



भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान  
Wildlife Institute of India

**Report on ONLINE TRAINING WORKSHOP on  
“Biodiversity Conservation and Monitoring of Aquatic  
Species of Ganga Basin”  
with Forest officials of Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, Uttar Pradesh  
21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2020**



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**Report on ONLINE TRAINING WORKSHOP on**  
**“Biodiversity Conservation and Monitoring of Aquatic Species of**  
**Ganga River Basin” 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2020**

*“There is no solution available, I assure you, to save Earth's biodiversity other than the preservation of natural environments in reserves large enough to maintain wild populations sustainably. Only Nature can serve as the planetary ark.”*

— Edward O. Wilson, *The Creation: An Appeal to Save Life on Earth*

Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, located in Uttar Pradesh, represents the part of Terai ecosystem in the foothills of the Himalaya. The Sal (*Shorea robusta*) dominated forests interspersed with tall grasslands and numerous swamps characterize this tract. This dynamic woodland-grassland-wetland complex harbours a variety of floral and faunal life including several charismatic and obligate species. The landscape witnessed sea change, mainly during past 150 years or so on account of long history of forest management, settlement of migrants, changes in land use, agriculture expansion, and various developmental activities. Three protected areas viz. Dudhwa National Park, Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary, and Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary form a part of the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve landscape. Several swamps, streams, and rivulets, together with the major rivers – Sharda and Ghagra, form a dominant feature of the landscape. Annual flooding, silt deposition and channel migration in the Sharda River are few important drivers of the dynamic Terai ecosystem in Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, Uttar Pradesh.

The Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, being an important protected area in the Ganga Basin, it is essential to address the guardians that secure the landscape on the issues of the biodiversity conservation and monitoring of aquatic species. On this context, the Wildlife Institute of India took up the initiative of a three-day online training workshop on "**Biodiversity Conservation and Monitoring of Aquatic Species of Ganga River**", with the forest officials of the Dudhwa Tiger Reserves. The meeting was attended by the Field Director DTR, **Shri Sanjay Pathak**, DFO's, Range officers and his staff. A total of 31 forest officials from Dudhwa Tiger Reserve had participated the workshop.

## **Day 1**

**Date: 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2020**

### **Welcome Address: Dr. Sangeeta Angom**

The welcome address was given by Dr. Sangeeta Angom, who stated that the online training workshop would be helpful in disseminating knowledge to the officials of the quintessential Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, which holds an important place as a part of the Ganga Basin. During this global pandemic crisis, while thousands of people are inside their homes, as mandated by government orders, forest department officials across India are out on the front-lines of Nature, guarding the wildlife and forests.

### **Inaugural Address: Dr. Ruchi Badola**

The online training workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Ruchi Badola. She spoke about the tasks undertaken by WII under the *Namami Gange* programme, and the unified participation of local people, forest officials, ministers, and scientists alike for the conservation of Ganga's ecological integrity and biodiversity. She further stated that online workshops may not be very conducive in field situations, and physical training will be conducted when the pandemic crisis is under control.

### **Speaker:**

- 1. Dr. Syed Ainal Hussain “Ganga Biodiversity Conservation Phase II”**
- 2. Dr. Niladri Dasgupta “Monitoring of Birds in Ganga River”**

The first day of the workshop was highlighted by Dr. Syed Ainal Hussain, Principal Investigator of the Project. Dr. Hussain highlighted that freshwater species are declining at a rapid rate over the past few decades and the construction of dams and barrages are greatly affecting the free-flowing nature of rivers, thereby converting perennial rivers into intermittent rivers. The greater biodiversity helps maintain ecological health, and the biological community structure in an ecosystem. The systematic assessment methods used for status monitoring of the Ganga river are: continuous boat surveys, foot survey in mountain areas, flow measurement, threat mapping etc. He further stated that the major cause of loss of biodiversity of the Ganga river is the reduction in flow, because of abstraction of water for agricultural purposes. The Gharial, (*Gavialis gangeticus*) used to be common in the Ganga

Basin, is now restricted to certain sections of the basin, with a major population in the Chambal River. Priority areas for conservation were further mapped after assessing the structural conditions of the Ganga river. The proactive participation of the *Ganga Praharis* in biodiversity conservation has been very effective.

A second talk by Dr. Niladri Dasgupta, highlighted the conservation significance of aquatic bird species in the Ganga basin. The various population monitoring of wetland birds are: total count or sample counts, point counts or line transects, and capture-recapture methods. Monitoring of breeding populations of water birds can be done by total counts. While doing the population monitoring the habitat attributes also need to be recorded. A mosaic of aquatic habitats is important for supporting a variety of aquatic fauna. Proactive participation by the Ganga Praharis and local forest department can help to prevent many bird mortalities in densely populated areas.

## **Day 2**

**Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2020**

**Speakers:**

- 1. Mr. Goura Chandra Das “Monitoring of Gangetic Dolphin”.**
- 2. Mr. Saurav Gawan “Monitoring of Turtles in Ganga River”.**

Mr. Goura Chandra Das began his talk by asking the question: why do we need to talk about aquatic species? He stated that many great civilisations began in river basins. All species, flora and fauna including humans are directly or indirectly dependent on rivers. Everything in our ecosystem is interconnected. Talking about dolphins, Mr. Goura said that many people have a misbelief that dolphins are fish species, but dolphins are actually aquatic mammals. Four species of freshwater dolphins viz. Amazon River Dolphin (*Inia geoffrensis*), Bolivian River Dolphin (*Inia boliviensis*), Tucuxi (*Sotalia fluviatilis*) and the Gangetic Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*). The Yangtze River Dolphin (*Lipotes vexillifer*) has been extinct since 2007. The Gangetic dolphin has two subspecies: Indus Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica minor*) and Gangetic dolphin (*Platanista gangetica gangetica*). The Gangetic Dolphin can be considered as an umbrella species because of the following reasons: 1. Apex predator, 2. Bio-indicator species (due to pollution in Kanpur, dolphins are not found there; wherever dolphins are present, the pollution in water is low, which is why there are a lot of dolphins in the Vikramshila Dolphin Sanctuary in Bihar). It is a Schedule I species according to IWPA, 1972,

and in CITES Appendix I. It is also the National Aquatic Animal of India, and the State Aquatic Animal of Bihar and Assam. The Gangetic Dolphin is Endangered in the IUCN Red List.

An individual dolphin surfaces for breathing between 30-120 seconds; this can help researchers prevent double count errors. The dolphin has rudimentary eyes, an adaptation to the murky waters of riverine areas. The snout of males is longer than those in females and have a slightly upward curve. This can help in surveying dolphins and reducing errors in estimation. They act as photoreceptors. Dolphins hunt by echolocation and navigate their way through the habitat. Talking about the monitoring of the Gangetic dolphin, and the importance of its habitat, Mr. Goura stated that together with the species' sightings records or encounter rate, the habitat of the species also needs to be monitored. As an indicator species, dolphins indicate that there is abundant fish population and low pollution level, which is why fishermen are often seen fishing in stretches with good dolphin numbers. Data on water quality parameters and human disturbance in dolphin habitats also needs to be collected. Prime dolphin habitats need to be monitored regularly. If the water level decreases, not only will dolphins disappear, so will fishes, which are the livelihood sources of millions of people. The multiple threats that affect the species are flow modification, habitat degradation, depletion of prey base, water pollution, overexploitation, and invasive species. Mr. Goura spoke about the recommendations for conservation of the Gangetic dolphin, viz. community participation, spread community awareness, and habitat protection. The recent incident of fishermen in Murshidabad harassing a dolphin calf, was reported by Ganga Praharis, who helped rescue the animal and released it back into the water. This is why community involvement is of utmost importance. Because it is the local people that are in the constant vicinity of dolphin habitats and are in the front line for species' conservation together with the forest department.

## **Lecture 2. Mr. Saurav Gawan on "Monitoring of Turtles in Ganga River".**

Mr. Gawan began by stating the importance of monitoring turtles. Before monitoring we need to understand the basic behaviour, ecology, and identification of turtles. Riverine turtles are of two types: hard-shell and softshell turtles. The upper shell of turtles is called carapace, and the ventral shell is called the plastron. The bone connecting the shell to the body of the animal is called the bridge.

He further spoke about the estimation of turtle numbers, using mark-recapture techniques. To mark turtles, scute cutting technique can be implemented. Also, turtles can be marked by tagging with plastic tags, and painting an identification of number on the carapace. The latter two techniques are not very useful as they do not guarantee the lasting of the tags or paint. Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags, sonic transmitters, and satellite transmitters can be used to tag turtles. Morphometric measurements also need to be taken, which are important indicators of the health of the animal.

He further spoke about the turtles of the Ganga river. There are around 14 species of turtles (13 softshell turtle and 1 hard-shell turtle species) in the Ganga. Some species are:

1. River terrapin (*Batagur baska*)
2. Red-crowned roofed turtle (*Batagur kachuga*)
3. Three-striped roofed turtle (*Batagur dhongoka*)
4. Spotted pond turtle (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*)
5. Crowned river turtle (*Hardella thurjii*)
6. Indian black turtle (*Melanochelys trijuga*)
7. Indian roof turtle (*Pangshura tecta*)
8. Brown roofed turtle (*Pangshura smithii*)
9. Indian Flapshell turtle (*Lissemys punctata*)
10. Indian narrow-headed softshell turtle (*Chitra indica*)
11. Indian softshell turtle (*Nilssonina gangetica*)
12. Indian peacock softshell turtle (*Nilssonina hurum*)

Major threats to freshwater turtle species are habitat degradation, incidental capture in fishing nets, illegal trade as live pets, and direct killing for poaching for meat.

**Remarks by Mr. Sanjay Pathak, Field Director, DTR:** Commended the presentations, and requested a write-up of the presentations, to fill up any misses by the staff.

**Day 3**

**Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2020**

**Speakers: 1. Dr. Gopi G.V. on “Monitoring Crocodiles in River Ganges”.**

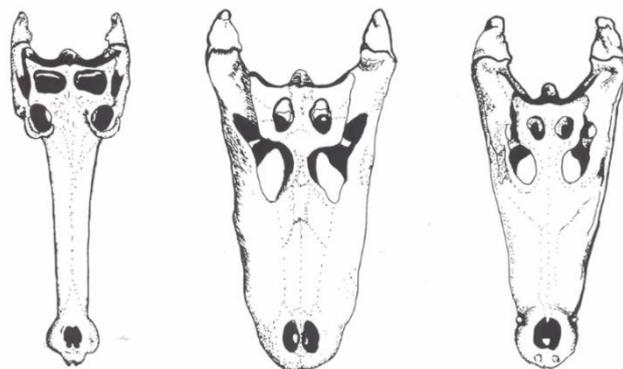
## 2. Dr. Animesh Talukdar on “Techniques of Rescue and Rehabilitation of Aquatic species (Turtles and Crocodiles)”.

### Lecture I: Dr. Gopi G.V. on “Monitoring Crocodiles in River Ganges”.

Dr Gopi G.V. has worked on all the three species of crocodiles found in India, and would like to share the expertise with everyone. He began by talking about the taxonomic position of Crocodiles. Crocodiles belong to the super order Diapsida, family Crocodylidae and Gavialidae. He also explained the difference between alligators and crocodiles, saying that alligators are not found in India, and in case if seizure of illegal alligators occurs in India, it can most probably be the Chinese Alligator. When mouth is closed, alligator teeth cannot be seen, but gharial and mugger teeth can be seen.

While handling muggers and gharial, one can observe different varieties of scutes. In Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, only Gharial and Mugger are found. Muggers have post-occipital scutes, which are not found in saltwater crocodiles, in this way one can differentiate between mugger and saltwater crocodiles, wherever they are found sympatrically, such as in West Bengal’s coastal areas. For marking crocodiles, tail scutes are clipped. Integumentary sense organs (ISO) pores can be observed in crocodiles. These organs help crocodiles sense the external environmental temperature. Crocodiles are cold-blooded animals, which depend on external temperature to regulate their body temperature.

Saltwater crocodiles are euryhaline, muggers and gharial are stenohaline. Crocodiles are highly territorial animals. When there is a saturation of crocodiles in an area, subadults are pushed to other areas, which leads to crocodile-human conflict.



Crocodylian skull shapes. Left: Gharial. Center: Alligator. Right: Crocodile.

Based on nest morphology, crocodiles are of two types: hole nesters and mound nesters. Resource partitioning between gharials and muggers allows them to occur sympatrically in some areas of their distribution range. The Gharial is a specialist species, whereas the Mugger is a generalist species. Gharials prefer sandy substrate. Saltwater crocodiles reside in areas

where there is tidal inundation; evolutionarily they are adapted for mound nesting. Parental care is high in saltwater crocodiles. Further explaining about the difference between reptilian and bird eggs, Dr. Gopi stated that reptile eggs do not have the chalaza, which suspends the yolk. Therefore, while lifting eggs for captive rearing, one needs to be careful. It needs to be picked up in the same direction in which they are found in the nest naturally.

Dr. Gopi also spoke about temperature dependent sex determination. Temperature profile of the nest is varied. If above 30°C, it will develop into males, the eggs deep inside the nest will develop into females. External temperature plays a critical role in determining crocodile sex ratio. Because of climate change and global warming, there may a skewed sex ratio, as the species are temperature sensitive. During rear and release programme, we need to take care of the temperature to maintain sex ratio.

#### **Crocodile population estimation:**

Counting is done twice: day count and night count. For counting hatchling population, spotlight survey is done. The darkest night is chosen such as new moon night. A spotlight is shone from a boat and hatchlings or yearlings are counted based on ocular estimation. The light is reflected from the eyes (*Tapetum lucidum*). Counting is done four to five consecutive days for average. Combining these two techniques gives an estimation of all size classes. During nesting season, nest counts are conducted. High nesting numbers, indicates healthy breeding population. If any crocodile is bigger than 12 feet, it will definitely be a female. During census, air temperature, water temperature, wind speed, sunlight etc. can affect crocodile counts. Wherever there are critically endangered species, it is very important to monitor their populations and habitat. Probing technique for nest count. Nesting substrate is hard because of high compaction and moisture content.

Threats to nesting include predation by feral dogs and trampling by cattle. Threats to gharial populations: entanglement in net, water abstraction, lowering of water level, pollution, feral dogs and cattle. Compensation packages for conflict cases are present. We need to know the case numbers for mitigating conflict cases, which is why monitoring of crocodilians is important. Sand mining removes critical riverside substrate for nesting. Increasing and widespread development has resulted in high demand for sand for construction purposes. Sand removal operates on an industrial scale at some localities on the Chambal River, and

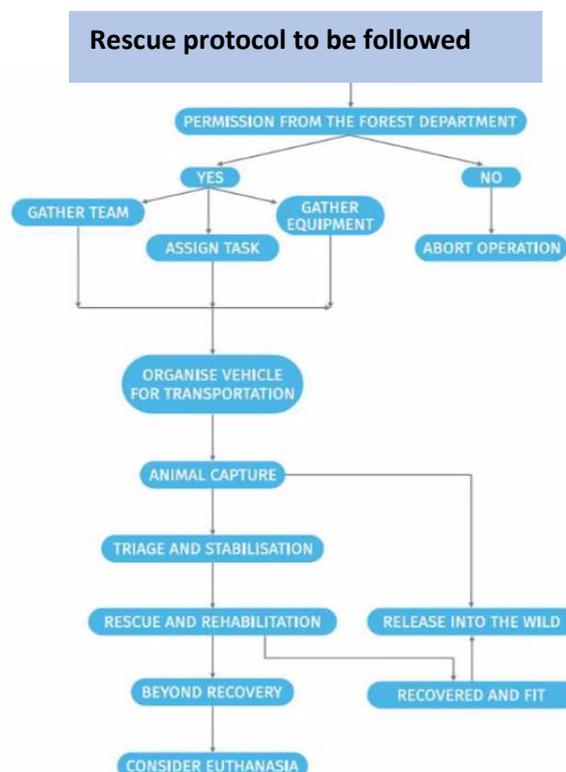
also in the Ken and Son Rivers, as well as at unprotected minor locations where gharials and muggers still survive. Major water control structures, including dams, barrages are detrimental to gharial distribution and abundance in all of the river basins in which the species occurs. These structures result in serious habitat fragmentation and degradation, and the gharial being a specialist swimmer, cannot travel across long distances on land.

**Remarks by Mr. Sanjay Pathak, Field Director, DTR:** Katerniaghat had 34 nests of gharial. The staff are self-motivated, they have come up with three new islands were constructed, which are being used by gharials for nesting.

**Lecture 2. Dr. Animesh Talukdar on “Techniques of Rescue and Rehabilitation of Aquatic species (Turtles and Crocodiles)”.**

*“No rescue is successful until the animal is released back to its natural system”*

Dr. Animesh began his lecture by talking about wildlife rescue, and rehabilitation. Wildlife rescue refers to operations that usually involves saving life of the animal, or prevention of additional injuries as a result of natural or human-related accidents to the animal. Wildlife rehabilitation refers to the treatment and temporary care of the injure, diseased, and displaced indigenous animals and the subsequent release of healthy, recovered individuals to appropriate habitats back into the wild. The 2019 report of Traffic said that almost 10000 turtles are confiscated annually. The first responder in any recue situation such as *Ganga Praharis* are very important to identify occurrence and report them. These stakeholders need to be involved in rescue and rehabilitation centre. Fishermen are very useful in rescue operations of turtles trapped in canals or portions of a river.



Situation analysis is very important to determine whether human intervention is needed or not. Health issues and stress to the animal is of utmost importance. During seizures, origin of the specimen is not known, turtles are brought to rescue centre, and kept in quarantine for 90 days and then released to their natural habitat. Euthanasia: Mercy killing, in case of very injured individuals which are beyond recovery, can be done.

Handling: Salmonellosis is a zoonotic disease that can be contracted while handling turtles without wearing gloves. Handling should be kept minimal to reduce stress to the animal. Wooden boxes or plastic crates can be used for transporting turtles. During travelling, speed of the vehicle needs to be constant around 20km/hr. Cages can be used to trap crocodiles, noosing for closing the mouth, covering the eyes. Traps can be set on land, and bait can also be used for trapping. Body condition can be assessed on the basis of morphometry or physical examination. Severely injured animals need vet care and kept under intensive care. Wild to wild transfer can be done in case of mild injured or stressed individuals. Severely injured or confiscated individuals need to be kept in rescue centre before releasing wild. Food needs to be given daily in captive centre. Most softshell turtles are carnivorous. Fish is an important component of their diet which aids in eyesight. Herbivorous turtles can be given carrots, which is important for eyesight. Vitamin A can also be supplemented in diet.

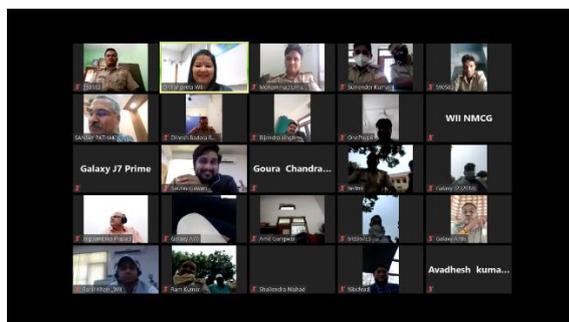
Enrichment is essential for turtles to feel in their natural environment. Green netting, artificial aeration of pond, rubber mats around the pond to prevent plastron injury in turtles. In winter, insulation of ponds is done. Preferred optimal temperature is maintained. For cover, hay, duckweed, etc. are used. Basking logs are placed. 20% water is changed every 3 days, entire water every 15 days, draining once every month. For incubating turtle eggs, TSD needs to be kept in mind and temperature needs to be maintained accordingly for maintaining natural sex ratio. Post release monitoring is essential.

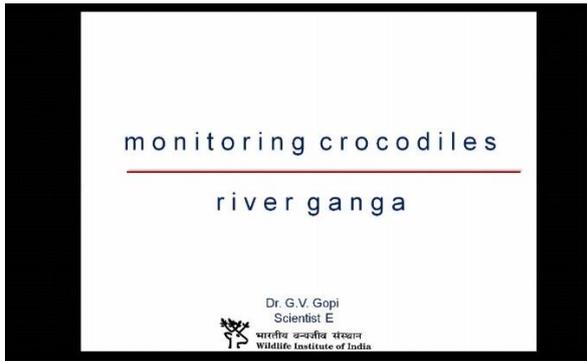
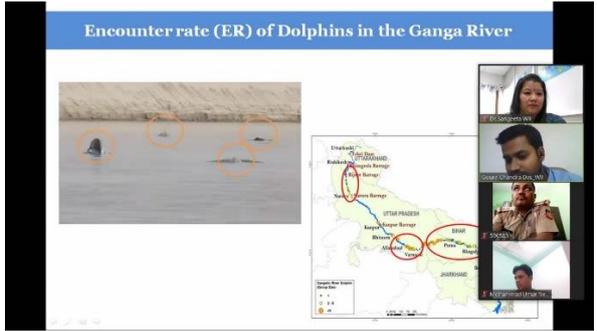
**Vote of thanks:** Extended by Ms. Monika Mehralu to the Project supervisors, Training coordinator, workshop coordinators, volunteers, and the staff of Dudhwa Tiger Reserve.

## ANNEXURE I: PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

21 <sup>st</sup> May, 2020	Session I	Resource persons
1100-1110	Welcome of the Participants	<b>Dr. Sangeeta Angom</b>
1110-1120	Inaugural Address	<b>Dr. Ruchi Badola</b>
1120-1240	Project "Planning and Management for Aquatic Species Conservation and Maintenance of Ecosystem Services in the Ganga River Basin": An overview	<b>Dr. S.A Hussain</b>
1140-1220	Monitoring of Birds of Ganga River	<b>Dr. Gopi G.V</b>
1220-1240	Group Discussion	
22 <sup>nd</sup> May, 2020	Session II	
1100-1140	Monitoring of Gangetic River Dolphin	<b>Mr. Gaura Chandra Das</b>
1140-1220	Monitoring of Turtles of Ganga River	<b>Mr. Saurav Gawan</b>
1220-1240	Group Discussion	
23 <sup>rd</sup> May, 2020	Session III	
1100-1140	Monitoring of Crocodiles	<b>Dr. Gopi G.V.</b>
1140-1220	Techniques of Rescue and rehabilitation of Aquatic species (Crocodile and turtles)	<b>Dr. Animesh Talukdar</b>
1220-1240	Group Discussion	

## ANNEXURE II: PHOTOGRAPH OF THE TRAINING





## ANNEXURE III: PRESS RELEASE

उक्त लागू न मुझका।बलावा ममारयल।कया गया ह।

# ऑनलाइन कार्यशाला में हुआ जैव विविधता संरक्षण पर मंथन

पलियाकंला-खीरी, संवाददाता  
दुधवा टाईगर रिजर्व एवं भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान, देहरादून के संयुक्त तत्वावधान में छैव विविधता संरक्षण और गंगा और उसकी सहायक नदियों की जलीय प्रजातियों की निगरानी पर तीन दिवसीय ऑनलाइन प्रशिक्षण कार्यशाला का समापन हो गया जिसमें फ़ैल्ड डायरेक्टर दुधवा टाइगर रिजर्व संजय पाठक सहित कुल 39 प्रतिभागी उपस्थित रहे। इस कार्यशाला में दुधवा की जैव विविधता पर भी विस्तृत चर्चा हुई और थलचर वन्यजीवों के अतिरिक्त जलचर व नभचर जीवों एवं उनके प्राकृत वास संरक्षण के महत्व पर भी बल दिया गया।  
कोरोना जैसी वैश्विक महामारी संकट के दौरान भारत भर में वन विभाग के अधिकारी कर्मचारी भी हमारे



### » तीन दिवसीय ऑनलाइन प्रशिक्षण कार्यशाला का समापन

वन्यजीवों और जंगलों की रक्षा करते हुए प्रकृति संरक्षण में अग्रणी भूमिका निभा रहे हैं। कार्यक्रम का आयोजन एनएमसीजी(नमामि गंगे) संयोजक व डब्ल्यूआईआई के वैज्ञानिक और प्रशिक्षण समन्वयक डॉ संगीता अंगोम द्वारा किया गया था। कार्यशाला में डॉ रवि वडोला, वरिष्ठ वैज्ञानिक एवं डॉ सैयद ऐनुल हुसैन,

वरिष्ठ वैज्ञानिक ने विभिन्न मुद्दों पर प्रकाश डाला। साथ ही नमामि गंगे कार्यक्रम के तहत डब्ल्यूआईआई द्वारा किए गए कार्यों के बारे में बात की, और गंगा के संरक्षण के लिए स्थानीय लोगों, वन अधिकारियों, मंत्रियों और वैज्ञानिकों की एकजुट भागीदारी का आह्वान किया। पारिस्थितिक अखंडता और जैव विविधता के जुड़ाव पर चर्चा की। डॉ निलाद्री दासगुप्ता ने गंगा बेसिन में जलीय पक्षी प्रजातियों के संरक्षण महत्व पर प्रकाश डाला। कार्यक्रम में उप निदेशक, दुधवा मनोज कुमार सोनकर, उप निदेशक बफर जोन अनिल पटेल, वन संरक्षक प्रभागीय वनाधिकारी कर्तन्याचाट ज्ञान प्रकाश सिंह, लीलाधर (सोनू) सहित 38 अन्य वनाधिकारी व कर्मचारी उपस्थित रहे।

पलिका लोट कोड पंचा जिर हैं। ग्राम रहे

प्रधा भीर तह कार

# जल-नभचर जीवों के संरक्षण पर जोर

## दुधवा में तीन दिवसीय ऑनलाइन कार्यशाला का हो रहा आयोजन

संवाद न्यूज एजेंसी

**पलियाकलां।** दुधवा नेशनल पार्क व भारतीय वन्यजीवों संस्थान देहरादून के संयुक्त तत्वावधान में जैव विविधता संरक्षण और गंगा और उसकी सहायक नदियों की जलीय प्रजातियों की निगरानी पर तीन दिवसीय ऑनलाइन प्रशिक्षण कार्यशाला शुरू की गई है। जिसमें जैव विविधता पर विस्तार से चर्चा करने के साथ ही पारिस्थितिक अखंडता और जैव विविधता के जुड़ाव पर भी चर्चा की गई।

तीन दिवसीय ऑनलाइन प्रशिक्षण कार्यशाला में वरिष्ठ वैज्ञानिक डॉ. रुचि वडोला एवं डॉ. सैयद ऐनुल हुसैन ने विभिन्न मुद्दों पर प्रकाश डाला। कार्यक्रम का आयोजन नमामि गंगे संयोजक व डब्ल्यूटीआई के वैज्ञानिक और प्रशिक्षण समन्वयक डॉ. संगीता अंगोम द्वारा किया गया था। कार्यशाला में दुधवा की जैव विविधता पर विस्तृत चर्चा हुई। थलचर वन्यजीवों के अतिरिक्त जलचर व नभचर जीवों एवं उनके प्राकृत वास संरक्षण के महत्व पर भी बल दिया गया। कोरोना

जैसी वैश्विक महामारी संकट के दौरान भारत में वन विभाग के अधिकारी, कर्मचारी भी वन्यजीवों और जंगलों की रक्षा करते हुए प्रकृति संरक्षण में अग्रणी भूमिका निभा रहे हैं। कार्यशाला में डॉ. निलाद्री दास गुप्ता ने गंगा बेसिन में जलीय पक्षी प्रजातियों के संरक्षण महत्व पर प्रकाश डाला। कार्यशाला में फील्ड डायरेक्टर संजय पाठक, डीडी मनोज कुमार सोनकर, डीडी बफर जोन अनिल पटेल, वन संरक्षक कर्तनिया घाट ज्ञान प्रकाश सिंह, लीलाधर सोनू पर मौजूद रहे।

## कार्यशाला: दुधवा में जैव विविधता संरक्षण पर वेबीनार

पलियाकलां | हिन्दुस्तान संवाद

दुधवा टाइगर रिजर्व एवं भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान देहरादून के संयुक्त तत्वावधान में जैव विविधता संरक्षण पर वेबीनार हुआ इस कार्यशाला में दुधवा के फील्ड डायरेक्टर संजय पाठक सहित कुल 38 अधिकारी व कर्मचारी शामिल हुए। दुधवा की जैव विविधता पर भी विस्तृत चर्चा हुई।

कोरोना संकट के दौरान देश में वन विभाग के अधिकारी व कर्मचारी भी वन्यजीवों व जंगलों की रक्षा करते हुए प्राकृत संरक्षण में अग्रणी भूमिका निभा

रहे हैं। कार्यक्रम का आयोजन एनएमसीजी (नमामि गंगे) संयोजक व डब्ल्यूआईआई के वैज्ञानिक व प्रशिक्षण समन्वयक डा. संगीता अंगोम द्वारा किया गया था। पहले दिन डा. रुचि वडोला, वरिष्ठ वैज्ञानिक एवं डा. सैयद ऐनुल हुसैन ने विभिन्न मुद्दों पर प्रकाश डाला। नमामि गंगे के तहत डब्ल्यूआईआई के कार्यों के बारे में बात की। इस दौरान दुधवा डीडी मनोज कुमार सोनकर, उप निदेशक बफर जोन अनिल, वन संरक्षक व प्रभागीय वनाधिकारी कर्तनियाघाट ज्ञान प्रकाश सिंह, लीलाधर सोनू व अन्य शामिल रहे।



दुधवा की जैव विविधता संरक्षण वेबीनार के माध्यम से कार्यशाला का आयोजन किया।