

Herbarium Competition and Exhibition

Date- February 21, 2024

The **Herbarium Competition and Exhibition**, organized by Oasis on February 21, 2024, aimed to celebrate and showcase the diverse flora found within the IISER Berhampur campus. By inviting participants to collect plant samples and create herbarium sheets, the event emphasized the scientific importance of preserving plant specimens while also highlighting the artistic beauty of nature. Through enthusiastic participation and creative contributions, the competition fostered a deeper appreciation for plant diversity and promoted environmental awareness within the IISER Berhampur community. The event also served as a platform for educational engagement and collaborative learning, strengthening connections with other research institutions.

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A Collaborative Effort to Showcase Flora Diversity

Oasis organized a Herbarium Making Competition aimed at showcasing the diverse flora found within the IISER Berhampur campus. The event invited participants to collect samples of plants from the campus and prepare herbarium sheets, which are a key tool in preserving plant specimens for future study. The goal was not only to emphasize the scientific importance of herbaria but also to highlight the artistic beauty of nature.

Participants were given two weeks to gather their flora of interest and prepare the herbarium sheets. This time frame allowed them to carefully select and preserve specimens, paying attention to the details that would help identify the plants in future research. Each participant received a herbarium sheet for mounting their collected samples, ensuring that the submissions followed standard preservation techniques.

Eager Participation and Artistic Contributions

The event saw enthusiastic participation from students, with many showcasing a deep interest in plant diversity. The herbarium sheets were thoughtfully created, demonstrating the careful study and artistic presentation of the plants. The effort of the participants was evident in their meticulous collection and the way they mounted and preserved their samples. The competition highlighted not only the academic importance of plant preservation but also the ability to blend scientific study with the aesthetic aspects of nature.

The event also allowed participants to explore the intricate relationship between plants and the ecosystem, providing them with a hands-on experience of the scientific practices involved in botanical research. Through this process, students gained a deeper appreciation for the flora around them, contributing to a greater environmental awareness within the IISER Berhampur community.

Positive Feedback and Further Engagement

The herbariums created during the event were exhibited for viewing, and a voting process was used to select the winner. The final creations were compiled into a collection and sent to other IISERs and research institutes for further feedback. The submissions were well-received, with positive feedback from the participating institutes, appreciating the quality and diversity of the herbariums.

This success not only reflected the participants' hard work but also fostered collaboration between IISER Berhampur and other research institutions. The feedback received confirmed the importance of such events in encouraging scientific inquiry and the preservation of biodiversity. The herbarium competition proved to be a valuable educational and collaborative initiative, demonstrating how students can engage with and contribute to the broader scientific community.

Associated Members- Existing members at that time

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