

Drug and Food Control Organisation seizes Pregabalin consignment worth Rs 10 lakh

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 20

A special enforcement team of the Drug and Food Control Organisation (DFCO) Jammu today intercepted and seized 28,800 capsules of Pregabalin (300 mg), aimed at curbing illegal trafficking of habit-forming formulations.

The seized scheduled drugs, sold under the brand name Devanyl-300, carry an estimated market value of ₹10 lakh. The operation followed intelligence received from Jhajar Kotli Police Station, Jammu, which had intercepted a passenger bus en route from Amritsar, Punjab to Katra carrying an unauthorised commercial quantity of the restricted drug.

A team of drug officials was dispatched to Jhajar Kotli Police Station under the supervision of State Drugs Controller J&K Rajesh Kumar. The raid team



was led by Assistant Drug Controller Jammu Sanjeev Kumar Gupta and comprised Drug Control Officers Amit Bali and Amit Mahajan.

Upon reaching the spot, the team conducted an inventory and verification. As those transporting the consignment failed to produce valid drug licences, purchase invoices or authorised

medical prescriptions, the entire stock was seized on the spot.

An investigation has been launched to trace the illicit supply chain, identify the manufacturing source in Punjab and uncover the intended distribution network in Katra and surrounding areas.

State Drugs Controller J&K Rajesh Kumar said le-

gal proceedings are being initiated against the violators under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, warning that any individual or firm found complicit in diverting scheduled formulations for non-therapeutic or abusive purposes will face strict legal action.

Commissioner FDA J&K Khalid Jahangir said the government remains committed to protecting public health and curbing drug abuse, adding that enforcement drives and intelligence-based inspections will continue across the Union Territory to identify and act against individuals and establishments involved in illegal drug distribution networks.

The Drug and Food Control Organisation has appealed to the public to report any information on illegal sale, diversion, hoarding or misuse of prescription medicines to the department so timely action can be taken against viola-

tors.

SMVDSB Extends Free Langar Services to Stranded Pilgrims at Katra

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In view of the temporary suspension of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Yatra due to adverse weather conditions and the advisory issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) has made elaborate arrangements for providing free langar services to stranded pilgrims at Katra, ensuring their comfort and well-being.

Acting on the directions of Shri Manoj Sinha, Hon'ble Chairman, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (Lt. Governor, JK-UT), the Shrine Board has mobilized its resources to extend all possible assistance to pilgrims affected by



the temporary suspension of the Yatra.

Free langar facilities have been arranged at Niharika Complex, adjacent to the Bus Stand, Katra, where stranded pilgrims are being served free meals and provided necessary assistance by Shrine Board officials.

In addition, the Shrine Board is continuously disseminating updates and advisories through various communication channels to keep pilgrims informed about the prevailing weather conditions and the status of the Yatra.

The Shrine Board, in

close coordination with the District Administration and other concerned agencies, is monitoring the situation round the clock.

The Shrine Board has appealed to pilgrims to remain calm and rely only on official advisories and updates issued by the Shrine Board.

DLSA Reasi organises legal awareness events

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An awareness programme on the role of Legal Aid Clinics was organised today at Panchayat Akhli by Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of the Tehsil Legal Services Committee (TLSC), Katra.

During the programme, the PLVs sensitised participants about the role of Legal Aid Clinics in ensuring access to justice for all, particularly for weaker and marginalised sections of society. Participants were informed that Legal Aid Clinics provide free legal advice, guidance and assistance in legal matters, and facilitate access to free legal services under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. The PLVs also noted that Legal Aid Clinics could be approached for dispute resolution and information on welfare schemes and legal rights, and encouraged participants to avail themselves of free legal aid services and spread awareness within their communities.

Another awareness programme was organised at Gram Goswan on the Right to Free Legal Aid and the National Lok Adalat for Revenue Cases and Elec-



tricity Bill Matters. Participants were informed that free legal aid is a constitutional right available to eligible persons under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. Resource persons explained the legal services provided by DLSA, including free legal advice, legal representation, mediation and assistance in accessing justice, and highlighted that Lok Adalat provides a speedy and cost-effective mechanism for resolving revenue cases and electricity bill disputes through mutual settlement, reducing the burden of prolonged litigation.

An awareness-cum-welfare programme was organised at Legal Aid Clinic Channa Neosi and LAC An-

gralla by PLVs of TLSC Mahore. As part of the programme, free ration for two months was distributed among eligible and needy beneficiaries, aimed at providing immediate relief to economically weaker sections while creating awareness about welfare schemes and free legal services available under the Legal Services Authorities Act.

Awareness programmes on Solid Waste Management were also organised by PLVs of TLSC Mahore at Legal Aid Clinic (LAC) Kunderdhan and LAC Arabia. The programmes sensitised local residents about proper waste management, cleanliness and environmental protection, covering waste segregation, scientific dis-

posal of household waste, reduction in the use of plastics, recycling practices and the collective responsibility of citizens in keeping villages and public places clean. PLVs highlighted that effective solid waste management improves public health, protects natural resources and contributes to environmental conservation and sustainable development, besides underlining the role of Legal Services Institutions in promoting awareness on social and environmental issues and providing free legal aid to eligible persons. Participants were encouraged to adopt responsible waste disposal practices and spread awareness among their families and communities.

DC Ramban visits NH-44, inspects restoration work at Nashri, other locations

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Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today visited National Highway-44 and other vulnerable locations across the district to monitor the situation following the adverse weather advisory and intermittent rainfall. He inspected the landslide site at Nashri and reviewed the ongoing restoration work to ensure the early resumption of traffic and public convenience.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by SSP Ramban Arun Gupta, Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak and officers of the departments concerned.

During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner directed officers of NHAI, BRO, Public Works Department (PWD) and PMGSY to deploy adequate manpower



and machinery for immediate restoration of affected roads, ensuring NH-44 and other major roads remain fit for the safe movement of commuters, emergency services and essential supplies.

He instructed all Sub-Divisional Magistrates and Tehsildars to remain stationed in their respective jurisdictions, maintain close coordination with line departments, monitor the situation round the clock and immediately report any in-

cident requiring urgent intervention.

Reviewing the status of essential services, the Deputy Commissioner took stock of water and power supply, healthcare facilities, availability of essential commodities and other public utilities. He directed departments concerned to ensure uninterrupted delivery of these services and remain fully prepared to tackle any weather-related disruption. All restoration

agencies and essential services have been activated, while the District Control Room is functioning round the clock to monitor the situation and provide timely assistance.

Later, he inspected arrangements at Langar Camps and Yatri Niwas Chanderkote, among other designated locations where Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra pilgrims are being accommodated following the temporary suspension of the Yatra. He reviewed accommodation, food, drinking water, sanitation and medical facilities, directing officers to ensure the comfort, safety and well-being of the pilgrims.

The Deputy Commissioner urged citizens to follow the weather advisory, avoid unnecessary travel in vulnerable areas and report any emergency to the District Control Room or the nearest administrative office for prompt assistance.

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In response to the heavy rainfall and flash floods that affected several parts of the district, the District Administration Rajouri has launched an extensive relief, rescue and restoration operation to ensure the safety and well-being of the affected population.

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma and SSP Gaurav Sikarwar jointly visited various flood-affected areas to assess the ground situation, review the damage and interact with affected residents.

During his visit, the DC assured the public that the district administration stands firmly with every affected family and that all possible assistance is being extended. He directed all departments concerned to ensure timely relief, rehabilitation and restoration of essential services.

To provide immediate shelter and support to dis-



placed families, the District Administration has established a Relief and Rehabilitation Centre at Government Boys Higher Secondary School (BHSS), Rajouri. The centre has been equipped with all essential facilities, including accommodation, food, drinking water, sanitation, medical assistance and other basic amenities to ensure the comfort and safety of affected families. The Deputy Commissioner personally visited the centre, interacted with the families taking shelter there and instructed officers to address

their needs promptly.

Rescue operations were carried out successfully in different parts of the district through the coordinated efforts of the Revenue Department, Police, Indian Army, SDRF and other response agencies. A major rescue operation at Dhagri was executed under the close supervision of the DC and SSP Rajouri, who personally monitored it on the ground.

In another significant operation, the District Administration rescued a person stranded in the flooded Dandani Nala in Lamberi,

pilgrims remain the foremost priority of the Government, the Chief Secretary directed all the concerned departments and district administrations to critically examine each recommendation and ensure its expeditious implementation.

He emphasized that every feasible measure should be taken to strengthen the existing arrangements so that devotees undertaking the pilgrimage are provided with safe, seamless and hassle-free facilities throughout their journey.

He further impressed upon all the departments to maintain close coordination and regularly monitor the progress of the identified works, ensuring that any shortcomings noticed during the ongoing Yatra are promptly addressed through corrective measures before the next yatra here.

Rajouri admin intensifies flood response

Nowshera, through the co-ordinated efforts of the Revenue Department, Police and SDRF teams.

Simultaneously, restoration work has been taken up on a war footing across the district. Road clearance operations were carried out at multiple locations and landslides on different routes across various subdivisions were cleared to restore connectivity and facilitate the movement of emergency services and the general public.

The district administration has appealed to the public to remain vigilant and strictly avoid venturing near rivers, nallahs and other flood-prone areas until conditions improve. Citizens have also been advised to follow official advisories and cooperate with the administration.

For any flood-related emergency or assistance, the public may contact the District Emergency Operation Centre (DEOC), which is functioning round the clock, at 01962-263100.