



### **Report on Biodiversity Visual Storytelling Contest**

To enrich students' extracurricular experiences, the Photography Club of Department of Agriculture IIAST, Integral University, Lucknow, organized the Biodiversity Visual Storytelling Contest on 21 March 2025 in collaboration with Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board (UPSBB) and CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute (CSIR-NBRI) Lucknow. This innovative event encouraged students to explore the vast diversity of life through videography, blending scientific exploration with artistic expression. By capturing the intricate relationships within ecosystems, participants gained a deeper appreciation for biodiversity and its conservation. The contest also provided a platform for young minds to develop storytelling skills while raising awareness about environmental sustainability.

A total of 20 students participated, demonstrating remarkable skill and creativity in their video stories. Their entries were based on various themes, each offering a unique perspective on biodiversity and its significance. *Small World, Big Impact* highlighted nature's tiniest marvels, showcasing the role of microscopic organisms in ecosystems. *Living Together, Thriving Together* explored the intricate relationship between humans and wildlife, while *Beneath the Surface* unveiled the hidden wonders of aquatic environments. *Masters of the Sky* celebrated the elegance and ecological importance of avian species, whereas *On the Edge of Extinction* underscored the urgency of conservation by capturing the beauty and struggle of endangered flora and fauna. Additionally, *Harvesting Life* emphasized the vital role of agriculture in sustaining biodiversity and ecosystems. Through these thought-provoking narratives, students not only showcased their storytelling abilities but also deepened their understanding of ecological balance. The contest served as a platform to inspire young minds to advocate for environmental conservation through the power of visual storytelling.

The event was meticulously coordinated by Dr. Kalpana Bisht (faculty coordinator) along with Tamanna Jalil Khan and Shyerohi Dewan (student coordinators), ensuring a seamless experience for participants and attendees. The panel of judges, including Prof. Saba Siddiqui, Dr. Deepti Srivastava, and Dr. Suhail Ahmad, and Dr. Soumit K. Behera (CSIR-NBRI) assessed entries based on technical proficiency, composition, creativity, and adherence to the theme. Their expertise and keen evaluation ensured that each submission was judged fairly, recognizing both artistic innovation and scientific accuracy. The contest not only provided a competitive platform but also fostered a spirit of learning and appreciation for biodiversity conservation among students.

The competition concluded on an inspiring note, with Md. Abuzar Alam and Syed Abdul Ahad securing first place, while Shivam Singh and Zaid Ansari shared second place. The results were announced during the workshop on "Sustainable Solutions for Plant Diversity Conservation: Bridging Policies and Innovations," where the winners were also felicitated with their prizes. Their compelling visual narratives captivated the judges, seamlessly blending scientific exploration with artistic creativity to highlight the beauty and significance of biodiversity. The event not only celebrated innovation but also served as a platform to

inspire students to harness the power of visual media in promoting biodiversity awareness and conservation efforts. By integrating science with art, the competition encouraged young minds to become advocates for environmental sustainability through impactful storytelling.

The program concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks to Prof. (Dr.) Mohd. Haris Siddiqui, Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural Science and Technology, and Prof. Saba Siddiqui, Head of the Department of Agriculture at IAST, for their unwavering support and encouragement. Their invaluable guidance played a pivotal role in the success of the event, offering students a meaningful platform to explore their creativity and engage in interdisciplinary learning.

**Glimpses of the Program:**

