

Every tree gets a name and a guardian

Jammu admin launches ‘Paalna’ plantation drive across 815 institutions



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 24

A whopping Sixty thousand saplings were today planted across Jammu district. Each tree will carry two names — the trees’ and the student responsible for keeping it alive.

District Administration Jammu launched ‘Paalna’, a plantation campaign built on a single departure from convention: no sapling has been planted without an adopter. Every one of the 60,000 trees planted across 815 educational institutions has been adopted by a student or teacher, who will name it, care for it and sub-

mit monthly reports on its condition for one full year.

Each guardian received a certificate bearing a photograph of their tree. Each tree also has a designated guardian for periods when schools are closed, so that care does not lapse during vacations. The district will publish how many of them survive.

The National Informatics Centre Jammu led by Director IT/District Informatics Officer, Sanjeev Kapoor has developed a dedicated web portal and dashboard tracking the survival, maintenance and growth of every individual plant over its lifetime — tree by tree, school by school.

“Every tree here has a name and a child responsible for it. And every month, we will publish how many are still alive,” said Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Dr Rakesh Minhas. “Our country has planted plenty of trees. But the number of survivors is not there. Jammu will produce that number. Paalna means to raise something — that is the difference between planting a tree and growing one.”

At Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Gandhi Nagar, where the campaign was inaugurated, Muskan Mattoo of class 8th, who planted a Moringa sapling, said that she feels

honoured with this novel responsibility.

Chief Conservator of Forests, Jammu, Dr VS Senthil Kumar, who inaugurated the campaign alongside the Deputy Commissioner, described the model as a novel approach that assigns clear responsibility for each sapling and said it could be replicated across the Jammu province. A second drive was led by both officers at GGMHSS Kandoli, Nagrota, with the plantation completed across all 815 institutions through the day.

Subsequent phases will extend the adoption mechanism to hospitals, other government institutions and roadside plantations. Beyond increasing green cover, the initiative seeks to build a lasting culture of environmental stewardship among students.

Divisional Forest Officer Jammu Anurag Arya and Additional Deputy Commissioner Jammu Sher Singh, besides Range Officers and other officers of the Forest Department were also present.

Doda District Committee approves 4 In-situ Promotions

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A meeting of the Committee constituted by the District administration Doda for examination and disposal of Time Bound (In-situ) Promotion cases of eligible employees of the Revenue Department was held today. Deputy Commissioner Krishan Lal chaired the meeting held at the DC Office.

The Committee conducted detailed review of the service records and eligibility criteria of employees whose cases were placed be-



fore it for consideration. After thorough scrutiny and deliberations, the Committee approved the grant of Time Bound (In-situ) Promotion in favour of four eligible employees of the Revenue Department with effect from their respective

due dates.

The Committee emphasized the need for timely processing of service-related matters and reviewed the status of pending cases to ensure that eligible employees receive their due benefits without unneces-

sary delay. It was reiterated that all promotion cases should be processed strictly in accordance with the prescribed rules and guidelines to maintain transparency and fairness in administrative functioning.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Doda, Accounts Officer Deputy Commissioner office Doda and concerned revenue officials. Assistant Commissioner Revenue Doda, Tehsildar Kastigarh, Tehsildar Bhalla, Tehsildar Chilly Pingal and Tehsildar Thathri participated virtually.

2-Day Seminar on Dogri Drama begins at KL Saigal Hall Jammu

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A two-day seminar on “Dogri Drama”, jointly organised by the Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi and Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, began today at K. L. Saigal Hall, Writers Club, Jammu. The seminar, being held on August 24 and 25, aims to deliberate upon the rich tradition, evolution and diverse dimensions of Dogri drama.

The inaugural session commenced with the welcome and introductory address by Mohan Singh (Padma Shri), Convener, Dogri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi Shiv Dev Sushil, eminent Dogri writer and playwright, delivered the keynote address, while Sonali Arun Gupta, Special Secretary, Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, delivered the remarks as Chief Guest. Dr. Om Goswami, noted Dogri writer and playwright, delivered the presidential address.

The inaugural session concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by Reeta Khadyal, Dogri Editor, Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages.



The first academic session, chaired by T. R. Mangotra Sagar, noted Dogri writer and playwright, focused on the development of Dogri drama up to 1990. Radha Rani spoke on Dogri drama up to 1960, Mukesh Kumar presented his views on Dogri drama from 1961 to 1980, while Shalu Sharma discussed the period from 1981 to 1990.

The second academic session, chaired by Dr. Padam Dev Singh Nandan, Sr. Assistant professor Deptt. of Dogri, Jammu University, ex-

amined the subsequent development of Dogri drama.

Anu Sharma discussed Dogri drama from 1991 to 2000, Rakesh Verma covered the period from 2001 to 2010 and Shagufta Chaudhary spoke on Dogri drama from 2011 to 2020.

The discussions during the day provided a comprehensive overview of the historical journey of Dogri drama across different periods, highlighting its evolution, major trends and contribution to the literary and cultural heritage of the Dogri-speaking re-

gion. The seminar brought together writers, playwrights, scholars and literary enthusiasts, providing an important platform for meaningful discussion on the past and present of Dogri theatre and dramatic literature.

Prominent writers of Dogri language and literature, prominent artists, young writers, playwrights and Students/Scholars of Deptt. of Dogri, Jammu University as well as Students of Deptt. of Performing Arts, Cluster University were present on the occasion.

CM Oma calls for mission-mode action to address Srinagar’s stray dog menace

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JAMMU, AUG 24

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today called for a focused, coordinated and humane response to the growing stray dog menace in Srinagar, directing the concerned departments and Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) to accord the issue top priority and work towards tangible results.

Chairing a review meeting on the issue, the Chief Minister observed that the stray dog menace has emerged as one of the foremost practical concerns for residents of Srinagar, with the issue affecting the daily lives and sense of security of citizens across the city and beyond.

The Chief Minister noted that the progress in addressing the issue in Jammu through better handling of sterilisation coverage needs to be replicated in Kashmir division. He questioned why the relatively better implementation of Animal Birth Control being followed in Jammu has not been implemented efficiently in Kashmir.

“Within the same territory, we have success of having achieved around 80 per cent sterilisation in Jammu, while Srinagar has not been able to make com-



parable progress. If we have demonstrated that it can be done in Jammu, we should be able to replicate that success in Srinagar,” the Chief Minister said.

Seeking a clear assessment of the requirements of the concerned departments in terms of veterinary surgeons, paravets and other support staff needed in Kashmir division, Omar Abdullah assured full government support for the resources needed to undertake the work in a sustained manner and directed to immediately engage the requisite staff and take immediate action on ground to address the issue of dog menace including measures for quick disposal of garbage dumps so that dogs do not thrive on road side piles of food waste. CM exhorted SMC and JMC to deal with garbage disposal within municipal areas in quick time, which is seen as major hazard by the public as giving rise to dog menace and giv-

ing an impression of polluted cities.

He directed that a dedicated team be constituted within SMC to address the issue in mission mode, with emphasis on substantially increasing the number of trained dog catchers, scaling up sterilisation operations and strengthening the availability of veterinary doctors and trained personnel.

The Chief Minister stressed that the response must be humane and in accordance with established procedures, while remaining focused on effectively controlling the stray dog population and addressing the concerns of citizens.

He called for greater coordination among the Housing & Urban Development Department, Health and Medical Education Department, SMC and other concerned agencies to ensure that the measures adopted translate into measurable improvement on the ground.

The Chief Minister said the objective should be to develop a sustainable and effective mechanism for addressing the stray dog issue not only in Srinagar but across Jammu and Kashmir.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Commissioner Secretary Housing & Urban Development Mandeep Kaur, Commissioner Secretary Health & Medical Education M Raju, Commissioner Secretary Education, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Inspector General of Police Jammu Zone, Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

Jammu based officers took part in the meeting through video conferencing.

Mission YUVA: DLIC discusses modalities to boost youth entrepreneurship in Udhampur

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Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa today chaired a meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee under the Mission YUVA scheme to review and expedite the implementation of youth entrepreneurship initiatives in the district.

The meeting focused on the evaluation and screening of applications received under various categories of Mission YUVA, including Nano Enterprises, MSMEs and other eligible sectors, with the objective of identifying and recommending suitable candidates for financial assistance.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Jugul Kishore,



Assistant Director Employment Priyanka Gupta, representatives of the banking sector and other concerned officers.

After detailed scrutiny and deliberations, the committee approved 1,047 cases for financial assistance under the Mission YUVA scheme, paving the way for aspiring entrepreneurs to establish and expand their

ventures.

The DC emphasized the need to accelerate the pace of implementation through enhanced coordination among all concerned departments.

He directed the concerned officers to expedite the registration and processing of cases and stressed the importance of maintaining transparency, ensuring prompt

disposal of applications and providing all necessary support to deserving youth with viable business proposals.

He added that effective implementation of Mission YUVA would enable young entrepreneurs to become self-reliant, generate employment opportunities and contribute significantly to the district’s economic growth.

DC Udhampur reviews road safety measures at DRSC meeting

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Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Minga Sherpa today chaired a meeting of the District Road Safety Committee (DRSC) to review and strengthen road safety measures across the district.

The meeting was attended by SE PWD Sanjeev Gupta, Chief Medical Officer Dr Anil Manhas, ARTO Mudassar Iqbal along with senior officers of various concerned departments.

Threadbare discussions were held on several key issues, including road safety audits of the roads in the district, removal of dumped material from roadsides, strict implementation of the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 2019, identification of land for parking seized and impounded vehicles, utilization of road safety funds,



assistance to accident victims under PM Rahat, identification of black spots, regular road maintenance, checking overloading and over speeding, curbing rash driving, sustained road safety awareness programmes, improving traffic management systems, decongesting busy routes and installation of proper road signage.

The DC exhorted all concerned departments to work in close coordination, ensure strict adherence to road safety norms, expedite the execution of safety-related works and

regularly monitor vulnerable stretches. He also emphasized the need to conduct continuous road safety awareness programmes in colleges and other educational institutions to promote responsible road-user behaviour.

Executive Engineers of PWD and PMGSY were directed to ensure regular maintenance of roads to prevent mishaps.

The DC further directed the identification of black spots and implementation of corrective measures including installation of signboards, road markings and crash barriers at vul-

nerable locations. He stressed the need for timely corrective action to make roads safer for commuters and the general public. The Motor Vehicles Department and Traffic Police were directed to take stern action against traffic violators, particularly those involved in overloading, riding without helmets and over speeding. DC also directed the concerned departments to conduct joint inspections of vulnerable sites and take prompt corrective measures to enhance road safety across the district.