



XXIII INTERNATIONAL



Grassland Congress

November 20 - 24, 2015

New Delhi, India



First Announcement



Grassland

Grasslands and rangelands cover approximately 33.5% of earth's land area. They have a great impact on climate change, environmental security, livestock rearing, biodiversity conservation, wildlife conservation and subsistence of large populations in developing and underdeveloped countries. Although the earth was first dominated by grasslands and rangelands, its present condition is reaching an alarming state in many parts of the world caused by increased human needs and unscientific planning for growth.. This needs global attention because intervention on these global resources will have impacts across the political boundaries of the nations.

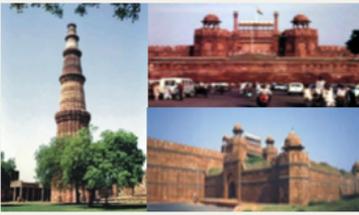
The Indian subcontinent has mainly five types of grass covers:

- *Sehima-Dichanthium* spreads in peninsular India (dry sub-humid zone) and includes 24 perennial grass, 129 herbaceous and 56 legume species.
- *Dichanthium-Cenchrus-Lasiurus* covers the semi-arid region and extends to the northern portion of Gujarat, Rajasthan, western Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Punjab. It is comprised of 11 grass and 45 low growing herb species.
- *Phragmatis-Saccharum-Imperata* spreads in the moist sub-humid zone of Ganga alluvial plain in northern India and is comprised 19 grass and 56 herb species.
- *Themeda-Arundinella* cover extends to humid mountainous regions and moist sub-humid areas of Assam, Manipur, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu and Kashmir.
- Temperate alpine type cover high hills of Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal and North-eastern regions. It essentially occurs at higher elevation, beyond timberline, approximately above 3,000 m in the west and above 2,000 m in the east.

New Delhi in Brief

Located on the bank of the Yamuna River, New Delhi is situated within the metropolis of Delhi and is one of the districts of Delhi National Capital Territory. New Delhi is known as the microcosm of India and is one of the world's leading cities, with strengths in the arts, commerce, education, entertainment, fashion, healthcare, professional services, research and development and tourism all contributing to its prominence. The city is known for its historical monuments and world class facilities. It became the capital of a Muslim empire in India under Qutubuddin Aybak, builder of the Qutb Minar, in 1193. Sir Edwin Landseer Lutyens planned New Delhi and designed the majestic Rashtrapati Bhawan (President House, formerly the palace of the viceroy) as well as the parliament and other important government buildings. The architecture of these buildings is mainly European, with details of indigenous Indian styles. Some of the important places in the city are Ashoka Pillar, Qutub Minar, Rastrapati Bhavan, India Gate, National zoological park and Akshardham Temple. Within 250 km of New Delhi, one can find the Taj Mahal, Mughal city Fatehpur Sikri, Agra Fort and Dayalbag Temple.

During November, the weather at New Delhi is moderately cold. However, One can conveniently enjoy visiting places of tourist interest. The average maximum and minimum temperature during November (second fortnight) remain 29.6°C and 11.5°C respectively with relative humidity as 85% in morning and 33% in evening. The rainfall is generally not expected during the period.



Red Fort, New Delhi: Delhi's Red Fort, completed in 1648, once served as the imperial palace of India's Mughal emperors. The outer walls, seen here, are made of red sandstone.

Hawa Mahal, is a palace in Jaipur, India. It was built in 1798 by Maharaja Sawai Pratap Singh, and designed by Lal Chand Ustad in the form of the crown of Krishna, the Hindu god.



Akshardham temple: Akshardham means the eternal, divine abode of the supreme God, the abode of eternal values and virtues of Akshar as defined in the Vedas and Upanishads where divine bhakti, purity and peace forever pervades. Swaminarayan Akshardham in New Delhi epitomises 10,000 years of Indian culture in all its breathtaking grandeur, beauty, wisdom and bliss. It brilliantly showcases the essence of India's ancient architecture, traditions and timeless spiritual messages. It was built through the blessings of HDH Pramukh Swami Maharaj of the Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS) and the colossal devotional efforts of 11,000 artisans and BAPS volunteers.



Main Theme

"Sustainable use of grassland resources for forage production, biodiversity and environmental protection"

Programme

The International Grassland Congress will be held from November 20 to 24, 2015 with one-day mid-congress tour. The presentation will focus on the following themes following themes:

- Dynamics of grassland resources - global databases and monitoring
- Multifunctional grasslands in a changing world
- Quality harvesting from grasslands, conservation and utilization
- Integrated Plant Protection for optimizing production of healthy forages
- Soil-plant-animal-human interrelationships
- Crop, forage and forest systems
- Alternate land management systems
- Water harvesting to increase grassland production
- Factors affecting grassland resources - Social/cultural/policy issues
- Sustainable use of grassland resources
- Policy issues for utilization, management, protection and sustainable production
- Public-private partnerships for utilization of common property resources
- Biodiversity conservation and genetic improvement of forage species
- Climate change and global concerns for grassland management
- Interdependence of grasslands vis-a-vis arable lands.

Tourist Attraction



Taj Mahal : In the recent survey it is designated as first among seven wonders of world Taj Mahal on the southern bank of the Yamuna (Jumna) River in Agra is distinguished as the finest example of Mughalarchitecture, a blending of Indian, Persian, and Islamic styles. One of the most beautiful structural compositions in the world, the Taj was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1983.



Beautiful alpine Meadows with the highest Golf course in the world on Himalayas, sight seeing around Mughal gardens, Chasme sahi, Nishat Bag and Shalimar gardens.



Deserts of Jaisalmer and fort and palaces of Jodhpur besides the visit to degraded rangelands around Rajasthan.

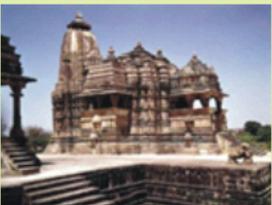


Meenakshi Temple : The Meenakshi temple complex in Madurai, India, was built

Delhi-Patana-Nalanda-Rajgir-Boudhgaya-Varansai-Kushinagar-Lumbini-Lucknow-Delhi : visit all importtat places of Buddha religion.



Stupa, Sanchi : The dome-shaped mound known as a stupa is the principal form of early Buddhist monuments. The stupa, which is an object of veneration, is based on the eight mounds under which the body of Buddha was buried. The finest surviving example is the Great Stupa at Sanchi in the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh. It was built between the 3rd century bc and the 1st century bc.



Temple of Devi Jogadanta, Khajuraho: The temple of Devi Jogadanta in Khajuraho, India, exemplifies a style of architecture that flourished in north central India from the 10th to the 13th century. The features of the style include a longitudinal layout, rich sculptural decoration on both interior and exterior walls, and a central spire surrounded by clusters of secondary spires. Because of its remote location, the temple complex in Khajuraho is better preserved than most Indian archaeological sites of comparable antiquity.

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

All delegates and registered accompanying persons are invited to attend the Welcome Banquet, cultural programmes, India Heritage Mela (festival) and Congress Banquet. India has an ancient and diverse cultural heritage. New Delhi is a famous historical city; efforts are being made to present a glimpse of India at one place. For accompanying persons there will be a number of one-day tours organized professionally with pickup and drop-off facility from their place of stay. Numerous sightseeing places around New Delhi will keep the accompanying persons busy.

PRE-CONGRESS WORKSHOP

We plan to have a one-day Pre-congress workshop on November 19, 2015. Participants will have an opportunity to discuss specific issue in smaller groups.

FUTURE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Updated information will be available on our website. The Second and final announcements will be posted on the website as well as sent to individuals through e-mail. Organizations may request hard copies.



Invitation

The Indian Organizing committee of IGC 2015 and the people of India invite you to join us in New Delhi from November 20 to 24, 2015. The programme sessions of the Congress will cover diverse aspects of grasslands. The Indian subcontinent is known for its grassland and rangeland resources. For generations, Indians have relied on grazing for subsistence. In the past, this was a respectable livelihood. Lord Krishna used to herd hundreds of cows to graze the field of India. The diversified climate of the subcontinent supports at least 15 types of native woodlands. Many forests were destroyed for the purpose of agriculture and natural grazing lands linked to anthropogenic factors. The Congress planned to involve a wide range of experts with vast research experience on grasslands. After deliberation they will formulate concrete recommendations on the uses of grassland and forage resources to meet the increasing demand for livestock products and the challenges linked to climate change. We are sure, the beautiful landscapes of India together with its rich cultural heritage and historical / religious places of all communities will attract you to New Delhi.

Contact Information

For any query and general information,
please contact

Secretariat IGC 2015

igfri.director@gmail.com

Ph +91 510 2730666

FAX +91 510 2730833

Website: www.igc2015.in, www.igfri.res.in