

Collaborative efforts to commemorate International Vulture Awareness Day

International Vulture Awareness Day (IVAD) is celebrated on the first Saturday of September all over the world. Vultures are facing serious threats and are declining not only in India but in all other range countries as well. Four species in India are listed as Critically Endangered (*Gyps indicus*, *Gyps bengalensis*, *Gyps tenuirostris* and *Sarcogyps calvus*). To commemorate the day, Indian Biodiversity Conservation Society (IBCS) started the event a couple of days before so as to involve maximum number of participants particularly the younger generation. To achieve the target, IBCS collaborated with various Government and Non-Government organizations like Department of Basic Education, Arohan Foundation-Allahabad, Manav Organization-Lalitpur, Paryavaran Jeev Seva Sansthan-

Gonda and Society for Scientific Research-Barabanki.

Various events such as poem writing, slogan writing, painting, quiz and coloring vulture sheets were organized to sensitize the participants. These events were organized in Government schools of Lalitpur, Ambedkarnagar and Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh and Niwari in Madhya Pradesh. Arohan Organization celebrated the event with the underprivileged students in Allahabad-Uttar Pradesh. Awareness material (Booklets, flyers and wall posters) all based on vultures, was distributed to the participants.

To reach out maximum number of students, IVAD was also celebrated in District Institute



International Vulture Awareness Day celebration in Government School - Sarawan Ramnagar-Ambedkarnagar, U.P.



IVAD celebration in DIET-Jhansi, U.P.

of education and Training, Jhansi. About 80 trainees in Basic Training Certificate (BTC) participated in the event. A powerpoint presentation was given on “Conservation and Management of vanishing skylords”. Based on the presentation, a quiz was organized for them. The winners were felicitated for the same. As a part of certificate course, these trainees will join various schools for teaching and will disseminate the message of vulture conservation to the students. To create awareness and spread the message about IVAD, press media and social media were also involved. The news was published in various local newspapers in local language so that maximum readers know about vultures and their importance.

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