

Awareness Campaign, Boat Rally, Cleanliness Drive held in Srinagar under Khet Bachao Abhiyan 2026

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 17

As part of the ongoing Khet Bachao Abhiyan 2026, the Agriculture Department, Kashmir organized a one-day awareness programme in Srinagar to promote the conservation of agricultural land and raise public awareness about the importance of protecting valuable farming resources for future generations.

The programme was inaugurated by MLA Hazratbal, Tanvir Sadiq, who emphasized the critical need to preserve agricultural land and called for collective efforts to safeguard the farming sector, which continues to be the backbone of the region's economy and a primary source of livelihood for thousands of families.

Addressing the gathering, Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, highlighted the various initiatives being undertaken by the Agriculture Department to prevent the conversion and loss of agricultural land, promote sustainable farming practices, and



strengthen the agricultural sector. He urged farmers, stakeholders, and members of the public to actively support and participate in the campaign aimed at protecting cultivable land and ensuring food security for future generations.

The programme featured an awareness camp where participants were sensitized about the significance of agricultural land conservation, responsible land use, and sustainable agricultural

practices. To further amplify the campaign's message, a boat rally was organized on Dal Lake, drawing attention to the importance of environmental protection and agricultural preservation among the wider public.

In addition, a cleanliness drive was conducted to promote environmental responsibility and reinforce the vital link between a clean ecosystem and sustainable agriculture. Participants

enthusiastically joined the initiative, demonstrating their commitment to protecting both the environment and agricultural resources.

The event witnessed the participation of Chief Agriculture Officer, Srinagar, Ajaz Ahmad Dar, senior officers of the Agriculture Department, farmers, and other stakeholders, who collectively pledged their support for the objectives of the Khet Bachao Abhiyan.

Mental Health Awareness Programme organized by SANKALP HEW, Mission Shakti Budgam at GHSS Beerwah

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In continuation of its efforts to promote mental well-being and enhance public awareness of mental health issues, SANKALP Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW), Mission Shakti Budgam, organized a Mental Health Awareness Programme at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Beerwah today.

The programme witnessed active participation from students, teachers,

community members, women, youth, and representatives from various sectors.

It aimed to raise awareness about the importance of mental health, stress management, emotional well-being, and the need to address and eliminate the stigma associated with mental illnesses.

During the programme, resource persons underscored the increasing significance of mental health in today's fast-paced environment. They emphasized the importance of early identification of mental

health concerns, timely access to professional support, and the adoption of healthy lifestyle practices. Interactive sessions were conducted to educate participants on effective coping strategies, self-care techniques, and the support services available for individuals experiencing psychological distress.

Addressing the gathering, officials from Mission Shakti Budgam reaffirmed their commitment to promoting holistic well-being and empowering women and youth through awareness initiatives, counselling

services, and community-based interventions. Participants were encouraged to engage in open dialogue on mental health issues and contribute to fostering a supportive, inclusive, and positive community environment.

The programme concluded with an interactive question-and-answer session, during which participants shared their experiences and sought expert guidance. Attendees highly appreciated the initiative for highlighting a critical yet often overlooked aspect of health and well-being.

JKAACL releases poetic collection by Sanjay Pandita

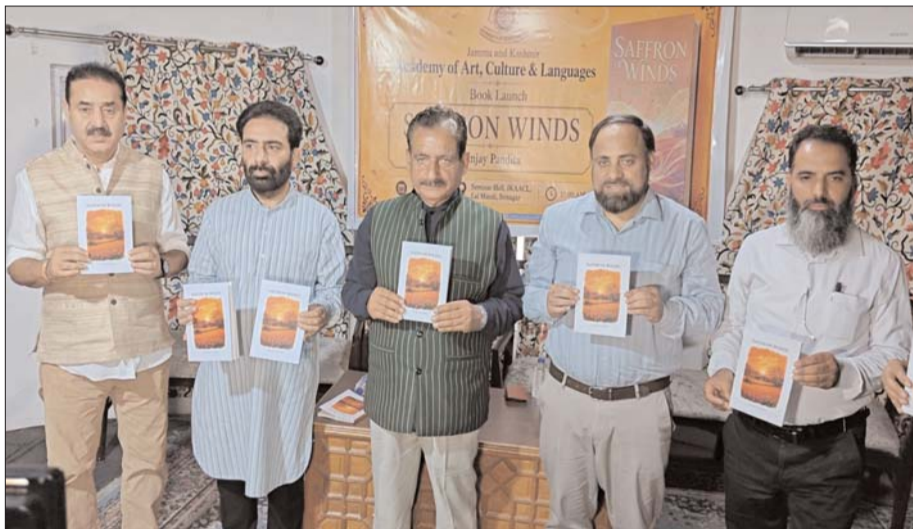
SRINAGAR, JUNE 17: Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) on Wednesday released 'Saffron Winds', a collection of poems in English authored by noted writer, columnist and literary figure Sanjay Pandita, at an impressive function held in the Academy's Seminar Hall in Srinagar.

The event was attended by eminent writers, poets, scholars, academicians and literary enthusiasts from across the Valley. Renowned writer, academician and Convener of the Sahitya Akademi Advisory Board for Kashmiri, Prof. Shad Ramzan presided over the function, while distinguished poet, writer and translator Dr. Satish Vimal was the Chief Guest. The event was also attended by Ideel Saleem, Additional Secretary, JKAACL, and Dr. Abid Ahmad, Editor, JKAACL.

The book was formally reviewed by noted academic and literary critic Prof. Basharat Bhat.

In his address, Prof. Shad Ramzan described 'Saffron Winds' as a significant contribution to contemporary Kashmiri literary sensibility articulated through the medium of English poetry. He observed that the collection embodies a distinctive poetic voice marked by emotional depth, aesthetic refinement and cultural rootedness. Referring to the poet's engagement with memory, identity and displacement, he remarked that the poems successfully capture the beauty, pain and resilience associated with Kashmir and its people.

Dr Satis Vimal, while speaking on the occasion,



described 'Saffron Winds' as a poignant and evocative collection that transforms memory, longing and belonging into compelling poetry. He further said that through a refined poetic language, Sanjay Pandita preserves the cultural soul of Kashmir while speaking to universal human experiences, adding that the poems are marked by sincerity of emotion and artistic restraint, allowing readers to journey through landscapes of exile, remembrance and hope.

Presenting a detailed review of the book, Prof. Basharat Bhat termed 'Saffron Winds' a valuable addition to the growing corpus of Indian English literature. He noted that the collection presents Kashmir in its totality—its breathtaking landscapes, collective memories, aspirations, social realities and cultural ethos—through a sensitive and compelling poetic idiom. He observed that the poems strike a fine balance between personal reflection and collective experience, enabling readers to engage with universal human emotions through distinctly Kashmiri im-

agery and symbolism. He also commended the poet for retaining the cultural flavour, rhythm and emotional cadence of Kashmiri expression in his English compositions.

Speaking on the occasion, Sanjay Pandita reflected upon his long literary journey and his deep engagement with the social and cultural life of Kashmir.

He stated that the poems contained in the volume emerged from lived experiences, observations and memories that continue to shape the collective consciousness of the Kashmiri Pandit community. He emphasized the role of literature in preserving memory, fostering dialogue and bridging emotional distances created by historical circumstances. The author also expressed gratitude to the Academy for facilitating the publication's release and providing a platform for meaningful literary engagement.

In his address, Additional Secretary JKAACL, outlined the Academy's vision of nurturing a vibrant literary and cultural ecosystem through active

engagement with writers, artists, scholars, students and youth. He highlighted the Academy's sustained efforts to promote literature in various languages of Jammu and Kashmir and reiterated its commitment to creating meaningful opportunities for creative expression, literary discourse and cultural exchange. He emphasized that such initiatives are integral to preserving and promoting the rich multilingual and multicultural heritage of the region.

The event witnessed active participation from prominent literary and cultural personalities, including Prof. Mohammad Amin, Bashir Dada, Bashir Arif, Mushtaq Ali Ahmad Khan, Abdul Mehjoor, Shamshad Kralwari, Prof. Farooq Fayyaz, Dr. Rafeeq Masoodi, Waheed Jeelani, Dr. Mushtaq Bhat, Dr. Shahida Shabnum, Prof. Naseem Shafaie, Rasheed Nizami, Muneer Mir, Dr. Ahsan-ul-Haq Magray, Prof. Ayaz Rasool Nazki, Rasheed Barki, Qaisar Nizami, Dr. Shabnum Ashai, Arvind Shah in addition to other writers, poets, scholars and students.

Custodian General reviews DILRMP progress in Anantnag

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Custodian General J&K, Tassaduq Hussain Mir, recently designated by the Government as District Mentor, Digital India Land Records Modernization Program (DILRMP) for Anantnag, chaired a comprehensive meeting of the concerned officers today at Dak Bunglaw, Khanabal, to review the progress made by the district on the flagship initiative so far.

The meeting was attended by ACR, SDMs, Tehsildars, Naib Tehsildars, digitisation centres' staff and other officials of the revenue department.

At the outset, the ACR delivered a detailed presentation on digitisation of land records and Mas-savies, uploading of backlog mutations, SVAMITVA and other aspects of DILRMP.

He briefed the Custodian General that Jambandies of all 394 Revenue Villages have been digitised and 100 percent uploading of backlog mutations has been achieved. He further informed the chair that out



of 394, a total of 391 Mas-savies (Cadastral Maps), stand digitised till date and the same have been sent for uploading on the designated portal.

Moreover, subparcelisation has been completed in respect of 127 Cadastral Maps and under SWAMITVA, drone survey has been conducted in 372 revenue villages till date.

Addressing the meeting, the Custodian General said that quality of land records digitisation will be highly beneficial for the citizens in future. He lauded the offi-

cialists for making appreciable achievements in digitisation and stressed on its time bound completion without compromising on data accuracy.

Tassaduq Hussain emphasized that digitization initiative is aimed at enhancing transparency and ensuring that citizens have easy access to vital land-related information.

He said that conducting digitization in a meticulous way is essential to streamline revenue-related services, adding that appropriate course of action be

adopted by the officials associated with the task.

Calling digitisation of revenue records a crucial reform to enhance transparency and public service delivery, the Custodian General impressed upon the officers to continue the efforts for achieving desired targets within the stipulated timeframe. He instructed them to follow the due process while capturing revenue data adding that correct information be compiled for any reference or record purpose.

On the occasion, the officials put forth their valuable suggestions and raised certain issues for improving the implementation of DILRMP in the district. The Custodian General assured them that the suggestions and issues will be duly brought to the notice of concerned higher authorities.

Concluding the review, the Custodian General emphasised the need of transparency and accuracy in digitisation procedures to ensure reliability of land records for public convenience and efficient service delivery.

Awareness activities conducted across Shopian under 100-Day Nasha Mukt Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan

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As part of the ongoing 100 Day Nasha Mukt Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, a series of awareness and outreach activities were conducted across various educational institutions and community spaces in Shopian district to promote a healthy, drug free lifestyle and strengthen public awareness against substance abuse.

The programmes witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, youth, and members of the local community. Various awareness sessions, fitness activities, interactive programmes, pledge taking ceremonies, and outreach initiatives were organized to educate participants about the harmful effects of drug abuse and the importance of adopting healthy lifestyle practices.

As part of the campaign, activities emphasizing physical fitness, mental well being, and positive youth engagement were conducted in several schools and institutions



across the district.

These programmes were also held in connection with 12th International Day of Yoga, highlighting the role of healthy habits and wellness in preventing substance abuse.

Various government departments and stakehold-

ers continued their collaborative efforts under the campaign by reaching out to different sections of society and encouraging collective action against the menace of drugs.

Participants were urged to act as ambassadors of change by spreading

awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse within their families and communities.

They were encouraged to remain vigilant against the menace of drugs and actively contribute towards building a healthy, safe, and drug free society.

3-day workshop on SQAAF begins in JKBOSE

SRINAGAR, JUNE 17:

Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE), which has been designated as the State School Standards Authority (SSSA) for the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, organized a three-day workshop titled "SQAAF in J&K: Implementation and Way Forward" from today.

Twenty eminent educational experts, administrators and other stakeholders are participating in the programme for the effective contextualization and implementation of the School Quality Assessment and Assurance Framework (SQAAF) in Jammu & Kashmir.

The workshop seeks to develop a comprehensive roadmap for implementing SQAAF in Jammu & Kashmir, including institutional mechanisms, capacity-building strategies, monitoring frameworks and school support systems required for successful operationalization of the framework.

The participants shall undertake a detailed analy-



sis and review of the SQAAF Portal developed by JKBOSE for the Union Territory, as a digital platform to facilitate self-assessment for Government and private schools.

The portal on operation will be instrumental in data collection, quality monitoring, evidence-based evaluation and continuous school improvement. Technical sessions are being conducted to ensure the portal's functionality, usability and alignment with the objectives of the School Quality Assessment and Assurance Framework.

The workshop also aims to contextualize and adapt the key quality indicators prescribed under SQAAF (published by PARAKH,

NCERT) to the uniquely diverse educational and geographical realities of Jammu & Kashmir. Special emphasis is being placed on ensuring that the indicators adequately reflect the geographical, socio-cultural, linguistic and infrastructural diversity of the Union Territory while maintaining alignment with national school quality standards.

Addressing the inaugural session, Gh Hassan Sheikh, Secretary, JKBOSE, highlighted the Board's evolving role as the State School Standards Authority and reiterated its commitment to establishing a robust, transparent and evidence-based system for assessing and enhancing school qual-

ity across the Union Territory.

He said the framework will serve as an instrument in bolstering the educational landscape of Jammu & Kashmir, adding that the data collection will prove handy in future policy and technological interventions for improvement in the educational system.

Dr Parveen Singh, Director Academics, JKBOSE, expressed confidence that the outcomes of the workshop will contribute significantly to strengthening the quality ecosystem of school education in J&K and support the creation of a sustainable framework for educational excellence, accountability and continuous improvement.