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IN THE LOOP



Vasundhara Newsletter, 6 th November

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Vasundhara marks 33rd foundation day with Joyful celebration

Vasundhara commemorated its 33rd Foundation Day on October 29th with a vibrant celebration that brought together past and present members of the organization. The event was graced by distinguished guests including Ms. Madhumita Biswal, Mr. Tushar Das, Mr. Ghasiram Panda, and Mr. Sankar Pani.

The day was marked by engaging activities and team-building games that fostered camaraderie among participants. The celebration provided a

platform for members to share their experiences and memories, strengthening the organizational bonds that have been built over three decades.

The event not only honored Vasundhara's legacy but also reinforced its commitment to community development and environmental conservation, setting a positive tone for the organization's continued journey ahead.

OVERVIEW :

- Wildlife Conservation Workshops Foster Community Engagement.
- Wildlife conservation workshops foster community engagement.
- Strategic meeting with Tamil Nadu forest officials.
- Capacity building workshop for PRI's

Wildlife conservation workshops foster community engagement



Two impactful wildlife conservation workshops were held in Odisha this October. The first event at Pokharigocha village, Daspalla on October 6th and on October 7th at Sirapali, Barkot in Deogarh district brought together medical officers and forest officials to address snake bite management and wildlife protection.

In Daspalla the program is organized with the CFRMC federation, focused on wildlife protection and Forest Rights Act provisions. The events featured key officials including Range Officer Sudarshan Dehury and Dr. Baamali Pradhan, Additional District Health Officer of Nayagarh. CFRMC federation members actively participated, demonstrating a strong understanding of forest rights while engaging with officials.

Sirapali, Programme brought together medical officers, foresters, and administrative staff for a comprehensive workshop on snake bite management and wildlife protection. The program featured interactive sessions on distinguishing between venomous and non-venomous snakes, proper response protocols for snake bites, and the importance of biodiversity conservation. These workshops successfully promoted the balance between wildlife conservation and community forest management, emphasizing the importance of human-wildlife coexistence.



Strategic meeting with Tamil Nadu forest officials



A delegation of 15 forest officials from Tamil Nadu Forest Academy has arrived in Odisha for a knowledge exchange focused on Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006 implementation. The visit commenced with a strategic planning meeting at Vasundhara's head office, setting the framework for their field study.

The officials will visit Gunduribadi and Ranpur villages to observe successful community forest management practices firsthand. The program includes direct interactions with local communities and government officials, facilitating a comprehensive understanding of Odisha's approach to FRA implementation.

Then a significant knowledge-sharing session took place on October 23rd between Vasundhara and Tamil Nadu forest officials, focusing on forest conservation strategies and implementation challenges. The meeting served as a platform for exchanging field experiences and best practices.

Under the skilled facilitation of Mr. Giri Rao, the meeting progressed with purposeful discussions. Mr. Prasant Kumar Sahoo presented Vasundhara's comprehensive approach to forest conservation, outlining the organization's core objectives and methodology. Mr. V. Karthik, Chief Conservator from Aranya Bhavan Bhubaneswar, delivered key insights on the Forest Department's pivotal role in implementing the Forest Rights Act (FRA). His presentation emphasized the critical need for strengthening community participation in forest conservation efforts.

Adding a technical perspective, Ms. Sailabala Panda from Pradan Organisation shared expertise on integrating mapping technologies with FRA implementation, highlighting innovative approaches to forest resource management.



Capacity building workshop for PRI's



A strategic capacity-building workshop was conducted at Kujamendi Panchayat of Dashapalla Nayagarh district bringing together Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and government officials. The workshop addressed key rural development schemes and initiatives focusing on local governance enhancement.

Key topics discussed included MGNREGA implementation, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan progress, achieving open defecation free (Malamukta) villages, migration control strategies, and creating women-friendly panchayats. Participants gained valuable insights into various funding mechanisms and financial flows to panchayats under different governmental schemes.

A significant outcome of the meeting was the decision to launch a panchayat-level MGNREGA facilitation program. The initiative aims to strengthen the implementation of employment guarantee schemes at the grassroots level.

