

Educational Visit to Jawaharlal Nehru Herbal Botanical Garden & GEER Foundation

The M Sc students of **Botany and Horticulture Science Garden Management** alongwith Research Scholars & faculty members visited **Jawaharlal Nehru Herbal Botanical Garden** and **GEER Foundation** at Gandhinagar on Friday, 31st December 2021. Prof. Bharat Maitreya, accompanied the group.

Jawaharlal Nehru Herbal Botanical Garden, Gandhinagar is in Sector-19 in Gandhinagar. The garden is spread over 30 acres of land consisting of a wide range of medicinal herbs, shrubs and trees. Each plant is well-labelled mentioning its botanical name, common name, family, a picture of the plant in the flowering season, as well as the uses and/or the useful parts of it. With the evolving world of technology, each plant label was enabled with a QR code which can be used by one to search more on the internet about the specific plant. Prof Maitreya shared insights on *Why Students Must Go On A Field Trip and What Should They Do*. The students were guided through the garden with the assistance of the research scholars and Ms Krishna Panchal, Superintendent. Medicinally important plants like *Adhatoda vasica*, *Aloe vera*, *Zingiber officinalis*, *Phyllanthus emblica*, *Operculina turpethum*, *Gymnena sylvestre*, *Asparagus racemosus*, *Cissus quadrangularis*, *Piper betel*, *Piper nigrum*, various species of *Ocimum*, *Bryophyllum*, *Pterocarpus*, among others were observed and studied by the students. At the end of the visit, the JNHBG team gifted the students 15 saplings of various invaluable plants like *Ocimum*, *Adhatoda*, *Pterocarpus* and *Aloe vera* to be planted in the department's botanical garden. The entire team of Department of Botany thanked the Botanical Garden team for allowing the students to gain field knowledge about medicinal plants and providing them great support and guidance throughout the visit.



Gymnena sylvestre

Operculina turpethum

Piper betel



Withania somnifera



Ocimum tenuiflorum



Pterocarpus santalinus



Memorable Moments

GEER Foundation Botanical Park, Gandhinagar

*Deer Park, or Indroda Nature Park, is well-maintained and managed by the Gujarat Ecological Education and Research (GEER) Foundation and is situated near Ch-0 on J-Road of Gandhinagar is one of the well visited parks in Gujarat. It is spread over 400 hectares of land near the banks of river Sabarmati. The group started their trip from the Dinosaur Fossil Park where they learned about the Geological Time-Scale board, which was displayed there and elaborated by Ms Riddhi Rathore, Research Scholar. The students enjoyed ‘walking with the dinosaurs’ through the statues, illustrating their physical appearances, and learning about their existence and lifestyle through the information boards. The students thereafter went to the Botanical Garden where they took a deeper dive in the exploration of the huge variety of plant species from herbs, shrubs, climbers to trees. Several common as well as unique plant species like *Tephrosia purpurea*, *Saccharum spontaneum*, *Duranta erecta*, *Citrus maxima*, *Caryota urens*, *Pursea americana* (Avocado), to name a few were witnessed. The angiosperm families such as Lauraceae, Rutaceae, Asclepiadaceae, Convolvulaceae, Verbenaceae, Fabaceae, Caesalpiniaceae, Nyctaginaceae, Arecaceae (Palmae), Poaceae (Graminae), etc. were found in abundance. Many *Bougainvillea* and *Chrysanthemum* of different colours were also a point of*

attraction among the group. Each species was well labelled with the botanical and common names along with its family. Mr Jaivin Patel, Research Scholar helped the students in understanding how to identify plant species on the basis of the external morphology and their importance.



The group at the Dinosaur Fossil Park

The *Cactus Garden* consisted of around 100 species of well-maintained cacti. Moreover, there was another quite a rare setup in the botanical garden, which was an artificially created environment for growing Mangroves. Prof. Dr. Maitreya along with Mr. Chandrakant Damor, Garden Superintendent, explained the functioning of the system and the botanical significance of Mangroves. The group was very delighted to see the magnificent organisation of the garden with such amazing techniques of rearing plants in an ex-situ environment. The day then continued at the adjoining zoological part of the park, the Zoo. Watching animals in a zoo is always a fascinating sight and the students too enjoyed the leisure time spent watching the animals, various snakes and birds. Mr Irshad, an animal expert at the zoo, took the group of students on to a forest trail where he gave a few tips for understanding animal behaviour and identifying animals or birds based on their trail marks or feathers.



Pursea americana

Caryota urens

Saccharum spontaneum - plant & inflorescence



Diverse species of Chrysanthemum



Memorable Moments