

A Brief Report on International Day for Biodiversity-2017

International Day for Biodiversity-2017 was celebrated under the theme "**Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism**" at various places of the state of Uttarakhand. The main event for IDB-2017 was organized by Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board on 22nd of May, 2017 at I.C.F.R.E. Auditorium, FRI Campus, Dehradun. The event was chaired by Padma Bhushan Shri Chandi Prasad Bhatt, a noted Environmentalist, and Social Worker. The Chief Guest for the event was Dr. Harak Singh Rawat, Hon'ble Minister- Forest & Environment, Government of Uttarakhand. Amongst special invitees were Dr. S.C. Gairola, DG I.C.F.R.E., Dr. Shashi Kumar, Director I.G.N.F.A., Eminent foresters, Scientists, Environmentalists, Social Workers, representatives of different Line Deptts., Faculty and Students from FRI University, Pestleweed Institute & Graphic Era University also participated in the programme.

On his arrival at the venue, the Chief Guest - Hon'ble Minister of Forest & Environment and AYUSH, Government of Uttarakhand first inaugurated a mini-fair that comprised of a collection of stalls showcasing Traditional Knowledge based income generating activities of the local people that make use of bio-resources. The stalls were put-up by GIZ who is partnering with the Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board for capacity building and creating awareness regarding ABS among line departments, BMCs, bio-resource based industrial houses etc. The Hon'ble Chief Guest and other dignitaries showed great interest in the income generating activities showcased by various NGOs, Traditional Healers, and Women's Welfare Organizations etc. Details of the stalls were as following:-

- Traditional Craft (by LokSewa Samiti, Ranikhet)
- Biological resource (nettle fibre) based craft showcase and GIZ initiative on ABS
- Traditional human and veterinary healers based on medicinal plants
- Eco-tourism and sustainable Biodiversity
- Sustainable waste management
- Traditional craft system of Kumaon (by CHEA, Pithauragarh & Nainital)

After inaugurating the Mini-fair, the Hon'ble Chief guest and other dignitaries viewed the Photo-exhibition on Biodiversity of Uttarakhand put up by Bhumesh Bharati and the prize winning Photographs, Collages and Posters and other articles on display. The Hon'ble Minister and other dignitaries congratulated all the winners and other participants for putting up a nice show that highlighted the rich traditional knowledge and biodiversity of Uttarakhand.



Stall for Traditional Healing



Stall for Traditional Crafts



Photo Gallery of Uttarakhand Biodiversity

Shri S.S.Rasaily, Member-Secretary, USBB welcomed the Chief Guest, the Chairperson, Special Invitees, other Guests and Participants. The Chairperson, the Chief Guest and the Special Invitees on the stage were felicitated with bouquet, Memento and Shawl locally prepared from Ringal Fibre. In his welcomed address he said that the purpose of celebrating International Biodiversity Day-2017 is to create awareness amongst the masses regarding the conservation of Biodiversity. He also said that UN has issued the theme for year- 2017 as "Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism".



Welcome address by Shri S.S.Rasaily, Member-Secretary

Dr. Rakesh Shah, the Chairman, Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board in his inaugural address apprised about the brief history and importance of constitution of the Biodiversity Board at National and State Level. He also threw light on International Biodiversity Day- 2017 celebration and the theme "Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism". He said that the state of Uttarakhand attracts tourists from different states of India and Abroad because of its rich and varied Biodiversity and Culture. People prefer to go for natural tourism than artificial tourism. Therefore we have to be cautious because with the increase in number of tourists the Biodiversity is badly affected and therefore necessary precautionary measures have to be taken in this regard.

On this occasion Mr. Anup Shah, the noted International Photographer and Environmentalist gave his presentation based on the theme "Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism" through slide-show of his collection of rare photographs of Himalayan Peaks and Landscapes.

Thereafter Padma Bhushan Shri Chandi Prasad Bhatt, the Chairperson of the occasion spoke about the importance of creating awareness about the Biodiversity Conservation as it is directly related to the survival of the humanity. He emphasised that the development of mankind is directly related with the development of the Biodiversity. He also mentioned that Uttarakhand state is unique because of its Rich Biodiversity. He also expressed grave concern on so called unplanned Developmental Activities being carried out in the state, specially constructing roads in the hills. He requested the Forest Minister to make an effective policy in this regard. He also suggested that we, as sincere citizens of the state, should use the resources like land, forest and water only for our personal requirement and not for the luxury.

Dr. Harak Singh Rawat, the Hon'ble Minister- Forest & Environment and AAYUSH, Government of Uttarakhand in his address said that our fore fathers always took every precaution to protect and conserve the Rich Biodiversity of our state in order to make lives of the coming generation safe and secure and now it is our first and foremost duty and obligation to follow the legacy to conserve and manage the Biodiversity in such a way that our next generations to come also remain safe and secure. He insisted that the small but sincere efforts can bring great results. In his address he appealed everybody to give his best contribution to create awareness amongst the masses for conservation of Biodiversity.

On this occasion Two New Publications prepared and published by Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board namely "Uttarakhand Biological Diversity Rules- 2015" and "Study on Science Policy Interface" were launched by the Chairperson and the Chief Guest.



Launching of New Publications by USBB

A Competition based on theme "Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism" for Photography, Collage, Poster, Short Documentary Film and Photo Document/Write up were held before the main event. The winners of the competition were felicitated by the Chairman and The Chief Guest of the main event. Photographs, Collage and Posters of the winners were displayed at the venue. The winner short Documentary film made by 'Village-Ways' organisation from Almora was also shown to the audience present. Few Stalls were also put up at the venue based on the theme "Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism". Besides USBB, Graphic Era University, Eco Tourism Deptt Govt. of Ukd, Lok Chetna Manch NGO from Ranikhet (displaying products prepared by War Widows and divorcees), GIZ, Practitioners of Traditional Knowledge (Traditional Healing Methods by Local Vaidya and Gujjars) and various products prepared from Ringal and other locally available Fibres by CHEA and other Welfare Organisations. It is necessary to mentioned that GIZ played a big role to put up stalls for Traditional Knowledge Practitioners and other local handicraft besides helping in organising the main event.

Members of Dudhai BMC were felicitated by the Chief Guest for their achievement of having been declared as the Best BMC for 2016 at Mumbai.

On this occasion Dr. Madhu Thapliyal, Assistant Prof. (Zoology) Govt. Degree College, Raipur was also felicitated for her efforts through a movement to protect and conserve a pond rich in yellow frog population in Defence Colony, Dehradun.



Winner of Photography Competition being awarded



BMC Dudhai being felicitated

In the end the Vote of Thanks was given by Shri Dhananjay Parsad, Deputy-Director, Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board, Dehradun.