

JAMMU & KASHMIR

CM Omar flags off ambulances, healthcare equipment under JKSPDC CSR initiative

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, APR 21

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today flagged off seven ambulances and other healthcare equipment from Civil Secretariat, Jammu for multiple districts across Jammu and Kashmir, provided by Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative.

The ambulances have been distributed across Jammu and Kashmir at a total cost of ₹144.73 lakh.

In addition, JKSPDC has provided 07 TruNat machines at a cost of ₹58.80 lakh and 02 handheld X-ray machines costing ₹35.96 lakh.

For the Thalassemia Day Care Centre at SMGS Hospital, Jammu, essential medical equipment and medicines have been provided at a cost of ₹29.09 lakh to support treatment and patient care.

Essential items have



been provided to Child Care Institutions at Palaash/Parisha/SAA Udhampur at a cost of ₹3.11 lakh to improve living conditions and support the needs of children.

Further, various Braille items have been provided to the Blind School, Roop Nagar, Jammu at a cost of ₹2.90 lakh.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said, "Strengthening emergency healthcare access, especially in underserved areas, remains a top priority.

These ambulances and medical equipment will significantly improve timely medical response and save precious lives."

Minister for Health & Medical Education Sakina Itoo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Managing Director JKSPDC Rahul Yadav, Director Health Services Jammu, and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

The Chief Minister was also briefed about civil construction works under-

taken by JKSPDC during the financial year 2025-26 across multiple districts, amounting to ₹237.28 lakh.

The total cost of all CSR initiatives, including procurement and construction works, stands at ₹523 lakh for the last financial year.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to inclusive development, the Chief Minister appreciated the role of JKSPDC in extending support to vital sectors through its CSR initiatives.

No More Delay, No More Denial: BJP Mahila Morcha Slams Obstruction to Women's Reservation Bill

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, APR 21

In a strongly worded press conference held today at the Party Headquarters in Anantnag, Advocate Neha Mahajan, President BJP Mahila Morcha J&K UT, expressed sharp anger and deep concern over the continued delay in the passage of the Women's Reservation Bill.

Addressing the media, Neha Mahajan stated that denying women their rightful representation in legislative bodies is not merely a political delay, but a serious injustice to the aspirations of millions of women across the country.

She asserted that those obstructing this historic legislation are clearly exposing their anti-women mindset and political hypocrisy.

"On one hand, they speak about women empowerment, and on the other, they hesitate to grant women their constitutional rights. This double standard will no longer be accepted," she said, adding that women of the nation are fully aware and will respond strongly to



such injustice.

The press conference was attended by District President Anantnag Farah Khan, BJP J&K UT Mahila Morcha Vice-Presidents Sunita Raina and Rumesa Wani, BDC Chairperson Smt Parveena Akhter, along with party workers and prominent locals.

All the leaders, in one voice, condemned the delay and emphasized that women are not asking for sympathy but demanding their rightful share in gov-

ernance.

They reiterated that true democracy cannot exist without equal participation of women.

Neha Mahajan further emphasized that BJP has consistently worked for women empowerment and will continue to fight for their rights with full strength. She warned that the Mahila Morcha will intensify its efforts and take this issue to every corner until justice is ensured.

Following the press con-

ference, an organisational meeting was held to strengthen the party structure at the grassroots level and to mobilize public support on women-centric issues. The meeting focused on expanding outreach and ensuring that the voice of every woman is heard effectively.

The programme saw enthusiastic participation, reflecting growing awareness and determination among women to stand united for their rights.

CEO Doda conducts surprise inspection of schools in Bhandarwah Zone

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, APR 21

Chief Education Officer Doda Bhusan Kumar Pathak conducted a surprise inspection of educational institutions in Bhandarwah Zone to assess academic functioning, infrastructure and ongoing developmental works.

The CEO inspected Government Higher Secondary School (Boys) Bhandarwah, where he interacted with staff and reviewed the progress of the under-construction Heritage School project being executed at an estimated cost of ₹3.06 crore. He took stock of the quality and pace of the construction work and emphasized timely completion of Laboratory work.



The CEO also visited Government Higher Secondary School (Girls) Bhandarwah, where he engaged with both staff and students and reviewed the developmental

initiatives being undertaken in the institution.

The CEO issued directions to Principal Farooq Khan, who is also holding the additional charge of

Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) Bhandarwah, to submit a formal communication to the Planning Section of the Chief Education Office regarding the pending construction of washrooms of the building under the capex budget. The CEO further visited LHS Nagar School and reviewed its functioning.

He asked the staff to maintain punctuality, ensure student-friendly academic environment and prioritize quality education.

Additionally, the CEO inspected the Cluster Resource Centre (CRC) building along with ZEO Bhandarwah and reviewed the arrangements for shifting and accommodation of the Zonal Education Office Bhandarwah within the premises.

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, APR 21

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma flagged off a contingent of 25 Hajj pilgrims including 10 Women and 15 Men from Islamia Faridia Educational & Research Institute Kishtwar, here today.

While interacting with the pilgrims, the Deputy Commissioner congratulated them on the opportunity to perform the holy Hajj. He also wished them a safe and secure pilgrimage and urged them to pray for the peace and prosperity of district Kishtwar as well as UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

The group of pilgrims, who departed by bus from Kishtwar for Hajj House



Srinagar, will board an international flight to Saudi Arabia from Srinagar International Airport tomorrow.

Earlier, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the arrangements made for the pilgrims to ensure a safe

and comfortable journey. He also inquired about the facilities being provided to the pilgrims.

ACR Idrees Lone, Former Minister Ghulam Mohd. Sarrori, Imam Sahib Jamia Masjid Kishtwar, Hajj In-

charge District Kishtwar Ayaz Ahmed, Principal of Islamia Faridia Educational & Research Institute Mehboob Qazi and other concerned officers and officials were present on the occasion.

DC Samba reviews progress of HPV Vaccination Campaign in the district

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, APR 21

A review meeting of the District Task Force on Immunization (DTFI) was convened today under the chairpersonship of Deputy Commissioner Samba Ayushi Sudan to assess inter-sectoral coordination and review the progress of the ongoing Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination Campaign in the district.

The meeting began with a welcome address by Chief Medical Officer Samba, Dr. Vidhi Bhatial, while a detailed overview of the campaign was presented by District Immunization Officer Dr. Kamlesh Kumari.

The campaign launched on February 28, 2026 aims to vaccinate girls who have attained 14 years of age but are below 15 years, thereby protecting them against cervical cancer through timely HPV vaccination.

Emphasizing the impor-



ance of awareness, the Deputy Commissioner directed the strengthening of IEC (Information, Education and Communication) activities. She called for wide publicity through banners, posters and pamphlets at schools, health institutions, Anganwadi centres and marketplaces. She also stressed enhanced media engagement through video and audio messages by qualified gynecologists and pediatricians to address misconceptions and build public confidence in the vaccine.

Highlighting the role of the Education Department, the Chief Education Officer was directed to ensure active participation of schools. The schools shall organise awareness sessions for parents during Parent-Teacher Meetings (PTMs), focusing on the benefits, eligibility and importance of HPV vaccination. Teachers were also encouraged to act as community influencers.

For effective implementation, field-level functionaries including ASHAs, ANMs, Anganwadi Workers and school staff were directed to work in close coordination to identify eligible beneficiaries and en-

sure their vaccination, with special focus on hard-to-reach areas and out-of-school girls.

To ensure close monitoring, regular block-level reviews shall be conducted and progress reports submitted to the district headquarters for timely assessment and corrective measures.

Addressing vaccine hesitancy, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized engaging community leaders, parents and local influencers to dispel myths and cultural barriers through interactive sessions and awareness programmes.

Pad Yatra, awareness drives held in Batote under Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, APR 21

District administration Ramban, under the guidance of District Development Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan today organized a series of activities across the district under the Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir campaign.

As part of the ongoing 100-Day Campaign, the Health Department, under the supervision of Chief Medical Officer Dr. Kamal Jee Zadoo conducted a Pad Yatra within the municipal limits of Batote town. Simultaneously, a series of awareness programmes were organized in various educational institutions across the district to educate students and the public about the ill effects of drug abuse.

The initiative witnessed enthusiastic participation from health staff and local



stakeholders, who actively engaged in sensitizing the masses about the harmful impact of substance abuse and the importance of adopting a healthy and drug-free lifestyle.

BMO Batote Dr. Opinder Singh Rasim led the Pad Yatra-cum-awareness programme at the Block Headquarters Batote.

During the programme, participants were in-

formed about the social, psychological and health-related consequences of drug addiction, with a strong emphasis on prevention and early intervention.

On the occasion, a pledge under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan was also administered to participants, encouraging them to take a proactive role in building a drug-free soci-

ety. The district administration emphasizes to continue such initiatives during the 100 days campaign, with a sustained focus on awareness, prevention and community engagement. The campaign aims to create a healthier, safer and drug-free environment, particularly for the youth of Block Batote in District Ramban.

DIC Kathua organises Loan Mela for PM Vishwakarma beneficiaries

KATHUA, APRIL 21: The District Industries Centre (DIC) Kathua today organised a Loan Mela for beneficiaries of the PM Vishwakarma Scheme at its office premises, aimed at facilitating credit linkage and expediting loan disbursement un-

der the scheme. The programme was conducted under the supervision of General Manager, DIC Kathua Mushtaq Ahmed Choudhary and was presided over by Functional Manager, Suryavanshi Manish Bhagat.

The event witnessed the participation of officials from J&K Bank, representatives from Common Service Centres (CSCs) and more than 80 beneficiaries from across the district. The initiative focused on addressing issues related to loan sanctioning



and disbursement, while also strengthening coordination among stakeholders.

During the session, detailed guidance was provided regarding the loan procedure under different components of the scheme, including Tranche I (Rs 1 lakh) and

Tranche II (Rs 2 lakh), applicable interest rates and the step-by-step process for availing financial assistance. Beneficiaries were also sensitised about documentation requirements and digital application procedures through CSC platforms.

A dedicated interaction session was held wherein beneficiaries raised concerns related to various stages of the loan process. The issues were taken up and resolved on the spot in coordination with bank and CSC representatives.