

## THE HIMALAYAN CLEAN UP 2022.

**VENUE: PADMAJA NAIDU ZOOLOGICAL PARK.**

**TIME: 10:00 am onwards.**

**DATE: 30<sup>TH</sup> May, 2022**

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of May 2022, the members of the Youth Against Trafficking Club took part in the Himalayan Clean Up program. The site that the club chose was the Padmaja Naidu Zoological Park which is one of the most famous tourist spots in Darjeeling.

40 volunteers gathered near the intersection at around 10:00 am after which they were divided into 4 groups and were allotted different places to clean. The reason behind cleaning this particular area was because: more than hundred tourists visit the place every day, there are food stalls and other types of shops that don't have proper dustbins, even though there a few upcycled garbage bins they are too small to handle the amount of waste that the tourists generate. On top of that there is a huge public dustbin which is rarely cleaned and aesthetically very displeasing to the eyes.

The area we covered started from the zoo till the Singamari Taxi stand. An hour after the volunteers had completed picking up the wastes, we started segregating the collected wastes into different categories like PET, HDPE, PVC, LDPE, PP, PS and other unknown plastics. The volunteers further segregated them in accordance to their brand like wai wai, frooti, mineral water bottles etc and then counted the numbers collected carefully. started with the audit, entering everything step by step in the Kobocollect application. After completing everything we weighed it down in the junk dealers weighing machine, selling off the plastic and glass bottles to the dealers and dumping the rest of the wastes in the dumping ground.

The clean up session was something entirely new for the members of the YAT club. It not only helped us educate ourselves better about the type of wastes we generated everyday but also indirectly helped in cleaning the area.

*Panushree Pradhan*

*President YAT CLUB.*