



# VIRTUAL FIELD VISIT TO YAMUNA BIODIVERSITY PARK

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Nature is an important part of us and thus the biodiversity which makes nature more beautiful. To conserve such biodiversity parks are made nowadays. One such park is Yamuna Biodiversity Park.

On May 04, 2021 our college organized a virtual field visit to Yamuna Biodiversity Park, Delhi at 10.30AM. Due to COVID-19 we have to visit it virtually and as the meeting start we were accompanied by DR. Preeti Vohra, nature education officer, who told us about a lot of interesting facts about flora and fauna present in the park.

First of all, ma'am told us about location and previous conditions of land and how they recreated it by reducing the high salinity level of its soil from 9.0-9.8 to 7.0 (neutral). With the help of some salt loving grasses i.e. Halophytes like Bothriocloa, Leptochloa, fusca, etc.

- Set up in the year 2002, on the banks of river Yamuna, near Wazirabad village.
- The Yamuna Biodiversity Park was developed in two phases in two different areas—



## PHASE I

- Inactive floodplains area
- This is a 157 –acer
- Includes modules like medicinal gardens, orchards, etc.

## PHASE II

- The active floodplains area
- 300-acer area
- It is a wetland(100-acer) that attracts thousands of migratory birds every year.



Then we saw the beautiful view of **Foundation Stone.**



The Yamuna Biodiversity Park is an open air laboratory for a range of students and researcher groups are led through the park on a predetermined nature trail and it has already become a location where education on environment sustainable development and conservation is being imparted at a primary, secondary, and a tertiary level. Around 10000 students' /trainers/ nature lovers from schools, college, institutions and NGOs visit it every year.

## **Flora**

- The Flora consisted of Orchard area, Medicinal garden, Grassland, etc. The orchard area consists of different types of fruit yielding plants like Khirni, Mithi imli, Babool.
- The herbal or medicinal garden consists of more than 300 species of medicinal plants some of them are -Vajradanti (Barleria prionitis), used for making toothpastes.
- The grassland consists of various types of grasses like Kush, helps in reducing the salinity level of soil and is used for various religious purposes as well as for making mats, Sporobolus (a family of grasses), food (it's grains) for Indian hare, Cenchrus (a family of grasses), improves soil quality.



(Khirni)



(Kush)

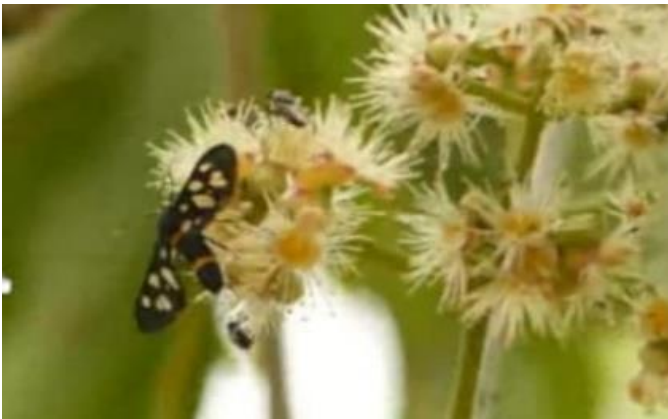


(Mithi Imli)



## Fauna

- The Fauna consist a wide range of insects, birds, reptiles and mammals.
- **Insects-** As we all know that insects play major role in environment. Some insects spotted in the Yamuna Biodiversity Park were **Moths, Honeybees, Butterflies, Dragon flies, Grasshoppers**, etc.



- **Birds-** Some of the frequently seen birds are Coppersmith Barbet, Yellow footed green Pigeon, Silver billed Munia (granivorous in nature), Scaly-breasted Munia (several scales on lower body), Red avadavat.
- Some of the migratory birds are Red-crested pochard, Cattle egret, a cosmopolitan species of heron, Great cormorant, migrate to Yamuna Biodiversity Park from Ladakh and China their migration is a sign of good number of fishes (like Ruhu, Katla, etc.).



- **Reptiles-** Some frequently spotted species were Rat Snake, non-venomous and eats rodents, rats, pests, etc., venomous snake found is Cobra.



- **Mammals** found in Yamuna Biodiversity Park are Wild Boar, Blue Bull, also called 'Neel gaay', is the largest antelope and state animal of Delhi, Jungle Cat.

At last ma'am told us about WETLAND. The deep wetland is around 18 to 20 feet deep, recharges ground water level and a habitat for migratory and resident birds.



One of the greatest achievement of Yamuna Biodiversity Park is the existence of the top predator i.e. Leopard in 2016, which only comes if all the lower food cycles were complete.



(Leopard spotted by officers of Yamuna Biodiversity Park)

### MESSAGE LEARNT

According to me, the session was very informative and we learned that our mother nature is full of diversity and beauty. It is our duty to preserve this nature because of the growing industrialization. We have to not forgot how important is flora and fauna in our life and it is our duty to preserve them. We were shown various species of plants and also listed their uses in our practical life. The entire trip has taught us the importance of maintaining an ecological balance so as to live a prosperous life. Our environment and the species that live in them need a diverse population of genes and the biodiversity help to get them. Hence biodiversity is very important to the well-being of our planet. I also want to thanks our subject teacher Dr. Geeanjali Sageena and Dr. Amit Akoijam for organising this session adding a plus point in our all around developement.