

Creation Care: Wildlife and Ecology

On 29th of July 2017, India Peace Centre organized Global Tiger Day as part of its Creation Care program. More than 500 students from different schools in Nagpur participated in an awareness building rally which started from High Court and ended at India Peace Centre. The key speakers who spoke on the occasion included Dr. T. S. Rawal, Ms. Sulabha Chakravarthy and Mr. Kasta Dip. It was communicated to the children that tiger is not just a charismatic species or just another wild animal living in some far away forest. It is a unique animal which plays a pivotal role in the health and diversity of an ecosystem. It is a top predator which is at the apex of the food chain and keeps the population of wild ungulates in check, thereby maintaining the balance between prey herbivores and the vegetation upon which they feed. Therefore, the presence of tigers in the forest is an indicator of the wellbeing of the ecosystem. The extinction of this top predator is an indication that its ecosystem is not sufficiently protected, and neither would it exist for long thereafter. If the tigers go extinct, the entire system would collapse. For e.g. when the Dodos went extinct in Mauritius, one species of Acacia tree stopped regenerating completely. So when a species goes extinct, it leaves behind a scar, which affects the entire ecosystem. Another reason why we need to save the tiger is that our forests are water catchment areas. Therefore, it's not just about saving a beautiful animal. It is about making sure that we live a little longer as the forests are known to provide ecological services like clean air, water, pollination, temperature regulation etc. The program was organized in partnership with Kids For Tigers, a programme of The Sanctuary Asia.



