

The Kashmir Talk

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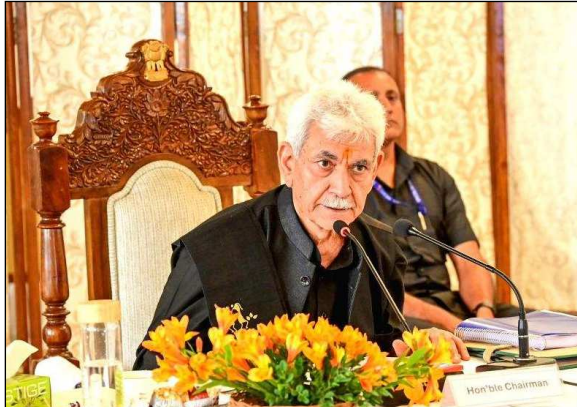
LG Sinha Chairs 49th Board Meeting Of Shri Amarnath Shrine Board

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha chaired the 49th Board meeting of Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board (SASB) at Raj Bhawan, today.

The Board, which met under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor held a comprehensive review of the preparedness of all the line departments and proposed various measures and interventions to further improve the facilities for the devotees.

The meeting discussed the arrangements and requisite amenities at base camps and various locations enroute Yatra including Disaster preparedness and mitigation



measures, dissemination of Yatra-related information, insurance cover to yatri and service providers, upgradation of Yatra Tracks, provision for sanitation water, power, transportation, and medical & health care facilities, telecom connectivity, Weather

Forecasting, Digital Pre-paid system for hiring services, fire & emergency services, and civil supplies. The Lieutenant Governor took appraisal of the progress on various ongoing projects and directed for ensuring completion of the identified works well in time for

the convenience of the pilgrims.

"Safety and well-being of the Pilgrims is our top-most priority. We are committed to provide better facilities and amenities to ensure a hassle-free and spiritually enriching experience for all the pilgrims," the Lieutenant Governor said. The meeting also discussed important matters pertaining to establishment of Yatri Niwas and Transit camps at various locations enroute, enhancement of lodgement capacity, expansion of Prasad Sale counters, operationalization of Yatri facilitation centres, online services by the Board, issuance of RFID cards, registration

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Committed to freeing India from menace of naxalism: Amit Shah



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
NEW DELHI:

Asserting that the Narendra Modi government is committed to freeing India from the menace of naxalism, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday met officers, who played a key role in recent anti-naxal operations, and congratulated them for the success achieved. Shah also said that he would soon visit

Chhattisgarh to meet the soldiers who participated in the successful operations against naxals. "Met the officers who played a crucial role in the recent anti-Naxal operations and congratulated them on the historic success of these operations. I am eager to meet the brave jawans who made these operations successful with their courage and will soon visit

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We practice policy of zero tolerance against terrorism: EAM Jaishankar



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
NEW DELHI:

India on Saturday thanked the United Kingdom for its support in condemning the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack and reiterated that India practises a policy of zero tolerance against terrorism.

In his opening remarks during the delegation-level talks with UK

Foreign Secretary David Lammy here, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar said, "At the outset, let me thank the Government of the United Kingdom for the strong condemnation of the barbaric terrorist attack in Pahalgam in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and for your solidarity and support to India in the fight against terrorism. We practice a

policy of zero tolerance against terrorism and expect our partners to understand it, and we will never countenance perpetrators of evil being put at par with its victims."

The UK Foreign Secretary arrived in New Delhi this morning for a crucial two-day official visit aimed at reviewing and advancing the UK-India economic and migration partnership. Lammy called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi before engaging in bilateral discussions with Jaishankar.

"David, very pleased to welcome you back to India. You have just had a very good meeting with Prime Minister Modi, and I think your visit at this time gives us an occasion

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Our efforts towards farmer welfare will continue with greater vigour in times to come: PM Modi

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
NEW DELHI:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has described key initiatives such as the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi and Kisan Fasal Bima, as important steps taken by the Centre for the welfare of farmers.

He has underlined the far-reaching impact of the government's pro-farmer initiatives over the past 11 years, marking a significant phase of dignity and prosperity for the agricultural community.

The Prime Minister also noted that due to the continuous increase in Minimum Support Price (MSP), the country's food producers are not only receiving fair prices for their crops but are also experiencing a rise in



their income.

Modi emphasised that it has been a privilege for his government to serve the hardworking farmers of the country.

Reflecting on the last 11 years, he said the government's various initiatives have not only enhanced prosperity among farmers but have also contributed to an overall transformation of the agriculture sector. The Prime Minister highlighted that the gov-

ernment has paid close attention to key aspects such as soil health and irrigation, which have been greatly beneficial.

"Our efforts towards farmer welfare will continue with greater vigour in the times to come," Modi further said. "We have worked on dignity and prosperity for our farmers," he said. In a post on X, the Prime Minister said, "It's our privilege

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Jitendra Singh departs for France to push India's ocean agenda

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
NEW DELHI:

Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of Earth Sciences, on Saturday left for France to lead a high-level Indian delegation at the International Meet on Oceans. The third edition of the United Nations (UN) Ocean Conference is

scheduled from June 8 to June 13 in the French city, Nice.

The event is co-hosted by France and Costa Rica.

Global leaders, scientists, policy makers, and civil society members will join high-level meetings during the four day conference to discuss

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Train To Kashmir: Helicopters Ferried Men And Machines To Build Engineering Marvels In Once Cut-Off Areas

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
REASI (J&K):

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated a prestigious railway project connecting Kashmir to the rest of the country on Friday, fulfilling Maharaja Pratap Singh's century-old dream, the Indian Railways remembered the pivotal role of the



armed forces' helicopters in ferry-

ing men and machines to the remote and cut-off region to script history.

The use of helicopters proved to be a game changer, not only in building more than 215 kilometres of approach roads through mountainous terrain, linking around 70 remote villages, but also in paving

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LG Manoj Sinha...

and verification of pilgrims and service providers, Langar and NGO Services.

Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board, gave a detailed presentation regarding the arrangements for the Yatra.

It was informed that around 3,31,000 devotees have registered for the holy yatra for this year, till date.

This year, Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra will commence on 3rd July, simultaneously from both

the routes – the Pahalgam track in Anantnag district and Baltal in Ganderbal district and it will culminate on 9th August, 2025 on Raksha Bandhan.

The meeting was attended by Members of the Shrine Board- Swami Avdheshanand Giri Ji Maharaj, Prof. Kailash Mehra Sadhu, K.K.Sharma, K.N.Rai, Mukesh Garg, Dr. Shailesh Raina, Dr. Simridhi Bindroo, Suresh Haware and Prof. Vishwamurti Shastri.

Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Shaleen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department; Nalin Prabhat, DGP; Chandraker Bharti, Principal Secretary Home; IGP; Administrative Secretaries; Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Deputy Commissioners (Ganderbal and Anantnag); Additional CEO SASB and senior officers of the UT Administration, Police, Shrine Board and BRO also attended the meeting, in person and through virtual mode.

Committed to...

Chhattisgarh to meet them. The Modi government is committed to freeing India from the menace of Naxalism," he posted on X.

Under the guidance of the Union Home Minister, security forces have been conducting anti-Naxal operations in Chhattisgarh. As part of these efforts, an operation was carried out by the Chhattisgarh Police in the interior areas of Abujhmad from May 18 to 21. On May 21, an encounter in the forests of Boter village resulted in the elimination of 27 Naxals, including CPI (Maoist) General Secretary and Polit Bureau member Basa-varaju alias Gaganna, an official release said.

The officers involved in this operation, including Chhattisgarh Director General of Police Arun Dev Gautam, Additional Director General of Police (Anti-Naxal Operations/SIB/STF) Vivekanand, Inspector General of Police, Bastar Range Sundarraj, Superintendent of Police (Narayanpur) Prabhat Kumar, Superintendent of Police (Bijapur) Jitendra Yadav, and Superintendent of Police (Naxal-free Bastar District) Shalabh Singh, were honored by Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The event was attended by Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Sharma, Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, Director of the Intelligence Bureau Tapan Deka, and several other senior officials.

We practice policy...

to assess our comprehensive strategic partnership, which I believe has strengthened across all sectors in recent times. We have had very regular high level political and official interactions," Jaishankar said.

The External Affairs Minister further said Foreign Secretary, the recent conclusion of the India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and the Double Contribution Convention is truly a milestone which will not only propel "our two way trade and investment but will have also have a positive effect on other strategic aspects of our bilateral ties, it would also contribute to the strengthening of supply and value chains".

"Since your last visit to India, there have been significant initiatives which both of us have taken and those initiatives have progressed well. I would single out the Technology Security Initiative (TSI) which will enable deeper collaboration in strategic technology sectors of AI, Semiconductors, Telecom, Quantum, HealthTech/Bio-Tech, Critical Minerals and Advanced Materials," Jaishankar said.

"We have also launched the Strategic Exports and Technology Cooperation Dialogue, the first meeting of which was held, I believe, this week. This will enhance among others the TSI's effectiveness in promoting trade in critical and emerging technologies, including the resolution of relevant licensing or regulatory issues," he said.

Jaishankar further said similarly, the UK-India infrastructure financial bridge can unlock quality long term capital flows from the United Kingdom to India, and that would surely contribute to our infrastructure development.

"There is very good collaboration in the education sector with many more universities, I believe, planning to establish their campuses in India, and on the people – to – people ties front, we had the privilege – I

myself had the honour – to open two new consulates in Manchester and Belfast," he said.

"So, there is so much more that we can talk about and that is indeed why we are meeting. I look forward to discussing these initiatives on how to further deepen and diversify our partnership, and I also hope we can exchange views on key regional and global issues," he added.

The UK Foreign Secretary, who met Jaishankar, expressed condolences over the recent Pahalgam terror attack and reiterated the UK's support in combating terrorism.

Lammy also spoke about the recent progress in the India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA), underscoring growing education and trade cooperation.

Offering condolences on the terror attack, the UK Foreign Secretary said, "It is obviously also sadly the case that there has been a horrific terrorist attack since we last met and my prime minister wishes me to convey once again the deep condolences of the UK and a hand of friendship with India and support as we deal with the terrorism threat in a comprehensive manner."

Referring to the newly finalised FTA between the two countries, Lammy said, "Since I was last here in India, our country has won a trophy which is that long-held prize of an FTA which I think is the beginning of a new era in relations between our two countries and allows us to move forward with a degree of ambition."

He also noted that the agreement is expected to increase bilateral trade by £25.5 billion in the coming period and welcomed the growing interest among UK universities in forging partnerships in India.

"I'm very pleased that we are able to talk about our comprehensive strategic partnership to build on the technology security initiative that we launched last year to see more universities desiring of partnership and opening up here in India and of course our new agreement will increase trade by 25.5 billion pounds over this next period which is truly remarkable," he said.

Lammy expressed gratitude for his visit and appreciated Prime Minister Narendra Modi for granting him an audience. "I'm very pleased to be back in India and very grateful to Prime Minister Modi once again giving me an audience and giving me so much of his time at a very very busy and challenging time," he said.

Our efforts towards...

to serve our hardworking farmers. For the past 11 years, our various initiatives have boosted prosperity for farmers and also ensured an overall transformation of the agriculture sector. We have focussed on issues like soil health and irrigation, which have been greatly beneficial. Our efforts towards farmer welfare will continue with greater vigour in the times to come."

As the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government completes 11 years of governance, India's agricultural sector has undergone a profound transformation over the years which is rooted in the philosophy of Beej Se Bazaar Tak (seed to market), while also championing inclusivity, supporting small farmers, women-led groups, and allied sectors, while making India a global agricultural leader, a statement from the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoAFW) said.

A statement from the Ministry has highlighted that over the 11 years, the agri sector has seen enhanced budget allocation, including increased Food Grain Production, increase in MSP and Support for Farmers, Wheat, Paddy, MSP Growth and Record Procurement, financial security among other things.

"From modern irrigation and credit access to digital marketplaces and agri-tech innovations, India is embracing smart farming and reviving traditional practices like millet cultivation and natural farming. Allied sectors such as dairy and fisheries are also flourishing, driving rural prosperity and climate-smart agriculture," the ministry said.

Regarding Budget allocation, the ministry said, "Agriculture serves as the backbone of India's economy, playing a pivotal role in ensuring food security, providing employment, and contributing to overall economic development. It supports the livelihoods of a significant portion of the population and remains vital to India's socio-economic fabric."

The Budget Estimates for the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare have seen growth, rising from Rs 27,663 crore in 2013-14 to Rs 1,37,664.35 crore in 2024-25, an increase of nearly five times over the period, the ministry said.

The country's grain production has also grown steadily from 265.05 million tonnes in 2014-15 to an estimated 347.44 million tonnes in 2024-25.

"The major crops include rice, wheat, jowar, bajra, maize, ragi, barley, gram, tur, pulses, groundnut, soybean, rapeseed & mustard, oilseeds, sugarcane, cotton, and jute & mesta," the statement read.

During the period 2014-15 to 2024-25, procurement

of 14 Kharif crops was 7871 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT), while during the period 2004-05 to 2013-14, procurement was 4679 LMT.

Earlier in May, the Centre hiked Minimum Support Price (MSP) for certain Kharif crops for Marketing Season 2025-26, with over 16 crops seeing more than an 80 per cent of a jump in MSP since 2013-14. According to the ministry, Paddy (Common) has seen an 81 pc jump, being at Rs 2369/quintal for 2025-25, up from Rs 1310/quintal in 2013-14. Paddy (Grade A) was increased by 78 pc, fixed at Rs 2389 per quintal for 2025, up from Rs 1345/quintal in 2013-14.

Jitendra Singh departs...

sustainable ocean governance and concrete actions for the health of the world's oceans.

Over the next four days, Singh will participate in bilateral meetings with Ministers from key partner countries, deliver India's national statement at the UNOC plenary session, and engage in crucial policy dialogues on ocean action.

On the sidelines of the conference, the Minister will also take part in an India-Norway marine collaboration event on Marine Spatial Planning, to be held aboard the Norwegian research vessel S/S Statsraad Lehmkuhl at Monaco Harbour on June 8.

To strengthen cooperation on marine pollution, ocean science, and blue economy financing, Singh will hold bilateral meetings with representatives from France, Germany, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Chile.

Aligned with the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14), the conference will focus on restoring marine ecosystems, reducing marine pollution, promoting ocean-based scientific cooperation, and mobilizing resources for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and marine resources.

"Ocean Action Panels," involving governments, UN bodies, researchers, industry leaders, and NGOs, will be featured during the conference to forge partnerships and propose practical, scalable solutions.

"The Minister will articulate India's stance on ocean policy, highlighting initiatives in marine research, coastal resilience, and regional cooperation."

Train To Kashmir...

the way for human resource deployment and the construction of three engineering marvels — the world's highest railway bridge, the country's biggest cable-stayed bridge and the longest transportation tunnel in India. "The helicopters of the armed forces played a pivotal role in transforming the dream of connecting Kashmir by rail into reality. They ferried men and machines to begin work in unconnected regions that made this train to Kashmir possible," a senior railway officer said.

He said the Reasi-Ramban belt was remote and largely inaccessible and initially, labourers and engineers had to trek on foot to undertake basic project work. Former Railway Board member A K Khandelwal, who supervised the project, said, "To accelerate the construction of the approach road up to the most remote part of the project, Sawalkote, heavy construction machinery was airlifted using Army helicopters from the Jammu airport." Their extensive logistical support helped the railway overcome one of the most formidable engineering challenges in the country — the 111-km Banihal-Katra section of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL), a Rs 43,780 crore national project.

"A tabletop helipad was constructed by levelling a 100-metre by 40-metre stretch of land near Surukote village between Dugga and Sawalkote using only hand tools," Khandelwal said.

He added that MI-26 helicopters were used for airlifting heavy construction machines, with sorties conducted and 226 MT of load lifted to Surukote in October 2010.

Recalling his first journey to unconnected Sangaldan — which today boasts of a major railway station and infrastructure — another railway engineer said, "To meet the scale of geographical challenges faced during the construction of the Chenab Bridge, labourers had to be airlifted by helicopters to the work-site in the early days." He added that workers constructed a helipad on the site, enabling engineers and technical teams to reach the remote location and begin operations on the ground. "Initially, engineers had to trek long distances on foot or rely on mules to reach various construction points," he said.

In the early years of the project, hundreds of helicopter sorties were carried out to ferry men, material and heavy machinery to remote and inaccessible parts of Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district.

This changed the entire outlook of the prestigious project from isolation to connectivity to Kashmir.

"Before the construction of access roads, villagers relied on treacherous footpaths or boats to reach nearby towns."

Farewell Note to Mr. Tariq Ahmad Shah Incharge, Training - Civil Defence Unit, Srinagar

ER. M. OWAIS RAJA
JAMMU:

With heartfelt gratitude and deep respect, I bid farewell to a remarkable individual—Mr. Tariq Ahmad Shah—whose leadership, dedication, and unwavering commitment have not only inspired many but also significantly strengthened the spirit and structure of Civil Defence in Srinagar.

As you step into retirement, it marks not just the conclusion of a distinguished professional journey, but the beginning of a new and fulfilling chapter in life. May your days ahead be filled with good health, serenity, and the joy of pursuing all that brings you happiness. You've



truly earned this well-deserved break, and we hope the years ahead are as impactful and rewarding as

those you leave behind.

"Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power."

— Abraham Lincoln

I have had the honour of meeting Mr. Shah on several occasions and the privilege of organizing many successful programmes under his able guidance. Whether in person or over the phone, he has always responded with patience, kindness, and grace. His approachable and welcoming nature has left a lasting impression.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation for your dedicated service, and I wish you happiness, contentment, and all the very best for the journey ahead.

With warm regards and best wishes

Indian Army Hosts Renewable Energy Awareness Lecture on World Environment Day in Poonch



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
POONCH:

To mark World Environment Day 2025, the Indian Army organized an insightful awareness lecture on renewable energy at Khanetar in Poonch district. The initiative aimed to inform and inspire the local population, especially the youth, about the importance of transitioning to renewable energy in response to the growing environmental concerns and depletion of conventional energy resources. The lecture began with an overview of traditional energy sources such as coal, petroleum, natural gas, and nuclear power, underlining their finite nature and the environmental damage caused by their extraction and use. The speakers highlighted how the unsustainable rate of consumption of these resources contributes significantly to global pollution and climate change.

Emphasis was placed on the urgent need for adopting renewable energy alternatives like solar, wind, biomass, and tidal energy. The audience was briefed about how these clean energy sources not only reduce the carbon footprint but also offer long-term economic and environmental benefits. The Indian Army used the platform to create awareness about key government initiatives promoting clean and sustainable energy. Special mention was made of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) scheme. This flagship programme encourages the use of solar-powered irrigation systems, reducing dependency on diesel and enabling farmers to earn additional income by selling surplus energy to the grid. The session also covered available financial benefits including subsidies, grants, low-interest loans, and tax incentives to ease the adoption of renewable technologies by individuals and institutions.

The unique geographical and climatic conditions of Jammu & Kashmir were discussed in the context of their potential for harnessing renewable energy. It was highlighted that the region could benefit immensely from solar and small-scale hydroelectric solutions, given its diverse terrain and limited conventional energy infrastructure.

Deputy Commissioner chairs District Health Society meeting at Poonch

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
POONCH:

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal, today chaired a meeting of the District Health Society to review the performance of healthcare institutions and discuss strategies for strengthening health infrastructure and service delivery.

The meeting took stock of the sanctioned strength, staff availability, and existing vacancies at the District Hospital and associated health facilities.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized strict adherence to the dress code and duty rosters by all medical staff, calling for greater accountability and professionalism.

He stressed the need for effective implementation of healthcare interventions aimed at reducing infant mortality and maternal deaths—highlighting these as critical focus areas.

The DC proposed setting up dialysis units in Mendhar and Surankote to decongest the District Hospital and ensure timely, life-saving treatment in remote areas. "This step will reduce the number of referrals to the District Hospital and facilities outside the district," he noted.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Chief Medical Officer, Medical Superintendent, District Education Planning Officer, Block Medical Officers, Executive Engineers from PDD and PWD, Assistant Director CAPD and other senior officials and health staff.

MP Arora dedicated to public welfare: Sanjeev Kalra



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
LUDHIANA:

Rajya Sabha MP Sanjeev Arora, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) candidate for the upcoming Ludhiana (West) Assembly bypoll, visited the office of Deepak Fasteners Ltd — India's largest industrial fasteners manufacturer — on Wednesday evening to interact with the employees and seek their support.

Addressing the gathering, Arora presented his "three-year report card," showcasing major development projects initiated and pursued under his leadership. These include the Halwara Airport, the elevated road project, the upgradation of ESI and Civil Hospitals, and the construction of four new bridges on the Sidhwan Canal. He also mentioned the creation of parking lots along the elevated road, the development of a

cycle track, and beautification efforts beneath the elevated road.

"I am happy that consistent efforts have translated into meaningful development," Arora said. "Besides these large-scale projects, I have also worked to improve the city's core civic infrastructure — including the installation of over 15,000 LED streetlights, improvement of roads and public parks, and other essential amenities." He appealed to employees to support and vote for him based on the visible development progress.

Deepak Fasteners Ltd's President and Managing Director, Sanjeev Kalra, lauded Arora's developmental contributions.

"He is a good human being and deeply committed to society. Among today's politicians, Arora stands out for his passion and dedication to public welfare," Kalra said. He further added that Arora is known for maintaining a clean image and for being accessible to the public — qualities that, according to him, are rare in politics.

World Environment Day was Celebrated with fervour by NCC cadets in Kupwara

PEERZADA ZUBAIR
KUPWARA:

World Environment Day was observed with great enthusiasm in Kupwara on 5th June 2025 through a series of awareness and green initiatives organized by the 7 J&K Battalion NCC, under aegis of Vajr Division, Kupwara.

The event saw active participation from over 70 NCC cadets from local schools and colleges, aimed at promoting environmental consciousness and community involvement.

The day commenced with an Environmental Awareness Rally, which began near the JK Tourism Office, Kupwara and concluded at 'Parcham-e-Hind' at Vajr Division.

Cadets walked through the town carrying placards related to environmental protection. During the rally, bilingual pamphlets in English and Urdu were distributed among the public, highlighting the importance of World Environment Days and sharing practical dos and Don'ts for environmentally responsible behavior.

As part of the event, a Clean



Kupwara Campaign was also conducted, wherein cadets collected plastic waste in the Kupwara market area. Wearing gloves and using garbage bags the cadets demonstrated civic responsibility and set an example for the community.

A Tree Plantation Drive was also carried out at Parcham-e-Hind, where over 100 saplings were planted by the cadets and dignitaries.

The initiative was supported by the Forest Department, with saplings provided by Mr. Anurag. DFO

Kupwara Cadets also visited 'Roshan Mustaqbil' run by Vajr Division, and interacted with the children already benefitting from the initiative.

The event concluded with a solemn Eco-Pledge Ceremony where cadets took an oath to protect the environment and practice sustainable habits in daily life. The event was well-received by the local residents and civil authorities, showcasing the Indian Army's and NCC's continued commitment to social responsibility and environmental conservation.

Shrine Board Organizes Drawing Competition to Commemorate World Environment Day



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KATRA:

To commemorate World Environment Day, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) organized a special drawing and sketching competition at its high-tech nursery in village Kunya, Panthal, near Katra. The event, which saw enthusiastic participation from a large number of students of various age groups, focused on the

theme "Ending Plastic Pollution Globally".

The competition aimed to raise awareness about the pressing issue of plastic pollution and encourage young minds to think creatively about solutions. Students from classes 1 to 12 from various institutions in the surroundings of Katra area showcased their artistic talents, highlighting the importance of reducing plastic waste and promoting sustainable practices. The com-

petition was held from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM, providing a platform for young artists to express their thoughts and ideas on environmental conservation.

Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB expressed delight at the students participation and the quality of artwork displayed, saying it was heartening to see students of various age groups engaging deeply with critical environmental issues. He also highlighted the Board's commitment to environmental conservation under the directions and guidance of Shri Manoj Sinha, Hon'ble Chairman, SMVDSB (Lt. Governor, JK-UT), citing the Annual Green Plan of the Board, under which over 1.7 million plants have been planted so far through manual intervention with a survival rate of over 80%. These plants are meticulously reared in the Board's high-tech nursery, showcasing the organization's dedication to preserving nature and maintaining ecological balance in the region, he added.

Investiture Ceremony Marks New Chapter For Student Leaders at SIPS



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

The Investiture Ceremony at Stephens International Public School marked a momentous occasion, ushering in a new era of leadership and responsibility among its student body. The event was distinguished by the presence of esteemed guests, including Sh. Kuldeep Khoda, Former Director General of Police and Advocate Nirmal Kishore Kotwal, President Jammu and Kashmir Bar Association accompanied by Advocate Rahul Aggarwal, Treasurer Jammu and Kashmir Bar Association. They were joined by Dr. Kamal Saini, IGP (Retd.) Chairman, Mrs. Satvinder Saini Director, and Advocate Kunal Saini, Trustee of the school.

Dr. Kamal Saini extended his gratitude to the guests as well as parents for their benign presence and unwavering support to the school management.

During the ceremony, Dr. Manjari Sehgal, Principal formally inducted the newly elected Student Council members into their roles. The students, comprising the Head Boy, Head Girl, Vice Head Boy, Vice Head Girl, Discipline Captain, Sports Captain, Cultural Captain, and House Prefects, took their oaths of office, pledging to uphold the values and principles of the institution.

The investiture ritual was symbolized by the presentation of badges and sashes to the student leaders by the dignitaries, signifying their new responsibilities and authority. The ceremony was interspersed with captivating performances, including classical dance and recitals, showcasing the artistic prowess of the students.

The occasion also witnessed the release of "Illumination," the school's annual magazine for the academic session 2024-25. Advocate Kunal Saini, Trustee of the school, expressed his gratitude to the guests, parents, and attendees for their presence.

He encouraged the students to set goals and work assiduously towards achieving them, thereby making a positive impact in society.

Later an open house discussion was initiated to make the students aware of the vitality of leadership. Students optimized the interaction with their queries, which were aptly addressed by the learned guests.

The ceremony concluded with the rendition of the National Anthem, fostering a sense of unity and patriotism among the attendees. The dignitaries were felicitated with mementos and gifts, serving as a token of appreciation for their presence.

Senior Political Leader Sofi Irfan Visits Rajpora and Zachaldara Rajwar to Offer Condolences

IRFAN GANI BHAT
RAJWAR:

In a solemn expression of solidarity and compassion, Sofi Irfan, senior political leader and son of former Forest Minister Sofi Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din, paid condolence visits to Rajpora and Zachaldara Rajwar in Handwara to share the grief of two bereaved families.

In Rajpora, Sofi Irfan visited the home of renowned local Artist Mir Parvaiz, whose wife Hafiza Begum recently passed away after a prolonged illness. Speaking to the family, Sofi Irfan conveyed his heartfelt sympathies and said:

> "Hafiza Begum was a humble and respected woman whose absence will be deeply felt. May Allah grant her the highest place in Jannah and give strength to Mir Parvaiz and his family in this time of grief."

Later in the day, Sofi Irfan visited Zachaldara Rajwar, where he met



the family of Zahoor Ahmad, who lost his father last week. Offering condolences, he remarked:

> "The loss of a parent is an irreplaceable void. I extend my prayers and support to Zahoor Ahmad and his family. May the departed soul be granted eternal peace."

These visits reflect Sofi Irfan's con-

tinued commitment to community values and emotional support, especially during moments of sorrow and loss. His presence was warmly acknowledged by locals and community elders, who appreciated the gesture as one of humility and humanity. May the departed souls rest in peace. Ameen.

PDF President Hakeem Yaseen slams government for hollow promises, praises Ladakh's policy gains

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

People's Democratic Front (PDF) President and former Minister Hakeem Mohammad Yaseen on Wednesday strongly criticized the present administration, accusing it of failing to deliver on the promises made before elections despite having a clear and popular mandate.

He said that while the government has focused more on optics and hollow assurances, the real needs and aspirations of the people remain unaddressed on the ground.

In a statement issued here, Hakeem Yaseen said, "It is unfortunate that despite having an elected government in place, no significant progress has been made in address-

ing public concerns. Instead, the government continues to rely on old tactics of symbolism, ribbon-cutting, and repackaging old projects to claim credit. These superficial measures do not amount to real governance."

Taking a dig at the government, he remarked that many of the projects being inaugurated today were either conceptualized or implemented under previous governments.

"These are languishing projects, and instead of taking forward any new vision, they are simply cutting ribbons for media headlines. In contrast, the leadership in Ladakh has almost won its battle for safeguards and rights without even having an elected assembly," the senior leader said. Hakeem Yaseen further said

that the Jammu and Kashmir government should stop taking undue credit for the possible return of statehood, since it has already been publicly assured by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. "The people are not fooled by ceremonial speeches. They want timelines, results, and accountability," he asserted.

His remarks came in the backdrop of major policy announcements for Ladakh, which was carved out as a separate Union Territory in 2019. On June 3, 2025, the Union Government notified a set of sweeping policy measures aimed at safeguarding the interests of Ladakhi residents following sustained pressure from civil society groups in the region.

Shiv Sena demand to start DMU service between Jammu-Srinagar

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit has strongly welcomed the dream of running trains from Kashmir to Kanyakumari becoming a reality, along with this, the demand has been raised to speed up the completion of rail network in Jammu division and to start DMU service along with Vande Bharat between Jammu and Srinagar.

In a press conference held today at the party's state centre office, state chief Manish Sahni, strongly welcome the fulfillment of the dream of rail expansion in Kashmir. He said that Indian Railways is the most preferred and cheapest mode of travel for the common man.

But for the last few years, Vande Bharat trains are being given more importance. Vande Bharat has also been flagged off between Katra and Kashmir.

Jammu has once again been ignored and a deadline of September has been given for starting direct rail service between Jammu and Kashmir.

Mission YUVA: Maiden DLIC meeting held at Doda to review, approve proposed venture projects

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
DODA:

The first meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) on Mission YUVA was held here today.

Chaired by District Development Commissioner Harvinder Singh, the meeting was convened to review and approve applications received under the Mission YUVA scheme by Small Business Development Units (SBDUs) and assess the processing of those (Applications) being forwarded by Business Help Desks.

The meeting was attended by ADC, General



Manager DIC, DSEO Manager NABARD, and Doda Assistant Director Employment, District A total of 10 cases, verified by SBDU, were placed before the committee for

consideration and all were approved for financial assistance and handholding support under Mission YUVA. The Committee conducted detailed scrutiny of each application to verify eligibility, assess business viability and the socio-economic background of the applicants. Later, a virtual meeting with BHDs headed by ADC Bhaderwah SDMs Gandoh, Thatthri Assar, ACR Doda and all Yuva Doots was conducted.

The chairman issued necessary instructions urging the stakeholders to reach out to each deserving unemployed youth and guide him properly to avail benefits under the scheme.

World Environment Day 2025: DLSA conducts Plantation, cleanliness drive at Methalan-Bindraban-Kishtwar



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KISHTWAR:

To mark the World Environment Day 2025, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Kishtwar, under the supervision and guidance of its secretary Slahuddin Ahmed and in accordance with the monthly activity calendar of the Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority (JKLSA), organized a Plantation and Cleanliness Drive here in Methalan-Bindraban area. The event was conducted in collaboration with the Forest Department to promote environmental sustainability, legal awareness and active community participation. The drive was coordinated by Assistant LADCs Sanveer Singh, Sandeep Kumar, Farhat Nabi and Afshana Malik along with the staff of the authority. The initiative witnessed enthusiastic involvement from Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) and officials from the Forest Department. As part of the drive, saplings were planted across the Methalan-Bindraban area to enhance the green cover and underscore the importance of afforestation in preventing climate change and ecological degradation. In parallel, a cleanliness campaign was conducted, focusing particularly on the collection and responsible disposal of plastic waste, aligning with this year's call to action against plastic pollution.

The programme emphasized the need for behavioural change at the grassroots level, encouraging individuals to adopt eco-friendly habits, minimize plastic use and take proactive steps in environmental conservation.

Secy School Edu Deptt holds introductory-cum-review meeting at Jammu



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Secretary, School Education, Ram Niwas Sharma, today convened an introductory-cum-review meeting with the senior functionaries of the Directorate of School Education, Jammu.

Director, School Education Jammu, Dr Javaid Naseem Chowdhary, Joint Director, Subah Mehta, Personnel Officer Manisha, Chief Accounts Officer, Monika Sharma, Senior Law Officer, D P Chhibber besides others attended the meeting.

The Secretary had discussion on various issues concerning the transfers and postings, long-pending departmental promotions and filling of vacant posts. He asked the employees to work with added accountability and transparency.

He said that the outstanding employees would be rewarded with due recognition and institutional encouragement.

He emphasised on strengthening the organisational sinews and enhancing the working capabilities of the educational machinery. He asked for laying special attention on the primary and middle level which is imperative for a bright future.

The Secretary appreciated the recently declared results for 10th and 12th classes while lauding the hard work put in by the schools and staff whose diligence bore commendable fruit.

Bhaderwah hosts Cultural Evening featuring blend of local talent, celebrity charm

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BHADERWAH:

The picturesque town of Bhaderwah came alive with music, laughter, and cultural splendour amid a grand Cultural Evening held last evening here in the local Community Hall.

The event was organised by the District Administration Doda in collaboration with the Department of Tourism, J&K. Witnessing an overwhelming public response, the venue was jam-packed with enthusiastic attendees.

District Development Council (DDC) Chairman Dhananther Singh Kotwal was the Chief Guest, while DDC Vice Chairperson Sangeeta Rani, MLA Bhaderwah Daleep Singh Parihar and Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh attended as Guests of Honour.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Doda Anil Kumar Thakur and ADC Bhaderwah Sunil Bhutyal, who



also serves as CEO of Bhaderwah Development Authority (BDA), were also present. The vibrant evening featured mesmerizing live performances by renowned local artists including singers Waqar Khan, Ravi Raghuvanshi, and Moomin Zargar.

Stand-up comedian Shazi Khan left the audience in splits with his hilarious act. The event's grandeur was further enhanced by the pres-

ence of Bollywood celebrities Sunny Hinduja (popularly known as Sandeep Bhaiya) and Chandan Roy Sanyal (Bhopa Swami), whose lively interaction with the audience received thunderous applause and added a star-studded charm to the occasion. Also present at the event were officials from the Indian Army, DDC Members, and other esteemed guests.

Market Inspection drive conducted across Ramban District ahead of Eid



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
RAMBAN:

In view of the upcoming festival of Eid, market inspection drives were conducted today across various locations in Ramban district to ensure

the availability of quality food items and to curb unethical trade practices.

In Gool, a team comprising officials from the Tehsil Administration, Department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) and the

Police Department inspected grocery stores, mutton and chicken shops, milk vendors and sweet shops.

The inspection aimed to keep check on overpricing, sale of unhygienic or substandard items, and to ensure compliance with notified price lists.

Irregularities were detected at several outlets, resulting in on-the-spot fines totaling ₹4,100. Shopkeepers were also sensitized on the importance of maintaining hygiene and transparent pricing during the festive season.

In Batote, a joint team comprising officials from the Revenue, Food, Municipality, and Excise Departments conducted a surprise inspection. A fine of ₹1,750 was imposed on violators, and 2 kilograms of banned polythene were seized during the drive.

A similar inspection was carried out in Ramban town, resulting in fines amounting to ₹1,600 and the seizure of 4 kilograms of polythene.

World Environment Day celebrations held across Kulgam

Forest Department, JK Pollution Control Committee, Colleges, Schools, other Institutions lead Green Initiatives

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KULGAM:

World Environment Day 2025 was celebrated with great enthusiasm across District Kulgam, with Forest department, Pollution Control Committee Kulgam, educational institutions, and other organizations coming together to promote environmental awareness and action under this year theme, Ending Plastic Pollution Globally under the slogan One Nation, One Mission: End Plastic Pollution.

On the occasion, a series of impactful events and initiatives aimed at fostering sustainable practices and protecting the environment were held.

Special Forest Division Kulgam led a wide array of awareness and action-oriented programmes throughout the district. These events witnessed the active participation of students, local communities, forest officials, environmental volunteers, and representatives from various departments and institutions.

Similarly a mega event was held at D.H Pora presided over by Sub-divisional Magistrate D.H.Pora. Other officers including Principal GDC D.H.Pora, Tehsildar and other officers participated in the event.

Key highlights of the celebrations included plantation drives conducted at multiple locations across the district to restore green cover and enhance ecological balance, anti-plastic drives carried out in public areas, markets and forest fringes to collect and dispose-off plastic waste while discouraging single-use plastics, and painting competitions among school students to promote



creative expression of environmental themes.

Awareness programmes on plastic pollution, ecosystem restoration, and responsible consumer behavior were held in collaboration with educational institutions and NGOs. Participants also took Swachhta pledges, committing themselves to environmental cleanliness, responsible waste management, and reducing plastic usage.

During these events, participants were sensitized about the harmful impacts of plastic pollution on biodiversity, water bodies, soil health, and overall ecological well-being.

Speakers emphasized the urgent need for collective action, including the adoption of eco-friendly alternatives, proper waste segregation, and reducing dependence on plastics.

At Govt. Degree College Kulgam, a grand function was held to commemorate World Environment Day campaign-2025.

Principal of the college Prof. (Dr.) Mohd Abass Shah emphasized on

the importance of carrying out such activities to save humanity from the deleterious effects of aggravated plastic pollution.

Prof. (Dr.) Javeed Iqbal Ahmad Bhat, Professor and Head, Division of Basic Sciences & Humanities, Faculty of Horticulture, SKUAST-K in his lead talk gave a detailed presentation on the theme decorating a picture depicting the infinite consequences of plastic pollution. He also highlighted various strategies to end plastic and microplastic pollution.

The program was attended by the students and the staff of the college particularly Dr. Shaista Masarat, Prof. Shamim Ahmad Hakim, Dr. Aijaz Ahmad Wachkoo and Dr. Ahsan Ul Haq Ahrar. The event concluded with the vote of thanks by Dr. Aadil Hamid, one of the organizing secretaries of the program.

Also, Govt. Degree College Frisal organized a Seminar on 'Safe and Clean Environment for Everyone' on the Eve of celebration of World Environment Day.

Awareness programs mark observance of 'World Environment Day' by DLSAs of Sgr, B'gam, Gbl & Shpn

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

In order to raise awareness on environmental protection, sustainable living and the importance of preserving natural resources, 'World Environment Day,' was today commemorated by District Legal Service Authorities (DLSAs) of Srinagar, Budgam, Ganderbal and Shopian.

The events were successfully conducted under the leadership of Justice Arun Palli, Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority) and Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority. In Srinagar, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, in collaboration with Srinagar Women's College, Batapora, Zakura, observed World Environment Day with great enthusiasm and purpose. The programme was held under the chairmanship of Tasleem Arief, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, and under the supervision of Sajad Ur Rehman, Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar and Prof. Syed Ifat Ara, Principal of Srinagar Women's College.

The observance was aimed at raising awareness among students and faculty about environmental conservation, sustainability, and the crucial role of legal literacy in protecting ecological rights and responsibilities. Sehar Nazir, Assistant Legal Aid Defense Counsel, DLSA Srinagar, served as the resource person and delivered an engaging and insightful session. Her address highlighted the legal perspectives on environmental protection, importance of individual responsibility, and the role of youth in driving environmental change.

Her interaction with students encouraged critical thinking and proactive environmental behavior.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from the student, who actively engaged in the discussions and interactive segments of the session.

In Budgam, in order to raise awareness regarding several environment issues and ways and means to protect the environment, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam observed World Environment Day by organizing a series of programmes at various places in the district.

As part of the programme, plantation drive was conducted at NilNag Chadoora in collaboration with Forest Department, Yousmarg Development Authority, Forest Protection Force, Higher Secondary School Gogipathri and Action Aid India NGO,

A rally was taken out by students generating awareness on protection of environment at Khan Sahib, besides awareness programmes on protection of environment were also conducted in Legal Literacy Club Boys Higher Secondary School Budgam and LL Club Boys Higher Secondary School Khanshaib, in collaboration with District Legal Services Authority Budgam.

Zonal Sports Fever Grips B'la: Students shine in inter-school competition

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BARAMULLA:

A sporting wave continues to sweep across Baramulla as the Inter-School Zonal Level Competitions in Volleyball, Kabaddi, and Kho-Kho enter their peak phase. The grand event has witnessed participation from thousands of students across various zones. In a display of enthusiasm and energy, YSS Zone Singpora Kalan successfully concluded competitions in all three disciplines for Under-14 and Under-17 boys, while Zone Nehalpora held an intense Kabaddi competition at BMS Nehalpora with 75 students participating.

Zone Wagoora carried out a Volleyball competition for Under-17 boys at HSS Authoor, drawing in 80 students. Zone Dangiwa witnessed a massive turnout across all categories, with 252 participants in Kho-Kho U-14, 108 in Kho-Kho U-17, 228 in Volleyball U-14, and 96 in Volleyball U-17, reflecting deep grassroots involvement. Meanwhile, Zone Fatehgarh conducted Kho-Kho competitions for both age groups at HSS Fatehgarh, engaging 150 students. Adding to the sporting momentum, Zone Kunzer saw vibrant participation in Volleyball events with 278 students in U-14 and 72 in U-17 categories.

MC B'la observes 'World Environment Day' with Plantation Drive, Anti-Plastic campaign

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BARAMULLA:

In recognition of the 'World Environment Day 2025,' Municipal Council Baramulla today organized impactful activities centered on environmental protection and plastic waste reduction. The main event was held at the DC Office premises, where Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, alongwith Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Chief Executive Officer Municipal Council Baramulla and District Information Officer, led a symbolic plantation drive under the theme 'Ek Paid Maa Ke Naam.'

The global theme for this year, 'Combating Plastic Pollution,' inspired the district's awareness campaign, focusing on encouraging eco-friendly alternatives and responsible waste management practices.

DC emphasized that environmental protection is a shared responsibility of government bodies, institutions, and citizens alike. Initiatives such as the plan-



tation drive and the anti-plastic campaign highlight how small, consistent actions can significantly benefit the environment. Raising awareness and adopting sustainable habits are essential to effectively combat challenges like plastic pollution. Key initiatives promoted during the event included 'Plastic Out - Fabric In,' plastic collection drives at RRR (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) Centres,

and awareness efforts as part of the Swachh Bharat Harit Bharat - Green Campaign. These efforts align with the Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0 framework, supported by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India, and are integrated with the LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) movement. DC further noted that adopting eco-friendly alternatives and responsible

waste management practices are vital steps towards building a cleaner, greener Baramulla. The strong commitment shown by the Municipal Council and its staff serves as an example for the community to follow in creating a healthier future. The program saw active participation from staff and officers, who committed to reducing plastic use and incorporating sustainable practices in their daily routines. Meanwhile, in a vibrant celebration of World Environment Day, the Youth Services and Sports (YSS) Baramulla conducted a series of eco-conscious events across various zones. The day witnessed a dynamic array of activities including Clean-Up Drives, Walkathons, Mini Marathons, and a Cyclothon, all aimed at spreading environmental awareness and promoting sustainable living among youth. Notably, Zone Chandanwari took the lead with a Cyclothon, drawing participation from hundreds of enthusiastic students.

Kishtwar admin reinforces regulation of heavy vehicles associated with Power Projects



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KISHTWAR:

Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan today convened a review meeting to discuss reinforcement measures to regulate the heavy vehicles associated with Hydro Electric Power Projects in the district, including Kiru HEP, Kwar HEP, CVPL and others.

The review was conducted in light of the public complaints about alleged overloading, over speeding

and other road traffic violations by vehicles associated with the power projects. The Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Tasleem Wani apprised the Deputy Commissioner that a fine of Rs. 12.18 lakh has been recovered last month from the vehicles attached to HEP Projects for violations of the Motor Vehicles Act 1988.

It was further reported that in several cases, the actual weight of transported material exceeded the permissible limit, while the receipts

reflected significantly lower weights, indicating potential malpractice.

Taking serious note of these irregularities, the DC directed the ARTO and Police Department to carry out random inspections and take stricter action against violators to ensure road safety and compliance with traffic laws.

Furthermore, the DC instructed the Heads of Power Projects (HoPs) to organize sensitization programs for drivers engaged for the transportation of materials, emphasizing safe and lawful driving practices.

Responding to concerns raised by project authorities regarding sanitation facilities for drivers, the Deputy Commissioner assured that a dedicated toilet facility will be constructed at Fagumarh Hasti to address the issue. The meeting was attended by ARTO Kishtwar Tasleem Wani, Dy Sp Police Dr. Ishaan Gupta, HoPs of Power Projects in Kishtwar, representatives from Traffic Police, Tour and Travels via virtual mode and others.

Distt Shopian kicks-off Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan with team formation, orientation programme



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SHOPIAN:

As part of the nationwide Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, district administration Shopian initiated the team formation process for the upcoming awareness and benefit saturation camps scheduled from June 15 to June 30, 2025.

A district-level orientation programme was convened today under the chairmanship of Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian.

The programme aimed to sensitise the teams constituted at district, block and GP/Village levels about the objectives and Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) of the campaign.

During the session, field teams were briefed on conducting baseline surveys to identify critical gaps in service delivery and promote evidence-based planning. Emphasis was placed on achieving saturation of key welfare schemes including Aadhaar enrolment, Ayushman Bharat, PM-KISAN, and PMAY-G for tribal communities. Among others, the Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Shopian, and Block Development Officer Keller were present and actively participated in the orientation proceedings.

Awareness Workshop on PMFME Scheme Held at Udyanpur - Doda

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
DODA:

A one-day awareness workshop on the Prime Minister Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme was held today at Panchayat Udyanpur, Block Udyanpur- Doda.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from farmers, Self Help Group (SHG) members, cooperative societies, and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)—reflecting the community's growing interest in micro food processing opportunities.

The officers and officials from Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, and representatives from J&K Bank shared comprehensive information on various government initiatives, with a particular focus on the benefits of the PMFME



scheme.

District Nodal Officer PMFME, Anayatullah Khanji hailed the scheme as a "game changer" for improving rural livelihoods.

He informed that 34 food processing units have already been established in Doda district, generating employment for over 200 individuals.

Khanji urged participants to fully leverage the scheme's key benefits,

including 35% capital subsidy, Easy access to bank finance, Support in Detailed Project Report (DPR) preparation, Assistance in branding, certification and marketing.

Other speaker gave detailed information about documentation requirements, Loan application procedures, obtaining certifications, such as FSSAI licenses and Udyam Registration.

World Environment Day: Satish Sharma calls for urgent measures to preserve ecological balance

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

"Environmental preservation is not merely a choice, but a necessity for survival of humane race. We must act decisively to maintain the ecological balance through all necessary measures," stated Minister for Food, Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma. The Minister, while addressing today during celebration of World Environment Day at the Road Transport Corporation Complex, Jammu, emphasized the critical importance of balancing conservation and sustainable development.

The event witnessed



enthusiastic participation from the senior officers from various departments, environmental enthusiasts and RTC officials.

The Minister highlighted the growing environmental

challenges faced by the world and stressed emphasized the need for collective responsibility and action to preserve the nature. He called upon the departments under his charge,

especially those dealing with transport and youth services, to lead by example in adopting eco-friendly practices. He urged the youth to become active participants in the green movement, stating, "the younger generation holds the power to shape a sustainable future. It is our duty to equip them with the awareness and tools necessary for environmental stewardship." On the occasion, Managing Director RTC, Rakesh Sarangal, outlined various steps being taken by the Corporation to reduce its carbon footprint. These included introduction of energy-efficient vehicles and digital solutions to minimize paper usage.

PDF President Hakeem Yaseen extends Eid-ul-Azha greetings, calls for unity, compassion

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

People's Democratic Front (PDF) President and former Minister Hakeem Mohammad Yaseen on Friday extended heartfelt greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the Muslim Ummah on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Azha, wishing peace, prosperity, and communal harmony across the region.

In his message, Hakeem Yaseen said Eid-ul-Azha is a festival of great spiritual significance that symbolizes sacrifice, compassion, and selflessness. He urged the people to uphold these timeless values and share the joy of the festival with those in need. "Eid-ul-Azha is not just a ritual, it is a powerful reminder of the need to rise above personal interests for the greater good. Let us dedicate this Eid to promoting brotherhood, helping the underprivileged, and healing the divides in our society," he said.

Hakeem Yaseen emphasized that the true essence of Eid lies in empathy, unity, and service to humanity. He appealed to the people to remember the poor, orphans, and victims of conflict during the celebrations, and to extend support to them in every possible way. "This is a time to reach out to our neighbors, strengthen social bonds, and stand together as one resilient community," he added. The PDF President also expressed hope that the sacred occasion would inspire political and social leaders to rise above partisan considerations and work together for a peaceful and developed Jammu and Kashmir.

He said the region has suffered for far too long and deserves lasting peace, inclusive governance, and meaningful socio-economic progress.

"As we bow our heads in prayer and offer sacrifice, let us also renew our resolve to build a just, equitable, and prosperous future for all," Hakeem Yaseen said, while praying for an end to violence, economic hardships, and the suffering of common people. He called upon the administration to ensure adequate arrangements for smooth and safe Eid celebrations, including availability of essential services, uninterrupted electricity and water supply.

THE KASHMIR TALK

EDITORIAL

India's Space Pride

Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla is going to create a new history. He will depart on a space flight on June 10 under the Axiom-4 mission and after a journey of about 28 hours, he will reach the International Space Station at around 10 pm on June 11. A video has been shared before this flight, in which Shubhanshu has told about his experience. This will be the fourth human space flight of Axiom Space. It will be filled from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida, USA. Four astronauts will be involved in this mission. The astronauts accompanying Shubhanshu include Slavosz Uznanski-Wisniewski from Poland, Tibor Kapu from Hungary and American astronaut Peggy Whitson. Shubhanshu Shukla will play the role of pilot in this entire mission and will stay on the ISS for two weeks along with three other international astronauts. After astronaut Rakesh Sharma, Shubhanshu Shukla will become the second Indian to go to space. This is the reason why this flight is being considered very special. Shubhanshu's video has been shared before the flight, in which he told that he considers Rakesh Sharma as his idol. Shubhanshu Shukla was born on 10 October 1985 in Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh. From the beginning, he was determined to do something different. This is the reason why he studied flight science and aviation. Talking about his career, he did it as a pilot in the Indian Air Force. However, he has been a part of many such missions, due to which he is being recognized all over the world today. In this mission, Shubhanshu will do many scientific research related to food and nutrition made for India in collaboration with ISRO and Department of Biotechnology (DBT). Regarding this journey, Shubhanshu has already announced that he will share his experiences from space with the countrymen through videos and pictures. He said, I am not going there alone, this is the journey of 1.4 billion Indians.

DINESH PRASAD SAKLANI

The world celebrates Environment Day on 5 June. This day provides us with opportunities to encourage awareness and sensitivity for environmental protection. For decades, many countries across the world have been facing problems such as air pollution, plastic pollution, illegal wildlife trade, sea-level increase, etc. These countries have been looking for sustainable solutions. India has an environment friendly rich civilization that has always revered nature and cherished ecological balance.

While modern societies have been making efforts to find solutions of environmental degradation in modern science, Indian traditions hold the key to sustainable development based on cultural wisdom, respect towards nature, and ecological balance. In some cases, unregulated urbanisation has strained environmental resources, but rural areas in India have been contributing towards protecting environment and addressing climate change. From the Vedic era to modern pursuits, India has always believed in the importance of protecting the environment. Ancient texts like the Vedas and Upanishads prescribe environmental conservation. The Rigveda, one of the oldest texts, describes rivers in feminine (Goddess/Maa) terms and trees as divine beings, thus asserting the view that humans have been custodians of the Earth and not its exploiters. The following shloka from the Atharva Veda encapsulates India's reverence for the Earth: "Mata bhumi putro aham prithivyah" (The Earth is my mother, and I am her son.) - Atharva Veda 12.1.12 This philosophy emphasises the respect for nature, deep-seated in Indian culture, whereby the Earth is recognized not only as a resource but as a sacred force that nurtures all forms of life existing on earth.

Among the most distinguished conventions, tree and river worship is of great importance. The Peepal tree (Ficus religiosa) and Banyan, or sacred fig (Ficus benghalensis) symbolize longevity and wisdom. Likewise, the Ganga, Yamuna, Narmada and other rivers are considered as lifelines of civilization, emphasizing the interrelationship between human beings and water resources. Several Indian rituals also reflect more than just the day-to-day existence of sustainable practices that have been a visible part of life for many generations. Ahimsa is a commonly known value that translates to non-violence, and the concept of Ahimsa is stretched to cover all forms of life.

This broadens the concept to include the conservation of biodiversity. In the past, agriculture in India was organic; it practiced agroforestry, and employed water conservation techniques like stepwells and rainwater harvesting, whereby some of these methods are now being promoted by contemporary environmentalists. Vriksha-ropan, or tree planting, has been embedded in Indian ethos for centuries; many religious and cultural events have fostered afforestation. Van Mahotsav encourages tree planting and the

safeguarding of trees in the spirit of environmental conservation. An ancient Sanskrit verse bears testimony to the importance of trees: "Vrikshah yadi na syuh, pavanah kutah bhavet?" (If there were no trees, where would the air come from?) Since hundreds of years communities like the Bishnois from Rajasthan have been committed to protection of trees and wildlife specifically black buck and Khejri tree; safeguarding against deforestation while risking their lives is a clear indication of the ancient tendencies of the Indian people towards deeprooted environmental consciousness. In addition to this, traditional Indian architecture incorporates eco-friendly designs by using locally sourced materials along with natural ventilation and energy-efficient structures, reducing carbon footprints long before modern day sustainability trends came into existence.

Hence, these indigenous systems of knowledge offer invaluable information on sustainable ways of life. In ancient times, medicine mostly involved the use of natural remedies and maintaining harmony with nature.

The concept of Pancha Mahabhuta or five great elements - Earth, Water, Fire, Air and Space - and inter-dependence of all natural elements is stressed upon.

The Arthashastra is one ancient Indian treatise associated with governance that has a number of sections on forest conservation and sustainable resource use. Kautilya in Arthashastra stressed that heavy punishment should be given for deforestation and also for over-exploitation of natural resources, showing that environmental protection had even then been a matter of concern for the state. Thus, though India's history is rich with ecological wisdom, the current times see several ambitious green initiatives also.

The Government of India has been providing alternate energy through initiatives like the International Solar Alliance (ISA), or huge afforestation projects which speak for themselves in reasserting the commitment towards sustainability. Internationally too, India emerges as a strong voice for climate action. India being a major initiator of the Paris Agreement, apart from championing and effectively advocating initiatives such as Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) that is spearheaded by the Prime Minister of India himself, has acted as a crucial player. LiFE calls for adopting lifestyle of sustainable consumption and eco-friendly living practices. On World Environment Day, citizens across India participate in various activities, including tree plantation, cleanup drives, and awareness programs, which all correspond to these traditions.

School and college students, following the principle of responsible stewardship of the planet, thus, emulate ancient Indians in the great environmental education. In June 2024, Prime Minister Modi launched a special campaign 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' wherein he called upon all citizens to plant a tree in the name of their mothers. The campaign motivated and encouraged every citizen to plant a

tree in honour of their mother, combining love for nature and gratitude towards mothers. In a remarkable achievement, the campaign's target of planting 80 crore saplings was reached five days ahead of the September 2024 deadline. The Prime Minister himself planted a Peepal tree at Buddha Jayanti Park in Delhi and urged all citizens and people around the world to join this initiative. Schools, universities government institutions, and local communities actively participated, making this massive movement a great success.

"The earth also takes care of us like a mother. Mother Earth is the basis of our lives, so it is our duty to take care of Mother Earth. Planting trees in the name of mother will not only respect our mother but will also protect Mother Earth. A tree nurtures us silently, selflessly, and unconditionally expecting nothing but love in return." (PM in Mann Ki Baat -111th episode.) In order to make this a popular and successful mission, schools are taking steps to encourage plantation. To reach out to every student and teacher with the mission, NCERT is bringing out special modules on 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam'. The modules are designed in simple and easy-to-understand language to equip teachers, young learners, and students with essential values, including moral and human values. They also serve as a platform to promote and integrate national-level initiatives into the school ecosystem. The 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' modules are designed for various educational stages - foundational, preparatory, middle, and secondary levels. Keeping learners at the centre, the modules encourage teachers to inspire students through stories, activities, games, playboard, learning-friendly pedagogy and foster environmental sensitivity.

The main aim is to motivate students towards the initiative 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' in a meaningful and self-driven manner. In view of nurturing the behavioural and holistic development of children, NCERT has developed special modules on the Panchamrit Mission of LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment). The initiative is in line with the vision of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE) 2023 that are aimed at moving beyond the textbook to value-based, practical, and sustainable learning. Consistent with this viewpoint, NCERT is developing a wide range of modules that aim at involving students actively, helping in shaping them into responsible and environmentally aware citizens. Not only this, the NCERT's new textbooks based on NEP 2020 also integrate content related to environmental awareness from early ages. In addition to government, the corporate sector and civil society are also players in India's ecosystem. Numerous brands are adopting zero waste manufacturing, carbon offset programmes and sustainable sourcing.

Grass-roots movements and non-governmental organizations are at work actively restoring degraded ecosystems, creating their afforestation projects, and working against pollution.

Decks being cleared for functioning of KV in Poonch

DC asks for identifying makeshift building, land for permanent campus

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
POONCH:

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal today chaired a high-level meeting to review and expedite the process to start academic activities of Kendriya Vidyalaya proposed for the border District.

The meeting witnessed the participation of key officials, including the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Chief Education Officer, District Education Planning Officer, Divisional Forest Officer, Tehsildar Haveli, Headquarters Tehsildar, and the Principal of Kendriya Vidyalaya Rajouri. To ensure that academic activities can commence without delay, the Chief Education Officer was instructed to identify a suitable temporary building that can be used until the permanent infrastructure is in place. After thorough deliberations, the Deputy Commissioner directed the revenue authorities to immediately identify suitable land in



Gulpur, ensuring that the site is free from all encumbrances and appropriate for construction of Kendriya Vidyalaya campus. Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal emphasized the need for prompt and coordinated efforts among all depart-

ments to facilitate the timely operationalization of the prestigious Educational Institution. He noted that the institution would play a vital role in strengthening the quality education infrastructure and meeting the educational needs of the region.

District Shopian schools unite to mark 'World Environment Day'

Students lead rally to 'Beat Plastic Pollution'



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SHOPIAN:

World Environment Day was celebrated with vibrant participation and enthusiasm in all schools across Shopian, highlighting the collective commitment of students and educators towards environmental conservation. The main district-level event was hosted at Government High School Zawoora, drawing a large assembly of students, teachers, and

staff from multiple institutions.

The day's program commenced with an environmental pledge, underscoring a shared resolve to protect and nurture the natural world. This was followed by a series of creative and thought-provoking activities, including a painting competition and slogan writing contest centered on this year's global theme, 'Beat Plastic Pollution.'

Students showcased their artistic talent and environmental awareness

through powerful imagery and impactful messaging.

A key highlight of the event was a massive awareness rally led by students and teachers. The procession, filled with energy and conviction, moved through the surrounding areas with placards and slogans calling for an end to plastic pollution and a shift towards sustainable living.

The rally aimed to sensitize the local population to the pressing environmental issues and encourage community participation in eco-friendly practices.

Showkat Ahmad, Dy. CEO Shopian, presided over the event as the chief guest. He lauded the enthusiasm of the students and emphasized the crucial role of environmental education in building a sustainable future. He urged young minds to become ambassadors of change and adopt environmentally conscious habits in their daily lives.

The event concluded on a high note with a strong message of unity, responsibility, and action for a cleaner and greener planet.

DIG Rajouri-Poonch Range, DC Rajouri, senior officers conduct public grievance redressal camp at HS Thana (Harichumma)

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
RAJOURI:

In a significant outreach initiative aimed at addressing the concerns of people living in remote and far-flung areas, DIG Rajouri-Poonch Range, Tejinder Singh today visited HS Thana (Harichumma) in Kalakote subdivision. He was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma and SSP Rajouri, Gaurav Sikarwar.



The senior officers held a Public Grievance Redressal Camp at the Government High School Thana, where they listened to the issues and demands

of the local residents.

A large number of people from surrounding villages attended the camp and raised concerns related to road connectivity,

healthcare, drinking water, power supply and other civic amenities. Addressing the gathering, the DIG reiterated the commitment of the administration and police to ensure peace and security in remote and border areas.

He stressed the importance of maintaining close coordination between the public and law enforcement agencies to curb anti-social elements and promote harmony.

DC Bandipora reviews implementation of DAJGUA in tribal villages

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BANDIPORA:

To review the progress under the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA), Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri convened a review meeting in the Mini Secretariat Bandipora on Monday.

The meeting focused on the implementation status, preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), and conducting gap analysis in 31 notified tribal villages of the district.

On the occasion, DC underscored the need for timely and result-oriented actions to ensure that the objectives of the Abhiyan are met effectively. Qadri emphasized the importance of inter-departmental coordination for addressing developmental gaps in tribal villages. He urged the concerned officers to ensure accurate data collection and proactive planning for the preparation of village-specific DPRs.

Speaking on the occasion, DC assured that the district administration is committed to upliftment and inclusive development of tribal communities through focused initiatives under the DAJGUA framework.

Indian Army Conducts Tree Plantation Drive on World Environment Day in Poonch



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
POONCH:

On the occasion of World Environment Day 2025, the Indian Army organized a large-scale tree plantation drive at Salani and Dak Bungalow Loran in Poonch district. This green initiative, held under the broader vision of "Mission Green," reaffirmed the Army's unwavering commitment to environmental sustainability and community development in the region.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from Army personnel, school children, local residents, and officials from the civil administration. Together, they planted approximately 100 saplings across various Army establishments and public spaces. The chosen saplings were native to the area, ensuring ecological compatibility and long-term benefits for the local environment.

The plantation drive aligned with the global theme of World Environment Day 2025-Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Action. It served not only as a symbolic gesture but also as a practical step towards rebuilding degraded natural environments and mitigating the effects of climate change. Through this effort, the Indian Army emphasized the vital role trees play in sustaining life by providing oxygen, food, shelter, medicine, and even tools, all of which have served humanity since its early existence. As society faces increasing environmental challenges, the Indian Army's green initiatives act as a source of inspiration and leadership. The Army also used the occasion to raise awareness among the youth and community members about the importance of conserving nature and building a sustainable future. The involvement of students was especially notable, as it fostered a culture of responsibility and ecological awareness among the next generation. This initiative was also a reflection of the Army's commitment to go beyond its traditional role of securing the nation by contributing to social causes and nation-building efforts. By including civilians in such drives, the Army is bridging the gap between defense and development, encouraging citizens to actively participate in protecting the environment.

Local villagers expressed heartfelt appreciation for the Indian Army's efforts and pledged to maintain the planted saplings and contribute to a cleaner, greener society. The tree plantation drive not only enhanced the natural beauty of the region but also symbolized unity, hope, and collective action in the fight against environmental degradation.

Dy CM inspects healthcare facilities at GMC, Super Speciality Hospital



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, conducted an extensive inspection of Government Medical College (GMC) and Super Speciality Hospital (SSH) Jammu at late hours to assess the patient care facilities, evaluate ongoing works and ensure effective functioning of other healthcare services for the people of Jammu and surrounding regions.

During the inspection at GMC and Super Speciality Hospital, the Dy CM

visited the Cancer Care Unit and Cardiac Care Unit. He had comprehensive review of the infrastructure, equipment, patient care services and cleanliness standards being maintained at the facility.

He also interacted with the patients to gain first-hand insights of the care being provided to them.

Interacting with the hospital administration, the Dy CM advised them to facilitate the public so that they can take due benefits of these advanced healthcare facilities. He asked them to notify the rates of all

the diagnostic tests for the ease of patients and attendants. He asked the officers to work in synergy and ensure that every effort is made to provide affordable, accessible and high-quality healthcare facilities to all sections of the society.

The Dy CM also underscored the need of maintaining cleanliness and hygiene in healthcare facilities. "Adopt stringent measures to maintain a sanitized environment in the health institutions," he asserted.

While appreciating the efforts of the hospital administration in providing quality healthcare facilities, Choudhary emphasised the need for continued improvements in healthcare services to address the existing gaps.

Highlighting the government's commitment towards improving the healthcare infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir, the Dy CM reiterated that patient-centric approach is priority of the present dispensation.

Principal and Dean GMC Jammu, HoDs of different specialities, Medical Superintendents and other concerned officers accompanied the Dy CM during the visit.

Ashok Koul reviews 'Sankalp Se Siddhi' campaign progress at party headquarters



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) General Secretary (Organization), Ashok Koul, chaired a review meeting of senior party leaders at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

The meeting focused on evaluating preparations and finalizing strategies for the upcoming events under the 'Sankalp Se Siddhi' campaign, which marks the completion of 11 transformative years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government.

The meeting was attended by Campaign Incharge for Jammu & Kashmir and BJP General Secretary Adv. Vibodh Gupta, BJP Headquarters Incharge and former Minister Priya Sethi, Abhiyan Co-Incharges Pawan Sharma, Rekha Mahajan, and Raghunandan Singh Bablu, along with senior leaders Rakesh Mahajan, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Prof. Kulbhushan Mohtra, Ankit Gupta, Ved Sharma, Gourav Balgotra, Rajneesh Jain, Dr. Makson Tikoo and others.

Ashok Koul, while addressing the gathering, emphasized that each programme under the Sankalp Se Siddhi campaign must reflect the vision and achievements of the Modi-led government. He stated, "BJP emerged as a people-centric alternative during a time when Congress was indulging in undemocratic practices across the country. Under Prime Minister Modi, India has witnessed unprecedented growth, be it in infrastructure, poverty alleviation, rural electrification, housing for the needy, or transforming India into the world's fourth-largest economy." He also lauded initiatives like Operation Sindoor as examples of India's assertive global presence.

Adv. Vibodh Gupta reviewed the readiness of party functionaries for the planned events and urged leaders to treat the campaign as an opportunity to present a "report card" of good governance to the people. "It is the BJP alone that has consistently delivered and transparently showcased its performance year after year since 2014," he said.

Priya Sethi stressed the need to connect with the people meaningfully.

Vande Bharat Train accorded warm welcome at Sangaldan Station



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU RAMBAN:

The inaugural Vande Bharat train to Kashmir was today warmly received at Sangaldan Railway Station—one of the key stop point on the prestigious Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL).

The District Administration Ramban led by Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary and DIG DKR Range Shridhar Patil welcomed the train amidst patriotic celebrations.

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi flagged off the train from Katra to Srinagar, formally inaugurating long-awaited rail connectivity to Kashmir. SSP Kulbir Singh and SDM Gool Intiaz Ahmed and several other officers were present for the historic occasion. The USBRL project, often described as an engineering marvel, finally bridges the geographical divide, connecting the Kashmir Valley to the national railway network. The arrival of the Vande Bharat at Sangaldan marks a transformative moment for the region's development and accessibility.

Sakeena Itoo reviews developmental scenario of Bandipora district

Visits GDC Bandipora, takes stock of academic activities | Also hands over motorized tricycles, sponsorship amount of Rs. 1.23 crores among beneficiaries



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU BANDIPORA:

Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health & Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, on Wednesday chaired an extensive review meeting with Heads of Departments (HODs) and District Officers here to assess the progress on developmental activities across Bandipora district.

MLA Bandipora Nizam Uddin Bhat; DDC Vice-Chairperson Kousar Shafeeq, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora Manzoor Ahmad Qadri; Director Social Welfare Kashmir, Director School Education Kashmir, Director Colleges J&K, Mission Director Poshan J&K, Director Health Services Kashmir, Director Ayush J&K, Director Family Welfare and Immunization J&K, Executive Director Rehabilitation Council J&K, DPO ICDS Bandipora, CEO Wullar Manasbal Development Authority, ACR Bandipora and other concerned officers were present on the occasion.

During the meeting, Minister

Sakeena emphasized on the need for efficient implementation of government schemes and urged officials to ensure timely delivery of services to the people. She took feedback from sectoral heads and directed departments to collaborate closely to resolve any bottlenecks.

The Minister appreciated the efforts of the district administration and field officers in implementing welfare measures and assured full support from the government in expediting projects for the benefit of the public. During the meeting, key issues like road widening projects on Bandipora-Sumbal and Bandipora-Sopore routes, non-functional lift at District Hospital Bandipora, and staff shortages in Health and Education department were discussed. During the meeting, the Minister laid e-foundation of Lift Irrigation Scheme for augmentation of supplies to New Reshi Khul and Dehgam Khul. She also e-inaugurated Composite School at N.M. HSS Kaloosa, Bandipora.

Earlier, the Minister accompanied by MLA Bandipora Nizam Uddin

Bhat, DDC Vice-Chairperson Kousar Shafeeq, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora Manzoor Ahmad Qadri and other dignitaries visited Government Degree College (GDC) Bandipora, where she inspected infrastructure facilities and reviewed the pace of ongoing developmental works. Principal, GDC Bandipora, Dr. Gazala Firdous welcomed the dignitaries and highlighted the achievements and developments of the institution since its establishment. MLA Bandipora, Nizam Uddin Bhat expressed gratitude to the Minister for her visit and raised key infrastructural demands, including the need for a separate library block, auditorium, and development of the college playground. He stressed that world-class infrastructure is essential for students to excel globally.

In her address, the Minister praised the scenic location of the college but noted the poor condition of the approach road, calling it a challenge for both students and staff. She appreciated the enrolment and efforts of the college administration. She assured that the government is actively addressing infrastructure issues in the education sector and directed the Director of Higher Education to initiate the development of a new library block and asked the Deputy Commissioner Bandipora to take up beautification work on priority.

During an interactive session, students raised concerns about transport facilities, faculty shortages, and delays due to academic arrangements. The Minister assured that transport issues would be resolved, additional vehicles with drivers would be provided, and faculty replacements would be addressed promptly.

SANJY-2025: DC, SSP Ramban review arrangements to ensure pilgrim safety & comfort



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

In preparation for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2025, Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary and Senior Superintendent of Police Kulbir Singh conducted an extensive review of arrangements at the SASB Yatri Niwas, Langer Site Chanderkote, and other key locations, here today.

The visit aimed to ensure that all necessary arrangements, including security, accommodation, sanitation,

traffic regulation and health-care are in place for the convenience of the pilgrims.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak; ACR Skokat Hayat Mattoo; ACD Shrinath Suman; Assistant Commissioner Panchayat ACP Ashfaq Ahmed and other government functionaries.

During the on-site review and subsequent meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for meticulous inter-departmental

coordination and timely execution of all arrangements. He directed the nodal officers to ensure readiness of facilities at yatri niwas, langer sites at Chanderkote and other designated lodgment centres. These centres are critical for managing the large influx of pilgrims during the Yatra, he added. Executive Engineers JPDCL, Jal Shakti, and PWD were instructed to ensure uninterrupted power supply, adequate water availability, and other basic amenities at all Yatra-related sites. The departments were given a deadline of June 20 to complete all infrastructural and logistic preparations.

The Deputy Commissioner issued clear directions for effective traffic regulation on the National Highway-44, especially between Nashri and Banihal, to prevent congestion and facilitate smooth movement of Yatra convoy.

The Health Department was directed to deploy sufficient staff at all designated sites and ensure that all health institutions along the route are fully equipped to handle any medical emergency. The department was further asked to keep Ambulances on standby along the Yatra route for prompt response.

Various activities organized across Anantnag under Nasha Mukh J&K Abhiyan

Walkathon organized to commemorate 'World Environment Day'

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
ANANTNAG :

To combat substance abuse among youth, Youth Services & Sports (YSS), in collaboration with the Education Department Anantnag, organized a series of impactful activities today across various educational institutions of the district under the Nasha Mukh Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan.

This initiative forms a crucial part of the district's comprehensive strategy to address the rising menace of drug addiction, especially among the younger population. The programmes witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teachers and members of the broader community.

A variety of awareness activities were held, including interactive sessions, rallies, essay writing and debate competitions, as well as pledge-taking ceremonies. These events were held in several institutions including Govt. Degree College Boys Khanabal and Govt. Degree College Mattan. The primary aim of the campaign was to inform students about the devastating effects of drug abuse on physical, mental, and social well-being, besides to empower them to act as change-makers within their families and communities. Special sessions conducted by experts, teachers and students provided valuable insights into the challenges posed by substance addiction. These sessions were further enriched by real-life testimonials and case studies, shedding light on the grave consequences of drug abuse.

In addition, to mark the occasion of World Environment Day, the Department of Youth Services and Sports organized a Walkathon, during which participants raised slogans against drug abuse, further reinforcing the campaign's core message.

The district administration emphasized the importance of community involvement in sustaining the momentum of the anti-drug campaign.

Educational institutions were encouraged to maintain continued engagement and adopt early intervention strategies for at-risk youth. As part of the Nasha Mukh Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, more awareness activities are scheduled to take place on designated focus days to ensure consistent public outreach and mobilization across the district.

Scholarship to ST students to be disbursed on schedule: Director Tribal Affairs

More than 30,000 applications received for 2024-25

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

In line with its vision and enduring commitment for welfare of tribals, the Directorate of Tribal Affairs on Wednesday said that it has geared itself to ensure sectoral development through efficient implementation of scholarship schemes meant for tribal students.

Director Tribal Affairs said that there will be no delay in disbursement of scholarships among the genuine ST students and slew of measures have been undertaken to reduce the release time of scholarship. He informed that due to extensive outreach and publicity, more than 30,000 applications have been received under both the schemes for 2024-25, which is more than 120% of the applications received in the previous academic year 2023-24.

He said that the verification and course wise grouping process has been completed involving around

670 universities, colleges and schools. He added that genuine students will receive their scholarship through the DBT mode as per the procedural guidelines of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India.

The process is being undertaken on a war footing basis and as soon as course master vetting takes place by the Ministry for Tribal Affairs, the further process with regard to the disbursement of scholarships among the eligible students will start immediately, he added.

The Director further said that the department is working to streamline the application and disbursement processes, enhance transparency and strengthen the monitoring mechanisms to guarantee timely delivery of scholarships.

"This move reflects the government's continued commitment towards promoting the educational equity and empowerment among the tribal communities," he added.

Referring to certain social media reports about the alleged delay in disbursement of scholarships among the ST students, he refuted the claim saying that the process is in its final stages.

"The department is committed to ensure that scholarship amounts are disbursed in a transparent manner and to the rightful beneficiaries.

The concerned officers have been directed to make sure that every eligible student receives their scholarship benefits without delay," he said.

He further maintained that Tribal Affairs Minister, Javed Ahmed Rana has issued strict directives to all the concerned to ensure that every eligible Scheduled Tribe (ST) student is able to access and benefit from the scholarship schemes available to them. He further said that Javed Rana had emphasized that no deserving student should be deprived of educational opportunities due to delays, administrative lapses or lack of awareness.

Modi Govt realizes dream of Kashmir's rail integration: Kavinder

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta today hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming inauguration of the Kashmir rail line on June 6 as a "historic milestone" for the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the entire nation.

Calling the event a "moment of pride and progress", Kavinder said that for the first time in history, Kashmir will be physically connected to the rest of India through an all-weather rail network, fulfilling a long-pending dream of seamless national integration.

"June 6 will go down in history as the day when Kashmir, our crown, will be linked directly with the rest of the country through the Indian Railways.

This is not just a project, it is a symbol of unity, connectivity and the vision of 'One India, Strong India'," he stated. The senior BJP leader said that under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed an unprecedented era of transformation — from infrastructure development and digital expansion to empowerment of grassroots democracy. "The rail connectivity is another testament to the Modi government's unwavering commitment towards equitable development and national cohesion," he added. Kavinder emphasized that this ambitious rail project—built across challenging Himalayan terrain—showcases the government's determination to bring every region of the country into the fold of development. He noted that the connectivity will not only boost tourism and trade but will also open up new economic avenues for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. He appealed to the public to participate in large numbers and witness this historic moment.

DC Rajouri reviews formulation of Capex budget, Village Action Plans

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
RAJOURI:

To strengthen grassroots planning and ensure inclusive development, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, today chaired a meeting to review the formulation of the Capex Budget for the District.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of conducting Gram Sabhas in true spirit, underscoring their vital role in participatory planning. He directed the authori-

ties to circulate the schedule of Gram Sabhas well in advance, ensuring transparency and maximum public participation.

The DC also reviewed the ongoing gap analysis for the formulation of Village Action Plans under the Vibrant Villages Programme(VVP) that focuses on the development of border areas. He stressed the need to align VVP plans with thematic areas including connectivity enhancement, promotion of eco-tourism and overall infrastructure improvement.

The meeting also decided to formulate innovative plans for underground community structures such as gyms, libraries and other utility-based facilities to optimize land usage in geographically constrained areas.

The meeting was attended by GM DIC Fareed Kohli; ACP Sheraz Chouhan; Chief Planning Officer Maqsood Ahmed; ACD Auqil Naveed; Deputy Director Employment Mohammad Nawaz and other district and sectoral officers.

DC Jammu reviews JJM, other developmental works in Akhnoor



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Deputy Commissioner Jammu Sachin Kumar Vaishya on Wednesday conducted an extensive tour of tehsil and block Akhnoor to assess the progress of the ongoing development works, with a special focus on Jal Jeevan Mission projects.

The Deputy Commissioner inspected the Water Supply Scheme Bada Talab and the Water Supply Scheme Karangi Rajput Mohalla.

He also inspected the Swachh Bharat Mission-Plastic Waste Management Plant at Panchayat Sungal C and several ongoing works being executed by the Rural Development Department.

Additionally, he inspected a shopping complex constructed by the Akhnoor Municipality. The visit included detailed discussions with concerned officers to address bottlenecks and ensure timely completion of all projects.

The Deputy Commissioner also interacted with local residents and attentively listened to their concerns and grievances. He underscored the importance of maintaining transparency in developmental works and adhering to stipulated timelines. The DC was accompanied by Sub Divisional Magistrate Mukhter Ahmad; Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh; Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Shehzada Nur-ul-Ain; Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (Akhnoor) Rocky Mahajan; Executive Officer MC Akhnoor Tahir Hafiz; Block Development Officer Akhnoor Sushil Singh and other officers.

Robotic surgery provides several advantages: Max Hospital experts



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BARNALA:

"The field of surgical robotics is evolving at a rapid pace, revolutionising the way surgeries are performed and setting new standards for precision, efficiency, and patient outcomes,"

Addressing a press conference here on Saturday Dr. Anupam Goel senior consultant general surgery, GI & robotic Surgery at Max Super Speciality Hospital, Mohali said, "Robotic surgery provides several advantages over traditional open surgery and standard laparoscopic procedures. While the open surgery offers a full view of the abdomen and the ability to work freely inside the affected area, it requires a large incision through muscle and tissue. This type of incision can be more painful and take longer to heal."

However, surgical robotics has made significant strides in the medical field. Systems like the da Vinci Xi Surgical System have become widely adopted, providing surgeons with enhanced capability and precision through minimally invasive procedures, he informed.

Further emphasizing the role and future of Robotic Surgery, along with its challenges, Dr. Goel said, "The future of surgical robotics is incredibly promising, but challenges remain unaddressed. Patient scepticism, often due to a lack of understanding, necessitates investment in education to highlight the benefits of robotic-assisted procedures." "The high cost of robotic systems can also be a barrier to widespread adoption. Focusing on cost-effective innovations and advocating for insurance coverage that supports robotic surgeries are essential steps in making this technology more accessible. By overcoming these hurdles, we can ensure that more patients benefit from the precision and safety that robotic surgery offers." Later a CME was also organised by Max Hospital in Barnala where over 100 doctors across Punjab participated while shedding light on advancements in gastro-intestinal robotic surgery.

Delegations call on Satish Sharma; raises development, service issues

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

In a series of meetings held today, Minister for FCS&CA, IT, Transport, Youth Service and Sports, Satish Sharma, today met various deputations and Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), who presented a range of issues pertaining to job regularization, infrastructural development and transport concerns. The Minister gave a patient hearing to all the delegations and

assured timely redressal of their grievances. A deputation comprising Rehbar-e-Khel employees met the Minister to press for early regularization of their services. They emphasized that the Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) must be convened at the earliest to fill the vacant posts, which would pave the way for their absorption into the regular cadre.

Another delegation from the Handicrafts and Handloom departments called on the Minister to dis-

cuss their deputation arrangements and the ongoing process of departmental merger. The members sought clarity on the modalities and operational framework for the proposed merger and stressed on safeguarding the interests of employees during the restructuring.

A deputation from Tulmulla area demanded creation of sports infrastructure in the region. They also raised various other local issues impacting the youth engagement and community development.

Modi Govt's 11 yrs mark New India of progress, equity & dignity: Kavinder

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Senior BJP leader Kavinder Gupta today highlighted the remarkable journey of the Narendra Modi-led Government as it completes 11 years at the Centre. He said this period marks a historic phase for India, characterized by transformational development, strong governance, and a relentless focus on the welfare of all citizens.

Speaking at the meeting held at Party headquarter, Kavinder Gupta pointed out that since taking office, the Modi Government has introduced and successfully implemented numerous initiatives aimed at uplifting every section of society. These policies have brought about significant improvements in infrastructure, healthcare, education, and rural development.

He noted flagship programs such as Swachh Bharat Mission, Make in India, Digital India, and the Ujjwala scheme, which have empowered millions and changed lives across the country.

The senior BJP leader specifically pointed out how the policies of the Modi government have positively impacted Jammu and Kashmir, accelerating growth and opening new avenues for investment and employment in the region.

Kavinder also emphasized the



Modi Government's commitment to national security and foreign policy, which have bolstered India's standing on the global stage. The development of strategic infrastructure and enhanced support for farmers and small businesses have strengthened the nation's economy and resilience, he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Kavinder Gupta said, "The 11-year journey of the Modi Government is a testimony to visionary leadership and effective execution. It has successfully created a new India that aspires for progress, equity, and dignity for all citizens."

He expressed hope that the Government's focus on inclusive growth and development would con-

tinue to accelerate in the coming years, bringing prosperity to every corner of the country.

Kavinder Gupta urged all party workers to intensify their efforts at the grassroots level. "It is our collective responsibility to ensure that the benefits of Modi government's policies reach every corner of Jammu and Kashmir," he said. "Our focus should be on strengthening the party base and making sure that the development narrative reaches every household."

Prominent among those who were present in the meeting included Naresh Singh Jasrotia, District President Jammu South, Kulbir Chadak, General Secretary, and Prerna Nanda,

Rail bridge on Chenab River an engineering marvel: Balbir

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

The arch railway bridge built over the Chenab River in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir is a marvel of engineering. It has become a symbol of India's advanced technology, construction capability, and self-reliance. This bridge is one of the tallest railway bridges in the world, surpassing the height of the iconic Eiffel Tower and Qutub Minar.

Recently, this historic bridge was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Jammu and Kashmir BJP spokesperson Balbir Ram Rattan called it a "symbol of the nation's technological advancement and determination." He stated that not only was the bridge constructed in an extremely challenging terrain, but it also extensively utilized world-class engineering techniques.

He highlighted that the arch structure of the Chenab Bridge is built so robustly that it can withstand wind speeds of up to 260 kilometers per hour. The total length of the bridge is approximately 1.3 kilometers, and it is a crucial part of the Katra-Banihal railway project, which will play a vital role in connecting the Kashmir Valley with the rest of India. Balbir said that the construction of this bridge will not only boost transportation and tourism but will also significantly ease and expedite military movement in the border areas, thereby strengthening national security.

Judicial Academy organises training programme on "Holding and Conducting of Lok Adalats"

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

Under the patronage of Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy), Arun Palli and under the guidance of Chairperson and members of the Governing Committee of J&K Judicial Academy, the Judicial Academy organized a one day training programme on "Holding and Conducting of Lok Adalats" at its premises in Mominabad, Srinagar.

The programme was aimed to equip the judicial officers with in-depth understanding and operational clarity on the legal framework, structure and challenges associated with organizing Lok Adalats as per the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 and its allied regulations.

The first session was conducted by Former Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court, Mohammad Yaqoob Mir, who elaborated on the historical development of the Lok Adalat system from its roots in traditional dispute resolution methods to



its formal recognition through Article 39A of the Constitution and the Legal Services Authorities Act. He highlighted the benefits of the system in delivering inexpensive, speedy and accessible justice to the marginalized. The second technical session was led by Director, J&K Judicial Academy, Sonia Gupta and Registrar Vigilance, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Rajiv Gupta. They focused on practical aspects such as constitution of Lok Adalat benches, categorisation of cases.

, procedural coordination with stakeholders like banks, insurance companies, police and para-legal volunteers. They also addressed the

drafting and passing of awards and common hurdles in executing compromise settlements especially in cheque bounce cases under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act. The training programme was marked by candid exchanges where the participants shared real-world experiences, discussed execution challenges post-award and explored the scope and limitations of Lok Adalat jurisdiction.

The event proved to be an engaging and insightful platform fostering awareness, vigilance and better implementation of the Lok Adalat mechanism within the justice delivery system.

BDO Office Trigam celebrates World Environment Day with plantation, cleanliness drives

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KISHTWAR:

In line with the directives of Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan and under the close supervision of Assistant Commissioner Development, Kaiser Ahmed Bhawani, the Block Development Office Trigam, led by BDO Roopesh Sharma organized a series of impactful activities to commemorate World Environment Day 2025.

The day was marked by a cleanliness, anti-polythene and plantation drive across various key locations in CD Block Trigam.

The initiative witnessed enthusiastic participation from office staff and local residents, reinforcing a collective commitment to environmental conservation and plastic waste reduction.

Recognizing the theme of World Environment Day 2025 and the urgency to address mounting ecological challenges, the BDO office conducted extensive cleanliness-cum-sanitation drives at several vital water bodies including Water Point Lachil, Water Body Point Wasnoti and two waterfalls near Galigadh Park. The volunteers removed plastic waste, weeds, and other debris from in and around these water bodies, including the Amrit Sarovar at Galigadh, contributing significantly to the upkeep of local natural resources.

In addition, a plantation drive was organized at Galigadh Park, where saplings were planted to enhance green cover and promote biodiversity. Local shopkeepers, businessmen and residents were sensitized about the importance of proper waste disposal. Emphasis was laid on the use of dustbins and sustainable waste management practices.

Extensive Farmers Outreach Programs Held Across Budhal Block, Rajouri under Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan



SAHID SHAH
BUDHAL:

As part of the nationwide Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, a series of comprehensive farmers outreach programs were today successfully conducted in various panchayats of Budhal Block in Rajouri district. The programs were held in Panchayat

Kewal Lower, Kewal Upper, Phalni, Rajnagar Lower, Rajnagar Upper, and Samote, with the objective of creating mass awareness among farmers about modern agricultural practices and government schemes aimed at holistic agricultural development.

The outreach programs were organised with active assistance from The Budhal Walnut and Horti Producers Co-operative Ltd, a regis-

tered Farmer Producers Organisation (FPO) working for the welfare of farmers in the hilly region.

The events were conducted under the supervision and expert guidance of scientists from Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Rajouri, including Dr. Arvind Kumar Ishar, Dr. Suraj Parkash, Dr. Parul Gupta, Dr. Rohit Sharma, and Dr. Vikas Gupta. These experts provided in-depth awareness on improved farming techniques, integrated farming systems, organic cultivation, post-harvest management, value addition, and government support schemes.

The outreach initiative was further strengthened by the active participation of the Directors of The Budhal Walnut and Horti Producers Co-operative Ltd FPO, including Mohd Farooq Inqlabi (Chairman), Ashfaq Ahmed Lohar (Director) Pervaiz Ahmed Malik (Director) Zaid Sagar (Director) Waqar Lone (Director) Mohd Shabir Aflatoon (Director) Ab Rashid Shaheen (Director HRD), Irshad Malik, and Mohd Rafiq Chouhan (Director).

These directors played a vital role in farmer mobilization, local coordination, and on-ground implementation of the activities.

MLA Anantnag leads awareness rally in observance of World Environment Day

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
ANANTNAG:

Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Anantnag constituency, Peerzada Mohammad Syed, along with the Chief Executive Officer Municipal Council Anantnag today led a vibrant and impactful awareness rally to mark the observation of World Environment Day.

The rally was organized by Municipal Council Anantnag in collaboration with the Youth Services & Sports department and the Education department, to promote environmental consciousness and sustainable practices among citizens. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from NCC Cadets, students, teachers, volunteers, civil society members and officials of Municipal Council, Youth Services & Sports and Education Department.

During the rally, participants carried placards and chanted slogans emphasizing the importance of protecting the environment, reducing plastic usage, conserving water, and promoting afforestation. The rally created a lively and inspiring atmosphere, reinforcing the message of environmental stewardship.

Addressing the gathering, MLA highlighted the urgent need for collective action to combat climate change and environmental degradation. He emphasized that environmental protection is not solely the responsibility of the government but a shared duty of every citizen.

Representatives from the Youth Services & Sports department and the Education Department also addressed the participants, urging the younger generation to become active ambassadors of environmental conservation. They commended the spirited involvement of students, who played a central role in the day's activities. In addition to the rally, a series of awareness initiatives such as tree plantation drives, street plays, and environmental pledge ceremonies were conducted in schools and public spaces.

The observance of World Environment Day served as a powerful reminder of the collective responsibility to build a greener, cleaner, and more sustainable future. The active participation of various departments and community members reaffirmed Anantnag's strong commitment to environmental protection. Similarly, in a spirited celebration of World Environment Day 2025, Social Forestry Division Anantnag and Lidder Forest Division

SCS GDC Mendhar Releases Annual Issue of College Magazine "The Images"

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
MENDHAR:

The Government Degree College (GDC) Mendhar marked a significant academic milestone with the release of the annual issue of its college magazine, "The Images." The event was held on campus in the presence of esteemed dignitaries and faculty members. The magazine was officially unveiled by Dr. Mohammed Azam, Principal of SCS GDC Mendhar, alongside Dr. Jasbir

Singh (Principal, SKC GDC Poonch), Dr. Rani Mughal (Principal GDC Surankote) Dr. Farooq Ahmed (Principal, GDC Thannamandi), and Dr. Abdul Raouf, retired principal, Prof Rizwan Khan HoD Physics GDC Surankote and a respected figure in the academic community. Staff members from various departments attended the ceremony, celebrating the collective efforts of students and faculty that went into curating the publication. The magazine reflects the

creative and academic achievements of the college over the past year, showcasing articles, poems, research contributions, and student artwork. In his address, Dr. Azam highlighted the importance of such publications in fostering literary and intellectual growth among students and lauded the efforts of Editorial Board led by Dr. Junaid Jazib, HoD EVS. The event concluded with a vote of thanks and a reaffirmation of the college's commitment to holistic education.

Sakeena Itoo visits District Hospital Bandipora, takes stock of its functioning

Inaugurates Jan Aushadhi Kendra, Cancer Ward at hospital



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BANDIPORA:

In a significant step toward strengthening healthcare infrastructure in north Kashmir, Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today visited District Hospital Bandipora.

During her visit, the Minister inaugurated a Jan Aushadhi Kendra aimed at providing affordable generic medicines to the public, and also dedicated a newly established

Cancer Ward to the people of the district. The developments are expected to greatly benefit patients, particularly those from economically weaker sections. Minister Sakeena also took a detailed tour of the hospital, interacted with patients and hospital staff, and reviewed healthcare facilities being provided. She assured the public that the government is committed to improving health services in rural and semi-urban areas, with a special focus on accessibility and affordability.

The Minister was accompanied by

MLA Bandipora, Mr. Nizam-ud-din Bhat; Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri; Director Health Services Kashmir and Director Family Welfare. The dignitaries assessed ongoing works and discussed various initiatives under the Health and Family Welfare schemes.

Medical Superintendent, District Hospital Bandipora, Dr. Masrat Iqbal Wani on the occasion, presented a comprehensive overview of the hospital's functioning and highlighted both the recent improvements and the existing gaps that require urgent attention. He requested support for infrastructure expansion, specialist staff appointments, and upgraded diagnostic services. On the occasion, the Minister emphasized the government's vision to strengthen healthcare delivery at the grassroots level. "Our mission is not only to enhance infrastructure but also to ensure that no patient is left unattended or burdened due to lack of resources," she said. She assured the hospital administration that healthcare services will be improved at DH Bandipora.

World Brain Tumor Day: PARK Hospital, Mohali spread awareness



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
CHANDIGARH:

To create awareness on 'World Brain Tumour Day' a team of doctors from PARK Hospital, Mohali including Dr. Anil Sofat consultant brain & spine surgery, Dr. Sangeeta Pradhan neurologist, Dr. Joban Jit Kaur radiation oncologist and Dr. Vimal Vibhakar senior consultant general surgery and medical director addressed the media on Friday.

PARK Hospitals is North India's biggest super specialty hospital network with 19 hospitals, 3500 beds, 800 ICU beds, 14 cath labs, 45 modular OTs and over 1000 doctors.

Dr. Anil Sofat said, "There are more than 100 distinct types of primary brain tumours, each with its own spectrum of presentations, treatments, and outcomes. Several researches have been going on for the treatment of brain tumours."

Dr. Sofat also shared that the incidence and prevalence of brain tumour is growing rapidly in India. "Every year 40,000 to 50,000 people are diagnosed with brain tumours which reduces life expectancy by 20 years. These statistics are shocking. Brain tumours can be, and are often, operated upon while awake so that they can assist the surgeon by moving a part of the body or speaking during surgery." Advanced technologies have made it possible for the neuro experts to venture in areas which were, for long, considered to be unapproachable or have unacceptable levels of risk of injury, he said.

Dr. Sangeeta Pradhan said, "The tumours can be cancerous or benign. Malignant brain tumours, mostly, arise from brain matter and can only be controlled for variable periods of time, after using all the various modalities of treatment available. But they differ from cancers of the rest of the body in that they do not metastasize (i.e. spread to other parts of the body). Benign tumours, on the other hand, originate mostly from structures around the brain (extrinsic). They can be successfully removed surgically and, once removed totally, they mostly do not recur, she maintained.

Dr. Joban Jit Kaur said that, "Brain tumours account for about 2 % of all cancers. Around 500 new cases of brain tumours are diagnosed every day worldwide and most of them are not inheritable. Brain tumours can occur at all ages – from infant to ripe old age.

Sakeena Itoo greets people on auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Adha

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo has extended her heartfelt greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Adha.

In her greetings, Minister Sakeena said that Eid ul-Adha, the Festival of Sacrifice, is not only a celebration of faith and devotion but also a time to reaffirm our commitment to compassion, humility, and unity. She added that Eid is a day that commemorates the unparalleled obedience and submission of Prophet Ibrahim (A.S) to the will of Almighty Allah, a lesson that inspires us to lead lives of sincerity, selflessness and service to humanity.

"As we gather in prayer and offer our Qurbani (sacrifice), let us also remember the values this festival upholds — caring for the underprivileged, sharing our blessings, and strengthening the bonds of community and kinship.

It is a time to embrace those in need with empathy and ensure that no one is left behind in our collective celebration", Sakeena said. The Minister also called upon all to celebrate this Eid with a renewed sense of responsibility towards each other and with prayers for peace, prosperity, and harmony in our region and across the world.

Phase-4 of Kisan Sampark Abhiyan under JKCIP starting from June 30, 2025

Mission Director HADP reviews preparedness

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

A comprehensive meeting to finalize preparations for the launch of Phase-4 of the Kisan Sampark Abhiyan (KSA) under the Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIP) held today here in the Conference Hall, Directorate of Agriculture, Krishi Bhawan, Talab Tillo.

The meeting was chaired by Mission Director HADP/JKCIP Sandeep Kumar.

The JKCIP aims to contribute to a sustained increase in rural household income by enhancing the competitiveness and climate resilience of agriculture and allied sectors in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Director Agriculture Jammu S. Arvinder Singh Reen; Director Sheep Husbandry Jammu Dr. Syed Moin-ul-Haq and other officers from the agriculture and allied departments, technical experts from the Jammu division, and representatives from SKUAST-Jammu.

The Heads of Departments (HODs) of Agriculture and allied sectors from Kashmir along with all District Nodal Officers (DNOs) of HADP/JKCIP, representa-



tives of SKUAST-Kashmir participated in the proceedings through video conferencing.

During the session, it was informed that Phase-4 of the Kisan Sampark Abhiyan—a flagship farmers' awareness and outreach programme will commence from June 30, 2025 across 90 blocks, covering 1,536 Panchayats (744 in Jammu division and 792 in Kashmir division).

The Mission Director Sandeep Kumar emphasized on targeted approach for engaging youth, women farmers and agripreneurs. He issued a string of directives to ensure the effective implementation of Kisan Sampark Abhiyan Phase-4.

All District Nodal Officers (DNOs) were instructed to prepare a detailed event calendar outlining the schedule of awareness programmes and share the same with District Administration, Local

MLAs, DDCs, and other public representatives well in advance. "The advance planning will ensure timely logistical support, community mobilization and strong administrative backing at the grassroots level" the MD noted.

It was decided that each district would nominate Resource Persons and Master Trainers, ensuring scheduled training programmes to effectively communicate technical guidance to farmers.

Emphasis was laid on achieving maximum farmer participation, with directions to all field officers to create a friendly and accessible environment, engaging the farmers in local languages and imparting hands-on demonstrations wherever possible to enhance understanding.

The Mission Director also directed to coordinate with bank representatives

to ensure their presence during outreach events, thereby facilitating farmer awareness on credit, subsidies and financial inclusion schemes. "A dedicated women-centric approach must be adopted, with targeted messaging and inclusion strategies to significantly boost women farmer participation, recognizing their pivotal role in the agri-economy" he directed.

In addition, DNOs were tasked with identifying and engaging progressive farmers and successful HADP beneficiaries, who have demonstrated innovation or tangible impact on the ground.

These individuals will serve as local role models and peer motivators and a comprehensive list of such farmers must be compiled and submitted to the Mission Directorate for further coordination and showcasing during the Kisan Sampark Abhiyan.

MP Agha Ruhullah chairs DISHA meeting in Pulwama

Reviews progress of CSSs; emphasizes saturation across all schemes with focus on purpose & outcome



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
PULWAMA:

A high-level meeting of the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) was convened today here to review the implementation and progress of various Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) in the district.

The meeting was presided over by Member of Parliament, Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency, Agha Syed Ruhullah Mehdi.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom underlined administration's focus on transparency, efficiency, and ensuring that the benefits of government

initiatives reach every eligible beneficiary. At the outset, Joint Director Planning Pulwama gave a detailed presentation on the district profile and highlighted achievements under major schemes implemented by departments such as Rural Development, R&B, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, NRLM, Urban Livelihood Mission, Handicrafts & Handlooms, Social Welfare, Education, Health, PHE, Power, CA&PD, and Labour & Employment. The meeting was apprised of scheme-wise progress and achievements in MGNREGA, PMAY-G, PMAY-U, SBM-G, SBM-U, RGSA, PMGSY, CRF, Capex & CSS funding, Jal Jeevan Mission, PM

SVANidhi, and AMRUT, among others. Updates on Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) and statistics related to the JK Samadhan Grievance Portal were also shared.

Additionally, the meeting was apprised about the restoration programme for the revival and restoration of various heritage sites across the district. Appreciating the overall progress made by the district administration, the MP emphasized that the true objective of every government scheme is to serve the people, and maximum public benefit must be ensured through efficient implementation. He directed for achieving saturation under all schemes especially Jal Jeevan Mission so that every household has access to clean and safe drinking water.

Highlighting the importance of sustainable infrastructure, Syed Ruhullah Mehdi strongly advocated for the construction of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) and Solid Waste Management Plants to prevent the contamination of water bodies and safeguard public health.

The meeting was informed that a waste management plant is already under construction and mechanical equipment is tendered by department, and the development of Sewage treatment facilities is under active consideration and proposal has been prepared.

Langar Organized on Nirjala Ekadashi at Sadhu Jewellers Silver Shine Jewellery House



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

On the auspicious occasion of Nirjala Ekadashi, a spiritually significant langar was organized at Sadhu Jewellers, Anand Nagar, Talab Tillo, aimed at providing nourishment and moral support to devotees observing the stringent waterless fast in devotion to Lord Vishnu.

The initiative was gracefully attended by several prominent personalities, including Shri Munish Sharma (Senior BJP Leader), Shri Sunil Prajapati (State President, BJP OBC Morcha), Shri Arun Gupta (President, Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Jammu), along with the entire Chamber team and members of the Swarankar Sangh Jammu, who volunteered wholeheartedly to support the noble cause. Their collective presence and active participation reflected a strong sense of community solidarity and devotion. A large number of devotees, who had abstained even from a single drop of water in observance of Nirjala Ekadashi, were served fruits, milk-based products, potatoes, and specially-prepared meals that aligned with traditional fasting norms.

SAATHI Campaign: Interdepartmental Coordination meetings held at Lalpora, Sogam tehsils

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KUPWARA:

As part of the structured rollout of the SAATHI campaign (Survey for Aadhaar and Access to Tracking & Holistic Inclusion), coordinated meetings were conducted today at tehsils of Lalpora and Sogam, under the aegis of the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Kupwara, and the supervision of the respective Tehsildars.

The meetings brought together representatives from all relevant departments and field-level stakeholders considered essential to the identification and support of destitute, orphaned, abandoned, and undocumented children within their respective jurisdictions.

The participating agencies included officials from ICDS/CDPO, ASHA and Anganwadi workers, Health and Education Departments, Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of DLSA Kupwara, and local panchayat representatives, among others.

During the proceedings, Tehsildar Sogam and Tehsildar Lalpora issued clear directives to all stakeholders, emphasizing the importance of inter-departmental synergy, accountability, and proactive field engagement.

They underscored the imperative of conducting the survey with efficiency, accuracy, and compassion, aligning with the core objective of the SAATHI initiative—ensuring universal Aadhaar enrolment and access to legal entitlements for every child in need. All departments were instructed

to initiate immediate field-level action, maintain coordinated communication with their respective tehsil SAATHI units, and provide regular progress updates to the DLSA.

A public advisory in this connection was also issued whereupon general public was requested to support the campaign by cooperating with the survey teams. Individuals who are aware of any child lacking legal identity, or in need of care and protection, were encouraged to report such cases to the concerned tehsil SAATHI committee or the District Legal Services Authority, Kupwara at: Email: kupdlsa@gmail.com and Phone No.: 9103010740.

The SAATHI campaign represents a collaborative effort to uphold the rights and dignity of every child.

MLA Arvind inaugurates black topping work at GMC Bakshi Nagar

Says several projects in pipeline to enhance civic amenities in Jammu West

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Arvind Gupta, senior BJP leader and MLA Jammu West, today inaugurated the much-awaited black topping work at the Government Medical College (GMC), Bakshi Nagar. The project, which has been undertaken by the Public Works Department (PWD), comes at an estimated cost of Rs 1.20 crore and aims to improve the road infrastructure and ensure seamless vehicular movement around the busy medical hub.

Speaking on the occasion, Arvind Gupta said that the development of critical infrastructure, especially around essential service institutions like GMC, remains a top priority of the BJP government. "Improved roads mean better access for ambulances, patients, doctors, and the general public. We are committed to ensuring that Jammu West continues to witness planned and people-centric development," he stated.

Arvind Gupta assured that several other development projects are in the pipeline and will soon be executed to enhance civic amenities in Jammu West. He also appreciated the efforts of the executing agency for initiating the work on priority and urged them to maintain high quality standards.

Arvind Gupta further reiterated his commitment to ensuring time-bound completion of all ongoing development works in the constituency. He emphasized that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP remains dedicated to strengthening basic infrastructure and uplifting the standard of living for every citizen of Jammu West. The inaugural event was graced by several key dignitaries including Mandal President Kushant Prajapati, XEN PWD Sandeep Gupta, Principal GMC Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, Medical Superintendent Dr. Verinder Trisal, and Deputy Superintendent Dr. Bharat Bhushan. Senior BJP leaders Ravi Kant Sharma, Suneet Raina, Atul Bakshi, Mohit Vaid, Karan Sharma, Hardev Singh, Rekha Sharma, Sudesh Ji, Renu Choudhary, Surinder Singh Choudhary, Indresh Gupta, Madan Pandey, Ashish, Anupam Gupta, Suresh Gupta, and many others.

ST Community Influencers meet DM Kishtwar for Dharti Abha Janjatiya Gramin Utkarsh Abhiyan

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KISHTWAR:

Members of the Scheduled Tribe (ST) community called on District Magistrate Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan and apprised him about their role in awareness of Dharti Abha Janjatiya Gramin Utkarsh Abhiyan.

The DM listened and assured them that best efforts will be made to aware everyone.

He also encouraged the ST community to actively participate in the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan and urged community influencers to spread awareness about the initiative's benefits and importance. He said that all critical gaps of development shall be identified in ST Bastis. The DM emphasized the need



for collective efforts to ensure the program's success and improve the lives of tribal communities. It is pertinent to mention that, under the aegis of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, the District

Administration Kishtwar will launch the "Dharti Aabha Abhiyan: Awareness and Benefit Saturation Camps" from 15th June to 30th June 2025 across various tribal villages in the district.

Javid Dar visits hailstorm hit villages of Shopian, fire affected Fruit Mandi in Pulwama; assures timely relief, rehabilitation



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SRINAGAR:

Minister for Agriculture Production Department, Rural Development Department & Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar, today conducted an extensive visit to the hailstorm-affected areas of Shopian district and the fire-damaged Fruit and Vegetable Mandi in Pulwama.

The visit aimed at assessing the extent of damage and ensuring prompt relief and support to the affected farmers and traders.

Several villages in Shopian includ-

ing Wadipora, Reshipora, Drawni, Wuyan, Bandpawa, Handew, Nagbal, Dhobipora, Dachew, Warpora, Gundi Darwesh, and Hushanpora have suffered extensive crop losses due to the recent hailstorm. Interacting with the affected farmers, the Minister directed the concerned field officers to conduct thorough damage assessments and submit comprehensive reports at the earliest. He further instructed the district administration to expedite the process of relief.

The Minister also took note of the farmers' demand for inclusion of

apple under the crop insurance scheme to mitigate risks arising from natural calamities.

To strengthen future preparedness, Dar directed for formation of expert technical teams to conduct awareness campaigns and offer technical guidance to the farmers for disaster risk reduction and crop protection. Later, the Minister visited the fire-affected Fruit and Vegetable Mandi in Pulwama. He inspected the site and listened to the grievances of the traders and association representatives.

Responding to their concerns, the Minister assured that all genuine public demands would be addressed on priority. He issued on-the-spot directions for installation of CCTV cameras in the mandi to enhance surveillance and prevent such incidents in future.

MLA Zainapora, Showkat Hussain Ganie, MLA Pampore, Hasnain Moosdi, MLA Rajpora, Ghulam Mohi Uddin Mir, DDC Members Rajpora and Pampore, Director Horticulture, Kashmir, Director Horticulture, P&M, SDM, ACD CAO, CHO and other officers accompanied the Minister.

DIPR Jammu hosts symposium at Anand Bhartiya Vidyalaya- Udhampur

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU UDHAMPUR:

To spread awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and promote the message of a drug-free society, the Cultural Unit of the Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR), Jammu, today organized a symposium at Anand Bhartiya Vidyalaya High School, Udhampur.

The event was graced by the School Principal Ritu Abrol, who attended as the Chief Guest. A total of 20 students participated in the symposium, passionately articulating their views on the theme of 'Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan'. In a competitive and inspiring session, Bhumika secured the First Prize, followed by Ayushi who bagged the Second Prize and Aryan who claimed the Third Prize. Tania and Reeshika received consolation prizes for their commendable efforts. The presentations were evaluated by a panel of judges comprising Kiran Badyal, Ritu Sharma and Asha, who lauded the enthusiasm and awareness exhibited by the students.

Students, staff members and officials from the Cultural Unit, Jammu, attended the event, which concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks and expressions of appreciation for all participants. Meanwhile, a Cultural Awareness Programme titled 'Nasha Mukht Bharat' (Say No to Drugs) was also organized at Govt. Higher Secondary School Lander, Udhampur. Artists of the Cultural Unit, Jammu captivated the audience with thematic songs, effectively demonstrating the repercussions of drug addiction on individuals, families and society at large.



GALAXY PUBLIC SCHOOL

(AFFILIATED TO CBSE - NEW DELHI)
GALAXY ENCLAVE Sec -E(Ext.) Sainik Colony



CONGRATULATIONS



THE STUDENTS OF CLASS 10TH OF GALAXY PUBLIC SCHOOL HAVE SHOWCASED A REMARKABLE EXECUTION OF HARD WORK WITH FAUDABLE RESULT IN THE CBSE BOARD EXAMINATION 2025. THE REMARKABLE RESULT IS COLLECTIVE HARDWORK, CONSISTENCY AND SINCERITY OF THE TEACHERS AND STUDENTS.