

Youth for Ganga Biodiversity Conservation

- S.K. Pal



WII-NMCG team honouring the NSS Programme Officer

A two-day sensitization workshop on ‘Ganga Biodiversity Conservation’ was organized for National Service Scheme (NSS) volunteers of Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University (SRT Campus) in Sabli Village, Chamba, located in Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakhand. This event, organized by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) under the project ‘Planning and Management for Aquatic Species Conservation and Maintenance of Ecosystem Services in Ganga Basin for a Clean Ganga’ aimed to raise awareness and engage young volunteers in preserving Ganga’s biodiversity and ecosystem.

The workshop had two primary objectives. First, it aimed to raise awareness about the importance of Ganga’s biodiversity, its tributaries, and the environmental challenges it faces. This included educating volunteers on the harmful effects of plastic pollution, particularly ghost fishing gear, on aquatic life. Second, the workshop sought to actively

engage volunteers in hands-on conservation activities, including a cleanliness drive and interactive games, while emphasizing the importance of community involvement in protecting the river.

Community-based conservation initiatives are essential for the long-term protection and sustainability of natural ecosystems like the Ganga. By involving local communities, conservation efforts gain greater reach, relevance, and effectiveness. These initiatives empower local people, create awareness, and ensure that conservation actions are not only sustainable but also rooted in the community’s needs and cultural values. During the workshop, volunteers learned how local engagement is vital in implementing sustainable practices and conserving the river’s biodiversity for future generations.

The workshop concluded with a certificate distribution ceremony recognizing the volunteers for their participation and commitment to conservation. This workshop successfully engaged youth in the crucial task of Ganga biodiversity conservation and empowered them to play a proactive role in protecting our rivers for future generations, emphasizing the importance of community involvement in safeguarding the river's future.



Volunteers engaged in Outdoor games

Author:

S.K. Pal is a Project Associate I, working in the Capacity Building Component of the NMCG Project.



Participants during the Presentation



Group Photograph with the Participants