Empowering Minds, Transforming Lives...

BHARATA MATA SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

BHARATA MATA COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), THRIKKAKARA

"THE COMMUNIQUE"

NEWS LETTER OF BHARATA MATA SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

DECEMBER 2025 | VOLUME 4 | ISSUE 12

The Communiqué is the monthly newsletter of Bharata Mata School of Social Work, created by MSW students as a student-led initiative. It highlights the extension and outreach activities of the institution, the achievements of the department and students, and reflections from students. The newsletter also provides a summary of important day observances, seminars, webinars, and faculty development programs (FDPs) conducted in the previous month. Through this initiative, we aim to share updates, celebrate accomplishments, and keep everyone informed about the dynamic activities of our school.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS SESSION

The Bharata Mata School of Social Work, Bharata Mata College (Autonomous), Thrikkakara organized a Domestic Violence Awareness Session on November 25, 2025, as part of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. The session was led by Anna P.V., Counsellor at Rajagiri Family Counselling Centre and a proud alumna of the department, along with Adv. Ehlaz Haleema, Legal Counsellor at Rajagiri Service Providing Centre and Advocate at the High Court of Kerala.



Both speakers provided a comprehensive understanding of domestic violence, covering early indicators, psychological impacts, survivor support mechanisms, and available legal protections. Their insights helped students connect classroom learning with practical field realities. Anna's presence also added significance to the event by fostering meaningful alumni interaction, Overall, the programme strengthened awareness and promoted a collaborative approach to addressing domestic violence in the community.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE AT RAJAGIRI COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (AUTONOMOUS) IN COLLABORATION WITH MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT, GOVT. OF INDIA.

On 27 November 2025, the MSW second-year students attended the National Conference held at Rajagiri College of Social Sciences (Autonomous), organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India. Centred on the theme "A New Era for Elderly India: Challenges, Solutions, and Future Directions," the conference provided a valuable academic and professional exposure for the students.



The sessions highlighted the emerging issues faced by the elderly population in India, including changing family structures, health-related concerns, social isolation, inadequate support systems, and the growing need for long-term and palliative care. Experts from various fields discussed policy frameworks, community-based initiatives, innovative models of geriatric care, and evidence-based practices aimed at ensuring dignity and active ageing. The students gained deeper insights into the socio-economic, psychological, and cultural dimensions of ageing, along with the crucial role of social workers in advocacy, counselling, programme development, and service delivery for older adults. The conference served as a meaningful platform for trainees to understand real-world challenges and reflect on their responsibility in building an inclusive and age-friendly society.

SECOND PRIZE FOR PAPER PRESENTATION AT NISD CONFERENCE, RAJAGIRI COLLEGE

Ms. Devika Santhosh and Ms. Deena Davis M, had the privilege of participating in the National Level Conference on “A New Era for Elderly India: Challenges, Solutions and Future Directions,” hosted by Rajagiri College of Social Sciences in collaboration with the National Institute of Social Defense on November 27-28, 2025. At this significant forum, we presented our poster, "College of Third Age: A Model of Intergenerational Bonding through Community Engagement Initiatives," which was honored with 2nd Prize.

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Our work detailed the innovative College of the Third Age (C3A) model, demonstrating how integrating seniors into a college environment effectively reduces social isolation and loneliness. Through structured activities like digital literacy workshops, mindfulness sessions, recreational events, and intergenerational 'learning buddy' partnerships, the C3A fosters enhanced social connectivity, skill development, and meaningful knowledge exchange between generations. The conference itself provided a comprehensive platform, featuring in-depth discussions on the multifaceted challenges facing India's elderly population, from healthcare and social inclusion to financial security. It facilitated a valuable exchange of research, policy insights, and practical, community-based solutions aimed at improving the quality of life and ensuring dignity for senior citizens. This experience not only validated our project's impact but also deepened our commitment to developing sustainable, compassionate frameworks for active aging in India.





BUILDING BRILLIANCE: SKILL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM AT CHRIST UNIVERSITY , BANGALORE

The second-year MSW students of Bharata Mata School of Social Work participated in a three-day, 30-hour Certificate Course titled “Building Brilliance: Comprehensive Skill Development for Academic, Professional, and Personal Excellence” held at Christ University, Bangalore, from 6–8 November 2025. The program featured a series of interactive sessions on Social Entrepreneurship, Corporate and Social Image Building, LinkedIn profile development, Psychometric Testing, Project Proposal Writing, and Intellectual Property Rights.

The training program was enriched by the expertise of facilitators such as Dr. Saji Varghese, Dr. Leena N. Fukey, Dr. Akanksha Rani, and Prof. Sheeja Karalam, who conducted engaging sessions filled with meaningful discussions, interactive activities, and practical demonstrations. Their guidance helped students strengthen key skills in communication, creativity, leadership, and professional social work practice, while also encouraging reflective thinking and active participation.

A visit to Christ University’s PARIVARTHANA Recycling Unit offered students firsthand exposure to sustainable waste management. Observing the recycling processes deepened their understanding of environmental responsibility and highlighted how social work intersects with ecological initiatives and community-based sustainability efforts.

On the third day, students visited NGOs including the Indian Social Institute (ISI), SOS Children’s Village Bangalore, CARE, and Nightingale Sandhya Suraksha. These visits provided valuable insights into various fields of social work—advocacy and rights-based interventions, child welfare and family-based care, community development programs, and elder care services.

The program concluded with a reflection session and certificate distribution ceremony. Overall, the training offered a holistic learning experience that enhanced students’ competencies, broadened their perspectives, and prepared them for meaningful engagement in the social work profession.

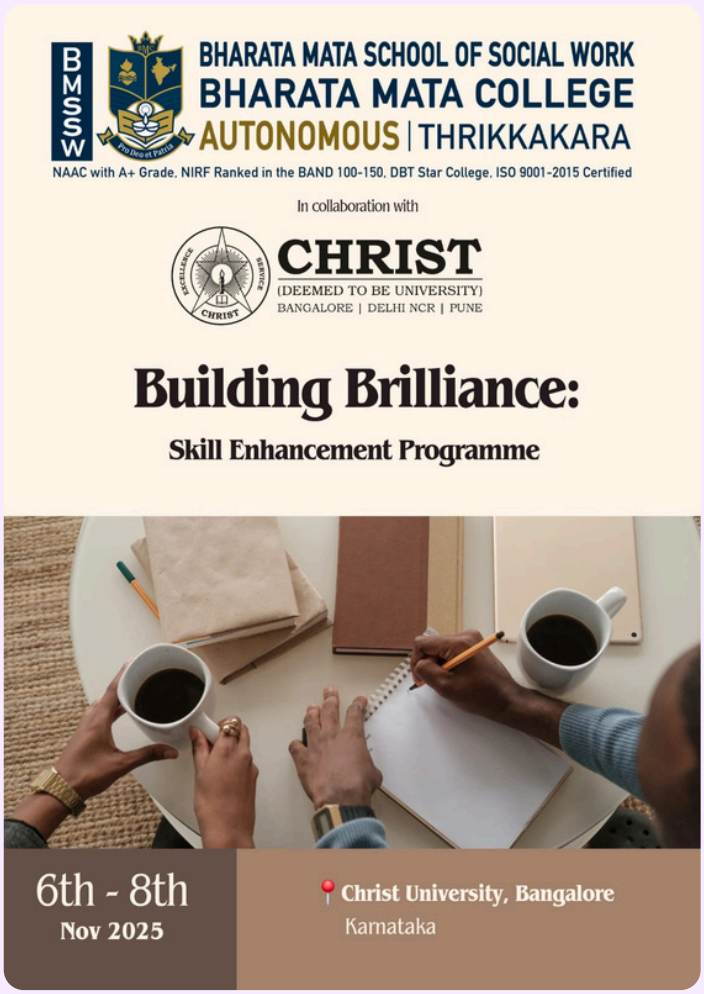
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OBSERVATION VISIT - MSW FOURTH SEM



PARIVARTHANA Recycling Unit, Christ University

On 7 November 2025, the MSW students visited PARIVARTHANA, the recycling unit of Christ University, as part of the Building Brilliance Skill Enhancement Programme. The session, led by Ms. Sakshya and Mr. Saimon, introduced students to the university's integrated sustainability model comprising waste segregation, composting, plastic recycling, sewage treatment, and biogas production. The campus maintains a 100% waste-free environment, with the segregation unit alone generating 6–7 lakh rupees annually. Students also observed the paper recycling unit, where discarded paper is converted into creative products such as notebooks and gift boxes, showcasing the economic and ecological value of resource recovery. The visit provided valuable insights into sustainable practices, technological application in waste management, and the functioning of an eco-friendly academic institution.

Indian Social Institute (ISI), Bengaluru

During the NGO visit, the trainees attended a session by Fr. Denzil Fernandez at the Indian Social Institute (ISI), Bengaluru, which emphasized constitutional values such as equality, justice, and participatory governance in building an inclusive society. Established as an independent centre in 1993, ISI-B engages in social research, policy advocacy, and capacity building rooted in Jesuit principles of justice and service. The institute works closely with marginalized communities including Dalits, Adivasis, minorities, migrant labourers, fisherfolk, and unorganized workers, with special attention to women and youth empowerment.



Through its thematic focus on labour migration, democracy, and peacebuilding, and collaborations with initiatives like Pax Lumina of LIPI, Kochi, ISI-B fosters social inclusion, grassroots participation, and collective action toward justice-oriented development.

SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE, BANGALORE



As part of the NGO exposure visit, the trainees visited SOS Children's Village, Bangalore, where they were oriented on the organization's Family-Based Care and Family Strengthening Programme. Established internationally in 1949 and in India in 1960, SOS provides long-term, family-like care for orphaned and abandoned children through "mothers" who raise and guide the children until adolescence. The orientation detailed the selection, training, and psychosocial support systems that ensure holistic child development. A highlight of the visit was an inspiring interaction with a foster mother who had dedicated 38 years of service, sharing her experiences of nurturing multiple generations of children. Though direct interaction with children was restricted, the visit offered profound insights into alternative child care models grounded in emotional security, stability, and unconditional care

OBSERVATION VISIT - MSW FOURTH SEM

NIGHTINGALES SANDHYA SURAKSHA (NIGHTINGALES MEDICAL TRUST)



At Nightingales Sandhya Suraksha, the trainees were introduced to specialized geriatric care and rehabilitation services offered to destitute elderly persons, many of whom are rescued by the police or referred through the Elders Helpline. Founded by Dr. Radha S. Murthy and Mr. Premkumar Raja, the Nightingales Medical Trust operates multiple centers, where revenue from paid facilities sustains welfare projects for marginalized elders. The orientation by Mr. Prasad and Ms. Anitha Mathew covered dementia care, active ageing programs, and productive daycare models where elders engage in income-generating activities such as clay and lamp making. The visit enabled students to understand person-centered geriatric social work and the challenges of elder neglect, abuse, and dementia in urban contexts, highlighting the importance of compassionate, sustainable care systems.

CARE – Centre for Amenities, Rehabilitation and Education

The final NGO visit was to CARE (Centre for Amenities, Rehabilitation and Education), an informal volunteer-driven organization founded by Mr. R. Manohar to empower residents of long-standing urban slums. Operating without external funding, CARE focuses on rights awareness, community development, human rights advocacy, and health-related interventions through collaborations with trained professionals.



Mr. Manohar highlighted the persistent underdevelopment of the century-old slum and stressed the need for strong state intervention for sustainable change. Through training, awareness programs, and support to various institutions and movements, CARE acts as a resource centre promoting empowerment and social justice. The visit provided the trainees with meaningful exposure to grassroots realities, community-based advocacy, and the power of volunteer-led social initiatives

NATIONAL SEMINAR PARTICIPATION



Devika, Angel, Nikhila, and Anannya attended the National Seminar organized by KAPS at Mar Augusthinose College, Kottayam, on 21–22 November 2025. The theme, “Nurturing Resilience: A Holistic Approach to Preventing and Treating Substance Abuse Among Adolescents and Young Adults,” offered valuable insights into preventive and therapeutic strategies. Through expert sessions, discussions, and group activities, they gained deeper understanding of substance use, resilience-building, and holistic interventions, enriching their knowledge and strengthening their social work practice.

COMMENCEMENT OF FOURTH SEMESTER FIELD PRACTICUM



The fourth-semester BSW students of Bharata Mata School of Social Work have commenced their field practicum at Sahrdaya Welfare Services, Ernakulam. The workshop and practicum sessions aim to provide students with practical exposure to community-based social work, allowing them to apply theoretical knowledge in real-world settings. Through active participation in ongoing programs, interactions with beneficiaries, and guidance from field supervisors, the students will develop skills in casework, group work, and community engagement, enhancing their professional competencies and understanding of social welfare practices.

2ND PRIZE FOR QUIZ COMPETITION

Midhun and Ebin Babu of Bharata Mata School of Social Work secured the second prize in the quiz competition conducted by Mar Augusthinose College, Ramapuram. This achievement reflects not only their strong knowledge base but also their quick thinking, analytical skills, and effective teamwork under pressure. Their success demonstrates the ability to perform in competitive academic environments while showcasing confidence and communication skills, which are essential for social work students who engage with diverse communities.

By excelling in this event, they brought recognition to their institution and set an example for their peers, encouraging active participation in co-curricular activities that enhance learning beyond the classroom. Their accomplishment is a testament to their dedication, hard work, and enthusiasm for learning, highlighting the importance of holistic development in the academic journey by combining knowledge, skill, and practical application in real-world settings



BHARATHION 2025

A series of preparatory meetings were held at Bharata Mata School of Social Work in October 2025 as part of the arrangements for the upcoming Bharathion International Conference on Climate Change and Climate Justice, scheduled for December 11 and 12, 2025. Coordinators and faculty members reviewed committee-wise progress, budget requirements, programme planning, logistics, and communication procedures. Special focus was placed on designing a research-based exhibition highlighting the unequal impacts of climate change, with themes such as heat waves, droughts, coastal vulnerabilities, tribal resilience, and Kerala's ecological identity. Mangroves, Pokkali rice cultivation, and community adaptation models were selected as key exhibits. Committees also finalised the conference brochure, registration fees, invitation processes, and hospitality arrangements for participants and speakers. With collaborative discussions and clear action plans, the institution aims to deliver a meaningful platform that integrates scientific knowledge, community narratives, and justice-oriented perspectives on climate change

PLACEMENT

The Department of Social Work proudly announces the successful campus placements for the academic year 2025–2026, marking an important milestone for the MSW programme of Bharata Mata School of Social Work. Ten final-year MSW students—Fathimathu Sharafiya, Aakash P R, Aksa Antony, Nikhila K S, Anannya Jose, Athulya Unnikrishnan, Navya Saji, Honey K Prahalad, and Arundhadhi Regi—have been placed with the Global Institute for Collaborative Education (GICE), securing a CTC of 3.84 LPA.



This achievement highlights the students' academic commitment, extensive fieldwork exposure, and the department's ongoing efforts to enhance professional competence through structured training and placement support. The selection process allowed the students to demonstrate their skills in counselling, community engagement, programme implementation, case management, and organisational coordination, reflecting the core competencies of social work education.

The positive feedback received from recruiters underscores the students' readiness to take up responsibilities in the social sector and their ability to adapt to diverse professional environments. The faculty and Placement Cell have played a pivotal role in mentoring and preparing the students for this accomplishment.

The department extends heartfelt congratulations to all the selected students and wishes them continued success as they begin their professional journey with confidence and dedication.

ACADEMIC REFLECTION

BEHAVIORAL PATTERNS OF CNCP CHILDREN: A COMPARATIVE REFLECTION BETWEEN MUMBAI AND KERALA

The Vizhinjam International Deepwater Port in Kerala has created a major conflict between development plans and the life of coastal fishing communities. The government and private companies promote the port as a project that will bring global trade, economic growth, and new job opportunities. But the people who live along the coast are facing serious environmental and social problems because of the construction. Their traditional way of life, which has always depended on the sea, is now under threat. Political ecology helps us understand this conflict by showing how environmental issues are linked to political power and inequality. It highlights how powerful groups often receive the benefits of development, while weaker groups experience the negative impacts.

The construction of the port started in 2015. Activities like dredging, rock blasting, and building a long breakwater changed the natural behaviour of waves and sand movement. Soon after the construction began, many coastal villages such as Vizhinjam, Poonthura, Valiyathura, Adimalathura, and Beemapally started experiencing rapid and unusual erosion. Beaches became narrow or disappeared. Strong waves damaged houses, and many families were forced to move into temporary relief camps. Fishermen also noticed a decline in fish because the port disrupted their natural breeding areas. They now have to travel farther into the sea, spend more money on fuel, and face more risks.

This study used a qualitative method to understand the impact of the port project. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with ten people from the fishing community, including fishermen, women fish sellers, and local leaders. Their experiences were supported by scientific studies, newspaper articles, and government reports. The findings showed that there is a clear link between port construction and environmental changes, even though the government denied it. This denial created mistrust and frustration among the community.

Social problems are also increasing. Daily income has reduced for fishermen and fish-selling women. Many families living in relief camps face poor living conditions, lack of privacy, and constant uncertainty. Younger people are unsure about their future because fishing has become unpredictable. Through the lens of political ecology, the Vizhinjam conflict shows how development can create winners and losers. The benefits go to the government and private company, while the fishing community pays the price. Their protest is not against development itself but against injustice, lack of inclusion, and environmental harm.

In conclusion, the Vizhinjam case shows the need for development that includes local communities, protects the environment, and provides fair compensation and rehabilitation. True development must support both people and nature, not destroy the lives of those who depend on the coast.

Jomon M
MSW 2nd Year



THE KANCHA GACHIBOWLI DEFORESTATION CRISIS: A CASE STUDY OF DEVELOPMENT-ENVIRONMENT CONFLICT IN URBAN INDIA

India's rapid urban expansion continues to generate deep tensions between developmental aspirations and ecological preservation. The Kancha Gachibowli deforestation crisis of 2025, where the Telangana government cleared approximately 400 acres of forest near the University of Hyderabad to develop an IT park, exemplifies this conflict. Though officially classified as poramboke (wasteland), the land functioned as an ecologically rich urban forest. Its destruction provoked widespread protests, legal battles, and ultimately decisive intervention from the Supreme Court. This case highlights urgent questions about environmental governance, ecological justice, and the direction of urban policy in India.

Legal and Theoretical Background

The controversy is rooted in a long-standing legal principle established in T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad vs Union of India (1996), which ruled that any area functioning ecologically as a forest is legally a forest, regardless of government revenue classifications. The Telangana government's reliance on the "poramboke" categorization contradicted this definition. Reports from The Hindu, Indian Express and other outlets show how the government justified the land transfer to the Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TSIIC) without adequate environmental clearances.

Political ecology frameworks help explain the underlying power struggle: state-led developmentalism prioritizes economic growth and infrastructure expansion, marginalizing ecological and community concerns. Kancha Gachibowli illustrates "spatial injustice," wherein environmental costs—loss of biodiversity, rising heat, groundwater depletion—are borne by the public, while the benefits of development flow to investors and state revenue systems.

Methodology

This case study uses qualitative analysis based entirely on secondary sources, including court orders, press reports, ecological surveys, and government documents. Thematic coding was used to identify the major conflict areas—legal disputes, ecological impacts, development claims, and civic mobilization. Triangulation across diverse sources strengthened the reliability of the findings.

Key Findings and Discussion

The Kancha Gachibowli forest clearance incident revealed major lapses in environmental governance and sparked significant judicial, ecological, and civic responses.

1. Judicial Response

On April 3, 2025, the Supreme Court took suo motu action after reports of large-scale clearing in the area. The Court condemned the Telangana government's actions as a violation of its nationwide order against forest depletion. A spot inspection confirmed the destruction of nearly 100 acres. In a rare warning, the Court stated that senior officials, including the Chief Secretary, could be placed in a "temporary prison" at the site if restoration was not carried out. The Union MoEFCC also declared the clearing illegal and demanded a detailed report, exposing significant policy disconnects between state and central authorities.

2. Ecological Significance

Although classified officially as "wasteland," Kancha Gachibowli was a biodiverse ecosystem hosting 233 bird species, 734 flowering plants, endangered species like the Indian Rock Python and Indian Star Tortoise, and endemic species such as the Murricia hyderabadensis spider. The forest played a key role in groundwater recharge and heat regulation, with experts warning of a potential 1–4°C local temperature increase following its destruction. Habitat loss led to widespread wildlife displacement.

3. Development vs Ecology

The state justified the clearance for an IT park promising ₹50,000 crore investment and five lakh jobs. However, the lack of an Environmental Impact Assessment and the timing during a long weekend raised concerns about procedural violations. The proposed "eco-park" received criticism for failing to replicate the ecological complexity of a natural forest.

4. Civic Mobilization

Students, faculty, and NGOs launched the "Save HCU" movement, later forming the "Save City Forest Collective." Protests, social media campaigns, and legal efforts intensified public pressure.

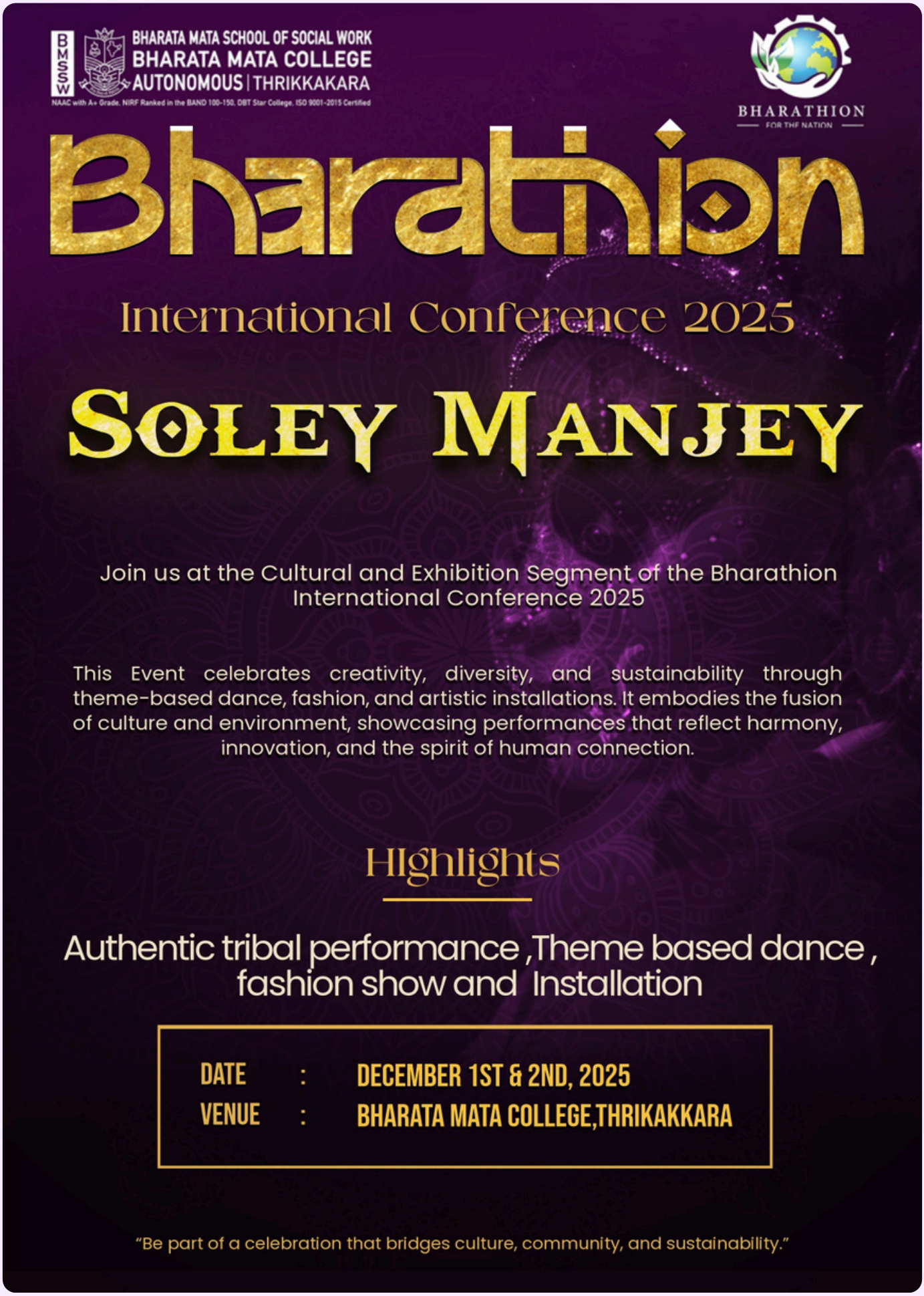
Discussion

The incident reflects Ulrich Beck's "Risk Society" concept, showing how development can generate long-term ecological risks. It underscores the need for sustainable urban planning that treats natural ecosystems as vital infrastructure to avoid irreversible environmental and social damage.

Aakash P R
MSW 2nd Year




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Join us at the Cultural and Exhibition Segment of the Bharathion International Conference 2025
This Event celebrates creativity, diversity, and sustainability through theme-based dance, fashion, and artistic installations. It embodies the fusion of culture and environment, showcasing performances that reflect harmony, innovation, and the spirit of human connection.
Highlights
Authentic tribal performance ,Theme based dance , fashion show and Installation
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"Be part of a celebration that bridges culture, community, and sustainability."

The Exhibition Segment of Bharathion International Conference 2025 – "Soley Manjey" highlights innovative approaches to climate action, indigenous art, and sustainable development. It offers a creative platform showcasing visual narratives that promote ecological awareness and community-driven sustainability.









"We invite you to experience Bharation — a journey of art, unity, and inspiration."

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