



**3<sup>rd</sup> National Nature Camping Programme**  
**For Eco-Club School children of Himachal Pradesh**  
**From 25-12-2018 to 27-12-2018**  
**At Hail Himalayas Camping Site, Shimla**



**Organized By:**

**H.P. Council for Science, Technology & Environment  
(HIMCOSTE), Vigyan Bhawan, Bemloe, Shimla-1, H.P.**

**Sponsored By:**

**Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change  
(MOEF&CC), Govt. of India, New Delhi**

## **Report on National Nature Camping Programme**

### **Introduction**

The National Nature Camps Programme is an initiative of the Ministry of Environment and Forests in Environment Education, which is aimed at creating greater awareness, understanding and empathy of children with and for the environment. Through this initiative it is hoped that every child who goes through middle school (classes VI to X) will get at least one opportunity for a 2-3 day camping experience during these years. The 'Nature experience' for children and teachers has huge potential to trigger their sensitivity towards nature appreciation and conservation, leading to positive environmental actions at different levels.

Himachal Pradesh Council for Science, Technology and Environment (HIMCOSTE) as a State Nodal Agency has established more than 3000 Eco-Clubs in Schools and about 100 Eco-Clubs in Colleges under National Green Corps (NGC) programme in the State of Himachal Pradesh. The Himachal Pradesh Council for Science, Technology and Environment organized National Nature Camping programme in the State. Under National Nature Camping Programme, field visits are being organised in different protected areas of the country for 3 days to create awareness amongst school/college students on environment and nature.

The camp's duration is 3 days and 2 nights with the basic structure of the camp being nature trails, nature games. The activities and nature trails in the camp were designed with the idea of instilling a sense of personal relationship and responsibility towards nature. The schedule was made in such a way that children get an opportunity to explore the nature through activities like trekking, bird watching, and walks to learn the importance of nature and biodiversity in their life along with reflecting on and discussing their learning through presentations, interactive sessions, painting competitions and environmental games.

### **National Nature camping Programme at Hail Himalayas**

The 3 days National Nature Camping programme was organized at Hail Himalayas, Shoghi Distt. Shimla Himachal Pradesh from 25-12-2018 to 27-12-2018. The 3<sup>rd</sup> camping programme was inaugurated by the **Dr. Vineet Jishtu Scientist D, Himalayan Forest Research Institute**, Shimla, Sh. Santosh Thakur and Sh. Ishwar, H.P. Forest Department, were resource persons. The day one of camping programme was started with facilitation ceremony. The chief guest and resource persons were welcomed by programme co-ordinator Mr. Ravi Sharma, Senior Scientific Assistant, National Green Corps Programme Himachal Pradesh Council for Science, Technology and Environment (HIMCOSTE). 32 Students and 8 Escort teachers were present in Nature Camping Programme.

### **DAY-1 (Technical session) Activities undertaken on 25-12-2018 at Hail Himalayas, Shoghi District Shimla**

The Programme on National Nature Camping for Eco-club school children includes these activities for the first day:-

- Registration of students and Escort Teachers.
- Camping kit distribution to the participants.
- Theme introduction by Sh. Ravi Sharma, overall programme coordinator
- Presentation on Floral Diversity of Himachal Pradesh by Dr. Vaneet Jishtu Scientist D, Himalayan Forest Research institute.

The programme was started by welcome speech by Mr. Ravi Sharma, Senior Scientific Assistant, National Green Corps programme. He told that this is 3<sup>rd</sup> camp organized by HIMCOSTE, Shimla and this is the golden opportunity for students to enjoy the camping programme. He also gave a presentation on Eco-Club activities done at State level and briefed about how Eco-Clubs are working at State level. He mentioned that there are 3000 Eco-clubs in schools and 100 Eco-clubs in colleges were present in Himachal Pradesh. Other activities undertaken by the State Council in Himachal Pradesh are River Front Campaign, Orientation workshops, Capacity building workshops and Cleanliness Campaigns. Mr. Ravi Sharma highlighted the efforts of Ashoka Eco-Club of Una district, presents exhibition on "Waste to Wealth Product" at Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MOEF&CC), New Delhi.

He told about the benefits of activities by students for keeping the environment clean and green and encourages the best student of all the camps will be called for participation in World Environment Day.



**Presentation by Sh. Ravi Sharma at day 1 (25<sup>th</sup> December 2018)**

After that Dr. Vaneet Jishtu gave a presentation on Floral Diversity of H.P. and the emerging threats related to its survival. He briefly explained about the binomial nomenclature of plants and its importance in respect to the taxonomy and identification. He told about the, gymnosperm diversity of Himachal Pradesh, only 14 types of gymnosperms are present (their identification features of commonly occurring pine species), medicinal plants and State flower and tree.



**Presentation by Dr. Vaneet Jishtu on Flora of Himachal Pradesh**

After this Hail Himalayas staff briefed about leadership quality and activities during the camping like games, interactions with each other and discussions to boost confidence and good personality.

## **Day-2 Activities undertaken on 26-12-2018 at Hail Himalayas Nature Camp**

Day-2 session starts with the presentation on Bird Watching by Sh. Santosh Thakur, he mentioned that India is rich in biodiversity and 1301 species of birds found in India (2017 report) out of which 61 species are endemic or native to India ( Nicobar Megapod Galliform, Malabar Whistling Thrush , Himalayan Quail ) He also told about diversity of Himachal Pradesh that 677 bird species found in Himachal Pradesh and told about essential things required for bird watching like binocular, Bird identification Guide, camera, noting pad, pen, and told how to do birding and how can we identify birds by their colour, shape, size, posture, type of flight and their behaviour. He also told about some facts of birds that Woodpecker can peck 20 times in a second. Frigate (Europe) bird can sleep in a flight. Only one species of Parrot (Vernal Hanging Parrot wghat) is found in India and other ones are parakeets and told common birds and wild animals of Himachal Pradesh.



### **Presentation by Sh. Santosh Thakur on Bird Watching**

After presentation documentation of birds was done by participants with Sh. Santosh Thakur and Sh. Ishwar during bird watching many birds were documented some were Black Francolin, Asian Barred Owlet, Himalayan Shrike Babbler, Himalayan Bulbul etc. After that participants were divided into 2 groups, both group lead by resource persons, in 1<sup>st</sup> group participants done bird watching with Sh. Santosh Thakur and in 2<sup>nd</sup> group plants documentation done with Dr. Vaneet Jishtu many plants were documented, some were *Solanum zanthocarpum*, *Smilax aspera*, *Bombax ceiba*, *Daphne papyracea* etc. 10km track was completed by participants and all participants enjoyed trekking.



**Nature trail at day 2 (26th December 2018)**

After trekking many activities at camp site were performed by participants like zip line, Burma bridge etc. Participants enjoyed all activities.



**Activities done at camping site**

### **Day-3 Activities undertaken on 27-12-2018 at Hail Himalayas Nature Camp**

On 3<sup>rd</sup> day morning session started with bird watching, 4km track was covered by participants and many birds were documented some were Little Forktail, Rock Bunting, Gray Wagtail, Gray Buschat etc. After that cleanliness campaign was also done by participants they collect plastic waste, wrappers, etc. After cleanliness campaign students wrote birds and plants name which they learn in the camp from resource persons. After that painting competition was organised in which all participants participated and made beautiful drawings.



**Activities done in 3<sup>rd</sup> day**



**Cleanliness Campaign by participants on day 3 (27<sup>th</sup> December 2018)**

The day was completed with valedictory session in which Mr. Ravi Sharma thanked resource persons, and Mr. Santosh Thakur thanked State Council for Science, Technology and Environment for organizing such camp and interacting with all participants, Students and teachers also gave their reviews about camps and told that they really enjoyed camp and these types of camps were great opportunity for them to connect with Nature. Archit Paul Wrote maximum birds and plants name, in drawing competition Rahul Gill comes 1<sup>st</sup> and Abhishek Soni Comes 2<sup>nd</sup>, Tanu comes 3<sup>rd</sup>. All these students will be invited for participate in World Environment Day.



**Valedictory Session**



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**Schedule of National Nature Camping Programme for Eco-club School Children of Himachal Pradesh from 25-12-2018 to 27-12-2018 at Hail Himalaya camping site, Shimla**

Day	TIMING	Activity
25.12.2018	01:00-01:15PM	Registration of school children & escort teachers
	01:15-01:30PM	Introduction of National Nature Camping Programme- <b>Sh. Ravi Sharma (Sr. Scientific Assistant)</b> , Project Coordinator Himachal Pradesh Council for Science, Technology & Environment (HIMCOSTE)
	01:30-01:40PM	Inauguration of the programme & Address of Chief Guest- <b>Sh. Kunal Satyarthi, IFS, Member Secretary</b> , Himachal Pradesh Council For Science, Technology & Environment (HIMCOSTE)
	01:40-02:00PM	Presentation by the experts about the importance camping site & Nature camps for the students- <b>Sh. Hem Thakur</b> , Hail Himalaya
	02:00-2:45PM	Presentation by the experts about local flora & fauna of the area- <b>Dr. Vineet Jishtu, Scientist D</b> , Himalayan Forest Research Institute (HFRI), Panthaghati, Shimla
	2:45-3:00 PM	Tea break
	3:00-3:45PM	How to Document flora & fauna seen/spotted during nature trail. Do's & Don'ts of Bird watching- <b>Sh. Santosh Thakur</b> , Himachal Forest Department

	3:45-4:30PM	Visit to the nearby forest area.
26.12.2018	7:30 - 8:10AM	Breakfast
	8:30-1:00 PM	Bird Watching activity for the participants- <b>Mr. Santosh Thakur &amp; Mr. Ishwar</b> Himachal Pradesh Forest Department
	2:00-2:45	Lunch
	2:45-4:45	Demonstration of camping activities
	4:45-5:45PM	Cleanliness campaign by the participants near the camping site/venue- <b>Miss Akshita Sharma, Project Associate &amp; Miss Dimple, Data Entry Operator (NGC)</b> , Himachal Pradesh Council For Science, Technology & Environment, (HIMCOSTE)
	6:00-7:00PM	Cultural activities.
27.12.2018	7:30-8:00AM	Breakfast
	8:00-9:45AM	Bird watching activity for the Participants- <b>Mr. Santosh Thakur &amp; Mr. Ishwar</b> H.P. Forest Department
	9:45-11:00AM	Green Pledge & Painting activities- <b>Miss Akshita Sharma, Project Associate &amp; Miss Dimple, DEO (NGC)</b> , Himachal Pradesh Council For Science, Technology & Environment, (HIMCOSTE)
	11:00-12:00PM	School wise presentation on sharing of experiences of nature camp and group discussions
	12:00-1:00PM	Valedictory session and certificate distribution followed by lunch