

# JAMMU & KASHMIR

## DC Kathua inaugurates Red Cross Society Awareness Programme

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 28

A "Red Cross Society Awareness Programme" focusing on safety measures, disaster management and emergency response was today organised here at Kids Heaven Convent Higher Secondary School, Shiva Nagar, Kathua.

Deputy Commissioner, Rajesh Sharma, who is also Chairman District Red Cross Society inaugurated the programme as the Chief Guest.

The awareness programme was organised with the participation of teams from Fire and Emergency Services, Civil Defence and other concerned departments. The initiative aimed at sensitising students about disaster preparedness, first aid measures and coordinated response during emergencies.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the vital role of the Red Cross Society in providing humanitarian assistance during natural disasters, health emergencies and other crises. "The Red Cross movement, known



for its selfless service during times of war and calamities, continues to touch countless lives by extending timely support to people in distress," he noted.

A live mock drill was also presented by the participat-

ing departments to educate students about emergency response techniques, evacuation procedures, fire safety measures and basic first aid practices.

Chief Education Officer Kewal Krishan, Dy. SP Civil

Defence Raghbir Singh, Principal of host School Sat Paul Manotra, Principal Learning Temple School Naresh Kumar, faculty members and students were present on the occasion.

## GCW Parade Ground celebrates National Science Day-2026

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 28

Government College for Women Parade Ground celebrated National Science Day with great enthusiasm and academic fervor, today. The event was organized by the Science Club of the College to commemorate this year's theme, "Women in Science: Catalyzing Viksit Bharat."

The programme commenced with an insightful introductory talk by Dr. Harmanpreet Kour, who highlighted the significance of the current year's theme in the context of National Science Day.

A symposium based on the theme was the major highlight of the celebration. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, who presented thoughtful and well-re-



searched talks reflecting the spirit of the theme. The symposium was adjudged by HoD Physics Dr. Balbir Kumar and HoD Chemistry Dr. Shally Chadha. They appreciated the quality, depth and relevance of the presentations.

The competition remained intense throughout and the symposium talks were widely appreciated for

their impact and clarity. The winners of the symposium were Manya Sharma (1st prize), Sumiya Anjum (2nd Prize) and Samiyya Sharma (3rd Prize).

The Science Club members-Prof. Aasia Rashid Bhat, Dr. Harmanmeet Kour, Dr. Sarita Parihar, Dr. Pervaiz Ahmed and Prof. Kaurab Singh contributed

to the successful conduct of the programme.

The initiative was led by Convener, Science Club Prof. Aasia Rashid Bhat, under the guidance and patronage of Principal of the College, Dr. Ravender Kumar Tickoo.

The event concluded with the vote of thanks presented by Dr. Sarita Parihar, Assistant Professor Physics.

## FPO-Bank-Insurance interaction programme held at Bhalra

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 28

A Capacity Building Programme for FPO members and farmers was successfully organised today at Manwah village- Bhalra, by Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST), Jammu.

The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Doda coordinated the programme held under the leadership of Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu, Prof. B. N. Tripathi and Mission Director (HADP/JKCIP), Sandeep Kumar.

An FPO-Bank Interaction Programme was organised at Bhalderwah with the objective of strengthening financial inclusion and institutional convergence.

The programme was conducted under the framework of the Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project in UT of Jammu and Kashmir (JKCIP).

The objective was to enhance credit linkage, facilitate access to institutional finance and creating awareness among Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and individual farmers of the region.

During the interaction, representatives from Jammu and Kashmir Bank, Amresh Kumar and



Aankush from Reliance Insurance engaged directly with FPO members and individual farmers.

They provided detailed information on credit-linked schemes, institutional finance, working capital support, crop insurance and loan products designed for FPOs under JKCIP and the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

Officers from the Agriculture Department also participated in the programme

and interacted with farmers. They distributed organic inputs and materials among the farmers operating in Organic Cluster Manwah. The FPO members and farmers highlighted key challenges such as limited working capital, market linkages, risk coverage and procedural constraints in availing institutional credit, while expressing their commitment to scaling up agriculture and allied enterprises through collective action.

Officers from the Agriculture Department also participated in the programme

and interacted with farmers.

## Awareness Programs under PM Vishwakarma held in multiple districts

**SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 28:** Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India, through the Branch MSME Development and Facilitation Office, Srinagar in association with the District Administration, organised one-day Awareness Programmes under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme across the districts of Kulgam, Budgam, Srinagar, and Shopian for beneficiaries who had successfully completed third-stage verification.

Officials from the District Administration, including Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian; Dr. Zahid Rashid Khan, Functional Manager, DIC Shopian; General Manager, DIC Budgam; Chief Planning Officer (CPO) Budgam; Assistant Commissioner Pan-

chayat Budgam; Principal, ITI Kulgam; IPO Kulgam; and other officials from the district administrations, underscored the significance of the PM Vishwakarma Scheme in empowering traditional artisans and crafts people by enhancing their skills, providing financial assistance, and facilitating market linkages.

Mohammed Tariq Ishtiaq, IEDS, Assistant Director, Br. MSME DFO Srinagar, provided insights into the objectives of the PM Vishwakarma Awareness Programme. He stated that the Ministry is committed to ensuring that the scheme's benefits reach every corner of the region and emphasized the capacity building of artisans through enhanced skills, modern tools, and improved market access. He highlighted that the scheme enables traditional artisans to transform their in-

herited skills into sustainable enterprises and stressed the importance of digital empowerment and onboarding onto e-commerce platforms to enhance competitiveness.

An E-Commerce and Digital Marketing session was delivered by faculty members from Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST). The session focused on online marketing strategies, effective use of social media for brand promotion, adoption of digital payment systems such as UPI, and onboarding onto various e-commerce platforms. The experts provided practical guidance to help participants expand their market reach, enhance customer outreach, and adopt technology-driven approaches for sustainable business growth.

## Justice Sanjeev inaugurates Mega Medical Camp at Central Jail Kot Bhalwal

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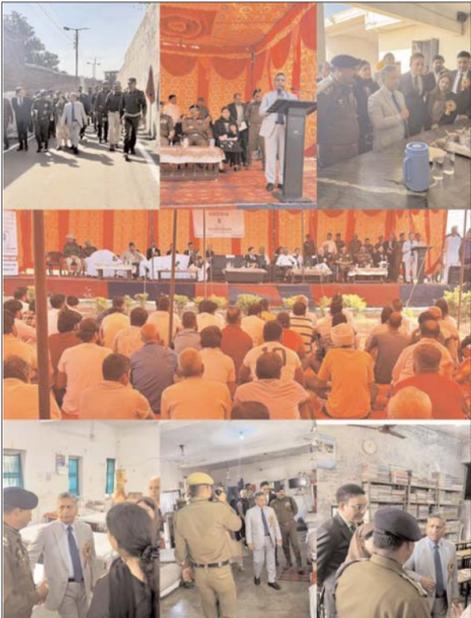
District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Jammu, under the aegis of Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority successfully organized a Mega Medical Camp at the Central Jail premises in Kot Bhalwal, here today. The event was designed to deliver comprehensive healthcare services to inmates, facilitating access to specialized medical examinations and consultations.

The programme was graced by the presence of Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Judge of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Executive Chairman of Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority, as the Chief Guest.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar inaugurated the Mega Medical camp and highlighted the significance of healthcare as a fundamental right, especially for vulnerable sections of the society.

Addressing the gathering, Justice Sanjeev Kumar reiterated that incarceration does not extinguish fundamental rights. "Every prisoner continues to enjoy the Right to Life which includes the right to reasonable medical care and humane conditions," he asserted.

After the inauguration, Justice Sanjeev Kumar inspected the jail sections, including barracks, kitchen, medical unit, vocational



training centres and Prison Legal Aid Clinic. He held detailed interactions with jail authorities, staff and inmates to assess living conditions, healthcare facilities, sanitation and legal aid availability for undertrial prisoners.

Earlier, Mr. R. N. Watal, Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge) Jammu extended a warm welcome to all dignitaries and participants. He commended the collaborative effort and reiterated DLSA's dedication to inmate welfare through integrated legal and health ini-

tiatives. The programme was also attended by Shazia Tabasum, Member Secretary, Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority and the programme was hosted by Maleeka Sharma, Secretary District Legal Services Authority Jammu. Muzamil Hayat Kabli, Under Secretary, J&K LSA was also present. Distinguished guests included DGP Prisons J&K, Deepak Kumar; Deputy Director Health Services Dr. Sanjay Sharma; Additional District Magistrate Jammu Vidhu Shekhar; Chief Legal Aid Defence Counsel Anil Sharma; Deputy Legal Aid

Maleeka Sharma, Ld. Secretary DLSA Jammu, concluded the proceedings with a vote of thanks. She expressed profound gratitude to the Hon'ble Chief Guest for his inspiring presence; to the doctors for their selfless service; and to all dignitaries, officials, staff and jail administration for their invaluable cooperation.

Defence Counsels Ashwani Kumar and Upasana Thakur and Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel Jammu Ishant Verma.

A team of specialist doctors, consisting of Physician, Cardiologist, Orthopaedician, Dermatologist, Psychiatrist, Dentist, General Surgeon, neurologist, Endocrinologist, ENT Specialist and Ophthalmologist conducted thorough examinations, provided consultations and dispensed essential medical advice to the inmates. Free medicines were also provided to the jail inmates on the occasion. Adding vibrancy to the event, the inmates presented a captivating cultural programme.

The camp elicited an overwhelming response, with almost 500 of inmates registered for the Mega Medical Camp who benefited from free check-ups, diagnostics and preliminary treatments. This initiative exemplifies DLSA Jammu's commitment to holistic welfare and rehabilitation via legal aid and accessible health care facilities.

Maleeka Sharma, Ld. Secretary DLSA Jammu, concluded the proceedings with a vote of thanks. She expressed profound gratitude to the Hon'ble Chief Guest for his inspiring presence; to the doctors for their selfless service; and to all dignitaries, officials, staff and jail administration for their invaluable cooperation.

## Warm farewell accorded to retiring Craft Teacher at Bhalderwah

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The Office of the Tehsil Social Welfare Officer Bhalderwah today organized a warm and graceful farewell function in honour of Sudershana Devi, Craft Teacher, on her retirement from government service after rendering dedicated and sincere service to the Social Welfare Department.

Colleagues present at the function shared their experiences and appreciated her cooperative nature, positive attitude and unwavering devotion towards her responsibilities. Her professional conduct and strong work ethic were widely acknowledged as exemplary and a source of inspiration for others.

While wishing her good health, happiness and a peaceful retired life, the department placed on record



its deep appreciation for her meritorious services and ex-

tended heartfelt best wishes for success, fulfilment and

contentment in the new phase of her life.