

Promoting wildlife appreciation at Sundarvan - Wildlife Week 2017

National wildlife week is celebrated all through the country to aware the general public and instill the curiosity and passion about the wildlife of India. An initiative by Indian Board for Wildlife (IBWL), Wildlife Week is observed from 2-8 October. This year Sundarvan celebrated the noble cause with a series of events. The first programme of the occasion was the Wildlife Quiz. On 3, Tuesday, two quizzes were organised, the morning quiz targeted for school students and one in the evening was open to all. The Quiz Master for the school quiz was Bhushan Patel who designed it in different rounds, encouraging participants to learn more about the wildlife of India and the World. The open quiz for the evening was conducted by Kushan Patel, founder of Ahmedabad Quiz Club. He put forward many topic-appropriate questions designed in exciting rounds by which not only participants but audience also got to learn about the amazing facts on flora and fauna, popular personalities who contributed for wildlife conservation and more. Indian Wildlife Quiz was organised to increase awareness about the fascinating wildlife of India



The photography exhibition portrayed wildlife around Gujarat and received positive appreciation from the audience



Getting familiarized with the rules of the Open Quiz in the breezy amphitheatre

and their conservation, and received tremendous response. The JK Laxmi Cement extended their generous support to carry out these quiz programmes.

On 6 Oct 2017, “CrOctober Friday” was organized.

Sundarvan celebrated the wildlife friendly October’s first Friday talking about its one of the important members - the Crocs.

The event started with a general introduction of Reptiles followed by features of

Crocodile, its feeding habits, breeding, parental care, conservation issues, etc. Later, their favourite food - fish was fed to these mighty beasts in front the participants. The interactive talk created lot of curiosity which facilitated the audience to ask many questions to clarify their doubts on crocodiles. The evening ended with screening of “Here Be Dragons” documentary, midst of the tall trees surrounded open air theatre.

The vivid colours of nature captured from different parts of Gujarat by one of our young volunteers, Neel Panchal was exhibited for visitors from 6 to 8. Mr. Ratilal Kansodaria, Principal, Sheth C. N. College of Fine Arts, Ahmedabad, inaugurated the event. Over 50 photographs of wildlife ranging from spiders

to birds and mammals are exhibited in the occasion.

On Saturday the 7 Oct “Lets Talk about Photography” became a highly acclaimed event. The programme was targeted towards the photography enthusiasts who have special interest on shooting wildlife. Pavan Patel was the speaker of the day. With a deep passion for wildlife and nature, Pavan is into ecotourism and has extensively travelled to different parts of India and other countries. He mesmerized the audience with his stunning photographs and the event was well received by the participants.

The events were diverse with potential to inculcate the passion and curiosity on wildlife among different age groups.



Group photograph of the participants and teachers of the school quiz

**Submitted by: S. Sivakumar, B. Saymanti & Meena Nareshwar, CEE.
Emails: s.sivakumar@ceeindia.org, saymanti.bandyopadhyay@ceeindia.org & meena.nareshwar@ceeindia.org**

Van Mahotsava 2017, 01-7 July 2017



Suresh Chandra Rajput (Wildlife Warden, N.C.S., UPFD) plant a tree at Shanson, Etawah

Van Mahotsava is an annual tree planting festival in the first week of July month. During this festival thousand of trees are planted all over India. In 1950, it was started by K. M. Munshi, the Union Minister for Agriculture and Food at that time. It was started to create awareness in the mind of the people for the conservation of forests and planting of new trees.

In India it was started as a crusade to save mother earth. The name *Van Mahotsava* means ‘the festival of trees’. The festival was simultaneously celebrated in a number of states in India. Since then, thousands of saplings of diverse species are planted with energetic participation of the locals and various agencies like the forest department.

The *Van Mahotsava* 2017 was jointly celebrated by Conservation of Animal Resources and Environment (CARE) and NCS, Project Agra, Range Etawah, UPFD.

We all were gathered at Shanson on 1st July 2017; here Mr. Suresh Chandra Rajput (Wildlife Warden, NCS, UPFD) inaugurated the *Van Mahotsav*. In the inaugural ceremony Forest staff, NGOs, Community and Chakarnagar BDC member were involved. Mr. Rajput welcomed to all participants (50) and also gives an informative and motivational speech. During his speech he said that local plant species should plant that give money to local people. Mr. Rajput also said that during the whole *Van Mahotsava* does more and more plantation. Today approximately 100 plants of local species were planted at Shanson.

On 2nd July; 2nd day of *Van Mahotsava* 2017 a plantation programme at Kundeswar pond were

done. Mr. Khem Bahadur Bhadauria (CEO, CARE), says that approx. 70 plants were planted at Pond, here village head Mr. Goldi Jadon, forest staff, community were involved in the same. Mr. Jadon gives speech to community for conservation of nature.

On 3rd July a plantation programme were arranged at Government Junior School, Baroli-Bidupura. Today here 50 plants were planted in school campus with teachers (3 teacher) and students (50 students). In school after the plantation Mr. Hari Mohan Meena (Programme Coordinator, CARE) give a lecture to participants related to importance of plants for lining ecosystem.

On 4th July a plantation programme were arranged at Bavain village on revenue land. Today here 100 plants were planted in revenue land. In plantation programme CARE, Forest departments' staff and community people.



Oath unleash programme at Vimla Devi Tridev Public School, Etawah

On 5th July 9:00 o'clock an oath unleash programme were arranged at Vimla Devi Tridev Public school, Etawah of the state by the order of Chief Minister. Total of 190 students were involved in the same. Today Mr. Amit Singh Sisodiya (NCS, Project Agra, Range Etawah, UPFD) give lecture to students at school. After the oath unleash programme 40 plants were also planted in the school.

On 6th July an awareness programme regarding to plantation programme and Nature conservation organise at Sarswati Gyan Mandir, Etawah. A total of 100 participants include in the same with the teachers during the Van Mahotasav 2017. Today 10 plants planted at school.

On 7th July a plantation programme were arranged at Pond of Udhanpura, Etawah. During the plantation programme Mr. Sonu Bhadauria (Ex-village head) and Mr. Jitu Bhadauria with CARE officials, Forest department officials and community were present and 60 plants planted at pond boundary.

During the Van Mahotasav from 1-7 July, 2017 total 430 plants jointly planted by CARE and NCS, Project Agra, Range Etawah, UPFD at different locations in Etawah district.

**Submitted by: Hari Mohan Meena, Programme Coordinator, CARE.
Email: hari.arcw@gmail.com**