

Ecothon'26

People, Profit and Planet: The Line We Must Redefine

Ecothon'26 was a significant sustainability initiative jointly organized by Ecosperity, Department of Environmental Studies, Sri Guru Gobind Singh College of Commerce, University of Delhi, in collaboration with the Department of Environmental Studies, University of Delhi. Conceived as a student-centred platform for innovation and critical engagement, the event brought sustainability into conversation with creativity, participation, and applied thinking.

Built around the theme, “People, Profit and Planet: The Line We Must Redefine,” Ecothon'26 invited participants to reflect on the delicate and often contested relationship between ecological responsibility, economic priorities, and social well-being. Rather than treating sustainability as an abstract concept, the initiative encouraged students to engage with it as an urgent and practical challenge that demands new thinking and collaborative action.

Key Highlights

A defining strength of Ecothon'26 was its ability to create an energetic and intellectually engaging platform for student participation. The event brought together students from different colleges and provided them with opportunities to present ideas, test perspectives, and engage with real sustainability concerns in meaningful ways. The Department of Environmental Studies, University of Delhi, contributed through academic guidance, conceptual support, and expert engagement, ensuring that the initiative retained both creativity and intellectual seriousness.

The event featured a set of distinctive activities that reflected multiple dimensions of sustainability learning and expression:

- **LessMess Pitchfest**, which encouraged innovative thinking around waste reduction, sustainability solutions, and resource responsibility
- **Brush the Balance**, which brought creativity and environmental imagination together through artistic engagement
- **Staketalks: Voices for the Planet**, which created a platform for dialogue, reflection, and public expression on environmental futures

Ecothon'26 also highlighted the importance of interdisciplinary and participatory approaches to sustainability by encouraging engagement with themes such as waste reduction, circularity, environmental ethics, community-centred climate responses, and sustainability communication. Its format moved beyond a conventional event model, fostering collaboration, innovation, and critical reflection among participants.

Sustainability Relevance

Ecothon'26 aligns strongly with multiple Sustainable Development Goals, including:

- **SDG 4 – Quality Education**, by promoting experiential and interdisciplinary learning
- **SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities**, through dialogue on urban sustainability and public responsibility
- **SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production**, through ideas related to waste management, circularity, and sustainable choices
- **SDG 13 – Climate Action**, by encouraging awareness and solutions connected to environmental change
- **SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals**, through collaboration between departments, institutions, faculty, and students

By centring youth participation and sustainability-oriented innovation, Ecothon'26 reflected the growing importance of student-led platforms in shaping environmental consciousness and action within higher education.

A Shared Vision for Sustainable Futures

Taken together, ICEPCR 2026 and Ecothon'26 illustrate the Department's wider vision of sustainability as an evolving, interdisciplinary, and collaborative endeavour. Whether through international academic dialogue or student-led innovation, the Department continues to create spaces where environmental understanding is deepened, partnerships are strengthened, and practical pathways toward sustainability are imagined and advanced.

In this way, the Department of Environmental Studies, University of Delhi, continues to contribute meaningfully to sustainability through education, research, engagement, and institutional leadership.