

School of Global Affairs

Urban Studies

Field Visit to Yamuna Biodiversity Park

Date: November 27, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM onwards

School Faculty: Dr. Soma Sarkar

Resource Person: Dr. Mohammad Faisal, *Field Biologist at Yamuna Biodiversity Park* and Ms. Sonali, *Education Officer*

A field visit to Yamuna Biodiversity Park, Delhi, was conducted for the students of the BA Sustainable Urbanism programme as part of their Semester V Discipline Specific Elective (DSE) course titled “Understanding and Managing Disasters.” The visit was designed as an experiential learning exercise to complement classroom discussions on disaster risk reduction, nature-based solutions, and urban resilience.

The primary objective of the field visit was to acquaint students with the role of wetlands in mitigating urban flooding, particularly in the context of rapidly urbanising Indian cities. Yamuna Biodiversity Park, developed on the floodplains of the Yamuna River, serves as a living laboratory for understanding wetland ecology, river restoration, and floodplain management. The site offers valuable insights into how natural systems can function as critical urban infrastructure.

During the visit, students were introduced to the park’s wetland systems, including shallow water bodies, floodplain forests, and native vegetation zones. Resource persons explained how wetlands act as natural sponges by absorbing excess rainwater, slowing surface runoff, and facilitating groundwater recharge. They informed that the aim of the Park is to make this 457 acre area self-sustaining but it is only possible through human intervention. Earlier the park was a wasteland with high salinity. Thus it had thoroughly landscaped to make it the forest it is today. Salinity levels were reduced with phyto- remediation and the sub soil quality was improved by making mounds. Waterbodies also had to be created within the park. Around thirty forests communities of Yamuna River Basin are recreated in the Park having diverse ecological niches that not only attract a wide range of animal species but also enable them to build viable populations.

Therefore, students were encouraged to critically reflect on the integration of blue–green infrastructure in urban planning and disaster management frameworks. the field visit enhanced students’ understanding of wetlands as multifunctional landscapes that support ecological balance while reducing disaster risks. The experience reinforced the relevance of nature-based solutions in building climate-resilient and flood-safe cities, aligning closely with the learning objectives of the course.



