

Empowering remote students; Itoo dedicates buses to 5 GDCs in Kashmir

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 23

Minister for Health & Medical Education, Social Welfare and Higher Education, Sakeena Itoo, today dedicated buses to five Government Degree Colleges (GDCs) in Kashmir, aiming to strengthen access to education for the students from remote areas. The colleges that received the buses included GDCs Kupwara, Sopore, Tangmarg, DH Pora and Tulail. The flagging off ceremony was held at Abdul Ahad Azad Memorial College, Bemina.

Advisor to Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Tangmarg Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah and MLA Sopore Irshad Rasool Kar were present on the occasion.

Speaking at the event, the Minister emphasized the importance of transport facilities in ensuring accessible and inclusive education. "This initiative is aimed at empowering the students, particularly those from far-flung areas, by facilitating their daily commute to the colleges, as-



serted the Minister".

She added that a similar initiative had recently been undertaken in the Jammu division, where five colleges were also provided buses.

Highlighting government's initiatives towards improving the education sector, the Minister said, "We are focused on raising the standards of education and ensuring that students at government institutions

have access to all necessary facilities, including reliable transport."

She further stated that efforts are underway to extend such support to more colleges across Jammu and Kashmir.

During the function, the Minister interacted with the Principals, faculty members, NCC cadets and students. She appreciated the support of J&K Bank for providing the buses un-

der its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, describing the gesture as a significant contribution towards students' educational journey.

Present on the occasion were the MD Motor Garage, Divisional and CSR Heads of J&K Bank, Director Finance Higher Education, Director Colleges, Principals of various colleges and other senior officials.

10-Day internship for college students begins at SDRF 2nd Battalion Jammu

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A 10-day Training Internship Programme for students of Government MAM College Jammu was inaugurated today here at the SDRF 2nd Battalion headquarters. The programme aims to enhance disaster preparedness and

response capabilities among youth.

The inauguration was led by Commandant, SDRF 2nd Battalion Zahid Naseem Manhas in the presence of Dy. SP (Bn. Adjutant) Manzoor Hussain.

In his address, the Commandant emphasized the importance of strengthening the capabilities of stu-

dents to become effective first responders during the disasters. He highlighted the role of the SDRF as a vital organization for collective preparedness and swift response during emergencies.

Instructions were issued to the instructors to provide comprehensive and practical training to the

participating students. The objective of the internship is to equip students with the knowledge and skills required to mitigate the impact of disasters in their localities, thus playing a crucial role in minimizing potential losses.

Earlier, Dy. SP (Training) Dinesh Gupta delivered the Welcome address.

Major DAJGUA outreach camp held at Panchayat Chamoti- Kishtwar

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A multi-departmental IEC (Information, Education and Communication) outreach camp was held today here at Panchayat Ghar Chamoti, Block Drabshalla under the aegis of Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gramin Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA).

The ongoing 15-day IEC awareness campaign aims to empower tribal communities socially and economically. The camp brought together the departments of Health, Agriculture, Education, ICDS, Employment, Rural Development and Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) under one roof to provide information and services directly to the tribal population.

Each department set up dedicated stalls offering on-the-spot support for scheme enrollments, application submissions, distribution of informative materials in local languages and one-on-one consultations. This ensured that tribal populace from remote areas could access government benefits and services easily.

Officers addressed the



public issues on the spot, offering solutions and clear timelines, reinforcing the administration's focus on transparency and accountability.

Field-level officials highlighted the importance of regular interaction with the

community and stressed that DAJGUA is helping bridge the gap between the administration and tribal citizens. The camp encouraged a two-way communication process—where officials not only informed but also listened to the unique

needs of the tribal people.

The outreach received an overwhelmingly positive response from the tribal community and local residents, who appreciated the district administration's sincere and people-centric approach.

JKEDI commences week-long Management Programs

SRINAGAR, JUNE 23: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) on Monday commenced Management Development Programs (MDP) in 11 Districts of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme. The initiative is being funded by the Union Ministry of MSME and implemented in the Union Territory by the Industries and Commerce Department.

The Management Development Programmes (MDPs) were inaugurated in district Kathua, Kishtwar, Reasi, Samba, Udhampur, Anantnag,

Bandipora, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Poonch and Rajouri. A total of 222 candidates including 168 women have been registered for the MDP, who shall undergo a 30-hour training over six days.

At Udhampur and Poonch, the program was inaugurated by Mohinder Kumar Sharma, Deputy Director, District Employment and Counselling Centre, Udhampur and Abdul Majid Tantray, Deputy Director, District Employment and Counselling Centre, Poonch respectively.

At Rajouri, Baramulla and Kishtwar districts, the MDPs were inaugurated by Ujwal Mahajan, Principal

Government Industrial Training Institute (ITI), Rajouri, Javed Ahmad Ganie, Principal, Government Industrial Training Institute (ITI), Baramulla and Zubair Ahmad, In-charge Principal, Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Kishtwar respectively. At Bandipora, Samba, Reasi, Anantnag, Ganderbal and Kathua, the MDPs were inaugurated by the JKEDI course team.

The MDPs coordinated by JKEDI District Centres witnessed participation from the local MSMEs, who will be provided with the real time know-how of running and managing the businesses.

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Vikramaditya inspects reconstruction of historic Maharani Temple in Gulmarg

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Vikramaditya Singh, Ex MLC and Trustee of the J&K Dharmarth Trust, today inspected the ongoing reconstruction work of the iconic Maharani Temple in Gulmarg, which is set to open for devotees and the public next month. The temple, a revered Hindu shrine and a prominent landmark of Gulmarg, was tragically destroyed by an electrical fire a year ago.

"I am proud to share that we have resurrected this historic temple, restoring it to even greater glory than before," said Vikramaditya Singh during the inspection. The reconstruction has been taken up by the J&K Dharmarth Trust with utmost commitment to preserving its spiritual and architectural significance.



He expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Hon'ble Lt. Governor of J&K, Shri Manoj Sinha Ji, the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Gulmarg

Development Authority, and the Jammu & Kashmir Police for their unwavering support and encouragement in making this remarkable feat possible.

Notably, the Dharmarth

Trust, in the past year, had restored the famous Shiv Gauri Temple in Pahalgam, Kashmir.

The Trustee also reiterated the commitment of Dharmarth Trust in preserving and promoting the rich religious and cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized that the Trust will continue its efforts to restore and maintain ancient temples and spiritual sites across the Union Territory, ensuring they remain accessible and welcoming to devotees and tourists alike. He noted that such initiatives not only safeguard sacred traditions but also boost religious tourism and community pride.

"The revived Maharani Temple is expected to once again become a spiritual beacon and cultural pride for the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

Kathua district achieves major headway in execution of PMGSY projects

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Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Surinder Mohan today chaired a meeting to review the status of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) projects. The meeting was held in the VC Room of the DC Office Complex.

Reviewing the performance of the PMGSY Kathua Division, the Executive Engineer informed that of 124 projects sanctioned under Phase I work on 123 has been completed, while all 6 schemes under Phase-II stand completed. Similarly 6 out of 8 schemes sanctioned under Phase-III have been completed. Additionally, 10



new schemes have been earmarked under Phase-IV for implementation.

The ADDC was also apprised that out of 13 bridge projects taken up in the division, 5 have been com-

pleted, while utility shifting is pending on 5 other bridges.

In the PMGSY Division Billawar, of 122 schemes sanctioned under Phase-I, 114 have been completed.

The remaining 8 schemes—4 each in Billawar and Bani Sub-Divisions—are pending due to forest clearance and other related issues, even as all schemes sanctioned under Phase-II and Phase-III have been completed. The Division has received sanction of 5 new schemes under the Phase-IV.

The ADDC instructed the concerned Executive Engineers to expedite the execution of all pending works and ensure their timely completion. He emphasized on resolving bottlenecks to achieve the set targets within stipulated time frame.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Kathua, Ranjit Thakur and other concerned officers.

Dharti Aabha awareness camps held at Chilly Pingal, Dhadkaie in Gandoh

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A vibrant celebration under the ongoing Dharti Aabha Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan was successfully organized at two key locations of District Doda—Playground Katha, Panchayat Haddal, Block Chilly Pingal and Panchayat Dhadkaie A & B, Block Gandoh, Tehsil Bhalesa.

The events were conducted under the guidance of the Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh and supervised by the Block Development Officer Chilly Pingal and District Ayush Officer Dr. Ajay Ku-



mar Tikoo.

At Playground Katha, the programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from the local tribal community, ex-PRI members and frontline workers.

The departments of Health, AYUSH, ICDS, Social Welfare, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Education and RDD set up informative stalls and offered on-the-

spot services and demonstrations related to key government schemes to empower the tribal population.

Simultaneously, an awareness camp was organized at Panchayat Dhadkaie A and B by the staff of AHWC Kota. The camp saw active participation from the Scheduled Tribe (ST) population, where 51 beneficiaries received AYUSH medicines for various ailments, reinforcing the government's commitment to inclusive healthcare access.

Both events reflected a united effort towards sustainable grassroots development, focusing on tribal welfare, health equity and awareness.

JMC Commissioner reviews arrangements for Shri Amarnathji Yatra across Jammu City

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Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Dr. Devansh Yadav, who is also Chief Executive Officer Jammu Smart City Limited today conducted an extensive inspection of the lodgement centres set up for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY-2025) pilgrims across Jammu city.

During the visit, the Commissioner assessed arrangements at prominent lodgement centres including Shri Ram Mandir (Purani Mandi), Geeta Bhawan Parade, Mahajan Sabha, Shalimar Road, Trikuta Complex, Yatri Niwas at Bhagwati Nagar,



among other designated facilities established for the comfort and convenience of the pilgrims arriving for the annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

Dr. Yadav reviewed in detail the infrastructure and services put in place at each centre, including accommodation, sanitation,

food, drinking water, provision of power supply and medical support. He emphasized that timely and efficient provisioning of all essential services must be ensured.

Issuing directions to the concerned departments, the Commissioner stressed on providing clean lodging

spaces, hygienic food, clean potable drinking water, proper sleeping arrangements and well-maintained sanitation facilities to all pilgrims.

Dr. Yadav also informed that Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities will be carried out at the lodgement centres to sensitize the devotees about hygiene and sanitation practices.

Joint Commissioner (Health & Sanitation) Abdul Sattar, Executive Engineer (Projects) Lokesh Gupta, Executive Engineer (Division 1) Rajesh Kumar, Executive Engineer, Electrical Simarpal Singh and other officials of JMC accompanied the Commissioner during the tour.