



WII's

e-Newsletter

Spring 2023

37th Certificate Course in Wildlife Management, Dehradun (1 December 2022 – 28 February 2023)

The 37th Certificate Course in Wildlife Management began on 1st December 2022 and concluded on 28 February 2023. Eleven officer trainees of the rank of Range Forest Officer, Deputy Range Forest Officer & equivalent from different States within the country participated in this course. Among them, five trainees from Karnataka, one each from Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, and Goa and one Veterinary Doctor from Assam.

The course curriculum of the Certificate Course was divided into six modules and six sub-modules. During the course, a significant portion of the time was spent undertaking field tours to various Protected Areas/ National Parks, Zoos, Wildlife Sanctuaries and Institutions. More importantly, practical exercises with respect to Computer Applications, GPS and Map reading, CITES exercise, demonstration of drug delivery equipment, Identification of different wildlife parts and products, Crime Scene Investigation, filing of the charge sheet, designing nature trails and other aspects which were essential for practical management aspects were taught in depth. The Field Components of the modules included (i) Wildlife Orientation-cum-Technique Tour from 14-26 December 2022 to Rajaji Tiger Reserve and Wildlife Management Tour from 2-21 February 2023 to Gujarat and Sri Lanka.

During the course, the performance of officer trainees was assessed by theoretical examination and practical evaluation based on the field projects, using MCQ, assignments, short answer type questions, individual presentations and tour Journals. They also had a final Viva Voce evaluated by an expert panel. All eleven officer trainees have successfully completed the course. Eight of them have obtained Honours Certificates in this course.

Mr Somanagouda Patil bagged the Wildlife Conservation Gold Medal for the Top Trainee. The Institute's Silver Medal for the Best All Round Wildlifer was won by Ms Suma Haleholi. The Institute's Silver Medal for the 'Best Performance in Wildlife Management Module' was given to Mr Mahesh Marenavar. **Contact: kolipakam@wii.gov.in**

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MoU Signed

Between EPCH and WII in setting up a 'Pashmina Testing Facility' in WII, Dehradun (5 January 2023)

Dr S.P. Yadav, Director, Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun, and Shri R.K. Verma, Executive Director, Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH), New Delhi, signed a 'Memorandum of Understanding' (MoU) on 5 January 2023 for setting up a 'Pashmina Testing Facility' in WII in the presence of the Shri Bivash Ranjan, Additional Director General (Wildlife), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi at WII, Dehradun. Through this MoU, the EPCH collaborated with WII to establish a Pashmina Testing Laboratory for its associated members involved in Pashmina Trade. In concurrence with the Central Government's policy, it will be a facility based on the Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) model for assisting the Pashmina traders in obtaining authenticity certificates for selling certified and genuine Pashmina products. Under this MoU, the advanced technologies will be housed in a single facility to support the Pashmina test procedures. It will be an example of a self-sustaining and revenue-generating facility in a government organisation supporting associated exporters and traders on a payment basis.

The purpose of signing this MoU was to streamline the Pashmina Trade and to provide a one-stop testing facility to certify the genuine Pashmina Product free from any prohibited fibres to the associated manufacturers, exporters, and traders. All the tested products will be labelled with a traceable unique id tag with individual certificates, enabling a seamless trade of such products in national and international markets. The Pashmina Test Facility at WII, Dehradun, will assist honest exporters and traders involved in the trade of genuine Pashmina products.



State Level Spearhead Training Programme for National Cadet Corps (NCC) on Biodiversity Conservation of Ganga River and its Tributaries, Dehradun (18 - 20 January 2023)

Under the Wildlife Institute of India - National Mission for Clean Ganga project, the Institute conducted a 'State Level Spearhead Training Programme at the Institute for NCC (National Cadet Corps) on Biodiversity Conservation of the Ganga River & its Tributaries. This training aimed to develop the capacity of NCC officers and volunteers about the ecological profile of aquatic fauna and the significance of biodiversity conservation of the Ganga River and its tributaries.

The main focus of the training was on interactive sessions, Hands-on sessions, pre- and post-training evaluation through questionnaires, Forensic Lab visit, Bird watching, a tour of different sites outside the campus, which finally ended with distribution of token of appreciation and certificates. Forty-one participants (40 NCC volunteers and one NCC officer in charge) from three different colleges participated in the training workshop.



Glimpses of Republic Day



Training on Linkage between River Conservation and Livelihood, Dehradun (28 February - 3 March 2023)

Four-day national training programme entitled "Linkage between river conservation and livelihood" for Ganga praharis, the Guardians of the Ganga, was conducted under the Wildlife Institute of India - National Mission for Clean Ganga project "JALAJ-Connecting River and People to Realize Arth Ganga", at Wildlife Institute of India. The primary aim of the training program was to enhance the capacity of the participants to manage the livelihood initiatives established in their respective areas while boosting their conservation endeavours.

During the workshop, the participants were oriented on different topics like managing homestays and eco-tourism activities, café management, hospitality management, business management and waste management. Exposure visits and practical sessions at the Institute of hotel management and Chani Churani Homestay gave them practical knowledge about starting and managing an enterprise. 58 selected Ganga praharis from Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar and West Bengal participated in this training programme.



World Wildlife Day Celebration at HNB Garhwal University, Srinagar, Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand (3 March 2023)

On the occasion of World Wildlife Day, WII-NMCG Team organised a quiz competition on the theme 'Partnerships for Wildlife Conservation' for the students of HNB Garhwal University, Srinagar, Uttarakhand. Seventy-eight students from various departments participated in the quiz competition



Two-week Certificate Course in Paralegal Practices: Forestry Acts and Policies under Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP), Dehradun (9-20 March 2023)

GSD Programme was organised by the Environmental Information Awareness Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme (EIACP) Centre at the Wildlife Institute of India. As per the Hon'ble Prime Minister's Skill India Mission, the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC) launched the Green Skill Development Programme on 14 May 2018. These programmes aim to generate green-trained individuals with technical experts committed to sustainable development. It will help in the attainment of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs), as well as Waste Management Rules (2016).

Environmental Information Awareness Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme (EIACP) Centre organised a two-week Certificate Course for the first time at WII. This course aimed to develop and ensure the livelihood in alignment with legislations and policies, environmental regulatory bodies, and forest and wildlife protection, and suggest legal solutions and recommendations on various environmental issues. This training prepared a base for further skill enhancement in their respective fields. Twenty participants attended the course. EIACP Programme Centre at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, has successfully conducted eight GSD programmes and trained 178 participants nationwide.



Celebration of 'International Day of Action for Rivers', Dehradun (14 March 2023)

The 'International Day of Action for Rivers' was celebrated by the WII-NMCG team at two sites, Haridwar and Kalsi, Uttarakhand, with Rajkiya Inter College students of Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School, Kharkhari, Haridwar and Govt. High School, Kalsi at Chandi Ghat, Haridwar and by organising a river rally and storytelling competition on 'Our Rivers' was also organised for the students.

WII-NMCG Team has initiated a series of exposure visits on the theme 'Learning Outside the Classroom' at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun and other selected educational sites for Bal Ganga Praharis. A total of 100 students visited the WII-Nature Trail and Forensic Lab. An educational visit to Ganga Avlokan, Chandi Ghat and an educational site UCOST (The Science City), Premnagar, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, was also arranged for the students.



Awareness regarding Drug Abuse among Youths, Dehradun (17 March 2023)

The Narcotics Control Bureau organised a drug awareness campaign at the Wildlife Institute of India. The event aimed to educate the employees, researchers, and faculty about the negative impact of drug abuse on individuals and society. Junior Intelligence Officers Shri Ashu Sharma and Shri Kavindra Dhama led the campaign by highlighting drug addiction's legal, social, and health-related consequences. The initiative was an essential step towards promoting drug-free environments and creating awareness about the hazards of substance abuse among the academic and research communities.



National Level Spearhead Training Workshop for Veterinary College Students on 'Handling of Aquatic Species in Distress', Dehradun (21-23 March 2023)

The Wildlife Institute of India organised a workshop for veterinary college students on 'Handling of Aquatic Species in Distress' under the National Mission for Clean Ganga project in the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehra Dun. The objective of this training was to develop the capacity of veterinary college students about the ecological attributes of aquatic species of the Ganga River and its tributaries and to understand the significance of their conservation. The training comprises interactive sessions, hands-on sessions, field visits, and pre- and post-training evaluation through a questionnaire.



Seventy veterinary college students, doctors and scholars from various states and UTs such as Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Assam participated in the training workshop.



Welcome



SHRI VIRENDRA R. TIWARI, IFS

Shri Virendra R. Tiwari, IFS, took over the charge of Director, Wildlife Institute of India on 19 January 2023. Shri Tiwari is a Chemical Engineer from the University of Mumbai and a seasoned Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer. With a career spanning over three decades, Shri Tiwari brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the Institute. His journey in the Indian Forest Service began in 1990, when he served as the Assistant Conservator of Forests in the Yawal Division of Jalgaon District, Maharashtra, India.

Shri Tiwari oversaw forestry operations throughout his many territorial postings and played a crucial role in developing working plans for various divisions. In addition to his forestry duties, he served as an Officer on Special Duty at Mantralaya, Govt. of Maharashtra. Working in Mantralaya, he played an important role in notifying Zudpi Jungle, PFs/ Unclassified Forests and Mangroves as Reserve Forest.

In 2012, Shri Tiwari was appointed Field Director at Tadoba - Andhari Tiger Reserve. As FD – TATR, he was instrumental in creating the core and buffer zone of Tadoba and bringing them under unified control. He later served as the CCF-Mantralaya, where his team was pivotal in handling the Forest Conservation Act, Private Forest Act, and IFS establishment. He was also responsible for handling multi-crore plantation drives.

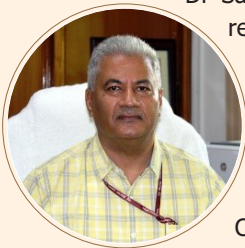
In December 2019, Shri Tiwari was appointed as the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of the Mangrove Cell and Executive Director of the Mangrove Foundation. Here, he was responsible for the expedited declaration of Mangroves as Reserved Forests. He also prepared the Management Plan for the Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary and Malvan Marine Sanctuary and streamlined the Management of Turtle Nesting. He was instrumental in the declaration of Thane Creek as Ramsar Site.

Shri Tiwari was also the State Project Director for the UNDP-GCF Project - Enhancing Climate Resilience of India's Coastal Communities, which focuses on preserving mangroves and improving the livelihoods of coastal communities. With his wealth of experience and dedication to conservation, Shri Tiwari is poised to lead the Wildlife Institute of India towards a brighter future.



Farewell..

Dr. S.P. Yadav IFS & Director



Dr Satya Prakash Yadav, IFS, was given the additional responsibility of Director of Wildlife Institute of India from 4 April 2022 to 18 January 2023. Dr Yadav is a member of the 1989 batch of the Indian Forest Service, Uttar Pradesh Cadre. He serves as the Additional Director General of Forests (Project Tiger) and Member-Secretary of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). He is also holding charge of Additional Director General of Forests (FC) in the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change in New Delhi. He was awarded a PhD degree in 'Ecological status and Conservation of Tigers in Simlipal and Satkosia tiger reserves' from North Odisha University. He headed the Central & State level Zoo authorities earlier and has actively curbed illegal wildlife trade. For his exemplary service towards cracking a hub of thriving illegal trade, he received the Rajiv Gandhi Wildlife Conservation Award in 2009.

Dr Yadav is trained at the prestigious Smithsonian Institution, USA (in collaboration with Global Tiger Initiative and WII) on the Ecology and Conservation of Tigers. He has authored several reports and peer-reviewed papers in prestigious journals on the conservation and management of endangered species. He has played a pivotal role in successful tiger conservation in India while serving at the NTCA and Global Tiger Forum (an inter-governmental international organisation in tiger conservation worldwide).

Dr Monali Sen, IFS



Dr Monali Sen, IFS joined the Institute on 3 January 2020. An Indian Forest Service Officer of the 2011 batch from Rajasthan cadre, Dr Monali served in different parts of Rajasthan, including Thar Desert (Bikaner) and Alwar (Territorial areas of Aravalli Hills as well as Sariska Tiger reserve) as Deputy Conservator of Forest. While working in Forest Headquarters, she has served as Deputy Conservator of Forest (Plan-WL) and handled State Level Finance. During her tenure in State Secretariat, she worked as Joint Secretary of Forest & Environment, Member Secretary of the State Wetland Authority, and Director of the Directorate of Environment & Climate Change. She also completed the 35th Post Graduate Diploma in Advanced Wildlife Management from WII (2013-14 Batch) as Hari Singh Fellow. She worked as Registrar and Scientist-E at the Institute. She repatriated to her parent cadre on 31 January 2023

Dr. Y.V. Jhala, Dean, FWS

Dr Y.V. Jhala, Scientist-G, joined the Wildlife Institute of India in 1993 and has since pursued an active research programme on Indian carnivores. Wildlife has been his passion since his early childhood. He studied zoology for bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Bombay. He used optimisation for PhD research at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University to manage the conflicting habitat needs of two endangered species that interacted as prey (blackbuck) and predator (wolf). In 1991, Dr Jhala obtained a postdoctoral fellowship at the Smithsonian Institution and studied reproductive energetics using doubly labelled water. Later, he taught wildlife conservation and management courses for the Smithsonian Institution in China, Tanzania, Malaysia, India and the USA.



Dr Jhala supervised research projects on the Indian wolf, striped hyena, golden jackal, Indian fox, Asiatic lion and tiger using VHF, GPS, satellite, and recapture telemetry. He supervised the Conservation Genetics Laboratory at WII. He taught 'Biometry and Population Ecology' for the master's course in wildlife science and 'Applied Population Ecology' for the diploma programme in wildlife management. He continued to be a research associate of the Smithsonian Institution and a member of the IUCN SSC Specialist Group for Wolves and Canids. Dr. Jhala was given the responsibility of Dean, Faculty of Wildlife Sciences on 1st December, 2019. Dr Jhala superannuated from his services on 28 February 2023.

Shri V. Sukumar, Principal

Technical Officer

(03.08.1988-31.03.2023)



Shri Dalip, MTS

(18.03.1991-31.03.2023)



"We don't own the planet Earth; we belong to it. And we must share it with our wildlife."

~ Steve Irwin

Source: <https://www.overallmotivation.com/quotes/wildlife-quotes/>