



GOVERNMENT COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Institute of Advanced Studies in Education

CLUSTER UNIVERSITY, SRINAGAR

Maulana Azad Road Srinagar (J&K)

(NAAC RE-ACCREDITED GRADE "A" (CGPA 3.24))

Email: gcoe.sgr@gmail.com / <http://www.gcoekmr.edu.in>



REPORT ON OBSERVANCE OF WORLD WETLANDS DAY – 2026

World Wetlands Day is observed annually on **2nd February** to raise awareness about the importance of wetlands and their role in maintaining ecological balance and supporting human livelihoods. The theme of **World Wetlands Day 2026** was “**Wetlands and Traditional Knowledge: Celebrating Cultural Heritage,**” highlighting the role of traditional knowledge in sustaining wetland ecosystems. In observance of World Wetlands Day 2026, the Department of Environmental Science, Government College of Education, IASE Srinagar organised an online student activity titled “**DIGITAL BOOKLET COMPETITION ON WETLANDS OF KASHMIR.**” Under the activity students were required to select one Wetland of Kashmir and prepare an individual digital booklet highlighting its ecological importance, cultural and traditional significance, present condition of the wetland, major threats and student suggestions for its conservation. The activity was designed to promote place-based environmental learning by encouraging students to study the wetlands of Kashmir, understand their ecological and cultural significance, identify existing threats, and propose practical conservation measures. The activity witnessed enthusiastic participation from the PG and B.Ed students of the college. They actively explored various wetlands of Kashmir demonstrating keen interest in environmental issues and conservation. Students submitted their digital booklets online. All submitted digital booklets were evaluated by the department based on relevance to the theme, content quality, presentation, and practicality of conservation suggestions. Based on evaluation, best entries identified for awards were that of **Shayab Rafiq (B. Ed 2nd sem), Amaan Ashraf (B. Ed 1st sem), Miss Umaira (B. Ed 1st sem) and Mohd Younis (B. Ed 1st sem)**. Selected best student digital booklets were compiled into a **Department-level Digital Booklet** which was uploaded on the college website, serving as an academic record of student engagement and environmental awareness activities conducted on the occasion of World Wetlands Day 2026. After the reopening of the college, cash prizes shall be awarded to the students who compiled best digital booklets and certificates of participation to all students who successfully submitted their work. The Department of Environmental Science expresses its sincere gratitude to **Prof. (Dr) Seema Naz** (Principal) for her support and to all participating students for their active involvement.

Sd/-
Prof Shawana Manzoor
HoD Environmental Science

Sd/-
Prof. (Dr) Seema Naz
Principal

No.: GCOE/IASE/ 26/ 204
Dated: 03-02-2026

PHOTOGRAPHS

Government College of Education
Institute of Advanced Studies in Education (IASE)
Cluster University Srinagar
Maulana Azad Road, Srinagar (J&K)

Department of Environmental Science
WORLD WETLANDS DAY
7 FEBRUARY 2026

Digital Booklet Competition on Wetlands of Kashmir

"Wetlands and Traditional Knowledge: Celebrating Cultural Heritage"

ONLINE STUDENT ACTIVITY

Select **ONE** Wetland of Kashmir & Create an **INDIVIDUAL** DIGITAL BOOKLET

- Location & Ecological Importance
- Cultural & Traditional Significance
- Present Condition & Threats
- Student Suggestions for Conservation
- Include Photos with Captions

- PARTICIPANTS:
- UG / PG / B.Ed Students

CASH PRIZES for Best Entries

Certificates for All Participants

SUBMIT BY:
2nd February 2026
Upto 1:00 PM

For any other query,
Contact Professor Showana Manzoor (700654136)

STUDENT SUGGESTIONS FOR CONSERVATION

1. **"The Waguv Project" (Heritage Preservation):** Schools should collaborate with the Department of Handicrafts to organize workshops where students learn mat-weaving from local artisans. This clears the invasive reeds (conservation) while keeping the dying art of *Waguv* alive (culture).
2. **"Silt Watch" Citizen Science:** Implement a student-led "Silt Watch" program at the Sindh River intake point. Students can use simple turbidity tubes to measure silt levels weekly and report data to the WUCMA (Wular Management Authority) app to time the dredging operations better.
3. **Eco-Tourism Corridors:** Develop a "Silent Boat Corridor" for tourists. Unlike the noisy motorboats elsewhere, these would be paddle-only zones guided by locals, ensuring income for the community without disturbing the migratory birds.
4. **Bio-Shielding:** Plant native filtering grasses (like Vetiver) at the entry points of the Anchar nallah to naturally trap solid waste and biomedical debris before it enters the core wetland area.



Haigam Wetland: An Important Wetland of Kashmir



Prepared by: Madiha Khurshid
Course: B.Ed 1st Semester
Roll Number : 48
College: Government College of Education, M.A Road, Srinagar

- **Medicinal Heritage:** The wetland edges are known to host *Aconitum napellus* (locally called "Wai-mund"), a semi-aquatic herb used in traditional Kashmiri medicine for digestive disorders and often added to Kehwa tea.
- **The Winter Pasture:** In a unique traditional cycle, as water levels recede in late autumn, the peripheral marshes transform into rich grazing grounds for local livestock, supporting the agrarian economy of Pattan's villages.



3. PRESENT CONDITION & THREATS

"A Parched Landscape" (2024-2025 Status)

Despite its importance, Mirgund has recently been in the news for an "environmental tragedy." As of late 2024 and throughout 2025, reports highlighted that the wetland had completely dried up, turning into a "barren and desolate landscape".

- **The "Iron Gate" Blockade:** The primary cause of the recent drying is the closure of a regulatory iron gate at *Rakh Kawoosa* on the Sukhnag Nallah. This blockade cut off the wetland's arterial water supply, leaving it thirsting even during the migration season.
- **Encroachment:** The drying has facilitated land grabbing. With the water gone, land mafias and locals have begun ploughing the wetland bed for agriculture (paddy cultivation) and earth-filling for construction.
- **Siltation:** Over decades, heavy silt loads from the Jhelum basin have raised the wetland bed, reducing its water-holding capacity from feet to mere inches in some areas.

Chatlam Wetland: Lifeline of Pulwama's Ecology

By
Shayab Rafiq

B.ed 2nd Sem
Roll no :01

Present condition of Chatlam Wetland

70,000 Migratory Birds Flock to Pampore Wetlands

Article about Chatlam Wetland

Page 13

Wetlands: Introduction

Wetlands are among Earth's most productive ecosystems, bridging terrestrial and aquatic environments through prolonged saturation or inundation, which shapes hydric soils, hydrophytic vegetation, and diverse wildlife adapted to fluctuating water levels. They encompass marshes,

Conclusion

Chatlam Wetland of Pulwama is an ecologically valuable freshwater ecosystem that plays a crucial role in sustaining biodiversity, regulating water flow, recharging groundwater, and maintaining environmental balance. The wetland supports diverse flora and fauna, including migratory and resident birds, and acts as a natural water purifier and flood buffer for the surrounding areas. Along with its ecological

Main Title: Narkara Wetland: The Silent Sponge of Srinagar

Submitted by: umaira

Roll no: 12

Course: B.ed 1st sem

College: Govt. College of Education, Srinagar



Narkara Wetland: The Silent Sponge of Srinagar

Location & Ecological Importance

Nestled in the semi-urban landscape just south of Srinagar's city center, the Narkara Wetland acts as a critical ecological buffer between the expanding concrete of the city and its fragile water systems. Geographically, it is strategically positioned near the Hyderpora, Peerbagh, and Humhama (Airport) areas. This proximity to high-density residential zones makes it one of



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NOTICE

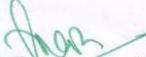
It is for the information of all the students of the college that for the observance of **World Wetlands Day** on **2nd February 2026**, the Department of Environmental Science and Eco-Club of the college are going to organise an online student activity: "**Digital booklet competition on Wetlands of Kashmir**" in which each participant is required to select any one **Wetland of Kashmir** and prepare an individual **DIGITAL BOOKLET** (PDF format, 6-10 pages) of the same. It must include:

- Cover page
- Introduction to the wetlands and the selected wetland
- Location and type of wetland
- Ecological importance
- Cultural / traditional significance
- Present condition and major threats
- Student suggestions for conservation (minimum three)
- Relevant photographs with captions
- Conclusion
- References

The participants can submit their original digital booklets via WhatsApp on 7006514136 by or before 2nd February till 1:00 pm. The Submitted digital booklets will be evaluated, and **first three best entries will be awarded with cash prize** and certificate of appreciation. Besides certificates will be awarded to all the participants. The student's digital booklets will be compiled into a **Department-level Digital Booklet** as part of **World Wetlands Day 2026** documentation.

All the students are encouraged to participate actively and contribute towards the conservation of wetlands and preservation of cultural heritage.


Prof Shawana Manzoor
HoD Environmental Science


Prof. (Dr) Seema Naz
Principal

No.: GCOE/IASL/26/102
Dated: 31/01/2026

List of student participants for Digital booklet Competition on the occasion of World Wetlands Day-2026

S. No.	Name of the Student	Name of Digital Booklet Wetland	Course/Semester
1.	Aroosa Jeelani	Hokersar Wetland	B. Ed 1 st semester
2.	Seerat Javeed	Wular Lake	M.A. 3 rd Semester
3.	Shayab Rafiq	Chatlam Wetland	B. Ed 2 nd semester
4.	Aamina Bashir	Wular Lake	B. Ed 1 st semester
5.	Madiha Khurshid	Haigam Wetland	B. Ed 1 st semester
6.	Rozia Gull	Hokersar Wetland	B. Ed 1 st semester
7.	Sajid Imtiyaz Sheikh	Hokersar Wetland	B. Ed 1 st semester
8.	Amaan Ashraf Malik	Shallabugh Wetland	B. Ed 1 st semester
9.	Uandita Pathania	Hygam wetland	B. Ed 1 st semester
10.	Mohd Yonis Malla	Mirgund wetland	B. Ed 1 st semester
11.	Mohd Naim ul Haq	Hokersar Wetland	B. Ed 3 rd semester
12.	Aiman Ashraf	Hokersar Wetland	B. Ed 1 st semester
13.	Umaira Jan	Narkara wetland	B. Ed 1 st semester

Sd/-
Prof Shawana Manzoor
HoD Environmental Science