

District Magistrate Jammu issues order regulating Spa and Massage Centres

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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In order to regulate the functioning of Spa and Massage Centres and to prevent misuse of such establishments for unlawful and immoral activities, the District Magistrate Jammu, Dr. Rakesh Minhas, has issued an order under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023. The order has been promulgated in view of reports that certain spa and massage centres operating in district Jammu were allegedly being used for immoral activities, prostitution and other unlawful acts, thereby posing a threat to public order and safety.

The order defines a Spa/Massage Centre as any premises, establishment, shop, clinic or commercial space, by whatever name called, which offers or claims to offer massage, body therapy, spa therapy, wellness therapy, relaxation services, ayurvedic therapy, physiotherapy (other than those run by qualified registered medical practitioners) or simi-

lar services, whether for consideration or otherwise. The directions issued shall apply to all such establishments operating within the territorial jurisdiction of district Jammu.

As per the order, engaging in any form of immoral activity within the premises has been strictly prohibited. Cross-gender massage shall not be permitted and there shall be provision of male masseurs for massage of males and female masseurs for massage of females only. The order further stipulates that no internal locks, latches, bolts or locking mechanisms shall be installed in treatment rooms and that spa or massage services shall not be provided behind locked doors. Installation of CCTV cameras at entry points, reception areas and common areas, excluding private rooms, has been made mandatory with a minimum recording retention period of thirty days.

The order also directs that no centre shall operate before 8:00 AM and after 9:00 PM. No female employee shall use the premises as residence or for night stay. Supply or consumption of alcohol or

any other intoxicant within the premises has been prohibited. Mandatory production of valid identity proof by all customers shall be ensured and a proper register containing their contact details shall be maintained. All employees shall wear identity cards issued by the employer during working hours and the employer shall maintain a register of all employees. No employee below eighteen years of age shall be engaged. Further, all owners, managers and employees, including therapists, receptionists and support staff, must undergo police verification.

The order also mandates that display boards in both English and Hindi shall be installed at appropriate places at the reception containing the site plan of the premises, the category-wise number of beds for male and female sections and details of employees including their designation and qualifications. Owners and managers have been directed to submit an affidavit in the form of an undertaking to the nearest police station within ten days, confirming compliance with all the prescribed con-

ditions. It has been stipulated that any spa or massage centre found violating the order shall be liable for immediate closure and sealing, in addition to prosecution of the owners, managers and employees under relevant laws, including the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act. The Senior Superintendent of Police, Jammu, has been directed to ensure effective enforcement of the order, while Sub-Divisional Magistrates and Tehsildars have been instructed to conduct periodic inspections of such establishments within their respective jurisdictions and submit compliance reports to the Office of the District Magistrate.

The order has come into force with immediate effect and shall remain operative for a period of eight weeks from the date of issuance, unless withdrawn, modified or rescinded earlier. The District Administration has reiterated its commitment to maintaining public order and ensuring that all commercial establishments operate strictly in accordance with the law.

Rs 96 lakh distributed among 328 beneficiaries as NIC sponsorship benefits

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In a significant step towards promoting child welfare and ensuring social security for vulnerable children, the District Development Council Chairperson Doda, Dhananter Singh along with Deputy Commissioner, Harvinder Singh today distributed Non-Institutional Care (NIC) Sponsorship benefits among 328 eligible beneficiaries for the financial year 2025-26.

The total assistance amount disbursed under the initiative stands at Rs. 96 Lakh.

The financial support has been provided under Mission Vatsalya, a centrally sponsored scheme aimed at ensuring care, protection



and holistic development of children living in vulnerable circumstances. The sponsorship assistance is extended to orphans, children with a single parent and those suffering from life-threatening diseases or living with disabilities.

The DDC Chairperson and Deputy Commissioner

highlighted the commitment of the administration towards safeguarding the rights and well-being of children. They stated that the financial assistance would significantly help in meeting essential needs of the beneficiaries, particularly in the areas of education, nutrition and health-

care, thereby securing a better future for them.

The distribution event was attended by vice chairperson DDC, Sangeeta Rani Bhagat, District Social Welfare Officer Doda, Zubair Ahmed, along with officials of the Social Welfare Department and other stakeholders.

Director Agriculture Jammu reviews progress of departmental schemes

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Director Agriculture Jammu, Anil Gupta today chaired a high-level review meeting to assess the status of expenditure against funds released during the current financial year and to review the progress under various departmental schemes. The meeting was held in the Conference Hall of the Directorate of Agriculture.

The review meeting was attended by Joint Director Agriculture (Inputs), Ashwani Sharma; Joint Director Agriculture (SLUB/Farms), Aman Jyoti Sharma; SMS (RL), Krishan Kant; Deputy Director Planning, Mudassir Yaqoob Zargar, along with officers from the CSS and Planning Sections of the



Directorate. All Chief Agriculture Officers (CAOs) of Jammu Division participated in the meeting through Video Conferencing (VC).

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on scheme-wise financial progress and expendi-

ture patterns. Emphasizing the importance of timely and optimal utilization of funds, the Director stressed strict adherence to financial rules and outcome-oriented implementation of schemes.

Highlighting the need for financial discipline, the Di-

rector directed the officers to work in close coordination with executing agencies to ensure timely submission of expenditure bills. He further issued clear instructions that all pending bills must be submitted before February 20, 2026.

Nikshay Mitra Initiative

Rotary Club Jammu Tawi supports TB Patients at District Tuberculosis Centre

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In a commendable act of social responsibility and community service, the Rotary Club Jammu Tawi extended its support to Tuberculosis (TB) patients at the District Tuberculosis Centre (DTC), Jammu, by becoming Nikshay Mitras. The club distributed nutritious food baskets and donated water filters to promote better hygiene and safe drinking water for patients and their families.

The event was held in the presence of the Director Health Services Jammu, Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar; Chief Medical Officer, Dr Harbaksh Singh; State TB Officer, Dr. Jyoti Jolly; District TB Officer, Dr. Anu Saloch.

President Rotary Club Jammu Tawi, Dr. Shivani



Mehta along with other members coordinated the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar said that the Rotary Club's generous support and acknowledged their meaningful contribution towards the welfare of patients. In her address the President RTCJ highlighted the importance of collaborative

efforts in strengthening the fight against tuberculosis under the National TB Elimination Program. The event was compared by Medical Officer C.D hospital Jammu; Dr. Soni Singh Sambyal.

The guests spoke on TB and social service through the Nikshay Mitra initiative.

Retail Fertilizer licenses suspended in Jammu for overcharging

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In a decisive action to safeguard farmers' interests and ensure strict compliance with the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985 (FCO), the Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Department, Jammu, has intensified enforcement measures and is conducting regular inspections and raids against dealers and manufacturers found violating prescribed norms.

During recent inspections conducted by the Law Enforcement Agency headed by the Assistant Director Law Enforcement (ADLE), Jammu at the premises and godowns of fertilizer retailers M/s Surinder Kumar Fertilizer Store, Village Rathana Morh, Bishnah and M/s Satpaul Fertilizer, Talli Morh, Jammu, several farmers

present on the spot complained that fertilizers were being sold at rates higher than the prescribed Maximum Retail

Price (MRP), thereby constituting a violation of Clause 3(3) of the FCO, 1985.

Taking cognizance of the gravity of the violations, the Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO), Manohar Lal Sharma, in exercise of powers conferred under Clause 31 of the FCO, 1985 ordered suspension of the licences of the erring dealers for a period of 30 days from the date of issuance of the orders. During the suspension period, the dealers have been debarred from

carrying on the business of fertilizers.

The Agriculture Department reiterated its zero-tolerance policy towards any malpractice, overpricing, hoarding or violation of statutory provisions in the trade of agricultural inputs under the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985. The Department warned that stringent action, including licence cancellation and legal proceedings, will be initiated against any dealer found indulging in unfair trade practices.

World Unani Day celebrated at Ramban

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AYUSH Department Ramban celebrated World Unani Day 2026 at the Conference Hall, District Administrative Complex Maitra to commemorate the birth anniversary of renowned Unani physician and scholar Hakim Ajmal Khan.

Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan was the chief guest while Chief Planning Officer Ramban, Dr Sha-keeb Ahmed Rather attended as guest of honour. They appreciated the role of the AYUSH system in strengthening preventive and promotive healthcare services in the district and



highlighted the importance of traditional systems of medicine, particularly Unani, in maintaining holistic health and encouraged greater public awareness about AYUSH therapies.

Senior Medical Officer AYUSH Ramban and Nodal Officer AYUSH, Dr Masood Iqbal Zargar welcomed the guests and participants and highlighted this year's theme, "Innovations and Evidence in

Unani Practice." He spoke about the growing relevance of Unani medicine and its evidence-based approach in modern health-care.

Dr Nasir Mir, Dr Mush-taq Ahmed Azad, Dr Shahzad Yaqub and Dr Shakeel Ahmed Lone delivered lectures on the principles, therapeutic potential and scientific advancements in Unani medicine. They emphasised the importance of lifestyle modification, preventive healthcare and integration of traditional knowledge with modern research.

Medical Officers, Pharmacists, Paramedical Staff, MTS and other officials of the AYUSH Department attended the programme.

Trekking-Based Leadership MDP concludes at IIM Jammu

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The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu on Wednesday concluded its three-day Leadership Skills for Managers: Trekking-Based Management Development Programme (MDP) held from February 9 to 11 in the serene backdrop of the Lower Himalayas.

The valedictory ceremony was held at the Dharma Classroom, Vedanta MDP Centre Academic Block, IIM Jammu. The programme witnessed participation of 36 executives from NTPC representing different parts of the country.

Designed and delivered by IIM Jammu's Executive Education and Consultancy (EE&C), the innovative programme combined classroom learning with trekking-based experiential engagement. The initiative aimed at strengthening key leadership competencies such as resilience, strategic thinking, adaptability, team cohesion and decision-making under uncertainty.

Blending management theory with immersive outdoor exercises, the programme enabled participants to translate classroom insights into real-world leadership practices. Reflective learning sessions, group challenges and guided discussions helped participants understand trust-building, collaborative problem-solving and agile leadership in



complex environments. Prof. Ravij Seth, Programme Director, presented a comprehensive report and highlighted the seven intensive sessions conducted during the MDP, covering team building, crisis navigation, sustainability and work-life balance. He emphasized that leadership and life are often marked by conflicts and complexities, underscoring the need for resilience and effective conflict resolution skills.

He also referred to the Institute's engagement with three Institutions of National Importance and assured that participant feedback would be incorporated to further enhance future programmes.

Prof. Rajesh Sikka, Co-Chairperson, EE&C, stated that the programme was carefully customized to meet NTPC's organizational needs. Stressing the

vital role of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in nation-building, he highlighted the importance of continuous upskilling and reskilling in a dynamic environment. He also noted IIM Jammu's distinction as one of the first third-generation IIMs to earn prestigious international accreditations, including EFMD accreditation for its MBA programme and BGA institutional accreditation.

Participants described the programme as transformative, highlighting how experiential learning enhanced their self-awareness, endurance and team leadership capabilities. They appreciated the academic rigor, seamless execution and the homely environment at IIM Jammu. Several participants shared that the sessions rekindled their academic aspirations, with some expressing interest in pursuing doctoral

studies and exploring opportunities in academia.

Shri Pardeep Saini, Programme Officer, Business Development, EE&C, acknowledged the valuable feedback shared by participants and appreciated the batch for its active engagement throughout the sessions.

Certificates were distributed to the participants during the ceremony. The event concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Prof. Vinod C. Durge, Programme Director, who expressed gratitude to the institute's leadership, faculty members, organizing team and participants for contributing to the programme's success.

The trekking-based MDP reflects IIM Jammu's continued commitment to innovative and impact-driven executive education, aimed at developing agile, resilient and future-ready leaders across sectors.