



## WHAT'S BUZZING AT THE DEPARTMENT...

### FACULTY AS RESOURCE PERSON

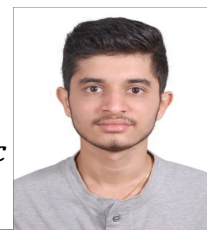
Dr. Nandini Vaz Fernandes, Associate Professor, Department of Zoology was invited as a resource person by Forest Department, Govt. of Goa, for the 'Pre-Bird Festival Webinars' organised from 29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021. Her session on "Introduction to Birdwatching" was the opening session of the Pre-bird festival, which was live streamed for general public all over Goa. The Pre-Bird Festival was organised by Forest department as an initiative to create awareness on the importance of bird conservation and to share the knowledge of various birds and their role in the environment and the benefits of birding.



### STUDENT PARTICIPATION

Mr. Akshay Prabhu Velgunkar of class SYBSc, completed a two day workshop on "Snake taxonomy" organised by Nidus explore on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> November 2020. This workshop mainly focussed on identification and taxonomy of snakes. Various activities such as quiz and assignments were also included into the workshop.

—Mr. Akshay Prabhu, SYBSc



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**EDITORIAL:**

The Olive Ridley Sea Turtle is one of the most widespread and abundant sea turtles of the world. As a designated vulnerable species (IUCN 3.1), its conservation is of utmost importance for its future prosperity. Goa's sandy beaches are an important habitat for this species. Why may you ask? Well because five of Goa's beaches viz., Galgibag, Agonda, Morjim, Mandrem and Ashvem serve as important nesting grounds for this turtle. Moreover, their nesting behaviour makes these turtles vulnerable to human-influenced disturbances as the females need to come to shore and dig trenches approximately 1.5 ft deep to deposit their eggs. All in all, this frequent meetings of humans and turtles means that many times, there is human-animal conflict. An example of this conflict was observed by a student of the Department. He came across a live turtle along the shore of Agonda beach. However, instead of respecting the space of this magnificent creature, a couple of youth started badgering the animal by initially clicking pictures, but later sitting on the back of the turtle. The most infuriating behaviour was that of the coast guard and the locals, who ignored the student's cry for help. Sadly, the turtle succumbed to this disturbance and passed away.

The above situation is probably not an isolated incident, but one of many that go unreported. This makes us ask a simple question:

***Does our perceived power over this planet give us a right to exploit the rights of animals? What do you think?***

**DID YOU KNOW?****THERE ARE SEVEN SPECIES OF MARINE TURTLES IN THE WORLD.**

- i. Hawksbill
- ii. Loggerhead
- iii. Leatherback
- iv. Olive ridley
- v. Green
- vi. Flatback
- vii. Kemp's ridley



**“Hard work beats talent when talent does not work hard.”**

**— Tim Notke**

**STUDENT PARTICIPATION**

Ms. Radha Shirshat and Ms. Rukaiya Khan from SYBSc participated in an online quiz on Gender equality and women's empowerment organised by Women's Cell of P.E.S R.S.N college of arts and science (Autonomous) on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2020. The quiz included Multiple Choice Questions and questions based on scenarios related to gender equality and women empowerment.

**Ms. Radha Shirsat, SYBSc**



**Ms. Rukaiya Khan, SYBSc**





## FACULTY AS RESOURCE PERSON

Dr. Nandini Vaz Fernandes, Associate Professor, Department of Zoology was invited as a resource person for a two day National webinar on “NAAC Accreditation, A first Step towards Achieving Excellence in Quality Education”. The webinar was organised by RJ College of Arts and Science (Autonomous), Mumbai under the aegis of UGC Paramarsh Scheme on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Dr. Nandini delivered a session on “Criterion II - Teaching, Learning and Evaluation” where she discussed the approach of preparing the institution to excel in its teaching-learning processes as per the objectives given by NAAC. The session also highlighted the preparation of SSR with emphasis on Criterion II.



**“THERE ARE NO SECRETS TO SUCCESS. IT IS THE RESULT OF PREPARATION, HARDWORK AND LEARNING FROM FAILURE.”**  
— COLIN POWELL

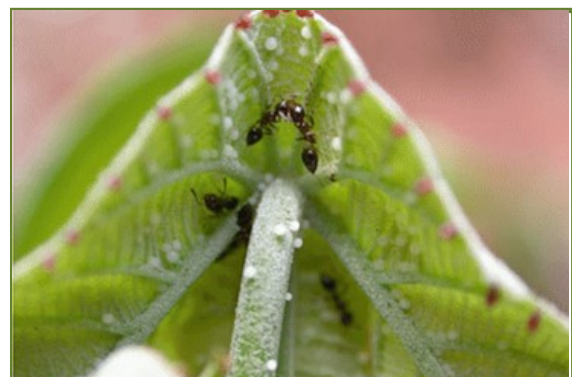
## DID YOU KNOW?

### SHARKS HAVE A SIXTH SENSE !!!

All sharks have a 'sixth sense' that helps them hone in on prey during the final phase of attack: the 'amupllae of lorenzini' are found on sharks' snouts and can sense the electric fields emitted by animals in the surrounding water.

## IMPORTANCE OF ANT-PLANT INTERACTIONS

The associations of ant-plant interactions are highly species-specific, and are important elements of tropical forest ecosystems. One of the most species-rich ant-plant mutualisms is that of the *Crematogaster-Macaranga* system. The *Crematogaster* ant species are known to inhabit the *Macaranga* plant. The ants are completely dependent on the host plants as they provide nesting sites to the ants. The *Crematogaster* ants in turn protect the *Macaranga* species against herbivore damage and climber infestation. Any foreign plant part that comes in contact with the host plant is bit off by the ants, as a result the *Macaranga* species have a significantly low incidences of any foreign plant or vine growth.



**CREMATOGASTER-MACARANGA INTERACTION**  
SOURCE:[https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Crematogaster-Decacrema-ants-on-Macaranga-a-Workers-of-C-captiosa-walking-on\\_fig1\\_278715619](https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Crematogaster-Decacrema-ants-on-Macaranga-a-Workers-of-C-captiosa-walking-on_fig1_278715619)

—Ms. Caren Noronha, TYBSc





## WEBINAR ON “MANAV- THE HUMAN ATLAS INITIATIVE”

Dr. Nandini vaz Fernandes, Dean-Faculty of Life Sciences organised a webinar on ‘MANAV- The Human Atlas Initiative’ of Department of Biotechnology of Ministry of Science and Technology, Govt. of India. The webinar was held on 21st December 2020 for students and teachers of faculty of Life Sciences. The webinar was conducted by Team MANAV- The Human Atlas Initiative of IISER, Pune. The webinar focussed on "How to Read Scientific Literature" aimed at highlighting the importance of ethical and scientific information websites, to be used by students for streamlining quality information and validity. Using research papers from prominent websites like PubMed, rather than Wikipedia ensures authentic information especially for young students. This webinar was followed by 2 quizzes, to test knowledge of the students on the same.

**WEBINAR - "TRAINING AND AWARENESS ON  
PROJECT MANAV-THE HUMAN ATLAS  
INITIATIVE"**

**HOW TO READ SCIENTIFIC  
LITERATURE &  
Introduction to  
MANAV-The Human Atlas Initiative.**

**Session By**  
**DR. ANUPMA HARSHAL W.**  
CONSULTANT  
(Science Communication and Public  
Engagement)  
Manav-Human Atlas Initiative, IISER,  
Pune on  
**21<sup>st</sup> December 2020**  
**Time: 10.00am**

**FOR REGISTRATION -**  
<https://forms.gle/EisJ988AYzcb8s18>

Organized by  
**DR. NANDINI VAZ FERNANDES,**  
Dean- Faculty of Life Sciences

## FUN FACTS- MARINE TURTLES

### 1. TURTLES DO NOT HAVE TEETH

They use their beak-like mouth to grasp their food. This beak is made of keratin.

### 2. THEY CAN BE GINORMOUS

Marine turtle species vary greatly in size. The smallest, Kemp's ridley, measure around 70cm long and weigh up to 40kg, whilst the leatherback can reach up to 180cm long and weigh 500kg.

### 3. IT'S SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST

It's estimated that only around 1 in 1,000 marine turtle hatchlings make it to adulthood.

### 4. THEY HAVE COLOUR PREFERENCES

Turtles seem to prefer red, orange and yellow food. They appear to investigate these colours more than others when looking for a meal.



—SOURCE: WORLD WILDLIFE FUND

## EDITORIAL BOARD: DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

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