

International Conference at CUO concludes with an emphasis on achieving self-reliance by conserving Biodiversity and Agriculture for a Sustainable Future

Koraput, (KCN): The School of Biodiversity and Conservation of Natural Resources at the Central University of Odisha recently concluded its two-day International Conference on "Recent Advances of Biodiversity and Agriculture for a Sustainable Future" on 20 April 2024. Held at the University's main campus, the event brought together scholars and scientists to delve into critical topics surrounding biodiversity and agrobiodiversity.

Key takeaways from the conference include the recognition that biodiversity and agrobiodiversity serve as vital resources crucial for both present and future generations. Experts emphasized that these resources are intricately linked to the life and livelihood of people, underscoring the need for their conservation and sustainable management. Furthermore, discussions highlighted the role of bioprospecting in enhancing

biodiversity conservation. By valuing natural resources, discovering medicinal compounds, and understanding ecosystem functions, bioprospecting can promote sustainability while ensuring fair benefits for local communities and preserving indigenous knowledge. The concept of the bio-economy, which involves sustainable economic activities utilizing biological resources, was also explored. By linking biodiversity with



bioprospecting, participants noted the potential to add value to resources such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and biotechnology. These practices align with circular economy principles, aid conservation efforts, and enhance livelihoods, ultimately

contributing to the preservation of biodiversity and agrobiodiversity. The valedictory function, chaired by Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi, emphasized the need for biodiversity research to uplift the economic standard of the common man,

thus fostering self-reliance in the country. Prof. S.K. Palita, Dean of the School of Biodiversity and Conservation of Natural Resources, presented the outcomes of the conference including information on the presentation of 29 research papers from

invited speakers and 102 posters from research scholars. Omprakash Mahamta, Suraj Kumar Padhi and Ankita Das were judged first, second and third for their outstanding poster presentations. Eminent personalities, including Prof. S. P. Adhikari, former Vice-Chancellor, F.M. University, Balasore and Prof. M.K. Satapathy, former Professor of Science, Regional Institute of Education, Bhubaneswar were present, and Prof. Satapathy was felicitated for his

significant contributions to biodiversity research. The Vice-Chancellor also felicitated different NGOs who participated in the Millet Exhibitions, local ayurvedic specialists and rapporteurs of the technical sessions and research scholars of the School of BCNR. Dr. Kakoli Banerjee, Co-convenor, delivered the welcome address while Dr. Debabrata Panda, Convener, expressed gratitude to all participants, invited guests, and session chairs for the success of the International Conference.

Five more pairs of Summer Special Trains from ECoR:

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): Considering the demands from the passengers towards different destinations and in various routes and to clear additional rush of passengers in regular trains during summer, it has been decided to run Special Trains from East Coast Railway jurisdiction towards different destinations of the country during the summer.

A. Puri-Udhna (Surat) bi-weekly Summer Special Train. 08471/08472 Puri-Udhna-Puri Summer Special Train from Puri will leave at 0630hrs on every Monday & Thursday between 25th April to 27th June 2024. In the return direction, this train from Udhna will leave at 1700hrs on every Tuesday and Friday between 26th April to 28th June 2024.

B. Puri-New Delhi Weekly Summer Special Train. 08479/08480 Puri-New Delhi-Puri Summer Special Train from Puri will leave at 0845hrs on every Tuesday between 30th April to 25th June 2024. In the return direction, this train from New Delhi will leave at 2130hrs on every Wednesday between 1st May to 26th June 2024.

C. Puri-New Delhi Weekly Summer Special Train. 04082/04081 New Delhi-Puri-New Delhi Summer

Special Train from New Delhi left at 2300hrs on 22nd April 2024. In the return direction, this train from Puri will leave at 2220hrs on 24th April 2024.

D. Sambalpur-Erode Weekly Summer Special Train. 08311/083612 Sambalpur-Erode-Sambalpur Summer Special Train from Sambalpur will leave at 1135hrs on every Wednesday between 1st May to 26th June 2024. In the return direction, this train from Erode will leave at 1445hrs on every Friday between 3rd May to 28th June 2024.

E. Visakhapatnam-Bengaluru Summer Special Train. 08549/08550 Visakhapatnam-SMVT, Bengaluru - Visakhapatnam Summer Special Train from Visakhapatnam will leave at 1315hrs on every Saturday between 27th April to 29th June 2024. In the return direction, this train from SMVT, Bengaluru will leave at 1200hrs on every Sunday between 28th April to 30th June 2024.

F. Visakhapatnam-Chennai Egmore Summer Special Train. 08557/08558 Visakhapatnam-Chennai Egmore-Visakhapatnam Summer Special Train from Visakhapatnam will leave at 1900hrs on every Saturday between 27th April to 29th June 2024.

In the return direction, this train from Chennai Egmore will leave at 1030hrs on every Sunday between 28th April to 30th June 2024.

G. Visakhapatnam-Hatia Summer Special Train. 08559/08560 Visakhapatnam-Hatia-Visakhapatnam Summer Special Train from Visakhapatnam will leave at 2350hrs on every Sunday between 28th April to 30th June 2024. In the return direction, this train from Hatia will leave at 1600hrs on every Monday between 29th April to 1st July 2024.

East Coast Railway has earlier notified for running of 20 pairs of Special Trains during summer. These special trains are planned to originate from important Railway Stations like Puri, Bhubaneswar, Visakhapatnam, Sambalpur, Cuttack and Brahmapur. Special Trains have also planned to originate from Puri towards Patna, Nizamuddin, Shalimar, Bhanjapur, & Santragachhi; from Bhubaneswar towards Yesvantpur, Dhanbad & Chennai; from Sambalpur towards Guwahati, Erode and Pune; from Cuttack towards Hyderabad; from Brahmapur towards Surat and from Visakhapatnam towards Bengaluru, Kollam, Tirupati, Secunderabad and Kurnool. East Coast Railway urged

passengers to book train tickets in various Special Trains to avoid rush in regular trains and plan their journey accordingly. Apart from this, keeping in view the summer heat wave, ECoR has ensured availability of drinking water at Railway stations. Crowd control arrangements are also made at all major and important railway stations over ECoR. RPF personnel have been deployed at originating stations to ensure Queue system for entry in General Class coaches. Apart from the above, 13 pairs of long distance Special Trains are also running through ECoR jurisdiction between important destinations of the country. These are, Secunderabad-Dibrugarh-Secunderabad Special, Secunderabad-Agartala-Secunderabad Special, Chennai-Santragachhi-Chennai Special, Nagercoil-Dibrugarh-Nagercoil Special, Kochuvelli-Shalimar-Kochuvelli Special, Bengaluru-Kharagpur-Bengaluru Special, Santragachhi-Secunderabad Special, Secunderabad-Shalimar-Secunderabad Special, Bengaluru-Malda Town-Bengaluru Special, Mysore-Muzaffarpur-Mysore Special, New Tinsukia-Bengaluru-New Tinsukia Special and Howrah-Yesvantpur-Howrah Special Trains.

Azim Premji University opens admissions for Postgraduate Diploma in Development Leadership 2025

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Azim Premji University, Bengaluru, has opened admissions for the Postgraduate Diploma in Development Leadership programme. Last date to apply May 15, 2024, Written Assignments & Interviews June - July 2024 and Commencement of classes Jan 6, 2025. The 11-month part-time Diploma programme is designed to allow participants to continue their existing work and employment while enrolled in the

programme. It offers a blend of on-campus and online learning across three terms. This programme is designed for mid to senior-level professionals with eight or more years of experience in the development sector who are already in leadership roles in their organisations or are likely to take on such roles soon. It is open to those working in NGOs, social movements, and grassroots organisations. This programme will help participants to

Deepen their perspectives on the historical processes and lived experiences shaping development realities in India to better inform their work. Imagine alternative development approaches and outcome which foster equity, justice, and sustainability. Strengthen leadership capabilities to build inclusive, adaptive, and collaborative organisations. Enhance capabilities for financial management, communication and data

analysis. Richa Govil, Director, School of Development, Azim Premji University said, "Mid-career and senior professionals in the development sector have years of deep experience of working in the sector. This program helps them anchor their rich experiences within a broader understanding of development concerns, ideas and trajectories. It also helps them reflect upon the nature of development organisations and what it takes to lead them."



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