

Visit report to Aravalli Biodiversity Park

On 29-05-23

The Students of Rajdhani College, University of Delhi, Department of Environmental Science - 2 Semester (175 Students) visited Aravalli Biodiversity Park on 29th and 30th May, 2023 as a part of their field trip. Firstly we would like to thank to our Principal Prof. Rajesh Giri and Convenor Mr. Anand Prakash for allowing us to conduct such an enthusiastic and insightful trip. Along with that the trip was accompanied by Dr. Tapasya Tomer, Dr. Ritu Payal, Prof. Poonam Pipil, Dr. Krishna Gopal and Dr. Rahul Kumar Gangwar, the esteemed professors who have guided us in the best possible way which made this trip more intriguing in nature. The Aravalli Biodiversity Park is located on the South-Central Ridge and spreads over an area of 692 acres. The area is bounded clockwise by JNU (Nelson Mandela Marg), the Mehrauli – Mahipalpur road, NH-8 and the Palam road and the southern boundary of Vasant Vihar. The landscape is undulating with gentle slopes and dotted with numerous morrum and clay mined pits of different sizes, depths and shapes. It can be approached from Vasant Vihar – Poorvi Marg gate located at 4 km south west of Moti Bagh.

The Park features two major zones – The Visitor Zone and The Nature Reserve Zone. The first Community that is encountered at the Poorvi Marg gate is young plantation of the most deciduous forest community represented by tree lots of species such as *Diospyros melanoxylon* (Tendu) *Adina cordifolia* (Haldu), *adhucal longifolia* (Mahua) *Mitragyna parviflora* (Ken) and *Sapindus laurifolius* (Soapnut, Reetha) under a canopy of *Prosopis juliflora* (Vilayati Kikkar). A variety of butterflies (43 species) and birds including the rare ones like the Black-breasted Redstart, the red whiskered bulbul, and the Ashy Prinia were observed by the students.

The explanation by the Park Coordinator Ms. Balwinder Kaur (Nature Education Officer) was very informative and thought provoking. She emphasized the importance of conserving our environment. The Special Part of Aravalli Biodiversity Park is South east Fernery, is Conservatory of Orchids, one of the high points of the Park and this is only in Delhi NCR. The rangelands, spread over an area of 150 acres composed of a mosaic of grasslands and woodlands are rich in avifauna and carnivores sprinkled with termite and ant mounds on its grounds. The trail that runs through the rangelands enters in to the visitor area which is being developed and will showcase Aravalli Plant Communities, a rock garden, a bulbous garden and conservatory of butterflies and medicinal plants. The entire trip was very informative.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF TOUR ARAVALLI BIODIVERSITY PARK

