

ಬಿ.ಎಂ.ಎಸ್. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪನಾ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ

BMS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY & MANAGEMENT
(Autonomous Institution Under VTU)



OIKOS, Eco-Club, PO Box No. 6443, Avalahalli,
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YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCb84HFNJ--PtRWHjytuUJQQ>

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Activity Report for July – December 2024

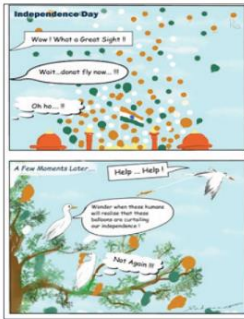
An Environmental sensitization Media article titled " Kites Vs. Kites" drafted by Dr Rajesh Gopinath (Associate Professor, Department of Civil Engineering & Key Liaison-OIKOS, BMSIT&M); has featured in the Environmental News Weekly, "South Express", on 10th August 2024.

Kites Vs. Kites

By Dr. Rajesh Gopinath, Key Liaison - OIKOS (Eco Club-BMSIT&M)

(The author is a Professor in Civil Engineering Department of BMS Institute of Technology & Management, Yelahanka, Bangalore and an ardent lover of nature)

Bengaluru's urban habitat is home to at least three prominent types of flying kites: the Brahminy Kite (Haliastur indus), the Black Kite (Milvus migrans), and recreational man-made kites (Gaalipata). While the 3rd type of Kite (Gaalipatas or Patangs) need no introduction among the urban population, the former two types are under threat from urban dwellers. Firstly, there is the irony that these avian species are often mistakenly referred to as eagles. However, their existence is not threatened merely by incorrect identification but primarily by the more popular kite species, the man-made kites. Frequently used by people during random celebrations or on the eve of kite festivals, these temporary sources of human enjoyment are increasingly becoming a permanent source of pain and death for the birds, particularly the Brahminy Kites and Black Kites. The harm occurs in various ways: visual distraction, habitat displacement, physical injuries, strangulation, loss of flight, and disruption of their natural behaviours such as feeding, breeding, or migration. Additionally, during international kite-flying festivals, there is a higher probability of these birds colliding with kites, resulting in the Chinese manja cutting through their flesh, feathers, and bones. All these factors are driving these elegant, graceful birds away from areas with high kite-flying activity. Therefore, it is high time to re-think the need to celebrate the kite festival or games by realising the fact that the blue skies originally belong to the birds. A



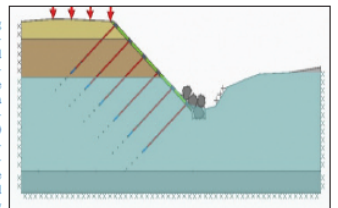
true festive spirit would be more meaningful only when all surrounding lifeforms are respected, and co-existence exists in its true sense. Hopefully, further on readers are encouraged to celebrate the presence of these raptors by recognizing them correctly and most importantly by supporting their existence and appreciating their role in maintaining ecological balance.

South Express appeals to all to avoid plastic flags, balloons as they are banned SUP items and kite flying as they are risky for human and birdlife

Wayanad disaster, the remedial action

Prof. Shimna Manoharan (The author is an asst professor in Civil Engineering Department of BMS IT & Mgt, Bangalore)

Why landslide happened?
On July 30, 2024, devastating landslides destroyed the Vellarimala hill ranges in Wayanad district, Kerala. It has completely demolished the Mundakkai and Chooralimala settlements in Meppadi panchayat. With more than 360 lives lost and many still missing, the disaster has transformed a lush, green landscape into a scene of devastation and grief. The once vibrant, rolling hills have now been reduced to a valley of death and destruction, leaving the local community in shock and despair. The main causes of the disaster are 1. Quarrying Activities, 2. Deforestation, 3. Agricultural Expansion, 4. Unplanned Construction, 5. Improper Drainage Systems, 6. Past Landslide Activity, 7. Climate Change, 8. Land-Use Changes. The Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel, chaired by ecologist Madhav Gadgil in 2011, had foreseen such risks and recommended that 75% of the 129,037 sq km of the Western Ghats –be designated as an environmentally sensitive area. This region, known for its dense forests and unique biodiversity, was deemed critical to preserve. However, these recommendations were not implemented, leaving the Western Ghats and its communities vulnerable to the disaster that struck Wayanad.
What should be done now?
The Wayanad landslide is a stark reminder of the delicate balance between human activity and environmental stewardship. Urgent action is needed to implement adaptation strategies



and safeguard vulnerable regions like Wayanad from future catastrophes. Considering this disaster, it is necessary to implement the following adaptation strategies to mitigate the risk of future landslides.
1.Reinforcing Slopes: Susceptible slopes must be reinforced to prevent further collapses. Techniques such as afforestation, terracing, and the construction of retaining walls can help stabilize the land.
2.Landslide Early Warning Systems (LEWs): Establishing and enhancing early warning systems can provide timely alerts, allowing communities to evacuate and avoid loss of life.
3.Retaining Structures: Building retaining structures along vulnerable slopes and settlements can protect against future landslides, offering physical barriers to hold back debris and prevent it from causing widespread damage.
(Environmental disasters are mostly man-made and against the scientific predictions. But at least now proper remedial measures at Wayanad must be initiated as per experts' views so that the history does not repeat – South Express)

An Environmental sensitization Media article titled "Wayanad disaster, the remedial action" drafted by Prof. Shimna M (Assistant Professor, Department of Civil Engineering & Faculty Member - OIKOS, BMSIT&M); has featured in the Environmental News Weekly, "South Express", on 31st August 2024.

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Dr Rajesh Gopinath (Associate Professor, Department of Civil Engineering & Key Liaison-OIKOS, BMSIT&M); has represented OIKOS and presented upon “Environmental Education Outreach And Environmental Stewardship By An Eco-Club”, during the 8th International Conference on Ecosystem Conservation and Sustainable Development (ECOCASD 2024), held on 8th and 9th August 2024 at AET College, Bangalore, India.



As part of OIKOS outreach, Dr Rajesh Gopinath (Associate Professor, Department of Civil Engineering & Key Liaison-OIKOS, BMSIT&M); was a resource personnel during the ‘5 Days FDP on Climate Change, Urban Water Resources and Waste Management’, organized by School of Civil Engineering, REVA University, Bengaluru; on 14-08-2024. On this occasion he has presented his talk on “Urban Warming ... The Real Threat”.

Ms. Lavanya Balasubramanyam (Student Member, ISE 5th Semester) has attended a three-day workshop on "Methods for Documentation of Biodiversity" from 3rd to 5th September at the Institute of Forest Biodiversity (ICFRE), Hyderabad. During the workshop, she has gained valuable insights into the systematic process of documenting various flora and fauna.



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On the eve of World Ozone Day (16-09-2024), OIKOS has honored Ms Sahana M Gowda with Green Alumni Award for her invaluable efforts and contribution towards creation of Global Environmental Awareness.



21st Sept 2024, earmarks the date as the addition of Gray Langur (*Semnopithecus entellus*) to Biodiversity Register of BMSIT&M. The amazing sighting was made by Student Member Shri Harsha Abhiram Naidu Pilla in the Green Campus around 9 am.

Student members of OIKOS have undertaken a field-visit to Sir M Visvesvaraya Rainwater Harvesting Theme Park on 25th Sept 2024. Faculty members Dr Rajesh Gopinath & Mrs Shimna M had accompanied the students.



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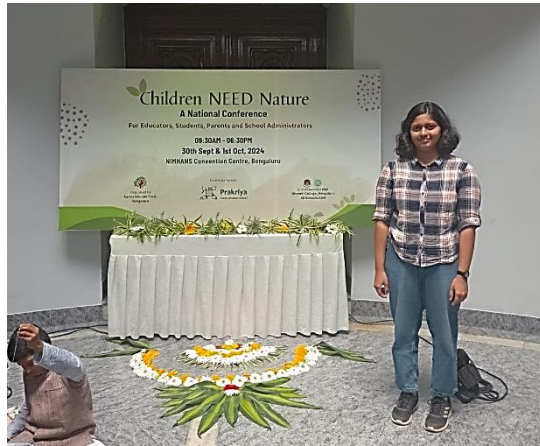
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OIKOS student Member Ms. Netravati Ramachandra Hegde (ISE - 5th Semester) has actively participated in a 2-day National Conference on "Children Need Nature" from 30th September to 1st October. The event was organized by Prakriya Green Wisdom School, Bhoomi College, and Karma Bhoomi Trust. The conference had delved into the pressing need for children to reconnect with Nature in a world increasingly dominated by technology and indoor lifestyles.



OIKOS faculty members (Mrs Archana K, Mrs Shimna M and Dr Rajesh Gopinath) have secured a funding of INR 4.5 Lakhs from BIS for their research on developing a “Filter for Roof Top Rainwater Harvesting & Groundwater Recharge”.

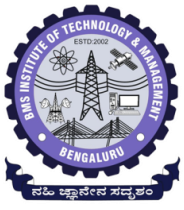
As part of its Environmental Education Outreach, OIKOS has organized 5 points AICTE activity during the month of October-November 2024. As part of the requirements, students had to draft 1 crossword and 1 word power template upon a pre-fixed topic of Environmental / Ecological importance. The same will be used for Awareness creation activities across schools.

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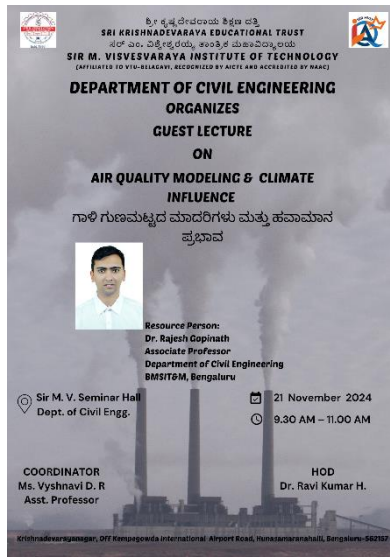
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As part of OIKOS outreach, Dr Rajesh Gopinath (Associate Professor, Department of Civil Engineering & Key Liaison-OIKOS, BMSIT&M); has delivered an expert talk on Air Quality Modelling and Climate Influence on 21st November 2024, at Department of Civil Engineering, MVIT.



Dr Rajesh Gopinath (Associate Professor, Department of Civil Engineering & Key Liaison-OIKOS, BMSIT&M); has presided as Session chair during the National Conference on “Sustainable Futures: Navigating Climate Crisis in the Anthropogenic Era”, organized by Environmental Law and Climate Change Committee, Presidency University on 26th November 2024. He has also the Panelist during the Panel discussion on "Challenges and Opportunities in Implementing Climate Policy".



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On the eve of World Soil Day (7th December 2024) OIKOS also honored Shri. Raju Kidoor, hailing from Kumbla, Kasaragod with its 3rd Green Teachers Award, for his exemplary conservational efforts at grassroots level.



On 7th December 2024, OIKOS has organized NatNexus-I competition. The event comprised of two levels and encompassed jigsaw-based puzzles with Environmental Themes, with 2 best teams being rewarded.



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On 7th December 2024, OIKOS has conducted its annual Farewell Function. On this occasion the 2021 Batch OIKOS student coordinators were rendered a gratitude-filled farewell by office-bearers of OIKOS and other dignitaries.



Continuing its tradition of encouraging student members to engage in Environment-based MOOCs, OIKOS has successfully accomplished three courses.

More than 1100 students have completed the MOOC on Introduction to Environmental Law and Policy, offered by the University of Nort Carolina at Chapel Hill. About 150 students have completed the MOOC on Plastic Wastes and Basel Convention, offered by the United Nations Learning Program. About 50 students have completed the MOOC on Introduction to Household Water Treatment and Safe, offered by Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne.

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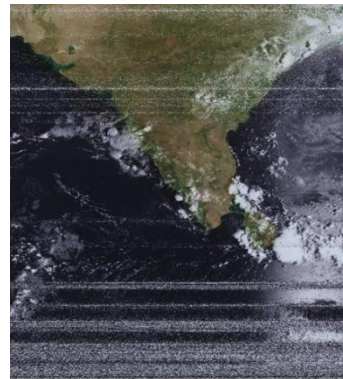
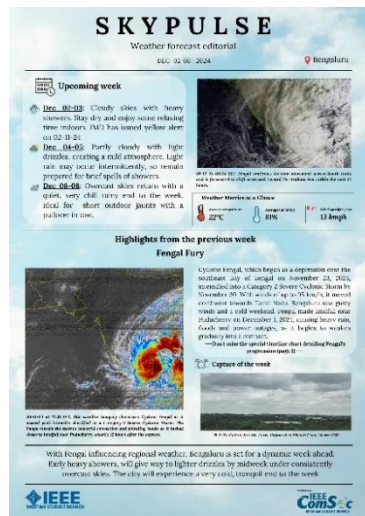
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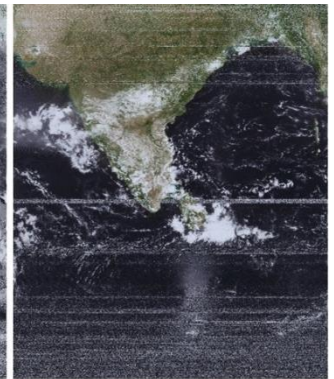
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Student Members (Hikmat Pradhan, Dennis K, Prabin Regmi) and Dr Rajesh Gopinath (Associate Professor, Department of Civil Engineering & Key Liaison-OIKOS, BMSIT&M); have published a Book Chapter titled Design and Development of AI-Based Low-Cost Effective Prototype for Early-Warning and Monitoring of Urban Flash Floods in Smart Cities; in the Book Water and Environment, Volume 1, Lecture Notes in Civil Engineering 413, pp 51-62. The DoI is https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-97-7699-3_6

Student Members Nitish K.S. [3rd sem ECE] and Subasri Loganathan [5th sem CSE] are involved in the compilation and release of SkyPulse. Essentially a weekly weather update, the students are using RTL-SDR technology and IoT-based weather monitoring to track weather systems like cyclones and monsoons. This novel effort by the two student members provides real-time insights on temperature, rainfall, and weather disruptions, thereby ensuring the campus stays informed and prepared.



7:43 am
01-11-2024



11:08 am
01-11-2024

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