

# JMC launches Mega Plantation Drive at Kot Bhalwal Dumping Site

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, JUNE 17



Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), in collaboration with the Urban Forest Division, Jammu, today launched a mega plantation drive at the municipal dumping site at Kot Bhalwal. The initiative was inaugurated by JMC Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav (IAS) and aims to plant 5,000 saplings in and around the dumping site to create a green buffer zone, improve environmental conditions, and enhance the ecological landscape of the area. The plantation drive is being undertaken under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

The initiative forms part of JMC's ongoing efforts to promote environmental conservation, ecological restoration, and sustainable waste management practices. It seeks to transform the area surrounding the dumpsite into a greener and healthier environment while contributing to improved air quality and urban biodiversity.

Under the programme, a dense urban forest will be developed using the Miyawaki Method, a scientifically proven technique that facilitates rapid growth of native plant species and creates a self-sustaining ecosystem. The project is expected to serve as a model for ecological restoration and urban greening initia-

tives in the region.

Officers and officials of Jammu Municipal Corporation and the Urban Forest Division actively participated in the plantation programme by planting saplings and reaffirming their commitment to environmental stewardship. The drive is expected to significantly increase green cover, improve air quality, reduce pollution, enhance biodiversity, and contribute to the overall well-being of citizens.

Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner JMC, Dr. Devansh Yadav (IAS), emphasized the importance of afforestation in combating environmental degradation and mitigating the impacts of climate change. He stated that the plantation of 5,000 saplings at the Kot Bhalwal dumpsite would help rejuvenate the area, strengthen the local ecosystem, and

gradually transform the surroundings into a sustainable green zone.

The Commissioner further informed that nearly 70 percent of the bioremediation work at the Kot Bhalwal dumpsite has already been completed under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0, with the remaining work targeted for completion within the next two months. He noted that the plantation drive complements the ongoing remediation efforts and reflects JMC's commitment to converting environmentally stressed sites into productive and environmentally sustainable spaces.

Senior officers and field staff present on the occasion pledged to ensure proper care, monitoring, and maintenance of the saplings to maximize their survival and long-term environmental benefits.

The plantation drive reflects the strong partnership between Jammu Municipal Corporation and the Urban Forest Division in advancing environmental sustainability and responsible urban governance. Both departments reiterated their resolve to undertake similar initiatives in the future and continue working towards a cleaner, healthier, and greener Jammu.

Among those present on the occasion were Joint Commissioner Health and Sanitation (H&S), Abdul Sattar, Health Officer Dr. Shahid Hussain, Municipal Veterinary Officer (MVO) Dr. Jaswant Singh, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Ashwani Kumar, Assistant Floriculture Officer (AFO) Dr. Rabia Khan, along with other officers and officials of Jammu Municipal Corporation and the Urban Forest Division.

# 12 years of Modi Govt marked by unprecedented Development for Public Welfare: Billawaria

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, JUNE 17

BJP J&K General Secretary and Udhampur Lok Sabha Prabhari Baldev Singh Billawaria, in the presence of BJP J&K Vice President and District Prabhari Kathua Priya Sethi, and MLA Kathua Bharat Bhushan, addressed the 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp' conference organized by BJP Kathua district unit to commemorate the completion of 12 successful years of the Narendra Modi-led Central Government.

On the occasion, the leaders also inaugurated and viewed an exhibition based on the theme "12 Years of Trust, Development and Public Welfare," showcasing the transformative initiatives, landmark achievements, and welfare programmes undertaken by the Government of India during the past twelve years.

Baldev Singh Billawaria, addressing the party leaders, said that the last twelve years have witnessed a historic transformation in governance, infrastructure,



social welfare, economic growth, and national security under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He stated that the Modi Government has redefined the relationship between the government and citizens by ensuring transparency, accountability, and the direct delivery of benefits to the people.

He highlighted major achievements including the strengthening of road, rail and digital infrastructure, expansion of healthcare fa-

cilities, empowerment of women, welfare measures for farmers, youth-centric initiatives, and the upliftment of the poor and marginalized sections of society.

Priya Sethi said that the Modi Government has earned the trust of the people through its commitment to development and good governance. She emphasized that the vision of Viksit Bharat is becoming a reality through people-centric policies and inclusive growth. She said that pro-

grammes such as PM Awas Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, Jal Jeevan Mission, PM Kisan and Digital India have significantly improved the quality of life of millions across the country.

Bharat Bhushan lauded the developmental momentum witnessed across the nation and urged party workers to take the achievements of the government to every household, ensuring greater public awareness and participation in nation-building.

# Sat inaugurates Dogra Cultural Harmony & Empowerment Institution in Jammu

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, JUNE 17

BJP J&K President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma (CA), accompanied by Bahu MLA Ch. Vikram Randhawa, inaugurated the Dogra Cultural Harmony & Empowerment Institution at Channi Himat, Jammu. The institution has been established under the aegis of Parmeshwari Care & Cure Charitable Trust with the objective of providing voluntary social services and promoting Dogra cultural values.

The institution will offer counseling and support services in areas such as stress and anxiety management, family and relationship counseling, senior citizen welfare, drug de-addiction, career guidance, and educational counseling. In addition, training in music and cultural activities will also be imparted to nurture talent and preserve cultural heritage.

Sat Sharma, addressing on the occasion, lauded the efforts of the trust and emphasized that such initiatives are the need of the hour. He said that rapid so-



cial changes, increasing stress levels, and growing societal challenges require dedicated community-based institutions that can provide guidance, counseling, and support to people from all walks of life. He expressed confidence that the institution would emerge as an important platform for social empowerment, cultural preservation, and community welfare.

Ch. Vikram Randhawa congratulated the office bearers of the institution including Chairperson Anju Bansal, Vice-Chairperson Neelam Sharma, President Vijay Gupta, General Secretary Ravi

Raghuvanshi, and Coordinator Dr. Sunny Khajuria. He wished them success in their mission of serving society and strengthening cultural harmony.

Kulbhushan Mohtra, Managing Trustee of Parmeshwari Care & Cure Charitable Trust, briefed the gathering about the mission and vision of the institution and its commitment to public service through various welfare initiatives.

Dr. Romesh Khajuria, Trustee, Ambassador and former Chairman, WWEPC, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, highlighted the activities of

the trust and reiterated its commitment towards the promotion and preservation of Dogra culture and heritage.

A dental health camp was also organized on the occasion under the leadership of Dr. Supinder Soodan, Registrar, Department of Public Health Dentistry, while the legal assistance team was led by Advocate Amit Gupta.

Among others present were Sanjeev Vaid, Rama Jamwal, C.M. Seth, Maj. Gen. S.K. Sharma, Mukherjee Sharma, Ram Salathia, Rajiv Gupta and other distinguished citizens.

# Transport Commissioner reviews Transport Preparedness for Amarnath Yatra at Sonamarg

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, JUNE 17



Transport Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan, today visited Sonamarg and Baltal to review the transport preparedness and arrangements being put in place for the smooth conduct of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026.

He was accompanied by RTO Kashmir, Qazi Irfan; ARTO Ganderbal, Anis Ahmed and other officers of the Transport Department.

During the visit, the Transport Commissioner chaired a meeting of all stakeholders, including officers of the Transport Department, Traffic Police and transport operators and other concerned agencies. The meeting reviewed the preparedness of various departments and discussed measures required to ensure safe, efficient and hassle-free transportation facilities for the pilgrims.

The Transport Commissioner stressed that only roadworthy and fit vehicles should be deployed for Yatra duties and directed the concerned officers to ensure timely inspection and fitness certification of all vehicles proposed to be engaged for the pilgrimage. He emphasized that drivers engaged for the Yatra must possess the requisite driving skills, valid credentials and be well acquainted with the Yatra route, traffic

regulations, safety protocols and emergency response measures.

Taking serious note of complaints regarding overcharging by transport operators, the Transport Commissioner directed strict adherence to the notified fare structure and warned that any instance of overcharging would invite stringent action under the relevant provisions of law.

The Transport Commissioner also reviewed the availability of vehicles for the Yatra and directed transport operators to ensure adequate deployment of vehicles to cater to the anticipated demand of pilgrims.

He stressed the need for maintaining sufficient reserve capacity to address any surge in passenger traffic during the Yatra period.

As part of the visit, the Transport Commissioner inspected the Motor Vehicles Department Enforce-

ment Post at Sonamarg and reviewed the enforcement and facilitation measures being undertaken by the department. He directed the field officers to maintain effective surveillance and ensure strict compliance with all safety and regulatory requirements.

The issue of parking management was also discussed in detail. Directions were issued for earmarking adequate parking slots in consultation with the Traffic Police and other concerned agencies. The Transport Commissioner reviewed the proposed technology-based parking management system and emphasized the effective use of the dedicated mobile application for allocation, monitoring and management of parking slots to ensure orderly movement of vehicles and minimize congestion in the Yatra area.

The Transport Commissioner reiterated that the

foremost priority of all agencies associated with the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026 is to ensure a safe, comfortable and hassle-free pilgrimage experience for every pilgrim. He emphasized that all stakeholders must work in close coordination to provide reliable transport facilities, effective traffic management, adequate parking arrangements and prompt assistance to pilgrims throughout the Yatra period. He further directed the concerned officers to adopt a proactive approach in addressing issues on the ground so that pilgrims can undertake the sacred journey with convenience, safety and peace of mind.

Senior officers of the Transport Department and representatives of various stakeholder agencies attended the meeting and accompanied the Transport Commissioner during the visit.

# DLTC meeting held to review Telecom infrastructure works at Ganderbal

GANDERBAL, JUNE 17:

A meeting of the District Level Telecom Committee (DLTC) was today held under the chairmanship of the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Ganderbal, Syed Faheem Bihagi to review the progress of telecom infrastructure projects and assess the status of mobile connectivity across the district.

During the meeting, a detailed review was held regarding the implementation of BSNL 4G saturation projects, pending Right of Way (RoW) cases, and the progress achieved under BharatNet and other initiatives aimed at strengthening telecommunications infrastructure in the district.

The meeting discussed the current status of ongoing projects and measures required to enhance mobile and internet connectivity, particularly in remote and underserved areas.

A key issue highlighted



during the meeting was the poor mobile network coverage in and around District Hospital Ganderbal. Emphasizing the importance of reliable communication facilities in healthcare institutions, the ADC directed the concerned telecom operators and line departments to take immediate steps to improve network connectivity at the hospital and ensure uninterrupted communication services.

The ADC also reviewed

the progress of BharatNet projects in the district. It was informed that work at several locations has been completed, while the remaining works are at different stages of execution.

Directing the executing agencies to expedite the pace of work, the ADC stressed the need for timely completion of all pending projects, particularly at locations where tendering formalities have already been completed. He urged

all stakeholders to work in close coordination to ensure seamless and reliable telecom connectivity across the district.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Superintending Engineer PW (R&B), Assistant Commissioner Development, Medical Superintendent District Hospital Ganderbal, officers of various line departments and representatives of BSNL, Jio and other telecom service providers.

# Budgam steps up Anti-Drug Campaign through Awareness and Enforcement Drives

BUDGAM, JUNE 17:

District Budgam today witnessed a series of awareness and enforcement activities under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBBA), reaffirming the district's commitment to creating a drug-free society through coordinated action, public awareness and community participation.

As part of the campaign, the District Employment & Counselling Centre Budgam, in collaboration with BBHSS Humhama, organized an awareness programme for students. During the programme, students were sensitized about Mission YUVA

and educated on the harmful consequences of drug abuse. The session focused on encouraging informed decision-making, healthy lifestyle choices and empowering young minds to stay away from substance abuse.

In another significant initiative, the Excise Team Budgam carried out a special enforcement drive aimed at preventing the growth of illicit intoxicants and eliminating potential sources of drug abuse. The drive formed part of the department's sustained efforts to protect public health and strengthen the district's fight

against the drug menace. The awareness programme and enforcement activities highlighted the importance of a multi-pronged strategy involving education, prevention, community engagement and coordinated departmental action to effectively address the challenge of substance abuse.

The District Administration Budgam reiterated its resolve to continue implementing the objectives of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan through sustained awareness campaigns, preventive interventions and enforcement measures.