



WHAT'S BUZZING AT THE DEPARTMENT..

FACULTY PARTICIPATION

Ms. Shalma Mascarenhas, Participated in the 16 days teachers training program for science faculty at IISc Challakere campus organised in association with TDC(IISc), DHE and Goa State Higher Education Council (GSHEC) from 25th October to 10th November 2023.



Ms. Filomena Pereira, attended the "Science Education Panel Mini-Symposium for Teachers" organized by BITS Pilani, Goa on 02nd November, 2023. She also participated in the "Open Day" gathering on 06th November, 2023 organized by BITS Pilani, Goa.



Ms. Anthea Kirsteen Baracho and Ms. Neeha Sinai Borker attended a Workshop titled "NPTEL workshop on Microsoft Learn for Educators program", conducted on 4th November 2023.

Ms. Shalma Mascarenhas, along with 08 T.Y B.Sc students participated in a two days online workshop titled 'Moths in the spotlight' organized by The Nature's eye on 24th and 25th Nov 2023.

Ms. Neeha Sinai Borker, attended a Webinar titled "How to Use Generative AI Tools Ethically in Academic Writing", organized by Paperpal, Cactus Communications on 13th December 2023.

Ms. Neeha Sinai Borker, successfully completed a 07-day National level FDP, titled "Outcome Based Education and Essential AI Tools for Teachers" organised by the IQAC of Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Centenary College, Kolkata.

She also attended an International Online Webinar Training on "QGIS Thematic Mapping" organised by The Geographical Information System (TGIS) Lab on 23rd December 2023.

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Ms. Filomena Pereira, successfully completed the 120th Faculty Induction Programme (FIP) organized by UGC-MMTTC from 15th November to 21st December 2023 in online mode.

Ms. Filomena Pereira and Ms. Neeha Sinai Borker, along with the students, actively participated in bird trails as a part of the Goa Bird Atlas initiative for Salcete and Tiswadi Taluka for the dry season and updated 18 checklists on e-bird as an effort towards the initiative.

Ms. Filomena Pereira, Ms. Neeha Sinai Borker and Ms, Anthea Baracho, participated in the monthly birdwalk organized by GBCN at Handi Khuris, Maina-Curtorim wetlands on 7th January 2024.

Ms. Neeha Sinai Borker attended an Online Webinar organised by Goa Forest Department in association with Goa Bird Conservation Network on the theme "Biogeography of the birds of Western Ghats - what can Goa tell us about the evolution of birds" on 19th January 2024.

Ms. Neeha Sinai Borker, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology, participated in the All-Goa Waterbird Count 2024 (AGWC) held at Maina wetland (South Goa) on 21st January, 2024.

Ms. Filomena Pereira, participated in the two days advanced skill-enhancement program for teachers on "Advanced Instrumentation and its Application in Science" organized by National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research from 23rd to 24th January 2024.



Ms. Shalma Mascarenhas and Ms. Anthea Kirsteen, participated in the 'NEP Orientation & Sensitization programme' organised by UGC-Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre, Goa University from 16th to 25th Jan 2024 in online mode.



"The question is, are we happy to suppose that our grandchildren may never be able to see an elephant except in a picture book?" - David Attenborough.

Majestic Guardian of the Wild

*In the vast embrace of the savannah's sigh,
A regal creature beneath the sky.
Tusks aglow, like lunar streams,
In the realm of dreams, he reigns supreme.*

*In jungles deep, where shadows play,
He moves with grace, in night's ballet.
His trunk, a symphony of strength and sway,
In rhythm with the forest's sway.*

*Through leafy trails and rivers' gleam,
He wanders on, in silent dream.
A symbol of might, of peace profound,
In his presence, solace is found.*

*Let us honor this marvel, without cease,
In every whispered tale, in every feast.
For in his stride, we find our grace,
In his embrace, we find our place.*



- Earlene Antao
(T.Y.B.Sc)

STUDENT PARTICIPATION

Ms. Mannat Seth and Mr. Anush Umesh Naik, S.Y students participated in the training programme on “Snake rescue training programme” organized by Study and Awareness of Wildlife and Environment organization (SAWE) on 10th December 2023.

Mr. Anush Naik and Mr. Om Kurpaskar, students of S.Y.B.Sc participated in bird trails as a part of the Goa Bird Atlas initiative organised by Arranya Environment Research Organisation (AERO) at Salcete Taluka for the dry season on 04th and 13th January 2024. The checklists were submitted on e-bird as a contribution towards the atlas.



Mr. Om Kurpaskar, student of S.Y.B.Sc., Department of Zoology participated in the monthly birdwalk organized by Goa Bird Conservation Network (GBCN) at Handi Khuris, Maina-Curtorim wetlands on 7th January 2024



Mr. Om Kurpaskar, Mr. Aaron Dsouza and Mr. Anush Naik, students of S.Y.B.Sc attended one Day State Level Workshop On ‘Animal Behaviour and Cognition’ on 5th January 2024 as a part of “Wilderness 6.0” organised by Ganpat Parsekar college of Education in collaboration with Directorate of Higher Education, State of Goa and School of Biological Sciences and Biotechnology, Goa University.

Mr. Aaron Dsouza, S.Y.B.Sc participated in two-days webinar on “GIS: Forestry applications” conducted by TGIS (The Geographic System Information Lab) on the 20th and 21st of January 2024.

Mr. Om Kurpaskar, Ms. Mannat Seth, Ms. Elita Sequeira and Mr. Aaron Dsouza, students of S.Y.B.Sc attended two-days lecture series on “Call of the Wild” organised by Goa University on 23rd and 24th January 2024.

Mr. Om Kurpaskar and Ms. Mannat Seth students of S.Y.B.Sc. volunteered at the 7th Goa Bird Festival organized by Goa Forest Department from 27th to 29th January 2024.



DID YOU KNOW???

The elephant trunk serves as a nose, a hand, an extra foot, a signaling device and a tool for gathering food, siphoning water, dusting, digging and much more.



EDITORIAL

In the vast savannahs of Africa and the dense jungles of Asia, a majestic giant roams – the elephant.

Elephants, both African and Asian species, confront multifaceted threats ranging from habitat loss and fragmentation to poaching and human-wildlife conflict. Rampant deforestation, driven by agricultural expansion, urbanization, and infrastructure development, encroaches upon vital elephant habitats, leaving these majestic creatures with dwindling spaces to roam freely. Fragmented habitats exacerbate the problem, isolating elephant populations and hindering genetic diversity, which is crucial for their long-term survival.

Poaching remains a pressing issue, particularly for African elephants, driven primarily by the insatiable demand for ivory in illegal markets. Despite international bans and intensified enforcement efforts, poachers continue to decimate elephant populations at an alarming rate, threatening not only the species' survival but also the ecological balance of their habitats.

Moreover, human-elephant conflict escalates as human populations expand into traditional elephant territories. Competition for resources such as water and food often leads to conflicts resulting in casualties on both sides.



DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY

The Department organized 'Pop Up Bazaar' as an activity of the Skill enhancement course – Bioentrepreneurship on 22nd December 2023. A total of 29 students participated in the activity and gained practical experience on selling of handmade goods and food items. The objective was to showcase the talent of students and provide them with a platform to display and sell their creations.



FUN FACTS - ELEPHANTS

1. Elephants are the largest land animals on Earth.
2. Elephants are known for their exceptional memory.
3. Elephant pregnancies are the longest among land mammals, lasting about 22 months.
4. Elephants are highly social creatures that form strong bonds within their herds.

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