

Congress to launch campaign on July 5, raise NEET scam, statehood, unemployment issues

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 29

The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) on Monday announced a massive public outreach campaign across the Union Territory on July 5 as part of the Congress party's nationwide programme to highlight issues concerning students, youth, farmers and the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The decision was taken at a joint meeting of the Urban and Rural Congress Committees, chaired by AICC Secretary Divya Maderna and JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla. The meeting was attended by District Congress Committee (Rural Jammu) president Neeraj Kundan, PCC Headquarters Incharge Ved Mahajan, Assembly constituency incharge, observers, block presidents, senior leaders, office-bearers and party functionaries from across the Jammu region.

A key feature of the July 5 campaign will be 'Chatron Ki Goonj', a nationwide Congress initiative aimed at highlighting the concerns of students and youth. The programme will focus on the alleged NEET paper leak, examination irregularities, rising unemployment and what the party described as the BJP government's anti-student policies. The Congress said the campaign would also reiterate its commitment to ensuring transparency, accountability and fairness in the education system.

Addressing the meeting, Divya Maderna said the Congress would continue to stand firmly with students and youth whose future, she alleged, has been jeopardised by repeated examination controversies. She termed the NEET paper leak a serious betrayal of the aspirations of lakhs of young Indians and said the



nationwide 'Chatron Ki Goonj' campaign would amplify students' voices while exposing what she described as the BJP government's failure to protect the integrity of the country's examination system.

Speaking on the occasion, Raman Bhalla said the people of Jammu and Kashmir are facing multiple challenges, including unemployment, rising electricity bills, farmers' distress and the continued denial of full statehood. He alleged that the existing dual governance system, with powers divided between the Lieutenant Governor's administration and the elected government, has weakened accountability and delayed decision-making on issues affecting the public.

Reiterating the Congress party's demand for the restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, Bhalla said the July 5 campaign would provide a strong democratic platform to raise the concerns of all sections of society and hold the BJP-led government accountable.

The Congress leadership maintained that the present governance arrangement has created administrative confusion and diluted accountability, asserting that the restoration of full statehood is essential for ensuring a single, accountable government capable of addressing public concerns

and fulfilling the aspirations of the people.

The meeting resolved to launch a large-scale public outreach and protest programme on July 5 across Jammu and Kashmir, focusing on issues such as the NEET paper leak, examination irregularities, unemployment, farmers' distress, rising electricity tariffs and the restoration of full statehood.

District Congress Committee (Rural Jammu) president Neeraj Kundan alleged that the BJP government's policies have created uncertainty among students, youth and farmers, while repeated examination irregularities and growing unemployment have eroded the confidence of the younger generation. He said the Congress would continue to raise the people's concerns through democratic and peaceful means until justice is ensured.

The party leaders called upon Congress workers at all levels to strengthen grassroots mobilisation and ensure maximum public participation in the July 5 programme. They reiterated the Congress party's commitment to fighting democratically for the rights of students, youth, farmers and other sections of society while intensifying its campaign for the restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

Among those present at the meeting were Kanta Bhan, Amrit Bali, Rajesh Sharma, Sohni Sharma, Kapil Singh, Rajiv Saraf, Dwarka Chowdhary, Kuldeep Sharma, Romal Singh, Satish Sharma, Sanjeev Pandey, Suresh Dogra, Ashok Kumar Bhagat, Chander Shekhar Sharma, Latish Sharma, Rakesh Sharma, Nageshwar Narayan, Bhushan Kumar, Janak Mehra, Sanjeev Katal, Gurmeet Singh, Pradeep Bhalla, Sat Pal Sapolia, Tarsem Singh, Thomas Khokhar, Michael Wazir, Parveen Akhter, Nasir Masih, Vijay Pathania, Sangeeta Devi, Prem Sharma, Veena Devi, Ashok Kumar Sharma, Virender Kumar, Kachroo Devi, Taresh Kumar, Deepak Dogra, Sumit Bangotra, Mohan Lal, Parkash Singh, Mirza Farida, Parveen Basotra, Jagdish Chander Bhagat, Parshotam Lal Sharma, Vinod Sharma, Maqbool, Ramesh Kumar, Vijay Sharma, Yash Paul, Garu Singh, Paras Ram Baloria, Manohar Lal Bhagat, Baldev Raj Bhagat, Balwinder Singh, Gagan Kumar Bral, Rahul, Pragun, Atul Sharma, G.P. Singh, Manas Gandhi, Surinder Sharma, Summer, Wather Singh, Parvesh Kumar, Ramesh Lal, Amit Gupta and several other party leaders.

DLSA Ganderbal conducts Awareness Programme on J&K Road Safety Policy 2025 at Wayil

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District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Ganderbal in collaboration with the District Administration Ganderbal and Assistant Regional Transport Office (ARTO) Ganderbal, organized an Awareness Programme on the J&K Road Safety Policy, 2025 at Wayil Sumo Stand, Ganderbal.

The programme was conducted under the Chairmanship of Abdul Nasir, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Ganderbal, and under the guidance of Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal.

The programme was organized with the objective of creating awareness among the general public, commuters, transport operators and drivers regarding the provisions and objectives of the J&K Road Safety Policy, 2025, road safety measures, traffic regulations and the legal consequences arising from violations of traffic laws. The initiative aimed at promoting responsible road usage, prevention of road accidents and fostering greater public consciousness towards the protection of human life and public safety.

Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsels (LADCs), DLSA Ganderbal, participated in the programme and sensitized the participants regarding various aspects of road safety, the importance of compliance with traffic regulations and the legal framework gov-



erning road usage. Awareness pamphlets and informative material relating to the J&K Road Safety Policy, 2025 and road safety measures were distributed among drivers, commuters and members of the public.

The campaign emphasized strict adherence to traffic rules, mandatory use of helmets and seat belts, prevention of rash and negligent driving, avoidance of over-speeding, drunken driving, use of mobile phones while driving and compliance with the provisions of the Motor Vehicles laws.

During the programme, emphasis was also laid on the importance of legal

awareness in safeguarding the rights and safety of citizens and on the role of Legal Services Institutions in promoting access to justice and dissemination of legal literacy among the masses. Participants were also informed about the availability of free legal aid and the various public welfare initiatives undertaken by the Legal Services Authorities.

The Assistant Regional Transport Office (ARTO) Ganderbal, being the Nodal Officer for the District Road Safety Committee, extended full cooperation for the successful conduct of the awareness programme by providing road safety awareness material,

informative pamphlets and technical assistance, thereby contributing significantly to the success of the initiative.

The participants appreciated the joint initiative undertaken by DLSA Ganderbal, the District Administration and ARTO Office Ganderbal and actively participated in the awareness programme.

The programme concluded with a collective pledge to strictly adhere to the provisions of the J&K Road Safety Policy, 2025 and traffic laws and to continue promoting road safety, legal awareness and responsible citizenship in the larger public interest.

SKUAST-K, IFPRI launch Advanced Economic Modeling Program to boost Policy Research

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Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), in collaboration with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), on Monday launched a one-week advanced capacity-building program on Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) Modeling for Economic Policy Analysis at its Shalimar campus.

Organized by the Institute of Business and Policy Research (IBPR), SKUAST-K, the program will run from June 29 to July 4, bringing together researchers, academicians, policymakers, and development professionals from across the country for intensive training in advanced economic modeling and policy analysis.

The program aims to strengthen participants' capacity to apply CGE models for evidence-based research, policy simulation, and informed decision-making across sectors such as agriculture, trade, rural development, and public policy.



The inaugural session was presided over by Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir A. Ganai, while Senior Research Fellow at IFPRI, Prof. Anjali Kumar, attended as Guest of Honor.

Registrar, SKUAST-K, Prof. Azmat Alam Khan, and Director, Extension and Dean, Faculty of Horticulture, Prof. Raihana H. Kanth were also present.

Underscoring the institutional significance of the initiative, the Vice Chancellor said, "Advanced economic modeling is central to designing sustainable

and inclusive policy solutions. This program reflects SKUAST-K's commitment to research excellence and policy relevance."

Welcoming participants, Course Director Prof. Farhet A. Shaheen highlighted the program's practical focus and its relevance to strengthening analytical capacity among researchers and policy professionals. Highlighting the broader policy relevance of such analytical tools, Prof. Anjali Kumar said, "CGE modeling has become indispensable for understanding economic com-

plexity and strengthening policy decisions through data-driven insights."

Expanding on the technical significance of the framework, Dr. Barun Deb Pal, Lead Resource Person from IFPRI, noted, "CGE models provide a powerful framework to assess economic linkages and policy impacts across sectors."

The collaboration with IFPRI further reinforces SKUAST-K's expanding global research partnerships and its growing role in economic policy research and institutional capacity building.

GDC's of Bandipora, Sumbal organise Drug Awareness Activities under Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan

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Under the banner of the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan, Government Degree College (HKM) Bandipora and Government Degree College (GDC) Sumbal on Monday organized a series of awareness activities to strengthen the resolve for a drug-free society and encourage students to adopt a healthy lifestyle.

At HKM Govt Degree College Bandipora, the NSS Units, under the leadership of Prof. Irfan Ahmad Wagay, organized an Anti-Drug Pledge Ceremony in which students enthusiastically participated and took a solemn pledge to abstain from drug abuse and spread awareness about its harmful effects. The programme highlighted the collective responsibility of



youth in combating the menace of drugs and promoting an addiction-free society. Meanwhile, under the guidance of Principal Prof. Suresh Kumar Dogra, the Red Ribbon Youth Club of the college organized a Drug Awareness Rally under the sponsorship of Dr. Mehrajuddin Talie. Faculty members and student volunteers actively participated in the rally, carrying banners and spreading the message, "No to Drugs, Yes to Life."

The College Literary Club of HKM Govt Degree College Bandipora also organized an Interactive Session on Substance Abuse under the sponsorship of Prof. Sadaf Shafi. The session educated students about the harmful effects of

substance abuse, its impact on individuals and society, and the importance of leading a healthy, drug-free life.

At Government Degree College Sumbal, the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan Committee and NSS Unit jointly organized a Pledge Ceremony on Drug-Free Jammu and Kashmir, in which 45 participants reaffirmed their commitment towards building a drug-free society.

The Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS), in collaboration with the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan Committee and NSS Unit of GDC Sumbal, also organized an Inter-Zonal Kho Kho Match. Around 40 participants took part in the event, which promoted sports as a positive and healthy alternative to substance abuse while reinforcing the message of a drug-free lifestyle.

Bandipora Admin continues Anti-Drug Awareness Campaign

BANDIPORA, JUNE 29: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), District Administration Bandipora on Monday intensified its anti-drug awareness campaign by organizing rallies, pledge ceremonies, awareness programmes and parent-teacher meetings across various educational institutions of the district.

The activities were aimed at sensitizing students, parents and the local community about the harmful effects of drug abuse, while promoting a healthy, responsible and



drug-free lifestyle. Awareness programmes, pledge ceremonies and

community outreach activities were conducted at High School Ketson, High

School Panar, High School Achoora, Higher Secondary School Gadakhud, Higher Secondary School Quilmuqam and High School Koragbal. Students, teachers and members of the local community actively participated in the programmes by carrying placards and banners displaying anti-drug messages and raising slogans against substance abuse.

At Higher Secondary School Gadakhud, an anti-drug awareness rally was organized, with active participation from students, faculty members and civil society representatives.

ADDC Shopian chairs review meeting on SHIVER 2.0

SHOPIAN, JUNE 29: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone today convened a review meeting here at Mini-Secretariat Shopian, regarding SHIVER 2.0 under the TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyan, to assess the progress of tuberculosis control measures and strengthen efforts towards making the district tuberculosis-free.

During the meeting, the ADDC reviewed the implementation of various interventions being undertaken under the campaign and stressed the need for coor-



ordinated efforts among all stakeholders to achieve the objectives of the TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyan. He emphasized early detection, timely treatment, community participation and extensive awareness activities

to eliminate tuberculosis from the district.

The meeting also discussed strategies for active case finding, strengthening surveillance mechanisms, ensuring adherence to treatment and enhancing

public awareness regarding the prevention and management of tuberculosis.

The ADDC directed the concerned departments and officials to work in close coordination and intensify field-level activities to ensure the successful implementation of SHIVER 2.0 and realization of the goal of a TB-Free Shopian.

Chief Medical officer, Shopian, Dr. Arshid Ahmed, District Tuberculosis Officer, Shopian, Dr. Javid Ahmed, BMOs, District programme Coordinator, NTEP staff and other concerned health functionaries were present.