proponent as cost for compensatory plantation, the officials added.

"The department of forest and wildlife informed the LG that 132 out of 134 trees of native species

will be transplanted at Mehrauli and two trees of exotic species are proposed to be compensated for," said an official of the LG office, stating that the project was approved last week.

The compensatory saplings will meanwhile be planted at the NTPC Eco park in Badarpur and this will include native species ranging from neem, Amaltas, peepal, Pilkhan, Gular, Bargad to Desi Kikar and Arjun, it said.

"The compensatory plantation cost of ₹76.38 lakh will be deposited in advance by ISTM. The LG's permission for transplantation/felling of trees was sought under the provisions of the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act (DPTA), 1994. Section 9 (3) of

the Act empowers the tree officer to take a decision with regard to permission for felling/transplantation of trees. Further, Section 29 empowers the government to exempt in public interest any area or any species of trees from all or any of the provisions of this Act," said the official.

Any construction project over an area of one hectare and requiring permission to fell trees has to be approved by the government. The project was first approved by Delhi's environment minister and chief minister, before the file was sent to LG, who has to provide the final approval to any such permission.

[Read Full Article](#)





Below are a few tweets from the month of January about important nature-related stories from our @NDN\_HQ page. Please click on the links to open the tweets and learn more about these fascinating topics. Our Twitter page is a great way to stay up-to-date with the latest news and events related to nature and conservation, so be sure to follow us for more updates!

---

Doctors to Consider Risks of Air Pollution When Assessing Patients.

[Click to View](#)

---

9,435 Trees to be Cut for Dwarka Expressway.

[Click to View](#)

---

90 Reasons Why Your City is So Polluted.

[Click to View](#)

---

A Nightmare Project in The Great Nicobar Islands- 8,50,000+ Trees to Cut Down.

[Click to View](#)

---

Activists Alleges Thousands of Trees Felled in Hasdeo for Coal Mining.

[Click to View](#)

---

MCD To Complete Tree Census in 3 Months.

[Click to View](#)

---

Delhi Govt Explores Uses of Bio-Enzyme To Solve Air Pollution Crisis.

[Click to View](#)

---

Shortage of Snowfall in hills May Lead To Warmer Springs.

[Click to View](#)

---

PWD, Forest Dept. In Talks Over Trees At Flyover Sites.

[Click to View](#)

---

Rain Deficiency 100% in 6 States, 2 UTs, Says IMD.

[Click to View](#)

---

### Forest Spirit Learning- A Greener Future



The term sustainability was defined by the United Nations Brundtland Commission as 'meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future.'

Sustainable architecture, also known as green architecture or eco-friendly architecture, aims to create a future that deviates from the high consumption and waste patterns of the past. Instead, it seeks to establish a future that is sufficient, regenerative, and efficient.

[Click Here to Read the Full Blog](#)

Project Manager/  
Editor



Ms. Aysha Wamiq

Intern of the Month



Ms. Ranjana Vishnoi

Volunteer



Ms. Nandini Goswami



### Delhi Birds Card Game



An original New Delhi Nature Society creation.  
Great for all ages.

[Order Now](#)

### Pencil made of Recycled Newspaper with Seeds



From trash to treasure, this pencil can save the planet for good measure!

[Order Now](#)



### New Lapel-Pins Designs



[Order Now](#)



### Birds Of Delhi Lapel-Pins





### New T-Shirt Designs



The Funds Raised will be used for Environmental Conservation

[Order Now](#)

### DELHI TREES CARD GAME

An original New Delhi Nature Society creation

Suitable for 2-6 players.

Great for all ages.

Get your pack just for Rs 200/-

[ORDER NOW](#)



### CLOTH BAGS

New Delhi Nature Society

Cloth Bags

Size - 15 X 15 inches

5 assorted bags for Rs 200/-

[ORDER NOW](#)

[Click here to watch video](#)



### BIRDS STICKERS



Rs 5/- each

[ORDER NOW](#)

### DONKEY Vs PLASTIC BAG T-SHIRT

Sizes Available - M , L , XL , XXL

Colors available - Black , Blue , Red , Yellow

For just Rs 650/-

[ORDER NOW](#)



### RE-WILD YOURSELF 30 Day Challenge



[ORDER NOW](#)



### Birds of Delhi Badges

(Rs50)

**ORDER NOW**



### Aloe Vera Plant

(Rs 100)

**ORDER NOW**



### Native Trees of Delhi Booklet

(Rs 50)

**ORDER NOW**



### NDNS Coffee Mugs

(Rs 250 each)



**ORDER NOW**



### Volunteer / Intern at NDNS

- Protect the environment
- Join the growing NDNS team
- Email your CV to [info@ndns.in](mailto:info@ndns.in)

### Contribute to NDNS

Bank Details :  
Account: New Delhi Nature Society  
Account number: 918020010738403  
IFSC: UTIB0001326  
  : 9711115666

### NDNS Membership

We are thrilled to offer you the opportunity to become a member of the New Delhi Nature Society (NDNS). As a member, you will play a critical role in helping to protect the environment and support our mission of creating a sustainable future for all. In addition to making a meaningful impact, you will also enjoy special packages and benefits exclusively available to members. We look forward to your participation and thank you for your support!



[Click here to Sign Up](#)

### Donate a book to the NDNS library



We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all the amazing individuals who have donated nature-related books towards the #newdelhinaturesociety library. Your generosity will help us in building a comprehensive library that will be a valuable resource for nature enthusiasts and students alike. If you too would like to contribute to our library, we welcome book donations and encourage you to get in touch with us for more information. You can visit our website at [www.ndns.in](http://www.ndns.in) to learn more about our organization and our various initiatives.

### We're Hiring!

We are currently seeking candidates who are interested in an internship and/or full-time work with our organization. We have multiple ongoing projects that require dedicated and passionate individuals who are eager to make a positive impact on the environment. If you are interested in joining our team, please fill out the application form to apply. We look forward to hearing from you!

[FILL THE FORM](#)



### De-Choke Trees

The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in its order dated 23rd April 2013 has directed all Public Authorities to ensure that all the sign boards, names, advertisements, any kind of boards or signage's, electric wires and high tension cables or otherwise are removed from the trees.

They shall also ensure that the concrete surrounding the trees within one meter of the trees are removed and all the trees are looked after well and due precaution is taken in future so that no concrete or construction or repairing work is done at least within one meter radius of the trunk of trees.

**NAILS, WIRES (10,000 RS. FINE).**

**NGT ORDER FOR DE-CHOKING TREES**

**DELHI PRESERVATION OF TREES ACT**



For queries regarding CSR, please contact New Delhi Nature Society at [info@ndns.in](mailto:info@ndns.in)

### SOS NUMBERS (TREES AND ANIMALS)

- NDNS - 9711115666
- Wildlife Rescue - 9810129698, 9810639698
- People For Animals - 011 23719293 / 9294.
- For Cows - Dhyan Foundation - 9999099423

### A TREE IS BEING CUT?

- Click pictures
- Tell them to stop immediately
- Ask them to show the Forest Department permission.
- No permission, then Call 100 and wait till help arrives.
- Report the matter on the Green Helpline 1800118600
- Write a letter to the Forest Department
- If they do have permission, then take the supervisor's details who must be present there and contact the Forest Department .

### FOREST DEPARTMENT

[dcfhqgnctd@gmail.com](mailto:dcfhqgnctd@gmail.com)  
[dcfpmgnctd@gmail.com](mailto:dcfpmgnctd@gmail.com)  
[pccfgnctd@gmail.com](mailto:pccfgnctd@gmail.com)

**SIGN UP!**

To receive regular updates from NDNS.

**CLICK HERE!**

Access to previous Newsletters

