

CGPWA Members tour Gharana Wetland ; hold Monday Meeting there

Today's outing cum Monday meeting was yet another very exciting & mesmerizing event of CGPWA, attended by 30 members. Sorry to miss many of the original confirmed participants including Shri Kuldeep Khoda. The group was led by our Patron Shri S S Wazir.

All of us had to take many detours to reach Gharana Wetland as some people protesting at Miran Sahib have bought a dead body & placed it at the centre of the road. That made our journey to about one hour & thirty minutes, even though we left the Assembly point exactly at 11 am.

But the magic spell of flocks of the migratory birds at the small water body & sweet sound of their chirping did remove all our hassle enroute & tiredness due to bumping kacha packa rural roads.

Apart from the briefing by the Range Officer, Ashish Mahajan, Dr C M Seth also gave a detailed information about these migratory birds & the scientific phenomenon of their flying thousands of miles from areas like Siberia. He explained many interesting features of their low flying.

Nearly 6000 migratory birds come this wetland every year during this season. The important among them are Bar-headed Geese.

The visit was coordinated by Shri SD Swatantra who as Regional Wildlife Officer actually got it approved from the State Cabinet on February 1981 & subsequent got notified by DC Jammu as Gharana Wetland along with two adjoining wetlands of Kakriyan & Sangral in 1982.



The arrangements for visit was made by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Shri Suresh Gupta IFS. The Association is grateful to him.

The Department has formulated an ambitious plan for expanding the wetland for which 408 Kamal of area has been fenced. A 10-year plan has been prepared. This year over Rs 3 CR were spent on it. Next year too, a provision of over ₹ 3.50 CR has been made. The plan envisages cafeteria, new road, viewing decks, wallowing area, Gobar Gas plant, 10' wide walking track around the water body, parking lots etc

With massive development, the Gharana Wetland is poised to be an attractive tourist destination in very near future. It is our good fortune that we visited this place today.

