

Report- 8th Annual Sustainability Meet Day-2

Beach Clean-up, Ornithology Workshop and Bird Race

Introduction:

The 8th Annual Sustainability Meet Day-2 held on 2nd February 2023 at Konark, Odisha, aimed to address the pressing issue of plastic pollution and promote environmental awareness among the local community. The event consisted of a comprehensive agenda, including a beach clean-up campaign, a lunch gathering, an ornithology workshop, and a bird race utilizing the eBird app.

Objectives:

Plastic Waste Management: The primary objective of the event was to clean up plastics and other waste materials from the Konark beach, thereby restoring its natural beauty and preserving the marine ecosystem.

Environmental Education: The event aimed to raise awareness among participants about the detrimental effects of plastic pollution on marine life, ecosystems, and human health.

Avian Conservation: The ornithology workshop and bird race aimed to promote bird watching as a means of appreciating and conserving the rich avian biodiversity of the region.

Activities:

Our Guest of Honor, Hon'ble Home Minister, Mr. Tushar Kanti Behera, unveiled a fact sheet, on Coastal Wetlands by the Youth 4 India Campaign co-founded by Ranjan Panda. Later, the entire School of Sustainability celebrated World Wetlands Day by conducting a Beach and River mouth cleanup at Kushabhadra, followed by an Ornithology workshop and Bird Race.

The event was a resounding success with participants from academia, industry, and government, who gathered to discuss and exchange ideas on the future direction of sustainability education.

Beach Clean-up Campaign: The event began with a beach clean-up campaign, where volunteers gathered at the Konark beach armed with gloves, bags, and other necessary equipment. Participants combed the beach, collecting and properly disposing of plastic waste, including bottles, bags, and other debris. The clean-up effort emphasized the importance of individual responsibility and collective action in combatting plastic pollution.

Lunch and Networking: Following the beach clean-up, a lunch gathering provided an opportunity for participants to connect and share their experiences. The informal setting fostered discussions on environmental conservation and strengthened community bonds.

Ornithology Workshop: Conducted by Dr. Vikrant Vijay Patil, the workshop aimed to enhance participants' understanding of bird species, their habitat, and their importance within the ecosystem. Attendees learned about bird identification techniques, bird behavior, and the role of bird conservation in maintaining ecological balance.

Bird Race: One of the main highlights of the event was the bird race, which challenged participants to spot and identify as many bird species as possible within a designated time frame. Utilizing the eBird app, participants logged their sightings and competed to achieve the highest count. This interactive activity not only enhanced participants' bird identification skills but also promoted the use of technology for wildlife monitoring.

The winners of the Bird Race were; Rohit, Vedant Paikray and Priyata Chakravarty.

Outcomes:

Environmental Impact: The beach clean-up resulted in the removal of a significant amount of plastic waste, helping to restore the natural beauty of Konark beach and safeguard the marine ecosystem from further pollution.

Awareness and Education: The event successfully raised awareness about the detrimental effects of plastic pollution, motivating participants to adopt more sustainable practices in their daily lives. The ornithology workshop enhanced understanding of avian conservation and the significance of bird species in maintaining ecological balance.

Community Engagement: The event fostered a sense of community and encouraged collaboration among participants, local residents, and environmental organizations. The shared experience of the clean-up, lunch, and bird race created lasting connections and inspired further environmental initiatives.

Conclusion: The beach clean-up event in Konark, Odisha, showcased the importance of collective action and community engagement in combating plastic pollution and promoting avian conservation. Through activities such as the clean-up campaign, ornithology workshop, and bird race, the event successfully raised awareness, educated participants, and fostered a sense of environmental stewardship. The event's impact on the local community and environment underscores the significance of such initiatives in preserving natural ecosystems and inspiring positive change.



