Goa University

School of Biological Sciences and Biotechnology

Report on Herp walk at Goa University Campus on 20th August, 2026

1. Title of the Event/Activity/program	Herp walk at Goa University Campus
2. Date and Time	20th August, 2026
3. Mode of conduct (Physical/Online)	Physical
4. School/ Directorate/ Section	School of Biological Sciences and Biotechnology, Zoology Nature Club
5. Collaborating Agency/School/Directorate	NA
6. Detail of the Resource Person (Brief biodata)	The Herp Walk was led by Mr. Shubham Rane, Ph.D. Scholar in Zoology, and Dr. Nitin Sawant, Assistant Professor of Zoology. Both resource persons contributed their expertise in amphibian and reptile ecology, identification, and conservation to facilitate the field-based learning experience. Mr. Shubham Rane is pursuing his Ph.D. in Zoology, with a research focus on the ecology of frogs, particularly species of the genus Nyctibatrachus, under the supervision of Dr. Nitin Sawant. His research experience in amphibian ecology provided valuable insights into frog identification, habitat associations, behaviour, and ecological significance during the field walk. Dr. Nitin Sawant is an Assistant Professor of Zoology with expertise in Herpetology, the study of amphibians and reptiles. His expertise

	in herpetofaunal diversity, ecology, and conservation contributed to the scientific guidance provided during the walk, including discussions on species identification, habitat requirements, ecological roles, and conservation challenges faced by amphibians and reptiles
7. Number of Faculty attended/participated	4 faculty
8. Number of Student attended / participated	19 registrations received,14 students of Goa University attended the walk.
9. No. of external students/faculty/other participants	20 members of the General Public Participants attended. 3 students of Biotechnology, SBSB
10. The objectives of the Program/activity/event	The objective of the Herp Walk was to create awareness about the diversity, identification, life cycles, ecological significance, and conservation of amphibians and reptiles through experiential, field-based learning. The activity aimed to familiarize participants with the common amphibian and reptile species occurring on the Goa University campus and its surrounding habitats, while developing their skills in field observation, species recognition, and habitat assessment. The programme also sought to foster an appreciation of the important ecological roles played by amphibians and reptiles as predators, prey, components of food webs, and indicators of environmental health. By observing these organisms in their natural habitats, participants were encouraged to understand the importance of conserving their habitats, including ephemeral pools and associated terrestrial environments. As the walk was conducted as a citizen-science and public outreach initiative, it provided an opportunity to engage students, faculty members, and members of the general public in biodiversity documentation and environmental awareness. The programme aimed to encourage greater public participation in biodiversity

	observation and monitoring, promote responsible and ethical wildlife observation, dispel misconceptions and fear associated with reptiles, and strengthen appreciation for the rich biodiversity of the Goa University campus. Ultimately, the activity sought to inspire participants to become more informed and responsible stakeholders in local biodiversity conservation and sustainable coexistence with wildlife.
11. Description of the Program/activity/event	A Herp Walk was conducted on 20 August 2026 at the Goa University campus as an outreach and biodiversity-awareness activity aimed at introducing participants to the diversity, ecology, and conservation significance of amphibians and reptiles occurring within and around the university campus. The activity commenced at 6:45 p.m. from the University Library and proceeded towards the nearest ephemeral pools and their surrounding habitats, which provide important breeding, foraging, shelter, and refuge sites for a variety of amphibian and reptile species. The programme was open to students and faculty members of Goa University as well as members of the general public, thereby providing an opportunity for interaction and knowledge exchange among different groups. A total of 37 participants took part in the walk. The programme commenced with a brief introductory session on the basic biology, identification, life cycles, habitat requirements, behaviour, and ecological significance of amphibians and reptiles. Participants were introduced to the distinguishing features used for field identification and were briefed on the important ecological roles played by these organisms. Particular emphasis was placed on amphibians as important components of aquatic and terrestrial food webs and as potential indicators of environmental changes, while reptiles were discussed in relation to their roles as predators, prey, and regulators of ecosystem processes. Following the introductory session, participants proceeded on a guided field walk through the

	campus towards the ephemeral pools and adjacent areas. The field component allowed participants to observe amphibians and reptiles directly in their natural surroundings and to relate the information provided during the introductory session to actual field observations. Several organisms were encountered during the walk, including Indian black scorpion, multiple *Hemidactylus* spp., Nightjar, *Minervarya gomantaki*, *Polypedates maculatus*, and *Minervarya sahyadriensis*. These observations provided opportunities to discuss species identification, habitat associations, activity patterns, and the ecological importance of the organisms encountered. The presence of ephemeral pools was particularly highlighted during the walk. Participants were informed about the importance of seasonal water bodies as breeding and developmental habitats for amphibians and about the dependence of many species on suitable microhabitats surrounding these water bodies. The field observations demonstrated how relatively small and temporary habitats within an urbanized and institutional landscape can support significant biological diversity. This helped participants appreciate the importance of conserving even seemingly small or temporary habitats within the university campus. An important and unexpected observation during the field visit was a road-killed snake encountered along the route. This observation provided a valuable opportunity for an on-site discussion about the threats faced by reptiles, particularly road mortality resulting from vehicular movement. Participants were encouraged to consider how roads and increasing vehicular activity can negatively affect wildlife, especially nocturnal and slow-moving species that cross roads while moving between feeding, breeding, and shelter habitats. The importance of responsible driving and wildlife-sensitive behaviour was also emphasised. Participants were encouraged to remain alert while driving through areas

	supporting wildlife, particularly during the monsoon and at night when amphibian and reptile activity may increase. The discussion highlighted that simple measures such as reducing vehicle speed, remaining vigilant on roads near wetlands and forested areas, and avoiding unnecessary disturbance of wildlife can contribute to reducing accidental mortality. Overall, the Herp Walk served as an effective field-based environmental education and biodiversity-awareness programme. It provided participants with direct exposure to the amphibian and reptile diversity of the Goa University campus while encouraging observation, curiosity, and appreciation of local biodiversity. The activity also demonstrated the value of the university campus as a living laboratory for biodiversity education and conservation. By bringing together students, faculty members, and members of the public, the programme encouraged dialogue and knowledge sharing and helped strengthen awareness about the importance of conserving amphibians, reptiles, their habitats, and the broader ecological integrity of the campus.
12. Benefit/Key outcomes of the Program/activity/event	This walk enhanced participants' understanding of the diversity, identification, life cycles, behaviour, and ecological importance of amphibians and reptiles through direct field observations. It provided hands-on exposure to common amphibian and reptile species in their natural habitats, strengthening participants' ability to recognize and appreciate local herpetofaunal diversity and the ecological roles played by these organisms. The activity also highlighted the importance of ephemeral pools and surrounding habitats in supporting amphibian populations and maintaining campus biodiversity. The encounter with a road-killed snake further provided an opportunity to discuss the major threats faced by reptiles, including road mortality, habitat loss and fragmentation, human–wildlife conflict, and persecution arising from fear and misconceptions. This helped promote awareness about the need for responsible driving, safe wildlife observation,

	habitat protection, and coexistence with reptiles. Overall, the activity encouraged environmental awareness, responsible nature observation, and active interest in biodiversity conservation. It also promoted interaction and knowledge exchange among students, faculty members, and the general public, while fostering a greater appreciation of the rich biodiversity of the Goa University campus and the importance of conserving it.
13. Enclosures with report	Brochure, Geo-tag photos, Photos, and Registration sheet appended

Student Coordinator

Mr. Shubham Rane
(Ph.D. Scholar, Zoology)

Dr. Nitin Sawant
Assistant Professor in Zoology

Dr. Preeti Pereira
Assistant Professor in Zoology

03/09/2026

Signature

Dean of School of Biological Sciences & Biotechnology
Goa University, Goa - 403206

Dean/Director/Head

Seal of the School/Directorate/University

Date:

Zoology Nature Club organises

HERP WALK

On 20th August, 2026

Timings

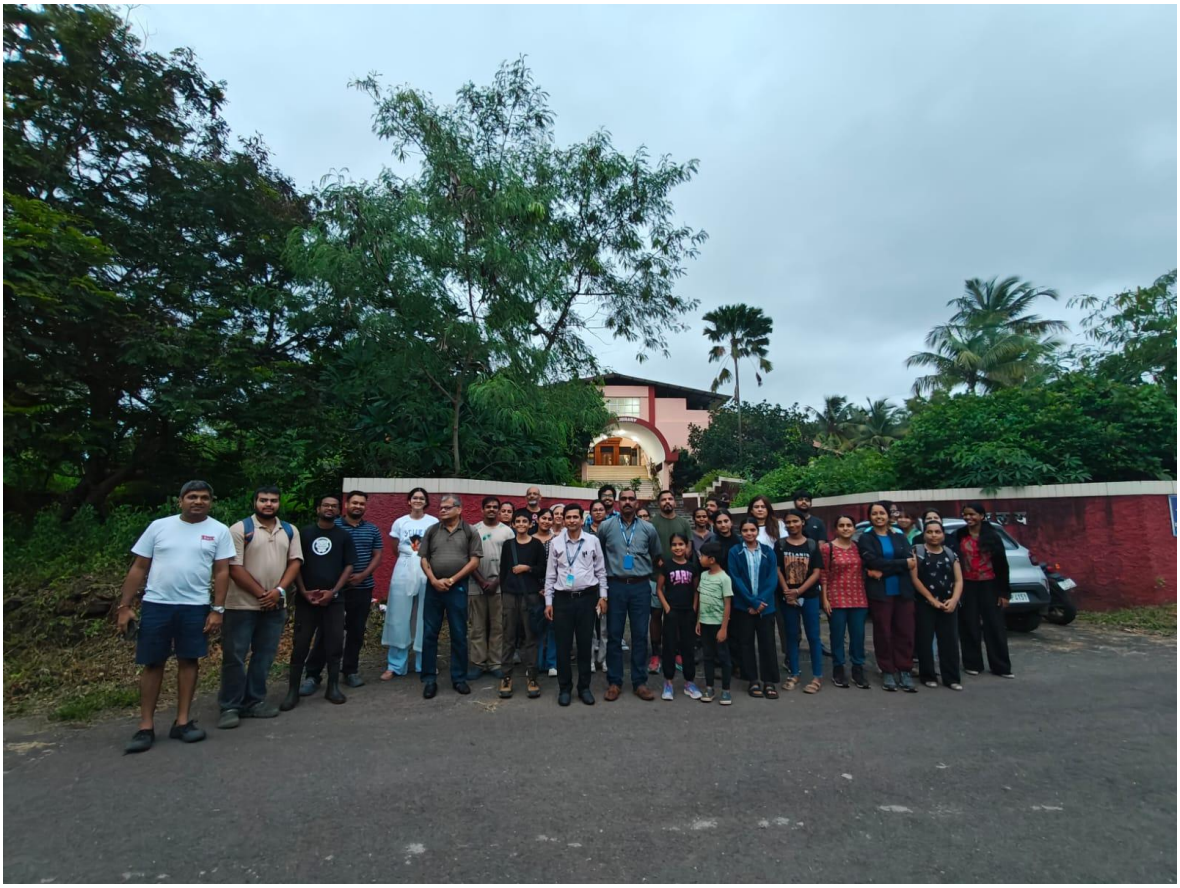
06:45 - 08:15 PM

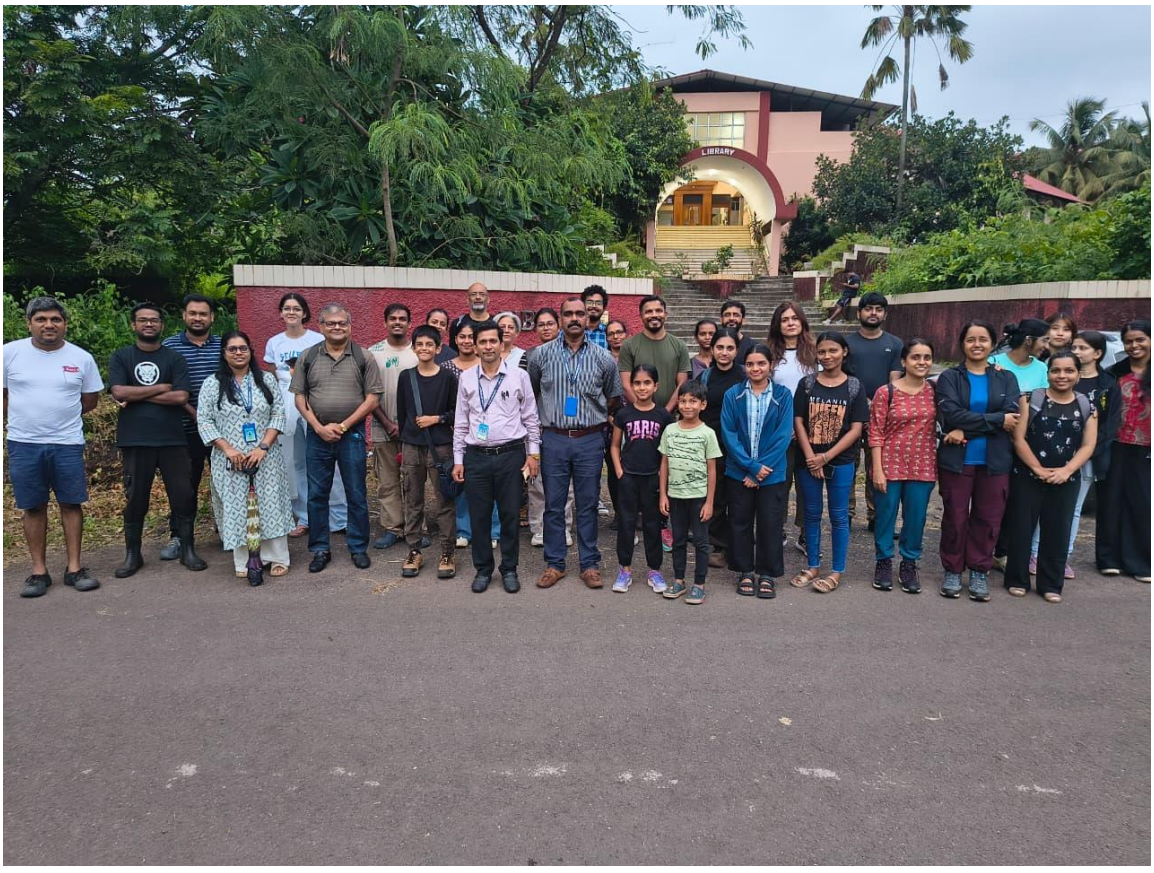
Location

GOA UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
(Meeting Point)

Open and free for all students, faculty and general public!

REGISTRATION

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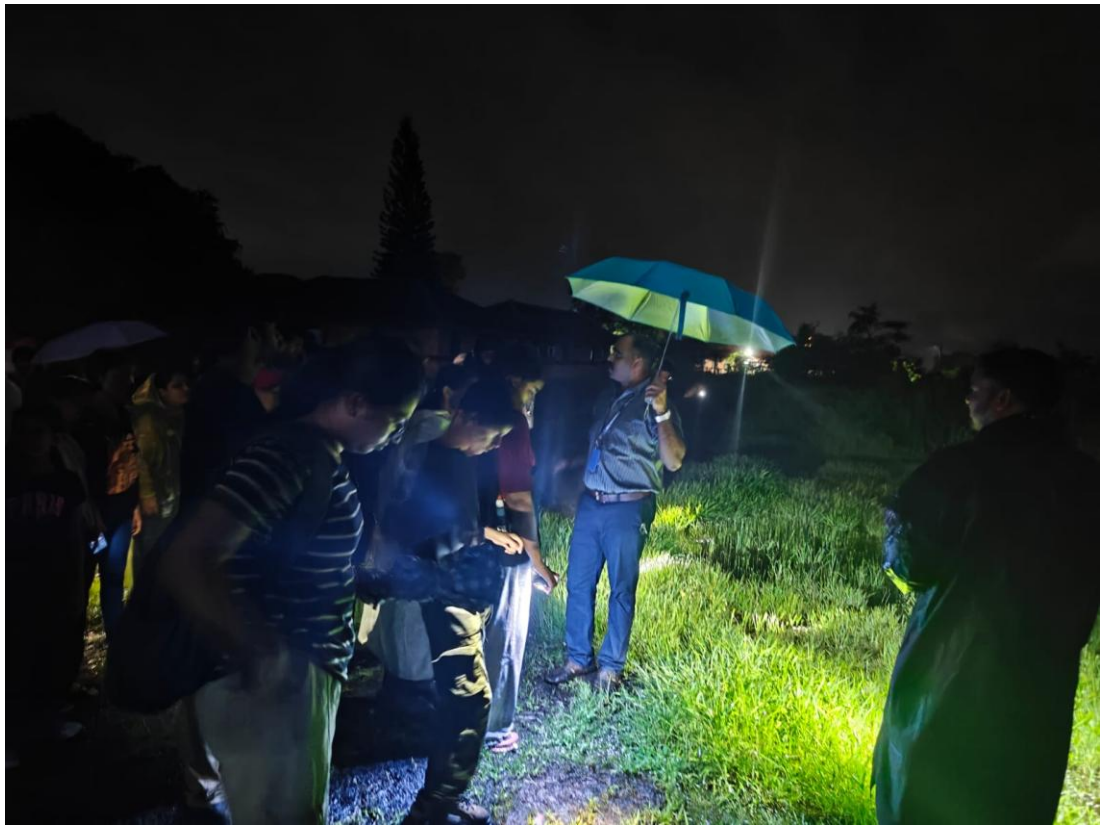

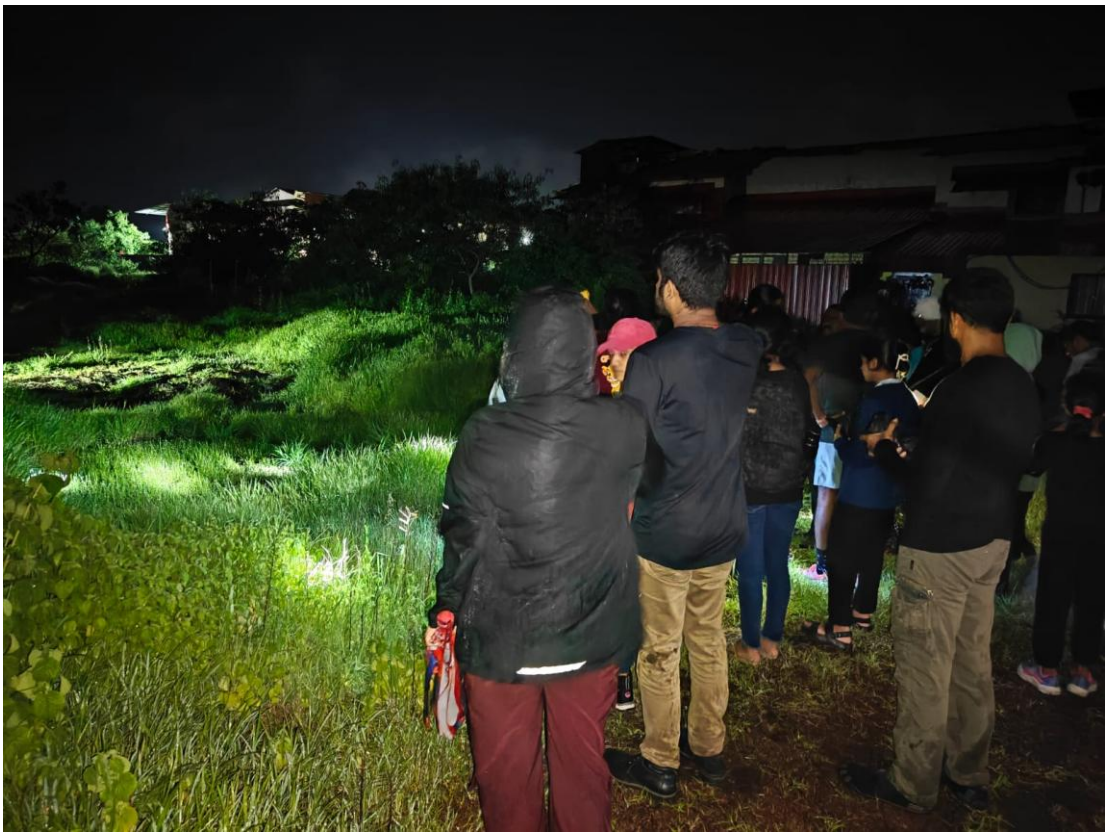

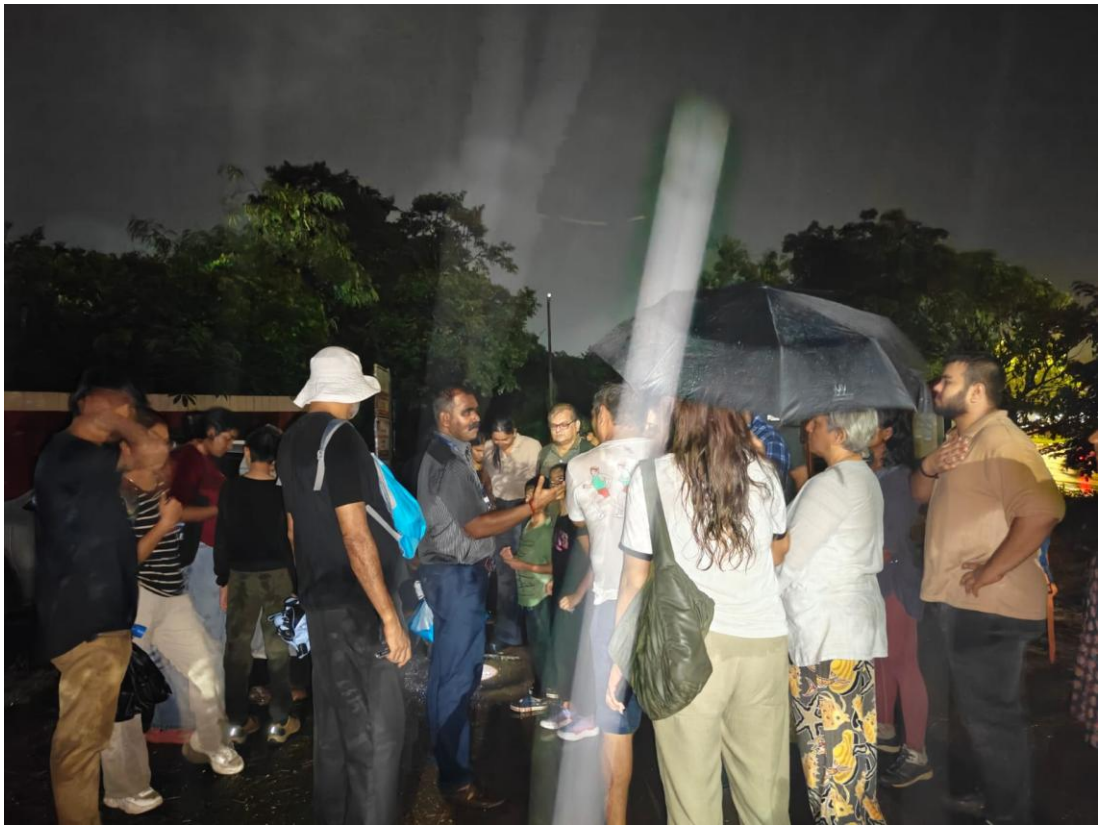

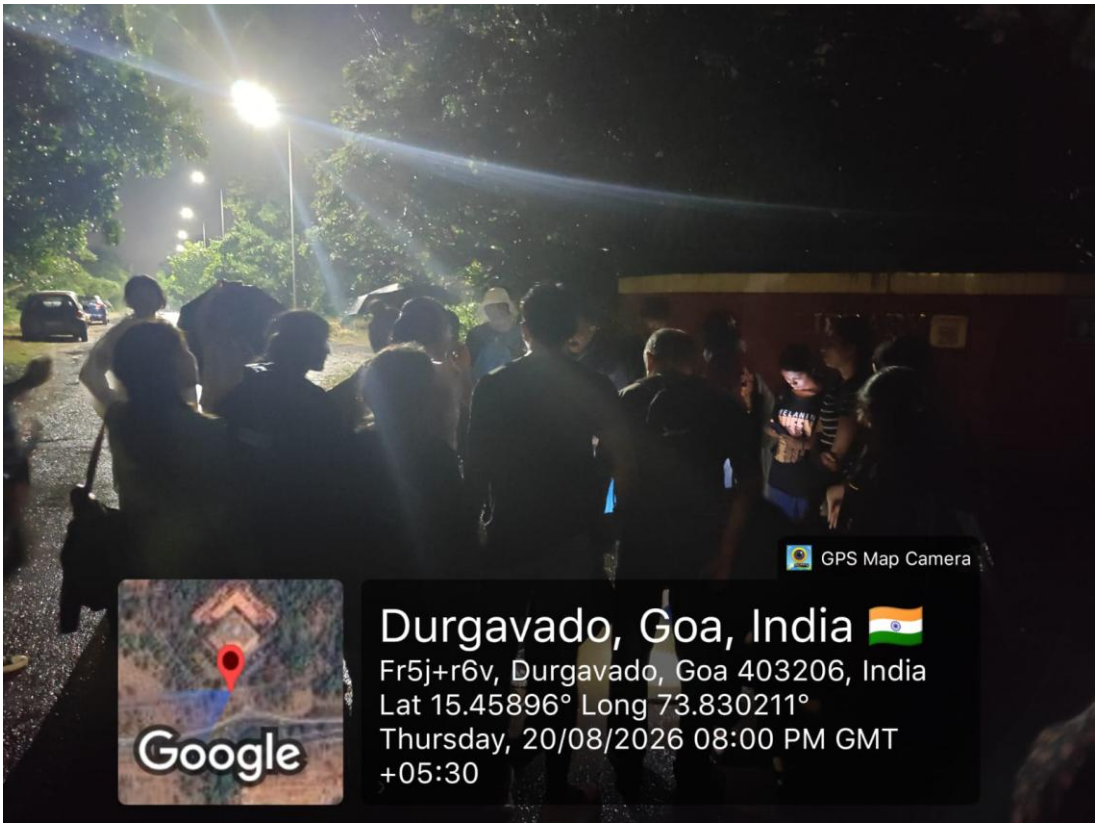
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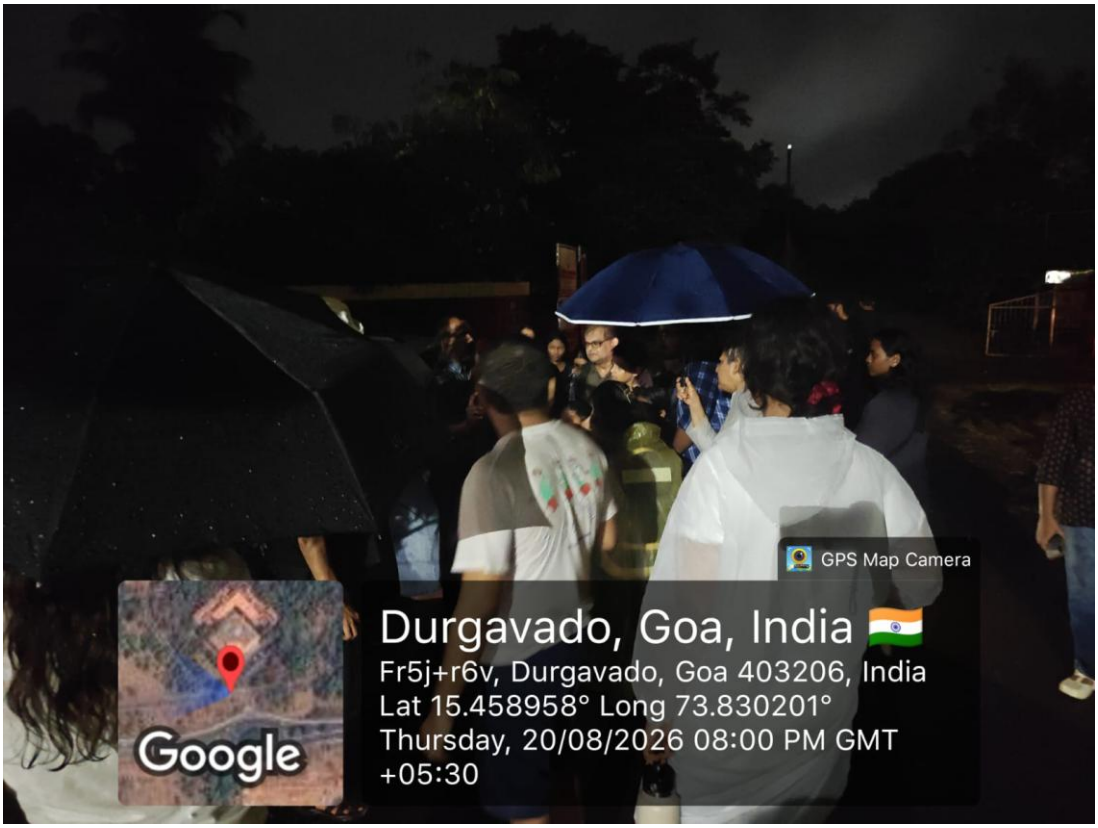
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