



COURSE REPORT

3-day Training for Other Stakeholders on “Nature Interpretation and Ecotourism”

17– 19 September 2025

For

**Environmentalists and Naturalists, Green Startups & Tourism Industry
Representatives, Homestay owners, Ecotourism Operators, Tiger
Conservation Foundation (TCF) Employees, and Nature Guides**



**Central Academy for State Forest Service, Dehradun
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Government of India**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Central Academy for State Forest Service (CASFOS), Dehradun, Uttarakhand (UK), under the aegis of Directorate of Forest Education (DFE), Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has a mandate to conduct various theme-based short-term training programs. In this regard, CASFOS, Dehradun organized a 3-day Training for Other Stakeholders on “**Nature Interpretation and Ecotourism**” between 17.09.2025 and 19.09.2025 for Environmentalist and Naturalist, Green Startups & Tourism Industry Representatives, Homestay owners, Tour operators, Park Managers, Tour/ Nature Guides. The training program was conducted at the Academy with a total of 07 technical sessions by Subject Matter Experts, and a full day field visit coordinated by the Course Director. A total of 201 nominations from 19 states were received out of which 30 participants from 10 states attended the training.

The training was inaugurated in the presence of Dr. Dhananjai Mohan, IFS (Retd.), Former PCCF & HoFF, (Uttarakhand) on 17.09.2025. Course Director Mr. Amlendu Pathak, IFS, introduced the training program to everyone and welcomed all the participants. In the opening remarks, Shri E. Vikram, IFS, stressed identifying Greenwashing and encouraged everyone to focus on climate friendly tourism approach. With the rich background the participants represent, it will be mutual learning also for all of them during the 3 days training program. Dr. Dhananjai Mohan, IFS (Retd.), Former PCCF & HoFF (Uttarakhand) delivered the keynote address on Concept of Ecotourism and Emerging trends. He emphasized advanced practices of Nature Interpretation like western countries and sectoral learning in this field. He highlighted the importance of birdwatching and study of microfauna in Nature Interpretation.

The Valedictory session was presided over by Shri E. Vikram, IFS, Principal, CASFOS, Dehradun, during which verbal feedback of the participants was also taken. In his Valedictory address, he said that the participants of the program have become ambassadors for NI&E, and they have benefitted from cross learning during this program. Future surveys are important in this sector, and they will carry them out in their respective states. Sh. Amlendu Pathak, IFS, Course Director, gave a presentation about the program and concluded the program with a vote of thanks to the entire team and to the participants. The participants gave an overwhelming response to the course.

A compendium of articles, presentations related to the relevant topics covered during the course, apart from the copies of the presentations made by the experts in each session were provided in soft copy to each participant as part of the training kit by the Academy.

The overall impact of the course/workshop was positive and the feedback and high rating from the participants corroborates the assessment of the organizers.

Format for reporting evaluation of refresher course conducted by the
institute/organization for the SFS officers sponsored by the
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, GOI, New Delhi as per the
merged format of MoEF&CC and JICA

Course Report

MoEF&CC/DFE's letter number and date		RT-15/22/2024-RT- I/96657/2025, Dated 07.02.2025
Institute's reference number		4-136/TRG-II/STC/CASFOS/2023-24 -I/107120/2025, Dated 23.04.2025
1	Name and complete address of the Institute (including phone, fax, and e-mail)	Central Academy for State Forest Service, Dehradun ☎ 0135-2754575/2754648 Email- casfos.dd-mef@gov.in
2	Title of the course	Nature Interpretation and Ecotourism
3	Duration & period of the Course	Three Days From 17 th to 19 th September, 2025
4	Name & designation of the Course Director	Mr. Amlendu Pathak, IFS, Lecturer
5	Number of participants	30 (Details at Appendix- IV)
6.1	(a) Did the institute get in touch in advance with the participants of the course?	Yes
	(b) If yes, when (mention the date of communication to the officers)?	Multiple times on various occasions via voice calls and email. The flyer with registration link was circulated on 28.08.2025 and email to organizations was sent on 28.08.2025
	(c) Details of nominations received/registrations.	201 registrations from 19 States/UTs
	(d) How many participants received the intimation?	All
	(e) How many responded?	Selected 30 from 10 States/UTs
6.2	(a) Were the course expectations of the participants ascertained by the institution?	Yes
	(b) If yes, how, and when (dates)?	It was provided in registration form also and by direct interaction and in the form of feedback on prescribed proforma collected during the course.
7.1	(a) Was the course conducted at the institution's campus? If no, where?	Yes

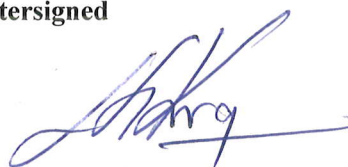
	(b) Whether the course was “residential” or non-residential. If residential, whether the residential facilities were provided in the institution’s own hostel or in a hotel etc.?	Residential (Accommodation was provided for some participants at CASFOS Guest House)
7.2	(a) Total no. of working days in the course	3 days
	(b) Total no. of sessions planned/ convened in the course	13 sessions
	(c) No. of sessions, which could not be conducted as planned with reasons	Nil
	(d) Internal faculty hours	5.5 hrs
	(e) Guest faculty hours	13 hours
	(f) No. of days / hours spent on field visit(s) if any	Half day
Enclosure: - Final timetable - List of faculties - Final list of participants		
8	(a) Had the same or similar course been conducted earlier under the sponsorship of the MOEF&CC/ Department of Personnel and Training (Government of India)?	Yes
	(b) What changes, based on the feedback received on the previous course, were made in the current course?	Resource people were changed.
9	Feedback received from current course participants in terms of: (*1.1, 2.1 shown below refer to question number in Part C or Part D of the feedback form.)	
9.1	Course Content and Structure (CCS)	Course Content & Structure including reading material was found to be relevant and highly appreciated by the participants with a rating of 96.32% The course aim was met to the full satisfaction & as per feedback, there was an increase in knowledge level of the participants.
9.2	Training Faculty (TF)	The participants rated the training faculty at 96.74% All training faculties for lecture sessions were highly appreciated by the participants.
9.3	Usefulness of the course (UOC)	The participants have given feedback that the training course will be highly useful immediately and in future, with a combined rating as 99.26%
9.4	Overall impression about the Course (OIC)	The participants have given overall feedback on the course as very good and rated it around 92.65%

9.5	Participant's views about the strengths and weaknesses as well as other aspects pertaining to the course. (Please attach summary as Appendix-I.)	Overall, the participants appreciated the course. The suggestions made by them along with the Academy's comments are attached for reference.
9.6	Logistics (including Residential accommodation, Food quality, Classroom facilities, Computer facilities and Recreation facilities and Time management etc.)	The expectations of participants regarding the level of all logistics facilities provided by the academy have been highly appreciated, with an overall rating to logistics arrangement received is 96.66%
9.7	Weighted Average (Please attach summary as Appendix-II)	The weighted average of the course has been rated as 96.15% , which is found to be very satisfactory.
10	General remarks of the Course Director on the nature and extent of participant's involvement in the course including attendance Punctuality interest Evincd.	Participants were enthusiastic and expressed their keenness to learn from the day one of the training program. Participants were interactive during the sessions, cleared their doubts, and shared their own experiences to facilitate cross-learning.
11	Suggestion highlighting the areas of improvement in the Course for future by Course Director	Such courses may be conducted on regular intervals and it may also be converted into 5 day program to facilitate 2 days of field excursion and learning as the course has good association with field learning.
12	Comments of the Institution on how the feedback is proposed to be recycled into future programs in terms of course content, methodology, etc.	As reported by the participants, they benefitted immensely from the course. The Academy will try its best to incorporate the suggestions for further improvement of the course in future.



(Amlendu Pathak, IFS)
Course Director

Countersigned



Principal

Appendix-I

Course Director's comments on Participant's views about the strengths and weaknesses pertaining to the course

S. No.	Participants' views	Participants who expressed the view	Course Director's Comments
1.	Very Insightful Learning a lot from all session	11	I highly appreciate it.
2.	I'm glad to have applied and am thankful to CASFOS for making this happen. Special thanks to E.Vikram Sir and Amlendu Pathak Sir. The training was quite educatory.	2	I highly appreciate it.
3.	If Resource persons can talk also in English can be more grateful. Will get more knowledge If We get chance to interact with other IFS officers as lectures and sharing their experiences. Everything was very useful and properly arranged. Previously I thought I am odd one. At the end of Training, I realized that I learned a lot particularly about Ecotourism. Many things i can implement in my career. Got many new friends. Thanks a lot for this opportunity.	2	Training language is a mixture of Hindi and English so that participants from all states can understand the sessions.
4.	If Resource persons can talk also in English can be more grateful.	1	Since the participants were from across the country, Hindi mixed with English was chosen.
5.	It's a training program that enhance the knowledge and also trains many youths and nature conservators for future conservation. The Organizing committee CASFOS make it so easy to everyone to understand about nature conservation. I am very Grateful to CASFOs academy who give me such great knowledge experience opportunity.	1	I highly appreciate it.
6.	Lodging is good. There is a need to spread the word about the opportunity for youths at CASFOS. The institution can start inviting applications for training bit early than it would have done; So there remains no scope of delay in response from participants from different states.	5	There was no delay in response. The registration link was closed after few days because of overwhelming response.

Numerical value of feedback and Weighted Average

For calculation of numerical value of feedback, each factor is valued as percentage value to the top grade given to the factor. If no answer is provided, it is excluded from calculation. (cf; where number of grades is 4, percentage value be 100, 75, 50, 25)

The average numerical value of factors consisting of the element is a numerical value of the element.

1. Course Content and Structure (CCS) = 96.32

- 1.1 Course aims met (97.06)
- 1.2 Increase of knowledge (92.65)
- 1.3 Relevance of content (98.53)
- 1.4 Reading Material (97.06)

2. Training Faculty (TF) = 96.74

- 1. Contents (95.88)
- 2. Presentation (96.47)
- 3. Quality of Discussion/Interaction (98.13)
- 4. Meeting for Objectives (96.47)

3. Usefulness of the Course (UOC) = 99.26

- 3.1 How useful to you immediately (98.53)
- 3.2 How useful to be for future jobs (100)

4. Overall Impression about the Course (OIC) = 92.65

5. Logistics = 96.66

- 5.1 Residential accommodation (93.13)
- 5.2 Food quality (95.88)
- 5.3 Classroom facilities (99.41)
- 5.4 Time management (98.24)

Weighted Average for the Course

For calculation of Weighted Average (WA), the following formula is used

$$WA = \{[CCS (100\%) + TF (100\%) + UOC (75\%) + OIC (100\%) + L (75\%)] * 100\} / 450$$

$$WA = [(96.32 + 96.74 + 74.45 + 92.65 + 72.50) * 100] / 450 = 96.15\%$$

List of Faculties (along with their details and topics)

S. No.	Name and Affiliation	Topic	Mobile No.	E-Mail
1.	Dr. Dhananjai Mohan, IFS (Retd.), Former PCCF & HoFF, (Uttarakhand)	Concept of Ecotourism and Emerging trends	9410939313	dhananjaim@gmail.com
2.	Shri D Manoj Kumar, Project Executive & Course Coordinator, KITTS	Infrastructure Planning, Marketing, Interpretation tools for Ecotourism	9447004807	kavilmanoj@gmail.com
3	Shri Sanjay Sondhi, TITLI Trust, Dehradun	Using lesser-known Fauna to Promote Community Conservation and Livelihoods	9412052189	sanjay.sondhil@gmail.com
4	Smt. Neelima Shah, IFS, AIG, Regional Office (MoEF&CC), Dehradun	Ecotourism and FC Act	7579200907	shahneelima29@gmail.com
5	Dr. Sipu Kumar, WII, Dehradun (Field Visit)	Nature Walk	9717317417	sipuwildlife@gmail.com
6	Smt. Anchal Sondhi, Dehradun (Field Visit)	Nature Walk	9412992728	anchal.tree@gmail.com
7	Dr. Sejal Worah, Co-founder, JNR, Mussoorie	Ecotourism for Supporting Conservation and Local Livelihoods: Exploring Alternative Models	9837070839	sworah@wwfindia.net
8	Smt. Priya V, Founder- Director, The Naturalist School, Bengaluru	The Making of a Naturalist	9886798911	priya@naturalist.school
9	Vaidya Nirmal Awasthi, Director, PGVVF, Chhattisgarh	Conservation and Sustainable Development of Useful Medicinal Plants of India's Traditional Knowledge based Healing System	9685441912	nirmalkumarawasthi@gmail.com

Final List of Participants

S. No	Name of Participants	Designation	Department	Mb No.	Email Address	State
1	Mr. Bugatha Rohini Kumar	Ph.D. Scholar	Forest Research Institute (Deemed to be University)	9550074491	ignitedforester.fri@gmail.com	Andhra Pradesh
2	Ms. Unnati Chaudhary	Ph.D. Scholar	Forest Research Institute (Deemed to be University)	9410914303	Unnatchaudhary7@gmail.com	Uttarakhand
3	Mr. Aditya Singh Chauhan	Supervisor and Nature Education Officer	Cemde, University of Delhi	8800797877	aditya.chauhan999@gmail.com	Delhi
4	Mr. Rajeev Mehra	EIA Trainee	Ascenso Enviro Pvt. Ltd.	8920984993	rajeevmehra774@gmail.com	Delhi
5	Mr. Vishal Bhai	Naturalist	Woods at Sasan Gir	8849824634	keshurvishal0@gmail.com	Gujarat
6	Mr. Rakesh Kumar	Founder	The Rabbchick Expedition	9418340896	poohrakesh@gmail.com	Himachal Pradesh
7	Mr. Vijay Sharma	Ph.D. Scholar	Forest Research Institute (Deemed to be University)	9557879709	vijaysharmafri@gmail.com	Himachal Pradesh
8	Mr. Amit Shinde	Operations Manager	Groundup Asia Pvt Ltd	8888879974	amit@groundupasia.com	Maharashtra
9	Mr. Yogesh Kumar Verma	Guide	Sariska Tiger Reserve	7742689670	yogeshkumarbalai64@gmail.com	Rajasthan
10	Mr. Niranjana Singh	Guide	Sariska Tiger Reserve	9214679555	ecotiger@gmail.com	Rajasthan
11	Mr. Bhuvaneshwaran P	Co - Manager & Programme Organizer	Twinkle Holidays	7868969396	bhuvanesh98ammu@gmail.com	Tamil Nadu
12	Dr. Kirubhanandhini. V	Biologist	Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve	9488753659	knlifescience01@gmail.com	Tamil Nadu
13	Mr. Keerthivasan D	Biologist	Tamil Nadu Forest Department	8667471942	megamalaibiolgist@gmail.com	Tamil Nadu
14	Ms. Jasmine Saini	Program officer	HCL Foundation	9034380920	jasminej@hcltech.com	Uttar Pradesh
15	Mr. Dibakar Mallick	Program officer	HCL Foundation	8249332069	dibakar.mallick@hcltech.com	Uttar Pradesh

S. No	Name of Participants	Designation	Department	Mb No.	Email Address	State
16	Mr. Neeraj Vashist	Director	Mountain Nature Outdoor	9548890546	vashistneeraj71@gmail.com	Uttarakhand
17	Mr. Vivek Rauthan	Managing Director	Route On Wheels - (Tour Operator)	9899175374	routeonwheels@gmail.com	Uttarakhand
18	Mr. Vijay Singh	Scholar Guide	Rashtrapati Niketan	8630649733	vijaybisht13@gmail.com	Uttarakhand
19	Mr. Chandan Singh Kunwar	Founder	Health Jaagran	8076923246	chandansingh.ck@gmail.com	Uttarakhand
20	Mr. Divyam Negi	Founder of The Dream Treks Company	Tourism Sector	9557062166	divyamnegi05@gmail.com	Uttarakhand
21	Mr. Himanshu Tiruwa	Owner	Kotadun Birding Retreat	7906232011	gauravtravelsolutions@gmail.com	Uttarakhand
22	Mr. Chandra Shekhar Joshi	Scholar Guide	Rashtrapati Niketan	8126997763	sj6903@gmail.com	Uttarakhand
23	Mr. Trilok Narayan	Naturalist	H.E.S.C.O	7017084395	siddhyogi7@gmail.com	Uttarakhand
24	Mr. Manohar Singh	Pawalgarh Kotabagh	Sitabani Conservation Reserve	8218258886	mannubisht00@gmail.com	Uttarakhand
25	Mrs. Anukriti Goyal	Consultant	Freelancer	8454822690	anukritigoyal@gmail.com	Uttarakhand
26	Mrs. Poonam Singh	Trainer	Ek Kiran Sewa Samiti	8755593230	prettypoonam21@gmail.com	Uttarakhand
27	Mr. Vijendra Kumar	Nature Guide	Chilla Range, Rajaji Tiger Reserve	8923911353	-	Uttarakhand
28	Mr. Pritam Ayush	Ph.D. Scholar	Forest Research Institute (Deemed to be University)	7895583700	pritamptity@gmail.com	Uttarakhand
29	Mrs. Priyanka Pandey	Nature guide	Ecotourism zone, phanto, tarai west division Ramanagar	8630999505	Pandeypriyanka4930@gmail.com	Uttarakhand
30	Mr. Arkraj Biswas	Officer In-Charge	Ecoserve Development Foundation	7903735679	arkraj.biswas6@gmail.com	West Bengal



CENTRAL ACADEMY FOR STATE FOREST SERVICE, DEHRADUN

Three days of specialized training on

“Nature Interpretation and Ecotourism”

For

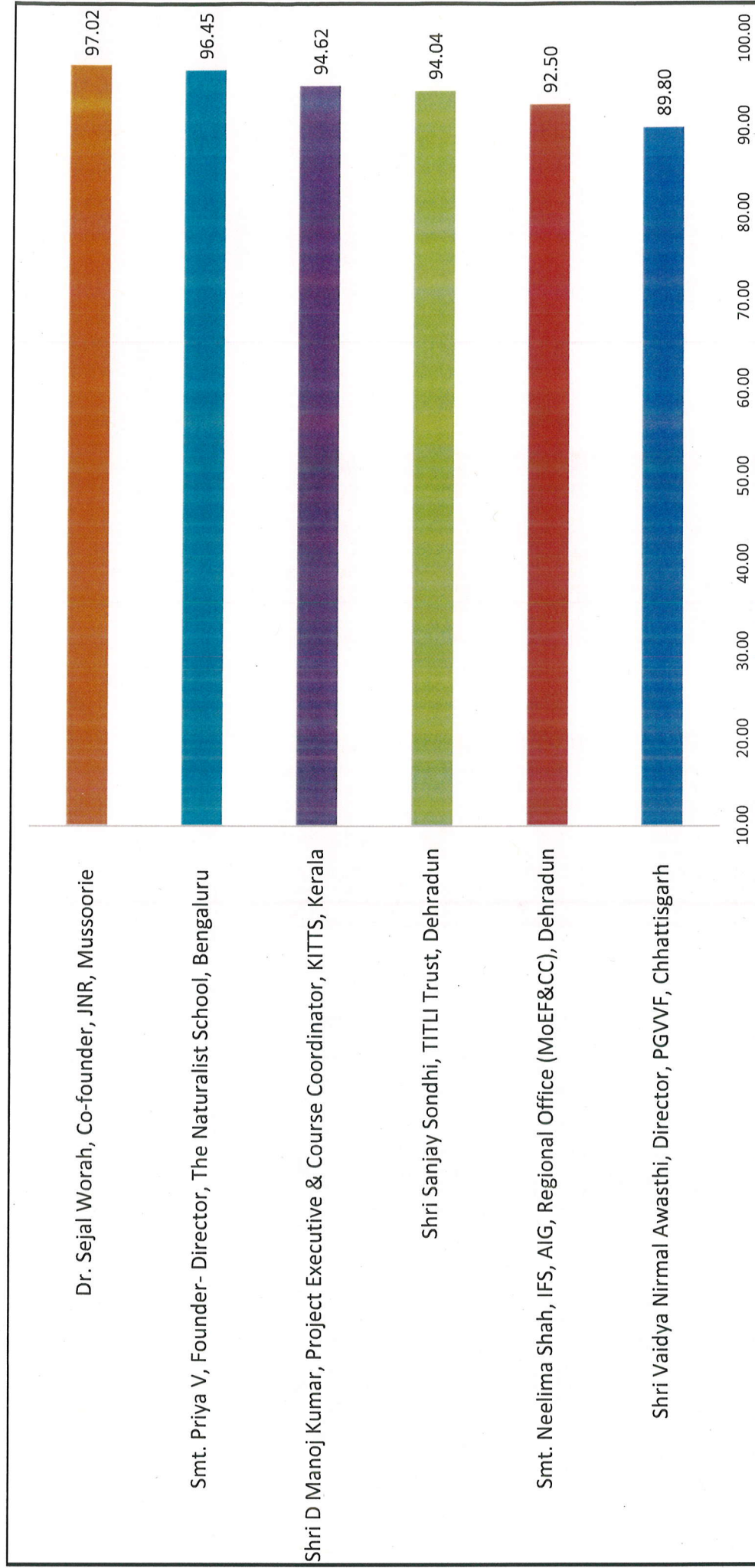
Environmentalists and Naturalists, Green Startups & Tourism Industry Representatives, Homestay owners, Tour operators, Park Managers, Tour/ Nature Guides

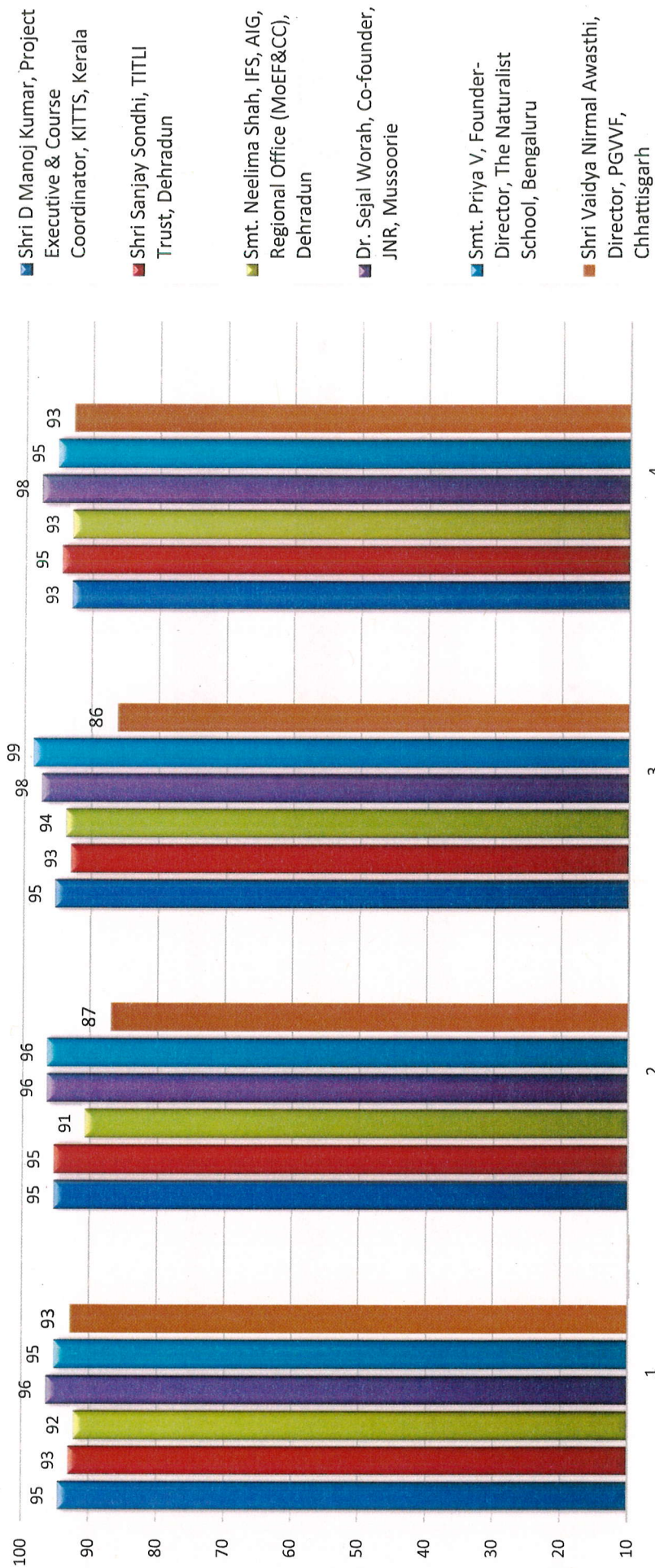
17th to 19th September 2025

Final Schedule

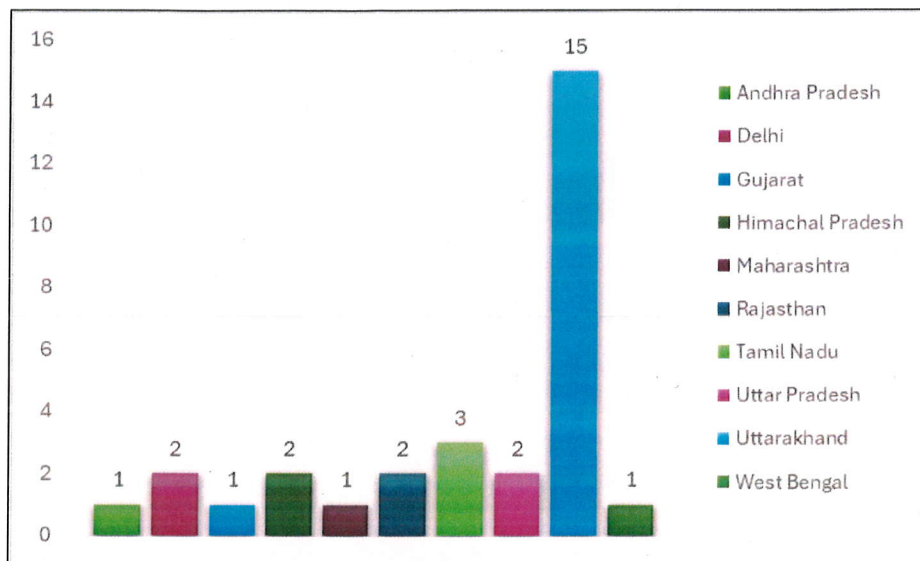
Date	Hours/Time	Session	Resource Person/Speakers
Day - 1 17.09.2025 (Wednesday)	09.45 -11.00	Inaugural Session: - Concept of Ecotourism and Emerging trends	Inaugural Address: Dr. Dhananjai Mohan, IFS (Retd.), Former PCCF & HoFF, (Uttarakhand), EV, AP
	11.00 -11.30	Tea Break & Group Photograph	
	11.30 -13.00	Infrastructure Planning, Marketing, Interpretation tools for Ecotourism	Shri D Manoj Kumar, Project Executive & Course Coordinator, KITTS, Kerala
	13.00 -14.00	Lunch Break	
	14.00 -15.30	Using lesser-known Fauna to Promote Community Conservation and Livelihoods	Shri Sanjay Sondhi, TITLI Trust, Dehradun
	15.30 -15.45	Tea Break	
	15.45 -17.15	Ecotourism and FC Act	Smt. Neelima Shah, IFS, AIG, Regional Office (MoEF&CC), Dehradun
	17.15 -17.45	Participant's Experience Sharing	Training Participants
Day-2 18.09.2025 (Thursday)	09.45 -13.30	Field Visit: Anand Van – Jhajra Forest Range, Dehradun	
	13.00 -14.30	Lunch Break	
	14.30-15.30	Interactive Session (Participants Presentation)- EV, AP	
	15.30-17.00	Ecotourism for Supporting Conservation and Local Livelihoods: Exploring Alternative Models	Dr. Sejal Worah, Co-founder, JNR, Mussoorie
Day-3 19.09.2025 (Friday)	09.45 -11.15	The Making of a Naturalist	Smt. Priya V, Founder- Director, The Naturalist School, Bengaluru
	11.15 -11.30	Tea Break	
	11.30 -13.00	Interactive Session (Participants' presentation)- EV, AP	
	13.00 -14.00	Lunch Break	
	14.00 -15.00	Conservation and Sustainable Development of Useful Medicinal Plants of India's Traditional Knowledge based Healing System	Vaidya Nirmal Awasthi, Director, PGVVF, Chhattisgarh
	15.00 -16.00	Valedictory Session	Valedictory Session: Shri E. Vikram, IFS, Principal, CASFOS, Dehradun; Amlendu Pathak, IFS, CD
	16.00 -16.15	Tea Break	
	16.15 -17.30	FRI Museum Visit (CASFOS Team)	

Overall Feedback of Resource Persons on all Parameters

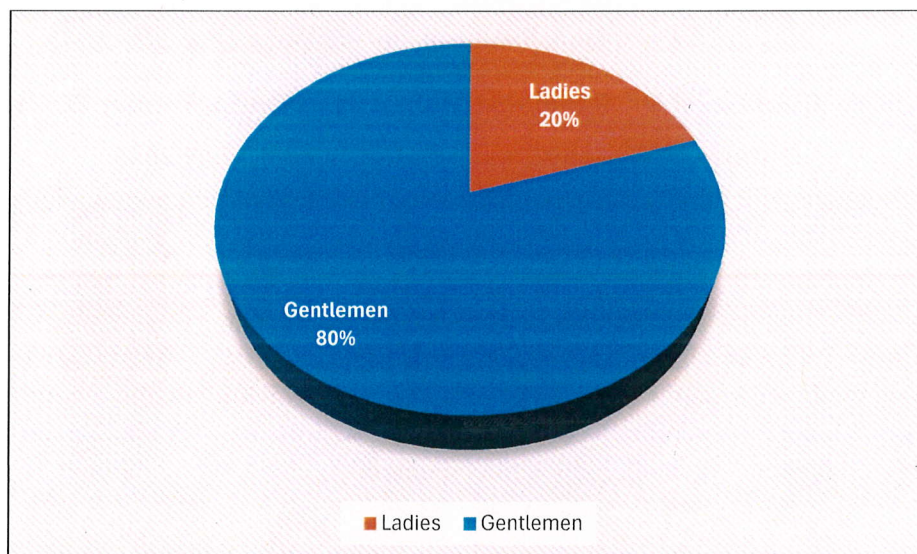




Parameter wise breakup of feedback of Resource Person



State-wise distribution of participants



Gender Profile

PHOTOGRAPHS OF TRAINING PROGRAMME (DAY-1)



**Welcome of the Chief Guest Dr. Dhananjai Mohan, IFS (Retd.), Former PCCF & HoFF,
(Uttarakhand) in the inaugural session on 17.09.2025**



**Brief Introduction of the Training Program by Mr. Amlendu Pathak, IFS, Lecturer, and Course
Director, CASFOS, Dehradun**

PHOTOGRAPHS OF TRAINING PROGRAMME (DAY-1)



Opening remarks by Mr. E. Vikram, IFS, Principal CASFOS, Dehradun

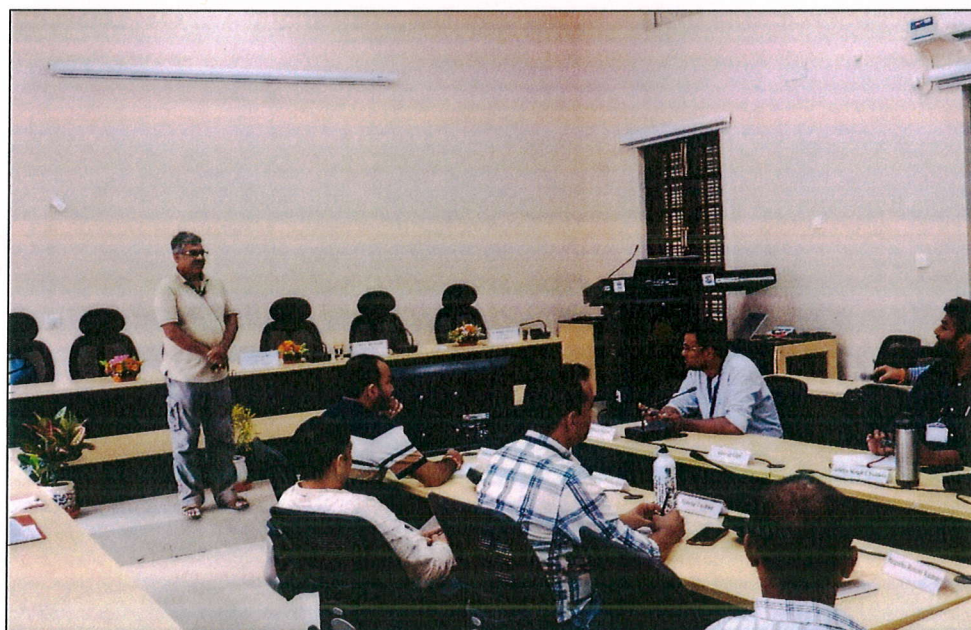


Address by Dr. Dhananjai Mohan, IFS (Retd.), Former PCCF & HoFF (UK)

PHOTOGRAPHS OF TRAINING PROGRAMME (DAY-1)



**Lecturer session by Shri D Manoj Kumar, Project Executive & Course Coordinator, KITTS,
Kerala**



Lecturer session by Shri Sanjay Sondhi, TITLI Trust, Dehradun

PHOTOGRAPH OF TRAINING PROGRAMME(DAY-1)



Lecturer session by Smt. Neelima Shah, IFS, AIG, Regional Office (MoEF & CC), Dehradun



Experience sharing sessions by participants

PHOTOGRAPHS OF TRAINING PROGRAMME (DAY-2)



Exposure visit to Anand Van – Jhajra Forest Range, Dehradun



Lecturer session by Dr. Sejal Worah, Co-founder, JNR, Mussoorie

PHOTOGRAPHS OF TRAINING PROGRAMME (DAY-3)



Lecturer session by Smt. Priya V, Founder- Director, The Naturalist School, Bengaluru



Lecturer session by Vaidya Nirmal Awasthi, Director, PGVVF, Chhattisgarh

PHOTOGRAPHS OF TRAINING PROGRAMME (DAY-3)



Certificate distribution to all participants by Mr. E. Vikram, IFS, Principal, CASFOS, Dehradun



- SITTING ROW**
(L TO R)
- : Mr D Manoj Kumar, Project Executive & Course Coordinator, KITTS, Kerala, Mrs Priya V, Founder-Director, The Naturalist School, Bengaluru, Mrs Abharna K.JM, IFS, Lecturer, CASFOS, Dehradun, Dr Dhananjai Mohan, IFS (Retd.), Former PCCF & HoFF, (Uttarakhand), Mr E Vikram, IFS, Principal (CASFOS), Dehradun, Dr Bhanudas Narayan Pingale, IFS, Lecturer, CASFOS, Dehradun, Mr Amlendu Pathak, IFS, Course Director (CASFOS), Dehradun, Mr Ankit Gupta, Scientist-C (CASFOS), Dehradun
- STANDING ROW 1**
(L TO R)
- : Mr Vijay Sharma, Mr Pritam Ayush, Mr Chandan Singh Kunwar, Mr Aditya Singh Chauhan, Mrs Poonam Singh, Mrs Priyanka Pandey, Dr V. Kirubhanandhini, Mr Yogesh Kumar Verma, Mrs Anukriti Goyal, Mr Himanshu Tiruwa, Mr Neeraj Vashist, Mr Chandra Shekhar Joshi, Ms Jasmine Salni, Ms Unnati Chaudhary, Mr Bugatha Rohini Kumar, Mr Niranjan Singh, Mr Vijendra Kumar, Mr Rakesh Kumar, Mr Vivek Rauthan
- STANDING ROW 2**
(L TO R)
- : Mr Bhuvaneshwaran P, Mr Keshur Vishal Bhal, Mr D. Keerthivasan, Mr Manohar Singh, Mr Arkraj Biswas, Mr Amit Shinde, Mr Divyam Negi, Mr Vijay Singh, Mr Rajeev Mehra, Mr Dibakar Mallick, Mr Trilok Narayan

Group Photograph