

World Hepatitis Day observed at Kathua

DC stresses early detection, prevention of viral hepatitis

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 28

As part of the observance of World Hepatitis Day 2026, the District Health Society Kathua, in collaboration with the District Jail Kathua, organised an awareness programme and Hepatitis B & C screening camp for inmates at the District Jail under the National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme (NVHCP).

Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma, the chief guest, inaugurated the screening camp. Among those present were Chief Medical Officer Kathua Vijay Raina, Superintendent District Jail Kathua Mohinder Paul and officers of the Health Department.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the importance of early screening, timely diagnosis and treatment in eliminating viral hepatitis. He said Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C are serious liver infections primarily transmitted through infected blood, unsafe injections, sharing of contaminated needles and unsterilised



medical equipment. He urged people to adopt safe health practices, undergo timely screening and avail Hepatitis B vaccination.

Emphasising the objectives of the Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, the DC said that sharing contaminated needles among injecting drug users significantly increases the risk of Hepatitis B and C transmission.

He appealed to the inmates to stay away from drugs. CMO Vijay Raina and other health experts sensitised the inmates on the symptoms, transmission, prevention and free treatment available under the programme.

As part of the district-wide observance, similar screening and awareness camps were organised at

Holding Centre Hiranagar, Nari Niketan Kathua, Bal Ashram Kathua, Municipal Corporation Kathua, Mind Care Psychiatric Clinic Kalibari and all health institutions across the district.

A total of 375 individuals were screened and all reactive cases were linked to the NVHCP for confirmatory testing and further treatment.

World Hepatitis Day observed with awareness programme, symposium competition in Doda

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World Hepatitis Day was observed across district Doda with the aim of raising awareness about viral hepatitis, its prevention, early detection and timely treatment. In this connection, a District-Level Awareness Programme-Symposium Competition was organized today by the District Health Society Doda at Government Nursing College Doda.

Chief Medical Officer Doda Dr. Vinod Sharma was the Chief Guest on the occasion. District Health Officer, Doda, Dr. Raj Kumar Sharma, BMO Ghat Dr. Abdul Gafoor, faculty and staff of Government Nursing College and students attended the programme.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by District Epidemiologist, Umar Anayat, who highlighted the importance of observing World Hepatitis Day and strengthening community awareness regarding prevention and control of viral hepatitis.

DHO Doda, Dr. Raj Kumar Sharma delivered an informative lecture on hepatitis, focusing on its causes, modes of transmis-



sion, preventive measures, screening and the importance of timely treatment.

The programme also featured guest lectures by Dr. Summat-ul-Khurshid, HOD, Department of Pathology, GMC Doda and Dr. Imran Zaffar, Senior Resident, Department of Community Medicine, GMC Doda, who sensitized the participants about various aspects of viral hepatitis, including diagnosis, prevention and public health interventions.

CMO emphasized the importance of awareness, screening and early diagnosis in reducing the burden of hepatitis. He called upon healthcare workers and students to actively disseminate correct information among the community and contribute towards the goal of eliminating viral hepatitis as a public health threat.

A symposium competition was also organized as part of the programme, in which eight nursing students from GNC Doda and

Hussain Paramedical Institute Ghat participated and showcased their knowledge and understanding of viral hepatitis. Hadiya Manzoor, Sanjana Sharma and Pakiza Majeed secured first, second and third positions respectively and were awarded prizes, while consolation prizes were also presented to the other participants, namely Zubair Ahmed, Jyoti Devi, Aliza Jan, Rukaya Malik and Muzamil Ahmed, in recognition of their participation.

Learning Beyond Classrooms: GHSS Ajas students explore Waqar Knowledge Centre Bandipora

BANDIPORA, JULY 28: As part of an initiative of the District Administration Bandipora, conceptualised and guided by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, students from Government Girls High School Ajas on Tuesday visited the Waqar Knowledge Centre, Mini Secretariat Bandipora, as part of an exposure visit aimed at promoting awareness about government schemes, career opportunities, and public welfare initiatives.

Chief Education Officer (CEO) Bandipora, Deputy Chief Education Officer, Knowledge Centre employees, and escort teachers attended and interacted with the students during the exposure visit.

During the visit, Resource Persons at the Waqar Knowledge Centre introduced the students to their respective desks and



provided detailed information about the services, government schemes, career guidance, and public welfare initiatives being facilitated through each section. They also highlighted the broader vision behind the Knowledge Centre as a

shared learning and awareness platform designed to provide guidance, promote informed decision-making, and connect youth with various opportunities offered by different government departments.

The students were famil-

iarised with the different services and initiatives available at the Knowledge Centre, particularly those related to career guidance, youth empowerment, public welfare programmes, and citizen-centric government services.

CM Omar expresses concern over Ganderbal road accident, directs best care for injured pilgrims

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today expressed deep concern over the road accident at Gund, Kangan in Ganderbal district, in which several Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra pilgrims returning to Srinagar after paying obeisance at the holy cave shrine sustained injuries.

The Chief Minister directed the Health & Medical Education Department to ensure the best possible

medical care for all the injured pilgrims and deputed Minister for Health & Medical Education, Sakina Itoo, to Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura to personally oversee their treatment.

Acting on the directions of the Chief Minister, the Health Minister visited SKIMS, where she met the injured pilgrims and enquired about their well-being. She also interacted with the attending doctors and hospital authorities to assess the nature of injuries

and the treatment being provided.

The Minister directed the hospital administration to ensure the best possible medical care for all the injured pilgrims and instructed that no effort be spared in their treatment and recovery.

The Chief Minister wished the injured pilgrims a speedy recovery and reaffirmed the Government's commitment to extending every possible assistance to them and their families during this difficult time.

Earlier this morning, a

bus carrying Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra pilgrims returning from the holy cave shrine skidded off the road near the Ganiwan/Hariganwan stretch in the Gund area of Kangan, Ganderbal district, after the driver reportedly lost control while negotiating a curve. Thirty-nine pilgrims sustained injuries in the accident. A swift rescue operation was soon launched, shifting the injured initially to Sub-District Hospital, Kangan, before they were referred to SKIMS, Soura for specialised treatment.

1-day awareness programme on Branding & Marketing for PM Vishwakarma schemes

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JAMMU, JULY 28

The Ministry of MSME, Government of India, through the MSME-Development & Facilitation Office Jammu, in collaboration with the district administration Udhampur today organised a one-day awareness programme on branding and marketing for beneficiaries of the PM Vishwakarma Scheme.

Additional District Development Commissioner Udhampur Jugal Kishore was the chief guest on the occasion.

While addressing the participants, the ADDC said that the PM Vishwakarma Scheme is aimed at promoting self-employ-



ment, entrepreneurship development and skill enhancement among traditional artisans and young aspirants. He stated that the scheme enables beneficiaries to avail themselves of government support in the form of skill upgradation, toolkit incentives, credit assistance and other benefits, thereby creating

sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Emphasising the importance of branding and market outreach, the ADDC highlighted that effective branding and marketing play a vital role in enhancing the visibility, competitiveness and income of traditional artisans. He urged the beneficiaries to adopt

innovative marketing practices and build strong brand identities to expand their customer base and improve the market value of their products.

During the programme, experts sensitised the artisans on the importance of product branding, packaging, digital marketing and customer engagement.

Javed Rana assures swift action on issues raised by MLA's, contractors

SRINAGAR, JULY 28: Multiple deputations, including Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) from different constituencies today called on Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, at the Civil Secretariat here and discussed a wide range of public welfare issues.

The legislators who met the Minister included Hilal Akbar Lone, Sajjad Shaheen, Irshad Rasool Kar, Pyare Lal Sharma, Saifuddin Bhat, Randhir Singh and Zafar Ali Khatana.

During the interaction, the MLAs apprised the Minister of the developmental needs and public concerns of their respective constituencies. They highlighted issues related to drinking water supply, irrigation infrastructure, flood protection measures, road connectivity, healthcare, education and other sectoral requirements, while also seeking timely execution of ongoing development works.

The legislators urged the Minister to ensure early completion of projects of public importance and



called for effective coordination among the departments to address the aspirations of the people.

Giving a patient hearing to each of the legislators, Javed Rana assured them that all their genuine issues projected during the meetings would receive due attention. He directed the concerned officers to examine the matters on priority and take appropriate action wherever required.

The Minister reiterated that the Omar Abdullah-led government is committed to strengthen the public service delivery, ensuring that developmental benefits reach every re-

gion in a fair and transparent manner.

He said the government remains focused on responsive governance, prompt resolution of public grievances and accelerated implementation of infrastructure projects aimed at improving the quality of life of the people.

Emphasising close coordination between the public representatives and the administration, the Minister said that the elected legislators play a vital role in identifying the developmental priorities of their constituencies and ensuring that governance remains people-centric. He

said the government values their feedback and will continue to work in close consultation with them to achieve balanced and inclusive development across Jammu and Kashmir.

Later, a delegation of contractors associated with the Jal Shakti Department also called on the Minister and projected issues related to pending payments and execution of departmental works.

The Minister gave a patient hearing to the delegation and assured them that all their genuine concerns would be examined and addressed in accordance with the rules.

DC Ramban reviews arrangements at Lamber

RAMBAN, JULY 28: Continuing the monitoring of arrangements for the ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, the Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today visited the Lamber Yatra Camp at Banihal to review the facilities for the movement, safety and convenience of pilgrims.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Senior Superintendent of Police Arun Gupta, Additional Deputy Commissioner Ramban Varunjeet Singh Charak, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Banihal Mohammad Naseeb Bajraan and other officers concerned.

The Deputy Commissioner inspected the lodg-



ing facilities, sanitation, drinking water supply, medical services, power supply, food arrangements and other essential amenities at the camp. He re-

viewed the preparedness of all line departments and directed the officers to ensure that every facility remains fully functional and responsive to the needs of

the pilgrims.

The Deputy Commissioner also interacted with the yatriis and enquired about the facilities being provided.

The pilgrims expressed satisfaction with the arrangements made by the district administration and appreciated the efforts of the officers and staff.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed the officers concerned to maintain round-the-clock monitoring and ensure a prompt response to any requirement of the pilgrims. He directed them to remain alert, particularly in view of the prevailing weather conditions and to extend timely assistance wherever required.