

# **DAMAGED NATIONAL FLAG COLLECTION AND PROPER DISPOSAL DRIVE**

**Report on event conducted to respectfully collect and properly dispose of National Flag conducted in and around Symbiosis Law School, NOIDA on August 16-18, 2023.**

**ABSTRACT:** This event aimed to combine the twin Constitutional Fundamental duties of respecting the national flag as well as preserving the environment. This event was a collaboration between the Legal Aid Centre and the Millennium Fellowship Project, 'Segregation at Source'. The project is based on the Sustainable Development Goal 13: Climate Action. It is aimed to increase awareness regarding the issue of climate change and the importance of practicing waste segregation. Further, the other purpose of this project is to help and convince organisations to switch from a single bin system to a segregated bin system.

Conducted by:

1. Ms. Aprajita Tyagi, Convener
2. Ms. Mridula Trivedi, Co-Convener
3. Ms. Bhavya Bahl, Paralegal Volunteer

Under the Guidance of:

Ms. Charvi Kumar,  
Administrator -  
Legal Aid Centre,  
Symbiosis Law  
School, NOIDA

## **I. Concept Note**

World Bank estimates show that, globally, we produce approximately 2.01 billion tonnes of solid waste each year. However, at least 33% of that waste is not managed in an environmentally sound manner and that's an extremely conservative estimate. The inspiration for this project came from these alarming numbers. It consists of 3 primary elements that are the introduction of segregated bins at the institutional level, awareness sessions, and, the introduction of an integrated platform to connect recycling agencies with our target organisations. Waste segregation is the sorting and separation of waste types to facilitate recycling and correct onward disposal.

## **II. Objectives**

The main objectives of this event were:

1. To spread awareness about the fundamental rights and duties linked to the preservation of the environment in the Indian Constitution.
2. To honour the national flag by preventing people from disposing of it disrespectfully after they are done celebrating Independence Day.
3. To adhere to the proper rules of procedure while respectfully disposing of the national flags in order to ensure protection of the environment as well as respect for the national flag.
4. To contribute to the reduction of waste that ends up in the landfills of Delhi-NCR.



### **III. Preliminary Preparations**

Before conducting the event, the organisers made the following preparations:

1. Conducted pop-up awareness sessions in and around the premises of Symbiosis Law School, NOIDA.
2. Obtained permission from the college authorities to respectfully bury the national flag on the campus premises.

### **IV. Conducting the Event**

This event was the brainchild of Ms. Aprajita Tyagi and Ms. Bhavya Bahl, respectively the Convener and Paralegal Volunteer at LAC, as well as co-founders of the Millennium Fellowship Project 'Segregation at Source' for the Class of 2022. They were assisted by Ms. Mridula Trivedi, the Co-Convener of LAC and a fellow Millennium Fellow. Other learners who participated were Ms. Bhavya Singh, Ms. Meher Gill, Ms. Sakshi Mehta, and Ms. Shubhangi Singh.

On 15th August 2022 India celebrated its 75th Independence Day. The government of India planned the Har Ghar Tiranga event to encourage all households to proudly install the Indian National Flag (The Tiranga) in their houses.

As expected, many of these flags installed were not in a usable state after the Independence Day celebrations were over. However, in India it is illegal to simply dump the national flag in a dustbin or any other place and can lead to imprisonment for up to 3 years with or without a fine.

Therefore, the Segregation at Source team decided to dispose of the Indian National Flags properly and dignifiedly. After the Independence Day celebrations, the team collected the National

Flags from their campus, houses, neighbours and the ones thrown around casually on the roads or other places. Then they segregated the recyclable flags from the non-recyclable flags. They planned to properly dispose of the non-recyclable ones as per the Flag Code of India 2002.

The Flag Code states that the Indian National Flag must be first folded in the manner as illustrated in the code. Then the flag must either be burnt fully in an open space or buried in soil in a wooden box or some other appropriate biodegradable container. The team chose the more environmentally friendly way to dispose of the flags by burying them in a biodegradable container. After this a moment of silence was observed and the flag was saluted to complete the disposal process.

By the end of August 2022, the team had disposed of at least 15-20 flags in a proper and dignified manner, while keeping environmental protection in mind. The entire process was recorded in a [video](#) and posted on the team's social media to encourage more people to dispose of the flag in the correct manner.

## **V. Response of the Target Population**

The video posted on social media by the team got over 33,000 views and 2,800 likes. Many people in the comment section expressed that the video was helpful as they were not aware of the proper manner of disposal of the national flag before. Overall, the response of the online audience of the project was extremely positive.

In addition to that, the persons involved in the disposal drive on the college campus also appreciated the effort taken by the team in the proper disposal of the flags. They enthusiastically participated in the drive and made their best contribution to it.



## **VI. Conclusion**

The team will like to thank the faculty advisors Mr. Ankur Sharma and Ms. Charvi Kumar for supporting our efforts throughout and our Director, Prof. (Dr.) C.J. Rawandale for getting our budget approved by the University. It would like to acknowledge the efforts of our volunteers (who are not Millennium Fellows) Mr. Ankit Agrawal, Ms. Aparna Mangla, Mr. Parth Whorra, Ms. Priyadarshini Singh, and Mr. Akshit Lunial.

## GLIMPSES OF THE EVENT

