

International Fossil Day 2021

Palaeontological Society of India, Lucknow.

The Palaeontological Society of India (PSI), Lucknow, a Corporate Member of the International Palaeontological Association (IPA) **initiated organising the International Fossil Day (IFD) in India since 2016 on October 16**. Since 2018, some universities and scientific institutions also joined in organising the IFD in India in October. From 2019, several **Student Chapters of the PSI in various universities** in India are celebrating IFD by organising lectures, Poster presentations, Quiz programmes, field visits, etc. involving even pre-University students. During 2020 and 2021 IFD was celebrated by organising **Online activities**, lectures, etc.

In **2021**, the IFD was celebrated (**online**) by a number of Student Chapters of the PSI in October, 2021 which had very good participation by pre University and University students, research scholars and geoscientists. Prof. M. P Singh, President, Dr. Sudhir Shukla, Vice President & Dr. V. P. Mishra, Secretary of P.S.I. while attending the deliberations briefly introduced about the 'International Fossil Day' to the participants.

PSI Student Chapter, North Zone, Department of Geology, University of Delhi organised Technical Seminar from **8th to 13th October, 2021**. 4 scientific talks were delivered by Prof. Michael Benton, Prof. Ashok Sahni, Prof. Nigel Hughes and Dr. Devapriya Chattopadhyay on Dinosaurs, Fossils in amber, Himalayan fossils and marine microfossils. In addition, photography, poster and quiz competitions, movie screening, short presentations and group discussions related to various aspects of fossils were also organised .

A National webinar was organised (under the aegis of P.S.I.) by **Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, Deccan College, Pune & Dr. Hari Singh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar** on **18th October, 2021**. Prof. P. K. Saraswati, Prof. Sunil Bajpai and Dr. Vidyadhar Borkar delivered talks on microfossils, vertebrate palaeontology and on deciphering code language of fossils. Students also participated in quiz programmes on fossils.

Nagpur Student's Chapter of the P.S.I. in association with **Gondwaa Geological Society & Alumni Association of Dept. of Geology, RTM Nagpur University** organised a webinar , ' Fossils: Preserving the past for our future' on **19th October, 2021**. Dr. Rajiv Nigam, Prof. N. Malarkodi & Dr. Gaurav Srivastava delivered talks on Foraminifera, Mass Extinction and plant fossils. Dr. Vandana Prasad also addressed the participants.

Department of Geology, University of Madras & P.S.I. organised special lectures by Dr. C. N. Ravindran, Dr. D. M. Mohabey, Ms Aswatha Biju & Dr. R. Nagendra on

Fossil parks, dinosaurs, Fossil collections and Fossil architecture on **20th October, 2021**.

Department of Geology, Panjab University, Chandigarh & P.S.I. organised webinar on **21st October, 2021** and talks were delivered by Prof. C.C. Gilbert and Dr. Biren A. Patel on Miocene Apes and palaeoanthropology (with 3D virtual methods).

Department of Geology, Central University of Punjab, Bathinda & P.S.I. organised a special lecture on **21st October, 2021** by Prof. P. K. Kathal on microfossils & fossiliferous sites of Madhya Pradesh.

P.S.I. (Uttarakhand Chapter) & Geoheritage Chapter (Uttarakhand) organised webinar on **22nd October, 2021**. Prof. P. K. Kathal, Prof. A.K.Biyani, Prof. G. K. Sharma, Dr. S. K. Parcha, Mr. R. S. Negi and Ms Annie Needham presented talks on various aspects of fossils and their applications.

Pune-Mumbai Student's Chapter of P.S.I. in collaboration with **Savitribai Phule Pune University** organised talks on 'Preservation of fossil sites and popularisation of Palaeontology' on **23rd October, 2021**. Dr. Ajit Vartak, Dr. V. P. Mishra and Dr. D. M. Mohabey delivered talks on Fossils through Philately, Siwalik Fossil Park and Rahioli Dinosaur fossil site. Researchers Dr. Shweta Gurav, Dr. Amruta Paranjape & Mr. Suraj Bhosle presented the status of fossiliferous outcrops in Kachchh, South Indian Cretaceous and Spiti Himalaya. A young fossil enthusiast, Ms Aswatha Biju presented her journey with fossils.

Several other organisations / universities in India (independent of collaboration with P.S.I.) also celebrated International Fossil day 2021. Noteworthy among these are the celebrations by **Geological Survey of India, Kolkata** on **7th October, 2021** and **M.C.B. University, Chhatarpur, Govt. J.S.T. P. G. College, Balaghat & Govt. Model College, Dindori (M.P.)** on **21 and 22 October, 2021** by organising several lectures and visit to fossil galleries / labs.



