

## IN THE ISSUE

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- Around the Campus

## Next Issue

- XXXVIII PG Diploma in  
Advanced Wildlife  
Management
- World Environment Day



Vireek Sarkar

Colours of Spring...

## Current Protected Area Network of India

Position as on March 31, 2017

National Parks – 103; Area 40500.13 km <sup>2</sup> (1.23%)
Wildlife Sanctuaries – 537; Area 118005.33 km <sup>2</sup> (3.59%)
Conservation Reserves – 67; Area 2349.38 km <sup>2</sup> (0.07%)
Community Reserves – 26; Area 46.93 km <sup>2</sup> (0.001%)
<b>Total – 733; Area 160901.77 km<sup>2</sup> (4.89%)</b>

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Deepak



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## Around the Campus



### XXXII Certificate Course in Wildlife Management concluded

The 3-month XXXII Certificate Course in Wildlife Management was successfully completed on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2017. In all, 15 officer trainees of the rank of Range Forest Officers and equivalent levels underwent the training course at this Institute. Out of these, five officer trainees were from Malaysia, four from Myanmar, four from Maharashtra and two from Telengana. The primary objective of this course was to train field officers in the basics of biodiversity and wildlife conservation and build their capacities to understand the nuances of wildlife and PA management.

During the reporting period, Wildlife Management Tour was conducted during 8–22 January, 2017 in various parts of the country. The objective of this tour was to provide first-hand experience of various management practices related to habitat management, endangered species management, wildlife protection, captive management, eco-development, human-animal conflicts and eco-tourism. The trainees visited Bagori Range in Kaziranga Tiger Reserve, Nameri Tiger Reserve, Pakke Tiger Reserve, Arunachal Pradesh; Orang Tiger Reserve and Manas Tiger Reserve under the Northeast Sector. Subsequently, they moved to North Bengal where they visited Buxa Tiger Reserve, Jaldapara National Park, Gorumara National Park,

Chapramari Wildlife Sanctuary, Darjeeling Zoo, and Senchal Wildlife Sanctuary. The additional highlight of this tour was a visit to Royal Manas National Park in Bhutan to understand trans-boundary aspects of wildlife management.

Module-wise assignments, tour journal presentations and *Viva-Voce* were also successfully conducted during the course. Out of the 15 course trainees, 13 have received the honours certificate and four top trainees have also received the Institute's Medals of appreciation. Dr. Rajesh Gopal, Secretary General, Global Tiger Forum, New Delhi and Shri V.K. Uniyal, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Retd.), Kerala have graced the Valedictory Function and addressed the officer trainees. They also distributed the awards and certificates to the following officer trainees: The Wildlife Conservation Gold Medal was bagged by Ms. Suzilawati Binti Ramzan. Institute's Silver Medal for the Best Foreign Trainee was awarded to Ms. Symphorosa L.F. Sipangkui. Institute's Silver Medal for Best All Round Wildlifer was received by Shri Mahesh Suresh Zanjurne. Institute's Silver Medal for Wildlife Management for highest marks in Management Theory Papers was bagged by Smt. Sridevi Saraswati.

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## Two-week Special Course on Wildlife Protection, Law & Forensic Science for Officer Trainees of 67<sup>th</sup> Batch of Indian Revenue Service (Custom & Central Excise) Group 'A', Dehradun, 2-13 January 2017 and 16-27 January 2017.

A two-week special course on Wildlife Protection, Law & Forensic science for officer trainees of 67th batch of Indian Revenue Service (Custom & Central Excise) Group 'A', was organized for sensitizing the young officers towards wildlife trade in the country and their role in regulating it. The course was attended by 153 officer trainees in two groups.

Various inputs including importance of biodiversity and its conservation, status of endangered species including flagship species like tiger and its monitoring, special inputs on illegal trade in wildlife articles including butterflies, *shahtoosh*, rhino horn, skins, and tiger bones were provided during the courses. Inputs were also given on the role of wildlife forensics in dealing with wildlife crime cases. The officer trainees were also given basic information on the implementation of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, CITES and other important international conventions.

The officer trainees were also provided an opportunity to interact with the IFS Probationers at Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy to enhance inter-service coordination. A visit to Forest Research Institute was arranged for the officer trainees to expose them to various facets of forestry. Apart from providing classroom inputs, the officers were also taken to Corbett Tiger Reserve. Visit to different zones of Corbett Tiger Reserve was arranged to expose them to various management practices especially protection.

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## Institute's Efforts towards Harnessing Green Energy, Dehradun, 26 January 2017.

The Government of India has introduced several schemes for harnessing alternate sources of energy. In this regard, the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) installed the roof top solar system of 85 KW capacity in its campus, which started functioning on the Republic Day. Dr. V.B. Mathur, Director,

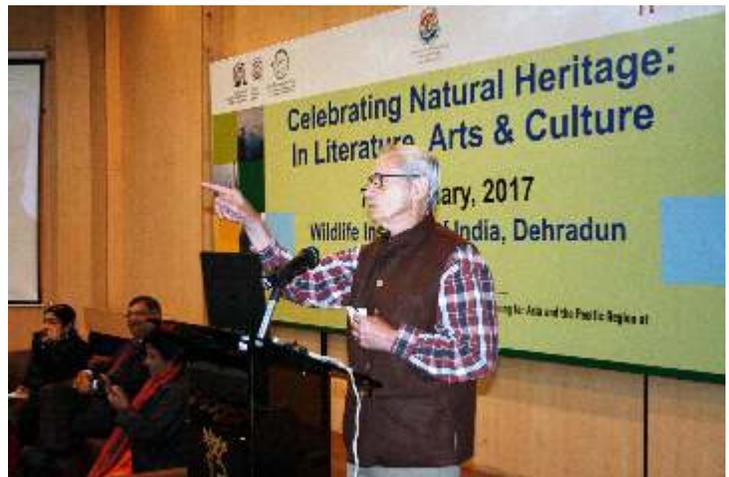


WII inaugurated the plant on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2017 in the presence of officials, staff, officer trainees and M.Sc. students of the Institute. The solar plant would generate about 20% of the total electricity consumption of the Institute in the first phase. The percentage of solar energy generation would be increased gradually.

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## Natural Heritage Festival: In Literature, Arts & Culture Celebrated, Dehradun, 7-8 February 2017 and Sairopa, Great Himalayan National Park and Conservation Area, WHS Himachal Pradesh, 10-11 February 2017.

The UNESCO Category 2 Centre on World Natural Heritage Management and Training for Asia and the Pacific Region (NWHMT) at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun organized a series of two events under an innovative workshop-cum-



festival. The primary objective was to reinforce the appreciation of environmental heritage and its connect with nature through popular forms of visual and written media.

This was the first initiative of its kind in which nature-culture linkages through creative writings, poetry and history of the places were explored. The sub-sessions included plenary talks by distinguished authors and the conservationists on various aspects of nature writing in the mountains, historical perspectives through illustrations, poetry and texts on evolution of nature conservation, use of audio-visual media for nature documentation with special awareness sessions for media and youth. A session was completely devoted to Hindi and vernacular language of the hills (Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh) saw the recitation of over fifty poems related to nature and a discussion on the road map ahead for nature writing in this medium.

The highlight of the event was the plenary talk given by Dr. George Schaller, eminent conservation biologist based on his life-time work on conservation of endangered wild species.

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### **Training Workshop on 'Biodiversity Conservation' for Women Scientists/ Technologists, Dehradun, 13-17 February 2017.**

Department of Science and Technology (DST) has launched a scheme "National Training Programme for Scientists & Technologists working in Government Sector". As a part of this scheme, the DST has initiated training programmes exclusively for women scientists/technologists. The main

objectives of the scheme are to (i) expose Indian scientists/technologists to latest scientific, technological, economic and social developments in the country; (ii) provide a forum for interaction, experience-sharing and exchange of views amongst scientific community; and (iii) generate responsiveness amongst scientists to the needs and expectations of the citizens of the country.

As part of this programme, a workshop was conducted at the Wildlife Institute of India in which 22 women participated. They came from a wide variety of subject area specializations and regions. Apart from theoretical sessions case studies from different parts of the country covering various aspects of wildlife conservation were also presented. A field visit to Rajaji National Park was organized wherein the participants were sensitized to the field techniques including camera trapping, use of GPS and radio tracking. Human dimensions of conservation were also discussed and the participants visited the *Gujjar deras* still located inside the forests. The participants also visited the Asan Conservation Reserve to get a preliminary experience of bird watching and the ecology of migratory and resident water birds. They also visited the Regional Science Centre at UCOST and the National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disability.

The workshop served to sensitize women scientists to the various issues of wildlife conservation as well as the recent advances in wildlife science. It also served as a platform to develop linkages among the women scientists representing different institutions for further collaborations.

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## Flag-off of the Science Express Climate Action Special at Safdarjung Railway Station, New Delhi, 17 February 2017.

Science Express is an innovative mobile science exhibition mounted on a 16 coach AC train, traveling across India. This unique initiative was launched in October 2007 by Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India. The Science Express Climate Action Special (SECAS) is a unique collaborative initiative of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Department of Science & Technology (DST), Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Ministry of Railways, Govt. of India, Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and Vikram A. Sarabhai Community Science Centre (VASCSC). The ninth phase of the Science Express as SECAS is scheduled to run from February to September 2017, over 19,000 km during which it will be exhibited at 68 stations across India. The *state-of-the-art* exhibition on board the SECAS aims to create awareness among various sections of society as to how

climate change can be combated through mitigation and adaptation. The exhibition is open to all but primarily targets students and teachers.

The ninth phase of Science Express as 'Science Express Climate Action Special II' was flagged-off by Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Hon'ble Minister of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences and Shri Anil Madhav Dave, Hon'ble Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India, from Delhi Safdarjung Station. Shri Suresh P. Prabhu, Hon'ble Minister of Railways, Govt. of India joined the programme through video conferencing from Goa. Shri A.N. Jha, Secretary, Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India also graced the event. The Hon'ble Ministers also released the SECAS Brochure prepared by WII.

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## **Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) 2017 at WII, Dehradun, 17-20 February 2017.**

Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is a popular citizen science event which collects valuable information pertaining to distribution and abundance of birds across the globe. Events like these demonstrate the power of engaging citizens in learning about the natural world and monitoring how it is changing. WII along with 289 other campuses (including research stations, government institutions, schools, colleges, universities and corporate offices etc.) across India participated in the count carried over 4 days. As part of the count, birders in WII were grouped into 4 teams and they surveyed in and around the WII campus. Altogether 4,862 individuals of 146 species were recorded during the campus bird count period. Among them 30 individuals of 8 species *i.e.* warbler sp., Swallow sp., Swift sp. etc. were unidentified. Birds like Rose-ringed parakeet, Indian Spot-billed duck, Jungle babbler and Red-vented bulbul were the most seen birds, and total 25 bird species were recorded only once during the count including Eurasian wryneck in Himalayan buzzard, White-tailed ruby throat, Himalayan flame back etc.

A total of 37 people participated in the campus bird count. Apart from the Campus Bird Count, a field activity was organized on 19 Feb 2017 to introduce birds and bird watching to the kids in WII campus. A checklist of 15 birds was prepared at the end of the count by the kids.

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## **Compulsory Training Course “Skill Development of Protected Area Managers” for Indian Forest Services (IFS) Officers, Dehradun, 13 February to 3 March 2017.**

A 3-week compulsory course for IFS Officers was organized by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII). Seven officers from Rajasthan, Nagaland and Uttar Pradesh participated in the course. The course had following objectives: (i) to provide an exposure on current scenario in wildlife and biodiversity conservation; (ii) to provide a foundation of modern concepts in wildlife science; (iii) to facilitate the understanding of various conservation approaches and good wildlife management practices; (iv) to enable participants to appreciate the conservation challenges and the strategies to be developed

for effective wildlife and biodiversity conservation; and (v) enhancing skills in latest tools and techniques of wildlife management that are essential contributors to conservation practices in the field. The participants spent one week in Rajaji National Park and learnt about field practices. The course received excellent feedback from the participants.

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## **Management Effectiveness Evaluation of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in India, Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, 27 February to 1 March 2017.**

A consultative dialogue for finalization of training module on “Management Effectiveness Evaluation of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in India” was jointly organized by Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH*, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India. The objective was to finalize the training module and to develop Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) framework for Coastal and Marine Protected Areas (CMPAs). Twelve experts *viz.* including Dr. Jon Day, Former Director, Great Barrier Reef National Park; Shri V.B. Sawarkar, Former Director, WII; Dr. Alok Saxena, PCCF (ANI); Shri M.S. Negi, PCCF (ANI); and Shri Ajay Desai, MEE expert participated in this consultation.

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## **Wildlife Day 2017 Celebrations, Dehradun, 3 March 2017.**

Wildlife Institute of India and WII-ENVIS Centre on 'Wildlife & Protected Areas' celebrated the World Wildlife Day. This day is celebrated to mark the historic signing of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) at the 68<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2013. Events are organized world over to raise awareness about the world's wild animals and plants. The theme for this year's celebration was “Listen to the Young Voices”. World Wildlife Day encourages youth around the world to fight together to address ongoing major threats to wildlife including habitat alteration, illegal wildlife trade and over-exploitation.

## 68<sup>th</sup> Republic Day celebrated

68<sup>th</sup> Indian Republic Day was celebrated in the Wildlife Institute of India (WII). Unfurling the national flag, Dr. V.B. Mathur, Director, WII said that this day is significant in the nation's calendar, on which we celebrate the establishment of free India as a Republic, based on the ideology of justice and equality. He further said that it is an occasion when we re-dedicate ourselves to maintaining harmony, peace and brotherhood. .

On this occasion, the certificates and cash prizes were given to the winners of Hindi Dictation Competition held during the Hindi Fortnight celebrations in the Institute. Shri Neeraj Gupta – First Prize; Shri Harikrishan Gupta – Second Prize; Smt. Shashi Uniyal – Third Prize; Shri Kharak Singh Bhainsora – Third Prize; and Shri M. Veerappan – Consolation Prize. The appreciation letters and cash prizes were also given to the participants of 23<sup>rd</sup> All India Forest Sports Meet held from 7-11 January 2017 at Hyderabad, Telangana, who performed their best and achieved 4<sup>th</sup> position in their concerned sports. Dr. Manoj Agarwal – Rifle Shooting; Mr. Harendra Kumar – Lawn Tennis (Singles & Doubles); and Mr. Vikram Pradhan – Lawn Tennis (Doubles).





Dr. V.B. Mathur, Director, WII, highlighted the challenges of wildlife conservation in the country in his welcome address and emphasized on the need to create awareness about threats

faced by wildlife and the role that could be played by youth in addressing this gap. Dr. Jon C Day, Director, Ecosystem Conservation and Sustainable Use, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority & Guest of Honour gave a talk on “Current and Emerging Threats to Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Conservation: Experiences from the Great Barrier Reef, Australia”. Shri Vinod Rishi, former ADG (Wildlife) & Chief Guest of the event spoke about the conflicts in the minds of young people directly or indirectly involved in wildlife conservation.

The talks were followed by extempore speech competition on the theme of environment/ forest/wildlife conservation issues around the neighborhood and in the country. Eleven students participated in the competition.

## Farewell

### Shri Aseem Shrivastava, IFS

Shri Aseem Shrivastava is an Indian Forest Service Officer of 1988 batch, Madhya Pradesh cadre. Shri Shrivastava has joined WII in May, 2010 on deputation on foreign services. He worked in the Protected Area Network, Wildlife Management and Conservation Education Department of the Institute as Scientist-G. He was also given the responsibilities of Registrar's Office; Right to Information activities; and BCRLI project.

Shri Shrivastava was repatriated to his parent department in January 2017 after completing more than six years service at the Institute. The WII family gathered to bid farewell to him on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017.



Patron: Director  
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*I believe sustainable use is the greatest propaganda in wildlife conservation at the moment.*

— Steve Irwin

Source: <https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/keywords/wildlife.html>