

Director General of Forest Survey of India Embarks on an Official Visit to Overa-Aru Wildlife Sanctuary to Evaluate Management and Conservation Efforts



Bijbehara – 29/01/2025.

The Director General (DG) of Forest Survey of India, Sh. Anoop Singh, IFS, undertook a significant visit to Jammu and Kashmir to evaluate the region's environmental conservation strategies and Forest / Wildlife management initiatives. This visit, aimed at furthering the objectives of sustainable forest governance and bolstering afforestation programs, was marked by high-level discussions with senior officials of the Jammu and Kashmir Forest Department and key local stakeholders.

The Director General (FSI) on his visit to Overa Aru Wildlife Sanctuary was received by the Wildlife Warden, South Kashmir Division, Sh. Sohail Ahmad Wagay, ACF at Bijbehara. He addressed the forest officers / officials from the different wings of forest department J&K at Pehalgam club.

The DG's tour encompassed an extensive visit of Overa-Aru Wildlife Sanctuary. The Wildlife Warden South Kashmir Division briefed the dignitary about the equipment used in Human Wildlife interaction and Forest Fire Management. He also presented the 3d model maps of the different Wildlife Sanctuaries. He also briefed the Director General about the Flora Fauna and Eco-sensitive zone of Overa-Aru Wildlife Sanctuary. The DG (FSI) visited mini zoo Pehalgam and planted few plants and described the role of plantation in addressing critical issues such as soil erosion, biodiversity loss, and the long-term mitigation of climate change impacts. After completion of the plantation, the DG (FSI) visited the Aru valley Pehalgam.

During the course of the visit, the DG of Forests underscored the pivotal role of Jammu and Kashmir's Wildlife Protection Department in maintaining the region's ecological balance and protecting its invaluable biodiversity. He acknowledged the commendable efforts of the UT's Wildlife Protection department in preserving the Wildlife Habitat, while also addressing the challenges posed by habitat degradation.

The discussions also centered around several key environmental initiatives, including wildlife conservation, the management of forest fires, and the integration of local communities into sustainable afforestation and forest protection programs. Local environmental organizations and community leaders presented their perspectives, emphasizing the need for enhanced local engagement and the importance of strengthening conservation measures.

In his address to the media, the Director General expressed his satisfaction with the progress achieved thus far but also called for an accelerated and more cohesive approach to forest management. He reiterated the government's unwavering commitment to advancing environmental sustainability, stressing that the collaboration of local communities, governmental bodies, and civil society is indispensable for achieving long-term ecological objectives.

The visit concluded with a renewed commitment to fortifying the partnership between the central government and Jammu and Kashmir to safeguard the region's Wildlife for generations to come.