

International Day against Drug Abuse observed in Doda



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 26

The International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was observed in Doda today, marking the conclusion of Nasha Mukta Saptah that began on June 17, 2026. The event was held at Community Hall, Doda.

Students from the degree colleges and schools participated in debate compe-

titions on drug abuse eradication. A skit on anti-drug themes was presented by students of Boys Higher Secondary School Doda and Parisha Doda, drawing attention to the social and personal consequences of substance abuse.

Speakers called for collective responsibility across government institutions, families, educational institutions and society at large. On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner

Doda Krishan Lal called for sustained efforts to make Doda a drug-free district, appreciated student participation and stressed strict action against drug peddlers. The DC also underlined the importance of rehabilitation for drug victims through government schemes offering employment and social reintegration.

The programme concluded with a pledge administered by the Deputy

Commissioner, resolving collective action against drug abuse across the district.

Among those present were SSP Doda Kartik Shrotriyia (IPS), District Social Welfare Officer Zubair Ahmed, District Culture Officer, Tehsil Social Welfare Officer, students from Government Degree Colleges and Higher Secondary Schools, members of civil society and officers concerned.

MLA Sham, JMC Commissioner Lay Foundation Stone for Rs 2.77 cr Development Works Under SASCI Scheme

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In a major step towards strengthening urban infrastructure and enhancing civic amenities in Jammu North Assembly Constituency, MLA Jammu North Sham Lal Sharma, along with Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation, Dr. Devansh Yadav (IAS), today laid the foundation stone for development works worth approximately ₹2.77 crore under the SASCI Scheme in Janipur, covering Wards Nos. 34, 35, 36, 37 and 38. The projects include the construction and restoration of lanes, drains and other essential civic infrastructure aimed at improving road connectivity, strengthening the drainage network and ensuring better civic amenities for the residents.

The works are expected to address long-pending developmental requirements of the area by upgrading basic infrastructure, improving storm-water drainage, enhancing sanitation and creating durable public assets.

Upon completion, these projects will provide im-



proved civic facilities to thousands of residents while giving further momentum to the planned, sustainable and balanced development of Jammu North Assembly Constituency.

On the occasion, Sham Lal Sharma lauded the Government of India for extending substantial financial assistance to Jammu and Kashmir under the SASCI Scheme for strengthening urban infrastructure and undertaking critical restoration works. He expressed his sincere gratitude to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for his visionary leadership and steadfast commitment towards the holistic development of Jammu and

Kashmir. He said that under the leadership of the Prime Minister, unprecedented emphasis has been laid on modernizing urban infrastructure, strengthening civic services and creating resilient public assets across the Union Territory. He observed that the SASCI initiative reflects the Central Government's commitment to ensuring planned urban development, sustainable infrastructure and improved quality of life for citizens. He added that the timely sanction and execution of such projects will not only address long-pending civic requirements but also contribute significantly towards building a cleaner, safer and more resilient

Jammu.

Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation, Dr. Devansh Yadav (IAS), stated that the projects being undertaken under the SASCI Scheme represent a significant initiative towards strengthening urban infrastructure and creating resilient civic assets. He said that the Jammu Municipal Corporation is committed to ensuring timely completion of the works while maintaining the highest standards of quality and transparency. He added that the development works in Wards 34 to 38 will substantially improve road connectivity, drainage facilities and public infrastructure, thereby providing long-term benefits to the local residents.

The foundation stone laying ceremony was attended by Former Councilors Shri Surinder Sharma, Smt. Sunita Sharma, Shri Subhash Sharma and Smt. Rani Devi; District General Secretary Shri Ravish Maingi; Mandal President Shri Sahil Gupta, besides officers of the Jammu Municipal Corporation, party functionaries, distinguished citizens and a large number of local residents.

BJP launches "Drug-Free Youth, Empowered India" awareness campaign on International Day

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On the occasion of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, launched a public awareness initiative aimed at combating the growing menace of drug abuse among youth.

BJP J&K President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma and General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul, along with other leaders of the party, released the awareness pamphlet titled "Drug-Free Youth, Empowered India", published by the Party's Publication Department.

J&K BJP General Secretaries Sanjeeta Dogra, and Baldev Singh Billawaria, Secretary Pawan Sharma, Journals and Publication Department Convenor Rajneesh Jain, Development of Publicity Materials and Literature Department Convenor S. Varinder Jeet Singh, senior leader Sanjay Baru, and spokesperson Dr. Tahir Choudhary, among other senior leaders and party functionaries were present on the occasion.

Pawan Sharma compiled the awareness draft, and the pamphlet, and was published by the Publication department of BJP.



Sat Sharma, while releasing the pamphlet related to the campaign, emphasized that drug addiction is not merely an individual problem but a serious social challenge that adversely affects families, communities, and the nation as a whole. He said that creating awareness among youth about the harmful consequences of substance abuse is essential for building a healthy and progressive society.

Sharma highlighted the commitment of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Government towards eradicating the drug menace through a combination of strict enforcement measures and extensive public awareness campaigns. He noted that Jammu & Kashmir's youth possess immense talent and potential, and it is the collective responsibility of society to ensure that they remain protected from the dangers

of drug addiction and contribute positively to national progress.

Ashok Koul stated that the Bharatiya Janata Party has always worked not only as a political organization but also as a force for social transformation. He stressed that the "Drug-Free Youth, Empowered India" campaign would serve as an important medium for educating people, especially young citizens, about the devastating impact of drugs and the importance of adopting a healthy and disciplined lifestyle. Pawan Sharma remarked that a drug-free youth population is fundamental to the vision of a developed India. He said that empowering young people through education, skill development, sports, and constructive social engagement is the most effective way to steer them away from substance abuse and towards becoming respon-

sible contributors to national progress.

The awareness pamphlet released on the occasion contains information about the harmful effects of drug addiction, preventive measures, the role of families and society in addressing the issue, and various initiatives undertaken by the government to curb drug abuse. BJP workers across Jammu & Kashmir will distribute the pamphlet and conduct extensive awareness campaigns to spread the message among the masses.

Reaffirming its commitment to a healthier and stronger society, BJP Jammu & Kashmir appealed to citizens, educational institutions, social organizations, parents, and youth to join hands in the fight against drug abuse and contribute towards building a drug-free, prosperous, and empowered India.

MLA Bhagat inaugurates flood protection works worth Rs 5.76 crore in Akhnoor

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In a major step towards safeguarding flood-prone areas of Akhnoor Assembly Constituency, MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat today inaugurated a series of flood protection works worth Rs 5.76 crore at four vulnerable locations.

The projects include flood protection work at Sumah Nallah (Badyala Chak) worth Rs 122.08 lakh, Maira worth Rs 118.49 lakh, Sitriyala worth Rs 251.08 lakh and Indri Pattan worth Rs 84.31 lakh, taking the total project cost to Rs 575.96 lakh.

Addressing the gathering, the MLA said that the devastating floods witnessed last year caused extensive damage across the area, with hundreds of kanals of fertile agricultural land being washed away due to severe river erosion. He said the flood protection works have been taken up on priority to prevent



further erosion, protect agricultural land and provide long-term relief to the residents of vulnerable villages. Bhagat reiterated that safeguarding the lives, livelihoods and agricultural assets of the people remains his top priority. He expressed confidence that the projects would significantly reduce the threat of flooding and riverbank erosion while strengthening the region's resilience

against future natural calamities.

Executive Engineer Rajesh Gupta, Assistant Executive Engineer Pallav Mohana and other officials of the department were present on the occasion.

Among those present were BJP Mandal President Sohail Sungal Shamsher Dass, former Sarpanch Ganesh Dass, Kishori Sharma, Prabhu Dayal, Babloo Sharma, Vi-

jay Sharma, Varinder Kumar, Darshan Singh, Ravinder Sharma, Sardar Amreek Singh, Daler Singh, BJYM Mandal President Balvinder Singh Bindu, BJP Jourian Mandal General Secretary Rakesh Bhagat, former Jourian Municipal Committee President Madan Lal, Subash Chander, besides a large number of local residents and party workers.

Protect Youth from Drugs, Former Minister Urges Parents, Teachers and Society

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Former Minister and Zonal President of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, Babu Rampal, called for a united and sustained campaign against drug addiction, describing the growing menace as one of the biggest threats to the future of society. Speaking on the occasion of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, he urged every section of society to join hands in protecting the younger generation from substance abuse.

Addressing a meeting, he said the alarming rise in drug addiction is destroying the lives of young people, weakening families, and posing a serious challenge to the social fabric of Jammu and Kashmir. He stressed that combating the menace is not the responsibility of the government alone but requires the ac-

tive participation of citizens, educational institutions, social organizations, religious bodies, and community leaders.

Highlighting the pivotal role of parents, the Former Minister said they are the first line of defence against drug abuse. He urged them to remain vigilant, maintain open and honest communication with their children, understand their emotional and social challenges, and closely monitor their activities to prevent them from falling into the trap of substance abuse.

"Parents should not only guide their children but also encourage them to pursue education, sports, cultural activities, and other constructive pursuits that keep them away from harmful influences," he said.

Rampal also emphasized the importance of awareness campaigns in schools, colleges, and rural as well as urban communities to

educate young people about the devastating physical, mental, social, and economic consequences of drug addiction. He said society should extend support and compassion to those battling addiction so they can undergo rehabilitation and reintegrate into mainstream life with dignity.

Calling for stronger coordination among government agencies, law enforcement authorities, educational institutions, and civil society, he said a comprehensive strategy focusing on prevention, awareness, counselling, rehabilitation, and strict action against drug traffickers is essential to eradicate the menace.

He appreciated the efforts of the Jammu and Kashmir Police and the civil administration in taking action against drug peddlers and urged them to intensify their campaign to dismantle narcotics net-

works operating in the region.

Concluding his address, Rampal appealed to the youth to reject drugs, adopt healthy lifestyles, and contribute positively to nation-building. He reiterated that only through collective responsibility, sustained awareness, and community participation can Jammu and Kashmir become a drug-free society and ensure a brighter future for the coming generations.

Among those who attended the meeting were Dr. Vikas Sharma, Coordinator and Secretary, Central Zone; Adv. Rajinder Chanyal, Rahul Mahajan, Sham Lal Mehra Vice Presidents, Central Zone; Bharat Bhushan, B.D. Dalotra (Retd. SP); S. Surjeet Singh Sasan; Zonal Secretary; Adv. Lovish Bharat; Naved Raja; Manohar Lal; Rajinder Kumar, Zonal Joint Secretary; Amar Nath Bhagat; and others.

DCC demands resignation of Union Edu Minister Dharmendra Pradhan

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The District Congress Committee (DCC) Jammu Rural held a press conference here today as part of the "Schools' Echo" program. The press conference was jointly addressed by former minister and senior Congress leader Jugal Kishore Sharma and DCC President Neeraj Kundan. The leaders expressed serious concern over the ongoing paper leak scandals across the country and demanded the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who has completely failed to protect the sanctity of India's examination system.

Speaking to the media, Jugal Kishore Sharma strongly criticized the BJP-led central government. Sharma said, "The ongoing paper leaks have ruined the futures of millions of hard-



working and meritorious students. Whether it's NEET, UGC-NET, or other important exams, the system is failing repeatedly due to gross negligence and potential corruption. This is a direct attack on the aspirations of India's youth."

Referring to Rahul Gandhi's powerful address in Kota, he said, "Rahul Gandhi has emerged as the true voice of India's students. In his address in Kota, he fearlessly exposed the BJP government's indifference and the rooted problems in the education and examination system.

The Congress Party stands shoulder to shoulder with the students and will continue to fight until the culprits are held accountable."

DCC President Neeraj Kundan also addressed the gathering, demanding immediate action. Kundan said, "The Modi government has turned education into a profitable business and examinations into a lottery. Students' hopes are being shattered, families are being torn apart, and in extreme cases, lives are being lost due to these scams. Despite repeated failures, Edu-

cation Minister Dharmen-

dra Pradhan has shown no accountability. We demand his immediate resignation and a time-bound judicial inquiry into all major paper leak cases in recent years."

Kundan added, "The 'Schools' Echo' program is a platform to voice students' genuine concerns. Rahul Gandhi's address in Kota has given this movement new strength. We will not rest until a transparent, fair, and leak-free examination system is established in the country."

Senior Congress leaders Suresh Kumar Dogra, Kapil Chib, Michael Wazir, NSUI district president Manas Gandhi and other party officials and student leaders also participated in the press conference.

Congress leaders appealed to all students, parents and concerned citizens to join the movement for education reform and assured full support in the fight against paper leak.