



POST GRADUATE DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION BIOLOGY
DURGAPUR GOVERNMENT COLLEGE

INDIAN WILDLIFE

NEWSLETTER NO: CONB/ WILDLIFE/ 2023/ 1

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Friends and Colleagues,
Good morning to all!

It is a great pleasure to open the third newsletter of Department of Conservation Biology, Durgapur Government College. This newsletter is mainly published to highlight the academic and co-curricular activities carried out by the Department as a team or as an individual during the first half of the academic year 2023-2024. Apart from this, a news corner dedicated to the hill biodiversity conservation in India is also a part of this endeavour.

Through this newsletter, ideas and messages regarding wildlife conservation and threats will be dealt with and students of this course will learn a new approach to conservation and protection.

I wish all the best to the faculty members, research scholars and students.

Dr. Debnath Palit

Principal

Durgapur Government College

5th June 2023

NEWSLETTER OF CONSERVATION BIOLOGY

The Newsletter of Conservation Biology displays a compilation of information on the wildlife, their habitats and their conservation status around the globe in the news corner. Some information published here are obtained from free and publicly available sources such as the internet, newspapers and other publications. The publisher of this newsletter does not make any claim on the authenticity of the contents of the secondary sources of information. The information does not necessarily represent any official views of the publisher.

Cover Photo: Debayan Gayen

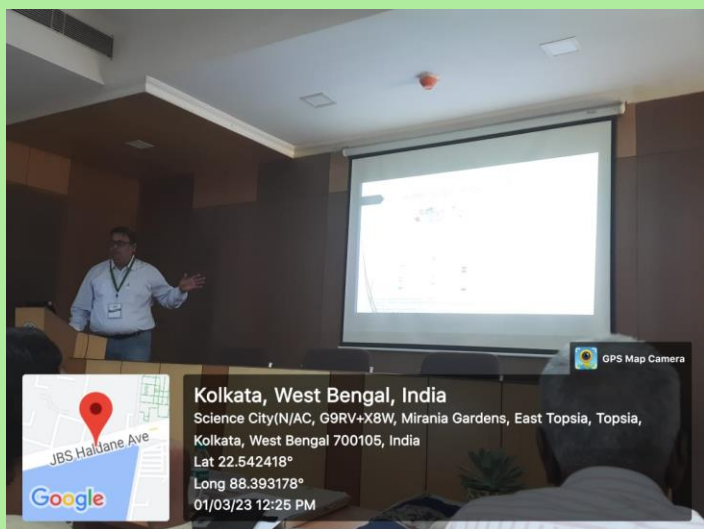
Header Photo: Uttam Kumar Gorai



PARTICIPATION IN STATE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CONGRESS



The 30th West Bengal State Science and Technology Congress, 2022-23 was held on February 28- March 1 2023. The venue was Science City, Kolkata. This was organized by The Department of Science & Technology and Biotechnology, Government of West Bengal. **Mr. Sanghamitra Sanyal, a scholar of this department**, won the first prize in the Regional Science and Technology Congress for his paper "*Time Series Analysis of Groundwater Quality at selected sites of Purba and Paschim Burdwan, West Bengal, India*" and moved on to present his research findings at the State Congress. Mr. Sanyal attended the event and successfully demonstrated his research




findings in front of the panel. Ms. Sanchari Sarkar, Research Scholar, Conservation Biology and Dr. Moitreyee Chakrabarty, Assistant Professor and Head, Conservation Biology were the co-authors of this research paper. Along with Mr. Sanyal, Ms. Sarkar also attended this event at Science City, Kolkata.






AWARENESS CAMPAIGN ON PANGOLIN CONSERVATION

Pangolins are one of the most traded animals all over the world. World Pangolin Day is celebrated on the third Saturday of February. It is a day to remember and celebrate pangolins, raise awareness, and fight against global pangolin capture in Africa and Asia.




State Level One day Seminar cum Awareness Campaign on "Save the Pangolins" on the occasion of World Pangolin Day 2023




Jointly Organized by

IQAC & PG Department of Conservation Biology, Durgapur Government College



Under the patronage of



For a social outreach activity, a One Day State Level Seminar cum Awareness Programme "SAVE THE PANGOLINS" was jointly organized by the PG department of Conservation Biology and Internal Quality Assurance cell (IQAC), Durgapur Govt College in collaboration with the Wildlife Information and



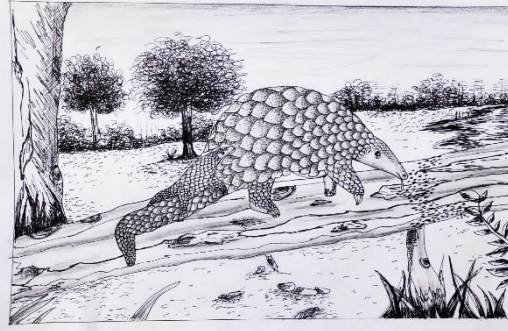
Nature Guide Society (WINGS) under the patronage of West Bengal Zoo Authority was held on 23rd February 2023.

The dais had Sri Saurabh Chaudhuri, Addl. PCCF & Member Secretary, West Bengal Zoo Authority as the chief guest of the seminar followed by Dr. Asitava Chatterjee, Divisional Forest Officer, Kangsabati South Division, Department of Forests, West Bengal as the guest of honour and Sri Agni Mitra (IFS), Regional Deputy Director, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau as the keynote speaker.



There were 57 participants comprising of students, research scholars and faculties from various colleges. The main agenda of the program was to create awareness and perils for the declining population of the threatened species, pangolin. Two online competitions were held in order to generate mass awareness among school, college students as well as general public.

Online competitions: 1. Essay Writing Competition (For College students and above), 2. Drawing and Painting Competition (For all) 3. Digital Art Competition (For College students and above)



বিলুপ্তপ্রায় প্যাঙ্গোলিনের অস্তিত্ব টিকিয়ে রাখতে প্রজননের সিদ্ধান্ত

এই সময়, দুর্গাপুর: জন্মশ বিলুপ্ত হয়ে যাচ্ছে প্যাঙ্গোলিন। বাংলায় যা পরিচিত বনরই নামে। নিশাচর এই ডানাপায়ী প্রাণীর শরীরের আঁশ থেকে চিনে ওষুধ তৈরির প্রচলন রয়েছে। ফলে প্যাঙ্গোলিনের চোরচালান প্রায় নিত্য ঘটনা। তাই এ বার এই প্রাণীর অস্তিত্বরক্ষায় উদ্যোগী হয়েছে ওয়েস্ট বেঙ্গল জু অথরিটি। প্রজননের মাধ্যমে প্যাঙ্গোলিনের বংশবিস্তারের সিদ্ধান্ত নেওয়া হয়েছে। অঙ্গীপুর চিড়িয়াখানা, বর্ধমানের রমনাবাগান, ঝাড়গ্রামের জিওলজিক্যাল পার্ক ও পুরুলিয়ায় সুকুলিয়া পার্ক— প্রজননের জন্য বেছে নেওয়া হয়েছে এই চারটি জায়গা।

তবে প্রজনন প্রক্রিয়া শুরু আগে প্যাঙ্গোলিন নিয়ে সাধারণ মানুষের মধ্যে সচেতনতা বাড়ানো বেশি জরুরি। তাই প্যাঙ্গোলিন শিকার বন্ধের জন্য মানুষকে সচেতন করার কাজ শুরু করেছে দুর্গাপুর গভর্নমেন্ট কলেজের কনজারভেটিভ বায়োলজি বিভাগ ও 'উইসে' নামে একটি সংস্থা। জঙ্গলে প্যাঙ্গোলিনের গতিবিধি সম্পর্কে বিস্তারিত তথ্য জানাটো জরুরি। তাই পুরুলিয়া সমেত আরও কয়েকটি জেলায় জঙ্গলে ক্যামেরা লাগানোর কাজও শুরু করেছে তারা। সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে বৃহস্পতিবার দুর্গাপুর গভর্নমেন্ট কলেজে একটি সেমিনার আয়োজিত হয়। কলেজের কনজারভেটিভ বায়োলজি বিভাগের সহকারী অধ্যাপক তপাজিৎ ভট্টাচার্য বলেন, 'পৃথিবীতে ৮ রকম প্রজাতির

শিকার, পাচার রুখতে সচেতনতায় জোর



প্যাঙ্গোলিন রক্ষায় সচেতনতা প্রচারে পোস্টার

প্যাঙ্গোলিন পাওয়া যায়। তারমধ্যে ভারতে দু'টি প্রজাতি রয়েছে। একটি ইন্ডিয়ান। অন্যটি চাইনিজ। দক্ষিণবঙ্গের পশ্চিম বর্ধমান জেলা সমেত বাঁকড়া, পুরুলিয়া, পশ্চিম মেদিনীপুর, ঝাড়গ্রাম— এইসব জায়গায় প্যাঙ্গোলিন পাওয়া যায়। পুরুলিয়ার গ্রামে এই প্রাণীটিকে সাধারণ মানুষ সূর্যমুখি নামে জানেন। এ ছাড়া উত্তরবঙ্গে ইন্ডিয়ানের পাশাপাশি চাইনিজ প্যাঙ্গোলিনও পাওয়া যায়। আসানসোল, বেলিয়াতোড়, ছাতনা, খড়াপুর সমেত আরও বেশ কিছু জায়গা থেকে প্যাঙ্গোলিন উদ্ধার হয়েছে। এই প্রাণীর গতিবিধি সম্পর্কে জানতে অযোধ্যা পাহাড়, গড়পঞ্চকোট সমেত নানা জায়গায় গিয়ে সমীক্ষার কাজ করছি আমরা।

এদিনের সেমিনারে উপস্থিত ছিলেন ওয়েস্ট বেঙ্গল জু

অথরিটির আর্ডিশনাল প্রিন্সিপাল চিফ কনজারভেটর অফ ফরেস্ট অ্যান্ড মেসার সেক্রেটারি সৌরভ চৌধুরী, ওয়াইল্ডলাইফ ক্রাইম কন্ট্রোল ব্যুরোর রিজিওনাল ডিরেক্টর অমি মিত্র। সৌরভ চৌধুরি বলেন, 'দার্জিলিং চিড়িয়াখানায় যে ভাবে রেড পাণ্ডার প্রজনন করা হয়েছে, একই ভাবে দক্ষিণবঙ্গে প্যাঙ্গোলিনের প্রজননের ব্যবস্থা করা হবে। কিন্তু তার আগে জঙ্গলে এই প্রাণীর গতিবিধি জানতে হবে। একটা বন্ধ জায়গায় প্রজননের পরে তাদের জঙ্গলে ছেড়ে দিলে কী অবস্থা হতে পারে, এ সব জানার পাশাপাশি চোরশিকার বন্ধ করার জন্য সচেতনতার প্রয়োজন আছে। এখনও পর্যন্ত কতটা কাজ হয়েছে এবং আগামী দিনে কী ভাবে এগিয়ে যেতে হবে তার জন্যই এই সেমিনার।'

প্যাঙ্গোলিন দিবস

দুর্গাপুর: বিশ্ব প্যাঙ্গোলিন দিবস উপলক্ষে বৃহস্পতিবার দুর্গাপুর সরকারি মহাবিদ্যালয়ে 'প্যাঙ্গোলিন বাঁচাও' সচেতনতা শিবিরের আয়োজন করা হয়। একটি বেসরকারি পরিবেশ সংস্থার সহযোগিতায় আয়োজিত এই শিবিরে রাজ্যের বিভিন্ন মহাবিদ্যালয়ের শিক্ষক ও পড়ুয়ারা যোগ দেন। ছিলেন মুখ্য বনপাল সৌরভ চৌধুরী, 'ওয়াইল্ড লাইফ ক্রাইম কন্ট্রোল ব্যুরো'র আঞ্চলিক ডেপুটি ডিরেক্টর (পূর্বাঞ্চল) অমি মিত্র, ডিএফও (কংসাবর্তী দক্ষিণ বিভাগ) অসিতাভ চট্টোপাধ্যায়, দুর্গাপুর সরকারি মহাবিদ্যালয়ের কনজারভেশন বায়োলজি বিষয়ের স্নাতকোত্তর বিভাগের প্রধান মৈত্রেয়ী চক্রবর্তী, শিক্ষক তপাজিৎ ভট্টাচার্য প্রমুখ।



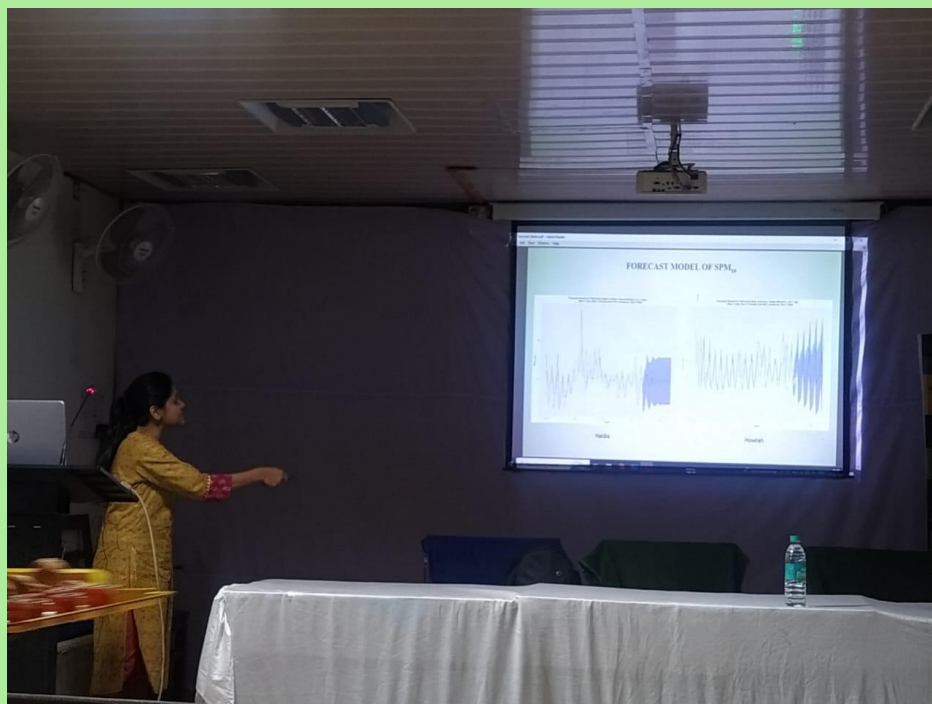
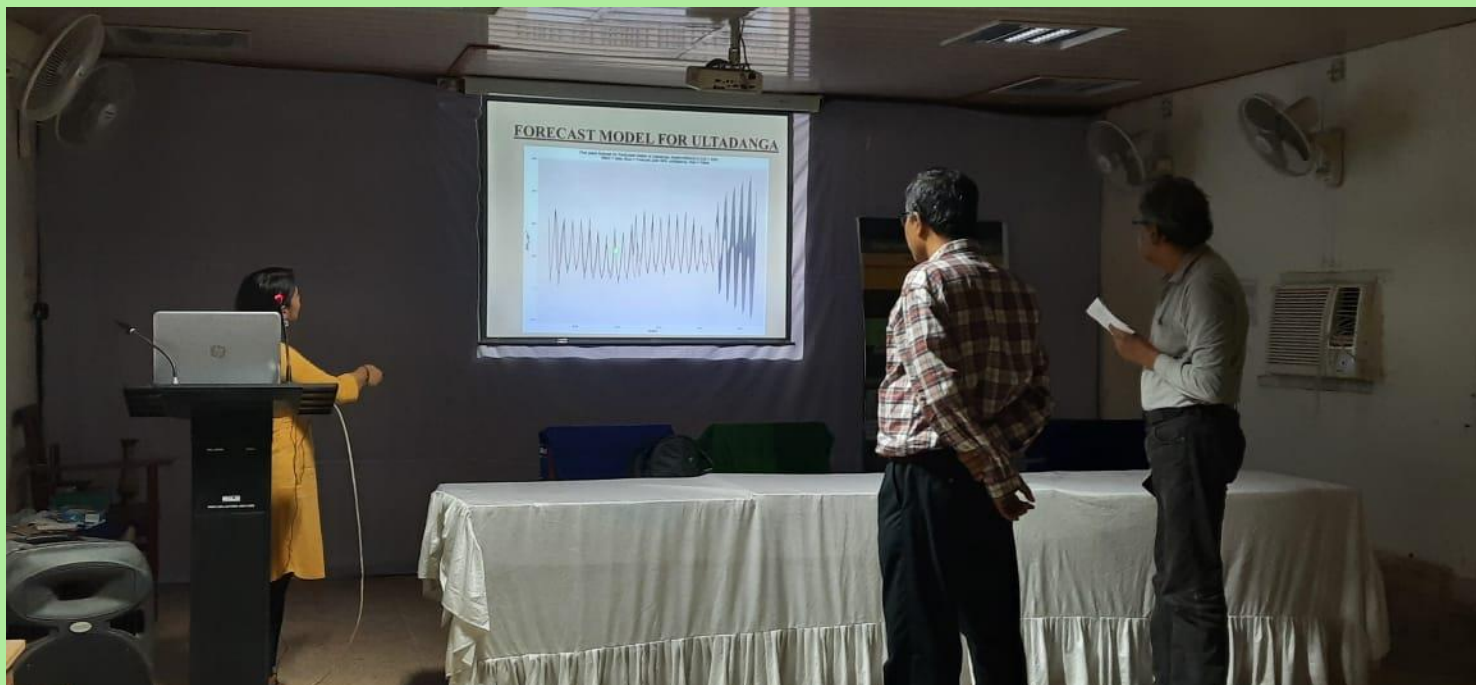
Contributors—Trina Nag and Ipsita Giri, Fourth Semester





PARTICIPATIONS IN INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL SEMINARS

An International Conference on Nonlinear Dynamics and Its Applications in Physical and Biological Sciences (NDAPBS-23) sponsored by DBT Star College Scheme and jointly organised by The Department of Physics and The Department of Mathematics of Durgapur Government College was held on March 16-18, 2023.



On the first day Prof. Ajoy Ghatak and Prof. Saverio Pascazio delivered beautiful presentations on this conference. In the middle of this conference a half an hour poster session was held where many students from our college as well as from the other colleges participated. After that Dr. Anirban Banerjee and Dr. Tandra Pal delivered lectures at the end of day one.

On the second day on this conference Prof. Avinash Khare, Dr. Anirban Pathak, Prof Tanmoy Banerjee, Dr. Mrinal Mandal

discussed with the conference topic. After that a poster session was held like previous day. On the last day Prof. Sourangshu Mukhopadhyay, Prof. Prasanta Chatterjee, Prof. Jayanta Sahu shared their valuable knowledge to us and we, the students of conservation biology, participated



in the poster presentation on various topics such as comparative analysis of soil parameters in different habitats of Indian Pangolin in South Bengal, Study of fish diversity and livelihood status

of fishermen of Damodar River, Floristic diversity of Nilnirjon Wetland, A global review of knowledge status on Blister Beetles, Biological spectrum of Nilnirjon Wetland, Assessment of seasonal variation in water quality of Damodar in Paschim Bardhaman, and successfully presented the research findings.

Students of Conservation Biology, fourth semester, also attended the DBT Star College Scheme Sponsored one day National Seminar on “Global Science for Global Well Being” organized by Department of Zoology, Durgapur Government College and took part in the poster presentation competition for students.



SEASONAL VARIATIONS IN THE PHYSICO-CHEMICAL QUALITY OF THE WATER AND SEDIMENT OF BAKRESWAR RESERVOIR, BIRBHUM, WEST BENGAL

Morali Biswas, Alok Kr. Mukherjee and Rajib Biswas
Department of Conservation Biology, Durgapur Government College,
Durgapur, Paschim Bardhaman-713214

Introduction and Overview of Work

- Water and sediment is very important natural resources known on earth. Highly required for food production, growth and development in an ecological system.
- Wetlands, the part of ecological system are covering aquatic, marshy and terrestrial habitats, are also considered as ecotonal habitat. These clearly show their capacity to hold rich biodiversity that support aquatic, marsh and land vegetation.
- The vegetation of a wetland is mainly controlled by physico-chemical characteristics of water and sediment.

THE STUDY SITE

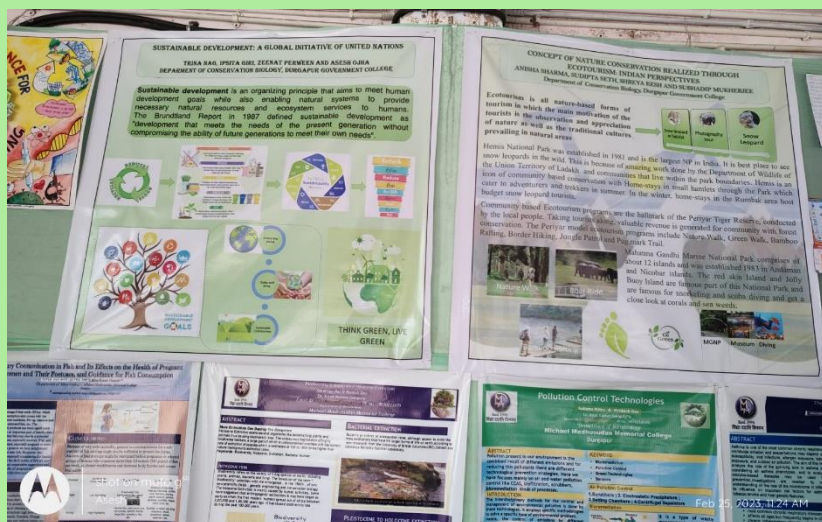
The study has been carried out in Bakreswar reservoir of Birbhum district, West Bengal (geographical position is 23°50.519' N 87°24.612' E) from July to January. It was constructed on river Bakreswar as a backup water supply for the Bakreswar Thermal Power Station under the supervision of West Bengal Power Development Corporation in 1959.

DBT STAR COLLEGE SCHEME SPONSORED
3-day International Conference on
Nonlinear Dynamics and its Applications in Physical and Biological Sciences (NDAPBS-23)
March 16-18, 2023
Durgapur Government College, Durgapur- 713214
Certificate of Appreciation

This is to certify that Mr./Mrs./Dr. Morali Biswas of Durgapur Government College, Durgapur has presented a paper entitled “Seasonal Variations in the Physico-chemical Quality of the Water and Sediment of Bakreswar Reservoir, Birbhum, West Bengal” in the International Conference on Nonlinear Dynamics and its Applications in Physical and Biological Sciences (NDAPBS-23) jointly organised by the Department of Physics and the Department of Mathematics, Durgapur Government College.

Dr. Swapan Kr. Ghosh
Convener

Dr. Deb Nath Palit
Principal



Durgapur Government College, Durgapur, West Bengal-713214
(Accredited by NAAC with 'A' Grade)

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

This is to certify that Shri/ Smt. Zeenat. Perween from Durgapur Government College College has actively participated in “Students’ poster competition” in DBT Star College Scheme Sponsored, One Day National Seminar on “Global Science for Global Well-being” organized by The Department of Zoology, Durgapur Government College in commemoration of National Science Day on FEBRUARY 23, 2023.

Organizing Secretary: [Signature]
National Seminar Organizing Committee

Convener: [Signature]
National Seminar Organizing Committee

Principal: [Signature]
Durgapur Government College

Feb 25, 2023 11:24 AM

Contributors— Aresh Ojha and Shreya Kesh, Fourth Semester





STUDENT'S SEMINARS ON EARTH DAY AND ENDEMIC BIRD DAY

To commemorate Earth Day which is celebrated globally to generate awareness regarding the growing problems and challenges of environmental problems and gradual decrease in wildlife and natural resources. It is celebrated on 22nd April of each year. On this occasion the department organized a student's seminar on 3rd May 2023. Two topics were given to each semester and accordingly they prepared PowerPoint presentation.



A) Protected Area of India: Presentation was given by Semester II. Each student was given 8 minutes time to present on the topic, followed by 2 minutes interaction. All 8 students presented different protected areas as categorised by IUCN like National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary and Biosphere Reserve. The content included any one protected area, its nature, purpose, flora and fauna protected etc.

B) Our Dying Earth: Presentation was given by Semester IV. Each student was given 8 minutes time to present on the topic, followed by 2 minutes interaction. All 8 students presented different aspects of environmental problems that are pushing our Earth towards extinction and mass damage. They provided insight on different overexploitations of natural resources and reasons behind global warming and also emphasized on the very need of mitigation at the earliest for saving our blue planet.



Student's Seminar to commemorate Endemic Bird Day 2023



To celebrate this event, students prepared power point presentation on 'Endangered species of India with special reference to birds' on 11th May 2023. All students from both semesters selected one threatened animal and plant along with one endemic bird for the presentation. They were provided 10 minutes for presentation and 2 minutes interactions. The content included distribution, habitat, breeding biology, ecology, IUCN status, threats and conservation goals taken up to prevent their loss in India. They covered some important species like Batagur baska, Lesser Adjutant Stork, Bengal Florican, Great Indian Bustard, Bengal Vulture which are threatened as well as endemic because of the growing threats regarding their habitat.

Total participant for both the seminar was 25.

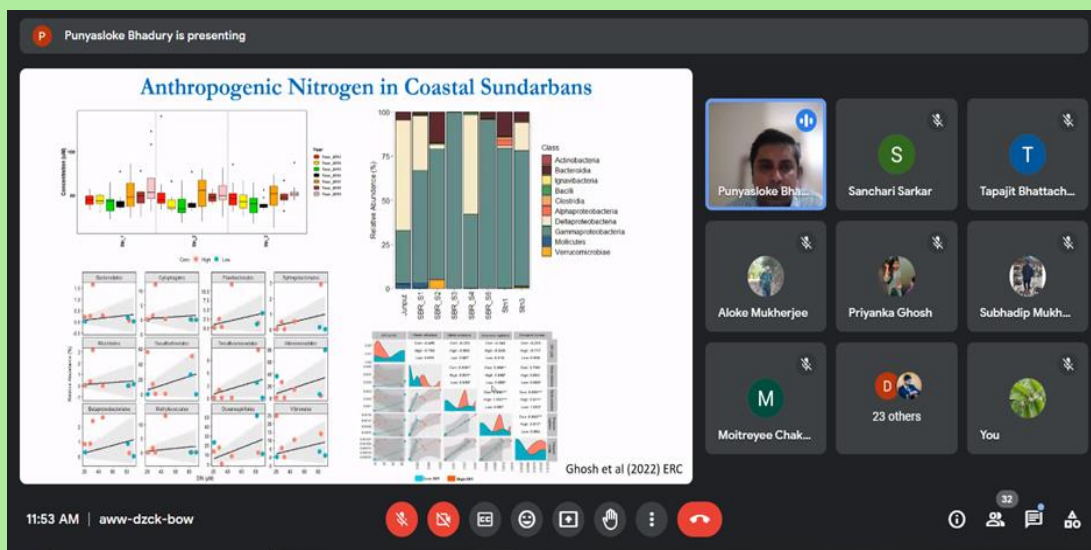
Contributor— *Sharmila Soren, Research Scholar*





INTERNATIONAL BIODIVERSITY DAY CELEBRATION

Every year, the world celebrates International Day for Biological Diversity, as defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity. This webinar was created to commemorate the occasion. This was our fourth attempt, with the primary goal of raising public awareness about biodiversity, its threats, and potential conservation strategies. Wildlife photography is a popular and global technique for documenting animals in the wild, and people from other genres are participating, including biologists, researchers, and even students from non-biological fields. A photographic competition on nature and wildlife was also offered. The main goal was to instil a love and passion for wildlife among students and scholars.

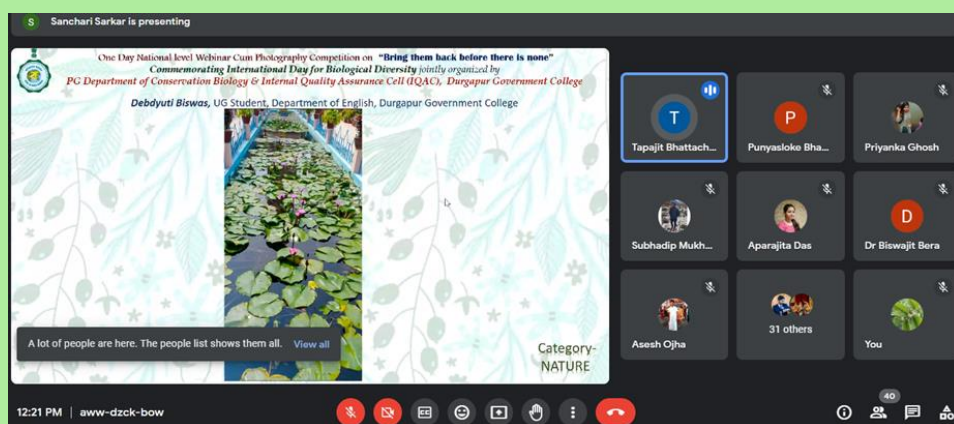


The PG Department of Conservation Biology, in collaboration with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Durgapur Government College, hosted a National Level Webinar on "Bring them back before there are none" to commemorate "International Biodiversity Day 2023"

on May 22nd.

Prof. Punyasloke Bhadury, Professor of Biological Sciences at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Kolkata, was invited to deliver a talk on the issue on the Google Meet web platform.

A total of 56 participants attended the talk organised via the google meet platform. Participants from Science, Commerce and Arts attended this talk from fifteen institutions which included Faculty, Research Scholars, PG and UG Students from 21 different cities across eastern India. Majority of the participants also participated in the photography competition, marking the occasion as a roaring success.



Contributors— Sudipta Seth, Fourth Semester





EDUCATIONAL EXCURSION TO GARH PANCHAKOT

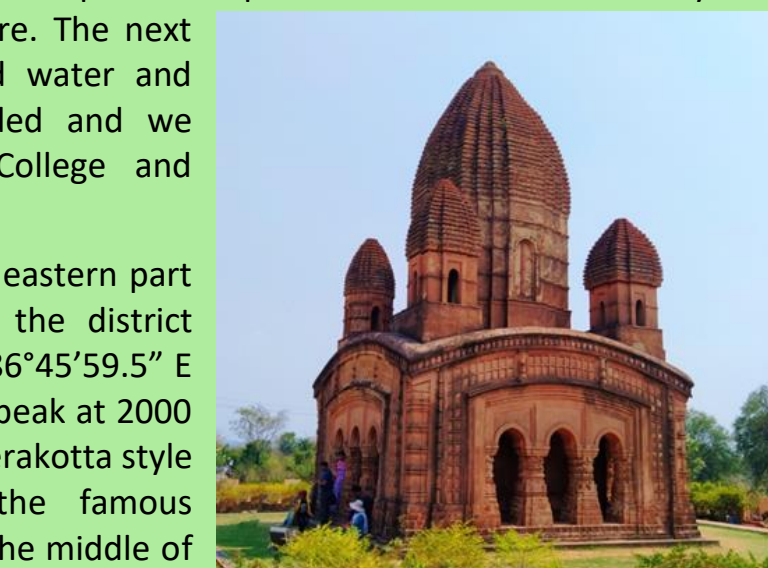
A field excursion was organised on 24th of March, 2023, by the Department of Conservation Biology, Durgapur Government College at Garh Panchkot, Purulia, West Bengal. As a part of our semester practical this excursion was planned to know the diversity of flora and fauna, soil characteristics and some other parameters. The one-day tour started with 5 students, 3 research scholars and 4 teachers from Durgapur Government College in morning around 8 a.m. and we reached at our destination at around 10.30 a.m. There we prepared a checklist of flora, birds and butterflies, collected soil and tree leaves and plotted 2 quadrates to know the density and

abundance of the floral species present there. The next stop was Baranti Lake where we collected water and sediment sample. With this our tour ended and we headed back to Durgapur Government College and reached there at around 5.30 pm.

Garh Panchkot is a ruined fort located in the eastern part of India at the foothills of Panchet Hill in the district of Purulia. It is located at $23^{\circ}36'39.2''$ N and $86^{\circ}45'59.5''$ E with an elevation of 371 m and the highest peak at 2000 feet. There are scattered ruins of many terakotta style temples around Garpanchkot such as the famous Panchratna Temple ruins. 600 feet above in the middle of the Panchakot Hill were the guard's quarters. In contrast to the architecture of the palace below, it was completely made of large stone slabs. The arches and the pillars of Palace (Rani Mahal) scattered across an area of about 20,000 sq feet.

The hill is dotted with tropical trees and looks lush green in rainy season. The forest of Sal (*Shorea robusta*), Tamal, Sonajhuri (*Acacia auriculiformis*), Palas (*Butea monosperma*) are very abundant. Plain Tiger (*Danaus chrysippus*), Picture wing dragonfly (*Rhyothemis variegata*), Chocolate Pansy (*Junonia iphita*), Yellow orange tip (*Ixias pyrene*), etc. butterflies were abundant in that season. Chestnut-tailed starling (*Sturnia malabarica*), Black-hooded oriole (*Oriolus xanthornus*), Black drongo (*Dicrurus macrocercus*), Asian open bill stork (*Anastomus oscitans*) and many other birds are also observed at the site.

Contributors— Anisha Sharma, Fourth Semester
Supriti Ghosh and Mou Karmakar, Second Semester





LABORATORY VISITS

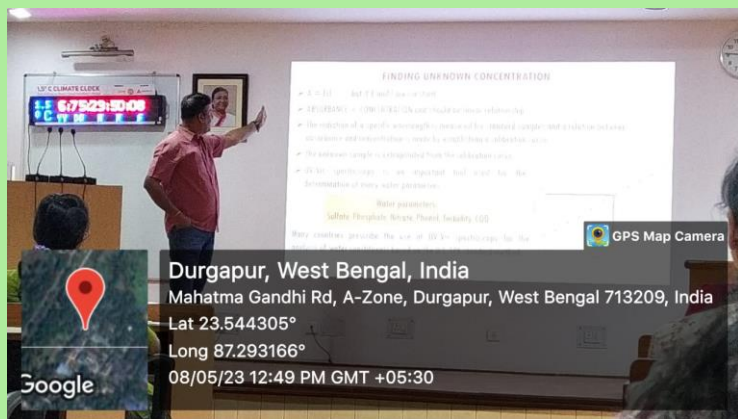
Laboratory visit is an integral part of the curriculum of Conservation Biology, and following the trends set earlier, this time also the students of third semester visited the esteemed institute of CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute, Durgapur to participate in a Skill Development Program on Analytical Techniques and Instrumentation for Water Quality Assessment. This three-day event took place from 8th May 2023 to 10th May 2023. It was organized by the Environmental Engineering Group and the Skill and Innovation Promotion Group,



CSIR-CMRI, Durgapur. This event was also a part of CSIR integrated Skill Initiative. Five students of semester three attended this skill development programme and interacted with the faculties and research scholars of CSIR-CMRI to learn the techniques of water quality assessment using the instruments



and laboratory facility provided by the institute. After completion of the three-day skill enhancement training, each of the participants were provided with a certificate of participation.





Similarly, students of first semester visited the GreenVision Laboratory, City Centre, Durgapur to



learn the first-hand experience of environmental parameters estimation and quantification techniques in a professional way. GreenVision is an environmental research and analytical laboratory for air water and soil analysis, situated at Bengal Ambuja Housing Complex, City centre, Durgapur. The laboratory is equipped with modern instruments and has enough experienced technical staff consisting of scientists, chemists and biologists, and information specialists with an

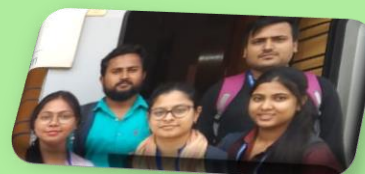


excellent knowledge of the technical and regulatory issues involved in environmental studies. This environmental laboratory plays a very important role in assessing the status of environment comprising both abiotic (water and air) and biotic (flora fauna and human being) components. Students observed practical demonstrations of air analysis and testing of waste or clean water following standard methodologies.

Through this laboratory visit students will be able to understand which equipment is used for which purpose, and how it is applied and the advantages and disadvantages of these techniques. These experiences will be of great help in their future academic advancement.



*Contributors— Trina Nag, Fourth Semester,
Uttam Kumar Gorai, Priyanka Ghosh, Abakash Kumar Sah,
Chirasmitta Das and Puja Chatterjee, Second Semester*





COLLABORATIVE ENDEAVOURS

The Post Graduate Department of Conservation Biology, Durgapur Government College has recently completed one collaborative activity in February 2023 and currently continuing another research specific collaborative activity. The details of these collaborations are as follows:

1. Campus Bird Walk in collaboration with Wildlife Information and Nature Guide Society (WINGS) to celebrate Great Backyard Bird Count 2023 on 17th February 2023
2. Research collaboration with Department of Polymer Science and Technology, University of Calcutta for determination of BOD and COD using modified natural polymers

Gmail Moltreyee Chakrabarty <hodconb.dgc@gmail.com>

Request for BOD and COD measurement
1 message

Wed, Feb 1, 2023 at 3:28 PM

abhijitbandyopadhyay <abhijitbandyopadhyay@yahoo.co.in>
Reply-To: abhijitbandyopadhyay <abhijitbandyopadhyay@yahoo.co.in>
To: "hodconb.dgc@gmail.com" <hodconb.dgc@gmail.com>
Cc: SONAI DUTTA <sonaidutta00@gmail.com>

Hello Madam:
This is Dr. Abhijit Bandyopadhyay, Professor in the Department of Polymer Science and Technology, at University of Calcutta. We have been working on water treatment using various polymeric flocculants for the past few years. As a part of that research program we would like to collaborate with your research team regarding the determination of BOD and COD using modified natural polymers as we do not have those facilities here. Also we can have joint publications from the current work as well as from all future collaborative works, if you approve so.
Thank you in anticipation.
With kindest regards,
Abhijit

Dr. Abhijit Bandyopadhyay,
Professor
M.Tech, Ph.D., AMICHE, FICER
Former Head of the Department
Polymer Science and Technology
University of Calcutta
92, A.P.C. Road, Kolkata- 700 009, India
& Technical Director, SARPOL, WB
Ph: 033-2350 1397/6996/6387/8386, Extn: 288
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Durgapur Government College
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION BIOLOGY
J N Avenue, Durgapur - 713214, Paschim Bardwan, West Bengal, India. Phone & Fax: +91 0343 2500534
Email: conservationbiology.dgc@gmail.com Website: www.durgapurgovtcollege.ac.in

Date: 02.02.2023

To
The Principal
Durgapur Government College

Sub: Permission for collaborative work with Department of Polymer Science and Technology, University of Calcutta

Respected Sir

We received an email from Professor Abhijit Bandyopadhyay, Professor in Department of Polymer Science and Technology, University of Calcutta. They have been working on water treatment using various polymeric flocculants for the past few years. A proposal regarding collaborative work with our department regarding the determination of BOD and COD using modified natural polymers is the subject of the letter. They have also proposed joint publications from the current work as well as from all future collaborative works.

This will be a good opportunity to collaborate with University of Calcutta. So kindly permit us to do the same and oblige.

Yours sincerely,

Moltreyee Chakrabarty
Head
Department of Conservation Biology

WILDLIFE INFORMATION AND NATURE GUIDE SOCIETY
A NON-PROFIT ASSOCIATION WORKING TOWARDS WILDLIFE CONSERVATION & ECOLOGY
Reg no. 50005627 of 2019-2020 under the West Bengal Societies Registration Act. 1961
Website: www.wildlifewingsindia.in | Email: wildlifewingsindia@gmail.com

Letter no. WINGS/Event/2023/02
To,
The Principal
Durgapur Government College
J.N. Avenue, Durgapur, Paschim Bardhaman, West Bengal, India
713214

Date: 10 Feb. 23

Subject: Request for permission of Campus Bird Count, 2023 at Durgapur Government College

Respected Sir,

Our society would like to conduct a Campus Bird Count on 17th February 2023 from 7 AM in collaboration with Postgraduate Department of Conservation Biology to celebrate the occasion of Great Backyard Bird Count. We have started this event from 2017 in association with aforementioned department and previously we got tremendous response from students. Therefore, I request you to grant permission for the same.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Sagar Adhurya
President

Registered office: M6, Bidhan Park, Sec-1, Fuljhore, Durgapur-713206, Paschim Bardhaman, West Bengal, India

Contact us: President: Dr. Sagar Adhurya, 9474799327
Vice-President: Subhajit Roy, 8101968959
Secretary: Ankayanti Mukherjee, 6296223818
Jr. Secretary: Rajasi Roy, 7001510972
Treasurer: Subhadeep Saha, 8250118946
Asst Treasurer: Manisha Dutta, 6294194439
Sankat Adhurya, 9099222034

Our Services:
• Wildlife monitoring and Biodiversity survey
• WMP & PBR
• Wildlife and environmental awareness
• Identification of plants and animals
• Citizen Science Program
• Ecotourism

SAVE WILDLIFE FOR OUR OWN EXISTENCE

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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION BIOLOGY
J N Avenue, Durgapur - 713214, Paschim Bardwan, West Bengal, India. Phone & Fax: +91 0343 2500534
Email: conservationbiology.dgc@gmail.com Website: www.durgapurgovtcollege.ac.in

Date: 11.02.2023

To
The Principal
Durgapur Government College

Sub: Permission for collaborative work with Wildlife and Nature Guide Society to organize one day Campus Bird Walk on 17.02.2023

Respected Sir

In reference to the email received on 10.02.2023 (Letter No. WINGS/Event/2023/02 dated 10.02.2023), Department of Conservation Biology would like to organize Campus Bird Walk 2023 (CBC, 2023) on 17.02.2023 at 7AM like previous years since 2017 in collaboration with Wildlife and Nature Guide Society (WINGS).

This is a part of the global initiative of Great Backyard Bird Count organized every year.





LATPANCHAR: A BIRDING PARADISE



Being a part of Department of Conservation Biology has made a dream come true. It has opened a gate for some of us which we call 'field trip'. Exploring nature is like an addiction which has led us to various unknown, little-known places with lush green and natural beauty. This love for nature and wildlife propelled our legs last year to Latpanchar and its adjoining areas of Duars.

Latpanchar is known for its serene natural wilderness among hills and its beauty, the Rufous Necked Hornbill which attracts photographers each year. The best season to watch these beauties in pair starts from September. So, we planned to visit the place in October 2022. We reached our destination on 15th October and was awed by the exquisiteness of the place. At each turn of the hills of Latpanchar small cottages decorated with lovely flower gardens are a must see. It reflects the simple life of the locals. We were cordially welcomed by our homestay manager, Mr. Subbarao and his family. The entire stay and other tour details were planned by him. Accordingly, we went for local sightseeing to near-by areas in Latpanchar.

We were mesmerized by the view of Kanchenjunga from Ahaldhara, which is about one hour drive from our place of stay. It is a 2 Km trek to reach the view point. Ahaldhara has a 360-degree view of mountains with valleys and alleys. The river Tista runs through these alleys which in itself is a cool and soothing catch to the eye. On our way back we visited a monastery and spent some time there among the calm and quiet space of the place.

The next day we went for a 6 km trek to a place known for nesting of the Hornbills and to our luck we spotted the female feeding on fruits of *Ficus* sp. It was a worth scene to watch as the



large bird was jumping from one branch to other to feed and also keeping itself discrete from our eyes. We also spotted some lovely birds and squirrels on our way back to home stay. We also visited the Mahananda wildlife Sanctuary to see some more birds and was ambushed by leeches. It was a memory to remember. We were lucky enough to spot a Trans-Himalayan bird Snow Finch that posed for us for a long time for good photographs. But every journey has to come to an end. But the experience we gather in each of these trips makes us prowl for more.



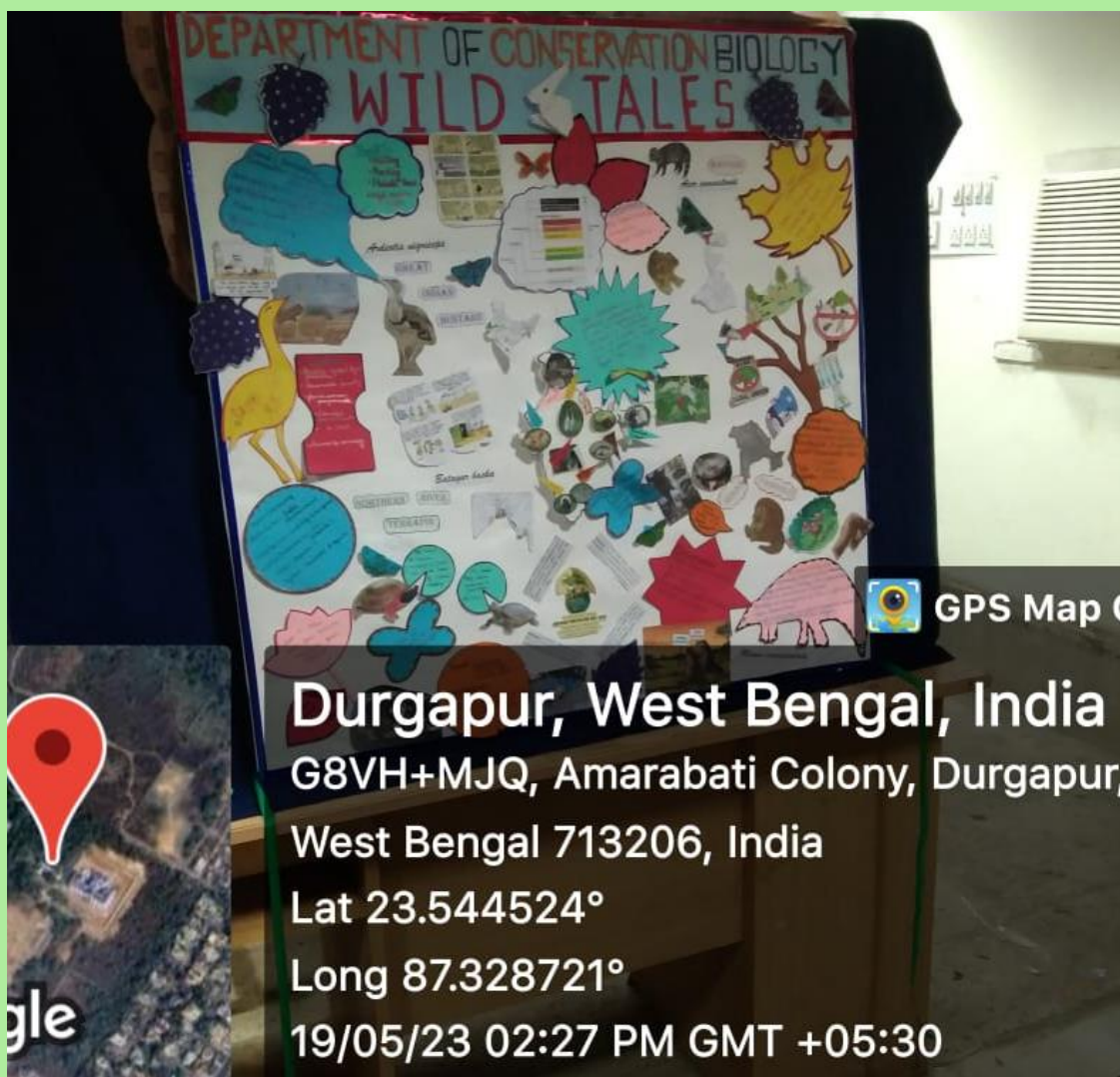
Contributor— Sanchari Sarkar, Research Scholar





WILD TALES- WALL MAGAZINE OF CONSERVATION BIOLOGY

To commemorate the International Endangered Species Day 2023, on 19th May 2023, PG Department of Conservation Biology launched a new initiative in the form of a Wall Magazine, titled as “Wild Tales”- conceptualized, designed and prepared by the students of the department under the guidance of the faculties. The theme of the first issue of the wall magazine was “Endangered Wildlife of India”. Students prepared nice cut outs, figures and maps of Indian wildlife that are facing grave danger of extinction due to anthropogenic pressures. They also prepared a nice collage of all these pieces of information within a single frame of the wall magazine. A very small inaugural programme was organized where, the Head of the department, other faculties and research scholars shared their view on the wall magazine and the endangered wildlife of India. A you tube video is prepared covering the entire event and is uploaded to the Departmental You tube channel for public viewing (<https://youtu.be/yQdo99SVG08>) .



Contributors— Zeenat Perween, Fourth Semester





ROAD ART: BIRDS AND US

Road Art Competition organized by Cultural Sub-committee of Durgapur Government College was held on 28th March 2023. All the Departments of Durgapur Government College took part in the competition. Students of Semester IV and two research scholars participated in the same and came third. The theme of the art was focused on diversity and beauty of the birds found commonly around us. The team was felicitated with a trophy by Dr. Debnath Palit, honourable Principal, Durgapur Government College.



Contributor- Subhadeep Mukherjee, Fourth Semester





News Corner Theme: Wildlife Conservation in Indian Hills

DISCOVERY OF AN ALLIGATOR GARFISH IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR'S DAL LAKE



The discovery of an alligator garfish in Jammu and Kashmir's Dal Lake has raised concerns about its potential impact on the native fish species and the ecosystem of the water bodies in Kashmir. The alligator gar, native to North America, is considered an alien fish species in India as it occurs outside of its natural habitat. Experts believe that the alligator gar found in Dal Lake may have been released from an aquarium.

The alligator gar is a carnivorous fish with a distinctive alligator-like head and sharp teeth. While the exact distribution and impact of the species on the Dal Lake biodiversity are not yet known, its presence is worrisome as it can feed on native fish. The fish found in Dal Lake measured approximately 54 cm in length and weighed around 2.9 kilograms.


The sighting of the alligator gar occurred on May 11 when a weed harvester operator, Wasim Ahmad Dar, was cleaning up the Dal Lake. Unfortunately, the fish died after it was caught. This incident marks the first documented presence of an alligator gar in Jammu and Kashmir, adding to concerns about its potential threat to the local ecosystem.

<https://india.mongabay.com/2023/06/alligator-gar-fish-found-in-dal-lake-raises-concerns/>

HABITAT LOSS IN THE WESTERN GHATS PUSHES ENDANGERED FROGS TO THE EDGE

India's Western Ghats, a global biodiversity hotspot, is home to many endemic and endangered species of amphibians. Deforestation due to infrastructure and plantation expansion in the southern Western Ghats threatens the region's amphibian species, many of which have highly restricted habitats. Adding to their woes is an increased risk of landslides in parts of Kerala due to erratic, heavy monsoon rains and erosion due to loss of forest. To save them, experts are calling for a systematic taxonomic survey of amphibians in the region and for legal protection of endangered species.



 Mongabay images

<https://india.mongabay.com/2023/06/habitat-loss-due-to-tourism-in-the-western-ghats-pushes-endangered-frogs-to-the-edge/>



Back Cover Photo: Supriti Ghosh

ANNOUNCEMENT

- ◆ The theme of the next issue (December 2023) of Newsletter of Conservation Biology will be **“Conservation of Wildlife in Indian Mangroves”**. Contributions may please be submitted to **Dr. Moitreyee Chakrabarty**, Assistant Professor and Head, PG Department of Conservation Biology at Durgapur Government College, Durgapur (hodconb.dgc@gmail.com) by 1 November 2023.

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