

### Educational programs on ecosystems

Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence has been imparting educational opportunities on ecosystems through its unique undergraduate pedagogy imbining the ecology and environmental sciences component, short- term programs, numerous publications and the 'living lab' for studying and researching on the biodiversity at the campus.

#### **Undergraduate Courses**

All undergraduate students must mandatorily take a core group of common subjects designated as the Core Common Curriculum. Almost every department offers courses on sustainability and has faculty members researching these topics. Two of the priority research areas for the University are the environment and energy. Courses such as Environmental Studies (CCC 704), Biodiversity: Assessment C Conservation (CCC 706), Environmental Impact Assessment (CCC 406), and Ecology and Environmental Science (BIO104) inspire students to study biodiversity at the global level and practice it in their local environment.

#### **Short-term programs**

The Academy of Continuing Education (ACE), Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence has jointly launched a nine-month certificate course titled the 'Conservation Practitioners' course with The Habitats Trust (THT). The course is taught by some of India's leading experts to support conservationists in upskilling, through a curriculum that blends various skill sets and promotes interdisciplinary learning, grounded in theory and real-world application, that can be imparted to any practitioner. Designed so that practitioners can continue to work and learn, the course empowers practitioners with the tools needed to safeguard India's rich biodiversity and natural ecosystems.

#### **Thematic Botanical Garden**

The Botanical Garden provides an opportunity to learn on and nurture 10.4 acres of land. Conceptualized as a unique concept, first of its kind in northern India, this land has been eco-restored to a thematic botanical garden on campus. The garden provides students, visitors, and researchers with an opportunity to explore some rare, uncommon, and economically significant plants and has increased interest and awareness about many plants and herbs in daily lives. We have also conserved their germplasm for education and research purposes. The garden has over 2000 plants belonging to more than 700 species, eleven themed gardens with 555 plant species, Medicinal Plant Gardens, RET Plant Gardens, Palm Gardens, Gymnosperms Garden, Ficus Garden, Hydrophytes Garden, Butterfly Garden, Bamboo Garden, Fruit Plant Garden, Spices and Condiments Garden, Xerophytes Garden. The wetland side of the botanical garden provides a conservatory for the oldest known living genera of vascular plants. These are two species of Equisetum (also known as horsetail), i.e., Equisetum ramossissimum ramossissimum and Equisetum ramossissimum devil, living fossils from the Jurassic period. All species in and around the garden are

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indigenous or endemic, except for a few. The main thrust is to introduce as many rare, endangered, and threatened plant species from the point of view of conservation.

#### **Publications**

Numerous publications namely, 'Butterflies of the Shiv Nadar University Campus', 'Birds of our Courtyard: A Pictorial handbook of Birds of Shiv Nadar University campus', 'Know Your Plants: A Handbook of Wild and Cultivated Flora of Shiv Nadar University Campus", document and illustrate the biodiversity at the campus for identification and serve as important learning tools for educational purposes.