

WORLD HABITAT DAY 2026

National Seminar on “Habitat Alteration and Environmental Degradation”

Organised by: Department of Applied Science & Humanities – Environmental Science, Faculty of Engineering & Technology, Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti Language University (KMCLU), Lucknow

In association with: The National Academy of Sciences, India (NASI)

Date: 6 October 2026

Venue: Hybrid Hall, 2nd Floor, KMCLU, Lucknow

Organisers: Dr. R. K. Tripathi and Dr. B. K. Dwivedi

1. Introduction

The Department of Applied Science & Humanities – Environmental Science, Faculty of Engineering & Technology, Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti Language University (KMCLU), Lucknow, in association with The National Academy of Sciences, India (NASI), organised World Habitat Day 2026 along with a National Seminar on “Habitat Alteration and Environmental Degradation” on 6 October 2026.

The Chief Guest was Prof. Omkar Upadhyay, former Head of the Department of Zoology, University of Lucknow, while **Dr. Shailja Bhattacharya**, former Chief Scientist and Head of the Parasitology Division at CSIR–Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow, attended as the Guest of Honour. The programme was presided over by the Hon’ble Vice-Chancellor of KMCLU, **Prof. Ajay Taneja**.

The programme commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp. The invited guests were welcomed with shawls, mementoes and saplings. The presentation of saplings was especially meaningful in the context of environmental conservation and reinforced the sustainability message of the event.

Dr. R. K. Tripathi, Director of the Engineering Department, emphasised that human settlements and the natural habitats of other living organisms cannot be viewed separately. He stressed the importance of maintaining a balance between human development and nature for achieving ecological sustainability.

Dr. Shailja Bhattacharya drew upon her 38 years of research experience in parasitic infections to explain the close relationship between environmental conditions, human health and the living world. She also highlighted the health implications of changing environmental conditions.

The programme was organised in the context of World Habitat Day, observed globally to draw attention to the condition of human settlements and the fundamental need for adequate and sustainable housing. The seminar also commemorated the 133rd birth anniversary of Prof. Meghnad Saha, Founder Fellow of NASI, thereby connecting scientific thought, environmental awareness and sustainable development.

2. Objectives of the Programme

- To create awareness about habitat alteration and environmental degradation.
- To sensitise students and faculty members towards sustainable human settlements.
- To discuss the environmental, social and economic dimensions of habitat change.
- To promote awareness of climate-resilient and environmentally responsible development.
- To connect academic and scientific discussions with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- To encourage students to participate actively in environmental conservation and sustainability initiatives.

3. Proceedings of the Programme

The programme brought together faculty members, students, researchers and other participants for academic deliberations on habitat alteration, environmental degradation and sustainable human settlements. The photographs of the event reflect enthusiastic participation by students and faculty members and the formal academic setting of the seminar.

The inaugural session was followed by expert deliberations on environmental and habitat-related concerns. The discussions highlighted the impact of rapid urbanisation, changing land-use patterns, environmental degradation and unsustainable development practices on ecological balance and human well-being.

The active participation of students was a significant feature of the programme. It provided an opportunity for young learners to understand environmental challenges not merely as scientific issues, but also as social and developmental concerns requiring collective action.

4. SDG Perspective

The theme of the programme has a strong connection with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities. SDG 11 aims to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. The seminar also addressed interconnected issues related to climate action, water and sanitation, responsible resource use, biodiversity and quality education.

SDG	Relevance to the Programme
SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities	Promotes adequate housing, sustainable human settlements, resilient infrastructure and inclusive urban development.
SDG 13 – Climate Action	Highlights the need to address climate change, environmental degradation and climate-related risks to human habitats.

SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation	Emphasises safe water, sanitation and sustainable management of water resources in human settlements.
SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production	Encourages resource efficiency and responsible patterns of production and consumption.
SDG 15 – Life on Land	Connects habitat alteration with biodiversity conservation, land degradation and protection of terrestrial ecosystems.
SDG 4 – Quality Education	Promotes environmental education and awareness among students and encourages responsible citizenship.
SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals	The collaboration between KMCLU and NASI demonstrates the importance of institutional partnerships for sustainability.

5. Key Takeaways

- The need for adequate, safe and affordable housing for all.
- Promotion of environmentally sustainable human settlements.
- Greater awareness about the consequences of habitat alteration and environmental degradation.
- Integration of environmental considerations into urban and regional planning.
- Conservation of natural resources and biodiversity.
- Promotion of climate-resilient and disaster-resilient communities.
- Greater participation of students and young people in sustainability initiatives.
- Strengthening collaboration among universities, scientific institutions, government and communities.

6. Contribution towards Sustainable Development

The programme contributed to the university's sustainability agenda by creating an academic platform for environmental awareness and discussion. It particularly strengthened the objectives of SDG 11 through its focus on sustainable habitats and human settlements, while also supporting SDGs 4, 6, 12, 13, 15 and 17.

The collaboration between KMCLU and the National Academy of Sciences, India demonstrates the importance of academic and scientific partnerships in creating awareness, promoting knowledge exchange and advancing sustainability-oriented education.

The World Habitat Day 2026 and National Seminar on “Habitat Alteration and Environmental Degradation” served as an important academic platform for understanding the relationship between human settlements, environmental sustainability and quality of life. The programme successfully connected scientific knowledge with the broader objectives of sustainable development. The event

reinforced the idea that achieving sustainable habitats requires an integrated approach combining adequate housing, environmental protection, climate action, responsible resource use, inclusive planning and community participation. The programme also encouraged students and academic communities to contribute actively towards building inclusive, resilient and sustainable human settlements for present and future generations.

Glimpse of the event





