

### **World Heritage Day at WII (18 April, 2019)**

The UNESCO C2C at WII celebrated World Heritage Day (WHD) 2019 on April 18th by organizing a series of events. An anthology of nature writing, “Wild Treasures: Reflections on Natural World Heritage Sites in Asia” was released in a launch function held at WII with Dr. Sanjeev Chopra, IAS, Director, Lal Bahadur Shastri Academy of Administration, Mussoorie as Chief Guest and Dr. Asad Rahmani, Former Director, Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai as Guest of Honour. The anthology is a selection of 45 articles on 18 natural World Heritage Sites across Asia. The day's celebrations involved school students from three WHS of India namely, Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks (Uttarakhand), the Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area (Himachal Pradesh) and Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur (Rajasthan) as well as from Model School, National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (Divyangjan), Dehradun. The children participated enthusiastically in a drawing competition and a quiz contest centred on the natural and cultural heritage of India. A cultural function in the evening witnessed performances by students and researchers, featuring traditional dances, songs, and poetry to commemorate the occasion.



### **Annual Coordination Meeting of UNESCO C2Cs (22-23 April, 2019)**

UNESCO C2C at WII participated in the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Coordination Meeting of the UNESCO World Heritage related Category 2 Institutes & Centres (C2Cs) hosted by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH) at Manama, Bahrain on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019. It made a presentation of its activities and also released the Spring Issue of its quarterly newsletter - Natural Heritage Bulletin. The Meeting focussed on review of previous coordination meetings, Periodic Reporting for World Heritage Sites, Historic Urban Landscapes, interregional cooperation among C2Cs, communication and resource mobilisation. A field visit was also organised to Qal'at al-Bahrain World Heritage Site. The Sacred Mountain Landscape and Heritage Routes encompassing the Kailash Landscape in Pitthoragarh district has been added in the tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The UNESCO C2C, India has been associated with the process for nomination of the Kailash Sacred Landscape (KSL) as a World Heritage Site since 2016. The Centre participated in the Brainstorming cum Policy Forum on “Transboundary Landscapes – Making a Difference” organised by GBPNIHESD at Almora on 11 September, 2018.



### **Orientation Programme on World Heritage at UNESCO C2C-WII (14-15 May, 2019)**

UNESCO C2C at WII conducted an 'Orientation Programme on World Heritage' for capacity-building of officials from the Department of Culture, Government of Himachal Pradesh, at WII Dehradun on 14-15 May, 2019. The objective was for the officials to understand the World Heritage process and take forward the nomination of potential sites from the State. Five members from the Department of Culture participated in the programme with sessions on the World Heritage Convention, Operational Guidelines, Outstanding Universal Values, Criteria and Categories, Nomination, Evaluation, Interpretation, Reporting and Monitoring. Along with interactive lectures, a simulation exercise was undertaken for filling up a sample nomination format by the participants. The programme provided an essential overview of the World Heritage system to the participants.



### **Participation of Dr. Manoj V Nair, IFS in the 2-day workshop titled 'Leveraging the World Heritage Convention for transboundary Conservation in the Hindu Kush Himalaya in Kathmandu, Nepal (30-31 May, 2019)**

A 2-day workshop titled 'Leveraging the World Heritage Convention for Transboundary Conservation in the Hindu Kush Himalayas' was organized by International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Wild Heritage and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) from 30-31 May 2019 at ICIMOD Headquarter, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Dr. Manoj V. Nair, IFS, Scientist-G attended and contributed to the workshop by highlighting the activities of UNESCO C2C at WII. The main objectives of the workshop were to discuss about the areas that have global significance and potential outstanding value with World Heritage potential.



**Strength & Opportunity – Capacity Building Training Programme for the Frontline line Staff of Nanda Devi & Valley of Flower (VoF) World Heritage Site (11-13, June 2019)**

The Nanda Devi National Park [NP] (625 km<sup>2</sup>) and the Valley of Flowers NP (88 Km<sup>2</sup>) form the core zones of the Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve [BR] (5,806 km<sup>2</sup>) that is spread across the districts of Chamoli, Pithoragarh and Bageshwar in Uttarakhand State. Both the core zones are listed as ‘World Heritage Site’. In this Context UNESCO C2C Organized a three day capacity building training programme for frontline staff of Nanda Devi and Valley of flowers World Heritage Site at UNESCO Category 2 Centre, WII, Dehradun. Fourteen frontline staff (forest guards and forest rangers) participated in this training. The training includes classroom lectures on the overview of Outstanding Universal Values (OUVs) for Natural World Heritage Sites, Nanda Devi World Heritage Site- Criteria & Reporting Obligations, Wildlife Management in India- Concept and Principles, Wildlife Sample Collection and Processing including Wildlife Forensics, visit to WII Forensic lab, Wildlife Population Estimation & Monitoring in Himalayas, Human and Wildlife- Conflict or Interaction, emerging technology like Camera Traps, Remote Sensing, GIS and GPS. On the special demand of the DFO, Nanda Devi a half a day session on Wild Animal Capture Techniques: A Tool for Wildlife Management was organized which includes classroom lecture and field demonstration.



**7th Plenary Session of the United Nations Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (UN-IPBES) in Paris, France**

Dr. V.B. Mathur, Director, WII/UNESCO C2C represented India as Head of the Indian Delegation in the 7th Plenary Session of the United Nations Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (UN-IPBES) in Paris, France which was held from 28 April-4 May, 2019.

