

CM Omar felicitates frontline electric utility workers at 'Lineman Diwas'



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Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today presided over Lineman Diwas celebration at Convention Centre Jammu.

Organised by Jammu Power Development Corporation Limited, the event recognised linemen as the frontline technical workforce maintaining the electricity supply in Jammu and Kashmir. It marked a step in acknowledging the welfare of personnel who work during emergencies and natural calamities to ensure uninterrupted power.

Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, Dheeraj Gupta; Financial Commissioner (ACS) Power Development Department, Ashwani Kumar; Managing Director JKPDC, Rahul Yadav and Managing Director JPDCL, Gural Singh besides other dignitaries attended the function.

In his keynote address, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah described the day as a

uniquely important and long-overdue occasion. He spoke of the foundational role electricity plays in governance and public life. "Power makes virtually all other aspects of our lives function. Government services like healthcare, education and irrigation do not work without electricity," he said, underscoring that behind every switched-on light is a lineman.

He termed linemen the "actual foot soldiers and indispensable workforce of the power department," and singled out their service during Operation Sindoor and the 2025 floods for special praise. "You brave adverse conditions like war and natural calamities. You put your lives on the line of duty just like our brave defence forces," he said.

Addressing safety, the Chief Minister issued a clear directive: "We have to aim for achieving the goal of zero casualty of linemen during work. The entire J&K government and the power department will ensure the safety of each individual lineman."

He stressed that procuring safety equipment is only half the responsibility. The department must ensure the equipment reaches field linemen and that they receive proper training to use it. Directing the engineering leadership, he said officers on duty must ensure strict adherence to safety precautions and standard operating procedures at all times, leaving no room for carelessness or a hurried approach.

Looking ahead, the Chief Minister suggested introducing cash prizes from the next edition of Lineman Diwas to make the recognition more meaningful for the honoured personnel.

He also felicitated linemen with certificates and mementos for their service. The awardees included Milkhi Ram, Ashiq Husain, Bharat Bhushan, Ram Lal, Suram Chand, Bal Krishan, Ajit Raj, Parvez Ahmed Shah, Kuldeep Raj, Manohar Lal, Bhim Singh, Ajay Singh, Rakesh Kumar, Asgar Ali, Ajay Kumar, Swami Raj, Saifullah Bhat, Sohan Lal, Manjeet Singh

and Mohd Tanveer.

In his welcome address, JPDCL Managing Director Gural Singh noted that the corporation serves over 12 lakh consumers across the Jammu region. He credited the technical workforce for this achievement and highlighted the daily role of linemen working at heights, in extreme weather and across challenging terrains. He announced the centralised procurement of safety equipment worth ₹1.5 crore, including safety shoes, belts, helmets and discharge rods, for systematic distribution to field linemen.

Financial Commissioner (ACS) PDD Ashwani Kumar underlined the importance of linemen in a technology-dependent society. He stated their services ensure daily continuity and support essential sectors like healthcare, transport and others.

He called for a culture of skills upgradation through structured training programmes.

Emphasising quality safety practices, he asserted that proper use of safety equipment and protecting the lives of workers must remain a priority.

A presentation by Assistant Engineer Sachin Tickoo documented the work of linemen during demanding situations. It highlighted how power department personnel ensured electricity supply during the 2025 floods, Operation Sindoor and the COVID-19 pandemic.

youth engagement in constructive and positive activities, particularly in sports, education and skill development, which serve as powerful tools in steering the young people away from substance abuse. He added that the Youth Services & Sports Department has been actively promoting sporting activities across the region to channelize the energy of youth in a productive direction.

Calling upon the parents, teachers, community leaders and social organizations to remain vigilant and proactive, Satish Sharma said that a united societal response is necessary to eliminate the scourge of drugs. He emphasized that awareness campaigns like the "Nasha Mukh" rally help in sensitizing the people and strengthening the resolve to build a drug-free and healthy Jammu and Kashmir.

Satish flags off "Nasha Mukh" Motorcycle rally; pitches for collective fight against drug menace

JAMMU, MARCH 7: In a significant initiative aimed at spreading awareness against drug abuse and promoting a healthy society, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), IT, Transport, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, today flagged off a "Nasha Mukh" motorcycle rally from Jourian to Khour.

The rally was organized by the Society for Scheduled and Backward, an NGO actively engaged in social welfare and awareness programmes.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of youth, social activists, volunteers and members of civil society who joined the rally carrying banners and placards with strong messages advocating a drug-free society.

Flagging off the rally, the



Minister said that such initiatives play a crucial role in mobilizing society against the growing menace of drug abuse. He stressed that the drug problem not only affects the individuals and families but also poses a serious threat to the social and economic fabric of society.

Satish Sharma maintained that the government has undertaken a massive

campaign to eradicate the drug menace from Jammu and Kashmir, focusing on awareness, prevention, enforcement and rehabilitation. He said that coordinated efforts of government agencies, civil society organizations and the public are essential to effectively tackle the challenge.

The Minister underscored the importance of

GDC Ramkote celebrates International Women's Day

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JAMMU, MAR 07

Government Degree College Ramkote today celebrated International Women's Day with a vibrant and inspiring Programme dedicated to honoring the achievements and resilience of women.

Principal Government Degree College Vijapur, Dr. Ashu Vashisht was the chief guest on the occasion. Highlighting the intellectual spirit of the occasion, the students delivered insightful speeches with the latter reflecting on the historical significance of International Women's Day. In a gesture of appreciation, the college presented mementos to the female staff for their dedicated service.

The chief guest lauded the progress of women in modern society. She urged



students to strive for financial security and self-dependence while offering practical solutions to contemporary challenges faced by women.

Principal Government Degree College Ramkote

Dr. Rakesh Kumar Koul addressed the gathering and highlighted the importance of women's empowerment and equality. He emphasized the critical importance of gender equality in nation-building. He en-

couraged students to respect and appreciate the contributions of women in society. The celebration ended with the distribution of mementos to all student performers in recognition of their talent.

Mission Director reviews implementation of IFS Project under HADP

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A meeting to review the implementation of Project No. 13 - Integrated Farming System (IFS) under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) was held today at the Conference Hall, Directorate of Agriculture, Talab Tillo, Jammu.

The meeting was chaired by Sandeep Kumar, Secretary, Agriculture Production Department and Mission Director, Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and Jammu and Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement in Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIP). The meeting aimed to review the progress achieved under the project, identify implementation challenges and deliberate on measures required for its effective and timely execution.

Among others, Director Agriculture Jammu Anil Gupta, Director Animal



Husbandry Jammu Sanjay Gupta, Chief Agriculture Officers from all districts of Jammu division and Chief Animal Husbandry Officers participated in the meeting.

Director Agriculture Kashmir, Director Animal Husbandry Kashmir and other officers from the Kashmir division joined the meeting through video conferencing.

During the meeting, the Mission Director reviewed the progress achieved under the Integrated Farming System (IFS) project and stressed the need for

stronger inter-departmental coordination between Agriculture and Animal Husbandry departments to ensure effective implementation of the project at the grassroots level.

He emphasized that the Integrated Farming System model has the potential to enhance farmers' income through diversification and optimal utilization of available farm resources.

Sandeep Kumar directed the concerned officers to intensify field-level monitoring, ensure timely delivery of benefits to farmers

and promote integrated farming practices in a mission mode. He also called for strengthening extension activities and capacity building of farmers so that they can effectively adopt integrated farming models and improve their livelihoods.

The meeting concluded with detailed discussions on accelerating the implementation of the project and ensuring better convergence among allied sectors to achieve the objectives of HADP in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

GCW Parade marks International Women's Day with Human Chain, Rangoli Contest

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The Department of English, Government College for Women (GCW) Parade Ground, Jammu, celebrated International Women's Day 2026 on the college campus under the patronage of Principal Dr. Ravender Kumar Tickoo.

The highlight of the celebration was a Human Chain organized under the theme "Empower Women, Empower the World." Students and teachers from various departments joined hands to symbolize unity, equality and collective strength while celebrating the courage and achievements of women.



On the occasion, HoD English Dr. Ritu Magotra emphasized the need for continued awareness and collective action to pro-

mote gender equality and empowerment.

A themed Rangoli competition was also organized as part of the celebrations.

The entries were judged by Prof. Anjali Abrol, Dean Academic Affairs and Prof. Samta Sharma, HoD History.

CRPF 187 Battalion organises blood donation, free medical camp at Battal Ballian Udhampur

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To commemorate the 87th Raising Day of the Central Reserve Police Force, the 187 Battalion CRPF organised a Blood Donation Camp cum free medical camp under the Civic Action Programme 2026 at the Battalion Headquarters Battal Ballian Udhampur.

The camp was conducted with the joint support of Dr. Lubina Naseer Pathologist, Dr. Akib Jawed from Government Medical College Udhampur and Dr. Ajay Kumar, Eye Specialist from Rotary Hospital, Eye & ENT Udhampur.

Around 40 officers and personnel of the battalion voluntarily donated blood during the camp.

In addition, a large number of patients from Udhampur and nearby villages including men



women and children benefited from free medical check-ups, which included ECG, eye examinations, blood pressure and blood tests. Free medicines were also distributed among the beneficiaries.

The programme was conducted under the guidance

of Md. Sazid, Commandant 187 Battalion in presence of Jaswinder Singh, Dy. Commandant, Dr. Manmeet Kaur Brar SMO and with the assistance of the paramedical staff of 187 Battalion.

The Commandant appreciated the efforts of the

medical team and thanked the visiting doctors and staff for their valuable support. He also highlighted the importance of voluntary blood donation and encouraged officers and jawans to actively participate in such humanitarian initiatives.

Director Information, DIPR Employees condole demise of noted Journalist Abdul Rashid Shah

JAMMU, MARCH 07: Director Information and Public Relations, Nitish Rajora has expressed deep grief and sorrow on the demise of noted journalist and Chief Editor of Nida-e-Mashriq, Abdul Rashid Shah who passed away today after a brief illness.

In his condolence message, the Director described late Abdul Rashid as

a respected figure in Kashmir's journalistic circles who served journalism for decades. He extended his deepest condolences with the bereaved family and prayed peace for the departed soul and forbearance for the family to bear this loss.

Meanwhile, the Employees of Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) also expressed

grief on the sad demise of noted journalist Abdul Rashid Shah.

The employees remembered his association with the Information Department and remembered him for his exemplary contribution to the field of journalism. The employees described his death as a significant loss to the media fraternity of Kashmir.