

District Red Cross Society Kulgam to be made more resourceful

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, SEP 24

A meeting of the District Red Cross Society, Kulgam was convened today to deliberate upon strengthening the functioning of the District Red Cross Society and expanding its humanitarian outreach for needy people of the district.

The meeting discussed at length the major role of the District Red Cross Society in extending timely help and relief to people in distress, destitutes, fire victims, patients, students needing educational assistance and other persons across the district.

Detailed deliberations were held on augmenting the revenue of the Society. It was decided that a comprehensive membership drive shall be launched in the district. The drive will initially start with Government employees joining for the noble cause with voluntary contribution to strengthen the Red Cross



family and ensure a steady support base.

It was also decided that regular Blood Donation Camps shall be organized in hospitals across the district in coordination with the Health Department to ensure availability of blood for patients in need and to promote voluntary blood donation through the Red

Cross platform.

Resource generation through creation and operation of assets on a sustainable basis, besides voluntary contributions towards the Red Cross Fund by local citizens, was also deliberated upon. Several key proposals were put forward for consideration in this regard.

The core objective of the meeting remained to make Red Cross Society more vibrant, visible and responsive in Kulgam. In this context, strategies to create revenue avenues for fund raising by exploring sustainable models of resource mobilization to ensure financial self-reliance of the Society were discussed.

Ashok Koul participates in Rangoli, Blood Donation, painting programmes in Srinagar

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J&K BJP State General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul participated in a series of programmes organized in Srinagar under the ongoing 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyaan', highlighting the spirit of service, social responsibility and the aspirations of the younger generation for a progressive and developed India.

J&K BJP Vice-President Dr. Shehnaz Ganai, J&K BJP Secretary Mudasir Wani, District President Srinagar Adv. Sheikh Salman and other senior also accompanied Ashok Koul.

Ashok Koul attended the 'Seva Ke Rang, Rashtra Ke Sang' Rangoli Programme at Jagger's Park, Rajbagh, where participants presented vibrant Rangoli artwork reflecting themes of service, dedication, national development and their vision for a developed India. He appreciated the enthusiasm and creativity displayed by the participants, observing that such activities provide a



meaningful platform for citizens, particularly the youth, to connect creativity with social and national values.

Speaking on the occasion, Ashok Koul said that the Seva Sankalp Abhiyaan is being carried forward through a wide range of activities that seek to encourage public participation and a culture of service. He said that service to society is strengthened when people come together through constructive initiatives, creative expression and voluntary contribution. He also appreciated the participants, organizers and volunteers for their active involvement.

Koul subsequently visited a Blood Donation Camp organized by the Srinagar District Team at J-1, Srinagar. He interacted with blood donors, encouraged them and appreciated their spirit of voluntary service, noting that blood donation represents a direct contribution towards helping those in need.

Koul also participated in the 'Mere Sapno Ka Bharat-Chitra Seva' Drawing Competition at Linton Hall School, Rajbagh. Students showcased their creativity and imagination by expressing their aspirations for a progressive and developed India through drawings.

The participating students were felicitated with certificates in recognition of their talent and performance.

Dr. Shehnaz Ganai said that the programmes provided an opportunity to involve people and students in constructive activities while encouraging values of service and social responsibility. She appreciated the participation of students and volunteers in the various initiatives.

Adv. Sheikh Salman said that the district team is committed to taking the Seva Sankalp Abhiyaan programmes to different sections of society and ensuring active public participation in the activities.

Bank Unions hold demonstration in Jammu, announce 3-day strike

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The United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU), comprising seven unions of bank employees and officers, held a demonstration in Jammu on Thursday to press for their demand for implementation of a five-day working week in the banking sector.

The UFBU announced that bank employees and officers across the country will observe a three-day strike on September 28, 29 and 30, 2026, followed by an indefinite strike from October 26, 2026, if the demand remains unresolved.

Addressing the media, Rajesh Mehta, Secretary, All India Bank Officers' Confederation (AIBOC), J&K and Ladakh UT, said the unions are seeking government approval for declaring the remaining Saturdays as holidays. The second and fourth Satur-



days are already holidays for banks.

He said the Indian Banks' Association had recommended the five-day work week following the Memorandum of Understanding between IBA and UFBU on December 7, 2023, and the Settlement/Joint Note

dated March 8, 2024. The proposal envisages increasing daily working hours from Monday to Friday by 40 minutes.

UFBU leaders said the issue has remained pending despite assurances that it was under consideration. They cited the five-day working pattern followed

in several other financial and government institutions as part of their argument. The unions said the proposed strikes are aimed at drawing attention to their long-pending demand and appealed to the banking public to bear with any inconvenience caused during the strike period.

POWERGRID Inter Regional Bridge Tournament gets underway at Chandigarh

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A three day POWERGRID Inter - Regional BridgeTournament 2026 commenced here today at Novotel Hotel, Chandigarh. Twelve teams from various Regions of POWERGRID are participating in this tournament. The participating teams are Southern Region-I (SR-I), Southern Region-II (SR-II), Eastern Region-I (ER-I), Eastern Region-II (ER-II), Western Region-I (WR-I), Western Region-II (WR-II), North Eastern Region (NER), Northern Region-I (NR-I), Northern Region-II (NR-II), Northern Region-III (NR-III), North Western Region (NWR), Corporate Centre (CC) and the host region Northern Region-II (NR-II). The matches in the



tournament are being conducted on league cum knockout basis. During this three day tournament, the participating teams will fight it out in Team, and pair championship.

The tournament began today with a grand opening.

The tournament was inaugurated by Sh. Tarun Bajaj, Executive Director (NRTS-II) in the presence of Shri Ashutosh k

Sharma, General Manager (HR), and other officials of POWERGRID and Punjab Bridge Association. The tournament is being conducted under the supervision of Punjab Bridge association.

Integration of RCs into NFSA: Thousands of migrants get benefits of Welfare, Social Security Schemes

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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The integration of migrant ration cards into the National Food Security Act (NFSA) database has emerged as a significant step towards expanding the migrant community's access to Government welfare and social security benefits. The process has progressively transformed the migrant ration card from an instrument of food entitlement only to an important gateway to a wider spectrum of welfare and social protection.

The exercise, founded on the Government's policy framework, including S.O. 389 dated 16.09.2021 and S.O. 392 and S.O. 393, both dated 13.08.2024, has been pursued with the objective of bringing migrant families within the wider welfare architecture without compromising their existing entitlements, recognized migrant status or established relief provisions. The Relief & Rehabilitation Organization, in close coordination with the Department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Social Welfare Department and National Informatics Centre is facilitating the integration of nearly 50,000 migrant families into the national database, supported by extensive awareness, facilitation and field-level monitoring to facilitate the eligible migrants to avail benefits of social sector/welfare schemes.

The wider significance of the exercise lies in the new avenues of social security it has opened for migrant families.

Integration with the national database has progressively removed barriers faced by eligible beneficiaries in accessing various social sector schemes like old-age, widow and disability pensions, marriage assistance, scholarships, Ayushman Bharat and other welfare measures.

About 5000 migrant families have been so far been facilitated through intensive IEC campaign aimed at door to door reach out and regular special outreach camps organized in all the migrant camps and prominent non-camp areas, targeted at potential beneficiaries identified for extending benefits under various social sector/welfare schemes, with a substantial number already receiving assistance following integration. The extensive IEC (Information, Education and Communication) campaign continues to create awareness among migrant beneficiaries that the integration of migrant ration cards into the NFSA database is a welfare-ori-

ented governance reform aimed at welfare inclusion, digitization and modernization of records, transparency, accountability and extension of social security benefits. Field officers stand instructed to ensure close supervision of e-KYC, integration of migrant ration cards and ration distribution at FPS level.

Through sustained public awareness, e-KYC facilitation, special camps, social media outreach and field-level coordination, the Relief & Rehabilitation Organization has continued to take the benefits to the grassroots. The impact is reflected in the latest implementation data. 2540 old-age pension cases, 200 widow pension cases and 150 disability pension cases have so far been sanctioned after due verification and processing. Besides, 03 SMAS cases and 03 tricycle cases for persons with disabilities have also been sanctioned. These outcomes reflect the widening reach of social security measures among eligible migrant families following their integration into the broader welfare delivery system. Worthwhile to mention that these benefits to the eligible migrants registered under the 'Relief Category' with the Relief Organization are in addition to the

monthly cash assistance and free ration being provided under the Special Relief Ration Scheme notified vide Government Order No. 15-JK(FCS&CA) of 2026 dated 05-03-2026.

As a continuation of this beneficiary-centric outreach, another round of special awareness and facilitation camps is being organized at different migrant camps, zones and locations across J&K from 30.09.2026, under the overall supervision of Dr Arvind Karwani, Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (M), J&K.

The camps are aimed at facilitating eligible migrant families in completing requisite formalities, understanding their entitlements and accessing various social security and welfare schemes, thereby taking the benefits of the integration process closer to the grassroots and to more families who remain eligible for such assistance. The CSC Operators are available in these camps to facilitate migrants to fill various online applications. All facilitation will be available free of any cost to the migrants in these camps. The Relief & Rehabilitation Organization remains committed to ensuring that the expanded social security framework reaches every eligible migrant family.

Sat inaugurates two-day cultural programme in Samba to mark Sardar Patel's 150th birth anniversary

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J&K BJP President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma (CA) inaugurated a two-day cultural programme organized by the Parmeshwari Care & Cure Charitable Trust at Vir Bhoomi Park, Samba, to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The programme witnessed the participation of BJP leaders, social workers, artists and members of the local community.

Speaking on the occasion, Sat Sharma said that Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's life and contribution to the nation continue to inspire every Indian to uphold the ideals of unity, integrity and national service.

He said Patel Ji played a historic role in strengthening the foundations of a united India and his commitment to the nation remains an enduring source of inspiration for generations.



"Remembering Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel is not merely an occasion to pay tribute to a great national leader; it is an opportunity to reaffirm our collective commitment towards the unity, integrity and progress of the nation. His vision of a strong and united India continues to guide us, and the younger generation must learn from his dedication, courage and spirit of service," Sat Sharma said. Sharma appreciated the

Parmeshwari Care & Cure Charitable Trust for organizing the cultural programme and providing a platform for people to connect with India's rich cultural heritage while remembering the contribution of one of the country's foremost nation-builders. He said that cultural programmes play an important role in strengthening social bonds and nurturing a sense of national pride among the younger generation.

Sat Sharma further called upon the youth to draw inspiration from Sardar Patel's life and contribute towards building a developed, peaceful and united India. J&K BJP Vice Presidents Rekha Mahajan and Rashpal Verma, General Secretary Baldev Singh Billawaria, District President Asha Rani and former DDC Chairman Keshav Dutt Sharma were present on the occasion.