

**PENCH MADHYA PRADESH
MARCH 2016**

Team: Anoop Awasthi – *Assistant Director*
Niranjan Hinge, Kamlesh Pawar – *Field Assistants*

Highlights

- ⇒ *Organized programme to build a check dam near Turia*
- ⇒ *Organized programme to prepare a waterhole for birds at Dewri*
- ⇒ *Celebrated World Wildlife Day, World Forestry Day, World Water Day and eco-friendly Holi at Tuyepani, Kundai, Turia, Teliya, Khamba and Satosha*
- ⇒ *Organized programme to clean a well at Turia*
- ⇒ *Organized demos on smokeless chullah at Teliya and Jamuntola*
- ⇒ *Installed water containers for birds in Turia and Satosha*
- ⇒ *8 nature trails for school children – attended by 80 students*
- ⇒ *21 environmental education programmes - addressed 592 school children about nature's values and environmental issues*
- ⇒ *Organised 6 medical camps - 128 patients treated*

Conservation work

S.no.	Date	Village / Place	Activity	Participants
1.	March 3	Turia	Check dam construction	5
2.	March 28	Dewri	Prepared waterhole for birds	10
3.	March 12	Turia	Well cleaning programme	7
4.	March 21	Teliya, Kundai	World Forestry Day celebration -- Drawing and Essay competition and Rally	24, 50
5.	March 22	Teliya, Kundai	World Water Day celebration -- Lecture and Nature trail, Essay competition	45,17,30
6.	March 22	Khamba, Satosha	Eco-friendly Holi programme	13, 6
7.	March 29	Teliya	Demo on smokeless chullah	25
8.	March 3	Satosha	Nature trail	12
9.	March 6	Khamba	Nature trail	8
10.	March 12	Turia	Nature trail	10
11.	March 13	Durgapur	Nature trail	9
12.	March 13	Potiya	Nature trail	8
13.	March 15	Teliya	Nature trail	7

14.	March 2	Mohgaon	Nature trail	10
15.	March 8	Doodhgaon	Nature trail	16

On March 28, Kamlesh Pawar organised a shramdhaan programme to construct a waterhole for birds in Dewri village. 10 school children participated in the voluntary programme. The waterhole was created within the school premises by digging a trench to collect spill over water from the hand pump.



Team poses next to water hole for birds dug at Dewri village

On March 3, Kamlesh Pawar organised an awareness rally to celebrate World Wildlife Day in Tuyepani village. Kamlesh encouraged 60 students and their teachers of Government Middle School, Tuyepani to participate in the rally to create awareness amongst the villagers to protect and conserve wildlife.

During the rally, students chanted slogans like “Bag hai to jungle hai. Jungle hai to jal hai. Jal hai toh jeevan hai. Jeevan hai toh hum hai!” (Forests exist because of Tigers. We get water because of forests. Life exists because of water. We exist because there is life!). Kamlesh explained the importance of wildlife and its conservation for human existence to the students.

On the same day, Niranjana Hinge encouraged 5 villagers of Turia village to volunteer in a program to construct a check dam in Khamba nallah in buffer area of Pench Tiger Reserve, 3 kilometres away from the village. The check dam will provide water to wild life which is regularly spotted nearby like tiger, leopard, dhole, jackal, spotted deer, sambhar deer and numerous birds during summer season and thus help in wildlife conservation.



Team chanting conservation slogans during rally and anti plastic campaign at Kundai (left) and Tuyepani (right)



Team builds check dam through shramdhaan at Turia

On March 21, Niranjan Hinge organised a drawing and essay competition in Government Middle School, Teliya to celebrate World Forestry Day. 24 students participated in the competition and expressed their views in vivid colours and words on various issues pertaining to wildlife conservation and ways to protect forests. On the same day, Kamlesh Pawar organised an awareness rally in which 50 students of Government Middle school, Kundai participated to create awareness for conservation of forests and raised slogans to stop deforestation.



Students of Teliya village participate in various activities on World Forestry Day celebration

On March 22, Niranjan Hinge organised a classroom lecture for 45 students of Government Middle School, Teliya along with Anoop and volunteer Prameek Kannan to celebrate World Water Day.

During the lecture, Anoop Awasthi and Prameek Kannan informed students about various issues like water pollution and wastage and later emphasised on importance of water conservation.

A nature trail was also organised for 17 students as part of the celebrations. Students learnt about the rich biodiversity of Pench Tiger Reserve from Prameek, Anoop and Niranjan. They were able to spot and identify many birds like purple rumped sunbird, rufous tree pie, spotted owlet, coppersmith barbet etc.

On the same day, Kamlesh Pawar encouraged 30 students of Government Middle School, Kundai to participate in an awareness rally. Students raised slogans to create awareness among villagers for water conservation.



Anoop and Prameek explain to students about the importance of water on occasion of World Water Day

To mark the beginning of summer and end of spring, Hindus celebrate the festival of colours, Holi. As part of Holi celebrations, people traditionally burn camp fires as a symbol of destruction of evil. Huge numbers of trees are cut down and burnt adding to deforestation and habitat loss. During Holi, people also play with colours which are made using harmful chemicals. These chemicals mix with soil and water and degrade the eco system.

On March 22, Niranjana taught 13 children of Khamba village how to celebrate Holi in an eco-friendly manner. They participated in a cleanliness drive in their village and burnt bio-degradable waste material instead of fresh firewood.

Niranjana also taught them to use natural colours made from Palash flowers which are available in plenty during this season near the village. The natural colour has medicinal properties and is not harmful to nature unlike chemical-based colours. Niranjana organized a similar programme at Satosha in which 6 kids actively participated.



Khamba - Niranjan explain how to celebrate Holi in an eco-friendly manner

On March 26, Niranjan along with 4 children of Turia and 5 children of Satosha installed water containers in their respective villages for birds to drink water from during the summer season. The innovative artificial water containers were made using discarded plastic bottles. Niranjan encouraged the children to regularly fill up the containers with water so that the birds can drink water during dry summer season.

Shortly after the containers were installed, the children were able to spot various birds like bulbuls, sunbirds, shrikes, sparrows and magpie robins coming down to drink.

On March 29, Niranjan Hinge demonstrated use of improved chullah (stove) in Teliya. 25 villagers learnt the use of the chullah which requires 40% less firewood than conventional chullahs. The chullah also produces less smoke as compared to the conventional chullah and is thus less harmful for the user.



Teliya - Niranjan demonstrates use of improved chullah

In March, we organised a total of 8 nature trails for the children of Satosha, Khamba, Teliya, Turia, Durgapur, Potiya, Doodhgaon and Mohgaon villages. On the trails, our staff spoke to the children about the various plants and common medicinal uses of those plants. They were also taught how to spot and identify birds. The importance of birds in nature was also explained to the children.



Students learn about nature through nature trail at Doodhgaon (left) and Khamba (right)

Environmental Education Programme

21 educational programmes took place in March and there were attended by 592 students.

S.no.	Date	School	Village	Number of participants
1	March 1	Govt. Middle School	Tuyepani	35
2	March 2	Govt. Primary School	Satosha	39
3	March 2	Govt. Primary School	Mohgaon	15
4	March 3	Govt. Middle School	Chirrewani	30
5	March 4	Govt. Primary School	Dewri	40
6	March 4	Govt. Middle School	Turia	37
7	March 5	Govt. Middle School	Teliya	31
8	March 5	Govt. Primary School	Sawari	35
9	March 8	Govt. Primary School	Marjatpur	15
10	March 8	Govt. Primary School	Aamajhari	28
11	March 9	Govt. Middle School	Kundai	28
12	March 9	Govt. Primary School	Durgapur	21
13	March 10	Govt. Primary School	Khamba	16
14	March 10	Govt. Middle School	Khamrith	32
15	March 11	Govt. Primary School	Jamuntola	16
16	March 14	Govt. Primary School	Bisanpur	15
17	March 15	Govt. Primary School	Tuyepani	25
18	March 17	Govt. Primary school	Potiya	48
19	March 19	Govt. Primary School	Ambadi	19
20	March 21	Govt. Primary School	Awarghani	27
21	March 25	Govt. Primary School	Pulpuldoh	40

		Total	592
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Niranjan speaks to students about eco system and bio-diversity at Awarghani (left) and Potiya (right)



Kamlesh speaks about bio-diversity of PENCH to students at Dewri (left) and Kundai (right)

Mobile Health Unit (MHU)

We held 6 medical camps in March, in which 128 patients were treated.

S.no.	Date	Village	Patients
1.	March 19	Dewri	22
2.		Khamarpani	14
3.	March 20	Kanhargaon	24
4.		Doodhgaon	30
5.	March 21	Pulpuldoh	18
6.		Marjatpur	20
	Total		128



Dr. Zanzal examines patients at our free medical camp at Dewri

Mrs. Geeta, w/o Dinesh Kumre, is a 32 year-old resident of Dewri village. She was suffering from stomach ache and high fever due to gynaecological problem for two weeks. The nearest gynaecologist is located in Chhindwara, 65km away from the village.

Since Mrs Geeta is a lactating mother and is working as a nurse with Government Primary Health Centre, it was difficult for her to travel to Chhindwara for proper medical treatment. She learnt about the medical camp by Satpuda Foundation in Dewri village on March 19 and visited the camp.

Dr Zanzal examined her and prescribed appropriate medicines. After regular follow-up by Kamlesh, Mrs Geeta informed that her health improved, thanks to our assistance. Mr Saheblal Kumre, father-in-law of Mrs Geeta, who was ex-president of the village eco-development committee (VEDC), Dewri village, also thanked Satpuda Foundation for organising such medical camps. He is now assisting Satpuda Foundation in various conservation activities.



Abhi Masram, s/o Mr Kamlu Masram, is a 2 year-old child residing at Dewri village. He was suffering from skin rashes for more than two weeks. Mr Kamlu learnt about the medical camp set up by Satpuda Foundation in Dewri village on March 19 and brought his son for a check-up. Dr Zanzal, after diagnosis, provided appropriate treatment and advised the parents on ways to prevent such skin ailments in future. On following up, Kamlesh was informed that Abhi was cured of the skin rashes. The youngster's parents are thankful to Satpuda Foundation and have promised to assist us in our conservation activities.

