## Disaster Management Awareness Programme Organised by Department of Zoology, IQAC

## Seminar On

"Forest and Wildlife in India: Ecological Perspective"

Speaker: Prof.Susanta Kumar Chakraborty, Department Of Zoology, Vidyasagar University

Date: 23.04.2022

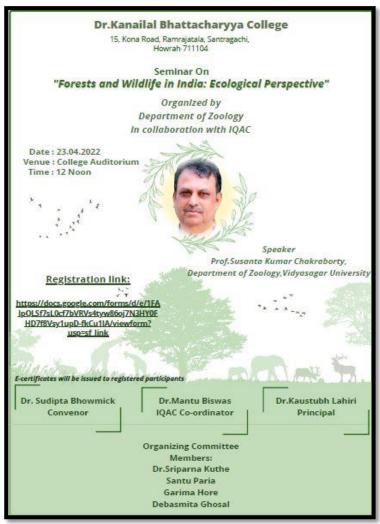
**Venue: College Auditorium** 

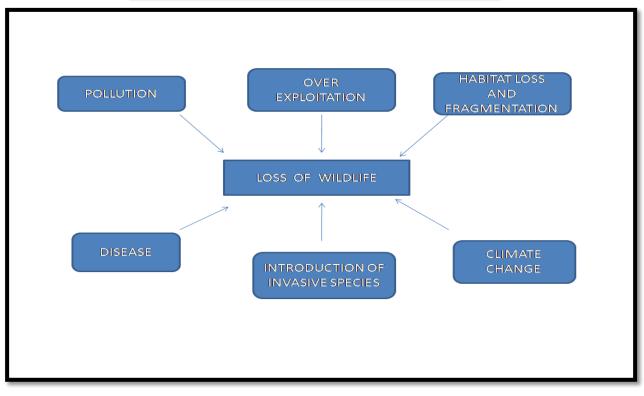
Time: 12 Noon

Forests serve as a natural habitat for wildlife and a wide variety of plants. India is not only famous for its architecture and cultural values but also for its diverse wildlife and dense forest cover. Forests are among the most species-rich environments on earth, making them critical reservoirs for many groups of living organisms ranging from vertebrates to microbes. India is one of the ten most forest-rich countries in the world with a sum cover assessed at 21.05% of the country's geographical area. More than 45,000 floral and 81,000 faunal species are found in forest. The nation has 691 protected areas comprising of 528 wildlife sanctuaries, 102 national parks, 57 conservation reserves and 4 community reserves.

Major types of forests are tropical evergreen forests, tropical deciduous forests, tropical thorn forests, montane forests and mangrove forests in India. The range of these forests is very vast, extending from the rain forests of Kerala in the South to the Alpine Pastures of Ladakh, from the desert of Rajasthan in the West to the evergreen forest in the North-East. Forests are very useful for maintaining the ecosystem. They help to modify the local climate, control soil erosion, regulate stream flow, support wood-based industries, and support the livelihood of many communities. They also reduce the force of wind and thus reduce the effect of storms, maintain temperature and cause rainfall. They provide humus to the soil and shelter to wildlife thus preserving bio-diversity. India's rich and diverse wildlife is also preserved in its vast forest expanse. Bengal tigers, deers, pythons, wolves, foxes, bears, crocodiles, camels, monkeys, snakes, the mighty Asian elephant and variety of other species are found in this nation. Around 172 or 2.9% of the endangered species including the Snow leopard, the Indian white-rumped vulture etc which are on the edge of extinction, are still found in the country. The varied and rich wildlife of India has a profound impact on the region's popular culture. There is an intrinsic relationship between organisms and their habitats, which is one reason environmentalists are deeply concerned about the destruction of habitats, such as deforestation.

Factors responsible for wildlife depletion





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