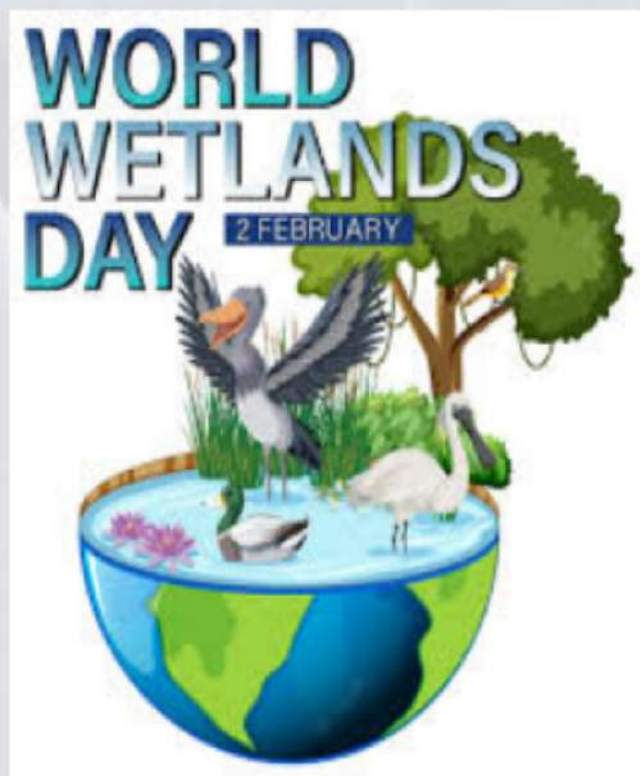


**Government Degree College Ganderbal.**



**Department of Botany and Eco Club.**

**celebrates World Wetland Day, 2023.**



**"It is time for Wetlands restoration"**



**On this day, let us together take the pledge ,**

**"I pledge to make conscious choices that minimize the loss of degradation of wetlands and spread awareness of the importance of restoration"**

# Wetlands and Water: The Facts

We are in a growing water crisis that threatens people and our planet. We use more water than nature can replenish, and are destroying the ecosystem that water and all life depend on most - Wetlands.

## What wetlands do

Fresh and saltwater wetlands sustain humanity and nature. They support our social and economic development through multiple services:

### Store and clean water

- Wetlands hold and provide most of our fresh water.
- They naturally filter pollutants, leaving water we can safely drink.

### Keep us fed

- Aquaculture is the fastest growing food production sector, while inland fisheries alone provided 12 million tonnes of fish in 2018.
- Rice paddies feed 3.5 billion people annually

### Underpin our global economy

- Wetlands, the most valuable ecosystem, provide services worth US \$47 trillion a year.
- More than one billion people rely on wetlands for income.

### Provide nature a home

- 40% of the world's species live and breed in wetlands. Annually, about 200 new fish species discovered in freshwater wetlands.
- Coral reefs are home to 25% of all species.

### Keep us safe

- Wetlands provide protection from floods and storms with each acre of wetland absorbing up to 1.5 million gallons of floodwater.
- Wetlands help regulate the climate: peatlands store twice as much carbon as forests, with saltmarshes, mangroves and seagrass beds also holding vast amounts of carbon.



## We have a finite amount of water and our current use is unsustainable

### 3 Freshwater Facts

- Only **2.5%** of water on Earth is fresh water, mostly stored in glaciers, ice caps and underground aquifers
- Less than **1%** of freshwater is usable
- Rivers and lakes hold **0.3%** of surface water

### Freshwater Consumption

We use 10 billion tons of water every day:

- **70%** used for food cultivation
- **22%** consumed by industry and energy
- Water use increased sixfold in **100 years** and rises by **1%** annually

