

Director I&C Jammu flags off Women led EV rally to Srinagar

Move aimed to promote sustainable tourism: Organisers

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, SEP 25

Director Industries & Commerce, Jammu Arun Manhas today flagged off a women-led Electric Vehicle (EV) Rally to Srinagar here from the TRC Complex.

As many as 22 women, on-board 10 electric cars, are participating in the rally organized by FICCI FLO Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh.

Joint Director Tourism Jammu Aijaz Qaiser Malik and the members of FICCI FLO JKL and other stakeholders were also present at the flag off event.

"The rally has been organised with the objective of promoting sustainable tourism in Jammu & Kashmir, highlighting the potential of electric mobility in a UT that is ecologically sensitive and where tourism is a major contributor to the economy," said the Organisers.

The rally will stop at selected tourist destinations to promote Jammu tourism and culminate in Srinagar on September 26 coinciding with the Nizami Brothers' Sufi concert at SKICC, Dal, being organised by FICCI FLO JKL under the theme "Where Music Meets Purpose." The concert will also support the cause of education for the children of J&K Police martyrs.

The Director, Industries & Commerce Jammu Arun Manhas said,



"Initiatives such as this EV rally are an important step towards creating awareness about clean mobility and demonstrating how sustainable practices can become an integral part of Jammu & Kashmir's tourism and economic growth."

Varsha Bansal, Chairperson, FICCI FLO JKL, said, "Jammu & Kashmir is blessed with unparalleled natural beauty and it is our responsibility to ensure that tourism grows without compromising the environment. Through this women-led EV rally, we want to demonstrate that sustainable mobility and tourism can move to-

gether towards a greener J&K, while also showcasing the incredible tourism potential of Jammu."

Joint Director Tourism Jammu Aijaz Qaiser Malik highlighted the diverse tourism potential of Jammu and the importance of promoting destinations across the region. "

Also present at the flag-off were Dr. Kunwarani Ritu Singh, National Initiative Head; Varuna Anand, National Initiative Head; Rupika Sahai, Senior Vice Chairperson, FICCI FLO JKL; Sona Mehta, Vice Chairperson, FICCI FLO JKL and Tanisha Pallan, Joint Treasurer, FICCI FLO JKL.

J&K Bank signs MoU with Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University in Rajouri

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, SEP 25

Strengthening its institutional engagement across Jammu and Kashmir, J&K Bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU), Rajouri, aimed at enhancing banking convenience and facilitating efficient, technology-enabled financial services for the University's staff and students.

The MoU was signed in presence of BGSBU Vice Chancellor Prof. Jawaaid Iqbal and Registrar Ravi Kumar Sihag (IAS). Bank's DGM & Zonal Head (Rajouri) Rajeev Kumar Digra, AGM & Cluster Head (Rajouri) Ashish Jamwal, BGSBU CP & AO Qamar Rehman and Branch Head (BGSBU) Ashok Rotra were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the Bank's representatives reaffirmed its com-



mitment to building enduring relationships with educational institutions while continuously improving the reach and quality of banking services through technology and customer-focused innovation.

They said such institutional partnerships remain integral to the Bank's larger endeavour of deepening financial engagement across different sections of society and supporting their evolving banking requirements.

The partnership provides a framework for enhanced banking support, improved service delivery and wider financial-service outreach within the University. It will also facilitate greater access to digital banking solutions and customer-centric financial services, thereby contributing to a more seamless banking experience for the University community.

Notably, with around 355 permanent employees and

nearly 3,000 students, BGSBU represents a significant institutional community in the region.

The signing of the MoU marks an important milestone in the continued association between the Bank and BGSBU, reaffirming the Bank's commitment to supporting educational institutions, promoting financial inclusion and contributing to the development of the communities it serves.

Thakur Ist Female Photojournalist from J&K felicitated at JIFF Media conclave

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, SEP 25

Shilpa Thakur, Jammu and Kashmir's first female photojournalist, The Mandate was among the media personalities felicitated at the Media Conclave & Felicitation Ceremony organised ahead of the 5th Jammu International Film Festival (JIFF) at the Writers Club, Abhinav Theatre, Jammu.

The event brought together members of the media fraternity, filmmakers, artists and cultural personalities to celebrate the contribution of media professionals in promoting journalism, cinema, art, culture and regional talent.

Shilpa Thakur, an award-winning journalist and photojournalist from Jammu, has contributed to journalism and visual storytelling for several years, covering stories and events from Jammu and Kashmir through photography, reporting and digital media. Her work has helped bring diverse stories and visual narratives from the region to wider audiences.

The felicitation recognised her contribution to the media fraternity and her journey as a woman



working in the field of photojournalism and visual journalism from Jammu and Kashmir.

Neha Jalali, Director, Press Information Bureau (PIB), was the Chief Guest at the event, while Dr. Arvind Karwani, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants), J&K, attended as the Guest of Honour.

Festival Director Rakesh Roshan Bhat highlighted the journey of JIFF and its vision of establishing Jammu as a platform for

global cinema, filmmakers and creative exchange.

Festival Advisor Dr. Amit Wanchoo emphasised the important role played by the media in promoting art, culture and regional talent and in connecting local creative voices with wider audiences.

The 5th Jammu International Film Festival is set to showcase more than 200 films from 35 countries, offering audiences a diverse cinematic experience featuring international, national and regional films.

The festival will bring together filmmakers, artists, cinema enthusiasts and cultural practitioners, providing a platform for creative exchange and celebrating the power of storytelling.

The Media Conclave and Felicitation Ceremony marked a significant prelude to the 5th JIFF, recognising the contribution of the media fraternity while highlighting Jammu's growing role as a destination for cinema, culture and creative expression.

BIS Standard Club Students Get Hands-on Experience in Water Quality Testing

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, SEP 25

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Jammu & Kashmir Branch Office (JKBO), organised an educational exposure visit to the Water Testing Laboratory in Poonch for students of BIS Standard Clubs.

A total of 65 students participated in the visit, including 25 students from Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Poonch, and 40 students from Government Higher Secondary School, Jhullas.

The students were introduced to the practical application of BIS standards related to water quality and briefed about desirable and permissible limits for various water quality parameters.

They also participated in a hands-on session on water testing under expert guidance.

Resource Person S. Paramjeet Singh explained



the role of standards in maintaining quality and protecting consumer interests. He also briefed the students about BIS standards, hallmarking and the BIS CARE App, highlighting how consumers can verify the quality and au-

thenticity of products.

The exposure visit helped students connect classroom learning with practical applications and understand the importance of scientific testing, standardisation and quality assurance in ensuring

safe water and protecting public health.

The activity was organised as part of BIS efforts to promote quality consciousness, scientific temper and awareness of standards among young students.

Sakeena Itoo distributes appointment orders to 27 AYUSH Medical Officers at Srinagar

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 25: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today distributed appointment orders among 27 newly appointed AYUSH Medical Officers, marking their formal induction into government healthcare services in Jammu and Kashmir.

Congratulating the newly appointed Medical Officers, the Minister said that joining the public healthcare system was not merely a professional milestone but also an opportunity to serve people, particularly those living in rural, remote and underserved areas.

She emphasised that the appointment orders carried with them a responsibility towards the people and called upon the appointees to discharge their duties with sincerity, professionalism, empathy and a strong sense of public service.

"Healthcare is ultimately about serving people with dignity and compassion.



Every patient who approaches a healthcare institution places trust in the system and in the medical professional attending to them," the Minister said, urging the new AYUSH Medical Officers to uphold the highest standards of professional conduct.

Underscoring the importance of health department for public welfare, the Minister said that doctor is a very noble profession and you should understand the importance of health department.

The Minister underscored the significance of strengthening healthcare

delivery mechanisms at the grassroots level and called upon the newly appointed officers to work with utmost dedication and commitment towards addressing the healthcare requirements of the people, particularly in rural, remote and far-flung areas. She stressed that effective delivery of public health services requires accessibility, accountability and a strong sense of responsibility on the part of every functionary.

Sakeena Itoo highlighted the important role of AYUSH systems in complementing the existing

healthcare framework and promoting preventive, promotive and holistic healthcare practices. She called upon the Medical Officers to utilise their professional expertise for extending quality AYUSH services to the people and contribute towards further strengthening the public healthcare infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister emphasised on the need for close coordination with the concerned health institutions and field functionaries to ensure efficient delivery of healthcare services and effective implementation of Government programmes and initiatives.

The Minister expressed confidence that the newly appointed AYUSH Medical Officers would discharge their responsibilities with dedication and sincerity towards the Government's endeavour to ensure accessible, affordable and quality healthcare services for all sections of society across Jammu and Kashmir.

DC Anantnag reviews ATR on stray dog issue, calls for effective implementation of SC directions

ANANTNAG, SEPTEMBER 25: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, today chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee (DLC) to review the Action Taken Report (ATR) and the measures being undertaken by various departments for prevention of dog bites, stray dog management, sterilization and vaccination.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner Development, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, ARTO, Chief Education Officer, District Informatics Officer, NIC, Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Anantnag, Executive Officers of Municipal Committees, representatives from various departments and other concerned officials.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the Action Taken Report of the concerned departments and took stock of the measures being implemented for prevention of dog bites, stray dog management, sterilization and vaccination. He directed all concerned officers to ensure effective and time-bound implementation of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and subsequent GAD instructions. He stressed that all departments must accord due priority to the issue

and ensure regular monitoring and inspection of vulnerable and important locations.

Dr. Bilal instructed the departments to prepare a comprehensive inventory of their infrastructure, including government buildings, hospitals, schools, colleges and other public institutions, and ensure that such premises are adequately secured through proper fencing, boundary walls and gates. He further directed that gaps identified during inspections be incorporated in the relevant departmental plans for necessary action.

The Deputy Commissioner further called for identification of suitable land and buildings at feasible locations for establishment of animal shelters/kennels in the district. He stressed the need for adequate infrastructure for housing and managing dogs undergoing sterilization and other related activities.

Reviewing the availability of Anti-Rabies Vaccines (ARV), the DC directed the health authorities to maintain adequate and uninterrupted stocks of ARV at healthcare institutions across the district so that dog-bite victims receive timely treatment.

The DC directed the Chief Animal Husbandry Officer to undertake the Animal Birth Control/sterilization programme on a regular basis and

constitute dedicated veterinary teams for the purpose. He stressed that adequate veterinary manpower, equipment and teams should be deployed to ensure accelerated focus on sterilization and stray dog management in accordance with the SOPs and approved procedures.

The DC also called for systematic updating of data relating to dog-bite cases, sterilization, vaccination, dog-catching teams, availability of kennels and shelters, veterinary manpower, inspections and field visits. He directed the concerned departments to ensure timely uploading and updating of all relevant information for effective monitoring of the programme.

Emphasizing coordinated action, the Deputy Commissioner called for regular inspections of important public places and directed the concerned officers to ensure proper implementation of preventive measures at schools, colleges, hospitals, government offices and other institutions.

He further stressed that dogs undergoing sterilization should be provided appropriate care and feeding during the prescribed period and that proper arrangements be made for their safe handling and release in accordance with the applicable guidelines.