

# WEBINAR ON INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, 2021

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## Introduction

The United Nations INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY is annually observed across the globe on 22nd may to create awareness of biodiversity issues and provide a better understanding of the importance of biodiversity as a global asset of high value to the future generation.

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The theme for the international day for biological diversity 2021 was “we are part of the solution “. The slogan was chosen as a continuation of the momentum generated by the 2020 theme “our solutions are in nature”.

School of Environment and Natural Resources, Doon University in association with Society for Science of Climate Change & Environmental Sustainability & Indian Society of Agroforestry celebrated the International Day for Biological Diversity on 22 May, 2021 by organizing a webinar that focuses attention on a particularly pressing biodiversity concern theme. **“WE’RE THE PART OF THE SOLUTION”** for encouraging the awareness and action for the protection of our biodiversity. It has been a symposium for raising awareness on emerging environmental issues to sustainable consumption and wildlife protection. The webinar was dedicated to noted environmentalist Padmavibhushan Sri Sunderlal Bahuguna Jee.

Prof. Kusum Arunachalam in her welcome address threw light on the reason and relevance of celebrating Biodiversity Day. She said that the United Nations proclaimed 22 May as International Day for Biological Diversity (IBD) to increase the understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. Biodiversity day 2021 is being celebrated under the slogan: **“WE'RE THE PART OF THE SOLUTION #FORNATURE”** the slogan was chosen to be a continuation of the momentum generated last year under **“OUR SOLUTION ARE IN NATURE”**, which served as a reminder that biodiversity the overarching theme, remains the answer to several sustainable development changes. In her address Prof. Kusum Arunachalam highlighted how Uttarakhand can take a lead in harnessing the rich biodiversity to boost its economy which can be based on its rich wealth of natural resources and long history of conservation and community-based management of natural resources.

**Prof. Surekha Dangwal, Hon'ble vice Chancellor Doon University**, in her presidential address enunciated about the relatedness between the biodiversity and the pandemic. She said that the present covid crisis is not something new. Research in the past has shown, whenever there has been damage to the natural ecosystem, infectious diseases appear.

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The link between the two is becoming better understood and appreciated. So much so that we are seeing the growth in an emerging discipline, planetary health, focusing on the connections among the wellbeing of humans, other living things and nature's ecosystem.

**Professor C.R Babu** in his keynote confer about Biodiversity parks as a model for urban environment sustainability and resilience. As they are a unique landscape of wilderness where ecology assemblages of native fishes occur it would provide recreational as well as aesthetic values to the urban environment.

**Prof. J.K Sharma** spoke about the role of butterflies in the ecosystem functioning. He said that the butterflies can be used to study the impact of habitat loss and they support the range of other predators as well as parasites, they act as a pollinator, acting as an important connector in a thriving ecosystem.

**Prof. S. Dayanand** divulged about the evolution and conservation of biodiversity in the forest and agriculture landscape. He mentioned about the new area of research emerging in the field of biodiversity. He said that the new techniques of agriculture and forestry are safer for biodiversity. **Prof R.P Singh** in his concluding remarks talked about the importance of biodiversity and how humans are important in its functioning. He said humans are the one who can protect biodiversity and with proper knowledge, research and technologies the goal can be achieved.

**Dr A. Arunachalam, director ICAR, President, ISAF and secretary, SSCE** delivered a vote of thanks on the occasion. In addition to webinar, activities based on the theme of the day, Poster Making, Photography/Short Videos and Article writing for the students were organized to mark the celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity. About 200 participants from different educational institutions of the country participated and Prof. Kusum Arunachalam announced the result during the webinar.

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Apart from the informative lectures by the eminent keynote, speakers there are several activities were organised by the Prakriti- the Nature's Club of Doon University, which are related to this year's theme "we are part of the solution". The events are as follows:

### **1. Poster making competition**

The theme for the poster making competition was " Biodiversity/ We are part of the solution". The winners for this category are as follows:

- 1st position is secured by Mayur Thapa (Doon University, Dehradun).
- 2nd position is secured by Anirban Biswas(Vivekanandan college , Kolkata).
- The 3rd position is secured by Rishika Nautiyal( Doon University, Dehradun).





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## **2. Photography contest:**

The theme for the photography contest was "Biodiversity". The winners for this category are:

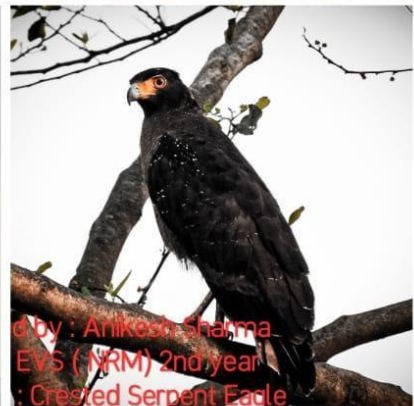
- 1st position Ms. Prekshaa KCT, Anna University, Coimbatore).
- 2nd position is shared by two students:
  1. Anikesh Sharma (Doon University, Dehradun).
  2. Aman Mahajan (Solan).
- The 3rd position is also shared by two students:
  1. Prabhat Bhandari (Doon University, Dehradun).
  2. Dharun Prasanth (KCT, Anna University, Coimbatore).

## **3. Article writing:**

The theme for article writing was "we are part of the solution". The winners for this category are :

- 1st position is secured by Rupali Nayal (Doon University, Dehradun).
- 2nd position is secured by Sonali Chettri (Aspirant).
- The 3rd position is secured by Uparna Chatterjee (Doon University).





The winners were awarded with the cash prizes sponsored by the Indian Society of Agroforestry, Jhansi.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize Rs 2500
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize Rs. 1500
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize Rs. 1000

## Celebrating International Day for Biological Diversity

**By OUR STAFF REPORTER DEHRADUN, 22 May:** School of Environment and Natural Resources, Doon University in association with Indian Society of Agro forestry, Jhansi and Society for Science of Climate Change & Sustainable Environment, New Delhi celebrated the International Day for Biological Diversity on 22nd May, 2021 by organizing a webinar that focused attention on a particularly pressing biodiversity concern theme. "WE'RE THE PART OF THE SOLUTION" , for encouraging awareness and action for the protection of our biodiversity. The webinar was dedicated to noted Environmentalist, Padmavibhushan, Sri Sundental Bahuguna as a tribute for his lifelong efforts for the Biodiversity conservation and Environmental protection in the Himalayas. The webinar was chaired by Prof. Surekha Dangwal, Vice Chancellor, DoonUniversity. The event had

Prof. C. R. Babu, Emeritus Professor, Delhi University, Prof. J.K.Sharma, Shiv Nandan University, and Prof. S. Dayanand, Concordia University, Canada as the keynote speakers.

Prof. Kusum Arunachalam in her welcome address threw light on the reason and relevance of celebrating Biodiversity Day. She said that the United Nations proclaimed 22 May as International Day for Biological Diversity (IBD) to increase the understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. Biodiversity day 2021 is being celebrated under the slogan: "WERE THE PART OF THE SOLUTION #FOR NATURE" the slogan was chosen to be a continuation of the momentum generated last year under the overarching theme, "OUR SOLUTION ARE IN NATURE", which served as a reminder that biodiversity remains the answer to several sustainable development changes. In her address Prof. Kusum Arunachalam highlighted how Uttarakhand can take a lead in harnessing the rich

biodiversity to boost its economy which can be based on its rich wealth of natural resources and long history of conservation and community-based management of natural resources.

Prof. Surekha Dangwal, Hon'ble vice Chancellor Doon University, in her presidential address said that since prehistory, literature and the arts have been drawn to portrayals of physical environments and human-environment interactions. The modern environmentalist movement as it emerged first in the late-nineteenth century and, in its more recent incarnation, in the 1960s, gave rise to a rich array of fictional and nonfictional writings concerned with humans' changing relationship to the natural world. She stressed on documenting the rich traditional knowledge associated with the biodiversity conservation in the region.

Professor C.R Babu in his keynote confers about Biodiversity parks as a model for urban environment sustainability and resilience. As they are unique landscape of wilderness where

ecology assemblages of native species occur it would provide recreational as well as aesthetic values to the urban environment. He spoke from his experiences of Aravali and Yamuna Biodiversity Park in New Delhi which were developed under his supervision.

Prof. J.K Sharma spoke about the role of butterflies in the ecosystem functioning. He said that the butterflies can be used to study the impact of habitat loss and they support the range of other predators as well as parasites, they act as a pollinator, acting as important connector in a thriving ecosystem web.

Prof. S. Dayanand divulge about the evolution and conservation of biodiversity in the forest and agriculture landscape. He mentioned about the new area of research emerging in the field of biodiversity. He said that the new techniques of agriculture and forestry are saver to the biodiversity and food security for the growing human population.

Prof R.P Singh in his concluding remarks talk about the importance of biodiversity and

how humans are important in its functioning. He said humans are the one who can protect the biodiversity and with proper knowledge, research and technologies the goal can be achieved.

Dr A. Arunachalam director ICAR, President, ISAF and secretary, SSCE delivered vote of thanks on the occasion. He highlighted the importance of agroforestry in climate change mitigation and restoration of degraded lands, particularly in Himalayas.

In addition to webinar, activities based on the theme of the day, Poster Making, Photography/Short Videos and Article writing for the students was also organized by "Prakriti-The Nature Club", an initiative of Doon University students, to mark the celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity. About 200 participants from different educational institution of the country participated in the events and the prizes were sponsored by the ISAF



कनुमुम अरुणाचलम ने अन्त में इस अवसर पर आयोजित विभिन्न खजूर गतिविधियों के पुरस्कार विजेताओं की घोषणा की और प्रतिभागी खजूर/खजूरों की सराहना की। पुरस्कार विजेताओं को आयोजकों द्वारा प्रमाण पत्र और भारतीय कृषिवानिकी समिति द्वारा नगद पुरस्कार प्रेषित किये गये।

महाविद्यालय में कुलपति प्रो. अरविंद कुमार की अध्यक्षता में वेबिनार का आयोजन किया गया। जिसमें स्वास्थ्य और समृद्धि के लिए प्रकृति का पोषण विषय पर चर्चा की गई। कुलपति ने घटती हुई जैव विविधता पर चिंता जताई। इस मौके पर महाविद्यालय के अधिष्ठाता डॉ. एके पांडेय, डॉ. वीर सिंह, पूर्व विभागाध्यक्ष, डॉ. अजय ठाकुर, डॉ. एल वानाचू, एमजे डोबरियाल डा. युमनाम विजिलक्ष्मी देवी, डॉ. गरिमा गुप्ता, डॉ. तनजडॉ. शैलेंद्र मौजद रहे। व्यरो

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