

Next Issue

- Wildlife Week Celebrations



When in Field...

Diksha Dikshit

Current Protected Area Network of India

(Position as on 30 September, 2020)

National Parks: 101; Area 40564.04 sq km, (1.23%)
Wildlife Sanctuaries: 553; Area 1,19,756.97 sq km, (3.64%)
Conservation Reserves: 86; Area 3,858.25 sq km, (0.12%)
Community Reserves: 163; Area 833.34 sq km, (0.03%)
Total Protected Areas: 903; Area 1,65,012.59 sq km, (5.02%)

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Gurprit Singh



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Around the Campus

Webinar for Capacity Building of Zoo Personnel in "Managing Rescue, Rehabilitation and Release of Aquatic Macro-Fauna of Ganga Basin"

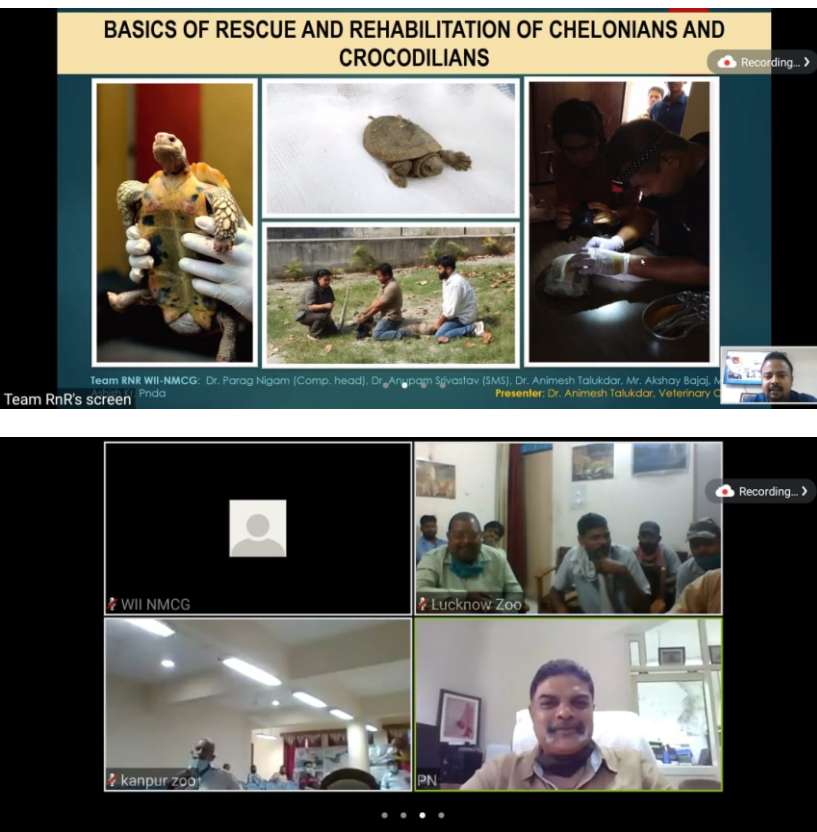
Dehradun, 13-14 July 2020. A two-day webinar for capacity building of zoo personnel was organised by the Wildlife Institute of India for officers and staff of Kanpur Zoological Park and Nawab Wajid Ali Shah Zoological Garden, Lucknow. The webinar was organised under the aegis of National Mission for Clean Ganga as a part of WII-NMCG project titled 'Biodiversity Conservation and Ganga Rejuvenation' Phase-II. The objective of the webinar was to sensitize the zoo personnel on the biological characteristics of aquatic macro-fauna of Ganga River basin, their identification and the various practices used for the effective management of distressed/ displaced animals. The workshop was instrumental in enhancing capacities of 40 zoo personnel (Veterinary Officers, Zoo Curators, Animal Keepers, Pharmacists and Volunteers) in better understanding of issues related to conservation of aquatic birds, mammals, chelonians and crocodilians across Ganga basin.

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World Elephant Day Celebrations by Project Elephant Division and Elephant Cell of WII, New Delhi, 12 August 2020.

World Elephant Day is an international annual event, dedicated to preservation and protection of the world's elephants. The goal of World Elephant Day is to create awareness of elephant conservation and to share knowledge and positive solutions for better protection and management of wild and captive elephants.

This year, the World Elephant Day was celebrated jointly by Project Elephant Division and Elephant Cell of WII at Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi. The programme involved releasing the booklet on "Best Practices of Human-Elephant Conflict Management in India" and the launch of the beta version of the National Portal on Management of Human-Elephant Conflict called "*Surakhsya*" for collection of real-time information and also for managing the conflicts on a real-time basis. A video on measures for encouraging human-elephant co-existence through HEC mitigative approaches was also screened. The programme was held in the august presence of Shri Prakash Javadekar, the Hon'ble Minister EF&CC; Shri Babul Supriyo, the Hon'ble MoS, EF&CC; Dr Sanjay Kumar,



DGF&SS, MoEF&CC; Shri Soumitra Dasgupta, ADG (Wildlife); Shri Noyal Thomas, IGF & Director Project Elephant, MoEF&CC; and other senior officers of MoEF&CC. The State Forest Departments, WII and other stakeholder organizations joined the celebrations on the virtual medium.

Shri Prakash Javadekar, the Hon'ble Minister, EF&CC emphasized on co-existence of people with elephants and the efforts taken by the government to augment food and water availability to wild animals in forests. He also stressed on the use of technology and urged scientists and policymakers to implement out of box ideas to mitigate HEC. Shri Babul Supriyo, the Hon'ble Minister of State, EF&CC raised concern over the death of humans and elephants that die every year due to increasing HEC and the efforts taken by the Ministry and State FDs to address the situation. He echoed the need of people and elephants to co-exist which blends well with the theme of the World Elephant Day 2020, "Living with Elephants" and urged people to pledge to come together in protecting the National Heritage Animal for the future generations.

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Hindi Pakhwada Celebrations at WII, Dehradun, 14-28 September 2020. The Hindi Pakhwada (fortnight) was celebrated at the Institute with full enthusiasm and commitment. It started with a circular by the Chairperson of the *Vibhagiya Rajbhasha Karyanwyan Samiti* (VRKS) of the Institute, Dr Monali Sen requesting all the employees and officials of the



Institute to maximise their work in Hindi. The banner of Hindi Pakhwada was displayed at the Institute's main gate. The standees were prepared to display the quotations on Hindi by the great leaders and eminent personalities of our country. The messages and videos in Hindi contributed by the Director, Registrar, faculty members and staff were uploaded on the website of the Institute during this period.

On the closing day of Hindi Pakhwada, many activities were organised by the VRKS. A quiz in Hindi was organised for the staff and the officers of the Institute, in which almost all the participants attempted the questions. An extempore speech competition was also conducted for the participants. The Hindi poem recitation was also organised on this day. Dr Dhananjai Mohan, Director, WII; Dr Ruchi Badola, Scientist-G; Shri A.K. Dubey, IAO and Shri K.K. Shrivastava, Assistant Director (Official Language) expressed their views on this occasion. Two bilingual signages indicating the path were prepared and installed in the Institute campus.

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74th Independence Day Celebration at WII, August 15, 2020.

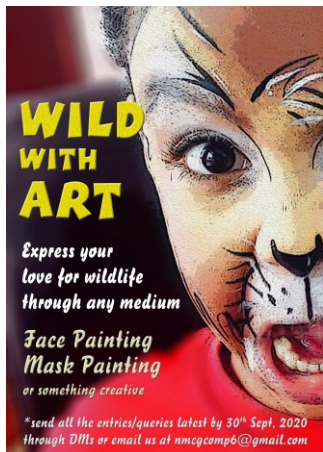
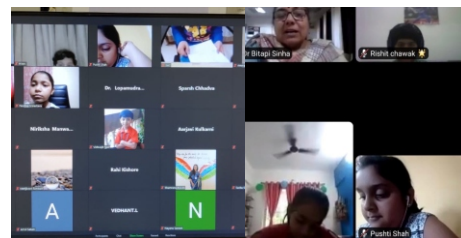
India's 74th Independence Day was celebrated in the Wildlife Institute of India campus on 15th August 2020. Hoisting the national flag, Dr Dhananjai Mohan, Director recalled the sacrifices of the martyrs during the freedom struggle that finally led to India's Independence. He said that Government of India had assigned several responsibilities to the Institute for planning and implementing species recovery programmes. He said that during the time of the global pandemic, all the members of the Institute must follow the rules and norms prescribed by the Govt of India and the Uttarakhand State Govt from time to time. The Institute campus was safe from the Coronavirus attack till the time of Independence Day. He urged the Institute's scientists, researchers, students and staff for their continued support in successfully meeting the various challenges present before the Institute during the time of the pandemic.

Dr Dhananjai Mohan, Director, WII appreciated the efforts of security personnel, hostel staff and cleanliness workers of the Institute to keep the campus safe and clean and awarded a memento and an appreciation certificate to them as per the guidelines of the Govt of India and the Uttarakhand State Govt.



National Mission for Clean Ganga (Component -3b) Activities, Dehradun, August & September 2020.

Webinar Session with School Students: A webinar session was held on 28 August 2020 with Gangaridai Eco-club members, where the students were educated about the natural world by the NMCG team members. A total of 56 students attended the session.



Wild with Art: A Wildlife Painting Competition was organized online for three categories students, i.e. classes 6-10, classes 7-12 and college students. The theme of the competition was 'Go with the upcoming Wildlife Week' during 7 September – 8 October 2020. The results of this competition will be announced by 20 October 2020.

Wildlife Search in Backyard: An Online Photography Competition was organized on the theme of 'Wildlife that Surrounds Us' during 7 September – 8 October 2020. People sent photographs of many species, they found in their home or backyard for this competition. The results of this competition will be declared by 20 October 2020.



Farewell...

Smt. Tejvinder Kaur Ahuja

Smt. Tejvinder Kaur Ahuja, Section Officer superannuated from WII services on 30 September 2020. Smt. Ahuja joined the Institute on 1 April 1987 as an Upper Division Clerk. She worked in Stores, Finance and various other sections of the Institute.

At the time of superannuation, she was holding the post of Field Technical Officer. WII family wishes all the best to Smt. Ahuja for her post-retirement life.



Patron: Director, WII
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Treat the earth well. It was not given to you by your parents; it was loaned to you by your children. We do not inherit the Earth from our Ancestors; we borrow it from our Children.

- Ancient Indian Proverb

Source: <https://indiancountrytoday.com/archive/13-quotes-that-remind-us-to-protect-mother-earth-40y-MhzbbUeLO05HY6yHew>