

ROARING TAILS:

LION OF GIR AT THE INTERNATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL, AHMEDABAD

Simran Aggarwal

On 6th December 2024, WII-NMCG brought the magic of conservation to the Ahmedabad International Book Festival, held at the Sabarmati Riverfront in Gujarat. The event was organized by the National Book Trust where the session on 'Lion of the Gir' was a vibrant mix of education and engagement through a game-based learning method designed to inspire young minds.

The session began with a riveting lecture by Dr Sangeeta Angom, who introduced the audience to the majestic Asiatic Lions of the Gir Forest in Gujarat. During the talk she shed light on these apex predators' critical role in the ecosystem, the threats they face, and ongoing conservation efforts. The young audience listened intently, gaining a deeper appreciation for these iconic creatures and their significance in maintaining ecological balance.

Simran Aggarwal facilitated an engaging newspaper-based game centred on the sympatric species of lions and tigers, emphasizing their coexistence and unique contributions to biodiversity. The activity encouraged critical thinking about conservation and sparked lively discussions among the participants.

The event culminated in an exciting finale with the activity 'Big Cats Knock Clock'. Participants collaborated to identify and answer questions about the six big cat species, exploring their physical traits, habitats, and distribution. The children's enthusiasm and teamwork were truly remarkable as they showcased their knowledge and competitive spirit with great energy.



Children engaged in collaborative team-building exercise



Children engaging in Big Cats Knock-Clock activity



Lecture by Dr. Sangeeta Angom on 'Lions of the Gir'