



**WILDLIFE WEEK CELEBRATION ACROSS THE FIVE GANGA RIVER STATES ON  
2<sup>ND</sup> TO 8<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2018**

**DETAILED REPORT**

The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) under the WII-NMCG “Biodiversity Conservation and Ganga Rejuvenation” project celebrated the Wildlife week from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> October 2018. The celebration also observed the “Ganga River Dolphin Day” and World Habitat Day on 5<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2018. The celebrations were conducted throughout the week by the WII-NMCG team and *Ganga Praharis* in the Ganga river states.

**PROGRAMME SCHEDULE**

<b>Wildlife Week Celebration, 2018</b> <b>Venue:</b> Ganga States : Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar , Jharkhand, West Bengal <b>Date:</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> October, 2018	
0930 - 1000	Introductory session and Registration
1000 -1230	Activities: Painting/drawing, slogan writing, poem writing competition of the important species found in Ganga, awareness rallies
1230-1245	Movies/ clipping of Wildlife
1245 - 1300	Refreshment

**Uttarakhand**

At Dehradun, the Wildlife week was celebrated at Janki Children Academy, Banjarawala, Dehradun, by organizing various activities for 400 students and 25 teachers. Students of classes 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> participated in drawing and painting competition, and 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> in poem and slogan

writing competition on the theme “Biodiversity conservation and aquatic species of Ganga River”. All the students took part with great enthusiasm and penned down their thoughts in these events. The team of WII-NMCG project included Dr. Sangeeta Angom, Dr. Pariva Dobriyal, Ms. Monika Mehralu and Ms. Advaita Ramachandran.

The event started with the drawing competition that was conducted for students from class 4<sup>th</sup> to class 8<sup>th</sup> (n=200), while parallel screening of the 2 documentaries – Thumbelina and *Ganga Praharis* – took place for students of classes 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. This was followed by the shortlisted candidates for the english poetry competition (n=200) on Ganga Aqualife competition, which was conducted for students from 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>, and the shortlisted candidates from 2 categories of juniors (class 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>) and seniors (classes 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>) drawing on Ganga Aqualife competition. This was followed by a prize distribution session, and brief discussion about the work being done in WII and its importance for executing the Ganga biodiversity restoration programme.



In Devprayag, the *Ganga Praharis* celebrated Wildlife week on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October 2018 at the Government Primary School, Devprayag. A total of 46 students of the school, Headmaster and staff took part in the celebration. Students were told about the importance of celebrating the

wildlife week. They were told about the biodiversity present in their surrounding and that of Ganga River in particular. The students were informed about the morphological feature of the birds, animals and their ecological importance to maintain the health of an ecosystem.



At Uttarkashi, *Ganga Praharis* organized a sessions dedicated to the World wildlife week celebration on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of October 2018 in the Youth Parliament of Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYKS) volunteers. In these sessions the volunteers from Uttarkashi district were sensitized on the importance of celebrating this special week. An interactive session was kept were the team and participants were divided into group and discussion were held on the awareness on wild flora and fauna found in the pristine surrounding of Uttarkashi with special attention on Ganga biodiversity and what is the need and importance of conserving this inseparable part of the ecosystem.



## Uttar Pradesh

At Varanasi, the wildlife week was celebrated on 2<sup>nd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> October with *Ganga Praharis* and local people at Domari village, Kashividhya Peeth block - Goshthi and Chandrawati village Cholahpur block. The function was inaugurated by village Pradhan Mr. Udhishter Nishad on 2<sup>nd</sup>



October, 2018. On 4<sup>th</sup> October essay writing competition on Ganga aqualife conservation was organized for school children at Purva Madhyamik Vidhyalaya, Rampur. As part of the celebration a cleanliness drive was carried out with 15 *Ganga Prahris* and 35 villagers at Domri Ghat and Goshthi on 6<sup>th</sup> October. On the last day, an awareness programme was also conducted at Primary School, Ramna village, subsequently a drawing competition was organized in Government Primary school Chandrawati Cholapur block. The team from WII includes Dr. Sandhya Joshi, Ms. Sunita Rawat, Mr. Nagendra and Mr. Rahul.



At Narora, the event was celebrated with 75 local people and 20 *Ganga Praharis* on 2<sup>nd</sup> October at Basi Ghat, Narora with the coordination of forest department. The participants were sensitized about the significance of conservation of wildlife.



In Farrukabad, *Ganga Praharis* at Bhaguanagla village in Farrukabad district held a sensitization meeting for villagers and awareness rally for school children on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2018. Villagers and school children were conveyed message on importance of celebrating the Wildlife week across the globe. During this program the *Ganga Praharis* highlighted the importance of cleanliness in Ganga River and it's surroundings. *Ganga Praharis* explained the importance of Wild flora and fauna in maintain the ecological balance of the river and of the entire ecosystem. A cleanliness pledge was taken with a promise to keep Ganga and it's surrounding clean so that a clean habitat is ensured for it's aqualife.



## Bihar

At Patna, the celebration was conducted at the Sanjay Gandhi Biological Park, Patna Zoo, Bihar, on the occasion of "National Ganga River Dolphin Day". The NMCG-WII team, *Ganga Praharis* and students from Zoological survey of India with the cooperation of the Bihar Forest Department jointly celebrated. The celebrations were made special with the book releases by

deputy Chief Minister of Bihar Shri. Sushil Kumar Modi. A total of 13 *Ganga Praharis* took part in the celebration held at the Sanjay Gandhi Biological Garden (Patna Zoo), Patna.

#### Activities:

- a) **Book release:** Shri Sushil Kumar Modi the Honorable Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar, released two reports by NMCG-WII team and CAMPA-Dolphin teams of the Wildlife Institute of India (Dehradun).
- **NMCG-WII Bihar Report**
  - **CAMPA- Dolphin Report**
- b) **Interactive session:** NMCG-WII team conducted an interaction session at the Education center of the Sanjay Gandhi Biological Park, Patna. During the session *Ganga Praharis* from Bhagalpur and Samastipur districts, students from Zoological Survey of India who are trained in Green Skill Development Programme and officials and staff of Bihar forest department had participated. The participants were discussed with the topics: **What measures need to be taken for conserving biodiversity of Ganga and what are the green skilled initiatives that *Ganga Praharis* from Bihar can be introduced to, so as to reduce their dependency on the bio resources of the Ganga River.** Important suggestions were noted that no more barrages and dams should be built on the river, illegal sand mining needs to be controlled, open point sources that still exist along the river need immediate attention, there should be provision to fix the net size and also strict monitoring to be introduced to check on illegal fishing, more plantation activities to be done along the banks of Ganga river and prohibition of disposal of dead animal or human body directly into the river. The team suggested that the fishermen can be introduced to training in fisheries and pisciculture in small ponds which will act as an additional source of income. The NMCG-WII team applauded the efforts of *Ganga Praharis* for their tremendous work and tireless efforts related to the project activities at their sites. In the coming few months *Ganga praharis* would be trained under the Green Skill Development Program of Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change.





In the Bhagalpur district, Bihar, the celebration was held during which *Ganga Praharis* were briefed on the importance of celebrating by the officials of Bihar Forest Department. During the celebration the department facilitated the *Ganga Praharis* working actively towards biodiversity conservation in Ganga River and it's surrounding. A sensitization program was also organized on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at Jagatpur village and Local people were sensitized by the *Ganga Praharis* on the importance of conserving wetland and it's biodiversity. A cleanliness drive was also organized by *Ganga Praharis* at the Ghats as a symbol of keeping the habitat of Ganga river clean for the wild flora and fauna of the river. In Kadua village of Navgachia (Bhaglapur) organized a session for members of local communities. During this session they were taught on the first hand treatment of an injured bird due to electric wiring. The ecological importance of the bird species was highlighted for the villagers.



(A)



(B)

- A. Divisional forest officer Bhagalpur addressing the gathering at Bhagalpur
- B. *Ganga Prahari* addressing local community at Jagatpur village on importance of conservation of wetland and it's biodiversity



(C) *Ganga Prahari* sensitizing people on providing first hand aid to birds injured by electric wiring at Kadua village