

JSS MAHAVIDYAPEETHA  
**JSS College of Arts, Commerce and Science, Ooty Road, Mysuru**  
**Postgraduate Department of Zoology**

**REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL VULTURE AWARENESS PROGRAMME**

**Organised by:** Postgraduate Department of Zoology, JSS College of Arts, Commerce and Science (JSSCACS) under the aegis of IQAC

**Date:** 08 September 2026

**Programme:** International Vulture Awareness Programme

**Chief Guest and Resource Person:** Mr. Rajkumar Devaraje Urs, Wildlife Conservation Foundation

### **Introduction**

The Postgraduate Department of Zoology, JSS College of Arts, Commerce and Science, organised an **International Vulture Awareness Programme** on **08 September 2026** with the objective of creating awareness among students about the ecological importance of vultures, the factors responsible for their declining populations, and the urgent need for their conservation.

The programme was organised to sensitise students towards the importance of vultures as an essential component of the ecosystem and to encourage them to actively participate in wildlife conservation and environmental protection.

### **Inaugural Session**

The programme commenced with a warm welcome to the gathering. **Ansh Mohan Joshi** of M.Sc 2<sup>nd</sup> year welcomed the dignitaries, faculty members and students and formally set the tone for the programme.

**Adithi** of M.Sc 2<sup>nd</sup> year introduced the chief guest and resource person, **Mr. Rajkumar Devaraje Urs from the Wildlife Conservation Foundation**, highlighting his association with wildlife conservation and his expertise in the field.

The Principal and Chief Executive, **Prof. B. V. Sambashivaiah**, addressed the gathering and spoke about the ecological significance of vultures and the alarming decline in their population. He highlighted the importance of understanding the causes behind vulture decline and encouraged the students to make maximum use of the knowledge and opportunities provided through such awareness programmes.

### **Address by the Chief Guest**

The chief guest, **Mr. Rajkumar Devaraje Urs**, delivered an informative and engaging session on vultures and their role in maintaining ecological balance.

He explained that vultures play a crucial role as **nature's scavengers and environmental cleaners**. By rapidly consuming animal carcasses, vultures help prevent the accumulation of dead organic matter and thereby contribute to maintaining

environmental hygiene. Their scavenging activity also helps reduce the potential spread of pathogens and diseases.

Mr. Rajkumar Devaraje Urs discussed in detail the major reasons for the decline of vulture populations. Particular emphasis was placed on the **veterinary drug diclofenac**, which has been identified as one of the major causes of catastrophic vulture mortality. He explained how vultures feeding on carcasses of animals treated with diclofenac can suffer severe kidney damage and die as a result.

The resource person also discussed other threats faced by vultures, including habitat-related pressures, reduction in food availability, poisoning and other human-induced disturbances. He stressed that vulture conservation requires awareness, responsible veterinary practices, protection of habitats and coordinated conservation efforts.

He urged students to understand that the disappearance of vultures can have consequences that extend beyond the loss of a single bird species. The decline of these important scavengers can affect ecosystem functioning and environmental sanitation.

The session created awareness among students about the need to protect vultures and encouraged them to become responsible ambassadors for wildlife conservation.

### **Student Participation**

The programme provided students with an opportunity to interact with and learn from a wildlife conservation professional. The students gained valuable insights into vulture ecology, population decline, threats to vultures and conservation strategies.

The programme also encouraged students to develop a greater appreciation for the role of wildlife in maintaining ecological balance and to understand their responsibility towards biodiversity conservation.

### **Compering and Vote of Thanks**

The programme was effectively compered by **Nishmitha** of M.Sc 2<sup>nd</sup> year, who coordinated the proceedings and ensured the smooth conduct of the programme.

At the conclusion of the programme, **Christon** of M.Sc 2<sup>nd</sup> year, delivered the vote of thanks and expressed gratitude to the chief guest, Principal and Chief Executive, faculty members, organisers and students for their valuable contribution towards the successful conduct of the awareness programme.

### **Conclusion**

The **International Vulture Awareness Programme** was an informative and meaningful initiative of the Postgraduate Department of Zoology. The programme successfully created awareness among students about the indispensable ecological role of vultures, the serious threats responsible for their population decline, and the importance of conservation efforts.

The session by Mr. Rajkumar Devaraje Urs particularly helped students understand the consequences of diclofenac use and the need for responsible measures to safeguard vulture populations. The programme strengthened the students' understanding of biodiversity conservation and encouraged them to contribute towards protecting wildlife and maintaining ecological balance.

Overall, the programme was successfully conducted and served as an effective platform for **environmental education, wildlife awareness and conservation-oriented learning among students.**

#### **Organising Department:**

Postgraduate Department of Zoology

JSS College of Arts, Commerce and Science



