

## **Online Expert Lecture on Butterflies Behavior and Ecology**

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27<sup>th</sup> September 2024,

The Department of Zoology, N.S.C.B.M Govt. College Hamirpur, arranged an expert online lecture on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024. The lecture focused on the Ecology and behavior of Butterflies. The event took place in room no. 346 at the Zoology Department venue. The virtual presentation features esteemed speaker Dr. Sohail Madan, who is currently an Ecologist, Author, and Educator at Wild Tales. He previously served as the Assistant Director at the Bombay Natural History Society in Delhi for more than ten years. He has given important advice to the Department of Forests and Wildlife, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, on different restoration projects and biodiversity surveys. Supporting seed banks, he runs nurseries for indigenous plants and has established over 85 butterfly parks nationwide. He led the conceptualization of citizen science monitoring programs including Big Butterfly Month, Dragonfly Festival, and Delhi Moth Week. Sohail has also supported organizing various birds and butterfly centric festivals across the nation as well as conducted Biodiversity surveys in Delhi, Haryana, Arunachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Meghalaya, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh on behalf of various conservation organizations. Furthermore, he initiated the Green Skill Development Program for the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate change, Government of India in 2019. Recognized for his contributions, he received the Dr. B Kiowta Lifetime Achievement Award in 2019 from the Indian Dragonfly Society and serves as a member of the Delhi Ridge Management Board.

The event commenced at 09:45 in the morning. The lecture commenced with Dr. Krishan Lal overseeing. Fifty students from the Zoology Department were present at the lecture. Dr. Krishan Lal delivered the welcome speech and presented the biography of the honored speaker.

The online guest speaker created an optimistic environment with his excellent communication skills and knowledge. Starting from the introduction, he delved into various concepts. He explained the importance of studying the behavior and ecology of different butterflies. The lectures explained various concepts in a way that helped students look at their project tasks from multiple perspectives.

He gave an explanation of the butterfly life cycle, the relationship between particular butterflies and their host plants, flash coloring, the caterpillar's defence mechanism (such as : camouflage, turning themselves into inedibles, and some having sharp, prickly spines), predators of butterflies and caterpillars (as the caterpillars are the good source of proteins), and butterfly conservation. He recommended a number of websites, including iNaturalist app (is a free, social network that helps people connect with nature, share biodiversity information, and contribute to science). In closing, he offered suggestions for Big Butterfly Month celebrations and ways to preserve nature's exquisite gift – Butterflies.

The lecture ended at 11:00 A.M. The formal vote of thanks was given by Dr. Krishan Lal. It was a fantastic educational opportunity.



