



**1st National Nature Camping Programme
For Eco-Club School children of Himachal Pradesh
From 10-12-2018 to 12-12-2018
at Hail Himalayas camping site, Shimla, H.P.**



Organized By:

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

Sponsored By:

**Ministry of Environment, Forest 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

In the first ever initiative of its kind school teachers and students of Eco-Clubs of the state of HP would have the opportunity to stay in nature camps, undergo trekking and made aware about identification of flora and fauna. The 3 days National Nature Camping programme was organized at Hail Himalayas, Shoghi, district Shimla Himachal Pradesh from 10-12-2018 to 12-12-2018. The camping programme was

inaugurated by the Chief Guest Sh. Kunal Satyarthi, Member secretary of Himachal Pradesh Council for Science, Technology and Environment, Sh. Ravi Sharma was the overall co-ordinator of the programme, Dr. Vaneet Jishtu, Scientist D, Himalyan Forest Research Institute, Shimla, Sh. Santosh Thakur H.P. Forest Department were two resource persons in the programme. 40 Students and 10 escort teachers from different eco-club schools of district Hamirpur were participated in nature camping Programme.

DAY-1 (Technical session) Activities undertaken on 10-12-2018 at Hail Himalayas, Shoghi district Shimla

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

- Registration of students and escort Teachers.
- Camping kit distribution to the participants.
- Theme introduction by Sh. Kunal Satyarthi, Member Secretary of Himachal Pradesh council for Science, Technology and Environment Presentation on Floral Diversity of Himachal Pradesh by Dr. Vaneet Jishtu Scientist D, Himalayan Forest Research Institute and by Sh. Santosh Thakur, HP Forest Department on Bird Watching and its importance.



Day 1 – Opening Ceremony

The day one of camping programme was started with facilitation ceremony. The chief Guest and resource person were welcomed by Mr. Ravi Sharma, SSA-cum-

Programme coordinator Himachal Pradesh Council for Science, Technology and Environment (HIMCOSTE).

Mr. Ravi Sharma told about the three days National Nature Camping programme. He told that these camps are aimed to motivate students and teachers towards conservation-oriented lifestyles and to encourage qualities of leadership, exploration and nature observation and also 'Nature experience' given for children and teachers has huge potential to trigger their sensitivity towards nature appreciation and conservation, leading to positive environmental actions at different levels.

Mr. Kunal Satyarthi, IFS, Member Secretary, Himachal Pradesh Council for Science, Technology and Environment (HIMCOSTE) was the chief guest on the inaugural day, in his inaugural speech he told that this camping programme was first of its kind in the state of Himachal Pradesh and 19 more camps will be organized by Himachal Pradesh Council for Science, Technology and Environment at different camp sites across the state of Himachal Pradesh. He also told students that 250 eco-clubs were in each district, and total 3000 Eco-clubs in Himachal Pradesh. He told that such type of National Nature Camps will build up the capacity of students & teachers for environment conservation and also told the participants that best students of all the camps will be called for the participation in the World Environment Day.



Day 1 – Sh. Kunal Satyarthi, interacting with participants

Dr. Vineet Jishtu Scientist D, Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla gave presentation on Floral diversity of Himachal Pradesh He told students about plants their common and scientific name and how floral diversity changes on the basis of mountain

ranges, he told about different species of *Rhododendron* and told how to write scientific names of plants and told participants about common berries or herbs which were found in surrounding area and also told about some medicinal and aromatic plants and their importance found in Himachal Pradesh, students asked questions about plants present in their area and also named 50 plants found in their surroundings.



Presentation by Dr. Vineet Jishtu on day 1 (10th December 2018)

Then Mr. Santosh Thakur, HP Forest Department gave presentation on Bird watching, he told 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 about 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 day 1 (10th December 2018)

After Hail Himalaya staff briefed about leadership quality and what activities students can do in the camping area and after that, students play games and do activities and interact with each other.

Day-2 Activities undertaken on 11-12-2018 at Hail Himalayas Nature Camp

Day-2 session starts with the documentation of plants by Dr. Vineet Jishtu, he told common names, scientific names of the plants and also told about native species and invasive species, he told because of invasive species our native species comes to an end. Then students were taken on nature trails where they learnt about the art of nature interpretation. The experts accompanying the students helped them identify the flora and fauna. Students were divided into 3 groups with experts, and 61 species of birds were documented during bird watching some were Spotted Forktail, Jungle Babbler, and Common Tailorbird etc. and more than 80 plants were documented some were *Pinus roxburghii*, *Quercus leucotrichophora*, *Rubus ellipticus*. Students cover 8 Km track with the experts. All the participants really enjoyed a lot about nature core and learned a lot about different types of birds and plants.



Activities done during Nature trail at Hail Himalayas

In the evening session presentation by Dr. Vineet Jishtu on Essential Natural resources of Water he told that 97% of earth covered with water and only 3% of water is fresh water and he told how we can conserve water and major impacts by physical alteration /destruction in the form of Construction of dams/ reservoirs etc. and how dams affect our land and water and about marine biodiversity and he told that people have lived near coastal areas and fished from the ocean for thousands of years today, an estimated 41% of the world's population lives within 100 km of the coast, fisheries provide over 15% of the dietary intake of animal protein. And also told about how we can recycle or reuse water and we can use it in landscape irrigation, agricultural irrigation, aesthetic uses such as fountains, and fire protection and reuse it by rain water harvesting, and by using less water in our daily needs and he told that students can play active role in saving water by public awareness to their neighbors and friends can participate actively in debates, slogans and poster contests and also in tree plantation programmes.



Presentation by Dr. Vineet Jishtu on day 2 (11th December 2018)

After that Mr. Ravi Sharma gave presentation on wetland programme in Himachal Pradesh to aware students about wetland, he told students that what is wetland and 92 wetlands are present in Himachal Pradesh in which 85 are natural and 7 are manmade and where all these wetlands are situated he also told about threats on wetland like due to tourism there is lot of threat on these and what we can do for conservation of wetland, and he also told about migratory birds which come in these wetlands and told that Himachal Pradesh Council for Science, Technology and Environment has taken various initiative to conserve and protect wetlands.



Presentation by Mr. Ravi Sharma on day 2 (11th December 2018)

After the entire programme, activities were also conducted by Sh. Santosh Thakur, students enjoyed all activities.

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

On third day 3.5km track was covered by the participants and 51 bird species were documented during bird watching some were Black Bulbul, Red capped water Redstart, Little forktail, after that group painting competition was also organised in which all students participated. The day is completed with valedictory session in which Mr. Ravi Sharma thanked Sh. Santosh Thakur, Hail Himalayas team and all participants. School teachers and participants gave their feedback regarding camping programme and thanked for organizing such an amazing camp. At last participation certificates were also distributed to the participants.



Painting Competition By participants on day 3 (12th December 2018)



Feedback by Students and Teachers

Himachal Pradesh Council for Science, Technology & Environment, (HIMCOSTE)

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Schedule of National Nature Camping Programme for Eco-club School Children of Himachal Pradesh from 10-12-2018 to 12-12-2018 at Hail Himalaya camping site, Shimla

Day	TIMING	Activity
10.12.2018	01:00-01:15PM	Registration of school children & escort teachers
	01:15-01:30PM	Introduction of National Nature Camping Programme- Sh. Ravi Sharma (Sr. Scientific Assistant) , Project Coordinator Himachal Pradesh Council for Science, Technology & Environment (HIMCOSTE)
	01:30-01:40PM	Inauguration of the programme & Address of Chief Guest- Sh. Kunal Satyarthi, IFS, Member Secretary , 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- Sh. Hem Thakur , Hail Himalaya
	02:00-2:45PM	Presentation by the experts about local flora & fauna of the area- Dr. Vineet Jishtu, Scientist D , 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& Don't of bird watching – Mr. Santosh Thakur , Himachal Pradesh Forest Department
	3:45-4:30PM	Visit to the nearby forest area.
	11.12.2018	7:30 -8:10AM
8:30-2:00 PM		Bird watching activity for the participants- Mr. Santosh Thakur& Mr. Ishwar , Himachal Pradesh Forest

		Department
	2:00- 2:30PM	Lunch
	2:30-3:45PM	Presentation
	4:00-5:00PM	Cleanliness campaign by the participants near the camping site/venue- Miss Akshita Sharma, Project Associate & Miss Dimple Kumari, Data Entry Operator (NGC), Himachal Pradesh Council For Science, Technology & Environment, (HIMCOSTE)
	6:00-7:00PM	Cultural activities.
12.12.2018	7:30-8:15AM	Breakfast
	8:15-10:00AM	Bird watching activity for the participants- Mr. Santosh Thakur & Mr. Ishwar, H.P. Forest Department
	10:00-11:3AM	Green Pledge & Painting activities- Mr. Shaman Chauhan, Project Associate (Wetland), Himachal Pradesh Council For Science, Technology & Environment, (HIMCOSTE)
	11:30-12:30PM	School wise presentation on sharing of experiences of nature camp and group discussions
	12:30-1:00PM	Valedictory session and certificate distribution followed by lunch