

## Report of activities of Synapses, the Zoological Society 2019-20 (odd semester)

An educational trip was organized on Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> July 2019 by Deen Dayal Upadhyaya College (University of Delhi) as a part of the **Student-Induction Program** for B.Sc.(H) Zoology 1<sup>st</sup> year (2019-20 Batch). A total of 23 students along with 6 faculty members of the department joined the trip. During the trip, students were first taken to the **National War Memorial**, situated near India Gate, New Delhi. It is a memorial built by the Government of India as a tribute to its soldiers killed in major wars post Independence. The names of these martyrs are inscribed on its walls. It is spread over 40 acres of land. The visit to the monument was meant to sensitize the students about the contribution and sacrifices made by our armed forces for the nation.

Then the students visited the **National Science Centre**, Pragati Maidan, Delhi. The students took a tour of various galleries and found the various exhibits kept in the galleries quite informative and exciting. The visit to National Science Museum was meant to inculcate scientific awareness and scientific temper among the students.



The Inaugural Lecture “**LIFE: understanding with uncertain knowledge – halting human induced amphibian extinction**” by Prof. Satyabhama Das Biju (the Frogman of India) Head, Department of Environment Studies, University of Delhi, was organized on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2019. Dr. Biju, in an interactive session, gave a rhetoric overview of his work, which includes discovery of over a 100 new species of frogs and conservation works for the threatened amphibians. The session also gave students an insight into the campaign 'Lost Amphibians of India' that aims at rediscovering amphibian species that have not been sighted for long.



A **Freshers' party** was held on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019 for the first year students of B.Sc.(H) Zoology. An array of events was hosted and students participated delightfully, showcasing their talents. The event concluded with rendering of several awards for the best performances.



Students of the Zoology department organized "**Teachers' day**" to venerate their esteemed teachers. The event was a tribute to the phenomenal teachers, who contribute enormously to children's lives. The celebration started with an induction speech, followed by various amusing games. The event concluded with some words of wisdom from teachers and bestowing them with prizes.



The **inter-college Annual Fest, Zoofestea'19** was organized on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2019. Various activities held included Plantation drive, Pixel 2.0 (Photography), Crafronics (online logo making), Canvas (painting), Cerebrosus 2.0 (Quiz). The events showed good number of participation from students from DDUC as well as various other colleges of Delhi University from different courses. An exhibition of student's handmade posters and paintings related to science and fiction was on display. The students exhibited remarkable interest and won prizes.







A one-day **educational trip to Aravalli Biodiversity Park**, Poorvi Marg, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi was organized on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2019 for students of B.Sc. (H) Zoology 1<sup>st</sup> semester and B.Sc. Life Sciences 1<sup>st</sup> semester for understanding the ecology and biodiversity of the park. A total of 63 students along with 4 faculty members of the department joined the trip.



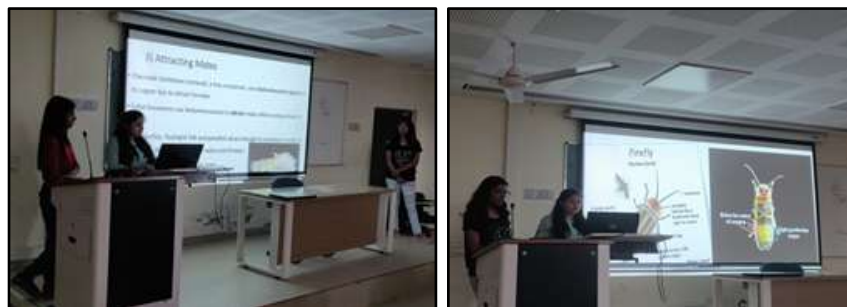
**Alumni Interaction:** Kartikeya, the student of B.Sc.(H) Zoology batch 2018-19 was called for interaction with the current batches of B.Sc.(H) Zoology, as the quiz master in a quiz competition organized on 23rd October 2019.



Under the **Student Lecture Series**, the first lecture of the session (July – December 2019) was delivered by Chetan Choudhary, B.Sc. (H) Zoology III Semester on 12 September 2019. The title of the lecture was “Coloration in Chamaeleon”. The chamaeleon’s uncanny ability to change its color has long mystified people. They are able to change their color by adjusting a layer of special cells nestled within their skin. Chamaeleons have two superposed thick layers of iridophore cells- iridescent cells that have the pigment and reflect light. These iridophores contain nanocrystals which are key to the chamaeleon’s dramatic color shifts. These color changing capacities may be studied and used in technologies such as appliances that eliminate reflection.



The second lecture of the session was delivered by Akanksha, Simran Singh and Simran Rana, B.Sc. (H) Zoology III Semester on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019. The title of the lecture was “Bioluminescence: the language of light in fireflies”. Fireflies are capable of producing light due to a chemical reaction inside their abdominal region. A special pigment called luciferin aids in this process. Emphasis was made on the difference between fluorescence and bioluminescence. Fireflies exhibit different flash patterns depending upon their species which aids in their mating process as well. The glowing nature of these animals makes them a fascinating topic in the field of biology.



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