

Uttarakhand Sustainable Development Festival

Uttarakhand Sustainable Development Festival 2018 was held from the 21st - 25th February at Champawat Uttarakhand. An initiative on Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals under



the Department of State Planning, Government of Uttarakhand, hosted by International Centre for Sustainable Development, The Dais, District Administration, Champawat, District Administration, Tehri Garhwal in partnership with UNDP India and NITI Aayog, UKSDF was envisioned with the following objectives -

1. To spread awareness and exposure on Sustainable Development Goals with the people of Champawat and the district officials.
2. To create a platform for the government officials to engage with community based organisations, youth, international experts and academicians for discussion on local solutions and best practices in achievement of SDGs in the district.
3. To invite external stakeholders to Champawat to collaborate with the administration and the local civil society organisations to initiate ground level interventions.
4. To promote the tourism and local products as a prospective revenue earning opportunity for the people of Champawat.
5. To create an opportunity for interdepartmental collaboration and exposure of district officials to work with external stakeholders.



Officials of District Administration, Champawat with international youth civil society leaders at the unveiling of the SDG Wall.

Events and Activities in the Festival

- 1. Inauguration of champawat.org, by Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Textiles, Government of India, Shri Ajay Tamta Ji**
21st February 2018



A joint initiative of The Dais and District Administration, Champawat, www.champawat.org focused on three main fields for the development of Champawat, namely Tourism, NGOs and its local products. These fields were chosen because they showed a lot of promise for the maturation of the district. The untouched, practically pious land makes it one of the rawest, most beautiful tourist spots in India, making it a dominant economical aid. NGOs have been doing splendid work which will go a long way in the evolution of this place and only need a little guidance and aid to achieve their goals. The specialities of Champawat like the Red Rice remains unknown to almost an entire country due to lack of connectivity and communication. This website planned on erasing these problems and creating a more efficient route to integration of Champawat in the growing Indian economy.



- 2. Field Visit to Room to Read Classrooms, Tea Trails at the Tea Gardens of the Uttarakhand Tea Board in Champawat.**

22nd February 2018

120 participants from across 20 countries and across various states from India were divided into two groups. The participants visited government school classrooms being run by Room to Read, India to understand and gather context on SDG 4, Quality Education in hill states.

The second group of 60 participants were introduced to the beautiful tea gardens in Champawat and were taken on a tea trail by the officials of the Uttarakhand Tea Board. This was followed by a visit to the tea nursery and tea tasting.

3. Technical Sessions and SDG Innovation Showcase

Participating Organisations	Theme
Salam Centre for Peace	Women and Youth Empowerment
Gentlewasher	Sustainable Living, Saving Water
Rooms to Read	Access to Quality Education
Youth For Peace International	Peace and Youth
Himalayan Vikas Samiti, Champawat	Solar Energy, Agriculture
Mrs Rupa Khanna Malhotra, Professor at Graphic Era University, Dehradun	Digital India
Uttarakhand Tea Board	Tea and Agriculture
Mr. Abhishek Pathak, Professor at Uttaranchal University, Dehradun	Digital Governance
Global Sustainability Initiative	Role of Media and SDGs
Environics Trust	Water Conservation
Teach for Green	Climate Education
Goonj	Waste Management
Alaap Foundation	Forest Regeneration
Himalayan Blooms	Entrepreneurship in Himayalayas
OP Jindal Global University, Haryana	Role of Youth and Education
Asoka University, Haryana	Youth Leadership

Keynote address and Interaction with Dr. Kenneth Holland, President of American University of Afghanistan (AUAF), Kabul set the tone for an intense academic and innovative dialogue through the undermentioned technical sessions.

Showcasing of innovations for SDGs, for instance - Litre for Lights for making solar lamps through reuse and recycle of plastic bottles, Washing Machine designed by Gentlewasher which operates without electricity and also uses less water. Cultural Session with Kaafiya, an organisation working on poetry and culture with youth around the country.



4. Awareness Initiatives with people of Champawat

- Unveiling of Champawat SDG Wall at Goural Chod Maidan in Champawat
- Launch of the SDG Balloon
- Outreach Sessions on SDGs with private and government schools around Champawat



5. Promotion of Tourism and Local Products in Champawat

The festival in partnership with Kerry Adventures, a Delhi based tourism management organisation and the District Tourism Department and District Disaster Management Authority, provided camping experiences at popular camping locations in Champawat, namely Hingla Mata Temple and near the Gowdi Camp sight. Haat for Local products from Champawat was set up where more than 15 NGOs and government bodies showcased and sold local products such as honey, tea, metal craft, handi craft, local fishery demonstration etc.



Impact

With a participation of over 300 international and national participants, and over 2000 students from schools across Champawat, besides District Administration Officials and more than 20 civil society organisations and a digital outreach of over 1 lac people, UKS-DF emerged as a unique initiative for awareness generation, dialogue and exchange of ideas and collaboration on SDGs.

Several economic opportunities in form of tourism promotion, digital branding of the district, sale of local commodities and coverage in the national and digital media arose out of the festival.

District officials from different departments also saw capacity building through experiential learning on external stakeholder engagement and civil society members.