Report on
Wild Wisdom National Quiz 2011

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WWF-India conducted the fourth edition of its national level “Wild Wisdom Quiz” in 2011. The quiz is designed to raise awareness about flora and fauna in India and inculcate a sense of pride amongst students about our rich natural heritage. It gives a unique prize - Moving beyond material things the prize is an experiential one - a trip to a national park.

Young conservation enthusiasts from 17 cities across India participated in the Grand Finale of the only National Wildlife Quiz. WWF-India and TRAFFIC India conducted the finals of the Wild Wisdom Quiz, a national wildlife quiz on 17th November, 2011 at the Godrej Auditorium of WWF-India, Secretariat. USI and Prithvi Media are the partners for the national final. The quiz reached out to more than 57,000 students from 570 schools across 17 states of India. Total participants in the school level were 15641. Parallelly, an on-line quiz and a radio quiz was also held in the months of Oct-Nov 2011.

Objective:

- To engage children on a national level in a challenging and engaging way by creating a high reach, high impact programme.
- To sensitize and generate awareness among children by fostering a sense of competition, pride and knowledge of Indian biodiversity. We consider it as the perfect format to create an environmentally-responsible future generation. Here, the target audiences are the middle school students.
- To multiply the impact beyond the participants by actively engaging schools and media (radio, newspapers, online).

Background of the Wild Wisdom Quiz:

The quiz began in the year 2008 when 32 schools across Delhi and the NCR participated. A parallel radio quiz was conducted with radio partner Red FM. It was up-scaled to a national level quiz in 2009, when 278 schools from 13 cities participated. Wild Wisdom 2010 was held in 16 cities over 3 levels engaging more than 50,000 students from around 400 schools across 15 states along with a radio quiz.

Quiz Structure:

Phase 1: School Level Quiz (August / September):

Collaterals along with quiz materials were sent to 100 schools from Delhi, 10 schools from Amritsar, 20 schools from Udaipur, 50 schools from Bangalore and 30 schools from each of the following 13 cities - Jammu, Guwahati, Kolkata, Bhubaneshwar, Thiruvananthapuram, Bhopal, Hyderabad, Shimla, Chennai, Goa, Vadodara, Valsad and Mumbai.

The schools had to conduct the quiz among the middle school students mainly classes VI, VII and VIII. From each school 2 finalists were selected to participate in the city level quiz.

Total outreach to 570 schools in 17 cities of India for the Wild Wisdom Quiz 2011.

Phase 2: City Level Quiz (October):

The total no. of schools and their participants from each city are tabulated below.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>TOTAL PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS</th>
<th>TOTAL PARTICIPANTS (SCHOOL LEVEL)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DELHI</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>6319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GUJARAT - VALSAD</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOA</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMRITSAR</td>
<td>07</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GUWAHATI</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BANGALORE</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHENNAI</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRINAGAR</td>
<td>07</td>
<td>422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUMBAI</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORISSA</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHIMLA</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HYDERABAD</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GUJARAT – VADODARA</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UDAIPUR</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1588</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOLKATA</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The city-level quiz is conducted by each WWF State Offices from participating cities with the various rounds tabulated below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROUND</th>
<th>ROUND NAME</th>
<th>DETAILS</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
<th>MAX. POINTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Preliminary / Elimination</td>
<td>30 questions</td>
<td>7 minutes</td>
<td>1 point per right answer</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Round 1: General</td>
<td>10 questions; 2 questions per team; (2 rounds)</td>
<td>15 secs per question</td>
<td>5 points per right answer</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Round 2: Pick your Pick. To choose from 5 subjects</td>
<td>10 questions; 2 questions per team; (2 rounds). A team <strong>cannot</strong> repeat a subject</td>
<td>15 secs per question</td>
<td>5 points per right answer</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Round 3: Visual</td>
<td>5 slides</td>
<td>20 secs per slide</td>
<td>4 points per right answer</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Round 4: Audio</td>
<td>5 bird calls with 3 clues</td>
<td>15 secs</td>
<td>No clues: 20 points Clue 1: 15 points Clue 2: 10 points Clue 3: 5 points</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Round 5: Rapid Fire</td>
<td>5 questions per team.</td>
<td>40 secs</td>
<td>4 points per right answer</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Phase 3: National Final (November):
17 schools participated from all over India. The Wild Wisdom Quiz 2011 was held in 17 cities, over three levels – school level, city level and national level. The quiz saw keen participation of students from all these cities.
Following are the details of the City-level Wild Wisdom Quiz from all across India:

**Delhi**

Total participating Schools: 32  
Date of city level: 19/10/2011  
Name of the winning school: Vishwa Bharti Public School (Noida).  
Name of the students:  
1. Pooja Sharma VIII  
2. Nipun Chandra VII  
Total Participants: 6319

**Guwahati**

Total participating Schools: 18  
Date of city level: 25/10/2011  
Name of the winning school: Maharishi Vidyamandir Sr Secondary School, Silpukhuri.  
Name of the students:  
1. Pranat Kashyap VIII  
2. Probit J Kalita VIII  
Total Participants: 650
 Bangalore

Total participating Schools: 20
Date of city level: 29/10/2011
Name of the winning school: Bishop cotton boys school
Name of the students:
1. Jayaditya VIII
2. Padmanabhan VIII
Total Participants: 1673

 Chennai

Total participating Schools: 12
Date of city level: 14/10/2011
Name of the winning school: Ti Matriculation High. Sec. School, Ambattur
Name of the students:
1. P. Sathya Sheelan VII
2. T. Harish VII
Total Participants: 958
Jammu

Total participating Schools: 07
Date of city level: 29/10/2011
Name of the winning school: Army Public School, Kaluchak Jammu
Name of the students:
Abhishek Sarangal - VIII
Alankit Mahajan - VIII
Total Participants: 422

Mumbai

Total participating Schools: 11
Date of city level: 05/10/2011
Name of the winning school: Marble Arch School
Name of the students:
1. Devesh Bhura VII
2. Rohan Saggi VIII
Total Participants: 464
Hyderabad

Total participating Schools: 09
Date of city level: 09/11/2011
Name of the winning school: Gitanjali Senior School
Name of the students:
1. Arnav VII
2. A V Lakshmy VIII
Total Participants: 700

Shimla

Total participating Schools:12
Date of city level: 13/10/2011
Name of the winning school: D.A.V Lakkar Bazaar
Name of the students:
1. Harsh Sharma VIII
2. Siddhanth Arora VIII
Total Participants: 300
**Udaipur**

Total participating Schools: 16  
Date of city level: 04/11/2011  
Name of the winning school: Zinc Vidyalaya Hura, Bhilwara  
Name of the students:  
1. Pooja Chowdhary VIII  
2. Shahil Jain VI  
Total Participants: 1588

**Bhopal**

Total participating Schools: 09  
Date of city level: 1/11/2011  
Name of the winning school: Carmel Convent Sr. Sec. School, BHEL  
Name of the students:  
1. Shreya Aiyar VIII  
2. Mansha Kakkar VIII  
Total Participants: 900
Kolkata
Total participating Schools: 08
Date of city level: 8/10/2011
Name of the winning school: ST James School
Name of the students:
1. Ayush Banerjee VIII
2. Tamoghna Chowdhury VIII
Total Participants: 210

Thiruvananthapuram
Total participating Schools: 06
Date of city level: 26/10/2011
Name of the winning school: Bhavans Newsprint Vidyalaya, Kottayam
Name of the students:
2. Vinay Radhakrishnan VII
Total Participants: 68
Goa

Total participating Schools: 06
Date of city level: 21/10/2011
Name of the winning school:
Lourdes Convent High School, Saligao
Name of the students:
1. Lucino Pinto VIII
2. Delton D’Cruz VIII
Total Participants: 225

Valsad

Total participating Schools: 08
Date of city level: 20/10/2011
Name of the winning school:
Alok Public School, Sivassa
Name of the students:
1. Atharva Choughule VII
2. Siddharth Kulkarni VII
Total Participants: 360
**Bhubaneshwar**

Total participating Schools: 06

Date of city level: 05/11/2011

Name of the winning school: DAV Public School, Pokhripur

Name of the students:
1. Chinmay Routray VIII
2. Dishant Swain VIII

Total Participants: 219

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**Vadodara**

Total participating Schools: 06

Date of city level: 20/10/2011

Name of the winning school: Navarachana Vidyani Vidalaya

Name of the students:
1. Ronit Malani VIII
2. Rohan Talati VIII

Total Participants: 345
The day 17th of November 2011 started with the assembly of all the participating teams at WWF-India Secretariat at Lodi Estate at 8.30 am. A registration desk was set-up for the teams coming from different schools of India for collecting information and to form a data-base.

There were altogether 32 participants from 16 states from all over India, accompanied by their representative teacher or parents for the final of Wild Wisdom Quiz 2011. The team from Orissa could not come. All the teams were asked to be seated in the Auditorium by 8.45 a.m. Then the teams (with two participants each) were taken to the Tsokar Room for the written Elimination round to select the 5 Finalist teams. While the 1st three teams were selected easily, there was a tie among 3 teams for the 4th and 5th position. Finally, with the help of Tie-Breaker Questions, the 4th and 5th teams were selected. The basis of the elimination round was as below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROUND NAME</th>
<th>DETAILS</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elimination round</td>
<td>30 questions</td>
<td>10 minutes</td>
<td>1 point per right answer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Registration Desks outside the Auditorium
ELIMINATION ROUND IN TSOKAR ROOM

All the 16 teams for the Wild Wisdom Quiz assembled at the Auditorium of WWF-India after the Elimination Round. Mrs. Mita Nangia Goswami, Director, Environment Education, WWF-India, welcomed the finalist from all over the country to National Final of Wild Wisdom Quiz-2011. A presentation was also shown depicting the City-level Wild Wisdom Quiz across different parts of the country.

MRS. MITA NANGIA GOSWAMI (Director-EE) DELIVERING WELCOME SPEECH

She then introduced Ms Mallika Sarabhai, the Celebrity Chief Guest and the Quiz Host to the finalist and to the audience. Our audience comprised members of the press, participants who did not qualify, and children from Nature Clubs in New Delhi. Before the quiz commenced, a film 'Chimi's Dream' was screened followed by an interaction with the filmmaker Ms. Laxmi Dhaul, CEO of Prithvi Media. Prithvi Media makes and shares short animated and documentary films in English and Hindi on Environmental and Motivational themes. The themes are created to invoke curiosity on environmental issues through vibrant 3D animation and enthralling narrative. Prithvi Media has recently completed its first environmental film 'Chimi's Dream' of duration 13 min 40 sec. Chimi's Dream – The Green Parade comes alive is in the form of a spectacular animated film where each animal has a story to tell about adverse consequences of man’s greed, the degradation and eventual destruction of their home – the forest.
Mallika Sarabhai is an activist and Indian Classical Dancer from Ahmedabad, Gujarat. She was awarded Padma Bhushan, the highest civilian award in 2010. She is an internationally renowned dancer and a passionate human rights activist. She has eclectic intellectual leanings and has supported nature conservation and animal protection for many years. She has won several awards for her enterprising endeavours in India and abroad.

Ms. Mallika Sarabhai, our Celebrity Quiz host for the day then took over the stage and formally announced the 5 finalists of Wild Wisdom Quiz 2011. The participating teams were also briefed about the rules & regulations of the quiz before the start of the quiz.

Thus, the 5 finalist for the Wild Wisdom Quiz 2011 were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEAM I</th>
<th>Gitanjali Senior School</th>
<th>L Arnav - VII</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHINAR</td>
<td>HYDERABAD</td>
<td>A V Lakshmy, - VIII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEAM II</td>
<td>Bishop cotton Boys’ School</td>
<td>Jayaditya VIII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KHEJRI</td>
<td>BANGALORE</td>
<td>Padmanabhan - VII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEAM III</td>
<td>Maharishi Vidyamandir Sr. Secondery School</td>
<td>Pranat Kashyap – VIII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEAK</td>
<td>GUWAHATI</td>
<td>Probit Jyoti Kalita – VIII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEAM IV</td>
<td>D.A.V Lakkar Bazaar School</td>
<td>Harsh Sharma VIII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOLLONG</td>
<td>SHIMLA</td>
<td>Siddhanth Arora – VIII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEAM V</td>
<td>St. James School</td>
<td>Ayush Banerjee VIII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COCONUT</td>
<td>KOLKATA</td>
<td>Tamoghna Chowdhury VIII</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
he teams were given the names of the State-trees of different states of India, namely Chinar, the North - Kashmir state tree, Coconut, the South - Kerela state tree, Hollong, the East – Assam state tree, Khejri, the West – Rajasthan state tree and Teak, the Central India Madhya Pradesh state tree. The teams are named after trees as this year 2011, has been declared as the ‘International Year of forest’ by the United Nations so more emphasis has been given to trees of the forest.

The 5 finalists of the National Wild Wisdom Quiz 2011

GLIMPSES OF THE WISE WISDOM QUIZ 2011 FINALS WITH HOUSE-FULL AUDIENCE
Trophies, Prizes, Certificates & Goodies for the Students participating in the Audience Questions Participants & Bookmarks, Postcards for Audiences

Ms. Mallika Sarabhai conducted the quiz from 10.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. The entire quiz was divided into 6 interesting rounds testing the children the familiarity with different aspects of wildlife ranging from recognition of bird calls to identification of species with the help of visual cues, their knowledge about different kinds of fish, insects, trees and much more. The details of the various rounds are tabulated below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROUND NAME</th>
<th>DETAILS</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Round 1:** From Here & There | 10 questions, 2 rounds  
Round 1: Team A-B-C-D-E  
Round 2: Team E-D-C-B-A  
No pass & No negative marks  
Your time will start after the question is read. | 15 secs / question | 5 points per right answer  
(Max. points: 10) |
| **Round 2:** Pick your Pick To choose from 5 topics | 10 questions, 2 rounds but a team cannot repeat a subject  
Round 1: Team A-B-C-D-E  
Round 2: Team E-D-C-B-A  
No pass & No negative marks  
Your time will start after the question is read. | 15 secs / question | 5 points per right answer  
(Max. points: 10) |
| **Round 3:** Visual round | 1 question per team  
Teams have to match the visual to the correct answers. Please note that there is one extra answer in the choices to confuse. So if there are 5 visuals, there are 6 choices in the answer. | 30 secs / slide | 4 points per right answer  
(Max. points: 20) |
Teams are requested to write their answers and speak them out before the end of their time. Only after this will the quiz master declare the right answers.

**Round 4: The Detective Round**

- 10 questions, 2 rounds
- Round 1: Team A-B-C-D-E
- Round 2: Team E-D-C-B-A

Teams are requested to write their answers and speak them out before the end of their time. Only after this will the quiz master declare the right answers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Round 5: Audio Round</th>
<th>1 bird call per team with 3 clues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clue 1: Written clue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clue 2: Written clue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clue 3: Picture of the bird</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Round 6: Rapid Fire round</th>
<th>10 questions per team</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>If there is time left at the end You can skip by saying ‘Pass’, but would not get a chance to answer the question again. Quiz master will not give answer there and then ...only tell whether it is right or wrong. At the end of the 60 seconds, the quiz master will run through the round again and give the right answers + any trivia. At the end of 60 sec if the question has started you get a chance to answer the question.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

While the participants enthusiastically answered the questions, a keen audience was constantly on the lookout for passes as it helped them to earn their green conservation bands with every correct response. There were 100 students as audience from 2 schools, viz. Vishwa Bharati School, Noida and Air Force Golden Jubilee Institute, Subroto Park. The audience was very enthusiastic and actively participated in the competition.

The final results of the Wild Wisdom Quiz, 2011 were:

**RESULTS OF WILD WISDOM 2011 WITH FINAL SCORES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teams</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Final Scores</th>
<th>Cities with School Names</th>
<th>Winners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chinar</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>Gitanjali Senior School HYDERABAD</td>
<td>L Arnav - VII, A V Lakshmy, - VIII</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Teak     | 2nd  | 46  | Bishop Cotton Boys’ School | Jayaditya VIII  
|         |      |     | BANGALORE                  | Padmanabhan - VII |
| Khejri   | 3rd  | 33  | Maharishi Vidyamandir Sr.  | Pranat Kashyap – VIII  
|         |      |     | Secondary School           | Probit Jyoti Kalita – VIII |
| Coconut  | 1st Runner up | 32  | St. James School            | Ayush Banerjee VIII  
|         |      |     | KOLKATA                    | Tamogna Chowdhury VIII |
| Hollong  | 2nd Runner up | 19  | D.A.V Lakkar Bazaar School  | Harsh Sharma VIII  
|         |      |     | SHIMLA                      | Siddhanth Arora – VIII |

Mr. Karan Bhalla, the Chief Operating Officer addressed the participating teams & the audiences before giving away the prizes to the winning teams. Trophies, prizes and certificates were distributed to the winners by Mr. Karan Bhalla and Ms. Mallika Sarabhai.

1st Prize - Hyderabad team  
2nd Prize - Bangalore Team  
3rd Prize – Guwahati Team
1st Runner up – Kolkata Team  
2nd Runner up – Shimla Team

**PRIZES DISTRIBUTED BY MR. KARAN BHALLA AND MS. MALLIKA SARABHAI**

A momento was presented to Ms. Mallika Sarabhai by Ms. Madhur Das, Director of Communication Alliance. Mr. Samir Sinha, the head of TRAFFIC India ended the ceremony with a vote of thanks to our Chief guest, Ms. Mallika Sarabhai, Prithvi Media, our style partner - Uni Style Image and also thanked all our volunteers, audience and quiz participants.

Goody bags were distributed to all participants of National final who are the winners of the respective City-level. The Escorts (Teacher/Parent) of all the teams were also given these bags. Apart from these all the audiences were given book marks, post cards of Green Hiker, Pencils of Cities for Forests Campaign and Uni Style Wrist bands of Eco-club. USI sponsored the Wild Wisdom T-shirts.
RESULTS OF THE ON-LINE AND RADIO QUIZ OF WILD WISDOM 2011

WWF-India also conducted a national level on-line quiz and a radio quiz with radio partner A.I.R as a part of Wild Wisdom Quiz 2011 in the months of Oct. and Nov. Prizes were sent to them in the form of goody bags containing the Wild Wisdom T-shirts and Green Conservation Bands.

Following are the All India winners -

ON-LINE QUIZ WINNERS

1. T. Harish of Ambattur, Chennai
2. Sathya of Ambattur Chennai
3. Arushi Garg of Patiala (Punjab)

RADIO QUIZ WINNERS

1. Ajey Kumar of Vasundhara Enclave, Delhi
2. Awal Manbir Singh of Dehradun
3. Fr. Zachariah Mathuramkottu Cherian of Kottayam, Kerala
4. Kamal Divan of Haryana
5. Ashul of Wazirabad, Delhi
6. Anurag Thapa of Dehradun
The first three winners were awarded a two-day excursion to Corbett National Park, which has one of the highest tiger population density in India. From the winners only the team from Bangalore went to Jim Corbett National Park with their escort (teacher/parent) as their prize excursion. The other two teams could not go to Corbett National Park due to school examination. Therefore, 2 other teams viz. the teams from Gujarat-Valsad and Chennai were chosen based on elimination round scores and were taken to Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve with their escorts.

A group of 12 members comprising of Jayadiyta and Padmanabhan from Bangalore, Atharva Choughule and Siddharth Kulkarni from Gujarat-Valsad, P. Sathy Sheelan and Harish from Chennai, their escorts (teachers/parents),Ms. Archita Baruah Bhattacharyya and Ms Mallika Gupta of WWF-India Secretariat left for Corbett National Park by road on 18th November’11 at 7.00 a.m.

**Itinerary for the visit is as follows:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Particulars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-11-2011 at 7 a.m.</td>
<td>Journey to Corbett Evening visit</td>
<td>Jim Corbett Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-11-2011</td>
<td>Night Stay</td>
<td>Home Stays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-11-2011 at 6 a.m.</td>
<td>Full Day Safari to Corbett Tiger Reserve</td>
<td>Open Gypsy Safari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tiger Tracking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mammals Sighting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bird Watching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Flora of Corbett Tiger Reserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-11-2011 at 5 p.m.</td>
<td>Corbett’s Village</td>
<td>Chaupal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Corbett’s Gun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-11-2011</td>
<td>Night Stay</td>
<td>Home Stays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-11-2011 at 8.30 a.m.</td>
<td>Jim Corbett Heritage Trail Visit to Corbett Fall</td>
<td>Corbett Wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Moti House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Water Fall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-11-2011 at 11 a.m.</td>
<td>Departure for Delhi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Corbett National Park is the oldest National park in India, is renamed after hunter turned conservationist, Jim Corbett. Situated in Uttarakhand, it consists of woodland and savannah grasslands and is watered by the Ramganga River. The area is rich in biodiversity and is famous for its Sal forests, deers, leopards, elephants, wild boar, gharial, king cobra and a wide variety of forest birds. It also has a great variety of fauna on account of habitat diversity.
Mr. Rajesh Panwar, the Executive Director of the home-stay ‘Corbett Gram Vikas Samiti’ of Corbett's Village-Chhoti Haldwani (Kaladhungi) made all arrangements for the stay in Corbett. Mr. Mohan Pandey, Secretary of the home-stay guided us all throughout the visit.

Group of 6 students, 1 Teacher, 3 Parent & 2 WWF Officials

On reaching Corbett, the team first met the officials of the Corbett Field office of WWF-India. Mr. Deb Malia interacted with the group and shared information about the Terai Arc Landscape Programme and about the elephant corridor.

Visit to Kaladhungi WWF Field-Office

The team then visited the Jim Corbett’s Museum, Ramnagar. Deputy Director, Mr. C. K. Kavidayal interacted with the students and WWF Officials about the importance of the Terai region and the species present in Corbett Tiger Reserve. He added that apart from the tiger population there are around 600 species of birds present in the Corbett. Corbett Museum is in a heritage bungalow of Mr. Jim Corbett. It’s a rusty old world building which is well kept and very clean. Lawns and flora is well preserved. It has got lots of text about Jim and his family, some of his furniture, etc.
On 19th November morning, the team went for a full day Safari to Corbett Tiger Reserve from 6.30 a.m. to 3 p.m. They went to the Bijrani zone of Corbett forest.

The Safari takes the visitors deep inside the Corbett National Park to enable them to see wild animals closely in their natural habitat. It is the best and only way to explore the national park. Corbett houses 110 different varieties of trees including bamboos, grasses, shrubs, herbs, climbers and ferns. The students were extremely happy to see various mammals in wild which included the spotted deer or chital, wild asiatic elephants, capped langur, rhesus monkey, flying squirrel, etc. The flora of the region is dominant with Sal trees, Teak trees, Peepal and large varieties of grasses – tiger grass, elephant grasses, etc. Giant termite mounds were also seen in planty. The guides pointed out call signs of chitals alerting their flock on tiger movement. It was a learning experience for these children to see how the guides understood and interpreted the language of the forest. Spotting a tiger is a patient business. In the meantime the team got to see chital or spotted deer, monkeys, elephants and tiger pug marks. The group was divided into two gypsies. It is very rich in avifauna. Bird’s species seen were White-capped Redstart, Grey Bushchat, Juvenile Changeable Hawk-eagle, White-throated Kingfisher, Woodpecker, Long-tailed Shrike, Oriental pied hombill, common kingfisher, stork billed kingfisher, red-vented bulbul, red whiskered bulbul, etc.
COMMON BIRDS OF CORBETT TIGER RESERVE

White-capped Redstart - *Chaimarrornis leucocophaleus*

Grey Bushchat – *Saxicola ferreus*

Juvenile Changeable Hawk-eagle

White-throated Kingfisher – *Halcyon smyrnensis*

COMMON BIRDS OF CORBETT TIGER RESERVE

Indirect evidence – Pug Mark of Tiger

Peacock

Chital or Spotted deer – *Axis axis*

Asiatic Elephant

Gypsy Safari

Capped langur - *Trachypithecus pileatus*

Rhesus macaque - *Macaca mulatta*

Elephant Ride
At the Bijrani Guest house site, after lunch, we met the Director, Corbett Tiger Reserve, Mr. Ranjan Kr. Mishra (IFS) and Joint Secretary of National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTA) who were there for a site visit. They gave us opportunity to witness the tiger inside the jungle with an elephant ride. The gypsy safari was thus followed by an elephant safari which enabled the members of the team to see the King of the jungle, the Tiger. It was a view to be treasured for life, when the students noticed a tiger under a bush. They were awestruck to see a tiger in all its glory. The group was then out of the Corbett forest at 3 p.m. after witnessing the tiger and the rich fauna and flora, with cherished memories of them all.

At Corbett Museum, Dhangarhi, near the entry gate of Dhikala zone, we saw some of the collection of the preserved dead animals from the park with information board on each animal.

Species seen in Dhangarhi Museum

On way back from Corbett Reserve forest, we passed through the Kosi river, where we could see brahminy duck, cormorant, pond heron and egrets. The vegetation beside the roads are worth noticing, as they grow tomatoes and marigold flower cultivation together. The reason behind is very interesting as the insects are attracted to the marigold and the tomatoes are not attacked. Overall, Corbett has a rich floral vegetation and therefore butterfly and dragon fly are seen in plenty.

The team then went to Corbett Heritage trail at Jim Corbett’s village in Choti Haldwani. Jim Corbett made the Chaupal where he would help villagers by sitting collectively to resolve their disputes and problems. He gave his gun to Sher Singh, the owner of the Chaupal and father of Trilok Singh, for defense against wild animals in the early part of the 20th century. The students were happy to meet the family members of the hunter who accompanied Jim Corbett, in all his expedition. Jim Corbett' weapons were also carefully preserved.
On 20th November morning, the team visited the Corbett Wall in the Choti Haldwani village near Kaladhungi. The 9km wall was constructed to protect crops from wild animals. The channels for irrigation are all intact and have become visitors’ attraction. Jim Corbett built ‘Moti House’ for his friend Moti Singh in this village. We then visited the Corbett waterfall, which has an aesthetic view on the backdrop of a scenic greenish forest. The area is also rich in vast diversity of plants and birds.

At 11:00 a.m., we left for New Delhi and arrived WWF-India Secretariat at 7:00 p.m. The children and the escorts (teacher/parents) were very thankful to WWF for providing them such an interesting learning experience.
Wildlife quotient paves passage to Corbett

Rabi Borahain

NEW DELHI: How many of us know that the Indian name for the Gangetic dolphin is Susa or that a group of male cheetahs are called a coalition? These were among the interesting questions that puzzled the participants and audience alike in Wild Wisdom, India’s only wildlife quiz competition, which was held in the Capital on Thursday.

The event was organised by World Wide Fund (WWF) India, in association with TRAFFIC India. The contest, now in its fourth year, reached out to more than 57000 students from around 570 schools across 17 states of the country.

Seventeen teams figured in the semifinals and faced a tough elimination round that ended in a tie. The teams who made it to the grand finale were Maharishi Vidya Mandir Senior Secondary School, Guwahati; Bishop Cotton Boys’ School, Bangalore; DAV Lakkar Bazara; Shimla; GITAM Senior Secondary School, Hyderabad and St. James School, Kolkata.

True to its theme, the teams were named after trees found in various parts of India — Chinar, Khejri, Teak, Hollong and Coconut. The quiz was divided into six rounds, and the quizzer, well-known dancer and social activist Mallika Sarabhai tested the participants' familiarity with diverse aspects of wildlife.

L Arnav and AV Lakshmy from Hyderabad swept the first position. Following them were Jayaditya and Padmanabhan from Bangalore and Pranat Kashyap and Probit J Kalita from Guwahati. The three winning teams won a two-day trip to Jim Corbett National Park, while the other contestants took home goodies. Arnav and Lakshmy were ecstatic after their win. “This is our first wildlife quiz. Till now, we have been attending only general quiz events,” said Lakshmy.