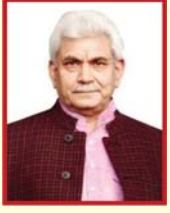




Manoj Sinha
Lieutenant Governor
Jammu and Kashmir



Message

World Wetlands Day is celebrated on 2nd February every year with the aim to raise awareness about the vital role of wetlands for our ecology. The theme for this year is 'Wetlands Restoration'. Wetlands are of critical importance to the eco-system as they recharge ground water, act as pollution filters and supply clean water, besides being habitat for biodiversity. The Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir is rich in wetland wealth which includes largest fresh water lake in Asia i.e. Wular, marshy lands like Gharana, deep lakes like Surinsar - Mansar & Manasbal and a number of alpine lakes like Tarsar, Marsar, Brahmasar among others. Our Wetlands are important source of tourist attraction and provide livelihood to vast population. Jammu & Kashmir is proud to Rank Fourth in the country to have 05 RAMSAR sites (Wetlands of International Importance) out of 75 RAMSAR sites in the country. Wullar, Hokersar and Surinsar-Mansar were already declared as RAMSAR sites while Hygam and Shallbugh have been declared as RAMSAR sites in June 2022. The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has taken up restoration of wetlands on priority. Various Departments of the Government are working for restoration of wetlands under their respective jurisdictions. NGOs, PRIs and cognizant citizens are complementing the efforts of the Government. I appeal to all the citizens of Jammu & Kashmir to actively participate in restoration of wetlands which play a pivotal role in eco-system balance.

Sd/
(Manoj Sinha)



Sanjeev Verma, IAS
Commissioner / Secretary
Forest, Ecology & Environment
Jammu & Kashmir



Message

To commemorate the signing of Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, 2nd February is celebrated as World Wetlands Day. The day is an occasion to raise the awareness about the importance of wetlands for people, biodiversity and our planet. This year's theme for the World Wetlands Day: "Wetland Restoration", highlights the need for restoration and revival of our wetlands to ensure quantity and quality of freshwater for our survival. Burgeoning freshwater crisis across the globe, threatens food security and drinking water availability for everyone. Today, more freshwater is being used than nature can replenish. Protection, preservation and "wise use" of wetlands, therefore, assumes a greater significance in today's context. Wetlands of Jammu and Kashmir harbour rich biodiversity. Most of our wetlands like Hokersar, Wular, Dal, Gharana, Mansar, Surinsar etc. host lacs of migratory birds during winter. During this period, these wetlands are major attraction for bird watchers, nature lovers and people in general. Besides ecological importance, these wetlands are very closely knitted in the socio-economic tapestry, because of economic, religious and cultural values. Department of Wildlife Protection has taken series of measures for restoration of Wetland Conservation Reserves, by adopting sound management principles & practices. Of late, Eco-Tourism promotion activities have also been initiated with a focus on Hokersar and Gharana Wetlands. It is a matter of immense satisfaction for all of us that J&K has acquired the distinction of adding two more wetlands to the list of RAMSAR sites. Similarly, in Wular Lake, restoration works have also been taken up by Wular Conservation and Management Authority (WUCMA). On World Wetlands Day, I emphatically enjoin upon all sections of the society to make judicious use of wetland resources and contribute in their restoration & conservation.

Sd/
(Sanjeev Verma)



Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, IAS
Chief Secretary
Jammu & Kashmir



Message

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are universal agenda to recognise the need for restoration and management of water-related ecosystems, including wetlands. Wetlands are, therefore, a solution for several key challenges around the world related to water, food and climate. Most of the SDGs are relevant in some way or another to water and wetlands. In the present context, relevance of an inter-governmental treaty such as Convention on Wetlands, also known as Ramsar Convention, becomes important, as it provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands. "Wise use" of wetlands is aimed at maintenance of their ecological character achieved through the implementation of ecosystem approaches, within the context of sustainable development. The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, is famous world over for its Wetlands, which are directly linked to the livelihood of the local populations, ecology, biodiversity, culture and tourism. Apart from being the primary habitat for several species of waterfowl, fish, mammals and insects, they receive a wide variety of migratory birds during the winter months, which add to their beauty and diversity. The theme for celebrating World Wetland Day-2023 is "Wetlands Restoration". Government of Jammu & Kashmir is taking several measures for restoration of wetlands like Hokersar, Wular, Gharana among others. Proposal of Government of Jammu & Kashmir for declaration of Hygam and Shallbugh as RAMSAR Sites has been accepted and thus J&K has 05 RAMSAR sites out of 75 such sites in the country. Let's pledge on this World wetland day to contribute our best for restoration and maintenance of our wetlands.

Sd/
(Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta)



Suresh Kr. Gupta, IAS
PCCF/Chief Wildlife Warden
Jammu & Kashmir



Message

World Wetlands Day marks the anniversary of signing of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (RAMSAR Convention) in Ramsar city of Iran on 02nd February, 1971. Since 1997, World Wetlands Day is being celebrated to raise public awareness of wetland values and benefits, promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands. Now, it has become a public movement for protection and conservation of wetlands. The theme for World Wetlands Day for this year is "Wetland Restoration". It draws our attention to the fact that only 2.5% of water on earth is fresh water of which less than 1% is useable. Almost 2.2 billion people on the earth do not have access to safe drinking water which is critical for healthy lives. Jammu & Kashmir is blessed with enormous wetlands wealth. Over wetlands are home to rich floral and faunal biodiversity. More than eight lakh migratory birds have been reported to visit these wetlands during winter from far-off places in Central Asia. During winter months, our wetlands offer full opportunities to the bird watchers, nature lovers, biologists and researchers. Besides, these wetlands support livelihood of local communities residing nearby. Department of Wildlife Protection undertakes management, protection and conservation of wetlands notified under the Wildlife Protection Act. This department also undertakes annual population estimation of birds in the wetlands in collaboration with organizations and volunteers interested in the exercise during this month. Department has taken up focused measures for restoration of wetlands besides eco-tourism promotion activities particularly in Gharana and Hokersar. On this day, let us resolve to restore and revive wetlands for sustainable benefits in the shape of fresh water & biodiversity.

Sd/
(Suresh Kr. Gupta)

DIP/J-14959/22
DATED: 01-02-2023

Security of nation can neither be outsourced nor dependent on largesse of others: Army chief

PUNE, Feb 1: Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Pande today said no country is willing to share the latest, "state-of-the-art" technologies and it implies that the security of the nation can neither be outsourced nor be dependent on the largesse of others, highlighting the impact of asymmetric warfare and digital resilience. He was speaking at the foundation day of the Army Institute of Technology in Maharashtra's Pune city. "The ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict has brought to fore certain key facts such as the impact of asymmetric warfare, the potential of information warfare, digital resilience, weaponisation of economic mechanisms, communication redundancy, space-based system and many more, all are driven by possession of technology prowess," he said. Today's security, therefore, is founded on the technological edge over the adversary, General Pande said. "No country is willing to share the latest, state-of-the-art technologies, it hence implies that the security of the nation can neither be outsourced nor be dependent on the largesse of others. Self-sufficiency in critical technologies and investment in research and development is a strategic imperative that can no longer be ignored," he said. The Indian Army is cognizant of these realities, said General Pande, an alumnus of the National Defence Academy in the city. "We have resolved to ensure that the development of our capabilities is based on the principles of self-reliance and leveraging niche technologies and the Indian Army is taking concrete steps on both these aspects," he said. Capacity development efforts are progressing on the edifice of the commitment to the vision of "atmanirbharta" (self-reliance), he said. "The Indian industry has responded to the need of the hour, powered by young, creative professionals within a short period, an entire ecosystem of start-ups, supporting the defence industry, has come up in the country. This is a very reassuring development, through which the vision of 'atmanirbharta' is being realised," he said. Elaborating on niche technologies, the general said that they have created a centre of excellence to harness the potential of artificial intelligence, data analytics, 5G and automation.



He also said that in-house development of software with an AI engine has begun to feature in "our battlefield sensors". "AI-based tool for satellite imagery is part of our key pursuits. We are building gigabit networks by way of network for spectrum and pushing high throughput systems to the forward areas through high capacity and software-defined radios. Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) projects are being pursued to leverage the competencies of start-ups, individual innovators, MSMEs, R&D Institutes and academia," he said. He added that key projects under iDEX entail quantum key distribution, UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles), drones, counter-drones, and AI systems. Blockchain technology is being explored for efficient supply chain management, he said. "These are a few ways in our roadmap to shape the Indian Army into a future-ready, technologically driven, lethal, and agile force, capable of meeting future challenges in an effective manner," he said.(PTI)

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS DUE TO TRAFFIC BLOCK

It is notified for the information of railway passengers that Eastern Railway will undertake the Power and Traffic Block at Bardhaman station for dismantling of an old bridge no- 213 from 05.02.2023 onwards. As a result following trains will be affected as under:-

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS	
Train No. & Train Name	Date of Cancellation (from originating station)
12303 Howrah-New Delhi Poorva Express	03/02/23
12304 New Delhi-Howrah Poorva Express	04/02/23
12353 Howrah-Lal Kuan Express	03/02/23
12354 Lal Kuan-Howrah Express	04/02/23
12381 Howrah-New Delhi Poorva Express	09/02/23
12382 New Delhi-Howrah Poorva Express	10/02/23
13005 Howrah-Amritsar Mail	09/02/23
13006 Amritsar-Howrah Mail	11/02/23
12333 Howrah-Prayagraj Rambag Bibhuti Express	09/02/23
12334 Prayagraj Rambag-Howrah Bibhuti Express	10/02/23
13009 Howrah-Dehradun Doon Express	09/02/23
13010 Dehradun-Howrah Doon Express	11/02/23
12325 Kolkata-Nangal Dam Express	02/02 & 09/02/23
12326 Nangal Dam-Kolkata Express	04/02 & 11/02/23
13151 Kolkata-Jammu Tawi Express	01/02 & 09/02/23
13152 Jammu Tawi-Kolkata Express	03/02 & 11/02/23
13167 Kolkata-Agra Cantt Express	09/02/23
13168 Agra Cantt-Kolkata Express	11/02/23

RailMadad Helpline No. 139. Visit RailMadad website: www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in. Download Railmadad App. NORTHERN RAILWAY. SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE. 338/2023

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

LG'S SPECIAL GOVERNANCE CAMP FOR KASHMIRI MIGRANTS

04th Feb. to 15th Feb., 2023

Shri Manoj Sinha
Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, J&K

SPECIAL FOCUS ON

- Skill Development
- Social Assistance
- Self Employment
- Studies
- Sports
- Financial Inclusion

DEPARTMENTS PARTICIPATING

- Skill Development
- Social Welfare
- Industries & Commerce
- Employment
- Youth Services & Sports
- Rural Development & Panchyati Raj
- Education
- Transport
- Health
- Revenue
- Entrepreneurship Development Institute & Banks

Date	Venue
4 th - 5 th Feb	Migrant Camp Jagti Nagrota Surya Bhawan, Paloura top Jammu Shehnai Janjgar, Near Goja Cloth House Bohri, Jammu
6 th Feb	Sharda Peeth, Bantalab, Jammu Community Hall Purkhoo
13 th Feb	Community Hall Muthi
15 th Feb	Deva Palace Nanak Nagar

All Kashmiri Migrants are requested to avail the benefits of these Governance Camps

Relief & Rehabilitation Department, J&K

DIP/J-14959/22 Dt:01.02.2023