

## District Shopian holds Civil Defence Air Raid Mock Drill to enhance disaster preparedness

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
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In a concerted effort to strengthen disaster preparedness and emergency response systems, the District Administration Shopian, under the aegis of the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), successfully conducted a comprehensive Civil Defence Air Raid Mock Drill.

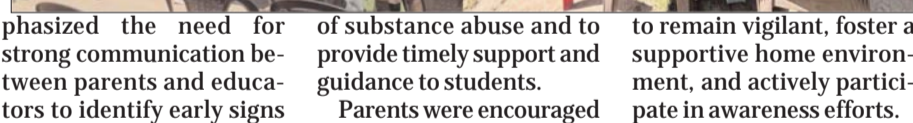
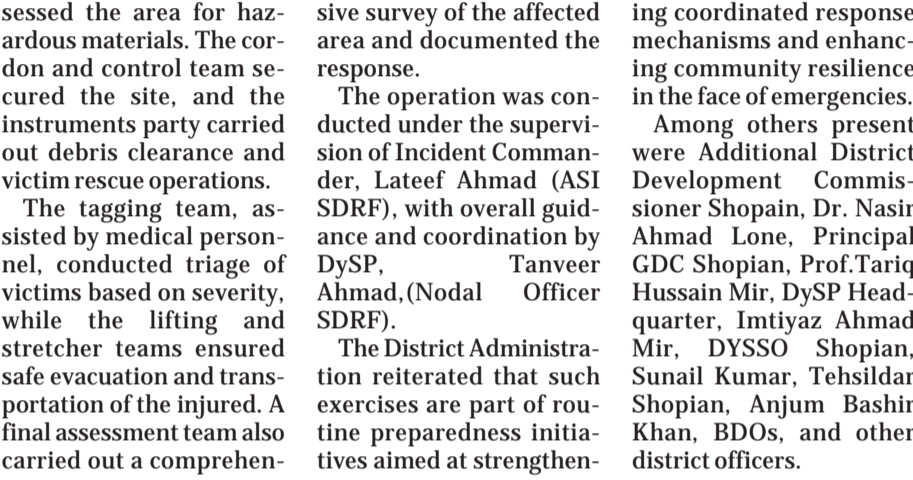
The mock drill commenced at Government Degree College Shopian, designated as the primary site for the simulated air raid scenario.

The operation witnessed coordinated participation of Civil Defence personnel, SDRF, Jammu & Kashmir Police, Fire & Emergency Services, Health Department, and trained volunteers.

Key components of the exercise included activation of early warning systems through sirens and public address mechanisms, evacuation drills, emergency first aid response, and coordinated movement of rescue teams and vehicles.

The rescue and search phase was executed through a structured multi team mechanism involving specialized units.

The AST Party conducted sweeps for detection of potential threats, while search teams as-



essed the area for hazardous materials. The cordon and control team secured the site, and the instruments party carried out debris clearance and victim rescue operations. The tagging team, assisted by medical personnel, conducted triage of victims based on severity, while the lifting and stretcher teams ensured safe evacuation and transportation of the injured. A final assessment team also carried out a comprehensive survey of the affected area and documented the response. The operation was conducted under the supervision of Incident Commander, Lateef Ahmad (ASI SDRF), with overall guidance and coordination by DySP, Tanveer Ahmad, (Nodal Officer SDRF). The District Administration reiterated that such exercises are part of routine preparedness initiatives aimed at strengthening coordinated response mechanisms and enhancing community resilience in the face of emergencies. Among others present were Additional District Development Commissioner Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone, Principal GDC Shopian, Prof. Tariq Hussain Mir, DySP Headquarter, Imtiyaz Ahmad Mir, DYSSO Shopian, Sunail Kumar, Tehsildar Shopian, Anjum Bashir Khan, BDOs, and other district officers.

## Denial of Statehood Hitting J&K's Development Prospects: Javed Rana

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Senior Jammu and Kashmir National Conference leader and Hon'ble Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest and Tribal Affairs, Javed Rana, today said that the long-promised restoration of statehood is not merely a constitutional obligation but the key to restoring effective governance and accelerating development in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing a massive gathering of party functionaries and workers in Doda during the second leg of his five-day Chenab Valley visit. The meeting was presided over by Shadab Suharwardy District President Doda Urban. Others who were present Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial President J&K National Conference Jammu, Abdul Gani Teli Chairman OBC Cell, Harshvardhan Singh President NCSU, Naveed Hashmi Zonal President Chenab Valley Zone YNC, Asim Hashmi former DDC Member, Farooq Ahmad (Gazi) District Secretary Doda Urban, Sarshad Nainoo former BDC Chairman and Zaffarullah Rather. Rana asserted that without



full statehood, bureaucratic bottlenecks and policy paralysis will continue to hamper progress. He urged the Centre to act decisively and honour its commitment without further delay. Rana, in his address, highlighted the pro-people initiatives taken by the Omar Abdullah-led government to undo the developmental setbacks of the previous decade under non-NC regimes. He said the Jammu region is back on the path of growth, with focused investments in education, infrastructure, employment generation, healthcare, and welfare of backward and economically weaker sections. He added that the government is committed to inclusive governance and will fulfill every promise made in its manifesto. However, he noted that the delay in restoration of statehood has had a debilitating impact on developmental outreach, given the region's geographical and linguistic diversity and its unique challenges, which cannot be effectively addressed under the present Union Territory setup. Echoing these views, Rattan Lal Gupta said the government has faced multiple challenges since assuming office, including depleted finances, natural

calamities, and the Pahalgam attack. He alleged that the previous BJP-PDP regimes had weakened governance and reduced public participation, issues that are now being reversed. Gupta said the present government has made governance more accessible and people-centric, introducing welfare measures such as free travel for women, 200 units of free electricity, additional ration support, enhanced social welfare pensions, and employment initiatives. Mr Gupta said the Omar Abdullah led Government is committed to fulfill all promises made in the party manifesto.

He further urged the party functionaries to gear up their cadre for the upcoming Panchayat and Local Bodies elections. Others who were present included: Abrar Ahmad Zargar District President Doda Urban YNC, Nissar Gatoo Advocate District Secretary Doda Urban YNC, Mukand Lal Bhandral, Abdul Manan Bandy, Anita Thakur District Vice President Women Wing Doda, Block President's and Block Secretaries were also present.

## On LG Saxena's directions, Leh Municipal Area undergoes major beautification drive

LEH, APRIL 24: The historic city of Leh has started wearing a festive look ahead of the Sacred Exposition of Holy Buddha Relics in the city from May 2 to 14. In pursuance of the directions of Lieutenant Governor, Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena, a comprehensive beautification drive is being carried out across Leh city to enhance its aesthetic appeal and create a vibrant environment for residents and tourists.

As part of the initiative, the Lieutenant Governor has directed the beautification of Leh Main Market to improve its overall appearance and provide a welcoming experience to visitors. Key measures undertaken

include the plantation of decorative flowers, artistic enhancement through creative artwork and wall graffiti and placing flower pots along roadsides.

Drawing from his administrative experience of hosting G20 Summit in New Delhi, the Lieutenant Governor is focusing on adopting best practices to transform Leh into a clean, organised, and culturally vibrant city.

The initiative assumes added significance in view of the upcoming sacred exposition of the holy relics of Lord Buddha, which is expected to witness participation from thousands of Buddhist devotees from across Ladakh, along with

ambassadors, bureaucrats, public representatives, and members of Buddhist organisations.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that such initiatives are aimed not only at enhancing the aesthetic appeal of the city but also at improving the overall tourist experience, thereby strengthening Ladakh's position as a premier tourist destination.

"The beautification drive is aimed at presenting Leh as a clean, organised and culturally vibrant city, especially in view of upcoming major events. Improving the aesthetic appeal of public spaces will not only enhance the experience of tourists but also instil a

sense of pride among residents. Sustained efforts are being made to make Ladakh one of the most attractive and visitor-friendly destinations in the country," said the Lieutenant Governor.

Notably, ever since assuming office, the Lieutenant Governor has been working in a mission mode to promote cleanliness and ensure a visually appealing and tourist-friendly Ladakh. He had personally visited the Leh Main Market and Leh Old Town to assess sanitation and civic infrastructure, and subsequently issued directions for immediate beautification and cleanliness measures.

## Parent Teacher Meetings on Nasha Mukta held across schools in Shopian

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As per the scheduled activities under the ongoing Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, Parent-Teacher Meetings (PTMs) were organized across various schools in District Shopian, including HS Vehil, HS Kanjullar, and Springdales School Batapora Shopian among others.

The meetings were conducted with the objective of sensitizing parents about the growing concerns of drug abuse and the importance of early awareness and preventive measures.

During the sessions, participants were informed about the harmful effects of substance abuse on physical, mental, and social well being, and the crucial role families and schools play in guiding children towards a healthy and disciplined lifestyle.

Teacher counsellors em-



phasized the need for strong communication between parents and educators to identify early signs of substance abuse and to provide timely support and guidance to students. Parents were encouraged to remain vigilant, foster a supportive home environment, and actively participate in awareness efforts.

## Drug Controller J&K flags off Bike Rally to promote anti-drug campaign

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Drug Controller J&K Rajesh Kumar today flagged off a bike rally (Group ride) here from Church Lane-Residency Road to Sonmarg Kashmir. The rally has been organised by 'We Care Team' led by President Kelvin Bhatti in collaboration with the Drug & Food Control Organization J&K as part of the 100 day Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan.

The primary objective of the rally is to raise awareness about the growing menace of drug abuse. A large number of volunteers are participating in the expedition with the aim to sensitize the public and promote a collective responsibility towards building a drug-free society.

Addressing the gathering, Rajesh Kumar emphasized that the fight against drug abuse is a "moral and



social emergency." "The success of the Nasha Mukta Abhiyan depends on active public participation and ownership. The role of parents, teachers and religious leaders is crucial and cannot be undermined, as they serve as the first line of defence against drug addiction," he noted. He urged participants to act as role models in spreading awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse among the masses and to share collective responsibility in combating this serious issue. He also informed that the department has intensified its crackdown on the illegal trade of habit-forming drugs being pushed into the Union Territory through unregulated channels. "Surprise checks are being carried across J&K wherein all drug sale establishments are being inspected to ensure strict compliance," he informed. He appealed the general public to report any incidents of unethical trade practices involving the sale or misuse of habit-forming drugs to the department's helpline at 104 or via email at Jk.drugscontroller@jk.gov.in.

## DDMA Baramulla conducts Civil Defence Mock Drill to strengthen Emergency Preparedness

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, APR 24

District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) Baramulla today conducted a comprehensive Civil Defence Mock Drill at Showkat Ali Stadium to strengthen disaster preparedness, improve inter-agency coordination, and enhance emergency response systems across the district.

The drill witnessed active participation from multiple agencies including Police, State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), NCC cadets, CRPF, CISF, Home Guards, and civil administration officials, reflecting a coordinated and multi-disciplinary approach to disaster management. The primary objective of the exercise was to stream-



line coordination among various departments, ensure effective response during emergencies, and prepare teams for real-life situations while minimizing risks to life and property. During the drill, key aspects such as rescue operations, evacuation procedures, response time, and adherence to public safety protocols were thoroughly tested. The exercise also simulated emergency sce-

narios, including blackout situations, aimed at enhancing preparedness among students, staff, and the general public.

Participants were trained in evacuation protocols, crisis communication, and coordinated response strategies, providing them with practical insights into managing emergency situations efficiently. The drill emphasized the importance of timely intervention and collective action in reducing risks during disasters.

The mock exercise recreated real-time emergency conditions, including search and rescue operations, evacuation drills, and emergency medical response. Students and staff actively participated in the programme, contributing to a realistic and impactful training experience.

## Rana reviews Gujjar & Bakerwal hostels in Doda, pushes for quality education, infrastructure upgrade

DODA, APRIL 24: Minister for Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today visited the Girls & Boys Gujjar and Bakerwal Hostels at Doda to take stock of the facilities being provided to the resident students.

During the visit, the Minister inspected various sections of the hostels and reviewed the availability of essential amenities, academic support systems and overall living conditions of the inmates.

He emphasized the need to ensure quality educational facilities and a conducive environment to enable the students to excel in their academic pursuits. Rana directed the concerned officers to take necessary steps for the upgradation of infrastructure and further strengthening of facilities at the hostels. He stressed that providing better educational and residential support to tribal students remains a priority of the Government.

The Minister also interacted with the students, enquired about their academic progress and listened to their feedback and suggestions regarding the facilities. He assured them that their genuine concerns would be addressed on priority to ensure improved standards of accommodation and learning. Legislators Shakti Raj Parihar, Daleep Singh Parihar, senior officers of the District Doda accompanied the Minister during the visit.