

Report on World Elephant Day Celebration in Saranda Forest Division, Jharkhand, India

Shiladitya Acharjee

Saranda Forest Division, Jharkhand, India
Author's e-mail: shiladitya.sa@gmail.com

Introduction

World Elephant Day, observed annually on August 12th, is a global event dedicated to the preservation and protection of elephants. In 2024, the Saranda Division of the Forest Department marked this day with enthusiastic participation from students and the community in two key locations: Kiriburu and GUA Range. The aim of the program was to raise awareness about the importance of elephant conservation and the significance of protecting their natural habitats.

Kiriburu event

Participants and activities

The event at Kiriburu was organised with the active participation of students from Project Central School. The day began with a vibrant morning rally, where students marched from

the school premises to the Sasangada Forest Range Office. The participants carried placards and banners, with slogans emphasising the need to protect elephants and conserve their habitats.

Painting competition

A painting competition was conducted, where students expressed their creativity and concern for elephants through art. The themes revolved around the life of elephants, their struggles for survival, and the importance of maintaining ecological balance. The paintings were displayed at the Sasangada Range Office, drawing attention from the local community.

Documentary screening

The highlight of the program was the screening of the award-winning documentary film, *The Elephant Whisperer*. The film provided a deep



Kiriburu event.

insight into the lives of elephants, their intelligence, emotions, and the challenges they face due to habitat loss and human interference. The students were moved by the film, which sparked discussions on how they could contribute to elephant conservation.

GUA Range event

Participants and activities

In GUA Range, the World Elephant Day celebrations began with a morning rally organised by students from DAV Public School. The rally started from the school and ended at the GUA Range Office, where students held placards and chanted slogans to spread awareness about elephant conservation.

Sensitisation session

Following the rally, a sensitisation session was conducted by Forest Department officials. The session focused on the significance of World Elephant Day, the importance of protecting elephant corridors, and the role of each individual in ensuring the survival of these majestic animals. The students were encouraged to become ambassadors of wildlife conservation in their communities.

Documentary screening

A documentary on elephant space and corridors was shown to the students, highlighting the critical importance of these areas for elephant migration and survival. The film shed light on the human-elephant conflict and the need for coexistence strategies. The students were deeply engaged and asked several questions about how they could help protect elephant habitats.

Conclusion

The World Elephant Day programs in the Saranda Division, particularly in Kiriburu and GUA Range, were a resounding success. The events helped educate the students regarding elephant conservation and empowered them to take an active role in conservation efforts. The rallies, painting competition, and documentary screenings helped foster a deep understanding of the challenges facing elephants today. The Forest Department of Saranda Division expressed their gratitude to the schools and students for their enthusiastic participation and reiterated the importance of continued efforts to protect elephants and their habitats.



GUA Range event.