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# ECOTRAIL

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**CAMP FOR PEDIATRIC BURNS SURVIVORS**

**MULTIPLY THE MESSAGE**

**TEACHER TRAINING WORKSHOPS**

*Happy New Year*

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Principals, Teachers, student campers and Parents,

Wishing you and all the thousands of readers of Ecotrail a Happy New Year. The year gone by has been spectacular for Ecotrail. The readership has trebled with more than 6000 educators across the world now reading and interacting with the editorial team with numerous ideas and suggestions. Mala Biswas, the torch bearer of Ecotrail has meticulously planned each issue with Sachin Sata helping her all the way and the rest of the Trailblazers team contributing about all their exploits. It's an exemplary team effort and we assure all readers that we will continue to cover new grounds in the field of education, environment, science and social science. We are committed to making each issue that is being delivered to your doorstep, free and a beacon of enlightenment. Hope you continue to enjoy reading it as much as we enjoy creating it for you. It is interesting to note that we are getting hundreds of mails from teachers and parents who want to subscribe and are keen to get the earlier issues - to them we say our archives are open for viewing and you can access all issues online at <http://www.trailblazersindia.com/ecotrail/ecotrail.htm>

The new year I am sure will be full of surprises, challenges and discovery and I am sure all of you will be winners. The demonitization by the government of India has been a topic of interesting new discussion in all the Trailblazers Trademarked Economics camps that were held over the past few months in Ahmedabad, Kolhapur

and Mumbai. In the next weeks we celebrate International Wetlands Day and I urge schools to visit and create a wetlands awareness programme. Trailblazers is ready to play a supporting role as knowledge partner. We invite schools from Kolkata and Mumbai to take a bird watching trail near the wetlands and hope that all schools in these magnificent cities join in and take advantage of the bird watching specialists that are part of team Trailblazers.

As we step into a new year, Trailblazers is proud to reinforce its value systems which have helped us grow as an organization as well as a brand. Over the past 23 years Trailblazers has stood by its values of ethical business practices, safety, transparency and a dedication to enriching the lives of everyone we touch be it teachers, principals or our very own employees. The world of education is increasingly competitive and it is important to delivery high quality and relevant content through highly motivated, educated and experienced outdoor educators. Parents today are better placed than ever before to gauge the quality of education and value being provided to their child and are unafraid to speak their minds. We as education providers must strive to understand that with the vast number of options available, switching costs are negligible. Above all, we aim to understand every child's unique needs and truly believe that each child is a uniquely innocent genius. The flaws lie within us and children are ruthless when it comes to exposing them. Today more than ever, we need to be keenly aware of the example we are setting for a generation that is watching us. But are we looking, listening and feeling enough?

**Ranjan Biswas**

*Editor*

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### OUR CORE VALUES

**SAFETY FIRST**

**INTEGRITY**

**QUALITY**

**SUPERIOR CONTENT**

**ETHICAL PRACTICES**

## On the Brink...

The iconic giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis*), one of the world's most recognisable animals and the tallest land mammal, has moved from 'Least Concern' to 'Vulnerable' in the newly released International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species. Whilst giraffes are commonly seen on safari, in the media and in zoos, people – including conservationists – are unaware that these majestic animals are undergoing a silent extinction. With a decline of almost 40% in the last three decades alone, the world's tallest animal is under severe pressure in some of its core ranges across East, Central and West Africa. Giraffes are known to thrive



Image courtesy: Mbragion in a wide range of habitats ranging from desert landscapes to woodland/savannah environments, but are known to live in non-continuous, fragmented populations across sub-Saharan Africa. As of 2016 researchers have found 9 subspecies of Giraffe which are Nubian, Masai, Thornicroft's, Reticulated, Rothschild's, Angolan, South African, Kordofan and West African Giraffe. Of these recognised subspecies of giraffes, 5 have decreasing populations, whilst 3 are increasing and 1 is stable. Major threat to this species includes habitat loss, mining and poaching. Efforts to save this magnificent mammal within and outside Africa have already begun. At the IUCN World Conservation Congress in September this year Resolution 008 – Giraffids: reversing the decline of Africa's iconic megafauna was adopted by the members and called for action to reverse the decline of giraffe in the wild.



## Pollinators under threat – so what?

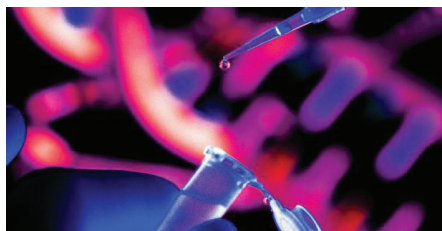
There are more than 20,000 species of wild bees alone, plus many species of butterflies, flies, moths, wasps, beetles, birds, bats and other animals that contribute to pollination. Pollinated crops include those that provide fruit, vegetables, seeds, nuts and oils. Many of these are important dietary sources of vitamins and minerals, without which the risks of malnutrition might be expected to increase. More than three-quarters of the world's food crops rely at least in part on pollination by insects and other animals. Between \$235 billion and \$577 billion worth of annual global food production relies on direct contributions by pollinators. Chocolate, for example, is derived from the cacao tree seed. Cecidomyiid and ceratopogonid midges are essential for its pollination.

The volume of agricultural production dependent on animal pollination has increased by 300 per cent during the past 50 years, but pollinator-dependent crops show lower growth and stability in yield than crops that do not depend on pollinators. Nearly 90 per cent of all wild flowering plants depend at least to some extent on animal pollination. In addition to food crops, pollinators contribute to crops that provide biofuels. Pollinators, especially bees, have also played a role throughout human history as inspirations for art, music, religion and technology. Additionally, they improve quality of life, globally significant heritage sites and practices, symbols of identity, aesthetically significant landscapes.

Source <http://unep.org>

## Gene Edit

Chinese scientists at Sichuan University in Chengdu used CRISPR gene-editing technology in a human for the first time. Chinese cancer researchers have taken cells from lung cancer patients, genetically modified them using the relatively new CRISPR gene-editing tool and reinserted them in the patient. They will look to see how the re-engineered cells work to combat cancer.



## Space Survival



Tardigrades, also called water bears, are segmented water dwelling critters that have remarkable survival capabilities. They can survive extremes of temperature from near absolute 0-150 degrees and they were shown to withstand 10 days in the vacuum, cold and radiation of space. The biggest news was when biologists announced their discovery of DNA in tardigrades that protect them from X-rays.

# UN Biodiversity Conference Results in Significant Action

**COP13-COPMOP8-COPMOP2**  
CANCUN, MEXICO 2016



MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY FOR WELL-BEING  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

## Introduction to Convention

On 5 June 1992, at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, more than 150 states signed the Convention on Biological Diversity acknowledging the sustainable management of the world's living resources to be one of the most urgent issues of the modern era and expressing their commitment to address this collectively. The treaty is a landmark in the international community's approach to environment and development as, unlike previous treaties focusing on a specific theme or sector, it adopts an holistic approach to the conservation and sustainable use of the Earth's entire wealth of living organisms. The Convention recognizes the need for a multi-sectoral approach to ensure that biological diversity is conserved and used sustainably, the importance of sharing information and critical technologies, and the benefits that can accrue from use of biological resources. Conceived as a practical tool for translating the principles of Agenda 21 (a comprehensive plan of action adopted by 178 countries at the Earth Summit to be taken globally, nationally and locally) into reality, the Convention recognizes that biological diversity is about more than plants, animals and micro organisms and their ecosystems – it is about people and our need for food security, medicines, fresh air and water, shelter, and a clean and healthy environment in which to live.

## Objectives of the Convention

- Conservation of biological diversity
- Sustainable use of components of biological diversity
- Fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources

The Parties (Countries or Governments) under Convention of Biodiversity (CBD), meet at regular interval. These meetings are called Conference of Parties (COP). They met for the 13th time in Cancun, Mexico.

Governments from 167 countries agreed on actions that will accelerate implementation of global biodiversity targets, and enhance the linkage of the biodiversity agenda with other global agendas including the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Climate Agreement and others. Parties agreed to advance mainstreaming biodiversity, the main theme of the meeting proposed by the Government of Mexico and use an integrated approach that would promote not only cross-sectoral linkages, but

also linkages between efforts to implement national biodiversity strategies and Sustainable Development Goal strategies and plans. "The agenda of mainstreaming biodiversity provided Mexico with the momentum to conclude agreements which had eluded us for decades, such as the alignment of agricultural subsidies to preserve forests, or the protection of a vast proportion of our seas," said Rafael Pacchiano Alamán, Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico. "For the next two years, Mexico will work with countries to translate the principles of the Cancun Declaration into legislation, policies and actions to meet the commitments we made."

## Summary of Conference

**Capacity-building:** The Parties agreed on an action plan (2017-2020) that will focus on strengthening the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets (20 short-term goals/targets to be achieved by 2020).

**Pollinators:** To improve conservation and management of pollinators as mentioned under Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) assessment

**Protected Areas:** To announce establishment of marine protected areas

**Restoration:** Reversing the loss of biodiversity, improving ecosystem resilience

**Marine Agenda:** Parties adopted a voluntary specific work plan to maintain and enhance the resilience of ecosystems in cold water areas within the jurisdictional scope of the Convention with a decision on marine spatial planning and training initiatives and capacity building work under the Sustainable Ocean Initiative. Improve waste management and recycling,

**Biodiversity and Climate Change:** Nationally Determined Contributions and its reporting

**Climate-related Geoengineering:** Reiterated the importance of reducing anthropogenic emissions by sources and by increasing removals by sinks of greenhouse gases.

**Traditional knowledge:** To be protected and its use is encouraged with the consent of indigenous peoples and local communities.

**Financial Mechanism and Resource Mobilization:** Development of biodiversity strategy and the associated funding priorities for the 2018-2022 period including doubling of total biodiversity-related international financial resource that flows to developing countries.

**Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety:** COP-MOP 8 adopted operational definitions of unintentional transboundary movements and illegal transboundary movements to make available information in the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) with regards to transit and contained use of LMOs or GMOs

**Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing:** Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House, measures to assist in capacity-building and cooperation with other international organizations or initiatives. Use of digital sequence information and any potential implications.

# History Beckons!!

## Fort Trail

An old fort located in Andhra Pradesh among the least explored historical sites in South India was the center of action for a group of excited students on a history camp with Trailblazers. The visits focused on fun and learning experience for the students. Trailblazers hosted multiactivity camp for students to explore and learn about this fort. This was brought about by unique pedagogies including various visits – historical sites, farm sites and team games. The trip had every ingredient that kept students engaged, educated and excited. Students visited farms and learned about different farming techniques like poly-house farming, net farming and open farming. They also learned the importance of drip irrigation, effective use of water and its conservation. Semi organic farming practice and biogas plant were also shown and discussed with students. Students enjoyed seeing English Cucumber, Tomatoes, Red Chillies, Okra, Yellow Watermelon, Muskmelon, Ivy Gourd and Lemons cultivated at the time of visit. Students trekked to the palace situated on the top of the monolithic rock and explored the fort. Trailblazers experts shared history of the fort and its rulers. They also explained the strategic importance of this majestic fort.

## Imperial Trail

People without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture are like a tree without roots.

The way Trailblazers explained history, was indeed fascinating exclaimed a Grade 8th student. The former capital of Bengal on the banks of the Bhagirathi river has lots to offer. Every ruin and stone is brimming with the glorious past.

The battle of Plassey was a turning point in Indian history. The small town of "Palasi" where Mir Jaffer was bribed and conspired with the East India Company against the Nawab of Bengal paved the path for the British to establish their rule in India. Though the programme focussed on history it had interesting challenges to explore an intriguing museum, it also had an element of the story of silk. This visit was an eye-opener as students visited Mulberry farms, vermicomposting, tried to understand the crop which is the food for the silk worm besides seeing how the silk filament is removed from the cocoon. This outdoor programme got the students enthusiastic and encouraged them to know more about the history. Any subject can be made interesting if we try and look at new methods of communication with the present generation of students.





# Vibrant Gujarat



An exciting blend of culture, wildlife and history was awaiting for a group of students from Chennai. They were enthralled to explore vibrant Gujarat.. They sighted variety of fauna and flora including the rare Houbara Bustard, endangered Wild Asses, flamingos, rollers, bulbuls, gregarious Prosopis, Psueda, Salvador, neem, etc. While in the sanctuary students met the hardworking salt pan workers who eke out their living by producing salt in salt pans. Students learned the process of salt making while interacting with them. After the jeep safaris, it was time to try the local transport. Students sat on a camel cart and rode to nearby village. As a part of the community services they cleaned a section of the village. Villagers were indeed curious to see these young crusaders of cleanliness. They interacted with the local tribes and understood their lifestyle and livelihood. They tried their hands on local arts of beads and embroidery and bought a few of them thereby supporting the local economy. The atmospheres was filled with rhapsody of colours when the



local tribe in their colourful costumes danced along with students to the beats of drum. Trailblazers took them

for a short nature trail to explore the fields of cotton, castor and chickpeas. This helped them understand the local culture and livelihood better. After visiting the villages and sanctuaries, it was time to visit the ancient Sun temple built by Solanki dynasty. The Sun Temple is divided into three distinct parts i.e. step well, assembly hall and main shrine with intricate carvings on the sandstone. On their way back to Ahmedabad they visited a Ramsar Site . Importance of wetlands and Ramsar convention were



explained by Trailblazers experts. While in Ahmedabad they visited Sabarmati Ashram and learnt about the Father of the Nation and his contribution to the Indian freedom struggle. They also visited a mosque and appreciated the elaborate lattice work. The trip ended by student trying their hands on dyeing the cotton linen and learning various dyeing techniques. It was a colourful end to this exciting visit. It also fulfilled the objectives of Creativity, Activity and Service.

# Visit to Strawberry Country



The Western Ghats is one among the oldest mountain ranges found on earth. It is now a UNESCO world heritage site and also an important biodiversity hotspot of South East Asia. Western Ghats spread from the borders of Gujarat in Dang to the southern tip of Kerala in Kanyakumari, an area of 1600 km. Located at a distance of 280 km from Mumbai in this serene mountain range is the most famous tourist destination. This famous hill station is known for its landforms and scenic views of the Valley and Koyana River. Adding to the charm of this beautiful place is the cultivation of the queen of fruits – Strawberry. This region is the largest producer of Strawberry. Trailblazers hosted a student camp in a small town on the banks of Koyana River. The objective of camp was to study and understand landforms and agro tourism. As a part of the camp, students got a chance to enjoy the camping experience like living in tents and eating the local cuisine. After enjoying the tent experience, students got an opportunity to visit a local school and interact with the students. In the spirit of bonhomie they sang songs and poems together. They also played Kho- Kho, a local village outdoor game and also learned about Lezim – the traditional folk dance form. Students enjoyed the interaction and made notes on village education system. After the local school

visit, students visited the strawberry farms and learned about its farming. Students understood the various aspects of strawberry cultivation and its requirements viz. temperate climate, farming technique, drip irrigation and life span of crop. This region has many food processing units and students visited one of them along with the honey center where they saw the process of beekeeping and honey processing. They learned about strawberry harvesting, post harvesting stages and chocolate making. They also got a chance to observe the packing and dispatching process during their factory visit. They also bought jams, jellies, candies and crushes for their near and dear ones.



All in all it was an exciting journey discovering the lives of rural people with an amazing stay in the lap of nature on the banks of Koyana.

# Tribal Trail

As an Outdoor School, Trailblazers always thinks of innovative ways to communicate with young minds in the outdoors. Trailblazers outdoor programmes have a focussed approach which enhances the learning experience of a child. Not too far away from the bustling city of Mumbai, an outdoor camp was organised which focused on environment, art and tribals of Maharashtra. All these objectives were achieved through visits, simulations, debates and fun activities.

A unique visit to a rehabilitated village showcased a success story of hard work against all odds. The villagers were rehabilitated after the Koyana Dam project to a remote wilderness area which had no roads, electricity or water supply. The village has set an example for other villages in the country as it has won the President's award and many



other awards for its cleanliness and initiatives. Today it has roads, electricity, bio-gas, vermicomposting and happy villagers. The students were in awe as they interacted with the villagers and came to know more about their struggles and passion. The camp also focused on Dams, its importance, its uses and a simulation was done to make them better understand the impact of Dams. After the visits, it was time to get creative and it was an ideal setting to explore the dying art of Warli paintings through a workshop. The students learnt about the Warli tribes and their unique style of painting. This art form has geometric shapes and has been inspired from nature as these tribals have lived in absolute harmony with nature for many years. Modernization has taken its toll and now not many youngsters from Warli tribe are willing to take this art forward. At one point of time this art adorned their houses, their walls and doors but is now confined to canvas and paper. This camp bonded the students through different activities and it was truly a fun and learn experience.



# Hill Trail



A group of enthusiastic students from a reputed school went to Camp Lavasa for an adventure, fun and learn experience with Trailblazers. They indulged in various activities like village interaction, nature trail, pond ecosystem study, paddy field visit and a trek to a fort. Mango, Jamun, Drum stick, Chikoo and Coconut trees welcomed them on the way to the village and pond. The village interaction helped them understand its lifestyle. They experienced that the village house walls plastered with cow dung were cool on a hot afternoon! They saw paddy fields with golden tinge on the leaves ready to be harvested and another one with harvested paddy in bundles of hay laid systematically one after the other, to be used as fodder for the cattle in summer. They learned about the local water harvesting system at a nearby pond. They were excited to see the fresh water invertebrates residing in the pond. During the visits, the young minds had many questions about the local flora-fauna, village lifestyle, pond ecosystem and the fort. Trailblazers team guided them to their satisfaction. Later on it was time for the adventure activities and team games which they enjoyed throughly. The students felt confident and empowered after this fun and learn camp.



# Lion Trail

Gir National Park is the only location in the world where Asiatic Lions are still thriving in the wild. Trailblazers with a group of students from an international school explored the Gir National Park. The students enjoyed the jungle safaris in a gypsy vehicle in the core area and observed Asiatic Lions, Asiatic Leopard, many species of Deers, birds like Indian Vulture, Golden Jackals and Wild Boars. The students also visited an old crocodile breeding centre. Apart from the rare Asiatic Lions, the students also explored rich bird life of a famous bird sanctuary. They enjoyed the bird watching session by Trailblazers experts and observed more than 80 species of birds, many of which were migrants.

They also visited the Interpretation Centre where they learned about the bird life and migration in detail. After the wildlife sessions, it was time to explore the historical marvels of Gujarat. They visited a famous temple on the coast of Arabian Sea. The scenic view of Arabian Sea and late evening Sunset made the visit a delight. Trailblazers experts shared the history & architecture of the temple with students. Few other historical sites were also covered. An ancient Indus valley civilization was explored and the importance of the site was shared with the students. They also visited a globally renowned dairy cooperative and the visited the museum to watch a documentary on how it emerged as a brand and was pivotal in making White Revolution happen.



# Pediatric Burns Survivor Camp



The pediatric burns ward in KEM Hospital, Mumbai's premiere Municipal Hospital, is the most unlikely place to visit to discuss an outbound programme amidst worried parents, abject poverty, pain and suffering, nurses running around like Florence Nightingale helping to ease the pain, Doctors busy with interns discussing the next incision on the patient who is barely 8 years old. Most of the children having been burnt accidentally are the brave survivors of an unfortunate event. The children are undergoing multiple surgeries to reconstruct their deformed bodies. Far down the passage we see a diminutive figure walking down and behind her a sea of parents and smiling children. Dr. Vinita Puri, Head of Department, Plastic Surgery, is not only a world acclaimed plastic surgeon but also the first recipient of the International Humanitarian award in USA. Like a pied piper all the children following her around, she extends her hand to

welcome us and all the children erupt ecstatically as they see us. Many of them have interacted with us, and ask eagerly when will we take them to the next camp. Thus we set the third burns survivor camp rolling. Although the site was the same and so were some burn survivor children, there were many new participants. The aim of the camp was to instill in these children the desire to come out of the disfigurement and see the world afresh, with new opportunities and try to regain their confidence. This year the camp was designed differently by the Trailblazers R&D team. The content was more to do with discovery, creative thinking, exploring the left side of the brain with dabbling in arts, music, theatre and dance. The children really excelled in all the new focus and forgot their pain, and collectively poured their heart out in all the events and tasks given to them. It was nice to see all of them drop their veils hiding the scars due to burns and

showcase themselves confidently in all the events. It was a sight to behold the children dancing to the tune of the latest Bollywood hits and Jhingaati. It was also nice to see the participation of Plastic Surgeons from other cities. Dr Sunil Keswani from Navi Mumbai and Dr Sanjeev Uppal from Ludhiana participated enthusiastically as observers to enable them to conduct similar programmes for burn survivors. It was found that to bring these children back from the brink needs these specialized activity based camps designed by the Trailblazers R&D team as much as the medical support programme they are already under. The camp was remarkable in its ability to deliver what it was intended for. The safety features were unmatched as in every Trailblazers camp, some of the children barely just out of operation theatre and others scheduled to go in after their three day sojourn. All these children are not only brave but beautiful, and they all taught us yet again the meaning of fighting spirit and fortitude. This programme was only successful because of dynamic and enthusiastic participation of Dr Vinita Puri, Dr Venkateshwaran N, Dr. Sanjeev Uppal, Dr. Sunil Keswani, volunteer doctors namely Dr. Mansi Pabari, Dr. Raghav Shrotriya, Dr. Nikhil Ghubade, Dr. Harshada, Dr. Deepak, Dr. Prasanna, Dr. Tanmayee, and Sister Jaya Mistry, Ms. Jessica, Ms. Tejaswee, Ms. Pooja, and Ms. Monali. This camp was supported by Burns Advocate in Boston, USA.



# Multiply the Message - Teacher Training Workshops



The morning sunrise over Thane creek was spectacular, the spread of the cirrus and cirrostratus clouds, painting the sky in varied shades of yellow, orange, blue and red made it look heavenly. Far away, a flock of cormorants flew in perfect formation as the bus crossed over the Navi Mumbai bridge. The team was on its way to the 8th edition of the internationally acclaimed Teacher Training Workshop on Environment Education for B.Ed. students of Mumbai. A CSR initiative of Dow Chemicals International, executed in collaboration with Trailblazers Foundation, "Multiply the Message" reached out to 600 student teachers and in-service teachers. They would experience unique pedagogies which are simple, effective, fun and help understand complex environmental concepts.

The site, barely 62 Km from Mumbai is an ideal location to uncover the theme of the workshop "Magic of the Universe - Nature, Wildlife & Humans", with a special emphasis on soil & water conservation. After an hearty breakfast it was time to stimulate the

mind and the students were wonderfully introduced to the world of environment, teaching and the unique roles the teachers play in engaging the child to learn, explore and understand. The key note speakers for the first two workshops Mrs. Vandana Arora, Principal of Nahar International School and Mrs. Sunita George, Principal of Bombay Scottish School, Powai set the ball rolling with their deep understanding



Mrs Vandana Arora  
Principal, Nahar International School



walking by aimlessly, the cacophony of birds trying to return or find a suitable place to perch for the night. Then, the two charming students, Milton Gomes and Arundhati Bapat picked their guitar and started to sing John Denver's Country Roads...

The sun was just setting only to rise again precisely 12 hours hence. The sky a myriad of colours, the bus quiet, all the students reflecting on the day gone by, the lilting music from the guitar wafting through the air. Before alighting each and every student vowed to "Multiply the Message" set into motion by Dow Chemical International and Trailblazers Foundation.



Mrs Sunita George  
Principal, Bombay Scottish School Powai

of the subject and role of teachers. It was interactive, reflective and thought-provoking in equal parts. The day was spent playing games, participating in demonstrations, lectures and audio visual sessions besides an interesting visit to another Non-Government Organization to understand the rural issues of the environment.

The return journey at 6 pm was equally stimulating as the bus drove past green forests, rivers and ponds, villagers



## CAS Camp

Trailblazers conducted a CAS camp for the students of an international school in Hyderabad. As the group approached the campsite, Griffons circling in the sky welcomed them. Driving along the winding roads they saw rhododendrons, berberis, pine, deodar and oak forests. Once at the campsite, wasting no time students set out for an interaction with a local school wherein they had fun playing kabbadi and football with the children. During the course of their stay at the campsite, they were enthralled with adventure activities like rafting, jumaring, bridge slithering, river crossing and rappelling. Trailblazers experts grabbed all opportunities to share the fauna and flora of the region. After enjoying a bath in the roaring Tiger falls, as a part of their service objective, they cleaned its entrance area thereby doing their bit to keep the surroundings of this falls clean. They also took some farming lessons and cleared the fields of weeds, prepared the soil by tilling, made steps and leveled it before sowing the seeds of rajma and rice - the staple food of the people of the mountains. Students experienced an overnight bivouac and got the taste of staying in wilderness. They made colorful kites as a part of their creative session and gifted them to the local children. At the end of the camp, students were happy to have experienced a change within them. They felt they were more confident, punctual, responsible and caring.



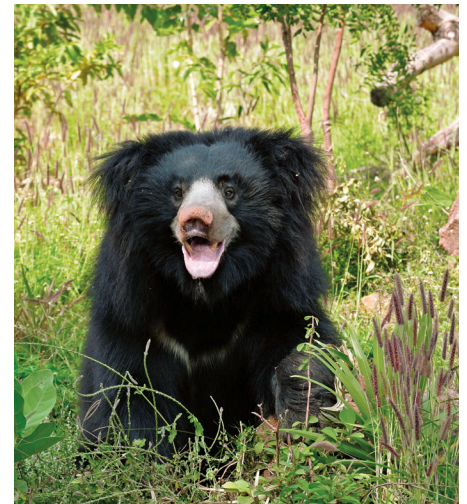
Creativity



Service



Action



## BEAR WITH ME!

Get a unique opportunity to work with rescued Sloth Bears and Asiatic Elephants near Agra. Students will get a hands on opportunity to volunteer as a zookeeper of the day. This programme allows the students to learn about the lifestyle of Sloth Bears and Elephants, learn about conservation, help animal keepers in the daily chores in upkeep of animals and also assist them in making enrichment toys.. This includes two days of volunteering at the Bear Rescue Centre and two days at the Elephant Conservation & Care Centre and a day trip to famous historic sites of Agra. To attend this programme contact:  
**Landlines: +91 22 25891513 / 25891490,**  
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