

CELEBRATION OF WWD 2012 KATHUA(J&K)INDIA 2/2/2012 10:30:53 PM

Early Times Report KATHUA, Feb 2: Every year since 1997 World Wetlands Day has been celebrated. It marks the date of the adoption of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands on 2 February 1971, signed by 18 countries in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea. Today the convention has 160 Member States. The aim of World Wetlands Day is to focus attention on the importance of wetlands for the environment and people, and the conservation and wise use of wetlands as a means to achieving sustainable development.

The countries that signed the contract committed to include internationally important Wetlands in the Ramsar list and ensure the maintenance of the ecological character of each site. The World Wetlands Day theme for 2012 is Wetlands and Tourism, (responsible tourism supports wetlands & people). India is one of the signatory countries with at present 25 Ramsar Sites and 4 Ramsar Sites in Jammu & Kashmir namely Tsomoriri (Ladakh) Wular and Hokarsar (Kashmir) and Mansar-Surinsar (Jammu). On this occasion to undertake actions aimed at raising public awareness of wetland values and benefit in general, a programme was held at Surinsar Wetland, which falls under the jurisdiction of Wildlife Protection, Kathua.

A symposium/debate on the topic among school children of different groups, public lectures, seminar from elected responsible representatives to increase public awareness and help communities to protect their local wetlands were held. The programme was attended by large number of people including school teachers, locals and was hosted by Wildlife Division Kathua. Those who spoke on this occasion were sarpanch, panch, teachers of nearby schools, and wildlife Warden Kathua Salim through detail light on the topic. At the end the Range Officer Moor thanked the participants. All the students who participated in debate were given prizes with the august hands of Chief Guest.