

Auto-Rickshaw Workers' Union Election held in Ramban under banner of INTUC, JKUT

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An important meeting and election of the Auto-Rickshaw Workers' Union, Ramban, was held today in Ramban in the presence of senior leaders of INTUC J&K UT.

The meeting was attended by Shri Shiv Kumar Sharma, President INTUC J&K UT; Shri Naveed Ashraf Kichloo, Organizing Secretary INTUC J&K UT; Balvinder Ji; Bicku Kumar, President Jammu District; Varun Ji; and Naseer Hus-sain, along with a large number of auto-rickshaw drivers, workers and union members.

During the meeting, it was unanimously decided, with the consent of the workers and leader editor@dailyx-celsior.com s present, to temporarily dissolve the exist-ing Union body for a pe-riod of two months. For this interim period, Shri Pawan Kumar was appointed as President and Mr. Sajjad Ahmed was appointed as General Secretary of the Auto-Rickshaw Workers' Union, Ramban.

The decision was taken with the full consent and agreement of the workers and union leaders present, with the objective of ensuring smooth functioning of the union and strengthen-ing its organizational struc-ture. During the meeting, the auto-rickshaw drivers and workers highlighted several important issues af-fecting their livelihood. The INTUC leadership extended full support to their genuine demands and called upon



the concerned authorities to take appropriate measures.

The workers demanded that unreasonably high traf-fic challans of ₹5,000, ₹10,000 or similar amounts imposed on auto-rickshaw drivers should be reviewed and a humane policy should be adopted. It was pointed out that most auto-rickshaw drivers belong to economi-cally weaker sections and depend on their vehicles for the livelihood of their fami-lies. Excessive penalties place a heavy financial bur-den on these workers.

The workers also de-manded that proper and designated auto stands should be established ac-cording to the requirements of different areas, so that both the public and auto-rickshaw drivers can bene-fit. Proper stands would ensure that passengers can easily find autos while dri-vers receive regular and or-ganized work.

The Union specifically de-manded establishment of designated auto stands in important and busy areas such as Banihal, Gool, San-galdan, Dharamkund, DC Office area and other suit-able locations, according to the requirement and popu-lation of each area.

It was further demanded that area-wise auto stands should be properly regu-lated, with autos operating in the respective areas being given priority at designat-ed stands. This would help prevent unnecessary competi-tion, traffic congestion and disputes among drivers while ensuring better trans-port facilities for the general public. The workers also re-quested the administration and traffic authorities to adopt a balanced and worker-friendly approach, ensuring enforcement of traffic rules while protecting the livelihood and dignity of poor auto-rickshaw drivers.

The INTUC leadership lis-tened to all the concerns raised by the workers and assured them that their gen-uine issues and demands would be taken up with the concerned authorities for appropriate redressal.

The INTUC leadership re-iterated its commitment to safeguarding the rights, dig-nity, welfare and livelihood of auto-rickshaw workers and assured the workers of continued organizational support.

The meeting concluded with special thanks to Shri Naseer Ahmed, former President Auto Rikshaw Union for his dedication and unwavering support to the Union in the past and for future too. A call for unity among auto-rickshaw work-ers and for strengthening the Union was made so that their genuine demands can be pursued effectively be-fore the concerned authori-ties.

District-Wide BLS, Fire Safety & Disaster Management Training Held at GHSS Ghat

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Under the directions of District Development Com-missioner Doda, Sh. Kris-han Lal, JKAS, and super-vision of the Chief Medical Officer, Doda, a district-wide training programme on Basic Life Support (BLS), Cardiopulmonary Resusci-tation (CPR), Fire Safety and Disaster Management was conducted at Govern-ment Higher Secondary School, Ghat.

The programme was jointly organised by the Health Department, State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and Fire & Emer-gency Department to equip students, teachers and staff with essential life-saving skills and practical knowl-edge to respond effectively to medical emergencies, fire incidents and disasters.

As part of the district-wide initiative, more than 500 students, teachers and staff from various educa-tional institutions across Doda District have so far been trained in BLS, CPR, fire safety, fire incident management and disaster-



response techniques.

The session at Govt HSS Ghat was initiated by Dr. Hamid Parray, District Nodal Officer, Disaster Management (Medical Wing), Doda. Dr. Nasir Ma-sood, Senior Medical Offi-cer, conducted demonstra-tions on BLS and CPR and explained essential life-sav-ing techniques and appro-priate responses during medical emergencies.

From the Fire & Emer-gency Department, Mr. Karinal Singh demon-strated the proper use of fire extinguishers and sensitised participants about fire pre-

vention, safety precautions and emergency manage-ment. Representing SDRF, Mr. Vijay Kumar demon-strated basic rescue opera-tions and response tech-niques to be adopted during disasters and other emer-gency situations.

The trainers stressed the importance of remaining calm, assessing situations carefully, ensuring personal safety and providing timely assistance to victims until professional emergency ser-vices arrive.

The practical demon-strations gave participants hands-on understanding of

appropriate responses dur-ing medical, fire and disas-ter emergencies.

At the conclusion of the session, the In-charge Prin-cipal, teachers and partici-pants expressed gratitude to the District Administration Doda, Health Department, SDRF and Fire & Emer-gency Department for or-ganising the valuable train-ing initiative. They appreciated the efforts of the master trainers in im-parting practical knowledge and empowering students and staff with crucial life-saving and disaster-re-sponse skills.

Army organises Amity meeting to promote peace, communal harmony at Kesri Hill

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JAMMU, AUG 30

In continuation of its ef-forts to promote peace, communal harmony and prosperity in the region, the Indian Army organised an Amity Meeting at Kesri Hill, Rajouri on 29 August 2026. The initiative aimed at strengthening the existing bond between people from different communities and providing a platform for in-teraction on issues related to peace, harmony, youth engagement and develop-ment.

A total of 39 locals partici-pated in the event and shared their views on main-taining communal har-mony, promoting peace and ensuring sustained devel-opment in the region. Dur-ing the interaction, partici-pants highlighted the importance of quality edu-cation for children, generat-



ing employment opportu-nities for youth and collective efforts to combat the men-ace of drug abuse.

The meeting provided an opportunity for construc-tive dialogue between the Indian Army and local resi-dents, enabling better un-derstanding of community

aspirations and ensuring coordinated efforts towards social development and in-clusive growth.

The locals appreciated the Indian Army's efforts in or-ganising such initiatives, which contribute signifi-cantly towards strengthen-ing trust and cooperation

among different commu-nities.

They also expressed their gratitude for the continued support and commitment of the Indian Army in creating a peaceful and harmonious environment in the areas south of the Pir Panjal ranges.

Natrang Stages Powerful Adaptation 'Kafan'

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Natrang presented a pow-erful theatrical adaptation of Munshi Prem Chand's celebrated short story Kafan today at Natrang Studio Theatre as part of its Sun-day Theatre Series. The pro-duction was directed by Neeraj Kant.

Written decades ago by one of India's most cele-brated and visionary writ-ers, Kafan remains remark-ably relevant and timeless. The story continues to con-vey a powerful message to the present generation and to generations to come.

Sharing his thoughts on the production, Natrang Di-rector Balwant Thakur said that Kafan is a sharp and poignant satire on the degradation of human val-ues, while also exposing the darker realities of poverty, despair and addiction. He said that Natrang has con-sistently endeavoured to bring the world's immortal literary works to the stage, and the present production was yet another effort in that direction.

Before the performance began, the Natrang family observed a two-minute si-lence in memory of eminent Indian theatre personality Satish Anand, who passed away yesterday following a brief illness.

The play revolves around Ghisu and Madhav, a father



and son who work as labourers in a village and live in extreme poverty. Madhav's wife is in the final stages of pregnancy and desperately needs medical attention, which the impov-erished family is unable to afford. As she cries out in unbearable pain, Ghisu and Madhav remain helpless spectators. Eventually, she dies during childbirth, leav-ing the father and son to confront an even deeper crisis.

With no money or means to perform her last rites, they are faced with the grim reality of her dead body ly-ing in their hut. They ap-proach the villagers for fi-nancial assistance and, after considerable effort, manage to collect enough money to purchase a shroud for the deceased woman.

However, when the time comes to buy the shroud, Ghisu and Madhav aban-don the idea and spend the donated money on liquor instead.

To ease their guilt, they rationalise their decision by convincing themselves that a dead woman has no use for a piece of cloth and that what she needs is only blessings.

The production brings into sharp focus the de-structive monster of alco-holism, making Prem Chand's story strikingly rel-evant even in contemporary times. It highlights how ad-diction can destroy not only an individual's life but also the lives of those dependent upon them. People trapped in alcoholism may have nothing to eat or nothing with which to feed their

families, yet may go to ex-traordinary lengths to arrange money for liquor.

Kafan, which translates as Shroud in English, presents a disturbing picture of the degradation of human val-ues and takes the audience to one of the lowest depths of human existence. The production leaves a deeply unsettling yet thought-pro-voking impression, com-pelling viewers to reflect on poverty, addiction, social apathy and the erosion of human compassion.

The young Natrang actors who performed in the play were Pawan Verma, Kushal Bhat, Aryan Sharma, Aadesh Dhar and Narinder Verma.

The lights were designed and executed by Neeraj Kant, while the music was rendered by Pawan Verma.

Army conducts awareness lecture on drug abuse at Bhart in Doda

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As part of its ongoing ef-forts under the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan, the Indian Army organised an aware-ness lecture on drug abuse at Bhart, Doda on 29 August 2026. The initiative aimed to sensitize local youth about the harmful effects of substance abuse and pro-mote a healthy, safe and drug-free environment within the community.

A total of 18 students, 07 teachers and 15 villagers participated in the aware-ness programme. During the session, participants were educated about the ad-verse impact of drug con-sumption on physical health, mental well-being and social life. Special em-phasis was laid on the long-term consequences of ad-diction, including its effects on education, family relationships and future career prospects.

The lecture also covered



the legal implications associ-ated with drug abuse and highlighted preventive measures that can be adopted by individuals, par-ents and teachers to safe-guard the younger genera-tion.

Interactive discussions

and real-life examples en-couraged active participa-tion and reinforced the im-portance of staying away from substance abuse.

The local residents and students appreciated the In-dian Army's continued ef-forts towards youth em-

powerment and community welfare. The Indian Army reaffirmed its commitment to supporting initiatives aimed at building a re-silient, responsible and drug-free society through sustained engagement with local communities.

Indian Army organises motivational talk on joining defence force at Rajouri

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The Indian Army conducted a moti-vational talk on "Joining the Defence Forces" at Government Boys Middle School, Koriwali, Rajouri on 29 August 2026. The programme was aimed at inspiring students to explore career opportunities in the Defence Forces and motivating them towards serving the nation with courage, discipline and dedication.

A total of 08 teachers and 56 stu-dents attended the session. During the interaction, students were briefed about the values of hard work, self-confidence, leadership and determi-nation required to achieve success in life. The participants were encouraged to set clear goals, remain focused and develop qualities of responsibility, perseverance and patriotism.

The students were also apprised about various career opportunities



and entry schemes in the Defence Forces, including Agniveer, NDA and CDS along with the importance of preparation and commitment towards achieving their aspirations.

The interactive session generated enthusiasm among the students and enhanced their awareness about ca-

reer prospects in the Defence Forces. The programme concluded on an in-spiring note with the message of "Dream, Dare and Serve the Nation", motivating young minds to contribute towards nation-building and become responsible citizens and future lead-ers.