

**Excursion Tour Report**  
**Under DBT Star College Scheme**  
**Organized by Department of Zoology**

Paul Hebert Center for DNA Barcoding and Biodiversity Studies, Dept. of Zoology, Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, and Siddharth Garden Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar Ta. Dist. Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

The day-long excursion commenced at 7:00 AM from Shri Shivaji College, Parbhani. Total 26 students and accompanying faculty namely Prof. Dr. H. S. Jagtap (Prof. & Head Dept. of Zoology), Dr. S. M. Yeole and Ms. P. V. Kadam traveled in private hired vehicles to the first stop that is Paul Hebert Center for DNA Barcoding and Biodiversity Studies, Dept. of Zoology, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University. After an informative visit there, the group proceeded to Siddharth Garden in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar for a leisurely break before returning to the college later that evening at 11:30 PM.

The Paul Hebert Center for DNA Barcoding and Biodiversity Studies, situated within the Department of Zoology at Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, is one of the premier research centers focused on biodiversity conservation through molecular techniques. The center is named after Dr. Paul Hebert, a pioneering figure in the field of DNA barcoding. The center aims to enhance the study of biological diversity by cataloging species at a molecular level, using DNA barcoding to identify and classify organisms. This research plays a critical role in biodiversity conservation, ecological studies, and species identification.

During the visit, the students had the opportunity to interact with researchers and faculty members at the center. They were introduced to the process of DNA barcoding, where specific gene regions are used as identifiers for species. The students also learned about how DNA barcoding is applied in the identification of plants, animals, fungi, and other organisms. This method is a crucial tool in biodiversity monitoring and helps in the rapid identification of species, many of which may otherwise go unnoticed in traditional classification systems.

Prof. Dr. G. D. Khedkar, Director, Paul Hebert Center for DNA Barcoding and Biodiversity Studies explained how DNA barcoding contributes to conservation efforts by creating a molecular library of species, which is useful in managing threatened or endangered species and identifying invasive species. After this, students enjoyed the lunch at Paul Hebert Center for DNA Barcoding and Biodiversity Studies, Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar.

After the visit to the Paul Hebert Center, the next stop was Siddharth Garden, located in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar. Siddharth Garden is a popular recreational park and a significant green space in the city. The garden is known for its serene environment, lush greenery, and well-maintained landscape, making it a perfect location for relaxation and reflection after an educational visit.

The garden houses a variety of animals viz., Fox, Porcupine, Crocodile, Cobra, Python, Antelope, Tiger, Lion, Sloth bear and many more aquatic and non-aquatic birds including Peacock, Storks, etc. The peaceful environment of the garden offered students a chance to reflect on the importance of green spaces for both mental well-being and the conservation of urban biodiversity.

On both the onward and return journeys, the group made stops to enjoy tea and snacks, allowing everyone to relax and refresh before continuing with the tour. These breaks gave students and faculty an opportunity to discuss the day's experiences, share insights, and bond as a group.

The group left Siddharth Garden in the late afternoon and made the journey back to Shri Shivaji College, Parbhani. After a day filled with educational and recreational activities, the group arrived back at the college by approximately 11:30 PM.



