

Shyam Lal College (Evening)

University of Delhi

EVENT REPORT

Women's Development Cell Orientation & Movie Screening "Weaving Hope"

Date: 25th September, 2026, at 4:00 PM in Seminar Hall

Principal:

Prof. Nachiketa Singh

Convenor:

Dr. Vatsal Singh

President:

Arya, 3rd year, BA Programme

1. Introduction and Objective

The Women's Development Cell, Shyam Lal College (Evening), organised an Orientation Programme and screening of the documentary Weaving Hope on 25 September 2026 at 4:00 pm in the Seminar Hall of the College. The programme was organised to welcome the students and familiarise them with the vision, objectives and activities of the Cell.

The orientation aimed to introduce students with the Cell's role in promoting awareness, equality, confidence and empowerment. It highlighted how the Cell provides a platform for meaningful conversations, workshops, campaigns, creative activities and awareness initiatives where ideas are exchanged, perspectives are respected and every voice is encouraged to be heard. The programme marked the beginning of a journey towards creating a more aware, inclusive and empowered student community.

2. Inauguration of the Programme

The programme commenced with the presence of the respected Principal sir, Professor Nachiketa Singh, Convenor, Dr. Vatsal Singh and the committee members of the Women's Development Cell —**Dr. Manoj Kumar Singh, Ms. S. Sruti, Dr. Roli Raghuvanshi, Dr. Monika Khemani, Dr. Pankaj Patwa, Dr. Pragya Taneja, Dr. Jigyasa Sharma and Ms. Shibangi Dash.**

The formal inauguration began with the Lamp Lighting Ceremony, symbolising the light of knowledge, awareness, empowerment and hope. This was followed by the commencement of the Orientation Programme. As a gesture of felicitation, the Convenor and members of the Committee presented the Principal Sir with a copy of the book *The Palace of Illusions* by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, adding a thoughtful and meaningful touch to the inauguration.

3 Address by the Convenor

Dr. Vatsal Singh, Convenor, expressed her sincere gratitude to the Principal, Professor Nachiketa Singh for his continuous support, encouragement and guidance in facilitating such meaningful initiatives. She also thanked him for taking time out of his busy schedule to grace the occasion and be a part of this important sensitisation programme. Dr. Vatsal also thanked the WDC committee members for their support throughout the programme.

She addressed the gathering by highlighting that the Women's Development Cell should not be limited to one section or perspective but should encourage wider participation. She explained that the WDC aims to create awareness, question stereotypes, promote equality and provide a safe space for open discussions where everyone can share their opinions and ideas while respecting diverse viewpoints. She emphasised that men should also be part of these conversations and become allies in creating a safe and inclusive environment. The WDC should not be viewed as being against men but as a platform to understand and address gender-related concerns collectively, with a focus on sensitisation, consent, gender awareness and standing up against injustice.

She encouraged participants to share their experiences, question existing attitudes and work towards challenging stereotypes. She concluded by outlining four guiding principles for the WDC -Listen, Question, Reflect and Act as the foundation for meaningful engagement and positive change.

4. Address by the Principal

The Principal, Professor Nachiketa Singh addressed the gathering and spoke about the significant role of the Women's Development Cell (WDC) in fostering an inclusive, supportive and empowering environment within and outside the college. He emphasised that women's development is not limited to addressing challenges faced by women but also involves creating equal opportunities, encouraging participation and enabling students to realise their full potential. He stressed that men, too, have an important role to play in promoting gender sensitivity, equality, mutual respect and a more equitable society.

He highlighted the need to provide students with greater opportunities beyond the classroom, particularly in sports, skill development, leadership, cultural activities and other extracurricular pursuits. He emphasised that active participation in such areas can help students develop confidence, independence, decision-making abilities, teamwork and leadership skills. He encouraged the WDC to create platforms where students, especially young women, can explore their abilities, express themselves freely and develop the confidence to take on responsibilities in both personal and professional spheres.

He further underlined the importance of financial literacy, social awareness and self-reliance as essential components of holistic empowerment. He encouraged the Cell to organise programmes that equip students with practical knowledge and awareness about financial independence, career opportunities, rights, responsibilities and social issues affecting young people. Such initiatives, he emphasised, can help students become informed, confident and responsible members of society.

The Principal also drew attention to the concept of matriarchy and encouraged students to critically examine the ways in which power, authority and gender roles are structured within society. Rather than viewing gender relations through a single lens, he urged students to engage with different perspectives and reflect on how social structures, traditions, expectations and cultural practices shape the experiences of both women and men.

Concluding his address, Prof. Nachiketa Singh encouraged the Women's Development Cell to function as a dynamic and inclusive platform for dialogue, awareness, participation and empowerment. He expressed his support for the Cell's initiatives and encouraged students and committee members to work collectively towards building a campus culture based on equality, dignity, respect, opportunity and mutual understanding.

5. Address by Dr. Jigyasa Sharma

Dr. Jigyasa Sharma, a faculty from Commerce Department & also a committee member of WDC, spoke about the true meaning of women's empowerment. She emphasised that empowerment is about recognising women's capabilities and ensuring equal opportunities, rather than proving one gender superior to another.

She also highlighted the need to challenge stereotypes, change mindsets and encourage mutual respect and equality. She encouraged students to become agents of positive change in the society.

6. Movie Screening and Discussion

The movie “**Weaving Hope**” was screened as part of the programme. *Weaving Hope* is a documentary that portrays the journey of Seema, a field facilitator and school teacher working to challenge gender-based barriers in her community. It highlights her efforts to empower girls, create awareness about their rights and choices and encourage conversations around gender equality. The documentary explores themes of education, consent, empowerment and social change. It reminds viewers that meaningful change often begins with one individual taking the first step.

After the screening, an engaging discussion was held where students and teachers shared their thoughts and observations about the film. The discussion continued with many students and

faculty members coming forward to express their views and reflections on the issues presented in the movie.

Dr. Roli Raghuvanshi, faculty from Economics Department & also a member of WDC, during the discussion on the movie, observed that the protagonist, Seema, herself became the change she wanted to see in society. Through her actions, she demonstrated that meaningful change begins with taking the first step. Seema challenged existing social norms by engaging with young girls on issues of marriage and consent and by creating awareness within the village community. Her journey highlighted how individual initiative, courage, and sustained efforts can inspire wider social change.

7. Dr. Monika Khemani, a faculty from Commerce Department & also a member of WDC highlighted the importance of male support in women's empowerment. She noted how Seema's husband supports her efforts and remains unfazed by what people say, showing the importance of men as allies in challenging social norms.

The Principal Sir engaged the students by asking them questions, making the session interactive and interesting. The discussion touched upon various aspects of women's empowerment.

When asked about the characteristics of the protagonist, Seema in the movie, the students described her as resilient, self-made, hardworking and a multitasker, who was empowered and able to connect her identity with the realities of everyday life.

Professor Pramod Kumar Dwivedi from the Department of Hindi and Convenor, IQAC, emphasised that even if one person out of ten changes their attitude towards women's empowerment, it can be a significant step towards wider social change. He observed that Seema's journey shows how one individual can initiate change. Although she begins her efforts on her own, others gradually observe her actions and begin to change their attitudes, demonstrating how individual efforts can eventually bring about wider social transformation.

He discussed the prevailing patriarchal mindset and stressed the importance of transforming concerns into meaningful conversations. He highlighted the role of films, songs, and literature in shaping social attitudes, questioning stereotypes and encouraging change while also helping girls develop self-confidence and inner strength. He recommended the poetry collection *Kehti Hain Auratein*, featuring poems by women writers in Hindi and various Indian languages and encouraged students to read and share these poems as a means of creating awareness and fostering meaningful dialogue on gender and society.

Dr. Pragya Taneja, faculty member from the Economics Department and also a Committee member, emphasised the importance of women's equality, independence and empowerment, including the freedom to make their own choices. She highlighted concerns such as domestic violence and sexual violence, stressing the need for greater awareness and a safer environment

for women. She also spoke about generational differences and emphasised that meaningful social change begins with one's own thinking and actions.

Dr. Shibangi Dash, English Department faculty & also a committee member, discussed the representation of women in the film industry and explained how movies can help raise awareness about social issues. She spoke about how films can highlight problems and encourage people to think about possible solutions. She also talked about Savitribai Phule and her contribution towards women's education and challenging traditional practices. She highlighted the importance of creating safe spaces where people can learn, express their views and have meaningful conversations. She also discussed the participation of women in the Cabinet Office and the importance of women supporting and working together. The session highlighted how education, awareness and collective efforts can help bring positive change in society.

Dr. Manoj Kumar, Political Science faculty & also a committee member, emphasised the importance of nurturing ambitious aspirations and developing the determination and confidence required to transform them into reality. He highlighted that while individuals may sometimes encounter setbacks from society or their immediate surroundings, the family can also serve as a strong source of encouragement and motivation.

He stressed the importance of empowering girls and women through consistent encouragement and by fostering self-confidence, rather than approaching their aspirations with sympathy. He urged the audience to encourage their sisters and daughters to pursue education, recognise their capabilities and believe in their potential.

It was highlighted that the WDC is open to everyone and addresses not only women-related issues but also wider social concerns. The session encouraged students to become responsible citizens and spread the message of equality and empowerment in society.

Other faculty members and students also actively participated in the discussion following the documentary screening, sharing their views and perspectives. Their enthusiastic participation and meaningful engagement contributed to making the programme a successful and enriching experience.

7. President's Speech- Arya, 3rd year, B.A. Programme

Arya, the President of the Women's Development Cell and a 3rd-year student of the B.A. Programme, delivered an inspiring speech focusing on women's empowerment, equality, education and social awareness. She began by quoting Savitribai Phule and expressed her gratitude towards the Principal, Convenor, faculty members and the WDC team for their support and trust. She shared her vision of making WDC a space where everyone can learn, participate, speak freely and contribute to meaningful conversations.

She also highlighted areas such as women's rights, health, education, leadership and social awareness and expressed her hope to work together with the entire team towards creating a more equal and inclusive environment. She concluded by introducing the members of the WDC team and expressing her excitement about the journey ahead.

Vice Presidents — Mayank Kain and Tanushka Raghav

Secretary — Anushka Gupta

Joint Secretary — Shreya Tripathi

Treasurer — Pranjali

Media and Publicity Head — Akshat Sharma

Design and Creative Head — Avni

Event and Programme Management Head — Prateek Singh

Advisor — Harshit

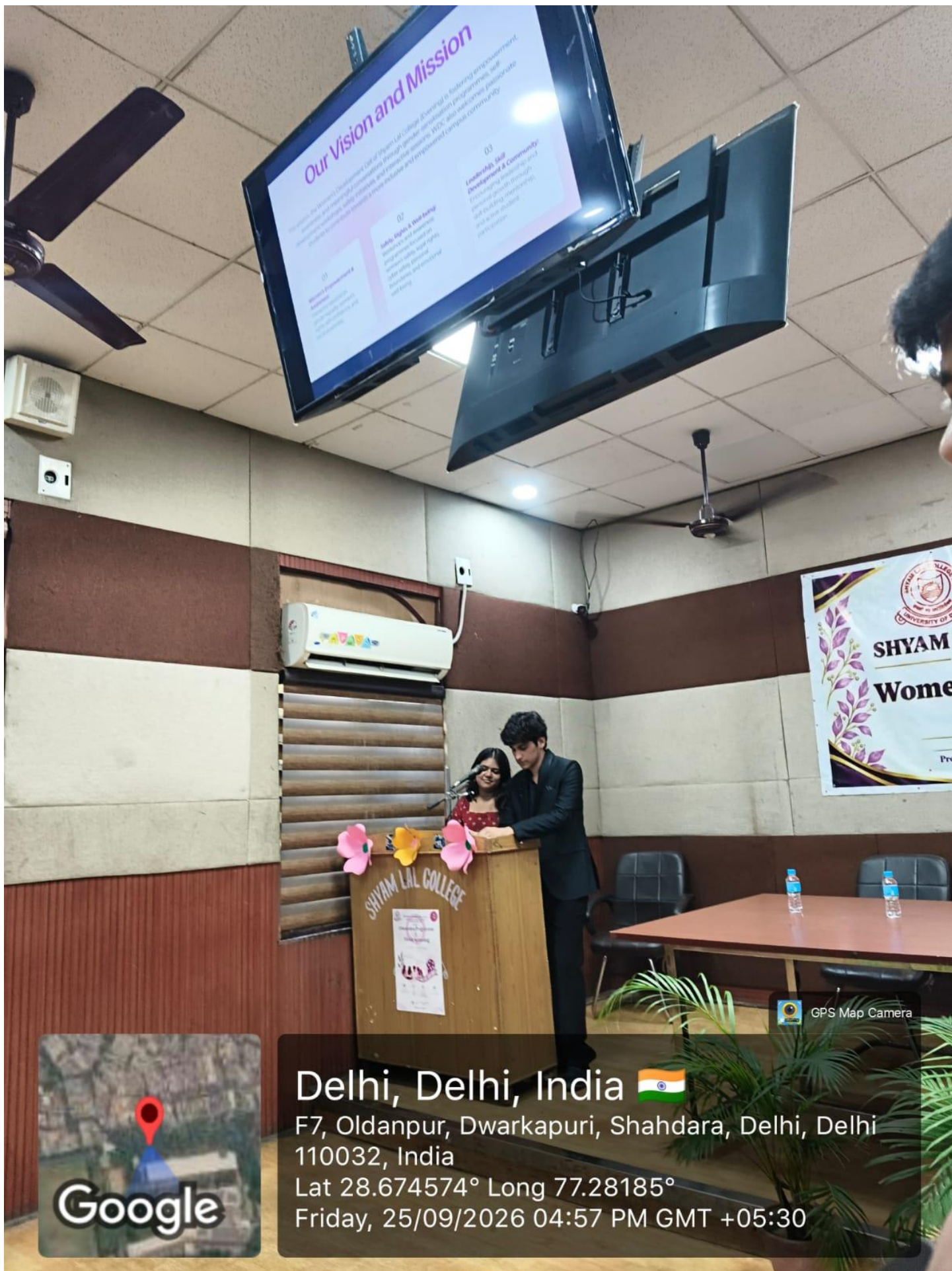
Content, Report Writing and Documentation Head — Hrishika Srivastava and Shreya Deshwal.

7. Vote of Thanks & Conclusion

The program concluded with a formal and inspiring vote of thanks by Dr. Pankaj Patwa, faculty of Commerce Department & also a committee member of WDC. In his concluding address, he highlighted the importance of women in the development of India. He spoke about how India is uniquely referred to as “Bharat Mata,” reflecting the deep respect given to the mother figure.

He also quoted Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: “Kisi bhi desh ka vikas tab hota hai jab wahan ki mahilaon ka vikas hoga .” He thanked the Principal, Convenor, committee members, WDC team and the entire audience for their support and contribution towards the successful orientation programme.

A special appreciation from IQAC was extended to the entire team of Women Development Cell for their hard work, coordination, and commitment in making the event a grand success. The event concluded on a highly positive note, leaving everyone with meaningful thoughts and reflections on women's empowerment and social change.



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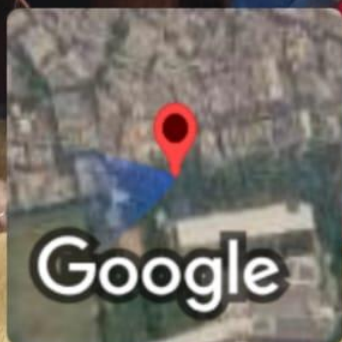
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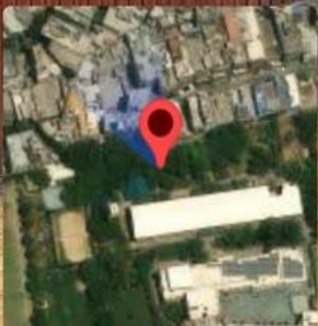
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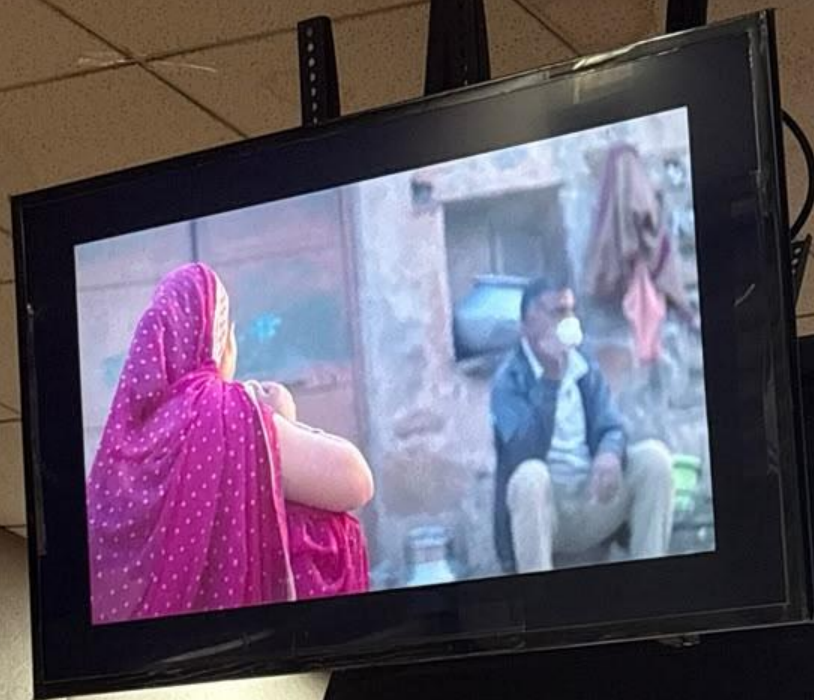
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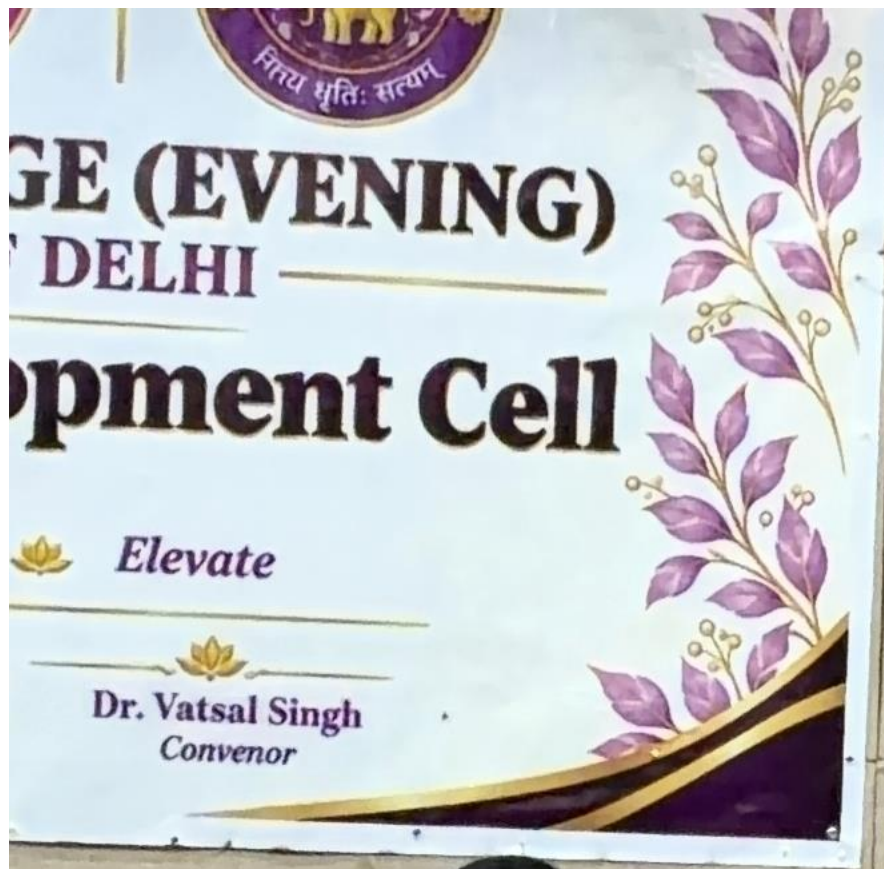


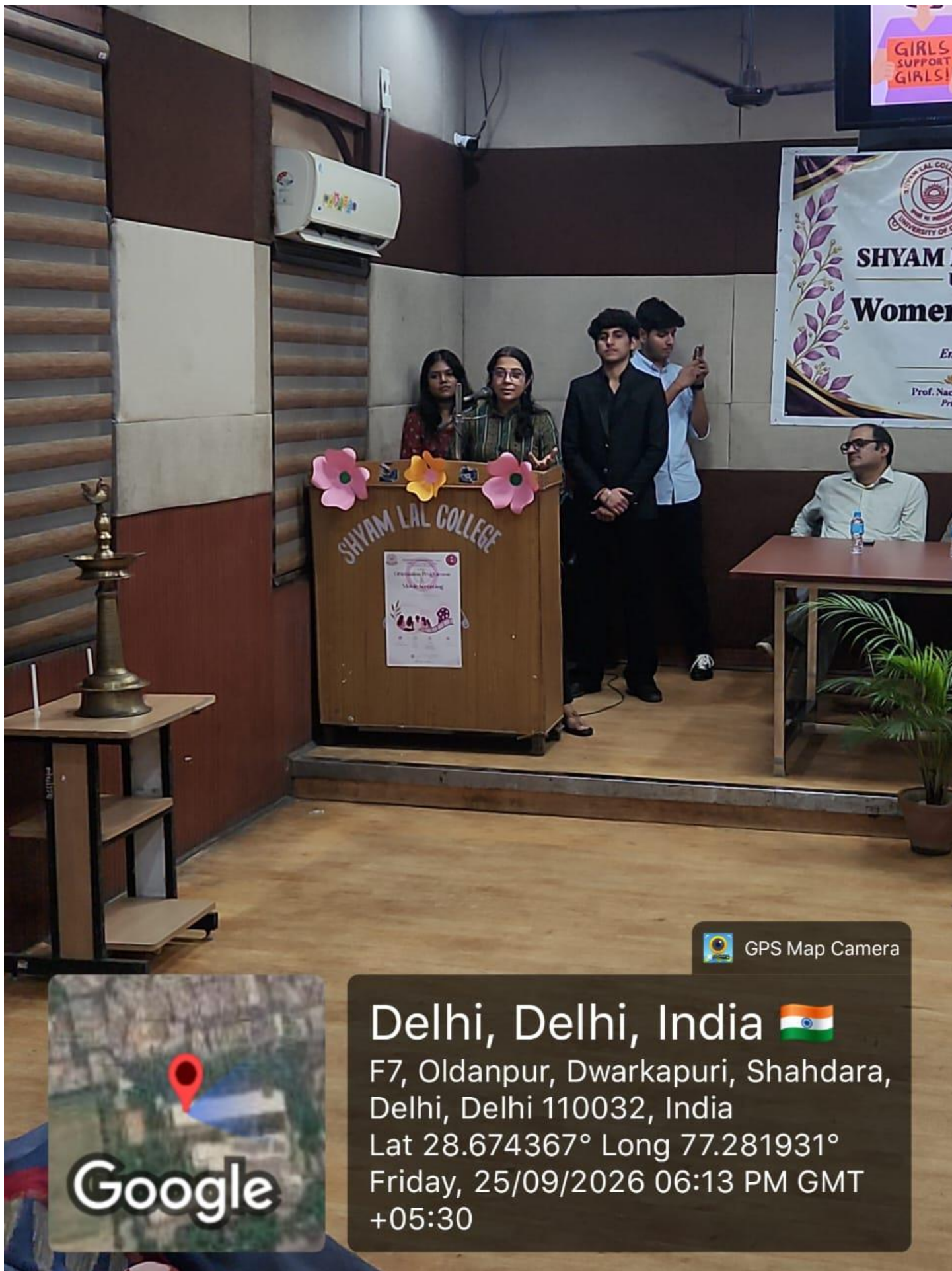
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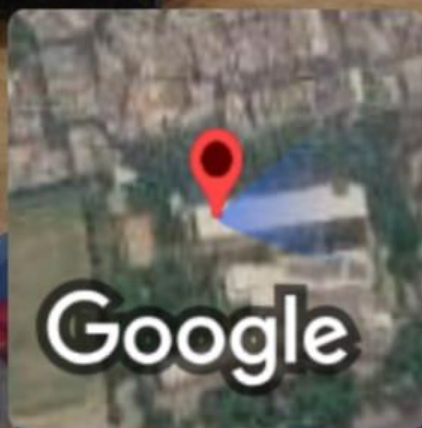
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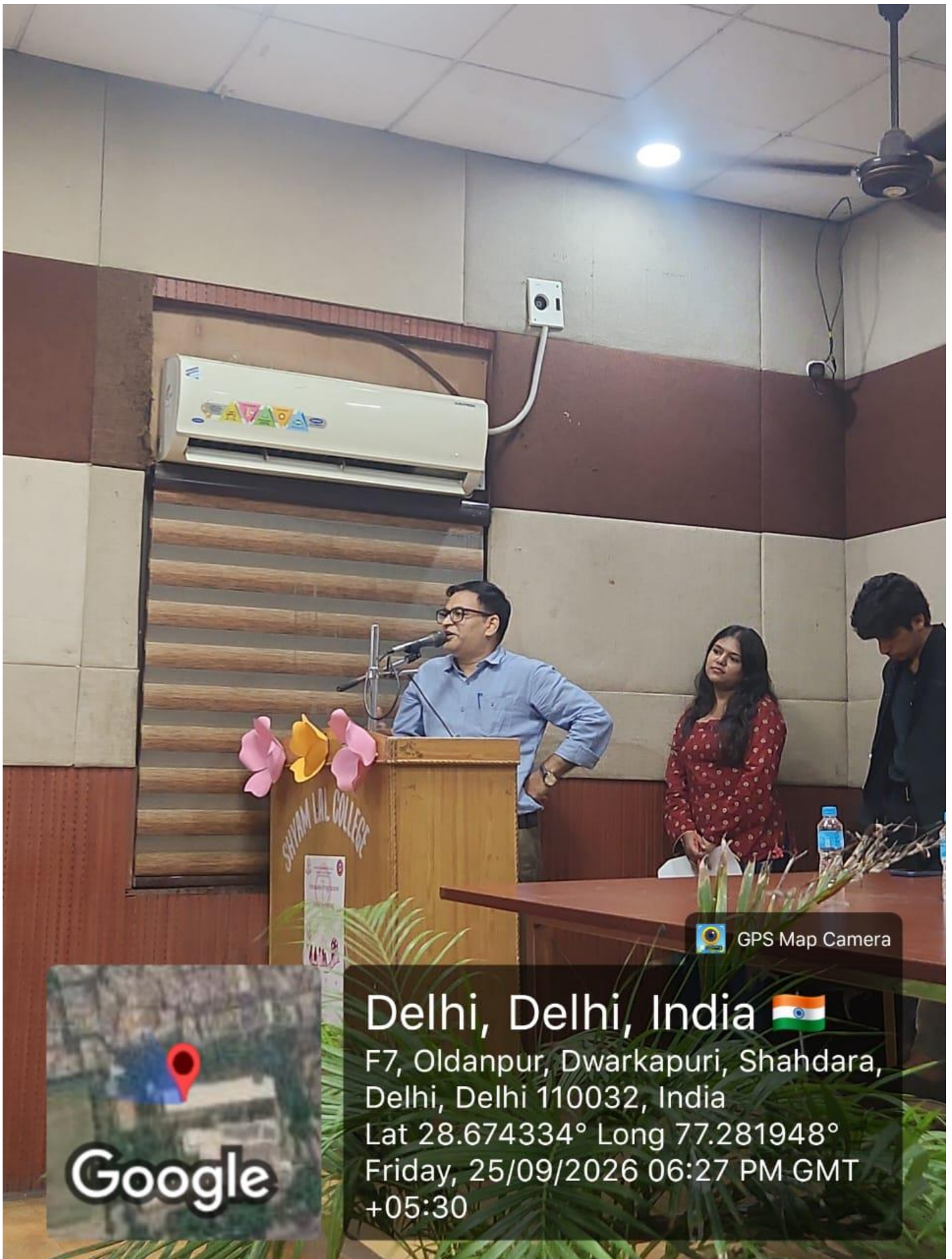
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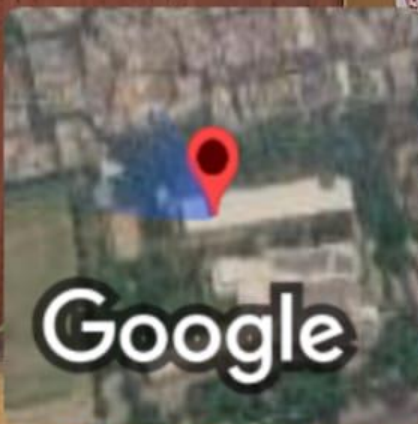
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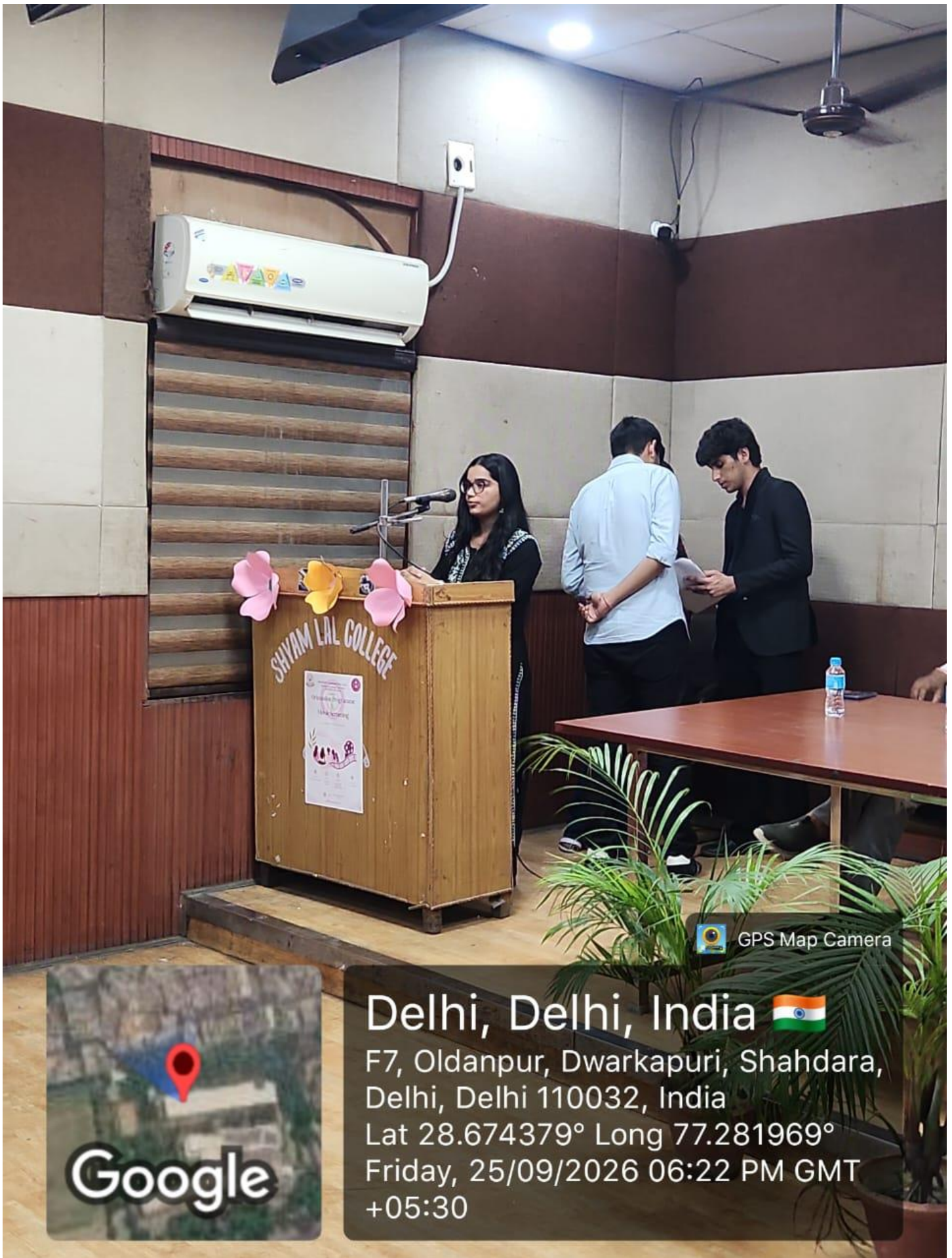
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