



Drive Launched to Curb Child Labour | Jammu & Kashmir | 18 Nov 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the administration in **Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district** has intensified efforts to **combat [child labor](#) and [begging](#)** while taking measures to **address the challenges faced by children living on the streets.**

Key Points

- According to the officials, **collective efforts are essential to eradicate child exploitation** and create a safer environment for children.
- Authorities urged citizens to stay vigilant and **report any instances of child exploitation or violations.**
- **Anti-Beggary Drive in Katra:**
 - A joint '**Anti-Beggary and Children in Street Situations**' drive was conducted in Katra by the Child Helpline, in partnership with the Police and Health Departments.
 - During the drive, **11 children forced into beggary were rescued.**
- **Ongoing Rescue Initiatives:**
 - The Social Welfare Department will continue similar drives across the district.
 - The **objective is to rescue children from exploitation and ensure they lead a dignified life.**

Child Labour in India

- According to the last available [Census 2011](#), there were 10.1 million child labourers in India.
- **India's biggest child labour employers** states are Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra.
- **Constitutional Provisions:**
 - **The [Article 23](#)** of the Indian Constitution prohibits human trafficking and begar (forced labour without payment) to protect the millions of underprivileged and deprived people of the country.
 - The right is available to **citizens of India as well as to non-citizens.**
 - The right provides against human trafficking in the form of:
 - Selling and buying of men, women and children.
 - Prostitution
 - [Devadasis](#)
 - Slavery.
 - The [Immoral Traffic \(Prevention\) Act, 1956](#) has been enacted to deal with violations of this fundamental right.
 - [Article 24](#) of the Indian Constitution forbids employment of children below the age of 14 years in hazardous work like factories and mines.
 - However, it did not prohibit their employment in any harmless or innocent work.
 - The [Child Labour \(Prohibition and Regulation\) Act, 1986](#) (renamed as [Child & Adolescent Labour \(Prohibition and Regulation\) Act, 1986](#) in 2016) specifically deals with the violations related to Prohibition of employment of children (below the age fourteen years) in factories, etc.
 - The [2016 amendment](#) of this act completely prohibited employment of

- children below 14 years of age in all occupations and processes.
- It also **prohibited the employment of adolescents** (14-18 years of age) in hazardous occupations or processes.
- **Articles 39** states that, the State shall in particular, direct its policies towards securing:
 - Right to an adequate means of livelihood to all the citizens.
 - The ownership and control of material resources shall be organised in a manner to serve the common good.
 - The State shall avoid concentration of wealth in a few hands.
 - Equal pay for equal work for both men and women.
 - The protection of the strength and health of the workers.
 - Childhood and youth shall not be exploited.

Delay Arrival of Migratory Birds in Kashmir Valley | Jammu & Kashmir | 18 Nov 2024

Why in News?

Due to less rainfall in the [Kashmir Valley](#), the [wetlands](#) are left severely dry adversely affecting the arrival of **migratory birds**.

Key Points

- **Decline in Migratory Birds:**
 - Each year, by late September or October, lakhs of migratory birds from **Siberia, China, Central Asia, and Northern Europe migrate to the Kashmir Valley's wetlands**, with [Hokersar Wetland](#) being the most significant site.
 - In 2024, it noted a sharp decline in bird arrivals compared to previous years.
- **Factors Contributing to Fewer Birds:**
 - Experts attribute the decline to [global warming](#), with prolonged summers delaying the onset of winter, resulting in a 10-15 day delay in bird arrivals.
 - **Reduced rainfall and dry wetlands have worsened the situation**, contributing to fewer birds this November. However, experts expect numbers to rise as weather conditions improve.
- **Shrinking Wetlands and Habitat Loss:**
 - Experts have raised **concerns about the shrinking Hokersar wetland**, also known as the 'Queen of Wetlands.'
 - From **1969 to 2008, the wetland's area reduced from 18.75 sq km to 13 sq km**, with a loss of 150 hectares of marshy land within it.
- **Future Threat to Migratory Birds:**
 - **Without proper action** to restore and protect these wetlands, the **future of both the habitats and the migratory birds** that depend on them **remains uncertain**.

Hokersar Wetland

- **Location:**
 - The Hokersar wetland, a [Ramsar site](#), is situated in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir. It is **also known as the 'Queen Wetland of Kashmir'**.
- **Geographic Setting:**
 - It is a natural, perennial **wetland that is part of the [Jhelum](#) basin** and is located in the **northwest Himalayan biogeographic province of Kashmir**, at the foot of the snow-

draped [Pir Panchal range](#).

▪ **Water Source:**

- The wetland receives water from the **Doodhganga River, a tributary of the Jhelum.**

▪ **Flora and Fauna:**

- **It is home to the last remaining reedbeds of Kashmir** and serves as a **critical pathway for 68 waterfowl species.**
- These birds, **migrating from regions like Siberia, China, Central Asia, and Europe,** include species such as the **little cormorant, [common shelduck](#), large egret, and great crested grebe.**
- The wetland is **vital for local biodiversity**, offering food sources, spawning grounds, and nurseries for fish, along with breeding habitats for various species.

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