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Registration Seminar

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Seminar Title	: Cultural Interactions and Conservation Challenges: Safeguarding Sacred Groves and Biodiversity in Mangar Bani of Haryana
Speaker	: Mritunjay Jha ( Rollno : 522hs1005)
Supervisor	: Dr. Koteswara Rao Kodirekkala
Venue	: Seminar Room, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences (Main Building, 3rd floor)
Date and Time	: 22 Jul 2024 (11:00 AM)
Abstract	: Significant worldwide challenges are posed by increased deforestation and the need for biodiversity conservation in a rapidly changing global environment. Traditionally, biodiversity has been protected by indigenous and rural people by attaching local deities to forests and naming them sacred. Sacred Groves are essential features of many religious and cultural traditions, and they serve as receptacles and refuges for diverse biota and as source areas for landscape-level restoration of forest cover. In addition to conserving biodiversity, Sacred Groves can aid the development of local sustainable economies. With the increasing anthropogenic pressure and developmental activities, these Sacred Groves are under tremendous threat of losing their identity. The present study, using in-depth research, investigates how rapidly the biodiversity is depleting in Mangar Bani Sacred Grove, causing a threat to its existence, and how the attitudes of local people constitute potential threats to resources that sustain their traditions. The study also inspects how Sacred Grove focuses on the intricate relationship between cultural identity, local livelihoods, and biodiversity conservation issues through the lens of the traditional knowledge system. The findings will shed light on the role that sacred groves play in the protection of ecosystems and biodiversity and call attention to the necessity of combining ecological and cultural perspectives in conservation plans.

**Keywords:** Sacred Groves, Cultural Identity, Biodiversity Conservation, Traditional Knowledge, Livelihood.