



UTTARAKHAND BIODIVERSITY BOARD

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Training-cum-Workshop on Biodiversity Awareness, BMC Reconstitution and PBR Updation

On April 13, 2026, a one-day workshop on Biodiversity Awareness and the updation of the People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) was successfully organized under the aegis of the Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board at Gram Panchayat Vilaspur Kandali. The primary objective of this event was to sensitize the local community regarding the significant and newly introduced legal provisions of the 'Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023' promulgated by the Government of India. During the workshop, detailed insights were provided on the statutory process of reconstituting the Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC), its administrative structure, and its decisive role in local ecosystem conservation. The Board emphasized that this committee not only regulates the exploitation of biological resources but also secures the economic interests of the villagers through the 'Access and Benefit Sharing' (ABS) mechanism.

Following this, a comprehensive discussion was held on the scientific, social, and legal importance of the People's Biodiversity Register (PBR). Integrating the active cooperation of local residents with their vast Traditional Knowledge, the process of cataloging the region's biological wealth and updating the PBR according to modern



"Biodiversity Conservation.... An art of living with nature."



scientific standards was completed. This documentation marks a historic milestone in providing legal protection under Intellectual Property Rights to the region's rare and endemic medicinal herbs, indigenous crop varieties, and faunal life.

On this occasion, Gram Pradhan Shri Vinod Awasthi provided community leadership and called upon the residents to remain vigilant toward their natural heritage. Representative from

the Forest Department (Forest Guard) were also present, providing essential guidance on departmental coordination.

The People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) was highlighted as a dynamic and vital document for the scientific documentation of regional biodiversity and associated traditional knowledge. As a living document, the PBR requires regular field-based verification, continuous community participation, and periodic updates to ensure

accurate documentation and the effective conservation and sustainable management of regional biological resources.

A total of 30 participants attended the session, including 09 women and 21 men. All members present expressed their collective commitment toward the sustainable management of bio-resources and the maintenance of ecological balance for the future.



Workshop on Biodiversity Awareness and the Reconstitution of the Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC)

On April 27, 2026, the reconstitution of the Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) was successfully completed in Gram Panchayat Vilaspur Kandali under the aegis of the Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board. This reconstitution process was strictly executed in accordance with the statutory framework of the Principal act and 'Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023', aiming to provide a strategic direction to the management of natural resources at the grassroots level. The establishment of this committee provides local residents with a robust administrative platform to officially safeguard their traditional heritage, biological wealth, and indigenous knowledge.

On this occasion, Gram Pradhan Shri Vinod Awasthi coordinated with the local community, and the program

witnessed enthusiastic participation. The newly constituted committee was briefed on its mandate to hold at least





four statutory meetings annually to ensure the regular verification and strengthening of the PBR.

The workshop highlighted that Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) serve as the primary institutional mechanism for decentralized biodiversity governance at the regional level. By facilitating the active participation of local communities, BMCs play a pivotal role in documenting biological resources, preserving traditional ecological knowledge, and promoting the conservation and sustainable use of

biological resources. The committees also serve as an important link between local stakeholders and the Uttarakhand State Biodiversity Board, ensuring the effective implementation of biodiversity-related policies, programmes, and conservation initiatives.

The strengthening of BMCs is, therefore, essential for achieving long-term biodiversity conservation goals, safeguarding traditional knowledge, and fostering inclusive, community-based natural resource management. The workshop further emphasized that

biodiversity conservation cannot be achieved without the active participation of regional communities. Participants were encouraged to identify, conserve, and sustainably manage the biological resources in their surroundings. The event was attended by 37 participants, including 11 women and 26 men. The programme concluded with a collective pledge by all participants to actively contribute to the conservation, sustainable use, and enrichment of the region's biodiversity, ensuring its preservation for future generations.



अंतर्राष्ट्रीय जैव विविधता दिवस 2026 के अवसर पर राष्ट्रीय जैव विविधता प्राधिकरण टीम द्वारा उत्तराखंड की संरक्षण पहलों का दस्तावेजीकरण

दिनांक 6 मई, 2026 को अंतर्राष्ट्रीय जैव विविधता दिवस 2026 के अवसर पर, राष्ट्रीय जैव विविधता प्राधिकरण (NBA), चेन्नई द्वारा भेजी गई एक वीडियोग्राफी टीम ने उत्तराखंड जैव विविधता बोर्ड का दौरा किया। इस दौरे का मुख्य उद्देश्य राज्य में संचालित जैव विविधता संरक्षण पहलों का दस्तावेजीकरण करना तथा उन पर आधारित एक वृत्तचित्र (Documentary Film) का निर्माण करना था। अपनी यात्रा के दौरान टीम ने राज्य में जैविक संसाधनों के संरक्षण, उनके सतत उपयोग तथा स्थानीय समुदायों की सहभागिता को बढ़ावा देने हेतु बोर्ड द्वारा संचालित विभिन्न संरक्षण एवं प्रबंधन गतिविधियों का विस्तृत रूप से फिल्मांकन एवं अभिलेखीकरण किया।

टीम द्वारा जनपद देहरादून के विकासखंड सहसपुर स्थित जैव विविधता प्रबंधन समिति (BMC), विलासपुर कांडली का भ्रमण किया गया, भ्रमण के दौरान स्थानीय जैव विविधता संसाधनों, पारंपरिक ज्ञान प्रणालियों तथा समुदाय-आधारित संरक्षण प्रथाओं का गहन अध्ययन एवं दस्तावेजीकरण किया गया। इस दौरान बीएमसी के सदस्यों, ग्रामवासियों तथा अन्य स्थानीय हितधारकों के साथ संवाद स्थापित कर उनके अनुभवों एवं विचारों को साक्षात्कार के माध्यम से रिकार्ड किया गया एवं जैव विविधता संरक्षण, प्राकृतिक संसाधनों के सतत प्रबंधन तथा स्थानीय समुदायों



की सक्रिय भागीदारी से संबंधित अनेक महत्वपूर्ण जानकारियाँ संकलित की गई। भ्रमण के दौरान यह भी संज्ञान लिया गया कि जैव विविधता प्रबंधन समिति स्थानीय ग्रामीणों, महिला स्वयं सहायता समूहों, युवाओं तथा विद्यार्थियों को जैव विविधता संरक्षण अभियानों से जोड़ने का कार्य भी कर रही है। इसके माध्यम से नई पीढ़ी में प्रकृति संरक्षण, पर्यावरण पीय उत्तरदायित्व तथा स्थानीय जैविक विरासत के प्रति सम्मान की भावना विकसित हो रही है।

वीडियोग्राफी टीम ने बीएमसी सदस्यों द्वारा किए जा रहे संरक्षण कार्यों, सामुदायिक सहभागिता तथा स्थानीय नेतृत्व की सराहना की। टीम ने इस बात पर विशेष बल दिया कि जैव विविधता संरक्षण की सफलता तभी संभव है जब स्थानीय समुदायों की सक्रिय भागीदारी सुनिश्चित हो। जैव विविधता प्रबंधन

समितियाँ इस दिशा में सरकार और समाज के बीच एक प्रभावी सेतु के रूप में कार्य कर रही हैं।

राष्ट्रीय जैव विविधता प्राधिकरण की यह अनूठी पहल जैव विविधता प्रबंधन समितियों को और अधिक सशक्त बनाने की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है। इससे बीएमसी सदस्यों को अपने कार्यों के राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर प्रदर्शन का अवसर प्राप्त होगा, साथ ही अन्य समितियों को भी नवाचारपूर्ण संरक्षण गतिविधियों को अपनाने की प्रेरणा मिलेगी। यह प्रयास स्थानीय समुदायों की सहभागिता, जैविक संसाधनों के संरक्षण, पारंपरिक ज्ञान के सम्मान तथा प्राकृतिक संसाधनों के सतत प्रबंधन के प्रति उनकी प्रतिबद्धता को और अधिक सुदृढ़ करेगा तथा 'स्थानीय सहभागिता से वैश्विक जैव विविधता संरक्षण' की भावना को साकार करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाएगा।

Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board Celebrates International Day for Biological Diversity 2026

In a significant step toward boosting environmental awareness and sustainable resource management, the Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board (UBB), in collaboration with the Nature Science Initiative (NSI), organized a grand celebration to mark the International Day for Biological Diversity (IBD) 22 May, 2026, Hosted at Hari Singh Auditorium, Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA) campus in Dehradun, the event was meticulously aligned with the global mandate of the Convention on Biological Diversity and India's Biological Diversity Act, 2002. This year, the celebrations vibrantly brought to life the global theme, "*Acting Locally for Global Impact*," underscoring the vital role that community-driven and localized conservation strategies play in mitigating macroscopic environmental crises across the globe.

The high-profile gathering served as a unique collaborative crossroads, uniting an diverse group of stakeholders that included eager students, dedicated academic teachers, localized Biodiversity Management Committee members, environmental educators, senior



forest officials, scientific researchers, and active field practitioners. The foundational objectives of the day were centered on instilling an appreciation for biodiversity conservation among the general public, championing eco-conscious daily lifestyles, and strengthening the structural network connecting educational institutions with government frameworks and grassroots conservation groups.

The inaugural session commenced with a traditional lighting of the ceremonial lamp, setting a deeply reflective and hopeful tone for the remainder of the day. The event was graced by Shri Ram Singh Kaida, the Honorable Minister for Environment Conservation and Climate Change for the Government of Uttarakhand, who presided as the Chief Guest. Welcoming the gathering, Dr. S.P. Subuddhi, Chairman of the Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board, delivered an insightful opening address highlighting how biodiversity preservation serves as the primary backbone for maintaining global ecological balance, protecting localized livelihoods, and securing essential ecosystem services required for absolute human well-being.

During the highly interactive technical sessions, Key Speakers passionately argued that long-term biological preservation cannot be carried out via top-down administrative or governmental mandates alone. Dr. Subuddhi emphasize that modern sustainability models must prioritize







of the local Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs), including Chairman and other members from the Vilaspur Kandli Gram Panchayat, actively participated in the annual celebrations.

The presence and recognition of the Vilaspur Kandli Gram Panchayat BMC highlighted the vital role that grassroots governance plays in monitoring and preserving regional ecosystems. By successfully documentation of their local flora, fauna, and traditional knowledge within the newly released PBR. Their proactive engagement underscores how local communities can effectively exercise their statutory powers under the Biological Diversity Act to protect community resources, promote sustainable harvesting, and bridge the gap between rural conservation efforts and global ecological goals. Additionally, Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board Information Folders were unveiled alongside targeted, highly specialized botanical information guides focusing on the ecological and commercial utilization of Tejpat (*Cinnamomum tamala*) and Sri Lankan Daalchini (*Cinnamomum verum*).

harmonious coexistence with nature, urging the student demographic to confidently step forward as lifelong ambassadors of environmental stewardship. He further emphasized the invaluable contributions of indigenous communities, ancestral traditional knowledge, traditional farming systems, and disciplined resource utilization. Complementing this outlook, representatives from the Nature Science Initiative (NSI) shared successful institutional blueprints from their ongoing nature education campaigns and school-focused sustainability programs currently operational across Uttarakhand.

A fundamental highlight of the newsletter-worthy event was the celebration of young creativity through an array of pre-organized school competitions. The dignitaries took great pride in distributing certificates and

prizes to the exceptionally talented winners. In the Painting Competition, Ritika Sharma secured the first prize, followed closely by Priyanshi and Sapna. The Drawing Competition saw Drishta Praveen take the top honor, with Aarushi and Sadiya clinching the second and third spots respectively. Meanwhile, the Speech Competition brilliantly highlighted the oratorical skills of young leaders, with Safiya winning first place, Maanvika securing second, and Saloni taking third.

Simultaneously, the event marked the formal roll-out of critical educational publications and ecological tools designed to advance local field data. Chief among these releases was the freshly updated People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) of Vilaspur Kandli (Sahaspur Block, Dehradun), a landmark regional document for baseline tracking. During the event, some of key members

The physical landscape of the auditorium came alive with a bustling biodiversity exhibition that put innovative student projects on full display. Visitors & officials actively engaged with working models focusing on waste minimization, organic composting, building plastic-free school environments, and managing



local biomes. This scholastic ingenuity was paired with a spectacular cultural segment featuring environmental theatre, folk music presentations, and stage performances centered on climate change and sustainability. The day also shined a bright spotlight on NSI's flagship initiative—the *Himalayan Sustainability Championship*—which successfully mobilized over 100 students and 20 teachers from 20 schools, further cementing a widespread, youth-led movement toward regional ecological security.



The program reached its successful culmination with an impactful closing address by Shri T.R. Bijulal, Member Secretary of the Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board. In his remarks, he sharply highlighted the critical economic and ecological importance

of conserving indigenous species like Tejpat, reaffirming the Board's steadfast commitment to scientific conservation methodologies and community based forest protection models. Bringing the celebration to a formal close, the Member Secretary delivered a warm vote of thanks, expressing sincere gratitude to the students, educators, grassroots BMC members, and institutional stakeholders whose collaborative energy made the event a resounding milestone in Uttarakhand's environmental movement.



Cleanliness Meets Conservation: Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board Drives Swachhata Pakhwara Campaign and World Environment Day Celebrations, 2026

In a powerful convergence of community action and environmental stewardship, the Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board (UBB), in close collaboration with the Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) of Karbari Grant and regional stakeholders, successfully executed a comprehensive fortnight-long campaign under the Swachhata

Pakhwara initiative. Spanning from June 1 to June 15, 2026, the intensive drive was strategically designed to promote environmental awareness, grassroots cleanliness, and biodiversity conservation across Karbari Grant Gram Panchayat. Integrated with the global celebrations of World Environment Day 2026, the entire campaign was rooted

in the core tenets of the Government of India's Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), motivating community members to pivot toward eco-conscious daily routines and sustainable consumption.

A range of activities including Swachhata Pledge, Plogging Events, Painting Competitions, Pond Cleaning Drives, Plantation Programmes, and Mission LiFE Quiz Competitions were conducted during the campaign period.

Objectives of the Campaign

The key objectives of the campaign were:

- ◆ Promote cleanliness and environmental responsibility by inspiring communities to adopt eco-friendly habits.
- ◆ Encourage active public participation in conservation and sustainability initiatives.





- ◆ Celebrate World Environment Day 2026 as a collective commitment to protecting nature.
- ◆ Raise awareness about Mission LiFE and the importance of adopting sustainable lifestyles.
- ◆ Strengthen local biodiversity through plantation drives and green activities.
- ◆ Empower school children and local communities to become dedicated environmental stewards and change-makers.

Activities Conducted

The Swachhata Pakhwara Campaign commenced with the administration of a Mass Swachhata Pledge, symbolizing collective commitment to environmental responsibility. Members of the Biodiversity Management Committees, local villagers, students, and other participants solemnly pledged to:

- ◆ Maintain cleanliness in their surroundings
- ◆ Minimize waste generation
- ◆ Actively contribute to environmental conservation

This pledge not only marked the formal launch of the campaign but also set a purposeful tone for all subsequent activities, reinforcing the shared vision of a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable future.

Nationwide Mega Plogging

A Nationwide Mega Plogging (Mission LiFE) event was organized from 03 to 06 June 2026. Participants collected litter, plastic waste, and other non-biodegradable materials from roadsides, public places, and community areas while walking and engaging in physical activity.

The event generated awareness regarding plastic pollution & encouraged responsible waste management practices among the community members.

Painting Competition on Swachhata

To foster environmental awareness among young students, a Painting Competition on the theme “*Swachhata and Environmental Conservation*” was organized in schools a few months prior to the campaign.

The competition served as a creative platform for students to express their ideas and concerns about cleanliness, environmental protection, waste management, and sustainable living. The enthusiastic participation of school children highlighted their growing awareness and strong commitment to environmental stewardship.

Canal Cleaning Drive and Plantation Activities

A canal cleaning drive at Vasant Vihar, Dehradun, Tea Estate area was undertaken to improve the condition of local water bodies and their surroundings. Community members,



and volunteers actively participated in removing waste materials and restoring cleanliness around pond areas.

Simultaneously, plantation activities were carried out to enhance local biodiversity and strengthen ecological resilience in Vasant Vihar, Dehradun.

The following species were planted during the plantation programme:

- ◆ Aonla (*Emblica officinalis*)
- ◆ Jamun (*Syzygium cumini*)
- ◆ Pilkhan (*Ficus virens*)
- ◆ Sehtoot (*Morus alba*)
- ◆ Guava (*Psidium guajava*)
- ◆ Dainkan (*Melia azedarach*)
- ◆ Bamboo species
- ◆ Lagerstroemia (*Lagerstroemia speciosa*)



Mission LiFE Quiz Competition and Concluding Mass Pledge

To conclude the Swachhata Pakhwara Campaign, a Quiz Competition on Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) was organized. The competition aimed to enhance awareness regarding sustainable lifestyles, environmental conservation, resource efficiency, waste reduction, and climate action.

Participants demonstrated keen interest and understanding of environmental issues and the principles of Mission LiFE.

During the campaign, participants took a Mass pledge to adopt environmentally responsible behaviour, such as reducing waste and conserving natural resources and promoting sustainable lifestyles within their communities.

Outcomes of the Campaign

- ♦ Successful implementation of the Swachhata Pakhwara Campaign.



- ♦ Increased public awareness regarding cleanliness and environmental conservation.
- ♦ Active participation of local communities and school children.
- ♦ Removal of litter and waste from public places and canal areas.
- ♦ Enhancement of local biodiversity through plantation activities.
- ♦ Promotion of Mission LiFE principles and sustainable lifestyle practices.

Conclusion

The Swachhata Pakhwara Campaign and World Environment Day 2026 celebrations, organized by the Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board at Karbari Grant Gram Panchayat, and Vasant Vihar, were successfully conducted with enthusiastic participation from Biodiversity Management Committees, local villagers, students, and community volunteers.





practices. Beyond immediate activities, the Board conducted dedicated dialogue sessions with local residents to explore future strategic initiatives designed to elevate public awareness and accelerate the adoption of eco-friendly practices in daily life. Particular emphasis was placed on motivating and empowering the younger generation, equipping them to champion sustainable, environmentally conscious lifestyles moving forward.

The initiative ultimately concluded with a resounding shared commitment from all stakeholders to maintain momentum across cleanliness, biodiversity preservation, and sustainable living—ensuring lasting environmental stewardship that delivers tangible benefits for both present and future generations.

The campaign successfully integrated a broad spectrum of environmental awareness programs, cleanliness drives, biodiversity conservation initiatives, student engagement activities, and the

promotion of Mission LiFE. Together, these multifaceted efforts played a key role in instilling a deep sense of environmental responsibility while significantly strengthening community participation in local conservation

Guidance

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Direction

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