

School of Global Affairs Urban Studies

Report on Field Visit to Neela Hauz Biodiversity Park and Sanjay Van

Date: March 29, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM onwards

Number of Students: 25

School Faculty: Dr. M.M. Anees, Dr. Nidhi Tewathia and Dr. Shekhar Tokas

Resource Person: Dr. Dinesh, Field Biologist, Neela Hauz Biodiversity Park

As part of the *Urban Environment* (BA Sustainable Urbanism, 2nd Semester) and *Urban Environment and Ecology* (MA Urban Studies, 2nd Semester) courses, a field visit was conducted for students of the BA Sustainable Urbanism and MA Urban Studies programmes at the School of Global Affairs, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi.

The visit to the Neela Hauz Biodiversity Park was designed to complement classroom discussions on urban environmental processes by providing students with on-ground exposure to nature-based solutions in an urban context. The site offered a practical understanding of how ecological systems such as constructed wetlands function as part of urban environmental management, particularly in relation to wastewater treatment, water quality improvement, and habitat restoration.

The session was led by Dr. Dinesh, Field Biologist, who guided the students through the park and explained the ecological restoration initiatives undertaken at Neela Hauz. His discussion helped students from both courses understand the interlinkages between urban development, ecological degradation, and restoration efforts, and highlighted the role of ecological infrastructure in addressing urban environmental challenges.

Following the visit to Neela Hauz Biodiversity Park, students were taken to the adjoining Sanjay Van to explore the area's biodiversity. This segment of the visit enabled students to observe ecological processes in a relatively less managed forest landscape and compare them with the restored and designed ecosystem of the biodiversity park. Such comparative observation was particularly relevant for understanding themes of urban ecology, human–nature interactions, and environmental sustainability discussed in both courses.

Overall, the field visit strengthened students' conceptual understanding of the urban environment by linking theoretical frameworks with real-world ecological systems and practices, thereby enhancing their learning in both Urban Environment and Urban Environment and Ecology courses.

Photographs from the field visit:



