

WORLD HERITAGE DAY

18th April, 2018



Organised by
UNESCO Category 2 Centre for World Natural Heritage
Management and Training for the Asia and Pacific Region
Wildlife Institute of India
Dehradun



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INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

As stated by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, “Heritage is our legacy from the past, what we live with today, and what we pass on to future generations. Our cultural and natural heritages are both irreplaceable sources of life and inspiration.” The cultural and natural heritage is among the priceless and irreplaceable assets, not only of each nation, but of humanity as a whole. World Heritage is the shared wealth and responsibility of humankind. Hence, protecting and preserving this valuable asset demands the collective efforts of the international community. Thus, celebrating this theme on a special day offers an opportunity to raise the public's awareness about the diversity of heritage and the efforts that are required to protect and conserve it, as well as draw attention to its vulnerability.

The International Day for Monuments and Sites was proposed by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) on 18th April, 1982 and approved by the General Assembly of UNESCO in 1983. The aim is to spread awareness about the diversity and importance of heritage of humanity, their vulnerability and the efforts required for their protection and preservation. The 2018 theme for the ICOMOS International Day for Monuments and Sites is ***‘Heritage for Generations’*** which provides an opportunity to emphasize the importance of intergenerational exchanges when it comes to safeguarding and celebrating our heritage. Sharing stories and the transfer of knowledge between generations is a crucial step in cultural development, characterising the human experience since time immemorial.

The UNESCO Category 2 Centre for World Natural Heritage Management and Training for Asia and the Pacific Region at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, celebrated **World Heritage Day (WHD)** on April 18, 2018 by organizing a series of events. Participants included school students from three UNESCO World Heritage Sites (WHS) of India namely, Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks (Uttarakhand), The Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area (Himachal Pradesh) and Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur (Rajasthan) as well as from Model School, National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (Divyangjan), Dehradun. The primary objective of the celebration was raising awareness and exposure of school students through nature walk, field visit, quiz contest and cultural performances. The students visited museums at Forest Research Institute and ONGC at Dehradun as well as Nature Trail in the WII campus for exposure trips. The students also took part in an exciting Quiz competition on attributes of World Heritage Sites in India. The students performed in a cultural programme with song and dance. Nearly 50 members were part of the WHD celebration including students, teachers and staff.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EVENTS

A note on the events conducted during World Heritage Day on 18th April, 2018 follows below:–

1. Nature Trail Walk in WII Campus

As part of the World Heritage Day programme, a walk was organised on the nature trail at WII for the students from the participating schools to provide them exposure to the natural surroundings of the campus. The objective was to enhance the awareness and motivate the young students towards biodiversity around us and its importance in maintaining a healthy ecosystem.

The walk was coordinated by Mr.Vivek Sarkar of UNESCO C2C on the morning of 18th April. At first they were informed about the history of the WII Campus, followed by the significance of its location and the nature trail. Students were introduced to the basics of bird watching such as field identification of birds and bird call and other nature studies such as butterfly watching, etc. Every student was further provided with a bird journal. Nearly 16 bird and 12 butterfly species were identified by the students. In an opportunistic event, a snake (Buff-striped Keelback - non venomous) was found in the trail and demonstrated to the students. This up-close encounter gave an opportunity to explain the importance of snakes in the environment. This also helped the students to understand the myths regarding snakes and to see the facts themselves.

2. Talk on UNESCO C2C-WII activities and visit to Forest Research Institute and ONGC

As the students and their faculty came from different parts of India, a brief introduction of Wildlife Institute of India and UNESCO Category 2 Centre was given by Dr. Bhumesh Singh, Technical Officer, UNESCO C2C during the initial interaction with the students.

The students subsequently embarked on a visit to Forest Research Institute (FRI) and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Dehradun for an exposure trip to these prestigious national institutions. The visit was led by Dr. Bhumesh Singh, Dr. Chitiz Joshi and Ms. Prarthi Shah from UNESCO C2C. The Forest Research Institute is an institute of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education and is a premier institution in the field of forestry research in India and the subcontinent. Staff member from FRI gave an overview of the institute's work on forests and

allied sectors to the students. Students had occasion to visit the Entomology museum, Non Wood Forest Products museum, Forest Pathology museum, Timber museum, Social Forestry museum and Silviculture museum. The students were explained about the importance of the products kept in the museums.

The students were then taken to the Pioneer office of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, the largest producer of crude oil and natural gas in India which is headquartered in Dehradun. The staff members explained how the company was established and how oil is extracted from the ground naturally. The students learned about the history of the company, different ways of identifying potential land, how the metamorphic process creates oil, post process, different products and importance of each product in our lives, safety measures taken by the officials and the CSR initiatives supported by the company.

3. Quiz competition

A quiz programme was organised on the occasion of World Heritage Day on 18 April, 2018 by UNESCO C2C at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun. School children from three different World Heritage Sites and Model School, National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (Divyangjan) from Dehradun were invited to participate in the quiz.

The participants were divided into three teams named Team Buransh, Team Sarus and Team Goral. The team names represented characteristic species of the participating World Heritage Sites. All the teams were a mix of students with one student each from all the three sites and Model School.

The quiz was not only to engage the students but also make them aware and spread the knowledge about the rich cultural and natural heritage of India. The quiz had three themes with sub-theme rounds in each theme.

- **Cultural Heritage of India** - Indian art - Festivals of India - Cultural WHS of India
- **Natural Heritage of India** - State biodiversity - National parks and sanctuaries of India - Identify animals and birds (jumbled pictures / audios)
- **Tourism of India** - State Tourism Brand Ambassadors / Logos / tag lines

There was one question for each team in each round. Every correct answer carried 10 marks and there were 5 marks for passed questions. The quiz saw active participation and a close contest between the teams. There was a special question for audience after each theme of the

quiz. The idea was to engage everyone in the event and give others a chance to participate and win prizes. The final results indicated the following score line for the teams:

Theme	Team		
	Goral	Buransh	Sarus
Cultural Heritage of India			
R1 (Indian arts)	0	10	10
R2 (Festivals)	10	0	0
R3 (Cultural WHS)	10	10	0
Total	20	20	10
Natural Heritage of India			
R1 (National parks and sanctuary)	0	10	0
R2 (Identify calls)	0	10	0
R3 (Identify animals and birds)	0	10	0
Total	0	30	0
Tourism in India			
R1 (logos and tag lines)	10	10	10
Grand Total	30	60	20

Team Buransh emerged as the winning team. The Event was compered by Dr. Bhmesh Singh and Ms. Prarthi Shah, with technical support by Dr. Anukul Nath and scoring by Ms.Persis Farooqy. The competition was then followed by prize and certificate distribution to all the students and teachers. The students enjoyed this medium of exchanging knowledge with each other.

Prize and certificate distribution ceremony was held right after the competition. The winning team students and all the participants of the event were given prizes and certificates by Dr.Malvika Onial and Mr.Neeraj Kakati.

4. Screening of motion picture – The Jungle Book

On the occasion of World Heritage Day, 2018, a motion picture named 'The Jungle Book' directed by Jon Favreau was screened for the students and staff. This movie was released in 2016 and received major appreciation in the world for its special effects and storyline.

The movie is based on Rudyard Kipling's book The Jungle Book which is set in an Indian forest. It is about Mowgli, a boy brought up in the Jungle by a pack of wolves. The movie depicts Mowgli's adventures and challenges in the forest in the background of his relationships with the animals. The children in the audience watched the movie with great excitement and took home the message of how the natural world is also governed by its own laws and rules.

5. Cultural programme

A cultural programme was co-ordinated by Ms.Poonam Sati and Ms.Shilpi singh from UNESCO C2C in the evening to conclude the event. The occasion was graced by Dr.Geetika Mathur, Medical Officer, NIVH. She addressed the students and explained the importance of heritage and nature conservation, how every single person can make a positive change against pollution and encouraged to do something for their own surrounding sites.

The event was anchored by Dr.Bhumesh Singh and Ms.Prarthi Shah from UNESCO C2C. There were several cultural acts during the evening – film songs, folk songs and dance, performed by the participating students. The performers included:

Nanda Devi students: -

Sakshi Rana – Dance – Kanha So jaa
Abhinav and Utkrisht – Song – Jay Jaykara
Sakshi ad Muskaan – Dance – Berupako

NIVH Students:-

Aditya Bhagra – Song – Albela Sajan
Aditya Pant – Song – Bhagwan Hai kaha re tu
Saurabh Das – Song – Abhi Mujhme khahin
(Accompanied by Harmonium, Tabla and Keyboard played by other NIVH students and staff)

PHOTO GALLERY



Photo.1 Nature trail in WII campus



Photo.2 Nature trail



Photo 3. Visit to FRI



Photo 4. Visit to ONGC



Photo 5. Visit to ONGC



Photo 6. Quiz competition introduction session



Photo 7. Students Teams in Quiz competition



Photo 8. Audience answering questions



Photo 9. . Active participation by Students



Photo 10. Prize distribution



Photo 11. Prize and certificate distribution ceremony



Photo 12. Group photo at UNESCO C2C-WII



Photo 13. Dr.Geetika Mathur addressing students before cultural programme



Photo 14. Folk song by Students



Photo 15 Folk dance by students



Photo 16. Performance by NIVH students



Photo 17. Performance by NIVH students



Photo 18. Group photo of C2C team and NIVH students



Photo 19. Dr.V.B.Mathur, Director, UNESCO C2C-WII interacting with students



Photo 20. Group photo of teachers with Director