

A report on the observance of the International Day for Biological diversity 2017 at the Central National Herbarium, Botanical Survey of India, Howrah

The International Day for Biological diversity was celebrated by the Botanical Survey of India at the Central National Herbarium on May 22, 2017. Sri Ajay Kumar Naik, IFS, Regional Director, Forest Survey of India, Eastern Zone, Kolkata was the chief guest. Besides Dr. Paramjit Singh, Director, Botanical Survey of India, Prof. (Retd.) Sobhan Kumar Mukherjee, Kalyani University, Prof. Subrata Mondal, Viswa Bharati University and Dr. D. Maity, Calcutta University also graced the occasion by their presence. By accepting our invitation, about 40 P.G. students and Research Scholars from the University of Calcutta, University of Burdhan, Kalyani University, Viswa-Bharati University and Vidyasagar University have participated in the function.

The programme was started by paying tributes to late Sri Anil Madhave Dave, Minister, MoEF&CC. The welcome address was delivered by Dr. P.V. Prasanna, Scientist 'F' & Head of Office, Central National Herbarium. In his inaugural address, Sri A.K. Naik spoke about importance of the International Day for Biological diversity and stressed on this year's theme. Dr. A. Pramanik, Scientist 'E' & HoO, AJC Bose Indian Botanical Garden addressed the gathering and spoke about importance of the day. It was followed by the speech and presentation by Dr. Paramjit Singh, Director, Botanical Survey of India. In his presentation, the Director spoke in detail about Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism. Prof. Subrata Mondal also addressed the gathering.

The Inaugural session was followed by six presentations by the scientists of different units of BSI. The title of the talks and names of the scientists are given below:

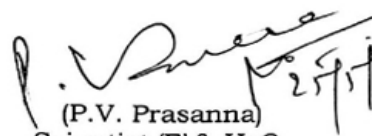
1. AJC Bose Indian Botanic Garden – A perfect blend of Conservation and Tourism
- by Dr. Basant Kumar Singh, Sr. Pres. Asst., AJCBIBG, BSI, Howrah.
2. Biodiversity conservation and sustainable tourism in Kerala. - by Dr. Sujana K.A., Scientist 'D', CBL, BSI, Howrah.
3. Biodiversity and sustainable tourism – A case study from North-East India, a global biodiversity Hotspot. - by Dr. Rajib Gogoi, Scientist 'D', CNH, BSI, Howrah.
4. Rhododendron diversity in different landscapes to promote tourism in Arunachal Pradesh - by Dr. Manas Bhaumik, Scientist 'D', ISIM, BSI, Kolkata.
5. Role of biodiversity in development of ecotourism in eastern Himalaya - by Dr. S.S. Dash, Scientist 'D', BSI, Hqr., Kolkata.

6. Andaman & Nicobar Islands – A Hotspot of biodiversity and a paradise for sustainable tourism. - by Dr. M.U. Sherief, Scientist 'E', AJCBIBG, BSI

All the talks were very much informative and in accordance with theme of the year. All the audience, particularly the students appreciated the talks.

Besides the students and teachers from five universities, almost all the scientists, Scientific/Technical staff, Project Fellows and Post-Doctoral Fellows of the department in Howrah and Kolkata attended the function throughout the day. The total attendance was about 140, including the students from the University of Calcutta, University of Burdhan, Kalyani University, Viswa Bharati University and Vidyasagar University. An elocution competition was arranged in which 15 university students participated. All the students were given participation certificates and the winners were awarded with certificates and trophies. The function was concluded by proposing a Vote of Thanks by Dr. V.P. Prasad.

A few photographs covering the function are included along with this report.


(P.V. Prasanna)
Scientist 'F' & HoO





