



Climate Change Center – J&K

Under National Mission For Sustainable Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE)

Sponsored by: Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India



2015: International Year of Soils

The 68th UN General Assembly declared

2015 the International Year of Soils (IYS)

The specific objectives of the IYS 2015 were to:

- Raise full awareness among civil society and decision makers about the profound importance of soil for human life
- Educate the public about the crucial role soil plays in food security, climate change adaptation and mitigation, essential ecosystem services, poverty alleviation and sustainable development
- Support effective policies and actions for the sustainable management and protection of soil resources
- Promote investment in sustainable soil management activities to develop and maintain healthy soils for different land users and population groups
- Strengthen initiatives in connection with the SDG process (Sustainable Development Goals) and Post-2015 agenda
- Advocate for rapid capacity enhancement for soil information collection and monitoring at all levels (global, regional and national)



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FOREST FOOD FESTIVAL : AN ADAPTIVE STRATEGY FOR FOOD INSECURITY DUE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Srinagar

In the backdrop of climate change to have food security for vulnerable communities in tune with UN declared 17 sustainable development goals, the Department of Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing, J&K Government, organized one day Forest Food Festival (Janglek Khazane Te Amikh Khen Chen) on 4th of October, 2015 at Institute of Hotel Management (IHM) Rajbagh, Srinagar. The function was organized in collaboration with various stakeholders, namely, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) New Delhi, Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture (CITH), Department of Botany & Department of Food Science and Technology (University of Kashmir), Department of Botany (University of Jammu), Civil Society Members

represented by Environment Policy Group (EPG) and Centre for Conservation

of Culture and Heritage (CCCH), Directorate of School Education (DSEK), State Forest Research Institute, Forest Protection Force, Cultural Academy J&K Govt., J&K Medicinal Plant Board. The aim of the function was to sensitize the senior forest officials, academicians, research scholars, students and artisans.

Jenab Abdul Majid Padder, Hon'ble Minister of State for Forests

Environment and Ecology was the chief guest of the function, in his speech, he emphasised the importance of forest foods and value addition and need for cultivation on farmlands. He highlighted the need to focus on eco-friendly practices to minimize garbage generation and to adapt to climate change while preserving fragile ecosystems. He said that extreme



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weather conditions like cloudbursts are escalating and call for corrective and protective measures. This amplifies imbalances and jeopardizes opportunities for local communities.

The Hon'ble Minister for Forest, Environment and Ecology, Sh. Bali Baghat, Despite his pressing engagements, extended his wholehearted support to the first ever food festival hosted by the department of Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing.

Sh. R. K. Gupta, IAS, Pr. Secretary Forests to Govt. of J&K, was the guest of honour. He emphasized the need for conservation of rich biodiversity of the state and appreciated an innovative value addition to the local forest

edible products of Kashmir which have a promising potential to generate sustainable livelihoods. Chairman Pollution Control Board Sh. Ab. Razzak, IFS, also spoke on the occasion and congratulated the department for conducting first of its kind "Forest Food Festival."

Sh. O.P. Sharma, Director, Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing said that the Forest Food Festival was organized with the aims of



FOREST FOOD FESTIVAL

familiarization with local edible plant diversity of neighbourhood in urban centres, spreading awareness among youth on local Kashmiri, Pahadi, Shina, Urdu, Hindi names of forest edible resources, to broaden food-base spectrum from locally available forest food resources as an alternative to unforeseen disturbances and to mitigate severity of climate change in case cultivated crops fail and shortage of commodities hit the poor & deprived sections of society.

Sh. Rakesh Mathur, founder of Eco-tourism society of India highlighted the importance of wild foods in the backdrop of climate change and said that nowhere in India has ever organized such an innovative event and it is pioneering effort on the part of the department of Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing. The member of the civil society group represented by Faiz Bakshi of EPG, laid stress on proper planning of natural resources in the state. Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat, founder member of Centre for Conservation of Culture and Heritage (CCCH) stressed need for linking the forest food value

addition with tourism industry in focus.

He emphasized need for establishing forest food outlets at select eco-tourism destinations for promotion of nutritional, herbal, medicinal and edible forest products.

Sh. Nisheeth Srivastava, Principal, Institute of Hotel Management, acknowledged the innovative role of Mohammad Yasin, faculty (IHM) in standardizing forest food based cuisines for the first time in the state of J&K.

Certificates of appreciation were distributed by the Chief Guest to various participating stake holders.

A stall of medicinal and edible forest products like Hand

(*Taraxacum officinale*), Wopalhak (*Dipsacus inermis*), Ubaj (*Rumex nepalensis*),

Prezdar (*Eremurus himailicus*), Nunar (*Portulaca oleracea*), Suchal (*Malva neglecta*), Drubhak (*Polygonum aviculare*), Machran

(*Bistorta amplexicaulis*), Tethven (*Artemisia absinthium*), Kambei (*Solanum nigrum*), Aakhre or Chhanch (*Rubus niveus* or *Relipticus*), Tromba (*Fagopyrum esculentum*), Kala zeera (*Bunium persicum*), etc along-with cuisines

prepared out of these resources was displayed.

The concept and display of first ever forest food festival was appreciated by one and all who participated in the event.

Vote of thanks was presented by Sh. Ab. Rashid Mir, IFS, Regional Director, Kashmir.



Science Express Climate Change special Arrives in Jammu



UDHAMPUR, 20 NOV 2015 Highly impressed by the concept of Science Express Exhibition in the moving train that remained stationed at Udhampur Railway Station from Nov 17 to 20, Minister for Forest, Environment & Ecology, Bali Bhagat today said that it is one of the better mediums to spread awareness amongst the masses about environment conservation and issues related to climate change across the country. During his visit to Science Express Exhibition at Udhampur Railway Station today, the Minister said that environment and global warming is the biggest threat to the mankind and it needs to be dealt with fullest determination and coordinated efforts by various stakeholders of the society at different levels.

He said global efforts are being made to develop a consensus to jointly fight against the challenge of climate change which is a great threat for the mankind in the present era. Describing the Science Express Exhibition a unique initiative by the Union Ministry of Science & Technology and Indian Railways with active support of several other organizations to educate the masses about the environment protection and conservation of other natural resources in the country, the Minister said that the initiative will go a long way in reaching out to large number of people, especially the students which are real ambassadors for generating awareness about this noble cause.

Addressing the students and teachers on the occasion, Mr. Bali Bhagat said that students are real ambassadors and can very effectively spread awareness about this important subject in their homes.

Mr. Bali also called upon the functionaries

of the Environment and Ecology Department to chalk out a well thought out strategy and a calendar of activities to launch a vigorous State-wide awareness campaign with the support of all important stakeholders of the society. Minister of State for Finance, Pawan Gupta also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the importance of environment. He also appreciated the concept of Science Express and said that the train will attract large number of people across the country and achieve the objective of generating awareness about the environment protection and climate change. Among those present on the occasion included, Principal Secretary Forests, Rakesh Gupta, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, A. K. Singh, Director Soil Conservation, Ravi Kesar, Director Social Forestry, Suresh Chug, Director Environment & Ecology, Dr. O. P. Sharma, Chief Conservator of Forest, Jammu, Roshan Jaggi, Conservator of Forests, Brij Mohan Sharma, DFO, Udhampur and district officers of various departments and large number of students and teachers of various schools.

"Science Express Exhibition Better Medium to Spread Environment Awareness"

Mr. Bali Bhagat, Minister for Forest, Environment & Ecology,

J&K Government



International Mountain Day 2015

SAMBA, 11 Dec 2015

In connection with the celebrations of International Mountain Day, the Department of Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing today organized an impressive programme at Government Higher Secondary School, Gurah Salathia in Purmandal Block of Samba district. Minister for Forests, Ecology & Environment, Bali Bhagat was chief guest on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister highlighted the significance of mountains and environment in our day to day life and said that it is the duty of every individual to protect all the natural resources around them to secure their future. He expressed concern over the alarming situation that has arisen due to constant degradation of environment and ruthless deforestation. He said almost entire world is so much concerned about this important issue and efforts are being made to develop a consensus to effectively deal with the menace of climate change and global warming.

He stressed the need for a state-wide comprehensive awareness campaign through different mediums to educate the masses about the adverse impact of climate change on the living beings and need for conservation of all natural resources.

Asking the students to develop a habit to plant one sapling on their every birth day, the Minister said that the endeavor can bring a miracle and soon the State of Jammu and Kashmir lead in promotion of environment and green cover. He said students are the best ambassadors who can spread the message of environment conservation and they need to be educated on this vital issue in the daily school assembly.

Several speakers including, Director Environment, Ecology & Remote Sensing, Mr. O.P. Sharma Vidyarthi, former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Mr. S.D. Sawtantra and other experts expressed concern over the environment hazards and called for concrete steps to save the nature to make the earth planet a better place to live.





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ABOUT CLIMATE *Times*

Climate times is an annual periodical reviewing the functions and events organized or collaborated by the J&K Climate Change Center

CLIMATE *Times*

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ONE DAY WORKSHOP ON CLIMATE CHANGE CONCERNS, ADAPTATION & MITIGATION

Jammu University

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