

# UTTARAKHAND BIODIVERSITY BOARD

## DEHRADUN



### BE PART OF THE PLAN

International Day  
for Biodiversity  
2024

## A Report on the Celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) 2024



उत्तराखण्ड जैवविविधता बोर्ड  
UTTARAKHAND BIODIVERSITY BOARD



# INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY 2024



Each year on May 22nd, the International Day for Biodiversity (IDB) is celebrated, marking the adoption of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) text on May 22, 1992. This global observance serves as a significant platform to garner wide support for the Convention, its Protocols, and associated action plans, emphasizing the importance of biodiversity conservation.

"Be part of the Plan," the theme of IDB 2024, is a call to action for all stakeholders to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity by supporting the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, also known as **The Biodiversity Plan**.

Each year, the Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board celebrates the International Day for Biological Diversity with a primary focus on increasing public awareness about biodiversity. This year, the Board marked the International Day for Biological Diversity in two stages: Preliminary activities, conducted before May 22nd, and the Main Celebration held on May 22nd.

## **Preliminary activities-**

In a bid to emphasize the importance of biodiversity conservation, the Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board conducted a series of competitions across three schools. These competitions included drawing, essay writing, and slogan writing, all revolving around the theme of biodiversity conservation.

The Board organized the aforementioned competitions at PM Shri Kendriya Vidyalaya ITBP Force in Dehradun, with approximately 128 students from classes 3 to 10 participating.

Similarly, at Shri Guru Ram Rai Public School's Primary Section and Middle Branch in Vasant Vihar, Dehradun, 270 students from classes 3 to 5 took part in the drawing competition,

while 40 students from classes 6 to 8 participated in the slogan writing and essay writing competitions, respectively. **Photographs of these activities are attached as Annexure I.**

### **Main Event-**

The main event on 22nd May 2024 was organized by the Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board with the collaboration of Uttarakhand State Council for Science & Technology (UCOST), at the Regional Science Centre, Dehradun. Dr. Anil Prakash Joshi, a renowned environmentalist and recipient of the Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

The proceedings commenced with an introductory address delivered by **Dr. D.P. Uniyal**, Joint Director of UCOST, extending a warm welcome to all esteemed guests comprising Dr. Anil Prakash Joshi, Dr. Dhananjay Mohan (Chairman, UKSBB), Shri R.K. Mishra (Member Secretary, UKSBB), Prof. Durgesh Pant (Director General, UCOST), Shri Rakesh Khatri (Nest Man of India), and Md. Tahseen, Member of Kunjagranti BMC.

**Shri R.K. Mishra**, Member Secretary, UKSBB, commended the endeavours of Dr. Joshi and emphasized the significance of observing the International Day for Biological Diversity. Furthermore, he urged the attendees to actively participate in the collective efforts to combat forest fires in Uttarakhand.

Subsequently, a video presentation highlighting the accomplishments of the Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board over the past year was screened. This was succeeded by the formal distribution of certificates to the winners of the State symbol-themed photography competition and various scholastic competitions organized by the UKSBB.

**Mr. Rakesh Khatri**, recognized as the Nest Man of India, emphasized the significance of biodiversity and underscored the necessity for bird conservation through nest creation. To date, he has meticulously crafted approximately 7.25 lakh nests. Additionally, he graciously presented guests with gifts fashioned from water hyacinth by underprivileged women.

**Prof. Durgesh Pant**, Director General of UCOST, addressed the pressing concerns regarding biodiversity degradation and climate change. He stressed the significance of prioritizing GEP (Gross Environment Product) over GDP (Gross Domestic Product).

Subsequently, a brief presentation was delivered by Gajendra Pathak and Mahatim Yadav, showcasing the success story of Shitalakhet. Their presentation highlighted the collaborative effort that led to the revival of approximately 1100 hectares of forest land with active public participation.

**Dr. Dhananjay Mohan**, Chairman of UKSBB, underscored the imperative of local engagement in addressing significant challenges confronting biodiversity. He emphasized that these issues transcend local boundaries and have global effects. Dr. Mohan advocated

for the establishment of additional areas akin to Anand Van, which would facilitate learning opportunities.

**Dr. Anil Prakash Joshi**, the chief guest, emphasized the significance of Himalayan biodiversity and its conservation. He stressed that comprehensive development necessitates a delicate equilibrium between ecology and economy. Highlighting the Himalayan region as both a biodiversity hotspot and a natural disaster-prone area, he underscored the importance of science-based development. Additionally, he observed that rural communities tend to exhibit a greater environmental consciousness compared to their urban counterparts. Concluding his remarks, Dr. Joshi emphasized that the responsibility of biodiversity conservation lies on each one of us.

In the end, mementos were presented to the guests. **Dr. M.S. Rawat**, Scientific Officer at UCOST, in his concluding speech thanked all the esteemed guests, and other participants including Dr. Saket Badola, Director of Rajaji National Park, officials of the Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board, officials of the Forest Department, members of the Biodiversity Management Committees, officials and staff of UCOST and the Regional Science Center, representatives from the media, students from various schools and colleges present at the occasion. **Photographs of this celebration are attached as Annexure II.**

#### **Programs organized under Uttarakhand Forest Divisions**

To commemorate the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB), ten Forest Divisions of Uttarakhand (five from Kumaon zone and five from Garhwal zone) organized various programs on May 22nd. These initiatives, held in schools, engaged students and local residents with the aim of promoting biodiversity conservation and raising awareness about forest fire prevention. **Photographs of the programs are attached as Annexure III.**





Competitions organized by the Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board in schools to spread awareness about biodiversity conservation





Celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity





Programs organized by ten Forest Divisions of Uttarakhand on the occasion of International Day for Biological Diversity