

Drone in Wildlife Studies

The Department of Zoology arranged for a lecture under DBT STAR College scheme on 19.08.2019. Mr. Muthukrishnan, Project Intern, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, gave a lecture on the topic "Uses of Drone in Wildlife Studies". He explained the reliability and affordability of the miniature instrument called Drone. He added that this instrument can provide more precise data than traditional ground-based techniques while monitoring a large group of wildlife animals. It provides accurate census in population studies with minimal disturbances to the wildlife animals. He demonstrated the Drone camera otherwise known as autonomous Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) and explained the remote operating system to the students in an extraordinary manner. He pointed out the components of the camera one by one and demonstrated the operation of the camera in a lively manner. He told the students to hold the antenna as high as possible to improve signal detection. It also helps to tag the animals easily and understand their movements. Finally he concluded with the statement: "Ecologists are increasingly using these Drones to gather data in a more accurate way than old traditional census techniques. Also they can track hundreds of animals simultaneously, minimise animal habitat disturbance, and gain safety in remote areas." Students were trained and allowed to operate the drone and take images of the desired subjects.