



HSNC UNIVERSITY, MUMBAI

Kishinchand Chellaram College

Faculty of Science and Technology

Department of Life Sciences

And

Nature Club

Under the aegis of DBT Star Status

Rerouting from Code Red to Code Green '21

PRESENTS

‘SPARROW NEST-BOX MONITORING PROJECT:

Citizen Science Approach'

The Department of Life Sciences and Nature Club, K. C. College, HSNC University under the aegis of DBT Star Status organized an informative and interesting webinar called ‘**Sparrow Nest Box Monitoring Project: Citizen Science Approach**’ on 4th February, 2022 on the Zoom platform. The session was conducted by two esteemed resource people Dr. Nishith Dharaiya, Founder and Director, WCB (Wildlife Conservation and Biodiversity) Research Foundation, Gujarat and Mr. Pratik Desai, Ph. D. Scholar, Department of Life Sciences, HNG University, Patan. This project was organized as a collaborative effort between the WCB Research foundation and Rerouting From Code Red To Code Green '21, an initiative of Faculty of Science and Technology, K. C. College, HSNC University. About 44 participants attended the session, which included the undergraduate students along with the faculty members of the Department of Life Sciences, K. C. College, HSNC University. The primary objective of this project was to create awareness regarding the declining population of sparrows due to unavailability of appropriate nesting locations and thereby helping them to rehabilitate with the means of artificial nest boxes. This will further help us to monitor their activity for proposing a better solution to resolve their problem of diminishing population.

The session began with the introductory remarks given by Dr. (Ms.) Aashu Vajpai, Assistant Professor, Department of Life Sciences, K. C. College, HSNC University who warmly welcomed the resource people and the participants attending the session. Dr. Nishith Dharaiya, Founder and Director of Wildlife Biodiversity Research Foundation, gave insights on the motto behind

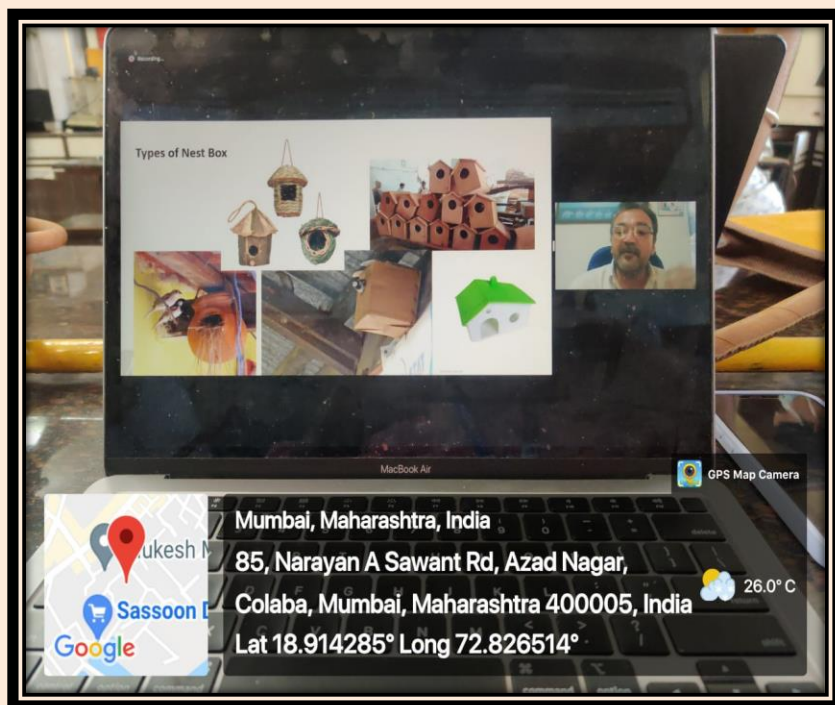


establishing the WCB (Wildlife Conservation and Biodiversity) Research Foundation. Dr.Dharaiya introduced the participants to WCB's official quarterly newsletter '**Prithivya**' and made a mention that Dr. Sagarika Damle, Head of Department of Life Sciences, Co-ordinator of DBT Star Status, K. C. College, HSNC University is the Chief Editor for the same. Sir further elaborated that WCB also undertakes various research and capacity building activities like volunteer projects, funded research projects, citizen science projects, workshops, monthly WCBinars, field based training programmes, etc. Talking about WCB's service activities, Dr. Dharaiya briefed about the several activities undertaken by WCB, to name a few, Green Audit Services, Plantation and Scientific Analysis and Writing. Dr. Dharaiya introduced the participants to the various institutions and organizations which are in collaboration with WCB Research Foundation, including HSNC University, Patan Forest Department, Bear Trust International, etc. Dr. Dharaiya concisely explained that only putting up the nest boxes isn't really important but what is the nature of nest box, i.e. it's size, material, location of placement, etc. also plays a noteworthy role in determining it's success rate.

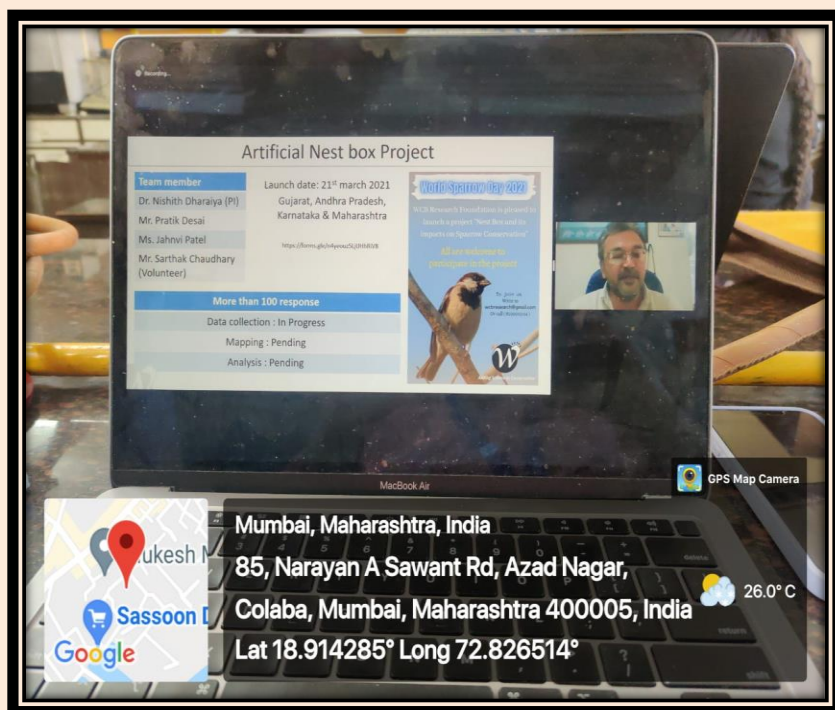
Mr. Pratik Desai began the session by elucidating the essential knowledge of sparrow, i.e. it's scientific name, life span, demographics, etc. Sir informed the participants that this project has been particularly launched on World Sparrow Day, 21st March, 2021 and at present, a whooping response of more than 100 has been recorded through a survey google form mainly from the states of Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra. Furthermore, sir showed the participants the various kinds of nest boxes and few of which are made out of waste materials like plastic bottles, clays, etc. Mr. Desai also mentioned some alternative steps which one can follow while monitoring, analysing or creating awareness regarding the Sparrow Nest-Box Monitoring Project. The lecture was followed by a question and answer session where sir patiently answered several questions asked by the participants in detail thereby ensuring that their doubts are properly clarified. Dr. Tejashree Shanbhag, Vice-principal of Sciences, K. C. College, HSNC University gave the concluding remarks and expressed her gratitude to the resource people for enlightening the students with their remarkable knowledge and expertise. The webinar was concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks by a student volunteer. The Sparrow Nest Box Monitoring Project rightly served the purpose of elucidating the problems faced by these small birds and thereby opened a new avenue for the excited hidden ornithologists and environmentalists at the KCLSC to not only show their love for our avian neighbours but also to help them survive.

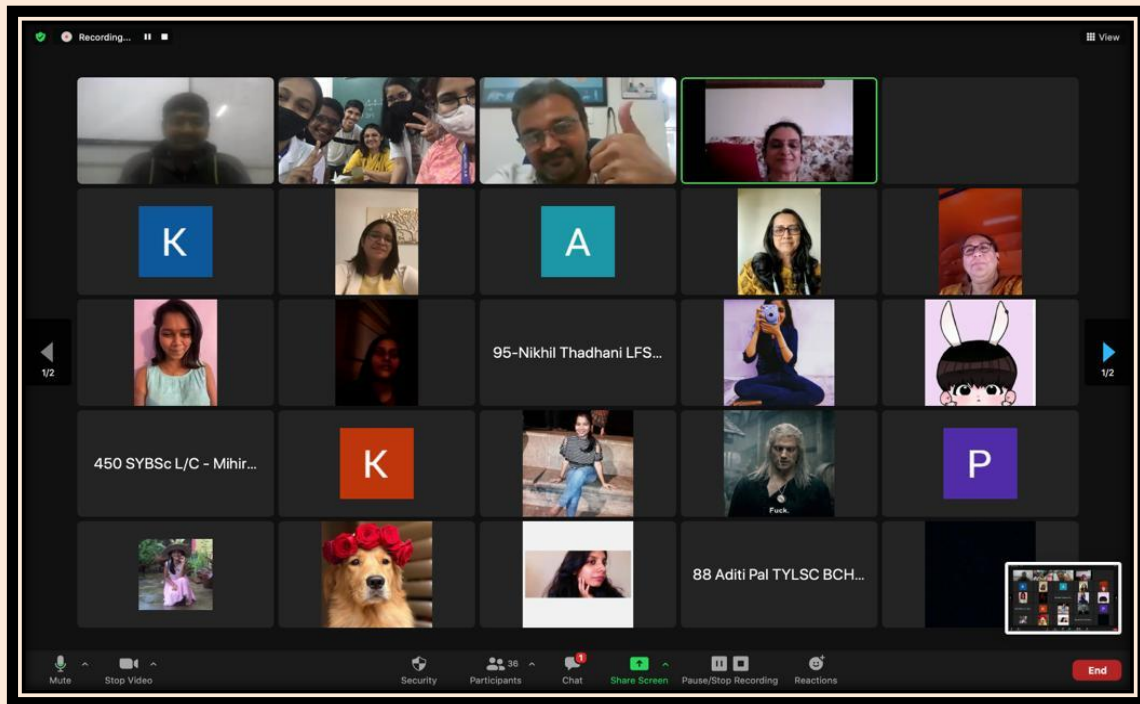
Feedback:-

The extensive knowledge and experience of the illustrious resource people not only stimulated student's interest in protecting the biodiversity but also helped them understand the important aspects of conserving them in a scientific manner. All the participants felt that communication with the speakers was at ease and they patiently responded all the questions and clarified the doubts of the students. The webinar as a whole was splendid as the speakers were excellent orienteers and had keen knowledge of their work. Many participants conveyed their gratitude and wished to attend more such empirical and elaborate sessions on these subjects in future as well. Altogether, the session was a delightful investment of time and it was a great success.



**Dr. Nishith
Dharaiya providing
an interesting talk
on 'SPARROW
CONSERVATION'**





GROUP PHOTO