

Dated the 22nd May, 2018

Press Note

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OBSERVED

The "International Day for Biological Diversity" was observed by the Department of Environment & Forests in a befitting manner along with rest of the country and world on 22nd May, 2018. The theme of this year was "**Celebrating 25 Years of Action for Biodiversity**" to mark the 25th anniversary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and to highlight progress made in the achieving of its goals & objectives.

As a part of observance of the day, a Nature Camp & Excursion programme was arranged wherein 40 students accompanied by 03 Instructor from Industrial Training Institute, Dollygunj were taken to Chidiyatapu Biological Park to educate and make them aware about the importance of biodiversity and to emphasize upon its conservation for sustainable & beneficial use of its components.

Shri A. Soundra Pandian, Divisional Forest Officer, Forest Extension & Publicity Division while addressing the students explained about the importance of the day with special emphasis on role of each & every individual in the conservation and protection of Island Biodiversity, forests, nature and wild life, waste management, sustainable and reduced use of Plastic and maintenance of ecological balance and atmospheric equilibrium for sustenance of life on planet earth. The conservation of trees and forests for being the basic life support system involving complex ecosystem, where various living organisms are interdependent on each other and the innumerable benefits provided by the forests to mankind was also significantly emphasized upon the students. It was exhorted upon the students that biodiversity is the foundation for life on earth and urged all of them to come forward in protecting and conserving the rich biodiversity of these Islands and take encouraging actions which will lead to a sustainable future with equitable sharing of the benefits from the nature's biological resources.

The Nature Camp & Excursion programme was organized successfully with the coordination, support and guidance of Deputy Director, Biological Park with the active participation of the Range Officer & other staff of Biological Park Chidiyatapu. Shri Yesu Ratnam, IFS, Deputy Director, Biological Park on the occasion explained about the biological resources that serves as a pillar upon which we build civilization and the current decline in biodiversity is largely the result of human activity which represent and reflects a serious threat to human development. The United Nations sustainable development goals for transforming the world was discussed at length by the Deputy Director and the students were urged to protect our planet nature resources and climate for future generations ensuring prosperous and fulfilling lives in harmony with nature.

The students were then taken for excursion around the Park guided by the Range Officers and staff of the Park at which valuable information about the animals, trees and plants in the Park were shared during interactions. The students actively and enthusiastically participated in the programme and shared their views on Biodiversity and its conservation.


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