

A REPORT ON SWACHHTA-HI-SEVA PROGRAM
(IISER KOLKATA)

IISER Kolkata (an Institute of National Importance) recently led a profound cleanliness drive on 1st October 2023 as part of the 'Ek Tareekh Ek Ghanta Ek Saath' movement. Faculty, students, and staff came together for a special one-hour 'Shramdaan' on the outskirts of the campus, adhering to Swachhta-hi-seva guidelines. The chosen location, near Gate No. 5 (formerly Gate No. 7), includes a marketplace, shops, eateries, and temples, making it an ideal venue for this impactful event.

This initiative goes beyond cleaning; it's about raising awareness. We're committed to creating a plastic and debris-free environment starting from 1st October 2023. With an inspection mechanism in place, we covered approximately 8500 sq. mt. area. Over 130 students, faculty, and staff joined in. Our Chief Guest, Shri Nakul Vaidya, Commandant, 112, BN, BSF, graced the occasion.

In alignment with the Swachhta-hi-seva initiative, we hosted various programs and competitions. One standout event was the 'SustainThinkPool' competition, encouraging faculty, students, and staff to submit science and technology projects on societal issues. We emphasized 'Mission life'—mindful utilization over mindless consumption—for green progress and sustainable development. Additionally, we actively engaged in local environmental improvement, planting trees, providing dustbins for waste segregation, and distributing medicinal plants to promote awareness and progress within our community.

Alongside our cleanliness efforts, IISER Kolkata is leading the charge with Special Campaign 3.0, a Government of India initiative to reduce office pendency. We're driving digitization, uploading academic theses, and crafting guidelines for Permanent Records transfer to the National Archives. An online portal for SC/ST/OBC/Transgender grievances is in development, promising transparent and efficient redressal. Furthermore, we're committed to responsible scrap disposal, aiming to generate revenue from these sustainable endeavors.

'Ek Pahel,' a youth-led initiative by IISER Kolkata students, conducted a poster-making and slogan competition on 'Swachhta-hi-seva' for underprivileged children near our campus. 'Ek Pahel's mission is to provide education to these children.

On October 2nd, IISER Kolkata honored Mahatma Gandhi's 154th birth anniversary, renewing his vision for a cleaner nation. Embracing Gandhi's ideals, we're dedicated to the 'Clean India and Clean Campus' mission. The day began with homage to the Great Soul and concluded with a prize distribution ceremony for underprivileged children who participated in the Swachhta-hi-seva poster-making competition, showcasing their impactful slogans for the program.