

Wildlife Protection Deptt organizes UT-level Wildlife Week 2026 at SKUAST-K Shalimar

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 02: The J&K Wildlife Protection Department today, organized the UT-level inaugural function of Wildlife Week 2026 at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), Shalimar.

The inaugural function marked the commencement of a week-long programme dedicated to creating awareness about wildlife conservation, protection of biodiversity and preservation of the rich natural heritage of Jammu & Kashmir.

Dr. Suneesh Buxy, PCCF (Wildlife)/Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K, was among the Special Guests on the occasion. In his address, Dr. Buxy highlighted the importance of connected habitats, wildlife corridors and biodiversity conservation for maintaining healthy ecosystems and ensuring the long-term survival of wildlife. He emphasized the need for a harmonious coexistence between people and wildlife and called for collective efforts towards reducing human-wildlife conflict through awareness, scientific management and community participation.

Dr. Buxy also urged the students to become active ambassadors of environmental conservation and encouraged them to follow the Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) mantra given by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, adopting environmentally responsible practices in their daily lives.

Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-K, in his address, emphasized the important role of universities in generating scientific knowledge, under-



taking field-oriented research and developing human resources for wildlife and environmental conservation. He stressed the need for closer collaboration between academic institutions and the Wildlife Protection Department so that research and innovation could effectively support conservation and wildlife management.

Prashant Kumar, Administrative Member, CAT Srinagar, highlighted the broader significance of environmental and wildlife protection and stressed the importance of institutional responsibility, public awareness and adherence to the legal and regulatory framework governing conservation. He emphasized that protection of wildlife and natural ecosystems requires sustained efforts and participation from all sections of society.

Tawheed Ahmad Deva, highlighted the rich wildlife diversity of Jammu & Kashmir, the importance of protecting habitats and the need for coordinated field-level efforts for wildlife protection and management.

Dr. Khurshed Ahmad, Professor/Head, Wildlife Division, SKUAST-K, spoke

about the role of scientific research and academic expertise in understanding wildlife populations, habitats and emerging conservation challenges. He emphasized the importance of evidence-based approaches, capacity building and greater interaction between researchers, field officers and students.

The addresses collectively highlighted the importance of research, education, connected habitats, wildlife corridors, institutional collaboration, community participation and scientific wildlife management in strengthening conservation efforts.

A significant feature of the inaugural function was the release of books and technical publications viz. Coffee Table Book – “Dachigam”, authored by Pervaiz Ahmad Wani, Deputy Conservator, Forests/Wildlife Warden, Central Division, Srinagar; “SOPs for Management & Mitigation of Human-Wildlife Conflict”, authored by Rashid Yahya Naqash, Regional Wildlife Warden, Headquarters; “Asian Waterbird Census”, prepared by the Wildlife Warden, Wetlands; “Checklist of Mammals of J&K”, authored by

Muzafar Kidloo; “Recovery of Kashmir Musk Deer”, authored by Dr. Tanveer, WTI and “Dynamics of Man-Animal Conflict”, authored by Dr. Mohsin.

The publications, relating to wildlife conservation, wildlife management and human-wildlife conflict, provide useful documentation and knowledge resources for conservation practitioners, researchers, students and other stakeholders. These publications provided an important platform for showcasing field experience, scientific work and documentation related to the wildlife and ecosystems of Jammu & Kashmir.

The inaugural programme included screening of a wildlife documentary and jingle, a cultural presentation, inspection of stalls by the dignitaries and presentation of plants to the guests.

The department stated that a series of awareness, educational and outreach activities would be undertaken during Wildlife Week 2026 to engage students, local communities and other stakeholders and to underline the importance of wildlife, connected habitats and habitat conservation.

Kusht Mukti Abhiyaan Ceremony Organised Across District Kathua on Gandhi Jayanti

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, OCT 02

On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, Kusht Mukti Abhiyaan Ceremonies were organised across District Kathua at the district, block and peripheral health institution levels to spread awareness about leprosy, reduce stigma and promote early detection and treatment.

A special programme was organised at CMO Office Kathua, in which officers and officials of the CMO Office and staff of Mahatma Gandhi Hospital participated.

During the programme, Sh. Surinder Singh, Leprosy Surveillance Officer (LSO), Kathua, highlighted the significance of organising the Kusht Mukti Abhiyaan Ceremony on the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation. He recalled Mahatma Gandhi's compassion and commitment towards persons affected by leprosy and his efforts to eliminate the social stigma and discrimination associated with the disease. He emphasised that Gandhi Ji advocated treating persons affected by leprosy with dignity, compassion and respect, even at a time when effective treatment was not readily available.

Sh. Surinder Singh also briefed the participants about the district strategy for achieving a leprosy-free Kathua, the present status of



leprosy in the district, and the importance of recognising the early signs and symptoms of leprosy. He stressed that early identification and timely treatment are essential for preventing disability and interrupting transmission.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Medical Officer Kathua, Dr. Vijay Raina, emphasised the importance of awareness, early diagnosis and prompt treatment of leprosy cases. He called upon all health functionaries, particularly ASHAs, to actively disseminate IEC material and create awareness among the general pub-

lic so that hidden and undiagnosed cases can be identified and brought under treatment at the earliest.

The CMO further stressed the need for active community participation and coordinated efforts by all health workers to eliminate the stigma associated with leprosy and ensure that persons affected by the disease receive timely treatment and social support.

The LSO informed the CMO that an intensive IEC campaign will be conducted across the district for one week, including dissemination of posters, pamphlets and audio awareness mes-

sages on leprosy. The Block Medical Officers have also been requested to ensure regular awareness activities at block and peripheral levels and to share photographs of the activities on a daily basis for onward submission to the Central Leprosy Division (CLD) and for wider dissemination.

The district health authorities reiterated their commitment to strengthening leprosy surveillance, early case detection, timely treatment, disability prevention and reduction of stigma, with the active involvement of health workers and the community.

DC Kulgam presides over PPC, Reform Utsav and Special Gram Sabha at Pachgam Kund

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, OCT 02

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, today presided over a People's Plan Campaign (PPC), Reform Utsav and Special Gram Sabha at Pachgam village of Kund block, with a focus on participatory planning, public involvement and effective implementation of various government initiatives.

A large number of local residents participated in the Gram Sabha and put forth their demands, developmental issues and suggestions before the Deputy Commissioner.

The people expressed their gratitude to the DC for visiting the far-flung area and listening to their concerns.

The Gram Sabha deliberated upon participatory preparation of Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDP), implementation of VB-G RAM G and convergence of various schemes to address local development priorities in a coordinated manner.

As part of Reform Utsav, detailed awareness was provided regarding VB-G RAM G, Jal Jeevan Mission and Land Records, highlighting key reforms, citizen-centric services and measures aimed at improving the delivery of government services.

DC directed the concerned officials to ensure that Ward Sabhas are con-



ducted within the current month to facilitate wider public participation in the planning process of VB-G RAM G. He also urged the local residents to take ownership of JJM assets and ensure their proper upkeep, protection and sustainable use and urged them to participate proactively in the upcoming ward sabhas and gram sabhas for the draft plan formulation.

On the occasion, a resolution was also passed under Bal Vivah Sankalp, reaffirming the community's commitment towards preventing child marriages and promoting awareness about the legal, social and develop-

mental consequences of the practice.

The program was attended by the Assistant Commissioner Development, Project Manager, DPMU, JJM, BDO Kund, Panchayat Secretary, technical officials and other concerned functionaries and local public.

Elsewhere, in all blocks of the district, similar nature of activities under People's Plan Campaign and Reform Utsav were conducted which were attended by local people, field functionaries of department under the supervision of BDOs and Designated Nodal Officers of the district administration.

DLSA Shopian observes Gandhi Jayanti with "Swachhata Hi Seva" Campaign at district

SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 02: On the auspicious occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, the "Swachhata Hi Seva" campaign was celebrated today at the Court Complex, Shopian, under the directions of the Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority.

The event witnessed active participation from the Principal District and Sessions Judge (Chairman District Legal Services Authority) Shopian, Mehmood Ahmad Chowdhury, JMJC Waseem Mirza and ASMM Rameen Rashid.

The Chairman addressed the gathering and delivered a meaningful message emphasizing the importance of maintaining cleanliness in our surroundings. He urged all present to imbibe the spirit of cleanliness and



make it an integral part of their daily lives, following the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi. Chief LADC Shopian, Rafie Ahmad Ganie, also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the significance of the Swachhata Hi Seva campaign. He encouraged everyone to

contribute towards a cleaner and healthier environment. The campaign saw enthusiastic participation from all LADCs (Legal Aid Defense Counsels), PLVs (Para Legal Volunteers), court staff, DLSA staff and Municipality Sanitation workers who came

together to support the noble cause of cleanliness and sanitation. The event concluded with a pledge to continue working towards a cleaner and greener environment, reinforcing the timeless message of Mahatma Gandhi that "Cleanliness is next to Godliness."

UNNAT organises Women's Health Awareness Programme on Cervical Cancer Prevention and HPV Vaccination at GDC Ramgarh

RAMGARH, OCT 02: UNNAT NGO, in collaboration with the Women Development Cell of Government Degree College (GDC) Ramgarh, organised a Women's Health Awareness Programme on the theme "Cervical Cancer Awareness, Prevention and HPV Vaccination" at GDC Ramgarh under the NSS Unit Prabha.

The programme aimed to create awareness among students and the community about cervical cancer, preventive measures, early detection and the importance of HPV vaccination.

The programme was conducted under the guidance of Dr. Prof. Meeru Abrol, Principal, GDC Ramgarh, with the support of Dr. Snober, Associate Professor, GDC Ramgarh, and Prof. Sandeep Kumari, Convenor, Women Cell, GDC Ramgarh.

Neena Abrol, General Secretary, UNNAT NGO, presided over the programme, while Dr.

Prof. Meeru Abrol, Principal, GDC Ramgarh, was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Meeru Abrol highlighted the importance of early awareness, prevention and timely screening for reducing the burden of cervical cancer. Students were sensitised about the risk factors associated with cervical cancer, preventive healthcare practices, early detection and the role of HPV vaccination in protecting against HPV infections linked to cervical cancer.

The programme also emphasised the need for women and adolescent girls to have access to accurate health information and to consult qualified healthcare professionals regarding vaccination, screening and other preventive measures. She stressed that awareness and timely preventive action can play an important role in protecting women's health and building



healthier families and communities.

On the occasion, Neena Abrol

said that cervical cancer is largely preventable through timely vaccination, regular

screening, awareness and access to appropriate healthcare. She emphasised the need to educate

young people, particularly adolescent girls and women, about HPV infection and the preventive measures available to reduce the risk of cervical cancer.

She further said that UNNAT NGO is committed to promoting women's health through awareness campaigns and community outreach programmes. "Awareness is the first step towards prevention. By providing correct information about HPV vaccination, screening and healthy practices, we can empower women and families to take timely decisions regarding their health," she said.

A plantation drive was also organised as part of the programme, conveying the message that protecting women's health and protecting the environment are both essential for creating healthier and more sustainable communities.

The plantation drive witnessed active participation from

faculty members, students, the NSS Unit, Women Cell and the UNNAT NGO team.

Prof. Sandeep Kumari, Convenor, Women Cell, GDC Ramgarh, along with members of the NSS Unit, faculty members, students and volunteers, contributed to the successful organisation of the programme.

Among those present on the occasion were Mrs. Kiran Sharma, Former Principal, GGHS Muthi; Ashwani Dubey, Renu Jamwal, Kanchan Sharma, Anju Abrol, Vandana Vij, besides faculty members, students, NSS volunteers and other participants.

The programme concluded with a call for greater awareness about cervical cancer prevention, HPV vaccination, early detection and women's health, with the shared objective of building healthier women, stronger families and healthier communities