

Educational Tour at Wildlife Institutes of India and Forest Research Institute, Dehradun



Date: 3rd – 6th November, 2019

Venue: WII and FRI, Dehradun

Organised by: Department of Zoology, Bhiwani

Participation: 36 Students and 4 Faculty members

About the Event: The important motive of this tour was to get the students well equipped with natural environment, woodland ecosystem, GIS, remote sensing, wildlife forensic etc. Team left the campus on 3rd November, 2019, early morning and reached WII, Dehradun at late night on same day. All the arrangements of food and accommodation had been already done. Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun was chosen for educational trip as it is an autonomous institution beneath the “Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change”, Govt. of India established in May, 1982. It is positioned in Chandrabani, which is closest to the Southern forests of Dehradun. WII has a research amenity which includes Forensics, Remote Sensing, GIS laboratory, Herbarium etc. It carries out wildlife research in the area of find out about like Biodiversity, Endangered Species, Wildlife Policy, Wildlife Management, Wildlife Forensics, Eco-development, Ecotoxicology, Habitat Ecology and Climate Change etc. The second day team reached to Seminar hall (Porta Cabin), WII and after breakfast at 9:00 AM. A lecture series was organised by Resource faculties as mention in Letter No. :A Cell/Visiting Class/2019-29/5. Firstly Dr. V.P. Uniyal, Registrar and Scientist-G, WII, Dehradun, gave brief introduction about WII. He not solely talked about research activities going on however also enlighten on the students related to exclusive certificate courses and future career prospective in the area of Wildlife and other related areas.

Hussain Saifee Reshanwala delivered the lecture on the ecology of Red Fox in Trans Himalayas. He also explained Pianka's index, Radio collaring, Home range, Kernel's range, Convex Ploygon (CP) home range, Territory, Brownian Bridge Model etc. Then Dr. Y.V. Jhala, Scientist- G, WII, interacted with students. His representative was Shikha Bisht, delivered lecture on Tiger Conservation including Project Tiger, their home-range, Core, Buffer etc. Next lecture used to be given with the aid of Dr. Bindu, Veterinarian and Research Associate, WII. She explained the health issues among animals and their survival of fitness, WHSG (Wildlife Health Specialist Group), dots etc. Some of terms were new to everyone and learned a lot from their talk.

After lecture session, team proceeded to lunch. After a quick lunch break, team visited to different labs in WII. Dr. C. P. Sharma, working in WII Forensic lab, enlighten on the different Acts and Norms which comes under the biodiversity. He made clear that how the animals are killed to make the shawls of Shahtoosh, Pashmina and Angora wool. He additionally enlightened the story of theft of elephant's tusk, tiger's bones, skin of exclusve animals like tiger, leopard, alligator, hare and Rhino's horns etc. He also emphasized on the hair of mammals that are used in formation of brushes. For their own benefit human beings killed them that's why their species now either extinct or endangered species. All these gadgets are now banned with possession and sale being illegal. Overall students enjoyed and excited to see different materials and gain knowledge how different research and forensic activities are taken place at this institute. At 5:00 PM team left the Forensics lab, WII and went to their respective dormitories for rest. On third day everyone gathered at green longue canteen, for breakfast and proceeded to FRI, Dehradun. The Forest Research Institute (FRI) was chosen for visit as it is an institute of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education and is a premier institution in the field of forestry research in India. It is located at Dehradun in Uttarakhand, and is among the oldest institutions of its kind. In 1991, it was declared a deemed university by the University Grants Commission. It also contains a museum on forestry. There are six sections in the museum:

- 1) Pathology Museum
- 2) Social Forestry Museum
- 3) Silviculture Museum
- 4) Timber Museum
- 5) Non-Wood Forest Products Museum
- 6) Entomology Museum.

Team visited these museums and learned many things. Out of 6, 2 sections were closed due to constructions. In Timber museum students learned how to measure the age of old trees with the help of annuli ring. In Entomology museum they well-read about many insects, their morphology and damaged induced by way of them in forests. Scholars gained practical experience about the diversity of microorganisms, animals and vegetation determined in the forests/wildlife. They also learned special techniques used in preservation of distinct species. On the last day our team left the WII, Dehradun in early morning and reached to Chaudhary Bansi Lal University, Bhiwani at 6:40 PM. The overview of the entire visit was fulfilling, enjoyable and educational.