

# Kashmir Convener



Government of  
Jammu & Kashmir



**Viksit Bharat  
Viksit Jammu & Kashmir**



People of Jammu & Kashmir

## Heartily Welcome

### Shri Narendra Modi Hon'ble Prime Minister

— Dedication to the Nation of —  
**Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link**

— Laying of Foundation Stone of —  
**Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of  
Medical Excellence, Katra**  
**Rafiabad-Kupwara-Tangdhar-Chamkot  
Road (Package-I)**

**Shopian Bypass on NH-444**  
— Inauguration of —  
**MoRTH Projects**  
**Sangrama Chowk Flyover & Bemina Junction Flyover**

**worth about ₹46,200 cr**

**Katra | June 06, 2025 | 10:00 AM**

**Quality Healthcare | Accessible Medical Education  
Enhanced Connectivity | Improved Accessibility**

**Live Telecast on DD News**

DIPK-2271/25  
DT: 05-06-2025



# Modi Govt’s 11 Years Redefined Governance and Public Trust: Dr. Jitendra

Convener News Desk

**NEW DELHI (PIB):** As the Modi Government completes 11 years in office, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology; Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh described the journey as one of “bold decisions, futuristic reforms and transformative governance,” asserting that these years have redefined India’s development narrative and restored public faith in the system.

In an exclusive interview, Dr. Jitendra Singh said the past decade has seen the government under Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi setting new benchmarks in decision-making by prioritizing long-term national interest.

“Whether it was the rollout of GST, the push for Digital India, or the opening up of strategic sectors like space and atomic energy to private players, each initiative has been driven by the vision of a self-reliant and globally competitive India,” he said.

He also pointed to the Department of Biotechnology’s (DBT) expanded role in fostering innovation, particularly in vaccine development, genetic research, and bio-entrepreneurship, as part of the broader science and technology thrust that has positioned India as a rising global tech hub.

One of the standout features of the Modi era, the Minister noted, has been the seamless integration of traditional governance goals with modern technology. “Under Modi’s leadership, sectors like space, atomic energy, and biotechnology received unprecedented push. The global recognition India enjoys today in these fields is a direct result of consistent support and visionary policies,” he noted.

Dr. Jitendra Singh pointed out that space technology, once limited to rocket launches, is now improving daily life through applications like telemedicine, agricultural



weather updates, and online education. “Science is no longer confined to labs—it’s simplifying life, and that’s the true essence of innovation,” he remarked.

He also highlighted transformative initiatives such as the JAM (Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile) trinity, which redefined service delivery across the country. Equally impactful, he said, was the Swachh Bharat Mission, which evolved into a mass social movement, cutting across political lines and reshaping public behaviour.

The Minister also drew attention to Special Campaign 4.0, an initiative aimed at promoting cleanliness, efficiency, and responsible disposal practices within government offices. “Under this campaign, departments not only cleared massive backlogs of files but also turned e-waste into valuable resources,” he said.

In one such instance, obsolete electronic equipment was dismantled and recycled to recover precious materials, while thousands of square feet of office space were freed

by clearing junk and redundant inventory. “This isn’t just cleanliness—it’s systemic efficiency. What was once waste is now wealth,” Dr. Jitendra Singh said, adding that such efforts have brought a culture of order and accountability into government functioning.

The Minister also spoke about administrative reforms, stating that bureaucratic accountability and ease of governance have significantly improved. “Performance-based assessment and lateral entry have brought a cultural change in administration,” he said, citing Mission Karmayogi as a major structural reform.

Further underscoring the government’s commitment to social security, Dr. Jitendra Singh spoke about progressive pension reforms benefiting women. Family pensions will now continue for childless widows even after remarriage, and divorced daughters are entitled to family pensions if divorce proceedings were initiated while their parents were alive.

Additionally, new rules empower female government servants to nominate their children for family pensions in cases of marital disputes.

On foreign policy, Dr. Jitendra Singh said the Prime Minister has succeeded in positioning India as a global leader that commands respect and strategic importance. “India’s response to global crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, proved its capability as a dependable partner,” he added.

As the government looks ahead, Dr. Jitendra Singh said the foundation has been laid for the next 25 years, leading up to India@100. “This is just the beginning. The next phase will be about accelerating the gains of the last decade and ensuring India’s rightful place in the global order,” he concluded. (PIB New Delhi)

## Dharmendra Pradhan Unveils “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0”, Eco-Club Modules

Convener News Desk

**NEW DELHI (PIB):** Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Wednesday launched Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0—a nationwide tree plantation initiative—along with dedicated educational modules, a microsite, and a revamped Eco Clubs for Mission LiFE web portal in New Delhi.

According to a statement issued by Press Information Bureau, the launch event was attended by Dr. Sukanta Majumdar, Minister of State for Education and DoNER; Ashish Sood, Education Minister of Delhi; Secretary of School Education Shri Sanjay Kumar; NCERT Director Prof. Dinesh Prasad Saklani, among other dignitaries.

Highlighting the campaign’s significance, Shri Pradhan emphasized the importance of cultivating environmental consciousness among students through experiential learning. “Compared to the world, India has never been a polluting nation. Our civilization teaches us to treat nature as family,” he said, crediting Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision for India’s Net Zero goal by 2070 and reaffirming the commitment to environmental sustainability under NEP 2020. The Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0 campaign encourages citizens to plant a tree in honour of their mothers and upload a selfie with the sapling on the official portal <https://ecoclubs.education.gov.in>. Last year, educational institutions across India planted over 5 crore trees; this year, the target has been raised to 10 crore. Minister Pradhan also launched three special learning modules tailored for preparatory, middle, and secondary school

levels. These modules integrate emotional, scientific, and environmental education, encouraging children to relate the nurturing qualities of mothers with Mother Earth. They also introduce the formation, activities, and digital tracking tools for school-based Eco Clubs



under Mission LiFE.

Dr. Sukanta Majumdar underlined the need to stay in harmony with nature, a philosophy central to India’s traditional knowledge systems. He appreciated NEP 2020 for promoting the concept of “Pro-Planet People” through real-world environmental education. Ashish Sood, in his address, called Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam not just a tree-planting drive, but a holistic sustainability training tool for students. “World Environment Day should not only be a celebration—it is a call to action,” he said. Secretary Sanjay Kumar urged all schools to establish Eco Clubs by 29th July 2025, marking the fifth anniversary of NEP 2020. He also elaborated on the seven core themes of Mission LiFE, which include energy and water conservation, sustainable food systems, reduced plastic use, and mindful consumption.

## REC Gets CBDT Nod to Issue ₹5,000 Crore Zero Coupon Bonds

Convener News Desk

**NEW DELHI:** REC Limited, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power, has received approval from the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) for issuing 5,000 crore worth of Zero Coupon Bonds (ZCBs). According to a government notification (No. 52/2025 dated May 30, 2025), REC will issue five lakh



ZCBs with a tenure of ten years and six months. The bonds will be issued at a deep discount and redeemed at face value upon maturity, offering tax benefits to investors under the Income-tax Act, 1961. In a statement issued to Kashmir Convener, an official spokesperson of the company said this marks the second time REC is issuing CBDT-notified ZCBs. Its previous issuance in FY 2024-25 received a strong market response, with subscriptions reaching nearly seven times the issue size. The bonds were priced at a yield of 6.25%, around 100 basis points below prevailing market rates, setting an industry benchmark.. “The success of the previous issue enabled REC to tap into a new segment of investors while further diversifying its funding sources at competitive rates”. Spokesperson said REC remains committed to exploring innovative instruments for efficient fund mobilisation to support India’s growing energy infrastructure needs.

## ECI Streamlines Post-Poll Data System, Launches Automated Index Cards, Statistical Reports

Convener News Desk

**NEW DELHI, (PIB):** The Election Commission of India (ECI) has rolled out a streamlined, technology-driven system for generating post-election Index Cards and statistical reports, significantly accelerating the availability of electoral data, the Commission said in a press note on Wednesday.

According to a statement issued by press Information Bureau (PIB), under the leadership of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, and Election Commissioners Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Dr. Vivek Joshi, the ECI has replaced its traditional manual data compilation method with an automated system aimed at enhancing speed and accuracy. Official spokesperson said the Index Card, a non-statutory statistical reporting format, serves as a comprehensive tool for disseminating constituency-level electoral data. “Developed as a suo motu initiative, it aims to improve access to election-related information for researchers, academia, journalists, policymakers, and the general public”.

The Index Cards and the resulting statistical reports offer data across multiple dimensions including candidates, electors, vote share, gender-wise voting patterns, regional trends, party performance, and turnout.

The ECI said the new system can generate about 35 statistical reports for Lok Sabha elections and 14 reports for State Assembly elections.

“These reports cover detailed variables like polling station data, voter turnout by state and constituency, participation of women



voters, and performance of national, state, and unrecognized political parties,” the statement said. Until now, constituency-level data was compiled manually on Physical Index Cards, which were later digitized—a process that was both time-consuming and prone to delays. The new automated mechanism integrates data directly, improving turnaround time for public access to election information.

However, the ECI clarified that these statistical reports are meant solely for academic and research purposes, and are based on secondary data from Index Cards. The primary and final electoral data continues to be maintained in the statutory forms by the respective Returning Officers.

Spokesperson said the initiative is expected to enhance electoral transparency and support robust democratic discourse through better data accessibility. (PIB New Delhi).

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Government of Jammu & Kashmir

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION BEMINA SRINAGAR.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No.11/EE/R&B/BM/CS/1500-08 of 2025-26 DATED: 05.06.2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees )	E/Money (In Rupees )	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Construction of Building for Building Less (BL) Government Girls Middle School New Chinar Colony, Bemina, Srinagar	44.46437/	1100/-	88,929/-	365 days	Samagra Shiksha PAB 2024-25	“AAY/BEE”

Position of AAA: Accorded By the Project Director Samagra Shiksha J&K Vide Order No.228- CHIRAG of 2024 Dated 02.12.2024

Position of funds: Available Project Authority: Project Director Samagra Shiksha J&K

1. The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates given below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	05.06.2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	06.06.2025.2025 from 10.00 AM
3	Bid submission Start Date	06.06.2025 from 10.00 AM
4	Bid Submission End Date	16.06.2025 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	17.06.2025 at 12.00 PM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Bemina Srinagar

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan under M.H-0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Bemina Srinagar (tender inviting authority)(The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Bemina Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

2. At the time of tendering, all the bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR pledged to the tender receiving authority i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Bemina Srinagar (The date of Earnest money should be between Date of Start of bid and bid submission End date). The successful bidder will have to provide Performance security @ 5% of Allotted cost in shape of CDR/FDR at the time of contract award. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of performance security of 5% of the total allotted cost which will be released after successful completion of the DLP.

3. Unbalanced bid:

S.No	Percentage of unbalanced bid viz -a- viz Adv.cost	Additional performance security to be deposited on quoted bid by L1
1	Upto and including 15% below	Nil
2	>15% upto and including 20% below	5%
3	>20% upto and including 25% below	10%
4	>25% upto and including 30% below	15%
5	>30% below	20%

The bidder declared as L1 has to Provide additional performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG as per the break up given above at the time of allotment. 4. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Bemina Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

5. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids

6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

a) Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the “Downloads” option as well as from “Bidders Manual Kit” on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) into acquaint bid submission process.

b) To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get ‘Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)’ as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.

c) The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.

d) Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

e) Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.

Note: Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

7 The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

8 Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Bemina Srinagar (The date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Bemina Srinagar must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The original Treasury Challan(cost of tender document), and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of contract.

9 Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.

10 Bidders should note that if the documents uploaded/submitted on the basis of which the contract has been awarded are found fake/not genuine at any time, the contract shall be cancelled and the contractor/bidder shall be blacklisted for participation in this division for a period of five years besides the performance security deposited for the said work shall be forfeited.

11 Any item/items of work found necessary during execution of work though not in the BOQ shall have to be got executed and shall be paid At Par the %age quoted by the bidder, after proper authorization from the Competent Authority.

12 Any addendum issued shall be the part of NIT.

13 Price escalation and Taxes:- Bidders are advised to quote Rate without GST. GST @ 18% shall be added at the time of allotment by allotting authority. Deduction on account of taxes (Gst etc.) shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

14 Bidders are advised to use “My Documents” area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

15 In case of CRF and any other specified project, the relevant guidelines / standard bidding document shall be followed.

16 Instructions to Bidder (ITB)

a)

All bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualification criteria / qualification information with their bids:-

a. All bidders shall upload Copies of original documents defining constitution/ legal status, place of registration and principal place of Business with Cell No. and Correspondence address.

b. Registration Card duly renewed/valid for the year 2025-26

c. All bidders shall upload Verification Certificate duly issued by the card issuing authority or an Affidavit duly certified by 1st class Judicial Magistrate to the effect of genuineness of the registration.

No.: EE/R&B/BM/CS/1500-08

Dated: 05.06.2025

DIPK-2219/25

Sd/-Executive Engineer,  
R&B Division Bemina Srinagar.

## GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, SRINAGAR 10-Karan Nagar, Srinagar Kashmir, 190010 (Academic Section)

Subject: Revised selection list for the tenure post of Senior Residents in the various discipline of Government Medical College, Srinagar.

Notification No. 06-RA of 2025  
Dated.05-06-2025

Consequent upon non-joining of (02) candidates for the post of Senior Resident in the department of Radiodiagnosis & Imaging and Urology respectively and 01 vacancy occurred in the department of Ophthalmology due to resignation, the following candidates are hereby upgraded to the Selection in the respective departments being said S. No. (01) in the waiting list in the respective department:

S. No.	Name of the Doctor	D.O.B dd/ MM/YYYY	Qual.	InService/ Not InService	Department	Marks Obtained	Status
1	Dr. Irshad Ahmad Najar	05-05-1995	MD	Not InService	Radiodiagnosis & Imaging	36	Selected
2	Dr. Younis Mushtaq	13-10-1989	M.CH	Not InService	Urology	27	Selected
3	Dr. Haziqa Bashir Bhat	18-07-1996	MS	Not InService	Ophthalmology	51	Selected

Consequent upon the above and pursuant to the instructions issued by General Administration Department vide Order No. 528-JK(GAD) of 2021 Dated. 21-06-2021 read with 1003-JK(GAD) of 2021 Dated. 27-09-2021, URL, login ID & Password shall be sent on registered Mobile number of concerned doctors whose names are mentioned in the Annexure "A" to this notification for submission of online form through Employee Verification System (EVS) for Verification of Character and Antecedents, within (07) days, from the date of issuance of this notification. Moreover, if any candidate(s) fails to submit Employee Verification System through online portal in the stipulated time, his/her selection in the concerned discipline shall forfeit without any further notice.

Note:-

After cutoff date login ID will be deactivated.

No: GMCS/RA/2446-50

Dated. 05-06-2025

DIPK-2257/25

Sd/-Principal/Dean /  
Govt. Medical College Srinagar



# Kashmir Convener



ECI Streamlines Post-Poll Data System, Launches Automated Index Cards, Statistical Reports

P/02



Dharmendra Pradhan Unveils "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0", Eco-Club Modules

P/02



Modi Govt's 11 Years Redefined Governance and Public Trust: Dr. Jitendra

P/02

USBRL Inauguration Today

## June 6 is indeed a special day for my sisters, brothers of J&K: PM Modi



KC News Network

**SRINAGAR:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that June 6 is indeed a special day for my sisters and brother of Jammu and Kashmir as key infrastructure projects worth Rs 46,000 crore are being inaugurated including Udhampur-Baramulla-

Srinagar Rail Link (USBRL) project. The PM Modi said USBRL project will ensure all weather connectivity and the Vande Bharat trains from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra to Srinagar will boost spiritual tourism and create livelihood opportunities.

>>SEE ON P-7

### USBRL is a historic leap for J&K: LG Sinha

Reviews arrangements at Katra

KC News Network

**KATRA:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inspected arrangements in Katra on Thursday ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's scheduled Public Meeting on 06th June.

The Lieutenant Governor reviewed the preparations to ensure the smooth conduct of the event and directed the officials for strict security, safety measures and seamless coordination among all departments. Prime Minister will dedicate the iconic Chenab Bridge, the tallest railway bridge in the world, Country's first cable-stayed Anji rail bridge and Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project to the nation.

"Dedication of Udhampur-Srinagar-



Baramulla Rail Link to the nation by Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a historic leap for Jammu Kashmir Union Territory. J&K UT is stronger, prosperous than ever and witnessed

>>SEE ON P-7

### Better Late Than Never: CM Omar Abdullah

KC News Network

**KATRA/JAMMU:** Noting that he has been "waiting for this day for a long time", Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said the inauguration of rail service

"It is better late than never. Finally, we have reached that stage when the Prime Minister will come and inaugurate the Kashmir rail service which will benefit all of us," he said.



is better late than never as it will be a landmark occasion for the people of the valley.

He also said the start of the rail service will enable people to travel without spending much and put an end to the practice of some air service providers who "robus" by selling tickets worth Rs 5,000 at Rs 20,000.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the much-awaited Kashmir rail link on Friday. He will also inaugurate the Chenab bridge and India's first cable-stayed Anji bridge.

Abdullah invited pilgrims to come in large numbers for the annual 38-day Amarnath yatra, scheduled to commence in south Kashmir Himalayas on July 3.

at Katra Railway station.

Abdullah along with Union minister Jitendra Singh visited different venues of the prime minister's function including the iconic Chenab railway bridge and Katra railway station.

They also inspected the specially-designed Vande Bharat train which will be flagged off by Modi to mark the completion of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link to connect Kashmir with the rest of the country.

"Visited the tallest railway bridge in the world, the Chenab Bridge, to review arrangements for the visit of the PM tomorrow.

>>SEE ON P-7

### "Direct train between Jammu and Srinagar will run in September"

KC News Network

**JAMMU:** Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Thursday said that the direct train between Jammu and Srinagar will run in September after work on Jammu railway station is completed. Speaking to the reporters, the minister,

said that work on Jammu Railway station is going on. "The work is expected to be completed by September. With the availability of platform 5 and 6, Vande Bharat trains will run between Jammu and Srinagar directly in September," he said. The Union Minister

>>SEE ON P-7

### Security Beefed Up In J&K

KC News Network

**JAMMU:** A multi-tier security setup has been put in place for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Jammu and Kashmir on Friday to inaugurate the much-awaited Kashmir rail link and also dedicate to the nation multiple development projects worth over Rs 46,000 crore in Katra, officials said. This will be the first visit of Modi to the Union Territory post Operation Sindoor launched by the Indian Armed Forces in

retaliation to the Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 persons, mostly tourists, dead on April 22.

Prime Minister Modi is scheduled to inaugurate the Chenab bridge and India's first cable-stayed Anji bridge, the symbol of India's engineering excellence before flagging off Vande Bharat trains to mark the completion of the 272-km Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla railway link (USBRL) that will provide

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Terror Conspiracy Case

### NIA conducts raids at 32 locations in Kashmir



KC News Network

**SRINAGAR:** The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday conducted a series of searches across Kashmir as part of its continuing investigations against terror conspiracy by Pakistan backed proscribed terrorist organizations and their offshoots to destabilise Jammu and Kashmir.

A statement issued by the agency said that thirty-two locations in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir were searched as part of today's crackdown. The locations were residential premises of hybrid terrorists and overground workers associated with these Pakistan based offshoots such as The Resistance Front (TRF), United Liberation Front Jammu & Kashmir (ULFJ&K), Mujahideen Gazwat-ul-Hind (MGH), Jammu & Kashmir Freedom Fighters (JKFF), Kashmir Tigers, PAAF and others, which are affiliated to proscribed terrorist organisations such as Laskar-e-Toiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Al-Badr etc.

The statement said that the cadres and workers whose premises were searched are under the NIA's scanner for their involvement in supporting terrorist activities such as facilitating terrorists, collection and distribution of sticky bombs/

>>SEE ON P-7

Amarnath Yatra 2025

### Army launches "Operation Shiva" to ensure safe pilgrimage

Yogesh

**JAMMU:** Army has launched "Operation Shiva," a comprehensive security initiative to provide fool proof security to the 38-day Amarnath Yatra, slated to commence from July 3.

This annual pilgrimage, one of the most revered spiritual journeys, draws thousands of devotees to the sacred Amarnath Cave Shrine in Jammu and Kashmir, located at an altitude of 3,888 meters.

Officials told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that in light of recent security challenges, including



the terror attack in Pahalgam on April 22, which claimed 26 lives, the Indian Army, in coordination with Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), Jammu and Kashmir Police, and the Shri Amarnathji

Shrine Board (SASB), has deployed robust measures to ensure the safety of pilgrims. "Operation Shiva involves over 42,000 security personnel,

>>SEE ON P-7

### '1,747 Sq KM's declared as High Risk forest fire zone'

Riyaz Bhat

**SRINAGAR :** In Jammu and Kashmir at least 1,747 square kilometres of forest area have been categorized in 'High Risk' zone of forest fire while 62 square kilometres have been categorized in 'Very High Risk' zone.

The official document available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) reveal that "62 square kilometres of forest area of Jammu and Kashmir is under High Risk' zone of forest fire and 8,972 square kilometres of forest area lie under moderate risk zone and 10,606 square kilometres of area with low risk of forest fire respectively."

The documents however state that 62 square kilometres of forest areas have been categorized in 'Very High Risk' zone in terms of catching forest fire while 33,237 square kilometres of forest areas of Jammu and Kashmir

>>SEE ON P-7

### Eid-ul-Adha shopping begins in Kashmir

Traders say sales low

KC News Network

**SRINAGAR :** With Eid-ul-Adha approaching, the markets across Kashmir are witnessing a gradual increase in the flow of shoppers as the people prepare for the grand festival.

While the shopping frenzy is yet to reach its peak, areas such as Lal Chowk in Srinagar, along with local markets in other districts, are witnessing a steady influx of shoppers.

Shops in Srinagar are witnessing a modest increase in customer footfall as families begin preparations for the festival. While overall sales remain muted, traders are hopeful that business will pick up in the final days. "Sales are still slow, but we hope things improve by tomorrow," Mushtaq Ahmad, a local shop owner, told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

"Alhamdulillah, business is picking up. We pray this trend continues across the Valley," Yaseen Khan, a trader, said.



Some store owners are facing challenges due to competition from online shopping. "More customers are browsing in stores, but they eventually prefer to purchase online, where they can find discounts. It's a growing concern for traditional businesses," said a footwear vendor in Srinagar.

Despite this, local bakeries and confectioneries are seeing steady business as customers stock up on

traditional sweets.

The shopping fever, however, is not confined to Srinagar alone. Markets in Baramulla and other northern districts are experiencing a noticeable surge in activity, with shoppers hunting for last-minute essentials. Street vendors, particularly those selling henna, bangles, and artificial jewellery, are also doing brisk

>>SEE ON P-7

### Sacrificial animal supply, sales pick up

Rehan Qayoom Mir

**SRINAGAR:** With Eid-ul-Adha around the corner, the Kashmir Valley witnessed a major surge in the supply of sacrificial animals last week, as over 100 trucks loaded with sheep arrived to meet the growing demand from consumers preparing for the annual festival.

>>SEE ON P-7

### Experts urge responsible disposal of animal waste

Jahangeer Ganaie

**SRINAGAR:** As Eid-ul-Adha approaches, health and environmental experts have raised serious concerns over the improper disposal of animal waste, stressing the urgent need for

>>SEE ON P-7

### Kashmir's lakes, wetlands in peril, experts warn

Waris Fayaz

**SRINAGAR:** Experts and activists on World Environmental Day issued a stark warning that Kashmir is rapidly losing its natural heritage—shrinking wetlands, polluted rivers and degraded forests.

Speaking at an event in Sopore, co-founder and trustee of Environmental Policy Group (EPG) Dr Tauseef Ahmad Bhat, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said Kashmir is losing its natural heritage.

Dr Tauseef said the Wular, Haigam and other critical wetlands are shrinking. "Our rivers are polluted, and our forests fragmented. If we don't act decisively today, the loss will be irreversible. This is no longer just an environmental issue—it's a matter of survival for future generations," he warned.



The event was organised by the Environmental Policy Group (EPG) in collaboration with the North Forest Circle of the J&K Forest Department at Valley Public School. It focused on the global theme "Ending Plastic Pollution". EPG Convenor Faiz Bakshi said ending plastic pollution is not a slogan—it's a mission. "Through this event, we aim to plant the seeds of responsibility in young minds, because they are the custodians of tomorrow's


Kashmir, he said.

Similarly, Irfan Ali Shah, Conservator of Forests, North Circle, who led a symbolic plantation drive to open the programme, said Kashmir's ecological wealth is eroding right before our eyes. "We are at a tipping point in environmental degradation. Nature is suffering, and we must act. Choosing Sopore and its students for this programme is commendable. It sends the right message."

>>SEE ON P-7



Editorial



Bridge to the Future

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to Jammu and Kashmir today marks not just the inauguration of infrastructure, but the dawning of a new era for the Union territory. The flagging off of the first-ever Vande Bharat train to Kashmir valley, the formal commissioning of the Chenab Rail Bridge, and the dedication of projects worth ₹46,000 crore sends a powerful message across — the promise of inclusive development is being delivered with unwavering resolve.

This momentous occasion falls on the eve of Eid-ul-Adha, making it even more special. For the people of Jammu and Kashmir, this is not just progress — it is an Eid gift, a long-awaited fulfilment of the promise of connectivity, inclusion, and dignity. For decades, Kashmir’s isolation — both physical and symbolic — was seen as a barrier to growth, opportunity, and connection with the rest of India. Today, that isolation is being dismantled not just through policy and dialogue, but with steel, concrete, and vision. The 272-km Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL), built through some of the world’s most challenging terrain with 36 tunnels and 943 bridges, is more than an engineering feat. It is a lifeline. An all-weather, all-region rail route binding Kashmir to the heart of India.

The Chenab Rail Bridge, now the world’s tallest, is a symbol of national willpower. At 359 meters above the riverbed, it isn’t just connecting mountains — it is connecting people, economies, aspirations. This visit also showcases the government’s broader commitment to balanced development.

In the shadow of recent terror attacks, including the brutal Pahalgam incident, this visit becomes even more significant. While our security forces respond to violence with courage and precision — as seen in Operation Sindoor — the nation’s leadership responds with development, with healing, with hope. That is the true counter-narrative to extremism.

What Kashmir sees today is the fruit of long-term investment, trust-building, and the central government’s focused push for connectivity, economic growth, and integration.

On Friday while people will be preparing for Eid, Kashmir will witness the closing of one chapter and the opening of another — a chapter defined not by conflict, but by connectivity; not by remoteness, but by railways; not by isolation, but by integration.

World Environment Day 2025:  
Humanity’s Chance to Heal the Earth

IFTIKHAR RASHID WANI



We all know that June 5 is celebrated every year as World Environment Day. This observance dates back to 1972, when the United Nations Organization designated it under the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) during the opening day of the

the protection of planet earth our own habitat. It is a day to unite with people around the world and take action to protect and preserve the environment for present and future generations. This day ignites us to retrospect our actions and their impacts on planet earth.

To promote the future sustainability and ways to safe guard our environment is the motto of this

plastic pollution. Plastic is predominantly dribbled our lives. In our food, in our water and in our bodies there is only plastic.

The ultimate sufferer is human beings. Plastic pollution is solely due to human activities, and it has significantly impacted human health. It is crucial to speak up about our surroundings, environment, rivers,

ments of Jammu and Kashmir.

This year we have seen some appreciating moments by observing different departments, universities, institutions government schools celebrating different natural days of importance like Earth Day, Arbor Day, Science Day and other such days yet a lot of work has to be done to aware the general masses.

There are wonderful writers whose concern towards creating awareness among the general people

We are dependent on plastic for our every activity. Our mornings start by bringing the bread in polyethene and our day ends by bringing something from market to fulfill our needs, only plastic is there. This all mess and meddling with plastics have led to plastic pollution. Plastic is predominantly dribbled our lives. In our food, in our water and in our bodies there is only plastic.

Stockholm Conference held in Sweden. However, it was in 1974 that the day was first officially celebrated as World Environment Day. Since then, it has grown into a global campaign aimed at awakening human consciousness about the environment and the multiple threats facing our planet.

From air pollution and climate change to water contamination, land degradation, and indiscriminate waste dumping, the challenges are vast and urgent. Over the years, World Environment Day has evolved into a universal event, marked across the world with a focus on different themes each year—each one highlighting specific environmental issues of global importance.

It helps to realize our role and obligation towards

day. Keeping the fragility of our environment in to consideration, this year’s theme aims on “Combating Plastic Pollution”. This year’s celebration will be the step towards the persistent need to eradicate plastic waste, a global environmental catastrophe that affects ecosystems and human health all around the world.” The Republic of Korea is hosting the world celebrations. It is well known fact that plastic and the plastic products have now entered in our lives beyond rectification.


We are dependent on plastic for our every activity. Our mornings start by bringing the bread in polyethene and our day ends by bringing something from market to fulfill our needs, only plastic is there. This all mess and meddling with plastics have led to

springs and other such natural resources. Such days provide us the opportunities to ponder over of our actions and the ways to restore the glory of our planet earth and especially the clean environment, pristine water and above all plastic free society.

The Central Government is playing its role and is contributing positively to this global movement by making people to realize their duties towards the protection of our environment in general and to eliminate plastics from our lives in particular. The central government has given free hand to states and union territories to handle all such issues of importance locally.

For over five years now we are seeing some positive changes in the work culture of our different depart-

# Not Just Earth Day: Make Every Day Count for Our Planet



RAFAKAT RAFIQ AHMAD

The Earth and its resources make life possible. Without sunlight, air, vegetation, and water, life simply cannot exist. Yet, if we continue to misuse these natural blessings, a future



without them may become our grim reality.

The Earth provides limited resources—precious gifts that we often take for granted. Driven by greed, humans are exploiting these resources at an alarming rate. This selfish behavior has caused immense and, in some cases, irreversible damage to the environment. From polluted air to contaminated water and disappearing forests, the warning signs are everywhere. If we fail to act now, the survival of all living beings, including

We must plant more trees to counter the rapid deforestation around us. Trees not only absorb carbon dioxide but also restore ecological balance and improve air quality. Likewise, water conservation should become a daily habit. Avoiding wasteful practices and preventing pollution of rivers and lakes is vital, especially since freshwater resources are dwindling fast.

Beyond individual action, institutional and community efforts are critical. Governments must implement stricter

environmental policies. Educational institutions should organize awareness programs—seminars, essay competitions, model exhibitions, and nature walks—to instill environmental consciousness among students. Villages and towns can form community-based conservation clubs and organize Panchayat-level meetings to promote collective responsibility.

The first Earth Day was celebrated on April 22, 1970, when 20 million Americans rallied for a healthy, sustainable environment. It was a day that united people across class, region, and occupation—urban and rural, rich and poor, students and workers. It led to landmark legislation, such as the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act.

Earth Day is now celebrated globally. However, in our

Experts warn that Kashmir could soon become as polluted as Delhi if corrective action is not taken.

Brick kilns are a major culprit. Reports suggest that many operate without valid licenses and continue to use outdated, polluting technologies. The Pollution Control Board had mandated a switch from traditional bull trench kilns to eco-friendly zigzag technology to reduce carbon emissions. But enforcement remains weak.

Industrial pollution is another concern. For example, the Khrew area in Pulwama houses six cement factories that have turned life into a nightmare for locals. According to a study by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology and the University of Kashmir, coal burning contributes over 95% of the PM 2.5 emissions in the region—worse than Delhi’s infamous smog.

Water pollution is equally alarming. Rivers such as the Jhelum, Chenab, Tawi, and Ravi are heavily contaminated due to industrial effluents, human and animal waste, and garbage. Once used for drinking, the Jhelum is now unfit even for bathing. Sewage from homes and businesses is directly discharged into the river across the valley. Dal Lake, Wular Lake, and other major water bodies are also deteriorating rapidly.

This situation compels us to ask:

Who is responsible—government authorities or the general public?

Why hasn’t the spirit of Earth Day reached the hearts of Kashmiris?

Is it ignorance, negligence, or a conscious choice to pollute our surroundings?

Aren’t we all part of this Earth? Do we not share equal responsibility for its protection?

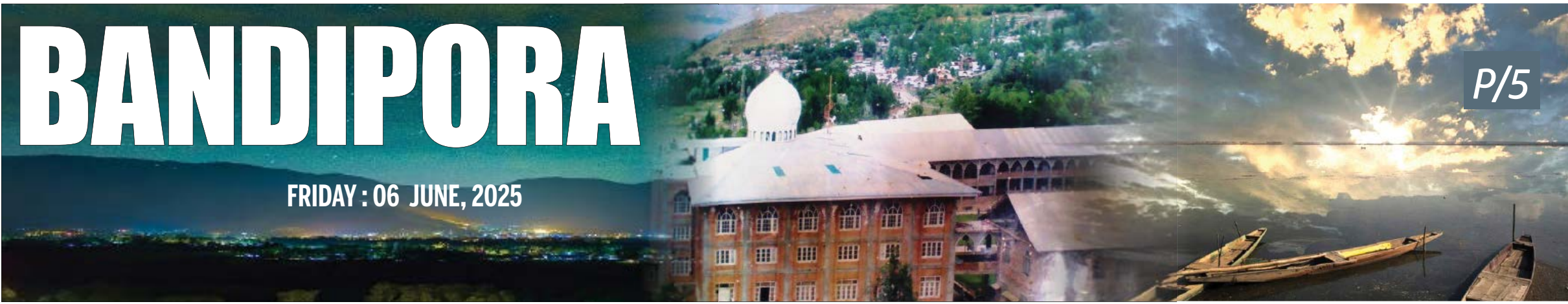
Let’s not restrict Earth Day to a symbolic celebration. Let us become active participants in protecting our environment. Start by adopting the 3 Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Use glass bottles, cloth bags, and reusable cups. Avoid disposable items like plastic bottles and paper towels. Compost your kitchen waste. Start recycling programs in your community.

Let us also extend full cooperation to environmental laws and regulations. Whether it’s following solid waste disposal rules or shifting to eco-friendly technologies, every step matters.

Kashmir, our “Jannat-e-Benazeer,” is not just a tourist destination—it is our home. Let’s not allow pollution to rob future generations of its beauty. The time for action is now. Let’s take pride in protecting our Earth—not just once a year, but every single day.

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# DC Bandipora Reviews Eid-ul-Adha Preparations, Inspects Eidgah Facilities

CONVENER NEWS DESK

**BANDIPORA :** In preparation for the upcoming Eid-ul-Adha festival, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, on Thursday conducted a comprehensive review of arrangements across the district to ensure a safe, smooth, and well-coordinated observance of the festival.

As part of the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner visited Eidgah Bandipora to assess on-ground preparations and inspect facilities being put in place for Eid prayers. He stressed the importance of maintaining cleanliness in and around the Eidgah, ensuring adequate public facilities, and prioritizing the safety and security of worshippers.

In a statement issued to Kashmir Convener, an official spokesperson of the district administration said, DC Bandipora, who was accom-

panied by senior officers of the district, was briefed on the arrangements made to facilitate a hassle-free experience for the public. He underscored the need for close coordination among departments particularly law enforcement, health services, and municipal bodies to ensure all aspects of the celebrations are managed efficiently.

The Deputy Commissioner said that the District Administration has made all necessary arrangements, including traffic regulation, sanitation drives, and emergency medical services, to safeguard public convenience and well-being during the festivities.



During the visit, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri also interacted with members of the local Auqaf Committee and residents, seeking their cooperation in maintaining peace, harmony, and order. He appealed to the public to adhere to the guidelines issued by the administration for a peaceful and joyous celebration of Eid-ul-Fitr.

The DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Zaffar Hussion Shawl; Tehsildar Bandipora Firdous Ahmad Qadri; Executive Officer MC Bandipora Ajaz Ahmad, and other concerned officials.

## Bandipora Marks World Environment Day with Plantation, Pledge to Fight Plastic Pollution

DC Manzoor Qadri urges youth to become environmental ambassadors

CONVENER NEWS DESK

**BANDIPORA:** The Wular Conservation and Management Authority (WUCMA), in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Forest Department, celebrated World Environment Day with great enthusiasm at the Auditorium Hall of High School Kaloosa, Ban-



dipora. This year's theme focused on environmental awareness, tackling plastic pollution, and youth engagement.

In a statement issued to Kashmir Convener, an official spokesperson of the district administration said the event was presided over by Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Manzoor Qadri, who delivered the keynote address.

He emphasized the urgent need to address plastic pollution and lamented the fading use of traditional, eco-friendly practices such as carrying cloth and jute bags. Urging a collective commitment, he called upon all attendees to take a pledge to eliminate single-use plastics and promote sustainable alternatives.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the ecological significance of Wular Lake, a vital source of livelihood through fisheries and water chestnut harvesting, as well as a symbol of natural beauty.

He reiterated the administration's commitment to conserving such eco-sensitive zones. Measures like the polythene ban, enhanced solid waste management under Swachhta Grameen (RDD), and Bandipora Municipality's progress in source-level segregation

were applauded. He also informed that land has been earmarked for establishing a scientific solid waste management facility, which will further improve the district's environmental infrastructure. Project Coordinator at WUCMA, Owais Mir inspired the students with a passionate address, urging them to become "Ambassadors of Change". He outlined practical steps youth can adopt such as tree plantation, rejecting plastic, creative recycling, conserving water, preserving water bodies like Wular, and adopting green transport. Linking environmental responsibility with cultural identity, he emphasized the need to understand and use the Regional languages to effectively engage local communities.

Renowned poet and social activist Mohammad Munawar Parwana delivered a poignant message on environmental responsibility. Commending the enthusiastic participation of schoolgirls, he remarked, "If they pledge to stop plastic from entering their homes or fields, great change is possible."

The programme featured debates, skits, and an environmental song performed by students, creatively portraying the environmental challenges and offering inspiring solutions. These performances served as a powerful reminder of the role individuals play in environmental conservation.

Earlier, the Deputy Commissioner planted a sapling in the school compound as a symbol of hope and collective resolve for a greener future. He also flagged off a student rally along the banks of Madhumati Nallah, where students raised slogans on cleanliness and environmental awareness with great zeal.

The event was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora Zaffar Hussion Shawl, Tehsildar Bandipora, Range Officers from the Forest Division and WUCMA, civil society representatives, and other dignitaries.

## Bandipora Admin Hosts Yoga Event to Promote Health and Drug-Free Living

CONVENER NEWS DESK

**BANDIPORA:** As part of the ongoing efforts under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), the District Administration Bandipora, in collaboration with the Department of Youth Services & Sports Office Bandipora and District Social Welfare Department on Thursday organized a District Level Yoga event at the Forest Training School, Chitternagar, Bandipora. In a statement issued to Kashmir Convener, an official spokesperson of the district administration said, the event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, officials,

and local youth, all united by the shared goal of fostering a drug-free and health-conscious society.

Speaking on the occasion, officials emphasized the significance of holistic health practices like Yoga in preventing substance abuse and instilling discipline, resilience, and mindfulness among the youth.

Chitternagar Forest Training School is nestled amidst lush greenery and serene natural surroundings. The tranquil forest environment, complemented by fresh air and peaceful ambiance, provided the perfect setting to promote physical and mental well-being as a core aspect of the anti-drug

campaign.

Spokesperson said the event



marked yet another meaningful step in the district's comprehensive action plan under NMBA, focusing not only on awareness but also on building sustainable health-centric community habits.

## GDC Hajin Celebrates World Environment Day

CONVENER NEWS DESK

**HAJIN:** The Department of Environmental Science, in collaboration with the Debates and Seminars Committee of GDC Hajin Thursday



organized a seminar on a thought-provoking title "The Green Debate: Environment Through the Lens of Language, Literature and Politics".

This programme was held under the patronage of esteemed Principal Prof. (Dr.) Gazala Firdous. The seminar offered a unique interdisciplinary exploration of environmental consciousness.

The seminar was expertly moderated by Prof. Adnan Rashid, Head, Department of Environmental Science who commenced the proceedings with an insightful introduc-

tory speech, setting the stage for the seminar's unique theme.

He emphasized the critical need to understand environmental issues not just through science, but also through the perspectives offered by humanities, social sciences and languages.

The formal welcome and keynote address was delivered by Prof. (Dr.) Mehraj Hajini, Head, Department of Political Science. Prof. (Dr.) Mehraj Hajini explicitly explored the intricate relationship between environment governance, polity and political structures.

He examined how power dynamics, international relations and state policies significantly shape environmental outcomes and the discourse surrounding sustainability. He deliberated upon and shared his valuable views about the politics and environment.

The second session featured Dr. Firdous Ahmad Paray, Head, Department of Kashmiri. Dr. Firdous Ahmad Paray eloquently delved into

the rich tapestry of Kashmiri literature, highlighting how traditional poetry, folklore and prose have historically reflected a deep connection with nature and embedded environmental ethics.

He demonstrated how Kashmiri literary heritage serves as a powerful reservoir for fostering local environmental awareness and stewardship.

Dr. Fayrooz Ahmad Mir, Head, Department of Urdu, presented a comprehensive analysis of environmental themes within Urdu literature.

Dr. Fayrooz explored how renowned Urdu poets and prose writers have engaged with nature, ecological concerns and the human relationship with the environment across different eras.

Prof. Nahida expressed gratitude to the principal for her patronage, commended the organizing departments, thanked the distinguished speakers for their enlightening presentations, acknowledged the moderator for guiding the discussions and appreciated the diligent work of the Protocol Committee and all supporting staff.

## Panar Schools Celebrate World Environment Day with Enthusiasm and Community Outreach

CONVENER NEWS DESK

**BANDIPORA:** Government High School Panar on Wednesday hosted a grand event to mark World Environment Day, drawing enthusiastic participation from students across the



Panar educational complex.

The event featured a series of speeches, songs, and environment-themed activities aimed at raising awareness about the importance of environmental conservation. Students from

said.

Prizes were awarded to top-performing students at the conclusion of the programme.

Among the winners, Class 10th student from High School Panar Liyakat Ahmad Chaechi se-

both high and primary schools under the complex actively took part in the celebration.

Headmaster of High School Panar and Complex Head, Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad Sofi, addressed the gathering, highlighting the critical need for environmental protection and lauding the students for their spirited participation. "It is heartening to see students from primary schools also delivering insightful speeches and contributing meaningfully to the day," he

cured first position, a fourth-grade student from Boys Primary School Kuli Mohalla Athwatoo Tabasum Bano secured second place, drawing special appreciation from staff and attendees. Zakir Ahmad Chaechi of class 4th from Primary School Shal Doub secured third position.

In a standout initiative, Boys Primary School Kuli Mohalla Athwatoo organized a separate awareness drive, where students visited homes in the locality to educate their parents on environmental cleanliness. Carrying placards with eco-friendly slogans, the students engaged in door-to-door messaging to spread the importance of sustainable practices.

The events across the complex not only fostered environmental consciousness among students but also sent a strong message of community engagement and ecological responsibility.

## GHS Onagam Marks World Environment Day with Pledge, Awareness and Cleanliness Drives

Convener News Desk

**ONAGAM:** In line with the directives issued by the Chief Education Officer Bandipora, Government High School (GHS) Onagam on Thursday observed World Environment Day with a series of awareness and cleanliness activities aimed at promoting environmental responsibility among students.



The event commenced with an environment pledge, where students and staff committed to safeguarding the planet through sustainable practices, reducing plastic use, conserving resources, and being active voices for nature.

A seminar followed the pledge, during which students spoke on various environmental concerns, including pollution, climate change, and the importance of biodiversity. The school also organised a poster and painting competition showcasing students' creativity on the theme "Ending Plastic Pollution Globally." A dress competition reflecting eco-friendly themes was also part of the celebrations.

Later, a cleanliness drive was launched in and around the school premises. Students, guided by staff members, undertook the cleaning of nearby water bodies and channels, emphasizing the importance of maintaining hygienic and pollution-free surroundings.

Headmaster Fehmeeda Akhter along with senior staff member Riffat Sajjad Nazki and other teachers, appreciated the efforts of the students and encouraged them to become lifelong ambassadors for environmental protection. The best-performing students across all competitions were felicitated for their participation and contribution to the event.

The celebration concluded with a collective resolve to continue taking small but meaningful steps towards building a cleaner and greener future.

## GHSS Mantrigram Observes World Environment Day with Awareness Rally, Cleanliness Drive

Convener News Desk

**BANDIPORA:** Government Higher Secondary School (HSS) Mantrigram on Wednesday celebrated World Environment Day 2025 by organizing a series of events aimed at promoting environmental awareness and responsibility among students and staff.

In a statement issued to Kashmir Convener, an official spokesperson of the institute said the day began with a rally from the school premises to the nearby Sunerwani River, flagged off by Principal Mr. Masoodul Hassan Reshi in the presence of Vice Principal Mohammad Iqbal Magray and Ifitikhar Rashid Wani, Incharge of the school's Eco Club. Students carried placards and raised slogans advocating for environmental conservation.

The rally was followed by a cleanliness drive in and around the school campus. Students and teachers actively took part in cleaning the surroundings while spreading messages on the importance of maintaining a clean and green environment.

Earlier during the morning assembly, a debate and pledge ceremony was held where students delivered speeches on environmental issues. Speakers emphasized the urgent need to eliminate plastic use and adopt eco-friendly practices in daily life.

The event concluded with enthusiastic slogan chanting by students, reflecting the school community's collective commitment to protecting nature and promoting sustainability.

## PM Shree GBHS Bandipora Schools Observe World Environment Day

Convener News Desk

**BANDIPORA:** In response to the circular issued by the Chief Education Officer Bandipora, PM Shree Government High School (GHS) Kaloosa on Thursday celebrated World Environment Day with a host



of activities aimed at raising environmental awareness and encouraging sustainable practices among students and the local community.

During the event, students took part in seminars, a plantation drive, and cleanliness campaigns within the school and along nearby streams and irrigation channels.

The activities aimed not only to educate students but also to pass a strong message to the local community about maintaining cleanliness in their surroundings.

Headmaster Mohammad Iqbal Lone, along with senior teachers, supervised and encouraged the students' participation.

On the occasion, headmaster Mohammad Iqbal Lone said the events reflected the theme of this year's World Environment Day, "Ending Plastic Pollution Globally," and underscored the role of schools in shaping environmentally conscious citizens committed to building a greener and more sustainable future.



# Div Com Kashmir reviews preparations for the National integration NCC Camp

Convener News Desk

**SRINAGAR:** To ensure the successful organization of the National Integration NCC Camp in Srinagar, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, convened a meeting of officials on Thursday to assess the necessary arrangements for the event's effective execution.

An official spokesperson said the meeting witnessed the participation of the Director of Colleges, the Additional Deputy Commissioner of Srinagar, and representatives from relevant departments viz. School Education, Tourism, Floriculture, LCMA, SKICC, Sports Council, Archives, Archaeology & Museums, along with the Group Commander of NCC Srinagar.

Camp, which is set to take place from June 17 to June 28, with 330 participants

execution of the event. He directed the Floriculture department to facilitate the entry of Cadets into Mughal Gardens during their visit to explore the renowned parks.

Archives, Archaeology & Museums department was tasked with assisting visitors at the SPS Museum during their visit and providing information about the available artifacts.

Participants of the National Integration NCC camp will also take part in a large yoga event at SKICC, Srinagar on June 21st.

Div Com also issued necessary instructions to ensure the smooth movement of vehicles during their excursions to various tourist destinations, including Gulmarg and Sonmarg. (DIPR)



At the outset, NCC officers provided an overview of the schedule for the various programs of the special National Integration

from across the nation expected to attend. Addressing the meeting, Div Com instructed the officers to ensure seamless

Deputy Commissioner Shopian convenes meeting on Mission YUVA

Convener News Desk

**SHOPIAN:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta (Chairman DLIC Mission YUVA) today convened a comprehensive meeting on Mission YUVA at mini-secretariat Shopian.

An official spokesperson said during the meeting, DC directed all officers and officials to ensure regular outreach to every potential entrepreneur already identified under the Mission YUVA baseline survey. Emphasis was laid on intensifying efforts across all departments to improve progress under the Mission YUVA schemes.

DC highlighted the critical role of proactive outreach and awareness generation to maximize enrollment in various YUVA initiatives.

individuals are covered under the mission. The meeting included



DC emphasized the importance of coordination, accountability, and timely reporting to achieve the mission's objectives effectively. All officers were assigned daily targets and instructed to submit achievement reports on a daily basis.

YUVA DOOTs were also directed to accelerate their efforts to ensure that all eligible

detailed discussions on targets and action plans for mobilizing youth under Mission YUVA. A one-on-one interaction session was held with the YUVA DOOTs, during which progress reports and issues faced by each DOOT were reviewed. Each YUVA DOOT was assigned a weekly target for application submission to ensure consistent progress. (DIPR)

SED commemorates World Environment Day with widespread celebrations

Convener News Desk

**SRINAGAR:** The School Education Department (SED) today marked the World

need to reduce the plastic waste. Earlier, the celebration was officially kick started by Secretary, SED, Ram Niwas Sharma, who engaged in an

The students showcased innovative models on environmental themes, demonstrating their creativity and understanding of ecological challenges. A spirited painting competition among the students from cluster schools was also a highlight of the event.

Further extending the reach of the celebrations, the Government Boys Higher Secondary School (BHSS), Ganderbal, organized an event featuring compelling speeches by the teachers and students, a captivating Heritage Exhibition and thought-provoking skits.

Dr. Itoo, chaired the event being attended by Oneel Kumar, CEO, Ganderbal, Rumaysa Sangeen, Deputy CEO, Ganderbal, DYSSO and other distinguished dignitaries.

These included solemn pledges, engaging quizzes, extensive tree plantation drives, crucial cleanliness campaigns, informative awareness rallies, insightful seminars and talks, stimulating debates, invigorating nature walks and marathons and creative painting and slogan writing competitions.

In total, 7955 schools celebrated the day with total participation of 439072 students, teachers and Hols and community members. (DIPR)



Environment Day celebration with a series of impactful events held across the Union Territory, emphasizing the environmental awareness and action among the students and educators.

On the occasion, an impactful rally on "World Environment Day" with the pertinent theme "Beat Plastic Pollution" was organized in which over 200 students from various schools participate.

Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Department, Shantamanu, flagged off the rally.

Being organized in collaboration with the Institute of Engineers (India), J&K Centre, traversed the scenic Boulevard Road from Nehru Park to Zabarwan Park Corridor, drawing public attention to the urgent

online interaction with the Eco club members from 200 government and private schools. During this insightful session, the Secretary underscored the critical role of youth in environmental conservation. He was joined by Dr. G.N. Itoo, Director School Education Kashmir (DSEK) and Syed Shabir Ahmad, Joint Director, Central.

In a parallel event, DSEK, in collaboration with Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS), Amirakadal, Srinagar, hosted a vibrant World Environment Day celebration.

Dr. G N Itoo, graced the occasion as chief guest, accompanied by Syed Shabir Ahmad, Joint Director, Central and Rifat Qadri, CEO, Srinagar.

World Environment Day celebrations held across Kulgam

Convener News Desk

**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 GDCD, 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

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



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.

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.) Javed 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. (DIPR)

## GHS Plan Celebrates World Environment Day with Awareness Activities

Convener News Desk

**Bandipora:** Girls High School Plan Bandipora Thursday observed World Environment Day with great enthusiasm and a strong commitment to environmental protection on Wednesday.

Students, teachers, and staff came together to participate in a series of events aimed at spreading awareness and promoting sustainable practices.

An official spokesperson said the day began with a pledge ceremony, where students and staff took an oath to protect nature and contribute to a greener future. The atmosphere was filled with energy as the school organized painting, speech, and essay competitions, along with a cleanliness drive across the campus.

Speakers, including senior staff and selected students, spoke about the growing threats of environmental degradation, with a special emphasis on this year's theme – "Ending Plastic Pollution." They highlighted the harmful effects of plastic waste on the environment, especially marine life, soil, and human health, and encouraged the use of alternatives like cloth bags, biodegradable packaging, and reusable containers.

Throughout the day, the school echoed with messages of climate action and sustainability, as students displayed posters, banners, and slogans that reflected their awareness and concern for the planet. The activities inspired all participants to reflect on their environmental responsibilities.

The event concluded with a joint resolution by the school community to adopt eco-friendly habits both in school and at home and to continue such awareness programmes throughout the year. The celebration served as a meaningful reminder that even small actions can lead to lasting change for the planet.

# Tobacco Cessation Centre Inaugurated at KU to Promote Healthier Campus Environment

Convener News Desk

**Srinagar:** In a significant step towards promoting a tobacco-free academic environment, a Tobacco Cessation Centre (TCC) was inaugurated today at the University Health Centre, University of Kashmir, in collaboration with the Department of Public Health Dentistry, Government Dental College & Hospital, Srinagar.

The state-of-the-art centre aims to support individuals willing to quit tobacco through free consultations, behavioral counseling, nicotine replacement therapy, and sustained follow-up services. The initiative marks a joint effort between academia and healthcare institutions in combating the rising health burden of tobacco use.

The inaugural event was presided over by Prof. Nilofer Khan, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of the University of Kashmir, who underlined the university's commitment to public health.

"This centre is not just a facility, but a movement – one that promotes mentorship, peer engagement, and empowerment in tobacco cessation efforts," she said.

Prof. (Dr.) Sandeep Kour Bali, Principal and Dean, Government

Dental College and Hospital, Srinagar, served as the Guest of Honour. She emphasized the urgent need for focused interventions against

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also signed on the occasion between the University of Kashmir and the Government Dental College, defining the operational roadmap and ensuring the sustainability of the project.

Dr. Aasim Farooq Shah, Head, Department of Public Health Dentistry, stated that the centre aligns with national public health goals and the operational norms of the Dental Council of India (DCI) and National Medical Commission (NMC). "This initiative is a testament to our commitment to preventive healthcare and behavioral change," he said.

Speaking on behalf of the University Health Centre, Dr. Khalid, In-Charge of the Dental Section, said, "The centre is part of our vision to safeguard youth health. It supports the Tobacco-Free Youth 2.0 Campaign, aiming to educate young minds about the harms of tobacco and substance abuse."

The TCC will function under the supervision of trained dental and public health professionals from both institutions and will cater to students, faculty, and the broader university community, aiming to create a lasting impact in the fight against tobacco addiction.



tobacco addiction.

"Our collaboration with the University will amplify our outreach and prevention strategies. The centre will adhere to national guidelines and ensure both pharmacological and non-pharmacological assistance," she said.

## FSD intensifies inspections ahead of Eid-ul-Adha in Anantnag

Convener News Desk

**ANANTNAG:** In view of the upcoming Eid-ul-Adha celebrations, Food Safety Department Anantnag has launched a comprehensive inspection drive across various markets in the district to ensure the availability of safe, hygienic, and wholesome food for consumers during the festive season.

The focus has been on establishments dealing with bakery products, milk and milk derivatives, meat, fruits, and vegetables. Bakery units underwent detailed inspections and were instructed to strictly comply with the hygiene and sanitary requirements outlined under Schedule IV of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

During the inspections, samples of various food items were collected for laboratory analysis to assess their quality and safety standards.

Additionally, 15 food business operators were recommended for action under different provisions of the Act due to non-compliance with regulatory norms.

The department has urged all food business operators to adhere strictly to food safety regulations in both letter and spirit. Consumers are also advised to carefully examine packaging and labeling details before purchasing any food products.

Food Safety department remains committed to safeguarding public health and ensuring the availability of safe food for all. (DIPR)

## Hathkargha Mela – Special Handloom Expo kick-starts at Kashmir Haat

Convener News Desk

**SRINAGAR:** Marking a vibrant celebration of India's rich handloom heritage, Hathkargha Mela – special UT level Handloom Expo kick-started today at the Kashmir Haat Exhibition Ground in Srinagar. The event has been organized by the Directorate of Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir, and is sponsored by the Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.

This special expo brings together 60 skilled handloom weavers and artisans from across the UT of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, providing them with a dedicated platform to

showcase and sell their unique, handcrafted products directly to the public.

The exhibition aims to promote and preserve traditional weaving techniques while also supporting the economic upliftment of weaver communities. The expo offers an array of exquisite handloom products including Pashmina shawls, Kani and Sozni embroidered items, cotton and silk sarees, stoles, rugs, home furnishings, and many regionally distinct textile crafts from different parts of UT.

Hathkargha Mela serves not only as a marketplace but also as a cultural bridge, encouraging public appreciation and awareness of the artistic and economic importance of

handloom in the Indian textile sector. It underscores the government's commitment to sustaining traditional crafts and empowering artisan communities. As the event has been planned alongside the holy festival, it is expected that a huge footfall of visitors will visit the exhibition.

The exhibition will continue for a period of 14 days and will end on 18 June, 2025. In addition, the exhibition will showcase the work of Craft Development Institute and Indian Institute of Carpet Technology. The event will also showcase live demonstrations of the arts and crafts by the master craftsmen from School of Designs Srinagar.

## Ahead of Eid, Food Safety team Srinagar conducts special market inspections

Convener News Desk

**SRINAGAR:** As part of the special market checking drives to ensure availability of standard quality food products in the market on the eve of Eid ul Adha, Food Safety Team on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat carried out intensive market inspections across the City. The checking team led by Assistant Commissioner Food Safety inspected various areas of the City including, Zainakote Industrial Area, Shalteng, Lalbazar, Hazratbal, Saderbal, Nowhatta and other adjoining areas to ensure compliance with food safety norms

by all the Food Business Operators. During the inspections, a significant quantity of expired ghee was seized from a manufacturing unit at Zainakote Industrial Area. Approximately 110 kgs of expired ghee was confiscated, and a case has been registered against the Food Business Operator (FBO) under the relevant rules and regulations of the Food Safety and Standards Act. Meanwhile, DC has asked the Food Safety department Srinagar to continue the regular market inspections in Srinagar City to ensure compliance with food safety norms. He emphasized protection of public health by ensuring that all food products meet the highest safety standards across all the

sectors. Food Safety department has also urged consumers to be vigilant when purchasing food products and report any suspicious products to the Food Safety department so that action is taken against the FBO found violating food safety norms.

Meanwhile, Food Business Operators, including manufacturers, retailers and wholesalers have been cautioned to refrain from violating any provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act. Failure to comply with the regulations will result in stringent action against defaulters, which can even lead to the closure of their facilities. No compromise with the quality of food items will be tolerated. (DIPR)

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# Continued From P1...

## June 6 is indeed

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Prime Minister Modi said: "Tomorrow, 6th June is indeed a special day for my sisters and brothers of Jammu and Kashmir. Key infrastructure projects worth Rs. 46,000 crores are being inaugurated which will have a very positive impact on people's lives".

"In addition to being an extraordinary feat of architecture, the Chenab Rail Bridge will improve connectivity between Jammu and Srinagar. The Anji Bridge stands tall as India's first cable-stayed rail bridge in a terrain that is challenging".

"The Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project ensures all weather connectivity and the Vande Bharat trains from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra to Srinagar will boost spiritual tourism and create livelihood opportunities," PM Modi said on X.

He expressed these words while sharing chief minister Jammu and Kashmir Omar Abdullah's post on X in which he informed about review of arrangements ahead of PM Modi's visit to J&K.

"Visited the tallest railway bridge in the world, The Chenab Bridge, to review arrangements for the visit of the Hon PM @narendramodi ji tomorrow. Tomorrow is a landmark day for J&K when, finally, the valley will be connected to the rest of the country by a railway link to be inaugurated at the hands of the Hon PM," Omar Abdullah had said on X. (KNS)

## USBRL is a

unprecedented growth under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Inauguration and foundation stone laying of key infrastructure projects are examples of his commitment to J&K to ensure speedy and inclusive development," the Lieutenant Governor said according to official statement.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that the much-awaited inauguration of Chenab and Anji Rail Bridge and flag-off of the Vande Bharat Trains by Prime Minister will mark a historic moment for the nation and it will shape the future of J&K UT and future of its citizens.

## Better Late

Tomorrow is a landmark day for J&K when, finally, the valley will be connected to the rest of the country by a railway link to be inaugurated at the hands of the PM," Abdullah wrote in a post on X.

"It is better late than never. Finally, we have reached that stage when the Prime Minister will come and inaugurate the Kashmir rail service which will benefit all of us," he said.

As soon as the Jammu-Srinagar national highway gets closed owing to landslides or snowfall, he said the goods and the movement of people come to a halt and the air service providers start "robbing us" with tickets worth Rs 5000 sold at Rs 20,000.

The start of the direct rail service to Kashmir will put an end to this and also facilitate transportation of horticulture produce including apples and cherries to reach the markets.

Asked whether the direct train service to Kashmir will also revive tourism which was badly hit in the valley following the April 22 Pahalgal terror attack, he said "unfortunately, the summer season is over... we should not expect much but we have hope for the next summer."

Abdullah said he would like pilgrims to visit Amarnath cave shrine in large numbers during the yatra starting on July 3.

"Let them come, benefit from our hospitality and enjoy 'darshan' (glimpse of naturally formed ice-shivling) before returning safely. Like yesteryears, we will try to ensure a successful yatra," he said.

On security, he said there is no need to worry as adequate security arrangements are in place for the safety of the railway infrastructure and the passengers.

"The train service has been running without any problem in the valley for many years. The Katra-Sangaldan section is being commissioned and we are ready for it," Abdullah said.

On Chenab and Anji bridge, he said the 272-km railway line between Udhampur to Baramulla has set a lot of records.

"The Chenab bridge is higher than the Eiffel Tower in Paris, making it the highest bridge in the world. I have come from there and it is scary to look down from there. Similarly, the Anji bridge is India's first cable-stayed railway bridge," he said.

Abdullah said the project was very challenging and the railway track along Katra-Banihal section is mostly going through the tunnels, having very little open air track.

"The railway line will be beneficial to our economy,

tourism, trade and (create employment) for locals. It will benefit everyone," he said.

He said the ticket price is not high and a traveller can reach Srinagar within four hours from Katra.

"In next few months when the construction work at Jammu railway station gets completed, the train will run from there instead of Katra," he said. (PTI)

## Security Beefed

direct train connectivity to the valley, Modi will also lay the foundation stone, inaugurate and dedicate to the nation multiple development projects worth over Rs 46,000 crore at Katra, the base camp for pilgrims visiting the Vaishno Devi shrine atop Trikuta hills in Reasi district.

The 272 km long USBRL project, constructed at a cost of around Rs 43,780 crore includes 36 tunnels (spanning 119 km) and 943 bridges. The project establishes all-weather, seamless rail connectivity between Kashmir and the rest of the country aiming to transform regional mobility and drive socio-economic integration. Prime Minister Modi will also flag off two Vande Bharat Express trains from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra to Srinagar and back. They will offer a swift, comfortable, and reliable travel option for residents, tourists, pilgrims among others.

Prime Minister Modi will also lay the foundation stone of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence in Katra worth over Rs 350 crore. It will be the first medical college in Reasi district contributing substantially to the healthcare infrastructure in the region. Out of the total 272 km USBRL project, 209 km was commissioned in phases with the first phase of the 118 km Qazigund-Baramulla section commissioned in October 2009 followed by 18 km Banihal-Qazigund in June 2013, 25 km Udhampur-Katra in July 2014 and 48.1 km long Banihal-Sangaldan stretch in February, last year. The work on the 46-km Sangaldan-Reasi section was also completed in June last year, leaving a total 17 km stretch between Reasi and Katra and this section was finally completed in December 2024. Officials said a high security alert has been sounded across Jammu and Kashmir in view of the Prime Minister's visit with senior police, paramilitary officers, army and intelligence officers personally monitoring the situation. Heavy security deployments have been made in and around the venues with latest gadgets, including drones deployed to keep a close vigil, the officials said, adding the security grid on the borders and the hinterland has been further beefed up to check infiltration and movement of anti-national and subversive elements.

## Direct train

visited Jammu Railway station where he inspected the ongoing development works. His visit comes as part of the preparations for the launch of a much-anticipated train service to Kashmir.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is all set to flag off Vande Bharat trains tomorrow at Katra. He will also inaugurate Chenab & Anji bridges. Besides, he will lay the foundation and inaugurate several projects worth Rs 46,000 crore in Jammu and Kashmir.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav also said the political will shown by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in over a decade led to the completion of the 272-km Udhampur-Baramulla-Srinagar Railway link (USBRL) project to connect Kashmir with rest of the country.

On Friday, the prime minister is scheduled to inaugurate the world's tallest railway bridge over Chenab and the country's first cable-stayed railway Anji Bridge before flagging off two Vande Bharat trains – one from Katra to Srinagar and another from Kashmir to Katra. Modi will also lay the foundation of and dedicate to the nation multiple development projects worth over Rs 46,000 crore at Katra, the base camp for the pilgrims visiting the Vaishno Devi shrine atop the Trikuta hills.

"When you have to do a project like USBRL, it needs political will. From 2004 to 2014, the project saw the completion of railway tracks in plain areas with no work done in difficult zones.

"Modi demonstrated the political will, guidance and support to the technical teams and that is the reason, this long-standing dream is fulfilled today," Vaishnav told reporters here.

The work on the dream project to link Kashmir by train was started in 1997. The project missed several deadlines given the geological, topographical and meteorological challenges, leading to cost escalation and its completion at a cost of over Rs 41,000 crore.

Out of the total 272-km USBRL project, 209 km was commissioned in phases with the first phase of the 118-km Qazigund-Baramulla section commissioned in October 2009 followed by 18-km Banihal-Qazigund

in June 2013, 25-km Udhampur-Katra in July 2014 and 48.1-km Banihal-Sangaldan stretch in February last year.

The work on the 46-km Sangaldan-Reasi section was also completed in June last year, leaving a 17-km stretch between Reasi and Katra which was finally completed in December last year.

The minister said the 1.3-km Chenab railway bridge, located 359 metres above the riverbed – 35 metres higher than the iconic Eiffel Tower in Paris – forms a crucial link in the 111-km stretch from Katra to Banihal. It is a huge technical marvel completed after overcoming many challenges, he said.

"If technical parameters are taken into account, this bridge is designed in such a way to withstand 260 km per hour wind speed. Since the bridge area falls within seismic Zone V, its design was a complex process," he said.

## ‘1,747 Sq KM’s

have been categorized as ‘No Risk’ zone.

It states that certain regions across India are more susceptible to forest fires due to factors like type of fuel load, local human activities, topographical features, forest type, and climatic conditions.

"In order to have a better and robust system for controlling and managing forest fires in a region, an effective fire risk zonation helps to delineate different risk areas for prioritizing management interventions in an effective manner," it reads.

The documents said that a pilot study has been carried out for the West Himalayan State, UT comprising Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh to identify Fire Risk Zones and categorize them into different risk classes using suitable variables.

"In Jammu and Kashmir, 79.01 % of the detections fall under 19.74 % of the Digitized Boundary Area," It reads.

The document of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change further states that frequency of detected forest fires in an area over a period of time indicates proneness of the area to forest fires. "Maps showing forest area in different classes of fire proneness can be an effective management tool for controlling forest fires.

"Such maps can be used for optimally utilizing scarce resources available for controlling forest fires in the fire season. Increased vigil in highly fire prone forest areas may prevent forest fires effectively. Considering the usefulness of mapping fire prone forest areas, analysis of the detected forest fire points in GIS framework along with a grid coverage of 5 Km X 5 Km and latest forest cover has been carried out for the whole country," it reads. (KNO)

## Army launches

including units from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Border Security Force (BSF), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), stationed across strategic locations along the two primary routes—Pahalgal (48 km) and Baltal (14 km).

The operation incorporates advanced security protocols, including high-altitude route clearance, drone surveillance, CCTV monitoring, and the deployment of bulletproof vehicles as part of a three-tier security setup," the officials said.

Additionally, they said that anti-sabotage operations and rigorous checks along the pilgrimage routes are being conducted to thwart any potential threats.

"Army's efforts are complemented by enhanced medical facilities, improved transport services, and upgraded accommodation arrangements starting from Lakhampur, the entry point to the Union Territory," they added.

Pertinently, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, during a high-level review meeting in Jammu on May 29 had emphasized the government's commitment to ensuring a seamless and secure pilgrimage. "The government led by PM Modi, in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir administration, is dedicated to making the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra safe, smooth, and accessible for all devotees. We have instituted security forces to maintain utmost vigilance to ensure the sacred journey is completed without any disruptions," he had said.

The SASB has also introduced mandatory Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) cards for pilgrims to enhance safety and tracking.

Registration for the yatra, which began on April 14 is available online through the SASB website and offline at over 540 designated bank branches across the country.

Pilgrims are required to submit a Compulsory Health Certificate (CHC) to ensure their fitness for the high-altitude trek. (KNO)

## NIA conducts

magnetic bombs, IEDs, funds, narcotic substances, and arms/ammunitions. It also said that according to the NIA investigations, the above-mentioned organisations supported by their leaders in Pakistan have been conspiring to commit acts of terror and violence by radicalising local youth and mobilizing overground workers, to disturb peace and communal harmony in J&K.

Investigations have revealed that Pak-based operatives were using social media/online apps to facilitate and promote terror. Drones were being used by them to deliver arms/ammunition, explosives, narcotics etc. to their operatives and cadres in the Kashmir valley, the statement said.

## Eid-ul-Adha

business, with many young girls seen lining up for mehandi designs.

Prices of goods have been a point of contention for many shoppers. The cost of clothing, footwear, and basic commodities has risen significantly in recent weeks, leaving some families struggling to afford their purchases.

"A simple dress that cost Rs 1,500 last year is now being sold for Rs 2,500. It's getting harder to manage, especially with the rising prices," said Mumtaz Ahmad, a shopper in Srinagar. Traders attribute the price hikes to inflation and increased transportation costs.

While the festive shopping is underway, many government employees are facing unexpected financial strain due to issues with salary deductions.

Employees said duplicate EMI deductions from their accounts by J&K Bank left them with little or no balance. "I checked my salary account to buy essentials for Eid, but I found a balance of just Rs 76. Two EMI deductions were made for the same loan. It's a huge blow," said a teacher from Baramulla.

Many employees have expressed their concern over the situation, with some borrowing money to manage their expenses. "How are we supposed to celebrate Eid when we can't even pay for basic needs?" said another government employee.

The Eid shopping rush has also contributed to heavy traffic congestion in Srinagar, with authorities deploying additional personnel to manage the situation. Despite efforts, traffic remains slow-moving, especially near busy shopping areas.

In south Kashmir districts, a significant decline in customer turnout and festive enthusiasm was witnessed across the markets on the eve of Eid-ul-Fitr, with the famous Chori Bazar in Pulwama, as well as key markets in Anantnag, Shopian, and Kulgam, recording dismal sales.

In Pulwama, the once-bustling Chori Bazar wore a deserted look. "Sales remained at an all-time low this year," said Basharat Ahmad, a local shopkeeper. "Even during COVID-19, people used to buy something. Now they check prices and leave without buying."

In Anantnag town, shopkeepers at Reshi Bazaar and Lal Chowk voiced similar concerns. "I used to hire extra staff to manage the rush in previous years, but this time, two people are enough," said Mudasir Dar, who sells readymade garments. "People are simply not spending due to high prices and stagnant incomes."

In Shopian, Bashir Ahmad, a garment trader at Gole Chowk, said, "There is no festive atmosphere this time. We're barely getting enough customers to cover electricity bills."

In Kulgam, traders in the Main Market blamed a mix of inflation and financial strain. "Families are cutting back on non-essential spending. Eid shopping is now a luxury for many," said Shabir Lone, a footwear shop owner.

The muted mood has not only impacted retail but also hawkers and roadside vendors. "We used to earn a decent amount during Eid, but this year we're going home with empty pockets," said Riyaz Ahmad, a street vendor in Bijbehara.

Meanwhile, an official from the administration said all necessary arrangements have been put in place to ensure smooth celebrations of Eid-ul-Adha across the valley.

He said market inspections are underway and strict action is being taken against traders found overcharging customers or hoarding essential goods. "We are closely monitoring prices and will not tolerate any exploitation of consumers during the festive season," the official said. (KNO)

## Sacrificial animal

Speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Mehraj Ud Din, General Secretary of All Kashmir Wholesale Mutton Dealers Association, said the inflow of animals doubled compared to normal days.

"Usually, around 25 to 30 trucks carrying sheep

enter the valley daily. However, last week, the number rose sharply to around 70 to 100 trucks," he said.

He added, "Each truck carries approximately 150 to 160 sheep from various states outside Jammu and Kashmir. This increased arrival is because of the growing demand from the public ahead of Eid."

## Experts urge

scientific waste management to protect public health and the environment during the festival of sacrifice.

Speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer KNO, Dr

Mohammad Salim Khan, Head of the Department of Community Medicine at Government Medical College Srinagar, said that Eid-ul-Adha should remain a day of spiritual reflection and sacrifice, not a cause for environmental degradation or public health emergencies.

"The sacrifice must be performed hygienically, and all by-products like blood, offal, and hides must be disposed of in a clean, scientific manner—especially keeping in view the summer season and the risk of disease outbreaks," he said.

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This is an information for general public that i want to apply for DOB Certificates from office of the Registrar, (Death's and Births) Block Development Office Alooosa District Bandipora, under DOB: 15-04-1968.in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Registrar Death's and Birth's, Block Development Office Alooosa,with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

**Gh Hassan Hajam.**  
**S/O Ghulam Ahmad Hajm.**  
**R/O Alooosa District Bandipora ,**  
**jammu and kashmir .**

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**W/O Late Shameem Ahmad Malik.**  
**R/O Nusoo, Ward NO: 07 Bandipora.**

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**S/O Ghulam Mohi ud din Malla.**  
**R/O Arin Dardpora, District**  
**Bandipora jammu and kashmir, pin**

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**Mumtaz Ahmad Chohan Gojer.**  
**S/O Bashir Ahmad Chohan Gojer.**  
**R/O Chettibandy, Bandipora, jammu**  
**and kashmir, pin code: 193502.**

## Thyrocare Opens State-of-the-Art Lab in Srinagar

33rd lab in Thyrocare's expanding network to bring advanced, affordable diagnostic services across the Kashmir Valley

**SRINAGAR:** Thyrocare, a leading healthcare diagnostic company and the first national diagnostic chain in India to have achieved 100% NABL accreditation across all its laboratories, proudly announces the launch of its 33rd state-of-the-art diagnostic laboratory in Srinagar, Kashmir. The landmark facility, developed in collaboration with Modern Diagnostic Center, was inaugurated by Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Former Chief Minister and President of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference. Mr. Umer Dhar, President of the Diagnostic Association of the Kashmir Valley, along with other members of the association, also attended the event. With this facility, Thyrocare aims to bring quality and affordable diagnostic services to people in the region.

The new laboratory is equipped with best-in-class technologies for



specialized testing, complemented by highly trained personnel. This combination ensures accurate, consistent, and rapid diagnostic results to meet the diverse needs of patients in this region. This facility is designed to handle both routine and advanced health checkups at affordable prices.

Rahul Guha, MD and CEO, Thyrocare, said, "Thyrocare has always been deeply committed to

providing high-quality, accessible, and reliable diagnostic services to every Indian household. The launch of our new facility reinforces this commitment while expanding our operational network in the region. As we strengthen our presence in Jammu and Kashmir, we are not only bridging the diagnostic gaps but also advancing a tech-driven infrastructure that puts patients first—ensuring timely, secure, and

affordable care for all."

Dr. Preet Kaur, Vice President - Lab Operations, Thyrocare added, "Our laboratories nationwide have been instrumental in standardising world-class diagnostic services and making them accessible to every patient. This facility will be no different—with advanced testing infrastructure, faster results and greater diagnostic accuracy."

With the launch of this laboratory, Thyrocare continues to strengthen its presence in the northernmost region of India. This launch reaffirms its commitment to expanding more accessible, affordable, and quality diagnostics nationwide.

This milestone underscores the company's ongoing mission to bring reliable healthcare closer to every household, with more such initiatives planned in the near future.

## Senior BJP Leader Mohd Lateef Bhat Extends Eid-ul-Adha Greetings to Muslim Community

**PULWAMA :** Senior BJP leader and former district president of Pulwama, Mohd Lateef Bhat, extended heartfelt greetings to the Muslim community on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Adha.

In his message, Bhat emphasized the values of unity, compassion, and sacrifice that Eid-ul-Adha symbolizes. He called on people to uphold the spirit of brotherhood and communal harmony, which form the bedrock of the nation's diverse cultural fabric. "Eid-ul-Adha is a time to reflect on the virtues of sacrifice and to share joy with those in need. I extend my warmest wishes to all Muslims in Pulwama and across Jammu & Kashmir. May this festival bring peace, prosperity, and happiness to all," Bhat said.

Bhat also highlighted the importance of working together for the development of the region and fostering mutual respect among communities. He reiterated the BJP's commitment to inclusive growth and social harmony. Local residents welcomed Bhat's message, saying such gestures help in bridging gaps and promoting understanding among different sections of society.





# Hayley Matthews In Doubt For Third ODI After Shoulder Injury

Hayley Matthews is in doubt for the third and final match of West Indies' tour of England with a shoulder injury which kept her out of the second ODI in Leicester. Matthews will see a specialist in London on Thursday for the left shoulder problem which she aggravated during a fall in the field during the first ODI in Derby last Friday.

"She's going to London tomorrow morning, so we'll know more then," Shane Deitz, West Indies Women's head coach, said after his side's 143-run defeat in Leicester on Wednesday night. "Hopefully we'll get some good news tomorrow."

England could sweep the entire tour with a win in Saturday's third and final ODI in Taunton after winning the first by 108 runs and securing the T20I series 3-0.

Matthews was the player of the series for the T20Is despite her side not winning a game. She was the leading run-scorer overall with 177 at an average of 88.50 and strike rate of 137.20, including an unbeaten century in the series opener at Canterbury. She complemented her innings of 71 in the third match at Chelmsford by taking 3 for 32 with the ball.

She shared a 91-run stand in Derby with opening partner Qiana Joseph, who scored 62 after struggling for runs through the T20I series and who was also missing from the second ODI through illness. Deitz, however, was more hopeful of Joseph returning in Taunton.

"I was hoping she'd be okay today, but she got on the team bus and looked terrible so we sent her back to bed," Deitz said. "Hopefully she'll come good in a couple of days. She played really good the other day. She's getting better as time goes on in the team so fingers crossed. I'm pretty sure she'll be right for the next game."

Realeanna Grimmond, the 20-year-old allrounder, flourished on ODI debut with a 72-ball 53 to top-score for her side while opening alongside regular No.3 Zaida

James in the absence of both openers.

"She's an up-and-coming talent and I'm really proud of her," Deitz said of Grimmond. "That's the confidence



**"We complement each other so well. The height difference, it means we hit different lengths in different areas. You'd have to ask the bowlers, but I think it makes it quite difficult to bowl to as a pair."**

she needed to go through the scenarios of being out in the middle against the best players in the world and feeling that you belong - and she's definitely proved that she does belong. Now it's about keeping the work ethic up and improving on different areas of her game over time. She's going to have a really long, good, successful career ahead of her if she does all the right things."

Jannillea Glasgow added an eye-catching 44 off 24 in just her fifth ODI and first appearance in the format

on this tour.

But the valiant efforts of West Indies' youngsters couldn't match a 202-run partnership between Amy Jones and Tammy Beaumont, who both scored back-to-back centuries.

Having put on a stand worth 222 in Derby, Jones bettered her innings of 122 there - her maiden international century - with 129 off just 98 balls and Beaumont followed her 107 with 106.

Beaumont's latest knock, from 109 balls, came as she battled a heavy cold.

Of Jones, who has been her opening partner at The Blaze during this year's domestic 50-over competition, Beaumont said: "I'm so proud of her backing up that first century at Derby, to do it again today and in even better style, I think. For her to actually take that lead role there and look after me, as well as go and play like that, was just outstanding."

"We complement each other so well. The height difference, it means we hit different lengths in different areas. You'd have to ask the bowlers, but I think it makes it quite difficult to bowl to as a pair."

On her illness, Beaumont added: "It's just a cold going through the camp, but I'm proud of how I managed it mentally and kept finding a second and third wind at times. I actually sent a message off saying, 'if you want me to get on with it, let me know, but I'm struggling to hit it out the ring at the minute.' Then I found a bit of gas from somewhere."

After Jones was the first England wicket to fall, Emma Lamb added a 45-ball 55, while a neat cameo of 31 off 19 from Sophia Dunkley pushed the hosts past the 350-mark. In reaching 366 for 6, England fell just 12 runs shy of their highest ODI total, 378 for 5 against Pakistan at Worcester in 2016.

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**"I was hoping she'd be okay today, but she got on the team bus and looked terrible so we sent her back to bed," Deitz said.** "Hopefully she'll come good in a couple of days. She played really good the other day. She's getting better as time goes on in the team so fingers crossed. I'm pretty sure she'll be right for the next game."

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