

Second World Peacock Day celebrations to recognize historical, cultural, religious and ecological significance

The Indian Biodiversity Conservation Society together with World Pheasant Association took the initiative to celebrate 15 November 2022 as First World Peacock Day for national bird of India and peacocks all over the world. On 15 November 2023, the second World Peacock Day was celebrated with great fervor all over India. The theme for this year was Peacock: an iconic bird. Indian Peafowl is protected under Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and in case of killing the bird imprisonment under section 51(1-A) that may extend to seven years, and financial penalty, but still they are unprotected due to the exemption for domestic trade in peacock tail feathers and the articles made from them, as stated in Sec. 43 (3) a and Sec. 44 (1) of the Act.

World Peacock Day was not just a day for admiration but also an opportunity to educate and engage people in activities that promote peacock conservation and preservation of their habitats. It is a day when individuals, organizations, and communities united to

appreciate the beauty of these birds and acknowledge their ecological significance. For this collaborative celebration of World Peacock Day various events, workshops, and awareness campaigns were organized. These activities included photography, painting, *mehendi* and *rangoli* competition with peacocks as theme. Students also made beautiful craft on peacocks.

The nature lovers went for bird watching to observe peacocks in their natural environment. The students took pledge for no buying of peacock feathers or products made from them. The buying of a single feather put the beautiful peacocks into danger. Moreover, the peacock feather is degradable and after a span of time, it starts deteriorating. Besides these offline activities a national webinar was also organized on the theme “The Indian Peacocks: Time to acknowledge their historical, cultural, religious and ecological significance”. An online quiz was also organized that included the questions based on interesting facts about peacocks. All the participants, winners and organizers

were felicitated by certificates for actively participating in the events.

World Peacock Day made the participants to think about the importance of our national bird just like we give importance to our national animal,



Participants of coloring activity, Composite Upper Primary School-Maneripur, Ambedkarnagar-U.P.



Rangoli Competition in Glorious Public school, Sihora-Madhya Pradesh.



Coloring activity in Kasturba Gandhi Residential Girls College, Jhansi.



Craft on Peacock by student of Smt GS RS Aadarsh Inter College Shahzad Nagar-Budaun, Uttar Pradesh.



Mehendi competition by students of Kasturba Gandhi Residential Girls College, Jhansi.

tiger. They have understood their duty towards this stunning bird. It created awareness about the threats faced by peafowl making their survival difficult. The day inspired various organizations to take up awareness initiative for our national bird. World Peacock Day also promoted proper scientific surveys for peacocks by the public. This important day helped to understand the gravity of human-peacock conflicts that are never taken seriously. With undemanding steps and responsibilities we can certainly make a difference. By coming together, we created a more significant impact and

encouraged a broader audience to appreciate and support peacock conservation efforts.

World Peacock Day received immense response from the press media. The local newspapers supported the much needed initiative even prior to the event so that more and more people could join the campaign.

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