

PRESS RELEASE

World Environment Day-2024

5th-June 2024.

जम्मू व कश्मीर सरकार Government of Jammu & Kashmir حکومت جموں و کشمیر



वन्यजीव संरक्षण विभाग जम्मू व कश्मीर
Department of Wildlife Protection
محکمہ جنگلی حیات کا تحفظ



Celebrated by: Shopian Wildlife Division.

Theme: Land restoration, desertification and drought resilience.



World Environment Day is the biggest international day for the environment. Led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and held annually since 1973, it has grown to be the largest global platform for environmental outreach. It is celebrated by millions of people across the world.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will host World Environment Day 2024 with a focus on land restoration, desertification and drought resilience. Land restoration is a key pillar of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030), a rallying call for the protection and revival of ecosystems all around the world, which is critical to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Department of Wildlife Protection, UT of Jammu and Kashmir, headed by Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (WL)/ Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K, Shri Sarvesh Rai and Conservator of Forests (WL)/Regional Wildlife Warden, Kashmir, Shri Pardeep Chandra Wahule, celebrated Environmental Day in collaboration with Wildlife SOS today on 05.06.2024 at Pathandoban Hirpora Wildlife Sanctuary.

The event commenced with the bird watching at Pathandoban, Hipora Wildlife Sanctuary, where the participants watched multiple bird species found inside the Hirpora Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Welcome address of Wildlife Warden Shopian / South Division Shri Sohail Ahmad Wagay, emphasized the restoration of Land, Global Land Restoration Initiative and the Importance of conservation of avi-fauna and their habitat. The event was attended by students, teachers from Higher Secondary School Hirpora, local Stake Holders including Gujjar Bakerwal Community and Locals from Hirpora Village, Staff from Wildlife Protection Department and Wildlife SOS.

The morning session of the event included awareness programme regarding the role of environment and need of afforestation for the sustainable development. The afternoon session of the event included a nature walk for the participants to the Wildlife Habitat and Cleanliness drive was organized at Dubjun Hirpora Wildlife Sanctuary. The worthy Wildlife Warden, South / Shopian Division emphasized the ban on the use of polythene inside the Protected Area and directed the concerned staff to strictly prohibit its use inside the PA. Meanwhile, any future use of polythene inside the PA will be viewed seriously and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken against those who violate these instructions.

The later afternoon session the Wildlife Warden, South / Shopian Wildlife Division highlighted the importance of Wildlife and its conservation to maintain the ecological balance.

Vote of Thanks was convened by Shri Sohail Ahmad Wagay, ACF (Wildlife Warden South/ Shopian). More than 100 participated in the event. He also thanked one and all who contributed by any means in making the event a great success.

**Sd/-
Wildlife Warden,
South / Shopian Division.**

