

## Report on activities of EBSB by GEC

### Introduction

As one of the purposes of conducting Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) Scheme was to disseminate information on different environment related thematic areas and generate awareness among the stakeholders by ENVIS Hubs and Resource Partners, Gujarat Ecology Commission prepared 5 knowledge products on the theme “Ecotourism” and shared with Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board, ENVIS Hub who is the EBSB partner state of GEC. The main element under this theme was the Environmental developments in and around the **Statue of Unity** and in **Kevadia Tourism Circuit**.

### Theme chosen by Gujarat Ecology Commission

The objective behind choosing the **Statue of Unity** as a part of EBSB scheme is that, the Statue stands for the overall unity in diversity present in India. The development of the Statue not only enhanced the tourism industry in India but also provided multiple livelihood opportunities for the local people. This also provides knowledge to the tourists regarding their surrounding environment and the ways to protect them. The establishments of Kevadia Tourism Circuit is one of the best examples of implementation of the concept of environmental integrity. All the knowledge products were designed in such a way that it gradually unfolds the environmental elements of the tourism circuit.

### Knowledge Products

The 1<sup>st</sup> part of the knowledge product is about the concept, history and the significance behind the development of the **Statue of Unity**. It was inaugurated by Hon’ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi on the occasion of 143<sup>rd</sup> Birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2018. This statue is a milestone in the history of Tourism industry. A small introduction regarding the environmental developments like Arogya Van, Butterfly garden, Cactus Garden, Ekta Nursery, Viswa Van, Valley of Flowers, ecotourism sites etc. are mentioned in the 1<sup>st</sup> part.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the knowledge product is about **Jungle Safari** developed as a part of the Kevadia Tourism Circuit. It is a unique initiative to promote eco-tourism, where flora, fauna and the physiographic characteristics would attract people. It is a treat for the wildlife lovers where exotic fauna representing various biomes across the world are seen. A zoo is formed in the hills of Vindhya. It has hosted 186 species of fauna from all over the world. 149 types of birds were hosted in the park.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> part of the knowledge product is about **Children Nutrition Park**, which is developed on the vision of nutrition based theme park. This park has been designed with the objective to make children aware of the nutritional values of food that they are consuming. Various interesting hi tech mechanism and visual illusions have been created to attract children and pass on the messages. Within the park 5 elements are executed like Palshakha Griham, Payo Nagari, Annapurna, Poshan Puram, Swastha Bharatam.

The 4<sup>th</sup> part of the knowledge product is about **Ekta Nursery** to promote eco-friendly practices and implement those practices in our everyday life. It is a perfect representation of

environmental unity and providing livelihood opportunities. More than one million plants are yielded in this nursery. These plants are for demonstration and sale. (Yet to publish)

The 5<sup>th</sup> and final part is on the development of Eco tourism in Khalvani and Zarvani where the undulating plain of hillocks, flow of waterfalls, bird sanctuary of Shoolpaneshwar, and various tourist activities like camping, bird watching, rope climbing etc. are promoted. (Yet to publish)

**EK BHARAT SURESHITHA BHARAT (ESB)**  
**A brief about the Statue of Unity**

As a symbol of Unity in an illustrious project of sculpture in India and an effort to integrate environment, livelihood and infrastructure through development of tourism which has received immense popularity in a global platform, Gujarat Ecology Commission (GEC) has chosen this as a part of the ENVIS program.

**1<sup>ST</sup> EDITION**

**About**  
The world's tallest statue with a height of 182 metres, Statue of Unity, is situated in Kevadia, on the bank of Narmada River. The statue is of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the 'Iron Man of India' and the first Home Minister of India. The statue faces the Sardar Sarovar Dam and it was inaugurated by the then Narendra Modi, the then Prime Minister of India. It is inaugurated by Mr. Narendra Modi on the occasion of 149<sup>th</sup> Birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2018. The statue has been chosen to be a major milestone to showcase India's diversity and also as it emerged as a significant tourist spot of international importance which attracted more tourists than that of the Statue of Liberty.

**History**  
The Statue of Unity is a symbol of pride which represents Unity in India. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel fought for independence and unity. During British era his successful leadership brought 562 princely states of India united to form the single Union of India. With this objective to show the world the ideal symbol of unity the proposal to build the statue was first introduced in 2010 by the Prime Minister of India and the construction started in October, 2013.

**Environmental elements**  
Many unique environmental concepts have been introduced in the designing of the area of Kevadia and the Statue of Unity. Every element has educational value. Some of them are as follows:  
1. **Aditya Van** is a herbal garden where different medicinal plants have been planted covering 17 acres of land. The objective behind establishing Aditya Van is to generate awareness regarding the importance of medicinal plants as this has been an age-old practice in India. Aushadhi Manrus is the specialty of this garden.  
2. **Butterfly garden** has been developed in a way that the innumerable flowers can attract butterflies and give them an ecosystem to live and sustain.  
3. **Cactus Garden** is a symbol of desert ecosystem where exhibition of different varieties of cacti and succulents have been shown to spread knowledge and awareness regarding cacti species.  
4. **Ekta nursery** has been established to promote eco-friendly practices. Promotion of bamboo craft, organic leaf utensils, organic pots etc. has both economic value and is capable of economy generation of the local residents.  
5. **Vishwa Van** is a symbol of unity in biodiversity where plants, herbs and shrubs from 7 continents are grown and exhibited. Various herbs of farm represents organic cultivation.  
6. **Valley of flowers** is an arrangement of various species of trees, herbs, shrubs, flowers, creepers etc. extending in an area of 21 acres. 22,00,000 plants of different variety and colour of flowers have been one of the main attractions of the place.  
7. **Khalvani Ecotourism** site is developed to showcase eco system conservation and promotion of nature based tourism development. It includes stay on the bank of river Narmada and species conservation attributes.  
For further details please visit [www.ektauniversity.in](http://www.ektauniversity.in)

*Note: Every part of the series will be published on different themes based on the environmental efforts in the State of Gujarat.*

**EK BHARAT SURESHITHA BHARAT (ESB)**  
**Jungle Safari**

It is an incredible effort to promote eco tourism in a place. Jungle safari near the Statue of Unity is one of the most enthralling experiences for the nature and wild life lover. The safari was inaugurated by then Prime Minister of India Mr. Narendra Modi on 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2020. The safari extends of an area of 375 acres where various indigenous and exotic fauna from different biogeographic regions of the world are seen. The zoo is built up in the parts of Vishva Hill, so while enjoying the diversity of the zoo the physiographic characteristics of the area will also enhance the enjoyment of the trip.

**2<sup>ND</sup> EDITION**

**About**  
The development of the statue of Unity has unfolded various sides of environment. The Jungle Safari is an extraordinary effort to promote eco tourism in a place. Jungle safari near the Statue of Unity is one of the most enthralling experiences for the nature and wild life lover. The safari was inaugurated by then Prime Minister of India Mr. Narendra Modi on 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2020. The safari extends of an area of 375 acres where various indigenous and exotic fauna from different biogeographic regions of the world are seen. The zoo is built up in the parts of Vishva Hill, so while enjoying the diversity of the zoo the physiographic characteristics of the area will also enhance the enjoyment of the trip.

**Details**  
A Jungle safari makes people attach to the environment and natural habitat. It helps the tourists to understand and respect the flora and fauna of the surroundings. The safari extends from an elevation of 20 metres to 180 metres. More than 100 species from zones of Australia, Africa, Asia and America can be found here. Various endangered species of India like Royal Bengal Tiger, Asiatic Lion, leopard etc. are there in the zoo.

The adventure journey involves watching the animals in the open environment, tour in the jungle, walk through Avary etc. Avary is one of the largest genetic domes in India. The setting in the landscaping has made the safari even more beautiful and adventurous.

The Jungle Safari provides immense knowledge regarding ecosystem as well as different biomes of earth. It has hosted 18 species of fauna from all over the world. 148 types of birds were hosted in the park. Bird watching of Red Jungle Fowl, Partridge, parrot, peacock through night Avary, experiencing exotic birds like Phalarope, Macaw, Black Swan, Grey parrot etc. and seeing wild animals like Tiger, leopard, spotted deer, sambar deer, Blue Bull etc. and natural preservation of species like Giraffe, Zebra, Oryx etc. are different parts of the world are highlights of this place.

**Importance**  
• The jungle safari has a recreational value as well as it has immense capacity to educate the tourists regarding green tourism.  
• The greenery of ecosystem with a combination of vegetation, forest walk, and night viewing enhances the interest of enjoyment and learning.  
• It has hosted exotic animals and birds. So, it is a virtual treat for the wildlife lovers.  
• It enables every tourist to respect and understand the environment. It is the best way to reveal the various parts of natural ecosystem which represents various ecosystem of different countries.

**Becoming ecotourism**  
• Children's nutrition park  
• Ekta nursery  
• Eco tourism

For further details please visit [www.ektauniversity.in](http://www.ektauniversity.in)

**EK BHARAT SURESHITHA BHARAT (ESB)**  
**Children's Nutrition Park**

As a part of Ekta India Integrated Development the Children's Nutrition Park was developed to promote healthy diet of children. As children are the future of the nation it is required to make them aware of the nutritional elements of their food intake. It is not just a message for children, rather it is a message for the whole society and its resources.

**3<sup>RD</sup> EDITION**

**About**  
The nutrition park was inaugurated by then Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi on 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2020. The Children's Nutrition Park is an amazing vision of nutrition based theme park which focuses on healthy eating and nutritional benefits of fruits, vegetables, grains and dairy products. Based on the objective of 'SAAR PICHHAN OPAK ROZHAR' this theme park has been developed with hi-tech mechanism, and elements of entertainment to please and spread the knowledge of healthy diet and quality nutrition of the children.

**Details**  
The nutrition park is a well thought effort to promote healthy eating especially for children and their parents. The most exciting element of this park is the nutrition train which carries 400 metres passing through various stations representing various phases of preparation and importance of food through depicting of vibrant characters, conversations with them, light and sound show of a fantasy farm etc.  
Faislaabai delivers it is the 1<sup>st</sup> station which represents the efforts of a farmer while sowing and phases of farming together with the importance of green vegetables as immunity booster which most children avoid to have.  
PapaNigga is the station where the children gets to learn about the importance of milk in their diet through various games like 'Feed the cow', 'Coo stand out!', 'Cham the butler', 'Milk story in a piggy bank' etc. and virtual conversations with a technically developed character.  
Annapurna At the name rightly suggests a virtual mother through an informative song narrates the importance of home cooked food for healthy future of the children. There are various digital games like 'Space it right', 'Place it right', 'Get played to develop the interest of the children to tell the children regarding rice, porridge etc.  
Fusion Farmer In this station a virtual girl named 'Shanti' representing energy of children states the significance of having nuts and water which are two important requirement of body.  
Anusara Anusara story telling regarding rules, hydration are parts of this station.  
Santosh Bhattacharya This is the final station that states the utility and importance of physical exercises and yoga. Promoting the knowledge of teacher-student relation in Indian sports it displays the age-old tradition of games and its effect on body. There are various virtual games like tennis, cricket, ice hockey etc. to satisfy the inquisitive mind and energetic body of the children.  
For further details please visit [www.ektauniversity.in](http://www.ektauniversity.in)

**Importance**  
• It is an exceptional effort to promote environment, tourism and educate and generate awareness among children regarding the details of the food that they have. It proves the healthy eating is health in the most entertaining way.  
• India has always given importance in various forms of physical exercises and this was a new way to promote the same for children.

**Becoming ecotourism**  
• Ekta Nursery  
• Ecotourism

**EK BHARAT SURESHITHA BHARAT (ESB)**  
**Ekta Nursery**

Ekta Nursery is an effort to promote unity in various manners through an unique representation of diverse plant species of different parts of the country by giving importance in both equipments of environment and sense of satisfaction within India.

**4<sup>TH</sup> EDITION**

**About**  
To promote eco friendly practices, Ekta Nursery has been developed which is a symbol of unity together with environmental sustenance and livelihood opportunities. More than one million plants are yielded in this nursery. These plants are for demonstration and sale. The nursery is situated in the foothills of Vishva hill and Satpuda ranges along the Narmada river.

**Details**  
The nursery is a collection of various plant species that signifies unity in the environment. The central part of the nursery represents the local tribal ethnicity and their culture which includes tribal huts, artifacts etc. The commercialization of the equipment and artifacts are another attraction of the area and they are well presented in the covert shops run by Gujarat Forest Development Corporation and Cottage & Rural Industries Department.  
A different section named 'Ekta Artifacts' has been introduced in this nursery which represents bamboo craft, organic leaf utensils, organic pots etc. They all are eco friendly and bio degradable. The tourists can participate in the making of these artifacts. They are open for sell as the purpose of this section is to promote the use of eco friendly products in our day to day life. In recent time plastic products have created a bigger market with larger profit margin, but the ecosystem loss due to this one particular reason is immense and unavoidable. To reduce such practice this kind of effort should be initiated so that the environment can be protected for present and for future. Another remarkable effort of Ekta Nursery is the basket making training and display of them. Here miniature of basket and the growth of them are shown and taught.  
Another section of Ekta Nursery has been allotted for the representation of various technology of farming. The need of water resistant crops, soil less farming etc. are displayed in this section. Other than that the importance of honey bees in the ecosystem and for providing livelihood opportunities are also presented beautifully.

**Importance**  
• At the time of consumption and market for plastic products this nursery spread the message of ecosystem restoration through the use of the biodegradable products in every day life.  
• The unity in the diversity within just a specific area where tribal and non tribal people live in harmony are well presented through art.  
• The unity in overall India but also people will learn to respect each other's cultural traits and livelihoods.

**Becoming ecotourism**  
• Ecotourism

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**EK BHARAT SURESHITHA BHARAT (ESB)**  
**Eco Tourism**

Ecotourism in Kevadia involves responsible travel to natural areas, conserving the environment and enjoying the best of of the environment, local people and the tourists.

**5<sup>TH</sup> EDITION**

**About**  
One of the most interesting and exciting initiative in the 17 projects of Kevadia Tourism Circuit is the development of two ecotourism spots. Bhawani and Zarvani eco tourism spots. An area surrounded by hills and hillocks, covered by deciduous forest, sound of the flowing river water of Narmada is an ideal space for eco tourism where the tourists can actually get involved with the mother nature.

**Details**  
Bhawani forest spot located near dyke 4 near the bank of a perennial river, is covered by hills and hillocks and deciduous forest. Here the physiography of undulating surface and flow of Narmada helps in camping and hiking by the tourists. It is near to the Shoolpaneshwar Sanctuary which is a great attraction for the eco friendly tourists. Activities like bird watching, experiencing colour of butterflies, walking along the forest trail by enjoying various species of flora and fauna, cycling in the forest tracks are some effective elements which promoted eco tourism in this place.  
Zarvani forest spot offers the beauty of waterfalls, adventure park, various species of flora and fauna. It is a beautiful place to visit. The Zarvani waterfall is situated in the Satpuda range. The tourist footfall is maximum during monsoon here. The village of Zarvani near Narmada dam is also a famous tourist place. It is also a part of Shoolpaneshwar Wildlife Sanctuary. Adventure park provides some interesting activities like rope activities, foot print, hanging hedge, board, walking, zip lining, free jump from a 50 feet height tower etc.  
These spots not only promotes tourism but also provides environmental education to the tourists and plant preservation are given so that the tourists get inspired to do plantation in their own houses, training in seed ball making, conducting nature education camps are some of the initiatives that make this spots special.

**Importance**  
• Ecotourism has immense educational value. It teaches the tourist to be a responsible tourist and enable them to make positive contribution for nature.  
• The spot is developed in such a way that it provides financial benefits to the local people for conservation of nature, promote local heritage, culture and various types of flora and fauna.  
• Ecotourism is also a way to preserve nature in the most exciting way.

**Becoming ecotourism**  
• Ecotourism

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Photo 1 Knowledge products

The knowledge products are shared with the Chhattisgarh ENVIS hub and with all the ENVIS centres.

## Environmental Quiz

An environmental quiz was conducted on 28th June, 2021 using online platform. The questionnaires were jointly developed by Chhattisgarh ENVIS Hub and GEC, ENVIS Hub and

they were distributed among students. The site was open till 24 hours. 124 responses were recorded for the quiz.

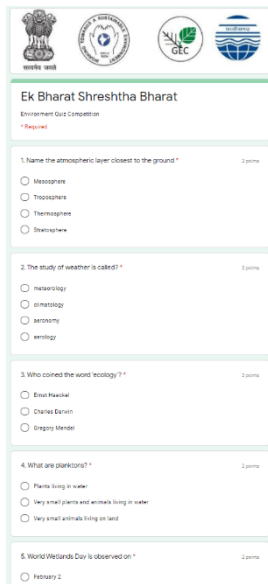


Photo 1 Quiz Competition

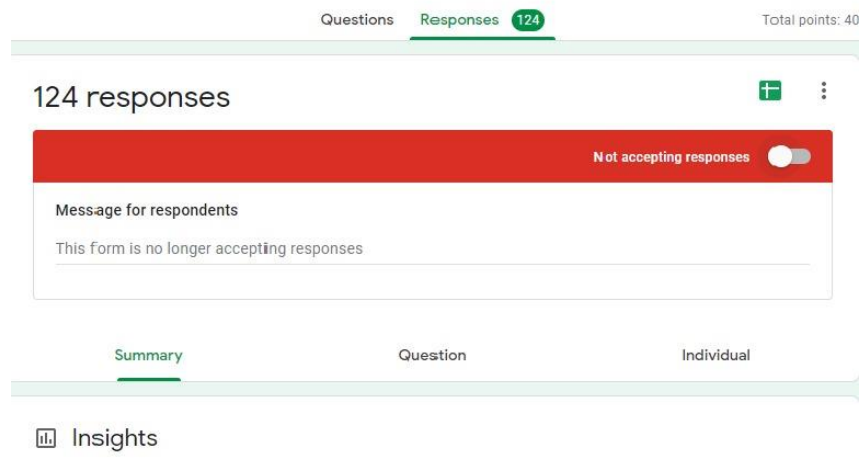


Photo 2 Participants in Quiz competition

## Webinar

Gujarat Ecology Commission together with Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board had organised a webinar on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2021. Two topics were chosen from both the ENVIS hubs. Gujarat Ecology Commission chose the topic of “Environmental elements around the Statue of Unity and in Kevadia Area Development Authority” and Chhattisgarh on “Ecological Restoration”. It was a very insightful event.

A detail presentation was given by Mr. Nischal Joshi, Sr. Manager (Projects) and the ENVIS Coordinator, GEC who has worked on various environmental elements developed in Kevadia. He shared his experiences and environmental facts related to it. This well thought and perfectly implemented tourism circuit is an excellent example to conserve environment and involve and educate people. The components like zero discharge, providing livelihood opportunities to the local people without exploiting environment, educating the tourists on environmental balance and making them responsible, spreading awareness regarding ecosystem conservation were discussed in the presentation through the examples of Arogya Van, Children Nutrition Park, Eco-tourism etc. By the end of the presentation a video was also shown on Children Nutrition Park prepared by GEC which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

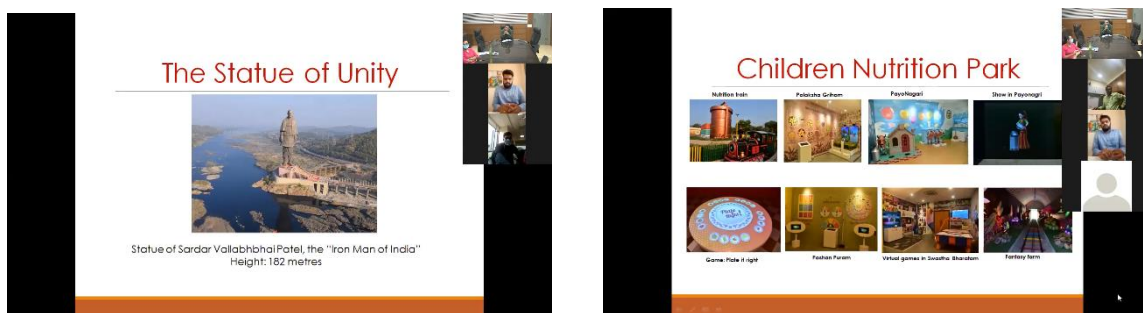


Photo 3 Presentation by GEC

The second half of the webinar was hosted by Chhattisgarh ENVIS hub where they have invited the members of Team Nature Bodies Ecoclub who has been awarded as one of the best eco-clubs in India by Ministry of Environment and Forest. The coordinator of the eco club Mr. Panu Halder spoke about the activities they have been doing and taught the practical ways to conserve the ecosystem by providing individual effort. They have also developed an application named ‘Captain Cool’ to make people aware of climate literacy. The amount of carbon emission just by using Mobile phone every day can be calculated through the application. Two members of the same ecoclub, Ms. Himangi Halder and Ms. Poonam Singh, students of Bharat Mata English Medium School, Bilaspur gave a detail presentation on biological removal of Water Hyacinth and Seed Ball Initiative. In their discussion they have included the negative impact of chemical and mechanical process to control Water Hyacinth, as a result biological process should be the only sustainable option. Moreover, they have also included the process of making seed ball for plantation. Plantation in Bilaspur through their effort is commendable.

There were around 15 participants including government employees, students and eco club members. The discussion was very interesting and insightful.

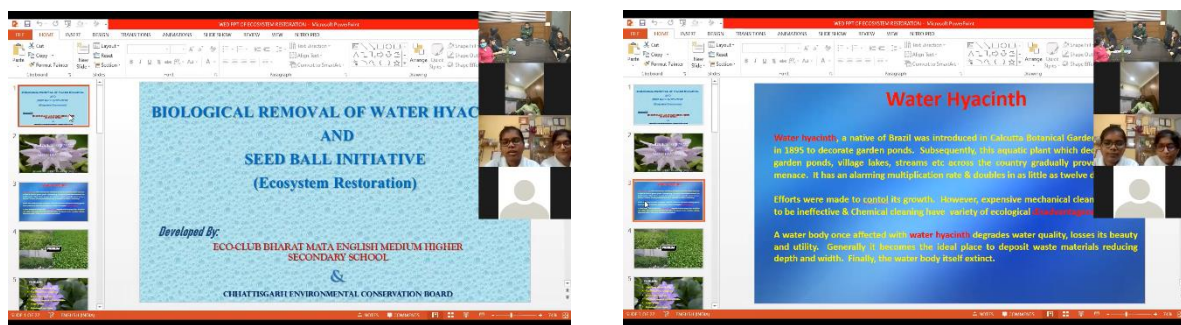


Photo 4 Presentation by Eco club