



भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान  
Wildlife Institute of India

# W.I.I. Newsletter

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## News : Training and Workshops

### XXIV Certificate Course in Wildlife Management concluded

The Course concluded on January 30, 2009. The officer trainees were taken for the field tours at various Protected Areas and Institutions in the country. The Management Tour was conducted from January 2-21, 2009 to National Zoological Park, Delhi; Keoladeo National Park, Rajasthan; Chambal Wildlife Sanctuary, Panna National Park, Kanha Tiger Reserve and Pench Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh; and Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra. This tour exposed the officer trainees to a variety of management practices across several Protected Areas and ex-situ conservation areas in the central and southern parts of the country.

The Valedictory Function was organized on January 30, 2009. Shri S.C. Dey, Secretary General, Global Tiger Forum, New Delhi, was the Chief Guest on the occasion. He presented the Certificates and various awards to the officer trainees. All thirteen officer trainees were awarded 'Certificate in Wildlife Management' on successful completion of the course. Ten of them obtained the "Honours Certificate in Wildlife Management". The Institute's Gold Medal for the 'Top Trainee' was jointly awarded to Mr. Alkab Hasan from Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Mrs. Anita Bhardwaj from Himachal Pradesh. Mr. Alkab Hasan also bagged Institute's Prize for Wildlife Management. Institute's Prize for Best All Round Wildlifer was awarded to Mr. Alok Kumar, Arunachal Pradesh. Ms. Uzma Noureen from Pakistan was awarded the Institute's Prize for the Best Foreign Trainee. Contact: gopigv@wii.gov.in



Shri S.C. Dey, Secretary General, Global Tiger Forum, New Delhi presenting awards to Mr. Alkab Hasan and Mrs. Anita Bhardwaj.

Two-day Training Programme for Spearhead Teams of Keshopur Chhamb and Lalwan Community Reserves, Hoshiarpur, February 3-4, 2009. As per the request of Chief Wildlife Warden, Punjab the task of preparing the management plan for Keshopur-Chhamb reserve is undertaken by the Wildlife Institute of India. As a part of this initiative, a two-day training programme was organised by the Institute in association with Punjab Forest and Wildlife Department for spearhead teams of Keshopur Chhamb and Lalwan Community Reserves. Each spearhead teams comprised local staff of the area and the representatives of the village communities. The objective of this training programme was to sensitize the team about the importance of the area, provide them skills required for micro-planning and inculcate the basic attitudes for preparation of village level plans. In total, 45 participants joined this training programme. The programme was inaugurated by Chief Wildlife Warden Punjab on February 3, 2009. A field visit was made to Keshopur to have an interaction with the communities of the reserve. In this interaction, the problem analysis and strategy formulation carried out for the reserve were discussed with the communities, and in the light of their suggestions prioritization of strategies was carried out. This training programme has helped in formulating management plan for the Reserve. Contact: anilbhardwaj@wii.gov.in

Short course on "Capacity Building in Biodiversity Conservation and Related Issues", Dehradun, February 16-19, 2009. The Institute conducted this course for the Village Sarpanch and field staff of Askot Landscape in Pithoragarh Forest Division, Uttarakhand on the request from Uttarakhand Forest Department. In all thirty participants attended the training programme. The major focus of the programme was to sensitize the village



The participants were sensitized towards participatory biodiversity conservation initiatives.

level people and the field staff towards participatory biodiversity conservation initiatives. The training programme had classroom lectures, exercises, case studies and a field visit to Rajaji National Park. The status of biodiversity with special emphasis on Askot Landscape, various threats to biodiversity, the key principles of participatory biodiversity processes viz. ecodevelopment including the issues of levels of participation, situational analysis, livelihood improvement and micro-planning were covered in the training programme. In the Valedictory Function, the Conservator of Forests, North-Kumaon Circle, Almora was present and had interactions with the participants. Contact: melkani@wii.gov.in

Two-week special short term course in "Wildlife Protection, Law and Forensic Science" for the Indian Revenue Service (Customs & Central Excise) Group 'A' probationers of 59<sup>th</sup> batch, Dehradun, March 16-27, 2009. CITES, an international agreement between governments aims to ensure that international trade in wild plants and animals do not threaten their survival and it accords varying degrees of protection to more than 33,000 species of flora and fauna by listing them. WII has been regularly imparting training to the probationers of Customs & Central Excise on the international agreements and the legal implications of trade in wild plants and animals.



Customs & Central Excise probationers were told about the legal implications of trade in wild plants and animals.

The training module aimed at sensitizing the young officers towards wildlife trade in the country and their role in controlling it. The course was attended by 52 officers. Inputs were given on importance of plant taxonomy; trade in medicinal plants; and the role of wildlife forensic in dealing with wildlife cases. The officers were also taken to protected areas including Rajaji National Park and Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, where they had interaction with forest officers and frontline field staff. Contact: gsbhardwaj@wii.gov.in

## On the Move

**Effective Leadership and Communication Tools for Environment Management and Conservation Training Course, Front Royal Virginia, USA, January 4-14, 2009.** Dr. Pranab Pal, FTO participated in this training programme held at Smithsonian Institution (SI) Conservation and Research Centre, Front Royal Virginia, USA. The scholarship was provided by the Smithsonian Institution and International Tiger Project-WWF, Nepal. More than fifteen participants from different countries attended the course. Dr. Pal also presented a paper during the course. He attended a symposium on "New threats and realities in the tropical extinction crisis" at SI National Museum. The training programme and symposium provided comprehensive overview of fundamental communication, programme management and strategic planning skills to become an effective environmental leader. Contact: ppal@wii.gov.in

**National conference on "First global summit on sustainable development and biodiversity - 2008", Raipur, February 7-9, 2009.** Dr. Pranab Pal, FTO attended this International Conference which was jointly organized by Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board; Population Foundation of India; Jansatta; VRM Foundation; CTRD; and SID. The objective of the conference was to bring together scientists, foresters, policy makers, environmentalists and sociologists on a common platform to initiate meaningful dialogue on sustainable biodiversity conservation; climate change & global warming; environmental governance; and sustainable development. More than fifty participants from India as well as abroad attended the conference. Dr. Pal presented a paper in the conference. Contact: ppal@wii.gov.in



## Farewell

**Shri Anup Kumar Nayak, IFS**

Shri Anup Kumar Nayak, IFS (Orissa: 1985) had joined the Indian Forest Service in 1985 and was allotted Orissa cadre. Shri Nayak has joined the Institute as Scientist-F by transfer on deputation on Foreign Service on June 28, 2006. He organised many workshops and courses on behalf of the Institute. He also worked as Head of the Department of Landscape Level Planning & Management. He carried out research in various parts of the country, particularly in the east coast of India on Olive Ridley sea turtles. Shri Nayak was relieved from the Institute on January 14, 2009 to join the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, MoEF, GoI as Joint Director.



**Shri A. Udhayan, IFS**

Shri A. Udhayan, IFS (TN:1991) joined the Institute by transfer on deputation on Foreign Service on June 1, 2006. Shri Udhayan organized many courses on behalf of the Institute. He worked in the Department of Protected Area Network, Wildlife Management & Conservation Education as Scientist-E. He carried out research on the adaptive management approach for phasing out teak plantation in Anamalai Conservation Area. He was the Registrar from July 2008 to March 2009. Shri Udhayan was repatriated to Tamil Nadu State Forest Department on March 31, 2009 after completion of his tenure.



## Welcome

**Dr. Gautam Talukdar**

Dr. Gautam joined WII on January 9, 2009 after his selection as Scientist-C. He obtained his Ph.D. from Indian Institute of Remote Sensing. He has been in field of Geoinformatics for more than ten years and gained experience from several reputed institutes like the Forest Survey of India and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing. He has worked in several national and international level projects. His research interests include advances in remote sensing, geospatial modeling for issues relevant to sustainable development, data interoperability, ecological modeling and climate change. He is now involved in teaching geoinformatics for wildlife management. His areas of specialization are geoinformatics, landscape dynamics, ecological modeling, and biodiversity characterization at landscape level.



**Shri Subharanjan Sen, IFS**

Shri Subharanjan Sen, IFS (MP: 1991) joined Indian Forest Service in 1991 and was allotted the Madhya Pradesh Cadre. He did his Master's Degree in Zoology from Utkal University, Bhubaneswar and Post-Graduate Diploma in Wildlife Management from Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun in 1996. Shri Sen was posted as Director, Satpura National Park in 1996 for three years. He completed a three-year tenure of office at Shivpuri as Director, Madhav National Park, which included charge of the Karera Wildlife Sanctuary. Then served for three years each as Deputy Director Pench and then as Deputy Director (Core) Kanha Tiger Reserve. His areas of specialization are tiger monitoring, tiger behavior, landscape & linkage planning, wildlife protection and birds & wildlife photography. He joined the Institute by transfer on deputation on Foreign Service on February 18, 2009.





## A Journey to the Cold Desert

- Gobind Sagar Bhardwaj

*Glinting snow capped peaks, lush green forests of deodar, giggling streams, winding roads interspersed by frothy cascades; this idyllic pastoral scenery of hills beckon thousands of nature lovers. But beyond these picturesque tourist destinations of Himachal Pradesh lies the less visited cold desert of Spiti valley of Lahoul-Spiti district. This valley of virgin beauty amasses an incredible treasure of biological diversity and cultural heritage.*



*Spiti valley is a hidden paradise on earth.*

*I was lucky to discover this wonderland along with my wife and friend Anurag with his family. We started from Simla on 13th of May, 2007 and reached Kalpa after a tiresome, nine hours journey along the river Sutlej. Kalpa is a small satellite town of Recong Peo, the district headquarters of Kinnaur. Kalpa entices tourists for the panoramic view of Kinner Kailash of Mighty Himalayas and apple orchards. Recong Peo is the gateway to the cold desert area of Kinnaur district and Spiti valley. Our next destination was Puh, a small town, which is the starting point of the cold desert. This bushy habitat nests a variety of high altitude birds like chukar, pied wheatear, white capped bunting, rock bunting and grandala.*

*From Puh, we headed towards Chango, our next destination. River Sutlej was accompanying us all the way long until we ascended up to visit a small village called Nako situated at a height of more than 11,000 feet and surrounded by snow covered peaks of Himalayas. A small lake and a Bhuddhist Gumpa add to the scenic beauty of this village which is really rejuvenating after a cumbersome journey through tough and bumpy drive. Chango is another beautiful village on the bank of river Sutlej, with few apple orchards on its both sides making it a lush green oasis in that cold desert. In Chango along the road side planting was also done with willow species. Some of the young plants were covered with jute bags. When asked from a local villager, I was informed that these bags protect the plants from being girdling off by the donkeys. Otherwise the plants will die due to debarking.*

*After a night halt at Chango, we started to Tabo early in the morning. On the way at Samdo, there was confluence of two rivers, Parchhu and Spiti, forming the famous river Sutlej. After few kilometers of hair-raising stretch, we finally entered the wide, open and beautiful Spiti valley. The scenic beauty of the valley was enchantingly engrossing and we never knew when we reached Tabo. This small town is famous for its historic monastery, which is more than 1,000 years old and has a complex of nine ancient temples in its premises. Besides this old monastery, there is natural cave shrine, which has old murals and thus is also called Ajanta of Himalayas. One more thing that makes Tabo special is the Bharal or Blue Sheep (Pseudois nayaur). I was very lucky to meet the Range Officer at Tabo, who told me about the sightings of blue sheep in Lari area of Tabo. This wild sheep can be seen in groups on the barren south-west slopes. On the same evening, we went to Lari area. It was a matter of chance to see those sheep. Luckily, we spotted the group far away from the road. But photographing them was really a great challenge; as we had to ascend more than 400 meters steep slippery slope unobtrusively; avoiding any sort of disturbance to the peacefully grazing herd of around 21 sheep. Slowly and gradually, I and my friend started trekking but in few minutes, perhaps due to meager oxygen in the air our lungs got exhausted. The camera with the heavy lens was again a burden on me and I was very much worried for it in that risky trek. When I was hardly 8 to 9 feet away from the destination point, I was completely exhausted and a time came when I was out of breath. Somehow, with great difficulty I reached the point and found a space to lie down and gasp. Perhaps it took more than 10 minutes for my breath to normalize. With shaking hands I grasped the camera and monopod and took position behind a rock. The group was still there busy in grazing some of the plants. Now, they were in the range of my lens. I tried to take some shots but panting and shaking hands still hindered. I again lied down for another five minutes. When fully recharged and comfortable, I took shots of this beautiful animal and descended down that steep slope. Descending down was equally difficult. When I reached rest house I was wondering, for just photographing that animal, how enthusiastically, I risked my life to that extent.*



*Bharal or Blue Sheep is an attraction of Spiti.*

*Next morning, we started towards Kungri in Pin Valley National Park. Our way was blocked by the flocks of goats and sheep many times; coursing on the road, making it difficult to cross their herd. Finally, we reached Atargu, where there is confluence of Pin and Spiti Rivers. From here, we entered the buffer zone of Pin Valley National Park and proceeded towards Kungri. On the way, we could see a number of small glaciers being washed by the foaming water of river Pin. We were entranced by the beauty of nature and moving very slowly, suddenly, I spotted a herd of Asiatic Ibex (Capra ibex) on a bouldary slope. It was a celebration time for all of us, as we were the few lucky ones, who might have encountered this wild goat so closely. After about half an hour, we started off for Kungri, which is located on the bank of the river Pin. It is a small village known for a monastery and is the base for trekking and exploring the Pin Valley. The next day, we once again got a chance to see Ibex hardly ten meters away from us. We visited many places adjoining to this high altitude national park, including the last village, Mudh at an altitude of 4,100 meters. This village is famous for its Choumurthy horses, an exotic breed of horses usually brought from Tibet.*

*The trip to Spiti valley is a photographer delight, where one can photograph vivid creations of nature, be it plants, animals or natural scenic beauty. To sum it up this area is a hidden paradise on earth. Contact: gsbhardwaj@wii.gov.in*

## Welcome Guests

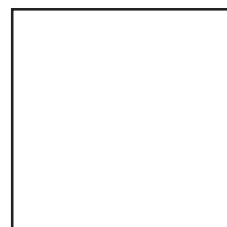
- ◆ Scientists accompanied by two senior faculty members from the Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi on January 1, 2009.
- ◆ Officers of Professional Skill Up-gradation course from the IGNFA, Dehradun on Jan. 2, 2009.
- ◆ M.Sc. (Bio Tech) & B.Sc. (Bio Tech) students from the Alpine Institute of Management & Technology, Dehradun on January 2, 2009.
- ◆ M.Sc. students accompanied by a Professor from the Department of Botany, Nagaland University, Lumami on January 15, 2009.
- ◆ M.Sc. (Final) students accompanied by a Professor from Department of Zoology, Jai Narain Vyas University, Jodhpur on January 19, 2009.
- ◆ B.Sc. students and three staff members from the University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, College of Forestry, Sirsi, Karnataka on January 27, 2009.
- ◆ M.Sc. (Bio-Tech) students and teachers from the Beehive (PG) College, Selaqui, Dehradun on February 5, 2009.
- ◆ SFS probationers from SFS College, Dehradun on February 5-6, 2009.
- ◆ Cadets and their masters from the Rashtriya Bhartiya Sainya College, Dehradun Cantt on February 6, 2009.
- ◆ IFS officers (1999 batch) undergoing training at IGNFA on February 12, 2009.
- ◆ In-service Foresters presently undergoing training in Kashmir Forester's Training Course (KFC) and their faculty & staff from Forest Department, J&K, Soil Conservation Training School, Miransahib, Jammu (J&K) on February 13, 2009.
- ◆ M.Sc. (Botany) students and teachers from Pt. L.M.S. Govt. P.G. College, Rishikesh on February 24, 2009.
- ◆ B.Sc. (Forestry) students and teachers from Allahabad Agricultural Institute-(DU), Allahabad on February 27, 2009.
- ◆ B.Sc. (Forestry) students and teachers from ASPEE College of Horticulture & Forestry, Navsari Agricultural University, Savsari on March 9, 2009.
- ◆ M.Sc. (Geoinformatics) students and professors from TERI University, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi on March 18, 2009.
- ◆ Students of Class IX and teachers from Mayo College, Ajmer on March 24, 2009.
- ◆ Students and a faculty member from Capt. Vishwa Vidhyalaya, Ahmedabad on March 26, 2009.
- ◆ B.Sc. (Forestry) students and teachers from Department of Forestry, College of Agriculture, Orissa University of Agriculture & Technology, Bhubaneswar on March 27, 2009. Contact: oao@wii.gov.in



IFS Probationers of 2007 batch from IGNFA, Dehradun on January 16, 2009.

## Book Post

**WILDLIFE INSTITUTE OF INDIA**  
 Post Box # 18, Chandrabani,  
 Dehra Dun - 248 001 (Uttarakhand)  
 Tel.: +91-135-2640111 to 2640115  
 Fax: +91-135-2640117;  
 E-mail : wii@wii.gov.in  
 Website : <http://www.wii.gov.in>



Patron: Shri P.R. Sinha  
 Editors: Bitapi C. Sinha and K.K. Shrivastava  
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