



## EnviSAGE society Wildlife Week WEBINAR



### More than Scales, Spines & Poison: A glimpse into the secret world of Reptiles Brief Report

**Date:** October 4, 2020

**Platform:** Google Meet

**No of participants:** 110

Wildlife Week is celebrated every year from 2nd October to 8th October with the view to make the public aware about wildlife preserve the fauna of India. The Indian Government has established an Indian Board of Wild Life which works to improve the awareness as well as the consciousness of the Indian people towards the preservation of wildlife. EnviSAGE the environmental society of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Khalsa College conducted a webinar to highlight such human myths that often come complimentary about the reptilian group of Indian vertebrates.

The agenda for the webinar was “More than Scales, Spines, and poison: A glimpse into the secret world of the Indian Reptile,” conducted on 4th October 2020 at 3.00 pm. The guest speaker for the webinar was Dr. Varad Giri, who is an expert in the field of herpetology, a term used for the study of amphibians and reptiles, to enlighten us Indian reptiles. Dr. Varad Giri completed his Ph.D. from North Orissa University. He was formerly Curator at the herpetology section in Bombay Natural History Society and has also worked as a Postdoctoral fellow at the National Centre for Biological Science, Bengaluru. The motive behind conducting the webinar was to create awareness regarding Indian reptiles and the myths that follow them complementarily.

The webinar started with a welcome note by the host, that followed a brief introduction of the guest speaker and a roadmap of how EnviSAGE is planning to go about the wildlife week celebration. After this, the podium was handed over to Mr. Varad Giri, who chose to wear a snake T-shirt, pictorially creating a sense of comfort for reptiles among the participants. He began with the webinar delivering a thankyou note to Mr. Ashish Thomas (Convenor EnviSAGE) for having him for the event. Starting with the agenda of the talk Mr. Varad explained the basis of a rudimentary myth that all snake release venom, he distinguished broadly between the venomous and non-venomous species found in the country. He further explained the root cause of the problem, perception of the local community, medical treatment for the snack bite that one can adopt as a first-aid to mitigate the problem. The speaker then highlighted around 300+ snake species that have been spotted around northeast India, and in the western ghats. Further, he shared amazing detailed information regarding the size variation, poisonous speciation, especially sharing the traits of the four most magnificent snake species i.e. cobra, common krait, Saw scaled viper, & Russell's Viper. The speaker mentioned the insights about the venomous species through pictures by explaining their traits. Moving over to the next category of reptilians the speaker highlighted the character, types & traits of lizards. The next to the house was a question around where everyone could put their queries in the chatbox, to which Mr. Varad Giri answered with great enthusiasm. The speaker concluded then webinar by urging the audience to change their attitude towards these speechless creatures.

At last, the feedback form was circulated among the participants The engagement in the chatbox showed their enthusiasm regarding the webinar. Followed by the feedback vote of thanks was delivered by Mr. Ashish Thomas to Mr. Varad Giri, all the lecturers & participants of the college for their presence.