

## हंसराज महाविद्यालय

दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय

महात्मा हंसराज मार्ग,

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## HANSRAJ COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Mahatma Hansraj Marg

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**NAAC ACCREDITED 'A++ GRADE COLLEGE**

**2023-2024**

**Name of the Event: Urban Biodiversity Speaker Session**

**Organised by: Haritima-The Environmental Awareness Society,  
Hansraj College**

**Date of the Event: 03 October, 2023**

**Duration/Event Timing: 1 PM to 3 PM**

**Venue of the Event: Old Seminar Room, Hansraj College**

**Name of Convener: Dr. Justin Matthew**

### **Event Description (About 250 Words)**

As part of National Wildlife Week celebrations named as Wildlife Fiesta from October 3rd to October 6th Haritima The Environmental Awareness Society of Hansraj College organized its one out of the four events by inviting Mr.Gaurav Barhadiya Sir,Assistant Professor Ramanujan College Delhi University from 1.00pm to 3.00pm in Old Seminar Room,Hansraj

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College. The Session was organized with a aim of understanding urban species, their threats and to gain insights that how college students can actively participate in conservation efforts . There were more than 50 participants from various colleges as well, where participants got an opportunity to gain a profound understanding of urban biodiversity especially about snakes and their conservation and rescue efforts.

The seminar began with the speaker providing a new perspective on urban biodiversity referring it to as a rich tapestry of cultures, ethnicities and lifestyles coexisting harmoniously within the bustling landscapes of cities. Later participants get know Delhi boasts a rich biodiversity despite its urban landscape . In spite of being a bustling urban environment Delhi is a home to several protected wildlife species, such as the Indian leopard, nilgai (blue bull), snakes and various species of deer. Conservation efforts are crucial to safeguard this rich biodiversity, as many species are threatened due to improper management of waste, rapid urbanization and poaching.

The session on urban biodiversity, specifically focused on snakes as they play a vital role in maintaining ecological balance. Later participants were introduced to different varieties of snakes in Delhi that there are about 9 snake families and about 30 snake species in Delhi. . The numerous myths

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and misconceptions surrounding snakes were dispelled. He provided information on how to distinguish between venomous and non-venomous species, stressing the importance of not harming harmless snakes. The speaker also highlighted his ongoing efforts in various cities to protect and conserve urban snake populations. These initiatives mainly focus on safe relocation of snakes found in human-occupied areas into the wild.

He also introduced the concept of citizen science which involves the general public into research. Encouraged participants to connect with scientists or researchers, equipped with field guides and mobile apps. Their observations, photos, and geographical data contribute to databases, aiding herpetologists in mapping species distributions. This collaborative approach between youth and scientists accelerates the identification process and enhances our understanding of regional snake populations. In order to gain practical experience and to deal with species he also has invited us to take part in nature trails conducted by him.

The speaker session on Urban Biodiversity and snakes provided valuable insights into the significance of these reptiles in urban ecosystems. It encouraged participants to dispel myths, coexist peacefully with snakes, and take appropriate safety measures when encountering them. This event serves as a stepping stone toward creating more harmonious relationships between humans and urban wildlife, ultimately contributing to a healthier urban ecosystem.

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## Geo-tagged Pictures:



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### Attach Attendance Sheet

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