

Report
World Day to Combat Desertification - 2017



**Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Desertification Cell**



United Nations

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Since 1995, June 17th has been observed as the 'World Day to Combat Desertification (WDCD)'. The main objective of commemorating WDCD has been to promote public awareness about international efforts to combat desertification and the effects of drought collectively. This year's celebrations mark the power the land holds in giving people an opportunity and a future to stay resilient on their home ground. The slogan, "**Our land. Our home. Our Future**", underlines the central role productive land can play in turning the growing tide of migrants abandoning their unproductive land into communities and nations that are stable, secure and sustainable, into the future. This slogan also emphasizes on the importance of comprehensive participation and cooperation of the people in working towards achieving Land Degradation Neutrality.

1.2 India in its endeavor to combat this global issue of concern is focusing on sustainable land and resource management for livelihood generation at community level for making the local lands healthier and productive for providing a better home-land and better future to its inhabitant. Initiatives like the Soil Health Card Scheme, launched by the government to help farmers improve productivity through judicious use of inputs, was allotted ₹ 840.52 Crore over the last three years, which is 30 times more than the funds devoted to soil research and analysis in the preceding years by Government of India (GoI).

Numerous GoI Schemes and programmes executed through partner Ministries of MoEF&CC like the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Rural development, Ministry of Tribal Welfare, have been at the forefront of India's effort to mitigate concerns over desertification, land degradation and drought problems. India is also taking a holistic approach towards improving the living standard of its citizens with Swachh Bharat Mission (Clean India Mission) with a dedicated corpus of funds addressing concerns over waste disposal, sewage treatment, sanitation – factors which adversely affect the quality of land. Over the years apart from implementing many such programmes, numerous outreach and awareness activities have also been conducted in various parts of the country.

2. COMMEMORATION OF WDCD 2017 ACROSS INDIA

2.1 As a part of nation-wide observance on the theme of WDCD 2016, programmes were organized at many places by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India which is the Nodal Agency for reporting to UNCCD. The programmes involved State Governments, school children, members of village forest protection and management committees, practitioners, various research organizations, political leaders and private sector. Government Departments, Institutions, other states also celebrated the Day in their own jurisdiction.

2.2 Main Celebration at Swaran Jayanti Nature Camp, Bhondsi Village, Gurugram, Haryana

2.2.1 This year a small yet significant rural set up in Swarn Jayanti (Golden Jubilee) Nature Camp, Bhondsi village of Gurugram, in the Northern State of Haryana, nestled in the Aravallis was chosen for the landmark celebration of WDCD with the participation of Government of Haryana. The Nature Camp was jointly inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister EF & CC Dr Harsh Vardhan and Hon'ble Chief Minister, Haryana Mr. Manohar Lal.



In Pic: Dr Harsh Vardhan and Mr. Manohar Lal flagging off E-Rickshaw (battery operated) services at the Swaran Jayanti Nature Camp in Bhondsi

A large variety of youth-centric outreach and awareness raising activities emphasize on countering the challenges posed by desertification, land degradation and drought will be showcased at this event. Involvement of youth, children and Civil Society organizations is also being attempted in these efforts.



In pic: Student Volunteers taking out a rally to spread awareness about issues related to desertification and climate Change.

2.2.2 The Government of Haryana has been developing the Golden Jubilee Nature Camp to create awareness among people especially school children in actions related to nature education and awareness creation. Activities that were carried out as part of the Commemoration of the Day at the Nature Camp are as follows:

A. Organisation of Nature Camp for 60 students of Govt. Secondary School, Bhondsi.

A residential Nature Camp for 60 students of Govt. Secondary School, Bhondsi was organised on June 16-17, 2017 in collaboration with Centre for Environment Education. The students were educated on various issues related to natural resource conservation, climate change, medicinal plants etc. They were provided with resource material for reference.



In Pic: Dr Harsh Vardhan and Mr. Manohar Lal with students from Government Secondary School at the Swaran Jayanti Nature Camp in Bhondsi.

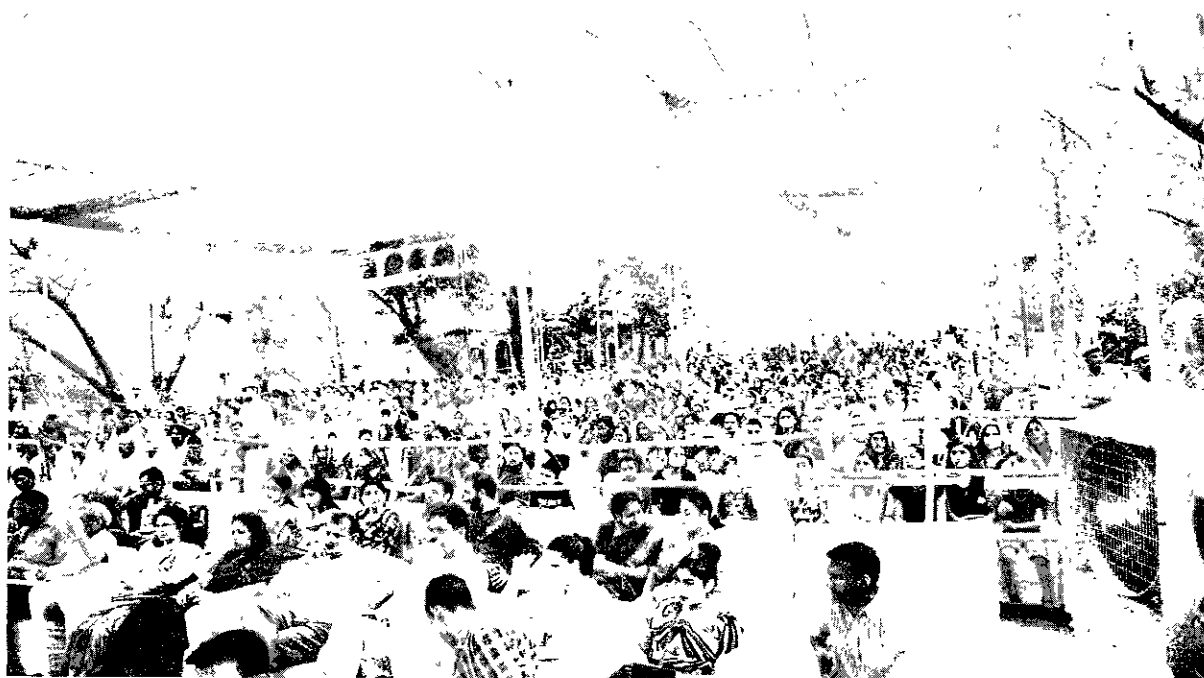
B. Organization of “Save Aravali Chetna Yatra” (Awareness Drive to Save Aravalis):

Save Aravali and Check Desertification was the theme of Chetna Yatra. Chetna Yatra was organised from three villages viz. Bhondsi, Aklimpur and Tikli. About 300 people (100 from each village), students and women participated in the Chetna Yatra organised for creating awareness among general public. The Yatris were provided with banners with slogans, speacail T-shirt and cap on the occasion of WDCD 2017.

The Aravalli range is the oldest range of Fold Mountains in India and is rich in wildlife along with being the source for many important rivers of Northern India. The natural history of the Range dates back to a pre-Indian sub continental collision with the mainland Eurasian Plate.



In Pic: Save Aravalli Chetna Yatra (Awareness Drive) Volunteers – Young and old alike



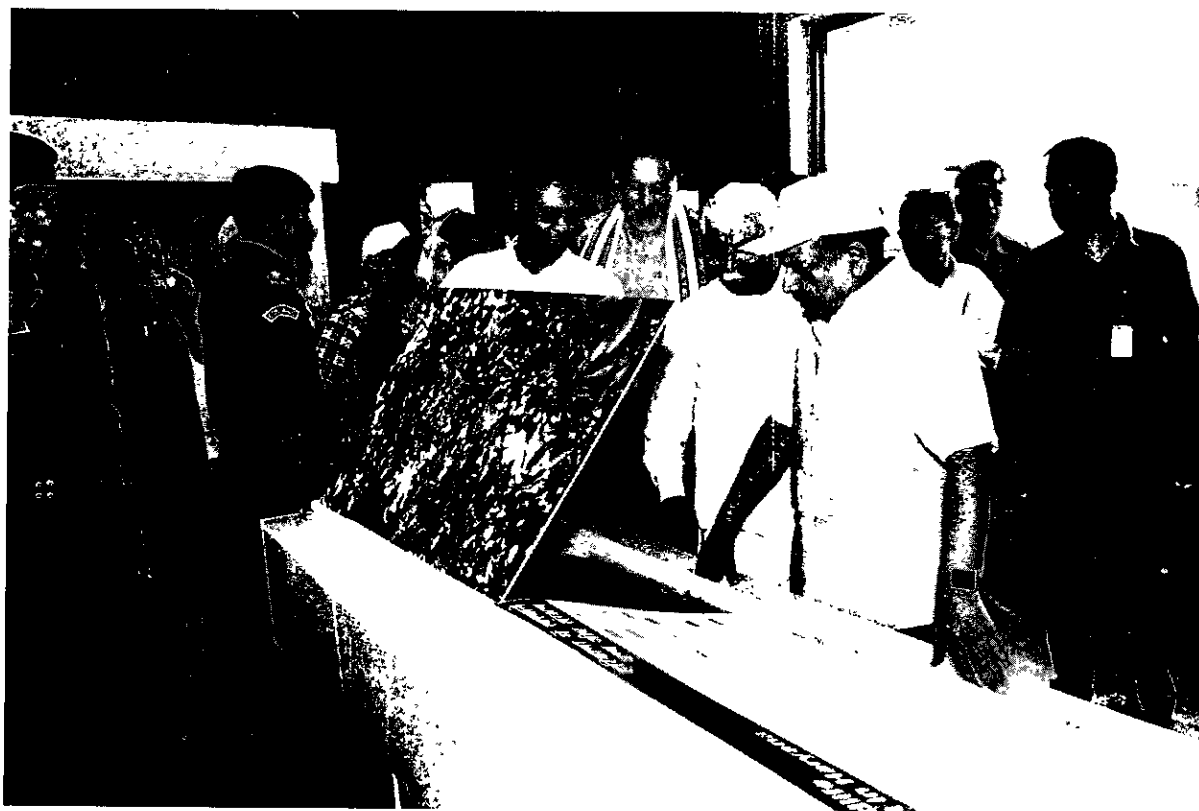
In Pic: The event witnessed public participation with active involvement of residents of Bhondsi village, School Children, NGOs, Village Committee members an government officials.



In Pic: Women volunteers were present in large numbers and actively committed themselves to the cause.

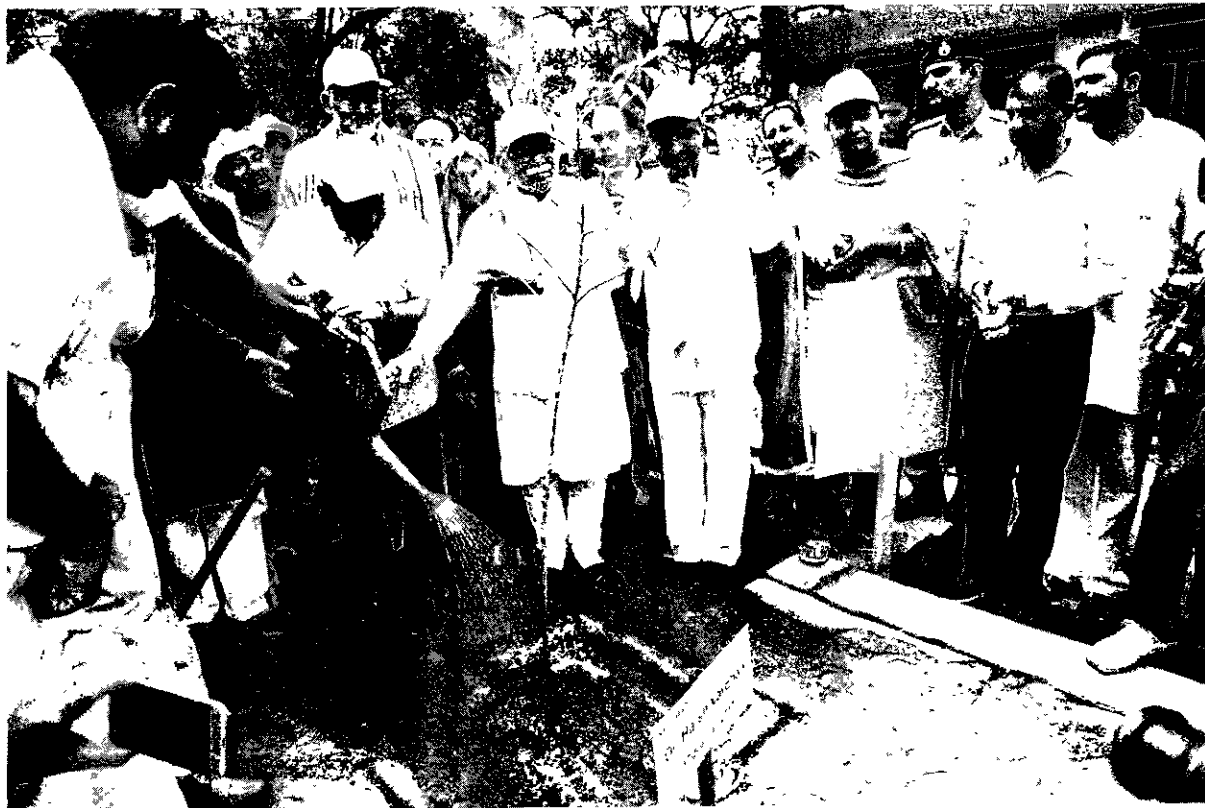
C. Schemes/Events launched /inaugurated on the occasion:

- i. Flagging off of e-rickshaws for public, for pollution free drive in the Park – 02 E-rickshaws have also been provided by Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
- ii. Flagging off cycle rally for school children/nature lovers - 50 cycles for pollution free movement have been provided by DLF under CSR.
- iii. Inauguration of Nature Education camp site - 11 residential tents were pitched with support of ONGC provided under CSR.
- iv. Launching of Nature Education Campaign for school children
- v. Inauguration of Food Court of Women Self Help Group
- vi. Inauguration of Nature Interpretation Centre.
- vii. Inauguration on exhibition of Aravalli photography- exhibiting the beautiful landscape, rich heritage, moods and shades of Aravalli Hills in different seasons.



In Pic: Union Minister for Environment Dr Harsh Vardhan inspecting the exhibits at the venue along with Chief Minister of Haryana, Mr. Manohar Lal.

- ix. Inauguration of Herbal Garden & Gyan Kendra
- x. Launching of Medicinal Plant Project for in-situ Conservation of medicinal plants of Aravalli region - supported by Department of Ayush, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.
- xi. Inauguration of Adventure Activities Area
- xii. Launching of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Samriti van Scheme : The initiative has been taken to celebrate the 100th birth centenary year of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay to encourage community participation in environment conservation by planting saplings.



In Pic: The launch of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhayay Samriti van Scheme

xiii. Launching of Conservation Breeding of House Sparrow at the Camp, Bhondsi

xiv. Release of Reports:

1. Mapping Land Use/Land Cover Patterns in Aravalis Haryana with reference to Status of Key Wildlife Species (prepared by Wildlife Institute of India)
2. Assessment of Biodiversity in Biodiversity Park, Gurugram (conducted by International Union for Conservation of Nature-India)

The reports form a crucial database that provide us with valuable information that will be used to address DLDD issues in the Aravali precinct and also encourage public to be active participants in the conservation and rehabilitation efforts.



In Pic: Dr Harsh Vardhan, Mr. Manohar Lal and other distinguished guests releasing Wildlife Institute of India's report on Aravali Hills at the Swaran Jayanti Nature Camp in Bhondsi.

xv. Activities for school children in Nature Camp:

- a. Lecture by resource persons on various issues related to natural resource management, climate change etc.
- b. Nature/Forest Trail
- c. Nature Education through display material in Nature Interpretation Centre
- d. Nature Education through Group Discussions
- e. Nature Education through film shows
- f. Planting
- g. Learning by doing on issues related to composting, waste segregation and management etc.
- h. Learning from demonstrations on rain water harvesting, use of waste water, solar pump and solar power, water saving irrigation techniques like sprinkler, drip etc.

D. Highlight of Events

Activities pertaining to issues related to desertification, land degradation and drought:

The southern part of the State touches Rajasthan and was affected with desertification, land degradation and drought in the past. Various conservation programmes were launched in the past under various schemes like Desert Development Programme, Integrated Watershed Development Programme, afforestation on sand dunes etc. Use of sprinkler system of irrigation has helped farmers to utilise their barren and waste lands to put under production for various crops.

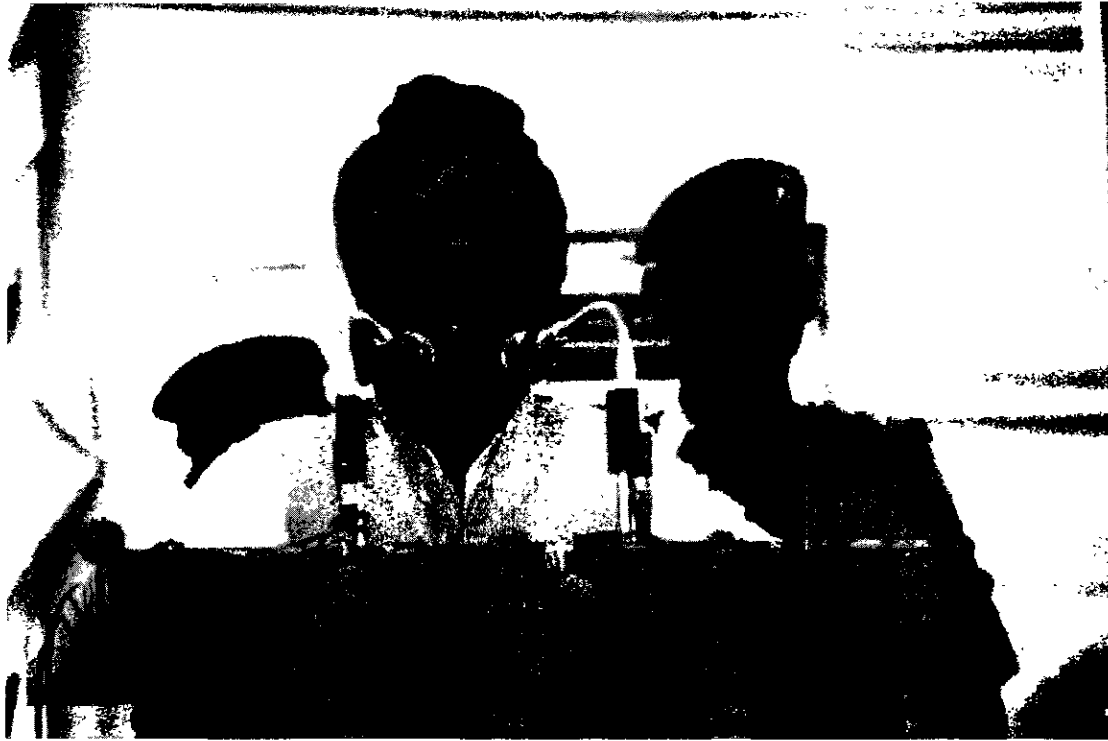
- i. An exhibition on theme "Aravalis and Desertification" was installed by Haryana Forest Department on the occasion for public awareness.
- ii. Department of Agriculture and Horticulture also installed exhibition to aware people about various schemes of their department which help in more production e.g. Pradhan Matri Krishi Sinchai Yojana – Per Drop More Crop, Soil Health cards, E-NAM National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture, National Mission on Horticulture etc.

2.3 Important Announcements by Centre/ State of Haryana on occasion of WDCD 2017.

1. Hon'ble Minister EF & CC announced that Ministry will formulate a plan to develop a network of "Parayavaran Rakshaks (Environment Protectors)" consisting of students from Schools/Colleges/NGOs/ Government Departments/ Autonomous bodies and other research institutions working in the area of environmental conservation and protection.
2. A project of rejuvenation of Bhondsi Lake worth ₹ 30.00 Lakh was announced under Pradhan Matri Krishi Sinchai Yojana to rejuvenate the existing lake at Nature Camp by utilising waste water of village Akilmpur.
3. Chief Minister, Haryana announced that the State will plant 2 Crore saplings this year and the maintenance of plantations in the panchayat areas will be handed over to Zila Parishad.
4. The Golden Jubilee Nature Camp to be renamed as Chandershekhar Samriti Van in the memory of Late Mr. Chandra Shekhar – former Prime Minister of India.

3. OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE OF MINISTRY - WDCD 2017

“Desertification can be tackled effectively with people’s participation at all levels:” Dr Harsh Vardhan



17th June: Environment Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan addressing the gathering at Bhondsi, Haryana

Asserting that desertification can be tackled effectively and solutions are possible, Union Environment Minister, Dr Harsh Vardhan, on the occasion of World Day to Combat Desertification (WDCD), said that active participation of people and cooperation at all levels are the tools to achieve this aim. The Minister urged the people of Haryana and the nation to become a large force of ‘Paryavaran Rakshaks’ (environment protectors) to fight the challenges posed by desertification, global warming and climate change. Addressing the gathering at a function to inaugurate Swarna Jayanti Nature Camp and launching of nature awareness and Aravalli conservation campaign in Bhondsi, near Gurugram in Haryana today, to celebrate the WDCD 2017, the Minister highlighted that such days are in reality a reminder of the spirit symbolized by that Day.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan pointed out that modern science & technology and environment can come together to protect the nature. He referred to the devising of a solar tree by the scientists on an area of 4 sq. metre, which generates 5 KW of electricity. In the context, the Minister also highlighted the leading role played by the Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi,

to form the International Solar Alliance at the Conference of Parties at Paris in 2015 and added that the Government was firmly committed to implement policies on solar energy.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan urged the people to go back to their homes with the spirit imbibed at the celebrations and work with renewed vigour for afforestation as a means to combat desertification. He also said that the picturesque Aravalli range is venerable, not just for the people of Haryana, but the entire nation, and that the people should work with resolve and dedication to make Aravallis more beautiful. The Minister added that the Central government will extend all possible support to any scheme formulated to realize the vision of enhancing the beauty of the Aravalli range. He reiterated that the people should concentrate on taking small steps to protect the environment. He reminded the gathering not to forget the lessons of environment protection imparted to us by our ancestors and in fact, to use the lessons to protect the nature.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister of Haryana, Mr. Manohar Lal, said that climate change is having an adverse impact on our lives and is also adding to the desertification of land. He stressed that afforestation can act as a bulwark to stop the process of desertification of land. The Chief Minister announced that the forest around Bhondsi area has been renamed as "Chandra Shekhar Smriti Van" in the memory of former Prime Minister Chandrashekhar.

Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Mr. Ajay Narayan Jha, Director General, Forests and Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Mr. Sidhanta Das and other senior officers and officials of Ministry of MoEFCC attended the celebration. Minister for Public Works, Forests, Agriculture & Civil Aviation, Haryana, Rao Narbir Singh, Minister for Industries & Commerce, Environment & Industrial Training, Haryana, Mr. Vipul Goel, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Food & Supplies and Forests, Haryana, Mr. Karan Dev Kamboj, MLA, Sohna, Mr. Tejpal Tanwar, MLA, Gurugram, Mr. Umesh Aggarwal, MLA, Pataudi, Mrs. Bimla Chaudhary and Sarpanch, Bhondsi, Mrs. Durga Devi and people from Bhondsi and nearby areas were among the distinguished ones in the gathering.

A report prepared by Wildlife Institute of Dehradun titled "Mapping Aravallis" on the state of Aravallis was released to mark the occasion. A short film on the conservation of 'Goraiya' (house sparrow) was also screened. Dr. Harsh Vardhan and Mr. Manohar Lal also rode a part of the distance at the venue, on bicycles to spread the message of environment protection and good health.

Earlier, the Environment Minister, Dr Harsh Vardhan and Chief Minister of Haryana, Mr. Manohar Lal, witnessed an exhibition on United Nations World Day to Combat Desertification, put up by Haryana government.

4. OFFICIAL ADVERTISEMENT OF MINISTRY COMMEMORATING WDCD 2017



WORLD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

DATE 17 JUNE, 2017 TIME: 9:00 AM ONWARDS

"Our Home. Our Land. Our Future"

Commemoration of the Day at Nature Camp for School Children
at Bhonds, Gurugram

Chief Guest

Dr. Harsh Vardhan

Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change

In the august presence of

Manohar Lal

Chief Minister, Haryana

All are cordially invited

VENUE

Swaran Jayanti
Nature Camp,
Bhonds, Gurugram,
Haryana

Event Highlights:

- Inauguration of Swaran Jayanti Nature & Combating Desertification Awareness Camp
- Inauguration of Aravalli Photography and Combating Desertification Camp
- Tree Plantation by distinguished guests
- Flagging off Bicycle Rally for School Children



Ministry of Environment,
Forest and Climate Change
Government of India
(www.envfor.nic.in, www.pmindia.gov.in,
www.moy.gov.in)

4.1 Advertisement of Ministry commemorating WDCD 2017 in Times of India (New Delhi Edition)

THE TIMES OF INDIA NEW DELHI SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2017

TIMES NATION | Politics & Policy

13

Please leave, hotels tell guests as they run out of food in Darjeeling

Tourists Trek Long Distances To Leave Hills

By Anind Ghose



Tourists trek long distances to leave the hills as hotels in Darjeeling run out of food.

DARJEELING, June 16: Hotels in Darjeeling have run out of food and other necessities, forcing tourists to trek long distances to leave the hills. The situation in the city is dire as the supply of food has dried up. Many tourists are stranded in the hills, with some having to trek for hours to reach the plains. The local authorities are struggling to manage the situation, and many hotels have closed their doors. The tourists are facing significant hardships, including lack of food, water, and shelter. Some have been forced to spend the night in open spaces, while others have been taken to government shelters. The situation is expected to worsen as the weather continues to be unpredictable. Tourists are advised to be cautious and to have a backup plan in case of such emergencies.

Mantris will be on move for GST and Yoga Day

By Anind Ghose

NEW DELHI, June 16: Many ministers have been asked to postpone or cancel other programmes during this period as implementing GST is a priority for the Centre. The government has issued instructions to various ministries to ensure that the implementation of GST is not delayed. Ministers are being asked to focus on their duties related to the rollout of the new tax regime. The government is also organizing a series of events to mark the occasion, including a national conference on GST. The events will be held in various parts of the country, and ministers are expected to participate. The government is committed to ensuring a smooth transition to the new tax system, and is taking all necessary steps to address any challenges that may arise. The implementation of GST is a key priority for the government, and it is expected to bring about significant changes to the economy. The government is confident that the rollout will be successful, and is looking forward to the benefits that will accrue to the country in the long run.

Black money info exchange to start soon

Continued from P 1

The government is set to launch a major initiative to combat black money. This involves the exchange of information between various agencies, including the Income Tax Department, the Reserve Bank of India, and the Central Bank of India. The initiative is part of a broader strategy to bring black money into the formal economy and to reduce the tax evasion that has long plagued the country. The government is confident that this move will lead to a significant increase in tax revenues and will help to create a more transparent and fair financial system. The exchange of information will allow the government to identify and track down individuals who have accumulated large amounts of unexplained wealth. This will enable the government to take appropriate action, including the imposition of penalties and the freezing of assets. The government is also working to strengthen the legal framework that governs the exchange of information, and is looking to establish a more robust system of checks and balances. This initiative is expected to be a landmark step in the fight against black money, and is expected to have a positive impact on the country's economy and society.

Himachal's condition startling

Continued on P 2

The condition of Himachal Pradesh is causing serious concern. The state is facing a combination of natural disasters, including floods and landslides, which have caused significant damage to infrastructure and loss of life. The government has launched a relief drive to provide assistance to the affected people, and is working to restore normalcy as quickly as possible. The situation is particularly alarming in the mountainous regions, where the terrain is prone to landslides and the infrastructure is often weak. The government is also concerned about the impact of climate change on the state's environment and economy. The melting of glaciers and the changing patterns of rainfall are leading to more frequent and severe weather events, which are posing a significant threat to the state's future. The government is taking steps to address these challenges, including the implementation of disaster management plans and the promotion of sustainable development. It is also working to improve the resilience of the state's infrastructure and to ensure that the people are better prepared for future disasters. The government is committed to providing relief and support to the people of Himachal Pradesh, and is determined to overcome the challenges that the state is facing.

HC calls GJM's indefinite bandh in Hills illegal

By Anind Ghose



Protesters in Darjeeling hills.

A court has ruled that the indefinite bandh (shutdown) called by the GJM in the hills is illegal. The court stated that such a shutdown is not in the public interest and is a violation of the law. The GJM has been demanding the resignation of the state government and has called for a general strike. The court's decision is a significant setback for the GJM, and it is expected to lead to a more peaceful resolution of the situation. The court also ordered the government to take steps to ensure the safety and security of the people in the hills. The government has agreed to the court's decision and is working to implement the necessary measures. The court's decision is expected to bring some relief to the people in the hills, and is expected to help to restore normalcy to the region. The government is committed to ensuring that the rights of the people are protected and that the law is upheld. The court's decision is a clear message that the government will not tolerate any form of illegal activity, and is determined to maintain the rule of law.

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Ministry of Culture
Government of India

Nationwide Talent Hunt & Recognition of Artists & Artisans
Under the umbrella of EK BHARAT SHRESHTHA BHARAT
an ambitious Mission of Cultural Mapping of India

Block Level Cultural Talent Hunt
On Saturday, 17th June, 2017 at 10.00 am
Venue-Shri Radhe Shyam Sewa Sadan Opposite Gaudya Math
Radha Kund Road, Govardhan Mathura, Uttar Pradesh

Chief Guest
Dr. Mahesh Sharma
Minister of State for Culture and Tourism, Independent Charge

Guests of Honour
Hon. Minister
Hon. Minister for Culture, Government of Uttar Pradesh
Member of Parliament, Lucknow, Mathura
Member of Power Govt. of Uttar Pradesh

Patron Prakash M.A. Swati
Organiser Karunda Singh M.A. Swati
Secretary Shyam Sundar Sharma M.A. Swati

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WORLD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION
DATE: 17 JUNE, 2017 TIME: 8:00 AM ONWARDS
"Our Home Our Land Our Future"
Commemoration of the Day at Nature Camp for School Children at Rhonda, Gurugram

Chief Guest
Dr. Harsh Vardhan
Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change

In the august presence of
Manohar Lal
Chief Minister, Haryana

All are cordially invited

VENUE
Rhonda Forest Camp, Gurugram

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Government of Haryana
Gurugram

Event Highlights:

- Inauguration of Rhonda Forest & Combating Desertification Awareness Camp
- Dissemination of Aerial Photography and Combating Desertification Camp
- Tree Plantation by Anthropological groups
- Flagging off Bicycle Rally for School Children

4.2 Advertisement of Ministry commemorating WDCD 2017 in Times of India (New Delhi Edition)

आज का जागरण

तीन सड़क हादसे, चार की मौत, एक घायल

नरेला के फ्लैट में फंदे से लटकी मिली इग्नू की छात्रा

ज्वेलरी शोरूम में लूटपाट करने वालों की तलाश में जुटी टीम

आज होगा अर्नव के शव का पोस्टमार्टम

WORLD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

DATE: 17 JUNE 2017 TIME: 9:30 AM ONWARDS

"Our Home Our Land Our Future"

Commemoration of the Day at Narela Camp for School Children at Shree Lal, Gurugram

Chief Guest
Dr. Harsh Vardhan
Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change

In the august presence of
Mahesh Lal
Chief Minister, Haryana

All are cordially invited

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Government of India
www.mefcc.gov.in

Event Highlights:

- Inauguration of Narela Camp for School Children
- Inauguration of Narela Camp for School Children
- Live Performances by School Children
- Display of Artwork by School Children

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5. NEWSPAPER COVERAGE

WEB LINKS TO ONLINE COUNTRY WIDE COVERAGE OF UN WORLD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

The Times of India - <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/flora-fauna/centre-to-help-for-scheme-for-beautification-of-aravalis/articleshow/59197249.cms>

Hindustan Times - <http://www.hindustantimes.com/gurgaon/gurgaon-environment-minister-cm-ask-people-to-plant-two-crore-saplings-within-a-year/story-qawCw08DI3sq3zmB19oIXK.html>

Eenadu - <http://m.eenaduindia.com/news/national-news/2017/06/17215207/Harsh-Vardhan-urges-people-to-become-paryavaran-rakshaks.vpf>

Yahoo News - <https://in.news.yahoo.com/harsh-varadhan-launches-eco-tourism-124100803.html>

Web India - <http://news.webindia123.com/news/Articles/India/20170617/3127463.html>

Mangal Times - <http://manglatimes.com/bhondsi-forests-turns-as-chandra-shekhar-smriti-van/>

News Bharati - <http://www.newsbharati.com/Encyc/2017/6/17/Desertification-Haryana>

India Samvaad - <http://www.indiasamvad.co.in/environment/aravalli-range-is-venerable-for-entire-nation-let%E2%80%99s-protect-22571>

Business Standard - http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/people-s-active-participation-can-combat-dessertification-min-117061700695_1.html

Business Standard - http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/fighting-desertification-a-focus-area-varadhan-117061601040_1.html

Gurgaon: Environment minister, CM ask people to plant two crore saplings within a year

The state has less than 4% forest cover and the government aims to increase this to 10% over the next three years.

Updated Jun 17, 2017 23:46 IST



Ipsita Pati
Hindustan Times



Union minister for Environment Dr Harsh Vardhan (in jacket) plants a sapling in Bhondsi village on Saturday. (Parveen Kumar/HT Photo)

Union minister of environment, forest and climate change Dr Harsh Vardhan and Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar urged people to plant two crore saplings within a year to protect the Aravallis.

They were speaking at an event to mark the World Day to Combat Desertification, at Bhondsi on Saturday.

The appeal by the two leaders follows a survey by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) which showed that 12 vegetation gaps have appeared in the Aravallis and pointed to its desertification.

“Everyone should contribute to the environment and reduce carbon footprint. This will reduce global warming, which is a big concern globally,” Dr Vardhan said.

“Planting a sapling and taking care of it is not a huge responsibility at all,” he added.

Chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar emphasised on the need to create awareness about the Aravallis. He said that the Aravalli hills are under threat due to illegal mining, felling of trees and pressure from urbanisation. About 32% of the total land area in the country is affected by land degradation, which is a major concern, he said.

Read more: Aravallis could lose vegetation, become barren, says survey

The Aravalli range has a significant role in combating desertification as it is the oldest mountain fold in India and runs from Delhi to Rajasthan, Khattar

said, adding that the plan is to revive the existing programmes and protect the forest area.

“As many as 7,797 wardens and 7,800 volunteers will be deployed in forest areas to protect the Aravallis and spread awareness,” Khattar said. Asked about the Mangarbani grove, he said that the area comes under ‘protected zone’ and soon steps will be taken to protect it.

The state has less than 4% of forest cover and the government aims to increase this to 10% over the next three years.

However, environmental activists claim that isolated events, such as World Day to Combat Desertification, fail to address environmental issues. “The government should keep all premission related to felling of trees, construction, real estate and change of land use, on hold till an order from Supreme Court clarifies the definition of forest areas in the state,” said Chetan Agarwal, environmentalist.

Printed from

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Centre to help for scheme for beautification of Aravalis

Jun 17 2017, 11:23 PM IST



GURGAON: Union minister Harsh Vardhan on Saturday assured that the central government will extend all possible support to any scheme for enhancing the beauty and ecology of the Aravali range.

He also urged the people to work with resolve and dedication to make the Aravalis more beautiful.

Union environment, forests and climate change minister Vardhan was addressing the gathering at a function to inaugurate the Swarna Jayanti Nature Camp and launch of nature awareness and Aravali conservation campaign on the occasion of the United Nations World Day to Combat Desertification 2017, in Bhondsi, in Gurgaon district.

Vardhan said desertification could be tackled effectively with the active participation of local people and cooperation at all levels.

He urged the people of Haryana and the nation to become a large force of 'Paryavaran Rakshaks' (environment protectors) to fight the challenges posed by desertification, global warming and climate change.

He said photos of persons doing commendable work in the area of environment will be circulated in the entire country, if they upload their photos along with their work on the website of the environment ministry.

Such persons will also be rewarded on the occasion of World Environment Day next year, he said.

In such a way, a big force of environment protectors would be raised, he added.

Pointing out that modern science and technology and environment could come together to protect nature, he referred to the devising of a solar tree by scientists over an area of four square metres, which generates 5 KW of electricity.

He also highlighted the leading role played by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in forming the International Solar Alliance at the Conference of Parties on Climate Change in Paris in 2015, and added that the government was firmly committed towards implementing policies on solar energy.

Speaking on the occasion, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said climate change was having an adverse impact on the lives of the people, and was also adding to the desertification of land.

He stressed that afforestation could act as a bulwark to stop the process of desertification of land.

He also announced that the forest around Bhondsi area had been renamed as 'Chandra Shekhar Smriti Van' in the memory of former prime minister Chandra Shekhar.

Khattar exhorted the people to plant trees equal to the population of the village and to plant 2 crore trees in the next one year for protection of the environment.

Over 200 sq km in Aravalis is leopard country: Survey

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Gurgaon: In the first survey of its kind on population density of wild animals in five districts of Haryana, the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) has found leopards occupy a 200 square km area in these parts of the Aravalis. And the terrain in Gurgaon and Faridabad districts happens to be their core area.

“Total area under leopard occupancy was estimated to be 200.9 square kilometres. Sites namely Gamroj (Bhondsi), Raipur (Raisina), Mangar, Gothda, Badhkal, Kotla Kansali, Nimatpur (Nayaan), Khol and Panchota have higher psi (population stability index) estimates,” states the survey report, which was released by chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar and Union environment minister Harsh Vardhan on Saturday.

“Out of five districts — Gurgaon, Faridabad, Mewat, Rewari and Mahendergarh — the occupancy of leopards is the highest in Gurgaon and Faridabad. Moreover, the core zone (highest used region by the leopard) is also in these two districts,” said an official of WII who did not wish to be named.

Besides field sampling and analysis, WII used 12 camera traps to track the sightings of wild animals in the Aravalis. As many as seven sightings of leopards were reported in the camera traps within 30 days in October 2016. Moreover, sightings of 13 other species were recorded in the camera traps — seven of striped hyena, nine of golden jackal, 55 of nilgai, seven of palm civet,

14 of wild pig, 55 of rhesus macaque, 57 of peafowl and 12 of the Indian crested porcupine. The camera traps were put up in Bhondsi, Gamroj, Mangar, Bandhwari, Wazirabad, Gothda and Anangpur.

The survey found the jackal to be the highest-occurring carnivore species, followed by the hyena, and nilgai was found to be the highest occurring ungulate in the area. “Jackals are present in almost every grid with 92% occupancy,” the report states.

MD Sinha, conservator of forests (Gurgaon circle), said there has definitely been an increase in wildlife population, particularly that of leopards in the area. “There is an area of over 35,000 hectares around Gurgaon, which is very sensitive for wildlife. Seven sightings of big cats in 12 camera traps is a very good number,” he told TOI. “Also, four successful leopard rescues have been conducted in the last six months by the forest department. There is an immediate need to protect the green cover and lay out a long-term wildlife management plan as wildlife is continuously increasing in the Aravalis,” he added.

Asked if a wildlife census will be conducted in the Aravalis, Sinha said, “The department has already submitted a plan to conduct a comprehensive study and census of wildlife. We have already submitted a proposal to put radio collars on wild animals.” The WII report also recommended an immediate end to mining activities in Haryana.

पर्यावरण रक्षक बनें आम लोग : हर्षवर्धन

जनसत्ता संवाददाता
गुरुग्राम, 17 जून।

मरुस्थलीकरण को कारगर ढंग से रोका जा सकता है और इसके उपाय संभव हैं। केंद्रीय पर्यावरण मंत्री डॉ. हर्षवर्धन ने कहा कि लोगों की सक्रिय भागीदारी और सहयोग इस उद्देश्य को पूरा करने के साधन हैं। मंत्री ने हरियाणा और देश के लोगों का पर्यावरण रक्षक बनने का आह्वान किया, जिससे मरुस्थलीकरण, ग्लोबल वार्मिंग (गरम होते पर्यावरण) और जलवायु परिवर्तन की चुनौती का सामना किया जा सकता है। यह बात उन्होंने शनिवार स्वर्ण जयंती प्राकृतिक कैम्प के उद्घाटन, प्रकृति के प्रति जागरूकता और अरावली के संरक्षण के अभियान का लोकार्पण गुरुग्राम के निकट ग्राम भोंडसी में आयोजित संयुक्त राष्ट्र के विश्व मरु प्रसार रोक दिवस के अवसर पर कही। इस मौके पर हरियाणा के मुख्यमंत्री मनोहर लाल भी उपस्थित थे।

केंद्रीय मंत्री ने कहा कि ऐसे दिवस वास्तविकता में उस दिन की भावना को दर्शाते हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि आधुनिक विज्ञान, तकनीक और पर्यावरण साथ में मिलकर प्रकृति का रक्षण कर सकते हैं। मंत्री ने सौर वृक्ष के आविष्कार का उदाहरण दिया, जिसे चार वर्ग मीटर के क्षेत्र में लगाकर 5

किलोवाट बिजली पैदा की जा सकती है। इस संदर्भ में मंत्री ने प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की पेरिस में 2015 में अंतरराष्ट्रीय सौर गठबंधन बनाने में अगुआ की भूमिका उल्लेख किया।

हर्षवर्धन ने लोगों से कहा कि वे इस उत्सव की भावना के साथ घर वापस जाएं और मरुस्थलीकरण से निपटने के लिए अधिक से अधिक पेड़ लगाने के लिए नई ऊर्जा से काम करें। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि अरावली केवल

हरियाणा के लोगों के लिए ही नहीं, बल्कि पूरे देश के लोगों के लिए पूजनीय है। लोग अरावली को अधिक रमणीय बनाने के लिए पूरी निष्ठा और संकल्प से कार्य करें। उन्होंने इस बात पर भी बल दिया कि लोग पर्यावरण संरक्षण के लिए छोटे-छोटे कदम उठाएं।

इस अवसर पर हरियाणा के मुख्यमंत्री मनोहर लाल ने कहा कि जलवायु परिवर्तन का प्रभाव हमारे जीवन पर पड़ रहा है और मरुस्थलीकरण को बढ़ा रहा है। उन्होंने कहा कि वनीकरण से मरुस्थलीकरण

को रोका जा सकता है। मुख्यमंत्री ने भोंडसी के आसपास के वन को पूर्व प्रधान मंत्री चंद्रशेखर की याद में चंद्रशेखर स्मृति वन के नाम रखने की घोषणा की।



- गुरुग्राम के भोंडसी गांव में स्वर्ण जयंती प्राकृतिक कैम्प का किया उद्घाटन
- अरावली सिर्फ हरियाणा के लिए ही नहीं बल्कि पूरे देश के लिए पूजनीय



गुरुग्राम: गांव भोंडसी के निकट हरियाणा स्वर्ण नेचर कैम्प का उद्घाटन करने के बाद साइकिल पर दौरा करते केंद्रीय मंत्री डॉ. हर्षवर्धन व हरियाणा के मुख्यमंत्री मनोहर लाल।

ग्लोबल वार्मिंग से बचाने की क्षमता भारत में

डॉ. हर्षवर्धन ने कहा, पॉलिसी बनाने की बात नहीं यह हमारे डीएनए में है

■ सहारा न्यूज ब्यूरो
गुरुग्राम।

केंद्रीय पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्री डा. हर्षवर्धन ने कहा कि ग्लोबल वार्मिंग से दुनिया को बचाने की क्षमता भारत में है क्योंकि यह कोई पॉलिसी बनाने की बात नहीं है, बल्कि यह हमारे डीएनए में है। पर्यावरण को स्वच्छ रखना तथा पानी बचाने के संस्कार हमें अपने पूर्वजों से मिले हैं। जैसे नदियों को हम माता कहकर पुकारते हैं, सूर्य को देवता और आसमान को पिता का दर्ज देते हैं। वे शनिवार को गांव भोंडसी के निकट अरावली पर्वत श्रृंखला की तलहटी में विश्व मरुस्थलीकरण रोकथाम दिवस के अवसर पर स्वर्ण जयंती नेचर कैंप का उद्घाटन करने उपरांत जनसमूह को संबोधित कर रहे थे।

डा. हर्षवर्धन ने कहा हम मानते हैं कि गाय में 33 करोड़ देवी देवताओं का वास है। हमारी इरी पूर्वजों की शिक्षा के तरे में नदें आयोजन करके नई पीढ़ियों को बताया जा रहा है। उन्होंने कहा कि उनके मंत्रालय द्वारा आज विश्व मरुस्थलीकरण रोकथाम दिवस के अवसर पर जयपुर में कार्यक्रम रखा था,

लेकिन उन्होंने अरावली पर्वतों की गोद में आयोजित कार्यक्रम में आना उचित समझा और मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों को जयपुर भेजा। उन्होंने कहा कि पर्यावरण संरक्षण के लिए विज्ञान, तकनीक तथा अन्य उपायों का प्रयोग किया जा रहा है। हमारे वैज्ञानिकों ने 4 वर्ग मीटर में सोलर ट्री तैयार किया है जो चार

किलोवाट बिजली पैदा करेगा। इसी प्रकार, दूर दराज के क्षेत्रों के लिए सोलर एटीएम बनाए गए हैं। नेचर कैंप क्षेत्र में आने वाले लोगों के लिए प्रयोग की जाने वाली ई-रिक्शा और विद्यार्थियों की साइकिल रैलियों को भी डा. हर्षवर्धन तथा मनोहर लाल ने झंडी दिखाकर रवाना किया।



Union minister of environment, forest and climate change Harsh Vardhan and Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar cycle at the inauguration of the Golden Jubilee Nature Camp in Gurgaon on Saturday. — PTI