

Inaugural Programme of Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP)

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India has launched a six-month skill developing pilot programme for para-taxonomists. The inauguration of Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP) was held at the auditorium of Central National Herbarium (CNH), Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Howrah on 29th May 2017. The selected trainees for the GSDP were received and welcomed at the main gate of Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Indian Botanic Garden at about 10:00 am and they were brought to Central National Herbarium.

The inaugural session began with welcome to all the dignitaries and trainees. Ms. Sagari Chaudhury, Research Fellow welcomed the dignitaries, Dr. Kailash Chandra, Director, Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Dr. Paramjit Singh, Director, BSI, Dr. K. Rajmohana, Scientist 'D' & Co-ordinator, ENVIS, ZSI and Dr. S. Bandyopadhyay, Scientist 'B', CNH, BSI on the dais. Dr. P.V. Prasanna, Scientist 'F' & HoO, CNH, BSI welcomed all the dignitaries, guests and trainees in his welcome address. The programme started on an auspicious note by watering of Tulsi plant by the dignitaries.

The inaugural address was given by Dr. Kailash Chandra, followed by Dr. A. Pramanick, HoO, AJCBIBG, BSI, Dr. K. Rajmohana, Dr. S. Bandyopadhyay and finally Dr. Paramjit Singh. They provided a general idea about the training programme, consisting of three months foundation course (Biodiversity Conservationists) and three months advanced course (Parataxonomists). The basic aim of the programme is to train people who have not been able to continue education due to different financial or social constraints but has an urge to learn new things and do something fruitful. The training will provide a general knowledge about the biodiversity and ways of conservation so it can be spread to the general public through them and also create job opportunities for the trainees. It is a certified course aimed at creating green jobs, a humble contribution towards green economy of the nation. The session ended by singing of the National Anthem.

The training session began in the noon. During the session three different lectures were delivered by ZSI Trainers and one by BSI. Dr. Dhriti Banerjee, Scientist D, ZSI delivered a lecture on "Biodiversity and Classification, a story of invertebrates", which outlined the basic concept of taxonomy. She has emphasized the importance of classification and nomenclature and the benefits of taxonomy, and also pictorially explained about different types of invertebrates and their classification. Followed by Dr. Kaushik Deuti, Scientist 'B', ZSI explained the general characteristics and different types of vertebrates, and the means of identification with the help of photographs, and also explained the diversity and classification of Indian vertebrates in his lecture; Dr. Gurupada Mondal, Scientist 'D', ZSI, delivered a lecture on "Biodiversity profile

in India – Apterygota". The lecture emphasised the soil biodiversity, especially the faunal diversity in soil and its importance, various types of habitats and methods of collection and preservation.

The last lecture of the day was delivered by Ms. Sagari Chaudhury, Research Fellow, BSI on "Medicinal plants and traditional knowledge". Her lecture outlined the ancient Indian education system and Ayurveda, the oldest indigenous medicine system of India. She also spoke about ethnobotany and traditional knowledge about the uses of medicinal plants used by tribal communities. She mainly emphasised on the Lodha tribe of Bankura district of West Bengal. She showed two videos showing tribal means of treatments of ailments using different plant parts or even animal bones followed by the 'traditional doctors' of the Lodha tribe and medicinal uses of some common plants.



Dr. P.V. Prasanna, Dr. A. Pramanik, Dr. S. Bandyopadhyay and ENVIS Team welcomed the trainees at AJC Bose Indian Botanic Garden, Howrah during Inauguration on 29th May 2017



The dignitaries Dr. Kailash Chandra, Director, ZSI, Dr. Paramjit Singh, Director, BSI, Dr. K. Rajmohana, Co-ordinator, ENVIS, ZSI and Dr. S. Bandyopadhyay, Scientist-B, CNH, BSI on the dais.



Dr. P.V. Prasanna, Scientist 'F' & HoO, CNH, BSI welcomed all the dignitaries, guests and trainees



Dignitaries, Guests and Trainees attended Inauguration of Green Skill Development Programme at CNH on 29th, May 2017



The inaugural address was delivered by Dr. Kailash Chandra on 29th May 2017



The Director, BSI discussed the benefits of Green Skill Development Programme at CNH.BSI on 29th May 2017



Participants of Green Skill Development Programme at CNH BSI



Training Class of Green Skill Development Programme was observed by the Director BSI



Training Class of Green Skill Development Programme was taken by Dr. Dhriti Banerjee, ZSI