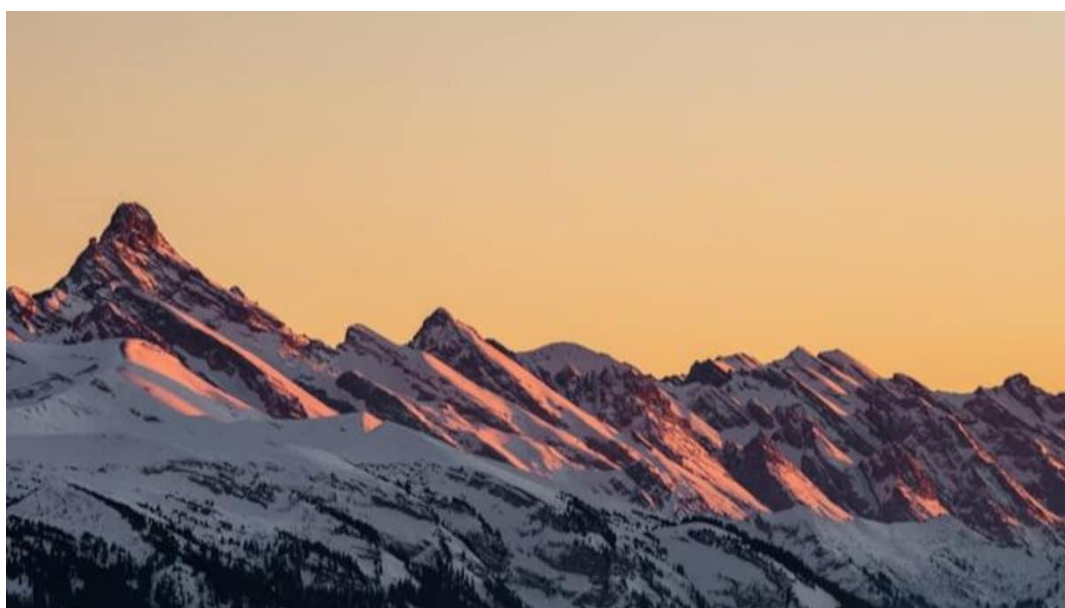




Report
on
International Mountain Day 2021



Organized by

ENVIS Resource Partner

on

**Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement
Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding**

(Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education)

Coimbatore

Observance of International Mountain Day 2021 by IFGTB ENVIS

As a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) and Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB), ENVIS Resource Partner on Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement at the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore organized an awareness campaign on the occasion of International Mountain Day 2021 on 11 December 2021.

Dr Kannan CS Warriar, Scientist F and ENVIS Coordinator presented a musical tribute on the significance of mountain ranges in India based on slokas in Vedas. Meaning of these slokas in Sanskrit was also explained. In his awareness lecture, Dr Kannan CS Warriar explained mountains are important ecosystem which covers 27% of the world's land surface, and directly support 22% of the world's people who live within mountain regions. Lowland people also depend on mountain environments for a wide range of goods and services, including water, energy, timber, biodiversity maintenance, and opportunities for recreation and spiritual renewal. Mountains provide for the freshwater needs of more than half of humanity. While explaining the importance of mountain biodiversity, Dr Warriar highlighted that mountains play a key role in the support of global environmental, economic, social and cultural sectors through connections to combating air pollution, climate change, mining, hydropower, tourism, forests and agriculture. Mountain tourism attracts around 15 to 20 % of global tourism, sustainable tourism in mountains can contribute to creating additional and alternative livelihood options and promoting poverty alleviation, social inclusion, as well as landscape and biodiversity conservation, he added.

Dr C. Kunhikannan, Director, IFGTB inaugurated the event and explained that mountains attract the most important flows of tourists and it is becoming an important factor for the population both socially and educationally through its recreational, disconnecting, healing and sports capabilities. Mountain tourism protects the environment, natural resources, and wildlife, provides socio-economic benefits for communities, conserves cultural heritage, creates authentic tourist experiences, he added. Dr Kunhikannan emphasized that our country is home to some of the world's largest and most beautiful mountain ranges but their sensitive environmental ecosystems are endangered by reckless human behavior. He insisted that the true essence of sustainable development lies in fulfilling present needs without compromising the needs of future generations and also urged all to join hands to protect the mountain ecosystems.

An eco-tour to Nilgiri Biosphere Natural Park (NBNP), Anaikatti was organized for the students to provide real time exposure to the significance and conservation of forest genetic resources and their role in preserving the mountain ecosystems. Shri Solomon Raj, Botanist NBNP guided the students and explained the role of NBNP in promoting the conservation of the fauna and flora of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. The primary objective of the NBNP is to create awareness among the people about the natural heritage of the Nilgiris Biosphere. Since its establishment, NBNP has

successfully restored and helped growth of many different vegetation types - over 430 species of 25,000 plants of which 85 species are found only in NBR. A zoo at the NBNP is aimed at attracting people to its location, he added.

In addition, an online painting competition on the theme “Sustainable Mountain Tourism” was also conducted for students and the general public as part of the awareness campaign. Among the participants who took part in the competition from different parts of the country, Shri Kumar Arijit Mishra, DAV Public School, Odisha, Shri V. Arun, Coimbatore, Shri K. Shiti Shashikant, Karnataka, won the first, second and third prizes respectively. Consolation prize was awarded to Ms S. Shruthika, Kikani Vidhya Mandir, Coimbatore and Ms B. Divyadharshini, Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Chennai. Special prize was awarded to Aisha Panda, DAV Public School Odisha. Prizes were awarded to the winners and e-Certificates to all the participants.

An awareness poster on ‘Sustainable Mountain Tourism’, the current year’s theme identified by the United Nations was released and its digital copies were electronically disseminated to students, public and all stakeholders. Dr S. Vigneswaran, Senior Programme Officer, ENVIS proposed the vote of thanks.











ENVIS Resource Partner on Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education)
P.B.No. 1061, Forest Campus, R.S.Puram PO, Coimbatore - 641 002

In collaboration with



ENVIS RP on Wetland Ecosystems including Inland Wetlands
Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology & Natural History (SACON)
Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu



Jammu & Kashmir ENVIS Hub
Department of Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing
Jammu & Kashmir

INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN DAY - 2021

Theme : "Sustainable Mountain Tourism"

Mountains in India have long been attractive tourism destinations. Factors that include climate, topography, scenery and the seasonal cycle all determine the facilities and activities of mountain tourism, reflecting the strong interdependency between the mountain ecosystem and the mountain tourism system. Sustainable tourism in mountains can contribute to creating additional and alternative livelihood options and promoting poverty alleviation, social inclusion, as well as landscape and biodiversity conservation.



Do You Know?

Mountain tourism attracts around 15 to 20% of global tourism

Mountain tourism has a high potential to stimulate economic growth and social change

Mountain tourism Preserves natural and cultural heritage

Mountain tourism Enhances the livelihood of local communities