

Ram Niwas Sharma visits border villages of Uri; reviews progress on VVP Phase-II

BARAMULLA, JUNE 17: Commissioner Secretary Education Department, Ram Niwas Sharma, who is also Nodal Officer for Vibrant Villages Maidanan and Salasan, today visited the two border villages in Uri Sub-Division and reviewed the progress of developmental activities being undertaken under the Vibrant Village Programme (VVP) -Phase II. He was accompanied by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate Uri, Joint Director School Education North Kashmir, Deputy Chief Education Officer Baramulla and other concerned officers of line departments. During the visit, the Commissioner



Secretary held extensive interaction with the residents, community representatives and local stakeholders at both Maidanan and Salasan villages. He

listened to their concerns, developmental aspirations and suggestions regarding improvement in basic amenities and public services. The residents high-

lighted various issues and demands related to infrastructure, connectivity, education, healthcare, drinking water supply and livelihood generation. Assuring the people of the government's commitment towards the welfare and development of border communities, Ram Niwas Sharma stated that the Vibrant Village Programme aims to transform remote villages into self-reliant and vibrant settlements through focused developmental interventions and improved public service delivery. He emphasized that sustained efforts are being made to strengthen the infrastructure and create better

socio-economic opportunities for the residents living in border areas. The Commissioner Secretary also conducted a comprehensive review of the developmental works and government schemes being implemented in the two villages. He was briefed about the status of ongoing projects, achievements made so far, challenges being faced and the future plans envisaged under the programme. He stressed the need for timely completion of projects, effective coordination among the departments and regular monitoring to ensure that developmental benefits reach the people in a tangible manner.

Budgam steps up Anti-Drug Campaign through Awareness and Enforcement Drives

BUDGAM, JUNE 17: District Budgam today witnessed a series of awareness and enforcement activities under the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), reaffirming the district's commitment to creating a drug-free society through coordinated action, public awareness and community participation. As part of the campaign, the District Employment & Counselling Centre Budgam, in collaboration with BBHSS Humhama, organized an awareness programme for students. During the programme, students were sensitized about Mission YUVA and educated on the harmful consequences of drug abuse. The session focused on encouraging informed decision-making, healthy lifestyle choices and empowering young minds to stay away from substance abuse. In another significant initiative, the Excise Team Budgam carried out a special enforcement drive aimed at preventing the growth of illicit intoxicants and eliminating potential sources of drug abuse. The drive formed part of the department's sustained efforts to protect public health and strengthen the district's fight against the drug menace. The awareness programme and enforcement activities highlighted the importance of a multi-pronged strategy involving education, prevention, community engagement and coordinated departmental action to effectively address the challenge of substance abuse. The District Administration Budgam reiterated its resolve to continue implementing the objectives of the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan through sustained awareness campaigns, preventive interventions and enforcement measures. Citizens, particularly the youth, were urged to actively participate in the movement and contribute towards building a healthy, safe and drug-free Budgam.

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

BUDGAM, JUNE 17: 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.

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 Convenor 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 per-

sonal reflection and collective experience, enabling readers to engage with universal human emotions through distinctly Kashmiri imagery 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.

Director Agriculture reviews Annual Action Plan 2026-27 and infrastructure projects in Jammu

JAMMU, JUNE 17: Director Agriculture Jammu Anil Gupta today chaired a review meeting at the Conference Hall of the Directorate of Agriculture Jammu to assess preparedness and implementation strategy for the Annual Action Plan (AAP) 2026-27 and review the status of infrastructural and developmental projects across Jammu Division. Deliberations were held on district-wise targets, priorities and implementation modalities under various schemes in the AAP 2026-27 along with a review of physical and financial progress achieved. The Director reviewed the tendering process for CAPEX, HADP and NABARD-funded projects and took stock of infrastructure projects established under HADP, JKCIIP, CSS and CAPEX across the Division. Anil



Gupta directed officers concerned to ensure efficient utilisation of funds, strict adherence to project timelines and close monitoring of ongoing projects to expedite pending activities and achieve targets for the current financial year. He further underscored the importance of regular field monitoring, effective coordination among stakeholders and prompt resolution of bottlenecks to enhance the impact of agricultural development programmes. Among those present were Joint Director Agriculture (Extension) Sanjay Anand, Joint Director Agriculture (SLUB/Farms) Aman Jyoti

Sharma. Deputy Director Agriculture (Central) Sanjeev Rai Gupta, SMS (RL) Krishan Kant, SMS (RL) Dharmesh Vaid, Mushroom Development Officer Raghbir Paul Kochar, Assistant Entomologist Harvinder Singh, Spawn Production Officer Ashu Kakoria, Divisional Seed Certification Officer Jammu Nirmal Prakash Sharma and SDAO Marh Khalid Hassan. All Chief Agriculture Officers of Jammu Division participated through virtual mode.

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

SRINAGAR, 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.

J&K SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION COUNCIL
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Award of J&K Science, Technology & Innovation Council Scholarships – 2026
Applications are invited from Domicile Students of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir who fulfill the eligibility criteria prescribed below for the award of J&K Science, Technology & Innovation Council (ST&IC) Scholarships – 2026.

| Level | Eligibility Criteria |
|------------------------------|--|
| Scholarship (Class XI) | The applicant must have passed the 10th Class Examination during 2025 with a minimum of 60% marks and must be pursuing Class XI (Science Stream) during 2026 in a recognized school. |
| Scholarship (B.Sc. 1st Year) | The applicant must have passed the 12th Class (Science Stream) Examination during 2025 with a minimum of 60% marks and must be pursuing B.Sc. 1st Year (Basic Three-Year Academic Course) during 2026 in a recognized college. |
| Scholarship (M.Sc. 1st Year) | The applicant must have passed B.Sc. (Basic Three-Year Academic Course) during 2025 with a minimum of 60% marks and must be pursuing M.Sc. 1st Year (Basic Two-Year Academic Course) during 2026 in a recognized University. |

Students Not Eligible for J&K ST&IC Scholarships – 2026

- The following categories of students shall not be eligible for the scholarship:
- Students who are already availing J&K ST&IC Scholarship 2025.
 - Students pursuing professional courses.
 - Students pursuing four-year integrated degree programmes.
 - Students availing any other scholarship/financial assistance from any source for the same purpose.

Submission of Applications

Application Forms, duly filled in on the prescribed format and accompanied by the requisite documents, should reach:

Additional Director

J&K Science, Technology & Innovation Council

SDA Colony, Baramulla, Srinagar-190018

The applications must reach the respective offices on or before 31st July, 2026, either by hand or by post or by e-mail (PDF) at jstic396@gmail.com

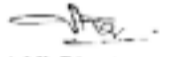
Documents to be Attached

The application must be accompanied by the following documents:

- Enrollment Certificate in the prescribed format, duly completed and signed by the Principal of the School/College or Head of the University Department.
- Self-attested copies of:
 - Marks Certificate of the last examination passed.
 - Domicile Certificate.
- Photocopy of the student's 16-digit Bank Account Statement.
- Clearly visible copy of the first page of the Bank Passbook.

Important Note

Applications that are incomplete in any respect or received after the prescribed date will not be considered for scholarship.


Addl. Director
J&K ST&IC

Dated: 15/06/2026

NO: JKST&IC/2026/76170

DIP/J-3904/26

J&K ST&IC SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM – 2026

(To be neatly typed and submitted)

Level of Scholarship Applied For (Please Tick)

- Class XI Scholarship
 B.Sc. 1st Year Scholarship
 M.Sc. 1st Year Scholarship

Bio-Data of the Student

| Particulars | Details |
|----------------------|--|
| Name of Applicant | Passport-size Photograph (To be attested by the Principal of the School/College or Head of the University Department) |
| Parentage | |
| Permanent Address | |
| Mobile Number | |
| E-mail ID (if any) | |
| District of Domicile | |
| Aadhaar Number | |

Bank Details of the Student

| Particulars | Details |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Bank Account Number (16 Digits) | |
| Name of Bank Branch | |
| Branch Address | |
| IFSC Code | |
| MICR Code | |
| Whether Branch is NEFT/RTGS Enabled | |

Academic Details

| Particulars | Details |
|--|---------|
| Last Examination Passed | |
| Class | |
| Year of Passing | |
| Board/University Roll Number | |
| Session | |
| Maximum Marks | |
| Marks Obtained | |
| Aggregate Percentage of Marks (up to two decimal places) | |

Present Enrolment Details

| Particulars | Details |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Class/Semester Enrolled During 2026 | |
| Name of School/College/University | |
| Year of Admission/Enrolment | |
| Date of Admission/Enrolment | |
| Class Roll Number | |
| Subjects | |

Declaration

I hereby declare and undertake that:

- The information furnished by me in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.
- I am not availing any other scholarship or financial assistance from any other source for the same purpose.
- I shall abide by all the terms and conditions governing the award of the scholarship.
- In the event of any information furnished by me being found false or incorrect, or if I violate any of the prescribed conditions, the scholarship awarded to me shall be liable to cancellation and the entire amount received shall be refunded or recovered from me, besides any other action as warranted under law.

Place: _____

Date: _____

Signature of the Applicant

ENROLLMENT CERTIFICATE

(To be filled by the Principal of the School/College or Head of the University Department where the student is presently enrolled)

Certified that, as per the records available in this institution:

- Mr./Ms. _____, Son/Daughter of _____, is enrolled in this School/College/University during the year 2026 under Class Roll No. _____ Semester _____ and is pursuing _____ (Medical/Non-Medical /Subjects /Course).

- The student is **not** availing any other scholarship or financial assistance from any other source for the same purpose.

Signature of the Principal/Head of Institution

Name: _____

Designation: _____

Official Seal

Date: _____