

Trip to Wetlands

On 26th November, 2024, a group of enthusiastic teachers and students from Gyan Bharati School Saket, along with the School Director Mrs Lata Vaidyanathan and Principal Dr. (Mrs.) Mudita Sharma embarked on a memorable photography and birdwatching excursion to the local wetlands, guided by renowned naturalist and photographer Mr. Vipul Gupta. The trip aimed to enhance students' understanding of wildlife photography, bird species, and the importance of wetland ecosystems.

The group arrived at the wetlands early in the morning, when the birds were most active. Mr. Gupta, with his vast experience, briefed the participants about the various bird species they were likely to encounter and shared tips on capturing the best shots. His guidance was invaluable, helping the teachers and students fine-tune their camera settings for wildlife photography and how to remain discreet while observing the birds.

During the excursion, the group had the privilege of observing a variety of birds, both common and rare, in their natural habitat. Among the most notable sightings were:



- **Flamingos:** Several flamingos were spotted wading through the shallow waters, their vibrant pink plumage creating a striking contrast against the green marshes.
- **Gulls:** The group also observed different species of gulls, known for their agility and graceful flight patterns over the wetlands.
- **Painted Storks:** With their distinctive long, curved beaks and vibrant colors, painted storks were seen feeding and flying in their characteristic formation.
- **Black-winged Stilts:** These elegant birds with slender black legs and striking white plumage were seen moving gracefully through the wetland's shallows.



- **White-faced Ibis:** This bird, with its long, downward-curved bill and distinctive white face, was another highlight of the trip. Their quiet presence added a serene atmosphere to the wetland environment.
- **Glossy Ibis:** The glossy ibis, with its iridescent feathers and graceful flight, was another fascinating bird spotted by the group. It was an excellent opportunity for the budding photographers to capture its beauty.
- **Great Egret:** The majestic great egret, with its long neck and snow-white feathers, was seen fishing along the water's edge, offering another excellent photography opportunity.

The excursion was not only an educational experience but also an inspiring journey for everyone involved. The students gained valuable knowledge about wildlife photography and had firsthand experience of observing some of the most beautiful and unique bird species in their natural habitat.