

BIS J&K conducts Enforcement Raid in Jalandhar, Seizes 80 Non-ISI Marked Hand Dryers

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Jammu and Kashmir Branch Office, conducted an enforcement raid at a manufacturing premises in Jalandhar, Punjab, and seized 80 hand dryers found without the mandatory BIS Standard Mark (ISI Mark).

BIS, the National Standards Body of India established under the BIS Act, 2016, is responsible for standard formulation, product certification and laboratory and systems certification. Through its activities, the organisation works to ensure the availability of safe, reliable and high-quality goods, minimise health hazards to consumers and support public policies relating to product safety, consumer protection, food safety, environmental protection and quality in construction and infrastructure.

According to BIS, no person is permitted to manufacture, import, distribute, sell, hire, lease, store or exhibit for sale any goods covered under a mandatory Quality Control Order (QCO) without a valid BIS Standard Mark.

Hand dryers conforming to IS 302 (Part 2/Sec 23): 2009 are covered under the Electrical Appliances for Skin or Hair Care (Quality Control) Order, 2023, issued by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.



The mandatory BIS certification requirements under the order became fully applicable to all enterprises, including micro and small enterprises, from September 5, 2025.

Acting on specific information regarding an alleged violation of the Quality Control Order, a team of officials from the BIS Jammu and Kashmir Branch Office conducted a Search and Seizure operation on August 25, 2026, at a manufacturing premises near Pathankot Road, close to Reru Pind Gate, Jalandhar, Punjab.

During the raid, officials

found hand dryers without the mandatory ISI Mark at the manufacturing premises. The products carried details including the brand name, manufacturer's name and date of manufacture. A total of 80 hand dryers were seized for alleged contravention of Section 17(1)(a) of the BIS Act, 2016.

The violation is punishable under Section 29 of the BIS Act, which provides for imprisonment of up to two years, a fine of not less than Rs 2 lakh, or both. Further legal action is being initiated for filing a complaint before the com-

petent court of law, BIS said.

BIS has appealed to consumers to use the BIS CARE mobile application, available on Android and iOS platforms, to verify mandatory BIS certification, check the authenticity of the ISI Mark and BIS Hallmark and lodge complaints regarding non-certified mandatory products or misuse of these marks.

Consumers can also submit complaints to the Bureau of Indian Standards, Jammu and Kashmir Branch Office, Lane No. 4, SIDCO Industrial Complex, Bari Brahmana.

Notice Served on Cross Town News Over Alleged False and Misleading Report

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 25

A legal notice has been served upon Cross Town News on behalf of Sh. Rajeev Kumar Khajuria, JKAS, Joint Commissioner (Administration), Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), challenging the factual basis of a news report published by the media outlet and terming allegations of favouritism against him as false, misleading and contrary to the official record.

According to the notice, the Government communication cited in the news report published on August 24, 2026, was merely a covering letter relating to cor-

respondence over a complaint against Sh. Kapil Khajuria, Draftsman in JMC. It was not an order directing any action against the Joint Commissioner (Administration), as allegedly portrayed in the report.

The notice further clarifies that the process concerning the promotion of two Engineers had commenced much before the tenure of the present Joint Commissioner (Administration). The Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) meeting in this regard was held on January 19, 2026, while the subsequent promotions were issued by the Government vide Government Order No. 84-HUD of 2026 dated

April 24, 2026.

Significantly, the notice states that Sh. Rajeev Kumar Khajuria was neither a member of the DPC nor had any role in the said promotions.

It also places on record that the seniority lists of Engineers were issued separately, including the final seniority list dated July 29, 2026. Further, the Government order concerning Sh. Kapil Khajuria, Draftsman, had been issued in January 2023, well before the present Joint Commissioner (Administration) joined JMC.

Through the legal notice, Cross Town News has been called upon to remove the impugned reports, publish an unconditional retraction

and apology within seven days, and refrain from any further circulation of the allegations.

The notice states that failure to comply with these demands may invite appropriate civil and criminal proceedings, besides recourse to competent forums, including the Press Council of India.

The matter has once again highlighted the importance of verifying allegations concerning public servants against official records before placing them in the public domain, particularly where such allegations concern officers known for discharging their official duties with dedication, transparency and impartiality.

DIET Kud Organises Zone-Level Science Seminars Ahead of District-Level Event

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 25

DIET Kud, Udhampur, under the guidance of its Principal, Smt. Irvinder Kour, is organising a series of Zone-Level Science Seminars across various educational zones as a prelude to the upcoming District-Level Science Seminar on the theme "Indian Energy Basket 2047: Prospects and Challenges."

The seminars are being conducted in the educational zones of Ramnagar, Ghordi, Tikri, Kulwanta and Babey, with the objective of providing students a platform to showcase their scientific understanding, innovative ideas and awareness regarding India's future energy requirements and sustainable development.

The Zone-Level Science Seminar for Ramnagar was held on August 24 at the ICT Lab of Rising Pillar Higher Secondary School, Ramnagar. Smt. Urvasi Parihar, Principal, HSS Ramnagar, was the Chief Guest and highlighted the importance of alternative energy sources and necessary safety measures for their sustainable use.

Sh. Bishan Sharma, HOD, DIET Kud and Nodal Officer, attended as Guest of Honour and emphasized the important role of the youth in contributing towards the vision of a developed India by 2047. Sh. Girdhari Lal, ZEO Ramnagar, appealed



to students to adopt optimal and responsible use of energy, while Dr. R. P. Singh, District Coordinator, NSS National Science Seminar 2026, sensitised the participants about the prospects and challenges facing India's energy sector. Sh. Rajesh Modi, Principal, Rising Pillar Higher Secondary School, Ramnagar, extended full cooperation for the successful conduct of the event.

The seminar was coordinated by Zonal Coordinators Rekha Thakur and Neetika Mallee. Rekha Thakur also conducted the proceedings as stage secretary, while Neetika Mallee managed the question-and-answer session along with the panel of judges comprising Arvind Brah-

manu, Sunil Singh and Sanjay Kumar. Neetika Mallee later proposed the vote of thanks.

In the Ramnagar zone, HSS Dehari secured the first position, HS Girls Ramnagar bagged the second position and HSS Ramnagar stood third.

Similarly, the Zone-Level Science Seminar in Tikri was organised on August 25. Smt. Irvinder Kour, Principal, DIET Kud, as Chief Guest, stressed the importance of renewable energy, energy conservation and responsible utilisation of available resources. Nodal Officer Sh. Bishan Sharma and District Coordinator Dr. R. P. Singh provided guidance to the participants, while the ZEO Tikri and District

Technical Coordinator Sh. Sanjay Kumar extended necessary support for the successful conduct of the programme. Zonal Coordinators Ms. Priyanka Devi and Sh. Ajay Kumar Dogra coordinated the participation of schools.

The winners of the Tikri zone seminar were GHS Hartyan in the first position, HSS Tikri in the second position and HSS Tikri in the third position.

The series of zone-level seminars reflects DIET Kud's commitment to nurturing scientific temper among students and identifying talented participants for the upcoming District-Level Science Seminar, focusing on India's energy transition and the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

Dragon Fruit Cultivation Can Boost Farmers' Income: MLA Akhnoor

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 25

Akhnoor, August 25: With an aim to acquaint farmers with modern horticulture technologies, government schemes and profitable crop diversification opportunities, the Department of Horticulture Jammu organised an awareness camp at the Government Fruit Plant Nursery, Gandharwan, here today.

Akhnoor MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat was the Chief Guest, while Director Horticulture Jammu Gul Sayeed attended the programme as the Guest of Honour.

During the programme, Chief Horticulture Officer Jammu R.K. Kotwal briefed the farmers about various schemes and initiatives being implemented by the department. He also

highlighted the growing potential of dragon fruit cultivation in the Jammu region, describing it as a promising and remunerative option for farmers looking to diversify their orchards.

The farmers were provided practical information on dragon fruit cultivation, including selection of quality planting material, site selection, trellis systems, irrigation, plant spacing, orchard management, nutrient management and income potential.

Addressing the gathering, Director Horticulture Jammu Gul Sayeed said that the department was working to strengthen horticulture infrastructure, promote quality planting material and introduce new and profitable fruit crops in the region. He encouraged farmers to move towards

scientific, technology-driven and market-oriented horticulture practices to enhance productivity and income.

MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat appreciated the department for organising the farmer-oriented awareness programme and exposure visit. He urged farmers to adopt modern scientific cultivation practices, diversify their orchards and make full use of government schemes and technical support. He also stressed the need for better coordination between farmers, technical institutions and government departments.

As part of the programme, a one-day farmers' exposure tour was also flagged off. During the tour, farmers visited SKUAST-Jammu, where they interacted with ex-

perts and gained practical knowledge about the latest horticulture technologies and scientific farming practices.

The farmers also visited the Government Fruit Plant Nursery, Vijaypur, where they were acquainted with modern nursery management, production and maintenance of quality fruit planting material and other nursery technologies.

The programme provided farmers with valuable exposure to modern fruit production, dragon fruit cultivation, nursery and irrigation management besides various departmental schemes and initiatives. Officers and field staff of the Horticulture Department, farmers, local administration representatives and media persons attended the programme.

Vikrant Nominated as Member of Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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Vikrant Gupta has been nominated as a member of the Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee (ZRUC), Northern Railway, a development that has been warmly welcomed by people across Jammu.

The nomination has been widely appreciated as recognition of Gupta's commitment to public service, active engagement with community issues and ability to raise matters of public concern before the appropriate authorities.

People expressed hope that his inclusion in the committee would provide a stronger voice to railway users from Jammu and adjoining areas.

The ZRUC serves as an important platform for discussing issues related to railway services, passenger amenities, connectivity, infrastructure and other concerns affecting railway users. Gupta's



nomination is being seen as an opportunity to highlight the needs and aspirations of passengers from the Jammu region.

As a member of the committee, Gupta is expected to effectively represent the concerns of railway users, particularly regarding improvement of passenger facilities, cleanliness, convenience, railway services and infrastructure, and take up these matters with the concerned authorities.

Representatives of various social

charge the responsibility entrusted to him with utmost dedication, sincerity and commitment. He assured that the genuine concerns of railway users from Jammu would be appropriately highlighted before the concerned authorities.

People from Jammu extended their heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Gupta and expressed confidence that his tenure in the ZRUC would be productive and beneficial for railway passengers and the Jammu region.

Welcomes Women Activists from APP, BJP into NC Fold, Highlights Omar Govt's Women-Centric Initiatives: Gupta

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 25

Senior leader Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Provincial President Jammu Rattan Lal Gupta today welcomed a number of women political activists from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) into the National Conference fold at the party's Provincial Headquarter, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu in the Presence of Abdul Gani Teli Chairman OBC Cell, S. Tejinder Pal Singh Provincial President Jammu YNC, Pardeep Bali Provincial Secretary Jammu and Pusp Jandial.

Addressing the gathering, Rattan Lal Gupta said the growing participation of women in the National Conference reflected their faith in the party's inclusive vision and its commitment to social justice, empowerment and equal opportunities. He highlighted several women-centric initiatives undertaken by the Omar Abdullah-led government, saying that the govern-



ment's approach was focused on mobility, dignity, economic independence and social security for women.

"The Omar Abdullah government has demonstrated through concrete decisions that women's empowerment is not merely a slogan but a priority. Free public transport for women is a significant step towards ensuring greater mobility, independence and access to education and employment," Gupta said. The increase in marriage assistance for girls from AAY families to ₹75,000, he said the measure would provide meaningful support to economically vulnerable families. Addressing the

gathering Laxmi Datta Senior leader also welcomed the government's focus on women's economic empowerment through support for 40,000 women under the Lakhpati Didi initiative, strengthening of the UMEED programme, and the expansion of women-led Self-Help Groups. "When women become economically independent, families and communities become stronger. Supporting women entrepreneurs, SHGs and rural livelihoods is an investment in the future of Jammu and Kashmir," she said.

Bimla Luthra former MLA and State Vice President Women Wing Referring to the proposed Sakhi

Niwas hostels and Shakti Sadan centres. These initiatives would provide greater institutional support, safety and dignity to working women, students and women facing difficult circumstances. She said the participation of women in political and social life was essential for building a progressive Jammu and Kashmir.

Subash Bhagat District President Jammu Rural "A" said that "Women are not merely beneficiaries of development; they are partners and leaders in the development process. The National Conference will continue to work towards creating greater opportunities for women in every sphere of public life,".