

SEWA PARV CAMPAIGN - 2025

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) declared the celebration of SEVA PARV across the Country from 17.09.2025 to 02.10.2025. As per the designated dates from the Wetlands Division of MoEF&CC, the Wildlife Division, Leh celebrated SEVA PARV from 19.09.2025 to 20.09.2025 in Tsokar wetland Complex and Tsomoriri Lake, which is a designated Ramsar site of UT, Ladakh. The Ramsar wetlands of Ladakh are of prime ecological importance, serving as critical habitats for several threatened and important migratory bird species, including the Black-Necked Crane and Bar-Headed Goose. However, these fragile ecosystems are increasingly facing pressures from waste accumulation and unregulated human activities.

Keeping in view the tradition of service, volunteerism and collective responsibility towards society and nature, the Wildlife Division Leh organised a two-day campaign, wherein 3 major activities were conducted:-

- 1) Bird survey around the designated Ramsar sites.
- 2) Cleanliness drive around the wetlands of Tsokar and Tsomoriri lakes.
- 3) Community engagement and awareness campaign.

The event saw active participation from the staffs of Leh Wildlife Division, students from SAVE Changthang and Jungwa Foundation and local communities residing in the area.

Day 1: Tsokar Wetland Complex

The team departed from Leh on 19th September 2025 early in the morning and reached Tsokar by 10:00 am. The day started with a bird survey in and around the marshes of Tsokar lake, where several important bird species were recorded, including the State Bird of Ladakh, Black-Necked Crane (9 adults, 3 chicks), along with Ruddy Shelduck (280), Bar Headed Geese (100), Bearded Vulture (1), Tibetan Sandgrouse (22), Black Kite (1), Kestrel (1), Gadwall (55), Lesser Sand Plover (30), Northern Pintail (120), Common Redshank (60), and Horned Lark (100).

Towards Starsapuk Tso and its adjoining marshes many important waterbirds were observed such as Grey Heron (2), Great Crested Grebe (30), Black Necked Crane (4), Upland Buzzard (4), Ruddy Shelduck (200), Bar Headed Geese (300), Common Coot (70), Ground Tit (10) and Hornlark (150).

Also, cleanliness drive was conducted around the marshes of Tsokar wetland. After lunch break, an awareness programme was held for the local inhabitants and restaurant owners of Thukje village, Tsokar highlighting the importance of wetlands, their ecological role, and the do's and don'ts of wetland conservation. Pamphlets and poster of Do's and Don'ts were distributed to the restaurants located along the roadside for wider outreach.

The waste collected was responsibly disposed off at the Solid Resource Management Centre (SRMC) at Puga and a short birding session was conducted along the Puga marshes.



Image 1. Affixing of do's and dont's posters for wetlands conservation in Thukje village, Tsokar.



Image 2. Bird session at Tsokar lake.



Image 3. Recording important species including the state bird of ladakh, the Black Necked Crane.



Image 4. Habitat of Bar Headed Geese, Ruddy shelduck, Northern Pintail at one of the sites in Tsokar lake.



Image 5. Cleanliness drive around Tsokar Wetland Complex and waste collected from Tsokar being disposed at SRMC Puga.



Image 6. Group photo at Tsokar Wetland Complex, Day 1.

Day 2: Tsomoriri Lake

On the second day, after breakfast, the team proceeded for a bird survey around Tsomoriri Lake. The highlight of the survey was the sighting of Eurasian Eagle Owls (2), along with Black Redstart (10), Crested Grebe (12), Ruddy Shelduck (82), Common Eurasian Coot (57), Gadwall (68), Wood Sand piper (6), Common Sandpiper (9), Upland Bazzard (1), Bar Headed Geese (7), White Winged Redstart (12) and Black Winged Stilt (2).

The locals gathered for a short awareness campaign and posters and pamphlets regarding wetland conservation was distributed. After the birding session, cleanliness drive was carried out around the marshes where the local nomadic settlements was present. The waste collected was transported and disposed off at the SRMC, Chumathang. Lunch was arranged on-site, and the team concluded the campaign and returned to Leh.



Image 7. Group photo with the locals of Korzok village, Tsomoriri.



Image 8. Bird session at Tsomoriri Lake with spotting of Ruddy shelduck and Gadwall species.



Image 9. Spotting of Common Coot and other waterbirds of Tsomoriri marshes in their natural habitat.



Image 9. Collecting wastes from Tsomoriri marches.



Image 10. Affixing do's and dont's for wetlands conservation at one of the camps in Korzok village.



Image 11. Distribution of pamphlets among the locals of korzok village surrounding Tsomoriri Lake.



Image 12. Waste collected from Tsomoriri Lake disposed off at SRMC Chumathang.



Image 13. Group photo at Tsomoriri marshes, Day 2.

The SEVA PARV 2025 Campaign witnessed active participation from around 50 local community members of Tsokar and Tsomoriri wetlands. Among the community the members were restaurant owners and camp owners who plays a key role in spreading awareness regarding wetland and nature conservation. Total of 34 species of wetland birds were recorded during this campaign. From the Wildlife Division Leh around 9 staffs participated in the campaign. The student volunteers showed enthusiasm in the bird survey and clealiness drive which underscores the positive impact of the activity on the environment thereby creating awareness about wetland conservation and community involvement.