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FLORESTA

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Forest Service, Dehradun

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World Wildlife Day Celebrations

Every year, 3rd March is observed as World Wildlife Day to celebrate the incredible diversity of wild flora and fauna in the world. The day also encourages everyone to raise awareness about the need to conserve natural resources.

Officers' Club, CASFOS, Dehradun commemorated the occasion by endowing a new award known as the "P.K. Sen Conservationist Award." Dr. A. J. T. Johnsingh, a distinguished wildlife biologist and former Dean



of the Wildlife Institute of India, was the Chief Guest of the programme. He delivered a technical session on wildlife conservation and shared his personal experiences regarding challenges in wildlife conservation. He also examined the future of wildlife conservation and

highlighted the grey areas.

Dr. Ravi Singh, Secretary General and CEO of World Wide Fund for Nature-India (WWF-India), shared his insights about the mandates and the ongoing projects of WWF-India in the field of wildlife conservation. Shri Bharat Jyoti, IFS (Director, IGNFA), Dr. Saket Badola, IFS (Head, TRAFFIC India), Dr. I. P. Bopanna (Landscape Coordinator, WWF-India) and Dr. A. K. Singh (Team leader, Terai Arc Landscape, WWF-India) were also present to grace the occasion.

The TRAFFIC Post, a newsletter detailing wildlife crime statistics and



control measures implemented by TRAFFIC India, was inaugurated and distributed among all the dignitaries. Shri Bharat Jyoti concluded the session by motivating the Officers Trainees for their careers as wildlife conservationists. Smt.

Nidhi Srivastava (Principal, CASFOS, Dehradun), faculty members and all Officer Trainees were present on the occasion.

Field Visit: Forest Engineering

On 4th February, 2022, the Officer Trainees went for a field-visit to Biharigarh, Uttar Pradesh, accompanied by visiting faculty Shri Saurabh Kumar (Urban Consultation Service). They visited a stone crushing site to have a hands-on experience about its operations as crushed stones are an important constituent of roads and building constructions. On reaching the place, the Officer Trainees were told about the working of the stone crusher that produces stones of variable sizes ranging from 8 mm to 40 mm.



As each category of stone has its own utility in the civil engineering works,



therefore, it is imperative to know what size of chips must be used during construction. Later, they were also briefed about the procurement of the boulders through government or private sector and the necessary permits required for it. Later, the Officer Trainees were taken to Banjara River site where boulders were being collected. They were sensitized regarding the importance of the management of the river banks, so that erosion can be checked and controlled.

Ecological Census Techniques Field Exercise

Ecological Census is the procedure of systematically acquiring information, recording it and analyzing it to determine the presence and calculate the abundance of a particular species in a given ecosystem. Census methods can be split into direct method of census dealing with observations on actual individuals and indirect method of census, which involves estimation of individuals from evidences like signs of tracks, dung/pellets, calls, feeding, nesting etc.



The Officer Trainees of the 35th SFS Induction Course (2021-23) in CASFOS, Dehradun participated in the All India Tiger Estimation 2021-2022 (Phase IV Monitoring) in co-ordination with Shivalik Forest Division,



Saharanpur (Uttar Pradesh) as a part of their curriculum Ecological Census Techniques Field Exercise. The exercise was conducted from 06.03.2022 to 15.03.2022 under the supervision of Shri Abhilash Damodaran, IFS (Lecturer, CASFOS Dehradun), Ms. Shweta Sen (DFO, Shivalik Division), Mr. Kamal Patel (SDO, Shivalik Division) and WWF staff members. The monitoring was done in three parts; transect walk (2 km), carnivore sign survey (5 km) and bird/vulture survey (5 km). The Officer Trainees also got an opportunity to interact with Shri N. K. Janu, IFS (CCF, Meerut Zone, Uttar Pradesh).



Holi Milan Samaroh

Holi, the festival of colours, was celebrated by the Officers' Club of CASFOS, Dehradun on 17th March, 2022 with the gracious presence of Smt. Meenakshi Joshi (Principal, CASFOS Dehradun) and other faculty members. The program comprised of various cultural events performed by the Officer Trainees. Smt. Meenakshi Joshi cited the mythological significance of the festival in her



speech. The event became more vibrant and colorful with the exchange of '*Gulal*'. We wish the colors of Holi spread the message of happiness!

International Day of Forests

According to the United Nations, forests are home to about 80% of the world's terrestrial biodiversity, with more than 60,000 tree species. Yet, we are losing 10 million ha. of forest, which is about the size of Iceland, each year. The United Nations General Assembly had proclaimed 21st March as the "International Day of Forests" in 2012 to celebrate and raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests. On this special day, the Officers' Club of CASFOS, Dehradun had organised an essay writing competition, where all Officer Trainees had participated. The Principal, CASFOS, Dehradun, highlighted the importance of forests and vital role to be played by the foresters in the protection of forests.

Thanksgiving and Farewell of Smt Nidhi Srivastava, IFS and Shri Abhilash Damodaran, IFS

"The world is round, and the place which may seem like the end may also be the beginning." It was 31st March, 2022, when the Thanksgiving and Farewell programme of Smt. Nidhi Srivastava (Ex-Principal, CASFOS, Dehradun) and Shri Abhilash Damodaran (faculty,



CASFOS, Dehradun) was organised by the Officers' Club of CASFOS, Dehradun. At the beginning of the program Smt. Meenakshi Joshi (Principal, CASFOS, Dehradun) and all faculty members, along with their families, were greeted with floral bouquets by the Officer Trainees.

The ceremony comprised of songs and shayaris beautifully performed by the Officer Trainees. They also shared their experiences with Smt. Nidhi Srivastava and Shri Abhilash Damodran.



Subsequently, Shri Pradeep Wahule thanked Smt. Nidhi Srivastava and shared his joyful experiences with Shri Abhilash Damodaran and dedicated a song, which had the essence of camaraderie between them. Thereafter, the Course Director of the



35th SFS Induction Course, Shri Amlendu Pathak shared his experience and expressed his gratitude. Shri Abhilash Damodaran also shared his experience at CASFOS, Dehradun and reiterated his fervent statement that *"Forestry must be a passion and not merely a profession"*. The Principal, Smt Meenakshi Joshi addressed the audience. On this special day, the monthly magazine 'FLORESTA' was also released. A short video was showcased by 'Nature and Photography Club' featuring photographs from Shri Abhilash Damodran's journey at CASFOS, Dehradun. Shri Abhilash Damodaran, a true mentor and avid forester narrated his incredible journey at CASFOS, Dehradun. We wish him good luck and success in his life.

Football Team Practice Session

The Officer Trainees of CASFOS, Dehradun, in their endeavour for excellence, not just in the field of academics but also in sports, have been striving hard through regular practice sessions. One such session of CASFOS, Dehradun's



Football Team took place on 27th March, 2022. The team was motivated and inspired by the presence of Shri Amlendu Pathak, IFS, Course Director of 35th SFS Induction Course and Shri Arvind Mundhe, IFS, Deputy Director, Forest Survey of India who themselves played football along with the Officer Trainees. The team played with a lot of zeal and spirit. Such dedicated efforts on the field will certainly help in further refinement of their footballing skills and take the academy to greater heights in sporting excellence.



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