

CEC Dr Jaffer Akhoon Attends Wildlife Week Concluding Programme at Kargil



Kargil, October 09: The Wildlife Week celebration on the theme “Connecting Habitats, Thriving Wildlife” concluded today at Syed Mehdi Memorial Auditorium Hall, Kargil.

CEC LAHDC Kargil, Dr Jaffer Akhoon attended the programme as the Chief Guest, while SSP Kargil Nitin Yadav, IPS, was the Guest of Honour and ADC Kargil Ghulam Mohammad attended as the Special Guest. DFO/Wildlife Warden Ankit Sinha, IFS, officials of the Forest and Wildlife Department, school students and

teachers also participated in the event.

The programme began with a welcome address by DFO/Wildlife Warden Ankit Sinha, who highlighted the unique biodiversity of Kargil and the need for greater public participation in wildlife conservation. He said that various awareness activities were conducted in schools during Wildlife Week, including educational programmes and exposure visits for students. A wildlife awareness video was also screened.

SSP Kargil Nitin Yadav stressed the importance of wildlife in maintaining ecological balance and called for reducing human-wildlife conflict. He urged students to protect all species, including birds and animals, and highlighted the potential of wildlife conservation and ecotourism.

ADC Kargil Ghulam Mohammad emphasised that the region is blessed with diverse wildlife and stressed the need to protect these species for maintaining environmental balance. He also highlighted the importance of wildlife conservation in promoting tourism.

Chief Guest Dr Jaffer Akhoon highlighted the importance of conserving even commonly seen species such as sparrows and magpies, which have an important role in the ecosystem. Recalling earlier times, he said the arrival of sparrows was traditionally associated with the arrival of spring, while their numbers have declined over the years due to changing environmental conditions and globalisation.

Dr Akhoon stressed that every species has an important role in nature and called for concerted efforts to conserve biodiversity. Referring to the recent launch of a snow leopard conservation programme by the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, he suggested that a similar programme should also be organised in Kargil to strengthen conservation efforts.

He also called for timely compensation to people whose livestock or livelihoods are affected by wildlife attacks. He urged the Forest Department to preserve old plants and develop parks with new plantations to strengthen green spaces and biodiversity in the district.

During the programme, stalls displaying wildlife-related projects and awareness material were visited by the dignitaries. School students actively participated by showcasing their projects and learning about wildlife conservation. Students also presented cultural performances.

Prizes were distributed among students who participated in various activities conducted during Wildlife Week. The event concluded with the vote of thanks delivered by Shahid Hussain.

