

## Report on Departmental Fest – ZooManiac '26 (2025–26)

### Department of Zoology, Guru Nanak Khalsa College, Matunga (E) – 400019

The Department of Zoology successfully organized its annual departmental fest **ZooManiac '26** for the academic year **2025–26** on **7th February 2026**, from **10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** The event was conducted within the college premises and witnessed enthusiastic participation from undergraduate students. The theme of ZooManiac '26 was **“Aquatica”**, focusing on ocean life, aquatic biodiversity, and marine conservation.

The fest was inaugurated in the presence of our respected Principal, **Prof. Ratna Sharma**, who graciously accepted the invitation and attended the inauguration ceremony. She expressed her delight at the initiative taken by the students, appreciated their creativity and teamwork, and applauded their efforts in successfully organizing the departmental fest.

The **Chief Guest** for ZooManiac '26 was **Mr. Nelson Rodrigues**, a Mumbai-based naturalist, wildlife photographer, and author. He is well known for documenting local biodiversity and has authored *Butterflies of Mumbai*, featuring over 410 photographs, and later published *Discover... the Beautiful Mammals of India*. His presence inspired students and added academic and professional value to the event.

A total of **six competitions** were organized as part of ZooManiac '26, with **100 participants** taking part in these academic and creative events, along with **approximately 100 students** actively participating in fun games. The events and participation details were as follows: **Ocean Artistry** (12 participants) judged by **Dr. Archana Padgaonkar**; **Glimpse of Aquatica** (2 participants) judged by **Dr. Sayali Yadav**; **Zootography** (18 participants) judged by **Mr. Nelson Rodrigues**; **Bluecraft** (6 participants) judged by **Dr. Aparna Dubashi**; **Marine Masters** (30 participants); and **Aqua Quest** (32 participants). These events encouraged students to explore scientific knowledge, creativity, observation skills, and teamwork.

Both undergraduate zoology laboratories were beautifully decorated in accordance with the Aquatica theme. A dedicated **selfie point** was created, which became a major attraction for students and helped enhance student engagement and enjoyment throughout the event.

The department received generous sponsorship support from **Haji Ali, Ace Academy, DA-Scape**, and **Just Eats**, which contributed significantly towards organizing the fest and managing event-related expenses.

The event was smoothly anchored by **Ms. Isha (SYBSc Zoology Major)** and **Mr. Manas (TYBSc Zoology Major)**, whose confident hosting contributed greatly to the success of the program. The fest was hosted by the **Department of Zoology**, with active involvement from students across different years, showcasing excellent coordination, leadership, and organizational skills.

Overall, ZooManiac '26 was a grand success. The fest provided a vibrant platform for students to learn beyond classrooms, express creativity, interact with experts, and celebrate

zoology in an engaging manner. The enthusiastic participation and positive feedback reflected the collective efforts of students and faculty, making ZooManiac '26 a memorable and impactful departmental event.