

## International Conference on Cryosphere Change and Sustainable Development concludes at JU's Bhandarwah Campus



Participants being given certificates during the conference at Bhandarwah.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
BHADERWAH: The two-day 3rd International Conference on "Change in Cryosphere and Impact on Ecosystem Services, Indigenous Knowledge System and Sustainable Development in the Indian Himalayan Region" organized by the Department of Earth Sciences, Institute of Mountain Environment (IME), Bhandarwah Campus, University of Jammu, concluded today with an insightful and impactful Valedictory Session.

The conference, which brought together eminent scientists, policymakers,

academicians, researchers, and environmental practitioners from across India and abroad, ended on a high note, reaffirming the need for sustained scientific collaboration and community-centric approaches to address the growing challenges of cryospheric change in the Himalayan region.

The Chief Guest of the Valedictory Session, Dr. Sunil Bhardwaj, MLA Ramnagar, lauded Bhandarwah Campus, University of Jammu, for hosting a conference of global relevance at a time when the Himalayas are witnessing rapid environ-

mental transformations. He emphasized that scholarly research and field-based evidence must inform policy decisions to protect fragile mountain ecosystems.

Dr. Sunil Bhardwaj further emphasized that the Indian Himalayan Region stands at a critical juncture where rapid climatic shifts demand stronger policy interventions, grassroots participation, and continuous scientific monitoring.

At the outset, Prof. Rahul Gupta, Rector, Bhandarwah Campus, delivered the Welcome Address. He expressed immense pride in hosting an event of such global significance at

Bhandarwah Campus and highlighted the University of Jammu's unwavering commitment to promoting high-quality research in mountain environments.

The Guest of Honour, Prof. Dipanker Sengupta, appreciated the organisers for creating a platform for young researchers, scholars, and students, particularly those from the Design Your Degree programme, to interact with distinguished scientists and gain a deeper understanding of cryosphere-linked ecological concerns.

The Special Guest, Additional Deputy Commissioner Bhandarwah,

Shri Sunil Kumar Bhutyal, in his address, commended the organisers for bringing global scientific discourse to Bhandarwah—a region deeply connected with mountain ecology.

The Valedictory Programme began with a formal welcome, followed by a brief report on the two-day deliberations presented by the Conference Convener, Dr. Chhering Tandup, who summarized the scientific discussions on glacial dynamics, climate variability, indigenous knowledge systems, and sustainable development pathways.

The Valedictory Vote of Thanks was delivered by Dr. Shayan Javed, Organizing Secretary of the Conference, who expressed heartfelt gratitude to all resource persons, delegates, sponsoring agencies including J&K Bank and Chenab Valley Power Projects participants, and the dedicated teaching and non-teaching staff of Bhandarwah Campus for ensuring the smooth conduct of the event.

## Rana reiterates Omar-led Government's commitment to equitable development of remote areas

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
MENDHAR: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana today inaugurated and laid foundation stones for several key development works aimed at strengthening civic infrastructure, boosting connectivity and promoting ecotourism in the Mendhar region.

The Minister launched the first phase of the Mendhar Town Drainage Upgradation Project worth ₹ 50 lakh, part of a larger ₹ 10.15 crore plan under the UT CAPEX budget. He said the project will modernise the town's drainage network, improve sanitation, enhance flood resilience and raise public health standards, reflecting the Government's commitment to timely and high-quality execution of public utilities.

He also inaugurated the newly constructed road from KM 12th to Mohalla Phamra Ziyarat, developed under NABARD funding at a cost of ₹ 319.91 lakh. The Minister said the road will ease travel for residents,



Cabinet Minister Javed Ahmed Rana inaugurating development work at Mendhar.

improve access to remote habitations, and strengthen connectivity to the revered Ziyarat. He appreciated the executing agency and directed officers to ensure proper maintenance for long-term durability.

Rana reiterated that the Omar Abdullah-led Government is committed to ensure that far-flung areas receive their due share of development.

Later, the Minister also laid the foundation stone for Rest House at Jaranwali Gali, to be developed at an estimated cost of ₹ 45 lakh, in presence of MLA Surankote, Choudhary Muhammad Akram. The

upcoming facility will support eco-tourism, offer improved accommodation for visitors and enhance the operational capacity of the Forest Department.

He said the Government is focused on promoting sustainable tourism while protecting vital natural resources.

The Minister urged officers to maintain high technical standards in all ongoing works, ensuring durability and long-term public benefit.

He also interacted with locals and assured them that development initiatives aimed at public welfare and regional growth will continue to be prioritised.

## PM Shri Girls High School Degwar-M organises Special Counselling session on Career in Indian Army

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
POONCH: PM SHRI Girls High School Degwar-M today conducted a special counselling session for its students on how to join the Indian Army, either as an Agniveer or as a Commissioned Officer.

The session was delivered by Capt. Sourav Varma (Medical Officer) of the Indian Army, who interacted with the students and explained the eligibility requirements, selection stages, academic qualifications, and physical fitness benchmarks necessary to join the Army. Students actively participated and asked questions about the recruitment process, training, examinations, and career opportunities under the Agnipath Scheme as well as officer-level entries.



Speaking on the occasion, Chander Mohan Jaggi said that many students aspire to join the Indian Army but remain unaware of the complete process. He added that the school's initiative aims to guide and empower students to make informed decisions about their future.

Darshan Kumar (DRG) and Mohd Altaf also

addressed the students and encouraged them to work hard and take full advantage of such informative sessions.

The school administration expressed gratitude to the Indian Army for their support and emphasized the importance of such interactions in motivating students to serve the nation with dedication and pride.

## DIET Kud concludes five-day intensive workshop on school safety

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
UDHAMPUR: District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) Kud successfully concluded a Five-Day Workshop on School Safety at the office of the Chief Education Officer (CEO) Udhampur. The valedictory function was graced by Sh. Subash Chander Gupta, Chief Education Officer Udhampur, as the Chief Guest.

In his address, the Chief Guest emphasized the critical importance of school safety, asserting that ensuring the security of students and teachers is an uncompromising responsibility. He called upon all participants to adopt proactive measures and strictly adhere to the established safety protocols.

During this workshop, sixty teachers from various institutions received training from expert resource persons



who were trained at SCERT level. The workshop covered sub topics hazard identification, risk analysis, school safety planning, emergency preparedness, whole School Safety, Mangement in School Safety and implementation of the School Safety Program etc.

Coordinators of the Workshop Ms. Anu Sharma and Dr. Gurdinder Kour (HODs DIET kud) has channelised the program in a very active manner.

Where's Co-Coordinator Program Dr. Rashpal Singh,

Senior Lecturer, who remained as Stage Secretary in between the sessions of five days training program and also enacted as Resource Person and contributed significantly throughout all five days and ensured the smooth conduct of the workshop.

Sanjay Kumar, District Technical Coordinator, remained present throughout the program and extended complete technical and logistical support, contributing immensely to the successful execution of the workshop.

A key highlight was the ses-

sion delivered by Ms. Shashi Bala, Master, one of the most experienced and respected resource persons, who presented her topics with remarkable clarity and depth. Other resource persons namely Shubham Jamwal, Richa Mahajan, Seema Chalotra, and Madhavi Khajuria - also enriched the workshop through their insightful presentations on various sub-themes of School Safety.

Participants, during the feedback session, expressed high satisfaction with the

training and assured that they would implement the School Safety protocols and action plans in their respective institutions with full seriousness and commitment. Moreover Valedictory function was enthralled by the musical concert by ZIC Krishan Lal Teacher from Zone Kulwanta and appreciated by one and all.

The successful completion of this workshop marks yet another milestone for DIET Kud in strengthening school safety preparedness across Udhampur district.

## Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan: Series of awareness activities held in Reasi to mark 5th anniversary of anti-drug campaign

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
REASI: To commemorate the 05th Anniversary of Nasha Mukht Abhiyan, Department of Social Welfare, Reasi organised series of events in district Reasi to make aware the masses about the ill effects of substance abuse.

An impactful awareness rally from Govt Degree College, Reasi comprising of students of various colleges and schools was flagged off by Additional Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Rakesh Kumar who emphasized the urgent need for collective action to safeguard youth from the menace of drugs. He also emphasized the



ADC Reasi, Rakesh Kumar flagging off awareness rally.

importance of collective responsibility of all stakeholders in eradicating substance abuse and encouraged continued cooperation from all stakeholders.

The students enthusiastically participated in the mass rally carrying banners, rais-

ing slogans and displaying placards to spread awareness about the harmful impact of drug abuse.

The students took the Nasha Mukht Bharat Pledge, reaffirming their commitment to eliminating substance abuse.

District Social Welfare Officer, Reasi, Sachin Sharma reaffirmed the efforts of different stakeholders to carrying forward the mission of Nasha Mukht Bharat with renewed energy. He emphasized that observance of the 5th anniversary

serves as a reminder of the progress made and the need to sustain efforts through consistent outreach, youth engagement, and community participation.

Apart from this, Department of Social Welfare, Reasi also organised an impactful activities viz. Slogan writing, Poster Making, Essay Writing Competitions themed on "Say No to Drugs" & Pledge at different Educational Institutions aimed at strengthening the fight against substance abuse and promoting a drug-free society. Pamphlets and refreshment were also distributed among students.

## All India Cooperative week celebration event held at Chenani

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
UDHAMPUR: A grand function was organized today at Chenani to mark the celebration of All India Cooperative Week.

Members of the Cooperative Societies from across District Udhampur actively participated. The programme was graced by Balwant Singh Mankotia MLA, Chenani as the chief guest, while Dr. Ranjit Singh, SDM Chenani, attended as the guest of honour.

Officers of the Subdivision, Deputy Registrar Cooperative societies, Field Officers and the staff of the Cooperative Department, along with around 400 cooperative members attended the function with great enthusiasm.

While addressing the gathering, the chief guest highlighted the remarkable services rendered by Cooperative Institutions and the challenges faced by the Cooperative Movement. He elaborated on the importance of strengthening cooperative societies at the grassroots level and

urged all concerned officials and functionaries to work with missionary spirit and full dedication. The MLA also announced that he will soon conduct a joint meeting with all concerned officers to accelerate efforts and revitalize the cooperative movement.

SDM Chenani also spoke on the occasion, emphasizing the vital role of the Cooperative Movement in socio-economic development. He called upon all cooperative functionaries to work with a missionary zeal. He assured that every possible support shall be extended to resolve challenges faced by the department at the grassroots level.

The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies, Nishtha Nayyar. She expressed gratitude to all guests, officers and cooperative members for their participation. She further assured that every possible step will be taken to strengthen and uplift the Cooperative movement in the region.

## Army conducts tree plantation drive ahead of Poonch Link-Up Day 2025



Army officials along with locals during the programme.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
POONCH: As part of the run-up to Poonch Link-Up Day 2025, Army organized

a large-scale Tree Plantation Drive across the formation's Area of Responsibility (AoR), reaffirming its commitment to environmental conservation and sustainable development.

During the drive, around 500 saplings were planted at multiple locations, including Battalion Headquarters, educational institutions, and forward posts. The sites were carefully selected to ensure maximum ecological impact, with special focus on community areas and regions vulnerable to soil

erosion. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from Army personnel, Officers, JCOs, and ORs alongside teachers and students from various schools. Their collective involvement highlighted a strong spirit of cooperation and growing environmental awareness among both the armed forces and the local community.

The initiative reflects the Army's continuous efforts to promote a greener, more sustainable future while strengthening its bond with the people of the region.

## GDC Kathua hosts guest lecture on 'Drug Deaddiction and Mental Health of Youth' under NMBA

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KATHUA: The Narcotics Control Coordination Committee (NARCO) of Government Degree College Kathua, in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department, organised an insightful and impactful guest lecture on "Drug Deaddiction and Mental Health of Youth" under the aegis of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA).

The event was organized under the able guidance of Dr. SaviBehl, Principal of the college, and further convened by Prof. Roop Krishan Pandita, Convener, NARCO committee.

Prof. R. K. Pandita, Convener of the NARCO cell, presented the inaugural address and briefed the audience about the event. He shared his thoughts about the topic and motivated the students to adopt a healthy lifestyle and refrain from drug abuse.

Dr. Behl, in her welcome speech, warmly greeted the resource person and emphasised the importance of organising such awareness pro-



A section of dignitaries during the programme.

grammes for the welfare of the student community. She applauded the efforts of the NARCO committee for organizing today's guest lecture on the most relevant topic in contemporary times and encouraged the committee to organize such events of social importance in future.

Later, Dr. Gourav Sharma, Senior Resident, Department of Psychiatry, Government Medical College Kathua, who served as the esteemed resource person for the event, delivered his detailed talk on Drug Deaddiction and Mental Health of Youth. His lecture

available rehabilitation strategies, counselling options, and the importance of early intervention.

The programme concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Gotam Singh Lalotra, Member, Narcotics Control Coordination Committee, who acknowledged the efforts of the Social Welfare Department, the faculty, and the students for making the event a success.

The event was graced by Prof. R. K. Manhas, Associate Prof.

in Botany and Dr. Yash Paul Sharma, HOD Urdu, whereas, the members of the NARCO committee, Dr. Neelima G, Prof. Shiv Kumar, Prof. CharandeepHanda, Prof. Deepak Gupta, Dr. Gotam Singh, and Dr. Shiv Kumar were also present in the event. The proceedings of the event were executed by Dr. Neelima G, member NARCO committee. The refreshment to the attendee students was distributed by the social welfare Deptt.

## Power shutdown

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Managing Director, Jammu and Kashmir Power Transmission Corporation Limited has informed that a Shutdown of 20 MVA Power Transformer of 2x20 MVA, 132/33kV Grid Substation, Kishtwar Katarsoma will be undertaken for 14 days from 18th November - 1st December-2025, on continuous basis, for the augmentation of the Grid substation from its existing capacity of 40MVA to 70MVA. During the shutdown period, there will be power curtailment of around 10 MWs, which shall be managed by effecting, rotational curtailment on the 33kV and 11 KV Feeders. During the Shutdown period, power supply from 33/11KV Receiving Stations Mandal, Iqhala, Padyarna, Padar, Dangloru, Hatta, Dedpath, Sarthal and Malipath shall remain affected.

**DISCLAIMER**  
"STATE TIMES" does not take responsibility for the contents of the advertisements (Display/Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own before acting there upon."