

EVENT REPORT

PRAKRITI: A Poetic मंथन

(Poetry for Restoration, Awareness, Knowledge, Resilience, Innovation, Transformation and Inspiration)

Organised by: Dr. Ambedkar International Centre (DAIC), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, in collaboration with हिन्दुस्तानी भाषा अकादमी

Occasion: World Environment Day

Date: 5th June 2026

Time: 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Venue: Samrastha Hall, DAIC, 15 Janpath, New Delhi – 110001

Overview

On 5th June 2026, the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre (DAIC), under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, in collaboration with हिन्दुस्तानी भाषा अकादमी, organised “PRAKRITI: A Poetic मंथन” to commemorate World Environment Day. Instead of a conventional seminar or formal awareness programme, the event adopted the accessible and engaging forms of poetry and nukkad natak to initiate meaningful conversations around environmental consciousness and collective responsibility.

The event witnessed the participation of approximately 140 attendees, including officials and staff from DAIC and Dr. Ambedkar National Memorial (DANM), representatives from the Ministry, invitees from हिन्दुस्तानी भाषा अकादमी, DAIC library users, students, poets, and members of the general public. A total of 32 poets participated in the poetry recitation segment, while two school groups presented impactful theatrical performances centred on environmental themes.

The programme brought together poets, students, educators, and cultural practitioners from across the National Capital Region, creating a vibrant platform for dialogue through literature and performance.

Among the distinguished guests present were Shri Sudhakar Pathak, Director, हिन्दुस्तानी भाषा अकादमी; Shri Vineet Pandey, noted Hasya Kavi known for his humour and sharp social commentary; Dr. Bhavana Sharma, poet and speaker; Dr. Swati S. Mishra, Associate Professor, DAIC; and Dr. Jyotsna Sharma, Officer, Ministry of Culture.

Key Addresses and Discussions

Dr. Bhavana Sharma reflected on the urgency with which environmental issues are being discussed today, observing that humanity has already pushed ecological systems to a critical point. Referring to the traditional Indian understanding of the Earth as “Mother,” she questioned whether society would knowingly treat its mother with such neglect. She emphasised the importance of individual responsibility, drawing attention to everyday habits such as wastage of RO water, excessive use of disposable products, and careless consumption of resources. According to her, environmental protection cannot depend solely on government campaigns or slogans; it requires personal commitment and behavioural change. She encouraged every individual to take one meaningful “sankalp” towards sustainability and follow it sincerely. Dr. Sharma also highlighted less frequently discussed forms of environmental pollution, including aircraft emissions and the effects of increasing technological dependence, stressing that awareness already exists — what is lacking is the collective will to act.

Dr. Jyotsna Sharma

Dr. Jyotsna Sharma spoke about the direction in which younger generations are moving and questioned whether students today are truly secure — not only physically, but also culturally and emotionally. She

observed that India has historically nurtured a deep spiritual and cultural relationship with rivers, trees, and nature, yet modern lifestyles increasingly prioritise consumerism and digital engagement over meaningful connection with the natural world. She remarked that “reel has overtaken real,” urging young people to reconnect with India’s cultural heritage, local traditions, food systems, and ecological wisdom. She encouraged the audience to view India’s diversity and environmental heritage as sources of strength rather than allowing them to be replaced by superficial trends and unsustainable lifestyles.

Shri Vineet Pandey

Shri Vineet Pandey addressed the audience in his characteristic humorous yet thoughtful style. He reflected on how societies often fail to learn from harmful decisions, particularly regarding environmental degradation. He noted that the current environmental crisis is the outcome of decades of poor choices, and despite visible consequences, meaningful change remains difficult. He observed that most educational spaces focus on teaching people what to do correctly, whereas gatherings like PRAKRITI encourage reflection on behaviours and practices that humanity must stop altogether. He concluded by emphasising that what society leaves behind for future generations is ultimately more important than what it inherited.

Nukkad Natak Performances

Two schools — Rajkiya Uchchatar Madhyamik Balika Vidyalaya, Dayalpur, and Dev Samaj Vidyalaya — presented short theatrical performances that emerged as one of the highlights of the programme. One particularly impactful performance personified the Earth itself, giving voice to droughts, floods, plastic pollution, and pandemics as consequences of human actions. The play conveyed a powerful message: nature ultimately restores balance in its own way, and humanity may not remain untouched by the consequences of ecological destruction. The performances communicated environmental realities in a direct and emotionally resonant manner, leaving a lasting impression on the audience and demonstrating the effectiveness of theatre as a medium of public awareness.

Social Justice and Environmental Responsibility

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment works across a broad spectrum of issues, including welfare of senior citizens, empowerment of persons with disabilities, rehabilitation initiatives, and protection of the rights of communities that have historically remained socially and economically marginalised. Environmental concerns are closely linked to these issues of social justice. The adverse effects of environmental degradation — deteriorating air quality, scarcity of clean water, climate-related displacement, and disruption of livelihoods dependent on land and natural resources — disproportionately affect vulnerable and marginalised communities. PRAKRITI succeeded in making these conversations accessible to a wider audience. Instead of relying on policy language or technical discussions, the event used poetry and theatre — forms deeply rooted in public culture and collective expression — to communicate urgent environmental concerns in a relatable and meaningful manner. Hosting the event at Samrastha Hall, DAIC, also symbolically reinforced the idea that environmental awareness and social justice are interconnected, and that sustainability must remain central to inclusive public discourse. The programme concluded with a renewed sense of collective responsibility and appreciation for the role of literature, art, and performance in shaping public awareness and inspiring social change.



