

Editorial



Rangoli made by Kriti Singh,
Class 9th in Biodiversity Festival

Esteemed Readers,

This edition of Bio-div news is always very special as we celebrate the “Biodiversity Festival” and “International day for Biological Diversity” in this quarter. Students participated enthusiastically in the Biodiversity festival this year. The Conference on International Day for Biological Diversity was also a success. For the first time, speakers from the industry using biodiversity took part and expressed their views and experiences on the Biodiversity Act and Rules.

The good news this quarter is that about 20 village level biodiversity registers were completed, along with one District level PBR. Our aim remains to have atleast one PBR in each district of Uttar Pradesh by the end of this year. With this 63 BMC's (Biodiversity management Committees) have now been formed in Uttar Pradesh along with 32 PBR's (People's Biodiversity registers).

The Biodiversity bus, “Prakriti” has now visited 226 schools, /colleges and 91 villages since it was started and has covered a distance of 11,294 kms. About 1, 03,905 visitors have visited this bus so far. Reaching out to children and spreading the awareness about biodiversity has always been important to the UPSBB. The Biodiversity bus is an attempt to instill positive attitudes towards the environment in children in the hope that this will carry over to adulthood. Science communicators accompanying the bus explain the interdependent relationship between humans and nature; hopefully this will make the children more curious about their natural environment and increase their willingness to contribute to its protection. And as Thomas berry had once said , “Teaching children about the natural world should be treated as one of the most important events in their lives.”

Regards,

– Editor

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1- Journey of Biodiversity Bus

i) Visit to Hardoi District

The Biodiversity Bus visited Hardoi district this quarter. The inaugural event was held at Govt. Girls Inter College, Sandila, Hardoi on 25.04.2015.

Chief Guest of the programme Ms. Renu Singh, DFO, Hardoi along with Shri T.K. Singh, SDO, Hardoi Forest Division, Shri V.K. Saxena, Range Officer, Sandila Range, Ms. Chitra Sonkar, Principal, G.G.I.C. Sandila and Ms. Preeti R. Kanaujia, Regional Coordinator, CEE North, Lucknow.

Prakriti bus covered 15 schools and 2 community places informing visitors for conservation of Biodiversity and Environment. Around 6,946 visitors visited the bus in Hardoi.



Glimpses of the visit of the biodiversity bus in Hardoi District



ii). Visit to Sitapur District

The inaugural event of the biodiversity bus was organized at Siraucha Village, Sidhauri, Sitapur on 29.05.2015. Mr. Suryabhan Singh, Principal, Shree Laxman Singh Vidya Mandir Purva Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Suraicha was invited to inaugurate the bus for its visit in Sitapur district. He addressed the community members and encouraged them to visit the bus and get benefitted from this educational resource.

Prakriti Bus covered around 7 Community Places where 1,885 visitors visited the bus.

Glimpses of the visit at Sitapur District



So far the bus has visited 226 Schools/Colleges and 91 Villages since it was started and has covered a distance of 11,294 Kms. About 1,03,905 visitors have visited the bus so far.

Month wise School Visit Details of Prakriti Bus from April to June 2015

April 2015

S.No	Date	Name of School	Foot falls
1	01.04.2015	Pragatisheel Uchataar Madhyamik Vidhyalaya Nai Basti, Dhanewa, Malihabad, Lucknow	789

2	06.04.2015	Kasturba Gandhi Avasiya Balika Vidyalaya, Tiwarikheda, Chandwara, Maal, Post- Malihabad	114
3	07.04.2015	Purva Madhyamic Vidhyalaya, Gram- Itaunja, BKT, Lucknow	90
4		Prathmik Vidhyalaya, Itaunja,- I, BKT block Lucknow	186
5		Prathmik Vidhyalaya, Itaunja,- II, BKT block Lucknow	137
6		Kanya Purva Madhyamic Vidhyalaya, Gram- Itaunja, BKT block Lucknow	170
7	08.04.2015	Purva Madhyamic Vidhyalaya, Mankotti, Malihabad, Lucknow	98
8	09.04.2015	Purva Madhyamic Vidhyalaya, Rasulabad, Malihabad block , Lucknow	145
9		Prathmik Vidhyalaya, Rasulabad, Malihabad block , Lucknow	121
10	10.04.2015	Purva Madhyamic Vidhyalaya, Mirjapur, Chinhut,, Lucknow	170
11		Prathmik Vidhyalaya, Mirjapur, Chinhut, Lucknow	86
12	13.04.2015	Ram Lal Memorial School, Mujsa, Malihabad, Lucknow	415
13	15.04.2015	Madarsa Roshan Public Montessori School, Golakuaa, Kakori, Lucknow	169
14	16.04.2015	Baldi Prasad Vidhya Mandir highschool, Sanyashi, Malihabad	186
15	21.04.2015	Unique Convent School, Durgaganj, Kakori, Lucknow	640
16	22.04.2015	Maya Devi Purva Madhyamik Vidhyalaya, Achlikheda, Mohanlalganj, Lucknow	283
17	23.04.2015	Sarvodaya Junior Highschool, Rahimabad, Lucknow,	322
18	24.04.2015	R.S. Higher Secondary School, Munsikheda, Rahimabad, Lucknow	621
19	25.04.2015	Government Girls Inter College, Sandila, Hardoi	250
20	29.04.2015	Government Girls Inter College, Sandila, Hardoi	1220
21	30.04.2015	Purva Madhyamic Vidyalaya, Sarayemarufpur, Sandila, Hardoi.	75
22		Prathamic Vidyalaya, Sarayemarufpur, Sandila, Hardoi.	160
Total			6447

May 2015

S. No	Date	Name of School	Foot falls
1.	01.05.2015	Junior High School, Tiloiyakala, Sandila, Hardoi	120
2.		Prathamik Vidhalaya, Tiloiyakala, Sandila, Hardoi	162
3.	04.05.2015	Community Village at Kasimpur, Behandar Block, Hardoi	200
4.	05.05.2015	St. Therasas High School, Sandila, Hardoi	994
5.	06.05.2015	S.B Public School, Sandila, Hardoi	97
6.	07.05.2015	Shyampati Shikshan Sansthan, Begamganj, Sandila, Hardoi	313
7.	08.05.2015	Bhagvan Budh Inter Collage, Sandila, Hardoi	1109
8.	11.05.2015	Lions Public School, Sandila, Hardoi	1010
9.	12.05.2015	Purva Madhyamik Vidhalaya	175
10.		Prathmik Vidhyalaya, Begamganj, Sandila, Hardoi	59
11.	14.05.2015	Chinohiya village, Malhera, Sandila, Hardoi	150
12.	15.05.2015	Kasturba Gandhi Avasiya Balika Vidyalaya, Sandila, Hardoi	114

13.	18.05.2015	Government Girls Inter College, Sandila, Hardoi.	412
14.	19.05.2015	Purva Madhyamic Vidhyalaya, Purva, Malihabad, Lucknow	51
15.		Prathmik Vidhyalaya, Purva, Malihabad, Lucknow	101
16.	20.05.2015	Purva Madhyamic Vidhyalaya, Mahigavan, BKT, Lucknow	135
17.		Prathmik Vidhyalaya,- 1 Mahigavan, BKT, Lucknow	128
18.		Prathmik Vidhyalaya,- 2 Mahigavan, BKT, Lucknow	83
19.	21.05.2015	Maa Yasodaya Memorial Senior Secondary School, Purwa, Malihabad, Lucknow	616
20.	22.05.2015	Suggamau village, Kukrail, lucknow	50
21.	25.05.2015	Community Village at Kasimpur, B.K.T Block, Lucknow	100
22.	26.05.2015	Community place at Village Kotti (Majre Tycoon), Barabanki	90
23.	27.05.2015	Community place at Village Farukhabad, B.K.T Block, Lucknow	150
24.	29.05.2015	Community rural market at Village Siraucha, Sidhauli, Sitapur	350
		Total	6769

June 2015

S. No	Date	Name of School	Foot falls
25.	1.06.2015	Community place at Village Shivpuri, Sidhauli, Sitapur	225
26.	02.06.2015	Community Village at Raghuvveerpur, Sidhauli, Sitapur	225
27.		Community Village at Sukha, Kamalapur Sitapur	150
28.	03.06.2015	Village Peer Nagar, Kamalapur, Sitapur	225
29.	04.06.2015	Community place at Village Patara Kala, Sidhauli Sitapur	215
30.	05.06.2015	Community Place at village Raipur, Sidhauli, Sitapur	195
31.	08.06.2015	Community place at Village Dariyapur, Malihabad, Lucknow	150
32.	09.06.2015	Community place at Kashi Ram Samarak Ecogarden, VIP Road, Alambagh, Lucknow	150
33.	10.06.2015	Community place at Village Hasanpur, Khewali, Lucknow	250
34.	11.06.2015	Community place at Jyotibha Phoole Zoonal Park, Aasiyana Colony, Kanpur Road, Lucknow	150
35.	12.06.2015	Community place at Rajya Udhyan, Alambagh, Lucknow	240
36.	15.06.2015	Community place at Swarna Jyanti Smriti Vihar, Indira, Lucknow	300
37.	16.06.2015	Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Samajik Parivartan Sathal, Gomtinagar, Lucknow	440
38.	17.06.2015	Kalindi Van Park, Vrindavan Yojana, Raibareily Road, Lucknow	170
39.	18.06.2015	Community place at Samajik sathal (Marine Drive), Gomtinagar, Lucknow	460
40.	22.06.2015	Community place at Arbindo Park , Indiranagar, Sector 13, Lucknow	150
41.	23.06.2015	Community place at Village Kalli, Raibareli Road, Lucknow	110
42.	24.06.2015	Community place at Village Juggaur, Chinhat, Faizabad Road, Lucknow	150
43.	26.06.2015	Community place at Rasulpur Sadat, Chinhat, Lucknow	150
44.	30.06.2015	Community place at Village Pakramau, Kursi Road, Lucknow	120
		Total	4225

2- “Save the Frogs Day”, 26th April, 2015

“Save The Frogs Day” is the World's largest day of amphibian education and conservation actions. Frog populations have been declining worldwide at unprecedented rates and nearly one-third of the world's amphibian species are threatened with extinction. Up to 200 species have disappeared since 1980, and this is not normal. Amphibians go extinct naturally at a rate of only about one species every 250 years! Only a small proportion of our public is aware that frogs are disappearing and amphibian conservation efforts will not be successful with an un-informed public.



Save The Frogs Day was started by Scientific Community. It is an international team of scientists, educators, policymakers and naturalists dedicated to protecting the world's amphibian species: the frogs, toads, newts, salamanders, and caecilians. SAVE THE FROGS! was founded by Ecologist Dr. Kerry Kriger in May 2008. Save the Frogs Day was first time Celebrated in 2009, every year this event celebrates on last Saturday of April. Save The Frogs Day is the world's largest day of amphibian education and conservation action. Last year 270 events held in at least 30 countries, directly reaching over 20,000 participants. Save The Frogs Day 2015 events are scheduled to take place in more than 70 countries like- Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Ghana, India, Italy, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, Portugal, South Africa, Taiwan, Tanzania, Turkey, United Kingdom, and the USA and many more.

Decrease in number of frogs due to loss of their habitat, lack of food and fungal infection on their skin. Amphibian populations are today declining due to pollution, habitat loss, invasive species, climate change, infectious diseases and over harvesting for pet and food trades. Increase in water pollution is also responsible for the declining population of frogs.

On this occasion, U. P. State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow and Department of Zoology, University of Lucknow conducted various competitions such as Art Competition on “**Frog Is a Part of Food Chain**”, Rangoli Competition on “**Frogs In Pond**” and open quiz on “Frogs” for the students of the class between 6th-12th at Regional Science City, Aliganj, Lucknow.

About 450 students from more than 20 schools (Mount fort inter College, Seth M.R. Jaipuria School, Mount Carmel School, Awadh Academy Inter College, Sri Ayodhya Singh Memorial Inter College, Tagore Memorial School, MLM School, Kendriya Vidyalaya, T D Girls Inter College, S K D Academy, St. Antony inter College. Hoerner College etc.) participated in the events with great enthusiasm.

Awareness materials related to Amphibians like flyers, pamphlets and pocket calender were also distributed among schools and colleges students as well as common people of the Lucknow. The main aim of celebrating “Save The Frogs Day” was to aware and sensitize the people and students of Lucknow towards the globally fast declining population of the Amphibians.

Winners of the various competitions were also felicitated with books as prize and certificates. The list of prize winners of the various competitions is mentioned below:

Photographs of the posters made by the winners – “Frog is a part of Food Chain”

Class 5th to 8th Group A



Ist Prize By Saloni Gond, Class-8th, HAL School



IInd Prize By Tanya Kannoja, Class-9th, Janta Inter College



IIIrd Prize by Mohit Vishwakarma, Class 7th, Avadh Academy Inter College



Consolation Prize by Nikita Chaurasia, Class 7th, LPS Jail Road

Photographs of Posters made by the winners

Class 9th to 12th Group B



Ist Prize by Priya Pal, class 9th, Avadh Colligate



IInd Prize by Bhavana Dhiman, class 10th, HAL School



IIIrd Prize by Ankita Chaurasia, class 9th,
Lucknow Public School



Consolation Prize by Shriya Shukla, class 12th,
Seth M R Jaipuria school

Photographs of the Rangoli made by the winners

Class 5th to 8th Group A



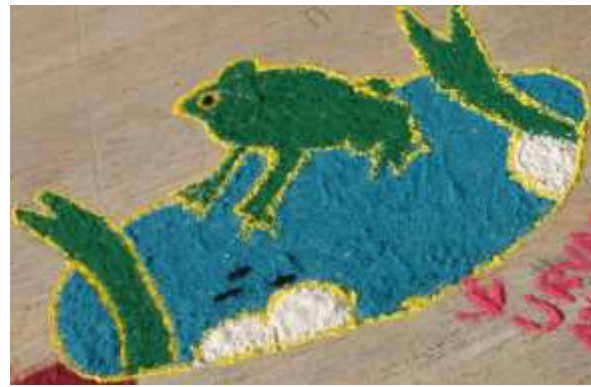
Ist Prize by Ashutosh Singh, Class 7th, Avadh Colligate



IInd Prize by Nikhil Verma, class 7th, Avadh Colligate



IIIrd Prize by Kndan, Class 8th, HAL School



Consolation Prize by Urvashi, class 8th, Avadh Collegiate

Photographs of the Rangoli made by the winners

Class 9th to 12th Group B



Ist Prize by Saumya Srivastava, Class 10th, HAL School



IInd Prize by Mansi Gaur, Class 10th, HAL School



IIIrd Prize by Sonali Saroj, Class 9th, Avadh Colligate



Consolation Prize by Prachi Sachan, Ckclass 9th, Avadh Colligate

Glimpses of events organized on the occasion of "Save the Frogs Day"



Students from various schools participating in Rangoli competition



Students from various schools participating in Quiz



Dr. Amita Kanujia, Associate Professor, Deptt. of Zoology is briefing the students about the importance of Amphibians



Mr. Umesh Kumar, Programme Coordinator, Regional Science City, Lucknow is briefing the students about the events



Prize as Books and Certificates

5- Trainings/ Workshops



Winners of the Competitions

3- Biodiversity Festival 2015

17th - 21st May, 2015



22 MAY 2015
INTERNATIONAL DAY
FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
BIODIVERSITY FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT

On the occasion of International Day for Biological Diversity, U.P. State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow organized, "Biodiversity Festival" from 17th May to 21st May, 2015, in collaboration with Department of Zoology, University of Lucknow and Regional Science City, Lucknow. The programme aimed at creating awareness among children and youth about biodiversity and sustainable development.

Biodiversity Festival provided an opportunity to the youth to express their thoughts and creativity through various competitions and activities. During the festival, several competitions and workshops were organized.

The day wise events organized during the Biodiversity Festival including results and its glimpses are furnished below:

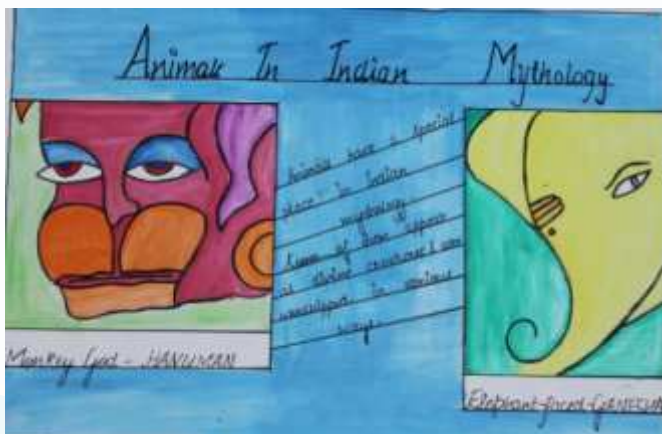
17th may 2015 (Day-1)

Two events were organized i.e. Poster Competition on "Animals in Indian Mythology" and Essay competition on "Sustainable Development and Biodiversity Conservation". Mrs Pratibha Singh , Prof. Madhu Tripathi Head Department of Zoology, Prof A K Sharma and Mr K K Chaterjee were present in the inauguration function.

More than **150 students** from 10 Schools and colleges participated very enthusiastically in the events. The lists of the winners of the events are as follows-

Event: Poster Competition Topic- "Animals in Indian Mythology"

Group-A (Class 5th to 8th)



1st Prize Durga Mohini Class 7th, City Montessori School Lucknow



11nd Prize Kavya Maurya Class 8th, Riverside Academy



IIIrd Prize, Rashi Srivastava, Class 8th,
Dr. Virendra Swaroop Public School Lucknow



Consolation Prize, Anant Narain, Class 8th,
Dr. Virendra Swaroop Public School Lucknow

Group-B (Class 9th to 12th)



Ist Prize, Arukshita Saxena, Class-9th, Gurukul Academy



IInd Prize, Shruti Verma, Class- 9th,
Dr. Virendra Swaroop Public School,
Lucknow



IIIrd Prize, Aditi Menon, Class 10th ,
Army Public School, SP Marg, Lucknow



Consolation Prize, Class 11th,
Manish Kumar, Army Public School,
SP Marg, Lucknow



Participants with teachers and organizing team

18th May 2015 (Day-2)

The second day of the Biodiversity Festival was started with the event *i.e.* Quiz Competition on “Biodiversity for Sustainable Development”. Quiz competition was completed in 5 rounds. **About 125 students** of 8 schools and colleges enthusiastically took part in the event. In the first round 67 students of Group A and 70 students of Group B participated. Rests of rounds were burger round and 8-8 students were selected from first round. 8 students of Group “A” divided in to four team named as Bulbul, Myna, Dhanesh and Baya. 8 students of Group “B” also divided in to four team named as Sarus, Gauriya, Gidhraaj and Neelkanth. Team Myna won First prize and Bulbul, Dhanesh and Baya won II, III and consolation prizes respectively from group A. Team Gauriya won the First prize and Gidhraaj and Neelkanth won II, III prizes respectively from group B.



Students taking part in the quiz competition

19th May 2015 (Day-3)

The Third day of the Biodiversity Festival was started with the event *i.e.* PowerPoint Presentation Competition on the topic “Bio+Traditional Knowledge”. More than 25 students of 7 schools and colleges took part very enthusiastically in the Power Point Presentation. Dr. M Serrajuddin, Associate Professor, Department of Zoology and Dr Ashish Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology University of Lucknow, Lucknow were the Judges of the events.



Students are taking part in Power Point Presentation Competition

20th May 2015 (Day-4)

On fourth day, Rangoli Competition was organized at Regional Science City, Aliganj Lucknow, The topic for the Rangoli competition was “Sacred Plants of India”. More than 35 Students from 7 Schools and Colleges participated in these events and they express their feelings by making Rangoli. Mrs. Pratibha Singh, Secretary, U.P. State Biodiversity Board and Prof M Tripathi, Head Department of Zoology, University of Lucknow were the Judges of the competition.



1st Prize, Suhani Krishna, Class 8th ,
CMS Rajendra Nagar



11nd Prize, Kamaldeep Kaur, Class 8th ,
CMS Rajendra Nagar



IIIrd Prize, Kritika Singh, Class 8th , LPS Sahara Estate



Consolation Prize Suhani Chaturvedi, Class 6th LPS Sahara Estate



Ist Prize, Kriti Singh, Class 9th ,LPS Sahara Estate



IInd Prize, Pranjali, Class 12th, Gurukul Academy



IIIrd Prize, Manisha Rajpoot, Class 8th ,Army Public School



Consolation Prize, Arushita Saxena, Class 11th , Gurukul Academy

21 May 2015 (Day-5)

On the last day of the Biodiversity Festival, Nukkad Natak on the topic “Sustainable Development and Biodiversity Conservation” was organized to create awareness among the students to conserve biodiversity. DPS Academy won the prize in the senior section and CMS, Kanpur Road won the prize in the junior section.

Glimpses of Prize Distribution by the Chief Guest Padmashri Kartikeya V Sarabhai on the occasion of International Day for Biological Diversity- 22nd May, 2015



All Prize Winners

4-International Day for Biological Diversity

22nd May, 2015

National Conference on "Biodiversity for Sustainable Development"



Chief Guest Padmashri Kartikeya V Sarabhaj, Dr Rupak De, Sri Sunil Pandey, Smt Pratibha Singh, and Sri A J T Johnsingh, on the Dias

Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board celebrated the International Day for Biological Diversity (IBD-2015) on 22nd May, 2015 at Pluto Hall, Indira Gandhi Pratishthan, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow. On this occasion, a National Conference on "**Biodiversity for Sustainable Development**" was organized in which more than 350 delegates including various research organizations/ institutes, universities, officers from U.P. Forest Department and other states as well as NGOs etc participated actively.



Dr. Rupak De

The programme started with **Dr. Rupak De**, PCCF, U.P. welcoming the guests. He said that Uttar Pradesh, is the fifth largest state in India in terms of area and is the most densely populated state supporting a huge cattle population. The huge cattle and human population presents immense challenges to Biodiversity management.

Shri Sunil Pandey, Secretary (Forests), U.P. spoke on the challenges for biodiversity managers and developers of economy. He said a sustainable way out was needed as conservation of biodiversity is important for our own existence. He highlighted the diversity found in U.P. Jaunpuri mooli, Kalanamak rice, Jamunapari goat etc. He said that, 'Development' and 'Environment' are seen today as two tends of a spectrum, where one must be compromised in order to enhance the other. This needs to change soon, while human beings dominate this planet, we still need to preserve the diversity.



Sunil Pandey

Pratibha Singh, Secretary, U P State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow gave a start to the program and presented the history of sustainable development. She traced the history of these conferences from Stockholm (1972), Nairobi (1982), Rio (1992), Johannesburg (2002), Rio+20 (2012). She spoke

on the 8 millennium development goals set in 2000, to be achieved by 2015 and also on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals agreed upon in the 2012 meet. She spoke on the increasing Co2 emissions and global warming adding that on 20th May 2015 it was 403.83 ppm. She spoke on the importance of biodiversity and the current threats. She also briefly covered the issues of bioprospecting, IPR's and biopiracy. The fast increasing world population from the present 7 billion to the projected 9 billion in 2050 is the biggest challenge.



Pratibha Singh



Padmashri Kartikeya V Sarabhai

The chief-guest on the occasion **Padmashri Kartikeya V. Sarabhai**,

Director, Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad said that we need to move from just "Greening" to "Greening with Biodiversity". He suggested that more "Biodiversity Buses" need to run in Uttar Pradesh to take the awareness of Biodiversity to school children. He elaborated on CEE's efforts in planting trees, education and community participation through different projects like Sanjeevni, Paryavaran Mitra, Science Express Biodiversity Special; He explained the concept of "handprint" and how it was different from "footprint". He said that if each school child in Uttar Pradesh was given a two night exposure visit to a natural forest in a structured nature camp - it would be an unforgettable experience for the child with nature. He also suggested the opening to "green haat" in Lucknow to market goods made by people dependent on forests. He concluded by saying that we need to increase our handprint and decrease our footprint.

Shri AJT Johnsingh spoke on Biodiversity conservation in human dominated landscapes. He said that landscapes, based on their inherent characteristics, differ in their capability to support and if the human population level goes beyond a certain density it negatively effects biodiversity. He emphasised on the importance of Wildlife corridors in landscapes. He spoke on the problem of invasive alien species like mouth breeding tilapia and carnivorous cat fish, Lantana, Opuntia, Ipomea, Parthenium. He touched on the importance of climate change and planting native tree species. He said that poaching and wild harvesting was still on affecting species like *Amur falcons* and *Rauvolfia serpentina*. He concluded by saying that with meticulous planning, implementation, monitoring and management several plant and animal species can be and should be restored. Lasting



AJT Johnsingh

conservation efforts in human modified landscapes demand new alliances among foresters, conservation biologists, farmers, local people, social scientists and rural social movements. He said that loss of habitat is a major reason for loss of biodiversity. He expressed surprise that not a single worthwhile wildlife corridor has been established in India so far. He also said that more animals were dying in road accidents daily, that being killed by poachers.



N B Brindavanam

Shri N.B. Brindavanam, from Dabur Research and Development Center India said that industrialisation, institutionalisation and internationalisation are causing impacts on biodiversity. He also said that ayurvedic medicinal plants are an important sub-set of biological diversity. Over 960 species are in trade currently of these 178 species have high volume consumption. He said that at

times collections of these plants is destructive to their survival hence a integrated model was suggested which includes (a) resource augmentation through farming value chain interventions and development of substitutes. For herbaceous species domestication and cultivation was the simplest tool to achieve self sufficiency by end users. In a few cases where use of tree bark/root barks and heart wood was required, efforts need to focus on identification of sustainable plant parts. Dabur is already doing this in some states like Andhra Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Gujarat, Odhisah, Karnataka and Haryana with the support of National Medicinal Plants Board.



Arvinder Singh

Shri Arvinder Singh, Conservator, Patna said that by agroforestry practices the Bihar Government hopes to increase the forest cover from 6-7% to 12% (2012-17). Strategy has been developed to plant 6.0 cr. plants of which 60% will be Poplar and 40% will be others (Teak, Kadamb, Semal, Shisham, Eucalyptus and Mahogany). For this kisan nurseries have been started. Poplar cuttings given to farmers along with training. All plants are bought back from the farmer at @ 14.53% plant (Poplar) and other species are bought back at Rs. 6.10% plant.

He said each beneficiary had to be touched upon at least 3-4 times, so much staff is also needed. The forest department has raised over 1818 nurseries outside the forest department and over 10,000 such farmers were tied with the forest department for raising nurseries on private land. He said that the forest department should have a good extension program like the agriculture department.

Shri Rajendra Mohan Dobriyal, Senior Manager, Hindustan Unilever Ltd. started by saying that after the Biological Diversity Act in 2002 obviously it cannot be business as usual. Eco-system in balance is a pre-requisite for business. Innovation and technology development in crucial for sustainable development and business cannot succeed if societies fail. He spoke about the 'SAI Platform' (Sustainable agriculture initiative) founded by food companies like Unilever, Danone and Nestle. He also spoke on the Unilever sustainable living plan (USLP). This aims to (1) halve the environmental footprint of all unilever's products (2) source 100% of agricultural raw materials sustainably (3) help one billion people to improve their health and well being.



Rajendra Mohan Dobriyal

Dr. Rajat Bhargav, Ornithologist, BNHS in his presentation gave an account of the objectives of his study carried out on Avifaunal biodiversity of Soheldev Wildlife Sanctuary, Uttar Pradesh. He spoke on the birds of Sohelwa its tourism potential involving to local communities



Dr. Rajat Bhargav

The Soheldev Wildlife Sanctuary was declared as IBA (Important bird area) in 2004. Yet no scientific published checklist existed till this study. In the current study from Nov. 2013 to 2014, over 280 species of birds have been recorded of which 26 are threatened species. Amur falcons were also recorded for the first time in the area. In the winter months over 200 individuals of five species of vultures were also recorded. About 500 species of birds are recorded from Uttar Pradesh, Soheldev has 60% of these and 25% of bird species found in India (approx 1200). 42 threatened species of birds are found in UP of which 26 species (61%) are found in Soheldev, making it a "First Class" birding destination!



Dr Ram Bhooj Yadav

Throwing the light on the key facts of biodiversity, **Dr. Ram Bhooj Yadav** from UNESCO said that conservation of Biodiversity is one of the most pressing challenges on the international agenda today. He started by reminding the audience about the World Day for cultural diversity on 21st May, 2015 saying that understanding cultural diversity is important to save biodiversity. He spoke on the importance of food biodiversity for nutritional security of India. He gave examples of rice varieties grown only in specific eco-systems like on also culinary methods are equally rich and diverse. He said that climate change is the single most important factor for the accelerated loss of biodiversity. A warming of 3-4°C will eliminate 80% of wetlands and biodiversity therein this will cause extinction of 15-37% species by 2050 including 25% major crop varieties. He also spoke on the MAB (Man and Biosphere Program) and World Heritage Sites. Six world natural heritage sites exist in India. (Kajiranga/Keoladeo/Manas/Nanda devi/Sunderbans/Western Ghats). Also shown on the occasion was a film by UNESCO.

Shri Vijay Vardhan, Manager Operations from ITC spoke of ITC's agri-business sourcing and the crops their business products depended upon like potato, wheat, milk, eucalyptus, subabool, casuarina, bamboo, soya, coffee, maize, tobacco etc. He also spoke on ITC's paper business which is a wood based industry and how ITC took an initiative two decades back to promote pulpwood production by plantations on private lands, with emphasis on wastelands. It invested on R& D, developed better clones and varieties, promoting tree based training, so that food security was not compromised. By this they have taken pressure off from the forests and have improved form productivity and profitability.



Vijay Vardhan



Dr Shailendra Rajan

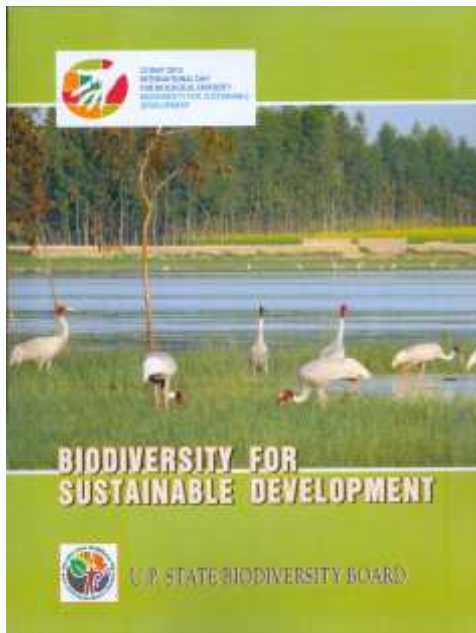
Dr. Shailendra Rajan, Director, Indian Institute of Horticulture, Lucknow spoke on the need for community initiatives for conserving invaluable mango diversity of Malihabad, He emphasized that if farmers are not encouraged to protect local species of mangoes than commercial species will take over and the famous Langra/ Chausa/Dasheri will be lost to us. He gave a presentation on how farmers had been empowered, given training and now even earn by protecting local species of mangoes. Considering the importance of on-farm conservation, Society for Conservation of Mango Diversity (S C M D) , a

community base organisation, came into existence with the initiatives of community members to conserve and promote lesser known varieties of mango. He further added, SCMD has helped imparting trainings for development of mango catalogue and successful organisation of Mango Diversity fairs. His main message was to consolidate the role of farmer to conserve, innovate and promote mangoes.

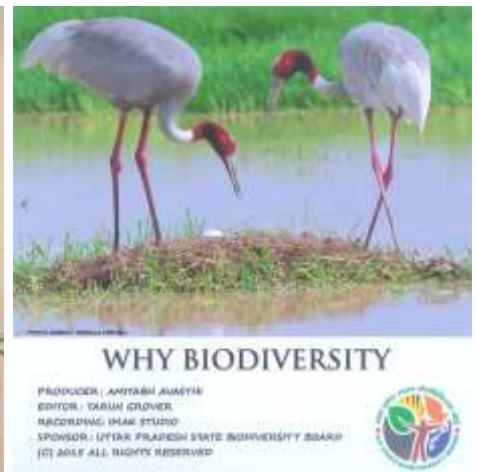
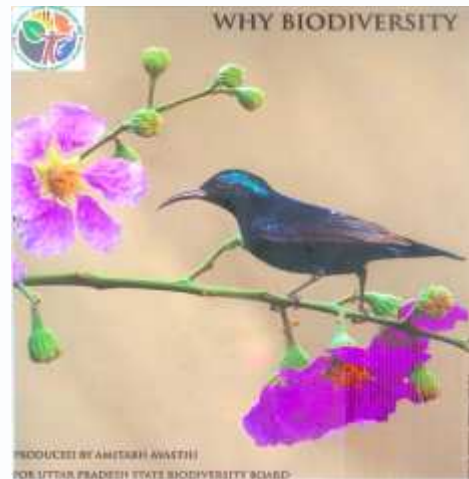


Release of Souvenir on Biodiversity for Sustainable Development

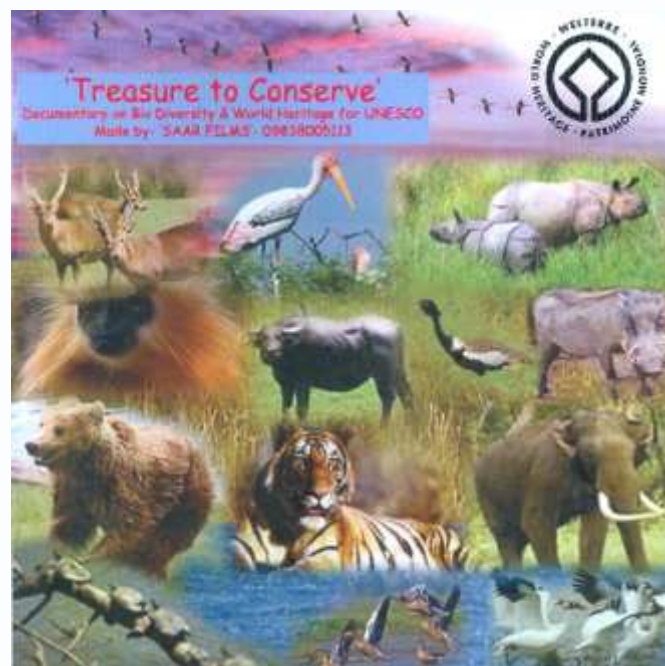
On this occasion, a Souvenir on “Biodiversity for sustainable Development” was also released with 32 articles related to the theme in 222 pages. A 10 minutes film on biodiversity was also screened. The conference ended by vote of thanks given by Pratibha Singh, Secretary, U P State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow.



Cover page of the Souvenir



A film on Biodiversity by the U P State Biodiversity Board



A film on Treasure to Conserve by UNESCO

Glimpses of some views on the occasion of International Day for Biological Diversity-2015



Lightening of Lamp by the Dignitaries



Glimpse of Exhibition Gallery



View of Audience



View of Audience



Rangoli at IBD Celebration-2015



A General View of Audience and Dias

5- World Environment Day

05th June, 2015

WED is the opportunity for everyone to realize the responsibility to care for the Earth and to become agents of change. The U N Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon on this occasion has said *“Although individual decisions may seem small in the face of*

global threats and trends, when billions of people join forces in common purpose, we can make a tremendous difference”. Consuming with care means living within planetary boundaries to ensure a healthy future where our dreams can be realized. Living sustainably is about doing more and better with less. It is about knowing that rising rates of natural resources use and the environmental impacts that occur are not a necessary by product of economic growth.



World Environment Day 2015
**Seven Billion Dreams.
One Planet.
Consume with Care.**
June 5

The WED theme this year is **“Seven Billion Dreams. One Planet. Consume with care”**.

The Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow jointly celebrated **“World Environment Day on 5th June 2015”** with Zoology Department of Lucknow University and Regional Science City Aliganj, Lucknow

On this occasion, two stalls were organized one at Regional Science City, Aliganj Lucknow, and the other at 4th Gate of University of Lucknow to distribute plants, pamphlets, biodegradable bags and paper bags to the common masses and also initiate a campaign **Say ‘NO’ to Polythene**. At the stall the public were asked to sign on a cloth to say **“No to Polythene in Uttar Pradesh”**. Awareness materials like pamphlets (2000 in number) were distributed, about 1000 biodegradable bags were exchanged from plastic bags and 250 plants were distributed among the common people.

At around 4 pm trees were planted in the Department of Zoology, University of Lucknow by Prof. Nirupama Agarwal, Prof. A.K. Sharma, Prof. U. D. Sharma, Prof. Padma Saxena, Prof. Madhu Tripathi, Prof. Omkar, Prof. S.P. Trivedi and Dr. Amita Kanaujia, Dr. Ashish Kumar respectively. About 25 volunteers from Department of Zoology, University of Lucknow took part enthusiastically in this awareness programme.

Celebration of World Environment Day, 05 June, 2015 at Regional Science City, Aliganj, Lucknow



6. Release of Book on "Birds of Raj Bhavan"










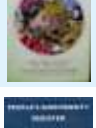


An effort was made by the Board to document the number of bird species visiting Raj Bhavan for a whole year, in order to record the bird diversity of Raj Bahvan for posterity. A Book entitled "**Birds of Raj Bhavan**" was released by Hon'ble Governor, Uttar Pradesh. Shri Ram Naik and Chief Minister of U.P. Shri Akhilesh Yadav on 19-06-2015 which is a compilation of 86 bird species which were observed during the study period.









Glimpses of Release of Book on "Birds of Raj Bhavan"



7. PBR's Prepared

S. No.	Name of District	Name of Block	Name of Gram Panchayat	Date of Formation	Date of Validation of BMC	Species Identified			Cover Page of the PBR
						Flora PBR	Fauna	Total	
1	Lakhimpur	Lakhimpur	Saidapur Devkali	15-10-2009	25-05-2012	284	167	451	
2	Gorakhpur	Piprauli	Bhawapar	05-04-2011	29-09-2012	203	116	319	
3	Chitrakoot Dham	Karvi	Baihar	19-01-2011	24-01-2013	168	83	251	
4	Bahraich	Balha	Nanpara Dehat	07-12-2010	12-03-2013	223	120	343	
5	Barabanki	Banki	Bhitauli Kalan	03-03-2011	28-06-2013	132	72	204	
6	Mahrajganj	Paniyara	Laxmipur	11-06-2013	25-02-2014	130	82	212	
7	Shahjhanpur	Dadraul	Mansoorpur	26-09-2013	19-12-2014	98	80	178	
8	Sitapur	Khairabad	Naipalapur	16-01-2013	26-06-2014	209	33	242	
9	Gorakhpur	Chargawan	Harsewakpur No. 2	26-02-2013	10-11-2014	124	36	160	
10	Mau	Pardahan	Kahinaur	20-11-2014	24-02-2015	149	32	181	
11	Aligarh	Dhanipur	Gurusikran	26-11-2014	26-02-2015	196	46	242	
12	Mirzapur	Halia	Mahgarhi	11-01-2015	10-03-2015	265	45	310	

S. No.	Name of District	Name of Block	Name of Gram Panchayat	Date of Formation	Date of Validation of BMC	Species Identified			Cover Page of the PBR
						Flora PBR	Fauna	Total	
13	Unnao	Sirosi	Pariyar	24-11-2014	17-03-2015	205	34	239	
14	Ballia	Hanumanganj	Basantpur	12-01-2015	16-03-2015	148	32	180	
15	Lucknow	Mall	Kolwa	25-11-2014	27-02-2015	197	82	279	
16	Sitapur	Machrehata	Lohangpur	18-11-2014	22-03-2015	198	90	288	
17	Gorakhpur	Piprauli	Pipari	23-01-2015	18-03-2015	127	55	182	
18	Ambedkar Nagar	Akbarpur	Daudpur	25-11-2014	20-03-2015	148	34	182	
19	Kannauj	Umarda	Bahosi	19-11-2014	24-04-2015	145	129	274	
20	Lakhimpur Kheri	Lakhimpur	Narhar	20-12-2014	23-03-2015	295	218	513	
21	Bijnaur	Nahtaur	Begraipur	02-01-2015	12-02-2015	137	30	167	
22	Kannauj District	-	-	18-02-2015	16-06-2015	168	294	462	
23	Bulandshahr	Bulandshahr	Walipura Machkuli	16-02-2015	31-03-2015	189	35	224	
24	Amethi	Amethi	Bhaganpur	12-01-2015	13-04-2015	164	34	198	

S. No.	Name of District	Name of Block	Name of Gram Panchayat	Date of Formation	Date of Validation of BMC	Species Identified			Cover Page of the PBR
						Flora PBR	Fauna	Total	
25	Shamli	Shamli	Bhainswal	17-01-2015	25-03-2015	93	31	124	
26	Fatehpur	Amauli	Dapsaura	16-01-2015	22-05-2015	167	42	209	
27	Hamirpur	Rath	Kuchacha	11-12-2014	26-03-2015	170	38	208	
28	Baghpat	Binauli	Dadri	14-01-2015	28-03-2015	102	26	128	
29	Chitrakoot	Manikpur	Barhamafi	21-01-2015	03-03-2015	195	38	233	
30	Muzaffarnagar	Jansath	Sikhreda	10-01-2015	10-03-2015	78	26	104	
31	Badaun	Ujhani	Sikadradabad	13-12-2014	04-03-2015	65	46	111	
32	Hardoi	Bawan	Gangoli	17-11-2014	24-03-2015	197	77	274	

8. Newspaper Clippings

(i) International News

HINDUSTAN TIMES, LUCKNOW
SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2015

WORLD'S FIRST WARM-BLOODED FISH DISCOVERED



WASHINGTON: Scientists have discovered the world's first fully warm-blooded fish — a moonfish about the size of a car tyre that flaps its fins to generate heat. Opah, or moonfish, circulates heated blood throughout its body much like mammals and birds, giving it a competitive advantage in the cold ocean depths. The silvery fish, roughly the size of a large automobile tyre, is known from oceans around the world and dwells hundreds of feet beneath the surface in chilly, dimly lit waters, researchers said. It swims by rapidly flapping its large, red pectoral fins like wings through the water. Fish that typically inhabit such cold depths tend to be slow and sluggish, conserving energy by ambushing prey instead of chasing it.

16 May 2015: Hindustan Times :
The World's first fully warm-blooded fish-Opah or moonfish

ALLAHABAD
THE HINDU • SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2015

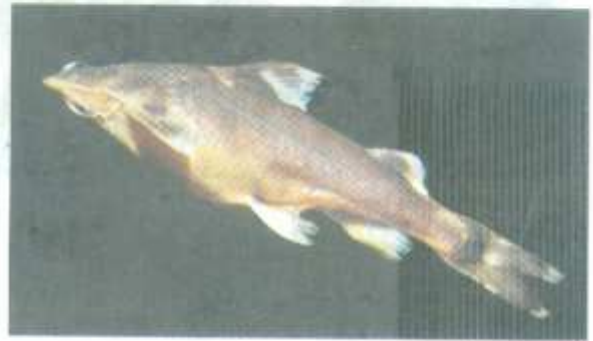
Manipur's Ngapang revealed to world as new catfish species

Shiv Sahay Singh

KOLKATA: Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have discovered a new species of catfish, *Glyptothorax senapatiensis*, in the Chindwin river drainage in Senapati district of Manipur. The people of the region have been having the six-cm-long freshwater fish as food for long, calling it Ngapang.

"It is a small but edible fish with high nutritional value and a lot of oil content," ZSI scientist Laishram Kosygin told *The Hindu*. The fish has a thoracic adhesive apparatus that helps it cling on to the rocky riverbed in mountains against strong currents. All *Glyptothorax*-genus fish have this characteristic.

Ichthyological Exploration of Freshwaters, an international journal published from Germany, recorded the new species in March, with Mr. Kosygin, Nongthombam Prema-



The fish has a thoracic adhesive apparatus that helps it cling on to the rocky riverbed in mountains against strong currents.

nanda and Bano Saidullah authoring the paper.

Scientists say the Northeast has a rich aquatic biodiversity, with 361 of the 816 fish species found in India present there. Several important species of catfish, a diverse group of ray-finned fish with prominent barbels resembling cat whiskers, are found there.

Manipur has a high diversity of aquatic fauna because of the two important river drainage systems. "The western half is fed by the Barak-Brahmaputra drainage and the eastern and central valleys are crisscrossed by the Chindwin river drainage, and these account for the variety in the aquatic fauna," Mr. Kosygin said.

16 May 2015: *The Hindu* : Scientist from ZSI have discovered a new species of Catfish, *Glyptothorax senapatiensis* in Chindwin river drainage in Senapati district of Manipur

ALLAHABAD
THE HINDU • SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2015

That's right, kangaroos are lefties

WASHINGTON: Research on wild kangaroos in Australia is challenging the notion that having a strong hand preference is a trait that developed primarily in people and other primates.

Scientists said on Thursday that these Australian marsupials displayed a natural preference for using their left hand for feeding, self-grooming and other activities. So while most people are right-handed, most kangaroos are lefties.

Beyond providing new insight into kangaroo behaviour, the research sheds light on a unique aspect of mammalian evolution, the researchers said.

Unexpected finding

"We found a pronounced degree of 'handedness,' comparable to that in our species," said biologist Yegor Malashchikov of Saint Petersburg State Univer-



The upright stance of kangaroos allow them to use their front paws freely. - FILE PHOTO AFP

sity in Russia. "In bipedal kangaroos, in all actions studied, there was a significant left-hand preference in the vast majority of individuals."

The researchers said they did not expect to find hand preference in kangaroos or

other marsupials — the pouch-bearing mammals — because of brain differences from the more common placental mammals, including primates, the researchers said.

"Any study that proves true 'handedness' in another bipe-

dal (two-footed) species contributes to the study of brain asymmetry and mammalian evolution," said wildlife ecologist Janeano Ingram of the University of Tasmania. "Even in the scientific community, true 'handedness' was assumed to have evolved primarily in humans and primates."

Kangaroos use hopping as their primary means of locomotion, and their upright stance allows them to use their hands freely.

The researchers observed two bipedal species of kangaroos and one bipedal species of wallaby in continental Australia and Tasmania. They found that the eastern gray kangaroo and the red kangaroo exhibited left-handedness in all tasks. The research, backed by the National Geographic Society, was published in the journal *Current Biology*. — Reuters

20 Jun. 2015: *The Hindu* : It has found that Kangaroos displayed a natural preference for using their left hand for feeding, and self grooming.

Newspaper Clippings

(ii) National News

THE HINDU • MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2015

New species highlights Palakkad's plant diversity

Special Correspondent

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: A team of scientists from four research institutions in Kerala has reported the discovery of a rare species of plant from the Palakkad gap region of the Western Ghats, highlighting the floral diversity in the region and triggering the demand for strict curbs on quarrying in biodiversity pockets.

The team came across the plant in a quarry during an exploration of the Nemmara region south of Palakkad in the valley of the Nelliampathy hills.

Detailed studies established it as a new species. Named *Oldenlandia dineshi*, the plant is a shrub with long linear tapering leaves and dark blue flowers.

The flowering period is from July to September and fruiting from September to October.

The species has been named after T.K. Dinesh Kumar, former Professor of Botany, University College, Thiruvananthapuram.

RARE FIND

OLDENLANDIA DINESHI

Named in honour of T.K. Dinesh Kumar, former Professor of Botany, University College, Thiruvananthapuram.

FEATURES

Shrub with long, linear tapering leaves and dark blue flowers.

FLOWERING PERIOD

July to September

FRUITING PERIOD

September to October



ram.

A paper on the new species published in the Kew Bulletin describes Prof. Kumar as a great teacher and taxonomist who stood away from the limelight of

plant taxonomy because of his unambitious nature.

27 species in India

The genus *Oldenlandia* comprises about 248 species of which 27 have been

reported from India, mainly distributed in the southern parts of the Western Ghats and North and North-East India.

Among these, 12 species and one variety have been recorded from various locations in Kerala.

According to K.M. Prabhukumar from the Centre for Medicinal Plants Research under the Arya Vaidyasala, Kottakkal, several species of the *Oldenlandia* family are widely used in Ayurveda for preparation of formulations such as Chyawanaprasam.

"Further investigations will be needed to ascertain whether this species is a medicinal herb," he said.

Based on IUCN criteria, the researchers have classified *Oldenlandia dineshii* as an endangered species.

Mr. Suresh, from the Government Victoria College, Palakkad, said the discovery underlined the need for stricter controls on quarrying in biodiversity pockets and the restoration and conservation of spent quarries.

06 Apr. 2015: The Hindu: A new plant species called *Oldenlandia dineshi* a shrub with long linear tapering leaves and dark blue flowers has been discovered in Palakkad's gap region of the Western Ghats by Dr. T.K. Dinesh Kumar.

Newspaper Clippings

ALLAHABAD

THE HINDU • TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2015

Elusive partridge photographed for the first time by Bengaluru shutterbug

Mohit M. Rao

BENGALURU: The Wikipedia page shows only a sketch for an image. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which categorises the bird as vulnerable, has only a colourful painting — at least two decades old — as reference.

The Chestnut-breasted Partridge (*Arborophila mandellii*), endemic to the Eastern Himalayas, had eluded shutterbugs, until immense patience and a stroke of luck granted Bengaluru-based wildlife photographer Gururaj Moorching a two-minute encounter with the rare bird.

There are nearly 45 different species of partridges, of which the Chestnut-breasted Partridge — which gets its scientific name from an Italian naturalist — is classified as a 'hill partridge'. IUCN estimates that about 2,500



RARE FIND: Chestnut-breasted Partridge

— PHOTO: GURURAJ MOORCHING

Chestnut-breasted Partridges live in Arunachal Pradesh, Bhutan and Lower Tibet along the Himalayas.

The photographer had gone to Arunachal at the end

The picture was shot in West Kamang in Arunachal Pradesh

of March to West Kamang district, where more than 800 bird species have been spotted.

"The partridge had been heard and seen before, but somehow not photographed. I heard their calls for three days, and I figured that they tend to cross the road late in the evening," said Mr. Moorching, who took to wildlife photography four years ago.

After squatting in silence on a lonely stretch for over three hours, he spotted a female bird crossing the road nearly 25 feet away. Before the shy avian could scurry away into the thicket, Mr. Moorching clicked the first-ever photograph of the bird.

07 Apr. 2015 : The Hindu : The Chestnut-breasted Partridge (*Arborophila mandellii*) has been photographed for the first time in West Kamang in Arunachal Pradesh

THE TIMES OF INDIA, LUCKNOW
THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2015

Iconic Ongole bull, now a cash cow for Brazil

Sribala.Vadlapatia
@timesgroup.com

Hyderabad: There may not be many takers for the famous Ongole bull in its native Andhra Pradesh, but Brazilians have second bred it by the lakhs and are in turn exporting it to other countries at very high prices. Realizing that the original Ongole bull has become the proverbial goose that lays the golden egg, the Brazilians have now sought permission from the Chennai-based National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) to take the germ plasm (semen) of the



The Ongole bull

bull to their country from India. The authorities have constituted an expert committee which is still to take a decision on the request.

Weighing about 420 kg, the Ongole bulls are tough,

highly tolerant to heat as well as disease resistant. "The Ongole bull is bred locally for beef while the female can give about 80 litres of milk a day," NBA secretary T Rabi Kumar told TOI.

Brazil has been importing the Ongole bull for decades, but after the National Biodiversity Act came into existence in 2000, taking out the germ plasm of the bull was strictly monitored. Earlier, local farmers used to sell the bull for Rs 3 to 4 lakh to the foreigners. By second breeding them, Brazil has turned the sale of the Brahmana Bull, the local variety,

to other countries a very profitable business, said sources.

Rabi Kumar said a Brazilian team has placed a request for export of about 5,000 units of germ plasm. "We have sought more information from them on the usage of the germ plasm and the reasons for seeking permission. Once they give clarity, the expert committee in its next meeting will take a decision," he said. Reportedly, each unit of germ plasm costs about \$ 5,000 in the international market.

Former chairman of the AP Biodiversity Board, R

Hampaiah, said Brazil was in the forefront of the nations exporting beef derived from the Ongole bull.

"During my visit to Brazil, I discovered that they had improved the Ongole bull variety genetically. Between Brazil and Mexico together, there are nearly one crore Brahman bulls," he said. According to him, there are not more than a 1,000 top quality Ongole bulls in AP at present.

Sources attributed the genetic improvement made by the Brazilians in the Ongole bull as the reason for its high demand internationally.

16 Apr. 2015: The Hindu : Brazilians have sought permission from NBA to take 5000 units of germplasm (semen) of the Ongole bull from India to Brazil. Each unit of germplasm is reported to cost about \$ 5000 in the International market.

Newspaper Clippings

THE HINDU • SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2015

New species of gecko found

Significant discovery: researchers

M. Sai Gopal

HYDERABAD: A new species of the day gecko, a type of lizard usually found in warm climates, has been spotted at the ruins of the World Heritage Site of Hampi in Karnataka. The gecko has been named *Cnemaspis adii* after a young herpetology researcher from Hyderabad, Aditya Srivastava.



This is the first time that day geckos have been found in the central regions of peninsular India.

The discovery of the gecko and its name were published in the journal *Zootaxa* this month by researchers Chelmsa Srivastava, G. Chethan Kumar and Bhargavi Srivastava from the zoology wing of Osmania University in Hyderabad.

The lizard belongs to the family of day geckos characterised by round pupils unlike regular geckos which have vertical pupils. The zoologists say Hampi and surrounding areas are potentially rich in biodiversity and not much research has been done to identify new species of smaller vertebrate and invertebrates.

The trio felt that presence of day geckos between Western and Eastern Ghats is interesting, indicating the need for more efforts to document the biological diversity, understanding habitat conditions, threats and diversity of local species.

The discovery and subsequent validation in *Zootaxa* did not happen overnight. The new day gecko species was first discovered by Dr. Bhargavi Srivastava in 2002 while they were doing research on bats in the Hampi complex.

Later, the zoologists studied the photographs of live animals and re-searched on known species of day geckos reported from other parts of India, which ultimately confirmed that the specimens belonged to a hitherto undescribed type. They managed to collect three specimens of the lizard that formed the basis of the scientific description of the lizard.

HINDUSTAN TIMES, LUCKNOW
SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2015

To prevent illegal trade of Himalayan Viagra, govt plans to license gatherers

Nihl Sharma Sahani

nihl.sahani@hindustantimes.com

DEHRADUN: The government plans to license gatherers of yarsagumba, the world's most precious fungus famed for its libido-boosting properties, to curb illegal trade.

Uttarakhand Forest Development Corporation (UDFC) is the only legal vendor of the fungus, dubbed Himalayan Viagra, since 2002. But the sky-high price for the fungus in the open market lures sellers away from the corporation. They trade it clandestinely across the state's border with Nepal and China for big money.

Srikant Chandola, the managing director of the corporation, said: "We are offering ₹50,000 per kilo. The open market is providing ₹35 lakh per kilo. The collector is ought to choose open market over us."

The corporation hasn't received even a gram of yarsagumba (*Cordyceps sinensis*) from gatherers for the last three years for marketing. Ninety five per cent of the revenue generated through marketing is for the gatherer and remaining 5% for the gov-

MAJOR CRACKDOWNS

APRIL 25, 2015 It is the small, caterpillar-shaped mummified body of the Himalayan moth that has been invaded by a fungus.

APRIL 25, 2015 Armed smugglers came to Pithoragarh district to collect yarsagumba.

DECEMBER 19, 2013 Police arrested a couple residents of Pithoragarh smuggling 1.20 gm yarsagumba and 3 bear gall bladder (1.80 gm) from ISBT in Dehradun.

JULY 20, 2012 In a shocking recovery, three people were arrested with 720 lakh by Dehradun police that possessed royalty papers of yarsagumba of forest ranger and van panchayat. The smugglers didn't



inform where the Himalayan aphrodisiac was sold.

DECEMBER 19, 2013 Police seized four kilo Yarsagumba worth 40 lakh on Indo-Nepal border at Tanampur in Champawat district.

ernment as royalty. Until 2011, some local people used to bring the fungus to the corporation. Thereafter, it stopped.

Yarsagumba is the small, caterpillar-shaped mummified body of the Himalayan moth that has been invaded by a fungus. It is traditionally used to treat impotence, backache and

to increase sperm and blood production, and is collected from Uttarkashi, Bageshwar, Chamoli and Pithoragarh, above an altitude of 14,000-15,000 feet.

Concerned over the illegal border trade, chief minister Harish Rawat during the state wildlife board meeting direct-

WE ARE OFFERING ₹50,000 PER KILO. THE OPEN MARKET IS PROVIDING ₹35 LAKH PER KILO. THE COLLECTOR IS OUGHT TO CHOOSE OPEN MARKET OVER US

SRIKANT CHANDOLA, managing director, forest development corp

ed forest officers to provide licence to gatherers.

"Our objective should be to stop illegal border trade of the medicinal fungus," the chief minister said during the meeting.

Illegal border trade is a major concern for the government as well as forest authorities. A forest officer on condition of anonymity said: "I think yarsagumba worth Rs 10 crore is smuggled across Indo-Nepal and Indo-China border every year."

"Only 10% of the smuggling is checked by Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Army and forest officers. Remaining stock manages to reach across border areas," he said.

19 Apr. 2015: The Hindu : A new species of Gecko lizard called *Cnemaspis adii* has been spotted in the ruins of the World Heritage Site of Hampi in Karnataka. The lizard belongs to the family of day geckos. It is characterized by round pupils unlike regular geckos which have vertical pupils.

25 Apr. 2015: Hindustan Times : The Uttarakhand Government plans to license gathers of Yarsagumba (*Cordyceps sinensis*) the world's most precious fungus famed for its libido-boosting properties. It is the small caterpillar shaped mummified body of the Himalayan moth that has been invaded by a fungus.

Newspaper Clippings

THE HINDU • THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2015

FLORA AND FAUNA

India richer by 349 new species

Bananas, jamun and orchids among new discoveries

Shiv Sahay Singh

KOLKATA: At a time when plants and animals are under threat across the world, nature lovers and conservationists in India have 349 reasons to feel happy. Scientists and taxonomists of the country have discovered 349 new species of flora and fauna in the past one year – 173 species and genera of plants and 176 species of animals.

The list of new discoveries by the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) and the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), both headquartered here, were released on the World Environment Day on June 5.

"Of the new plants, some of the significant findings include nine new taxa of wild Musa (bananas), four species of black plum (jamun), three species of wild ginger and 10 species of orchids," BSI director Paramjit Singh told *The Hindu*.

Biodiversity hotspots

According to scientists of the BSI, the Western Ghats accounted for 22 per cent of the new discoveries, while



(Clockwise from top) Wild banana species *Musa aurantiaca*, the flower *Impatiens paramjitiana* and amphibian *Roarchestes flaviocularis*. – PHOTOS: BSI/ZSI

the Eastern Himalayas and the north-eastern States each accounted for 15 per cent of the species found.

In Arunachal Pradesh alone, 25 species of seed plants were discovered.

At the ZSI, 176 new species were added to the list of animals of India. These include 93 species of insects, seven species of collembolans, 12 species each of arachnid and crustacean and one spe-

cies of mollusca.

Reptiles too

Interestingly, two species of reptiles have also been located for the first time in the country – one in Tamil Nadu and another in Madhya Pradesh.

"As in the previous year, insects outnumbered other animal groups this year also. But surprisingly, a large number of amphibians and

fish made it to the list with 24 and 23 new species respectively," ZSI director K. Venkataraman told *The Hindu*.

While most of the new species of amphibians were discovered from the Western Ghats, majority of fish species were from north-east India.

Scientists of both BSI and ZSI agree that the Western Ghats and the northeast are biodiversity hotspots where most new species were found.

Apart from the new species, the BSI has also added 105 new records and ZSI 61 'new records.' Animals and plants that are found elsewhere in the world but have been spotted in India for the first time are called 'new records.'

Last year, 614 new species of plants and animals – 366 plants and 248 animals – were discovered. "It is natural that with every passing year, the number of new discoveries will decrease," Mr. Venkataraman said. In India, 96,891 species of animals and 47,791 species of plants have been recorded so far.

11 Jun. 2015: The Hindu: The BSI and ZSI have recorded 349 new species and genera of plants and 176 species of animalism 2015 of new plants –significant findings include nine new taxa of wild musa (bananas), 4 species of black plum (jamun) and 3 species of wild ginger the ZSI included 93 species of insects, 7 species of Collem bolans, 12 species of avachnidan and crustacean and one species of mollusca.

Newspaper Clippings

THE TIMES OF INDIA, LUCKNOW
FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 2015

Blue whale beached in Maha



A 42-ft-long blue whale — the biggest species on earth — was washed ashore at Revdanda, 17km south of Alibaug, on Wednesday. Locals and forest officials struggled for nearly 7 to 8 hours to push the 20,000kg mammal, which showed signs of life, back into the water, but in vain. The whale, reportedly a young female, was later buried on the beach on Thursday. This is reportedly the biggest whale to have washed ashore around the Mumbai coast in recent times. Almost 20 types of whales are found in the Arabian Sea.

Mammal Breathed For Hours Before Being Crushed By Own Weight

Vijay.Singh@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: A 42-ft-long blue whale was washed ashore at Revdanda coast, 17km south of Alibaug, on Wednesday morning in probably the first instance of live stranding of such a big animal on Maharashtra's coast.

It was also the biggest ever to get beached in the state. Locals and forest officials struggled for over seven hours to push the whale back into the sea, to no avail. The 20-ton mammal eventually died, its internal organs crushed by its

own weight. It was buried on the beach on Thursday.

"It is commendable that local villagers tried to rescue the whale. It could not be moved because of its weight and also because the slope of the coast was not steep," said marine biology expert and chief conservator of forests (mangroves cell) N Vasudevan. "In trying to rescue the whale, the locals did not use any mechanized tool like JCB machines as that could have seriously injured it."

JCB machines were brought on the scene, as can be seen in an adjoining picture, after the wh-

ale died. Vasudevan said that in Maharashtra, he has not come across a case of such a big animal getting stranded alive. In May 2007, actor Pooja Bedi and members of PETA India had rescued a stranded melon-headed whale, a much smaller animal, on the Versova beach and helped it return to deep waters.

Two months ago, a dead whale was found on the Uran coast in the state. In the recent past, there have been instances of dead dolphins being found around Mumbai's coast.

Environmentalists say such marine creatures are be-

ing spotted near our shores because of injuries suffered from getting caught in fishing nets or being hit by ships. Some also die because of polluted waters. Activist D Stalin said the latest incident also shows that our waters are rich in biodiversity.

Almost 20 types of whales are found in the Arabian Sea. Usually, sperm whales and Bryde's whales are spotted near the Maharashtra-Karnataka coast. But earlier this year, there was a wave of excitement after marine biologists spotted blue whales close to Simhadurga on the Konkan coast.

26 Jun. 2015: The Times of India : A 42-ft. long blue whale the biggest species of on Earth was washed ashore at Revdanda, 17 Km. South of Alibaug (Mumbai)

Newspaper Clippings

(iii) State News

हिन्दुस्तान 02
रुकनपुर • रविवार • 20 जून 2015

जैव विविधता बचाने को करने होंगे गंभीर प्रयास: राज्यपाल

● आकाश क. रघुनाथिपोट्ट

राज्यपाल राम चंद्रिका ने कहा कि जैव विविधता बचाने के लिए गंभीर प्रयासों की आवश्यकता है। बंगौरा कर जंगल में जो जैव विविधता बचाने के लिए 86 प्रजातियों की पहचान कर प्रकाश में आ रही है। राज्यपाल प्रो. राम चंद्रिका ने कहा कि जैव विविधता को बचाने के लिए गंभीर प्रयासों की आवश्यकता है। राज्यपाल प्रो. राम चंद्रिका ने कहा कि जैव विविधता को बचाने के लिए गंभीर प्रयासों की आवश्यकता है।



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20 Jun. 2015: Hindustan : A Book titled "Birds of Raj Bhawan of Uttar Pradesh" was released by the Honourable Governor of Uttar Pradesh. This book includes a list of 84 birds found in Raj Bhawan.

SUNDAY TIMES OF INDIA, LUCKNOW
MAY 24, 2015

335 rescued turtles released in Kukrail

Op By Maha, UP Forest Depts Saved Reptiles

news@timesgroup.com

Lucknow: The UP forest department, along with Maharashtra forest department and Wildlife Survival Alliance (WSA), on Saturday released 335 spotted pond turtles at the Ghariyal Rehabilitation Centre in Kukrail to mark World Turtle Day.

These turtles were rescued over the past two months from various places in Thane and Mumbai by the Maharashtra forest department and custom authorities. They will be released in wetlands and lakes over 60 days.

WORLD TURTLE DAY

"The turtles were released after being medically examined because they might have been under stress due to confinement," said the conservator of endangered species, I.P. Sanjay Srivastava. The rescued turtles will not be released in rivers as that might genetically poison the species existing naturally in those rivers. "We do not want to disturb areas where turtles will be released as that might make poachers active," said Singh.

Shahjahanpur, a suburb of Kanpur is a collection point for the illegal turtle trade in the country. The poached turtles are then transported to Mumbai and West Bengal through trains.

The Government Railway Police (GRP) in Lucknow seized turtles packed in gunny bags from Mumbai-bound Pushpak Express train last year.

Wspopod in rephrasing to reptile stores, they were listed for various south-east Asian countries, including Malaysia and Hong Kong, to be sold at prices up to Rs 1 lakh per piece.

But connectivity has made cities like Lucknow, Kanpur, Allahabad, Bareilly and Varanasi hubs of poaching in UP. Districts along the Indo-Nepal border, such as Pilibhit, Etah and Bahroich, are at a high risk of wildlife crime because the region is an international hub for trafficking of tiger parts and other wildlife, into China.

The spotted pond turtle is a native species of north India and that was the reason why the Kukrail centre was chosen for the release as a suitable habitat could be found in Maharashtra. The spotted pond turtle is protected under Schedule (I) of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and is one of the most poached turtle varieties.

"It is mainly poached for being kept as a pet in aquariums," said the director of TSA India, Shaktendra Singh. "The species are in demand in southeast Asia, mainly China, because it is believed to have aphrodisiac properties," he said in UP. Lucknow and Kanpur are the preferred transit points for wildlife trade due to better connectivity Government Railway Police made four dog seizures at Lucknow and Kanpur stations in 2014. "Those arrested were mainly carriers who bring the animals to collection points," said SR GHP, Lucknow, Anand Bishnoi.



A rescued turtle peers out of its container fragments before being released.

24 May 2015: Times of India : About 335 spotted pond turtles were released at the Ghariyal rehabilitation center in Kukrail. These turtles were rescued over the past two months from various places in Thane and Mumbai.

Newspaper Clippings

Birds of Rajbhawan: 19 Jun. 2015

The Pioneer
LUDHIANA SATURDAY 20 JUNE 2015

Governor call to save birds

By P. K. Dhillon

Seeing the degradation of the environment and the loss of biodiversity, the Governor has called for the protection of birds. He has urged the government to take steps to conserve the rich avifauna of the State.

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HINDUSTAN TIMES, LUCKNOW SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2015

CM, gov share 'fragrant time'

By Anand Prakash

LUCKNOW Amidst continuing "tiff" between them over the state government's intention to have for nomination as MLC, chief minister Akhilesh Yadav and Governor Raj Bhawan last night shared a "fragrant time" at the Governor's house in Lucknow.

The CM in fact applied a bit of the perfume on the back of Govt's hand, which the CM said had the fragrance of the end of Uttar Pradesh's long 100-year association with the CM as the release of 'Birds of Rajbhawan' coffee table book. The CM said he had very good relations with the Govt and observed that to which the latter replied with a smile. "The media may now go about interpreting the

Govt often suggests the CM to give his suggestions on various issues. The CM has represented Govt's Law Section sent him where his wife is an MP now. Thus the move to gift 'Birds of Rajbhawan' is a gesture of appreciation. Meanwhile, the Governor and Raj Bhawan are the pride of the city as a variety of ornate varieties were grown in its garden. On the other side, the Govt has also been established by the Uttar Pradesh State Bird Diversity Institute, the Ministry of Forests, Environment and Climate Change, Govt of India. The Govt has also been established by the Uttar Pradesh State Bird Diversity Institute, the Ministry of Forests, Environment and Climate Change, Govt of India.

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UP's Raj Bhawan is home to 86 species of birds

Coffee Table Book Released

CHIRPY FRIENDS

Discover from birds are some of the most beautiful creatures on earth. They are not only beautiful but also very useful. They help in pollination, control pests, and provide entertainment. This book is a must-read for bird lovers.



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NEWS: 20 June 2015

अमर उजाला राजधानी

बात नहीं, काम से संवरेगा पर्यावरण

राज्यपाल-सीएम ने किया राजभवन के पक्षियों पर संकलित पुस्तक का विमोचन

अमर उजाला न्यूज़

रिश्तों में घुली इनकी महक

समाज के दोन हीन अधिकारी ने राजभवन के पक्षियों पर संकलित पुस्तक का विमोचन किया। इस पर राजभवन के अध्यक्ष ने भी बोलते हुए कहा कि पर्यावरण को संभालना ही हमारा कर्तव्य है।



दरबारी रिश्तों में सुगंध...

राज्यपाल और सीएम ने राजभवन के पक्षियों पर संकलित पुस्तक का विमोचन किया।

दरबारी में सुगंध लम्बना एक सौल

राजभवन के पक्षियों पर संकलित पुस्तक का विमोचन किया।

भरे भी आवास में दिलने लगी हैं गौरव

राजभवन के पक्षियों पर संकलित पुस्तक का विमोचन किया।

पत्रकार सत्ता

विलुप्त हो रही पक्षियों की प्रजातियों को बचाने की जरूरत

राजभवन के पक्षियों पर संकलित पुस्तक का विमोचन किया।



राजभवन के पक्षियों पर संकलित पुस्तक का विमोचन किया।

Newspaper Clippings

4 | दैनिक जागरण लखनऊ, 20 जून 2015

केवल बातों से नहीं सुधरेगा पर्यावरण : नाईक

लखनऊ, लखनऊ : राज्यपाल राम नाईक ने कहा है कि केवल बातों से पर्यावरण सुधरेगा नहीं बल्कि वास्तविक कदमों से। उन्होंने कहा कि पर्यावरण को सुधारेने के लिए वास्तविक कदम उठाए जाते हैं, लेकिन ऐसे प्रयास होने चाहिए कि जिससे हरिद्वार बनी रहे।

राज्यपाल ने लखनऊ के 'उत्तर प्रदेश राज भवन के पक्षी' पुस्तक का विमोचन करते हुए पर्यावरण के महत्व पर प्रकाश डाला। इस अवसर पर मुख्यमंत्री अखिलेश यादव भी मौजूद थे। इस पुस्तक में राज भवन परिसर में मौजूद 86 पक्षियों का चित्र है। उनको संतुष्टि देने के लिए उल्लेख किया गया है।

पुस्तक के प्रकाशन की सलहना करने हुए मुख्यमंत्री अखिलेश यादव ने ऐसी ही पुस्तक पढ़ी व पक्षियों के बारे में भी प्रकाशित की जानी चाहिए। ऐसी पुस्तकों को मूल्य में बढ़ावा दे जाने के लिए को उपलब्ध कराया जाये चाहिए। उन्होंने कहा कि वेदों पक्षियों से हरिद्वार को बचाने के लिए विशेष आकर्षित होयें। विद्वानों का मध्यम के निकट रहने खुशहाली का प्रतीक है। उन्होंने कहा कि परिवार का एक अर्थ केवल बच्चे के पैरों पर नहीं है बल्कि एक एक भवन से लेकर इन विभाग को नर्सरी तक में मौजूद है और लोग इसे जगह-जगह देखित कर रहे हैं।

राज्यपाल ने भी पुस्तक प्रकाशन की सलहना की और कहा कि अतिमान पक्षियों का प्रयोग केवल शिकार, खाने, बर्तन व सजावट का परिष्कार है। उन्होंने कहा कि अतिमान के पुस्तकालयों में इस पुस्तक को प्रयोग के लिए देना चाहिए। इस मौके



समारोह
 * मुख्यमंत्री अखिलेश की मौजूदगी में राज्यपाल ने किया 'रुज भवन के पक्षी' पुस्तक का विमोचन

5. केंडी में बजर आने लगी गरिया

मुख्यमंत्री ने कहा कि एक बार दूर से उन्होंने एक अधिकारी पर कार्रवाई कर दी। बाद में लोगों ने उन्हें बताया कि वह अपने अधिकारी हैं और उन पर कार्रवाई नहीं की जानी चाहिए थी। इस पर उन्होंने कहा कि अगर कार्रवाई से बचना है तो मुख्यमंत्री अवकाश के लिए बाध्य नहीं होनी चाहिए। पहले तो अधिकारी विधिगत नहीं हो सकते, लेकिन बाद में वह दिल्ली से एक विशेष विधिगत लेकर आए और अब वही विधिगत मार्ग पर गौरव चकर उठने लगी है।

सीएम ने दिया मिट्टी से बना इत्र

राज्यपाल ने कहा कि उन्हें व मुख्यमंत्री के साथ अच्छे संबंध हैं। उनसे विदेशी इन के बारे में चर्चा हुई तो उन्होंने बताया कि अपने खास मिट्टी से भी इत्र बनता है और पहली बारिश में इससे सुगंध मिलती है। मुख्यमंत्री ने गुड्रो मिट्टी से बना इत्र भेंट किया है। राज्यपाल ने कहा कि उन्हें राज भवन में अन्न पानी से गुणवत्ता नहीं बढ़ाई। राज भवन की आर्थिक स्थिति का वह अनदेखा नहीं है। राज्यपाल ने यह सलाह भी उठाया कि राज भवन में और खर्च नहीं है।

पर काशीना में भी राज्यपाल ने भी पुस्तक प्रकाशन की सलहना की और कहा कि अतिमान पक्षियों का प्रयोग केवल शिकार, खाने, बर्तन व सजावट का परिष्कार है। उन्होंने कहा कि अतिमान के पुस्तकालयों में इस पुस्तक को प्रयोग के लिए देना चाहिए। इस मौके

पायनियर
 लखनऊ, शनिवार, 20 जून, 2015

पक्षियों की विलुप्त हो रही प्रजातियों को बचाने की जरूरत: राज्यपाल

मुख्यमंत्री की मौजूदगी में राज्यपाल ने पुस्तक 'उत्तर प्रदेश राजभवन के पक्षी' पुस्तक का विमोचन किया

पर के उत्तरपाल विद्वान अखिलेश यादव के राम भद्राईक को भेंट किया

संस्कृत का इत्र

प्रदेश के पर्यावरण राम नाईक ने लखनऊ को लखनऊ के पक्षी पुस्तक में मुख्यमंत्री अखिलेश यादव को भी भेंट की। उन्होंने कहा कि पर्यावरण को बचाने के लिए वास्तविक कदम उठाए जाते हैं, लेकिन ऐसे प्रयास होने चाहिए कि जिससे हरिद्वार बनी रहे।

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Sarus and Eicchornia in Bloom Photo credit Neeraj Mishra

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